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**TABLE  
TENNIS  
DIGEST**

*Official Magazine*

OF THE

**LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE**

# TABLE DIGEST TENNIS

All correspondence must be addressed to the Editor "Table Tennis Digest", "Polwarth", 21 Chatsworth Rd., Ainsdale, Southport.

Published during the months of November, January, February, March and April.

## EDITORIAL BOARD :

Editor : Eric Caird

J. Green (News), A. Montgomery (Features), J. McKim and A. Upton

Vol. XIII

November, 1962

No. 1

## EDITORIAL

IT seems only yesterday since we were engaged in the publication of the last issue of the "Digest", and it is hard to believe that six months have elapsed since then. Unfortunately, the wintry weather is all too much a reminder that our favourite winter activity is underway once more.

The commencement of a new season is always the time for the expression of pious hopes that this will be the best of all but a glance through the succeeding pages will reveal, once more, the all too familiar complaints regarding dress, the cancellation of matches, and the perennial warning from the Match Secretary regarding the inclusion of fictitious names on score cards to cover up absenteeism.

For our part, the Editorial Board has given a lot of thought to the brightening up of the "Digest" and have included in this issue, for the first time for many years, a photograph.

We believe that the inclusion of pictures of interest would be a valuable addition to the "Digest" but, unfortunately, the cost of the necessary blocks puts our ambitions beyond realisation unless some way round the difficulty can be found. The picture published in this issue was made possible by the courtesy of the "Liverpool Echo" who loaned us their block free of charge. It occurs to us, however, that photographs of general interest could be published if Clubs themselves would be willing to defray the cost of the block (approx. £2-10-0) or, alternatively, by the procurement of a block of a photograph which has previously appeared in another publication.

Anybody willing to help in this way should communicate with the Editor.

One further point — we would like to echo Monty's cry from the heart for the submission of matter for publication. The wealth of comment which we hear as we go round the Clubrooms, suitably edited for publication, would make this journal what it tries so hard to be — a lively, provocative and informed forum of opinion. It's up to you! What about it?

# QUICK FLICKS

We offer belated congratulations to Brian Ridge and Hazel Farrell (both of Liverpool Cricket Club) who were married during the closed season.

Congratulations also to Joyce Horsley and Peter Barton, who were married during June, and to another of Crawford's players, Geo. Benson, whose wedding took place one week earlier.

Did you hear about the Club Secretary who, when asked for information on some point concerning his Club replied — "You want to ask So-and-so about that — he's really the Secretary — I'm ONLY THE NAME IN THE BOOK!"

The Lancashire and Cheshire League have now issued a League tie to their own design. The price is 12/6d., and the Organising Secretary, Mr. J. McKim, has a supply for sale on their behalf. Anyone who would like one, please contact him.

Ted Birch of Bootle YMCA wants to buy a secondhand table tennis top. If anyone has one to dispose of, Ted would be delighted to hear from them. His phone no. is AINtree 2098.

Cath Churchill (Linnets) does not want to play for their "B" team again. Last time she agreed to turn out as reserve, she found herself playing at No. 1., then got roped into the Football sweep by the Club Treasurer, and to round off a happy (!) evening, went outside to find that her car had been pinched. Well, Cath, we do play for fun you know!

There were voices at the "Closed" Championships expressing the opinion that the Management Committee should be replaced completely. The result? The Committee was re-elected en bloc in the absence of nominations to the contrary!!

## MRS. IVY CRAFTER.

In view of the difficult position in which she finds herself in relation to her daughter, Judy, Mrs. Ivy Crafter has withdrawn as a member of the league selection committee. The Management Committee, in reluctantly accepting Mrs. Crafter's decision were glad to know she would continue as non-playing captain of the Ladies' "A" team in which capacity she gives the league such valuable service. Mrs. Crafter will not be replaced on the selection committee at least for the moment.

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# HANDBOOK ALTERATIONS

To avoid arriving at matches on the wrong night, or at the wrong venue, please make the following alterations to the handbook.

- PAGE 21: ANFIELD.** New Secretary: M. Holland, 144, Anfield Road, Liverpool 4.  
Match Secretary: T. Bunner, 22, Goodacre Road, Liverpool 9. Phone: (home) AIN 9885.  
"A" team match night altered to Thursday.  
ADD "D" team (Div. 8) M/Night Thursday.  
ADD Women's team (Women's Div.) M/Night Wed.
- BALFOUR.** Delete "A" and "B" teams.
- BATH STREET.** Women's team M/Night changed to Tuesday.  
ADD Match Secretary: N. Cooke, 13, Lichfield Ave., Liverpool 22.  
Phone: (Bus) BOO 4000.  
Delete "B" team. Club phone: ROY 2451.
- BEAUCLAIR.**  
**BOOTLE NALGO.** New Secretary: J. Radcliffe, 53, Merton Rd., Bootle 20. Phone: (office) BOO 4040, Ex. 231.
- PAGE 22. BOOTLE YMCA.** New Secretary: P. Keating, c/o Club.  
Phone: (office) CEN 3001.
- BURLINGTON.** Delete. Club withdrawn.
- CRAWFORDS.** Delete Women's "A" and 3-a-side team.
- PAGE 23. LINNETS - AIGBURTH.** Alter "A" team M/Night to Wed.  
Delete "B" team.
- LITTLERLAND.** Delete. Club withdrawn.
- PAGE 24. LIVERPOOL F.O.** New playing quarters: Room 9, New York Buildings, Stanley Street, Liverpool.  
New Secretary: T. McCoy, 62, Dimchurch Road, Liverpool 24. Phones: (private) HUN 1143 - (office) GAR 4399.
- LIVERPOOL YMCA.** Match Secretary: C. Bradshaw, 32, Holt Road, Liverpool 7. Phone: (office) NOR 0535.
- PAGE 25. LUSSAC.** Match Night Tuesday.
- MOSSLEY HILL.** Match Night changed to Wednesday.
- NALGO.** Delete. Club withdrawn.
- OAKHILL YMCA.** New Secretary: P. Williams, c/o Club.
- PAGE 26. RAFTERS.** Delete "D" team.
- ST. EDWARD'S O.B.** Match Night changed to Tuesday.
- ST. LEONARDS M.C.** New Secretary: R. Spencer, 32, Hertford Road, Bootle 20.
- PAGE 25. OAKHILL YMCA.** Delete Women's team.
- PAGE 27. VICTORIA PARK.** Delete "D" team.
- WATERLOO DOCK.** "A" team Match Night changed to Wed.
- PAGE 33.** Delete all **BALFOUR** "A" fixtures.  
Delete all **LITTLERLAND** fixtures.
- PAGE 34.** Delete all **LITTLERLAND** "A" fixtures.
- PAGE 35.** Delete all **BALFOUR** "B" fixtures.  
Delete all **VICTORIA PARK** "D" fixtures.  
Delete all **LITTLERLAND** "B" fixtures.
- PAGE 36.** Delete all **NALGO** fixtures.
- PAGE 37.** Delete all **BEAUCLAIR** "B" fixtures.  
Delete all **NALGO** "A" fixtures.  
Delete all **RAFTERS** "D" fixtures.
- PAGE 39.** Delete all **BURLINGTON** fixtures.  
Delete all **LINNETS** "E" fixtures.
- PAGE 41.** **ANFIELD** "D" take over the "D" fixtures.
- PAGE 42.** Substitute **ANFIELD** in place of **CRAWFORDS** "A" fixtures.  
Delete all **OAKHILL** fixtures.
- PAGE 43.** Delete all **CRAWFORDS** fixtures.

