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TABLE
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DIGEST

Official Magazine

OF THE

Table Tennis

All correspondence must be addressed to The Editor "Table Tennis Digest," 9 Podium Rd. L'pool 13

Digest

EDITORIAL BOARD:

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COMMENT

THE last issue of the *Digest* has provoked the criticism from several sources that it was 'one big moan.' From one angle, surprising as it may seem, it was pleasing to hear this news, for it proved that our magazine is being read by at least a few.

The absence of a single letter last month and the complete lack of any indication from members as to whether they are pleased or otherwise with the *Digest*, made this positive sign very welcome indeed, as an uneasy suspicion has been developing that our joint efforts were entirely wasted, apart from George Williams' League tables.

However as a contrast this month, let us adopt a lighter vein and tell of a few amusing tales which concern the League.

Have you, for instance, heard about the player who was selected to play for a Regional side recently? Almost immediately afterwards he was dropped to the A team who play in another Region. This reserve side incidentally is engaged in a stiff fight to avoid relegation.

Or the oft-repeated one, where a player misses four matches, is demoted and then resumes his original ranking while never playing at any time.

And did you know there are ghosts about in the League—ghosts who are ranked for sides but never play, and who have never been recorded on a match card at any time?

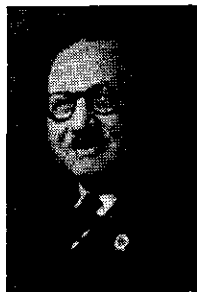
Then there was the player who said he didn't realise there was any fiddling going on although his first team is about five places below their A team in the same division. And the one who admitted there was, but whose efforts to save one of his teams from relegation has brought another of his sides into the same danger.

Then there was the player demoted into a struggling A team with a percentage more than twice that of the player who replaced him from the lower side.

Perhaps these "funny" stories will cheer you up a trifle, but equally they may enable you to understand that the 'big moan' in the last issue of the *Digest* was a serious effort to bring to the surface a state of mind existing in the League at present which is both cynical and grossly unsporting.

MANY KEEN SETS WILL BE SEEN AT THE CLOSED

By W. STAMP.



THE 22nd Annual Closed Championships commence next Thursday evening, February 25th, at Dingle Vale School, under the usual excellent conditions, and five tables will be used. We hope that those members who are not competing will come along and support the Championships as spectators. For their guidance here is the programme of events.

Thursday, from 6 p.m., will be the top half of the Men's Singles and Consolation, and on Friday the bottom half will be played with the Consolation, together with the Junior Singles.

On Saturday, February 27th, commencing at 1 p.m., the Women's Singles, Consolation, and Doubles will be played until approximately 5 p.m., when the Mixed Doubles commence, followed by the Men's Doubles at about 7 p.m.!

Entry Down

During the evening the finals of the Consolation events will be staged, together with the semi-finals of all other events with the exception of the Men's Singles.

You will remember that the idea of bringing this tournament forward from the end of the season was to encourage a larger entry, because we would not be encroaching on summer sports in which many of our members take part. This has not been borne out by the figures, because in every event except the Men's Singles, the entries are down. This particularly applies to the Women's and Mixed Doubles, but the entry does not lack quality and there should be some keen and interesting matches.

The Men's Singles had been a monopoly for years until Bernard Hand came along last year with a rousing win, and there may be other aspirants to other titles. Good luck to them, but they will have to earn their success as the present holders, who have been among the honours for so long, will not give up their crowns without a struggle.

We have the use of Dingle Vale on Monday, March 1st, and will be using three tables to stage the following cup semi-finals.—STAMP Cup — 15th Crosby v. Balfour, and Anfield v. Rafters; HYDE Cup—Cheshire Lines A v. Vagabonds.

All matches commence 7-30 prompt, and they should provide some interesting struggles and an entertaining evening.

The charge for admission will be 1/- for each session of the Tournament and the Cup ties on Monday evening. Come along and support both your players and your club.

The finals of the Closed take place as usual in the large hall of the Y.M.C.A., Mount Pleasant, on Friday, March 5th, at 7-30 p.m. There is accommodation for about 450 spectators in tip-up seats, which are tiered, and as there are no pillars, everyone has a perfect view and for this reason we are charging one price only—2/-—and you can sit where you please.

Worthy of Support

The Management feel that this event should have the support of every club, and it was agreed that tickets be sent to each secretary in the proportion of *three* per team, and with this support we will be assured of a full house which will be encouragement to the finalists as well as the treasurer.

