


DD



**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" 83 Lark Lane, Liverpool 17.

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

## EDITORIAL BOARD :

Editor : **Albert Montgomery.**

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

Vol. XV

APRIL, 1965

No. 5

## EDITORIAL

**B**Y the time this edition of the Magazine has reached you the season will be well and truly over and all the loose ends tied up.

You may think that all activities will now cease until the start of next season but I can assure that this is not the case. Most of the Management members will be taking their summer holidays but I can assure you that, for the officers, not a week will go by without some particular point having to be dealt with. I am sure you will join with me and wish them a good holiday and may they return refreshed and ready to take up the cudgels once again.

I would like to remind all our younger members that the summertime is the time to improve your game and not the time to put your bat away and forget all about table tennis. We should at least have our usual ration of inclement summer weather and this should give plenty of opportunity for practice. Aim high and put all you have got into it and let us see some budding internationals in our midst. Liverpool is famous in many spheres—Football, Boxing and the like—so come on you youngsters and put Liverpool on the map as far as table tennis is concerned.

Looking back at last season I suppose it has been reasonably successful but the fears expressed in my last Editorial have been borne out and the figures quoted regarding the failure of teams and individuals to turn up for matches have (according to my statistical friend) increased fourfold and we have finished up with the equivalent of nearly a complete season's play for one division having been forfeited. This is a blot on the record book and one which I hope can be remedied next season.

I would just like to wish you all a happy holiday and hope to see you all playing your hearts out again next season.

---

## THE SPORTS SPECIALIST

TABLE TENNIS EQUIPMENT A SPECIALITY  
Championship Tables, Bats, Balls, Nets, Shoes and Clothing  
All makes of named Bats and Tables supplied.

# JACK SHARP Ltd.

TELEPHONE: ROYal 4793/4

VISIT OUR SHOWROOMS:—

**36 - 38 WHITECHAPEL - LIVERPOOL 1**

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

by John McKim

**D**URING the past season there have been a large number of team walk-overs and of sets given away. The Committee has discussed this state of affairs at some length and we feel that it is largely a matter of club discipline. Fines appear to have no effect at all, and suspension cannot be used effectively as it affects other clubs and players in the division as much as it does the suspended club.

This is a case where we must appeal once again for the assistance of the club secretaries. In the first place to ask them not to enter more teams than they can cope with, and secondly to deal at club level with offenders.

The Committee are, amongst other things, putting forward at the S.G.M. two items which they think may help a little to get rid of this problem of playing short. Firstly we are proposing that the guarantee be raised to £1 per team with a maximum of £5, and we are then going to ask for the feeling of the meeting regarding the arranging of the 4th (and possibly 3rd) divisions largely on a geographical basis, which would reduce travelling considerably.

We are proposing, also, an amendment to rule 15, thus seeking your approval to delete the rule introduced last year regarding re-grouping after a player misses three consecutive matches. The Fixture Secretary has found it almost impossible to operate this rule equitably, due to

the delays in forwarding of score cards and various other snags. Instead, we are proposing that, in place of a rigid number of matches which can be missed before re-grouping is required, the Committee be given the authority to compel a club to re-group when it is obvious that a grouped player is not playing regularly, to the advantage of the club concerned and the detriment of the other teams in the division.

The England v China match will have been played by the time you read this. It is a great pity that in Liverpool we have no hall suitable for such an event excepting the Stadium which was not available on this occasion and may not be available if we ever have a similar offer in the future. The requirement laid down by the E.T.T.A. is a flat playing area of 60' x 40' (a stage is not suitable) and tiered seating. If anyone has knowledge of a hall with these conditions please let the Committee know.

As those of you who entered the "Closed" will know, we had some difficulty regarding this event, particularly with regard to the canteen facilities. Once again, if anyone can help by suggesting a new venue for the "Closed" we shall be pleased to hear from them. The requirements to keep in mind are, space for a minimum of six tables, facilities for erecting the necessary lighting, changing accommodation and canteen facilities.

---

## AIGBURTH LAWN TENNIS CLUB

*(Associate with Linnets and Aigburth T.T.C.)*

**MEMBERS WANTED**

**MEN & WOMEN — Also JUNIORS**

*(From 14 years of Age)*

*Enquiries to:*

Mr. W. Alexander (Hon. Sec.) 38 Allengate Rd., Liverpool 19.  
*(Tel. CRE 1182).*

---

## PARKFIELD MOTOR Co. Ltd.

**OPEN EVERY DAY & EVERY NIGHT**

*Telephone:*

**LARK Lane 2204-5-6**

**1 AIGBURTH ROAD - LIVERPOOL 17**

---

# LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE LEAGUE

by Jack McCaig

## Still in Doubt

**T**HE fate of our men's 1st team is still in doubt as I write, with the position most intriguing. As things stand, Wirral have yet to play Preston, and should Preston win this match by 10-0 the points total and sets average of Liverpool and Preston will be equal, leaving the decision as to which of us accompanies Wirral into division 2 to be decided by games. Let us hope, however, that Wirral can take at least one set from Preston and so spare Liverpool the indignity of relegation.

## Fatal Slip?

The Youth team, after seemingly having the division title in their pockets, surprisingly slipped up in their very last match at Hyde, losing by 6 sets to 4. Although forced to play a reserve for the first time this season, it was in fact McPherson who not only lost his hitherto unbeaten record but failed to win a single set, that really cost us the match. It seems very likely now that Hyde will win the title which seemed so certain to come to Liverpool. With Nelson to play, it is, perhaps, too optimistic to think that Hyde will let their unexpected chance go by. Hard luck Liverpool,

but perhaps next season will restore the balance.

