



**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" 83 Lark Lane, Liverpool 17.

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EDITORIAL BOARD :

Editor : **Albert Montgomery.**
J. Green (News), T. H. Edge (Features), J. McKim, A. Upton and D. Cameron

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EDITORIAL

THE STATISTICIAN

I RECENTLY called in to see my Assistant Editor, Jim Green, and found him to be busy in one of his other capacities for the Liverpool League. He was, in fact, compiling the playing records of the week's League matches, from which he can give the result of any match that has taken place during this season. His records are so complete that I warn you all here and now that you would be very foolish to try any fiddles because you will very soon be found out.

During the time I was talking to him the conversation turned to the number of matches that had been forfeited 10-0 because one team or another had not turned up, and I was amazed to learn that 28 matches had been so decided during the first 20 weeks of the season. This state of affairs is pretty grim when you come to think that we all sign up to play table tennis at the beginning of the season as a means of enjoying our winter evenings, and in these forfeited matches 140 people have turned out to play and have had to return home without having had a competitive game.

Unfortunately, this is only part of the trouble. I also found out, to my consternation that during the same period, on no less than 103 occasions some teams turned out with one or more players "short", and in all, by one means or another, 509 sets had been forfeited! Since one set equals one point, 509 points have been given away without opposition with still one quarter of the season to go—and I was told that these offences invariably increase towards the end of each season so that the ultimate figures will reach (probably) twice this total.

This seems to me to be a shocking state of affairs and I am completely at a loss to know where the fault lies and what can be done to remedy the situation. Perhaps some of the clubs concerned have taken on a little more than they can cope with by entering more teams than they can field with their playing strength. On the other hand one Club Secretary tells me that he has sometimes been amazed to hear that one of his teams was short and later learned that it was because someone just didn't bother to let him know that a reserve would be needed.

I know that the rules state that a specific number of players is necessary per team entered, but I am afraid that quite a few of the people whose names appear on registration forms have little or no intention of playing, but have merely signed forms only in order that the clubs concerned have the requisite number of registrations to satisfy the rules. What on earth can we do to remedy this position? I can assure you that your Management Committee are not at all happy about the situation. It comes up for their attention periodically, and will undoubtedly be debated fully in the very near future, but it is a very ticklish problem. If you have any ideas on the subject the M.C. would like to have them, so if you will put them into black and white I assure you that I will certainly publish them if space allows.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE LEAGUE

by Jack McCaig

Not down yet

WITH the season almost over, only two questions remain unanswered so far as our teams are concerned. One is whether, after all, our men's 1st team will be relegated to division two. Following a good draw with Stockport, and a hard earned win against the Wirral league, the concluding fixture with Manchester appeared, on paper at least, a lost cause. In practice this turned out to be far from the case, and another excellent draw was the result. Our team of D'Arcy, Mandaluff and Hurworth, contributed equally to a fine team effort, against a side, whilst not being at full strength, was obviously intent on taking both points. The result of the match could so easily have been a 6-4 win to Liverpool, for with the score 2-0 in our favour, Peter Hurworth had match point at 20-17 in the third game, against E. Ford, and to his mortification (and mine) just could not clinch it. The position as I write, is that Wirral are certain to finish bottom of the table, whilst Preston, who have yet to play Wirral, and have 2 points, could finish level on points with Liverpool if they win this match. If that happens as seems likely, the second bottom position will be decided on sets average. Here's hoping!

Nearly there

The other still open question is

whether our Youth side will in fact win their division for the second year running. This seems highly probable, but it is as well not to count chickens too soon. With one match still to play, our side is unbeaten with maximum points, and the Hyde league to play. The point of this is that, according to the last league table I saw, Hyde were also unbeaten, so on the face of it there could be a close decision. My money nevertheless, is on our lads to repeat last year's effort and carry off the Youth division once more.

Moderate seasons

The men's 'A' team, not always at full strength, have about held their own, as have the ladies' 1st team, whilst the ladies' 'A' team have not been overawed by anyone. The junior team continues to disappoint at the time of final reckoning, and a 9-1 drubbing (the only win was in the doubles event) suggests there is much room for improvement.

Badges

The Management Committee have been pleased to award league badges to the following players:—

Men's 1st team—P. D'Arcy; Men's 'A' team—E. Moran, G. Birch, T. Owens; Ladies' 1st team—Miss M. King, Miss M. Francis; Ladies' 'A' team—Mrs. M. Cox; Youth team—R. McPherson, E. Birch, P. Ferris; Juniors—I. Burrows, P. Wass.

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Behind the Scenes

APPROXIMATELY seven days after each issue of the *Digest* the telephone calls start asking when the next one will be out. Although we sometimes curse these calls we are usually heartened by them for they show that the magazine is appreciated by League members, but at the same time we feel that our readers think that this news sheet finds its own way into their hands. Let me disillusion you right away—it doesn't! It is the result of many hours of toil and tribulation, and it is only right that you should know just how the thing is produced.