Tickets not returned to me by March 1st will have to be paid for, but I do appeal to all clubs to dispose of their quota.

I hope to publish the result of the Name Card competition in the March issue, but I am still awaiting the results from Aigburth Methodists, Anfield, Bath Street, Brenka, Brownmoor Park, Domestic Mission, Edwardians, Leyfield, Litherland, Littlewoods, Lofters, Peel Hall, R.A.F. Movements, St. Dominic's, Vagabonds and Waterloo Park. SECRETARIES PLEASE NOTE.

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Scots Internationals Coming

LEAGUE members will recall that last March, for the first time, a party from Liverpool journeyed to Glasgow to meet the West of Scotland League in a representative match. After a keen battle the Scottish side won 6—4.

Now Liverpool are to act as hosts, and on Friday, March 12th, at 7-30 p.m., at the Liverpool Central Y.M.C.A., we are hoping to gain our revenge.

The Scottish side though not yet announced will probably consist almost entirely of internationals, and two of the side will probably be flying over from Belfast after playing against Ireland the evening before.

We hear from Glasgow that there is keen competition among the Scottish players for a place in the team. Prob-

abilities are Eddie Still and Monty McMillan, who recently played against England.

Two other "possibles" are Alec Culloch, of Paisley, and former international Alec Metcalfe, and if the whispers we have heard are right, plus the knowledge we gained in our visit to Glasgow, these four would provide tough opposition for the best team Liverpool can put out.

Everything therefore points to a most entertaining and tight match, which also has the additional merit of bringing to Liverpool top class players who have not been here before.

Make a note of the date. Friday, March 12th, at the Liverpool Y.M.C.A. starting at 7-30 p.m., and give these scots lads a good welcome.

Veteran's Cunning Won Set

BALFOUR A continue on their winning way and are the only team unbeaten as I write. They are a good solid team in which all the players have won an equal number of sets.

A Smith, now playing at No. 1, has a good following in Gaulton, Harris and Wilcock, and with D. Sayer at No. 5 they've certainly got a tail that can wag.

The other night I was impressed with the play of Maurice Oakes, of Oakhill. He has improved considerably since I last played against him, and I finished on the wrong end of a three game set which I thoroughly enjoyed.

Gus Read, Oakhill's old war horse now about the 40 mark, used his cunning head to outplay Linforth, who, in previous seasons, has usually beaten him. Read and Jack Grant, also proved too much for Morison and Peter Short, so Oakhill won very creditably by 6—4.

A Giant-Killer.

Struggling Livex, although usually on the losing end of matches can nearly always provide a surprise and it is usually E. Smith who does the giant-killing. In their match against 15th Crosby he defeated Bernard Hand in three games to win their only set. He has previously had similar unexpected wins.

Anfield did well to hold Rafters A to a draw, mainly due to Lawson's win over Ron Rumjahn. He does occasion-

ally produce a surprise like this; it's a pity his record is not more consistent.

The division championship is becoming quite a struggle, and with Crosby attempting to field their full strength anyone could win the title.

Bill Pierce is back in the game and does not appear to have lost anything in his lay-off. His first chopping block on his return was yours sincerely, and Bill did the carving.

Anfield A managed to hold Balfour B to a draw. Cuff and Fay (two each) and D. Bruce gained the village side's sets; Wong and the McKechnie brothers winning the Balfour's five.

Linforth Leaving.

The two Rafters sides will soon be considerably weakened. At the end of this month Linforth leaves to take up an appointment in London, where he will live, and David Ferguson is awaiting his call-up.

I hope to see a good representation from this division at the closed. Don't let your interest flag when you've been knocked out but help our division to be well represented during the whole tournament, and especially as spectators at the finals.

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Well Done, Wavertree!

IT'S "cut and thrust" stuff all the time in our division. Everyone's after your blood. They gloat over their victories and complain over their losses.

Nobody likes anyone in particular when a match is in progress. Stop to think during a game and—bang—the ball passes you. If you enjoy table tennis, and want to finish the season without being a nervous wreck, then this is not the division for you. But most of us like it this way, and it makes this the best division of the lot.

Five teams have a chance of promotion as I see it; namely, Linnets, Litherland, Oakhill A, Victoria Park and Lucem. Two more have an outside chance—Bohemians and Cheshire Lines. You take your pick, for I would'nt like to say that the toss of a coin might decide.

Team Changes

The usual team positional changes has taken place in this second half of the season, but it is "in the book" and not dishonest, so they say, although judging by the faces of some of the captains, you would think they were guilty of doing wrong; I wonder why?

