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NUMBER 5



MAY, 1969
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**TABLE
TENNIS
DIGEST**

Official Magazine

OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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Vol. 19

MAY, 1969

No. 5.

Editorial

We end the season on a sad note, for with only three weeks of the season to go Jim Green passed away after many years of ill-health. Jim was one of our hardest working officials and his loss is a blow to the league. Always a controversial figure, Jim was also an extremely hard worker and no matter how bad his health his thoughts were always of his League commitments. Even on his way to hospital Jim was still worrying about his responsibilities and issuing instructions. We are indebted to his widow, Mrs. Jo Green who has continued looking after the League records for the remainder of the season.

Many and varied were the jobs which Jim performed and few, if any, could ever criticise his work for the League. For the past few years he has, amongst other things, been League Match Secretary, and this must surely be the hardest and most unrewarding job in the League for much of the work goes unnoticed. So demanding is this job that we may well have difficulty in finding a successor. The League has had many hard workers in the past and no-one will dispute that Jim ranked with the best.

I spoke to some of our women players at the "Closed" and was surprised to hear that they feel that the Management Committee should sort out their problems and it is not for them to offer any solutions. I suggested that they ask their clubs to put this forward at the A.G.M. or go along themselves and do it. So perhaps we may see them at the A.G.M. and, if the manner in which they "ganged" up on me is anything to go by, they should acquit themselves very well.

It looks as if the "straights" and "two for a win" will be having another try this year so we can expect another interesting battle at the A.G.M. On the "straights" question, I have heard it said that it is a sure thing because several big clubs are supposed to be supporting it. I advise all clubs, whether for or against, to ignore this talk and vote for the system their own members want and not be misled by such rumours.

I would like to pay tribute to our printers for having got the March issue out in record time, and in spite of the delay in my getting the material to them. Due to the fact that most divisional writers ignored the advertised closing date and were very late with their notes—two of which never turned up at all I was still sending material to the printers only a week before the magazine was printed, and everything sent was included.

Finally, my thanks to our "regulars" for their contributions and also the divisional writers, especially my friend Joyce. To the few who sent a letter, thank you. To all those who thought about sending one, why not put the thought on paper next season ?

As I did not see John Molyneux at the "Closed" until Finals night I assume he either lost the Referee's phone number or could not find his way to the venue in time (*See "Netcords" March issue*).

JIM GREEN - A Tribute

No-one on Merseyside more deserved the pseudonym of "Mr. Table Tennis" than Jim Green, even if, as far as I know, it was never conferred on him. The game which, in his youth, had been his recreation became, particularly in his later years, his life.

Mark Antony's words about Caesar—"he was ambitious"—could well be applied to Jim Green, but there the similarity ended for in him 'twas not a grievous fault. Of all his ambitions connected with Table Tennis only one was personal—to complete 40 years association with the Liverpool League, and fate was unkind enough to rob him of that by a mere fortnight.

All his other ambitions were impersonal. He was to see Table Tennis rise to new heights in Liverpool and for the League to become a real power in the table tennis world. He wanted to see Liverpool produce players who would be ranked among the best in the country, and he wanted to see his own club win some of the honours of the League.

Linked with Club.

Jim Green first became associated with the League in 1929 when he joined the Pastime Club in Crosby when the League was still a puning infant being nurtured by Les Forrest. In the intervening years he became a member of several clubs, but it is with Linnets, which he helped to found, that his name will always be linked. It was his baby ; he gave it almost everything he had and he was the driving force behind it. I have even seen him take up a bat when a team was a player short and play in a match when he should have been at home in front of the fire with his feet up.

It is no exaggeration to say that Jim Green gave his life to table tennis, particularly in the last 20-odd years.

He had been player and club secretary for many years before he became a member of the League's Management Committee, Editor of the "Digest," Inter-City Match Secretary and keeper of records. I have not the slightest doubt that he could have joined the Management Committee much earlier than he did had he not refused, on several occasions, to accept nomination. For many years he felt that he could do more for the game by being unfettered and free to speak his mind. And speak it in forthright terms he did on many occasions, and although one might not always agree with his views one had to appreciate the sincerity which lay behind them.

Foster Game.

Few people in the Liverpool League can realise the amount of time and energy Jim Green gave to table tennis, and fewer still will realise just how big a job he undertook when he became keeper of individual records. From my own attempts I know that it must have meant many hours of work each week to record the victories and losses, and the positions in which they played, of each of the hundreds of members of the League.

If the fates were unkind to Jim Green in causing him to suffer poor health for so many years, in another way he was a very fortunate man. His wife Jo was devoted to him ; supported and encouraged him to the utmost of her ability, and I am confident that everyone in the League who knew Jim, and many others beside, will share my admiration for her courage and devotion and my deep sympathy for her and their son Tony in their great loss.

