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**TABLE
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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.

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EDITORIAL BOARD :

Editor : Albert Montgomery

J. R. Green (News), J. O'Sullivan and P. A. Rix (Features),

A. E. Upton, J. C. McKim and S. D. Cameron

Vol. XVI

JANUARY, 1966

No. 3

Editorial

THESSE days we hear a lot about having divisions numbered from 1 to 8 again because the Management have power to move a strong side over one division (vacancies permitting). That promotion would be equally rapid, etc. This is a fallacious argument for first of all there have to be vacancies. Also, every team must first play one season in the lowest division before its strength can be assessed, so, until they have hammered all comers for one year, nobody would know where to put them next time! And since vacancies nearly always occur in the lowest divisions, there would be a 4, 5 or 6-year spell of winning one division per season to gain the top. However, there are two points of view on this, as on every subject, so let us have the opinions of your own clubs on this knotty problem.

Another correspondent returns to the other hotly debated subject of these days, the old and the new points system. Again, this problem has devotees on either side and the various views might well be aired again.

It was with some surprise that I learned that there are quite a number of players in the League who do not bother to change into proper footwear for matches. It arose on receipt of a letter from one club stating that they will no longer allow anyone to play there without rubber-soled shoes. It is not for me to anticipate official decisions, but since there is a written rule (19 M.R.8) on the subject it seems clear enough. Surely it is not asking too much to ask all players to make some reasonable attempt to comply with League rules, especially when it might lead to damage to the property of others?

The Liverpool 'Closed' tournament is nearly here again, this year at a new venue. How about those volunteers asked for by the Referee in a previous issue? Have you put your name forward as a helper for any evening or more? If not, if you are willing to lend a hand, Brian Leeson will be delighted to receive your offer. His address is in the handbook, so drop him a postcard. Better too many offers than too few! And the Tournament Committee need all the help they can get.

Leading Averages

NOTE. While every care is taken in the compilation of these records, no responsibility can be accepted for any error which may occur.

* Denotes at least 75% of Sets played at 1 or 2. Cup matches included.

DIVISION 1.	P	W	%
*G. Birch (Bohemians) ...	26	26	100.00
N. R. Jones (L'pool YM) ...	28	27	96.42
G. K. Smith (L'pool YM) ...	28	27	96.42
R. Smith (Wav. Labour) ...	26	25	96.15
E. M. Clein (Bohemians) ...	24	23	95.83
*E. Mandaluff (L'pool YM) ...	28	24	85.71
*Ron Jones (L'pool YM) ...	20	17	85.00
D. O'Hara (L'pool YM) ...	20	17	85.00
T. Owens (Wav. Labour) ...	26	22	84.61
K. Chambers (Wav. Labour) ...	26	22	84.61
*D. A. Ferguson (Rafters) ...	28	23	82.14
*P. E. D'Arcy (Bohemians) ...	24	19	79.16
N. Parker (L'pool YM) ...	24	19	79.16

DIVISION 2A	P	W	%
R. Eden (Bohemians) ...	16	16	100.00
J. Brierley (Bohemians) ...	24	23	95.83
*E. Mooney (Colonsay) ...	20	19	95.00
A. Williams (Bohemians) ...	22	20	91.11
*F. Pheysey (E.E.C.) ...	24	21	87.50
B. A. Leeson (Colonsay) ...	24	20	83.33
*J. Taylor (L.P.A.S.) ...	22	18	81.81
B. Carter (Colonsay) ...	24	19	79.16
R. McPherson (Bohemians) ...	24	19	79.16
P. Ferris (Bohemians) ...	14	11	78.57
W. Holmes (Linnets) ...	22	17	77.27
*A. Reid (Waterloo Park) ...	22	17	77.27
A. Davidson (Linacre) ...	20	15	75.00

DIVISION 2B	P	W	%
*R. Heath (University) ...	22	22	100.00
*M. Truman (Crawfords) ...	14	13	92.85
*W. Harris (Oakhill) ...	24	22	91.66
P. Wess (Linnets) ...	18	16	88.88
J. Kenwright (Mossley Hill) ...	16	14	87.51
J. Wren (University) ...	16	14	87.51
R. Hudson (Mossley Hill) ...	22	19	86.36
*L. R. Lewis (Pirates) ...	26	22	84.61
*R. Burge (Pirates) ...	24	20	83.33
J. Higham (Oakhill) ...	24	20	83.33
*N. Chaloner (Oakhill) ...	24	19	79.16
*K. Fitzsimmons (Linnets) ...	18	14	77.77

DIVISION 3A	P	W	%
*A. Lyn (Stanley House) ...	24	23	95.83
A. Davies (Bohemians) ...	16	15	93.75
R. Tyler (Pirates) ...	22	20	91.11
P. Murgatroyd (Bohemians) ...	18	16	88.88
*S. Harvey (Crawfords) ...	22	19	86.36
J. E. Leeson (Colonsay) ...	22	19	86.36
*Miss M. Coe (Beauclair) ...	22	18	81.81
J. C. Dalton (Bohemians) ...	20	16	80.00
*F. Rooney (Bohemians) ...	14	11	78.57
*D. G. Ridgway (Vagabonds) ...	22	17	77.27
J. Lampkin (Colonsay) ...	24	18	75.00

DIVISION 3B	P	W	%
R. S. Allcock (Beauclair) ...	26	26	100.00
*W. Whorton (Beauclair) ...	26	25	96.15
*D. Winnall (Palmerston) ...	24	22	91.66
*G. Nevins (Lussac) ...	24	21	87.50
R. Reynolds (Beauclair) ...	20	17	85.00
B. S. Alexander (Palmerston) ...	26	21	80.76
R. G. Jones (Palmerston) ...	22	17	77.27
*G. Kirk (Orrell) ...	22	17	77.27
*G. Brint (Orrell) ...	22	16	72.72
C. Bundred (Colonsay) ...	22	16	72.72

