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Table Tennis Digest

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Number 1



Official Magazine

OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

TABLE TENNIS DIGEST

All correspondence must be addressed to the Editor, "Table Tennis Digest".

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— Editorial Board —

Editor JACK LAMBERT
4 Rhosesmor Road, Liverpool, L32 7QU

Distribution: K. A. ARMSON
A. E. UPTON J. C. McKIM S. D. CAMERON

Vol. 29

DECEMBER, 1975

No. 1

Editorial

It's all right for you young fellows, but these seasons seem to come round so quickly of late. Never mind, let's start off with a good moan.

For the first time since its commencement in 1929 we have no Merseyside Open Championships; most of you will no doubt say "So what"? I say, so one of the country's top tournaments has gone by the wayside; Liverpool's table tennis has lost a little more prestige, and it has lost enough already; we have lost the chance of seeing the country's best players locally—and they thought it was a very good tournament (up to 7-30 anyway!). Our best players locally have lost the chance of winning through to Saturday and our young players could have a go—I feel pretty sad about it. Of course, you can all go to Manchester, Bolton, Cleveland or down South, but this was a Merseyside tournament embedded in one of the original hotbeds of the game and for this year it has gone.

A couple of points can be raised here—How far did we go to find sponsors? Why didn't the rank and file know before a decision was made?—Could we have found enough "mini" sponsors amongst players, ex-players and small concerns?

No tournament in our 50th anniversary year! Most organisations celebrate anniversaries with de luxe "do's"—we celebrate it by having no tournament—but we do have a celebration dinner-dance coming up, so let's have a super "do" there, but isn't a quarter to twelve a bit early, John?

A cordial welcome to the Kirkby Sports Centre and Bohemians' teams, and Messrs. S. Jones and Ian Love, who are their guiding stars; may their stay be a long and happy one. Nice to see Bohs' name in the book again, but try not to fall out with your tennis committee this time!

Potential stars in the post-war period have been few and far between—Gunnion, Birch, Pierce, Barton readily come to mind—stars in our hemisphere have been non-existent. There has often been many a slip between potential and achievement. However, Tony O'Connor, of Colonsay, has achieved something which I believe has not been accomplished here before—a spot in the National Rankings. Tony is ranked No. 4 in the National Cadet (under-14) rankings, a great achievement on which he is to be congratulated. Let us sincerely hope you carry on to further successes.

50th Anniversary

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of Liverpool District Table Tennis League, a Dinner has been arranged for SATURDAY, 20th MARCH, 1976, at the Huyton Suite, Poplar Bank, off Archway Road, Huyton, at 7-30 p.m., with Dinner at 8 p.m. prompt; dancing will follow the Dinner until 11-45 p.m.

Tickets cost £4.00 each and may be obtained from me at 52 Paignton Road, Liverpool, L16 4PW, upon receipt of necessary payment. Cheques should be made payable to Liverpool District T.T. League and a stamped, addressed envelope would be appreciated.

Numbers are limited—first come, first served—and as we have to inform the Caterers in good time of the final number attending, I must impose and strictly enforce 1st March, 1976, as the last date for sale of tickets.

JOHN MCKIM,
League Secretary.

Handbook Alterations

Division

- 4A — Barker & Dobson —Match Night, Monday.
- 5A — Colonsay "E"—Delete.
- 4A — Liverpool Jewish "C"—Match Night, Tuesday.
- 4B — Liverpool Jewish "D"—Match Night, Monday.
- 4B — Merseyside Police "D", Kirkby.
- 1 — Sefton—Delete.
- 1 — Wavertree Labour "A"—Match Night, Wednesday.
- 3A — Wavertree Labour "B"—Match Night, Monday.
- 5B — Wavertree Labour "D" and "E"—Match Night, Tuesday.
- 4A — A.P.H. Linnets—Delete.
- 4A — Bedford House—Match Night, Wednesday.
- 4A — Stanley House—Delete.
- 4B — Stanley House "A"—Delete.
- 4A — Orrell "E" take over A.P.H. Linnets—Match Night, Tuesday.
- 4A — Fire Brigade—Match Night, Monday.
- 5A — Bath Street "G" take over Colonsay "E".
- 4B — English Electric "G"—Match Night, Friday.
- 3B — Old Swan "A"—Match Night, Monday.
- 2 — Old Swan—Match Night, Monday.

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LOCALS ABROAD

The season opened for the 1974-5 Ladies' Division One Champions with an easy 10-0 win at Crewe, the team being, as usual; new Lancashire No. 1, Brenda Williams; Liverpool Ladies' Champion, Barbara Kirkman, and Lancashire No. 1 Junior, Julie Black, who has taken the number three spot from Susanne Manning. The same trio followed up with a good 9-1 home win over Blackpool, and this team will travel to Oldham on November 26 to play a team that has won only six sets against us in the last five meetings.

The Men's team, who finished last season as runners-up to the strong Chester team of "Johns" brothers, have started this season in fine style. Current Scottish International, John McNee, Lancashire No. 4, John Marshall, and "English" Chinese singles champion, Paul Tsang, form possibly the youngest-ever first team to represent Liverpool, with an average age of 21. On October 3, they travelled to Farnworth and gained a good 8-2 win, McNee 3, Marshall 3, and Tsang 2.

At English Electric, on October 17th, the same three players met old rivals Manchester, and gained a superb 7-3 victory, which made it three League wins in succession against the Mancunians.

In fact one has to go back to 1970 to find the last Manchester victory over Liverpool in a League match.

All three players beat Brian Clements, John Marshall beat the difficult Kevin Forshaw, but John McNee went one better with a fine win over Lancashire No. 2, Phil Bowen, to score a fine treble. McNee and Marshall also combined to take the vital doubles set against Bowen and Forshaw.

With Paul Tsang clinching the No. 3 position, it sees the end of a long association, with the departure of former City No. 1 and ex-Closed Champion, Peter D'Arcy. In more than ten years of representative play, he has given excellent service to the City, and in that time has missed very few matches, sometimes driving 200 miles or more from business commitments to play. However, I see that he played for Manchester against Bolton, but wisely, was not available to play against us!

After a lapse of one season the Men's "A" team has been re-entered into the league, but, however, they must start in Division 4 North. With the re-introduction of the "A" team, the Management Committee have decided to drop the Youth team, and therefore the team selectors have chosen a very young "A" team. Liverpool Junior Champion and City No. 4, Keith Williams, leads the team along with Lancashire No. 3 junior, Clive Strettle, and Tony O'Connor, ranked County No. 4. Their first match produced a good 8-2 home win against Mid-Lancs., with maximum wins for Strettle and O'Connor.

