

**TABLE
TENNIS
DIGEST**

Official Magazine

OF THE

Liverpool & District Table Tennis League

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TABLE *DIGEST* TENNIS

All correspondence must be addressed to the Editor "Table Tennis Digest" 83 Lark Lane, Liverpool 17.

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J. Green (News), T. H. Edge (Features), J. McKim, A. Upton and D. Cameron

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EDITORIAL

MY first duty in this, my first editorial of 1965 is to wish all members of the League a belated, but none the less sincere, **HAPPY NEW YEAR**, with which good wishes the members of the Management Committee and Editorial Board wish to be associated.

Each New Year people compile a list of their resolutions but unfortunately these very soon go by the board. If implemented some of these resolutions would do nothing but good, so we hope that these are the ones which will not fall by the wayside.

In certain quarters the old question of a League headquarters has been resurrected recently, and it appears that there may be a good deal of support for it. Perhaps this time a Headquarters scheme might have a better chance of coming to fruition, especially if it is not quite as ambitious a project as was the last one.

Personally, I am all in favour of this idea becoming a fact, for I feel that a Headquarters would be vastly beneficial to the entire League. All inter-city matches could be played on the same table at the same premises to the benefit of both players and officials, and it may well prove that a little more support for City teams would be forthcoming from League members. A Headquarters would provide also, venues for cup semi-finals and finals, thus relieving the Fixture Secretary of the unenviable job of borrowing clubrooms for these events. Provided that sufficient space was available, it might prove possible to 'house' a club with clubroom problems for enough time to allow them to resolve their difficulties, and League members would possibly be able to meet and play there when their own clubroom was not available—possibly to practice with members from other clubs whenever they so desired.

These are purely personal views on this subject but in my opinion they could form the basis for thought and discussion between you all. Your own ideas and suggestions will be more than usually welcome on this subject of a Headquarters, which was such a controversial matter some 13 years ago when the member clubs voted against the idea. I urge those who have strong views either in favour or against a League Headquarters—**do not hesitate**—send your ideas to me for the next issue.

Finally, we are often asked to give more 'outside' information in the *Digest*. This is seldom possible, for the affairs of our own League must always take priority in the magazine of a local League, but enclosed with this issue is an order form for the National magazine, "TABLE TENNIS", which, if completed and sent to Mr. Hoffman, will provide you with all information you may require on a variety of subjects. May we urge you all to order the magazine, which we venture to think will be both useful and extremely interesting to everyone.

THE MICKLESFIELD MEDALS

AS many of you are aware, the Micklesfield Medals competition was originally organised as a tournament between sides selected from the Regions. It was discontinued for a few years after the Regions were disbanded but was re-introduced last season when we had four third divisions.

Since the League has been re-organised once again we have lost the four third divisions of equal status. The Committee felt that the Micklesfield competition should not be dropped if it could be avoided, but we did not feel that it would be a fair competition if played on the normal basis of teams selected from the third and fourth divisions. Neither would it prove a very interesting competition if only the two fourth divisions were to provide sides to contest it.

The Committee decided, therefore, that for this season the competition shall be open to the two third, two fourth and the Womens divisions, and that it shall take the form of a Brazilian tournament. This competition will be played off on one evening, on one table, and should prove an entertaining evening for players and spectators alike. Full details of the date and venue will be given at a later date, probably in the next *Digest*.

Each of the divisions mentioned above can enter one team. Each team will consist of three players one of whom **must** be under twenty,

one between twenty and forty, and the third must be over forty, on the 1st January, 1965. The method of play will be explained to the teams on the evening of the tournament.

The Committee has appointed one of its members to each division, who is familiar with the players therein, to select the team for the division, and to arrange the date and venue. Each Club Secretary is urged to send his nominations for the team to the selector concerned, and please be sure to state the age group into which each of your nominations falls. The Committee have decided that, as a matter of principle, the selectors shall give team places to players nominated by their clubs **before** calling on any player who was not so nominated, so if someone is chosen to represent your division whom you consider you could beat easily, **please check** that your club secretary did put your name forward before starting to shout the odds at the person who selected your division's side. The selectors appointed for the teams are as follows:—

Women's Division—Miss Amy Bell
(address in your handbook p.1)
Division 3A—Mr. Tom Edge
(Secretary of Crawfords)
Division 3B—Mr. John McKim
Division 4A—Mr. Brian Leeson
(address in your handbook p.1)
Division 4B—Mr. J. R. Green
(Secretary of Linnets).

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THE SAME SAD STORY

DESPITE all efforts to acquire a winning side, our senior men's team continues to suffer one defeat after another. There was a time when our league could and did dish out real hammerings to other leagues in Lancashire and Cheshire, and indeed once failed by but one set to win the Wilmott Cup, going down 5-4 to Manchester in the final. That of course was in pre-war days, and standards of play here were very different to today. Nobody decries the efforts put up by our players, but the fact does remain that we are just not good enough to take on what ought to be relatively weak sides such as Bolton, Burnley, Preston, etc. The fact that we have lost so far to all these leagues, plus Mid-Cheshire is rather galling, and with the prospects not much better against Stockport, Blackpool and Manchester, it would seem that we shall be in a pretty familiar position at the foot of Division I by the end of the season. Ted Mandaluff remains our most reliable player this season, with so far a 50% record. Peter D'Arcy also has a reasonable record, but there remains a lack of bite in the side, which the introduction of Peter Hurworth in place of Frank Thomas against Preston failed to produce. We can but hope that someone comes up with something special in the final matches.