DIVISION 4A	P	W	%
M. Abbott (Waterloo Park) ...	26	25	96.15
*G. Reid (Waterloo Park) ...	22	21	95.45
A. Rumph (Waterloo Park) ...	26	23	88.38
*K. Hughes (Goodlass) ...	24	21	87.50
*P. Kilgallon (Goodlass) ...	24	21	87.50
*D. Watson (L'pool YM) ...	24	20	83.33
*W. Cornthwaite (Trinity) ...	22	18	81.81
*A. Abbott (Trinity) ...	26	21	80.76
F. Brown (L'pool YM) ...	24	19	79.16
*G. Wright (Orrell) ...	22	17	77.27
P. Lewis (L'pool YM) ...	24	18	75.00

DIVISION 4B	P	W	%
*R. Chew (Waterloo) ...	28	28	100.00
J. O'Flaherty (Edge Hill) ...	18	17	94.44
*A. Roberts (Mossley Hill) ...	18	17	94.44
*L. Donnelly (Waterloo) ...	12	11	91.66
D. Webb (Wyde Y.C.) ...	24	20	83.33
*I. Wensley (Colonsay) ...	24	20	83.33
H. L. Harper (Colonsay) ...	24	19	79.16
A. Morris (Wyde Y.C.) ...	24	19	79.16
*T. Daly (Pirates) ...	22	17	77.27
*R. Daiken (Stanley House) ...	24	18	75.00
L. Orford (Waterloo) ...	16	12	75.00

A. NOLAN 16 0 0.00

WOMEN'S DIVISION	P	W	%
*J. A. Crafter (Cadwa) ...	10	10	100.00
*M. Francis (Crawfords) ...	24	23	95.83
M. Collins (Crawfords) ...	22	20	91.11
*E. C. Mansell (Rafters) ...	22	20	91.11
L. Rumjahn (Rafters) ...	22	20	91.11
*M. King (Pirates) ...	10	9	90.00
M. J. Willcock (Cadwa) ...	20	18	90.00
*B. Cain (Bibby's) ...	20	17	85.00
*R. Royle (Bibby's) ...	18	15	83.33
*M. K. Cox (Crawfords) ...	26	21	80.76
M. Lovelady (Rafters) ...	20	16	80.00

DOUBLES - WOMEN'S DIVISION

Far too few doubles pairs have figures sufficiently high at this stage of the season to list

ENCLOSED with this "Digest" you will find an entry form for the Liverpool "Closed". Please remember to complete this and return it as soon as possible. You will note that we have a change of venue this year. Playing conditions will be as good as those at Dingle Vale, but we shall have the advantage of being able to use more tables and thus, of coping with a larger entry without running as late at night as has been the case the last couple of years—since we have had far more sets to be played due to the introduction of the Restricted Singles event.

A great deal of hard work is put in by the Referee and other Officials in preparing for and running this tournament, and I would urge competitors to give us their full co-operation in keeping things running smoothly. You CAN help in the following ways:

- (a) Send your entry in early, fully and correctly completed;
- (b) Arrive on time and come to the table quickly when called on to play, and
- (c) Umpire the next set after losing without delay or attempt at evasion.

I have heard complaints recently from more than one club about players arriving to play in matches

in outdoor shoes, thus causing damage to clubroom floors, and one club, at least, having recently had their floor re-laid at some expense, is going to insist in future that players wear rubber shoes as laid down in the rules.

Whilst on the subject of players' behaviour at matches, I make no apology for turning once again to a complaint made many times before in the "Digest" regarding players turning up late for matches, and leaving before the end. This is unavoidable, I know, on some occasions, but the habit is becoming very widespread.

Club Secretaries will shortly be receiving nomination forms for next year's Committee and will be asked to submit proposals for rule amendments for next season. During the next month or so is the time to give some thought to those matters, if any, which you feel should be put right in the League. The rules by which the Committee run the League are made by you, and you are the only people who can alter them. Do not leave it to the last minute or leave it all for someone else to do. The Annual General Meeting is your meeting. Use it as it is intended that you should use it, as a platform for your ideas and a means of improving the game of table tennis in Liverpool.

Lancashire and Cheshire League.

—By J. R. Green.

SINCE the last issue our Men's team have had two wins, v. Chester (8-2) at home and Burnley (6-4) away and then went to Stockport to draw 5-all. Betweentimes they lost 0-6 in the Wilmott Cup away v. Bolton. So our two defeats to date have been at the hands of Bolton, and apart from this we have 6 points from 4 matches, with 3 more still to be played. We haven't been in such a happy position as this for several years, and as far as we have been able to work out without League tables we are lying 4th. This is due to four players, Peter D'Arcy, Roy and Ron Jones, and Gordon Birch, and there is a more confident air about our team than has been the case for a long time.

At the same time, the Men's "A" team have added three wins to their tally and have now won 4 and lost 1. After they had played four matches, Gordon Birch was promoted to the 1st team, and Eddie Moran, due to loss of form after two accidents, dropped out. To join Eddie Clein in the side Trevor Owen and Ken Chambers came in to oppose Blackpool "A" for an 8-2 win, and these three beat the Business Houses League by the same score a week later. Now, with 10 points from 6 matches the "A" team top the division together with Preston, but again it is impossible to say which lead on sets average without official tables. Still, their position speaks well for our policy of experiment with new players.

The only League match for either of our Ladies teams was the 1st team v. Crewe, away, which resulted in a 6-4 win. Judy Crafter won 1, Maureen Coe 2, and it was certainly Mabel Francis's night with 3 victories. Once more we went out on our bogey team, Manchester by 7-2 in the Rose Bowl at Beauclair during December. The two ladies teams have a regular flurry of matches coming up, and by the next issue will have nearly finished for the season. It all comes at once.

