

TABLE TENNIS DIGEST

Official Magazine of the Liverpool & District Table Tennis League.

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TABLE TENNIS DIGEST

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COMMENT

With the 25th anniversary of the Liverpool and District Table Tennis League hard upon us, it is perhaps appropriate that an official magazine should make its appearance, and in presenting "Table Tennis Digest" to you, we feel that we are meeting a long felt want.

Let us emphasise right away that this is your magazine; it is published to perform a service for you and, although we know we shall have our teething troubles for maybe a month or two - no new venture ever escaped them - we hope that you will find some approval for our endeavours.

It will be our whole policy to cater for the members of our League. We have a team of competent writers with an intimate knowledge of their subject, who will cover the activities of all the divisions, as well as other contributors who will deal from time to time with various aspects of the game which we consider will be of interest to our members and readers.

You can also make the "Digest" the medium of any suggestion and criticisms regarding the game - and the League, if you wish - which you may have in mind. Your letters will be welcome, but may we appeal to all intending contributors to be brief and to the point, if critical be constructive and not just carping. Write to the address given above, but all letters must bear the writer's name and club, for publication. Anonymous letters will not be used, for we feel that all should have the courage of their convictions.

Messages To The Digest

The President (Mr. C. E. Bartholomew) writes:-

In deciding to produce a Magazine dealing with up-to-date information regarding our own particular sport, the Management Committee of the Liverpool and District Table Tennis League realised that not only its members, but also many prospective readers who play and are interested in the game, would be grateful for a detailed and authoritative account of what is taking place; and as it will deal mainly with local news, it should fill a long felt gap and should provide news of interest to all concerned.



“ Knowledge ” is the first essential for anyone who participates in any sport, if he or she is desirous of making a success of it; and I feel sure this new venture will play its part in supplying that knowledge with satisfaction to all connected with the League, in addition to combining much of interest to the general public; and I sincerely wish the Secretary and Editors, and all concerned in producing this

new publication, the success which I am certain they will attain.

The Chairman (Mr. D. Foulis) writes -

This first issue of the magazine is an important landmark in the growth of our League. The dissemination of up-to-date information is an essential factor in the successful running of any organisation and the magazine is an ideal way of achieving this object within the League.

Your Committee has spent many long hours during the summer in laying the foundation for a busy and interesting winter's programme and many people will have to devote long hours of overtime (unpaid) to bring this magazine to you each month. All we ask is that you play your part by :-



Always being present when called on to play;
Turning out in proper kit;

Supporting the special functions organised for you - especially the Open Merseyside - and, last and by no means least, Observing fully the rules of the League and the game.

Which inevitably brings me to the Service Rule!

I played most of my table tennis in the good (bad?) old days of finger-spin. I can confirm that it was highly disconcerting to fail to re-turn five

services in succession against a freak finger-spin merchant.

He's had his day and the onus is now on you to show that you are not using finger or hand spin.

Champions Will Be Seen At Merseyside

By W. Stamp



You will find within these pages each month, up to date League tables of the 16 Divisions by Mr F. R. Moore, and reports of the Lancashire League matches by Mr. F. J. Farrell, in addition to first-hand information of what is happening in each Division and Region. I will keep you informed of various other activities that will be taking place.

I can think of no better way of commencing these notes than by extending a very cordial welcome to the following 17 Clubs who have joined us this season, expressing the hope that they will be with us for many years. Bath Street, C.A.D.W.A., Deaf Institute, Gordon Institute Old Boys, Littlewoods, Nabuk, Port Sunlight, Prenton Methodists, R.A.F. Assn. (L'pool), R.A.F. Assn. (B'head), R.A.F. West Kirby, St. Aloysius, Thorndale, Y.M.C.A. and Ashville, Greasby and Woodchurch.

TWINS' VISIT.

We celebrate our 25th Anniversary during the season and our first big event is the Merseyside Open Championships, which since its inception in 1930, has attracted the finest exponents of the game. Last year for instance, competitors came to join our local players from London, Birmingham, Yorkshire, Edinburgh, Belfast, Portrush, Cardiff, Swansea, Gloucester, and Bristol, together with Bengt Grive, from Sweden.