A better picture

The men's 'A' team show a better record altogether, and except for lack of support from one particular player, their record would be 100%.

As it is, the enforced last minute introduction of an inexperienced player, who did his utmost for the side without success, cost the match against the Business Houses. Even so, there is an excellent chance that the team will win their division.

Consistent

Both ladies teams continue to prosper, with the 1st team so far losing only to Manchester, and chalking up wins against Crewe, Preston and Wigan. The same team of Judy Crafter, Maureen King and Mabel Francis has performed in all the games. The 'A' team, with Jean Reynolds, Muriel Cox, Marion Lewis and Joyce Randall have so far broken even, with wins against Oldham and Warrington, and defeats at the hands of Wigan and Stockport.

Another title?

The Youth team has so far met little opposition, and the team of McPherson, E. Birch and Ferris have dropped only seven sets in three matches. With six games still to be played anything could happen, but I would hazard an opinion that our Youth team will again win their division, which would be a good performance indeed.

Juniors in good form

The time arrives each season when hopes rise that our juniors will again take the division, only for them to be dashed. To date two draws and two wins in four matches is a fair record, but with another four to go, it is early to forecast. Perhaps by the next issue the position will be more clear.

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THE TABLE TENNIS MENACE

MISTER Smart Guy. All who play, officiate at, or watch table tennis know him well. He is a blood relation to Mr. Smart Alec, and disrupts many an evening's sport by his precise knowledge of everything to do with the game, including its wiles, tricks and stratagems.

Let us assume that we are average club players about to play a match of no particular interest to anyone except those directly concerned. We prepare things to the best of our ability and facilities, then welcome the visitors, anticipating an enjoyable evening's sport, whether we win or lose. We get down to it. At least we had **hoped** to get down to it.

We find instead, that getting started is no simple and straightforward affair. No, not by any means. What's happened? Mr. S.G. happens to be one of the visiting party and is letting all know he's around and not to be fooled with, "No Sir!" He is peering closely at the net and has gone into a huddle with himself.

Then he whips out a rule (he always carries a rule) and meticulously measures the net from left to right, right to left, centre to right, centre to left, works out longitude and latitude, and glares up aggressively with the information that the aforesaid net, at some point or another is a 16th of an inch too high or too low.

Whereupon he pushes the offending item down, or pulls it up, prods it and pokes it, measures it again with his instrument of torture and complains that it is still a 32nd of an inch too low or too high. The deviation, incidentally, will vary according to his style: if he's an attacker it'll be too high, if a defender, too low and the announced discrepancy, so he explains for the benefit of the ignorant, is more than sufficient to upset the exquisite timing of a genius, thus giving the

impression that he cannot be excluded from the circle of geni.

The net is taken down and carefully re-adjusted, again measured by Mr. S.G. with **The Rule**, and is eventually O.K'd.

Justice in this direction having been obtained, Mr. S.G. indulges in a knock-up on the table to study conditions at first hand. The table as he no doubt suspected from the first is, so he pronounces, too fast, too slow, too inclined to 'float' the ball, or too prone to make the ball drop dead. The judgment depends entirely on the **expert's** particular likes and dislikes. As it is impossible to recondition the table then and there, the knowledgeable one is generous enough to let the matter pass with a mere frown of disapproval.

He turns his X-ray eyes on the lights, which are badly spaced, too patchy, hung too high or too low, and are wrong shaped. Next it's the turn of the ball, which is alleged to be egg-shaped, or too hard, or too soft, or of the wrong brand. The flooring leaves much to be desired and the runback is inadequate. Backgrounds are of the wrong colour. Everything, in short, is not as it should be.

Preambles over, the match starts. When the self-appointed star of the evening goes to the table, he does so in a manner which suggests that a round of applause would not be out of place. He keeps a hawk-like watch on his opponent's service and doesn't hesitate to chide the umpire if that official doesn't uphold regulations. He isn't so fastidious about his own service though, and is mortified and prepared to argue to the death if the umpire has the sheer effrontery to pull him up.

When losing points he contorts his face so that it looks a pan which old man Mephistopholes might himself envy, and slaps his bat viciously across his leg to denote disgust with a prejudiced Goddess of Fortune.

To upset his foe's rhythm he uses

Continued on Page 6.

off-beat "stroke" peculiar to his repertoire, like stopping play to wipe his spectacles, straightening his socks, hitching his shorts, wiping his brow with a towel, taking a lozenge or energy tablet, or manipulating the zip of his shirt. Watching him is the equivalent of taking a free course in applied psychology.