Over the years Jim Green carved out for himself a peculiar niche in the Liverpool League which no other person can ever fill.

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OBITUARY— MR. J. R. GREEN

It is with profound regret that we record the death of Mr. J. R. Green, and on behalf of all connected with the Liverpool and District Table Tennis League we extend our deepest sympathy to his widow, Jo, and son Tony, in the very sad loss which they have sustained.

"Jim Green" as he was affectionately known by the large circle of friends which he made during his long association with the League, gave a lifetime of dedicated service to our cause, and whether it was in the role of a Club Secretary, a member of the League Management Committee (the latter years as the League's Lancashire and Cheshire League Match Secretary) or in the capacity as a former Editor of the League's magazine, he proved a tenacious fighter in

support of the ideals in which he

believed, and although even some of his closest associates were at times at variance with his opinions, no-one ever doubted the sincerity of his objectives. His contribution to the success of so many Liverpool Closed Championships and Merseyside Open Tournaments, often performed when his indifferent health should have demanded less arduous tasks, provided inspiration to his colleagues, and although his record may not be equalled, I believe that in paying this tribute to his memory, the standards which he set are indeed worthy of being emulated. Liverpool Table Tennis will indeed be the poorer by the passing of such a "personality."

Arthur E. Upton,
Chairman.

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Pg.5

The Liverpool Closed, 1969

By Brian Leeson

The Liverpool Closed Tournament was held once again at New Heys Comprehensive School, from April 8th to April nth. Peter D'Arcy and Barbara Cain emerged as triple winners of Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles events, while many interesting and entertaining games were witnessed throughout the four evenings.

It is fortunate that I am able to recruit the assistance of boys and girls of New Heys School on such occasions. Without their help, quite frankly, I have no doubt that the tournament would have been much less of a success. The erecting of tables and surrounds, putting up notices, selling draw tickets, helping in the canteen, running errands for the Referee, taking down tables, etc., etc., was all done voluntarily by these young people and I cannot thank them enough for their efforts.

I must also thank Ken Armson, who so willingly and cheerfully accepted the responsibilities of emergency equipment officer, arranging all the light fitments and then dismantling them afterwards. Most of this work was done by Ken in his own spare time.

From time to time facetious comments relating to assistance at tournaments appear in the "Digest." Seriously, though, I wonder if we will ever be able to witness a L'pool Tournament run entirely by members of the L'pool and Dist. Table Tennis League. Too few members participate in the organisation. Too few people realise the amount of work involved. Perhaps next year we will see some new names appearing on the credit side. I wonder!

Here are the main results :

Men's Singles. Quarter Finals : P. D'Arcy bt. K. Fitzsimmons 21-13, 21-11 ; Roy Jones bt. A. Taylor 21-13, 21-18 ; G. Smith bt. F. Mandaluff 21-18, 17-21, 21-n ; Ron Jones bt. J. Millward 21-7, 20-22, 21-11. Semi-Finals : P. D'Arcy bt. Roy Jones 13-11, 21-18, 21-14; G-

Smith bt. Ron Jones 21-11, 25-23. FINAL : D'Arcy beat Smith 21-14, 21-12.

Women's Singles. Semi-Finals: B. Cain bt. J. Reynolds 21-17, 22-20 ; M. Collins bt. M. Francis 21-13, 21-15. FINAL : Cain beat Collins 21-18, 21-14.

Men's Doubles. Semi-Finals : D'Arcy and Youd bt. Heyes and Millward 21-13, 21-14; Fxcell and Cain bt. Johnston and Butterworth 21-15, 22-20. FINAL : D'Arcy and Youd beat Cain and Excell 21-13, 24-22.

Women's Doubles. Semi-Finals : Randall and Cain bt. Collins and Lupton 21-16, 21-14 ; Reynolds and Lovelady bt. Taylor and Robinson 21-19, 21-19. FINAL : Randall and Cain beat Reynolds and Lovelady 18-21, 21-18, 22-20.

Mixed Doubles. Semi-Finals: P. D'Arcy and B' Cain bt. R. Rumjahn and J. Rumjahn 17-21, 21-16, 21-13 ; B. Cain and J. Randall bt. G. Fxcell and M. Robinson 21-18, 21-23, 21-19. FINAL : D'Arcy and Cain beat Cain and Randall 21-11, 21-13.

Restricted Singles. Semi-Finals: K. Fitzsimmons bt. J. Hoban 21-9, 21-17 ; J- Riding bt. P. Byrne 9-21, 21-10, 21-13.

FINAL : Fitzsimmons bt. Riding 21-11, 21-6.

Junior Boys. Semi-Finals: J. Barton bt. R. Burke 21-7, 21-18 ; D. Crispin bt. M. Jones 15-21, 27-25, 21-19. FINAL: Barton bt. Crispin 21-11, 25-23.