The junior boys' team, having lost Keith Williams and Neil Roberts, who is not playing in Liverpool this season, have gained Clive Strettle, who plays most of his table tennis in Liverpool, travelling from his home in Ashton-in-Makerfield, and rarely misses a match for his club, English Electric. Colonsay's Tony O'Connor, ranked No. 4 Cadet in England (Under-14), and Graeme Black, English Electric, make up the trio. This is the most promising junior side for many years, with O'Connor and Black having three more seasons as juniors. Their first match produced a good 9-1 home win against Bolton, Strettle and O'Connor both beating County junior No. 2, Stephen Cowley. The following day I travelled with the same three players to Millom, in Cumbria, for a re-arranged match with current champions Barrow. England No. 2 junior, Chris Reed, proved the main stumbling block with a good treble and (at the half-way stage) teamed up with Neil Smith to take the vital doubles set 15-21, 24-22, 21-15, which made the score 4-2 to the home side, instead of 3-3. As Clive Strettle won the next set 13 and 12, it could quite easily have been 4-3 in our favour. However, the final score of 6 sets to 4 gave a victory and two vital points to the home side. After playing two matches in the first fortnight, the boys must now wait 13 weeks for their third match!

I would like to thank Les Walsh, of Orrell, for taking the Ladies' Team to Crewe for their midweek fixture. I am grateful and so are the girls for

this, as it is difficult to find non-playing captains for the City teams; in fact this team, the current Lancashire and Cheshire Champions, does not have a permanent captain!

City Rankings for Lancashire and Cheshire League matches:—**Men's:** 1—John McNee (Rafters), 2—John Marshall (Rafters), 3—Paul Tsang (Y.M.C.A.), 4—Keith Williams (Rafters). **Ladies'** 1—Brenda Williams (Colonsay), 2—Barbara Kirkman (Colonsay), 3—Julie Black (English Electric), 4—Julie Turner (Colonsay). **Junior Boys:** 1—Clive Strettle (English Electric), 2—Tony O'Connor (Colonsay), 3—Graeme Black (English Electric), 4—Mark Monaghan (Kirkby Sports), 5—David Money (English Electric).

John McNee will travel with the Scotland squad to play in the Yugoslavia Open in Ljubljana, November 21-23.

In the Stiga Schools' International Championships, Keith Williams (Roby Comp) finished 9th in the senior placings and Graeme Black (Page Moss Comp) finished 8th in the Juniors in the individual events. They both represented England against Scotland in the team events, winning all their games.

Lancashire rankings include John Marshall (Rafters) No. 4. In the ladies', Brenda Williams and Barbara Kirkman (Colonsay) and 1 and 2, Julie Black (Eng. Elec.) 4, Julie Turner (Colonsay) 5. Boys'—Clive Strettle (Eng. Elec.) 3, Tony O'Connor (Colonsay) 4. Girls'—Julie Black and Julie Turner 1 and 2, and Marie Gaul (Vagabonds) 5. Clive and the two Julies are in the current Lancashire Junior teams. Brenda Williams is in the Lancashire Senior team.

With the backing of its Council, Knowsley has again put Liverpool to shame with an excellently-conducted Sports Festival. Our game was given its due share of the Festival with Phil Thomson (Eng. Elec.) beating Paul Challinor (Colonsay) in the Kirkby Centre Final, with exhibitions from Clive Strettle and Alec Sill.

At the bigger and more competitive tournament at the Huyton Centre—Brian Davey (Rafters) beat Joe Doherty (Liverpool Y.M.) in the final, with exhibitions from John Marshall and Keith Williams.

DON DAVTES/J.A.L.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

175 Greenhill Road,
Liverpool 18.

Dear Sir,

I regret having to raise that old chestnut "foul services", but over the space of a few matches seldom can I recall having encountered such a variety of means of serving incorrectly. Balls delivered from "cupped hands", "beneath the level of the table", "dropped on to the bat", "thrown on to the bat", "not thrown at all", "sight of delivery shielded from an opponent" or "shielded from the umpire", "thrown sideways", "thrown backwards".

It disturbs me that the majority of offenders are young and very young players, but what disturbs me more is the fact that many of these young players are subjects of coaching schemes and, what is more, appear to be oblivious of the fact that they are infringing the rules of the game and are winning many of their games by "cheating".

In the modern game, much emphasis is placed on the serve and by the use of the modern bat a great advantage can be gained from the service, but in far too many cases the advantage is by "foul means".

I think the solution lies in the hands of elder club members and coaches who should spread the service gospel, and, perhaps if a copy of the rule was posted on every club noticeboard, it might improve matters.

J. CONROY
(Merseyside Police Athletic Club).

A welcome letter, Jim. This column is always open to anyone to air their views.—Editor.

"RULE 6 — A GOOD SERVICE

"The ball shall be placed on the palm of the free hand, which must be stationary, open and flat, with the fingers together and the thumb free. The free hand, while in contact with the ball in service, shall at all times be above the level of the playing surface.

"Service shall then begin by the server projecting the ball by hand only, without imparting spin, near vertically upwards so that the ball be visible at all times to the umpire and so that it visibly leave the palm.

"As the ball is then descending from the height of its trajectory, it shall be struck so that it touch first the server's court and then, passing directly over or around the net, touch the receiver's court".

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A.G.M.

John McKim, our Organising Secretary, amongst sundry items, made a few suggestions regarding the chaos in which the fifth divisions generally finish the season in, and, as usual, a long discussion took place on the almost unsurmountable problem of teams dropping out. A sub-committee was formed of John Hankin (Trinity), Anna Cohen (Liverpool Jewish), Stan Clarke (Maghull) plus John and Eddie Cameron. Eddie suggested it be called the Can Carrying Committee. It was then Eddie's turn to let off steam and give everyone his usual jolly telling off, this time with a unique enigmatic letter affair which hinted at a "shower". Jolly it may have been—but the message was loud and clear—I play ball with you, why the hell can't you play ball with me and let me have cards on time and notification of cancelled games.

Don Cameron then presented a reasonably nice looking balance sheet with income and expenditure changing very little. Main items include:—Digest £252, Administration £192, City teams' matches £103, English and Lancashire Association fees £120 (tough one this), Handbooks £120 (I am amazed that all these items have kept so low), Income—Registration fees £538, Affiliation and Cup £125, Merseyside and Closed profit £77.

Don suggested that if we had all sold one book of tickets our increase in subs would have been negligible. Our overall excess of expenditure over income was £95.

President and Vice-Presidents were re-elected with Jack Lambert an addition to the latter—no doubt with the accent on vice! Frank Murphy (Beauclair) took up the vacancy on the Management Committee.

