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**TABLE
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DIGEST**

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OF THE

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TABLE DIGEST TENNIS

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— Editorial Board —

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Vol. 19

MARCH, 1969

No. 4.

Editorial

Medal presenting time is now with us again and as always at this time I ask myself why are we still using this out-moded and completely unsatisfactory method of presenting the rewards of much hard endeavour. This is no slight on those who carry out this job, for our Chairman in particular is extremely good at it. But when you consider that there are rarely more than ten people present at a league match, and often less, and not many more at Cup Finals, it takes a lot of the pleasure out of being a recipient and makes it a hard and unrewarding task for whoever is presenting the medals. League officials do the job at Cup Finals and not all are equal to the task. I have done this job myself and I am the first to admit that I am not very good at it.

The Business Houses League, with far fewer members than us, do the job much better with a Presentation Dance at which all Cups and Medals are presented, and such is the success of this dance that it has now become a "must" for most players. Why then do we lag behind the B.H.L. ? Is it lack of interest ? Or are we just not interested in making improvements in case they might flop ? Most other sporting organisations have these functions, even the fairly recent Merseyside Quiz League has one, so why not us ?

I am sure such a function would receive good support and would soon pay its way and even show a profit. It is also a chance for players and their wives or girl friends to meet socially, leading to more harmony and friendship during matches (and more understanding wives !).

Is it too much to hope that we will finally wake up and have a go at making the presentation of Cups and Medals a memorable and worthwhile occasion ?

The A.G.M. is approaching and this is something worth considering, so why not get your club to put a word in, for or against, and let's find out what the general feeling is on this.

The approach of the "Closed" brings with it the usual problem of getting home to losers that they are required to assist by umpiring the next set on that table. Although it is not as big a problem at the "Closed" as at the "Open" it will help if everyone does the job when required to and will help to keep things moving and make it easier for everyone. It is a thankless job obtaining umpires so why not a few volunteers from those who due to a good run each season rarely have to do a turn as umpire, if only to show their appreciation to those who umpire their sets. And don't forget to thank the umpire, even if it's your club mate for it is no easy task at tournaments and mistakes are easy to make.

I assume by the absence of any mail from the Zadies that my last Editorial has either left them dumb because it is true, or speechless with indignation. Or is it just that its true what one member keeps telling me—that none of them can compose a passable letter !

I will be in disguise at the "Closed."

Lancashire & Cheshire League

By J. B. Green

The Men's 1st team have been engaged on two occasions since the recent "Digest." On the first of these they beat a much-weakened Stockport side 6-4. Ron Jones replaced Bruce Cain for this game, and won 2 of his 3 sets, while Gordon Birch (2) and Peter D'Arcy (1) won also, and combined to win the doubles. In the second match v. Preston, away, George Smith came in place of Gordon Birch whose business commitments prevented his playing. Again we won 6-4 to complete a hat-trick of victories over Preston this season—in the Wilmot Cup, the Norman Cook Trophy, and now the League. Peter D'Arcy won his 3 sets, Ron Jones again won 2, and together they won the doubles. George Smith had a bad night and lost all three!

During the same period the Men's "A" team also played twice. Against Burnley "A" Ted Mandaluff, Trevor Owens and George Smith (who stood in for clubmate Roy Jones) won comfortably 10-0, and a week later Mandaluff, Owens and Roy Smith lost 4-6 to Bolton "A" in a real cliff-hanger. Mandaluff and Owens each won two events.

The Youth team match v. Salford Youth League was awarded to Liverpool as a 10-0 walkover, and following this they had a good 7-3 win over St. Helens, Alan Dean winning 2, Dave Roberts 3, and Fred Gavin won 1 in his debut for a city team. Dean and Roberts combined to win the doubles.

They then had to play a re-arranged match v. Blackburn. Fred Gavin could not play due to work, so John Barton of the Junior team took his place. As it happened Barton won both of Liverpool's sets in an 8-2 defeat.

The Juniors have had a busy month also, having played five matches in as many months they finished their season with three games on successive Saturdays. In the first of these v. St. Helens at home we won 6-4 which was followed by a 9-1 win over Rochdale, away, and then a 10-0 win at home over Oldham. Dave Crispen was unbeaten in all three matches making his personal score from 5 matches—played 15, won 14—a fine debut indeed. John Barton won 8 of his 9 sets and Michael Jones 6. These Juniors could well do great things next season.

The Ladies 1st team went to Manchester where they won 6-4, Barbara Cain being undefeated, Mabel Francis winning 2, Joyce Randall 1. This result itself is worthy of comment, for we have now won three of the last four matches against our oldest foe! The team now has one opponent to meet—against Stockport, away, and another win here could boost their chances, but we just have to wait and see.

The Ladies "A" team played St. Helens, away, after an eleventh-hour rush to sign on a player. Jean MacKenzie and Pam Fidler were due in Bradford to play for their school, together with both reserves for the team. We only just got Jean Reynolds signature in time to make her eligible to play, and together with Janet Rumjahn and Elizabeth Loughrey, an all-Rafters team had a comfortable 10-0 win.

They followed this result with a 5-all draw at home against Southport in which Janet Rumjahn and Pam Fidler won two sets and Jean MacKenzie won one, and this completed a much more successful season than that experienced last year.

