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J. C. McKim, A. Montgomery

Vol. IX

DECEMBER, 1958

No. 2

NEED FOR ETHICAL CODE

IT has been said in the past that this column has too frequently been used for the ventilation of complaints and official propaganda. While we will not deny that there may be a substance of truth in those allegations, we would strongly contend that one of the duties of this column is to bring to the attention of players and officials in the League anything which we feel is harmful to our organisation and to our game in general.

For that reason we feel we have every right to call for a code of ethics which should govern all our matches. Naturally this would be a purely voluntary matter but we would look to teams captains to see that their players acted and abided by it.

After all, no matter how deadly may be the enmity on the table, for no one expects players, whoever they are, to "pull their punches" in a match no matter who are their opponents, there is still a social side attached to every league match and it is up to all concerned to see that that aspect of our game is of the highest order.

There is no doubt that too often does it occur of players disappearing in between their sets for all kinds of reasons. Such actions are, to say the least, discourteous—as hosts discourteous to your guests; as visitors discourteous to your hosts. There are admittedly times when a player may be compelled by circumstances beyond his or her control, to be late in arriving at a match or to leave it early, but no one would complain when suitable reason is given and it is done with the consent of the opposing team captain.

Too often, too, do we hear of the courtesy of late attendance being abused. Take, for instance, the case of the player who asks to be excused until 8.30 p.m. or even 9 p.m. and when permission has been given does not appear for thirty minutes or more after the prescribed time. Such action is distinctly unfair to sporting opponents for it not only places them in an invidious position but also compels their captain to follow a line of selection which he may well feel is detrimental to his team.

Is it too much, therefore, to expect players to remember there is such a thing as match etiquette? And would not adherence to such a code go a long way towards making our league matches all the more enjoyable?

NURSERIES FOR YOUR CLUBS

by John McKim

ONE of the major problems which face a great number of our clubs, especially those clubs which are purely table tennis or may combine table tennis with lawn tennis, is the finding of new players for those who quit the game for one reason or another.

It is no secret that a great many of them are operating with little more than the number of players necessary for fulfilling their league fixtures, and not a few of them have frequently found themselves hard put to it to do just that. Any scheme, therefore, which could ease that position must surely recommend itself to such clubs—and indeed, to the whole of the league since they are a necessary and integral part of our organisation.

Recently officials of the League have met officials of the Liverpool Boys' Association and discussed with them the possibility of a closer association between our two bodies. Out of those discussions have come several proposals, one of which, in the opinion of your officials, could, taking a long view, be of inestimable value to the clubs in our League.

Adoption Scheme

It is, to put it briefly, that certain of our clubs should look upon L.B.A. clubs as possible nurseries for future players and "adopt" them.

But let me elaborate on that. The proposed plan is that such of our clubs as are able should each "adopt" an L.B.A. club in their district and should arrange for some of their older and more experienced members to visit their adopted club regularly—one night each week would, in the view of your officials, be admirable—and coach the boys there. We would also suggest occasional invitations to the L.B.A. boys to visit their parent clubs so that they would become acquainted and familiar with it.

We believe that such a scheme could have two influential effects on table tennis in Liverpool—it could, as I have already stated,

produce a constant flow of ready-made recruits to parent clubs in our league, and it could be the means of generally raising the standard of play in the city.

Naturally the whole scheme is based on the goodwill of our clubs and their members, particularly their senior members, but your officials believe that the majority of our senior members have the good of the game at heart and they put forward this scheme with a strong feeling of confidence in its success. It will, of course, mean the giving up of some leisure time, but would it not be worth such a sacrifice to see table tennis flourishing in Liverpool, and, indeed, to see one's own club continuing to live healthily with the probability of new players joining their ranks all the time.

Natural Step

Many of you will already know that members of L.B.A. clubs must leave them when they reach the age of 18. A great majority of them have then nowhere to go and that is where we believe our clubs could step in. Under the scheme we are proposing they would be already acquainted with members of their parent club and it seems to us that it would become almost automatic that they should transfer their allegiance very easily.

The chief officials of the L.B.A. are ready and willing to give any of our clubs all the assistance they can in putting the plan on a sound footing, for they too, would welcome clubs ready to take over their members on reaching the age limit.

May I therefore ask those of our clubs who can participate to seriously consider this proposal and for those willing to do so to let me know as soon as possible.

As I said earlier this is but one of the suggestions made for a closer association with the L.B.A. The others, however, will be undertaken by the Management Committee if and when they have been fully approved and further announcements made in due course.

No Cause For Alarm

THE inevitable clash against Manchester with which the men's first team commenced their season, ended in a 10-0 defeat for Liverpool, but when one considers that Norman Jones lost 19-21 in the third to Strulovitch, Arthur Taylor was beaten 18-21 in the third by Ingber, Les Mulholland 16-21 in the final game to Cartwright, and our doubles combination of Taylor and Jones were narrowly defeated 19-21 in the third by Ingber-Strulovitch, one realises that it was far from being a walk-over for the Mancunians.

