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TABLE TENNIS DIGEST

Official Magazine

OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS CLUB

TABLE *Digest* TENNIS

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J. Green (News), A. Montgomery (Features), J. McKim and A. Upton

Vol. XII

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No. 3

EDITORIAL

WE gather, from comments we have heard as we move round the Clubs, that the Linnet Club's suggestion for the re-organisation of the League has caused a lot of interest and we were disappointed, therefore, that the Management Committee have not taken the opportunity to express their views through the medium of these columns.

Too often worthwhile ideas have been presented to the Clubs at the League's Annual General Meeting, which have not always received the consideration which they have merited, partly because the "red herrings" which have been introduced into the discussion have obscured the real issue, but mainly we feel because far reaching plans have been put forward at too short notice for serious consideration.

Here, however, the matter is quite different. The attention of each individual member has been drawn to the proposed new plan through the *Digest*, whilst each Club Secretary has received fuller and more detailed information by means of a circular which the Linnet Club has distributed.

Perhaps "Dunbar" in the Liverpool Echo was not far wide of the mark when he suggested that a period of no change in the composition of the League might be a welcome respite but, be that as it may, a serious proposal has been put forward which we understand will be presented at the Annual General Meeting in the form of appropriate rule amendments.

Surely this is an issue which the Management Committee must consider and take a standpoint which each registered player is entitled to learn.

Perhaps the next issue of this magazine will clarify the situation.

This leads us on to a note of disappointment from the Editorial Board, that the *Digest* does not appear to be used sufficiently as an open forum for discussion and the ventilation of complaints and ideas.

We know that when the idea of a local magazine was conceived by the late Bill Stamp he visualised a virile, informative and controversial journal, the subject matter for which would be forthcoming in the main, from individual subscribers.

It is still not too late for that ideal to be realised.

WHY NOT BECOME A COACH?

SOME years ago the National Coaching scheme was inaugurated when one of its objects was defined as being "to set standards for instructional work, and to promote and encourage the teaching of the game by all possible means, with special emphasis on the building up of qualified instructors throughout the country".

The E. T. T. A. appointed Jack Carrington to be the Director of Coaching and instituted the Basic Coaching Diploma to be awarded to candidates who satisfy the National Coaching Committee's requirements as to practical ability, theoretical knowledge, and teaching skill, combined with general presentation. The award of this Diploma carries with it the right to wear the official "Coach" badge.

In order to obtain this Diploma, application must be made to Mr. Carrington for acceptance as a Candidate, after which the Candidate is invited to Study Courses from time to time, to acquire certain underlying principles of coaching which are necessary in addition to playing ability.

Diploma candidates are not only tested, they are actively **helped** to acquire confidence in their strokes, their exposition of basic principles, their management of players in practice, and their grip on the audience. Confidence being half the battle in the presentation of any subject, great emphasis is laid on this feature in the training of Diploma Coaches. Confidence can flow from an instructor to his pupil,

and lessons can become fun instead of work for both parties.

There must be a number of senior players in this League who, in their spare time, do their best to help the young aspiring player to improve his game, and it is morally certain that such unofficial coaches would benefit from taking the Diploma course. Not only would he benefit himself but also those club members to whom he is passing on his knowledge. They would obtain (through him) the benefits of the latest coaching methods.

Much has been heard recently, both in the Press and the *Digest* of the high average age of our top divisions. May we suggest that, given a sufficient number of qualified Coaches within the clubs, it is more than probable that the younger members of the League would improve their game to such an extent that they would be able to replace older, established players in the top divisions—to the betterment not only of the clubs but of Liverpool Table Tennis as a whole.

The last word should come from Jack Carrington himself (extracted from an article written some years ago in the National magazine)—
"There is still a wide field for local coaching, both of new juniors and of average club folk who want to improve, and it is the local senior player with a love of the game and a love of people, who can really do something about it".

Any members of the League interested should write to Mr. J. Carrington, 24 Worcester Gardens, Ilford, Essex.

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Cup Tie Commentary

IN the 3rd round of the **Readman Cup**, Victoria Park must have thought they had an easy one in Linnets, who they beat 10-0 earlier in the season, but things didn't work out quite that way, for a combination of Colin Thomas, Roy Jones, Don Hobbs, and Frank Thomas proved too good for them, going through to the semi-final with a 7-3 win. Linnets are drawn to play Bootle Y.M.C.A. who reached that stage by means of a walk-over against Balfour, who could not raise a team due to 'flu. Not very satisfactory for either team, but least of all for Gunnion who had come up from Birmingham specially for this game.