The Youth team have played 4 and won 3, dropping both points to Mid-Cheshire at Wavertree Labour, with Mike Johns in the opposition. Ian Burrows went to 23-21 in the 3rd with Johns, and like Roy Jones against the same opponent a week or two earlier must have played those two last points over again many times since! And a further 6-4 win at Warrington saw them through till now. The really surprising thing about this team is the loss of form of Rod McPherson. Last year the backbone of the team, he has had a very thin time this time, and altho' we hope that the loss of form is purely temporary, he will be replaced v. Nelson by Ray Lavin (Linnets). Further decisions will be made after that game.

The Juniors keep plugging on steadily. Their record is sound if not spectacular, with three wins and two losses from five matches. The team has played unchanged for the last 4 matches, and apart from Burrows in the odd match, there seems little hope of improving the team. By the time you read this we shall have played the Carter Cup quarter-final v. Birmingham at Wavertree Labour. We reached this stage by two byes and 1 walk-over! On that occasion the team will be I. Burrows (Linnets), P. Metcalfe (Wavertree Labour) and P. Murgatroyd (Bohemians), and naturally we hope for success.

The following players have been awarded badges. There should be a few more awards before the end of the season, which will be announced when the time comes. Eddie Clein (Men's 'A' team), Ian Burrows (Youth team), Maureen Coe (Ladies' 1st team) and Philip Metcalfe, Paul Murgatroyd and Allan Davies (all Junior team).

In an article of this length one can merely give the bones and dry facts. To get the full picture, a trip or two to city games would fill you in much better than can be done in a few sentences. So perhaps we shall see you around sometime at city games!

NOTICE FROM THE FIXTURE SECRETARY

With the Closed championships being played from Wednesday, 30th March to April 2nd (inclusive) and with Good Friday falling on April 8th, it is permissible to re-arrange fixtures due to be played in these periods.

Matches may be played, therefore, between April 12th and 15th inclusive (but NOT after April 15th without special permission). Matches not played by 15th April will be treated as walk-overs by the 'home' team and will be awarded to the away team 10-0.

Secretaries should arrange all outstanding matches NOW, so that a backlog may be avoided which is difficult to clear at the last minute.

WILL YOU please check your team record in the League tables, and if you disagree with it, make sure that you have no unposted cards in your pockets, and then contact the Fixture Secretary to put him right.

JUDY CRAFTER'S LATEST SUCCESS.

The Editor has just learned that Judy Crafter, of Cadwa, had to get up and out the other day by 6 a.m. to go to Manchester, and leave there by 8 a.m. to travel South, and to play two County matches later that day, v. Middlesex and Essex.

Judy has played many, many times for the County 2nd team (and earlier for the Juniors) but this was her debut for the Lancashire 1st team. I have not yet got any full results of her performance, but I understand that against Middlesex she played very well, and in the Essex match she took Lesley Bell (England's No. 2) to the third game, which is a grand performance in itself.

On behalf of all League members I offer sincere congratulations to Judy both on her selection and on playing well enough that it is more than likely that she will be selected again before long. But give us some information next time Judy! Don't keep such an item to yourself, for we are all interested.

EDITOR.

Around the Divisions

DIVISION 1.

By JIM GREEN

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Liverpool YM	15	14	1	0	134
Bohs.	15	14	0	1	124
Wav. Labour	16	13	1	2	124
Rafters	16	12	2	2	112
Linnet	16	10	5	1	89
L'pool YM 'A'	14	9	5	0	83
Wav. Lab. 'A'	15	6	8	1	73
Pirates	16	6	9	1	63
Beauclair	15	5	9	1	61
Cadwa	16	4	12	0	56
Wav. Lab. 'B'	15	4	8	3	45
Bath St.	15	2	11	2	44
Police	16	2	14	0	39
Pirates 'A'	16	0	16	0	32

THE second half of the season has started with YMCA 4 points ahead of Bohemians at the head of the table, and with this narrow margin anything might happen before the end. On the old points basis, Bohs. would have had their noses in front at this point, so there is little or nothing between the strengths of the two sides. Wavertree Labour have dropped away out of the running, of their own choice, it seems, for they gave the YM a 10-0 walk-over in the last match of the first half. At that time they were a mere 8 points behind, and might well have caught up with a determined effort, so they must have had some heart-burnings when they forfeited what could only be their last hope of the championship, but the result of their action seems particularly unfair to Bohemians, for every set prised from the YM by the Labour team in that match was immensely helpful to Bohs.

The signing by Cadwa of Heyes and Mercer (ex-Lucem) has considerably strengthened their team and since they are currently lying fifth from bottom, these players should ensure another season at least in the division. Pirates "A" and the Police now seem completely doomed and it would need something near a miracle to save either, and Bath St. will have to pull rabbits from the hat if they are to survive. I don't think many would back the chances of any of these three for Div. 1 next year. The fourth for the drop is

rather more dicey for there are only 2 points between Cadwa (49) and Wavertree Labour "B" (47). Cadwa, however, have added strength now, and if anything the Labour's 3rd team are slightly weaker now than they were earlier, so it looks rather like Labour to go down again. These are the four teams which were promoted only last year, which accents the essential difference in strength between the 1st and 2nd divisions! But Wavertree have found what Balfour found years ago, that it needs a tremendous overall strength to support three first division sides.

Gordon Birch is the outstanding player of the season thus far. Playing at 1 and 2 he is unbeaten in League and Cup matches, and at 18 years old his future prospects must be particularly bright. His clubmate, Eddie Klein has lost 1 set only, and keeps up his consistent performance of the past few years. Selection for the city "A" team seems to have given him a new lease of life for by his results, he is harder to beat this year than ever. It is good to see Ron Jones coming back into form after his 5-year lay off. Half the season with only 3 losses more than does him credit.

Often have we bemoaned the rising average age of this division, but the trend is certainly the other way now, for there seem to be more young players around now than for many years past. At a rough count there have been more players of 23 and under than over-23's this year. Long may the trend continue.

With this issue you'll get the form for the Liverpool "Closed" to be played this year at the University Gym. Don't forget to send it in *before* the closing date. The men's singles will be quite a battle this year, and there is less reason to miss it than ever. It is being held in a more central venue, before the end of the season, and before summer sports take over, so it is with some real confidence that a good entry can be looked for. You don't have to wait until later to send in your form—Brian Leeson won't lose it, so SEND IT IN NOW!!

