

TABLE TENNIS DIGEST

Vol. 1 No. 5 EDITORIAL BOARD: FEB. 1951

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COMMENT

During the past month Cup-ties have largely held the main interest. There have been many close tussles. So far this season 24 matches have required a replay, and of these five have been decided on games or even points.

The separation of two sides by an odd point or two after two encounters may not by any means appear to be satisfactory. Some years ago, however, cup progress was not infrequently held up because sides could not decide superiority on sets, even after three or even four matches.

It does seem a pity, however, that in semi-finals and finals a tie must be decided on one meeting only. Last season one club passed to the final by a majority of twelve points.

It appears to us that a margin on games is a good enough reason to award a tie, but the number of points scored by each side does not necessarily bear any relation to the number of sets and games won. More than one match has been won on sets this season by a side who had an adverse balance of points.

We know that it is sometimes difficult to arrange venues and time is often short at the season's end, but surely when some of the League's major honours are being fought for, it is only fair to provide opportunity for a second encounter.

We are glad to hear that the Regional Tournaments were all successful. They should prove of great value for at least two reasons; firstly, by providing a means to introduce inexperienced players to tournament conditions, and, secondly, by discovering talent of outstanding merit. The League badly needs some replacements of the Rumjahn, Pierce class, and it may well be that a star of the future may receive his baptism at one of these tournaments.

Dingle Venue For "Closed"

The report on the international match against Ireland is reported elsewhere, and all that remains for me is to thank you for your grand support at the Philharmonic Hall. I can assure you that our Irish friends much appreciated the warmth of your welcome, which, they said, almost made them feel they were playing at home.

We are, also receiving increasing support from the general public with each show, and it would probably surprise you to know that I have a long list of local people who ask to be notified of every event staged at the "Phil," together with friends from Chester, Runcorn, Widnes, St. Helens, Rhyl, Wrexham, Manchester, and even the Isle of Man.

The Merseyside Closed Championships take place from April 2 to 6 inclusive, with the finals at the Y.M.C.A., Mount Pleasant, on Wednesday, April 11. An entry form is enclosed with this magazine. This has increased our printing costs, but the Management Committee feel it is worth it to ensure that every playing member receives one, which has never happened in the past.

EASY TO REACH

We are breaking new ground in going to Dingle Vale School for the preliminary rounds, but you can rest assured that playing conditions are as near perfect as we can get them. The school is easily accessible from all parts. The 21 and 45 trams stop at it and the 25 and 33 and the 3 and 82 buses two minutes away. For our players from the Cheshire side, there is a frequent service of electric trains on the Overhead Railway between Dingle and Pier Head, the journey taking eight minutes and the return fare 5d third class and 7d first class. For our North Liverpool players the journey will take 25 minutes and the return fare is 10½d. and 1s. 0½d. respectively. The school is two minutes' walk from Dingle Station.

The last train from Dingle is 10.3 p.m. and every endeavour will be made to see that competitors using the Overhead are able to take advantage of it. When Mr. Holland and myself are timing the events we will bear this in mind; players who have a distance to travel will be timed early for their first games. We have always endeavoured to (and succeeded) in

finishing each night at a reasonable hour, so that players, who live a distance from Dingle, need have no misgivings about arriving home at a respectable time.

ANNIVERSARY CRUISE

We are now drawing to the close of our 25th season, and I felt that a celebration, in which the great majority of our members could take part at a reasonable price, would be a fitting wind-up. The Management Committee agreed with my suggestion, and accordingly, we have booked the M.V. "Royal Iris" for a river dance cruise on Wednesday May 9, 1951. This vessel has been specially constructed for cruising and comes into commission at the end of April.

It can comfortably accommodate 1,000 passengers, and has air conditioning throughout to give maximum comfort in the most inclement weather (this does not affect us as, according to "Old Moore," it will be hot and sunny on May 9). There is an artistically-designed pillarless dance deck, a cocktail bar, smoker's room, buffet with wide range of refreshments, ices and minerals, and even a specially-fitted fish and chip saloon, with a public address system throughout the vessel for informing passengers on points of interest "en route."

The cruise will be from 7 to 10 p.m. and the tickets will be 4s. each. These will not be available until the next issue of the magazine, when you will be asked to notify your club secretary of the number you require, and further particulars of the cruise and what we hope to provide for your entertainment, will be published.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

In order that the "Digest" may give a complete picture of the season, publication of the final issue of the season will be delayed until April. It will then contain complete League tables and Cup winners, as well as interesting facts about individual performances.

A little bird has whispered that Vic Jenkinson, the East Region secretary, has been doing a spot of fostering for the game. With his clubmate, Trevor Brown, he has been giving some guidance in the rudiments of the game to cadets at Heswall. Good show!

"B" Team Should Pen Personalities Be Nursery

MR. N. H. HOLLAND

By "Calchas"

It was with interest I read the article by Jack Hughes in the December issue on Liverpool's poor showing in recent years, and, although I agree that many of our players lack a sound foundation to their game, I wonder if in our quantity of players there are not some of the required quality who have not been discovered.

The players who reach top class are a small percentage, and the fact that you have a large number of players is no guarantee that your number of stars will also be greater. What it does mean is that you have a better chance of finding a star.

Are we doing all we can to find the quality? I do not think so.

RESHUFFLING

We run three men's teams—Liverpool, Liverpool "A," and Liverpool "B"—the first being our Wilmott Cup team, which varies little from our "A" team, and the "B" team acting as the trial team for the other two. The Selection Committee have as yet included in any of these teams few players other than from First Division teams. This policy does not seem to be getting us far, for all it amounts to is a reshuffle of the old pack.

I imagine their view is that if the players from Division 1 do not produce the results, it is foolish to expect players from lower divisions to do better. If it was a question of choosing a complete club team from a lower division I could see their point, but it is a question of selecting individual players.

It may well be that there are people playing in lower division clubs, who, given the chance and experience of playing for Liverpool "B," might be the answer to our problem.

The search for this potential talent should not be hard, for here is a chance to use the records of Des. Loughrey, not merely as an academic study, but for practical purpose.

So Selection Committee let us widen the search and use the "B" team as a real testing ground.

It will come as a great surprise to numerous people on Merseyside to learn that Mr. N. H. (Harry) Holland, the West Regional Secretary, has been interested in table tennis for more than 26 years. Way back in the '20's he was a regular spectator at the English Open Championships and there saw the giants of former years in action.

Mr. Holland came to Merseyside in 1938, and when war broke out he became an active member of the A.R.P. It was then he actually began to play table tennis, and when peace returned he formed the Leasowe club, which was latter renamed Burrowdale. Elected to the Management Committee as West Region Secretary, he threw in his enthusiasm into the building up of his Region until he has now four divisions with 80 teams under his control.