Junior Girls. Semi-Finals: J. Rumjahn bt. D. Williams 21-11, 21-16 ; P. Fidler bt. J. Mackenzie 21-12, 21-18. FINAL: Rumjahn beat Fidler 21-14, 21-9.

Veteran Singles Final: A. Heyes bt. P. Short 21-18, 21-11.

Men's Consolation Singles Final:
G. Wilson bt. F. Pheysey 11-21, 21-16, 21-9.

Women's Consolation Singles Final:
J. Randall bt. J. Rumjahn 19-21, 21-18, 22-20.

Lancashire & Cheshire League

Men's 1st Team by KEN JONES (Non-playing Captain).

Our full record for the season shows 8 victories and 6 defeats from 14 fixtures. Thanks to winning our last three matches we realised 8 pts. from eight league matches and this should give us a respectable position in the final league table.

The results of all our matches were quite predictable, except for our league defeat at Hyde which was the one disappointment of the season. We also suffered a desperately unlucky 6-4 reverse in a good match at Manchester in which we played well enough for a draw at least. However it must be admitted that we are not good enough to challenge the near county strength sides like Bolton, Stockport and Burnley when they are at full strength.

Men's "A" Team by Vic CHESHAM (Non-playing Captain).

On the whole this has been a successful season for this team if results are the measuring stick, for we won 5 and drew 1 out of eight games ; successful, too, if assessed by standard of play and excitement of the contest. At least 4 of the matches (v. Manchester 'A', Bolton 'A', Bury and Nelson) were superb. The only disappointment was having to rely on well tried players, except for young Frank Bailey who played in the 1st half of the season and then left the district.

Our regulars were Trevor Owens and Ted Mandaluff. Trevor, for the second successive season, won two-thirds of his singles and played in all eight doubles matches, winning six. Ted Mandaluff with his wooden bat mesmerised all the young quick hitting opponents and won 17 out of 18 sets. Mention must be made, too, of Roy Jones, as keen and as hard hitting as ever, and of Roy Smith who was unlucky to play in what were probably three of the hardest matches.

Women's 'A' by ALAN HEAGUE (Non-playing Captain).

The selection committee continued the policy of giving inter-City experience to our three best junior girls, viz. Janet Rumjahn, Jean Mackenzie and Pam Fidler. Their playing records in these matches speak for themselves and show just how much benefit they are gaining—Janet played in every match, won 12 and lost 3 ; Jean and Pam won 7 and lost 5. Jean and Pam were both unable to play in the same match and without distracting from the performance of the two ladies who stood in (at very short notice) and won all their three games, I feel certain that Jean and Pam would also have won these games had they been available and so would have bettered their records.

Youth and Junior Teams by BRIAN LEESON (Youth Representative).

Seven players were used during the season and the most successful of these was Frank Bailey who won eleven out of fifteen sets. It was unfortunate from our point when Frank moved to Swindon as his place in the team was difficult to fill.

Of the seven matches played the team won 3, lost 3 and drew one. Two other matches—v. Salford Yth. and Salford League—had to be claimed as w/o's. so we finished with 11 points. Alec Davidson must be very pleased with the results of his team's efforts. Six wins out of eight matches is very commendable and we all look forward to next season with keen anticipation.

Before closing these team reports I must thank all the non-playing captains for their contributions to the Liverpool teams this season. Without their help, keenness and enthusiasm it would be impossible to run so many teams. Also, sincere thanks must be proffered to the many clubs who willingly loan their club-rooms to stage these matches.

Here we are again !

By Tom Gordon

By Tom Gordon

You know it's an amazing thing ! Here we are this season with a drastically modified league structure and yet not one word of official explanation or comment has appeared in the pages of the "Digest". You might have thought the Hon. Sec. would have given us a few hints 'from his desk' ; of perhaps a sentence or so in the Editorial ? It is possible, of course, that the Secretary does not like the new arrangement but he can hardly condemn it as it must have Management backing (or could it be that the bailiffs have taken his desk away altogether ? The literary output from that official pice of furniture has suffered a remarkable decline this season. As for the Editor, he jolly well suggested the idea at the A.G.M., wearing his Wavertree Labour cap, of course, conceivably his silence stems from sheer modesty !

Anyway, despite the lack of official explanation, the whole business of dropping a 2nd division and redistributing teams right down the line has apparently gained universal acceptance (except for those barks of discontent from teams who feel cheated out of promotion—but I've no doubt even these people approve of the system itself).

The modified league was not simply a slip of the pen by Eddie Cameron, it resulted from a club suggestion, backed by a majority vote, to the Management Committee at the A.G.M. last year. The thought behind it was that with two teams going up from each 2nd division, 1st division 'status' was being attained by teams which didn't deserve the honour as they simply weren't good enough. The inherent unbalance of two second divisions

didn't help as one could never be sure that the top two in one division were necessarily better than, say, the 3rd or 4th team in the companion division. With only one 2nd division, however, teams are faced with a consistently higher standard of play throughout the season and one can be reasonably satisfied that the best two teams will gain promotion.

