

FEBRUARY 1959

DD



Vol. IX. No. 3

Price 6d.

**TABLE
TENNIS
DIGEST**

Official Magazine

OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

TABLE *Digest* TENNIS

All correspondence must be addressed to The Editor, "Table Tennis Digest", 9 Podium Road, L'pool 13

Published during the months of Nov., Dec., Feb., March and April. Season subscription 3s.9d. post free

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Editor: J. D. Pattison
J. C. McKim, A. Montgomery

Vol. IX

FEBRUARY, 1959

No. 3

BENEFIT COULD BE MUTUAL

IN less than two months time the World Table Tennis Championships will be taking place at Dortmund in Germany, and it seems that their approach is producing something of a problem for the officials of the E.T.T.A. It is not so much the question of our team making a good show in the championships as the selection of our team, especially the men.

The trouble is that this season our leading players have participated in so few home tournaments that their form is problematical. Added to this is the fact that all five of our top-ranking players have been beaten by lesser players this season, thus making confusion even more confounded.

These facts only go to strengthen the opinion that has been held for many years among officials up and down the country who expend time, energy and expense in running tournaments, that the time has come when our leading players should be compelled to take part in a specified number of home events which are recognised as the guide rule to form.

To a great extent the E.T.T.A. have undoubtedly helped to create the problem which is now facing them by apparently encouraging our top players to take part in foreign tours during the course of our own season. They expect the various affiliated leagues to promote tournaments which will provide competition for the top players—and also their guide to form—but do little to ensure that such events can be run without a loss to the promoters.

The fact must be faced nowadays that with all the counter attractions of the present time, a table tennis tournament must be made to look attractive if it is to draw the number of spectators necessary to make its finances secure. The E.T.T.A. cannot go on expecting leagues to promote tournaments which incur substantial losses. In addition, our top players have also to realise that they must make their play attractive so that it will draw spectators.

There are several ways the E.T.T.A. can help to ensure the success of major tournaments. One way is to see that they do not clash with one another and that they do not clash with other big events, such as inter-county matches, which would interfere with them. Another way would be to inform our top players—all of whom are registered players and thereby look to the game as a source of income—that they must play in a certain number of open tournaments in this country during the season.

From the Secretary's Desk

CUPS FOR CHAMPION TEAMS

by John McKim

A NUMBER of challenge cups in the League's possession are not now being competed for and the Management Committee have decided to utilise some of them. They have decided that the F. W. Lake Cup shall be awarded to the team winning the first division championship and that the John Bartholomew Cup shall go to the winners of the women's championship.

In an effort to improve relations and provide a further opportunity for contact between officials of the Liverpool League and those of the Liverpool Business Houses League, the committee have also decided to put up for annual competition between the two leagues the F. L. Forrest Cup.

Accordingly a match between the two leagues has been arranged and will be played next month. The two teams will consist of three men and one lady, and both leagues have agreed that for this season no player who has represented his or her league in the Lancashire and Cheshire League shall be eligible. It is felt that in this way opportunity will be given to players who have been "knocking on the door" of inter-league teams.

As we had an improved entry for the League Closed Championships last season, provision has been made this year for extra tables to be available but the playing area for each table will be maintained so that competitors will not be cramped.

In addition, in response to many requests the finals will be played on Saturday immediately following the afternoon's play. The tournament is once again being staged at Dingle Vale Schools and entry forms will be included with the next issue of the *Digest*.

It should also be pointed out that the Catering Committee are making arrangements for hot refreshments to be available as well as cold.

Our youth team in the Lancashire and Cheshire League have had a good season and we believe that there are many more juniors in the league who may be considered for this team in future seasons. The Closed is an opportunity for them to show what they can do and we hope for a much improved entry for the Junior Singles.

A new event is being added to this year's schedule—a Veterans' Singles. If you like the idea the best way to show the committee is to enter, for the continuation of the event depends upon you. All players aged 40 on July 1, 1958, will be eligible to enter—men or women.

In continuance of our youth policy, members of the committee recently acted as selectors for an L.B.A. team to tour the Continent at Easter. We have also approached the county and national authorities to see if some reduction in affiliation fees can be made so that L.B.A. League may become affiliated and so open the way for further co-operation between them and ourselves.

May I ask once again for clubs who are interested in the scheme outlined in the last issue of the *Digest* to contact me so that we may know how far the League members are behind the committee in their attempt to recruit young players and improve the standard of play.

As I wrote last time, we are firmly of the opinion that the scheme can be something of a boon to many of our clubs if they will only co-operate.

Ladies In Distress!

WITH two-thirds of the Lancashire and Cheshire League fixtures now completed, it is perhaps, an opportune moment to show how our various teams have fared to the time of writing. Here therefore are their results:—

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Men's 1st . . .	4	2	2	0	19	21	4
Men's 'A' . . .	4	1	1	2	21	19	4
Ladies' 1st . . .	3	0	3	0	8	21	0
Ladies' 'A' . . .	4	3	1	0	22	18	6
Juniors	5	4	0	1	38	12	9

It is fair to say that all the teams are in a fairly safe position with the exception of the Ladies 1st who are in grave danger of relegation, so putting us in the invidious position of having two teams in the Second Division. It is to be hoped that such a possibility will be avoided after meeting Wirral Ladies on February 7.