# YOUNGSTER ON THE WAY UP



**GORDON BIRCH**

*Photograph by courtesy of  
"The Liverpool Echo"*

**G**ORDON Birch, one of the Liverpool League's youngest members, has started the season with a bang by being selected for Lancashire Juniors, and has made history by being the first boy from Liverpool ever to reach the Lancashire Junior team.

It was unfortunate that on the night of the match he had to play with an injured wrist, but even so he gave a very creditable performance, and, with two more seasons as a junior after the current one, he has a great opportunity to consolidate his position as one of the county's up and coming stars.

Although now at Cadwa, where he turns in creditable performances in the first team, Gordon learned to play at Bootle YMCA and was a regular member of their teams over the past three years.

His success has been due to his dedicated approach to the game, a dedication such as is all too rarely seen in youngsters today. From his first League appearance he has shown a steady improvement and his application is such that, despite his lack of inches, he could very soon develop into an outstanding player.

From the beginning of last season he has been a regular member of the League's Junior team, a situation we hope will be continued until he reaches the age limit, and we offer, on behalf of every member of the League our sincere congratulations on this, his first County honour. May it be but the first of many.

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# NATIONAL RANKING LIST

HAVING been urged last season to extend the interest of "Table Tennis Digest" beyond the boundaries of Liverpool, we have pleasure in publishing the current National Ranking List for both men and women, with the figures in brackets indicating their position on the last Ranking List.

The biggest jump of all has been made by D. O. Creamer of Middlesex who has climbed from 11th to 3rd place, whilst a new name is that of M. Symonds, an 18 year old Lancashire County player who has a good record as a junior and has been prominent in early tournaments.

The women's list is notable for the inclusion of Miss A. Taft (Hertfordshire), previously unranked but now figuring 4th after winning the recent North of England Tournament.

Just as the men have a promising youngster in Symonds, so the women's list includes Miss L. Bell (Essex), a 16 year old international.

The full Ranking List reads as follows:—

**Men.** 1. I. Harrison, Gloucester (8); 2. J. Ingber, Lancashire (3); 3. D. O. Creamer, Middlesex (11); 4. A. Rhodes, Middlesex (2); 5. R. J. Stevens, Essex (4); 6. B. Merrett, Gloucester (5); 7. B. Wright, Middlesex (6); 8. M. Symonds, Lancashire (?); 9. A. R. Piddock, Kent (9); equal 10. J. Clayton, Lancashire (8) and S. Jacobson, Middlesex (7); 12. D. Baddeley, Warwickshire (12).

**Women.** 1. D. Rowe, Middlesex (1); equal 2. L. Bell, Essex (3) and M. Shannon, Surrey (2); 4. A. Taft, Hertfordshire (?); 5. J. McCree, Essex (4); 6. Y. J. Williams, Hertfordshire (5); 7. J. Fielder, Kent (6); 8. D. Wright, Cheshire (7); 9. M. Piper, Surrey (8); 10. P. Mortimer, Warwickshire (9); 11. D. Fitzgerald, Lancashire (10).

Last season for a bit of fun, "Digest" produced its own unofficial Ranking List of Liverpool League players. We hope to repeat the experiment next month which, unlike the BTTA official list given above, will be purely for fun.

## A Timely Warning

We have received the following letter from Eddie Cameron, which we earnestly commend to all concerned:—

"The Editor,  
Table Tennis Digest.

Dear Sir,

With the season but a few weeks old, reports are coming through of score cards being filled in to cover absentees. This is a most serious offence, and investigations leading to proof of such occurrences will be followed by severe action by the Committee.

E. CAMERON,  
Hon. Finance Secretary and  
Registrar."

We trust that Mr. Cameron's warning will be heeded.

## Another Heavy Programme

(By JACK McCAIG)

**A** GAIN the League is faced with heavy commitments in the two counties league, but as in the past a start has been made and much preparations done to ensure that team selections are made on a sound merit basis. The first move was to hold the annual trial for junior players, which resulted, I am pleased to report, in almost double the number of players than last season coming to light. Much keen competition was seen at the trial at the Wavertree Labour club, and as a result, Gordon Birch, Rodney Myers and Michael Deane were eventually selected to represent the League in the opening matches. The first of these was played against Macclesfield and resulted in a comfortable 10-0 victory. Too much should not be read into this win as Macclesfield are, in fact, one of the weakest of the junior teams, whilst much stronger opposition will be met when Burnley provide the opposition at the Linnet club on Saturday, 24th November, at 2.30 p.m.