Since then the same combination of Taylor, Jones and Mulholland have registered victory over Stockport by eight sets to two, only four days after suffering defeat by five sets to three against the same league in the Wilmott Cup.

This surely must give our men's first team pride of place this month. It would hardly be fair to single out any one of the trio for praise for all three played their part and were a credit to Liverpool table tennis. The fact that Hankey was unable to play for Stockport in the second encounter matters little as he failed to notch a win in the Cup match anyway.

Exciting Matches

Both struggles were extremely exciting and praise is due to both teams for some first-class play. The handful of spectators who came along to witness these matches, one at Liverpool Y.M.C.A. and the other at Waterloo Dock, were, I think, well rewarded for their journey. What doubts there may have been about the ability of the team to hold its own in the premier division have been allayed very quickly.

The women's A team, comprising Mrs. L. Lacey and Mrs. B. Illidge, both of Orrell, and Mrs. M. Lovelady of Rafters, went to 3-7 to Oldham in a second division match at Beauclair. Most successful of our girls was Mrs. Lovelady, who won two of her three singles, while Mrs. Lacey gained the team's only other success. Mrs. Illidge unfortunately seemed rather nervous

on her first appearance in league colours and did not produce her normal club form.

With regard to the men's A team, the agreed policy of making this an experimental side with an eye to the future, continues. So far, in three matches, J. Cain, L. Mulholland, W. Harris, W. Allanson, R. Jones (Liverpool Y.M.) and D. Ferguson have all had a chance to display their wares and all have emerged with a certain amount of success.

In their match with Wirral, the combination of Grayson, Hobbs and Roy Jones proved too strong for Liverpool's Cain, Ron Jones and Ferguson and were comfortable winners by eight sets to two. Ferguson and Jones both defeated Hobbs to score their team's successes.

League Debut

For their match against Blackpool on December 19, the A team will be represented by Cain, Allanson and Ralph Gunnion. While this will be Gunnion's first league honour, he is a considerably improved player since the days of a couple of seasons ago when his lack of height tended to become something of a handicap. Having put on a few inches since, he has rather surprised a few people.

The grand start made by our junior side is dealt with on the opposite page but I should just mention that they must at least share top position in their division. Wirral juniors are, I understand, also unbeaten in three matches, which points to a lively encounter between the teams later in the season.

In conclusion, do please let me know of any promising player of whom you know. At the Eagle and Girl tournament recently I observed at least two young lads who could become really good players in a few years time. They both belong to league clubs and it seems strange that nobody has yet thought it worth while to bring them to the notice of one of the league's officials.

OUR CONQUERING JUNIORS

by Jack Pattison

SEVEN-THREE . . . nine-one . . . ten-nil . . . such is the record to date of our junior team in the Lancashire and Cheshire League and one of which we can be justly proud.

And for that record all credit must go to three Bootle Y.M.C.A. boys who have composed the team on all three occasions—Derek Craig, Peter Keating and John Ball.

Let me be frank. When we entered a youth team in the two counties league we were prepared to see our players struggling hard to win. It would seem that we lacked not a little confidence in the ability of our young players. Perhaps that was due to not having seen them often enough in action against players of their own age from other places. Well, we've had our answer—and in no uncertain manner.

Now let me turn to the actual matches. The first against Bolton produced a game which was well worth watching and produced a kind of table tennis that we should see more often. It was good to see all six players adopting an aggressive game—not being simply content to win points through the mistakes of their opponents but always trying to hit that winner.

Our 7-3 win came through all three of our players each winning two of their singles with Craig and Keating adding the doubles.

Against Blackpool Boys we expected a tougher fight, especially when we learned that they had also beaten Bolton. It was unfortunate for them that they were without their No. 1 against our team, but one can only play those opposing them and I have a strong feeling that Craig, Keating and Ball would still have pulled it off against the strongest Blackpool side.

The three Bootle boys did all that was required of them to win 9-1, only Ball dropping a set; indeed, I had the feeling once or twice during the later sets when the match was won, that our boys were not as keen as they might have been and gained their victories "pulling up".

I was unable to see the 10-0 win over Macclesfield but I had a good report of the match. From this I judge that the Liverpool players completely dominated all the sets and never really looked like losing one of them. The match was played on their own "pitch"—Bootle Y.M.C.A.—which naturally gave them a big advantage, but even so the only time when any one of them was pushed was in the set between Keating and Macclesfield No. 1, R. Wilkinson, which the Bootle boy won 21-19 in the third.

By the time these notes have appeared in print, we will have played Stockport Boys. I shall be intensely interested to see how our Bootle "Babes" fare there.

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LIVERPOOL 1

Young Player's Promise

By Joe Ellison

FROM a spectator's point of view the match between R.A.F.A. and Everton Y.M.C.A. produced little of interest beyond to wonder that if the play shown by both teams was the average standard of the Third Division, what that of the lower divisions must be like.

Everton won by seven sets to three and the most interesting thing for me was the play of Coulson of the Y.M. He is only 15 years of age but he has the potential of a good player if guided along the right lines.