We had the Surrey team who were playing at Oldham on the Friday evening, and this year, Middlesex will be playing Lancashire at Blackpool on November 24th, and will travel to the Merseyside on the 25th. Middlesex are the County Champions for the past two seasons and are led by the incomparable Victor Barna, and their

team will probably include Groff: Harrower and the 17-year-old Rowe twins (Diana & Rosalind), who upset many calculations by deservedly winning the English Doubles Championship at Wembley last March, and who have just returned from a tour of France and Belgium.

I am hoping to arrange for the French team to participate, but this is dependent on whether they can be persuaded to come to England a couple of days earlier than the international match at Birmingham on November 27th. The English Open Championships begin on Tuesday, November 28th, and many of our leading internationals will travel to Liverpool for a final tune up. JOHNNY LEACH is definitely coming to defend his singles title and will partner Jack Carrington in the doubles.

The preliminary rounds have been played for the past few years at the Gordon Institute, but we have realised that a change would have to take place to obviate tables being in two rooms and the consequent waste of time, particularly on the Saturday, when all play has to be completed, and the finals transferred to the Philharmonic Hall. We have never cancelled any event and always been on time with the finals, but only the officials running the tournament know how very near to disaster we have been on occasion.

FINE AMENITIES

We have been successful in obtaining the Drill Hall and T.A. Centre, Mather Avenue, Allerton, where the amenities are all that could be desired, with all tables in the main hall.

Entry forms are in the hands of your Club Secretary. To assist

(Continued on Page 13)

Manners Maketh Man

By "Calchas"

There is no truer saying than that "Manners maketh the man," and I would like to point out that it covers Table Tennis players not only on the table but off it.

During last season I saw many examples among our young male players that led me to believe that many of them did not realise that the way they behaved on the table was the only clue many people had to their personality and character.

As one who has the best interests of Liverpool table tennis at heart, I was at times disgusted and ashamed at some of the actions I witnessed, and would remind our young players that they have not only their own name to consider but also that of the league they represent.

Unfortunate Remark

At one representative match with the spectators fairly close to the table, one of our players on losing a point, came out with a remark that made me think he must be practising his vocabulary for when he had to do his military service. In fairness to him I do not suppose he meant it to be heard, but that it was heard by a large number of the spectators was most unfortunate.

In the second half of this same match another of our youngsters, having seen his opponent beaten earlier, went on and treated his opponent with contempt, most obviously playing down to him. Rank bad manners—but justice was served for he got a bit too low down and lost in the third game a match he could easily have won two straight.

Whilst on this matter of contempt I would also like to draw attention to the fact that the first point is of equal value to any other during the course of the game, and that this increasing habit of playing half the game wrapped up in numerous thick pullovers is not only discourteous to your opponent but stupid.

I know all the tales about getting warmed up, but surely that is what a knock-up is for, and only to get down to the job after losing the first set seems to me to be making a great deal of unnecessary work.

I understand that in one of the early rounds of the Men's Singles in the last Closed Championships one young player was repeatedly serving foul services. When it was mentioned to him later by a spectator he replied that he knew, but he would continue to do it as long as he could get away with it with the umpires. Such an attitude should surely be stamped out, for it is not merely bad manners but plain cheating.

In conclusion, I would ask our young players not only to watch Barna and Leach for strokes but also to copy their "table manners," for these two great players have been champions in both play and manners.

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The new LEAGUE BADGES in red, are now available, stud or brooch type, price 1/-. Order through your Club Secretary and state which type required.

Look!

Modern Table Tennis by JACK CARRINGTON

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Champion, Johnny Leach.

This book contains all that the aspiring championship player wishes to know. The author, himself a player of international repute, has set out simply and carefully, a complete course of scientific table tennis instruction. It will start the beginner on the right lines and the experienced player will improve his game immensely. Fully illustrated with diagrams and action photographs.

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Season Opens With Cheshire Double

The 1950-51 season has at last got under way. As I write, the results of the first matches have just come in, and if they are examples of what we may expect during the season, then a very interesting one may be anticipated.