Next season will see a change of Match Secretary as I am not standing for re-election again. For several reasons I find myself unable to undertake the task any longer, although the last seven seasons have given me much pleasure and satisfaction. I am grateful to all my colleagues closely associated with the running of the League teams for their whole-hearted co-operation. Without them it would have been impossible to organise 6 teams and something like 50 matches each year. Again, my thanks must go to the many club secretaries who have made their premises available so willingly, and who have released players, sometimes at very short notice. Finally, my thanks to all of the many players who have represented the city during my seven years of office. With few exceptions I have received the utmost support and help, and all these memories will remain a source of real pleasure to me. Lastly, to whoever it is who takes over the position of Match Secretary I wish the best of luck, and hope that the help afforded to me in the past will be continued for him.

---

## Official Notice from Fixture Secretary

Despite continued requests for score cards or copy score cards, the following are still outstanding, and consequently all of these matches have been awarded to the 'away' teams as 10-0. The home teams were therefore considered to be in default, and fines were imposed as follows:—

<b>Division 1</b>	Fine
Pirates v Bohemians * .....	£1
Pirates v Bohemians 'A' .....	10/-
<b>Division 3A</b>	
Dom. Miss. v St. Mary's O.B.	10/-
Pirates 'B' v Domestic Miss.	10/-
<b>Division 3B</b>	
Bohemians 'C' v Linnets 'D'	10/-
Bohemians 'C' v Lowlands .....	10/-

## Women's Division

Pirates v Bohemians .....	10/-
Pirates 'A' v Rafters .....	10/-
Bohemians v Cadwa .....	10/-
Bohemians v Pirates .....	10/-

\*In this instance FIVE unsuccessful written requests were made for the score card.

E. Cameron  
(Fixture Secretary)

## ADVERT

Trinity T.T.C. have clubroom facilities to spare. Any club in trouble over playing facilities can be accommodated. Facilities include provision of a new Dunlop table for each team. For further details contact:

Mr. H. HANKIN,  
74 Devonfield Road,  
Liverpool 9.

# The Liverpool Closed

by Brian Leeson

**T**HERE were plenty of surprises in store when the Tournament began on Wednesday, 21st April at Dingle Vale. The Men's Singles had hardly started when the No. 4 seed, Frank Thomas, was defeated 21-19, 22-20 by George Sanders, and in fact it took the eventual champion, Ken Roberts, to knock Sanders out in the fourth round, taking three games to do it.

David Butterworth lost in three to Gordon Birch, who then defeated Alan Tolson before losing to the No. 1 seed Pete D'Arcy.

After a close win over Trevor Owens, Bruce Cain easily overcame Roy Jones 21-15, 21-14, and then dismissed Peter Hurworth in the semi-final in three games. Ted Mandaluff, seeded No. 3 was surprisingly ousted by his club-mate Dennis O'Hara 21-17, 21-14, Hurworth beating O'Hara in the quarter-finals.

Most credit, however, must go to Ken Roberts. As well as defeating Sanders, he also accounted for C. Bradshaw, H. W. Ramsdale, and in the semi-final, the No. 1 Pete D'Arcy 19-21, 21-11, 21-16. The final itself between Roberts and Cain, resulted in a two-straight win for the Y.M.C.A. player 21-19, 21-9, a very creditable performance.

The Women's Singles also had its upsets, perhaps the biggest being the defeat of the No. 1 seed, Judy Crafter, by the fourth seed Maureen King, 21-19, 13-21, 23-21, in the semi-final. The other two seeded players succeeded in reaching their semi, where Barbara Cain easily defeated Mabel Francis 21-18, 21-10. The Final, however, was a big disappointment. Miss King seemed to be affected by the importance of the occasion and submitted without offering any real opposition, so the new champion, Barbara Cain won her title without surrendering one game during her matches.

Further surprises in the Men's Doubles included Roberts/O'Hara

beating Smith/Hurworth 21-14, 21-19; Frank Thomas and Pete D'Arcy No. 1 seeds, losing to Vic Chesham and Eddie Clein 21-14, 10-21, 21-17 in the semi-final, and then Ted Mandaluff and Roy Jones losing at the same stage to Bruce Cain and Gordon Birch 16-21, 21-17, 21-18. Cain and Birch, in fact, did not drop any other game during the doubles event and took the title with points to spare in the final.

The Women's doubles went true to form with the seeded pairs reaching the final as expected. The top seeds Judy Crafter and Mabel Francis took the first game very narrowly, but then the second seeds Barbara Cain and Joyce Randall took over and their opponents played too many careless shots which cost them the match.

The Mixed Doubles title went to Frank Thomas and Judy Crafter, who defeated Peter D'Arcy and Barbara Cain rather easily in the final, and the Junior event, with only five entries was really a walk-over for Gordon Birch, although the final with Ian Burrows produced some fast entertaining play.

The Veterans event, without Harry Spiers, was finally won by Vic Chesham, who had no difficulty in disposing of John Coveney in the final.

The Restricted Singles for players from the 3rd, 4th and Women's Divisions, produced some very good games, some of which would have done credit to the higher divisions. R. Brown of Trinity, in particular, played so hard and with such concentration that, having reached the final he was unable through fatigue to continue in the Consolation Singles where he had reached the quarter-finals. He defeated Mabel Francis in three games in the quarter-final of the Restricted, then his club-mate A. Chase also in three games in the semi-final, and then a day later he had to meet Brian Carter (Colonsay) in the final.

*Continued on Page 6.*

In his semi-final Brian Carter was hard pressed to beat the much improved Ray Lavin, managing to make it 21-14 in the third, and then in an entertaining and nail biting final, scraped home against Brown.