He won both his sets by beating Roberts and Butchart. Against the former he lost the first game chiefly because Roberts ran into a useful lead as the result of some lucky edges. Devastating hitting by Coulson had his opponent floundering in the second game and when he repeated this in the decider the R.A.F.A. player had no chance.

In his second set, the final one of the match, Coulson again produced his fierce attack and completely hit through Butchart in straight games.

Smith had started R.A.F.A. off with a win by beating Peter Turtle who is not the player he used to be and is now inclined to wild hitting. Indeed, it was this factor as much as anything he did himself that enabled Smith to win 21-8 in the third.

With Coulson putting the teams all square, Donnelly gained the lead for the Y.M. by beating Quiggin in a three-game set in which the R.A.F.A. player made some good shots, some careless ones and showed not a little slipshod defence. In fact, it was only due to Donnelly making more mistakes than he did, that Quiggin won the second game.

The meeting of penholder Robinson and Jones was about the most interesting set of the evening. The R.A.F.A. player used a great deal of swerve which often had his opponent going the wrong way, while Jones's top-spin drive to Robinson's back-hand frequently had the latter scratching. Both games went to deuce and in each

of them the deciding factor was some good drives by Robinson at the vital stages.

From that point onwards the match went almost all the Y.M.'s way. Donnelly restored their lead by winning a set from Roberts, more notable for its hit or miss character than anything else and for the fact that both played as if they couldn't care whether they won or not. Indeed it contrasted sharply with the following one between Butchart and Codd.

Here we had two players showing a genuine desire to win, which Codd did 24-22 in the third, and the only thing that marred it was a lack of patience to wait for the right ball. Nevertheless the match produced many good shots, some reasonably sound defence and a lot of honest endeavour.

Robinson could quite rightly consider himself a trifle unlucky to lose to Turtle. The Y.M. player had taken the first game by hitting two real winners at 20-all only to find Robinson finding his weakness by hitting down his backhand. The final game was an anti-climax in that Turtle got home only by scrambling the last three points.

At this point the Y.M. had made sure of a point but Jones brought them victory in quick time by disposing of Quiggin 21-18 twice. His winning method was simple—some good hitting and some good lifting for Quiggin to hit off the table. A little more steadiness would do Quiggin a lot of good and in this set could easily have reversed the decision.

Smith stopped Everton's winning sequence by the very simple method of pushing Codd off the table and the match ended with Coulson again showing his great promise.

Apart from the play, the thing that surprised me was to see players appearing at the table in collars and ties and in pullovers of varying hues. It would seem that to some people Rule 19, Paragraph 2 simply does not exist.

LEAGUE TABLES

Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Balfour	8	8	0	0	65	15	16
Liverpool Y.M.	9	7	1	1	65	25	15
Rafters	10	6	1	3	61	39	15
Linnets	10	6	2	2	61	39	14
Victoria Park	9	6	2	1	56	34	13
Bootle Y.M.	9	5	3	1	48	42	11
Anfield	10	5	5	0	50	50	10
Bohemians	10	4	4	2	50	50	10
Bath Street	9	1	6	2	35	55	4
Litherland	10	1	8	1	28	72	3
Balfour A	9	0	8	1	23	67	1
Oakhill	9	0	9	0	18	72	0

Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L'pool Y.M. A	10	10	0	0	85	15	20
Waterloo Park	9	9	0	0	79	11	18
Bootle Y.M. A	10	8	2	0	67	33	16
Rafters A	9	6	3	0	56	34	12
Bohemians A	10	4	4	2	40	60	10
Cadwa	10	3	4	3	43	57	9
I.C.I.	10	3	5	2	50	50	8
Lucern	10	3	6	1	39	61	7
Waterloo Dock	10	2	6	2	42	58	6
Oakhill A	10	1	5	4	35	65	6
Linnets A	10	0	7	3	27	73	3
English Elec.	10	1	8	1	25	75	3

Division 3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Victoria Pk A	10	10	0	0	86	14	20
Anfield A	9	7	2	0	65	25	14
Beauclair	9	5	2	2	49	41	12
Bath Street A	10	4	3	3	55	45	11
R.A.F.A.	10	5	4	1	52	48	11
Bootle Y.M. B	10	4	4	2	45	65	10
Rafters B	10	4	5	1	40	60	9
Litherland A	9	3	4	2	47	43	8
Linacre	9	4	5	0	42	48	8
L.P.A.S.	10	2	7	1	38	62	5
Everton Y.M.	9	1	6	2	30	60	4
Cadwa A	9	1	8	0	21	69	2

Division 4

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Ralfour 'B'	10	9	1	0	71	29	18
Waterloo Pk A	10	9	1	0	70	30	18
Vivtoria Pk B	8	6	1	1	52	28	13
Fairlawn	9	5	2	2	51	39	12
Litherland B	10	5	3	2	49	51	12
University	10	5	4	1	49	51	11
L'pool Y.M. B	10	3	6	1	50	50	8
Wrbck Moor	9	2	5	2	41	49	6
Bohemians B	9	2	5	2	39	51	6
Aigburth	9	3	6	0	30	60	6
Harold House	10	2	7	1	40	60	5
L.P.A.S. A	10	0	10	0	28	72	0