Liverpool Y.M.C.A. cruised home fairly comfortably against Bootle Y.M.'s second team, winning 7-3 with a last minute reserve (Bradshaw) in place of Turtle. And Rafter's had an exceedingly easy game against L.P.A.S. who had done more than well to get this far. So in the second semi-final we now have Rafter's v Liverpool Y.M.C.A.

Jack McCaig made one of his rare appearances for Rafter's against the Police. I am assured that although Arthur Jones did lose two against his own 'A' team, Jack's re-appearance does **not** mean that his club are showing signs of panic.

In the **Rumjahn Cup** Liverpool C.C. met with only token resistance against a much weakened Linnets 'A', for whom Dennis Underhill saved the "whitewash" by beating Max Griffiths. And Linnets 'B' team went out to Fairlawn 7-3 in a match which might have been closer had Jeff Grimshaw turned up—he had mistaken the date. Rafter's 'B', after disposing of their own 'C' team in a replay, beat Sefton General 7-3, which gave them special pleasure, since Sefton are one of the two teams to have beaten them in the League this season.

But the performance of the round was the decisive win of NALGO over Victoria Park 'C'—making them the only 5th division team in the semi-finals. Two of the four teams they have beaten on their way to the semi-finals are from the 3rd division, and they have certainly earned the right to meet Fairlawn.

The hot favourites for the Cup must now be Liverpool C.C., whose team is not only strong, but who have also been one of the most consistent sides over the past couple of seasons. There may be, and probably are, teams who are equal to them in strength, but there are few whose form varies so little from match to match. I have a mental picture of Rafter's 'B' girding their loins to prove me wrong.

The **Hyde Cup** cannot be forecast at all, since Malayan College have introduced an entirely new team from the half-way stage. Apparently their former team have all gone home, and a new set of students have arrived, but what their capabilities might be is hard to say. Their opponents in the semi-final, Brenka, are nearly as difficult to assess since they seldom seem to field the same team twice in succession, but if at full strength, Brenka should get through to meet the winners of Crawford's and Liverpool C.C. 'A' in the final. In this second match Crawford's start favourites, and eventually they should take the cup home with them. Both teams have had very easy games in the last round, Crawford's beating L.P.A.S. 'B' 8-2, and the Cricket Club accounting for Linnets 'D' 9-1.

However, it is now certain that all three cups will find new homes this season, which is all to the good—it is far less interesting to see the same teams win every year.

Question . . .

(by E. ARNEST)

ACCORDING to statistics it appears that over 800 people have signed on to participate in the activities of the Liverpool and District Table Tennis League. The burning question is—WHY? From my own personal point of view the answer is simple in that I want to spend the cold evenings doing something that I enjoy and I am certain that this applies to the majority of those who are registered.

Let us go deeper into this. In order to fulfil the desires of those people who are playing for pleasure, what should be our aims? Well, surely the first essential ingredient of any enjoyable match is that TEN players are present, so that the two teams can fulfil their obligations. These players are further expected to be present at 8 p.m.—a not unreasonable request because, after all, "we are only doing something that we want to do", therefore, this should present no problem.

Next, surely, is that all ten players should stay until the end of the evening, this being a matter of common politeness to opponents

who, like ourselves, are "only doing something that we want to do".

With a little thought and energy clubrooms could be made much brighter—a duster over the table and a swept floor adding to the ultimate pleasures derived.

Then there is the question of umpiring, at which every player should be willing to take his turn, bearing in mind that matches can not be played without such an official. This is a service from which we all benefit and which we should be prepared to reciprocate.

Refreshment time might well be used to get to know the members of the opposing team, and a 10 minute break (with all knock-ups forbidden) can only improve relations all round.

These and many other little things can make a match a most enjoyable way of spending an evening, and since "WE ARE ALL DOING SOMETHING THAT WE WANT TO DO", why not do it in a spirit of friendly rivalry to ensure that the evening is well spent?

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. . . and Answer

(by S. INNICK)

I HAVE read "Question" with interest and am in sympathy with every word written. As one who has, in his time, served a "term" as club Secretary, I feel competent to give some sort of adequate reply.

It is my experience that there is a minority of people for whom table tennis is a means of filling in an otherwise free evening.

It is difficult (to say the least) to provide a full team when players stay away for a football match, date, bathnight, pictures or a good show on the telly, especially when they do not consider themselves responsible for saying beforehand that they are not available. Having heard that a 10/- fine has been incurred by reason of their absence, the secretary is hardly delighted to be told that "You should know that I never miss 'Rawhide'".

Included in this minority you find those bods who consider it a sign of weakness and derogatory to their dignity to conform to the normal courtesies of life—who arrive late (without good cause) to prove their contempt for rules and regulations—and leave early to demonstrate that the performance of lesser beings is completely irrelevant and that the result of any sets other than their own are unworthy of note.