So much for the idea—but how is it working out ? I've visited quite a few 2nd division matches and tried to gauge the reaction of the players. It seems to me the response is overwhelmingly in favour of the single 2nd division. This comment is typical : "This is the toughest, yet most enjoyable season I've had for a long time."

I personally see this transformation of the 2nd division as a first stage in remoulding the whole league. There is no reason at all why the improvements wrought on the 2nd division cannot be applied with good effect to the lower divisions. If we scrapped the "twin-stream" arrangement entirely and substituted eight straight divisions each division would then assume independent status and the morale and playing strength should logically attain the standard we have now established for the 2nd division. As a matter of fact this was proposed at the last A.G.M. and the majority voted for it. As it was put forward as a rule change, however, it needed a two-thirds majority, which it didn't quite make. It will be given an airing again at the next A.G.M., this time as a "suggestion" to the meeting and I am hopeful that it will again receive majority support and thereby give further impetus to the tide of rejuvenation so successfully set in motion by the reformation of the 2nd division.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Re your sweeping and misleading statements, I am all for fair and helpful criticism but let's have the facts straight. You criticised the ladies for their lack of interest in arranging extra matches, surely you realise the difficulty in arranging extra fixtures ONCE THE SEASON HAS BEGUN. The depleted position of the Ladies Division must have been realised at the Fixture Meeting—we would have needed a crystal ball to have known, I only found out by chance that my own club had not entered a ladies team.

Club secretaries on the whole show a marked lack of interest in the Ladies teams ; during my five years in the Liverpool League I have been evicted on two occasions (not personally). Bohemians decided, mainly because two of their star players retired, not to enter their Ladies teams without any consultation, and last year, to put it bluntly, we were "chucked out" of Palmerston after we had won the Bartholomew Cup for them—note the elevated position Palmerston hold in the Mixed division.

We the "helpless" ladies found ourselves another club. Joyce Randall also arranged for five new players to learn to play but as we could not have the room to ourselves for coaching this fell through. Joyce revived the Don Foulis tournament hoping to stimulate interest. You dismissed this effort very scathingly, and in spite of your pessimistic view, may I point out that the 38 who entered *did actually turn up*.

You also stressed the mathematic possibility of 60 matches a season and all for the same fee—that is the joke of the year. I was thinking of asking for a refund ! Surely if a lady does play in both divisions she is doing all she can for the Ladies division and her club, or was this point made because of sour grapes ? Finally, I would like to put this point. If at the fixture meeting it had been seen that a Men's division was so depleted would it have been allowed to stand without any effort being made to strengthen it ?

This letter is not intended as a criticism of the Liverpool Committee which stands very high in my estimation, but a criticism of some ill-informed comments made by a member of that committee.

Yours sincerely,

BARBARA CAIN (Liverpool Y.M.).

Editor. Re this tournament. If all the 38 ladies turned up why were there ""walk-overs" on the tournament sheet? Also, 38 for their tournament but 21 for the Liverpool 'Closed' !

Dear Sir,

If Mr. Coulson wants to write such telling condemnations of Colonsay on the basis of one match, then he really should have made sure of his facts. He states that by "not playing in order of strength," "swopping and changing players positions," changing match nights and playing three reserves we are :

1. Adopting an "eye for an eye" attitude.
2. "Flogging the spirit of the game".
3. "Trying anything to win the match".

Well really ! The *facts* are that our team for that fixture contained 4 regular players and 1 reserve, and that we played in order of strength with the reserve at No. 5.

Re the question of postponing matches (which I think is Mr. Coulson's main point) I am sure that most people will appreciate that to a club with 8 teams and only one free night per week, the last thing we want is postponements as this obviously plays havoc with our season's events, but when a team has two of its strongest members representing the city on the same night as a vital league match, it stands to reason we must seek a postponement in the hope that on the re-arranged date these two players will be available. Therefore, the implication in his letter that we swop and change at our own convenience is completely unjustified.

Bearing in mind the aforementioned points I cannot accept Mr. Coulson's accusations as being reasonable and justified, especially when one considers that Colonsay do as much as any other club, and probably more than most, to introduce junior boys and girls to table tennis, thus doing our bit to ensure the future of the game in Liverpool. In this connection our representative record speaks for itself.

Your faithfully,

R. EVANS

(Fixture Secretary Colonsay T.T.C.).