Division 5

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Balfour C	10	10	0	0	85	15	20
Victoria Pk C	10	8	2	0	77	23	16
Linnets B	10	8	2	0	74	26	16
Sefton	10	8	2	0	71	29	16
Bootle Y.M. C	10	6	3	1	56	44	13
Oakhill B	10	5	4	1	53	47	11
Anfield B	10	2	5	3	38	62	7
Bath Street B	10	3	7	0	40	60	6
Bohemians C	10	3	7	0	30	70	6
Litherland C	10	2	7	1	28	72	5
Cadwa B	10	1	9	0	24	76	2
Rafters C	10	1	9	0	24	76	2

Division 6

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Victoria Pk D	10	9	1	0	71	29	18
Lussac	10	8	1	1	71	29	17
Florence Oxton	10	7	1	2	72	28	16
Waterloo Dk A	10	8	2	0	61	39	16
Huntley & P	10	6	4	0	58	42	12
Nalگو	10	4	5	1	51	49	9
Domestic Miss.	10	4	5	1	41	59	9
Bootle Nalگو	10	4	6	0	53	47	8
Telecomms	10	2	7	1	36	64	5
Anfield C	10	2	7	1	35	65	5
Linnets C	10	1	8	1	29	71	3
L.P.A.S. B	10	0	8	2	22	78	2

North Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Liverpool P.O.	11	11	0	0	107	3	22
Waterloo Pk B	10	7	2	1	66	34	15
Co-op.	8	7	1	0	57	23	14
Tech. Students	10	7	3	0	56	44	14
Bootle Y.M. D	9	5	2	2	50	40	12
Belling & Lee	8	4	4	0	48	32	8
Moss Side	9	4	5	0	34	56	8
Bath Street C	7	1	4	2	30	40	4
Lewis's	9	1	6	2	28	62	4
Anfield D	8	1	6	1	21	59	3
Waterloo Pk C	9	0	7	2	25	65	2
St. George's	8	0	8	0	11	69	0

South Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Wavertree Lab	9	8	1	0	73	17	16
Beauclair A	8	7	0	1	64	16	15
Stuart & Drfmm	9	6	2	1	58	32	13
Wavertree Bap.	7	6	1	0	54	16	12
Fairlawn B	8	5	3	0	46	34	10
Liverpool C.C.	9	4	5	0	44	46	8
Aigburth A	9	3	5	1	38	52	7
Crawfords A	10	3	6	1	33	67	7
Lussac A	9	2	7	0	24	66	4
Oakhill D	9	1	8	0	25	65	2
L'pool C.C. A	8	0	8	0	13	67	0

LEAGUE TABLES

East Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Fairlawn A . . .	9	8	1	0	64	26	16
Crawfords . . .	9	6	2	1	54	36	13
Ostec	9	6	2	1	54	36	13
Wvrtree Lab A	8	6	1	1	47	33	13
Stoneycroft . .	9	4	4	1	49	41	9
Nalگو A	9	4	4	1	45	45	9
Oakhill C	8	3	2	3	37	43	8
Beauclair B . .	9	2	6	1	40	50	5
English Elec. A	10	2	7	1	40	60	5
Albright & W	9	1	6	2	29	61	4
Fairlawn C . . .	9	1	7	1	31	59	3

Women's Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Balfour	8	8	0	0	67	13	16
Cadwa	8	5	1	2	53	27	12
Rafters	8	5	1	2	52	28	12
Oakhill	7	5	2	0	43	27	10
Bibbys	8	3	2	3	42	38	9
Orrell	7	3	4	0	36	34	6
Bath Street . .	8	2	5	1	32	48	5
Bohemians . . .	9	2	6	1	30	60	5
Linnets	7	1	5	1	30	40	3
Bohemians A . .	8	0	8	0	5	75	0

Women's Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Waterloo Park	7	7	0	0	60	10	14
Cadwa A	7	7	0	0	59	11	14
Huntley & P . .	8	6	2	0	56	24	12
Sefton	7	3	3	1	40	30	7
Anfield	8	3	4	1	38	42	7
Bibbys A	7	3	4	0	26	44	6
Wavertree Lab	7	2	5	0	22	48	4
Rafters A	6	0	6	0	10	50	0
Lucem	7	0	7	0	9	61	0

Note—All outstanding matches must be played off by the end of January, 1959.

Merseyside Open

INSTEAD of the customary report on the Merseyside Open Championships, played at Dunlop's factory, Speke, on November 7 and 8, we publish the following extracts from the report on the tournament submitted to the Management Committee by the referee, Mr. Ray Hebson:

On Saturday the referee's timing and sequence plans had to be abandoned. By 10.15 a.m. there should have been 80 men present, yet only five sets were available for calling on.

Faced with unpunctuality on this scale, the referee had to decide whether to resort to wholesale scratching, which would have emaciated the tournament, or wait for more players. Knowing that there was time in hand, the referee chose to wait. Ultimately, six men were scratched, including one optimist who arrived after 3 p.m.