It starts, strangely enough, at the first meeting of the Management Committee after the A.G.M. (usually in June). Then the Editor, News Editor, and Features Editor are appointed, and together with the three senior officers of the League they form the *Digest* Sub-Committee. Theirs is the job of obtaining estimates from various printers, which are then reported back to the Committee who decide which one to accept. The Treasurer harries sundry people, firms, and other bodies to obtain adverts (necessary for all forms of printed material) the News Editor finds, or tries to find, willing souls to write the notes for each division, the Features Editor goes round begging, wheedling, cajoling, and almost bullying odd bods to write articles, and these forms of exercise carry us well on into October. By which time the News Editor has found (perhaps) five willing divisional correspondents, in which the Women's Representative is always shanghaied, and is getting nigh frantic in the struggle to persuade a few more to make up the numbers. The Features Editor has gone grey or bald acquiring a stream of abuse but (usually) no articles, the Editor says "How the hell are we to fill the blighted thing" and everything is completely normal!

Comes the time when the first issue is nearly due to go to the printers. The News Editor sends score cards to each of his correspondents and set to write notes for those divisions where he could

get nobody else. The correspondents are usually good types who invariably work to a deadline, as do the Secretary and Match Secretary. All of these are well acquainted with the task of making bricks without straw, and as a rule all of these efforts come in on time. Features—well that's a different matter altogether. This poor blighter nine times out of ten has a tremendous amount of nothing to show for his labours. Ah well, that's as it should be, so the entire group sit down with pen in hand and concoct something which they **hope** will start something—anything to arouse someone's fury (and either a return article or a letter to the Editor). Obviously they don't always believe what they write, but after all the pages have to be filled (approximately). But after some cogitation, waste of paper, frayed nerves, kicking the dog and bashing the kids to keep them sane, they turn out enough to fill the issue. Meanwhile the Fixture Secretary has produced his league tables to date, so the whole lot is typed out and delivered to the Editor (whose Editorial has given him plenty of grief) to 'blue pencil' and to add his little footnotes, who thereupon adds it all up and pronounces "I'm still two pages short!"

Again the grey matter is scoured for some topic on which to write, the efforts are submitted on bended knee to the Editor, who sneers, but accepts it as the best he's got. Sighs of relief! But second thoughts remind us that there are still four more issues to go, which brings the heads from the clouds pretty smartish.

While all this is going on the Treasurer has obtained blocks from advertisers and sent them to the printer, to whom the Editor now sends the completed copy and the boys sit back and wait, and from the now prevailing quiet there comes a scratching which cannot be mice? No, in an obscure back room every player's registration form has been sorted into clubs, then alphabetically, and a lone soul sits with scratching pen diligently and laboriously writing out a pile

of newspaper wrappers in which the completed article is to be delivered. This is a miserable and thankless job. A soul destroying chore, albeit a most essential one, into which one of the wives is usually press-ganged (her writing being better than ours—that's our story and we're sticking to it). It takes some time, mates, writing 800 or so addresses on wrappers. Then comes that happy day when the *Digest* comes from the printers in all its glory. The wrapping, stamping, and posting of the same follows. An arduous task? No, it only takes about 8-10 hours hard graft, and that's what you get so well paid for (has it been mentioned that this is all on the 'honorary basis?'). Any way its out and delivered. The phones start ringing with plenty of moans regarding the contents, but here and there we get a reluctant and grudging mutter of praise from an odd soul so we realise that everything is normal again.

From the start of the season there has been a stirring throughout the league to show that one or two have awoken from their summer hibernation and are thinking about some article they intend to write. Most of them never get round to writing, but they deserve praise, for the idea is there. But occasionally a letter arrives in the post and we find that it's from an old buddy (say) Bill Smith. You know Bill? Sure you do—he plays for "Joe Soap's Specials" in the umpteenth division—not much of a player! That's not how WE see Bill! To us he's an angel of light complete with nightshirt! HE writes us articles for the *Digest*!

HE thinks up some point to arouse abuse or commendation! HE helps to fill our columns! HE is our mate, and WE LOVE BILL! We might even get a couple of letters as well from disgruntled clients. Oh happy day!