But it is not only as West Region Secretary that Mr. Holland has fostered the game. For four years he has refereed for the Merseyside Open and the Closed League tournaments, and much of the smooth running of both these events—particularly the former, which has gained country-wide recognition—is due to Mr. Holland's organising ability. Before the tournaments begin Mr. Holland has put in many hours of studious work working out the schedules of each of the various events. Table tennis, however, is not Mr. Holland's only hobby, although the amount of work he puts into it would cause one to believe it must be. He is an enthusiastic artist of [redacted] talent. Among the pictures he has painted is one which now adorns the home of Victor Barna, which Mr. Holland painted as a wedding gift to the former world champion.

MISS EILEEN MANSELL

One of the stalwarts of the Liverpool Ladies' team since the war has been Eileen Mansell, who has consistently beaten high-ranking players, and by her personal success, has helped to place Liverpool in the forefront of ladies' table tennis in this country. Eileen has an extremely strong attack, which is no doubt largely due to the fact she has played in the First Division for Balfour since the war. Previously her club was A.T.M., with whom she began her career.

(Continued on P. 10.)

Holders Beaten In Readman Cup

Focus on Readman Cup, which this season will have a new name inscribed on it, the holders, 15th Crosby, having been knocked out by the Second Division side, Acacia, after a replay, the latter gaining the verdict on the aggregate over two matches, by one game.

Bernard Hand was home on leave for both these matches, but even so the Scouts were unable to prevent the Cup slipping from their grasp.

Last season's other finalists, Balfour, were almost disposed of by their "A" team, but after drawing at the first meeting, made no mistake in the replay.

The First Division is assured that at least two of its teams will reach the semi-final, Rafter's and Birkenhead Y.M.C.A., and Homecroft and Balfour having been drawn against each other. These two matches are undoubtedly the tit-bits of the round, and Rafter's, having recently been beaten by Birkenhead Y.M.C.A. in a league match, will be out for revenge.

Y.M.C.A.'S JUMP

Only two weeks' League fixtures have been completed since I last wrote, but they have had a considerable effect on the leading positions in the League table. By two good wins over Rafter's and 15th Crosby, Birkenhead Y.M.C.A. have jumped from sixth to third position, and are now challenging Homecroft, who lead them by three points.

Rafter's "A" have gone above their club mates on games averages, and with 15th Crosby completing the trio, hold fourth, fifth and sixth positions respectively, with 13 points each.

For Rafter's, the 13 points' mark has been an unlucky one, their last two matches resulting in defeats by Birkenhead Y.M.C.A. 6-4, and by Balfour 9-1.

Forecasts are very dangerous things to make, but I consider that I am on fairly safe ground when I say that I cannot see anyone overhauling the present leaders of the division, and unless something unforeseen happens, Balfour should finish the season where they are now—at the top. Only Homecroft can be considered to be within striking distance of them, and even so it will have to be a long push.

Oakhill put another nail into Anfield's coffin, and at the same time

made their own position a little more secure, when they obtained a convincing 8-2 win. With three points lead over African Oil, they can feel justified in hoping to maintain their Division 1 status.

Anfield secured their first win of the season at the expense of Rafter's "A," at a time when both teams were weakened through illness to players, somewhat more so in the case of the latter.

Balfour "A" are certainly proving to be the champion drawists in the division, for apart from their two draws in successive rounds of the Readman Cup, have so far drawn five of their League matches. Their latest one was when they visited African Oil, and to quote African Oil's captain, Frank Varty: "The loss of this point may mean our team going down into the Second Division." At the moment, however, only five points separate the bottom four teams, and anything can happen with six weeks' fixtures still to be played.

Look!

Modern Table Tennis

by JACK CARRINGTON

Trainer of the 1949 World Champion, Johnny Leach.

This book contains all that the aspiring championship player wishes to know. The author, himself a player of international repute, has set out simply and carefully, a complete course of scientific table tennis instruction. It will start the beginner on the right lines and the experienced player will improve his game immensely. Fully illustrated with diagrams and action photographs.

Price 6s. net.

You can get this book from your local bookshop. If it is not in stock give the title, author, price and publisher to your bookseller, who will be glad to get a copy for you.

G. Bell & Sons Ltd. London



Tactics That Have Not Paid

By K. Baldock.

This month I am covering three teams, who have not had a very good season, and do not appear as if they will finish in the top half of the table.

Anfield's second string, led by the veteran George Maher, have had an average season, with two ever-presents out of nine players. But though Lawless and Charnock have appeared in every match they have not always been in the same position. Indeed, only Lijinsky, when he was playing, had this distinction, and I am inclined to think that their leader has not only done this to give his players experience against varying opposition, but as a tactical move according to the opposition.

The plan, however, has not been over successful, especially in the fifth round of the Readman Cup against St. Michael's, after having two games evenly divided with Birkenhead Y.M. "A" in the previous round.

KEEN FIGHTERS

As I said at the beginning of the season, I.C.I. will be finishing about the middle. Though great success has not come their way, the team are fighters for every game, and have only played two matches in which less than five sets have been decided at the third game. And both of these were close affairs—a draw, and a 6-4 defeat.

No doubt the Second Division will enjoy their company again next season, for which I wish them greater success.

Our guardians the Police have let me down. I thought when the season opened that they would hold their own in the division, but due to players being on duty and lack of practice the team has yet to register their second victory.

Only Heague, who always gives a good account of himself, has managed every match.

A noticeable feature of the Police matches is the number of sets finished in two straight games, whether won or lost. No doubt this fact is only a coincidence, but very useful in completing a match at a reasonable hour, especially if the away team has a long way to travel.

Hoylake Challenge To Bohemians

Focal point in the League struggle switches this month from bottom to top. Here the fight for leadership takes on fresh interest, due to Bohemians dropping their first points and Hoylake continuing in their winning ways. As I write, it is level pegging in points and sets, with indications that the next meeting between these two will decide the championship.

We have lost interest in the Readman Cup as a result of Bohemians losing their replay with St. Michael's. In the Maxwell Fyfe Cup, however, we still had seven representatives, and with five of them drawn at home in Round 2 there are hopes of a Third Division monopoly in the later stages. As we accounted for three Second Division sides in the opening round we now say: "Let them all come."

Introducing Hoylake this month we appropriately present the team now challenging Bohemians' supremacy. Indeed, Hoylake do not agree Bohemians are the team of the season. To substantiate their own claim they have now taken over joint leadership and are confident of furthering their cause in the return League encounter.