Oakhill A have Jack Grant back in their side, and with G. Smith, and J. Dible playing well, their bid for the leadership must be considered good. So far as Skipper Eric Wall is concerned, it's "in the bag."

Linnets have dropped Jim Green in favour of a new boy—Morris—just signed. Bohemians played R. McManus against Wavertree and I believe he is good. So with him in the team they will take some stopping. Cheshire Lines change their No. 5 regularly, playing either Dick Burge, Stan Grayson and Owen Hughes.

Wavertree are a team to watch if you have to play them. When I said "unless strengthened they are doomed for relegation," they must have read my article, because the next week they visited Lucem and thrashed us 7—3.

Just too easy, with Ray Hulse playing better than ever and aided by T. Ellis and B. Reeves, not forgetting M. Wallace and A. Siddall. They could have been champions had this been the beginning of the season.

Incidentally, Balfour C signed R. Mulholland from Wavertree, and, in the match against his old club, he won both sets, but Balfour still lost 7—3.

What surprises me is Linnets. They looked set for promotion with a capable side, but in their last six matches they have lost three, won two and drawn one with practically the same team. Oakhill A beat them very easily, I'm told.

Congratulations to Hulse on being the first player to defeat A. C. Taylor in a league match. This Litherland boy has had a run of 106 successive victories to his credit—a record in our history.

Congratulations also to J. Rimmer (Lucem) and to Taylor for getting to the semi-final of this area in the Daily Mirror, as Rimmer plays M. Oakes (Oakhill) and Taylor meets R. Jones (Balfour). Who knows, they may meet in the final.

Veterans Match

The idea of a veterans match appeals to me. It should be fun. I have, over 35 years, D. Foulis, J. Green, J. Dickinson, W. Lamb, E. Wall, A. Montgomery, E. Caird and probably others. Forgive me if I am wrong, but I know for certain that four of the above are over 40, so if the First or Third fancy their chance, or any other division, we will accommodate you.

Some of these boys played over 20 years ago, and deserve a mention anyway. One in particular will play you in his stockinged feet. By the way—shorts must be warm (sorry, worn). What do you say, Peter or Ted—any offers?

Bootle Y.M.C.A. are through to the semi-final of the Readman Cup. Best of luck, and if you have F. Cadwallader in the side, you may have a chance.

EYES FOCUSED ON RELEGATION

WITH the promotion fight resolving itself into a personal affair between Y.M.C.A. and Anfield, the latter narrowing the gap by a good 7-3 victory over their rivals, attention is now switching to the relegation issue.

Bohemians are the latest team to lift themselves off the last two rungs of the table, with a fine win over Osterley. Stan Draper again scored over Basil Townsend to give his team a good send-off. Osterley seem to have struck a very bad patch just now with but one point to show for a month's efforts.

I.C.I. are among the others to record a recent win over them, and again in their case the two points just arrived in time to keep them out of the last two.

An interesting point regarding I.C.I. is that of their last ten matches nine have ended at 6-4, three won and six lost, the tenth being all square.

Sliding Fast

Technical Students and Linacre, after their good efforts mid-season, are now on the bottom again, but they are not out yet. English Electric are sliding fast. The loss of Donnelly at No. 1 is proving a severe handicap. Their early season successes however, may just save them from serious trouble.

Victoria Park appear to have shaken relegation fears away at last and should now finish in a respectable position.

Last month we discussed the prowess of "The Spider." This month it is a different tale to tell, and concerns the cup match between Bath Street and Osterley.

A draw at the first attempt saw "The Spider" cornered by Basil Townsend, who extracted full revenge for that earlier reverse. Jack Carridge rubbed salt into the wound by emulating his No. 1.

In the replay "strategy" by Bath Street prevented further average spoiling as "The Spider" at No. 4 missed his tormentors. Bath Street won too, which justifies the switch.

Talking of switches it appears that Bohemians had second thoughts about their shuffle, reported last month. After one week they reverted to normal.

My own club, Victoria Park, are sometimes considered to be fiddling as we have resorted to many teams formations in the hope of finding a winning ticket. Strange thing is that our tail could not win many games but in nearly every case when a player was promoted a win followed.

We are more or less settled now, but with so little difference in playing strength, is it wrong to adjust our players so that they avoid their bogey men?

Certainly it is within the rules, although there is a considerable body of support for the motion proposed by Balfour last season that team positions may be altered by one position only at a time, with the alterations going to the fixture secretary.