The women were not required to report until later. In general they were punctual and only one was scratched. It is understood that she was ill.

It transpired, at an early stage, that umpires were scarce. Numerous appeals were made to losing players to stay at the table to umpire the next set, but these appeals went largely unheeded.

One further difficulty arose because some players ignored the announcement about lunch times, even though they were invited to inquire at the platform if in doubt about when to go.

There were eleven tables for use, but with the exception of the men's singles, no event had enough entries to keep all tables going for more than a few minutes.

Where possible, non-clashing events were played simultaneously, but even so the number of individuals entered (some being in four events) was insufficient to keep all tables occupied throughout.

In the light of this experience, the referee feels that the tournament would have run more smoothly, and

(Continued on page 16)

Divisional Notes

Relegation Bogey Again

BALFOUR A have been members of the First Division for so many years that without them the division would undoubtedly look strange. During the past few seasons they have narrowly escaped relegation and none nearer than last term when, with Oakhill, they only avoided the Second Division by means of a couple of valuable wins near the end of the season.

Once again, however, both teams are well and truly in the danger zone and it is obvious that they are going to find it very difficult to once more escape.

The trouble with Balfour A seems to be weakness at the top. They have filled the two top places in their team with Bill McKechnie, Mal Wallace and Les Davies without being able to find a successful combination.

This must be one of the poorest seasons Bill Harris has ever experienced. In his first eight league matches he has only been able to win six sets and two of these were in Oakhill's opening match against Liverpool Y.M.C.A.

Nor are any other members of the team proving more successful. Indeed, unless the Kensington club can find a couple of stronger players than they appear to have at present, they can have little hope of retaining premier status.

Much, of course, will depend on Bath Street and Litherland, but as both of them have triumphed over Oakhill within the past month—

Bath Street by 6-4 and Litherland by 7-3, it does not look as if they can have any hopes in that direction.

Liverpool Y.M.C.A. have regrouped to bring Dave Butterworth into their first team, but his return was hardly outstanding for in his first match—against Ratters—he lost to both Dave Ferguson and Clint Casselman. But it was a different story in the next game against Linnets when he gained a “double” by beating Don Hobbs and Frank Thomas.

Two of the best individual performances of the past month were those by Ralph Gunnion (Bootle Y.M.C.A.) and Ted Barnes (Anfield). Gunnion beat Ron Rumjahn 16 and 13, and Barnes, who has scored four “doubles” in nine matches, has included Vic Chesham of Bohemians (19 and 13) among his victims.

★ ★ ★

THE Second Division is certainly proving to be a two-horse race between Liverpool Y.M.C.A. A and Waterloo Park, both of whom are still unbeaten. Neither team has been seriously challenged this month. Y.M.C.A.'s toughest match—if tough it can be called for they won 8-2—was against Bootle Y.M.C.A. A, while Waterloo Park have sailed along triumphantly with 10-0 wins over Cadwa and Bohemians A and a 9-1 victory over Oakhill A.

Although Liverpool Y.M.'s team now includes Ted Mandaluff in place of Butterworth, the change is

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BATH STREET MISSED CHANCE

not likely to affect them much, for Mandaluff is one of the steadiest players in the league and his biggest fault is his own modesty.

At the opposite end of the table English Electric have broken their "duck". Visiting Linnets A they held them to a draw, thanks chiefly to their No. 1, E. Smitton, winning both his sets by beating W. Libby 21-8, 21-10 and F. Crowther 21-12, 21-8.

If the English Electric strength was mainly at the top, Linnets staved off defeat owing to the fine efforts of Jim Green and E. Gaul, both of whom won their two sets.

The most desperate struggle in the division is going to be between the teams striving to avoid relegation. At present Oakhill A, Linnets A, Waterloo Dock and I.C.I. are threatened and each team seems to be cutting the others' throats.

What a difference one player can make to a team. Take Waterloo Dock, for instance. With their regular side they beat Rafter's A, who are near the top; yet without Andy Byrne they lost 4-6 to Cadwa.

In recent matches Bill Baldwin has proved to be I.C.I.'s most successful player and among the players he has beaten in the past month have M. Gallagher and Mrs. L. Rumjahn (Rafter's A) and Ernie Owens (Liverpool Y.M.C.A. A). In the latter case, his win was his side's only success.

★ ★ ★

THERE must be a few clubs in the league envious of the present position of Victoria Park for having what seems to be unlimited reserves at their disposal.

Surely few teams so successful as Park A are this season have called on so many players. They have needed ten so far and those who have stood in for the "regulars" have all proved their worth. Nevertheless, with the success of R. Stanton, unbeaten in his first six matches for

Park A, the club's selectors could be somewhat puzzled about how to fit him in each week since Morris, Mason, Carroll, Houghton and Tarr have almost equally good records.

Little wonder Park A have established themselves firmly at the top of the division and have disposed of their keenest rivals. And with Mike Truman now available for every match, to add to those players already mentioned, they look fully capable of remaining in their exalted position.