RELIABLE PAIR

Without a double Hoylake possess the most reliable opening paid in the division. Vaughan and Harkness have easily the best records for their positions, and are excellently supported by Ball and Kendrick as Nos. 3 and 4. These four have dropped only 14 sets between them in the first ten League matches.

Without a regular No. 5 they still manage to find a reserve who can be relied upon to show up to good advantage, despite the fact that they have called upon no fewer than six different players for this position.

Whatever the outcome of the great battle for leadership, Hoylake will certainly be joining Bohemians with that through ticket to Division 2, having sampled our division for one season only.

Bouquet of the month goes to the three successful Cup conquerors of Second Division clubs—Hoylake, Wallasey, and Victoria Park.

Two Great Cup Victories

By J. Griffiths.

After the events of the past month, when Maxwell Fyfe and Readman Cup matches added to League fixtures have had to be played, most teams in the division can now settle down to trying to improve their League position.

St. Michael's are undoubtedly the shock team of the season. Still unbeaten, and leading the division, they are all out to win one of the Cups. Not content with defeating Second Division League leaders, Bibby's, in the third round of the Readman Cup, they ended the Cup hopes of Third Division leaders, Bohemians, defeating them 9-1 in a home replay. No hard luck story here, for the Bohemians' success was by D. Young in the third game—25-23.

In the League, Balfour "B" are right behind the leaders. Only a slightly better set average keeps St. Michael's on top.

STILL POINTLESS

Aigburth "A" are still without a point and over a century of sets against them in thirteen games. I saw them beaten 10-0 by Cheshire Lines, and what they lack in their play they certainly make up for with their sportsmanship and sense of humour. Ray White has returned to their side, and though he took R. Burge to three games he is not the player of last season.

The first meeting between St. Michael's and Balfour "B" ended all square. Though Balfour's Huyton and Gill lost all four sets to Gowar and Wright, their tail-end came along to win five sets, all in two straights.

Dunlop, who seem to be having a season of mixed fortune, reversed their away defeat by Waterloo Dks. Seddon, Burrows and Dunn were the only successes for the Railwaymen. Eric Wall won both his sets for Dunlop.

The New Year seems to have brought a change of luck to Edwardians, and in the last four matches they have now collected seven points. Their match at Holme Hey, like the first meeting, was expected to be a hard-fought tussle. Holme Hey took three of the first four sets, due mainly to Eric Wall winning his two, but Edwardians fought back to win the next five sets and the match.

Exciting Game At Ellesmere Port

By F. J. Farrell,

During the past month, Liverpool "A" have recorded two League victories, beating Macclesfield 8-2 and Blackpool 10-0.

In the Macclesfield match, played at Hoylake, the set winners were Peter Rumjahn (3), V. Chesham (3) and Norman Jones, with Rumpahn and Chesham winning the doubles.

At Bohemians, the combination of Ted Rumjahn, Chesham, and Jones was too much for the Blackpool team.

The most exciting match of the month was the "B" team's game at Ellesmere Port, which they won 6-4. Here the team were up against Bob Smitham and Norman Summer, who are wearing wonderfully well. Both played excellently and made our young team do some hard thinking as well as hard playing. Liverpool's sets came from Roy Jones (3) and Norman Jones (2). They also won the doubles, after losing the first game, pulling round and winning the third at 23-21.

REDEEMING

Denis Caldwell had an unfortunate night at Ellesmere Port, but he redeemed himself the following week at Urnston by contributing three sets to the "B" team's 7-3 victory. The other sets were won by E. C. Smith (2) and M. Oakes, with Smith and Oakes taking the doubles.

Once again Manchester have been the stumbling block to Liverpool in their progress in the Wilmott Cup. Peter Rumjahn, V. Chesham, and Roy Jones were not strong enough for the Manchester team of Casofsky, Cohen, and Allcock, who won without conceding a set at 7-0.

The women's team play their next match on Monday, February 26, against Manchester at Littlewood's Social Club, Dale Street. There is ample accommodation for spectators, and it would be encouraging to see a good crowd supporting the team in their endeavour to reverse the two narrow defeats earlier in the season.

Other matches are:—

Feb. 23.—"B" v. Ellesmere Port, at Cosco, Bromborough.

Mar. 16.—"B" v. Chester, at Livingstone St. Baths, R. head.

Irish Quality Was A Surprise

By J. D. Loughrey.

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I must admit that when I first read the names of the England team selected for the match with Ireland at the Philharmonic Hall, I was very sorry for the visitors, and the nine set to love victory might further suggest that the evening was too one-sided to be interesting.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Mr. MacKay, the Irish captain, in a happy speech at the end of the match, suggested that his side was making steady progress and in the not too distant future would be capable of holding their own. With that view I agreed, their play has advanced markedly since they last appeared at the Philharmonic, and I would further add that their courageous fight won a large number of tributes from the audience.

The English team found they had to pull out rather more than had been expected. Johnny Leach, in his two sets, had something of a struggle to beat Mercer, 21-16, in the third, and with R. Allcock, to beat I. Martin and J. Fox, 21-19, also in the third.

With the exception of the Rowe twins this was the full England team for the World Championships, but possibly it would not be fair to judge them on what was at best only a trial outing. Most of them, however, found it difficult to maintain a fierce attack against a grim defence, a game at which most of the Irish team excelled.

TITTLE TATTLE

We hear that wedding bells will be ringing in Johannesburg on March 31 for Win Duke and Laurie Potgieter. Hearty congratulations to both and best wishes for their future happiness. Both Win and her sister Eileen look forward to receiving their copies of the "Digest" each month.

* * *
Congratulations also to Andree Jones on her success in the Irish Open Championships. By winning the women's singles she is putting her name on the map. May it be but the first of many future successes.

Game's Debt To Liverpool

"For 25 years Liverpool has been a centre without which table tennis would not have developed in this part of the world. It has been an example to the North, and has produced a body to which the game in England owes much of its present position as one of the best organised of all sports."

This was the tribute paid to the League by Mr. Ivor Montagu, chairman of the E.T.T.A., at the dinner to celebrate the League's 25th anniversary.

The dinner, over which Mr. D. Foulis, our chairman, presided, coincided with the England v. Ireland match and the meetings of the National Executive and the General Council, and with Mr. Montagu were several other members of the Executive, including Mr. A. K. Vint (honorary treasurer) and Mrs. Kathie Pegg (administrative secretary) together with Mr. N. W. Wilson (honorary secretary of the Irish Association) and members of the Irish team.

Mr. Montagu added that during those 25 years the Executive had met many Liverpool players and had in their number officials from Liverpool. They had learned to know that while Liverpool people were very keen in their views they were also very good companions.