If Mr. S.G. loses, he explains loudly and for the benefit of his shattered admirers and that anyone

who thinks otherwise is a complete ignoramus. When he wins he belittles his opponent and loudly talks tactics with his comrades, telling them of a sure way of beating the cheese he has just slaughtered.

Mr. S.G. is sour in defeat, arrogant and ungracious in victory, incapable of enjoying a game for the game's sake, and a deadly assassin with a positive gift for killing an evening.

The Management Committee wishes to express its grateful thanks to the undermentioned for their generous gifts in response to the appeal for prizes for the Merseyside Open Championships:—

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Around the Divisions

DIVISION 1	by Jim Green				
	P	W	L	D	Pts
Liverpool Y.M.	9	9	0	0	75
Wavertree Lab.	9	8	1	0	62
Bohemians . . .	8	6	2	0	55
Rafters	8	6	2	0	50
Wav. Lab. 'A'	8	5	3	0	47
Cadwa	9	3	4	2	45
Pirates	8	3	4	1	37
Lucem	9	2	7	0	33
L'pool Y.M. 'A'	8	1	7	0	32
Linnets	8	2	5	1	27
Oakhill	9	3	6	0	23
Bohs. 'A'	7	0	7	0	14

WEEKLY it becomes more apparent that Liverpool Y.M.C.A. will keep their championship title this season. Despite the loss of such players as Owen, Bradshaw and Roy Smith, their 1st team is still the strongest five in the division taken throughout, and unless something really extraordinary happens in the second half, it seems that they will get home very comfortably. Rafters with the same side as last year, Bohemians, and Wavertree Labour are at present battling for the next three places, but I confidently expect that Cadwa, with the added strength of Mike Johns, and the Pirates with the additional signings of the vast majority of the Anfield club will be joining in this happy little scrap very soon, so a regular free for all is in the making.

The rest are still in the throes of a fight against relegation. This has been eased by the loss of the two Anfield sides which means only two sides are now due for relegation, but which two? Any two of the last five in the present table might ultimately occupy one of the two unlucky places. The transfer of Roy Smith to Wavertree Labour added to that of Cyril Bradshaw to Beauclair and the loss of Skedge has played havoc with the Y.M.C.A. 'A' team, and they have dropped rapidly down. but George Smith Harry Johnstone and Bert Kewley have no thoughts of going down. Lucem have annually upset all prophecies of taking a drop by a revival in the last few games, and this has become so much a habit that we almost expect to see it

happen now. Oakhill, although weakened by the loss of Ramsdale, signed up Andy Byrne instead, and with the remainder of last season's side seem too strong to go down.

Linnets, who have a number of young players together with Frank Thomas and Harry Spiers are confident of adding to last season's final total of points, and have an extra advantage over the others in that they have a match in hand v fellows in distress Bohemians 'A', and a good win here can pull them up a few places. Last, but not least, Bohemians 'A' look to be doomed, but have recently signed up Bruce Cain, which, in addition to strengthening their 1st team, will give help to the 'A' by the dropping of one from the existing team to their 'A'. In all, there is the makings of another nothing-barred struggle at the tail end, and it will be interesting to see the outcome.

Interest has been added by the transfer of Roy Smith from the Y.M. to Wavertree. I understand that he is to go into the 1st team, and it will be most beneficial to all of the Labour Club sides, for I understand that Gordon Brownlee will be going into the 'A' team and Norman Challoner into the 'B'. Since Norman has already proved himself in this division, undoubtedly he will strengthen the 'B' team's hopes for promotion, thus making Wavertree the first club to have three teams in the first division since the heydays of Balfour.

DIVISION 2A	by Jimmy Bowden				
	P	W	L	D	Pts
Beauclair	11	10	1	0	85
Pirates 'A' . . .	11	7	2	2	76
Linacre	11	6	3	2	73
Waterloo Park	10	8	1	1	68
Rafters 'A' . . .	8	6	2	0	58
Cadwa 'A'	10	7	2	1	54
L'pool Jewish	10	4	4	2	53
English Elec.	10	2	5	3	43
Bath St. 'A' . .	10	2	6	2	41
Coll. of Tech.	11	3	7	1	40
Colonsay	10	2	7	1	40
Crawfords 'A' .	11	3	7	1	39
L.P.A.S. 'A' . . .	11	3	7	1	36
Liverpool P.O.	10	0	10	0	14

THE battle for promotion spots is now becoming a dour tussle between five clubs. Beauclair, who have played three more matches than have Rafter's 'A' are in the lead, 17 points ahead of Rafter's who lie in fifth place; Pirates 'A' who still have to play Beauclair, Linacre still to meet Rafter's 'A'; and Waterloo Park who recently seem to have fallen away a little, losing 2-8 to Rafter's and being held to a draw by Cadwa 'A'. Those are the five, and the second half of the season has all the ingredients of a super dog-fight.