By virtue of their very convincing win over Oakhill in their first match, Birkenhead Y.M.C.A. assume the position of League leaders for the opening week of the season. With the welcome return of Ken Davenport and J. Turnbull (two of the "old uns"), they are hoping for a very successful season.

Their win over Oakhill required more effort than the score (9-1) indicates, and I do not think that Oakhill, who are relying upon the same team which gained them promotion, with the exception that J. Dancaster replaces R. Boyle, will be unduly perturbed over this reversal on returning to Division I.

RAFTERS BEATEN

Homecroft also won their first match, defeating Rafters 6-4 at Wallasey. The victory of Roy Jones over R. Grayson (ex-St. Helens) 22-20 in the third game, after being down 20-15, was the deciding factor. Rafters might consider themselves unfortunate; that having already lost the services of Ronnie Ramjahn, due to studies, they were also deprived of A. Linforth, due to a leg injury received while playing football. Pinky May, who deputised, found Wiseman and Brown, just too strong for her.

Last season's champions, 15th Crosby Scouts, started with an away win over African Oil, and can thank Joe Delamere for the extra point, his win over D. Glass being the deciding factor. Having lost R. E. Roberts, and with B. Hand due to joint H.M. Forces in the near future, they will find it hard to maintain their high position.

African Oil, weakened through the loss of several club players and still without the services of Bill Pierce (in Malta with the R.A.F.), are not expecting any honours, and will be satisfied if they can hold their own.

This season Rafters club have changed their teams over, and E.

Caird captains the first team and E. Rumjahn the "A" team. The "A" team visited Balfour, and found that getting points is still as difficult as ever. The sting in Balfour's tail proved too strong, and Rafters went down 7-3. There were several good sets, the closest being that between L. Davies and Teddy Rumjahn, the latter eventually winning 22-20 in the third game.

The other newcomers to the division, Balfour "A", visited Anfield for their debut, and at the halfway must have been feeling pleased with themselves, with a lead of four games to one. But Anfield were not inclined to let the points slip away so easily, and the next four games saw a complete reversal, giving Anfield the lead at 5-4. But A. Miller came to the rescue and saved a point for Balfour.

Anfield, with the return of Stan Lodd to their team and the worries over headquarters removed, are hoping for a better season than last.

ROSE BOWL 1949-50

Here is the record of the Liverpool Women's great effort in the Rose Bowl competition last season.

1st	— v. Sheffield (H)	Won 7-0
2nd	— v. Manchester (H)	Won 5-3
3rd	— v. Blackpool (H)	Won 5-4
4th	— v. N'umberland(H)	Won 6-3
5th	— v. Grimsby (A)	Won 8-1
Semi-final	v. Brighton	Won 7-2
Final	v. West London	Lost 1-8

The semi-final and final were played at Southampton

AVERAGES.

	P	W	L
K. May	13	9	4
E. Mansell	14	9	5
L. May	14	9	5
<hr/>			
E. Mansell & K. May	7	6	1
E. Mansell & L. May	6	4	2
K. & L. May	6	2	4

Promotion Battle Will Be Keen

At first sight it appears as though the teams in the Second Division are very evenly matched this year, and I am sure there will be many interesting games during the season. The summaries below may help towards assessing their relative strengths, and without becoming a bookmaker on the subject, I should think that Acacia, Bibby's, Bootle Y.M.C.A. and the Liverpool Police should finish in the top half of the table.

Acacia, perhaps better known as the Ministry of Supply, but under new management, are still led by penholder Egerton but some new acquisitions have strengthened the tailenders.

Aigburth have lost a number of players, with the result that last year's No. 5 is now playing No. 1. This does not mean a second team is being fielded as there did not appear any great difference between any of them in the game against Acacia in their first match.

BIBBY'S YEAR

Anfield "A" are slightly strengthened from last year. Their first week's draw with Homecroft "A" shows they are not going to be easily beaten. Bibby's have lost one Smith, but secretary Smith is still performing. Again a strong team with good reserves, and who knows this may be their year.

Birkenhead Y.M.C.A. "A" do not appear as strong as last year, but they have already collected more points than in the whole of last season in the First Division, and should get their share throughout the season. Bootle Y.M.C.A. is a young team, with "keenness" as their second name. Many have been coached during the close season, and I am sure they are anxious for promotion after only two years in the League.