DIVISION 2A. By DAVID COHEN

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Bohs. 'A'	14	14	0	0	123
Waterloo Park	16	10	3	3	107
Linacre	14	12	2	0	100
Colonsay	12	11	1	0	96
Eng. Electric	14	6	4	4	75
Police 'A'	15	5	7	3	74
Crawfords 'A'	14	6	6	2	70
Sefton Gen.	14	6	6	2	60
L'pool Jewish	13	3	7	3	52
Linnets 'C'	15	2	10	3	51
Bath St. 'A'	14	2	10	2	39
Oakhill 'A'	15	1	12	2	36
Rafters 'A'	13	2	10	1	36

WITH the season just over the half-way mark, the division's three sections, top, middle and bottom, seem to be reasonably clear-cut. It is almost certain that Bohemians "A" are going to be the division's champions—that is unless they throw away silly points, and looking at their results thus far their players seem to be much too steady to do that sort of thing.

Colonsay, in second place are leading Linacre by eleven clear points, having beaten them recently by eight sets to two in their first engagement of the season.

At the bottom of the table, Oakhill "A" are going to have to earn a lot of extra points to avoid the drop to the third division, with Rafters "A," Bath Street "A" and Linnets "C" very much in the danger zone, although Linnets have a slight edge over the other two. Liverpool Jewish have been dropping points that they shouldn't have lost, amongst these being too many "walk-over" points

which must be a contributory factor towards their somewhat lowly place.

The Police have been enjoying steadily improving results, helped along to a large extent by two newcomers to the team in John Taylor at No. 2 and D. Sayle at 4. Since they arrived in the side these two have, between them, earned no less than 23 points from the team's total of 64 for the half season.

Congratulations to the top scorers of the division: Robert Eden (Bohemians) who still retains his 100% record, closely followed by Joe Brierley, his team-mate who boasts 95.83%. The only two other players in our sphere with 90% or over are Eddie Mooney (Colonsay) and Alan Williams (Bohemians). It will be interesting to see if these four can keep up their present high standard to the end.

There have been some extremely hard fought matches to date, as the results of these six matches demonstrate. Rafters v. Bath Street, Rafters v. Police, Linacre v. Police, Linacre v. Waterloo Park, Linacre v. Liverpool Jewish and English Electric v. Jewish. Of the 60 sets played no less than 37 went to the third game, and in one of these I noted a marathon game, that between K. Ainsworth (Linacre) and J. Taylor (LPAS) which went to 31-29. This was followed closely by 28-26 between A. Horwood and Tony Cohen (Jewish) and again between Fred Winstanley (Rafters) and Billy Neary (English Electric). On which lengthy note I'll close after wishing you all good luck, and better results this half.

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DIVISION 2B. By JOHN O'SULLIVAN

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
University	16	12	0	4	121
Oakhill	16	11	2	3	108
Mossley Hill	15	11	1	3	106
Crawfords	16	10	4	2	95
Trinity	14	6	4	4	79
Linnet 'A'	13	7	4	2	77
St. Edward's	14	7	5	2	75
Linnet 'B'	16	5	10	1	70
L'pool YM 'B'	15	7	8	0	69
Pirates 'B'	15	6	6	3	69
Wav. Lab. 'C'	14	5	8	1	64
L'pool Jew. 'A'	15	1	2	2	49
Eng. Elec. 'A'	16	2	3	1	40
Bootle YM	16	1	15	0	32

NOW that we have reached the half-way stage it can be seen that the fight for the League leadership has currently limited itself to three teams, with University taking the honours by a small margin. As far as score-cards tell me, Bob Heath of the University is still unbeaten but I have been surprised at the number of times when he has just scraped home in the third. Without trying to detract from the performance of his opponents, I sometimes wonder if he puts his full efforts into his game until the last few points? For example, when his side met Bootle YM, Tom Jones took him to 22-20 in the third, while, in the same match, the University No. 2 beat Jones 21-16, 21-10.

It's a great pity that Mike Traman is not always available for Crawfords. They have acquired 89 points and are at present lying fourth, after 15 matches, but with Linnets "A" having so many games in hand I can't see them staying below Crawfords for much longer.

Bootle YM will have to put a spurt on to survive. Last season with 76 points from 26 matches, they were due for relegation, saved by vacancies due to teams dropping out. After 15 games now they have only 32 points, so they will have to double their average points per match to break even with last year.

When Jimmy Bowden and Bert Kewley dropped from Liverpool YM

"A" (Div. 1) to their "B" team they started to climb the table, and although they have dropped too far to directly affect the top places, there will be no relegation worries as they had last year. They might affect the top spots indirectly though by taking points here and there from the highest teams, adding a little spice to the proceedings.

One player amongst us complained that he never sees his name mentioned in the "Digest". Well, when you're writing these notes you look for the shortest words to avoid writer's cramp, so when your name is Maurice Derbyshire you don't stand much chance! But I must say that M.D. did contribute to the 1-9 defeat of his side in a most gentlemanly manner. (I'll bet he's sorry he asked now!). So if you've a name like Tom Mix just let me know!

It has been mentioned to me that one club is going to insist on the application of Match regulation 8, concerning the wearing of rubber-soled shoes at their club. Players who don't comply will not be allowed on the table and their sets will be claimed by the home side—solely to avoid damage to their floor by heavy shoes. Sometimes this is a condition of hire when renting premises, although not in this case, where a floor has just been laid at some heavy cost.

I've been keeping an eye open to see how many people have been taking advantage of the new service rule which allows you to serve from outside the limits of the table. I haven't found anyone who uses it often enough to warrant comment and since we don't play doubles often it is difficult to come to any conclusion whether or not the experiment has been successful, for this rule applies for only a trial period.