All rule amendments were financial and the increases in fees proposed by the Management were passed, despite proposals from Jewish and Vagabonds that each player reaching 21 points put £5 in the kitty (well, something like that, anyway).

Special mentions and thanks were given to Ken Black (Cup Secretary), Don Davies (Match Secretary) for the excellent performance of the City teams, thanks to his hard work, and to Ken Armson, Peter Rumjahn, Jack Lambert and their clubs for their assistance to City teams.

Chairman Arthur Upton, who did his usual smoothly efficient job, introduced Mrs. Jean Dawson (Rene Sturgeon's daughter), who kindly presented the new Division 1 Sam Sturgeon Trophy to Paul Tsang (Liverpool Y.M.C.A.), and for the first time, a trophy for Division 2 winners to Alec Gould (Bath St. "A"), The Rene Sturgeon Trophy. Jean kindly stayed with us after presenting the remainder of the trophies.

Ernie Sturgess (Bedford House) asked how tickets would be allocated for the 1977 World Championships at Birmingham. Arthur Upton replied that the matter had not been discussed in committee (and still hasn't been) but he felt that leagues giving financial aid could be given some preference. No doubt "one or two" people will require tickets for finals night, but it must be borne in mind that World Class players will be playing every day of the championships. The Editor of the "Digest" pointed out that on March 29th four sets of notes had not been received for the March issue and on May 29th, three had not been received for the May issue. In fairness to players, he felt he should wait, rather than leave a division without notes. Les Lindforth (Old Swan) suggested that a dead-line be given for notes which should be strictly adhered to. The meeting agreed to this suggestion.

Could we have more league tables requested John Hankin (Trinity). This was an unofficial extra set up by Eddie Cameron and Jack Lambert, which tried to bridge any lengthy gaps between magazines.

J.A.L.

Divisional Notes

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	D	Pts
L'pool YMCA ..	6	6	0	0	56
Rafters	7	7	0	0	54
Eng. Electric ..	7	7	0	0	53
Wav. Labour ..	7	7	0	0	47
Trinity	7	3	2	2	39
Eng. Elec. 'A' ..	8	3	4	1	37
Palmerston	7	3	3	1	36
Bath St. 'A'	8	2	4	2	34
Colonsay	7	3	4	0	28
Trinity 'A'	6	0	6	0	19
Bath St.	6	0	5	1	19
Rafters 'A'	7	0	6	1	16
Wav. Lab. 'A' ..	7	0	7	0	12

Welcome to the 1975-76 Season. I hope you haven't put on as much weight as myself during the summer, if so, you are also in for a hard winter.

Well, my prediction last year seems to be back-firing. Rafters to win the League! Y.M.C.A. are trying to make me eat my words, at the moment. Paul Tsang unfortunately has not, as yet, found a job which would have probably meant him leaving Y.M.C.A. (No offence meant, Paul). So Y.M. started the season with the same team as last year, Tsang, Lee, Turtle and Smith.

Y.M.'s season started off with a home match against newly-promoted Bath Street "A". The only player retaining his place in the side from last year was veteran Alex Gould. The rest of the team consisted of new signing Alan Reid (Waterloo Park) and Ken Jones (Wavertree Labour) and ex-first teamer Dave Butterworth. However, the closest Bath Street came to taking a game off the champions was a 23-21, 22-20 for Peter Lee over Ken Jones. For their second game Palmerston were the hosts. If you remember, Palmerston almost broke Y.M.'s record last year, but this time round it was a crushing 9-1 defeat for them. Trinity "A" become the first team to take more than a point off them. Bill Harris over Pete Lee and Jim Merrick over George Smith gave Trinity their two points from an 8-2 defeat. Y.M.'s fourth and easiest game so far was against Wavertree Labour 'A', Y.M. running out comfortable 10-0 winners. However, my choice of last season, Rafters, lost Merrick to Trinity and brought in

Davey to replace him. John McNea last year only lost 3 singles, but in his first match this year he lost to Percival and Bryce, of Palmerston; incidentally Bryce also beat him last year. John will now have to play some to surpass last season's feat. Despite John's defeats Rafters went on to win 6-4. This was also the scoreline against Trinity "A". Veteran defender, Bill Harris, beat Davey and Williams, with Griffiths in a doubles, they beat Davey and Williams. A 9-1 win over Wavertree Labour "A" completed their start to the season. Hurworth, with a win over Davey, salvaged a point for Wavertree Labour. By the way, I hope the Fixture Secretary has worked out the fixtures to your liking this year, John! Well, what of the teams below? English Electric, having lost D'Arcy, have brought in Alec Sill, and to date Alec has a 50% average (in the league) which includes a fine win over Bill Crafter. Wavertree Labour seem to have lost Neil Roberts for their opening games, but have in his place a Mr. Worthington. He has so far played at 1, 2 and 3 and has won 5 out of his 8 matches.

My own club, Trinity, have not started as well as previous season, but are still in the top six. Having like a lot of clubs, lost many first division players, including R. Bagot, John Fennah, Mike Truman and Alf Southall. Into the first team has moved Alan (Desperate Dan) Chase, plus new signing Paul Leonard, from Southport. The player, or should I say shot, to watch is Ricky Brown's devastatingly accurate forehand kill, yes! I did say forehand. So far we are unbeaten in the league with draws against English Electric "A", Rafters and wins over Bath Street and Bath Street "A". English Electric "A" have much the same team as last year, with their shrewd captain, Fred Pheysey, still in command. Palmerston have the ability to finish in the top five if they could only turn out a consistent team.

Trinity "A" did very well last year and actually finished above their promotion rivals, Rafters "A". This year, having lost Alan Chase to the first team, they have

new signings from over the water, Jim Merrick and Chris Dunning.

Rafters "A" seemed to have solved their early injury scare by signing on half of the Sefton team. These being Don (newly-married) Davies and Bill (newly-promoted) Crafter. Kelly and Short appear to be alternating for the fourth place in the team with Dave Ferguson their third player. They have yet to win but did manage a creditable draw with Trinity.

From the teams left only one will take the drop, this being due to Sefton withdrawing from the league. My choice is Wavertree Labour "A". Bath Street seem to have sorted out last year's any 4 from 15 with a side that reads—Coogan, Val Franco, Clayton and Moran. Their second team of Butterworth, Reid and Jones and now Alan Walton, Alec Gould dropping back into the second division, are far too good to go down. They may even finish above their "First Team".

What happened to Colonsay "A". Colonsay with Norman Chaloner and Brenda Williams, have newcomer Tony O'Connor with them. Tony has only lost two so far this season and is collecting new wins, for him, in each game.