It is these mortals who, though few in number, ruin the spirit of too many matches.

Then there is the "pot-hunter" who plays, not for pleasure, but to gain trophies and amass a weight of medals, to which end he will resort to any or all forms of trickery, showmanship, gamesman-

ship and sheer damn bad manners—whose eyeballs have become medal-shaped, and whose overweening conceit throws a blight on an evening from the very second that he enters the room.

Allied to this group we find the "record chaser" who wants to play low down in a lower team to protect his personal record—a queer, melancholy type of individual to whom winning a cup final is a waste of time if he loses a set. Often this bird is a hypochondriac who regales all and sundry with his symptoms before playing, to alibi possible defeat. Many and varied are the illnesses of these ailment-addicts, ranging from an ingrowing toenail on the left elbow to toothache of the right thigh.

So, while I agree that the vast majority DO play to do "something that we want to do", I am convinced that there is a minority who couldn't care less about such unimportant matters as communal enjoyment, having (unknowingly) adopted an old Army motto, the more polite version of which is a request regarding ladders to a gentleman named Jack.

Until either this minority is eliminated (as one would eliminate a colony of pests) or cajoled, wheedled, bribed, persuaded, bullied or battered in to a better way of life, we must put up with our present lot. You see, most of these derelicts consider, by reason of their tremendous self-conceit, that the MAJORITY are wrong in not following their example.

Around the Divisions

(by our Special Correspondents)

Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L'pool YM	18	16	1	1	138	42	33
Rafters	17	15	0	2	132	38	32
Bootle YM	17	13	3	1	121	49	27
Balfour	15	11	3	1	100	50	23
Bohemians	18	11	7	0	96	84	22
L'pool YM A	18	8	7	3	100	80	19
Oakhill	14	7	6	1	68	72	15
Anfield	18	6	9	3	74	106	15
Vic. Park	17	6	9	2	78	92	14
Wat. Dock	18	6	10	2	79	101	14
Rafters A	16	4	10	2	55	105	10
Linnet	17	2	12	3	58	112	7
Litherland	17	2	14	1	51	119	3
Bath Street	18	1	17	0	40	140	2

LIVERPOOL Y.M.C.A. and Rafters still battle it out at the top of the table, and although Ralph Gunnion is not available every week for Bootle, the signing of Ted Morris sufficiently strengthens their team to put them back with a chance, but they have some leeway to make up, and they must now be regarded as "outsiders" for the championship.

At the tail end, Linnets have started to climb away from their fellow sufferers, Bath Street and Litherland, and are now chasing enough points to get them (and keep them) out of danger. Since the last issue they have picked up two points from Bath Street and one from Victoria Park, and seem set to collect some more before long.

Liverpool Y.M. have switched George Smith and Coveney, and in their "Derby" match Coveney promptly lost to Harry Johnston. The 'A' team's other two sets were won by Ted Mandaluff, who preserved his 100% record by beating both Butterworth and D'Arcy.

The No. 5 spot in Rafters' team isn't a very healthy berth. Last time they played their 'A' team Eric Caird lost two at No. 5. In the replay Arthur Jones followed suit, losing to Ronnie Blackmore and Frank Murphy (standing in for Bill Tobin).

Waterloo Dock had a good win over Balfour, who were without Norman Jones and Harold Wilcock,

Jack Seddon beating both Les Davies and Reg Hetherington in their 7-3 victory. Neither Eileen Mansell nor Peter Evans, standing in for their 'flu-ridden colleagues had any success, and it seems certain now that Balfour will have to wait for another season to try to regain their championship. Bath Street gave a strong Bohemians side a fright, going down 4-6, three of the six going to three. Joe Johnson had a good match, beating Rawlinson. Incidentally, Joe regards table tennis as a dangerous pastime, for when playing Litherland earlier this season, he broke a bone in his foot jumping round to get at a forehand!

Jim Green

* * * *

Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Bootle YM A	18	15	3	0	129	51	30
Cadwa	18	12	3	2	113	67	27
Bphs A	18	11	4	3	114	66	25
Vic. Park A	16	9	3	4	88	72	22
L.P.A.S.	17	10	6	1	92	78	21
R.A.F.A.	18	9	8	1	100	80	19
Balfour A	18	8	7	3	88	92	19
Lucem	16	8	7	1	84	76	17
Beauclair	17	4	6	7	84	86	15
Vic. Park B	17	6	8	3	73	97	15
Wat. Park	17	7	10	0	73	97	14
University	17	3	12	2	50	120	8
Bath Street A	16	2	11	3	59	101	7
Oakhill A	17	0	16	1	53	117	1

ONLY one player in the second division with an average of over 90%. The only division with less is the third with none. Alan Williams has, since the last list was pulished, lost two. Heyes has done the same. Williams to Heyes and Weston. Heyes to Rogerson and Eden. Eden has now taken over the top position by beating all comers.