The fact that Mrs. Moya Jones has been compelled, on medical advice, to cease playing, at least temporarily, has not helped the ladies' cause, but we wish Moya a speedy return to full health—and the small white ball.

Meanwhile Miss Eileen Mansell has once again been persuaded, despite her strong personal protestations, to take Moya's place and endeavour to extricate the ladies from their unenviable position. Eileen is still no mean performer and her influence on her younger and less experienced colleagues should save the day.

The ladies A team, in contrast, present a much brighter picture, their only defeat to date being by Oldham, a reverse which was avenged in the return encounter. Good performances have come from both Mrs. Myra Lovelady and Mrs. Lacey, who, between them, have formed the backbone of the side. Mrs. Turnbull, of Linnets, playing her first representative game against Oldham, gave quite a good account of herself.

Over now to the men's first team who have naturally had to fight hard for their success. To date they have contrived to break even and with their remaining fixtures being against Nelson and Southport, it is not out of the question that they will gather a further four points.

One team change has been made for the match against Nelson due to have been played at Huntley & Palmer on February 6 but postponed. Peter Rumjahn replaces Les Mulholland who has regrettably suffered a bad patch recently yet has never failed to give of his best at all times.

The recall of Peter Rumjahn may be considered a retrograde step by some, but he is, in fact, the man in form. Despite his advancing years—from a table tennis point of view—which make him now eligible for a veterans' singles event, Peter can still give an extremely good account of himself, and permits himself a smile or two even when on the table.

Arthur Taylor and Norman Jones have both more than held their own in the two-counties league.

The men's A team continues along its experimental and grooming course, and without setting the world on fire have ensured that their position in Division 2 will be maintained.

So much for the actual play. Now a word of thanks to the many clubs who have been good enough to place their premises at the disposal of the league for the staging of home matches. I have found ready co-operation from every club secretary I have approached and this has made my task so much easier.

Such help proves that the spirit of the game still prevails, whether there is apathy in other directions or not. This help has been very much appreciated.

VITAL POINT IS DROPPED

by Jack Pattison

LIVERPOOL'S youth team had their first setback in their chase after the Lancashire and Cheshire League's junior championship when they made a draw at Stockport and so dropped a point that may well prove to be vital at the end of the season.

And it was a point that should not have been lost for with a lead of 5-3 both Peter Keating and then Derek Craig had a chance of clinching the match but were unable to take it.

After losing the first game to Stockport's No. 2, F. Barnshaw, Keating recovered to take the next and held a comfortable lead when in the 'teens in the final game. He allowed Barnshaw to level at 20-all and then go on to take the game 23-21 for the set.

That made it 5-4 in our favour with Craig to play his opposite number, P. Barratt. The latter took the first game to 18; Craig replied by winning the next 22-20 and he too, had a useful lead in the third only to see Barratt wipe it out and win 21-19.

John Ball was our most successful player of the evening, winning his sets against Barnshaw and B. Scowcroft and being only narrowly beaten 20-22, 18-21 by Barratt. Indeed, Ball played finely throughout the match and made a grand recovery to beat Barnshaw.

Neither Craig nor Keating were at their best and could only win one singles set each, although they continued their successful doubles partnership with a good straight

games victory over Barratt and Barnshaw.

The match against Ashton saw the Bootle trio resume their winning way with an 8-2 victory. None of the Ashton boys were a match for Craig, who was at his best and won all his three singles sets without being really extended.

Ball, too, was again in good form and came out of the match without defeat. Oddly enough his hardest match was against Ashton's supposedly weakest player, J. O'Neill, to who he lost the first game in a deuce, but recovered well to take the next two without a deal of trouble.

Keating was once more below form but it must be said that he had only just got over the 'flu. He dropped his sets to Ashton's Nos. 1 and 3, H. Schofield and O'Neill, although he took both of them to three games.

Perhaps the biggest surprise of the match, however, was the defeat of Craig and Keating in the doubles. They seemed unable to dovetail and it was due to this factor as much as anything else that their Ashton opponents were able to win.

At the time of writing the Liverpool team are due to meet Wirral boys who have been carrying everything before them and it is probable that the junior championship will depend on that match. There are two consolatory factors for Liverpool—we have a better sets average and Wirral has still to play Stockport.

THE SPORTS SPECIALIST

TABLE TENNIS EQUIPMENT A SPECIALITY

Championship Tables, Bats, Balls, Nets, Shoes and Clothing

All makes of named Bats and Tables supplied.

JACK SHARP

(LIMITED)

Telephone

ROYAL 4793/4

VISIT OUR SHOWROOMS

36-38 Whitechapel :

LIVERPOOL 1

A Night of Surprises

By Our Own Reporter

THERE can have been few matches in the league this season which have been played in a more tense atmosphere than was the return meeting of Balfour B and Victoria Park B.

On the evening the draw that resulted was a fairly good reflection of the play of both teams. No doubt the fact that the leadership of the fourth division virtually hung upon the result, had much to do with the tense feeling which prevailed throughout. There was also the additional factor that it was, in a way, a rehearsal of the semi-final of the Rumjahn Cup and whoever emerged as winners would naturally have a big psychological advantage in the cup-tie.

Be that as it may, however, there was no doubt that all ten players taking part were keyed up to a high degree and if finger nails were not bitten away, it was only because their owners had not acquired the habit.