The league table will be in a more settled position by the time this article goes to press.

I must apologise for the lack of information, but having only 22 cards to work on I had to make the best of it.

ERIC HARDMAN.

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	D	Pts
L'pool Y.M. 'A' ..	7	6	1	0	53
L'pool Jewish ..	7	5	2	0	44
Old Swan	6	5	1	0	42
Trinity 'B'	7	4	1	2	41
Palmerston 'A' ..	6	5	1	0	38
Eng. Elec. 'B' ..	6	3	1	2	37
Rafters 'B'	7	3	3	1	35
Linacre	7	2	2	3	34
Beauclair	6	3	3	0	31
Police	7	1	4	2	27
Colonsay 'B'	6	1	3	2	24
Bath St. 'B'	6	1	5	0	20
Colonsay 'A'	7	1	6	0	20
Waterloo Park ..	7	0	7	0	14

Competition this season looks to be more intense with the all-round

standard of the division higher than it has ever been. Only Waterloo Park appear obviously out of it, particularly without Alan Reid.

The Division welcomes two seasoned campaigners in Ted Mandaluff and Frank Lacey. Ted threatened to bemuse everyone coming before him with his highly unorthodox style, but after winning his first six singles, he came a cropper against Colonsay "B", losing to Barbara Kirkman and Harry Nelson. At first sight this Y.M.C.A. team looked a good bet to win this division but they have already lost to Trinity "B" at home, and had to struggle to beat Colonsay "B" 6-4.

Promoted Linacre, with Frank Lacey, seems to be holding its own with three draws in their first four matches. Last season Electric Supply, with an average of four-and-a-half sets per match, were relegated when they would have finished half-way up any other division and this season it looks even tighter. The moral for teams with average performances is to fight for every point.

The Colonsay teams look in trouble at these early stages. Colonsay continues to be a club with what seems to be a manipulative ranking system. In spreading their strength between both "A" and "B" teams, they may be taking a risk in both teams being relegated. Dave Williams, when he plays, and Alan Guy, are the only players picking up many sets for the "A" team, whilst Barbara Kirkman and Harry Nelson are picking up most of the sets in the "B" team. Both teams, however, are without a win in the first four matches.

The Police, too, who escaped relegation by only 4 points last season, will have to fight hard to stay in the division. In spite of juggling their order against Beauclair, they crashed 9-1 with their most consistent performer, Barry McLeod, playing at No. 3, winning the only point.

Of the other teams struggling in early matches, Bath Street "B" have perhaps suffered from too large a pool of players, with any four of seven players being juggled around in early matches. Alan Walton is playing again in this division after helping to promote

Bath Street's "A" team to the first division two seasons ago.

Rafters "B", with Reg Hetherington and Peter Rumjahn still going strong, have had varied results and look as if they will finish in a similar position as last season.

The only unbeaten team, showing more consistency and all-round strength than any is Trinity "B". Dave Wilson, playing at No. 4, illustrates this and appears a much-improved and determined player. He helped the team with wins over Jim Clewett and Noel Fagan as well as a doubles win with Newton, to beat the Y.M.C.A. 6-4.

English Electric "B" are a consistent team and must be in the running for promotion, too. George Bradley, with anti-loop bat, is hard to beat when his backhand hit is going well. He lost a 45-minute match which was played to expedite against Ted Birch and this proved crucial, as they lost their first match of the season against Beauclair.

Liverpool Jewish have signed Les French from Colonsay and D. Sayle from Sefton. However, it seems uncertain if Les French is playing in the 2nd or 3rd Division and perhaps on this rests their chances. With Les playing they look a stronger team. He beat Frank Murphy, of Beauclair, easily to inspire a fine 8-2 win. John Hodges, too, is playing a very tight game and had a good win 24-22, 22-20 against Dave Crispin, of Old Swan.

This, however, was not good enough to prevent Old Swan from winning 8-2. Old Swan have been having good results, beating Beauclair 7-3 in a match where Crispin beat both Murphy and Birch 21-19 in the 3rd game. They lost narrowly 6-4 to Palmerston in a match where three members of the Lindforth family were playing together.

Of the promoted teams perhaps Palmerston "A", with greater all-round strength, look to have the best prospects of promotion. They have been unbeaten for over three years until losing 3-7 to Beauclair. In a long, hard match Arthur Hayes lost to Frank Murphy, his first defeat of the season.

Last, but not least, Beauclair are now playing with more consistency. After their usual poor start to the season, losing the first

two matches, they have won the following four. With Mick Allen hitting some wicked loops more consistently, the team now has a more balanced look, and if Mick can keep up his present form Beauclair must be in with a chance of promotion.

Now that most teams have played six matches certain groupings of strength seem to be crystallising. Waterloo Park and Colonsay "A" look to be firm candidates for relegation. The additional two relegation places will probably come from Bath Street "B", Police, Colonsay "B" and Linacre. Bath Street's lowly position is probably distorted at this stage by their having played five out of the top seven teams.

Rafters "B" have achieved good results against the lower teams but not showing well against the better teams so that they look to be running for a middle position.

At the top an engrossing battle between seven teams (Liverpool Y.M.C.A. "A", Palmerston "A", Trinity "B", Old Swan, Liverpool Jewish, Beauclair and English Electric "B") is emerging. Results between these seven teams will be fiercely contested and no team will have a clear superiority. Trinity "B" are unbeaten but have drawn against English Electric and Colonsay "B". Old Swan have beaten Jewish and Beauclair but lost to Palmerston. Liverpool Jewish have beaten Beauclair but lost to Palmerston and Old Swan. Palmerston have beaten Old Swan and Liverpool Jewish but lost to Beauclair. English Electric "B" have drawn with Trinity but lost to Beauclair. Beauclair have perhaps had the toughest matches of this group so far, losing to Old Swan and Jewish—but beating English Electric "B" and Palmerston "A".

For most teams involved in either promotion or relegation issues every point will be vital. It seems that promoted teams this season will have fewer points than ever before. Conversely, relegated teams, certainly in the third and fourth from bottom positions, will have more points than ever—so if you are averaging below five points per match—beware!

I leave you with a promise that the second division will enjoy its most exciting season ever.