Promotion seems almost certain to go to Cadwa and Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'A'. In what order they will finish is anybody's guess. The removal of Gunnion from the Y.M. team may affect the 'A' team and on that I think the eventual result will depend. With a settled team I think

Around the divisions—continued

Y.M. may just do it, providing, of course, that they continue to play as well as they have been doing. A 7-3 victory over Lucem could have easily gone the other way, five sets going to three. Scores of 22-20 in two of the sets and 21-19 in another—very close—this was the game in which Williams lost to Heyes, two straight.

Cadwa have not lost another, Eden being worth a two set start. It may well be left to the meeting of these two teams to decide who finishes on top.

Bohemians 'A' move towards the third place—a draw at Beauclair being their only dropped point; above them Vic. Park 'A' losing two points (worth 4 to Bohs).

Police seem to have settled for a fourth or fifth place, a ten-nil defeat by Cadwa setting them back. Reserve J. Conroy did well to win two in a 7-3 victory over Oakhill Y.M. 'A'.

Balfour 'A' is another team to have lost ground—only two points in three games. Against Bohs. Eileen Mansell lost two—a rare occurrence indeed, the score in her game with Moya Jones being 16-21, 24-22, 24-22. My finger nails would have suffered if I had been watching that.

Beauclair have averaged a point a match, their results, of course, including another draw. I don't know what the highest number of draws in any season is but Beauclair now lead the league and must set up a record if they continue to draw. Weston defeated Williams in the third during a close 7-3 game with Bootle Y.M. which Beauclair lost. Five of the sets went to three and Y.M. won four of them.

Waterloo Park seem to have lifted themselves well out of the danger zone—four more points in the bag. Reid did well to win two in a 6-4 victory over R.A.F.A., who have won only one of their last five games.

Bath Street 'A' and Oakhill Y.M. 'A' continue to lose. Only a minor miracle can prevent them from joining the third division next year.
Don Gauld

Division 3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Fairlawn	18	15	2	1	129	51	31
Linnet A	18	12	3	3	111	69	27
Linacre	18	12	4	2	113	67	26
Rafters B	18	13	5	1	119	61	25
L'pool YM B 18	10	5	3	95	85	23	
Eng. Elec. . . .	18	8	6	4	95	85	20
Sefton	18	8	9	1	97	83	17
Anfield A	18	6	9	3	80	100	15
Bootle YM B 17	7	9	1	81	89	15	
Litherland A . .	18	6	11	1	84	96	13
Bohs B	18	4	10	4	77	103	12
Vic. Park C . . .	17	4	10	3	69	101	11
Balfour B	18	4	14	0	40	140	8
Cadwa A	18	2	15	1	56	124	5

THE battle for the leading positions in this division is developing into a most interesting one. Five teams are now concerned and many different possibilities can be suggested. The main contenders are Rafters 'B', Linnets 'A', and Fairlawn, with Liverpool Y.M. 'B' and Linacre as outsiders, and the vital fixtures between these five will be worth double the points while their positions remain so close.

Meanwhile the rest of the division continue to provide some interesting results. Anfield 'A', a team which started the season with great promise, lost 6-4 to their companions in relegation from division 2, Litherland 'A'. The following week the Anfield side managed to win a useful point at Bohemians when M. Derbyshire had the satisfaction of beating his lawn tennis partner Geoff Baker. Other winners were Dalton and Thomas (two each) for Bohs, and J. Brannigan won his two for Anfield.

Now that Balfour 'B' cannot win any more points, Bootle Y.M. 'B' can relax from the fear of relegation. They helped to set matters right recently by beating Sefton on their own table 6-4. Peter Keating and Gordon Birch played well for Bootle, winning both their events, and T. Jones and K. Hunt made the issue safe with one win each. For Sefton G. Kettle managed a double to which Bill Davies and Alan Watson each added one.

Victoria Park 'C' further improved their position with a 7-3 win over a

sadly depleted English Electric. In this game F. Pheysey (Electric) added two more scalps to his large collection and must surely be enjoying his most successful season ever.

Finally, a word about Cadwa 'A'. Although they remain firmly at the foot of the division and seem destined to stay there, they tell me that they are the most cheerful side in the League. Here's wishing them more luck in their remaining matches.

Brian Leeson.

