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Digest

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COMMENT

RECENTLY we have been very struck with the variation in atmosphere at League matches, depending on the status of the match.

In the Regions one repeatedly finds oneself involved in a social evening which almost makes the match of secondary importance at times, but there is a friendly atmosphere and determination to have a good time which ensures an evening of great enjoyment.

The standard of play is frankly almost generally poor indeed, and in no way compares to regional class immediately before the war. Correct dress is conspicuous by its almost entire absence, while some of the eccentric styles might easily cause a more highly-ranked player to ponder deeply.

In more exalted circles, things are rather different. One is always very conscious that there is a contest in progress. There is a tension about the play quite unknown in the Regions, and an entire match may be completed without hardly a smile from a single player.

There is a general uniformity of style compared to the Regions, but beyond all else the match is the thing, and social niceties are a secondary consideration.

So many players now change for the match donning shorts and short sleeved shirts that I suspect many Regional players would be acutely embarrassed for that very reason if one of these players appeared at the other end of the table in a match.

All this underlines the great gulf which exists between the top and the bottom of the League's membership, but it is possible that each has something of value for the other. Speaking generally, the friendliness of the Regions could with advantage be more widespread, while the seniors' attitude to match play could certainly be more widely copied.

A great number of friendships are made from table tennis matches and social functions connected with the game, and we are certain that this is an important side of the League's functions.

Unfortunately too many members do not take any interest at all in anything apart from the one League match a week. The disappointing attendance at Picton Hall, non-existent support at representative matches, and 27 clubs without an entry for the handicap tournaments, all show that many are members for just one reason only, the one match a week regime.

The extreme paucity of senior members showing any desire to help at tournaments, etc., is really shocking, and it is clear there is a long way to go before the League is functioning ideally.

A STOCKTAKING THAT BRINGS LITTLE CHEER

By W. STAMP.

NOW that the dust has settled on the Merseyside Open, it might be as well if we did some stocktaking.

A year ago we had just over 500 spectators at the finals in the Philharmonic Hall which has a capacity of 2,000, and I suggested to the Committee that for this year we should book a smaller hall. So we went to Picton..

There were 200 complimentary tickets issued to competitors, leaving 763 seats for sale to members of the League and the general public—453 paid for admission.

We have over 1,000 registered players and as there were quite a few people present who could not by any stretch of imagination be called playing members, it will give you some idea of the support we received from *YOU* as a body.

Must Take Notice

The Committee are bound to take notice of this lack of interest and act accordingly, because we cannot dissipate our funds in trying to present table tennis in comfortable surroundings if we do not receive the support of our own members.

We are not allowed by the Corporation to remove the seating and use the arena at the Picton as the playing area like we did in pre-war days; therefore that hall is ruled out for the future. But neither can we go back to the Philharmonic or the Stadium when we are not receiving your support.

It also means that we cannot apply to the E.T.T.A. to stage international matches, whether against the home countries, Americans, Czechs, Hungarians, or whoever may be visiting this country in the future, so it looks like good-bye to 'big time' table tennis in Liverpool for the future.

We have for years been trying to encourage our younger members with coaching schemes within the limits of our resources. The local junior entry

for this Merseyside was 13—twelve boys and one girl from Warrington. I can understand that youngsters cannot afford to travel to outside tournaments to gain playing experience, and your Committee have under consideration the paying of expenses for promising juniors to enter tournaments in the North of England and the Midlands. Are we justified in doing this when they will not even enter the tournament that is on their own doorstep.

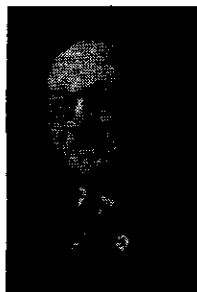
Our Endeavour

Not many years ago we could turn out a team of internationals consisting of Joyce Bartholomew, Edie Malley, Nora Norrish, Fred Bamford, Don Foulis, Ken and Eric Hyde, but there were no coaching schemes for them—they learned the hard way, by their own endeavour and constant practice. Our experience during the past three or four years, however, has been that some youngsters could not regularly attend the coaching lessons, and practice in between seemed to be repugnant to them.

The older members of the League cannot escape criticism even when we come to club play. There is not the same team spirit that used to prevail in pre-1939. Nowadays it seems to be quite the thing to arrive late, want to play two matches immediately and then get away to the pictures or some other engagement. It is not unusual for the last two in a match to be playing in the clubroom on their own.

This is not the spirit upon which the Liverpool League was built, and if this apathy and lack of interest continues, and the Management Committee begin to lose heart, then, indeed, we will be in a sorry plight.

What are the causes. Is this the result of the Welfare State? Are we losing all ideas of initiative? If, so then heaven help us.



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for All

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Jim Green poses the question . . .

WHY NOT TWO LEAGUES?

ALTHOUGH my own club, Linnets, have four men's teams playing in the League, I am convinced that the "multiple-team" club as it exists today is the worst enemy that the League has and that in the near future it will menace the very existence of the smaller clubs.

There is already a real threat that before long the two top divisions will be mainly composed of teams from four or five clubs. Balfour, Rafter, Anfield and Oakhill between them hold nine of the available 24 places and the first teams of Victoria Park and Linnets have now battled their way up. All these have reserve teams moving steadily upwards.

Taking the situation to its logical conclusion, it occurs to me that in another five years these six clubs can double their representation in the first two divisions and can then account for 20 or 22 of the 24 places.

Farcical, isn't it? Yet I would impress upon everyone that this is a serious possibility because the multiple-team club always attracts key men from smaller clubs, adding to their strength

at the expense of the weaker team.

Now is the time to prevent the situation I have outlined from arising.

My own solution would be two leagues—the first present main league to be composed of the first team only of each and every club and the second one (call it the Central League for want of a better name) to embody all reserve teams who can never be promoted to the League proper.

This would ultimately lead to the dispersal of strong reserve teams as such, spreading their strength through the lesser clubs, with the equalisation of team strength becoming increasingly evident. The desirability of such a dispersal I leave to the individual, but in my opinion it would foster a spirit of competition.

In addition, it would avoid the anomaly of one club with six first division teams. Have you ever heard of Everton playing Arsenal D.

The cup competition could sort themselves out and the same management committee could run both leagues, so that those points need prove no barrier.

Point May Settle Issue

AT present the challenge for league supremacy rests between Balfour A and Rafters A, but the competition is so close that the difference of a point may mean the winning or losing of the final position.

We must now, however, reckon without noticing the results of Balfour B or 15th Crosby. The latter have just signed on Pendlebury, who plays for Runcorn. If he is to play at No. 3 or 4, this Crosby side will be a formidable nut to crack, as Pendlebury would probably be No. 1 in most teams.