The defeat of Anfield A by the Park could have opened up the way for Bath Street A to have challenged for second position had they not dropped a point to Beauclair. It was a bad slip, especially as Beauclair had John McKim in the team as reserve—but what a useful reserve for he beat both Hurst and Bent, respectively 13 and 19 in the third.

With a more settled team the Police would probably not be in the perilous position they are at the moment. Except for the trouncing they received from Victoria Park A, most of their defeats have been by such narrow margins as to have been capable of reversal. As it is, most of the assault upon them has been borne by Gould, Hough and Bracewell, and Gould can draw considerable satisfaction from the fact that the defeats he has suffered have been only at the hands of the division's strongest players.

Another team who have called upon no fewer than ten players this season are Rafter's B, but unlike those of Victoria Park their reserves have not had the same success. Indeed, one of the best records in the team is that held by Mrs. Myra Lovelady, whose successes have included three "doubles".

Outside the members of the two leading teams, however, one of the best individual records in the section is that held by B. Smith, of R.A.F.A. In ten matches, including cup-ties, he dropped only four sets—and a couple of those were by narrow margins.

Fine Record of Martinez

WITH victories over both teams during the past month, Balfour B have virtually put Fairlawn and Litherland B out of the running in Division 4, but they have still to contend with Victoria Park B. (Curious how that keeps recurring this season). The Park beat them 7-3 in the third match of the season and then fell themselves by a similar score to Waterloo Park A.

Only twice has the Balfour combination of Fay, Gill, Evans, Jones and Randall been changed and on each occasion the reserve called in—M. Looker and P. Cox—did their stuff to some purpose.

Cliff Fay has one of the best individual records in the divisions, having been beaten only twice in nine matches. Stan Harvey, of Victoria Park B, has a similar record, but it is A. Martinez (Liverpool Y.M.C.A. B) who can boast the best for the first half of the season. In ten matches he dropped only one set and that was in their Rumjahn Cup tie with the third division side, Beauclair.

One might reasonably expect Harold House to make a braver showing than they have done so far this season, especially with the youthful players they have at their disposal. About their best performance was the holding of Litherland B to a draw, thanks to the double scored by Elackman.

Only M. Snyder, however, seems to be able to show any consistency, although after a great start to his season in which he won nine sets out of the first ten, he has since fallen away. T. Cohen, who has been brought in in place of Jacobs, has only been partially successful.

Continual changes are not doing the University much good. Only Rosebleem and Eason have been ever-presents and only the former has achieved much success. They certainly could do with Lorna Bown being a more regular member of the team.

And contrasting sharply with some of the other sides are Warbreck Moor, who have relied on the same five all through, with N. Rees their outstanding player.

★ ★ ★

THE Fifth Division had all the appearance of being a fight between Balfour C and Linnets B until the pair met at the beginning of the month and the Smithdown Road players ably demonstrated their superiority by winning by seven sets to three.

What a fine first couple, however, the Linnets side have in Hilliard and Griffith. Until they played Bootle Y.M.C.A. C, Hilliard had dropped only one set; then he crashed to Evans and Harris. Griffith, on the other hand, holding a similar record, maintained his winning sequence, making him and M. Looker of Balfour C, the players with just about the best records in the division.

Another player with a fine individual record is W. Nelson of Oakhill A. He has bowed his head only twice in nine matches, in most of which he has played at No. 2.

Sefton had something of a blow to their hopes when they met the Oakhill side and were beaten 4-6, due in the main to the fact that Nelson and Vic Imundi got four of Oakhill's six sets between them. It was Ken McKechnie's worst match of the season, for he lost to both the Oakhill players in straight games.

Oakhill have on occasion called upon Mrs. Edna Moore to stand in as reserve and more than one player has now cause to know that she is an opponent one cannot treat with disrespect. A fighter from the first point to the last, she never fails to exploit the weakness of her opponent.

Lussac Missed Rattigan

Bath Street B have used ten players so far this season without being able to find a really successful combination, while Anfield B, Litherland C, Oakhill B and Victoria Park C have each called upon nine players.

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LUSSAC dropped their first point of the season when Florence Oxtou held them to a draw. Admittedly they were without T. Rattigan and G. Callaghan who took his place at No. 1, was obviously outclassed by both Linsner and Moran.

Undoubtedly Lussac owe their exalted position in the Sixth Division to the two Holmeses and Leeming. The last named, who missed the first two matches of the season, has still to be beaten this term and in most of his matches the manner of his victories have left little or no room for doubt.

Another player with an all-conquering run so far is Florence Oxtou's Linsner. He has missed three matches but in the eight he had played up to the time of writing he had won all 16 sets. Little wonder he has recently taken over the No. 1 berth held for so long by Eddie Moran.

Liverpool Nalگو must surely be the club with the biggest supply of players in the league. Only George Kirk has played in all their matches this season, and only twice have they had the same team in successive weeks. Already they have needed 12 players for their first team.