K. HARRISON.

DIVISION 3A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Palmerston 'B' ...	6	5	0	1	50
Maghull	6	5	0	1	44
Elec. Supply	6	6	0	0	42
Beauclair 'A'	7	4	2	1	42
Eng. Elec. 'D' ..	8	4	4	0	40
Police 'A'	7	4	2	1	39
L'pool Y.M. 'C' ..	7	2	3	2	32
Wav. Lab. 'C' ..	7	3	3	1	32
Bath St. 'C'	5	4	1	0	29
Cadwa 'A'	7	2	5	0	29
Trinity 'D'	7	2	4	1	27
Vagabonds 'A' ..	6	0	6	0	20
Crawfords	7	1	6	0	18
Bath St. 'D'	6	0	6	0	16

What's happened to this division? As I remember, the third used to be a happy blend of good players, average players and a number of hit-or-bust merchants, but this season everyone seems to be in the good player group, and for newly-promoted players, winning points is like trying to get a rebate off the tax man.

With barely a quarter of the season played, the top of the table already has a clear pattern with Palmerston "B", as usual, out in front, and Maghull, Elec. Supply and Police "A" jockeying for runner-up.

The position of Palmerston and Elec. Supply were predictable before the season started; the surprise packet is the Maghull line-up with Gordon Brownlee and Ian Blore turning them from a near relegation side last season, to a team with a second division look about them. Maghull's 3 and 4, McCann and Keating, are no slouches either, and anyone looking for promotion will have to beat this team. The regular line-up for Palmerston of P. Morgan, K. Davies, P. Luxon and A. Maguire, looks like handing out a lot of ten-nils, and with players like Bob Hudson to call on as a reserve there's little chance of them slipping up as the season progresses.

The Electric Supply team, with E. Evans, L. Evans, P. Carney and R. Smith, unlucky to be relegated last season, is a line-up which, on paper, should go straight back up again, but some of their results, although good, suggest a slight loss of concentration which might prove costly later on.

The Police "A" and Beauclair "A" are also fielding strong sides

this year, and are not far behind the top three.

R. McMaster, A. Wood, A. Garnett and G. Wright, for the Police, would in any other season have been good enough to win this division, but not this time—and a draw against the Y.M. has not helped.

Spearheaded by Bill Leeming, the Holmes Bros., and Harold Willcock, the former Cadwa coach, Beauclair have so far called up 6 players, all very strong on experience and guaranteed to break the heart of any up and coming young looper who faces them. Both Wavertree Labour and Bath Street "C" did well to notch 6-4 wins against them.

Liverpool Y.M. "C" have a great young player in Ken Roscoe, who so far has only lost one game to Ernie Owens, so why put him down the order so much? He is the fastest man in this division and should be able to cross bats with anyone.

If the Bath Street "C" squad looks different yet somehow familiar, then you are right both times. Al Spencer, Ken Foulkes and Dave and Brian Cunningham played in this division a couple of seasons back as Bath Street "D". Their performance up to now shows they are here to stay for a while.

Wavertree Labour "C" and Trinity "D" appear to be running neck and neck for the centre of the table, and when they meet it should make an interesting scrap. I expect the greater experience of Brian Jessop and Bill and Mabel Neary will vote for Labour in the end.

The fight to dodge the drop looks like being amongst the remaining five teams and at this stage it's impossible to say who is going to be unlucky.

As for my team, Bath Street "D", being near the bottom is a new experience for us. I wonder if we are there because we have met all the top teams, or are they on top because they have played us? After a club shuffle young John Pritchard has made a welcome return and is nicely holding his own with a 50% average which includes notable wins against Ernie Owens, Gordon Brownlee

and R. McMaster. The new Police clubhouse, at Fairfield, is a vast improvement on the old Wesy Road, Bridewell, but before you go there do a spot of training. It takes a fit man to retrieve the ball from under those tables after he's missed one of George Wright's back-handed forehands.

Over at Vagabonds, Alan Rycroft is like a good wine—improving with age, with a carefully worked out strategy that includes a pint of veterans' revive hidden under the table, he is a hard man to beat. If he outpushes me again, I'll resort to the ultimate weapon—as we change ends I'll knock his beer over!

TED JANE.

DIVISION 3B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Eng. Electric ..	8	6	1	1	53
Cadwa	7	4	1	2	48
L'pool Y.M. 'B'..	7	4	1	2	41
Vagabonds	7	6	1	0	41
Old Swan 'A'....	7	3	3	1	40
L'pool Jewish 'A'	7	4	2	1	40
Police 'B'	8	1	6	1	35
Rafters 'C'	6	3	2	1	32
Eng. Elec. 'E' ..	7	2	4	1	31
Bath St. 'E'	6	2	2	2	30
Trinity 'C'	6	2	2	2	29
Woolton	7	0	4	3	24
Wav. Lab. 'B'....	6	1	5	0	19
Colonsay 'C'	7	0	6	1	17

Woolton are finding things tough in this division, with only Bill Hargreaves winning consistently. Bath Street "E" have made a sound start and have Brian Aldred at No. 1 after a season in the second division. On paper, Wavertree Labour "B" are a good side. Fraser Farquaharson is a strong No. 1, Robert Hamilton can be brilliant but erratic, and Ron McEvoy and Tony Moon are never easy to beat. However, they have made a bad start. If things don't improve they can always bring in Ken Armson (masochists). The Y.M.C.A. "B" team are already challenging at the top with Shahid Al Alam, John Donnelly and Alan Pickering all making a good start.

It's a change for me to be playing in the third division again—it's about ten years since I did. I'm ashamed to say it was in 3A that year Colonsay "A" won the league and Hyde Cup and so I'm hoping for a repeat performance with

Liverpool Jewish "A" this year. You can rest assured that I've been fully re-orchestrated for 3B and I'm sure we'll take apart that 3A rubbish in the Hyde Cup, even though they have one or two powerful teams.

The promotion issue is wide open with no really outstanding teams so it promises to be a very interesting season. I expect 4 or 5 teams to be just a few sets apart by the end of the season.

Cadwa must be well placed with the return of Mike Power and Trevor Hughes to back up Dave Murray. I had the pleasure of playing doubles in the closed with Dave a couple of years back.

My own team, Liverpool Jewish "A", have made a good start. They have Warren Davies and Gerry Goldring from last year (what a friendly, sociable pair these two are;) with myself and Paula Breithaupt completing the team. Warren and Gerry are both useful players and I'm hoping not to lose many during the season. This should offset Paula's lack of experience. To date she has been playing only for 18 months but is an excellent prospect for the future. Naturally she'll find the third division tough going for a while but such is her promise and rapid improvement that I'm expecting her to surprise a lot of players later on in the season, as Derek Rimmer, the Police "B" No. 2, will vouch for when Paula gave him and others a taste of things to come by running 17-21, 21-9, 21-17. English Electric "C" have an experienced side, led by Lancashire No. 1 Junior, Julie Black. With Sue Manning's "retirement" Julie now has a permanent place in the city's women's first team—well done, Julie. She is backed up by Wally Sill, Brian Cullen and Ro Craddock, all good competitors.