Dear Sir,

I must reply to the remarks made by John Molyneux in the March issue. The fact is indisputable, the Men's 1st team have done slightly better than last year, due in the main to more fortunate cup draws. The point I wish to make, however, is that we are unlikely to improve appreciably whilst our method or system remains as it is in the Liverpool League. Some of our friends in small Lancashire towns who humiliate us on the table think our system is crazy and I must agree with them.

We cannot expect our best players to improve because :—

1. We have too many teams in the 1st division, so half the time our players get no opposition at all.

2. When the best teams do clash, the odds are that the No. 1 will do battle with the opponents Nos. 4 and 5. Again no competition.

3. Even on the occasional "red-letter" night the inter-City player only plays twice anyway.

Not enough competition.

Conclusion : We *desperately* need a 1st or Premier division consisting of no more than nine or ten teams. We *must* play teams of three-a-side. This does away with "fiddling", gives each player three sets, always produces a result, and provides the best possible competition.

Yours sincerely,

KEN JONES

(Non-playing Captain Men's 1st Team).

Dear Sir,

I observe in the "Digest" that John Hankin is advocating playing in the same order each week. Many club officials will recall that proposals was put forward at the last League A.G.M. on this subject and defeated. As NONE of these were put forward by Trinity I can only assume that John thought of his solution after the A.G.M.

I agree that it was necessary for Trinity to change their order each week to enable them to win the league. It will be observed from last season's final 3B league table that they were the SECOND best team, having lost 3 more games than the runners-up.

Bath St. pressed for a return to the old system of two points for a win and one for a draw at the last A.G.M. without success. Perhaps this year there will be a change of heart.

Yours sincerely,

W. B. CUNNINGHAM

(Bath St. T.T.C.).

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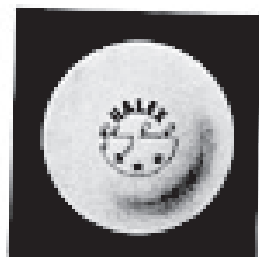


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TABLE TENNIS BALLS



At last the secret is out ! Now we all know why Wavertree Lab. 1st don't provide refreshments for their visitors. They've been saving up for Rafters, not only tea and biscuits (a minor miracle in itself) but a SPONGE CAKE ! At least they have now proved that you can have your cake and eat it.

If anybody has ideas about changing the League structure again this year please forget it. We don't want our Fixture Secretary and the combined might of Bootle Y.M. locked up on a charge of murder, do we ?

Peter D'Arcy now informs me he is not now retiring at the end of the season. No further comment is necessary.

I see Eddie Cameron and I both had the same idea about settling the dispute between 3A and 3B. (The Editor decided not to print my version, a bit of favouritism somewhere). I think it is only just that Eddie Cameron should contact the Fixture Secretary in order to arrange this mini-Armageddon.

Sad as it may seem, especially in the last issue of the season, I find it necessary to start moaning again. My own team recently played an away match, for which the home team managed to arrive at 8 p.m. to let us in the premises, or at least, one of them arrived at that time. By the time the last set was started only one home team player, the one playing, and our own team were present. This sort of thing sickens me, as only one of their players had a reasonable excuse for leaving early. What sort of courtesy is this ? What sort of example for youngsters, how do they manage to contrive any sort of team spirit! I just don't know.

To finish the season off on a note of good cheer, Linacre celebrate their 21st year in the Liverpool League this season. Surely it's about time somebody arranged a Veterans' Team championship between them and Rafters. I don't mind helping with the refreshments, that's one promise I would keep !

Well, that's another ~~season over without my having~~ trod on anyone's toes. I really must **try** harder next season.

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Around the Divisions

Division 1.	By		Bowden		
	P	W	L	D	Pts
L'pool YM CA	26	22	1	3	226
Eng. Elec.	26	24	0	2	222
W'tree Lab.	26	17	5	4	162
Cadwa	26	15	10	1	145
L'pool YM 'A'	26	13	10	3	134
Rafters	26	12	11	3	129
Beauclair	26	12	12	2	124
Mossley Hill	26	9	14	3	121
Colonsay	26	9	12	5	119
Wav. Lab. 'A'	26	12	12	2	116
Bath St.....	26	7	14	5	109
Wav. Lab. 'B'	26	6	15	5	94
L'pool YM B	26	1	22	3	65
Linnets	26	1	22	3	54

I take over these notes for the last issue of the season with some regret for this vacancy is due to the death of Jim Green, the writer of these notes for some years. Jim's notes will be sadly missed for he always succeeded in keeping them interesting and controversial. On behalf of all the players in this division I extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Jo Green and her son Tony.

Liverpool Y.M. recaptured the title by a slender margin. After leading the division for most of the season the Y.M. looked to have lost valuable sets when held to a draw by W'tree Labour, but their rivals English Electric were also in trouble against Wavertree, losing 4 valuable sets in a 6-4 victory. Liverpool's new Men's Singles champion Peter D'Arcy must take most blame, for two nights after winning the 'Closed' he lost both his sets in this vital match.