Vigorous Brothers

This season I have noticed a marked improvement in the play of several individuals in our division. A couple of seasons ago the McKechnie brothers of Balfour were very raw, but now they are playing a good vigorous type of game with good results.

Ken Gaulton also seems to be playing a little better, as results have shown, but Harold Wilcock, although improving slightly, is not coming on as I've been expecting him. He must be more decisive in his shots and dictate the game to his opponents. If one is going to hit the ball, then really hit it; if you intend to chop, then chop and place.

A. Smith, formerly of Cheltenham, now assisting Balfour A, is an asset to his club. I had not met him before the Merseyside, but learned of his talent the hard way. He has an 87 per cent record.

The Y.M.C.A. are doing very well for a promoted side. Bill Pierce is playing exceptionally well and has won all his games convincingly and has only lost once—to brother Ronnie.

Dave Rigby is a player who should gain much experience in this division. He has a good forehand attacking shot but does not use it tactically; variation of speed, direction and spin, together with the much-forgotten drop shot, should be mixed into his game to make it more effective. Practice with club-mate Pierce should make him quicker on the ball.

Make Winning Points

Gordon Exell hasn't come up to my expectations yet. He must think more about winning points without being helped by opponents errors. Defensive shots are more effective if produced closer to the table with returned skimming the net.

Mandaluff has got a league and cup percentage of 78 and owes his success to his unorthodoxy, determination and quickness of foot. He possesses something which even many better players lack—he is a fighter against odds, and often wins through.

By practice and hard work Bintley and Killip of Anfield, have shown better results, as has Maurice Oakes of Oakhill. Killip has beaten Chesham and Harris, and Oakes has had wins over Bernard Hand, Norman Jones and Bill Harris.

So far I have picked from score cards a dozen surprise individual results, i.e., Gaulton beat Hetherington, R. Rumjahn and N. Jones; Wong beat Watts; N. McKechnie beat Coogan; Rigby beat Bamford; Greensmith beat Gaulton and A. Smith, Tobin (Maghull—North Region) beat R. M. Rumjahn (cup game).

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This Was A Close Thing

IN this game of ours when we boast of victory, I wonder how many realise how close a win can be.

For instance, Bohemians were beaten 6-4 at home by Oakhill A, but believe it or not, seven sets went to three and four were decided 22-20, 21-19, 21-19, 21-18—all in Oakhill's favour. What tough luck for Boh's!

But that can happen in this Second division where you cannot afford to underestimate the opposition. Any of the five bottom teams—Balfour, Bootle Y.M.C.A., Rafter's B, Waterloo Dock

A Challenge

Ken Boden issues a challenge to Peter Rumjahn and Ted Cameron to match a team of juniors in their divisions against his chosen. He believes it might help in talent spotting.

and Wavertree C.C.—are good enough to give the best in the division a good game and because of this, we enjoy ourselves, I think, better than anyone and really get our "money's worth."

Another point of interest. All the top teams, with one exception, play each other at the end of the season, and the same applies to the bottom of the League, so we look like having a "grand-slam" finish.

Vital Games

Linnets, by beating Litherland 6-4, moved into first place and a confident win this was. Linnets led 5-2 at one stage, although the result was never in doubt—according to certain circles Frank Thomas and Les Mason won two sets at Nos. 4 and 5 respectively and proved a tower of strength. A. C. Taylor, still unbeaten, was the only Litherland player to stand up to them, although D. Henwood deserves a mention for his battle with Thomas which he lost 21-19, 20-22, 17-21.

At the bottom end of the table, Wavertree scored a resounding victory over Waterloo Dock, winning 9-1 with two new star players—Messrs. Ellis and Greaves from Chester. Wavertree gained these first two points of the season in great style, J. Seddon beating R. Hulse to give Waterloo Dock the one set they won.

Watch them. They're due to shake the top boys with this new line-up and I say "Good luck, Wavertree."

Bootle Y.M.C.A. also had a great victory, beating Oakhill 9-1. Oakhill is probably suffering the loss of Jackie Grant, their No. 1, who is promoted to their first team, but that did not discredit Bootle's win.

Only three of our teams remain in the Readman Cup, Luern, Cheshire Lines and Bootle Y.M.C.A., but it is only fair to say that most of them went out to First division opposition. Bootle Y.M.C.A. beat Africa Oil 26 games to 24, after drawing 5-5 both home and away, and Litherland were only just beaten 6-4 by Rafter's A. Two good performances.

I haven't covered all the teams, I know, but you'll get a chance and before I go.

Not Good Enough

This headline refers to the Merseyside Open. In comparison with normal league matches I think the Leach-Simons final was about the dullest game seen for some time.

While one appreciates the near-perfection of the stroke play exhibited, such a "dish" as was served up at Picton Hall and on television will not attract or maintain the interest of the paying public, upon whom so much depends in any organised sport.

Perhaps the first step to alleviate this condition would be the lowering of the net by say half an inch, thus inducing more attack and its consequent defence.

FLINTSHIRE OPEN. To be held at Rhyl Pavilion on Saturday, January 9th, 1954. Entries close January, 1st but you are recommended to send them in by December, 24th to ensure being accepted.

A Coach will leave St. Johns Lane at 9 a.m. as the Tournament commences at 10-30 a.m. Inclusive return fare 10/-. Entry forms and Reservations for competitors and friends who wish to have a day out write to Mr. Stamp, 3 Farndale Close, Liverpool 18, accompanied by 5/- deposit.

ANFIELD CHALLENGE TO Y.M.C.A.

ANFIELD and Liverpool Y.M.C.A. for promotion—that is my considered verdict. These are the two teams with the greatest all-round strength.

Anfield have some leeway to make up after a not-so-good start but watch them climb the table now. As a guide to their strength as compared to Y.M.C.A., they drew at the latter's headquarters in a cup game and hope to go one better in the replay.

Anfield are a very happy team and although they do not appear to be over anxious to make an early start to matches, they are good hosts.

Their team is led by E. Barnes, small and aggressive, and ably supported by H. Roberts, who was with Wavertree C.C. in Division 2 last season; J. Brierley, a tenacious defender, and two men with first team experience in L. Gee and J. Rea. These five could justify themselves in any team order and it is because of that I am sure they will be among the honours at the end of the season.

Hard Going

At the bottom end, Linacre have prised themselves off the lowest rung and are hoping to improve still further. They may well do it but will find it hard going and most certainly will not rise above the bottom four with their present team.

I have been taken severely to task for my comment that we are a poor lot. Many suggest it is rash to create controversy. Actually it is based on facts. Here are a few of them.