Rafters "C" have a good side with Bill Kelly and Fred Price at 1 and 2. Janet Davies (nee Rum-jahn), (congratulations Janet and Don) and Alan Nisted completed the team, which must be in with a chance. Vagabonds can't be discounted with the stylish Ted Barnes at No. 1. Tommy Johnstone and Doug Ridgeway give very little away without a fight but they seem to have a weakness at No. 4, which could be a handi-

cap. Trinity "C" are a good side, too, and are capable of giving every team in the division a tough match. Their team are all useful players but lack a really strong No. 1 to make a serious challenge for promotion.

I don't think Bath Street "E" or Old Swan "A" have enough strength in depth to challenge the top teams. To summarise, I expect Cadwa, Jewish "A", Electric "C" and Y.M.C.A. "B" to fight it out at the end with Vagabonds and Rafter's "B" close behind.

The relegation issue is much simpler. Colonsay "C" are struggling to find a settled team and have too many inexperienced reserves, so they must be favourites for the wooden spoon. I think Woolton will join them. I can't see Wavertree Labour "B" staying low down for long and the young Eng. Elec. "E" team is going to improve considerably as the season goes on. Police "B" have an experienced team and although they lack a really strong player for the No. 1 spot (apologies, Eric, but I think you should play higher up!) they are difficult to get a high score against.

Ian Wensley, of Colonsay "C" marked his return to the league after missing about 6 seasons, with a good double over Kelly and Davies, of Rafter's "C". These were his team's only successes, however, Colonsay "C" and Woolton drew 5-5 in the relegation clash, with Brian Leeson and Billy Hargreaves both double winners for their teams. Woolton also drew with Police "B" with Billy again, and Eric Ferguson taking the honours. Billy came unstuck against Jewish "A", losing both singles to myself and tricky Dicky (Warren) Davies in straight sets. Paula Breithaupt won her first set in this match, beating Phil Stenson 18, 10. Jewish "A" ended up 9-1 winners. Trinity "C" had a good 6-4 win over Y.M.C.A. "B" with no player winning two singles; Trinity took both doubles for the match. The previous week Trinity lost 6-4 to Vagabonds with doubles for Ted Barnes and Tommy Johnstone being decisive. T. Kelly put up a great fight against Barnes before going down 27-25 in the third. Cadwa had a big 9-1 win over Old Swan "A" with Dobbs the lone winner for Old Swan. Les Griffin

and Trevor Hughes had an epic battle in their first game which Trevor eventually took 31-29 and went to win in the third.

Old Swan "A" had a great match with Bath Street "E" with 7 sets going to three. The 5-5 draw was a fair result. Ken Linforth and J. Pritchard both won their singles. Perhaps the closest match to date was the draw between Y.M.C.A. "B" and Cadwa. Five of the sets went to three and 4 of the others contained a deuce game, Alam and Donnelly were doubles winners for Y.M.C.A. and Fletcher for Cadwa. Trinity "C" and Electric "C" also drew with Kelly and Sill the stars. Jewish "A" and Rafter's "B" also drew. Bill Kelly gave me a hard fight before losing 26-28, 21-19, 21-18. In the battle of the Davies's, Warren beat Janet 22-20 in the third. Cadwa and Vagabonds had an amazing match. Six of the games went to three and the scores in the other games were 17 and deuce, 19 and 17, 17 and 17, 8 and deuce. The final score was 9-1 to Cadwa so Vagabonds must consider themselves very unlucky. An excellent win here for Mike Powers over Ted Barnes. The matches covered so far just illustrate what I mean about the promotion battle. The youngsters from Eng. Elec. "E" (apologies Graham) had a good 7-3 win over Police "B" with honours going to Dave Money (Jnr.) and Phil Thompson, including a good win for Phil over Eric Ferguson.

Y.M.C.A. "B" beat Wavertree Labour "B" 7-3 with Donnelly and Farquarharson the stars. Donnelly beat Moon 21-23, 21-15, 22-20. Tony made amends by beating Reed-Clayton 24-22 in the third.

Some other close games: B. Leeson (Col. "C") beat P. Stenson (Woolton) 14-21, 21-14, 23-21. P. Dobbs (Old Swan "A") beat D. C. Williams (Woolton) 18-21, 21-13, 21-19. Tom Purcell (Police "B") beat D. C. Williams 21-16, 19-21, 23-21. B. Aldred (Bath Street "E") beat D. Murray (Cadwa) 13-21, 21-19, 21-19.

I would like to close by passing on my thanks and those of my team to Les Linforth. Our team turned up, on the wrong night and Les kindly agreed to give us another date for the Old Swan game.

LES FRENCH.

DIVISION 4A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Fire Service	7	6	0	1	55
L'pool Jewish 'B'	7	6	1	0	52
Maghull 'A'	6	5	0	1	46
Polytechnic	7	4	3	0	38
Police 'C'	7	4	3	0	35
Rafters 'D'	5	3	2	0	31
Eng. Elec 'F'	7	2	4	1	30
Bedford House . . .	6	1	5	0	23
Police 'F'	6	2	4	0	21
L'pool Jewish 'C'	5	1	3	1	19
Cadwa "B"	5	1	4	0	15
Barker & Dobson	5	0	5	0	11
Orrell 'B'	3	0	3	0	4

DIVISION 4B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Palmerston 'C' . . .	7	7	0	0	53
Orrell	6	5	0	1	48
Eng. Elec. 'G' . . .	7	5	1	1	47
St. Hugh's	6	5	1	0	41
Maghull 'B'	6	2	3	1	34
Trinity 'E'	6	3	2	1	33
Rafters 'E'	6	3	3	0	32
Police 'E'	7	2	4	1	31
Cadwa 'C'	7	2	4	1	29
L'pool Jewish 'D'	6	1	5	0	23
Police "D"	5	2	3	0	21
-Fazakerley Hosp.	6	1	5	0	15
Colonsay 'D'	7	0	7	0	3

I hear "the Poly" have got a fairly formidable side this season, having signed Ken Darlington to join Alex Anderson, "Nutcracker" Boyles, and my tip as the division's No. 1, Dave Harrison. I have to say that as he is a fellow refugee from Eastham (incidentally that is why we both rush away early), but seriously, they could be a force in the cup. The Barker and Dobson lads tell me they were a little disappointed not to be relegated, and to be realistic, their main aim must be to avoid the wooden spoon again this term, but they certainly gave we at Bedford House a run for our money, just going down 6-4. Peter Greaves had a great night, defeating I. Holmes and Ernie Sturges, and winning his doubles with Les Travis. Billy and Ian Holmes, cousins, and sons of familiar fathers who are now stationed at Beauclair, both recorded their first wins for us in this match.