Then the whole process starts again for the second issue, and one by one the five issues are compiled, dished out, moaned at and by and large everyone has a good time, and the last effort having been delivered to the readers some time in April, the production team sits back to relax till next year, pondering the while on what a hero Jack Pattison was to do this little lot for ten solid years on his tod. About four weeks later comes the A.G.M., followed swiftly by the first meeting of the Management Committee who appoint the Editor, News Editor, Features Editor, and together with the three senior Officers of the League they form the *Digest* sub-Committee. "Theirs is the job . . . etc. etc.—"

Ours is no national daily where the Editor sits on his golden throne throwing purses of gold hither and thither. OUR Editor has to sit on a bent-wood chair (if it's his turn) and throw out curses and abuse (these being cheaper than gold). But after a time you get hardened to it and accept it as one of those little things that are sent to try us, having at the same time a small sense of satisfaction at having produced something from very little. Make our job simpler, please, by writing some small thing some time. Your name shall go on our Roll of Honour!

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Per T.T. Digest for February '63. Entries were invited for a change of front cover design, such to include "black and white and one other colour" etc.

I thought there'd been an accident with the front cover of the recent issue, but February's proved me wrong.

Is this the "new" "different" and "attractive" front cover a result of that invitation? I thought it was meant for our Digest to look better not worse.

At first glance the new-look Digest seems bigger (but still the same number of pages—16). Being statistically minded I measured the old Digest (November '64). Taking length first of all. It was 8 1/5th inches—length of print 7 1/10 inches and the maximum number of lines (page 11) 64. Then January's. 8 1/2 inches. Print 6 1/2 inches. Maximum No. of lines (page 8) 61. February's? Still 8 1/2 inches. Print—just under 6 1/2 inches as there were only 60 lines maximum (page 11).

The number of lines speak for themselves.

Width. Nov. '64 5 2/5 inches and print from side to side 4 inches and the actual total width of the two columns 3 4/5 inches. In January and February these measurements were respectively 5 1/2 inches, 4 3/10 inches and 4 inches. In theory we're getting 1/5 inches more print widthwise—but we're not, because to make matters worse all round the new Digest sports print slightly larger than the old one and the wide margins, especially at the top and bottom of the

pages constitute a waste of paper, or at least another page of print. Can we not revert to the old style of the coloured cover?

I've got my ruler and counting beads ready for the next Digest!

Yours faithfully,

Mabel Francis

(Crawfords T.T.C.)

The Editor replies—

We apologise for the covers of the last two issues, but we had no alternative. After the November issues we felt obliged to change from one printer to another, and somewhere along the line the blocks for the cover got mislaid. It was, either make new block (expensive!) or ask the printer to concoct a temporary cover, which we did. The blocks have now turned up as you will see from this issue.

Regarding margins, lines, measurements, etc., this out of our control entirely. These are (obviously) governed by the amount submitted to the printer to print—in turn, by what is submitted to me. If we don't get articles and letters, what do we do? Print small and have some blank pages, or leave the printer to set it all up as best he can? Despite many appeals we get all too few responses from League members.

On another page is an article on the production of the *Digest* which might give an insight on our problems. This was written before Miss Francis' letter was received partly to let people know how it all happens and partly to try to induce extra material, partly to try to reduce these blank margins etc.

OBITUARY

LIVERPOOL Table Tennis has suffered a further tragic loss by the sudden death of Mrs. Ivy Crafter and on behalf of the Management Committee and members I extend our deepest sympathy to Bill and Judy in the great further loss which they have sustained by the passing of their mother, so soon after their recent sad bereavement.

Ivy had a lifelong interest in table tennis and despite a serious past illness which she overcame with fortitude and sheer determination, she continued to demonstrate her ability as a player right up to the time of her death. As the non-playing captain for the current Liverpool Ladies Team and as a member of the Selection Committee her experience proved invaluable and her enthusiasm and encouragement for the younger players will be greatly missed.

We share the deep grief of her family in this time of great sorrow, we mourn with them the passing of a loveable character and a friend.

Arthur E. Upton, Chairman.

DIVISIONAL REPORTS AND LEAGUE TABLES

DIVISION 1 by Jim Green

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Liverpool YM	19	19	0	0	160
Wav. Labour	18	14	4	0	117
Wav. Lab. 'A'	18	13	5	0	114
Rafters	17	13	4	0	106
Bohemians	16	10	5	1	97
Cadwa	18	8	8	2	94
Linnets	18	6	11	1	76
L'pool YM 'A'	18	3	14	1	70
Pirates	16	5	10	1	65
Lucem	17	3	12	2	63
Oakhill	19	5	14	0	50
Bohs. 'A'	14	1	13	0	28

Y.M.C.A.'s Double

LIVERPOOL Y.M.C.A. clinched the championship with four matches to go, and then completed the double by taking the Readman Cup, beating Linnets 8-2 in the final. Although this far from the first championship they have won, it is a long time since the ultimate result has been decided so far ahead of the end of the season. Their line up of Roy Jones, Ted Mandaluff, Kenny Roberts, Dave Butterworth and Dennis O'Hara has proved far too good for all comers, and are undoubtedly the best side in the League. Heartly congratulations to them on the double. Wavertree Labour have kept up the chase throughout with both their sides, and as I write, from equal matches played, there is only three sets between their two teams, lying second and third. They, too, deserve the highest commendation for a great show on their 1st division debut. It seems more than probable that their challenge will be increased in future seasons, for their ten players have an 'age' advantage over the Y.M.C.A., and they have shown a decided improvement in standard through the year.