Brian Parry (Beauclair) is undefeated in no less than 16 league matches, while his team mate Bobby Owen has lost only one set, as have the Pirates pair Freddie Bamford and George Sanders. Individually, Geoff Nelson and J. Taylor (LPAS) H. Dumbell (Bath Street), Graham Platt (Coll. Tech.), Jack Longstaffe (Eng. Elec.), Bob Mason (Post Office) and John Hodges (Colonsay) earn praise for winning their sides' single point from 1-9 reverses.

We have read Dunbar's statement in the 'Echo' that Wavertree Labour 'B' are going to hold on to the Rumjahn Cup. Dunbar has been proved totally wrong so many, many times that this statement is most heartening to Linacre, Pirates 'A' and Rafter's 'A' from our division, all of whom are still concerned in the ultimate result. I venture to think that Wavertree Labour, good though they undoubtedly are, will not have it all their own way. Indeed, after consulting the crystal ball, rumour has it that Bernard Murphy quotes no odds, though I'm told that the divisional championship is quoted at 6-4 Rafter's, 7-4 Beauclair, and 2-1 Pirates. Any takers?

English Electric have recently suffered losses by 10-0 and 9-1, but these results do not fully reflect the relative strengths of the sides, since of the 20 sets, no less than 8 were lost in the third, so here's hoping that 1965 will see them with better results, especially as I hear that Eric Smitton is likely to return to the team and that Ken Jones (ex Linnets) is running back into form, both of which should strengthen

their side considerably.

At the tail end, it seems that the Post Office are doomed, but any one of the five sides immediately above them may be the unfortunates to accompany them to Division 3. Which gives us another all-in-no-holds-barred scrap to avoid relegation, as well as the promotion battle.

DIVISION 2B by John O'Sullivan

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Wav. Lab. 'B'	11	11	0	0	91
Bath Street . .	10	9	1	0	77
L.P.A.S.	10	8	2	0	67
University . . .	10	6	3	1	60
St. Edwards . .	11	6	3	2	60
Linnets 'B' . . .	9	5	2	2	55
Linnets 'A' . . .	9	4	2	3	52
Mossley Hill . .	10	4	5	1	52
Crawfords . . .	11	4	5	2	50
Cadwa 'B'	11	2	8	1	36
Boote YMCA . .	11	2	7	2	35
L'pool Y.M. 'B'	11	1	7	3	35
Lpool Jewish 'A'	11	1	9	1	35
Bohs 'B'	9	0	9	0	15

AS we approach the halfway point of the season it becomes evident that we have a big gap between the top and bottom teams in the division. The top three are averaging roughly 7 points per match while the bottom three are averaging just over 3.

Although I am only stating this as information and not to prove any particular point, one can't help admiring a team like Bohemians 'B' who, out of 9 matches have won only 15 sets. Of these 15, Alan Rycroft has won 6 (from 8 played). Since Bohs 'B' have used 16 players to make up their team, this means that the other 15 players have won only 9 sets between them. It must take quite a lot of enthusiasm to play under these circumstances.

When Bath Street entertained Wavertree Labour 'B', it was, as expected, a close match. Ted Morris made a welcome return to the Wavertree team at No. 1. Although he lost to Alec Gould in two straight, he beat John Coveney, who at present holds the best playing record for Bath Street (played 20—won 18). The match ended in a victory for Wavertree 6-4, the four for Bath Street coming from Alec Gould (2) and unhappily for Ron

McEvoy, John Coveney and Alan Taylor won one apiece. This win now leaves Wavertree undisputed leaders of Division 2B with an average of 8.3 sets from each match.

I award the prize for the most unusual match of the season to Linnets 'A' v Linnets 'B'. Linnets 'B' did not turn up and therefore Linnets 'A' claimed a 10-0 walk-over. I am quite sure you have all had enough grumbles about the chaos in the handbook this year, but personally I cannot think of any reason whereby two teams belonging to the same club could possibly forget, or confuse, the night of a match which is being played on their own premises.

Looking at my handbook I see that both Linnets 'A' and 'B' teams have changed their match nights this season. What the reason was for the non-arrival of the entire 'B' team I do not know, but it is interesting to note that in their next 'home' match the following week Linnets 'B' claimed a 10-0 walk-over from Bootle Y.M.C.A. I wonder why? Then I see that the Management Committee has ordered that the Linnets 'A' v 'B' match be replayed. Again, I wonder why?

DIVISION 3A	by Mabel Francis				
	P	W	L	D	Pts
Sefton General	10	9	0	1	81
Wav. Lab. 'C'	9	7	1	1	64
Oakhill 'A' . . .	10	5	3	2	64
Crawfords 'B'	9	6	2	1	61
Stanley House	10	5	3	2	57
Lpool Jewish 'B'	10	5	3	2	56
Pirates 'B' . . .	9	6	3	0	55
St. Mary's Coll.	8	4	2	2	48
Trinity	8	4	3	1	47
Eng. Elec. 'B'	10	1	8	1	29
Bath St. 'C' . . .	9	0	7	2	17
Beauclair 'B'	10	0	9	1	15
Domestic Miss.	8	0	8	0	6

THE strongest and steadiest team emerging in this division is undoubtedly Sefton General, and they are the only side not to have lost a match as yet. Their only two 'close ones' were a draw v Wavertree Labour and a 6-4 win over Pirates 'B'. Bill Davies heads his team's list of scorers with 15 wins from 18, but it is a strong team, and will be hard to beat if they keep up this pressure.