### Senior Trial.

Liverpool V.M.C.A. kindly staged this men's trial when nearly twenty players took part. Again the keen competition and rivalry was good to behold and many close sets were played. Emerging from this trial is a new face to league representative play in David Bitterworth, who was subsequently selected to play in the "A" team against the Wirral League at Beauclair on Friday, 2nd November. I am sure the player will be keen to do well and his form at the trials was certainly impressive. David Ferguson and Roy Smith complete the "A" team, making up, I think, a pretty strong team.

One of the principle objects of the men's trial was to select a number 3 for the 1st team. It having been decided early on that Arthur Taylor and Norman Jones are still worth their places as numbers 1 and 2 respectively. A considerable amount of elimination had to be done before Wally Allanson emerged as the player to impress most. He accordingly made his debut in the Willmott

Cup against Salford and won two of his three sets as did, also, Taylor and Jones in a fairly comfortable 6-3 win. All three were defeated by Cartwright, the ex-Manchester player, but I am sure that Norman Jones is kicking himself for letting Cartwright off the hook when in a virtually unassailable position. Having won the first game and leading 15-10 in the second he adopted the fatal policy of counting his chickens before they were hatched, and paid the full penalty in the end. A sound enough beginning for the team just the same.

### A Chance for Youth.

With the introduction of a Youth Division this year, our league wisely dropped the Junior "A" team and substituted a Youth team, thereby giving young players, no longer juniors, but between the ages of 17 to 20 a chance to improve their chances of eventual senior status. Although this team has not yet started the programme, Trevor Owens (Wavertree Labour), Robert Eden and Roy Smith (now in a dual role) will make their initial challenge against Salford Youth team on Friday, 16th November.

### What about the Ladies?

I understand that a ladies' trial is due to take place under the critical eye of Miss Mansell, when I imagine there will be more keen rivalry. Meanwhile Mrs. Moya Jones and the Misses Crafter and Willcox did duty in the first match of the season against old enemies Manchester, and acquitted themselves well, obtaining the best result for a number of years. One looks forward to the day when we can think in terms of a 7-3 win instead of a 3-7 defeat, good though this result appears by comparison with past efforts.

The same team will tackle Stockport at the Orrell club on Friday, 16th November, but the match to really look forward to is that between our two ladies teams which will be played at Beauclair on Friday, 7th December. This should be a real needle match for which the teams will be announced later.

# Around the Divisions

(by our Special Correspondents)

## Division I

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L'pool YM	6	6	0	0	52	8	12
Rafters	6	6	0	0	50	10	12
Bohs	6	6	0	0	49	11	12
Oakhill	6	5	1	0	44	16	10
Bootle YM	6	5	2	0	43	17	8
Balfour	6	3	2	1	31	29	7
Rafters A	6	2	2	2	26	34	6
Anfield	6	2	3	1	21	39	5
L'pool YM A	6	2	4	0	22	38	4
Wat. Dock	6	1	4	1	17	43	3
Bohs A	6	1	4	1	16	44	3
Linnets	6	0	5	1	16	44	1
Bootle YM A	6	0	5	1	16	44	1
Victoria Pk	6	0	6	0	17	43	0

**T**HE spotlight this month centres on the Bootle YMCA—Victoria Park match at Bootle, and in particular on the set between Wally Allanson and Eddie Clem. I am told that this started at 9-25 and at 10-45 the score was one game all. At this stage, although Bootle were leading 5-1 Stan Harvey gave Bootle the outstanding sets, due to the need for getting home. Sympathy must be felt for those who only played one set, also for the two contestants, neither of whom could be expected to throw away any chance of victory, but I offer my heartfelt sympathy to the unfortunate Umpire, Ted Birch. And to Harvey, congratulations on his stand. I believe that both players asked whether the time limit rule could be applied, but Birch (rightly) ruled that there was no such provision in League rules. Maybe it is time that there was.

Balfour defeated 1-9 by Liverpool YM "A", in which only Norman Jones had a win, underlined the loss of Davies and Willcock, and indicates that they will not be contenders for the championship which they held so long. And Bohemians 9-1 win at Oakhill seems to show that the ultimate winners will come from Liverpool YM, Rafters and Bohemians.

The first five weeks have weeded out the teams much as expected, leaving seven teams to do battle for the other, unenviable title of wooden-spoonists, and this is likely to be a dogfight from first to last. I rather

think that Rafters "A" will keep clear, for team order plays a bigger part with them than the others. Peter Short, by winning sets, has worked his way from No. 1 to No. 5, to be replaced by Murphy, and Bowden by virtue of their being the more consistent losers. Still, with both ends of the table wide open, it should be an interesting session. Three teams unbeaten, and one point covering the bottom five makes for a more sustained interest than has been the case for a long time. Bootle YM are feeling the loss of Gunnion, and together with Balfour, a strengthened Oakhill, and the strong Liverpool YM "A" are in the happy position of being neither serious contenders for the top nor in relegation danger—a happy spot.

The game of general post between clubs and the star players seems to have left the top teams as you were, Oakhill and Liverpool YM's second string stronger, with Balfour, Anfield and Linnets depleted. Still, everyone seems happy, and that's the main object.

Jim Green.

## Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Cadwa	6	6	0	0	53	7	12
Fairlawn	5	4	0	1	35	15	9
Lucem	6	3	1	2	42	19	9
R.A.F.A.	5	2	1	2	27	23	6
Bauclair	5	2	1	2	26	24	6
University	4	2	1	2	22	18	5
Bath St.	5	1	2	2	22	28	4
Waterloo Pk	5	2	3	0	21	29	4
Rafters B	6	1	4	1	20	40	3
L.P.A.S.	5	1	3	1	16	34	3
Vic. Pk A	5	1	4	0	14	36	2
Vic. Pk B	5	0	5	0	12	38	0

**T**HE opening matches of the season have made one fact very clear. Cadwa intend to ensure first division status for their team and they are determined not to make any mistakes this time. The signing of Harold Willcock and Gordon Birch most certainly emphasise this, and it is obvious that all other teams will find the winning of league points from Cadwa a most difficult undertaking. Lucem have provided the stiffest opposition to date, and they could only claim three sets.