With the knowledge of a 7-3 victory on their own table behind them and the fact that they had George Carroll in their side for the first time, the Park could not have been blamed if they felt somewhat confident of victory. But they also knew that these facts were offset by a great improvement in the Balfour team since the meeting early in the season.

Nevertheless it was quickly obvious that the Park expected great things from Carroll, for skipper Eddie Cameron immediately called on him to play his opposite number, Cliff Fay, in the first set of the match.

But the expected win did not materialise, for Fay playing well, comfortably disposed of Carroll in straight games, 17 and 17.

That, however, was only the first surprise. The next came the way of Balfour, for Gerry Gill, noting the way Fay was playing, kept him on the table against Richie Staunton fully expecting to see Balfour two up within a few minutes.

Staunton had other ideas, and hitting well on both forehand and backhand, he gave Fay little chance in the first game. But Fay does not give up easily and with the change round he assumed command

of the game to take easily to 7. It had been a complete change round but Staunton surprised everyone by pegging Fay back in the decider to run out winner by 21-16.

Yet another surprise was to follow. With a crucial stage of the match at hand, Cameron called on his "ace in the hole" player Stan Harvey, in the full expectation that he would put a set into the Park's bag. Not so, George Randall. Perhaps it was the memory of his double defeat at Victoria Park in the first match that made him determined to match Harvey's best.

More than match he did, for although he only just managed to snatch the first game at 23-21, he went on to take the second 21-17 by playing the most relaxed table tennis.

Randall's victory was probably the one thing that stopped Victoria Park from completing the league double, for only he and Staunton emerged from the match without tasting defeat. Randall added the scalp of Ken Horne, who had anything but a good night, to that of Harvey, and Staunton took that of Peter Evans after the latter had won the first game to 17.

So the tense struggle went on, with neither side being able to feel that their next player would gain them a set, until, with Balfour leading 5-4, it fell to the lot of skipper Cameron to save a point for Victoria Park in the final set against E. Jones.

His task was not made any easier by the conflicting advice he got from his team-mates. "Push him off" said one. "Hit him off" said another. Probably because he is naturally an aggressive player, Cameron decided on the latter tactics and it paid him dividends for Jones was hardly ever in the hunt.

It had been a long and gruelling struggle, but it is probable that neither team would have had it otherwise. One or two may not have touched their best form; one or two may have surpassed themselves, but all ten put in everything they had into both their set, and successful or otherwise must have enjoyed every minute of it.

LEAGUE TABLES

Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Balfour	15	15	0	0	119	31	30
Rafters	15	10	1	4	92	58	24
L'pool Y.M. . .	14	9	3	2	92	48	20
Victoria Pk . .	14	8	3	3	81	59	19
Bohemians . . .	14	6	5	3	71	69	15
Linnets	13	6	5	2	70	60	14
Anfield	15	7	8	0	75	75	14
Bootle Y.M. . .	13	5	6	2	62	68	12
Bath Street . .	13	2	9	2	54	76	6
Litherland . . .	13	2	10	1	40	90	5
Balfour A . . .	14	2	11	1	42	98	5
Oakhill	15	2	13	0	42	108	4

Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L'pool Y.M.A . .	14	14	0	0	119	21	28
Waterloo Pk. .	15	14	1	0	122	28	28
Bootle Y.M.A . .	14	10	4	0	88	52	20
Bohemians A . .	14	6	5	3	64	76	15
Cadwa	15	5	6	4	66	83	14
Rafters A . . .	13	6	6	1	69	61	13
Lucern	14	6	7	1	60	80	13
Waterloo Dk . .	15	6	7	2	71	79	12
Oakhill A . . .	15	4	7	4	64	86	12
I.C.I.	15	3	9	3	64	86	9
Linnets A . . .	15	0	12	3	39	111	3
English Elec. .	13	1	11	1	31	98	3

Division 3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Victoria Pk A .	14	14	0	0	123	17	28
Anfield A . . .	15	13	2	0	108	42	26
Litherland A .	15	8	5	2	82	68	18
Bath Street A .	14	6	4	4	78	62	16
Beauchair . . .	14	6	4	4	72	68	16
R.A.F.A.	15	6	6	3	78	72	15
Bootle Y.M. B .	14	5	6	3	61	79	13
L.P.A.S.	14	4	8	2	60	80	10
Rafters B . . .	14	4	8	2	52	88	10
Linacre	14	4	10	0	53	87	8
Everton Y.M. .	13	2	8	3	49	81	7
Cadwa A	14	1	12	1	34	106	3

Division 4

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Balfour B . . .	14	12	1	1	101	39	25
Victoria Pk B .	13	10	1	2	86	44	22
Watrloo Pk A .	14	11	3	0	95	45	22
Fairlawn	14	9	3	2	85	55	20
Litherland B .	15	9	4	2	84	66	20
University . . .	14	6	7	1	63	77	13
Harold House .	14	5	7	2	65	75	12
L'pool Y.M. B .	15	4	9	2	70	80	11
Wrbrcck Moor .	13	4	7	2	59	71	10
Aigburth	14	4	10	0	46	94	8
Bohemians B . .	15	2	10	3	55	95	7
L.P.A.S. A . . .	14	0	13	1	41	109	1