Rafters, as always, are there or thereabouts, lying fourth at present with a game in hand. They may yet overtake one or both of the Labour teams, but it does not appear possible that they will be more effective in coming seasons, for despite the individual ability of the team, age is against them, and you can't beat the clock. Still, they will have some say in future competitions, especially if they can bring

on some of the younger members of their 'A' team.

Outside these four, only Bohemians have strength enough to seriously compete with Y.M.C.A. at present. They can climb higher when their games are up to date, and had they played their strongest side each week they might have given the Y.M. something to think about, but they have fielded some extraordinary looking teams this year, and you can't win championships doing that! Keith Rawlinson has undoubtedly had his share of team troubles in his first season as Secretary (learning the hard way).

But for team troubles Bill Crafter has more than had his share! Despite which he has had some good personal wins, over Ken Chambers (Wav. Lab.) 21-16 in the third, and Roy Smith (Wav. Lab.) 25-23 and 22-20. He has been bedevilled by players not turning up, sets given away, and sundry other forms of temperament from his members, and no other Secretary has envied him his thankless job. Loyalty seems a forgotten word to some people these days! Yet had his players given him any real support goodness knows where the team would have been in the table.

At Linnets there have been higher hearts than for many years, for Ian Burrows, on his first year in the division, has done extremely well for a 15-year-old, while Dixie Dean has improved on his performances of last year, and is established as a first team player after his jump from the old 8th division of two years-ago. Both will play a prominent part in future seasons. Frank Thomas and Harry Spiers have played the part now expected of them, and Tony Green has shown a vast advance on his form of previous years. In lower teams Linnets have a number of young players who will be lining up in this division in coming seasons, but these five have held their own this year with no real relegation problems.

Oakhill seem doomed to accompany Bohemians 'A' to the 2nd division. It is more than likely that we shall have them back after next

year for I rather think they will prove too strong for either 2nd division. Luck has not been on their side this time. And Bohs 'A' are just not strong enough to get away from the bottom now.

Pirates are the season's puzzle. They have used 16 players in 15 matches, Eric Davies, with 10 appearances topping the list, and they have included players from their 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'E' teams at times. Yet had their top five or six played throughout they could well have shaken up some of the top teams—certainly their league position would have been much higher. Mal Wallace and Norman Jones can only manage to play just often enough to 'qualify' them for the team, and I am told that illness will possibly keep Maurice Oakes out for the rest of the matches. Alan Lawson battles every week and has not missed a game since the Pirates/Anfield amalgamation, but some of the teams playing have had a peculiar look to say the least. However, they are safe enough, and a general sorting-out will probably take place before next year.

Last, but not least, Lucem carry on as usual with the same few reliable players, enjoy their matches and what is more important, give pleasure to the opponents by un-failing good humour as well as some good play, collecting enough points in the process to keep clear of the tail. Strangely, they are the teams who seem to get on with everyone, yet the majority of them live in St. Helens. Perhaps it is the air out there!

DIVISION 2A by Jimmy Bowden

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Beauclair	20	18	0	2	150
Linacre	21	14	4	3	135
Pirates 'A'	19	11	4	4	123
Waterloo Park . .	19	14	3	2	119
Rafters 'A'	19	10	7	2	118
Cadwa 'A'	20	11	5	4	105
Colonsay	20	6	10	4	93
L'pool Jewish . .	20	4	11	5	83
Crawfords 'A' . .	21	6	11	4	82
Coll. of Tech . . .	21	4	14	3	77
English Elec. . . .	21	2	12	7	77
Bath Street 'A' .	19	3	12	4	69
L.P.A.S. 'A'	20	3	13	4	66

Who goes up?

BEAUCLAIR for Division 1. But who goes up with them? Linacre at the moment lie second, and seem to have the edge, for in recent weeks both Rafters 'A' and Pirates 'A' have been dropping sets they can ill afford, Rafters 'A' going down 4-6 to Crawfords 'A' and Pirates 'A' only managing to draw against College of Technology.

At the other end the fight for survival continues to be an all in battle. The dropping out of Liverpool Post Office leaves L.P.A.S. 'A', Bath Street 'A', English Electric and the College of Technology to contest the fight for the wooden spoon, an honour which each team hopes most sincerely to palm off onto one of the others. As at the top of the table, the contestants have to play each other, and so the final matches of the season are building up to a grand finale both at the top and at the bottom. It is interesting to speculate on the resulting position if there happens to be a tie for promotion or relegation (or both). Have the Committee made any plans to deal with such a possibility?