Why not think these things over and put four ideas forward? It is no good complaining if you do nothing about it.

Congratulations to Bath Street and Y.M.C.A., one of which we hope will win the Rumjahn Cup. They are our last survivors.

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The Avoid-Demotion Scramble

WE of the Fourth Division are the most relegation-conscious teams in the league. That is because we have four teams each season who are forced to descend into the nether regions, and several sides, not excepting the once-mighty Domestic Mission, must now be casting anxious eyes on the league tables.

Many and varied too, are the methods which are being employed in order to avoid the drop. Perhaps the method of Livex is the simplest and the best. They merely try to field their strongest side when the opposition is weakest! The snag, unfortunately, is that it is extremely difficult to decide just which clubs provide the weakest opposition in this division.

Bohemians, to whom I almost paid my last respects in the January issue, are bidding fair to save themselves by their own endeavours.

Created Confidence

At the time of Ken Jones' regrouping to help the Third Division side out of danger, R. Kay moved into the B team in order to stem the tide there. He was joined by R. McManus, and between them they created the confidence necessary to start Bohemians up the upward path as the following comparison will show:

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Before Dec.	14	9	1	7	1	26	64 3
Dec. 14-Feb.	7	6	4	0	2	37	23 10

Now although Jones and Kay have reverted to their normal sides, McManus remains to ensure that the improvement was no flash in the pan. But whether it is strictly ethical for a player of his capabilities to remain in Bohemians' third string is a question which I do not propose to argue.

The fog over Victoria Park grows very thick indeed. Before the "Derby" match early this month and while the two sides had league records identical even to sets for and against, some panic regrouping was done, the effect of which, broadly speaking, was to muster all the available strength into the C team, who consequently put it across their colleagues 8—2.

Why the C team was chosen to receive this good fortune I fail to see, for the B side had previously shown the more promise of the two and the opposition still to be met was as near to exactly similar as makes no matter.

At any rate, the result has been to give the C team some vague hopes that, with their new line-up of Hunter, Roddy, Cameron, Manning and Malabar, they will manage to hang on to division status, and at the same time to send a dispirited B team helter-skelter for relegation.

Or is the farce to be played out to the stage where, in a few weeks' time, the stronger Park players will obediently troop back to the B side in an endeavour to extract them from the mess into which over-planning has carried them?

Either apparently the regrouping system is to be made farcical, or the desire to complicate matters by having a fourth team in a higher division than the third, is evident at Victoria Park. Surely the preservation of team spirit and interest—for, speaking frankly, there is no interest in a match against the present Park B side—is of more importance?

Question of the month—See you at Dingle Vale?

Cup Semi-Finals Dates, Venues

The semi-finals of the various cups have been arranged as follows:—

Stamp : 15th Crosby v. Balfour.
Anfield v. Rafters.

At Dingle Vale School, Monday 1/3/54.

Readman : Anfield v. Balfour A.
At Oakhill on Tuesday, 2/3/54.

Bootle Y.M. v. 15th Crosby

At Anfield on Tuesday, 23/3/54.

Rumjahn : Bath Street v. Bootle Y.M. A.
At Bootle Police on Wednesday, 3/3/54.

Panto v. Liverpool Y.M. A.

At Waterloo Dock, Wednesday, 3/3/54.

MINDA
C L C A V V A S S
MINDA

LEAGUE TABLES

up to week ending 13th February, 1954

First Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Balfour A	16	12	1	3	116	44	27
Rafters A	16	11	1	4	110	50	26
15th Crosby ...	16	11	2	3	101	59	25
Balfour	16	9	5	2	102	58	20
Anfield	16	6	6	4	86	74	16
Oakhill	16	7	7	2	80	80	16
Balfour B	16	6	6	4	73	87	16
L'pool Y.M. ...	16	5	6	5	83	77	15
Lofters	16	6	7	3	83	77	15
Anfield A	16	4	10	2	53	107	10
Livex.....	16	2	12	2	58	102	6
African Oil	16	0	16	0	15	145	0

Second Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Linnetts	16	11	4	1	91	69	23
Lucem	16	10	4	2	95	65	22
Victoria Park ...	16	10	4	2	92	68	22
Litherland	16	8	3	5	88	72	21
Oakhill A	16	9	5	2	80	80	20
Cheshire Lines...	17	7	5	5	90	80	19
Bohemians	16	7	6	3	87	73	17
Bootle Y.M. ...	16	6	7	3	82	78	15
Balfour C	16	6	9	1	70	90	13
W'tree C.C.	17	4	10	3	75	95	11
Waterloo Dock ..	16	2	12	2	62	98	6
Rafters B	16	2	13	1	58	102	5