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THE ENGLISH OPEN, 1969

By Phil Reid

At the end of February it was once again a case of all roads leading to Brighton as far as table tennis fans were concerned. Let me say at once that I thought the finals themselves were disappointing. This is very often the case and certainly since they were staged in the afternoon, they do not have the same kind of atmosphere. I appreciate it is an almost unsurmountable problem but I feel the finals suffer because of it. The quarter finals provided four games in the Men's Singles of incredibly high standard. Firstly, because he is English, I would like to say a bit about the Denis Neale—Borzsei match. Borzsei's chop is rated one of the best—perhaps the best—in Europe. He is ranked No. 2 in Europe, was runner-up in the last European Championships and is always a difficult player for Denis to play. When Denis trailed 2 games to nil, few people could have visualised the drama which was to follow. A doughty fighter, Denis chose his hits carefully, won the third, then went point for point in the 4th before managing to get home. And so to the all-important fifth. Denis had obviously decided that having pulled back level, he was not going to concede a place in the semi-finals if he could help it. At the change of ends there was still nothing in it. Then Denis started to pull away, 11-10, 12-10. At this stage the Hungarian appeared to have trouble moving properly and after a good rally which brought the score to 14-10 he dramatically walked over to Denis Neale, shook hands and conceded the game. My opinion is that at that stage Denis would almost certainly have won anyway. He was playing with the utmost composure and confidence and was playing as well as I have ever seen him play.

Someone else playing with composure and confidence was West Germany's Eberhardt Scholer. He tackled Kjell Johansson, the former European champion. Keeping the ball only just above the net and coming in with an occasional telling forehand kill, Scholer hardly made a mistake through the three games

necessary to win. Those who see Scholer play for the first time are always amazed at his control but I found an interesting deviation was to watch his footwork for a couple of minutes. Those who think he never seems to move much (as it appears) would see that in fact he moves nearly all the time.

The eventual winner was the same as last season—Russia's Stanislav Gomozkov, but he had a tremendous fight in the quarter-finals when the Czech Kollarovits nearly got the better of him. Having won this, however, the Russian beat Denis Neale in a semi-final full of good table tennis. The European champion, Dragutin Surbeck, was hitting his way to victory against Scholer after losing the first, but the Final was an anti-climax. Most people must surely have thought Surbeck, would surely carry too many guns for Gomozkov, but in point of fact he was hardly ever in the game.

The Men's Doubles was perhaps the best final of the five in which Gomozkov and Amelin triumphed against the World champions, Alser and Johansson. There were some exciting rallies with plenty of counter-hitting but it was another win for the Russians. Svetlana Grinberg was involved in each of the other three finals. In the Ladies Doubles she partnered Zoya Rudnova and the result was a comfortable win against Eleanor Mihalca and Marie Alexandru. Rudnova and Grinberg were on the table a second time but in opposition to each other in the Ladies Singles Final. The fierce hitting of penholder Rudnova quickly decided the destiny of this set and with four finals played, Russia had won them all. A clean sweep looked in the offing, with only the Mixed Doubles to play. On this occasion Miss Grinberg was partnered by Anatoly Amelin against Diane and Ebby Scholer. Diane (formerly Diane Rowe of England) looking very fit and playing extremely well and Ebby were in command from the start and won in three straight without any other result ever looking likely.

From the Secretary's Desk.

By J. C. McKim

MICKLESFIELD MEDALS COMPETITION

The Micklesfield Medals competition will be held at Crawfords on Monday, 21st April, and will be played between Divisions 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B and the Ladies Division.

Teams will consist of 3 players, one over 40 on date of the tournament, one aged between 20 and 40, and one under 20, no more than one player from any one club may play in any one team, and players selected must have played at least 50% of their matches this season in the division for which they are selected.

Members of the committee as follows will act as non-playing captains and will select the teams:—

Division 4A. Mrs. I. Sturgeon, 36 Ashbourne Road, Liverpool 17.

Division 4B. Mr. J. O'Sullivan, 11 Ringcroft Road, Liverpool 13.

Division 5A. Mr. A. Heague, 8 Grinton Crescent, Roby, Nr. Liverpool.

Division 5B. Mr. D. Cameron, 29 Dudlow Lane, Liverpool 18.

Ladies Div. Mrs. J. Randall, 5 Cassville Road, Liverpool 15.

Club secretaries are asked to nominate players for these teams and nominated players only will be considered for selection.

For those of you not fortunate enough to be chosen, I can assure you of a most interesting evening's table tennis and amusement, if you are free on this particular evening—you will be very welcome.

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By John Molyneux

Quite a kerkuffle was caused in the Hyde Cup semi-final between W'tree Labour "C" and YMCA "C" when the W'tree Labour captain called a Y.M. player to play in consecutive sets. Now this is entirely within the letter and spirit of the rules, and is not without precedence at a higher level, but some people don't agree with it. I'm not one of them—I'm nasty that way!

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What a pity our representative 1st team have not done very well this season for after last season's fine performances a lot was hoped for this year. Alas it was not to be. Never mind there's always next season (without Peter D'Arcy! who knows, least of all Pete?).

:: :: :: :: ::

We all like to make a bit of a social evening of a table tennis match, but one bloke went a bit far recently, it wasn't that he was seeing two balls, his problem was that one appeared to be looped and the other chopped!

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So neither 3A or 3B have been allowed to enter the Micklesfield Medals this year. Well, they only have themselves to blame, they brag so much about their own strength that they managed to convince the Management Committee it's the truth.