Last season's top two in Division 3 are in a similar position in Division 2; Cadwa, who lost one player, are lying second in our division; last season the Police collected one point in Division 2—with us they are strong contenders for cup and league.

I.C.I., it is true, have not set the league on fire but their early season upset did not help. They were good enough to take a point from the Y.M.C.A. Other clubs in the earlier comparison, mainly Rafters B and Victoria Park, have so altered their teams that between them only two players are representatives from last season.

Having, in my opinion anyway, justified earlier comment, let me now say that although there may be fewer outstanding teams, there are also fewer obvious weaknesses in our teams. In fact, I do not believe there is a passenger in any of the sixty playing weekly, as much so that the strength of our teams is more even than I have ever experienced in a single division.

Our teams are not without success outside our own sphere, Cadwa and Bath Street have both brought off outstanding victories against Second Division opposition, a point which Bath Street stressed to me as not bad for 'a poor lot.' All seems to forget the comparison I drew was with last season's Division 3. Maybe Division 2 are an even poorer lot than us.

Fast making a name for herself, one of the few women to grace us with her presence, is Miss J. Lloyd of the Police. Her ability is keeping secretary A. Heague out of the team. The Force are hoping they have found a national champion from Liverpool.

for Table Tennis

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Is There An Improvement?

RECENTLY I was asked by a player from a higher sphere how this season's Fourth Division compared with that of last term.

I answered readily enough that there was a slight improvement, but having chewed over the question in my mind for a couple of days, I can't claim to feel quite as confident about the accuracy of that reply.

On the face of it the evidence of the improvement is strong, for in the place of three struggling sides who were relegated and one, Harold House, who resigned, we have gained top-notchers in Panto and extremely useful sides in Waterloo Park and Lofters, while Victoria Park B have shown by their win over Domestic Mission, that they are capable of delivering a shock to perhaps our strongest team.

Among those who remain from last season, the Mission and Bootle Y.M. show an immense superiority over their positions at the comparative stage of last season.

Loss Not Replaced

Arguments, however, can be advanced in the opposite direction. The strength of Liverpool Y.M.C.A. A and Bath Street, whom we lost through promotion, can be gauged by their present positions in Division 3. Among the newcomers there is nothing to replace this loss, for Oakhill B, solid side though they are, do not seem strong enough to return to their previous sphere at the first time of asking, and Victoria Park C, weakened by losses to the club's senior team, are cutting little ice at the moment.

And the other old stagers who remain with us are not finding it easy going either. African Oil A have lost much of last season's strength to keep their first team going and have found that good reserves are scarce, while neither Livex nor Bohemians have been able to produce a winning combination.

Despite all this, however, I still admit to a sneaking feeling that we are slightly on the upgrade and I feel that perhaps Wavertree will agree with me, for although they have a side which on paper is almost as good as the team which only just failed to gain promotion last season, they cannot look

on this term's results with the same degree of satisfaction that 1952-3 assuredly brought them.

It is interesting to note that of 16 players who have scored 10 wins this season, Panto supply five, all their regular first team having already attained that goal.

In percentage order these people rate as follows:—Bert Harkness, p. 17, w. 15, 88.7; Albert Hill, 14—12—85.7; Ron Davies 12—10—83.3; R. Platt, P. Coulter and R. Musker, each, 16—12—75; Alex Jones, 18—13—72.3; Ian Rogerson, Bill Bent and Wilf Glover, each 18—12—66.6; Arthur Moore and Ron Mason, each 16—10—62.5; Bill Slater, 21—13—61.9; H. Farrall, 18—11—61.1; Bill Askew and Brian Duffy, each 21—12—57.1.

Question of the month! What happened to the division's representation in the Merseyside Open? Apart from Wavertree, Oakhill, Lofters and Bootle Y.M.C.A., I did not notice any of our teams sporting more than a single competitor.

Congratulations to Mrs. Beryl Waterson of Lofters, and Ian Rogerson (Bootle Y.M.C.A.), both of whom reach the Open stage of the tournament.

A
Merry
Christmas
AND
Happy
New Year
TO ALL
CLUBS AND
PLAYERS

LEAGUE TABLES

up to week ending 12th December, 1953

First Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Balfour A	9	7	0	2	62	28	16
Rafters A	9	6	1	2	60	30	14
15th Crosby	9	5	2	2	53	37	12
Balfour B	9	5	2	2	46	44	12
Liverpool Y.M.	9	4	2	3	55	35	11
Balfour	9	5	4	0	57	33	10
Oakhill	9	4	4	1	49	41	9
Rafters	9	4	4	1	48	42	9
Anfield	9	3	5	1	45	45	7
Livex	9	1	6	2	33	57	4
Anfield A	9	2	7	0	25	65	4
African Oil	9	0	9	0	7	83	0

Women's—Division I

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Bohemians	9	8	0	1	69	21	17
Rafters	9	6	0	3	65	25	15
Lofters	9	5	1	3	54	36	13
Balfour	9	5	3	1	50	40	11
Linnets	8	5	3	0	50	30	10
Anfield	9	4	3	2	53	37	10
Oakhill	8	5	3	0	47	33	10
Bibbs	9	3	4	2	44	46	8
Littlewoods	9	3	5	1	44	46	7
Cheshire Lines	9	1	7	1	27	63	3
Brenka	9	1	8	0	17	73	2
Linnets A	9	0	9	0	10	80	0

Second Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Linnets	9	8	1	0	58	32	16
Lucem	9	6	2	1	56	34	13
Litherland	9	5	2	2	51	39	12
Victoria Park	9	5	3	1	52	38	11
Bohemians	9	5	3	1	51	39	11
Oakhill A	9	5	3	1	42	48	11
Cheshire Lines	9	3	3	3	48	42	9
Bootle Y.M.	9	2	5	2	42	48	6
Waterloo Dock	9	2	5	2	36	54	6
Balfour C	9	3	6	0	35	55	6
Rafters B	9	2	6	1	36	54	5
Wavertree C.C.	9	1	8	0	33	57	2

Women's—Division II

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Waterloo Park	9	7	0	2	63	27	16
Beauclair	9	7	1	1	66	24	15
Osterley	8	5	1	2	59	21	12
Bohemians A	9	4	2	3	57	33	11
Wavertree C.C.	9	5	4	0	53	37	10
Aigburth	9	4	3	2	50	40	10
Leyfield	9	3	2	4	48	42	10
Littlewoods A	9	4	5	0	37	53	8
Lucem	9	3	5	1	31	59	7
Dunlop	8	2	5	1	29	51	5
Beauclair A	9	0	8	1	20	70	1
Catholic Metro.	9	0	8	1	17	73	1