At the other end of the division Y.M. 'B' and Linnets are relegated and not, as many people thought, W'tree Lab. 'B'; this being mainly due to Alan Tolson who has been winning most of his sets, although the team as a whole have been giving some good performances with wins over Linnets, Cadwa and Beauclair which have pulled them clear of relegation.

Peter Rumjahn of Rafters seems to be the bogey man of the top of the table clubs; on three occasions, against Eng. Elec, Liverpool Y.M. and W'tree Lab. Rafters have suffered 9-1 defeats and on each occasion Peter has been the set taker.

Some funny things are happening in the end-of-season matches — W'tree Lab. 'A' defeated their own 1st team 6-4, whilst Colonsay have found themselves a new No. 1 and 2 in Miss P. Fidler and Miss J. Mackenzie for their match against Rafters. The number of different players that clubs are calling on to field full strength teams in the end-of-season matches makes one think if the season is too long, or do we need a different points system, or even to making the divisions into sections and having play-offs for the section winners. There is certainly a lack of interest in the players in the middle of the table clubs.

Division 2.	By Graham Reid				
	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Eng. Elec. 'A'	26	23	2	1	193
Waterloo Park	26	19	5	2	183
Trinity	26	18	5	3	180
Colonsay 'A'	26	19	3	4	178
Crawfords	26	16	7	3	153
Eng. Elec. 'B'	26	13	6	7	144
Police	26	10	11	5	140
Linacre	26	11	12	3	136
Sparta	26	7	12	7	122
University	26	11	11	4	121
Crawfords 'A'	26	5	16	5	102
Stanley House	26	4	18	4	94
Rafters 'A'	26	2	4	0	60
Linnets 'A'	26	0	20	0	14

We must congratulate English Electric who have now added the championship to the Rumjahn Cup. They have looked the likely winners since early in the season and with the same players doing duty for most of the matches they have finished comfortable winners. The runners-up spot was not settled until the very last match of the season, and although Trinity beat Waterloo Park 7-3 it is W'loo who go up, so Trinity have had hard luck in again finishing third, but perhaps next season it will be third time lucky for them.

With Rafters and Linnets doomed for many weeks, Crawfords 'A' and Stanley House are the other two teams to be relegated with them, although if Crawfords had been able to play Mabel Francis every week they might have saved themselves.

I think that our new division has had a successful baptism this season and can only be better and more exciting next season. The six teams from 2A have had mixed fortunes with one going up and three going down, while the six teams from 2B will still be with the division next year.

Finally, best of luck to everybody for next season especially our two promotees because they are going to need it most.

Division 3A		by Eddie Camaron				
	P	W	L	D	Pts.	
Knotty Ash	24	20	3	1	173	
W'tloo Pk 'A'	24	15	5	4	155	
Bath St. 'A'	24	16	6	2	153	
L'pool Jewish	24	13	6	5	149	
Sefton	24	13	4	7	139	
Police 'A'	24	12	9	3	138	
L'pool YM 'C'	24	10	9	5	128	
Cadwa 'A'	24	13	9	2	126	
Maghull	24	8	11	5	111	
Vagabonds	24	6	13	5	105	
Crawfords 'B'	24	5	17	2	97	
University 'A'	24	3	19	2	58	
Coll. of Tech.	24	0	23	1	28	

Knotty Ash are champions quite easily despite their ten point gift to Bath St. They are good champions well worthy of a 2nd division place and quite capable of moving even higher. There has been a good team effort despite the outstanding performances of the big three, Eden, Fitzsimmons and Clarke. I thought they were a little smug in their success and I do not think Bob Eden's temperament on the table has altered very much from the early days. No sour grapes, however, a championship well won by easily the best team.

Who goes up with Knotty Ash? Who knows! When the teams condescend to send their cards in I will be able to sort it out—could be Waterloo Park, could be Bath St.

Now let us talk about OUR cup. I must admit to cold shivers more than once in the final stages, but much to my satisfaction Liverpool Jewish came up on the rails and in the long run took an easy victory from Wavertree Lab. The final was first drawn and then the Jewish team, reinforced by two reserves with quite good records, won the

next seven sets to secure the trophy and really make my day—good old Jewish! — good old 3A! Roll on next season and more rubbing it in to 3B!

Division 3B	By Colin Stock				
	P	W	L	D	Pts
Colonsay B	22	19	2	1	158
Trinity 'A'	22	19	2	1	149
Wav. Lab. 'C'	22	15	5	2	143
St. Edward's	22	12	7	3	131
Bath St. 'B'	22	9	9	4	121
Eng. Elec. 'C'	22	10	10	2	109
Panto	22	8	10	4	103
Beauclair 'A'	22	8	10	4	101
Hilltop	22	9	11	2	99
L'pool Jew. 'A'	22	4	15	3	83
Orrrell	22	4	15	3	82
Palmers ton	22	0	21	1	41

As expected Colonsay have become Div. 3B champions—a thoroughly deserved victory for a team who have played well all season, despite being unable to field the same 5 players each week. They have, however, kept the number of players to a minimum and seemed to have picked their side from a pool of about seven players, rather than bringing in reserves from lower teams.