It occurs to me that over the couple of years that I've been writing the notes for the "Digest" not one club Secretary has passed on any information regarding his club as being of interest to the League in general!

DIVISION 3A B. JACK LAMBERT

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Colonsay 'A'	15	13	2	0	110
Bohs. 'B'	16	11	3	2	110
University 'A'	16	12	3	1	108
Stanley House	15	10	3	2	97
Crcwfords 'B'	16	8	5	3	91
Beauclair 'B'	17	6	7	4	85
Wav. Lab. 'C'	13	6	5	2	69
Pirates 'C'	14	7	6	1	68
Eng. Elec. 'B'	14	6	7	1	60
Oakhill 'B'	16	3	11	2	60
St. Mary's Coll.	15	4	8	3	59
Vagabonds	14	5	9	0	54
L'pool Jew. 'B'	15	0	11	4	45
L.Y.C.A.	15	1	13	1	38

A COUPLE of slips showing—English Electric "B"’s very badly. Six wins in a row at the start and not even a 6-4 since! And Colonsay "A" surprisingly—everything going very smoothly and then two resounding defeats, 1-9 down to University "A" and 2-8 beaten by Stanley House. But in my book they're still favourites for the championship. The play-off between their two conquerors resulted in a 6-4 win for University, who, incidentally were without their outstanding No. 1, Wren, for both of these matches. Roberts and Krikorian each won two, the former beating Lyn in three and Harding 24-22 in the third!

Then, just to "mix-it" along

come the nicely blended Bohemians "B" team to draw with Stanley House and beat the University side 6-4. Stirzaker and the two Liverpool Junior players, Davies and Murgatroyd, were outstanding for Bohs.

Without Stan Harvey, Crawford's "B" drew with Stanley House with two good wins from Evans. They had, also, an excellent 8-2 win over Pirates "G". Wavertree Labour "D" and Beauclair "B" fought-out very good draw, Siddall and Burrows each taking two for Wavertree, and Maureen Coe (an attractive new signing) two for Beauclair.

Vagabonds scored a good win over Oakhill, McNeill, Storey and Martin scoring the six between them, and Liverpool Jewish "B" earned five good points at English Electric, where Burness and Black gained two apiece for the home side, and Taylor two for Jewish. Rod Cohen is a young man to watch at the Jewish club!

Jim Charnock (two v. Colonsay) is in excellent form for Oakhill, and Margaret Collins (Beauclair) improves by leaps and bounds. McCracken scored Oakhill's single point v. Bohs. and Coulson, in a struggling LYCA team won 2 v. Pirates. Ellard won the only two for Electric against Wavertree Labour.

Congratulations to our Hyde Cup semi-finalists, Colonsay "A", Stanley House and Bohemians "B".

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DIVISION 3B.

By BERT ARISS

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Beauclair 'A'	14	13	1	0	108
Palmerston	15	15	0	0	107
Lussac	14	11	3	0	100
Colonsay 'B'	16	9	6	1	93
British Rail	15	8	4	3	91
Orrell	14	7	3	4	83
Linnets 'D'	16	6	8	2	74
Police 'B'	16	5	10	1	70
University 'B'	16	6	8	2	68
Bohs. 'C'	14	5	6	3	66
Bath St. 'B'	14	5	8	1	58
Coll. of Tech.	15	3	11	1	54
Pirates 'D'	15	3	12	0	46
Eng. Elec. 'C'	16	0	16	0	32

PRIDE of place in this edition must be given to the clash between Palmerston and the hitherto unbeaten Beauclair "A" team, in which Palmerston emerged victorious by 6 sets to 4. In this match several personal records were sent crashing. Billy Whorton, No. 1 for Beauclair, who had beaten all-comers till then, tasted defeat twice in losing to Dave Winnall 20-22, 21-8, 21-10, and to Bob Mason (ex-Victoria Park) 21-18, 21-19. Bob Alsock also lost his 100% record to Mason, 21-14, 21-11, and had a tremendous battle with Joyce Randall (ex-Bohemians, and now the proud mother of twins) before winning 21-12. For Beauclair, Derek Inge was the hero of the occasion. With their new signings, Palmerston seem des-

tinued for higher things, and may well find themselves in Division 2 next season.

Orrell must be the League's draw specialists. Ably spear-headed by Gerry Brint and Gordon Kirk, they seem a little weak in the tail, otherwise they would surely be further up the table. And a team which is making steady progress up the League is Lussac, who have recorded several meritorious victories of late, including three 9-1 results, over University "B", LPAS "B" and College of Technology. A continuance of these results will find them far higher at the season's end.

Bath Street "B" are having a very time this term, their best effort to date being a 5-5 draw with British Rails, and with a little more steadiness they could well have finished with a well-deserved win.

A contentious point has arisen over the playing quarters of the Colonsay club. I do not intend to go into this here, and will content myself by offering my opinion that they are a little cramped, to say the least. In the past few weeks Colonsay have twice been involved in rather strange results. Against Pirates "D" and Linnets "D" not one set went to three games.

Score cards are taking a long time to reach the Fixture Secretary. Please send your cards in as early as possible, and help in keeping the League tables up-to-date.

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DIVISION 4A. By TOM GORDON

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
W'loo Park 'A'	16	14	0	2	139
Goodlass Wall	15	12	3	0	113
Trinity 'A'	16	11	3	2	113
Crawfords 'C'	16	12	3	1	112
L'pool YM 'C'	14	11	0	3	109
Orrell 'A'	16	9	5	2	93
University 'C'	15	7	7	1	75
St. Patrick's	16	5	9	2	71
Palmerston 'A'	16	3	11	2	58
Linnets 'F'	14	4	9	1	50
Knotty Ash	16	4	12	0	45
Eng. Elec. 'D'	14	1	11	2	37
Vagabonds 'A'	14	2	10	2	32
Coll. of Tech 'A'	16	1	15	0	23

WITH the results I have to hand at the half-way stage, Waterloo Park have now clearly established their supremacy, having a clear lead at the head of the table. Their results recently have been impressive including three wins of 10-0 and three of 9-1. It is noticeable however that there have been an increasing number of "tin-hats" lately—13 from the last 47 matches. This does show that the division is too top-heavy.