* * * *

Division 4

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
L.P.A.S. A . . .	17	15	2	0	119	51	30
L'pool C.C. . . .	15	14	1	0	135	15	28
Linnet B	16	10	4	2	94	66	22
Bath Street B	16	10	6	0	93	67	20
Wat. Park A . .	16	6	6	4	82	78	16
Wav. Lab. . . .	16	7	9	0	62	98	14
Oakhill B . . .	16	5	7	4	67	93	14
Vic. Park D . .	16	5	8	3	72	88	13
Bootle YM C	16	6	9	1	69	91	13
Wat. Dock A	16	5	9	2	68	92	12
Cadwa B	17	4	10	3	69	100	11
Litherland B .	16	4	11	1	52	108	9
Anfield B . . .	15	1	10	4	57	92	6

THIS division is becoming very much a case of dog eating dog—which is very much to the advantage of Liverpool C.C. and Police. My point is best illustrated by the fact that only five points cover six teams.

While the Cricket Club continues on its relentless way with crushing 10-0 victories, and the others fight it out for the second promotion place, a second centre of keen interest is the relegation battle which is hotting up rapidly. Cadwa 'B', with two wins and one draw have eased themselves three places from the bottom of the table. Top marks must go, however, to Waterloo Park 'A' for their shock defeat of the Police. They owed much to R. Evans, for his part in this victory was a double win over J. Conroy and T. Carter, the latter in two straight, and another notable win in this match was the surprising defeat of "average listed" G. Nelson by A. Turner, also in two straight. Anfield 'B' came near to bringing off one of

the major sensations of the season, proving that whilst they have life they also have hope. The Anfielders, now firmly moored to the foot of the table with but one victory to their credit, suddenly showed their fangs, and held the promotion-seeking Linnets 'B' team to a draw on their own table. The innocuous looking Anfield achieved this with a reserve included in their side, and only two sets in the match went to three. The Linnets team appears to be suffering from a not uncommon malady which affects clubs with four or five teams—the inability to turn out a full-strength side each week, which may well have cost them a point against Anfield, when they had two reserves amongst them, but this does not detract from the performance of Anfield who made the most of the chance offered. The tragedy of this Anfield team is their inability to clinch a match, for in addition to their having played four draws, no less than four other matches have been lost 4-6.

I cannot finish without giving a special mention to R. Reynolds of Bath Street 'B'. Although playing in one of the less fashionable sides of the division, which is not in the promotion race, he has dropped only four sets in twenty, including among his victims the rarely beaten 'Police' pair, Conroy and Nelson. Then, most surprisingly, he went down to the Oakhill 'B' veteran Wilf Glover.

Len Davies.

* * * *

Division 5

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Fairlawn A . . .	17	14	3	0	116	54	28
L'pool P.O. . . .	14	12	1	1	104	36	25
Beauclair A . .	17	10	4	3	118	52	23
Rafters C . . .	16	10	4	2	100	60	22
Nalgo	16	9	5	2	100	60	20
St. Eds. O.B. .	16	7	5	4	95	65	18
L'pool YM C . .	17	6	6	5	93	77	17
Böhs C	16	7	7	2	85	75	16
Wav. Lab. A . .	16	7	9	0	56	104	14
Wat. Park B . .	16	5	10	1	65	95	11
Bootle Nalgo .	15	4	9	2	58	92	10
Fairlawn B . .	17	1	16	0	26	144	2
Dmestic Miss .	14	0	14	0	18	122	0

Around the divisions—continued

LIVERPOOL Post Office are consolidating their lead at the top of the Division with consistently good performances. W. Shiel and A. Campbell maintain their high averages.

Rafters 'C' have not relinquished hopes of promotion but conceded valuable points with drawn games against Beauclair 'A' and Liverpool Y.M.C.A. 'C'—two sides showing sound improvement. Fairlawn 'A' despite occasional lapses, are putting in a strong challenge for second place.

In the middle of the table there have been some very entertaining and closely contested matches. J. O'Keefe of St. Edwards O.B. had to fight all the way before he defeated C. Lambert of NALGO 25-27, 28-26, 21-17. And the match at NALGO v Fairlawn 'A' went to Fairlawn because time and distance took a hand. Fairlawn were leading 5-4 when the final set began at 10 20 p.m., between N. Barooah and J. Horn, two of the division's exponents of defensive play. John Horn won the first game 22-20 after 35 minutes, and the second game was 15 minutes old when Barooah, leading 12-8 had to leave to catch his last bus home, and so concede the game, set and match.

With a revision of their order of players, Waterloo Park 'B' have shown steady improvement, and earned two valuable points with a good 6-4 win over Bohemians 'C', E. Scroggie and D. Olsen each winning both their sets. Wavertree Labour 'A' have shown by their record of away wins that next season will find them a power in the Division. Bootle NALGO, although giving due notice, continue to disappoint with a concession of matches. So far this season St. Edwards, Fairlawn 'A' and NALGO have profited by 10-0 walk-overs, but this is not a satisfactory way of gaining points.