:: :: :: :: ::

News has reached me that Jim Green is celebrating 40 years in connection with table tennis this year. I'm sure we all congratulate him, even that ex-colleague he has christened "Mick the Marmaliser." No prizes for guessing which club he plays for this season.

:: :: :: :: ::

This season most of the complaints I've heard have been about switching orders, mainly from players who have had to play against reserves when weaker team-mates have been beaten by the opposing No. 1. Well there's not much can be done about it, apart from agreeing with Jim Green's idea of an order of merit, except for everybody to complain when played out of order, that will soon bring about a change of mind amongst our "fricky-dickies" of captains. I should know, in 12 matches of fiddling the order my team managed 29 sets, in the last seven playing straight we picked up 40, the point has been taken by me!

:: :: :: :: ::

I'm sorry to hear of the serious illness of Harry Harrison of Beauclair, apparently he's likely to be out of the game for at least a year. I know his loss was a severe blow to his team who had high hopes of finishing in the top three this season.

:: :: :: :: ::

Congratulations are due to the Y.M.C.A. for providing both finalists in the Readman Cup, no doubt the Monopolies Commission will have something to say about this sort of thing.

:: :: :: :: ::

It seems the Aigburth "hoodoo" has struck yet another famous club, first it was Balfour, now Linnets seem to be heading the same way. It would be a great shame if a club with Linnets record should fall by the wayside, even if we would be spared one night of Arctic-like conditions.

:: :: :: :: ::

I wonder how many voluntary helpers Brian Leeson will have to turn away from this year's "Closed"? His telephone number is in the Handbook, why don't you give him a ring, I think I will this year.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Once again the cry is raised in the "Digest" concerning players who play further down the team order than what their merit deserves. This subject was raised by me last season when we won Division 3B and never once played the same order consecutively during the season. But let us be painfully aware of one point at least—TRINITY CAME TOP!

We fiddled our way to the top, but to me the end justifies the means. This season we are doing exactly the same switching of order as last season because the problem is not covered by any League rules. Some people, and some clubs, growl continuously that this is unfair but the remedy lies in the clubs hands. All clubs have to do is change the rules and adopt a system that removes all "fiddling" of orders.

My suggested solution last year was that at the beginning of the season when Ranking lists are put forward and players ranked at 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, then they must play at that position all season but no lower. To carry this even further, when a player is ranked 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 he must play every match at that position and never change up or down, changes only being allowed by the Management Committee. Teams would then be reluctant to play their No. 1 at 5 all season. Straight forward known orders would then become the order of the day. Fiddling would be eliminated.

We at Trinity would support this move if ever adoption was put forward at club level.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN S. HANKIN,
(Secretary Trinity T.T.C.).

Dear Sir,

Suggested 'heading' for the Ladies Divisional notes in the February '69 (No. 3) issue:

"No draws in the Ladies division!"

Yours sincerely,

MABEL FRANCIS
(Crawfords T.T.C.).

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I feel that somehow along the line the existing set-up for Semi and Final venues is unfair to the clubs concerned and Eddie Cameron. Eddie has to go cap in hand to clubs who are not playing on ONE particular night. Teams have to accept the best available clubroom—which *could* be the worst in the City. Eddie is then on the receiving end again—who the hell picked this so-and-so place, etc.

There are lots of ideas worthy of consideration. A Management Committee member suggested one hall on one night for all Finals and doing away with replays. We are all against this basically but if clubs cannot, and in some circumstances will not, co-operate you might as well count the games and points after the first match as the replay.

I would suggest the doing away of a specific night for the games, a week would give clubs the chance to co-operate (we have a match Monday but you can have Wed., Thurs., etc.) and then Eddie could lay down the night in that week. Once Linacre were the only team to play on a Friday. Why not encourage this again and leave Fridays, and what about Saturdays, for representative games and semi-final venues?

What about a Cup Final week at the end of the season, with everyone *knowing* where and when the finals were taking place? I don't know what Beauclair, W'tree Labour, etc., think, but we at English Electric, completely or in part, would go along with such an idea. I quote clubs with reasonable conditions plus bars as I feel the social aspect should be considered after the competitive side is looked after.

Yours sincerely,

JACK LAMBERT
(English Electric).

Dear Sir,

The season is now coming to a close and before it does I would like to say how much I have enjoyed it, not only myself but my team-mates also. We have all had a good season, I don't mean winning the League or Cup, just purely enjoying our game, win or lose.

There have been many times when we have been unable to field a full strength side but it has not stopped us playing for we put reserves in to make the team up. I would like to say that in present day table tennis there is too much of this "eye for an eye" attitude by many clubs which is spoiling the game as a whole, i.e. not playing in order of strength, swopping and changing players positions, anything just to win the match, which brings me to my point regarding our fixture with Colonsay "D."

We were due to play them recently but owing to the fact that they had two players playing in a Women's Representative match, our match was postponed, which I agree with under the circumstances, but when we played the "D" team (which I had to scratch) they only had two players from that team and the other three were reserves and it was 8-30 p.m. before anybody turned up. It seems to me that Colonsay can swop and change at their own convenience, sometimes to their advantage, which is just flogging the spirit of the game.

Anyway, we have just been notified that we have been fined for my non-appearance in this particular fixture. I would like to suggest to our secretary not to pay the fine until the Management Committee have looked into some of the points regarding the above fixture.

Yours faithfully,

DAVE C UILSON
(LYCA Div. 4A).