Division 5

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Linnets B . . .	15	13	2	0	115	35	26
Sefton	14	12	2	0	103	37	24
Balfour C . . .	12	11	1	0	97	23	22
Victoria Pk C .	14	10	4	0	102	38	20
Oakhill B . . .	15	8	5	2	82	68	18
Bootle Y.M. C .	12	6	5	1	57	63	13
Litherland C . .	15	6	8	1	64	86	13
Bath St. B . . .	13	5	8	0	61	69	10
Anfield B . . .	14	2	8	4	53	87	8
Bohemians C . .	13	3	10	0	34	96	6
Rafters C . . .	15	2	13	0	32	118	4
Cadwa B	14	1	13	0	30	110	2

Division 6

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Victoria Pk D .	15	13	2	0	107	43	26
Lussac	14	10	2	2	90	50	22
Wtrloo Dk A . .	14	11	3	0	86	54	22
Flo Oxtou . . .	14	10	1	3	99	41	21
Huntley & P. .	14	8	5	1	81	59	17
Nalgo	14	6	7	1	74	66	13
Domestic Mis. .	15	4	7	4	59	91	12
Bootle Nalgo. .	15	4	9	2	71	79	10
Telecomms . . .	14	4	9	1	56	84	9
Anfield C . . .	14	3	10	1	47	93	7
Linnets C . . .	14	1	9	4	46	94	6
L.P.A.S. B . . .	13	0	10	3	34	96	3

North Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Liverpool P.O. .	14	13	0	1	131	9	27
Co-op.	14	11	2	1	101	39	23
Wtrloo Pk B . .	15	11	3	1	102	48	23
Bootle Y.M. D .	14	9	2	3	89	51	21
Tech. Studs. . .	15	9	6	0	79	71	18
Bath St. C . . .	15	7	6	2	86	64	16
Belling & Lee .	14	7	6	1	78	62	15
Moss Side . . .	13	6	6	1	56	74	13
Wtrloo Pk C . .	13	1	9	3	45	85	5
Lewis's	14	1	11	2	34	106	4
Anfield D . . .	12	1	10	1	25	95	3
St. George's . .	15	0	15	0	14	136	0

South Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Wavrtree Lab .	14	13	1	0	117	23	26
Wvrtree Bap. .	13	11	2	0	101	29	22
Beauchair A . .	13	8	2	3	85	45	19
Stuart&Drfmn .	13	8	2	3	83	47	19
Liverpool C.C. .	14	6	6	2	72	68	14
Fairlawn B . . .	12	5	6	1	62	58	11
Aighburth A . .	13	4	6	3	56	74	11
Crawfords A . .	14	4	8	2	48	92	10
Oakhill D . . .	13	2	11	0	36	94	4
Lussac A	14	2	12	0	36	104	4
L'pool C.C. A . .	12	2	10	0	26	94	2

LEAGUE TABLES

East Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Wvtree Lab A	14	12	1	1	87	53	24
Fairlawn A	13	10	2	1	91	39	21
Ostec	12	9	2	1	76	44	19
Crawfords	13	8	3	2	80	50	18
Beauclair B	14	6	6	2	75	65	14
Nalgo A	13	5	7	1	64	66	11
Stoneycroft	13	5	7	1	64	66	11
Oakhill C	13	4	7	2	54	76	10
Fairlawn C	13	3	9	1	48	82	7
English Elc A	12	2	9	1	44	76	5
Albright & W	14	1	11	2	37	103	4

Women's Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Balfour	10	10	0	0	81	19	20
Rafters	12	9	1	2	82	38	20
Oakhill	11	7	2	2	69	41	18
Cadwa	12	7	2	3	74	46	17
Bibbys	12	6	3	3	71	49	15
Orrell	10	4	6	0	49	51	8
Bath Street	12	2	8	2	41	79	6
Linnets	11	1	7	3	47	63	5
Bohemians	12	2	9	1	38	42	5
Bohemians A	10	0	10	0	8	92	0

Women's Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Waterloo Pk	9	9	0	0	79	11	18
Cadwa A	9	9	0	0	73	17	18
Huntley & P.	11	7	3	1	74	36	15
Sefton	11	7	3	1	71	39	15
Anfield	9	3	5	1	42	48	7
Bibbys A	9	3	6	0	29	61	6
Wvtree Lab	11	2	8	1	35	75	5
Rafters A	9	2	7	0	24	66	4
Lucem	10	0	10	0	13	87	0

NOTE—

Will Secretaries of Home Teams with matches outstanding due to fog, re-arrange fixtures and advise the Fixture Secretary of the new dates as soon as possible.

The Cup Semi-Finals

THE draw for the semi-finals of the four cups has been made as follows, with the dates and venues:—

Readman Cup

Victoria Park v Balfour
at Beauclair, February 20th
Bath Street v Rafters
at Victoria Park, February 20th

Bartholomew Cup

Linnets v Cadwa
at Rafters, February 20th.
Balfour v Rafters
at Crawfords, February 27th.

Rumjahn Cup

Balfour B v Victoria Park B
at Florence Oxtan, February 27th
Victoria Park A v Anfield A
at Balfour, February 20th.

Hyde Cup

Wavertree Labour v Beauclair A
at Sefton, February 27th.
Wavertree Baptists v Ostec
at Wavertree Labour, February 20th

★ ★ ★

MUST STOP

IT was five minutes to twelve when the telephone bell roused Mr. Cameron, our Fixture Secretary and his wife from their sleep. The call—from the captain of a team wishing to inform Mr. Cameron that their opponents had not turned up and he was claiming the match.