## Around the Divisions—continued

It is difficult to find the side which may challenge Cadws for top place. Although Patlawar, in second place at the moment, have not yet lost a game, I am not going to be the one to forecast that they will be their biggest threat. Sufficient to say at the moment that Fairlawn, promoted from Division 3 have made a satisfactory start to their first-ever season in the 2nd division.

Rafters "B" the other promoted side have not made quite so useful a start, and obviously are taking time to settle. The same applies to Bath Street, relegated from the first division last year, but I expect this team to be up among the leaders eventually.

At the other end, it looks like being a very tough season for the two Victoria Park teams. Their "A" team recently claimed their first points with a win over L.P.A.S., but the "B" team remains pointless at the foot of the table.

Brian Leeson.

### Division 3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
U'pool YM B	5	5	0	0	42	8	10
U'pool CC	6	5	1	0	40	20	10
Eng. Elec	5	4	0	1	35	13	9
Linacre	5	4	1	0	38	12	8
Bath St. A	5	3	1	1	32	16	7
L.P.A.S. A	6	3	2	1	27	33	7
Linnar A	6	2	3	1	28	32	5
Sefton	6	2	3	1	26	34	5
Bohr B	6	2	3	1	26	34	5
Anfield A	5	2	3	0	26	34	4
Oakhill A	5	1	4	0	16	34	2
Scotia YM B	6	0	6	0	14	46	0
Vic. Pl. C	6	0	6	0	10	50	0

THE new season opened in a somewhat fashion as far as Liverpool Cricket Club were concerned. This side, who in five seasons have won promotion annually and who ran away with the South division last year, crashed on the first night of the new season 3-2 to Liverpool YMCA "B". While there is an argument that Cricket Club

had three reserves out, the YMCA had to introduce an untried player at no. 4 at the last moment. Seven of the ten sets went to three, and the evening's most successful performer was YM's H. Kewley, who won both, beating Ray Tyler and Max Griffiths, each in straight sets.

Indeed, at this stage, it seems that this YM team is too strong for this division, having only lost five sets in the first four matches, but apart from the Cricket Club they have not yet met any of the stronger sides, so anything can happen yet.

Although it is difficult to assess relative strength this early in the season it is obvious that the promotion struggle will be keen and will involve 6 or 7 teams. English Electric looked a promotion seeking side on paper, then they suffered a body blow with the loss of new recruit Billy Miller—ex the now defunct Brenka outfit—who left the district for London. Even after this loss, they are definitely a force to be reckoned with, and they had a rare struggle with Sefton, eventually sharing the honours. It is interesting to see that Sefton have L. Rosenbloom available more often this year, and have signed in addition Dr. Zaidi, an experienced player from Pakistan.

The sides relegated from Division 2 are having varying fortunes. Bath Street "A" started with a bang by trouncing the newly-promoted Police "A" 8 sets to 2, and suffered their first defeat to Cricket Club in a match which proved a personal triumph for Bath Street's no. 2, K. Hunt, who won both sets. For Oakhill 'A' it is sadly different, they having had only one win from their first five matches, and they now languish only 3rd from bottom, where they appear to be in some danger of the unenviable double drop in successive seasons.

Interesting talking point of the Division is whether the Linacre team can beat their hoodoo and at long last earn promotion to the higher division—to which many people claim they rightly belong.

Len Davies.

### Division 4

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L'pool PO	6	4	1	1	36	24	9
Wav. Lab	4	4	0	0	39	1	8
CADWA A	4	3	0	1	33	7	7
Fairlawn A	5	1	1	3	23	27	5
Oakhill B	3	2	0	1	21	9	5
Bath St. B	6	2	4	0	19	41	4
Wat. Dk. A	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Wat. Pk. A	3	1	2	0	11	19	2
Linnit B	3	1	2	0	10	20	2
CADWA B	5	0	4	0	16	34	1
Bootle YM C	4	0	4	0	5	35	0

IT IS more than regretted that the division has lost the services of several fine players due to the withdrawals of various teams for reasons quite beyond their control. The publication of this *Digest* will find that there will be teams who have already reached the half-way stage in their fixtures. This sad state of affairs is not the way in which we can foster interest and enthusiasm for the game, and is hardly fair to the remaining teams, but this is a problem which will not be resolved easily. Any ideas?

The season has opened with a bang for Cadwa "A". The tonic of relegation has, apparently, transformed the team into giant-killers, and how this side will fare against Wavertree Labour makes for interesting speculation—it will, I feel, decide the issue as to the ultimate winners of the division.

It was a disastrous match for Liverpool Post Office when they entertained Wavertree Labour at their new venue in New York Buildings. The Labour side are playing with that confidence born of success, and to single out any players from their team for commendation is difficult. However, I would mention the fine play of Peter Hurworth and Norman Chaloner who inflicted punishment on A. Campbell, Post Office number 1, who has, on occasion represented Liverpool in the Junior team. The match was played in an extremely sportsmanlike manner, and it was a pleasure to have participated . . . other teams please note!

All praise to Waterloo Park "A" for their gallant struggle against

Cadwa "A". The result was an 8-2 win for Cadwa, but this result in no way reflects the standard of what must have been a tip-top match. Eight of the sets required the deciding third game. So much effort for so little result, except the personal satisfaction of a hard-fought battle.

Terry McCoy.