DRESS SUGGESTION

Replying to the toast of "The Liverpool League", Mr. Foulis said their only regret was that Mr. Montagu did not come to Liverpool more often. He warned him, however, that if the Executive did not dress the England in good rig-outs, with an official blazer, they would not be as well turned out as the Liverpool team.

Mr. W. Stamp (League Secretary), proposing the toast to the visitors, paid tribute to the Irish team and thanked them, not only for the very good show they had given but also for the splendid spirit they had displayed.

In thanking the League for its hospitality to his team Mr. Wilson said he liked to think that in table tennis they had a game that knew no borders. It created friendships, but if they removed that aspect from it the game would be destroyed.

LEAGUE TABLES

UP TO FEBRUARY 12, 1951

Compiled by F. R. MOORE

First Division	P. W. L. D. F. A. P.					WOMEN—First Division	P. W. L. D. F. A. P.								
	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.		A.	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.	
Balfour	13	11	0	2	98	32	24	Balfour	13	12	0	1	106	24	25
Homecroft	13	9	2	2	84	46	20	Rafters	13	11	1	1	103	27	23
B'head Y.M.C.A.	13	7	3	3	71	59	17	Aigburth	13	9	4	0	80	50	18
Rafters	13	7	5	1	71	59	15	Bibby's	13	7	4	2	73	57	16
Rafters "A"	13	5	5	3	75	55	13	Homecroft	13	6	6	1	65	65	13
15th Crosby	13	5	5	3	60	70	13	Bootle C.D.	13	5	6	2	54	76	12
Balfour "A"	13	2	6	5	55	75	9	Oakhill	13	4	8	1	52	78	9
Oakhill	12	3	7	2	48	72	8	C.L.C.	13	3	9	1	44	86	7
African Oil	12	2	9	1	36	84	5	Wavertree C.C.	13	2	11	0	37	93	4
Anfield	13	1	10	2	42	88	4	Anfield	13	1	11	1	38	92	3

Second Division	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Acacia	13	9	2	2	90	40	20
Bibby's	13	10	3	0	86	44	20
Homecroft "A"	13	8	2	3	80	50	19
Bootle Y.M.C.A.	13	7	3	3	71	59	17
Anfield "A"	13	6	4	3	72	58	15
B'hd. Y.M. "A"	13	6	4	3	71	59	15
Oakhill "A"	13	4	7	2	57	73	10
I.C.F.	13	3	8	2	53	77	8
L.P.A.S.	13	1	9	3	46	84	5
Aigburth	13	0	12	1	24	106	1

Second Division	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Rafters "A"	12	10	0	2	92	28	22
Littlewoods	13	11	2	0	90	40	22
Aigburth "A"	13	10	3	0	101	29	20
Domestic Mis.	12	7	4	1	74	46	15
Mossley Hill	13	5	6	2	69	61	12
Osterley	13	4	6	3	64	66	11
Littlewoods "A"	12	4	8	0	42	78	8
I.C.I.	13	2	10	1	42	88	6
St. Joseph's	10	2	7	1	30	70	5
Port Sunlight	13	0	11	2	14	116	2

Third Division	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Bohemians	13	12	1	0	99	31	24
H'lake Y.M.C.A.	13	11	1	1	97	33	23
Wall, Juniors	13	9	2	2	88	42	20
Livex	13	7	4	2	76	54	16
Victoria Park	13	5	7	1	59	71	11
Westfield	13	5	8	0	59	71	10
Wavertree C.C.	13	4	8	1	57	73	9
Oakhill "B"	13	4	9	0	46	84	8
Domestic Mis.	13	2	9	2	38	92	6
Rafters "B"	13	0	10	3	31	99	3

SOUTH—First Division	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Wav. C.C. "A"	14	13	1	0	111	29	26
Lucem	12	11	0	1	99	21	23
L'pool Y.M.C.A.	14	11	2	1	107	33	23
Victoria Pk "A"	12	7	3	2	75	45	16
Elm Hall Drive	13	7	5	1	71	59	15
Aigburth M.	13	5	8	0	60	70	10
Tech. Studs	14	4	9	1	55	85	9
C.J.C. "A"	12	2	10	0	33	87	4
Mossley Hill	12	2	10	0	20	100	4
Aigburth "B"	14	0	14	0	19	121	0

Fourth Division	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
St. Michael's	13	8	0	5	92	38	21
Balfour "B"	13	9	1	3	90	40	21
Kingsway	13	8	3	2	82	48	18
C.L.C.	13	8	3	2	75	55	18
P. Sunlight O.B.	14	6	5	3	73	67	15
Dunlop	13	6	5	2	66	64	14
Edwardians	13	4	8	1	55	75	9
Waterloo Dock	12	4	8	0	51	69	8
Holme Hey	13	2	9	2	48	82	6
Aigburth "A"	13	0	13	0	18	112	0

Second Division	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Licex "A"	12	11	0	1	102	18	23
Cadwa	13	11	2	0	91	39	22
L'pool Y.M. "A"	13	9	3	1	88	42	19
Lucem "A"	12	8	3	1	78	42	17
Wav. C.C. "B"	12	5	5	2	59	61	12
Dunlop "A"	13	6	7	0	63	67	12
St Michael's "A"	13	5	7	1	66	64	11
Deaf Inst.	11	2	9	0	33	77	4
Aigburth "C"	12	2	10	0	32	88	4
C.L.C. "B"	13	0	13	0	8	122	0

EAST—First Division	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Balfour "C"	13	13	0	0	109	21	26
Bohemians "A"	13	12	1	0	93	37	24
Taxes	13	6	4	3	73	57	15
Cadwa	13	6	5	2	73	57	14
Osterley	13	6	5	2	72	58	14
Anfield "B"	13	5	5	3	70	60	13
African "A"	12	5	7	0	52	68	10
St. Barts	12	3	7	2	49	71	8
Westfield "A"	13	1	11	1	29	101	3
St. Aloysius	13	0	12	1	19	111	1

EAST—Second Division	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Balfour "D"	13	11	0	2	96	34	24
Bohemians "B"	13	11	1	1	92	38	23
Robv Y.C.	12	9	2	1	81	39	19
East Wavertree	12	6	5	1	66	54	13
N.A.B.U.K.	13	6	6	1	58	72	15
Edwardians "A"	12	5	7	0	56	64	10
R.A.F.A.	13	3	7	3	62	68	9
Osterley "A"	13	3	9	1	44	86	7
Oakhill "C"	14	2	11	1	46	94	5
Bohemians "C"	13	2	10	1	39	91	5

