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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

For the second season in succession the Management Committee have had the unpleasant task of applying the provisions of Rule 20 to expel a club team from the League. This time, however, it is a multi-team club which is involved and much to their regret the Management Committee have had to expel the Ladies team from the club concerned. Unfortunately the team concerned have only recently joined the Women's Division, and have not been responsible for all three walk-overs. However, this point was made perfectly clear when this rule was proposed, and the Management Committee have acted in what they consider is in the best interests of all concerned. Whilst it is a matter of regret that it has once again been necessary to enforce this rule, perhaps, this time clubs will take notice that the Management Committee intend to enforce this rule to the ultimate benefit of all clubs.

The demand for 'Order of Merit' team play is beginning to be heard and whilst it all sounds very musical to some I feel it is time this matter was looked at in its proper perspective.

The system of scoring in use at present actively encourages team captains to place their teams in the order which will bring the most points, and it should not be any other way. Why, should clubs struggling for survival present their opponents with maximum points, when, by astute captaincy they can salvage precious points for themselves, and at the same time make things harder for those challenging for titles? For too long now the top clubs have had things all their own way, with often a guaranteed 10 points, merely because it is considered not the thing to alter the team order. That is so much rot . . . . Every team must act in their own interests and let their opponents look after themselves.

Whatever rules are passed to ensure some form of merit order you can be sure ways will be found to get round them and varied will be the opinions regarding each team's 'Order of Merit'. In my opinion the team captain is best qualified to decide his team order, depending on what tactics he wishes to adopt. So, let team captains continue to decide their own tactics and perhaps we will see an end to a lot of those 10-0 results and more open title battles.

How good is your Club Secretary? A recent dispute has brought into the open a fact which many know, but few will admit, that a good secretary is a club's most important asset. Sometimes they do slip up and everyone jumps on them, but next time it happens at your club just remember that without your secretary you would have no club, as any ex-Oakhill player will confirm.

## A Toast to the Ladies !

Our Ladies team goes from strength to strength this season, for they have now played four, won three and drawn one. They have only two matches still to play, v. Manchester (at Crawfords, Feb. 23rd), and v. Stockport (Crawfords, March 22nd) and having beaten Manchester once, in the Rose Bowl, another win cannot be ruled out. All three girls, Judy Crafter, Barbara Cain and Mabel Francis are making an all-out effort to win the League for the first time in 20 years, and if they fail they will go down fighting . . . but there is no thought of failure in their heads. So I hope that the members of the League will roll up in large numbers to support them in their last two hurdles, just to let them know that the League does recognise that we *have* a Ladies team.

Their victory over Manchester in the Rose Bowl came after a stern battle, in which Judy and Mabel won two, and Barbara one. Barbara was going through a bad patch in which her attack went right off the boil, but she is back to normal now. Mabel won her set v. Mary Leigh, to break new ground for herself.

**This is the first win over Manchester since 1952 . . .** in the heyday of Andree Jones, Eileen Mansell and Bluey May . . . so our three representatives deserve a rather special bit of support in the next one to help in a repeat performance. We went out in the next round, however, to Doncaster (away) a team of "ranked" players, Leslie Proudlock, Cynthia Duncombe and Pat Dainty. We lost 9-0, but six sets went to three, and our girls were far behind the Yorkshire trio. Apart from John O'Sullivan, who captained the team, our girls found themselves with another supporter, Don Davies (Cadwa). How I wish we had a few more Don Davies's in the League!

Our youthful Ladies 'A' Team went to Burnley to win 7-3. Janet Rumjahn (3), Pam Fidler (2) and Jean Mackenzie (1) plus Jean and

Pam in the Doubles, were our winners. From three matches they have now earned 4 points, which is a vast improvement over 'A' Team performances in recent years. Their next match is on February 16th, v. Warrington at Bootle Police Stn. and the final game is v. Southport (away) on March 8th. And we hope for more points yet to come.

### Out of the "Wilmott" and "Norman Cooke" Cups as well . . . . .

Our Men's team went out of the "Wilmott" Cup to Bolton, which was not entirely unexpected. But at last the gap is closing. Gordon Birch beat Bryn Farnworth and B. Mitchell, both currently playing for the County, and Pete D'Arcy beat Farnworth also, to turn the customary 'whitewash' into a respectable 3-6 loss. Later, in the Norman Cooke trophy, against the same opponents, Judy Crafter was the sole winner in a 1-8 loss. I'm told that this was an even closer match, but that on this occasion the luck went against us. I'm not a great believer in 'luck' and prefer to think that the Bolton boys won this time on merit. Still, there is some writing on the wall now.

After an 8-2 win v. Hyde, the team suffered its worst hammering of the season against Stockport when they went down 0-10 to Derek Schofield, Brian Keene and Don Berry. There is no disgrace in losing to a trio such as this, although I am not alone in thinking the final score a travesty of justice. But there it is. There are now two matches left, on March 8th at Liverpool—Y.M. v. Preston and on the 22nd v. Lytham (away). We should win both of these, but this being the uncertain game it is, please don't take that as a forecast.

**Editor's Note.** *Jim's notes are unfortunately incomplete as he was taken bad whilst writing them and has since been admitted to hospital. I am sure that in wishing him a speedy recovery I speak for every member of the League.*