How different has been the case of Huntley & Palmers. Only once has their regular quintet been altered—when they were without Gaskell and brought in J. Ashton at No. 5 against Linnetts C. And they still won easily enough.

With Florence Oxtou dropping points to Lussac and Liverpool Nalگو, Victoria Park D have

jumped into second place in the table as the result of some convincing victories and it behoves Lussac to look to their laurels if they want to keep them safe from the Park.

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THE North Region is unfortunately so obviously a one-horse race—the only horse being, of course, Liverpool Post Office—that it loses a great deal of its interest.

For most of the other clubs it can only be a matter of how hard a game can they give the Postmen when they meet them—and the results to date show that this has not been often for the P.O. have conceded only three sets in nine matches, including a cup-tie.

Chief interest therefore lies in the battle for the second place, which is at present taking place between Bootle Y.M.C.A. D, Waterloo Park B and the Co-op. The last named have jumped into the coveted position as the result of a fine 7-3 win over the Y.M. on Bootle's own table.

Fletcher and Crank were the Co-op's chief architects of the success for both of them won their two sets, Fletcher beating Buurman (14 in the third) and T. Jones and Crank also defeating Buurman and Campbell (12 in the third).

Technical Students are certainly having a vastly different season to what has been their experience during the past couple of years. Three wins on the run was certainly unusual for them, and during them Mulcahy added six more scalps to his total for the season. The Students' winning run was only ended when they came up against Co-op and succumbed 3-7.

Waterloo Park C broke their "duck" when they drew at home with their near neighbours, Bath

Albright In Keen Tussle

Street C, but a fortnight later they added a second point to it with another draw, this time against Lewis's.

★ ★ ★

STUART & DORFMAN, who looked like making their league debut in the South Region a notable one, had their first setback when beaten 7-3 by Wavertree Baptists on their own table. The match also cost E. Dorfman his unbeaten record for he was defeated 21-17 in the third by M. Travis, who by doing so, maintained his own all-conquering record.

The battle between Beauclair A and Wavertree Labour for the eventual leadership continues to hang in the balance—at least writing before the pair have met. Both teams are so obviously well balanced from top to bottom that they are hard nuts to crack.

The Labour Club introduced J. F. Farquharson into their side a month ago and how valuable he has been to them at No. 3 is shown by the fact that he collected six sets in his first three matches.

Since Hambleton's defeat by M. Travis of the Baptists, he has carried all before him and has seldom been taken to three games. Chaloner's record is only slightly the worse.

After gaining only seven sets in their first five matches, Lussac A promptly doubled them in the next with a 7-3 victory over Crawfords A. It was also their first win of the season and quite a night out for Kneale, Patterson and Smith, all of whom won both their sets.

Could it be that success breeds success for Lussac followed this up with a 6-4 win over Oakhill D, thus leaving that team and Liverpool Cricket Club A as the only two teams in the region without a point.

FAIRLAWN A have taken over the leadership of the East Region as the result of four victories in succession and Wavertree Labour A dropping a point to Albright and Wilson.

This latter match was probably the closest and keenest seen in the region this season. No fewer than seven of the ten sets were to three games and one of these was decided on a deuce and the other three by very narrow margins.

Albright could thank Ashworth and Carton for their point, for each of them won both their sets. In doing so Ashworth inflicted on Thomas his first league defeat of the season and Carton dealt a similar blow to Whitfield.

Albright, however, found it a different story when they met Ostec. In fact, they found all five of their opponents on top form and the one success they could claim—by Ingham—was only achieved after that player had been taken to three.

Liverpool Nalgo A did themselves a world of good with 6-4 victories over English Electric A and Oakhill C. The Oakhill players must have been not a little surprised to have been caught on the hop but they could count themselves a trifle fortunate that the margin was not greater for of their four victories three of them were only obtained in three-game sets. By contrast all six of Nalgo came in straight games.

Harper and Shepherd both had two wins, the former beating Cobb and Glover and the latter defeated Chambers as well as Glover.

Another good win was that of Beauclair B over Stoneycroft by six sets to four. R. Palmer and E. Sturgess were double winners for them, with victories over N. Dawn and A. Kilbride and B. Smith and A. Dawn respectively. Their two women players, Mrs. E. Palmer and Mrs. A. Brown, added a set apiece, Mrs. Palmer by beating Dawn and Mrs. Brown by defeating F. Davies.

Cadwa Losing Gloria Burns

By Eileen Mansell

THE Merseyside Open has come and gone and I am sorry to say that once again the women's events all went to outsiders.

I had high hopes of Moya Jones doing well in this year's tournament as she has been playing extremely well all season, but unfortunately she was defeated in the first round on the Saturday by Mrs. J. Farnsworth, the Yorkshire County player, after looking all set for taking the match.

It was a great pity that more of our women players did not take advantage of competing in the tournament. As it was, only 26 entered and six of them were members of the Business Houses League, not the Liverpool League.

Once more, however, I appeal to our women players to try and enter the League's closed tournament when it comes round. I am sure you will enjoy it. The playing conditions are excellent and you have a chance of meeting players better than yourself and perhaps even beating them.