In the Men's Consolation event, Peter Rumjahn won a very hard battle in the final against Tony

Green, Peter having first to dispose of a stubborn Ray Levin and a luckless Bill Jones, while Tony gained a memorable win over Eddie Clein, 22-20 in the third. The Women's Consolation prize went to Mrs. Jean Reynolds, who beat Mrs. Barbara Topping fairly comfortably in the final.

### THE "CLOSED" FROM THE TREASURER'S POINT OF VIEW

**T**HE Treasurer, so I'm told, has only one point of view—"How much does it cost, and how much can we make on it?" This year we can pride ourselves once again in giving very satisfactory answers to both of these queries. Although we have not quite reached last year's record profit, I estimate that we shall again make something like £37, which will contribute to our ever-increasing costs of running the League. Our income was some £18 down on the previous year, mainly due to reduced entry fees, but we managed to reduce our outgoings by £8.

Special mention must again go to those members through whose efforts the majority of the prizes were obtained and also to the bevy of pulchritude whose sterling efforts resulted in a net income of £15 from draw tickets.

INCOME		£	EXPENDITURE		£
(51)	Entry Fees	43	(16)	Hire of School	15
(8)	Door Receipts	7	(5)	Printing	2
(10)	Catering profits	5	(3)	Prizes	6
(19)	Raffle profits	15	(1)	Insurance	1
			(6)	Gratuities	6
			(2)	Balls	1
			(5)	Cartage	1
			(3)	Equipment	1
			(47)	Balance being PROFIT	37
		£70			£70

Last year's figures in brackets.

### OUR GRATEFUL THANKS

We offer our sincere gratitude to the following firms and individuals for their donations of prizes for the Liverpool "Closed", for whose generosity we are so deeply indebted, as shown by the Treasurer's report:—

**Messrs. W. D. & H. O. WILLS**, Cigarette Manufacturers, Bristol who donated the prizes for the five main events, and to their Area Representative, Mr. FARR, who attended the tournament throughout and who presented the prizes to winners and runners-up of the Mixed Doubles.

**Mr. George Janvier**, Messrs. Janco Products, Princess Works, Aigburth Vale, Liverpool 17.

**Messrs. Montgomery (Liverpool) Ltd.**, 83 Lark Lane, Liverpool 17.

**Mrs. J. C. Green**, Jo's Cafe, 43-45 Lark Lane, Liverpool 17.

### PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CLOSED

John O'Sullivan, who took photographs at the "Closed", both of the presentation of all prizes and action

photos of various players, has left the proofs with Jim Green.

Anyone interested can call at Lark Lane to look at the proofs and to order any copies they may want.

## DIVISIONAL REPORTS AND LEAGUE TABLES

DIVISION 1		by Jim Green				
	P	W	L	D	Pts	
Liverpool YM . . . . .	22	22	0	0	184	
Wav. Labour . . . . .	22	17	4	1	148	
Wav. Lab. 'A' . . . . .	22	15	7	0	141	
Rafters . . . . .	22	16	5	1	135	
Bohemians . . . . .	22	13	6	3	132	
Cadwa . . . . .	22	9	10	3	112	
Linnets . . . . .	22	8	12	2	104	
Pirates . . . . .	22	7	14	1	82	
L'pool YM 'A' . . . . .	22	3	18	1	80	
Lucem . . . . .	22	3	15	4	78	
Oakhill . . . . .	22	7	14	1	68	
Bohemians 'A' . . . . .	22	3	18	1	56	

### Y.M.C.A.'s Double

**A** PART from the obvious congratulations to the Y.M. on the double, one of the more interesting aspects of the division, as shown by the final table is the overall strength of Wavertree Labours two sides. Only seven sets between them at the final count. Next season will find three of the club's sides in this division and that they will all be strong is evidenced from the performances of reserves such as Norman Chaloner, Eddie Birch, Ted Gilmour and company when called on to fill in this year for the two senior sides. The acquisition of these three teams adds considerably to the strength of the division, and their rapid rise has been thanks to 'the twin-stream' set up. Rafters, in fourth place, are still a force to be reckoned with, and the ever-young Peter Rumjahn demonstrated at the 'Closed' that the younger players have still got some way to go to get on top. There is some doubt about where they will be playing next season, but no doubt at all that they will carry on giving the best of them a hard time. Bohemians could have finished higher had they been able to field a full side every week, and being obliged to give away a 10-0 walk-over, due to clubroom repairs in the last week, didn't help them. Still, if rumour doesn't lie, Bohemians will be giving the Y.M. some fight for the top spot next year.

The luckless Oakhill and Bohemians "A" are due for relegation. It is a very long time since we had a first division without an Oakhill side, and it is highly improbable that we shall have to wait long for

their return. I'm pretty sure that all the division wish both sides better luck in the lower division.

Elsewhere you will find a report on the 'Closed', but I can't let it go by without offering hearty congratulations to Ken Roberts, the new champion. He is the first Liverpool Y.M. player ever to win the title. Despite the numerous honours won by the club, this is their first-ever singles winner. Nice work mate!

Congratulations to Gordon Birch and Eddie Clein on their high records for the season. Eddie remains, as always, a hard bloke to beat, and probably Gordon Birch is the most improved player of the season. Many can point to a jump in standard, but to increase an already high standard is a lot harder.