Third Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
L'pool Y.M. A	9	7	0	2	67	23	16
Anfield B	9	6	2	1	52	38	13
Osterley	8	5	2	1	51	29	11
Bath Street	9	4	2	3	51	39	11
Cadwa	9	5	3	1	50	40	11
L.P.A.S.	8	5	2	1	44	36	11
English Electric	9	4	3	2	45	45	10
Bohemians A	9	2	6	1	37	53	5
I.C.I.	9	2	6	1	36	54	5
Victoria Park A	8	1	5	2	36	44	4
Linacre	8	2	6	0	25	55	4
Tech. Students	9	1	7	1	26	64	3

North Regional I

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Bootle Y.M. B	9	8	1	0	63	27	16
Littlewoods	9	7	2	0	56	34	14
Litherland A	9	5	1	3	54	36	13
Everton Y.M.	9	5	2	2	51	39	12
Brenka	9	4	2	3	49	41	11
Maghull	8	5	3	0	46	34	10
English Elec. A	9	2	4	3	43	47	7
Waterloo Park A	9	2	5	2	37	53	6
Lofters A	9	3	6	0	35	55	6
Warbreck Moor	7	1	4	2	33	37	4
Waterloo Dock A	8	2	6	0	33	47	4
15th Crosby A	9	0	8	1	20	70	1

Fourth Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Panto	9	8	0	1	69	21	17
Bootle Y.M. A	8	6	0	2	53	27	14
Waterloo Park	9	5	3	1	60	30	11
Domestic Miss.	9	5	3	1	49	41	11
Lofters	9	4	2	3	48	42	11
Oakhill B	9	4	3	2	51	39	10
Wavertree C.C. A	9	4	4	1	46	44	9
Victoria Park B	9	3	4	2	36	54	8
Livex A	9	2	6	1	34	56	5
Victoria Park C	8	1	6	1	27	53	3
Bohemians B	9	1	7	1	26	64	3
African Oil A	7	0	5	2	21	49	2

North Regional II

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Bootle Y.M. A	9	9	0	0	68	22	18
English Elec. B	9	8	0	1	63	27	17
Brownmoor Park	9	4	3	2	54	36	10
Bath Street A	9	5	4	0	49	41	10
Anfield D	9	4	3	2	46	44	10
Litherland B	7	3	2	2	38	32	8
Waterloo Park B	9	2	5	2	37	53	6
Waterloo Park C	7	2	3	2	36	34	6
Co-op	9	1	5	3	37	53	5
English Elec. C	8	2	5	1	29	51	5
Bootle Police	8	2	6	0	26	54	4
Maghull A	9	1	7	1	27	63	3

LEAGUE TABLES

South Regional

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Cheshire Lines A ...	9	9	0	0	78	12	18
Beauclair	9	8	1	0	75	15	16
Linnets A	9	7	2	0	65	25	14
Cadwa B	9	6	2	1	48	42	13
Dennis	9	5	3	1	48	42	11
Aighurth	9	5	4	0	47	43	10
Wavertree C.C. B ...	9	3	5	1	41	49	7
Linnets C	9	3	6	0	37	53	6
Aighurth Meths. ...	8	2	5	1	33	47	5
Dunlop	9	1	7	1	29	61	3
St. Peters	9	1	8	0	16	74	2
Domestic Miss A ...	8	0	7	1	13	67	1

East Regional

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
L.P.A.S. A	9	9	0	0	69	21	18
Vagabonds	9	7	1	1	71	19	15
Balfour D	7	6	1	0	45	25	12
Cadwa A	7	5	2	0	40	30	10
Osterley A	9	4	3	2	47	43	10
Edwardians	9	3	5	1	39	51	7
Wavertree Labour... 8	3	5	0	39	41	6	
Leyfield	9	2	5	2	39	51	6
Cadwa C	9	2	5	2	35	55	6
Fairlawn.....	9	2	7	0	24	66	4
L.P.A.S. B.....	6	1	4	1	22	38	3
St. Dominics	9	1	7	1	30	60	3

Central Regional I

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Anfield C	9	7	1	1	64	26	15
Liverpool Y.M. B... 9	6	1	2	59	31	14	
R.A.F.A. (L)	9	6	2	1	54	36	13
Panto A	9	6	3	0	60	30	12
Old Xaverians ... 9	5	2	2	53	37	12	
Linnets B	9	5	2	2	49	41	12
Oakhill C	9	5	3	1	53	37	11
Lucem A	9	2	5	2	37	53	6
Post & Echo	8	2	5	1	34	46	5
Catholic Metro..... 9	1	7	1	26	64	3	
Vagabonds A	8	0	6	2	22	58	2
Lussac	9	0	8	1	19	71	1

Central Regional II

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
R.A.F. Movements 9	9	0	0	81	9	18	
Cheshire Lines B ... 9	7	2	0	61	29	14	
Stanley House	8	6	2	0	50	30	12
Florence Oxton ... 8	5	3	0	37	43	10	
Livex B	8	2	2	4	38	42	8
Oakhill D	9	3	4	2	39	51	8
Peel Hall	8	2	3	3	38	42	7
Beauclair A	9	3	5	1	36	54	7
Tech. Students A... 9	2	6	1	33	57	5	
Old Xaverians A ... 8	1	5	2	30	50	4	
Deaf Institute	8	0	6	2	25	55	2
C.L.C. C	3	0	2	1	12	18	1

Protest from Linnets

Mr. J. R. Green, Secretary of the Linnet Club, sends the following letter :—

SIR.—I have read, to my utter astonishment, Miss Lindner's statement that we have lost some of our strongest players (presumably women).

For the record, and in fairness to our present players, I give a categorical denial of such a ridiculous assertion. With the sole exception of Norma Markson we have lost no lady comparable in ability to eight who are on our books. Indeed, our first team is stronger to-day than at any time in the history (short I admit) of our club, as evidenced by their league position as I write.

For domestic reasons two of our other girls are unable to play until the second half of the season, but then, we are quite sure, the A team will acquit themselves well.

I do wish that Miss Lindner had inconvenienced herself enough to see our players before penning such a wild statement. I cannot remember her seeing our team since November, 1951, two whole years ago. I doubt very much if she could recognise more than two of our girls anyway.

The whole point of this epistle is to point out to Miss Lindner that we do not object to criticism, even though it may be harsh, but we do object most strongly to idle adverse chatter on a subject of which she is completely ignorant.

Editor :—We must point out that Miss Lindner was referring to Linnets A team. Unfortunately a typographical error changed the word "stronger" into "strongest"—a great difference.