In the "coppers" derby match, the "C" team defeated the "F" team 7-3 at Kirby, no match details yet, though. C. Blackburn prevented a whitewash for Jewish "C" versus Fire Brigade by defeating Owens 19, 19, 19. Likewise, D. Bracewell for Police "C" versus Maghull, defeating Clarke 24-26 in the third.

Will everybody please note I haven't mentioned the editors' team this issue, so nobody can accuse me of being a creep. I promise to fit you in the Christmas (who said what year?) edition though, Jack, and that goes for you all, if you don't boot me out!

KEN BRADY.

A very good start by a strong-looking Orrell team. St. Hugh's gave them their toughest game to date, taking three sets from the match, but the individual games on both sides were won surprisingly easily, Wilson and Williams winning two for Orrell. Both teams, together with Palmerston "C", I feel, will be in the running for honours; a bit early for predictions, I must admit, but on paper these three look good to me.

I don't often mention a 10-0 but Fazakerley Hospital must feel that there is no justice when they lost by that score to Palmerston with seven games going to three. Police "E", when fielding a full team, can become title challengers as they proved with a 7-3 against Maghull "B", thanks to doubles from Ida Russell and Heague and a 4-6 against Palmerston (Inge 2). The Maghull side, with an English Electric tinge (apologies to Sue and Steve and, of course, Secretary Stan) also shook Palmerston to 4-6, thanks to two fine wins by young Farr over Marie Lupton and Inge. Incidentally, with Marie losing to Jim Conroy and beating Alan Heague, I wonder who got the extra duties?

The only draw this session was between Police (Conroy 2) and Cadwa "C", thanks mainly to a Carol Flood double, but Cowley's close win over Ida Russell 21-17, 19-21, 22-20 was a decisive factor. A 6-4 win for Trinity "E" (Prescott 2) over Rafters "E", Kellys J. and P. winning four sets, this was followed by a 6-4 defeat by English Electric "E" (Carron 2). Yet another tough one for Trinity against St. Hugh's, this time with the McCalle brothers winning all

their games and seven sets going to three.

Rogers, of Colonsay "D", beat Ireland, Fazakerley Hospital, 19-21, 21-13, 24-22 for his side's lone one. Green (Liverpool Jewish "D") won his team's two against English Electric. Spedding (Police "D") beat A. McCalle 21-18, 23-21 and Massey (Cadwa "C") beat Miller (Orrell) 21-9, 22-20; these were both lone wins for their teams. Closest set—Cathy Gore (Jewish) lost to Carron (English Electric) 21-19, 20-22, 18-21.

In accordance with the A.G.M. wishes all divisions have correspondents from their own division—except this one—think about it.

JACK LAMBERT.

DIVISION 5A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Trinity 'J'	6	6	0	0	53
Vagabonds 'B' ..	8	6	0	2	53
Kirkby	7	6	1	0	50
Orrell 'A'	7	3	3	1	40
Trinity 'T'	6	4	2	0	39
Trinity 'F'	6	2	2	2	30
Bohemians	7	2	5	0	30
Maghull 'C'	5	1	1	3	24
Trinity 'H'	6	2	3	1	24
Bath St. 'G'	4	2	1	1	22
Trinity 'G'	7	2	5	0	22
Faz. Hosp. 'A' ..	5	1	4	0	18
Crawford's 'A' ..	7	1	6	0	18
St. Katherine's ..	5	0	5	0	7

It was mentioned in the last "Digest" that the derby games between the two Trinity clubs in 5A were "real humdingers". However, with no less than five Trinity teams in the division this season, the situation is so confined that it is hardly worth mentioning these derbies until later in the season when we will be able to relate the games to the rest of the division's scores. (It has even been suggested by one or two that we at Trinity should have our own "Digest" for 5A).

However, it is a Trinity team that has made the best start to the season, John Tobin's "J" team taking 45 out of 50 points, only dropping 3 points to my own "F" team and two points to Annette Cross's "H" team (a fine double for Mike Hulme). Billy Sneade still has a 100% record (doubles included), and even at this early stage of the season it is difficult to see anyone stopping the team

from winning the division.

The biggest threat must come from the strong Vagabonds camp, whose No. 1, Marie Gaul, has strung together a number of impressive doubles, perhaps the most notable being a win against the stylish left-hander Mark Monaghan, in her team's 7-3 win over Kirkby Sports, a scoreline which belies the struggle which went on in the lower orders. The crunch game seemed to be between young Paul Farrell and Kirkby's R. Cragg, Paul only winning 21-18 in the third.

After these two teams come a string of others who are all in the reckoning for promotion, notably Orrell, Kirkby and possibly another Trinity team.

Bohemians seem to be an unknown quantity; they certainly caused Vagabonds trouble in a close match which was only won by the Vagabonds' doubles teams. Miss J. Monaghan and Marie Gaul won their doubles 21-14, 24-22, a real cliff-hanger.

My own "F" team has been involved in two exciting draws, against Maghull "C" and Orrell "A", the honours in both games going to Mike Griffiths (Mr. 50%) with a doubles against Maghull and three against Orrell.

A fine two by Mike Corcoran helped his Trinity "H" team to a 6-4 win over Orrell "A", a nail-biting contest in which five games went to 3. Both Mike's games went to three and he only won 21-19 in the third, in both of them. A. Lloyd seems to be the only person picking up points in a struggling Fazakerley Hospital side, with a good win over N. Cutler in a 7-3 loss to Trinity "G" (a good win as Norman usually plays 2 for the "T" team).

Finally, just a word about the sportsmen from St. Katherine's, sadly missing Tommy Chujor. They have been receiving some nasty defeats from the other teams and seem fated to misfortune. (They were beaten 10-0 by Trinity "T" in the league, then had to play them in the cup a week later — 10-0 again!). However, they remain undaunted and friendly at all times and are always glad to share a joke in the bar after the game. I hope their luck changes.

IAN WALKER.

DIVISION 5B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Fire Service 'A' ..	7	7	0	0	64
Vagabonds 'C' ...	7	6	1	0	52
Bath St. 'F'	6	5	0	1	51
Kirkby 'A'	7	5	2	0	47
Wav. Lab. 'D' ...	7	3	2	2	40
Nat. Giro	7	5	2	0	38
Wav. Lab. 'E' ...	6	3	1	2	37
Bohemians 'C' ...	7	4	3	0	36
L'pool Jewish 'E'	7	2	4	1	34
Bohemians 'A' ...	7	1	6	0	20
Woolton 'A'	6	2	4	0	18
Trinity 'K'	7	0	7	0	15
Cadwa 'D'	6	1	5	0	14
Bohemians 'D' ...	7	0	7	0	4

Firstly, a welcome to the many newcomers to the league in this division, some of whom are having their first taste of competitive table tennis. First impressions are always important and we should all be doing our best to make sure they stay with us (players, that is). Snags do crop up with newcomers to the league, so try and make allowances for their lack of experience. This generally shows up in their services, scoring, and a habit of strolling in and out when a set is in progress.