### DIVISION 2A by Jimmy Bowden

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Beauclair . . . . .	24	21	1	2	178
Pirates 'A' . . . . .	24	15	4	5	160
Linacre . . . . .	24	17	4	3	155
Waterloo Park . . . . .	24	18	4	2	151
Rafters 'A' . . . . .	24	12	10	2	142
Cadwa 'A' . . . . .	24	12	8	4	123
Colonsay . . . . .	24	7	12	5	111
L'pool Jewish . . . . .	24	6	12	6	102
Crawfords 'A' . . . . .	24	6	13	5	93
English Elec. . . . .	24	3	14	7	88
Bath Street 'A' . . . . .	24	4	15	5	87
L.P.A.S. 'A' . . . . .	24	4	15	5	84
Coll. of Tech. . . . .	24	4	17	3	82

### Beauclair Made It

**B**EAUCLAIR, who have led the division for so long, have finally made it, but not with the lead that I had thought that they would have had when looking at last month's tables. Pirates "A", who have been steadily climbing up the table since the amalgamation with Anfield were the only team to defeat them, which they did to the tune of 7-3. Linacre once again finished high up the charts. They have never yet played in the 1st division yet for many years have finished in third or fourth spot in their division. Perhaps next year might find them doing the trick. Waterloo Park finished the season strongly, picking up some valuable points, to take fourth place while

Rafters "A", who have sadly slipped in the second half came in fifth.

With the withdrawal of the Post Office it means that only one team has to go down, and this has fallen to the College of Technology, who finished only two points behind the Police "A". This has not been a happy season for Coll. of Tech. as they were only promoted at the end of last season. Next year they will be without their No. 1, Graham Platt, who has moved to London, but Norman Owens has shown that he can fill the position adequately by accounting for both Bobby Owens and Brian Parry of Beauclair, both in straight games.

Notable achievements during the closing weeks of the season have been Peter Ferris (Cadwa) with his side's only sets from an 8-2 defeat by Linacre; Fred Pheysey (English Electric) on two occasions being the only winner in 9-1 losses; and that man John Taylor again, of L.P.A.S. "A", who has collected some good scalps this year and now adds Ted Barnes of Pirates "A" to the list.

All in all, it has been quite an enjoyable season in the division, and the number of 10-0 results have been at a minimum. Colonsay, Crawfords "A", Cadwa "A" and Liverpool Jewish, although being in the middle of the table have had some heated battles with the top teams, and maybe next season will find one of these heading for the top sphere. Thanks to the players of the division for a sporting and enjoyable season.

DIVISION 2B	by John O'Sullivan				
	P	W	L	D	Pts
Wav. Lab. 'B'	26	26	0	0	220
Bath Street . . .	26	23	2	1	201
L.P.A.S. . . . .	26	21	5	0	180
University . . .	26	16	7	3	169
Linnet 'A' . . .	26	14	6	6	157
Mossley Hill . .	26	13	9	4	143
Linnet 'B' . . .	26	14	9	3	142
Crawfords . . .	26	11	13	2	120
St. Edwards . .	28	8	15	3	109
L'pool Jews. 'A'	26	5	19	2	92
Cadwa 'B' . . .	26	4	21	1	82
Bootle YM 'B'	26	4	19	3	76
L'pool YM 'B'	26	4	19	3	76
Bohemians 'B'	26	3	22	1	52

**Never A Doubt**

**T**HE top of the Division has never really been in any doubt.

Wavertree have held such a commanding lead all through the season that it has been a foregone conclusion as to who would finish up Champions. With L.P.A.S. handing out some heavy hidings, I thought it possible that they might have given Bath Street a closer run for second place but Bath Street have won their promotion battle with 20 points to spare.

The rest of the division finished in roughly the same placings as have been held for the majority of the season, but there have been one or two surprise results of late. In the Linnets "B" v Crawfords game, Crawfords came out 7-3 winners, Bill Wood taking one from each of the Holmes brothers, and this result may well be the cause of Linnets "B" finishing one place lower than they might have done, for Mossley Hill only came in one solitary point ahead of them.

At the lower end of the table there appears to be a similar problem as occurred last year in Division 3B. Bootle Y.M. and Liverpool Y.M. "B" each have 76 points. Bohs "B" are doomed with 52 points but who is going with them? In Division 3B last year Linnets "B" and Mossley Hill finished joint second with 190 points. The situation was solved by promoting them both as there were vacancies due to teams dropping out. In this case it is possible that both will be relegated with Bohs to the 3rd division or that both will remain in the 2nd sphere. I wonder which it will be?

Bohemians have conceded quite a number of 10-0 walk-overs, which partly explains their lowly position. They are far from alone in this fault, for a number of teams have been guilty of not arriving at matches. I can sympathise with some of them for in some cases the 'offenders' were in no way to blame.

I think congratulations are due to Vin McKenna on finishing top of the averages, for the division. He is well worthy of this position having beaten me twice!!! Eddie Birch has displayed great form also, having several times played in the 1st division where he has given a very good account of himself, and I'm sure that these lads will feel quite at home in the top division next year.



Although we didn't have as many entries in the 'Closed' as we would have liked our players had some success. John Coveney was one finalist (Veterans), Judy Crafter won the Mixed Doubles with Frank Thomas (Div. 1), Judy and Mabel Francis were finalists in the Women's Doubles and both were semi-finalists in the Singles, and in addition Eddie Birch and Ted Gilmour had a fine run in the Doubles, so we were far from disgraced. Congratulations to them all.

DIVISION 3A		by Mabel Francis				
	P	W	L	D	Pts	
Wav. Lab. 'C' . . . . .	24	21	1	2	191	
Sefton General . . . . .	24	22	1	1	188	
Trinity . . . . .	24	15	5	4	154	
Oakhill 'A' . . . . .	24	12	6	6	153	
Crawfords 'B' . . . . .	24	12	6	6	139	
Stanley House . . . . .	24	9	9	6	127	
L'pool Jew. 'B' . . . . .	24	9	10	5	120	
Pirates 'B' . . . . .	24	11	11	2	120	
Eng. Elec. 'B' . . . . .	24	8	14	2	106	
St. Mary's Coll. . . . .	24	7	12	5	106	
Bath Street . . . . .	24	3	15	6	75	
Beauclair 'B' . . . . .	24	2	21	1	44	
Domestic Miss. . . . .	24	1	21	2	36	

#### A Photo Finish

SO Wavertree Labour "C" finally made it, by the narrow margin of three points. Sefton General must surely be feeling disappointed, having led the field all season then being pipped at the post.