Looking through the Waterloo Park results I was disappointed to see that M. Abbot had inflicted a 21-0 defeat on a Vagabonds player. There is no excuse for this merciless thrashing—it can really shatter a man's confidence.

College Technology still languish at the foot of the table but luckily it can be reported that they have now won a match—against Linnets "F" when they triumphed 6-4. Marlow played a true Captain's part, winning twice. One game won by

Linnets was at 28-26.

While on the subject of high scores, B. Hart (Crawfords) beat McIntosh (Palmerston) by 31-29 to approach the season's record held by M. Manley (November issue).

League positions generally have changed little—the strong teams win well, and the poor teams lose heavily. Vagabonds have had a dreadful run winning only two points from their last six matches. I feel that the major factor of this bad run is inability to maintain a stable team, having called on ten players so far. One highlight in this run was a splendid victory by P. J. Doyle over George Wright of Orrell—no mean player himself.

Crawfords have been playing well and piling up points recently. True, they have met some weak teams lately but they can justifiably be pleased with a win over Trinity, whose best effort has been a draw with Liverpool YMCA. Cornthwaite is undoubtedly their strong man with 12 wins from his last 12 sets.

Palmerston have suffered serious wounds from a series of broadsides from the big guns. On their card v. Goodlass Wall they had a chap called Absent, who was so weak he didn't get a point!

Like others in this division, English Electric "D" have received some severe pummelings lately, notably "tin-hats" from Goodlass Wall and Crawfords. For some reason I haven't got the card for their game against Liverpool YMCA but I suspect a further "tin-hat" here. On the credit side stand-in Alf Brown scored a splendid win against Edwards of Trinity.

DIVISION 4B. By MAX RATOFF

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Colonsay 'C'	16	13	2	1	120
Wyde Y.C.	14	12	1	1	113
Mossley Hill 'A'	16	12	2	2	109
Waterloo	14	12	1	1	104
Edge Hill	13	9	4	0	83
Pirates 'E'	12	7	4	0	71
Linnets 'E'	13	5	6	2	64
Bohs. 'D'	15	3	9	3	55
Eng. Elec. 'E'	14	4	10	0	51
St. Edward's 'A'	12	4	8	0	49
Stan. House 'A'	12	3	9	0	44
Oakhill 'C'	15	2	12	1	43
Rafters 'B'	11	2	8	1	33
Linnets 'G'	15	1	13	1	21

WITH a further seven matches played, the position at the head of the table is becoming more and more interesting. Wyde Y.C. have slipped one point ahead of Colonsay, who themselves are three points clear of Waterloo, although Waterloo have a match in hand. And Mossley Hill have dropped seven points behind, being right up to date with their fixtures. This has all the makings of a tense struggle, with Waterloo appearing to have the slightest of edges. But it is purest guesswork as yet, and it will take several matches to bring any clarification.

At the other end of the table-proppers are slipping further behind—Linnets "G" and Oakhill "C", having gained seventeen and sixteen points respectively.

Stanley House, I am sorry to say, are the holders of a unique record. Out of six matches played they have conceded no less than 11 walk-overs to their opponents. It is to be hoped that this is a record which others will not attempt to emulate, and it is unlikely that anyone will wish to take over this particular championship.

It is predictable to see the top three or four teams gaining a few 10.0 wins apiece, but what is less foreseen is a 10.0 win for Rafter's against the team lying immediately behind them—Linnets "G". Whilst not preaching the virtues of my own club, a complete wipe-out is a reasonable difficult target to achieve.

Rafter's No. 1, M. Rourke, managed to inflict defeat on the Mossley Hill No. 2, and thus to save the white-wash. It is obvious that the Rafter's team are not lacking in spirit despite

not enjoying the best of success. And, in their 1-9 defeat by Waterloo, Pirates "E" single win was provided by A. Short, who inflicted a rare defeat upon B. Graves. The same Short thereupon provided Linnets "G" with their sole set, when Pirates "E" emerged winners 19-1, by being beaten by Derek Dorman at the uncommon score of 3-21, 21-16, 21-19. (Who fell asleep after the first—or perhaps, who woke up?). Then against Wyde Y.C. in another 1-9 defeat our friend Short again took the solitary point by beating L. Woosey. Strikes me that he believes in being "different".

In my first write-up I mentioned the pushing episode between Colin Cox (Linnets) and Alf Demain (Pirates). Colin, now promoted to Linnets "D", and Alf, also promoted in Pirates teams, met again in another sterling struggle, with Alf completing his double at Colin's expense. It seems to me that these two like playing each other—or that they're looking for write-ups.

WOMEN'S DIVISION

By JUDY CRAFTER

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Crawfords	13	12	1	0	109
Cadwa	13	11	2	0	101
Sandown Ladies	13	8	4	1	85
Bibby's	11	9	2	0	83
Rafter's	9	8	1	0	77
Linnets	11	7	4	0	65
Bibby's 'A'	13	3	9	1	49
Pirates	12	3	7	2	46
Rafter's 'A'	12	3	7	2	46
Linnets 'A'	9	1	8	0	15
Goodlass Wall	13	2	11	0	15
Linnets 'B'	12	0	12	0	7

SINCE the last "Digest" nothing unexpected has been happening and the only result having any real bearing on the top of the table was that of the clash between Crawfords and Cadwa, which Crawfords won 7-3. This might have been closer had Cadwa had myself playing, but I was on duty with the Liverpool team. I'm not saying that I *would* have made a difference, only "might" for my stand-in lost her two singles although being in a winning doubles pair, and I may have won one (or even both) had I been available. Unfortunate, but there it is. And,

of course, there is the return match to come yet.