All credit due to the tail-enders Domestic Mission and Fairlawn 'B' for their constant effort, and their refusal to concede easy victories.

Les Harper.

Editor's Note: Les Harper has been too modest to mention that his team, NALGO have reached the semi-final of the Rumjahn Cup, a meritorious performance indeed and one bringing credit to this division. Well done NALGO.

* * * *

Division 6

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Crawfords . . .	18	16	0	2	152	28	34
Crawfords A . . .	18	14	2	2	130	50	30
Eng. Elec. A . . .	17	13	1	3	121	49	29
L'pool C.C. A . . .	15	10	2	3	100	50	23
Stanley House . . .	18	10	5	3	106	74	23
Eng. Elec. B . . .	17	8	7	2	90	80	18
University A . . .	17	8	7	2	94	86	18
Nalگو A . . .	18	7	10	1	77	103	15
L.P.A.S. B . . .	18	6	9	3	91	89	15
Bath Street C . . .	18	6	10	2	77	103	14
Rafters D . . .	17	4	11	2	75	95	10
Beauclair B . . .	17	4	12	1	60	110	9
Wav. Lab. B . . .	18	1	15	2	35	145	4
Anfield C . . .	17	0	17	0	1	169	0

TWO visits by the Crawford's teams certainly dented English Electric's championship hopes. No. 1 was a creditable draw, with two good games from Manchester. Wood and Cox scored doubles for Crawfords, reserve Widdowson saving the game with a 21-18 win in the third. That match ended 15 years of playing in the Canteen at Electric, and the next, against Crawford's 'A' team, started a new era in the Club-house, also bringing their first defeat of the season. This great win by Crawfords 'A' places them as one of the challengers to their 1st team. Conley, Callaghan and Longstaffe all scored doubles.

"Police 7, Wavertree Labour 3"—just another game? NO, for Catterson only won one. This, his first defeat in the League this season was inflicted by Joe Brannigan, who, in addition to breaking this brilliant run, also beat Evans. Doust and Hodge bridged the Catterson gap with two sets each.

Pierce took the honours in the Stanley House-Police draw, with McLachlan and "Mr. C." for the latter.

Roberts of Beauclair led his side to a 7-3 win over the Police, aided by a double from Pratt, and Roberts also scored good "solo" wins against each of the Crawfords sides.

Ably led by Rees and Cockerill, University had a good win at Bath Street, for whom Mrs. Campbell won her two. Bath Street were on the receiving end also at Nalgo, with Redmond and Dawn top of the pops.

A truly great performance by Mrs. Jean Reynolds (Rafters) in beating that strong Stanley House pair Amoo and Lynn. Again mainly due to Pierce, Rafters lost despite her efforts.

Jack Lambert.

* * * *

Division 7

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Brenka . . .	17	16	0	1	134	36	32
Linnet C . . .	16	14	1	1	118	42	29
Tech. Students	16	10	4	2	106	54	22
L'pool C.C. B	14	10	4	0	90	50	20
Colonsay . . .	16	10	6	0	97	63	20
Lewis's . . .	17	7	7	3	89	81	17
Crawfords B.	12	6	4	2	66	54	16
University B.	18	6	8	4	88	92	16
Bootle YM D	17	5	9	3	74	96	13
Oakhill C . . .	16	4	9	3	68	92	11
Linnet D . . .	16	4	11	1	65	95	9
Cath. Met. . .	17	2	15	0	46	124	4
Wav. Lab. C .	17	2	15	0	15	155	4

WELL, my forecast of a draw for the Linnets 'C' v Brenka match certainly came unstuck for Brenka won by the wide margin of 9-1, and this was one of the rare occasions when they had their strongest side playing. Peter Morley, former Balfour (1st division) and inter-city player turned out at No. 1 but he wasn't extended. Linnets were short of their two leading players and decided to switch their order—to give themselves (as they thought) a better chance, using reserves at 1 and 2. Their only win of the evening was scored by Peter Meyer, who had the distinct satisfaction of being the first player this season to beat Brian Rockliffe, winning 14-21, 21-18, 21-17. The boys from Linnets say that it will be another story when the teams meet next time.

Liverpool C.C. 'B' are having quite a successful season, and I must say that I was more than surprised to hear that they went down 4-6 at Lewis's. I cannot comment as details have not yet reached me. I see also, and again without details to make comment possible, that Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'D' managed a draw against Brenka, making them the first team to take a point from the leaders this season, which is a more than creditable performance in any circumstances.

Catholic Metro claimed a 10-0 walk-over against University who failed to put in an appearance. I know that it can be very tough on these fellows to get away from their commitments, but in my opinion it is inexcusable not to advice opponents that they aren't coming.