LEAGUE TABLES

CONTINUED

Longer Season Advocate

WEST—First Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Thorndale	13	12	0	1	93	37	25
Wall. Jrs. "A"	13	9	1	3	87	43	21
St. Joseph's	13	8	3	2	85	45	18
Bronze Sports	13	8	3	2	84	46	18
R'head Y.M. Jrs.	13	7	4	2	75	55	16
Claremont	13	5	6	2	69	61	12
E'head Co-op.	13	3	9	1	52	78	7
Victory Soc.	13	3	10	0	39	91	6
Creep Inn	13	2	11	0	37	93	4
Wall. Motors	13	1	11	1	29	101	3

Second Division

Cosco	13	11	0	2	107	23	24
H'lake Y.M. "A"	13	11	1	1	98	32	23
Burrowdale	13	9	2	2	90	40	20
St. Peter's	13	8	2	3	86	44	19
Kingsway "A"	13	7	6	0	79	51	14
Claremont "A"	13	5	7	1	67	63	11
Creep Inn "A"	13	3	8	2	42	88	8
SS. Mary & P.	13	3	10	0	41	89	6
St. Joseph's "A"	14	2	11	1	26	114	5
Vernons	14	1	13	0	25	115	2

Third Division

Thorndale "A"	12	10	0	2	91	29	22
Thingwall	13	9	1	3	96	34	21
Cosco "A"	13	9	3	1	92	38	19
Burrowdale "A"	13	8	4	1	84	46	17
Port Sunlight	13	8	5	0	70	60	16
Wal. Motors "A"	13	5	7	1	63	67	11
Burrowdale "B"	13	4	7	2	61	69	10
Creep Inn "B"	13	3	9	1	38	92	7
Claremont "B"	13	2	10	1	35	95	5
Cosco "B"	12	0	12	0	11	109	0

Fourth Division

R.A.F. (W.K.)	12	12	0	0	114	6	24
R'head Jrs. "A"	12	11	1	0	77	43	22
Thorndale "B"	13	7	4	2	75	55	16
R.A.F.A.	13	7	5	1	68	62	15
Y.W.C.A.	13	5	6	2	63	67	12
Prenton M.	12	5	5	2	49	71	12
Neston O.B.	14	5	7	2	55	85	12
Wall. Jrs. "B"	12	3	7	2	49	71	8
Pt. Sunlight "A"	14	3	10	1	50	90	7
Thingwall "A"	13	0	13	0	18	112	0

NORTH

Burlington	13	13	0	0	97	35	26
Linaere M.C.	13	9	4	0	84	46	18
Bootle Y.M. "A"	12	8	2	2	74	46	18
Enfield Elec.	13	7	3	3	81	49	17
Hamilton Mis.	13	6	5	2	68	62	14
Rath Street	12	6	5	1	67	53	13
Waterloo Park	13	2	9	2	44	86	6
Brenka	13	1	9	3	45	85	5
Waterloo Dk "A"	12	2	9	1	38	82	5
Rafters "C"	12	1	9	2	32	88	4

January's magazine gave me cause for quite a few comments and answers.

I suggested to Mr. Stamp last year that my club looked favourably on 12-team divisions, because they would mean more table tennis and a longer season and would still leave a reasonable number of teams in a division whenever one dropped out. From an administrative point of view, too, surely five divisions of twelve can be more easily managed than six divisions of ten. Bigger divisions might also create keener competition.

Mr. Stamp's comments were that we did not like stepping on the toes of other sports. I am very keen on athletics, cricket, and, to a lesser degree, speedway and tennis, but table tennis first and foremost.

I am wholeheartedly for a League headquarters and will back it in every way possible, but where could you buy eight Jaques tables for £152?

What possible objection can "Calchas" have to mixed teams if the women's play merits their position. If I ever play a woman I play to win, as I always do; chivalry does not come into it.

The only time I object to the girls is when I pay good money to see some of the pitiable exhibitions they put up on tournament finals night. They will soon kill Mr. Stamp's full houses at the Philharmonic.—J. A. LAMBERT (English Electric).

ADVERTISEMENT RATES

The Table Tennis Digest will accept small classified advertisements at the following rates: — 3d. per word, minimum 18 words, per issue.

YOUTH

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
R'head B.C.	13	11	2	0	92	38	22
H'lake Y.M.C.A.	12	10	2	0	89	31	20
St. Annes	13	9	4	0	77	53	18
Ashville	12	8	4	0	75	45	16
R'head B.C. "A"	13	7	5	1	76	54	15
Heswall	12	4	6	2	60	60	10
Woodchurch	12	5	7	0	57	63	10
Greasby	13	3	9	1	52	78	7
Shaftesbury	11	2	9	0	26	84	4
Conv.-Youth	11	0	11	0	6	104	0

Wavertree Spring A Surprise

Congratulations to Wavertree C.C. for the first surprise in February, when they defeated Bibby's 6-4, although in fairness to Bibby's, I must mention that they were without their No. 2, Dorothy Ball.

Wavertree are now one point ahead of Anfield, their closest rivals, and off the bottom rung of the ladder. The success of their No. 1 player, Mrs. E. Palmer, in winning the South Region singles title must have inspired her team-mates, who have certainly only lost a number of their matches after very close games.

Bibby's had their consolation at home the following evening, when they earned the right to meet Homecroft in the next round of the Bartholomew Cup, by defeating Oakhill 6-4 after a very tense struggle in a replay match.

Congratulations are also due to Pat Lees, who won the only two sets for Homecroft in their match against Balfour, by beating both Olive Dickenson and Lil Robinson.

KEY GAME OF CUP

Balfour consolidated their position as leaders of the First Division, when, in their return match, Rafters were only able to force a draw. It will be interesting to see the result of the key match of the Bartholomew Cup when Rafters again entertain Balfour in the next round. No doubt nerves will play a big part as both teams are very evenly matched.

Aigburth fully deserve their present position as No. 3. Their players, M. Hadden (the only player to have beaten Audrey Brunskill, of Balfour, and East Region winner this season), N. Wass, D. Alcock (South Region runner-up), E. Jackson, and E. Royal, have played very consistently all season.

By beating Aigburth "A," Rosemary McMullen, captain of Rafters "A," and her team must feel optimistic about their chances of finishing champions of the Second Division.

Aigburth "A" needed to win this match to make their chance of promotion more certain, having already beaten their closest rivals in the race in their return match at Littlewood's. Audrey Richards and Pat Alcock are showing great improvement in their

play this season, and I hear that Pat was runner-up to M. Haddon in their club tournament, having beaten her sister Doreen in the semi-final.