Crawfords had another tight set-to with Rafter's, just coming out ahead by 6-4. Eileen Mansell beat the two city players, Mabel Francis and Muriel Cox, which goes to show that Eileen is not getting any weaker. She still retains the ability and control of old, and is one of the really feared players in the League today. Muriel Cox had a thin night, for she lost also to Myra Lovelady, who, in turn went down to Margaret Collins, one of Liverpool's growing number of talented youthful players. In fact Margaret has been selected for the city "A" team v. the first team at LPAS on February 18th, and I don't think that that will be her sole appearance by any means.

The third of the 'top' matches was that between Rafter's and Bibby's, and on this occasion Eileen was overcome by the youth and vigour of our "Closed" champion, Barbara Cain, who won both her singles. But in the doubles, Eileen and Pinky Rumjahn proved too much for Barbara and her partner Reggie Royle, who went down fairly easily in two straight.

The ultimate championship is far from cut and dried for it is very open between Rafter's, Cadwa and Crawfords, and Bibby's are still in with an outside chance. It is far better this way than to have one team outshining everyone else, for it will keep us all on our toes right through the second half!

So much for the top of the table. Now for those less fortunate. With Lussac resigning from the division we are once again a couple of teams short, which is a great pity, for we all like our game every week. Now that her team is out, Anne Marsden has joined up at Linnets where her services will be gratefully received, for two of their girls have now got cartilage trouble in the knee (Linda French and Angela Parker) and they have been hard hit by illness in one way and another. But Lussac's resignation leaves Goodlass Wall and Linnets "B" in the unenviable spot at the bottom, but they should not despair, for all newcomers have to start somewhere, and there are few of us who have not had that stage when we suffer a number of hrashes. It is far from pleasant to get a hiding every week, but all of a sudden something will click—you'll find that you're now winning occasionally, then more often, then, you're right in the swim. *It really does happen you know.* I do not say this merely to offer a crumb of comfort, but to tell you what every

one of us have found out in our own playing careers.

Taken all round there does seem to be a bit more enthusiasm in the Women's side of the game in Liverpool this season, but this can only be a start. Many and various are the suggestions put forward in conversations for the betterment of the Women's divisions. Some of these would undoubtedly get support if known generally, so why not put them into letters to the "Digest" for everyone to study and to give their views? We have more lady players this season than for some years. Some unfortunately only play amongst the men, and if some of these played also in this division it would be to their own benefit as well as to the womens game as a whole. But this is for them to decide for the future. Immediately, if everyone "had a go" in the Women's events in the Liverpool "Closed" for which you get a form with this issue, I'm certain that you would get a great deal of pleasure from it, and at the same time give a much needed boost to the women's game locally. So what about it? Let us see a truly huge entry this season—our first at our new venue. Tatty Bye

Editor's Note. Judy has omitted to mention her recent appearance for the Lancashire 1st team. Well done, Judy! Let's see you make this your regular spot.

Letter to the Editor

"Casa Mia"
Church Road,
Footscray,
Sidcup, Kent.
14th December, 1965.

Dear Sir,

I would like to congratulate you on the quality of your publication—I have not seen any other League magazine that comes anywhere near it. Also I would like to thank you for featuring George Yates' splendid article on the European championships in your November issue. I have been most encouraged by support from all over the country, and George is doing an excellent job for the European Championships by his

efforts in connection with publicity in the North. In fact, the North is playing a very strong part in the Championships, with Tom Blunn both Treasurer and Deputy Chairman, of the event, Norman Cook as Catering Manager and Walter Mitton as Transport Manager.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Wembley next April.

Yours sincerely,

CONRAD JASCHKE,
Hon. Organiser.

(The Editorial Board make no apologies for publishing this letter. All we ask is a new, larger hat each!).

LINNETS v. Y.M.C.A. in the Cup

IF you have never been to a Liverpool representative match (the case with most League members) you may find it news that the number of supporters can usually be counted on one hand, leaving plenty of spare fingers to scratch with, so it was something of a surprise to find, on arrival at Linnets headquarters that there were 29 people present before the game was due to start—subtracting 9 for players already present, this leaves 20 spectators.

Roy Jones chose to open himself v. Ian Burrows. Now before the match started I'd heard various opinions from the followers of both sides and the general verdict appeared to be that Ian had never beaten Roy before, and it was merely a case of how many he could manage to get, and one in the bag for the Y.M. How wrong can you be? I've seen Ian play many times, and have played against him in practice and I had always looked on his forehand as his strong attacking stroke. Whether Roy had the same opinion nobody knows, but he simply could not cope with the powerful backhand which came from Ian with alarming accuracy. We saw only brief glimpses of Roy's famous forehand, and although Ian showed traces of nerves this did not seem to hinder him in a relatively easy win.

Next we saw Ron Jones playing Dixie Dean. I had heard a lot about Ron Jones but had never seen him play until now, so this one was of extraordinary interest to me. This was a classic demonstration of the contrast you can get between players. At one end was Ron Jones, floating around the floor with steps as definite as a ballet dancer in a field of nettles. I do believe he could have tip-toed his way across the top of a blancmange without anybody being the wiser. At the other end we had Dixie, jumping and banging around like someone who had forgotten to shake his medicine! This set produced no surprises and Ron made the score one-all.

The time was now 7-50 and there was no sign of Ralph Gunnion. Ted Briscoe had been held up in the M.I.

"Waiting for a train" according to Tony Green (that would shake the R.A.C.!!). So Ted Mandaluff prepared to do battle with Tony, who stood in for Briscoe (whose train had got stranded at Nuneaton!!!). I have seen Tony play very much better than this and he appeared to be suffering from lack of practice after his recent lay-off. Even so it took Ted three games to put the Y.M. 2-1 ahead. Ralph Gunnion had arrived during the above game and although Norman Parker (Y.M.) did his best to chop and push him off, there was nothing that he could do to stip the score going level at 2-all, and George Smith made his first appearance of the evening against Ian Burrows. George used his most unusual forehand, which, surely he must have invented himself, but nothing made much difference the way Ian was playing and altho' the set went to three, Linnets were again in the lead.