Comparing the current league table with that of the previous issue, all of the top seven places are occupied by different teams, but at the bottom the 6 lowest remain the same apart from Bath Street 'B' and Beauclair 'B' who have swapped places.

The most inconsistent team in this division, and probably in the whole league, must be Pirates 'B', who, for league matches alone, and less than half-way through the season, have fielded a total of no less than 24 players, including four females. At no time have they played the same five players in consecutive matches—in fact only once has one set of five played all together in a previous match, and each week someone different has appeared up to now. To date A. Southall (ex-Anfield) has played most often. After making his debut on November 9th he has played ever since so it is not surprising that he is the team's top scorer (played 10-won 8). Fourteen others have made just one appearance and then disappeared.

After drawing with Bath Street 'C', English Electric 'B' finally got their first win against Beauclair 'B', but even that included two walk-overs. In their match v St. Marys Andy Ellard also won his first set and a creditable one it was to open his score, beating D. Page 23-21, 21-18, and only just losing -19 in the third to Joe Delamere. Up to that time he had been the only Eng. Elec. player not to have won at least one set. This would seem to have been a very close match judging by the scores, with the final result 6-4 in St. Marys favour. I'm glad to see Trinity with a few more matches played even though they are still in the same position (9th). They seem to have found a perfect number four in John Hankin (a junior) who has won 17 of 18 sets played, losing only to R. Thomas (Wavertree Labour).

Domestic Mission look unlikely to even draw a match in this division but I must say I was really surprised at the standard of one of their players, J. McVey. He and A. Patterson were the only two who turned up to play against Crawfords

so I didn't see any of the others. According to the score card these two were again the only arrivals at Stanley House. I hope that this is not going to happen very frequently in the future. Back to McVey—he really justified himself by beating Matt Hammill and Bill Nelson (Oakhill's 1 and 2) recently, both in the third game but Oakhill must have got a surprise all round that night for five sets went to three, and Hammill only won his second 25-23, 21-19—another close game! Surely the season's best for Domestic Mission. McVeys other victims include A. Siddall (Waver-tree Labour), L. Hogg (Stanley House) and D. Newton (Trinity). Domestic's sole remaining point was won by Margaret Patterson beating T. Boyle (Trinity).

It's rough going for young Alan Kelly of Beauclair 'B', who, since winning four sets from his first four matches has only won 1 set from his next six matches. This may be due to his playing at No. 2 too soon, and too much being expected from him. I hope that these reverses won't dishearten him and would like to see him settle down into a steady game. So now Beauclair's top scorer is Margaret Collins with 6 wins from 18 played, whose best night was v Pirates 'B' when she accounted for T. Daly and L. Robinson both in two straight.

DIVISION 3B by Jack Lambert

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Linnet 'C'	9	9	0	0	74
Eng. Elec. 'A'	10	7	1	2	68
Orrell	10	5	3	2	57
Pirates 'C'	8	7	0	1	56
Lowlands	10	5	3	2	55
Bath St. 'B'	9	5	2	2	53
Linnet 'D'	10	3	5	2	45
Lussac	10	3	6	1	42
Beauclair 'A'	9	2	5	2	37
L.P.A.S. 'B'	8	2	6	0	35
Rafters 'B'	8	2	4	2	33
Eng. Elec. 'D'	8	1	7	0	19
Bohs 'C'	9	0	9	0	15

MY forecast of an open championship race with half of the division interested has crashed with the Priates-Anfield amalgamation, and Linnets 'C' (our present

leaders) will do very well to withstand the challenge of this much-strengthened side, for Pirates' new-look team started off with a solid 8-2 win over a Lowlands side fielding its stongest combination, Les French losing his first set of the season to Les Lewis. Bobby Wilson (Linnets 'D') took some of the shine from Pirates' next win by gaining his double from his team's 3 sets.

English Electric 'A' have found the going a bit too tough at the top. Lussac took three valuable points thanks to an excellent double by Nevins, and both Orrell and Lowlands forced drawn results in two extremely fine matches which had everything a good table tennis night should have—early starts—exciting, even games—players treating each other as friends instead of ogres at the other end of the room—and a decision only being reached in the tenth set. French and Smith (soon leaving for South Africa, where I am sure he will have all our good wishes) won two for Lowlands, and Brint and Wright did the same for Orrell. Callaghan and Ten Jane are now running into form after slow starts, and both proved most successful for Electric.