Clubs with fixtures outstanding, particularly those which entered teams after the commencement of the season, are reminded that all fixtures must be brought up to date by the 31st December 1953.

DEFLATOR WAS THE NAME

ILLNESS having brought my roving to a temporary stop, I have had time to look back on my table tennis memories to recall the following story which may raise a laugh and may not be without a moral.

Round about 1932 I had to make a late change in my holiday plans and found myself looking somewhere to go on my own. I studied the advertisements and found a guest house down South whose attractions included tennis, putting, billiards and table tennis. Just the job, I thought!

Yes, they could take me owing to a late cancellation, so a Saturday in August saw me off with a T.T. bat and ball included in my luggage.

It's a Doddle

On the Sunday morning the resident sports organiser announces that lists have been put up for the various tournaments to be held during the week and will those wishing to compete enter their names by breakfast on Monday.

Wasting no time, I made a bee-line to get on the table tennis list and then to start making some cunning inquiries as to the ability of the 30-odd who had entered. From these investigations it would seem there were no Barnas or Bergmanns. It's a doddle, thinks I.

On Monday afternoon I collar the organising fellow and manage to get the table put up. It was what they call in Yorkshire "a board" but it was full size and though the lighting would not have passed E.T.T.A. regulations and the floor was slippery, there was nothing a bit of good pushing could not overcome.

Continuing my scheme of weighing up the opposition, I managed to get a game with nearly all my fellow competitors, being careful not to put all my goods in the shop window.

All very good strategy, the result of

which made it the more certain than ever that I had nothing to fear.

Thursday arrives and I take things easy, for the tournament is tonight and I wish to reserve my energies for what will surely be a night of triumph.

It happens that my first round match is the first game of the night and my opponent is an old gentleman named Deflator from Portsmouth. Unusual name!

Leaving his stick with his grandchild he makes his way slowly to the table but there is some delay for he has no bat. After rooting round in a cupboard the manager fixes him up with an old wooden one with half a handle.

I serve first, Deflator makes no contact, but on receiving the ball from a spectator starts to serve the next service.

Chivalry

It is pointed out that I serve the first five, then he serves the next five. It is quite clear that he has never played before and is such an old sport that my chivalrous nature tells me to go easy.

I decide to throw some points away in the early part of the game and to win about 21—12.

Jogging along this way 10—all is called. I shall give him a couple of more points, then finish him off, thinks I.

I serve the first one off the table, only to hear the umpire call "Game to Mr. Deflator 11—10."

"Game! What do you mean?" says I.

"Oh, yes, you see we only play 21 up in the final. All the other rounds are just 11 up. It is a quicker way."

Editor.—We know now where you learned the moral, Jack, never to throw points away.

Linnets' Great Fight Back

SEVERAL needle matches have been played since the last issue but none more exciting and nerve-wracking I am sure, than the Oakhill v. Linnets cup-tie. Well played Linnets, who, although losing 1—5 fought back with grim determination to draw and earn the right to have another bash on their own table.

Jean Benson's victory over Edna Moore was a thrill for her side. Having discovered that Edna's defence was much too good for her attack, she eventually beat her in a marathon set at her own game.

Just how exciting the last four sets were can be judged by the scores—L. Jenkin v. M. Murphy, 14—21, 21—18, 20—22; M. Coote v. B. Pealing, 13—21, 21—14, 20—22; E. Moore v. J. Benson, 21—17, 19—21, 15—21; L. Upton v. M. Murphy, 21—13, 21—23, 17—21. The last set was a fitting climax for Myra Murphy was at one time down 15—20 in the second game having lost the first.

First Victory

Bohemians were more than pleased to record their first win over Linnets, who have always been their close rivals, to consolidate their leadership. They looked forward to the match with some nervousness. Not only are they to be without S. Farrell for a time, but although the teams are quite different this season, the records until then showed two drawn matches and two wins for Linnets.

The play at times was of a high standard, and although the Boh's were always in the lead, the 6—4 result could easily have been reversed as five of the sets went to three close games. Brenda Pealing played every stroke doggedly to beat Daisy Mezey 23—21 in the third to avenge Audrey Brown's defeat by almost the same margin.

I hear that in spite of the score 7—3 for the visitors, once again the local "Derby" between Bohemians A and Osterley produced a hard-fought game, with the decisive feature probably being the double defeat of Boh's No. 1 by I. Wynne and R. Trampnow respectively. Outstanding for the visitors were R. Trampnow and P. Lewis, while W. Gray won both her sets for Boh's.

Anfield are not a team to be taken lightly this season and it rather surprises me that their record is not better. Kay Rumjahn tells me an enjoyable evening under the able captaincy of E. Gray resulted when they royally entertained Rafters.

R. Royle played good table tennis, only losing to K. Casselman in the third, having defeated R. McMullen by the same margin. To her very fast attack she has now added a sound defence and as the season progresses will prove much harder opposition.

O. Eagle was unfortunate to lose 20—22 in the third to J. Brennan who, however, proved no opposition for I. Howley. It is unusual for any player of D. Greensmith's calibre to lose two games in one evening, but Rafters had cause to be grateful when she lost both to R. McMullen and K. Rumjahn. Result:—Anfield 4, Rafters 6.

Waterloo Park have ably taken over the leadership of the Second Division. Their match with Beauclair, which resulted in a draw, was full of interest, and it was unfortunate for them that, with the score at 5—4 in their favour, L. Olsen had to play E. Cubley, whose excellent match temperament saved Beauclair from defeat.

Worthy Recruit

Highlight of the match was the opening set between the No. 1's, D. Alcock and J. Fortune, Waterloo's latest well-equipped recruit. Her half volley defence was much too steady for Doreen who was forced to make the mistakes. Doreen also had a narrow squeak against J. Pedley, who played a lively game, before winning 19—21, 22—20, 21—9. E. Scott played sound defence with occasional surprise back-hand hits, to account for J. Tippetts. and Rene Sturgeon.

What a shock for Beauclair when they visited Lucem and lost 4—6, thereby losing their leadership. Although they were without D. Alcock and J. Tippetts their two reserves gave a good account of themselves. E. Owen beat M. Patterson and I. Sturgeon; J. Thomas also won both her sets against the reserves, B. Jones and J. Huntington, and A. Wright and N. Foulis (Lucem's latest signing) contributed one set each.

BEATING NIGHT SCHOOL PROBLEM

By A. MONTGOMERY

I HAVE just finished reading the leading article in the November *Digest* in which the problem of night school and table tennis players rears its ugly head.