A special welcome to Bohemians, who have re-entered the league after a long absence. All their players are new to us and what they may lack in skill they more than make up for in enthusiasm. It is a long time since I last encountered so much enthusiasm in one club. My only complaint is that when playing there it is difficult to concentrate as people stroll in and out so frequently that at times it is busier than Queens Drive. Perhaps a prominent note in the Bar and playing area may help cure this. Although with people having to pass through to get to the toilets, they obviously have a problem on their hands. I wonder how Gordon Birch and Co. coped with this problem?

The late entry of Cadwa "B" has assured us of a full fixture list for the first time for several seasons, so barring walk-overs we should all get our full quota of matches.

If anyone is wondering what they have done to be given the doubtful honour of having me in their midst, they need look no further than Les French. After reading his comments about me in

the Division 2 notes last season, my fellow club members decided the best place for me was down here, so here I am. As a sop to my pride (haven't got any really) they made me captain.

It is too early for any positive indication of probable positions, due to the differing standards of the teams, but it looks as if we will be split into two distinct groups. The experienced teams forming the top group and the newcomers the bottom group. One definite exception to this will be Fire Service "A". Although new to the league they are all very experienced players and already look likely to finish up as champions. I can't see any team beating them this season (sticking my neck out already). The best chance you may have of beating them is to set fire to your house about 7.30 and make sure they get called to it.

Bath Street "F", Vagabonds "C", Nat. Giro, Jewish "E" and the two Wavertree Labour teams should all be in the battle for second place. It could well finish up with the main contenders being Bath Street "F" and Vagabonds "C".

The two Wavertree Labour teams should do pretty well. The "E" team are using several players who are new to competitive table tennis but we still expect to do well, and our No. 1, Jeff Pownall, appears to be the division's best player. Our "D" team is an all-ladies' team, our first for many years. Don't be discouraged if they beat you, as they are well experienced. You can always put it down to your chivalrous attitude. We allowed them to draw with us as we wanted them to feel welcome in their first season with our club. I even agreed to drop out to make it easier for them. They will probably tell it differently, but take no notice of them, for we will thrash them next time (I hope). Seriously though, they are a pretty useful team and I expect them to do well. One word of warning—watch that Amy Bell. Full of tricks that one!

Of the newcomers, I feel Kirkby "A" could well provide some surprises. They had a good win against Jewish "E" 6-4. Paul Brown won his two at No. 1, beating Julian Quirk and Eric Young, and in partnership with their other two-set winner, John Lewin, they took the doubles.

T. Jones, of Trinity "K", has a double job as captain and sets winner. He is the team's only player with previous league experience and is putting it to good use by winning regularly. Of their 10 singles won to date he has claimed eight of them and he has been involved in their two doubles wins. Not a bad record for a player in a club's "K" team ("K", the mind boggles at thoughts of reserves if they ever all played on the same night). An amusing incident occurred when we played them in the first match of the season. He came and inquired if I knew the service rule, etc., having assumed I was new to the league. How I wish he had been right, for that would have made me a mere 21 instead of a ?? never-has-been. I'm not really worried about telling my age as everyone knows I am only 25!

Cupwise we should not do well as 5A is supposed to be the stronger division, but I feel several

of our teams could have a good cup run and have a feeling that Fire Service "A" could well do us proud by being in at the finish.

With the position being a lot clearer by the next issue and having had the chance to learn more about the teams I have not mentioned, as well as those I have, I will be able to report more fully, so don't despair if your team has not yet had a mention.

One final thought. Whatever happened to Bohemians "B"?

KEN ARMSON.

The mail for November 12th included cards from Colonsay 27/10 6/10 and 23/10. Police 22/10—15/10, Waterloo Park 8/10 and Palmerston 30/10. 33 results not received in the first seven weeks. So not surprisingly your league tables are not up to date.

EDDIE CAMERON,
Fixture Secretary.

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TABLE EDGES

So the whisper was correct—Janet Rumjahn and Don (not Dan) Davies, two of our most enthusiastic members, are now Mr. and Mrs.—congratulations from your many friends throughout the league.

At De La Salle School I saw committeemen Don Davies (Rafters), Brian Leeson (Colonsay) and Alex Gould (Bath Street) put in a Sunday stint from 10-30 a.m. and they were still there at 2-30 p.m. when I left, again proving that there is more to being a Management Committee member than having your name in the handbook—this occasion was the junior trials.

More wedding bells have been ringing for Eric Hardman (Trinity) and Tony Clayton (ex-English Electric). Congratulations and best wishes, but make sure that Jean and Gillian have a signed book of pass-outs for table tennis nights; Tony met Gillian at Liverpool University. "Do you take this man to be your lawfully wedded husband?" Janet: "No. I am going through all this just to see how I look in white". Gillian: "Why, have you got something better?" Jean: "No, he's only here for the beer!"

The following brands and grades of balls have been approved for the coming season: Dunlops, who advertised in our magazine and give our league considerable assistance, provide Barna Super 3 and 2-Star, Halex 3 and 2-Star and T.S.P. Astol 3 and 2-Star. These are the only balls given the official O.K.

Look how eagerly the players and officials all advance. They're off . . . to Huyton Centre. Won't you come and join the dance?

Two papers who give our game maximum publicity and news space are the "News of the World" and the "Daily Telegraph". The "News of the World" runs junior competitions at the Butlin's Camps, but I could only see one local mention this summer—non-league player Loretta Hardman, Eric's sister.

Although Clive Strettle reached the quarter-finals of rival's competition with a free weekend at Pontin's Camp.

It was interesting to receive from Don Foulis, the original England badge won by Liverpool's first International. Also an autographed menu of our 21st anniversary, which included the autographs of Johnny Leach, Victor Barna, Nancy Evans (Wales), C. Kemp (Dublin), J. Rumjahn, M. and J. Carrington, Roy Evans, G. Harrower.

Orrell, Liverpool Jewish and Eng. Elec., in that order, tried to help the Meyer Brothers (A.P.H. Linnets) to find a club and game for the season. Ken Miller and Orrell came out top and were rewarded with two most enthusiastic players.

J.A.L.

CHARLES MOORE

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