Best individual performances since the last issue have been by P. Williams (Oakhill 'C') whose double against Liverpool C.C. 'B' were his side's only two victories, John O'Donnell (Catholic Met.) who achieved two of his side's three wins against Crawfords 'B', R. Lamb (Lewis's) who bagged two when his team lost 3-7 to Colonsay, and S. White (Linnets 'D') who got two of his side's four v the Cricket Club. A. Crawshaw and N. Owens of Technical Students each won two (again against the Cricket Club 'B') but no-one else on this side managed anything to help out. Ron Evans of Colonsay won a double against each of Brenka and Technical Students, playing at No. 1 in the first instance and No. 2 in the second, but had the frustrating experience on each occasion to see his side go down 6-4.

I am sure that Club Secretaries have little items of news which would be of interest to us all, and I should be more than pleased to hear from them. So let me have anything in the news line PLEASE.

Norman Nelson.

* * * *

Division 8

MALAYAN College introduce an entirely new set of players from the New Year, owing to a change of personnel as students, Lau Kong Bin and his colleague have met with little success this

Around the Divisions—continued

a hearty welcome to these newcomers, and we hope that they will enjoy their stay amongst us. From what I have seen of the new team, it is no weaker than that which represented the College during the first half of the season, and I have very little doubt about their ability to keep the College at the top of this lowly division. Their chances in the Hyde Cup semi-final v Brenka are very hard to assess on so little knowledge of their players, but they carry the hopes of the division for success and an appearance in the final.

Burlington and St. Leonards, two of our more highly placed teams fought out a draw, F. Goodier (Burlington) and C. Humphries (St. Leonards) each scoring doubles, but St. Leonards then promptly gave away two points by means of a walk-over v Cheshire Lines, for whom Bill Dignan still wins fairly regularly. He is really too strong for our sphere—his last appearance in the League was in Linnets 1st division team about three years ago.

At the bottom end of the table, Liverpool C.C. 'D' earned their first point by a draw away to Linnets 'E', who played two short owing to the ravages of the 'flu bug. A. J. Dampeny of the Cricket Club inflicted on A. Mathias (St. Leonards) one of his rare defeats, winning his team's single set.

To finish, as I started, with Malayan College. It is a long time since I had a more enjoyable match than was my good luck against them, for they are probably the most hospitable team it has yet been my pleasure to meet.

George Morgan.

DIVISION 8

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Malayan Coll.	11	10	1	0	91	19	20
St. Leonards	13	8	3	2	79	51	18
L'pool C.C. C	10	7	2	1	69	31	15
Lowlands	11	7	4	0	57	53	14
Burlington	12	6	5	1	59	61	13
Eng. Elec. C.	12	4	6	2	57	63	10
Cheshire Lines	9	2	5	2	45	45	6
Linnet E.	11	2	8	1	33	77	5
L'pool C.C. D	8	1	6	1	23	57	3
Lucem A	6	0	6	0	7	53	0

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WOMEN'S DIVISIONS

(by EILEEN MANSELL)

WOMEN'S DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Bohemians . . .	11	11	0	0	90	20	22
Rafters	12	8	1	3	78	42	18
Cadwa	10	8	2	0	70	30	16
Oakhill	12	5	5	2	66	54	12
Linnnet	11	3	5	3	46	64	9
Bibbys	9	3	5	1	43	47	7
Bath Street . .	11	3	7	1	40	70	7
Orrell	12	2	9	1	33	87	5
Cadwa A	11	2	9	0	32	78	4

WOMEN'S DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Crawfords . . .	10	9	1	0	89	11	18
L'pool C.C. . .	9	8	1	0	71	19	16
Rafters A . . .	10	6	3	1	57	43	13
Bohs A	9	6	3	0	57	33	12
Bath Street A .	11	5	5	1	55	55	11
Bibbys A	10	3	7	0	47	53	6
Bootle Nalgo .	9	1	8	0	10	80	2
Tech. Students	9	0	9	0	1	89	0

THE Bartholomew Cup has now reached its final stages, and it is congratulations to the 2nd division team Crawfords on reaching the semi-final. Crawfords have been doing extremely well this season, and have a very evenly balanced team. Muriel Cox at No. 1 is steadily improving, not only in her play, but also in the control of her "nerves" which have always been her biggest handicap. She has been playing regularly for the Business Houses representative team. Joan and Barbara Horsley have also been having a successful season, as has Nora Ford. On the whole Crawfords have quite a formidable team and should give a good account of themselves when they meet Bohemians (the holders) in the semi-final, although the odds must be on Bohs, who have three inter-city players in their side.