Oakhill "A" had the misfortune of fielding three reserves in their last match of the season (for the Nos. 3, 4 and 5) and so lost to Stanley House 4-6, although much credit must go to David Eaton, one of the three reserves for winning both his sets. This allowed Trinity to edge their way into third place. Trinity have fought well throughout, and with anticipated added strength for next season this keen young team will be one to watch.

Crawfords "B" started off excellently but relaxed during the middle of the season finishing off with a double draw against Trinity in two well-fought matches. In the first of these Eric Bridson scored a fine double over Rik Brown and John Hankin, and in the second Pete Barton created a personal record when he pulled up from 11-20 down

to win 22-20 (in a set against Terry Boyle of Trinity).

Stanley House, Pirates "B" and Liverpool Jewish "B" are just about level with each other and have given the teams at the top some extremely hard matches. The finishing order at the bottom of the table is as was predicted, with Domestic Mission almost doubling their tally of points since the last league table was issued (their apparent win was a walk-over). An excellent win was recorded by A. Moore of Domestic Mission over John Hankin (Trinity) at 24-22 in the third, and Margaret Patterson, also of Domestic, ended her season with a victory over Jimmy Byrne (English Electric). Other outstanding individual performances were recorded by A. V. Widdowson, who acquired Crawfords' sole set from Wavertree Labour by beating Ray Thomas; Allan Lyn (Stanley House) signed off with wins over Oakhills Matt Hamill and Bill Nelson; Margaret Collins did well to beat Brian Harding (Stanley House) 18 in the third and the following week to defeat A. Biggs 21-17, 21-4—a set that Sefton could ill afford at that time. Previously she had lost to him 13 and 16.

Rik Brown (Trinity) reached the final of the Restricted Singles at the 'Closed' but couldn't quite clinch the third game, losing at 18 to Brian Carter of Colonsay "A" (division 4A). Hard luck also to Oakhill for failing to win the Hyde Cup but our sincere congratulations for reaching the Final.

DIVISION 3B		by Jack Lambert				
	P	W	L	D	Pts	
Linnet 'C' . . . . .	24	22	1	1	194	
Pirates 'C' . . . . .	24	22	1	1	185	
Eng. Elec. 'A' . . . . .	24	14	7	3	142	
Beauclair 'A' . . . . .	24	14	7	3	140	
Orrell . . . . .	24	11	9	4	133	
Bath Street 'B' . . . . .	24	12	5	7	128	
Linnet 'D' . . . . .	24	8	9	7	115	
Lowlands . . . . .	24	7	12	5	112	
L.P.A.S. 'B' . . . . .	24	6	15	3	105	
Rafters 'B' . . . . .	24	6	14	4	99	
Lussac . . . . .	24	6	14	4	89	
Eng. Elec. 'D' . . . . .	24	3	17	4	78	
Bohemians 'C' . . . . .	24	2	22	0	39	

#### The Best Season For Years

DESPITE our statistical experts reports on regrettable walk-

overs, this season, to my mind, has been one of the best for years from a competitive point of view.

Our congratulations go to the Linnets "C" team who have proved themselves worthy champions from the opening match. All deserve special mention: Ken Foulkes, Bobby Wilson, Alan Dean, Ray Lavin and Bill Kelly, not forgetting top reserve Reg Foster.

Pirates "C" won the Hyde Cup for our division with a resounding win over Oakhill "A" a great performance. Once again, well done Ray Johnson, Alec Greensmith, Les Lemis, Maurice Derbyshire and Tom Bunner.

Give or take a few cards, here are the teams, players called on, top scorer, and top appearances, in that order. I always feel that both club and players benefit when a player can be relied on to turn up at all times regardless of sets won at the seasons end. That is why top appearances always count with me. Bath Street called on 12 players, top scorer was B. Taylor—top appearances A. Marsh. Beauclair "A" (13) J. C. McKim; J. C. McKim. Bohemians "C" (10) Murgatroyd; Williams and Davies. English Electric "A" (12) G. Moon; K. Black and J. A. Lambert. English Electric "D" (12) W. Neary; H. Norfolk and J. Findlev. Linnets "C" (9) K. Foulkes; R. Lavin and A. Dean. Linnets "D" (16) G. H. Morgan; B. J. Mayer. Lowlands (12) L. French; L. French. Lussac (8) E. W. Struggess; G. Nevins and J. Murphy. Orrell (9) G. Brint; G. Wright and R. Stevenson. Pirates (19) R. Johnson, M. Derbyshire and T. Bunner; M. Derbyshire. Police (14) J. Catterson; J. Catterson. Rafter's "B" (14) F. Winstanley; H. Reynolds.

The fact that comes to my mind at the end of each season is that after making allowances for moaners, groaners, pessimists, etc. by far the biggest percentage of us really enjoy our table tennis, so here's to next season, and if you feel like a game or drink or both, see you at our place in the meantime—WE NEVER CLOSE!!