### Division 5

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Crawfords	6	5	0	1	50	10	11
Wav. Lab. A	5	4	0	1	42	8	9
L'pool CCA	5	4	0	1	33	17	9
Crawfords A	4	4	0	0	29	11	8
L'pool YM C	5	3	2	0	22	28	6
Beauclair A	6	2	3	1	26	34	5
St. Ed's O.B.	4	2	2	0	25	15	4
Anfield B	5	2	3	0	17	33	4
Fairlawn B	5	1	4	0	15	35	2
Rafters C	4	0	3		6	24	
Dom Mission	5	0	5	0	13	37	0
Bootle Nalgo	4	0	4	0	2	38	0

THERE have been no shock results from the opening matches, and it would seem fairly clear that this division will not be so much a promotion struggle as a battle to avoid relegation. Crawfords and Wavertree Labour "A" look like eventually topping the division, but the lower end of the table is extremely open, although it is early yet to make any accurate forecast.

It was regrettable to hear that Nalgo had withdrawn from the League but pleasing indeed to find that some of their players had joined another club. Perhaps next season Nalgo will find it possible to return. We hope so, for they were keen players, and it is all too common to hear of a lack of interest.

The match between Crawfords and Wavertree Labour "A", which ended in a draw gives some indication of the comparative strength of the two sides. Arthur Jones of Crawfords (ex-Rafters) maintained his 100% record though he had a grim 3-game set—each game going to a deuce—against Ken Chambers (ex-Balfour). Both of these players figured in the first division last season, and the return match should indeed be a great fight.

## Around the Divisions—continued

There are still some teams without a point, also a few players who qualify for a wooden spoon, but they should not lose heart. I know of at least one first division player who went for two seasons without winning a single set, so if all keep on trying, perhaps the next issue will find that this position is unheard of.

A great deal has been written, from time to time, on the subject of what players should wear for match play. Despite all of this, during the past few weeks I have come across practically every style of dress from the regulation "dark shirt and greys" to the latest pattern of gent's natty lounge suit, complete with collar and tie, and outdoor shoes. At some point or other, off come the collar and tie, followed by the pullover, usually revealing a white or near-white shirt. Which, to say the least, is hardly playing the game with one's opponent, who is now faced with a difficult background to sight which way goes the ball. A ticklish problem. What about it, division 5? Win or lose, let us at least turn out as we would wish our opponents to do. A properly turned out side has already made a start to winning a match anyway.

Fred Winstanley.

### Division 6

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Wav. Lab B	5	5	9	9	41	9	10
Stanley Hse	6	3	2	1	31	29	7
Eng. Elec A	5	3	2	0	33	17	6
Eng Elec B	5	3	2	0	32	18	6
Tech Studs	5	3	2	0	28	22	6
L.P.A.S. B	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
University A	3	2	1	0	17	13	4
Bath St. C	4	1	2	1	17	23	3
L'pool CC B	4	1	2	1	15	25	3
Anfield C	6	1	5	0	17	43	2
Beauclair B	3	1	2	0	13	17	2
Linnet C	4	0	4	0	5	35	0

IT HAS been a most disappointing start to the season with two teams dropping out and changed match nights. Watch the latter for they can cause considerable discomfort. I regret to think that we are to suffer from one of the league's

most common ailments—that of having included amongst us one team which is far too strong for their division. I hope time proves me wrong.

Police again run true to form, and had a great win over English Electric "A", thanks mainly to two sets from I. Russell, and followed with a draw at Bath Street with four changes in their side. Daphne Campbell for Bath Street, and Wood for Police were outstanding, each winning a double.

Wavertree Labour, ably led by Ron McEvoy are away to a good start. And in the local derby between the English Electric sides saw Andy Ellard save the "B" team from a tin hat. Two tough games and three points for Stanley House. Against the Cricket Club a 5-5 draw, thanks mainly to the terrible twins Lynn and Amoo. The Cricket Club star was Don Maddocks, though Dean won the key game by a win over Harding. Lynn and Harding were the tops in the following match which resulted in a 6-4 win at Tech. Students, for whom Roberts won two. Then, just to upset the 'bookies' Tech. Students go to the Cricket Club and thrash them 8-2.

Losing sides provided a few good performances such as Grieves lone win for Beauclair who lost 1-9 to Wavertree Labour. D. Jones of Anfield who was the soloist in their 1-9 beating by Stanley House, and Owens, also Anfield, who scored a fine double when they lost 3-7 to Students.

Jack Lambert.

### Division 7

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Crawfords B	5	4	0	1	39	11	9
Lewis's	5	4	0	1	37	13	9
L'pool CC C	5	4	0	1	43	7	8
Colonsay	5	3	2	0	35	15	6
St. Leonard's	3	2	1	0	18	12	4
Lowlands	5	1	2	2	17	33	4
Cath. Met.	5	1	3	1	21	29	3
L'pool CC D	4	1	2	1	15	25	3
University B	4	0	2	2	14	26	2
Oakhill C	5	0	3	2	13	37	2
Eng. Elec C	3	1	2	0	8	22	2
Linnet D	3	0	3	0	0	30	0

**T**HE championship of this division is wide open, no particular side so far having given the impression of being likely to get a run away, but I expect that it will ultimately be fought out between St. Leonard's and Lewis's, with Colonsay, Liverpool CC "C" and Crawfords "B" as their main challengers. The only two unbeaten sides at the time of writing are Lewis's and Crawfords "B" though both have drawn games to their credit. Lewis's have been much strengthened by the excellent signing of F. Goodier from the now extinct Burlington club, and they visit Crawfords on November 22nd in what should be a most exciting match. Dave Magrane, Crawfords no. 3 hasn't lost yet and has had some good victories into the bargain.

St. Leonard's slipped up by losing their first home match to Lewis's but in fairness to them it should be pointed out that they were playing with two reserves. Two of their sets were scored by Tony Mathia at no. 2, and Goodier at no. for Lewis's had two creditable wins.