Way to Better Play

By Jack Pattinson

Last season the ETTA Coaching and Schools Committee experimented in Staffordshire with a pilot scheme of junior proficiency awards which proved so successful that they decided to organise a similar scheme for the whole country.

On the lines of the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, three awards can be gained—bronze, silver and gold, but the bronze and silver must be won before an attempt at the gold can be made. There is an assessment fee of 3/- for each grade, which includes the proficiency certificate, and the winners can obtain the appropriate badge for 2/-.

The requirements for each test are laid down in a pamphlet issued by the ETTA and in each case there must be an "assessor"—someone who will decide whether a candidate has been successful in the test—and a player of sufficient ability, called the controller, to provide the candidate with the opportunity of making the strokes demanded.

Basis of Tests

Certain conditions are laid down for the assessors. For the bronze award they must be teachers, league officials, ETTA coaches or students; for the silver— ETTA coaches or approved players or teachers; but the gold award can only be assessed at formal sessions organised by the ETTA.

A study of the various tests, which become more difficult in the higher awards, shows that they are all based on ball control and footwork and that a fair amount of practice will be needed to pass them, even allowing for permitted failures.

For instance, the bronze award comprises mainly of short and long services and forehand and backhand control on a table marked out in areas. The silver award demands the use of the half-volley, topspin drive and chopped return, plus a knowledge of the laws of the game.

The gold award calls for the use of the topspin drive under pressure, both backhand and forehand, close and distant counter-hitting, variation of attack and the loop topspin forehand.

Obviously any player wishing to attain the gold award must reach a fairly high standard of proficiency to do so, so much so that it would seem that similar schemes could profitably be organised by clubs for their own players.

Many years of watching table tennis has led me to the conclusion that too few players ever get down to practice in the real sense of the word. To the majority it seems to mean going along to the club on a non-match night and playing fellow members, but not with the idea of improving any weakness in their game. The result seems to be all-important, just as if it was a set in a league or cup match.

All that might be much more enjoyable, but it is not practice. It may help to keep a player's eye in—but again it is not practice and it is no way to improve one's game.

Improve Standard

The ETTA scheme is an example which clubs could follow with advantage to themselves and the game in general since it would inevitably lead to a general lifting of the standard of play. I am convinced that if a number of clubs organised their own award schemes many of their players would benefit.

If necessary they could invite members of other clubs to act as assessors and thus relieve their own members of any embarrassment in failing a candidate.

Many players in the league would almost certainly discover that they would need to put in a fair amount of practice in order to pass the tests, especially the silver and gold, but it would make them better and more skilful players.

APOLOGIES

We offer our apologies to Gordon Birch and Judy Crafter for our error in not showing them as Mixed Doubles holders on the "Closed" Entry Form. We accidentally published instead the names of the runners-up.

Around the Divisions

Division 1.

By Jim Green

	P	W	L	D	Pts.e
L'pool YMCA	21	19	1	1	187
Eng. Elec.	19	18	0	1	164
W'tree Lab.	21	14	4	3	130
Cadwa	21	12	8	1	109
L'pool YM 'A'	20	9	8	3	103
Beaclair	20	10	8	2	101
Colonsay	20	7	8	5	98
Rafters	20	8	9	3	96
W'tree Lab. A	21	9	10	2	91
Bath St.	19	6	10	3	87
Mossley Hill	18	4	11	3	78
W'tree Lab. B	21	5	12	4	71
L'pool YM B	21	1	18	2	54
Linnets	17	1	15	1	30

Liverpool YM are opening up a slight gap at the top of the table between themselves and Eng. Electric and they must be favourites for the title. W'tree Labour, firmly entrenched in third place had an unaccountable lapse of form after two great 5-5 efforts v. Y.M. and Eng. Electric, when they dropped four points to relegation contenders W'tree Labour 'B'—thus lifting the latter team out of the relegation zone.

Bill Harris did his club's 1st team a bit of good by winning two sets against Eng. Electric and Mike Tierney and Colin Cox had good wins over W. Richardson and Les French for YMCA 'B' against Colonsay.

Young John Barton of W'tree Labour 'A' was the winner of his side's sole point against YMCA, beating reserve Mike Tierney in two straight, and Mossley Hill won the easiest 10 sets of the season by means of a walk-over v. Bath St. Fortunately walk-overs, and indeed teams playing short are almost unknown in this division, so perhaps there is some good in the so-called "professional" approach of the 1st division clubs.

Wally Allanson won his side's two sets when W'tree Labour beat Beaclair 8-2 and he won them the hard way, each at 18 in the third from Trevor Owens and Roy Smith, and Ken Chambers beat Eric Youd in W'tree Labour 'A's 9-1 defeat by English Electric.

To underline that this has been the YMCAs "season" the Readman Cup final was a purely domestic

affair, with the 1st team v. the 'A' team. This must be the first time that the final of the league's premier cup has been contested between two teams from the same club. Other cups, yes, but never the Readman before this. But the 1st team beat Eng. Electric 6-4 in the semi-final when Gordon Birch lost to both Dave Butterworth and George Smith, Peter D'Arcy went down 21-19 in the 3rd to Ron Jones, and Eddie Clein was Electric's only "double" winner, beating Butterworth and Turtle.

The 'A' team in turn beat Rafters in the other semi-final also by 6-4. For Rafters Ron Rumjahn won 2, Dave Ferguson 1, and Reg Hetherington also 1. On the YMCA side Bill Harris and Nick Gourley were the architects of victory each winning his two sets, with Harry Johnston and Jimmy Clewett each adding one.