Trinity finished second and will join Colonsay in the 2nd division (providing the rules are not changed in the close season!). They have used the same five players in most matches, occasionally bringing in Temple to strengthen the side. If Temple had played all season I think Trinity could well have won the division, but I believe he is unavailable for most matches. John Hankin's captaincy had been unorthodox for a 3rd division team but it cannot be bad to finish second. I wonder what the outcome would have been if they had played in order of merit? I think that they would have possibly collected more points overall, even though John and Alan Abbott may have lost a few more sets each.

Wavertree Lab. finished third and bottom of the "break-away" league. Here is a side who

"arrived" too late in the season, but still finished only six points behind Trinity. That 9-1 defeat at English Elec. must still give Brian Jessop nightmares! They must be confident of doing much better next season.

(Beauclair) had no opposition to speak of and would have welcomed the entry of 3A as they MIGHT have provided some slight opposition.

Division 4A	by Ken Armon				
	P	W	L	D	Pts.
L'pool Jew. B'	24	21	2	1	188
Wav. Lab. D'	24	21	2	1	180
Colonsay 'D'	24	16	4	4	159
L.Y.C.A.....	24	14	7	3	150
Eng. Elec. 'D'	24	14	6	4	143
Police 'C'	24	13	8	3	139
Colonsay 'C'	24	11	8	5	131
Beauclair 'B'	24	8	16	0	99
Knotty Ash 'B'	24	6	14	4	99
Rafters 'B'	24	7	16	1	89
Essemmay	24	5	18	1	73
Bath St. 'D'	24	3	19	2	59
Coll. of Tech 'A'	24	2	21	1	50

Liverpool Jewish have finished as champions as expected, but not without being given an almighty fright by the Labour Club who defeated them 6-4 and at one time looked as if they might close the gap, but it was not to be, for carelessness and inability to field their full team regularly put paid to their chances. They are, however, worthy runners-up, the Jewish being the only team to take more than 3 sets off them on their own table.

The expected challenge from Colonsay 'D' did not materialise as they lost two regular players and did not have reserves strong enough to fill the gap. The teams filling the next six places should have a real battle for promotion next season, barring any team changes, as there is little to choose between them. If LYCA do not go up with Jewish and W'tree Lab. they should be strong favourites for the title next season.

College of Tech. have finished bottom and in fairness to Bath St., having just played against them, I must admit that they are a much better team than the College, with or without those "gifts" from Colonsay 'C'. I hear that Essemmay may not be with us next season due to difficulty in fielding a full team. Alan Wych has tried hard to make a success of this club and with such a large number of possible players to call on it will be a pity if his efforts turn out to have been in vain.

We romped away with the Mickles-field Medals Competition. Our team of Ron Burke (W'tree Lab.), Ron Carter (Police) and John McKim

Division 4B.	By Jack Lambert				
	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Bootle Y.M.	20	18	2	0	170
Odyssey	20	20	0	0	##
Police 'B'	20	14	5	1	123
Bath vSt. 'C'	20	9	8	3	99
University 'B'	20	9	8	3	94
Mossley Hill 'A'	20	9	8	3	92
St. Edwards 'A'	20	7	12	1	87
Police 'D'	20	5	9	6	87
Orrell 'A'	20	5	14	1	75
Eng. Elec. 'E'	20	2	16	2	61
Knotty Ash 'A'	20	2	18	0	47

After two seasons of second best in cup and league we now hail Bootle Y.M. as champions of our division, an excellent team effort by Ball, the division's top scorer, closely followed by Whorton and Foulkes with Christie and Reynolds not far behind.

Hard luck Odyssey, who won the Cup. They are runners-up in the league and are still undefeated in two seasons league warfare, but our system calls for terrific team strength and not just "wins". Rigby, who shares with Foulkes the division's No. 2 spot, their best, his main support being Wright, but Weston, Tattersall and Platt all had an excellent season.

Joint No. 3 on my honours list come Knotty Ash and English Elec. 'E' who have fought for the wooden spoon all season. Electric were firm in their resolve not to finish bottom after my early season statement and their victories over St. Edward's and Knotty Ash moved them off the bottom with Janet Roberts and Evans being the top players and a full team for every game. Knotty Ash had one absentee all season with Eaton and Dunning best performers but Haigh and D. Davies come up with top marks. Two most commendable performances from teams taking hammerings nearly every week.