DIVISION 4A	by Glynn Hughes				
	P	W	L	D	Pts
12/50 . . . . .	22	22	0	0	194
Colonsay 'A' . . .	22	20	2	0	192
University 'A' .	22	17	4	1	166
Wav. Lab. 'D' .	22	15	5	2	145
L.Y.C.A. . . . .	22	10	9	3	106
Oakhill 'B' . . .	22	11	9	2	105
Orrell 'A' . . . .	22	6	11	5	93
Coll. of Tech. 'A'	22	7	12	3	83
Eng. Elec. 'C' . .	22	4	16	2	77
Linnet 'F' . . . .	22	2	17	3	63
Crawfords 'C' .	22	5	17	0	60
Palmerston 'A'	22	2	19	1	34

### Only 2 Points Margin

GOOD luck to 12/50 and Colonsay "A" who have earned promotion this season. It is 12/50 in the pole position with a bare 2 points lead over their close rivals. The two sides fought out two drawn matches in the Forrest Cup also, and again victory went to 12/50, this time by the narrow margin of one game! Could two sides be closer? It seems a moral certainty that these two teams will be up in the 2nd division in two years time, and it is a feather in Harry Nelson's cap to have a second team capable of coming so close behind a side which was topping the 2nd division last season.

In third place come the strong University "A" team with 166 points, 21 ahead of their nearest rivals, Wavertree Labour "D", and there is no doubt that these two will be battling for the top spot next term. After a 10-0 thrashing of English Electric "C" earlier on, the Labour team could only manage a 5-all draw when the return was played at English Electric. McEllenborough, of English Electric, playing at No. 1 gained his revenge over K. Jones (Labour) 21-16, 21-17, for his earlier defeat 18-21, 20-22.

L.Y.C.A. have proved themselves a team worthy of their position. They started the second half of the season with a host of new players and renewed vigour, which has helped them tremendously, and there is every chance that next season might find them fighting it out for the pole position. They completed a double by crushing Crawfords "C" 8-2 both at home and away.

Very disappointing has been the display of Crawfords "C" with only

five wins and 60 points. Surely an established team such as this should have been up with the leaders. Anyway, better luck next year.

Last but not least come Palmerston "A", who are the second side of a new Club this year, having two wins and a draw to their credit. They have no doubt benefited from the experience that they have gained and this should stand them in good stead next season, when we wish them a more successful year than this one has proved to be.

#### DIVISION 4B by Jim Green

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Pirates 'D' . . . .	26	26	0	0	224
British Rlys. . . .	26	22	3	1	201
Palmerston . . . .	26	21	3	2	187
Colonsay 'B' . . . .	26	15	9	2	155
University 'B' . . . .	26	12	8	6	155
Mossley Hill 'A' . . . .	26	13	10	3	142
Pirates 'E' . . . .	26	13	12	1	140
Linnet 'E' . . . .	26	9	15	2	118
St. Mary's 'A' . . . .	26	9	15	2	103
Edge Hill . . . .	26	9	16	1	98
Stanley Hse 'A' . . . .	26	7	16	3	90
Lowlands 'A' . . . .	26	7	18	1	87
Bradstones . . . .	26	3	21	2	61
Eng. Elec. 'E' . . . .	26	2	22	2	58

#### A Clean Sweep

**SALUTE** to Pirates "D" who have played a full 26 matches, winning every match, losing none, drawing none, and dropping only 36 sets throughout. Although they have been far too strong for the rest of the division, it really is a tremendous feat to play through 26 matches without any relaxation of concentration to achieve a record such as this, and the regular five, Benny Goodman, Eric Dorfman, Bill Connell, Ray Tyler and Dawn Lewis deserve full credit.

Palmerston must be a little dejected at coming home third, for they led the field for a long time, but since this is their first excursion into League warfare (although some have played at other clubs before) they cannot complain about their position, and should they be here next season there is little doubt that they will be among the promotion hunt. However, with vacancies higher up, they may yet find themselves in a higher division, and should this be so, there is no doubt that they will command due respect.

The next group of four, Colonsay "B", University "B", Mossley Hill "A" and the Pirates "E" team are covered by a mere 15 points—not a lot for a seasons effort, and there is little to choose between them. I think that possibly Pirates "E" deserve more praise than the others (sticking my neck out) for they are the club's sixth side, and for a sixth team to gain 140 points takes some doing. Perhaps it is as well that there are no more "Digests" otherwise I could see some dirty letters from Colonsay, University and Mossley Hill—but I reckon that it's fair comment!

Linnets "E" and St. Mary's "A" can feel pleased with their positions, as can the Edge Hill team who have won 9 matches outright, even though only amassing 98 sets. I prophesy that more will be heard of the Durning Road team.

At the foot of the table we find English Electric "E". This is basically a young team, improving all the time, and undoubtedly some of these players will be found higher as time goes by. Anyway, there might possibly be a team of better players in this division, but I doubt if we have one with more attraction to play!

#### WOMEN'S DIVISION

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Crawfords . . . .	20	18	1	1	169
Cadwa . . . . .	20	16	4	0	157
Rafters . . . . .	20	17	2	1	156
Linnet . . . . .	20	14	5	1	141
Linnet 'A' . . . .	20	11	9	0	112
Pirates . . . . .	20	11	9	0	106
Bohemians . . . .	20	7	11	2	95
Pirates 'A' . . . .	20	6	13	1	64
Rafters 'A' . . . .	20	3	16	1	56
Lussac . . . . .	20	3	16	1	35
Telecomms . . . .	20	0	20	0	9

**Note for the statistically minded**—the points will not add up to the full totals in many cases due to such results as 8-0; the missing points could not be allocated due to absentees on both sides.

#### First Championship

**SALUTE** to Crawfords on winning their first championship, and incidentally by a bigger margin than seemed possible at one time. Cadwa

fell away a bit towards the end of the season, and this let Crawfords get well away, so that they finished with a 12 point lead. A good performance by the Crawfords girls.