The wooden spoon battle saw English Electric 'D' beat Bohemians 'C' 8-2. Other good wins saw Linnets 'D' beat Lowlands 7-3 with Barry Meyer excelling himself, backed by Wilson and Morgan. Bath Street 'B' (B. Taylor 2) and Lussac (Nevins and Sturgess 2) both had 6-4 wins over the Police who, as always, field many and varied teams, owing to the exigencies of the service. Sayle and Miss I. Russell had double wins in these games.

A couple of good wins were those of R. Morris v Pirates (who won 9-1), J. Murphy v Linnets 'C' (who won 9-1). W. Gould won 2 v Lowlands who, however, won 6-4, and Winstanley and Harry Reynolds appear to have dragged Jack McCaig from semi-retirement (is this to strengthen the side or to counteract female dominance?).

DIVISION 4A by Glyn Hughes

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Colonsay 'A'	11	10	1	0	96
12/50	10	10	0	0	85
University 'A'	9	7	2	0	68
Wav. Lab. 'D'	9	7	2	0	64
Oakhill 'B'	10	5	3	2	56
Orrell 'A'	9	2	4	3	40
Coll. of Tech 'A'	9	3	5	1	34
Linnet 'F'	8	2	6	0	28
L.Y.C.A.	7	2	4	1	27
Eng. Elec. 'C'	7	2	5	0	26
Palmerston 'A'	9	1	7	1	22
Crawfords 'C'	7	2	5	0	21
Bradstones 'A'	9	0	9	0	3

IT is still Colonsay 'A' and 12/50 Club leading the table with Colonsay just nosing ahead for the top position. There is little doubt that these two sides are so far in advance of the rest of the division that the divisional championship (and promotion) concerns only them, and this is more evident when it is realised that Harold Macmillan and Jim Robinson (both 12/50) still have 100% records, with 18 wins from 18 played, and three Colonsay players, Brian Leeson, John Leeson and Brian Carter have each won 19 from 20 played. Lying third we find University 'A' who have proved to be the only side to afford any opposition to the two top teams. Their position is clearly justified even though they lead Wavertree Labour only by a short head after playing an equal number of matches.

Oakhill 'B' come fifth with 56 sets earned from 10 matches, and it seems time that this club, formerly one of the strongest, fought its way back to their erstwhile eminence. It seems surprising that Dave Eaton has not had more success, but these things happen to all.

Orrell are well situated, but despite the help of G. Kirk from the last year's 2nd division (then with Bath Street 'A') who has won 14 sets from 16, they are far from strong enough to give any real challenge to teams above them and it seems certain that they will have to settle for a middle place.

I must confess surprise that a club's 7th team, Linnets 'F' are well up the table and although they may finish slightly lower (or even a shade higher) they have little to

worry about for they have three or four really young players who will improve each season.

At the tail end we find Bradstones 'A' who, unfortunately, are still subjected to some fierce thrashings weekly, but they continue to play together—a heartening sign—and once they find someone to show them the basic shots, their own keenness will take them a long way. One can only wish such a side the very best for the rest of the season.

DIVISION 4B by Jim Green

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Palmerston	11	9	1	1	78
Brit. Railways	9	7	1	1	67
Mossley H. 'A'	10	6	3	1	65
Colonsay 'B'	12	6	5	1	64
University 'B'	11	4	4	3	63
Pirates 'D'	7	7	0	0	60
Edge Hill	11	4	7	0	47
Lowlands 'A'	9	4	4	1	42
Stanley Hse 'A'	10	4	4	2	39
St. Mary's 'A'	9	2	6	1	34
Pirates 'E'	6	3	3	0	30
Bradstones	10	3	7	0	30
Linnet 'E'	8	1	7	0	24
Eng. Elec. 'E'	9	0	8	1	16

AS I write Palmerston lead the way with British Railways in second place, but since the numbers of the matches played by each side vary very considerably, it is early days to start picking winners! However, according to annual custom, I now stock my neck out by forecasting that Pirates 'D' will top the division at the seasons end, the Railway side will be second, Palmerston third then every man for himself! The reason for my choice? Well the Pirates are collecting an average of one point per match more than Railways, who in turn are gleaming half a point more per match than are Palmerston.

Pirates 'D' have a particularly strong team of players with experience of higher divisions, and they cannot stay long in the 4th and their 'E' team contains enough strong players that they can always lay hands on suitable reserves, so it is with some confidence that a prophecy is made for them to head the division.

Stanley House 'A' might well climb up the table after they have put their house in order. From their first eight score cards, twice

they conceded 10-0 walk-overs (to Colonsay and Palmerston) and in five of the other six played one short, to present the opposition with 2 points. So that in the first eight games, they gave away 30 sets, some of which they might well have won. So their placing in the table has little relevance to their ability.

Linnets 'E' gave warning of things to come (they hope) by holding Pirates 'D' to a draw in the Forrest Cup. They lost the replay at Pirates by a comfortable margin, but with the added strength of their two new players Eddie Johnson and Dave Blake (ex-L.Y.C.A.) they feel confident that better things are in store for them. Edge Hill are doing remarkably well for complete newcomers, and since their average age is so low it augers well for coming seasons. Bradstones 'A' have already nearly trebled their last year's total number of points and must be feeling more pleased with life, and Palmerston cruise along comfortably in both League and Cup. They are a new club to the league but the players have all had league experience with other clubs.