Third Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
L'pool Y.M. A ..	16	13	1	2	112	48	28
Anfield B	16	13	2	1	99	61	27
Bath Street	16	9	3	4	94	66	22
Cadwa	16	10	4	2	93	67	22
Osterley	16	7	6	3	92	68	17
L.P.A.S.	16	7	7	2	79	81	16
Victoria Park A ..	16	5	8	3	79	81	13
I.C.I.	16	5	9	2	73	87	12
English Electric ..	16	5	9	2	66	94	12
Bohemians A ...	16	4	11	1	65	95	9
Tech Students...	16	3	11	2	54	106	8
Linacre	16	3	13	0	54	106	6

Fourth Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Panto	15	14	0	1	116	34	29
Bootle Y.M. A ..	16	13	0	3	115	45	29
Lofters	15	8	3	4	85	65	20
Waterloo Park ..	15	8	6	1	92	58	17
Oakhill B	16	7	7	2	85	75	16
W'tree C.C. A ..	16	7	8	1	77	83	15
Domestic Miss. ..	16	5	8	3	73	87	13
Bohemians B ...	16	5	8	3	65	95	13
Victoria Park C ..	15	5	8	2	66	84	12
Livex A	14	3	8	3	57	83	9
Victoria Park B ..	15	3	10	2	52	98	8
African Oil A... ..	15	0	12	3	37	113	3

WOMEN'S—Division I

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Bohemians	16	12	2	2	114	46	26
Rafters	15	11	1	3	104	46	25
Lofters	15	10	1	4	98	52	24
Balfour	16	11	4	1	102	58	23
Oakhill	16	11	4	1	101	59	23
Anfield	16	7	7	2	83	77	16
Bibbys	16	6	8	2	74	86	14
Littlewoods	15	6	7	2	73	77	14
Linnetts	15	5	10	0	66	84	10
Cheshire Lines...	15	2	12	1	48	102	5
Brenka	15	2	13	0	36	114	4
Linnetts A	16	1	15	0	31	129	2

WOMEN'S—Division II

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Waterloo Park ..	15	12	0	3	109	41	27
Beauclair	15	12	1	2	113	37	26
Osterley	16	10	2	4	111	49	24
W'tree C.C.	16	9	6	1	95	65	19
Bohemians A ...	16	7	5	4	101	59	18
Aigburth	16	7	6	3	86	74	17
Leyfield	16	6	5	5	83	77	17
Lucem	15	7	7	1	69	81	15
Littlewoods A... ..	15	7	7	1	67	83	15
Dunlop	16	2	11	3	49	111	7
Beauclair A ...	16	0	14	2	32	128	2
Catholic Metro ..	16	0	15	1	25	135	1

NORTH REGIONAL I

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Bootle Y.M. B... ..	16	14	2	0	109	51	28
Litherland A ...	16	10	2	4	99	61	24
Littlewoods	16	11	4	1	96	64	23
Maghull	15	11	3	1	92	58	23
English Elec. A ..	15	8	4	3	88	62	19
Brenka	16	7	5	4	84	76	18
Everton Y.M.	16	7	6	3	82	78	17
Waterloo Park A ..	16	4	9	3	65	95	11
Warbreck Moor ..	16	3	10	3	71	89	9
Lofters A.....	16	3	12	1	61	99	7
W'loo Dock A... ..	16	3	13	0	59	101	6
15th Crosby A ...	16	2	13	1	44	116	5

NORTH REGIONAL II

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Bootle Y.M. C ..	16	16	0	0	124	36	32
English Elec. B ..	16	12	2	2	104	56	26
Brownmoor Park ..	15	10	3	2	99	51	22
Bath Street A ..	16	9	6	1	92	68	19
Waterloo Park C ..	14	7	4	3	88	52	17
Litherland B ...	15	5	4	6	80	70	16
Anfield D	16	5	6	5	78	82	15
English Elec. C ..	16	5	8	3	69	91	13
Waterloo Park B ..	16	3	8	5	69	91	11
Co-op	16	1	11	4	50	110	6
Maghull A ...	15	1	11	3	39	111	5
Bootle Police ...	15	2	13	0	38	112	4

LEAGUE TABLES

SOUTH REGIONAL

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Cheshire Lines A	13	13	0	0	113	17	26
Beauchair	15	13	2	0	115	35	26
Linnets A	15	12	3	0	110	40	24
Aigburth	15	8	6	1	80	70	17
Cadwa B	13	6	4	3	63	67	15
W'tree C.C. B	15	5	8	2	61	89	12
Dennis	13	5	7	1	65	65	11
Linnets C	14	5	9	0	61	79	10
Dunlop	14	4	8	2	58	82	10
St. Peters	14	2	12	0	32	108	4
Domestic Miss A	15	0	14	1	22	128	1
Aigburth Meths	Resigned.						