This is truly a real problem and must be faced in a realistic manner. No one can possibly contend that night school must be made to fit in with table tennis and all must realise that the opposite is the case.

All clubs enter the League in good faith and hope to fulfil their fixtures. Many of them, however, are soon in difficulties because they cannot raise a complete team on a certain evening, usually for an away fixture which takes place on a night other than their normal home match night and often due to younger players being at night school.

Some of those players try to do both and end up by being late for one or the other and neither being given proper attention.

Benefit All

It is with that in mind that I make the following suggestions, which, it is my firm belief, will benefit everyone. They are :—

All fixtures of any complete division to be played on a specific night and under *no* circumstances will any deviation be allowed. This would mean that home and away fixtures for any team in any division would be the same throughout the season. In the case of cup-ties, the first round matches would be played on the usual night of the home team.

My grouping of the match nights would be as follows :—

First and Third Divisions—Tuesday.

Second and Fourth Divisions—Thurs.

All Regions—Wednesday.

All Women's—Tuesday.

These fixed nights would be laid down in the rules so that clubs making application to the League for admission would know that, having to start in a Region, their players would only be required on Wednesday nights and could make their arrangements accordingly.

This system would greatly help club secretaries in dealing with their teams. Practice in clubrooms could be much better organised as players would know exactly when the clubroom is free.

It would also lead to matches being played in the spirit in which they are intended. Teams would turn up complete and players could stay to the end without having to rush here or there to fulfil another engagement.

After all, a table tennis match has more to it than the result. It is a social evening and as such deserves the attendance of all participants from start to finish.

The art of captaincy could be brought into play with better effect as the alternative choice of games could be worked out to the best effect.

If you join a football or hockey club, it is no use turning up at half-time. You wouldn't be picked again. Table tennis is as much a team game as any other, and my suggestions are made in order to make it so and to get away from some of the haphazard affairs that have been passing for matches in recent years.

A. C. Taylor— 100 Not Out

As we go to press one of our players is on the brink of a remarkable individual record which is believed without parallel.

If all goes well A. C. Taylor, of Litherland, when he completes his second set against Balfour C this week, will record his 100th successive League match victory without defeat since he entered the League in 1951-52.

Although this amazing record has been built up mainly against opponents not in the top class, it is still a great performance. The record was in great danger last week at Victoria Park, when luck played its part in its preservation, but in such a run fortune must play its part.

In anticipation, we extend our congratulations on a performance which must surely rank as an all-time record.

Bold Line Splits Division

WITH more than a third of the 1953-4 campaign having been fought, the first division has once again developed a two-group look. There is a distinct top and bottom half line of demarcation.

I had hoped we might see a closely balanced division, but only half the teams show a satisfactory standard of play.

Of the teams in the bottom section English Electric A have proved strangely disappointing. Ashton and Kitchen, playing in low team order, have failed to produce anything approaching their known form.

We are accustomed to Warbreck Moor being eternally in the toils of relegation, but if optimism of better times to come ever materialises "Skip" Ariss will have to be congratulated.

Outcasts

Lofters A and Waterloo Park A, promoted by virtue of vacancies, are having difficulty in making the grade, and there does not seem much doubt that 15th Crosby A are the outcasts of illustrious parents so long established in the League's premier division.

Consider the talent of Crosby's first team, then consider the record of their A team—one point from a possible 16 in the humble North Region. Have the officials responsible for the club no pride? Are they content to watch the A languish at the foot of the division? Do they realise that eleven other teams expect some opposition?

One player has graduated 5—4—3 and has played at No. 1 in recent matches. The number of sets he has won in all positions is—none.

The players in the A team have faithfully carried out their obligations. All they need is a helping hand from someone in the first team.

Promoted runners-up, Maghull, gave the leaders, Bottle Y.M.C.A. B, a real Christmas box when beating Littlewoods. Look out for a strong challenge by Everton Y.M.C.A., beginning in the New Year.

A. Williams and L. Cairns (Bootle Y.M.), I. Hay (Brenka), P. Turtle (Everton Y.M.), J. Barker (Lofters A) and J. B. Owen (Maghull) have played in all eight matches to date without suffering a double defeat.

Litherland A have called on 12 players—a record so far. Peter Waterston is the most improved player of the season.

Warning Noted

In last month's notes I put Bootle Police in the dock, charged them and finally dismissed them with a warning. It is gratifying to note that they have taken my advice, for they have since won two matches and are no longer the "Atlas" of Division 2. Well done!

English Electric B keep close on the heels of Bootle Y.M.C.A. C, who have yet to surrender a point. It is interesting to note that the two teams don't meet until the first week of the New Year and the second meeting is the last match of the season.

Bath Street A did well to run the leaders to 6—4, and the latest entrants to the division, Waterloo Park A, dealt Anfield D a severe blow by inflicting a 9—1 defeat, and away from home. Anfield did not have their strongest team out, but any hope they had of making a bid for honours has been badly damaged.

Next month I will give the best individual performances of players in this division.

Reviewing the prospects of the Micklesfield Medals, I realise that I am going to have an unusually difficult task choosing our best five, for the form of the majority of the Nos. 1 and 2 has been disturbing.

Let me remind you all that despite what some folk may say, you are not obliged to play your team in order of merit, but to the best advantage to obtain victory. Don't play in match card order. A good captain uses the right of call to gain a moral advantage for the nervous player.

Difficult Team to Fault

SALUTE to Brian Pardy, the only South Region player to enter the Merseyside Open and who won his way to the last 16 of the "local" rounds of the men's singles before succumbing to A. C. Taylor the inter-city player.

In addition, Brian earned the right to "go through" to Saturday in the junior Singles, where he lost after a hectic battle. For his first major tournament, this young junior did very well indeed, and we hope for an improved performance in his next "Open" appearance.

I went to Cheshire Lines to watch their match with Linnet A and was deeply impressed by them. They would be difficult to fault. Rich Palmer, Dick Burge, Jack Grayson, Owen Hughes, and Charlie Grimes form as strong a combination as any that I have seen as a Regional team since the war, and I shall be surprised if they do not figure prominently in the honours list this season.

Placed Too High

If I might offer any criticism it would be that the unpredictable Palmer is placed too high at No. 1. The more solid game of Burge and Grayson would probably pay better dividends higher up.

The margin of their 7-3 over Linnet A was a true indication of their worth. Only Rodrigues and Pardy were comparable with the victors, both beating Palmer. G. Elliott (ex-Vagabonds) played well to beat Owen Hughes, but his shortcomings were evident against Grimes.

Highlights of the match were few. The 50 minutes three-game battle between pushers Burge and Rodrigues

was an epic of concentration which other players in our sphere would do well to imitate. There was a look of bewilderment on Elliott's face as Grimes gave him a lesson in ball control allied to brain.