MERITORIOUS

L. Allen, A. Bell, D. Millington, E. Sinclair, L. Parks, and W. Hampson deserve a pat on the back, for they are mainly responsible for Littlewood's good record; also M. Willcox (only once beaten), M. Murray, V. Scarisbrick, K. Trampson, and M. Dewey, who are the members of Osterley, the other surprise team in their first season with the League.

With another five or six matches to be played Domestic Mission and Mossley Hill still have an opportunity of regaining the leading positions they held at the beginning of the season.

Cheshire Lines fully deserved the thanks of their region secretary, Don Brown, for their excellent hospitality during the South Region Tournament, due in no small part to the lady members of the club.

Continued from P. 3.

She has had several successes in the League Closed Tournament, and is the present Ladies' Singles Champion (her third success in five years), but so far has not been able to win the more important Merseyside Open title, although two seasons ago she reached the final, only to lose in two straights to Helen Elliott.

Eileen, however, is the first to admit that at the "Phil." she never feels able to settle down, and it must be admitted that so far she has never produced anything like her best form when playing there.

In the past season or two she has struck up a successful partnership with Kay Benson, of Blackpool, and they have won several doubles titles, most notably the Lancashire Open in 1949-50.

Eileen has had several Singles successes in the past few years, and since 1946 has appeared regularly for Lancashire. Some of her best performances were accomplished last season when helping the Rose Bowl team to reach the final, an outstanding event in the history of the League.

All Helped In Tournament Success

Round about tea-time on January 19 table tennis enthusiasts from all parts of Wirral began making tracks, with the light of battle in their eyes, for Livingstone Street Assembly Hall, Birkenhead.

From Bromborough and Heswall in the east to the distant shores of New Brighton in the west they came, determined, 'flu or no 'flu, to enjoy themselves at the first post-war West Region tournament. And enjoy themselves they did!

Entries were received from 144 players, and the most encouraging feature was that they represented 85 per cent. of the West Region teams and 70 per cent. of the Youth Division teams. There were six events on the programme — Men's Singles (74 entries), Women's Singles (22), Youth's Singles (48), Men's Consolation (37), Women's Consolation (11), and Youth's Doubles (24).

With 216 games to play and only two evenings available, eight tables were necessary, although seven would have been the ideal number for the hall. Nevertheless, the general opinion seemed to be that conditions were very good, particularly as regards the lighting and floor surface.

IN HIS DEBT

I should like here to pay a sincere tribute to Mr. D. M. Richards, the Youth Officer for Birkenhead, for securing permission to use the hall, and also for the tremendous amount of assistance he rendered in the preparation and staging of the tournament. Having firsthand knowledge of his tireless energy and his flair for overcoming snags, I would back him against any go-getter from across the Atlantic for real speed and efficiency. The Region, and indeed the League, owe him a deep debt of gratitude.

For many this was their first tournament, so one might have expected frequent hold-ups and delays. But not a bit of it! The co-operation was excellent, competitors and club officials alike, all lending a hand willingly. Special thanks are due to Mr. Graham (Ashville), announcer; S. J. Gallacher (St. Joseph's), captain of umpires; W. Lowe (Birkenhead Co-op.), wall-charts; L. T. Jones, V. Popham, H. C. Sharpe, and Mrs. P. M. (all of Burrowdale) draw tickets, and

Miss Redmond (Port Sunlight), and H. Kenah (Heswall N. S.), assistance at the door

The score tickets reveal that no less than 94 out of the 144 competitors umpired at least one game. This willingness to help enabled us to get through 139 games between 6 p.m. and 10.45 p.m. on the first evening. Among those who played a leading part in umpiring were: J. Clewett and A. Hynes (St. Joseph's), H. C. Sharpe and W. D. V. Jones (Burrowdale), W. E. Jackson (St. Mary and Paul), and J. S. Kellett (Ashville).

SURPRISE DEFEATS

In the League, the championship struggle becomes tenser in all divisions, except the fourth, especially since absences through sickness have led to unexpected loss of points by some of the leading teams.

In the Hyde Cup we are still strongly represented, and there are good grounds for confidence in our hope that a Wirral team will once again retain the Cup.

In the next couple of weeks I shall be selecting teams to represent the Region in inter-regional matches. This year we are breaking new ground, and for the first time women's teams from the East and West Regions will be matched against each other. Before the seasons ends it may be possible to extend this idea to the other Regions.

As a postscript to the tournament, I hope those who entered have had their appetites whetted, and will all enter for the Liverpool Closed tournament in April, especially in the Men's and Women's Regional Singles and the Junior Singles events.

The principal results of the tournament were:—

MEN'S SINGLES

Semi-finals.—E. C. Smith (Bronze Sports) beat J. C. Morgan (Thorndale), 21-16, 17-21, 21-16; W. Postlethwaite (St. Joseph's) beat T. White (R.A.F., W.K.), 21-14, 23-21.

Final.—Smith beat Postlethwaite, 21-14, 23-21.

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Semi-finals.—Mrs. G. M. Sharpe (Burrowdale) beat Mrs. C. E. Jones (Burrowdale), 21-18, 21-8; Mrs. P. O'Connell (Thorndale) beat Miss E. A. Kean (Burrowdale), 21-6, 21-12.

Final.—Mrs. O'Connell beat Mrs. Sharpe, 21-13, 20-22, 21-12.

Four Hours Of Fine Play

The East Region tournament of 1951 is over, but I for one, will remember it for some time to come.

I mentioned in a previous article that the standard of play in this region was high, and that it would be seen to best advantage at the tournament. It certainly was. We had a four-hour feast of table tennis, the best that the East Region could serve up, and all the spectators, who ventured out that chilly evening, must have gone home well satisfied.

Audrey Brunskill (Balfour) won the ladies' singles after a splendid three-game battle with Mae Alcock (Bohemians). Big hitting was the order of the day for Audrey, but Mrs. Alcock's fine defence was generally equal to the occasion. The result was so close that it might have gone either way.

Unusual feature of the men's singles final was that Basil Townsend, No. 1 for Balfour "C," was opposed by his team-mate, Andy Jones, who plays No. 5. Townsend won in two straight, but it was no easy affair. Jones fought all the way, giving a fine exhibition of defence, and when he got the chance to hit back showed that he could attack equally well.

TEAM LEADER

Townsend was in terrific form, and this coupled with his league record, has ensured his place as No. 1 in the regional team when the time comes to do battle with the other regions.

On behalf of the Region, I would

like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Scraggs for their kind co-operation; also Fred Farrell, Ken Jones, and Alan Rycroft, who did a splendid job in making the formidable task of getting through 61 matches in four hours look like child's play.