And whichever team wins, George Smith will wear a nice big smile, for the Readman Cup will finish up in the YMCA's trophy cupboard!

DIVISION 2.

By Graham Reid

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Waterloo Park	21	15	4	2	142
Colonsay 'A'	21	15	3	3	139
Trinity	20	13	4	3	136
Crawfords	19	13	4	2	113
Eng. Elec. 'A'	16	14	1	1	110
Linacre	20	9	9	2	107
University	20	9	7	4	106
Eng. Elec. 'B'	18	8	5	5	100
Sparta	18	6	7	5	94
Police	18	5	9	4	83
Crawfords 'A'	20	4	12	4	79
Stanley House	20	2	15	3	71
Rafters 'A'	18	1	17	0	39
Linnets 'A'	17	0	17	0	11

There is still a great element of doubt with regard to the championship for Colonsay have climbed up to join the leading trio and by beating Electric 'A' 7-3 (no details of this yet) show that their challenge is not to be taken lightly. While Colonsay as a team have been doing well, Harry Nelson their No. 1, normally such a consistent winner for them, has been dropping sets quite regularly of late losing both his sets in victories over Stanley House and

Police, but with the rest of the team giving nothing away they could be surprise runners-up or even winners.

At the bottom Rafter's "A" despite being doomed for relegation seem to have no lack of enthusiasm, always a fair and sporting team the division will be poorer for their loss next season, although with Eileen Mansell winning consistently, she got her team's only set against Electric "A" and a double against Linacre, they could well make a quick return. Police, thanks mainly to Reg Gray and Don Gauld may escape relegation, but why Gray played at No. 5 against Sparta is a mystery, especially when playing straight order against Trinity and Waterloo Park resulted in drawn games, although Trinity were without Killip and Waterloo Park without Chesham.

Fred Pheysey has lost his 100% record to Tom Killip 21-16 in the third. Electric beat Trinity 7-3 in this match with so-called reserves doing well, Edmunds got a double over Southall and Temple, while Temple beat Grubb, joining Killip as his team's only winner. If Trinity do not gain promotion this season they have only themselves to blame for if they had re-grouped Temple for Southall (who is having a poor season) I think they would be well away at the top of the division.

Division 3A. By Eddie Cameron

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Knotty Ash	22	18	3	1	157
W'loo Pk. 'A'	21	13	5	3	137
Bath St. 'A'	18	13	3	2	123
Sefton	20	11	3	6	120
L'pool Jewish	19	9	5	5	115
Police 'A'	20	10	7	3	115
L'pool YM 'C'	19	8	7	4	103
Vagabonds	20	5	10	5	87
Crawfords 'B'	20	5	13	2	86
Cadwa 'A'	18	9	8	1	85
Maghull	19	5	9	5	84
University 'A'	21	3	16	2	34
Coll. of Tech.	20	0	19	1	23

The happy family of 3A I am sorry to say has developed a feud, and true to form, family feuds can be more bitter than any other kind.

Bath St.'s claim of the match against Knotty Ash referred to in

my previous notes was apparently made following an unofficially agreed re-arrangement, or so Knotty Ash say. I understand this matter has been referred to the Management Committee. Under the circumstances I am not qualified to comment.

Our little secret is out, our division plan for the cup this year. There are one or two variations floating around so I had better come clean and give the official story. We in 3A do not believe in hogging honours in the one spot and rather than have the champions as the cup holders also we arrange for the top two clubs to go out of the competition. Last year Waterloo Park were strong enough to win the cup, finishing fourth in the league. This year we thought we would be a little more daring and allow a much lower representation than ever. Some said we would come unstuck but here we are sharing the final with W'tree Labour, our representatives being Liverpool Jewish. We just had to dispose of Colonsay because they were after all TOP of 3B, the match finished 6-4 in our favour and 'was a thrilling fight from start to finish. Liverpool YM "C" were squeezed out by the same score 6-4, but not before W'tree Labour had attempted to capitalise on their prerogative to call a player again just as he had finished his first set. It was not a coincidence that they called the oldest player in the Y.M. team for this distinction and to those of us who know John Donnelly it was no surprise that he responded by winning both his sets thus putting his team right back in the match.

So much for the cup, now back to the league where my last visit was to old friends at College of Tech. The table was perhaps the most startling thing of the evening, a Nissan on tubular steel legs, very fast, very expensive, very easy to handle and fold, and apparently for College of Tech. very easy to lose on. The lads were enjoying their table tennis but were resigned to the drop, in fact I believe they were looking forward to it. It is not much fun to pull out week after week, play a reasonably good game and yet get virtually no reward. Such is life in 3A. Take my own lot for instance: Terry Hanlon and John Roper are

two of the most promising younger players in the game in our sphere, Tony Thatcher has always been acknowledged as one of the most difficult awkward squad customers, the two Camerons I cannot speak about, but whilst in a position to give the best teams in the league a good run for their money Crawfords cannot get a break through to lift them far from the bottom. For my own part I find a lague of this strength from top to bottom just the job, it certainly keeps one at full stretch and keeps me fit enough to handle some of you crackpots who ring me from time to time with queries and questions for the Fixture Secretary.