Such calls at such times become all too frequent. We can think of few things that really justify club secretaries and team captains telephoning Mr. Cameron's home after 10.30 p.m., and we therefore must insist that no calls be made after that time unless it is a matter of first importance and great urgency.

Rogerson Hits His Form

THE recent foggy weather badly hit our league programmes, causing many matches to be postponed. As a result many of the clubs will undoubtedly have their busiest end-of-season ever in their endeavour to catch up with events.

But while the fog may have upset fixtures the results of recent matches have not brought about much change in the First Division table, although they have brought a number of personal achievements to the fore.

Among these has been Ian Rogerson, of Bootle Y.M.C.A., whose name, a few seasons ago, was on many lips as one of Merseyside's most promising juniors. As so often happens, however, when great things are expected of the young, the responsibilities become too much and under the strain Rogerson lost form.

No longer in the public limelight when every defeat is noted and every victory accepted as the matter of fact, Rogerson is now enjoying one of his best seasons for some years. In recent matches he has beaten Maurice Oakes (21-17 13-21 21-18), J. Brierley (21-16 24-26 21-19), Ron Grayson (21-12 27-25), Trevor Ellis (21-19 21-14) and Basil Townsend (21-9 21-19).

When you are a champion everyone is out for your blood and news of a defeat runs like wild fire throughout the league. It is not surprising therefore that this happened when Taylor went down to Peter Rumjahn in the Bath Street-Rafters match, despite the fact that Peter has been one of this seasons form men of the league.

It was a delighted Peter who afterwards admitted that it was the first time he had beaten Taylor for many seasons, and though it set back the latter's record he took his defeat in straight games like a good sport.

Bill Pierce made his season's debut for Linnets against Balfour, but it was soon obvious that he was well out of practice. He lost to both Norman Jones (18-21 14-21) and Les Mulholland (19-21 18-21) and it was left to Don Hobbs (2) and Frank Thomas to win three sets for Linnets.

Since the regrouping by Liverpool Y.M.C.A., Dave Butterworth has filled practically every position in the first team, with varying success. He has beaten such players as Ted Barnes (Anfield), Eddie Clein (Victoria Park) and Bill Harris (Oakhill) and in turn lost to Alan Lawson (Anfield) and Mike Lijinsky (Victoria Park).

★ ★ ★

THE clash of the giants of the Second Division—Liverpool Y.M.C.A. and Waterloo Park—proved to be a far more one-sided affair than most players expected, with the Y.M.C.A. romping home comfortable winners by eight sets to two, a result which pretty well reflected the difference between the two teams on that night.

Ted Mandaluff, John Coveney and Frank Harding were all double winners for the Y.M. and to their sextet Ernie Owens and Cyril Bradshaw added a set apiece. Of the Waterloo players only Alan Reid, playing at No. 4, came out with flying colours, beating both

We supply :—

BUKTA Table Tennis Shirts in all colours.
Johnny Leach, Barna, Bergmann etc. T.T. Bats.
Tournament and Club Tables, Nets and Posts.
in fact

EVERYTHING FOR TABLE TENNIS

HENRY WHITTY & SON

LIMITED

15 BASNETT ST., LIVERPOOL 1

Open All Day Saturday

Telephone ROYal 3011

POLICE "ARREST" ANFIELD

Owens and Bradshaw. Ken Readitt, however, gave Mandaluff a tough fight and only lost to him on a deuce in the third, while D. Henwood and Alan Taylor also took one of their sets to three games.

Despite the wide margin of their victory, the Y.M.C.A. would do well not to assume that they will repeat this success when they visit Waterloo Park in the final match of the season, for it is generally agreed throughout the division that few teams have such a tremendous home advantage as do Waterloo Park in their gas-lit tennis pavilion.

Lowly English Electric scored their first—and at the time of writing, only—win of the season when they met a Waterloo Dock side without Jack Seddon. Ending in 6-4 for English Electric, it was a real ding-dong battle with six of the sets going to three games, of which English Electric took four.

They had to thank two of their top men for the victory. K. Fenerty (No. 2) and H. Sanderson (No. 3) both won their two sets, while E. Smitton (at No. 1) and J. Longstaffe (at No. 5) got a set each.

Linnets A, however, are still looking for their first win, although they have played two more matches than English Electric. Three draws and a slightly better sets average have kept them from the bottom rung of the table.

The first matches of the second half of the season have brought one or two reversals, among them the return game between Bohemians A and Rafter's A. Last October Rafter's rode home to a comfortable 8-2 win, but last month Bohemians turned this defeat into a 6-4 win. This was mainly due to fine performances by the Bohs captain, Alan Rycroft, and Geoff Baker, both of whom won their two sets. The other two sets for Bohemians came from Ron Keddle and Stan Draper.

★ ★ ★

JUST how uncertain matches in the Third Divisions can be—except, of course, so far as Victoria Park A are concerned—is well shown by the results of three matches involving Bath Street A, Anfield A and the Police.

Bath Street beat the Police 7-3 and Anfield A beat Bath Street 8-2. According to all the rules the Anfield side ought to have overwhelmed the Police. But, in fact, although the only difference in the latter's side was that they had Bracewell out instead of Catterson, the Police shook the Anfielders to the tune of 6-4.