With Roy Jones bringing the score level again at 3-all by beating Tony Green, it was now Ted Mandaluff's turn to try to dent Ralph Gunnion's record. Now, this game was one to be listened to rather than watched! If you closed your eyes you could picture an ostrich with a clog on one foot and a wellington on the other, walking down a hospital corridor! Ralph's sponge bat hitting the ball gave rise to a sound equal to the impact of jelly dropping on to a plate and Ted's weapon sounding like the clack of the woodsman's axe. Ted strove to his utmost in returning shots which increased in speed with every stroke until the final kill which left him helpless. (After watching Ralph make it look so easy in this match I was certain that I could see where I'd been going wrong myself, and in my next match I put into operation my newly acquired knowledge, although it did seem unfair to my opponent—not knowing what he was in for. All I can say is that Ralph Gunnion must be a lot luckier than I am, for I lost again!

George Smith was out of luck again in having to oppose Dixie

Dean who in his own inimitable style, proceeded to run in and out from the table, making some excellent returns of George's hardest smashes and winning the point from neatly timed backhands where they would do the most good.

This put Linnets in the happy position of being 5-4 up with Gordon Exell to take on Norman Parker. This was a thrilling duel, and I think the most even of the night, and in view of the state of the match, certainly the most exciting. After some truly excellent table tennis

they had won one game each, and in the third Gordon took the lead by making some almost unbelievable returns and wicked backhands, then he had a patch of 'netting' the same backhands, and Norman Parker, who is one of the most consistent of players, by sheer hard work managed to draw level, and after some breathtaking points he just kept his nose ahead to the tape, making it possible for the Y.M. to fight again another day. I don't think that Gordon Exell will play as well as this and still lose many times.

Letters to the Editor

6, Winchester Ave.,
Liverpool 22.
14th December, 1965.

Dear Sir,

I would like to comment on the Notes by David Cohen (Div. 2A) wherein he mentioned a player who inflicted a 21-0 defeat on his opponent. I don't know who this player is, nor who was defeated, but in my opinion a player should go 'all-out' to win by the biggest margin possible—in fact such is his duty to his team, for one cannot afford to relax when playing in a match, as many have found to their cost.

I would much rather be beaten 21-0 than have the feeling that my opponent was 'toying' with me. If a young player cannot take a real hiding once in a while, then he should not be playing the game, for he will never know when he is improving if his opponents continually take it easy with him.

I say "good luck" to the unknown victor.

Yours sincerely,
R. S. Alcock,
Beauclair T.T.C.

43-45, Lark Lane,
Liverpool 17.
8th January, 1966.

Dear Sir,

My club, Linnets, have just finished installing a wooden floor into our premises. Cost has prevented this until now, and coast cases the writing of this letter. As we cannot afford to do this job again for some years, we must *insist* on rubber-soled shoes being worn by everybody,

and from now on NOBODY, even a member of an opposing team will be allowed to play in any other form of footwear—see League Rule No. 8.

Yours sincerely,

James R. Green,
Hon. Sec.,
Linnets and Aigburth T.T.C.

4, Rhosemor Road,
Southdene,
Kirkby.

Dear Sir,

I am a little perturbed at a couple of items in the November issue. The editorial states we had a large number of letters and some had to be left out. I would suggest they were all left out excepting a letter on the Merseyside Open, which had already been covered four times and mentioned in divisional notes. Regarding new items. Who wants new items to write about when it is the old hardy annuals that provide us with meaty discussions and arguments? Three divisional correspondents mentioned great victories of 21-0 and 21-1. I had a similar instance two seasons ago when six girls were interested enough to learn from scratch. Two were selected for the team in the first game, and one was beaten almost to tears by one of the League's most experienced ladies. I haven't seen any of them since! But the point I wish to make is that these victories would be less liable to happen if the divisions were numbered off in their true strength instead of in joint leagues in the present pyramid system. Another correspondent suggests that English Electric 'C' are due for relegation.

They will be, and were also due last season after a season of hammerings, but the same chaps have to suffer for another season, just another reason for equal divisions in order of merit. Come to think of it there is no reason for pyramid leagues. The only reason—quick promotion has gone now that the management can promote at their discretion, etc.

Jack Lambert,

English Electric.

43-45 Lark Lane,
Liverpool 17.
14th January, 1966.

Dear Sir,

Two years ago the new points system was introduced into the League, whereby every set counted as a point. At the time we were assured that this would not affect promotion and relegation, but would tend to stop people from "not caring" about the last couple of sets if the match was already won.

To make a mockery of the first of these points is now quite simple, for after two seasons there are a total of 2 promotions, 3 relegations and 3 Divisional championships (1 of the 1st division) which *have* been affected. As I understand it, ours is a TEAM game, and I cannot see why a team with a record (from 22 matches) of W7, L14, D1, Pts. 68, should be relegated instead of a team with W3, L18, D1, Pts. 80, when this latter team is obviously incapable of winning the greater number of MATCHES.

On the second point of "greater interest" our own "C" team of last season entirely explodes this theory. Three matches from the end they had such a lead (in sets) over the nearest contender that they weren't bothered about winning *matches*, for they only needed 11 sets from the 30 to be played, so where was the incentive for "greater interest" there. We still see people coming late and leaving early because only their *own* results really interest them!

To my mind this sort of thing gives an entirely wrong picture. Surely, in a *team* game the important thing is for the *team* to win the match? Thereby proving which is the stronger *team*, rather than which team contains the most "star" players.

I would like to think that this system is an experiment which has failed, and that we shall soon be returning to the old, sane system of "two points for a win, and one for a draw".

Yours faithfully,

A. R. GREEN
(Linnets).

P.S. Is it not possible to have some form of ballot to find out the feelings of the individual members of the League?

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

The League Chairman, Mr. A. E. Upton, is now residing at 19 Cedar Grove, Waterloo, Liverpool 22.
Tel. WAT 3529.