Cadwa who came in second had the consolation of taking home the Bartholomew Cup, which they won in a canter at Telecomms, beating Pirates "A" 9-1. Only Barbara Topping for Pirates won a set, defeating Betty Black 21-17, 26-24, and in her other set she gave Judy Crafter a good fight, but for the rest of the match it was very much one way traffic. Pauline Lawrenson beat both Wendy Jones and Maureen King and the highest score against her in any game was 12. Maureen Wilcock had no real opposition from either Maureen King or Dawn Lewis, and Judy Crafter won her second set very comfortably, as did Betty Black.

Rafters came a very close third, followed by the two Linnets teams, with Pirates 1st team in sixth place, and none of these arouse any surprise. The final placings were fairly well fixed earlier on, the main interest centring on the top spot.

Nobody objects to playing newcomers, for we have seen all too often that these girls almost invariably show vast improvement each succeeding year, but the fact is that unless some strong steps are taken, this division will shortly have to close down. The stronger girls (obviously) want better table tennis, and unless some of those who are

now solely based in the mixed divisions can be induced to return, there will be an even bigger drift to the men's divisions from here, for the strength of the division at present is not high enough to command the continued loyalty of the faithful. This has been the major talking point at several matches this year, and it will be interesting to find out if anyone has any proposal to make at the coming A.G.M.

---

### Letter to the Editor

#### His Five Hundredth Victory

In last week's League match with Waterloo Park, **Frank Lacey** of Linacre beat Alan Reid and myself to record his 500th win in League and Cup matches. I am sure that everyone will join me in congratulating Frank on a wonderful record. His record since joining Linacre in 1948 is—Played 782; Won 500; Lost 282; Sets for 1,104; Sets against 716.

His team-mates Alec and Jack Davidson have played 742 and 766 matches, and have won 350 and 348 respectively.

Many praises have been sung about Linacre in the past but all I have to say is that if there was ever a cup in our table tennis circle for Sportsman of the Year, it would never leave their premises in Moor Street.

Ken Readitt  
(Waterloo Park T.T.C.)

---

*We supply:*— BUKTA Table Tennis Shirts in all colours  
Johnny Leach, Barna, Bergman, etc. T.T. Bats  
Sandwich Bats, Tournament and Club Tables  
Nets and Posts

*in fact* **EVERYTHING FOR TABLE TENNIS**

---

# HENRY WHITTY & SON

LIMITED

**15 BASNETT STREET, LIVERPOOL 1**

Open All Day Saturday Telephone ROYAL 3011

---

## LETTERS

Dear Sir,

In your Editorial of March, 1965, I was interested to read your comments on Walk-overs.

I feel that the principal reason for the high incidence of Walk-overs is that we have to declare our teams too early, in June, when the season does not start until September. The main reason for this, as far as I can ascertain, is the time required for the handbooks to be organised; but surely a little discomfort at the start of the season, by information being sent to secretaries by a Broadsheet will be worth it if it stops the farcical situations we find ourselves in during the latter half of the season.

There are other reasons for walk-overs, of course, and one particular reason I feel sure should be mentioned. Unfortunately it involves knocking a committee man, which I don't like doing, but if it will help the League then it should be done.

One of the most infamous committee members is JIM; he is without doubt the most talked about man in the League. When this talk becomes nasty then I feel something should be done about it. I am relating to the names he was called for claiming the walk-over against PIRATES "C" which virtually made his own "C" team certain of the divisional championship. This walk-over was conceded owing to an error which I have been informed (from five reliable sources) was a mistake of nights; although technically correct I think it sharp practice to win a championship in this way. This is surely a situation which gives strong support to the argument for an APPEAL committee to review all 10-0 walk-overs. I am sure that certain teams **must** have good reasons for not turning up, especially when honours are at stake.

All players feel their club is best and when these players happen to be members of the Management Committee, and they have a team, or teams, tilting for honours then perhaps their judgment of sticking strictly to the rules can be understood. Checking the Management Committee I find about half of them are just so placed, which may well be a pointer towards the situations that arise.

But surely to help promote a friendly atmosphere and maybe lessen the number of defaulters then the committee men must use not only power but common sense as well.

On this matter of common sense there is one outstanding case where it appears to be in very short supply. I am alluding to teams that drop out of the League for one or two seasons and then return in the lowest division. I am sure the players involved have not forgotten how to play during this short rest; as each club has an idea who will be playing for them during the season, when they apply for a league position they should be asked to name their players so that their strength can be assessed and the teams placed in the correct division.

The arguments I have put forward are a build-up to the following suggestions which I respectfully submit for "Digest" readers to consider:

1. All walk-overs to be reviewed by a Sub-Committee.
2. Teams submitted for league positions to be scrutinised by a Sub-Committee to ensure their correct positioning—the Sub-Committee to have the power to replace teams dropping out from higher divisions by new teams.
3. The league structure to revert to the more efficient 'straight divisions' (as acceptance of 2 does away with the only justification for the present 'twin stream' arrangement).
4. Teams to sign on provisionally in June and finalise by August.

Yours faithfully,

J. Byrne

(English Electric)

### Jim Green replies—

Dear Sir,

I have kept silent for some time in the (vain) hope that certain talk about myself would die down, but it seems that some ill-informed people are only too keen to keep it alive. May I state categorically that I **DID NOT** take any part in claiming a walk-over for Linnets "C" v Pirates "C". The match was claimed by the members of Linnets "C" team and I was advised of this action the day **after** the card had been posted.

Secondly, contrary to well-spread rumour, **there was no error regarding the match night.** On November 6th the Pirates Secretary posted an acknowledgment of the change of match night, so any error made in the following January was due to the incompetence of the administration within the Pirates club.