"Homecroft "A" is where Birkenhead's loss should show dividends.

Tipped in one quarter for the championship, I.C.I. are the sort of team who play for the love of the game. I am told they will not be holding the division up this season, nor do I think they will be claiming medals.

Liverpool Police are still led by Hough, Heague and Crafter, but I hear there are two or three recruits who are

quickly learning to handle a table tennis bat. Oakhill "A" have finished fourth each year since leaving the First Division two years ago. By all accounts they should do better this year, especially if their strongest team plays regularly.

In case you have not heard, I am the League's national magazine secretary. Do not allow the local news in this publication to deter you from reading national and world news in the E.T.T.A.'s official magazine "Table Tennis."

HYDE CUP DRAW

FIRST ROUND

Oakhill 'C' v. Anfield 'B'
 Liverpool Y.M. v. Bath Street
 Aigburth Meths. v. Hoylake M.M. 'A'
 Bootle Y.M. 'A' v. Cheshire Lines 'A'
 Liverpool Y.M. 'A' v. African Oil 'A'
 Westfield 'A' v. St. Bartholomews
 R.A.F.A. (Birk.) v. Waterloo Park
 Bohemians 'B' v. Mossley Hill
 Hamilton 'M' v. Deaf Institute
 St. Peters M.C. v. Aigburth 'C'
 Elm Hall Drive v. Burrowdale 'A'
 Bronze Sports v. St Michaels 'A'
 Bohemians 'C' v. English Electric
 Neston G.B. v. Thingwall
 Technical Students v. Cosco
 F. Sunlight 'A' v. Thorndale
 Waterloo Dk 'A' v. Kingsway 'A'
 Y.W.C.A. v. Bohemians 'A'
 Brenka v. Burlington
 F. Sunlight v. Osterley 'A'
 Claremont 'A' v. Edwardians 'A'
 Wavertree C.C. 'A' v. Burrowdale
 Balfour 'C' v. Cadwa
 Balfour 'D' v. Taxes
 Thingwall 'A' v. Dunlop 'A'
 Burrowdale 'B' v. Thorndale 'A'
 Aigburth 'B' v. Cosco 'A'
 Lucem 'A' v. Gordon Institute
 Claremont v. Victoria Park 'A'
 B'head Co-op. v. Wallasey Y.M.Jrs. 'B'
 Lucem v. Birkenhead Y.M. Jrs.
 Wallasey Y.M. Jrs. 'A' v. Linacre M.C.
 Osterley v. Cadwa 'A'
 East Wavertree v. Claremont 'B'
 Vernons v. Birkenhead Y.M.Jrs. 'A'
 St. Josephs Birk. 'A' v. Cheshire
 Lines 'B'
 Thorndale 'B' v. St. Josephs B'head
 Wavertree C.C. 'B' v. R.A.F. (W.Kir.)
 Eye; Roby Y.C.

They May Be "Juniors" But Take Care

There will be many new faces in this year's Third Division, only four of last season's teams remaining, and the balance being made up of three promoted teams from the Fourth Division, one down from the Second and two coming straight through from Regional status.

For the majority of us we can look forward to two trips "Over the water," but for our Wirral companions it means eight trips to Liverpool, with a none-too-near local "derby." A hearty welcome, however, to all, and with another excellent playing season in prospect we wish every club the best of luck.

As one of the monthly features of these notes, I propose to give you a write-up of one or two of our divisions' teams, and this month we start off with Wallasey Y.M.C.A. Juniors.

SENIORS BARRED

Wallasey are in effect a nursery to Homecroft, and share the Y.M.C.A. building, although being independent enough to proclaim "No admittance to 'seniors' on the door of their own private table tennis room. For the majority of the Juniors' team this is only their second season in the League, but a word of warning—do not think this word "juniors" indicates a team that is still in the elementary stage in a playing sense. If you do you will be in for a shock. They are, however, a young team, the average age being 16, which, of course, means that when the majority of us are leaden-footed in a gruelling third game the Wallasey boys are as sprightly as ever.