By now every club in this division will have had a copy of the revised fixture list from the Fixture Secretary, who felt that this was needed owing to the large number of mistakes about who and where teams were to play each week. This should prove valuable indeed, and there can be no excuse for missed matches on these grounds henceforth.

I was perturbed that none of the players of the division responded to my request for a reporter on your matches, published in the November notes. It must be obvious that a player from the division could do this job better than I, who seldom has a chance to see the teams in operation. I have to rely on 'gossip' and my knowledge of the players gathered from past years, which is by no means the best way.

WOMEN'S DIVISION

by Amy Bell

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Cadwa	6	6	0	0	53
Pirates	8	5	3	0	50
Rafters	6	4	1	1	45
Linnets	6	5	1	0	43
Bohemians	6	4	2	0	42
Linnet 'A'	7	4	3	0	40
Crawfords	5	3	1	1	36
Lussac	9	2	7	0	14
Rafters 'A'	5	0	5	0	7
Pirates 'A'	3	0	3	0	5
Telecomms	8	0	8	0	5

IT seems more than likely that Cadwa will again finish the season as champions, for even at this early stage they are pulling away slowly but surely, and now that Judy Crafter is turning out whenever she can, it is nearly certain that no one will overtake them. For second place there are half a dozen sides which can get there, and there will be quite a struggle going on. Who will finish second eventually I would not care to comment, but whoever does will certainly have earned their place.

Lussac had their second win of the season over Telecomms by 7-3, but Telecomms were playing a reserve, and the return might be a reversal of the score. C. Brooke and V. Flynn each won two for Lussac, and Marilyn Howson two for Telecomms, whose other win was in the doubles, when Vivien Andersen and Anne Hughes beat C. Brooke and V. Flynn. These are two new sides of very keen girls, and I am more than confident that next year will find both teams winning more often, just as Linnets 'A' have done after their disastrous start last season. Linnets 'A' had a really good win over Bohemians at Sandfield Park. Barbara Cain won both her singles, but both Marion Lewis and Carole Flood overcame Audrey Gee in two straight, Angela Parker played well to beat Edith Gleed, and both Carole and Cath Churchill beat J. Cliffe who stood in for Joyce Randall.

This year's beginners **please note.** Barbara Horsley had a good victory over Judy Crafter when Crawfords lost 4-6 to Cadwa. After losing the first game -18, she went on to win the second 16, and was 13-8 up in the third when Judy rallied, but it was just too late and Barbara won 21-19. For the winners, Judy (1), Betty Black (2), and Ivy Crafter (2) won singles, and for Crawfords Mabel Francis won 1, Barbara 1, and Muriel Cox 1, the doubles being shared. These two sides meet in the Cup semi-final where anything may happen. The other semi-final is between Linnets 'A' and Pirates 'A'. This second match is peculiar in that both teams were given walk-overs into this round, Linnets 'A' by Bohemians and Pirates 'A' by Rafter's 'A'.

NOTE FROM THE FIXTURE SECRETARY

Please check your team records with the league tables, and if you disagree let me know.

Several secretaries have received reminders regarding outstanding matches. **IT IS IMPORTANT** that dates be fixed for these matches, and the Fixture Secretary advised immediately. **NO MATCHES MAY BE PLAYED AFTER FRIDAY, 16th April.** In each match outstanding at that date the match will be awarded to the 'away' team 10-0.

E. Cameron
Hon. Fixture Secretary

CONGRATULATIONS

It appears that among the many activities at the Linnets club, archery has now been added to the list. The star performer is one CUPID whose truly aimed arrows have found their marks in those two very popular members MARION LEWIS and TONY GREEN who have recently announced their engagement. I am sure that all their many friends will join with me in wishing them every happiness. Marion has recently represented the City so there appears to be a moral to my story—If you want to repre-

sent the City, just contact Dan Cupid and he will do his best for you. His arrows will at least point the way.

We are pleased to add our good wishes and hearty congratulations to those already received by Miss PAT BROWN of English Electric, who was married at St. Cyprians Church, Edge Lane, on Monday, 28th December. Pat has been a most popular figure in our League for some years, but unfortunately our chances of seeing her in our midst again are very slender, for she married a Canadian, and after a short 'spell' in Guernsey, she will be making her home in Canada.

While wishing Pat every possible happiness, we must say that she will be sorely missed by all of those who know her. Her club mates of English Electric T.T. Section presented her with a travelling clock.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

17 Burford Road,
Childwall,
Liverpool 16

Dear Editor,

I am answering a comment made by Mr. O'Sullivan in the report on Division 2B in the November edition of the "Digest".

With respect to the philosophy of Eddie Birch (Wavertree). If I considered that being beaten by a man didn't count, I would still have 100% record in the men's division. And, let's face it, the men aren't up to much are they? Especially when they come out with comments like these.