Gould and Heague were chiefly responsible for this blow to Anfield, for they both won their two sets, and only Sanders on the Anfield side was able to match this.

The defeat has been costly to Anfield for it has made their chase after Victoria Park almost hopeless, especially with the Park continuing to sweep from their path everything before them. The measure of the Wavertree team's superiority was shown when the two teams clashed on the Anfield table and the Park won easily.

Of Park's eight sets only three went to three games, Carroll's two against Bintley and Sanders and Mason's win over Lewis. Their other five successes were all gained in a comfortable fashion.

Points are still proving very elusive for Cadwa A. They are however a young side and must be gaining some valuable experience, so that even if they do go down into the fourth division, they have plenty of time ahead of them to fight their way back—and possibly to go on to higher spheres.

The same applies to the youngsters at Bootle Y.M.C.A. but with a difference. There is little fear of their B team being relegated, but there is always the incentive at the Y.M. for youngsters to win their way into the A team or first and so become a force in the league.

It was a pity that R.A.F.A. had to play a man short when they visited Litherland A, for it meant their conceding two sets and were only beaten 6-4. Smith and Robinson got four sets in what must have been a very close match, with five of the eight sets played going to three games. Butchard had two hard games, losing 15-21 in the third to Cooke and 14-21 in the third to Dullaghan.

Harold House Surprise

ONE of the big surprise results in the Fourth Division was the defeat of Waterloo Park A by Harold House—not so much by the actual result as by the width of the margin, 8-2.

It must have been a terrific match at the Chatham Street club for no fewer than six of the Harold House victories were gained in the third game. Twice Jacobs fought back well after losing the first game to win both his sets against Spencer and Hearle.

Elackman, too, had two tough fights, against Hearle and Lacy, and Snyder and Cohen also had stern tussles with Chapman and Lacy respectively before they won in the third.

It was Harold House's second tough fight in successive weeks for when they visited Balfour B five of the ten sets were decided in the third game, two of them in favour of Balfour and three going to Harold House.

As might have been expected the match between Balfour B and Victoria Park B was a very stern affair and the draw which resulted was a fairly good reflection of the match. Only two players came out of it unscathed—George Randall (Balfour) and Bon Staunton (Victoria Park), both of whom were double winners.

So the fight for the leadership of the division continues unabated and looks like doing so until the end of the season.

Down at the bottom Police A are still waiting to chalk up their first point. No matter how they switch their team—sometimes through the compulsion of police duties—they have been unable to find a winning combination. Only one conclusion can be reached—that the fourth division is a bit too much for them, although they will doubtless keep trying.

★ ★ ★

IT was a bad blow to the hopes of Victoria Park C in the Fifth Division when they were beaten 6-4 by Linnets B on their own table. And beaten fairly convincingly too.

W. Hilliard and D. Underhill did most of the damage by both winning their two sets. Hilliard romped home 21-9 and 21-7 against Arden and defeated Johnstone 22-20 21-15, while Underhill accounted for Cohen 21-17 22-20 and Mangnall 15-21 21-8 21-18.

To those four Griffiths and Guy added a set apiece, the former by beating Cohen 21-19 18-21 21-18 and the latter by disposing of Don Cameron 21-17 21-18.

The Park's four sets came from Arden beating Griffiths (21-13 21-12), Johnstone beating Woodside (21-14 23-21) and Cameron also defeating Woodside (21-7 21-15).

The Park team have since regained some of their stripes with a 7-3 win over Balfour C, but it was not so easy. Johnstone, for instance, had two very hard sets before he could claim victory over Joe Ellison (21-16 7-21 22-20) and Cox (22-24 21-18 21-19). Rose, the Park's other double winner, also had to fight hard to beat Looker (19-21 22-20 21-19) and Dickenson (22-20 21-17).

The Park's success undoubtedly helped Linnets B who are making a full blooded challenge for the division leadership. Nevertheless they got something of a fright from the more lowly-placed Anfield B when they visited Walton and only came away with the two points by the narrowest of majorities.

Underhill played a major part in their success by beating Maher and Turpin in straight games, Griffiths matching it with wins over Bunner and Purnell. Hilliard and Guy added the other two to give Linnets the victory, but probably the best win of the match was that by Maher over Hilliard—21-15 21-13.

Rafters C had to wait a long time before breaking their duck—against Cadwa B. But their second success was not so long in coming—a good 6-4 win over Anfield B, though it was partly through the non-appearance of D. Maher and G. Maher, which could only give them little satisfaction.

EARLY RESULTS REVERSED

FLORENCE OXTON put themselves within striking distance of the Sixth Division leadership when they scored a fine 7-3 win over Victoria Park D on the latter's table and so reduced the latter's lead.

What a match it was. No fewer than seven of the ten sets went to three, five of them going to the visitors. McCarten and Moran laid the foundations of the Florence Oxtan Victory by winning their two sets each. Moran accounted for Jones 18-21 22-20 21-15 and Hughes 21-13 21-16 and McCarten disposed of Vick 15-21 21-19 21-13 and Hughes 23-21 14-21 26-24.

To these Linsner (beating Price 21-14 21-11). Cook (17-21 21-17 21-12 over Park) and Mansfield (beat Vick 21-11 21-17) added the other three sets, while the Park's trio came from Park (beat Linsner 12-21 21-14 21-12), Jones (beat Cook 21-17 11-21 21-9) and Vick (defeated Mansfield 21-11 21-17).