The real highlight was Grayson's victory over Pardy in one of the best cut-and-thrust games I have seen in our lowly circle. It was a set in which far more points were won from winners than from losing shots.

Fine Example

Another team who set an example to all our division are Dennis. As players they have a comfortable middle of the table look, but when you meet them they look and act as a team. Not for them the multi-coloured shirt, the flowing tie with gaudy design or the Fair Isle. Ted Sheridan and his boys favour a sky-blue shirt with a neat red badge, and grey slacks.

The club are a decided acquisition to the League and the Region if only for their outlook on our sport. It is a refreshing change to meet a club who grant a certain amount of dignity to the game.

Aigburth, who in two seasons dropped from the heights of the second division, do not appear to have any ambition to return. I put it that way because I am convinced that Stan Donnelly, Eli Wass, and Ray White could, with practice, have made quite a mark this year. The great improvements to the pavilion have curtailed playing space but visiting teams are assured of a battle and will, as always, be accepted as friends rather than foe.

DRINK

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POLICE FIND RIGHT BLEND

THIS season so far I have only visited one of the clubs and as we have several new faces I must by force of circumstances comment, only on the older school.

Of the three league leaders two, Balfour D and Vagabonds, are keeping up their form of last year, but No. 1, L.P.A.S. A, are well away on top with a 100 per cent record to date. This gives me great pleasure to report and furthermore their B team are showing by their attack upon outstanding fixtures, that the right blend of keenness and method is producing a very fair reserve team to the leaders.

With last year's troubles in mind, it appears that the "Coppers" have a much greater number of players to draw upon and it makes one wonder whether the minimum registrations demanded by the league are enough.

Inevitable Clash.

As many players are young there is the inevitable clash between sport and parental insistence upon night school as the way to careers. This, coupled with sickness or other reasons, does not make the completion of full teams easy.

In multiple-team clubs the position is easier unless match nights coincide and then the reverse is encountered. I, myself, know as I play for a fourth team, and calls for reserves make inroads into both numbers and strength. This question must be faced and I suggest that all club officials give it thought with a view to bringing forward constructive suggestions and for amendments to be acted upon, if necessary, at the annual general meeting by means of alteration of rules.

With a view to stimulating thought, I will make one or two broad suggestions. The obvious idea is to increase the number of registrations per team; to make the minimum of 7 for the first to apply to subsequent teams; to have some selection scheme, workable by captains, like the Wirral league; make match nights the alternative of two nights only and so force multiple-team clubs to have more registrations or reduce their number of teams.

During the Merseyside Open Tournament I was struck by the relatively

small number of entries received from regional players, and the East in particular. To all, this is the chance to get the experience of playing against those in other leagues and against better opposition. I trust this lack of entries is not a pointer to what we can expect when our own regional tournament comes round.

Not only our problem

FROM Mr. Gilliam Brown, of Glasgow, who helps Des Loughrey with League statistics, comes the following:—

The problem Des Loughrey mentioned in the November *Digest* is not peculiar to Liverpool. In Liverpool you have two big clubs, Balfour and Rafter's, who provide the First Division with five teams, all of them good, and they have ruled the roost in Liverpool post-war table tennis.

In Glasgow we have the Central Y.M. with three First Division sides and five representative players. We play three-aside, which means that the Y.M. can turn out an international first team and two others in their second team. In my opinion, the best system for Glasgow would be four-aside—eight singles and two doubles—but that has been turned down as taking too long.

Next, the 13 best players in the League are congregated, with the Central, in four other clubs, who have two each. This means the other five clubs have little chance of finishing above sixth place. If these 13 players could be divided among the First Division it would give all clubs a reasonable chance.

Proving this argument are Liverpool Y.M. A., who, with the help of Bill Pierce, have been transformed from a mediocre Second Division side to one challenging Balfour and Rafter's for the championship. Pierce is rendering Liverpool and table tennis a service and if his action was followed by others it could mean a general levelling up and an improvement in the all-round standard.

"See you in March, I hope."

SUCCESS OF WOMEN PLAYERS

THERE is a further team to welcome into the second division this month namely Cheshire Lines B, but it is difficult at the moment to know what their team will comprise.

When they played Beauclair A they fielded two of their women players, Aileen Keightley and Rose Garner—two players of more contrasting style it would be difficult to find. Aileen played a very open game, pleasing to watch and was very successful as she won both her sets. Rose played a more orthodox game which was equally effective in result.

Beauclair were indeed, lucky to take a point from the match.

Ten in Four Games

Post and Echo have pulled up most of their outstanding fixtures and have at last managed to raise a winning flag by beating Catholic Metro. They called on no fewer than ten players in their first four matches in an attempt no doubt, to assess their best playing strength.

After their great start the R.A.F.A. have received some severe jolts. Dropping their first point to Lucem A, they have since been beaten by Linnet B and Anfield C. Lucem also proved a stumbling block to Y.M.C.A. B. Taking a point from two of the division's leaders was no mean feat.

Lucem were greatly assisted in both matches by playing W. Shepherd at No. 1. He won his four sets comfortably.

The Y.M.C.A. have also been strengthened, by K. Wright, at No. 1, who recently returned from the Forces. John Taylor must be well satisfied with this season's line-up. Considering they finished third last season and the No. 1 of that team is down to No. 5 in the present side, gives some indication of their strength.

I think we shall see a fight for promotion between the Y.M. and R.A.F.A. Their meeting in January will be a testing one.

The second division is even more easy to forecast. R.A.F. Movements are literally running away with it at present. Their only danger would appear to be Cheshire Lines C, but they lost two matches early in the season before they got their team to its present strength.

Early in the New Year, when they meet, will decide just how dangerous they are to each other.

A player worthy of mention is Bernard Oxlade, of Anfield C. He has gradually moved from No. 5 to No. 1 and has certainly warranted his promotion, having won 11 out of 12 sets.

We have a youngster in our midst I would also like to mention—Les Gumery, aged 15, playing for Oakhill D. He shows a remarkable degree of craft in his play for one so young and only lacks match experience. He is in the right place to gain that experience and plenty of good practice. He was the only player of his team to take a set to there games against R.A.F. Movements.

Now for a spot of grumbling. We have defaulted more than any other region or division in the matter of short teams. That is not a record of which to be proud.

I hope to arrange the first of our inter-regional matches early in January and will contact players shortly.

Tournament in March

In reply to many inquiries the regional tournament will be held in March. Ample warning of the date will be given.