L.P.A.S. 'A' are making a determined bid to save their division 2A status. In their recent match against Colonsay they were defeated by 6 sets to 4 but not before a dour battle had taken place. Six of the sets were decided in the third, and the redoubtable John Hodges of Colonsay suffered his first double defeat of the season, losing to Geoff Nelson and John Taylor. Geoff Nelson completed his own double with a win over John Nelson (no relation I am told), and Jimmy Conroy obtained the fourth set by beating Ron Evans.

Although near the danger area at the foot of the table, English Electric have turned in some good results over the past few weeks, including a draw with Rafters 'A', thanks to a double from Eric Smitton (who beat Frank Murphy and Fred Winstanley), and held Linacre to a narrow win 6-4. In this game Fred Pheysey score a particularly good double with wins over Frank Lacey and Ken Ainsworth, and for the winners Alec Davidson and Alan Horwood each notched two wins.

In their withdrawal from the League, Liverpool Post Office have affected all promotion-seeking teams, for their record is expunged, resulting in the loss of 20 sets by Rafter's 'A', 18 by Beauclair, 9 by Linacre, who have only played Post Office once, as have Pirates 'A' who also lose 9 points. What a pity that their withdrawal should come at such a crucial stage of the season, but that's how the cookie crumbles.

The next issue of the *Digest* should contain the final League tables, when all problems are solved and we hope that the last few matches will be as hard fought as they have been to date. **See you at the Closed!**

DIVISION 2B by John O'Sullivan

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Wav. Lab. 'B'	23	23	0	0	193
Bath Street . . .	22	19	2	1	170
University	26	16	7	3	169
L.P.A.S.	22	18	4	0	154
Mossley Hill . . .	23	12	8	3	127
Linnets 'B'	21	11	7	3	117
Linnets 'A'	20	8	6	6	106
Crawfords	22	9	11	2	102
St. Edwards . . .	22	7	12	3	95
L'pool Jews. 'A'	22	4	16	2	75
Bootle Y.M. . . .	21	4	15	2	67
Cadwa 'B'	23	3	19	1	66
L'pool YM 'B' . .	21	3	15	3	61
Bohs 'B'	21	3	17	1	47

Looking Ahead

WHILE most teams still have five or six matches to play, players are already discussing which teams they will be meeting next season. As far as I can see at the moment this is more than a little premature. Granted, Wavertree Labour 'B' are certain to move up into the 1st division (and deservedly so) but Bath Street could easily be pipped on the post for second place by L.P.A.S., who have been handing out some hefty defeats to all comers, and their tally of points is mounting up substantially. They have beaten every team within the small group around them—University, Mossley Hill and Linnets 'A', and in their two recent matches against Linnets 'B' they collected 17 of the 20 points at stake.

When Wavertree first played Bath Street away, I thought that this would be Wavertree's greatest test, but they came away with a

comparatively easy win. In the return match I once again thought that it would be a close, hard fought battle, and on checking the match card it appeared that Wavertree had their doubts about the outcome for V. McKenna was in at No. 1, Ron McEvoy at 2, Ted Morris at 3 and Ted Gilmour and Eddie Birch at 4 and 5 respectively. I certainly do not doubt McKenna's ability but he normally plays at 3 or 4, with Ron McEvoy at 5.

Knowing Wavertree's strength and their past record, and taking into consideration the fact that they had already beaten Bath Street away from home, I was more than a little puzzled by this upside down order of play until I saw the Bath Street order! R. Kite at No. 1 (he usually fills the 5 spot), Alan Taylor at 2 instead of his customary 4 and John Coveney relegated to No. 5. Poor John! I wonder what he had done to deserve this. However, after a somersault by both teams the result still came out 7-3 in favour of Wavertree, so it seems that they might both have played in their normal orders in the first place. Incidentally, in congratulating Wavertree Labour on winning the Rumjahn Cup once again, this time with their 'B' team, I know that I can speak for the entire personnel of this division. Ron McEvoy's wife, Betty, must spend a lot of time keeping League trophies clean.

Mossley Hill have not been breaking any records, hovering just about in the top half of the division. But, since Wavertree are the only team to have beaten Bath Street this term, Mossley Hill can feel justly pleased with themselves in holding Bath Street to a draw on the Waterloo Club's table. In this match special praise should be given to Arthur Roberts, who, playing as a reserve for Mossley Hill put up a grand performance. Alan Taylor (Bath Street) had won his first set with embarrassing ease against an opponent who shall be nameless (why be so modest John?—Editor), when in this game against Roberts, Taylor found that it was one game all and that he was 17-18 down in the third. It was at 19-all that Roberts decided to use his devastating "surprise" shot, one which he keeps for the odd occasion when he

wants to catch his opponent flat-footed—consisting of a tremendous, unexpected backhand into the net! I forget how the last point was won, but it went in Taylor's favour, and, joking apart, it was a magnificent game to watch, and Roberts was a little unlucky to lose it.