It was a full and satisfactory revenge for the 6-4 defeat which the Park inflicted on the Mill Street club early in the season.

Oddly enough Victoria Park had also taken their revenge for the 8-2 beating that Lussac gave them in the opening match. Indeed, they went one better for in the return the Park only conceded one set, Price losing to Leeming.

Waterloo Dock A missed a chance of making their challenge more effective when they were beaten on their own table by Florence Oxtan. The score just about reflected the superiority of the visiting team on the evening for only three times were any of their players taken to three games.

Police B don't seem to be able just to get that extra something which will give them victory. They have now chalked three draws. Their latest, against Domestic Mission, might easily have given them their first victory, for three of the Domestic's five successes were gained in the third game, two of them after the Police opponent had won the first game.

Linnets C and Bootle Nalgo had a great battle which ended, appro-

priately enough, in a draw. K. Jones (Linnets) and J. Cartwright (Bootle) each won their two sets. In contrast both Spiers (Bootle) and Crowther (Linnets) were each beaten twice.

★ ★ ★

PROBABLY the biggest surprise of the season to North Region teams was the defeat of Liverpool Post Office by the South Region team, Wavertree Baptists, in the third round of the Hyde Cup, by six sets to four.

It meant that the North are not represented in the semi-finals, but so convincingly have the Post Office been playing—in 13 league matches they have only conceded four sets—that most players in the North could hardly conceive any regional side defeating them.

It was a bad evening for Fowler for he lost both his sets and the four other members of the team, Shiel, Cornthwaite, Carr and McCoy, could only collect one apiece.

Waterloo Park B suffered a setback in their chase after the Post Office when they were defeated 6-4 by Bath Street C, who reversed the similar defeat the Park inflicted on them at the beginning of the season. It was Bath Street's B. Wilson and R. Day who did the damage, for they each won their two sets. Wilson beat Lorimer 21-15 21-11 and Turner 21-14 14-21 21-17, and Day also beat Lorimer 21-18 21-19 and Bramham 21-19 19-21 21-16.

The Park's four sets came from Rumph beating Connell (21-17 21-12) and Rawlinson (21-14 21-13)—altogether a good night for him—Turner beating Connell 19-21 21-14, 21-18 and Bramham beating Lunt 21-17 15-21 21-14.

A week later the Park were again involved in a stiff match with Co-op, although they won 7-3. No fewer than seven of the ten sets went to three and again Rumph this time at No. 3, got a "double" with wins over Jones and Murphy.

Chapman, at No. 4, was also a double winner over Walton and Raymond, while of Co-op's trio Fletcher got two by beating Lorimer and Bramham.

Setbacks For Fairlawn

THE battle for the championship of the South Region continues to be exciting with Wavertree Labour, Wavertree Baptists and Beaclair A all making strong bids. In addition, any one of the three could easily make a double by adding the Hyde Cup to the championship.

The South has, in fact, a remarkably good chance of keeping the cup in their region, for three of the four semi-finalists come from the region. The only "intruder" is Ostec from the East, drawn to meet the Baptists in the semi-final.

The Baptists third round win by 6-4 over Liverpool Post Office, the runaway leaders of the North Region, was an outstanding one. The main credit went to M. Travis and Jay. Travis scored two good wins over Fowler (21-19 10-21 21-6) and Shiel (21-19 21-19) and Jay beat Cornthwaite (19-21 21-17 21-17) and McCoy (14-21 21-13 21-16).

One of the toughest matches this season was that between Stuart and Dorman and Beaclair A at the beginning of last month and for the second time the two teams made a draw of it. Beaclair had Mrs. Audrey Brown playing instead of Feely but she did her share by beating W. Connell 15-21 21-12 22-20.

In fact, each member of the Beaclair side contributed a set apiece while their opponents' five came through both the Dorfman's winning two sets each and Short adding another.

Another tight match saw Aigburth A beat Fairlawn B by six sets to four on Fairlawn's table. Holloway and Pratt played a big part in the victory for Holloway beat Dickenson (20-22 21-4 21-16) and Cross (18-21 21-10 21-18) and Pratt defeated Cross (11-21 21-16 21-14) and Aitcheson (9-21 21-14 21-14).

Horn made a great effort for Fairlawn to beat Massen (21-19 21-13) and Crompton (21-6 21-10)

but his team-mates could not match it and only. Aitcheson and Norris could register a success.

★ ★ ★

THE good wishes of all players in the East Region will doubtless go out to Ostec who have kept the region's flag flying in the Hyde Cup. They qualified for the semi-final—in which they meet Wavertree Baptists from the South—with a fine 7-3 win over Waterloo Park B.

Just how worthy was their win can be judged from the fact that only one of their seven victories went to three games. Morris, Crawford and Kelly all got double wins and Jones added the seventh.

Fairlawn A suffered setbacks in their bid for the regional championship when they were first held to a draw by Wavertree Labour A and then defeated by Ostec. In the former only Leeson could claim a winning night for Fairlawn, with victories over Christie (21-19 21-16) and Wilcox (22-20 21-15).

Wavertree's five came from doubles by Thomas over French (21-18 11-21 22-20) and Phillips (22-20 21-13) and Whitfield over O'Donnell (21-18 14-21 21-19) and Walter (21-14 21-15).