It is only in the second division that we have players with 100 per cent records. They are R. Jones (Deaf Institute), D. Wildblood, J. Anderson and C. Briggs (R.A.F. Movements).

In the first division the best averages are:—J. Robinson (R.A.F.A.) and E. Handley (Old Xaverians) 92.85; B. Oxlade (Anfield C) and C. Jones (Y.M.C.A. B) 91.66; and W. Johnson (Panto A) 90.00.

Southport Fought Back Well

OWING to the English Open and the Merseyside Open being held in Lancashire during the last month, only two matches have been played since our last issue.

Liverpool A almost lost their unbeaten record when, represented by N. R. Jones, A. C. Taylor and K. Gaulton, they met Southport away. They started in good style, winning the first four games in a row, but Southport fought back strongly to take the doubles and the next four singles and lead by five sets to four. In the final set, however, Jones beat Bamford to make the match a draw.

The table was very fast and suited the attacking player. Liverpool adapted themselves to the conditions more quickly, but when Bamford beat Gaulton 21—19 in the third after the latter had fought back well from 20—15 down, Southport got their teeth into the game.

Keen Battles

All the sets were keenly fought, six of them going to three, and in four only the barest margin separated winner from loser. The outstanding game was between Coogan and Jones, with Coogan attacking strongly and Jones making some excellent returns.

Gaulton did well to beat Coogan 21—18, 21—10 by attacking strongly and never allowing his opponent to take the initiative, and he only failed by the narrowest margin against both Watts and Bamford.

Taylor began strongly, beating Watts and Bamford comfortably, but when he had to play Coogan with the score 4—4 he found his opponent at his best and was forced to defend most of the time, losing 21—19 in the third.

The late withdrawal of Eileen Mansell from the women's team to meet Manchester fairly well ensured a defeat for Liverpool, so that the result of 8—2 in the home team's favour was no great surprise.

Despite this the evening was, in one respect, a success as Moya Jones gave a display that far surpassed anything she has ever done and gave great promise for the future.

Without doubt Dell Wood was seriously troubled by her having the greatest difficulty in beating Moya in two deuce games. Holding a long lead in the second game against Eileen Grimstone, however, Moya showed her inexperience by failing to clinch matters, but she had the satisfaction of a comfortable win over Dolly Wilkinson.

Beryl Waterson gained our other success, also against Mrs. Wilkinson, but although the Manchester girls carried too many guns for our team it was encouraging to see a new representative player showing every sign of holding her own in the near future against the best players.

Division I.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Manchester	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Stockport	2	1	1	0	11	9	2
Chester	3	1	2	0	13	17	2
Bolton	1	0	0	1	5	5	1
Liverpool	2	0	1	1	6	14	1
Nelson	1	0	1	0	3	7	0

Division II.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Runcorn	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Liverpool A	4	2	0	2	27	13	6
Southport	4	1	1	2	22	18	4
Wirral	4	0	1	3	16	25	3
Macclesfield	3	0	1	2	13	17	2
St. Helens	4	0	3	1	10	30	1

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MAXWELL FYFE, FOULIS CUPS

By J. D. LOUGHREY

ENTRIES for this year's Maxwell Fyfe and Foulis Cups are slightly down on last season. A total of 216—161 men and 55 women—shows a drop of four on the 163 men and 57 women last time.

Anfield and Waterloo Park lead the way with the largest number of entries—17 each—but Linnet (15), Oakhill (12), Litherland and Rafterers all have a double figure entry.

At the other end of the scale, it is sad to report that 27 clubs did not send in a single entry, and it is hard to understand why Cadwa who run four sides, and Livex, who run three, could not find a single entrant.

Looking at the list there are a number of clubs who might be excused because of recent membership, but that hardly applies to Domestic Mission, original members of the League, or to Technical Students, Maghull or Bibbys, who have been with us for many years.

A total entry of five from South Region clubs is an additional disappointment.

14 Centres

By the time this appears all competitors should have received directions for their matches, which will be played at 14 centres on the evenings of December 28, 29 and 30.

One thing is of great importance. In the light of last year's experience, I am quite certain that it is possible to play a greater number of games at the centres. Accordingly there will be 16 players at the Maxwell Fyfe centres, which means that a prompt start is absolutely necessary if a hold-up is to be avoided. To those then who are requested to arrive by 6-45, will you make every effort to be prompt, as a late start may bring disaster.

None of the women's matches will be started until 7-15 but it is just as important for them to turn up at the time stated.

Another factor was that as no player can appear at his own club, the only alternative to eight or nine clubmates all competing at one centre was to involve some of them in fairly long travelling.

There are clear directions to all the clubrooms in the handbook.

Players Only

Finally, Jack Neill asks me to say that, for this occasion only, supporters of the

players will not be welcome at Lofters for the tournament owing to the lack of space.

The dates of play and the centres are as follows:—

Maxwell Fyfe.—Monday, December 28, Anfield and Linnet; Tuesday, December 29, Lofters, Waterloo Park, Victoria Park and Lucem; Wednesday, December 30, Liverpool Y.M.C.A., Oakhill, Beauclair and Bath Street.

Foulis.—Monday, December 28, Lofters and Bohemians; Tuesday, Dec. 29, Balfour and Linnet.

Matches to be played during, or before, week commencing 4th January, 1954.

Hyde Cup—Round 3.

R.A.F.A.(L)

or Lofters A v. Lussac

Balfour D

or Litherland D v. Bootle Police.

Liverpool Y.M. B v. Cadwa A.

Eng. Electric A v. C.L.C. A.

Vagabonds v. Linnets A.

Waterloo Dock A v. L.P.A.S. A.

Aigburth Meths v. Anfield C

or Beauclair or Litherland A

R.A.F. M'ments v. Old Xaverians.

Readman Cup—Round 3.

Rafterers v. Bootle Y.M.

or I.C.I.

Rafterers A

or Balfour v. Balfour A.

Liverpool Y.M.

or Oakhill v. 15th Crosby.

Anfield v. Lucem

Rumjahn Cup—Round 3.

Bohemians A v. Panto.

Domestic Miss.

or L.P.A.S. v. Bootle Y.M. A.

Victoria Park C v. Liverpool Y.M. A.

or Waterloo P. or Anfield B.

Bath Street v. Osterley.

Bartholomew Cup—Round 3.

Anfield v. Aigburth or

Bibby's.

Lofters v. Bohemians.

Littlewoods v. Rafterers.

Bohemians A v. Oakhill

or Linnets.

Stamp Cup—Round 3.

Oakhill v. Litherland

or Anfield.

Balfour v. Vagabonds or

Livex.

Rafterers v. Victoria Park.

15th Crosby v. Liverpool Y.M.