Bohemians once again had to fight for their lives to reach the semi-final for Cadwa were certainly after their blood, and it was touch and go right up to the last point. Hearts in both clubs must have been beating a lot faster when the first clash ended in a draw. This was a good match, and thoroughly enjoyable to watch. Judy and Moya had a ding-dong battle which left both players quite breathless at the end. Judy gave Moya a fright by taking the first game, but after that Moya settled down, and both her forehands and backhands were devastating to let her run out an easy winner in the next two games. Though Judy lost this set she, is rapidly becoming a player to be

reckoned with, and next season will see her challenging the best. Moya and Muriel won both their sets and their doubles for Bohs, and Judy, Pauline and Gloria were winners for Cadwa in addition to one doubles. The replay, at Bohs, again turned out to be a battle royal. This time the holders scraped through 6-4, but it was a fight to a finish for the second time. Again Moya and Muriel won two, and Joyce Randall one, with one doubles to give Bohs a close victory in the second successive round. Though these matches always become nerve-racking to the players, it is noticeable that there is always a good spirit between the rivals, and the losers always seem to come up smiling.

Liverpool Cricket Club are giving a very good account of themselves this year, and their 3rd round match v Linnets showed them up well, even though they lost the match 6-4. Barbara Topping was the Cricket Club's outstanding player against her former club, winning both her sets against Milly Harris and Amy Bell, which was no mean feat, as both are experienced players who, also, have been enjoying a good season. Dawn Lewis accounted for Lily Wynne, and Barbara and Maureen King won their doubles. For Linnets Monica O'Donnell was the most successful player, winning both her sets and in partnership with Amy, her doubles also.

It is sure that the two top 2nd division teams will be unworried when they get promotion next season, and they will provide good opposition in all their matches.

Continued on Page 15

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Rafter's Club members I wish to protest at the playing off on the one night of the three cup semi-final games in which teams from our club are involved. Not only does it deny club members of the opportunity of supporting each team but also denies each team the support they deserve.

The last time we complained on this subject (two of our teams were concerned) the Management Committee answered that while they appreciated the disappointment felt by keen supporters wanting to see both games, it was necessary to play these games in the one week, and it was more convenient to play them on one night so that suitable venues could be arranged and clashes with league matches avoided.

As there are 40 playing nights, or, if the games must be played on a Friday, eight Fridays between the 3rd rounds and the finals, surely it is no harder to find eight venues spread over say four weeks (one cup per week) than it is to find six venues all for the one night.

The Management Committee complain of lack of support at important matches but they do not make it any easier for potential spectators; also, by their present arrangements, how is it that the Mid Cheshire League are able to make good use of the Liverpool Echo to advertise and comment on their key games before they are played, while we in Liverpool only learn about our key games after they have been played?

D. Ferguson,
Club Captain
(Rafter's T.T.C.)

Dear Sir,

I find your distinguished correspondent's comments on the lack of youngsters in our game interesting.

The answer, as in pubs, cinemas, football attendances, is T.V. There is no doubt that our game flourishes in multi-interest clubs—the Y.M.C.A.'s, tennis clubs etc. As table tennis has become a bi-product of these clubs, maybe table tennis clubs should cease to work on one track and create further interest for their members.

As opposed to the T.V. addicts there is a small number of people, mainly amongst those who live off the beaten track, who (a) hate the idea of arriving home in the region of midnight, and (b) having arrived home from work cannot be bothered going out again from Crosby to Childwall etc.

Is there, by any chance, a call for a straight from work (6.0 or even 6.30) kick-off.

As my first theme was lack of players, I feel I must put on record my disagreement with the **method** of discipline meted out by the Management, which either stops or certainly discourages players of five teams from playing. Incidentally, this method may also cause considerable hardship or gain to clubs not involved. A hairs-breadth seems to have stopped such a position in division 6, where the 3rd team now hold a one point lead over the 4th team, after the Management had changed a 6-4 defeat over the 3rd team into a 10-0 WIN. Just two places up and a championship could have been won "off the table"—and there is still half a season to go.

The main theme of Mr. Green's new proposals appears to be to encourage quick promotion. "Dunbar" shoots these down in the local press as applicable to very few clubs since 1945. Come, come, Mr. Pattison, without reference to a handbook I quote BOHEMIANS (your own love), Waterloo Dock, Bath Street, Linnets, Litherland, Wavertree, Labour, University, Waterloo Park.

Any ideas that take the Liverpool League out of its 18th century drawing room are welcome. We are certainly the least adventurous of the Merseyside leagues, excepting . . . well, never mind!

Yours faithfully,

J. A. Lambert
(English Electric).

Sir,

I feel that an incident I was witness to at the recent Rumjahn Cup semi-final match between Fairlawn and N.A.L.G.O. merits a space in your columns, simply to prove that table tennis IS played for enjoyment.