How about this for an idea—let us have a competition between 3A and 3B w/c 21st April. Take the tables as printed in this issue and counting down from the top all odd numbers in 3B arrange to play their corresponding team in 3A. Even numbers likewise. Omit University and make College of Tech. No. 12 in 3A. Send your score cards to me marked "Grudge Match" and we will see who is who. Normal teams and no sneaking in players from above. There will be no prizes for the winners but it will give me something to write about next season.

Division 3B.

By Colin Stock

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Colonsay 'B'	17	14	2	1	120
W'tree Lab. C.	19	12	5	2	120
Trinity 'A'	17	14	2	1	112
Bath St. 'B'	18	8	6	4	104
St. Edward's	16	7	6	3	89
Hilltop	17	8	7	2	84
Eng. Elec. 'C'	17	7	8	2	82
Beauclair 'A'	18	6	9	3	82
Panto	16	6	7	3	79
L'pool Jew. 'A'	16	2	11	3	54
Orrell	13	2	8	3	46
Palmerston	16	0	15	1	28

Colonsay continue to lead the division with W'tree Labour and Trinity in close pursuit. Colonsay, however, have not been as successful as in the early part of the season for as well as their semi-final defeat they have also lost to both W'tree Labour and Trinity. Their match with Wavertree ended 7-3 against them, although to be fair it must be said that they were without Gavin

and Guy. Riding got two sets and Sanders one and McKenna, Russell and Jessop got doubles for the Labour club.

The score card for the Trinity-Colonsay match, which ended in a drawn proves to be interesting reading. For Trinity to play their side upside down is not unusual but I cannot recall seeing a Colonsay card with Sanders and Riding at 4 and 5. However, it came off, to an extent, for Riding won both his sets, beating Abbot and Hankin, while Sanders, Gavin and reserve Crispin (at No. 1) chipped in with one each. Alan Abbot who in my book is Trinity's best player, cannot lose many at No. 5, but on this occasion he lost both. Paterson and 'reserve' Temple got doubles for Trinity.

Colonsay, however, are entitled to lose a few points now and again, and with these difficult matches over should now cruise comfortably to the title. The only question now is can W'tree Labour catch Trinity? I don't think so, but it could be close. I have been asked by some players whether one or two teams are to be promoted. The answer is two, so don't worry Trinity—just keep ahead of Wavertree and you will be promoted.

At the other end of the table Palmerston are clear favourites to finish bottom but will not be relegated because of the two teams who dropped out early in the season. Palmerston have not had the best of luck this season but they did better than some teams by taking 3 sets from Trinity. D. Bruce did well to beat Law in straight sets. Barry Alexander won the other two by d f ating both Paterson and Law in the third.

Just above Palmerston are Orrell whose regular side of Kirk, Morris, Sinclair, Brint and Upton might have been expected to do better. Unfortunately due to illness and injury they have not been able to field a full strength side very often, and some of their regular players have not been able to produce the form of which they are capable, especially Morris who is but a shadow of the player of last season. I'm sure they will do a lot better next season.

Finally, will someone please win the Restricted Singles—just to keep Eddie Cameron quiet.

Division 4A. By Ken Armson

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
L'pool Jew. 'B'	18	16	1	1	144
Police 'C'	19	12	5	2	120
W'tree Lab. 'D'	16	13	2	1	115
Colonsay 'D'	16	11	3	2	107
L.Y.C.A.	18	10	6	2	106
Eng. Elec. 'D'	17	10	5	2	100
Beauclair 'B'	20	9	11	0	80
Knotty Ash 'B'	19	5	10	4	85
Colonsay 'C'	16	7	6	3	82
Essemay	18	5	12	1	64
Rafters 'B'	18	4	14	0	50
Coll. Tech. 'A'	19	2	16	1	46
Bath St. 'D'	18	2	16	0	45

It now looks unlikely that anyone will catch the Jewish for by the time they play the Labour club their lead will probably be too great and they will probably need to lose at least 9-1 for it to make any difference. What the position would now be if they had continued with their original team is anybody's guess. I see I was right about the strength of Blake and Johnson for their club included them in their 1st team cup semi-final in preference to players from the "A" team and between them they won 4 of the team's six sets. I was wrong (again) about Dave Blake though and credited him with a 100% which he does not have, having been beaten by A. Williams (Colonsay "D") and Ferguson (Police "C").

The battle for runners-up is very close for four teams have over a 100 points and of these Colonsay "D" and W'tree Lab. "D" look likely to be there at the finish for they both have matches in hand and a fairly easy run-in. My money is on the Labour club for they already lead on sets and are playing a regular team whereas Colonsay have been without Ian Shaw for a couple of weeks and appear to have lost A. Williams, who since being dropped from the junior team has not turned out. Rumour has it that his trouble—at his age—is feminine, so it would seem that yet another promising player has been lost to romance! I understand that Colonsay have been fielding 4 girls plus D. Crispin recently and can only hope they don't travel to matches together as it will cost Dave a small fortune in bus fares! On this subject (women) I see that J. Marshall (Rafters) whom

I spoke of in the last issue had a very good win over Jean MacKenzie. Well done, John.

Knotty Ash have at last recorded their first 10-0—victims Bath St., after some near misses. A very steady side this, producing good results but without that little extra spark which could make them a team to be reckoned with. Perhaps they may find it next season.

I had been wondering why Beauclair were not making a very strong impression on the league and found our at first hand myself during our match with them. The main reason is lack of consistency and the inability to press home the advantage. This was particularly evident in B. Connor's sets against P. Hitchmough, for he held a winning lead in all three games and yet only won one, and then after going to deuce.