I wish Eddie Birch the best of luck in his future female-less tournaments.

Judy Crafter.

GET WELL SOON!

We hear that RENE CRAFTYER has recently entered hospital. We would like to wish him all the best and trust that he will soon be back at the Management Committee meetings making himself as big a nuisance as before.

MORE TABLE TENNIS ! - MORE INTEREST ?

by Peter Rix

I HAVE been down in Bristol on business for the past few months. Whilst there I registered for the Table Tennis League and played in eight matches for my firm. On reflection I would say that it was the most satisfying session of matches in which I have played.

The main reason for this state of affairs is the fact that they play four in a team and each player partakes in two singles and one doubles event. I found that I really enjoyed a full evenings table tennis. Of course the advantages are obvious under this system, there being more sets played per person in a match, making for a higher standard of table tennis, on the reasoning that the more one plays the better one gets. After having played in the Liverpool League for the past twelve years it was a most refreshing change and I am sure Liverpool players would find it so.

It must be remembered that a big majority of our league members only play table tennis on match nights, and that three sets in an evening is much more acceptable and even an incentive to travel long distances on wintry nights, to matches. When playing in a team of four under this system, you have a greater sense of satisfaction and a real feeling of having taken part in a table tennis match. It certainly is not uncommon when playing under the present five-a-side system for a player to play first or second in an evening and not play until the last set or two. This means a long and often cold wait of anything up to two hours.

In circumstances such as these it is no wonder that players are lost to the league, because their early enthusiasm is dampened by these inadequacies. Playing doubles and singles regularly enables everybody

to become more competent at both aspects of the sport and this obviously creates a more healthy approach to the game. I am sure many members would take part in tournaments if they thought they were better able to acquit themselves well in doubles with a regular team-mate for a partner, thereby making it more worthwhile entering a tournament for both events.

Of course, there being less in a team, means there is less worry that all the team will turn up. Four is an adequate number when travelling to away matches by car! Consequently, matches could often begin earlier because of this—7.30 p.m. perhaps! In my experience in Bristol, by far the majority of matches were over by 10.15 p.m. (7.15 to 7.30 p.m. start) not 10.45 to 11.30 p.m. as in Liverpool!!

It is, of course, appreciated that changing the present system completely to the 'Bristol' idea would mean a certain amount of re-organisation, more divisions to accommodate the extra teams created. The present points system could remain, but lay-out of score cards would have to change.

The Liverpool League has, over the past few seasons, been juggling the rules, points systems and divisional structures in an effort to bring efficiency and increased enthusiasm to the league scene. I submit that if my proposed innovation were adopted, enthusiasm for the sport would increase twofold. To achieve this aim, the league needs a real shake-up such as described.

Why is it that Bristol, with less than half of Liverpool's population and only one third of Liverpool's size in land area, has **sixteen** divisions, each with at least twelve teams? Obviously because it is

well run, with members happy with the organisation. It is a poor argument that with four in a team you would be able to create a bigger league, as in Bristol.

The amount of work involved would, I am sure, be well worth while. After all, this league is and

will no doubt continue to be run by enthusiasts for enthusiasts. It is therefore, as an enthusiast myself with Beauclair T.T.C. that I advocate this change in the structure of our league system and playing conditions.

IT'S WORTH A TRY

THE FINANCES OF THE 1964 MERSEYSIDE OPEN

by THE TREASURER

IN spite of a reduced entry for the 'Open' and consequently, a reduced income from fees, we still managed to make a good profit. Exact details are not available as I write, but the anticipated result is set out below, showing the net result of £29 profit.

1963		1964		1963		1964
£		£		£		£
65	Entry Fees	54		10	E.T.T.A. Fees	8
10	E.T.T.A. Fees	8		3	Master Points	2
—	Master Points	2		4	Balls used	3
6	Door receipts	6		—	Prizes	—
12	Raffle receipts	6		10	Printing	12
2	Catering profit	3		1	Insurances	1
				5	Players' Expenses	2
				9	Gratuities to Dunlops staff	9
				6	Official refreshments	7
				5	Postages etc.	2
				4	Cartage	4
				38	Profit	29
<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
£95		£79		£95		£79
<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

Entry fees were down by £11 but the profit is down by only £9, and for this we are again deeply indebted to all of those who were kind enough to donate the excellent prizes—to Jim Green and Monty for the approaches made to the prize donors—and to Val Ball, Lynn McWilliam and Celia Buckles (English Electric), and Sylvia Smith and Marilyn Howson (Telecomms) for coming to the tournament **especially** to sell raffle tickets and programmes.

It may be that some people may wonder why we are so keen to make a good profit from this tournament each year, but, without this profit we would never be able to balance our general administrative expenditure each year. This profit helps to keep your registration fees and your club's League fees at their present level.

Finally, I must pay my annual tribute to Messrs. Dunlops Ltd., for the use of the hall. We would be quite unable to run the tournament profitably without their generosity in this respect, and although many take the conditions very much for granted, the Committee are aware of the gratitude we owe to them every year.