In the derby game between Linnets 'A' and 'B' teams the 'B' team came out 7-3 winners. The 'A' team were under-strength, and had two ladies, Judy Crafter and Marion Lewis at 1 and 2, and Alan Dean at No. 3. I think that Alan plays in the 'C' team normally, but he gave a good account of himself and had a decisive win over Charlie Goodall 21-18, 21-12. Linnets 'B' must have one of the most consistent teams in the League, seldom changing any of the faithful five, while the 'A' team have had team troubles due to shift work and overtime, seldom being able to put out their full team.

I haven't seen the latest league tables, but the bottom end has problems as well as the top. Bootle Y.M.C.A., Cadwa 'B' Liverpool Y.M.C.A. 'B' and Bohemians 'B' must all be feeling anxious regarding the relegation bogey, and much depends on the results of the last few matches. I reckon that the side with the easier matches still to play will be the lucky one.

Get your entry in for the 'Closed'. See you there.

DIVISION 3A	by Mabel Francis				
	P	W	L	D	Pts
Sefton General	19	17	1	1	144
Wav. Lab. 'C'	18	16	1	1	140
Oakhill 'A'	20	11	5	4	133
Crawfords 'B'	18	10	5	3	109
Trinity	17	10	5	2	104
L'pool Jew. 'B'	18	8	6	4	100
Pirates 'B'	17	10	6	1	98
Stanley House	18	6	7	5	92
St. Marys Coll.	18	5	8	5	81
Eng. Elec. 'B'	20	5	13	2	77
Bath Street 'C'	17	2	11	4	49
Beauchair 'B'	20	1	18	1	32
Domestic	16	0	15	1	20

Interest still maintained
STILL top, but with their lead drastically cut down, are Sefton General, and Wavertree Labour 'C', with a match in hand, have slowly crept up on them. Thus the interest

at the top of the division is maintained, and a firm forecast of the ultimate champions is impossible. It lies between these two though, and a grand fight it is proving.

St. Mary's are having a thin time of it. For the first two matches in this second half they had identical results as in the first games, but since then they have fallen away most surprisingly. Crawfords 'B' too, have fared quite badly in certain of their matches.

Liverpool Jewish 'B' had a cracking match with Pirates 'B', no less than eight of the sets going to 3. Each one of the Pirates' team (namely Holloway, King, Southall, Daly and Topping) won a set each, while fortunes were more mixed for Jewish with Harvey and Lussey each scoring doubles, Beilinson adding one, and Davies and Taylor drawing a blank. A real scrap of a match, in which it seems that a draw was the fairest result at the end. Stan Harvey, a most deceiving player, must be really pleased also with his two-straight win over J. Molyneux in their match against Wavertree Labour, when his were the only sets won by his team, although in fact he lost by the narrowest margin against Eddie Birch in the same match.

A most unusual game between George Kettle (Sefton) and John Hankin (Trinity). George, having lost the first game 21-2, won the next two 23-21, 21-17. I wonder who was the most shocked at the end of the first game?

How about this for a bit of returned kindness? At their first meeting Domestic Mission presented Stanley House with six sets w/o. When they met for the return match Stanley House returned the compliment by giving Domestic Mission four sets in return, due to the non-appearance of their 1 and 2. John McVey beat A. Pierce, so giving Domestic Mission, on paper, their first and only draw thus far.

I see that English Electric 'B', like Bath Street 'C' are having a little bit more success. It is pleasing to see improved results in the second half of the season.

We all hope to see the winners of the Hyde Cup in our division, so I wish the very best of luck to

Oakhill 'A' in the final against Pirates 'C', at Linnets on 29th March. I'm sure that they have every confidence of going home with the Cup, and all who play in this division (with the understandable exception of Pirates 'B') hope that they will do so.

DIVISION 3B by Jack Lambert

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Linnets 'C'	21	20	0	1	174
Pirates 'C'	20	18	1	1	150
Orrell	21	11	7	3	122
Eng. Elec. 'A'	18	11	4	3	110
Beauclair 'A'	19	10	7	2	102
Bath Street 'B'	18	8	4	6	98
Lowlands	19	6	8	5	91
L.P.A.S. 'B'	20	5	14	1	84
Linnets 'D'	19	5	9	5	82
Lussac	19	5	10	4	72
Rafters 'B'	18	4	11	3	67
Eng. Elec. 'D'	18	2	14	2	54
Bohs. 'C'	18	1	17	0	33

MAN of the moment is Ken Foulkes of Linnets 'C' who is undefeated to date—a great record at this stage of the season for a man playing in the No. 1 spot. It will be interesting to see who, if anyone, lowers his colours before the last matches are completed.