Prior to receiving the latest batch of cards I had decided to write about the good record in this division with regard to playing short and w/o's, for only ten played short were noted and no w/o's. This good record has now been rudely shattered by Colonsay "C" who twice in a fortnight had 4 players short. Against Beauclair only Linforth turned up and against Bath St. only Hunter turned up and won his two. This could now result in College of Tech. being relegated instead of Bath St. who received a gift of 8 points from this match. They could hardly have expected to get many against a full strength Colonsay side as in the previous fixture they lost 9-1. I hope the Colonsay committee will be looking into this relapse by their "C" team who previously had a good record and seemed to enjoy their matches.

A player making a name for himself for good wins and unpredictable defeats is E. Ferguson, the Police No. 2. He recently put paid to the 100— of Burke (W'tree Lab.) and has also defeated most of the other leading players in the division including D. Blake, yet he has lost recently to A. Wych (S.M.A.) and T. Gordon (Eng. Elec.) and against Eng. Elec. recorded his first double defeat. Good wins these by Alan and Tom, as Ferguson, a left-handed penholder, is a hard player to beat as several players have found out.

Division 4B.

By Jack Lambert

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Bootle Y.M.	16	14	2	0	133
Odyssey	16	16	0	0	130
Police 'B'	15	11	3	1	96
University 'B'	19	9	7	3	86
Mossley Hill 'A'	16	8	5	3	81
Bath St. 'C'	16	7	7	2	79
St. Edwards 'A'	16	7	8	1	77
Police 'D'	15	3	7	5	60
Orrell 'A'	16	3	12	1	59
Knotty Ash 'A'	16	2	14	0	40
Eng. Elec. 'E'	15	13	0	2	39

Out two top teams, Odyssey and Bootle Y.M. forge ahead in cup and league. Odyssey still undefeated in league warfare must be favourites for the Forrest Cup, but Bootle won't give in without a fight.

Bath St. are having an excellent run, their three mainstays Cunningham, Letch and Lloyd sharing the sets in their 6-4 defeat of University. University seem to have trouble in getting five to travel but collect handy, if not always winning scores. They had an excellent game with Mossley Hill, Crayston and Hammond winning 4 of the 5 sets, Price losing to Roberts this time 26-24 in the third. Their pleasant captain Liu never lets the side down.

Police "D" let me down in the return derby game, Dyson being the lone winner. They beat Knotty Ash 6-4, Robinson winning two and then drew with English Electric—Lawson scoring two good wins. The return of Evans has meant a few extra points in the Eng. Electric locker with doubles by Janet Roberts against Mossley Hill and Knotty Ash. Talking of doubles Eaton and Dunning of Knotty Ash had good ones against Orrell and Police respectively. In the bottom of the table clashes Knotty Ash beat Electric 7-3, thanks to Eaton, McCracken and Dunning, but lost 8-2 to Orrell who were well served by Billy Illidge, Lil Upton and Stevenson.

McLeod and Rimmer of Police 'B' led them to a good win at University but found it tough going at Orrell where McLeod again, and Garnett, saved the day in a 6-4 win, although Wright beat Jeffrey in a battle royal 21-23, 23-21, 21-19. Incidentally McLeod has now the honour of being

our leading scorer having still only dropped one set. We must have some strong contenders for the Restricted Singles, so I hope that you have all entered. Ball of Bootle has dropped two sets, losing his second to Wright of Orrell 21-15, 13-21, 19-21.

Townsend of St. Edward's won two of his side's three sets at University. Carol Wake of Orrell will not be with us for a while owing to a readjustment of the nursery scene. Good to see Lil Jenkins hitting them hard again.

Ladies' Division. By Joyce Randall

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Cadwa	12	7	4	1	85
Crawfords	11	9	2	0	83
Rafters	9	8	1	0	78
Crawfords 'A'	13	6	5	2	74
Colonsay	12	6	5	1	66
L'pool Y.M.	7	7	0	0	58
Colonsay 'A'	12	3	9	0	25
Vagabonds	12	1	11	0	16
Linnets	11	1	10	0	15

I see in the last issue of the *Digest* our Editor has been "at it again." I think he reads very pompous. I can imagine some of your comments, not all of them lady-like either!

Don't forget Ken, we have twelve weeks without a league match and its a case of "I took my bat to a match and nobody asked me to play."

The response to the Don Foulis Handicap tournament has been very good indeed, 38 names in all, so it should be a keen competition for everyone. The Final is being played during the 'Closed'—Brian Leeson has been kind enough to fit it in somewhere, so the finalists will certainly have the right atmosphere.

The semi-finals of the cup have been played, Liverpool Y.M. came through against Cadwa. This proved to be a very good match, everyone played well. Carol Flood played No. 1 and I think surprised her team-mates by playing very well indeed. She didn't win, but held her own. The floor was rather treacherous and made play very difficult at times—the Doubles looked like a comedy act. So the final will be Liverpool Y.M. (ex Palmerston) and Crawfords. Crawfords beat their own "A" team. I haven't had the

SPARTA 14 - 133
 COL E. 14 - 86
 ODD 13 - 58

PIRATES 14-102
 ALL SAINTS 14-53
 R. 1100 13-24

details of this match yet, but I can imagine it was an interesting match. The final will be played at Ratters on Thursday, 27th March, so I hope it will be well supported.