Colonsay slipped up even worse by losing both of their two first matches, both at home, to Liverpool CC "D" 4-6 (but they had three reserves out then) and St. Leonard's with their full team out, including two new signings from last season's Brenka. This may well have been due to lack of practice, but then I'm possibly biased! Cliff Humphries (no. 2) and J. Finnegan (no. 5) had excellent doubles for St. Leonard's.

Catholic Metro have started better than last season already. Last campaign their only points (two) were obtained from a walk-over!

Oakhill "C" got a first point v. Catholic Metro, when the youthful K. Blackburn had a fine match, winning in the 3rd against the experienced John O'Donnell, and easier in his other set, another player of a few years' standing.

Altogether in this division I can see many fine matches. It has all the ingredients of an enjoyable season, including GLAMOUR!

Norman Nelson.

*Editor's Note.* Tell us more about the glamour, Norman!

## Division 8

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Mossley Hill	5	5	0	0	41	9	10
Lussac	5	5	0	0	38	12	10
Orrell	6	4	2	0	39	21	8
Wav. Lab. C	5	3	2	0	30	20	6
Lowlands A	5	2	3	0	19	31	4
Lucem A	5	1	4	0	13	37	2
Anfield D	4	1	3	0	16	24	2
Tech. Stds. A	4	0	3	0	11	29	1
Maghull Coop	3	2	1	0	9	21	1
Colonsay A	2	0	2	0	4	16	0

**T**HERE are many newcomers to this division this season who, maybe, will benefit from a little constructive criticism. **RULE 8 MATCH REGULATIONS.** Jazzy, Sloppy-Joe sweaters are all very well for our winter weather, but are NOT suitable wear for match play, and further when they have been removed in the first game after warming up, I have witnessed plain white shirts, bold-patterned tartan shirts, and beach-type shirts of brilliant hues, all of which tend to unsight an opponent. Shoes are another point. I watched a match in which one player played in winkle-pickers and another in heavy leather shoes, neither of which even sported rubber soles. The opposing Captain did point out how dangerous this was after one player had slipped over a couple of times, and that the rules should be complied with. The **SERVICE** rule should be studied also. Bad habits, once started, are hard to break, but if some of our younger players are to get anywhere, they **MUST** serve correctly. Serving "straight from the hand," spinning from the fingers, and throwing the ball on to the bat are just a few of the foul services see. To throw the ball up from the palm of the hand with fingers outstretched seems to be beyond some players, and even after being warned, and having had four services given against them, they have found much difficulty in putting over a correct service. One young player complained that he relied on his service for a lot of points, and it was suggested to him that he should practice imparting spin by means of the **BAT ALONE.**

## Around the Divisions—Continued

I am sure that some of the more experienced League members will point out any bad faults that they see in matches to the people concerned. It will save a few games, even matches, being won on a foul service. Such occurrences always give rise to controversy.

Maghull Co-Operative are a young team, full of enthusiasm, but lacking experience. Almost every one of them served from his fingers, but on being told that this was a foul service did their level best to right the wrong. F. Brown wins many points, and seems to rely on doing so by his service, which is a very effective side spin imparted by the bat. N. Higham is a potentially good player with a strong game and good strokes, and D. Newton will give a good account of himself when he has gained more experience.

Lil Jenkins.

### 3 A Side

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
CADWA	6	6	0	0	41	13	12
L'pool YM	5	4	1	0	38	7	8
Wav. Lab	5	4	1	0	36	9	8
Bootle YM	5	4	1	0	28	17	8
Oakhill	9	3	3	0	28	26	6
Fairlawn	5	3	2	0	23	22	6
Balfour	5	3	2	0	20	25	6
Eng. Elec	5	3	2	0	19	26	6
Victoria Pk	6	2	4	0	26	28	4
Linnet	5	2	3	0	22	23	4
Lowlands	6	0	6	0	9	45	0
Lpool CC	4	0	4	0	9	27	0
Wat. Dk	5	0	5	0	7	38	0

THIS experimental division is in the unhappy position that few want to take it seriously. Much was heard that the "best players" wanted 3-a-side matches for serious match practice, yet less than half of the teams entered field their top players each week, to the detriment of the practice received. There is a strong feeling throughout that it's only a bit of fun, which defeats the original object, but does at least give practice to teams from outside the 1st division, which may stand them in good stead later on.

Liverpool YM, Bootle YM and Oakhill should finish in that order, for they turn out strong sides every

time, and Cadwa and Wavertree Labour will be close behind them. It will be interesting to see the results of the two Cadwa youngsters and of the Wavertree players against the top sides. In the first week Wavertree lost at home to Bootle YM, despite two wins by Hurworth, who lost only to Allanson 22-24 in the 3rd, with Farquaharson beating Brownlee. Five of the sets went to 3, and the result may be reversed in the return, though this seems unlikely. Lowlands are plugging away, although they admitted to me early on that they knew that they were on a hiding to nothing, and their main hope is that by playing stronger players each week they will improve their own standard. A hope which is echoed by all who meet them for they deserve some recompense for their persistence. Balfour are playing three members in this team who do not play in their sole remaining five-a-side team, and although giving these a game, the result is that we find them in a very unaccustomed spot near the foot of the table. A very different position than that which we expected.

Most taking part regret that Anfield, Rafters and Bohemians could not see their way to entering teams, for undoubtedly the extra strength would have added incentive to others to play at full strength every week.

### Women's Division

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Linnett	6	5	0	1	46	14	11
Rafters	6	5	0	0	44	16	10
Bohs	5	5	0	0	40	10	10
C.A.D.W.A.	5	4	1	0	38	12	8
L'pool CC	5	3	1	1	33	17	7
Crawfords	6	3	3	0	32	28	6
Bohs A	6	3	3	0	30	30	6
CADWA A	6	3	3	0	29	31	6
Bath St.	5	2	3	0	25	35	4
Anfield	5	0	5	0	9	41	0
Bootle Nalgo	5	0	5	0	8	42	0
Rafters A	4	0	4	0	6	34	0
Tech. Studs	4	0	4	0	0	40	0

THAT the ladies' teams are all playing in one division will give satisfaction to almost every player as it will mean that each

## Around the Divisions—Continued

team will have a match every week throughout the season, so keeping interest alive to the end. Last season the 2nd division teams suffered for they had very infrequent matches due to teams dropping out half-way through the season. This year we hope to see plenty of enthusiasm among the ladies, and if the weaker teams are given a good trouncing by the stronger ones, they need not be too despondent as there is no promotion or relegation, and I think the great majority of the ladies prefer the atmosphere of this division rather than that in the men's divisions.