Team of the moment—no, not Linnets 'C' or Pirates 'C', both of whom continue to bulldoze their way through all opposition to a possible decider in the last match of the season. The team I refer to is Bath Street 'B', who, after defeating English Electric 'A' 6-4, proved that it was no fluke by being the first team to take 5 points from Linnets 'C'. The honours list reads Marsh, Dumbell, Smith (C.), Taylor (B.), Roberts. A great performance indeed.

Another upset was Lussac's excellent win over English Electric 'A'. Full honours again to Anderson, Nevins, Murphy, Sturgess and Hughes. Just as last season, this side proves the value of practice, and they continue to improve with every match.

A few good draws: Electric 'D' v Bath Street 'B' (Barrow 2) and v Lowlands (Bundred 2). In the latter game Electric have to thank Neary and reserve Feeny for two

sets each, plus Gordon's excellent win over Les French. Lowlands team, in turn, did very well to take five points at Orrell, thanks mainly to a Harcombe double. Orrell's double came from their tower of strength Gerry Brint.

Top of the individual performances are, I am pleased to say, three young men. How about Murgatroyd of Bohemians scoring a double over Orrell, B. J. Meyer of Linnets 'D', a double over Beauclair, and J. Rix of Beauclair coming in as a reserve and then taking Bunner. Johnson of Pirates 'C' scored two wins in this match. I reckon Beauclair to be our No. 3 team at present, so this 8-2 was a step in the right direction for Pirates. Beauclair proved that I was right with a 7-1 win over Electric 'A', Elsie Palmer and Bob Morris 2 apiece.

A few more good efforts: Marie Lupton (Police) winning two v Pirates, Burness (Electric 'D') for the only set v Linnets 'C', Elizabeth Loughrey (Rafters 'B') with two wins against Electric 'A' and George Morgan for his sole win for Linnets 'D' against Pirates 'C'.

For those interested in the promotion battle, with four matches left each as I write, Linnets 'C' lead Pirates 'C' by 14 points. Linnets have yet to play Linnets 'D', Orrell (away) and Lowlands (home), and Pirates are to face Bohemians 'C' away, English Electric (both home and away), before they meet each other in the final match of the season at Duke Street on Tuesday, 13th April. That should be a tremendous finale to the season.

DIVISION 4A by Glynn Hughes

	P	W	L	D	Pts
12/50	19	19	0	0	169
University 'A'	22	17	4	1	166
Colonsay 'A'	18	17	1	0	159
Wav. Lab. 'D'	19	13	5	1	124
Oakhill 'B'	19	9	8	2	91
Orrell 'A'	18	6	8	4	77
Coll. of Tec. 'A'	19	6	11	2	67
L.Y.C.A.	17	6	9	2	67
Eng. Elec. 'C'	17	3	13	1	60
Crawfords 'C'	20	5	15	0	56
Linnets 'F'	17	1	14	2	40
Palmerston 'A'	17	2	14	1	34

A False Lead?

ALTHOUGH University top the table as I write, it is not because they have nullified the lead of Colonsay "A" and 12/50, but because they have been playing extra matches to avoid giving away walk-overs at the end of the season. They are currently 5 points ahead of 12/50 having played three matches more, and even though we are fairly sure that it is only for this time, it makes a change to see another name at the head of the table. Joking apart, although promotion affects Colonsay and 12/50, barring miracles, the University team have done exceedingly well to stay as close as they have to these two very strong sides. Captain Phipps and his fellow members can feel more than satisfied with their position, for had not the two leading sides been obliged to drop from the 2nd to the 4th division, it is more than probable that University would have been firmly established at the head.

The withdrawal of Bradstones "A" so late in the season is even more than usually regrettable, for it means an adjustment of the records of every single side in the division, but it is unlikely to affect the two top spots. And at the lower end Linnets "F" have now a private battle on with Palmerstone "A" for the wooden spoon, which gives them added incentive in the last few games. Yet Linnets "F" have had some fair results such as a 5-5 draw with Coll. Tech. "A" and a 4-6 loss v. Crawfords "C" recently, so they can look forward to better times next year.

L.Y.C.A. have pulled up the table of late, despite defeats by 12/50 and University "A" 10-0 and 8-2 respectively, having beaten Crawfords "C" 8-2, English Electric "C" 6-4, Oakhill "B" 7-3 and a draw 5 all against Orrell "A". Dave Coulson, with 10 wins from 12 sets played in these games, has been the backbone of the side, but it has been a team effort which has led to the 3-place

jump, and they hope to finish a place or two higher yet.