There are not only boys however, for one of the stars in this team is a young lady, Andree Jones (we cannot figure out how a lady appears in a Y.M.C.A.). Andree needs no introduction. You all remember her rise to fame.

Other members are Bill Stredder (age 16), Ian Tunstall (the old man of the team, age 18), Gordon Exell (age 15), and Paul Ambler (age 16). Gordon cannot be much, if any, more than 5ft., and he will give you a most apologetic grin as he slams a left-hand drive down your backhand, but don't under-

estimate him, for despite height and age, he will slam them down.

With the experience these lads are now gaining, do not be surprised if their names appear on the Liverpool team sheets, for it is such ~~good~~ youngsters as these who will be the stars of to-morrow.

We notice our clubs have enjoyed the luck of the draw in the Readman Cup, and we will demand a full explanation for any who fail to be represented in the next round.

PEN PERSONALITIES

Mrs. EDNA MOORE

How Mr. Frank Moore, the League's Fixture Secretary and registrar, would cope with all the work his position entails with the help of his wife Edna, is something he dare not consider. Mrs. Moore is one of the League's best "backroom" girls, for in addition to helping Frank, she is one of the mainsprings of her club, Oakhill, of which she has been a member for many years.

A petite brunette, she is equally efficient at the table as she is in administration, as many of her opponents know to their cost.

But even table tennis does not absorb all her energy, for she is a keen walker and climber, and is still going strong when Frank begins to show signs of distress.

KEN JONES

The Bohemians are fast regaining the reputation they had pre-war and the man chiefly responsible for it is their Secretary, Ken Jones. He came to the "Bohs" from Fairtown chiefly for lawn tennis, but he quickly got busy and inculcated a keenness for the winter sport with the members.

Ken used to be an all-out attacking player, until he met Richard Bergman during his service in Austria, with the Army, and it was the latter's influence that caused him to rely mainly on defence. Now, however, he has decided to combine attack with defence, and if he can do it successfully he should prove difficult to beat.

New Appearance But Tradition Remains

The new season will see the Fourth Division very much changed from the one which finished last spring, only three teams (Aigburth "A", Holme Hey and Port Sunlight Old Boys) who played in this division last season, remain for another year.

Newcomers include last season's unbeaten West Region champions, Kingsway, and the "B" team from the Balfour Club. These should prove their worth in the higher division, and may be fighting one another for leadership.

St. Michael's and Cheshire Lines enter the division after a successful time in the South Region last winter. They will probably field more or less the same sides as last season, though I hear St. Michael's have lost their No. 1, Ernie Owens, who has joined H.M. Forces.

OPENING "DERBY"

The first week produced a "Derby" between Cheshire Lines and Dunlop at Alerton, always a keen tussle between two evenly-matched teams. Both had players who represented the South Region last season, including C. Davies, of Dunlop, last season's Men's Regional Singles winner. This game was a victory to the Cheshire Lines side by six sets to four.

Balfour "B" commenced the season with Holme Hey as visitors. This was expected to be a hard match, but with Holme Hey lacking the services of their regular Nos. 2 and 3, L. Hunter and J. King, the home side were easy winners by eight sets to two. The highlight was the battle between the Balfour No. 2, the steady left-handed Norman Huyton and Holme Hey's hard-hitting No. 1, Eric Wall. Huyton, after losing the first game and being behind in the second, fought back well to win the decider 21-11. This Balfour player certainly would not disgrace himself in a stronger division.

Waterloo Dock entertained Kingsway, worthy winners of the Hyde and Forrest Cups last season, and they have commenced this one where they left off last April, and won this match by eight sets to two. The Waterloo Dock No. 1, J. C. Seddon, who played for the North Region last winter, won the only two sets for the Railwaymen, beating

S. J. Railton 21-13 21-19 and M. Williams 21-15 20-22 21-17. Both clubs fielded practically the same sides as last season.

Port Sunlight Old Boys having to play all matches on their opponents' tables, had to begin by crossing the Mersey to play Aigburth "A." Their journey, however, was certainly worth while, for they were easy winners by eight sets to two. Aigburth are missing a number of last-season's players, and their very capable secretary, Mrs. Sturgeon, seems to be having a very worrying time in having to field six teams each week.