I see Linnets had a walk-over against Vagabonds recently. All it had on the card was "failed to turn up." Hard luck, Linnets—certainly a waste of an evening, apart from the practice you no doubt had. At the same time Linnets turned up one short at YMCA.

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Editor. Well, I have been called just about everything before but never pompous. Even my worst enemy would hesitate to say that about me. Really Joyce, and after me not criticising you for getting your notes in late AGAIN!

Seriously, you have missed my point and that is, if you are all so concerned about your division why not some suggestions for improving it? Additional tournaments is not the way for this just favours you again. Don't forget not *all* the Ladies suffer from this shortage of matches, many get more games than the men.

DIVISION 5A

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
W'loo Park 'B'	18	14	1	3	130
Sandforth	18	12	3	3	128
Sandforth 'A'	17	11	5	1	108
Bootle YM 'A'	16	10	4	2	108
Palatine	15	10	3	2	100
Police 'E'	19	10	9	0	90
Cadwa 'B'	15	7	7	1	74
Maghull 'A'	16	6	8	2	73
Vagabonds 'A'	18	4	12	2	72
S. Katherines	15	7	8	0	64
Trinity 'B'	16	3	12	1	49
LYCA 'A'	13	3	10	0	42
Mossley Hill 'B'	14	0	13	1	19

CHES 14-36

R. 1100 14-15

DIVISION 5B

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Sparta 'A'	12	12	0	0	113
Colonsay 'E'	11	7	4	0	65
Odyssey 'A'	9	3	5	1	44
Pirates	6	5	1	0	41
All Saints	10	3	6	1	40
National Giro	9	7	4	3	33
Cheshire Lines	10	8	1	7	21
Bradstones	10	1	9	0	13

HOW NOT TO WIN A CUP

Pirates have just entered the record books by being the first team to lose a semi-final due to arriving late. In their "Stamp" Cup Replay v. Waterloo Park "B" no Pirate players had arrived by 8 p.m. and the official in charge, Mr. E. Cameron, had no option but to award the match to their opponents.

Will we now see a change to Match Regulation 15 at the A.G.M. from Pirates on the grounds that 8 p.m. is too early to claim a match?

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COUNTY MATCH
LANCASHIRE 2nd v. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
(Venue: St. George of England School, Bootle)

By John O'Sullivan

This was not just another County match for the L.T.T.A. had arranged that it would be part of the Bootle County Borough Centenary celebrations. The players were presented to the Mayor before the match and I was pleased to note that he was able to remain for the whole match. It was hoped that on such an occasion the Lancs. team would crown the event with a win. Alas, this was not to be.

The first set between C. Heap (Lancs.) and A. Saunders (Notts) started with Heap winning the first game, but then Heap's forehand, which was his power, became very erratic and with Saunders playing a fine defensive role, he took the set for Notts 21-18, 17-21, 17-21. It was at this point that we first saw A. Croome (Notts) who had been moved up from 3 to 2 in place of P. Kenyon. He won quite easily against C. Lang 11 and 13. It was not so much the case that he won, but how he won. For if he played like this on every occasion there would be few in the country to beat him. He was hitting both backhand and forehand so fast and so hard that Lang had little chance of seeing the ball, let alone return it. His backhand especially was taking the ball at what appeared about a eighth of an inch above the table surface, and they all went on. With the score at 2-0 Lancs. scored their first victory, with Kaufman beating Ellis, who was the non-playing captain on the programme, but stood in for Croome at No. 3.

Then came the first of the L'pool contingent, for three of the six in the Lancs. team were from Liverpool.

This was a Ladies doubles with Jean MacKenzie and Janet Rumjahn. The Notts pair, Mrs. Hammond and Mrs. Shaw appeared the far more experienced players at first, but once Jean and Janet had decided which of them was going to move which way, as there seemed to be a little confusion at the start, they soon established an authority that left no doubt in my mind who would be the eventual winners. Although the Liverpool girls were a little nervous at the start they quickly overcame this and won comfortably 15 and 12.

With the score at 2-All Lancs. took the lead in the next set for the first and only time. This was the Men's Doubles in which the third Liverpool player, Gordon Birch, was teamed up with Heap, their opponents being Ellis and Saunders. They won in two straight with both games going to deuce and in the second almost let it slip when after leading 18-12 they found themselves at 20-All.

The rest of the sets went to Notts with Janet Rumjahn losing to Mrs. Hammond 21-16, 12-21, 9-21, and Birch and MacKenzie losing the Mixed Doubles against Croome and Shaw. Gordon had shone in the Men's Doubles but he was given no chance to do the same here. His serves were crashed back giving Jean absolutely no chance, while Croome's serves had poor Jean afraid to touch the ball. We lost this set 11 and 10.

It was a most enjoyable night, other than the final result which was Lancs. 3, Notts 7. We witnessed some excellent table tennis.

"DIGEST" BULK DELIVERY — MAY ISSUE

Will secretaries who at present take delivery in bulk but who do not wish to take all or part of the final issue in bulk please inform me as soon as possible. Those prepared to take part bulk must submit names of members they will accept.

NOTE FROM FIXTURE SECRETARY

Will all secretaries please check their records against the League tables. If they disagree please write to the Fixture Secretary, giving the correct record and quote results against each match (use Week Nos. against fixtures, i.e. Sept 23rd is Week 1, Sept. 30th week 2, etc.).