Who will lead the field this season. At a guess I should say that Bohs will still maintain their hold on both the League and the Bartholomew Cup. Their team is the same as last year—Moya, Muriel, Joyce and Audrey—a very well-balanced team which will take some beating.

At the present moment Linnets are top with a game in hand from Bohs, having played five and earned 9 points—4 wins and 1 draw. Can they keep this up? They have more or less the same side as last year and are capable of pulling off a few surprises but as the season is still in its early stages it's a little early to hazard a guess. There are quite a few teams running neck and neck, which makes for really interesting matches. Liverpool C.C. who were second last year are doing very well, having 7 points from 5 matches.

Oakhill have withdrawn their team this year owing to lack of support and 3 of their long standing players have disappeared from the scene, namely Edna Moore, Lil Robinson and Anne Allen, but we hope to see them again in the near future. They have played in the League for many years, and though winning no honours have always given a good account of themselves. Another team lost to us is Orrell, but this time the players have not left us altogether, but are members of a mixed team in the men's division as they hadn't the members to register a ladies' team, so no doubt we shall be coming across the two Lils (Jenkins and Upton) and Bill Illidge, if not in matches, at least

in the tournaments. Crawford's have gained the services of Mabel Francis. With Oakhill packing up Mabel had to find another club, and she should do very well with her new side for whom she is the regular no. 1. When they met Moya Jones avenged her last season's defeat by winning in straight sets. Moya is playing very well, as are Muriel and Joyce. Judy Crafter (unfortunately for her) is suffering from what often happens when one wins a title of any description—the other players are always after your blood, and so, when arriving at the table, nerves are slightly frayed, and consequently the game suffers, but Judy is still very young and I am sure it won't do her any harm to lose a few. Possibly it will make her feel more relaxed when she plays. Certainly she played extremely well to win the Closed Championship, which was no mean feat for a youngster of 16 against some very experienced opponents, and she could easily win it for many years to come.

Bibbys also had difficulty in raising a team and dropped out, so Reggie Royle signed on for Anfield, who also welcomed back Dorothy Greensmith who last played for them about 8 years ago when she and her husband went to London. They have now returned, so Anfield can, once more, field a Ladies' team which they have been without for some years. Though not doing too well at present they say that they are enjoying themselves.

Rafters welcome the return of Myra Lovelady which brings them up to full strength with Blney Casselman, Jean Reynolds, and Elizabeth Loughrey. Jean started the season well by trouncing me well and truly. She played brilliantly that night and if she can maintain that standard a lot more people will have to look to their laurels.

Cadwa will be without Maureen Willcox at least till after Christmas. Up to the time she packed in Maureen was playing very well and no doubt, once she is able, will soon get back to form. Joan Burton, also of the "A" team is doing extremely well.

Eileen Mansell.

# ARTICLES WANTED!

By "MONTY"

**A** COUPLE of days ago Jim Green asked me to get cracking on an article for the first edition of the magazine for the 1962-63 season. This has been my lot now for quite a few years, and finding new subject matter becomes increasingly difficult, but the job must be done by someone and the reluctance of other League members to have a shot at it means that either Jim Green or myself has to produce something. Having rambled on so far with no definite theme, allow me to continue equally vaguely, and in my mood of justified despondency.

Why have J.G. and I got to write so much? We are neither of us professional journalists, nor are we better at it than other members of the League, yet, ordinary bods though we be, we have to rack our brains to find new material for nearly every issue.

There *must* be some hidden talent among the Clubs who could write much better than either of us, but from whom (perhaps owing to shyness) we never hear. A great deal of discussion goes on in clubrooms all over the town on various aspects of the game, yet we cannot join in since none of the orators ever puts his views in black and white for us all to comment upon. Healthy criticisms and discussions breed new ideas, and can only do good to the League and its members. Perhaps you think that it's no use sending in an article because the Editorial Board won't print it if they don't like it? Let me assure you that nothing is further from the truth.

I am not asking now for a "Letter to the Editor", although these are always welcome, but for some informative article on a specific subject. We do not mind if you have a pet hind to air—nor if you show good cause for the destruction of long-applied theories, PROVIDED that in place there comes something constructive.

Here I offer a list of well-worn subjects which, though often discussed, offer room for new thoughts,

and I am sure that there are many interesting theories on these topics which can well be aired — Coaching, Clubrooms, Manners, Sponge bats, Constitution of the League, Rules, Early starting, Late starting, Fines, Discipline, Dress, Umpiring.

And how often have we heard, during the tea-break chat, some incident from a past game described with such depth of feeling and humour that all present are entertained, yet these never get put down on paper for the enjoyment of all. I would that they were, for many of these stories are worth preserving.

So long as the views in an article are sincerely held, that article is usually worth reading, and in this connection let me illustrate on the subject of "Early Starting".

There has long been an idea bandied about that it would be a decided advantage to have League matches started at 6 or 6-30 p.m. instead of at 7-30 (or later) as at present. The scheme has been tried successfully in other Leagues, and even by mutual agreement in our own. There are many people who work in the city, travel to one extreme to go home for tea, and then back to the other side of the town for their matches. Alternatively they have to have tea in town, then mess about killing time until it is time to go to the match. Again, there are a number of young players whose parents feel that 11 p.m. is too late to arrive home from playing in a table tennis match (go on—say it! "What? In these days?"). Then there are the married couples who wish to play, but who find it more difficult to find a baby-sitter between 7-30 and 11 than it would be between 6 and 9-30. All of these individuals would be benefited by an earlier start, and there are few who would find it any hardship. These are just my own views on this idea. Maybe you hold other views either for or against, and by airing them, we may arrive at some solution acceptable to all—which would be something of an achievement.