Wavertree Labour "D" as befits any side bearing the name of that club, have shown up particularly well, and are assured of 4th place. This is mainly a young team, with the odd experienced player there to steady the youngsters, and there is little doubt that some of these players such as R. Malone will be heard of in much higher spheres than ours before very long. Also, Oakhill "B" (or Dave Eaton's lads) are reasonably sure of 5th place, their only danger being the Orrell "A" team, mainly consisting of ladies. Surely the conditions at Orrell must rate as just about the best in the League? And it must be a churlish type of player who does not enjoy playing against them, for they are one of the most affable and pleasant teams to meet. And not easy to play against either.

But apart from the top three sides there has been much more competition between teams this year than was the case in the four 3rd divisions last season, and even the weaker teams can hope for some signs of success against most of their opponents, whereas last year most matches were in the 9-1, 10-0 region every week. All round, matches have been more enjoyable this season.

Our "big two", Colonsay "A" and 12/50, are not only fighting tooth and nail for the championship (both being certain of promotion), but they also meet in the final of the Forrest Cup. Although 12/50 scraped home in the earlier League match, it would be a braver man than I to forecast the Cup winners, or even the Division winners, though I lean towards one team slightly. With no real grounds, other than a very slight points lead, I rather lean towards Colonsay for the league. The Cup is too risky for any prophecy. The best of luck to both sides, and we can at least thank them for ensuring that the Forrest Cup is in this division whichever of the two teams win.

DIVISION 4B by Jim Green

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Pirates 'D' . . .	21	21	0	0	174
University 'B' . . .	26	12	8	6	159
Palmerston . . .	22	18	2	2	157
British Rlys. . . .	20	16	3	1	151
Colonsay 'B' . . .	21	13	7	1	126
Mossley Hill 'A' . . .	21	10	8	3	114
Linnets 'E'	22	7	13	2	96
Pirates 'E'	19	8	10	1	93
Stanley Hse 'A' . . .	22	8	11	3	88
Edge Hill	21	7	13	1	78
St. Mary's 'A' . . .	19	7	10	2	77
Lowlands 'A'	21	5	15	1	76
Bradstones	21	3	16	2	55

Out Ahead

PIRATES "D" have at last gone into a clear lead at the top of the table, and now look comfortable winners of the division. Currently University "B" lie second but they have played all of their matches and obviously their present high position is a false one. Palmerston still contest second place with British Railways, and have a slight lead, but they have played two matches more than their rivals, and it seems as though Bert Ariss and his merry men will finish runners-up. In the recent clash between the two sides the railwaymen lost 7-3. D. Christie, A. Parker and Bert Ariss each winning one. For Palmerston, D. Winnall, B. S. Alexander and R. G. Jones each earned a double, J. Pickup adding the odd set, but it is fair to note that no less than nine of the sets were won in the third, so it was certainly a very close scrap. As it should be between two promotion contenders!

Colonsay "B" and Mossley Hill "A" are cruising along comfortably, both should come very close to the University side eventually, and both have every right to feel pleased with the seasons performances. Colonsay signed G. Wylie late on in the season and he has proved a useful asset to the "B" team.

The recovery of Linnets "E" is one of the more surprising features of this year. Since the inclusion of Eddie Johnson in the team they have picked up far more sets than was dreamed of earlier on, and rarely does a match go by without him scoring at least once. Colm Cox, and the two girls, Angela

Parker and Carole Flood, are the other regulars, with Max Ratoff whenever available, and in Dave Blake they have a more than useful reserve. In the second *Digest* of the season they were bottom—now they have climbed up to 7th. In addition they have the distinction of being the only team from 4B to force a draw with Pirates "D" (in the Forrest Cup), when Pirates were at full strength. So they have every right to look to next season with some confidence.

Pirates "E" are coming up rapidly and undoubtedly will finish in the top half. They are a strong side, led by the captain Len "Woodenbat" Davies, and they too will want some watching by the top sides, for they can snip away sets from the strongest.

For the rest, our teams are a pretty even lot, and even Bradstones and English Electric "E", coming in at the tail end, have had some good results. One thing which has stuck out this year is the great improvement in the three English Electric girls, Val Ball, Lynn McWilliam, and Celia Buckles, who have shown a tremendous advance on last season's performances. We can only hope that this improvement will continue, for there are all too few young players of the fair sex for the future.

Just a reminder about the Liverpool "Closed". We hope to see a large entry from this division, both male and female. See you at Dingle Vale.

WOMEN'S DIVISION

	by Amy Bell				
	P	W	L	D	Pts
Crawfords	17	15	1	1	145
Cadwa	14	12	2	0	113
Linnets	16	11	4	1	112
Rafters	14	11	2	1	103
Linnets 'A'	16	9	7	0	91
Pirates	15	9	6	0	84
Bohemians	14	5	7	2	75
Rafters 'A'	13	1	11	1	28
Pirates 'A'	12	2	9	1	26
Lussac	18	2	15	1	24
Telecomms	14	0	14	0	9