In Linnets the decision whether or not to claim a walk-over is made by the team concerned. I, as Secretary, am the servant of the club, NOT its director, and what I did was to furnish the Committee with the appropriate reply card from Pirates Secretary. If one of Linnets' teams claim a walk-over to which they are entitled under the rules of the League (made by League members may I remind you) it is obviously my duty to furnish such proof. When a member of Pirates wrote to the Committee a letter blackguarding myself, and sent a copy to me I could not even be bothered to answer to piffle contained therein. I merely acknowledged receipt on a postcard.

Since the claiming of this walk-over Linnets teams generally have come in for a number of dirty remarks from other clubs, but have treated these with the contempt they deserve, for at no time has anybody other than the Committee bothered to realise that this 10-0 walk-over was claimed according to the rules made by the clubs, and the Committee are there to uphold the rules, not to break them deliberately.

Why did not Mr. Byrne inform himself of both sides of the case before penning the unutterable bunkum and bilgewater written above?

Over the past years I have been the recipient of much abuse, consequently have become inured to it, and in this instance it seems that quite deliberately certain persons wish to carry on mud-slinging. So be it—but perhaps this truthful and factual statement will place responsibility for the walk-over where it rightly belongs—on the incompetence within a club other than my own.

Anyone interested can view the Pirates acknowledgment if they care to come along. By the number

of people putting their fingers in to stir (to see what comes to the top) when viewing this card, the queue forms on the right, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Yours sincerely,  
James R. Green  
(Hon. Secretary—Linnets)

**Mr. J. C. McKim, Organising Secretary, replies to Mr. Byrne—**

Part of the letter published above by Mr. Byrne casts a slur on all members of the Committee. Let it be made perfectly clear to all that, at all Committee meetings, any member of the Committee who has any connection with the matter under discussion leaves the meeting. This rule is strictly enforced.

It is amazing, to say the least, that such an apparently shady set of characters have so little opposition each year at the A.G.M.!

As members of the Committee, we expect to be criticised, but every case brought before us is treated strictly on its merits and is dealt with without fear or favour. Any League member who does not believe this can find out at first hand by having his or her name put forward to serve on the Committee.

J. C. McKim

Dear Sir,

Last season, Bath Street first team protested to the Management Committee that, in their opinion, the choice of the Linnets Bowls pavilion (not their normal clubroom) as the venue for the semi-final of the Rumjahn Cup was unsuitable, as not only were the conditions rather primitive but the conditions for spectators are decidedly uncomfortable.

Upon hearing of our request for a change of venue, the Linnets club withdrew permission for the use of their premises, and at the same time another club offered the use of their room, but in spite of these gestures the Management Committee ruled against our protest and ordered that the match be played as originally arranged.

I now understand that recently the Pirates fourth team protested against being ordered to play the Hyde Cup final at Linnets normal clubroom, and that their protest was upheld by the Management

Committee and the venue changed accordingly.

In view of the above this club is at a loss to understand why one protest involving their first team should be denied whilst the same protest involving the **fourth** team of another club should be upheld, and perhaps an official spokesman for the Management Committee would care to satisfy us with an explanation regarding the inconsistency of their decisions.

Yours faithfully,  
N. Cooke  
(Bath Street T.T.C.)

**The Organising Secretary replies—**

Any matter of this kind which is brought before the Committee is dealt with on its merits.

Circumstances which may appear similar on the surface are not always so when the full facts are known.

J. C. McKim

Dear Sir,

I can't help wondering what reasoning prompted last year's R.A.F.A. players to forsake the hard won glory of 1st division play for the relatively mediocre knock-about in the fourth division. Were they afraid of losing too many games in the premier division? This would seem to be the case as they were quite happy to slide to the fourth and win with ridiculous ease rather than suffer perhaps hard fought defeat in the higher realm. Of course, they may well have considered that in doing what they did nothing much was lost as it will only take them two seasons to get back to the second division. Our "short hop to the top" League structure is very convenient for them. If we had been a seven division League they would have been mightily discouraged from such action.

It is my sincere and well considered opinion that our League would be vastly improved by a return to straight divisions. I can't for the life of me see what the present system has got that "straight seven" can't improve on. The only possible advantage is that really good teams entering the fourth division will rise to the top more quickly. But even this is being abused by people like ex-R.A.F.A.

I humbly suggest that this year the following two league amendments be adopted:

- (a) The league to comprise seven divisions.
- (b) Should a team drop out of any division the Management Committee shall have the power to replace this team by a team from any lower divisions.

I honestly feel that these suggestions represent the majority feeling at the present time: I should be very interested to hear other players points of view.

Yours sincerely,  
Thos. Gordon  
(English Electric)

**Letter to the Editor**

Dear Sir,

I have to register a strong complaint regarding the behaviour of the Headmasters of night schools.

During this past season these un-co-operative people have invariably moved every night school class from the normal evening on to those particular dates when either Liverpool or Everton are playing at home.

Since these football matches invariably clash with regular table tennis matches it follows that these alterations of night school classes play havoc with our teams, which often play 'short' because the Headmasters **never** notify their pupils of the changes until (at the earliest) 7 p.m. on the evenings in question—the match night.

Taking the complaint further, it is noticeable that these Headmasters have invariably altered classes to coincide with long-distance "away" matches, which is most unfair to those keen (?) players who are obliged to forgo their game, and to the club which is fined for shortage of players. In my own club, the night school class of one member, normally scheduled for Monday, has been moved to Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday on occasion.

In the interests of both players and clubs I implore the League Committee to take up this matter with the Education authorities immediately.

Yours faithfully,  
Unhappy Club Secretary