With the season entering its final phase, it is interesting to weigh up the position in the league tables. In the first division, it will be a straight fight between Balfour "C" and Bohemians "A." Balfour, however, have kept such a tight grip on the leadership throughout that I cannot see them relaxing for one moment, and I will be more than surprised if anything happens to prevent them taking the championship.

Division II looks like developing into a real needle affair between Balfour "D," Bohemians "B," and Roby Youth Club, who are topping the table in that order. Any one of these clubs can finish first, and the tailend of the season should prove exciting. I am going to stick my neck out and forecast Balfour "D" to win.

The competition for the Hyde Cup is nearing its conclusion and I am glad to see that the region is still strongly represented. Balfour gained a convincing 8-2 win over the leaders of the North Region, Burlington, but Bohemians "A," after drawing at Cosco, could do no better in the replay on their own table and passed out of the tournament by one game in the aggregate of the two matches.

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Burlington As Champions

By J. E. Neill

Coming away from the England and Ireland match I met Frank Moore, our registrar and fixture secretary, and our talk turned on question of increasing divisions from ten teams to twelve. We were both in favour of twelve. What do the North Region clubs and players think? Please let me know your views.

We can acclaim Burlington champions, and worthy champions. So far the loss of Billy Finney has not caused them to lose their unbeaten League certificate, but their most severe test will be on February 28 when they meet the vastly-improved English Electric.

The latter have had a fine run of nine matches without a defeat and are offering Bootle Y.M.C.A. a stout challenge as to who will be the ultimate runners-up.

BATTLE FOR POINTS

That fine sporting club Linacre, have not had a happy New Year. They have lost three of their recent six matches, and although a capable side they may not have the temperament for the big occasion. The same five players have played throughout the season and even the rampant 'flu could not break their ranks.

Hamilton Mission and Bath Street, both useful sides, have slipped up on occasion, while the four teams at the foot of the table—Waterloo Park, Waterloo Dock, Brenka, and Ratters—are desperately battling for points. There is no dull end-of-the-season atmosphere for them.

Choosing a team for the inter-regional matches is going to be the hardest task I have ever had. Beyond Marney Morrison, who would you select? Postcards with suggested teams welcomed.

I will most certainly have to run trial matches, for there are about 14 players of equal performance. Jack Lambert has offered to let us have his club for trials. Many thanks, Jack.

Regarding our regional tournament, thank you for the grand support you gave. You made my job a pleasant one. There could be one result—success.

Sayer's Good Win In Tourney

By Patricia Alcock

The South Region tournament, held at the Cheshire Lines Club last month, was a complete success, due to the fine organisation of Secretary Don Brown and Referees A. Montgomery and D. Holland.

The finals were well attended, and a warm welcome was given to the visitors, Billy Liddell and Eddie Spicer, the Liverpool footballers, who presented the prizes at the end, and Mr. and Mrs. W. Stamp.

The best final was the men's singles between D. Sayer (Wavertree Community) and T. Clarke (Y.M.C.A.). Closely contested, the issue was in doubt until the third game, when Sayer used his forehand attack at every opportunity to achieve victory by 21-17.

Wavertree were again in the limelight when Mrs. E. Palmer beat my sister Doreen to win the women's singles. It was a disappointing game because Doreen failed to use her attack. Her play was a complete contrast to that when she beat Miss M. Rubert, last year's champion, after being 20-17 down in the third game.

Mrs. Palmer was the more confident and used her attack for an 21-18 victory in the third game.

DEUCE GAMES

Closest game of all, however, was in the ladies' doubles, when Miss Rubert and Miss F. Hollis (Dunlops) beat Doreen and myself. It was a game which could have gone either way as the score, 22-20, 22-24, 23-21, indicates.

The men's doubles was the only final to be decided in two straight. Lucem's K. Boden and W. Shepherd were never threatened by their opponents, E. Mandaluff and K. Cunliffe (Y.M.C.A.), winning 21-12, 21-15.

Mandaluff and Mrs. D. Hughes (Cheshire Lines) took the mixed doubles from R. Porter and Miss M. Green (Cheshire Lines) when, after two close games, they won the third 21-14.

In the League a surprising result was Technical Students' draw with Lucem, when J. Swinton and J. McLachlan each had two victories to their credit. This was revenge for the 8-2 defeat Lucem inflicted on them previously, although it must be noted that the Gasmen played two reserves.

Great Win By Birkenhead B.C.

By E. G. McGenity

The honours for this past month must go to Birkenhead Boys' Club for their grand victory over the all-conquering Hoylake, although it must be said in fairness to the League leaders that their strength was depleted by influenza.

This does not, however, detract from the performance of the Birkenhead Boys, who are nowadays scarcely recognisable as the "Cinderella" team of a year or two ago.

Hoylake's lapse set the stage for a ding-dong battle in their game against Rock Ferry St. Anne's. In this match, on the result of which the League championship probably hung in the balance, they played like champions, and 8-2 in their favour was a fair reflection on the play.

Outstanding was the showing of fourteen-years-old Ivan Mackie. Playing his first League game he gave a most promising display in winning each of his tests with nonchalant ease, and with proper coaching should go a long way to achieving honours. Most effective, too, for the Y.M.C.A. was D. Hall at No. 4. He has some nice touches, although he had some anxious moments before overcoming Michael McGhee in the third set.

R. Price and A. Totty at Nos. 2 and 3 respectively, each won one and lost one, but none played better than D. Hilton at No. 1, whose ample proportions seem to be no deterrent to his skill. Table tennis ability apart, I admired most the tact and diplomacy of Hilton, and Hoylake are fortunate in possessing such an able leader.

St. Anne's, minus Kelly and Harvey, were up against it from the start, but they kept trying right to the end. M. Doherty was but a shadow of his best, while V. Jones appeared to tire considerably when holding a substantial third set lead against Hilton. McGhee was obviously lacking in practice, and E. Redmond, despite occasional flashes of brilliance, could make little impression on Totty and Mackie.

B. Law at No. 5 made a grand effort against his more accomplished opponents, and he may take encouragement from the knowledge that he will meet very few No. 4's and 5's of the calibre of Hall and Mackie.

Criticismn Defended

I cannot let Mr. Holland's letter on my article go without a reply.

He asserts that my remarks on the inability of young players to play the half-volley is an oversimplification of the position. This would be correct if that was all I had said, but he omits the points I put forward on working hard at the game, learning from others with experience, using their brains, and the question of tactics. He selects one point, ignores four others, and then says the one is an oversimplification.