Fairlawn suffered an even greater blow when they visited Ostec in the following week and were beaten by seven sets to three—exactly the reverse to what happened when the teams met previously on Fairlawn's table.

They found Morris in particularly good form so that he had easy wins over French (21-7 21-11) and Phillips (21-9 21-11). This was emulated by Kelly who also beat Phillips (21-12 21-8) and Leeson (21-15 21-12) and Jones also got a hard-won double by defeating Leeson (21-9 20-22 21-19) and Walter (21-17 11-21 21-10).

Fairlawn's three sets came from both French (21-15 21-18) and O'Donnell completing his double by defeating Moretta (21-16 15-21 21-19).

CADWA AGAIN IN SEMI-FINAL

By Eileen Mansell

UNFORTUNATELY 1959 has got off to a bad start so far as table tennis is concerned for a large percentage of the first weeks' matches have had to be postponed because of the weather conditions.

A few courageous people may have braved the fog in their keenness for a game but I should think that the majority were wiser and stayed at home, no doubt greatly disappointed at being deprived of their game and the chance of a laugh and a gossip which is all part of the enjoyment of the ladies' matches.

However, that will all be made up later in the season when the rearranged matches will have to be played and in some cases it will doubtless mean playing two matches in one week.

The Bartholomew Cup is reaching its final stages. The semi-finalists are Linnets, Cadwa, Rasters and Balfour.

Cadwa had the closest match when they played Oakhill, the final score being 6-4 in Cadwa's favour. Edna Moore had a good win over Pauline Lawrenson, beating her in straight games, and Doreen Doncaster did well to beat both Ivy Crafter and Betty Black. She had two very close matches. She lost the first game 12-21 to Ivy but got stuck into it and just scraped home 22-20 21-19.

Throughout the match Oakhill fought hard but just couldn't pull it off. Now the question is will Cadwa once more reach the final? They will go all out to hang on to the cup which they fought so hard to win last year.

Linnets did not have too much difficulty with Bohs. They won 7-3, Barbara Tomkinson, Edith Gleed Audrey Gee being the winners for Bohs.

Though Rasters defeated Bibbys 8-2, it was a much more closely contested match than the score suggests. Six of the sets went to three. M. Clague won the only singles for Bibbys in defeating Elizabeth Loughrey. A. Woods and M. Baron won their doubles against Mrs. Loughrey and Rosemary McMullen.

Myra Lovelady and Jean Reynolds both had good wins over Reggie Royle in straight games.

In league affairs, Wavertree Labour forced a draw with Huntley and Palmers when they played them at home. Five of the sets were three-gamers so that it must have been an enjoyable and exciting match. Wavertree's winners were E. Williams and R. McEvoy (two each) and J. Haworth (one). For Huntley and Palmers, B. Pinnington won two and M. Ribane one, and they also took the two doubles, which possibly led to the match being drawn.

Lucem are still struggling to win a point without success, but as long as they enjoy their matches that's the main thing.

It looks as though nothing can stop Bohemians A being relegated, except of course, the smallness of Division 2, but I am sure they would enjoy their games, in the second division much more than they do in the first division as they would be more evenly matched.

It is odd indeed, to see both Bohemians teams at the foot of Division 1. Obviously there is a great need for a strengthening of the first team if they are to get back to the position in the league table to which we are more accustomed to seeing them.

(Continued on page 16)

Continued from page 15)

Julie Beats Champion

Let me congratulate Moya Jones and Julie Roberts on reaching the final of the ladies' doubles in the Cheshire Open. They accounted for quite a few good players en route, including Ivy Haney, the Lancashire No. 1, and her Yorkshire county partner, in the semi-final.

They also did well in the singles, both reaching the quarter finals in which Moya lost to Mrs. Castle (the eventual runner-up) in the third, and Julie to the winner, Mrs. Dolly Wilkinson also in the third. It was a fine performance on the part of both of them.

At the moment Julie has the best average in the women's divisions and if she put her mind a little to her game she would find her results would be better. She did well to beat Jean Chadderton, the Manchester champion, in the inter-city match against Manchester, but unfortunately could not keep it up against Lorna Bown and Dolly Wilkinson.

I was sorry to hear that since the Cheshire Open Moya has been ordered by her doctor to give up table tennis for at least the rest of the season. She will be a great loss to the Bohemians' second team in the men's divisions and also to the inter-city team. Let's hope the rest will do her good and she will start the next season with renewed vigour.

Your Letters

TEAM ORDER SWITCHES

IS it not time that the Liverpool League had a firm ruling on the switching of team order and the playing of reserves?

I would suggest that the team order should comply with the ranking lists as submitted to the League by clubs and that teams captains may alter their team only by first informing the opposing captain. It is assumed that clubs will, however, be honest enough to rank their players strictly when compiling the ranking list.

Secondly where a reserve is promoted he or she should occupy the lowest available position. Without harping at any particular club, this would, I think, ensure honest table tennis.

In conclusion, I do not blame individual clubs but the league for permitting these dubious manoeuvres. —RON JONES
(Liverpool Y.M.C.A.).

(Editor's Note: May we suggest to Mr. Jones that all these matters lie in the hands of himself and other members of the League. It is for them to bring their proposals forward, first in their own clubs and, if approved there, then before the annual general meeting of the League by way of amendment to rules. But it is always wise to be sure that any change of rule would be for the betterment of all concerned before proposing it.)