Let me now turn to league matters. Balfour are still top of the first division with 14 points out of seven matches and Oakhill have taken over second place, with Rafters third and Cadwa, formerly next to Balfour, having dropped to fourth position.

Cadwa A and Waterloo Park are leading the second division, Cadwa with 14 points out of seven matches and Waterloo Park with 12 points out of six matches. But the season is still young and anything can happen before the last match is played.

Cadwa's first team will be weakened in the New Year when Gloria Burns retires for a little while. Her place will be taken by Maureen Robinson, who plays No. 1 in the second team. Pauline Lawrenson seems to be getting back to form after her lay-off. She has a very sound defence and is also now using her attack more.

The B'bbys v Rafters match was an exciting affair. Six of the sets went to three and either side could easily have won. Reg Royle and

Myra Lovelady had a battle royal with Myra scraping home the winner 23-21 in the third. Reg doesn't seem to be playing so well this season, possibly because she is not relying so much on defence which has been the main feature of her game.

Elizabeth Loughrey had a great win recently over Mrs. L. Lacey, who has been playing in the Liverpool A team. Elizabeth has improved considerably this season and will be a serious challenger to quite a few players.

Linnets have acquired the service of Mrs. E. Turnbull who also plays in the Widnes League. She has a good all round game and will strengthen Linnets considerably.

Liverpool had a repeat match with Blackpool in the Lancashire and Cheshire League but once again we had to bow to their supremacy. Though the score was 9-1 against us, their win was by no means as easy as it sounds as six of the sets went to three games, any one of which might have turned our way.

Joyce Randall, who got our only victory, played extremely well against Mrs. Pat Gleeson. She really got her forehead attack going and on many occasions it was impossible for Mrs. Gleeson to get anywhere near it.

It was a pity she could not maintain her form against Kay Benson and Mrs. Wade. Kay was playing possibly as good as she has ever done. She gives very little away and on her day is extremely difficult to beat as both Moya Jones and Julie Roberts found to their cost.

Moya did not play anything like as well as she did in the Rose Bowl match when she won all her events. She only just lost in the third to Mrs. Gleeson, whose backhand was her strongest weapon in this match and Moya had no chance against it.

Julie Roberts played with much more confidence and was only beaten 20-22 in the third by Mrs. Wade. With a little of the luck which favoured her opponent she could easily have won in straight games.

These Are Your Letters

SHOW EVENT

AS a Regional player with seven or eight years in the League maybe I can throw a bit of light on the general reluctance to enter for the Merseyside Open.

This is the show tournament of the season and as such I don't think the promoters should expect mass entries. It is a tournament for the first and second number ones, the chaps who have a chance of getting through to Saturday morning, and for a handful of up and coming juniors who enter for experience. The average club player thinks twice about throwing his entry fee down the drain, galloping to an out of the way part of the city without his team only to be made a fool of by a player half a dozen divisions better than he is.

By all means let us keep the Merseyside Open, but the organisers should remember that by its very nature it will only attract the cream of the game.

If they want a mass entry tournament it must be some form of handicap affair. Maybe the various divisions and regions could each run an individual tournament, the winner and runner-up going on to a grand final with the competitors from the First Division off scratch, the two from the Second Division off say three and so on, until the regional representatives were reached. They might be given 12 or 13 handicaps and everyone would then have a fair chance.

Only a fool enters a tournament knowing, however well he plays, he will be slaughtered because he is out of his class, and the majority of the members of the League are not fools.

E. W. STURGESS (Beauclair)

LINNETS' REPLY

I have read with a deal of amusement the letter in the November issue written by A. C. Taylor.

In this there is the phrase "They do the same thing to my club time

and time again"—in respect of turning up late. This is a deliberate lie. Until this year I always made it my business to take the Linnets team to Bath Street in my own car. I have been playing in this League for just about 30 years, and I call on any single person who can remember when I was not on time for any match.

I state here and now that Taylor would not have written to the *Digest* if he had not been beaten by Roy Jones. He has probably made his ill-temper the excuse for losing. The quittance of sportsmanship.

I state also that Bath Street were unduly annoyed because they were not allowed to deliberately steal a set by trickery.

The suggestion made at the end of the letter was made by Linnets to the last A.G.M. Although Bath Street were represented there, and have a member on the Management Committee they do not seem to remember that the clubs turned it down. I do detest a man who has to alibi for losing.—J. R. GREEN (Linnets)

(Editor's note: This correspondence is closed.)

(Continued from page 9)

some of the umpiring troubles would have been avoided, by using only eight tables on Saturday, except for a short period in the morning.

Mr. Hebson concludes with the following suggestions:

1. The competitors' cards might include a prominent note to the effect that punctual players will be welcomed and late ones scratched.

2. The platform staff should number five, namely, referee, assistant referee, recorder and two announcers. Ideally, the recorder should be someone who can do clerical work quickly and accurately.

3. Although the number of tables must be pre-arranged and stated on the entry form, if the entry is too small to keep them all going, the surplus should be withdrawn from use at an early stage.