He suggests Ron Rumjahn could have been England's No. 1 if he had not preferred to play several sports. My answer to that is that Ken Hyde was England's No. 1, and at the same time a triple blue at the University for tennis, cricket, and soccer. Don Foulis, despite excelling at tennis and soccer, also got Swaythling Cup honours.

RECORD SPEAKS

With Bill Pierce we shall have to wait and see, but if any of the other people he mentions ever win the Open Merseysides Singles or get into the Swaythling Cup team, I fancy Mr. Holland will be just as surprised as anybody else.

My article was a comparison between pre-war and post-war performances, and I say again the record speaks for itself. All Mr. Holland can put forward is our winning the Lancashire League Third Division. We were winning equivalent matches before 1939 with Regional players, and those mostly from the West.

Mr. Holland admits to an eclipse, but there is a difference in our approach. I have tried to point out some of the reasons and remedies; he prefers to leave it to the swing of the pendulum, secretly hoping the clock does not stop.—J. H. C. Hughes.

Continued from Page 11.

YOUTHS' SINGLES

Semi-finals.—R. Cox (Wallasey Jrs.) beat A. Hynes (St. Joseph's), 21-16, 17-21, 21-19; D. Hilton (Hoylake Y.M.C.A.) beat D. A. Richards (Wallasey Jrs.), 21-13, 21-18.

Final.—Cox beat Richards, 21-16, 21-18.

YOUTHS' DOUBLES

Final.—M. Donnelly (St. Joseph's) and J. Bordley (St. Peter's) beat D. A. Richards and G. D. Ravencroft (Wallasey Jrs.), 21-9, 21-16.

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Add Top Spin To Your Attack

Attack is the theme chosen by Peter Rumjahn for his article this month. He tells how to apply topspin to the forehand and backhand drive in order to make the ball drop quickly and so stay on the table. The forehand topspin shot, he adds, is the one for hitting the ball hard.

FOREHAND

There are various methods of executing this shot. Here is one—

Body position.—Just behind the table, left shoulder towards table, left leg leading, right leg back about 14 inches.

1.—Bat and arm straight down and slightly behind right thigh; bat facing net.

2.—Sweep upwards and forwards until bat finishes above head. Elbow is bent, and upper arm is raised to make shot.

3.—Strike ball on underside when level with body at arm's length and when just dropping from top of its bounce.

4.—Push off ball of right foot to start the shot and transfer weight to front foot at the end of the shot. Obtain a fresh position for the right foot for each shot.

TIPS

Keep wrist still, bat and forearm in straight line.

The shot may be played with less swing upwards by swinging the bat forward and over the ball.

The ball may also be struck (a) very early after the bounce and (b) at the top of the bounce, or instead of a full arm swing, a short arm swing up and forward from the elbow may be used.

BACKHAND

A most useful attacking shot over the table.

1.—Right side towards table, with right shoulder and elbow forward and near to the side.

2.—Arm action describes a semi-circle from elbow joint, starting level with baseline of table to 120 degrees over elbow with automatic rotation of forearm outwards. Bat, wrist, and forearm in straight line.

3.—Ball is hit at top of bounce, with side and topspin, and with forward follow through. Bat strikes ball obliquely.

4.—Weight on forward foot.

5.—When shot is perfected, wrist can be flicked (Barna flick).

TIPS

The body must be positioned behind line of flight of ball.

The ball is struck when forearm and bat are vertically above elbow, during semi-circular swing.

The ball must not be played before it has come level with the elbow.

Outward rotation of the arm during the shot causes oblique hit and swerve.

This is a very useful shot in doubles as you do not need much room in which to play it.

The service can be hit off the half-volley if played earlier and more over the ball.

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These Are Your Letters

HEADQUARTERS

Sir,—May I suggest that in future Bill Pierce reads a letter thoroughly before replying.

In my letter I clearly stated I was presenting the result of a survey of opinion and ended by giving my personal view.

If Bill wishes to bandy about my hitherto good name to discredit the efforts of myself and many similar average players who enjoy their weekly match and odd practice, well it's a free country, but I would like to know how I am supposed to react to the appellation "British Sportsman." Maybe I should turn Red, or hide my head in shame, but strangely enough I'm proud of it and thankful to be numbered among them. But what are you, William—a super-sportsman?

A final word, I do not consider the headquarters and magazine schemes analogous. All get full value for money from the magazine. Incidentally four years ago I suggested the issue of a magazine and twelve-team divisions, but Mr. Stamp turned down both suggestions as impracticable.—E. CAMERON (Victoria Park).

THREE POINTS?

Sir,—As an average player I would like to make a few points in reply to Bill Pierce.

1.—Our club is open three nights a week and this is one more than most members can be present due to home ties. Consequently on how many nights could we visit the proposed headquarters?

2.—I happen to be the only member of our club who works in the city—one out of fifteen—and the only one who could use the headquarters in lunch hour. This would mean going without my lunch, which I am not prepared to do.

3.—If I did happen to go to the headquarters I wonder if I could just walk up to Bill Pierce (I'm not a very good player), and ask him for a game. I think not, without waiting a long time while he was playing with better players himself.

In view of these points, how much advantage could the normal player

take of a headquarters. We are not opposed to the scheme, but we are opposed to a compulsory subscription for something which would be of negligible value to the players as an individual.—D. CAMERON (Victoria Park).

NOT NEGATIVE STROKE

Sir,—In January's issue of "Table Tennis Digest," Peter Rumpahn dismissed the push as "a negative stroke, used to keep a rally going whilst waiting for an opening." Far be it from me to contradict such an infinitely superior player, but I would like to voice my own opinion through your excellent magazine.

Possibly, in Peter's aggressive style of play, the push is merely a temporary expedient, to be used when all else fails, but does this apply to the players for whom his tips are intended? To the novice, and the ordinary player, like myself, desirous of improving his limited game, and most especially to the up-and-coming youngsters, the push is one of the most important strokes in the game; in fact, I shall go so far as to say it is the most important of all. Far from being used as a negative stroke, while waiting for an opening, it should be used as a very positive stroke to make the necessary opening.

The League coaching scheme, under the guidance of Bob Roberts, has produced some excellent material, and largely as a result of the scheme, there exists on Merseyside limitless potential talent among the youngsters. Unfortunately, however, far too many of them prefer to play the "hit-hard-and-hope-for-the-best-game," and in my opinion, the sooner they learn to push as well as smash, the sooner will Liverpool regain its former glory in national and international table tennis.—J. GODSELL (Birkenhead Y.M.C.A.).

ONE PRICE ONLY

"So you saw me kiss your sister last night? Well, say nothing about it. Here's half-a-crown."

Bobby took the money, then gave him sixpence back, saying: "Here's your change. 'one price to all' is my motto!"