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**TABLE
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DIGEST**

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OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

TABLE DIGEST TENNIS

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Editorial

THE League tables are now in a very interesting position. In at least four of the eight mixed divisions the top two teams are so close together that there is a distinct possibility of a "tie" on points, and in two other divisions there is a battle for top place also. And, in the first season under the twin-stream system, only 80 points were required to avoid the bottom four places in the 1st division. This season it will be nearer to 100. There is only one "one-horse race" throughout the entire League, as against the many which took place annually in days gone by.

This can surely be attributed to the "twin-stream system" and the consequent quick sifting of teams into spheres more suited to their merits? Before long, under this system, the levelling of teams will have progressed to such a stage that nearly every match will provide a challenge even to the division leaders, making for closer competition throughout the season, to the benefit of everyone concerned.

These statements are made in the hope that the clubs holding opposing views will write to the magazine giving their reasons for their desire to revert to the "straight division" system.

OBSERVE THE SERVICE RULE

Since the new service rule came into effect some years ago, there has been a drastic reduction in the legality of the services generally used throughout the League. On looking around, there are very few players (comparatively) who attempt to serve within the confines of the rule as laid down.

Adverse service decisions have cropped up in two Cup Finals this year, and apart from the players "called" on which I will not comment, there were several whose services are decidedly illegal! Cupping the hand, service from the fingers, and the general attempts made to obtain an illegal advantage from such services are prevalent through the League.

Perhaps if umpires generally decided to "call" every service which does not comply with the rule, from the outset of next season, this tendency to evade the rule will be removed.

It has been said that due to many changes in the rule the players do not know it. This is easily rectified, for the E.T.T.A. print the rules clearly on a large card for hanging in the clubroom (where everyone can see it) at a very modest sum. The few coppers concerned would be a great investment.

DR. ALLAN CRAWSHAW

Allan Crawshaw, of College of Technology, has now left Liverpool to take up a new appointment at the College of Technology in Sheffield. He will be missed by his club where he has been the regular No. 1 for some seasons and for whom he has been the most successful player. He will be missed also at League A.G.Ms. where he has been the outstanding supporter of the new points system among other things.

He has made many friends in this League, even amongst those who have been most bitterly opposed to his views at the A.G.M., and on behalf of these I say that he will be missed in every way. I wish him every success in his new post, a wish which I know, will be echoed by everyone who knows him.

Reply to Jack Lambert

In last month's issue Jack Lambert proposed certain changes for the "Digest" and specifically requested my views on the subject. Hence this article.

First, let me make it clear that I can quite see what Jack is aiming at and I can sympathise to a certain extent. This is not intended as an attack on him, but rather is the form of a reply.

Regarding "two bumper issues per year". The reduction of the number of issues and the extension of two issues to cover the content of five, would NOT result in any financial saving. Rather, would there be a financial loss!

The cost of the magazine is based upon the number of pages contained. The greater portion comes under setting-up of the print, and this is a "per page" charge. In order to cover roughly the same ground in two magazines as is currently included in five, would necessitate a magazine of some 40 pages.

Since the pages are printed in multiples of 8 pages, to reduce the number of pages it must be done in 8 pages at a time. So, the cost of printing two such issues will remain as nearly as maybe as is paid for five at present. In addition to which there would be a reduction in the advertising revenue, for no advertiser is going to be willing to pay as much for two adverts per season as they pay now for *five*. Even if the magazine is only 32 pages, the difference will barely cover this deficit.

So the costs will remain the same, even if not a shade higher!

Time? Well, Jack is barking up the wrong tree a little here. The Printer takes about 10-12 days per issue. Every eight pages added will necessitate a longer delay, for there will be more setting-up of type to be done. **Cost does not enter into the delivery dates at all**, for however much is paid, nobody can set up the type more quickly—or at least very little more quickly—even if there is a greater financial reward! Then it has to be printed. So that, if anything, there will be a far longer delay at the Printers.

Time again? Jack mentions the contributors working to a deadline. Well, it must surely be very obvious that this will still be the case, whenever the magazine goes to press. I have been active on the "Digest" for a number of years, and have always found that all contributors want more and more time to write an article, which they can knock-off in a very short time! I think I can speak for all past Editors when I say that although most people *will* work to a deadline, there is nearly always one who won't. This does not help, as must be clear to everyone.

It has been stressed times without number over the past seventeen years, the life of the "Digest"—that we can never hope for an up-to-date magazine. It is a wonderful ideal that is completely unattainable. First, score-cards must be sent to the contributors (otherwise they would have very little to write). At least one week must be allowed for them to write their copy. Then, the Editor has the job of going through the whole lot, articles, letters and divisional notes, correcting spelling errors (where they occur), correcting grammar, reducing the length as often as not to fit the space allowed, typing out the entire magazine and submitting it to the Editorial Board for them to read through in case anything libellous has slipped through. This cannot take place in ten minutes. Then it is posted to the Printer.

By the time it comes back, some three weeks *must* have elapsed since the commencement of the operation. Then, having written out wrappers, etc., they have to be rolled, sealed and stamped. So, at best it is over three weeks delay.

This delay will never be reduced by reducing the number of issues. Rather, will it be increased by the extra time required to print.

So, two "bumper" issues cannot be either financially advantageous, nor can they be made to reduce the delay in production.

What CAN and will happen, of course, is to squash one of the features of the magazine . . . the exchange of ideas and views of individual players. If someone were to write to the magazine in December,