On the whole, however, the division does not seem as strong as last season, though I am glad to say the interest and enthusiasm is as good as ever.

MERSEYSIDE OPEN LATE FLASH

Just as we go to press, Mr. W. Stamp, the League Secretary, has received definite word about the Middlesex players who will be at the

The whole team is coming, which means that Victor Barna, Geoff. Harrower, Bernard Crouch, Miss Joyce Roberts, and the Rowe twins will be competing.

The present holders of the various championships will have to go some to retain their titles, more especially in the women's events.

TEN BEST RECORDS

	P	W	L	Pts
F. Bamford (15th Cros.)	44	43	1	97 72
J. Seddon (Waterloo Dk.)	44	43	1	97 72
Miss L. May (Rafters)	44	43	1	97 72
H. Vaughan (Hoy Y.M.)	40	38	2	95 00
Miss E. Banks (H'croft)	26	24	2	92 30
W. Pierce (African Oil)	24	22	2	91 66
Miss K. May (Rafters)	46	42	4	91 30
R. McManus (Elec. Sup)	44	40	4	90 90
E. Davies (Dunlop)	32	29	3	90 62
R. Wason (Brabys)	36	32	4	88 88

Compiled from Cup and League games but not including teams below Regional First Divisions or Youths. Women's records taken from Women's Divisions only.

Bright Prospects For New Season

By F. J. Farrell,
Match Secretary.

It is highly probable that few local players have any idea of what the Lancashire and Cheshire Table Tennis League is or know anything about it. Occasionally, they hear that Liverpool are playing Manchester, Bolton or some other town, but there the matter ends.

This was due in no small measure to publicity difficulties. Now we have our own magazine, it will be possible not only to announce these matches as they arise, but also to follow the fortunes of our teams throughout the season.

The Lancashire League has grown to a formidable size, this season comprising ten divisions of six teams each. It is sponsored jointly by the Lancashire and Cheshire Associations, and obtains its present form due to the proximity of the populated districts of the two counties.

LOCAL SUCCESSES

The Liverpool teams have met with a fair measure of success since the war, the League holding four shields, awarded for topping the various divisions in which our teams have competed. Their performances last season are worthy of note. The first team, ulaying in Division I., finished one point behind the champions, Bolton, in spite of losing the services of Pierce (Forces) and Hand (illness) for the last two matches.

The "B" team, after tying for top place with Crewe, beat them in a play-off, and so became champions of their division. The women's team also played well in reaching the final of the Rose Bowl competition before bowing to West London.

In subsequent issues it is hoped to give a brief report, with the results, of the matches, and to announce the matches and venues for the following month, and so create interest in them and improve the attendances.

There are over 1,000 registered players, and there are five home matches for the first team. If all of you attend only one match per season that means an average gate of 200. What about it? The management committee are doing their bit by staging

the matches so it is up to you. The players won't let you down.

A WORD ABOUT CLOTHES

By Moya.

This is not the most diplomatic of articles to appear in our first magazine, but coming as it does at the beginning of another season I think it is a good time for a complaint and some suggestions.

There seems no reason why a pair of shorts or short skirt cannot be kept for table tennis. It would save other clothes from becoming soiled and loosing their smartness. However old the shorts or skirt may be, a press with a hot iron can mean a great improvement.

Perhaps you are saying your clothes are always pressed before you put them in your bag. In that case why not take more care when folding pleats and tucking in collar points to prevent three or four creases spoiling the look of your outfit.

Many clubs nowadays have their own colours, in which case, whenever possible, wear those colours for matches. The businesslike appearance of a team can mean a good deal, but this is not achieved if all the colours of the rainbow are worn.

One last moan about clothes, and to which I am ashamed to plead guilty - that of clean pumps. It is surprising the various shades of grey that white pumps assume as the date of their last whitening recedes further and further away.

An untidy habit which is so unnecessary, is that of strap hitching. If you do not possess those handy fasteners that clip shoulder straps to the seams of your blouse, link them together across your shoulders with a loose piece of ribbon or fine elastic. But make sure it is loose or you will find it cutting into your skin.