St. Edward's shared their games with 14 players, Kelly, Coughlin and Townsend being the mainstays. The Police 'B' had a good season led by McLeod who had an excellent season, Rimmer,

Garnett and Jeffries giving excellent support.

In conclusion I would like to say on behalf of our division how much we will all miss, directly and indirectly, the work and devotion that Jim Green put into this game of ours that he loved so much.

Division 5A.		by Tony Arthur				
	P	W	L	D	Pts	
Wat. Park B	22	18	1	3	169	
Bohemians	22	15	4	3	135	
Palatine	22	16	4	2	149	
Bohemians 'A'	22	15	6	1	141	
Bootle YM 'A'	22	10	9	3	119	
Maghull 'A'	22	9	11	2	105	
Cadwa 'B'	22	9	12	1	101	
Police 'B'	22	10	11	1	100	
S. Katharine's	12	10	12	0	94	
Vagabonds 'A'	22	4	16	2	79	
Trinity 'B'	22	4	16	2	63	
Mossley Hill 'B'	22	1	19	2	45	
<i>Note.</i> LTCA 'A' expunged						

Congratulations to Waterloo Park and Sandforth for gaining promotion to the 4th division. I am sure we all wish them the best of luck next season. I think I can say without fear of contradiction that we hope we don't see them again the season after next. It was a close battle near the end of the season and praise is due to both teams for fending off the wolves of Sandforth 'A' and Palatine who were snapping at their heels all season. Waterloo Park made a determined effort from the start and were favourites for the title but it was touch and go for Sandforth in the second half of the season when they were dropping odd points here and there which mounted up.

I am sure that Palatine will be in hot pursuit of the title next season, and if they get rid of their lighting altogether will be difficult to beat on their home ground. Sandforth 'A' as a whole are a little too unenterprising to gain promotion. While I'm on the subject, they are by no means the only exponents of the "negative" game. A lot of players in this division are content merely to get the ball back over the net. I hope the teams coming down from

the 4th have a little more variety in their play. I hope everyone has enjoyed this season as

much as I have. I look forward with enthusiasm to the cut and thrust of competitive table tennis next season.

Division 5B.					
	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Sparta 'A'	14	14	0	0	132
L'pool Pirates	14	10	3	1	94
Colonsay 'E'	14	9	4	1	86
Giro	14	8	6	0	74
Odyssey 'A'	14	6	7	1	68
All Saints	14	4	8	2	53
Cheshire Lines	14	1	12	1	36
Bradstones	14	1	13	0	15

Sparta 'A' have finished as the champions of this small and much reduced division with Pirates in 2nd place. This should have been a much closer finish for both are experienced teams. Every team in this division deserves praise for having completed their programme, for with its big gaps and few matches interest can soon fade away.

Bradstones have had an unhappy debut having averaged a point a match, but this season's experience should stand them in good stead for next season. So cheer up Bradstones, you will do much better next season.

I hope all these clubs will still be with us next season as things will be better then. The division was only formed to avoid disappointing these teams and it is to their credit that they have fulfilled their commitments.

Women's Division.					
By Joyce Randall					
	P	W	D	L	Pts.
I/pool YM	16	15	1	0	130
Crawfords	16	14	2	0	129
Rafters	16	13	3	0	124
Cadwa	16	8	7	1	104
Colonsay	16	8	7	1	87
Crawfords 'A'	16	6	8	2	75
Colonsay 'A'	16	4	12	0	36
Vagabonds	16	1	15	0	19
Linnets	16	1	15	0	10

These are the last notes for the season, a disappointing one it has been but it was what we expected, wasn't it? I hope as many of you as possible

will come along to the A.G.M. on Friday, 30th May, at the Liverpool Y.M. and make yourselves heard.

The response to the handicap tournament was very good, 38 ladies entered, Jean Reynolds being the winner, beating Val Lee in the final. I think we all enjoyed it, the only thing missing were the refreshments, I forgot about them—sorry ! I say a big thank you to Les Evans of Crawfords for his co-operation and help in arranging for us to have the venue.

I believe only 26 ladies entered the 'Closed' and asking around the reason seemed to be a number were still enjoying an extended Easter holiday. Without taking any credit away from Margaret Collins who played very well indeed to reach the final,

everyone's sympathy was with Mabel Francis, who went down to Margaret in the semi-final. Mabel has such a good record in inter-city and club matches, yet fails to make any headway in the 'Closed.' Some folks can play in tournaments and some can't, it's as simple as that— hard luck Mabel !

Are you sorry you didn't don your disguise Ken, when you went to the 'Closed' ? A number of ladies made their views very clear to you, didn't they ?

We won't know until the last minute who the league champions will be, it all seems to depend on the last few matches and the Y.M. have two in hand. I have no doubt we will know before we go to print.



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