# Merseyside Open — Special

SEVERAL voices were raised on the Friday night that not enough "locals" were able to play through to the Saturday, but only Wally Allanson and the two pairs through in the Doubles—Arthur Taylor and Allanson (again) and Peter Turtle with Roy Smith—performed well enough on Saturday to give any weight to criticisms of the quota "put through".

To Allanson and both doubles pairs, particularly Turtle and Smith, we owe thanks for keeping our hopes alive so long. Indeed we were hoping towards the end that we might see the Turtle/Smith combination to the semis, but they crashed in the quarter-finals after an extremely fine run in a high quality field. Clayton (the holder) and Ingher the no. 1 seed both went out fairly early on, as did Chester Barnes, who lost 22-20 in the 3rd to fellow-Junior Ransome (Middlesbrough) in the Men's event. The no. 1 Women seed, Pam Mortimer, also failed to get to the final, thus emphasising the high quality of the entry. The redoubtable Mandatuff went out in the 1st local round to his clubmate Roy Jones, the only real surprise on Friday.

The final events started only a few minutes late with the Men's Singles semi-finals, in which M. Symonds beat A. R. Tomlinson (New Zealand), and B. D. Wright (London) beat B. Hill (Boston) both two-straight, but full of interest. The final was as good as any seen in our tournament for very many years, Brian Wright winning a truly exciting battle at 21-19 in the 3rd.

The Women's Singles was a dour struggle between Mrs. I. Kershaw (Preston) and Mrs. C. Moore (Manchester) finishing at 22-20 in the final game in favour of Mrs. Kershaw, though in order to win she had had to pull up from 18-20. Not a very inspiring final, for attacking strokes were sadly lacking. Mrs. Moore got

some consolation though, for in partnership with D. Fitzgerald, also from Manchester, she won the Women's Doubles, beating W. Swift and M. Leigh (both Manchester) 21-12, 21-18, and together with Ronnie Allcock, won the Mixed with a win over M. Symonds (Warrington) and L. Proudlock (Sheffield) 23-21, 15-21, 21-18.

The New Zealander, A. R. Tomlinson, in a scratch partnership with M. Dainty (Doncaster) had a magnificent battle in the Men's Doubles against the two Manchester players, K. Forshaw and R. Crusham, with the former pair winning 21-17, 1-21, 21-17. In this game there were few points played which didn't draw applause from the audience, and both pairs can take credit for a tremendous effort.

In the Junior Boys, Chester Barnes had little difficulty in disposing of his experienced opponent David Stanley 21-14, 21-16, seemingly seldom fully extended, and brought his total of consecutive Junior titles to five. Harry Spiers added to his long list of Veterans' titles.

In the Junior Girls there were only three entries, one of whom did not arrive, so the first set played in the event was at the same time the Final. Pat Dainty (Doncaster) beat Jean Harrison (Bolton) 21-14, 21-13.

As a footnote, it was a sorry sight to see so many players of both sexes ignoring the dress regulations by playing in track suits, and by having shirts flapping outside the "lower" garment—but the prize for sartorial splendour must be awarded to the Friday night competitor who certainly did not have his shirt outside his trousers. Indeed he could not have done so, for he omitted to wear a shirt at all. Thus setting a new style in table tennis attire "grey sleeveless pullover over bare skin". Need more be said?



# Letter to the Editor . . .

Dear Sir,

At the League A.G.M. the Clubs issued a directive to the Management Committee to provide a copy of the League tables to each Club Secretary once per month. At the following Committee meeting this was discussed when it quickly became clear that there were only two of the members who had the facilities available (to wit, a duplicator), with the result that one of these was "elected". John McKim was prepared to undertake the job, but pointed out that, since his other duties and commitments took up so much of his time, the tables would be well out of date by the time he had been able to get them done. So, since we were obliged to do our best to comply with the directive, the other sucker (myself) got lumbered.

I wonder if the bright spark who thought up this particularly brilliant effort realised how much trouble he was causing.

Firstly, Eddie Cameron has to tabulate the ten divisions, get into his car and deliver them to me, wasting a good deal of his limited leisure time. Then I, who am not a trained typist (being as has possibly been noted, the wrong sex for this niche in life) have to cut stencils for ten divisions, check them for errors and run off forty-odd copies, address and post envelopes. I have just finished the first list, and have wasted just about ten hours of time, which I reckon I could have used to far better advantage.

To what end?

To save players from adding one week's results, at the most, to the tables in the "Digest". In fact, the

tables in the current issue are just as up to date as those I have sweated on!!

In addition, League funds are declining and the Committee (although doing all they can to reduce expenses) are now faced with a sheer waste of four to five pounds a season on stationery and postages on an idea which is so completely unnecessary, particularly as I am confident that a number of Secretaries will forget to let their members see the tables which will annoy them (the members) as well as infuriate me, since I foresee many, many 'phone calls from players demanding information regarding their teams. It will save unnecessary offence if those persons tempted to 'phone me in this regard first contact their Club Secretary.

May I appeal to, urge, persuade, or in any other way beguile the genius whose brainstorm this was, to offer his (or her) services in the discharge of this function and so waste his (or her) time. Failing this, I shall carry on but on each occasion it will be with the feeling that of all the stupid jobs foisted on to an unsuspecting VOLUNTARY Committee this one, by far, earns an all-time Oscar. I know that there are those who will offer their services, but I opine that the real person to tackle it is the one responsible. Will he (or she) make the offer? I doubt it!

Yours,

Jim Green  
(Sucker Extraordinary).

P.S. This is a personal opinion and does not necessarily reflect the views of either the Management Committee or the Editorial Board.

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