EAST REGIONAL

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Vagabonds	16	14	1	1	129	31	29
L.P.A.S. A	16	14	1	1	119	41	29
Balfour D	16	11	3	2	98	62	24
Osterley A	16	9	5	2	87	73	20
W'tree Labour	16	8	6	2	88	72	18
Cadwa A	15	7	6	2	78	72	16
Cadwa C	15	6	7	2	73	77	14
Leyfield	15	4	8	3	67	83	11
Edwardians	16	4	11	1	63	97	9
St. Dominics	16	2	11	3	54	106	7
Fairlawn	16	3	13	0	44	116	6
L.P.A.S. B	15	2	12	1	40	110	5

CENTRAL REGIONAL I

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Anfield C.	16	14	1	1	119	41	29
Panto A	16	12	3	1	111	49	25
L'pool Y.M. B	16	11	3	2	102	58	24
Old Xaverians	16	10	3	3	98	62	23
R.A.F.A.(L.)	16	10	4	2	94	66	22
Linnets B	15	8	5	2	85	65	18
Oakhill C	16	7	6	3	88	72	17
Lucem A	15	4	9	2	64	86	10
Vagabonds A	16	3	9	4	58	102	10
Post & Echo	16	2	11	3	64	96	7
Catholic Metro	16	1	14	1	33	127	3
Lussac	16	0	14	2	34	126	2

CENTRAL REGIONAL II

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
R.A.F. M'ments	16	14	1	1	127	33	29
Stanley House	16	11	3	2	108	52	24
Cheshire Lines B	15	11	4	0	93	57	22
Peel Hall	16	5	5	6	84	76	16
Livex B	15	5	4	6	72	78	16
Beauchair A	16	6	7	3	71	89	15
Cheshire Lines C	16	4	6	6	74	86	14
Oakhill D	16	5	7	4	74	86	14
Florance Osta	16	6	8	2	69	91	14
Tech. Students A	16	4	8	4	66	94	12
Old Xaverians A	16	4	10	2	62	98	10
Deaf Institute	16	0	12	4	50	110	4

A DISCLAIMER

SIR :—Kenneth G. Davies of this club wishes it to be made known that he is not the W. Davies referred to on Page 14 of the January *Digest* as being the scalp collector at Oakhill in the Maxwell Fyfe Cup matches, any resemblance being purely coincidental.

Ken did not play at Oakhill, and does not need to use two hands for his shots. In fact, he competed at Liverpool Y.M. on the night in question and licked three redoubtable opponents left-handed in order to compensate for the slight handicap he was receiving.

Furthermore, every grunter knows that Ken has long since been dishonourably discharged from the Eric Caird Club for screeching. Lastly, he could never have been tamed—even by Jim Green—as he was not at all savage in the first place.

He suspects that one of his team-mates must have been competing at Oakhill under an assumed name in order to confuse a certain police spy also present.

It is possible that the alleged attempts to decapitate spectators were aimed primarily at the said spy as preliminary softening-up operations in the forthcoming "needle match" between Vagabonds and L.P.A.S. A—G. Elliott, K. G. Davies, M. Gallagher, W. Savige, F. E. Johnstone, D. Newman (Vagabonds).

(Editors: We were well aware that Ken Davies did not appear at Oakhill, particularly as one of us was responsible for arranging the draw. The player referred to was W. Savige but the printer somehow transformed it to Davies).

Jack Hughes found that . . .

I.C.I. ARE FINE FIGHTERS

IN beating Osterley 6—4, I.C.I. not only stepped further away from relegation but must have dampened Osterley's hopes of promotion.

The winners deserved their victory by reason of their fighting qualities. Here they were well in front of their opponents. Some of the Osterley players seemed to give up the fight very easily.

"Unlike anything else" is my dictionary's definition of "unique,"—a very good description of Bert Fairhurst's flick. With this shot he dismisses the ball from his presence with a most regal gesture.

A Lesson.

Against Bath he had 100 per cent success with it, mainly due to the fact that he only used it once. Against Miss Wilcox he was only 50 per cent effective—he played it twice. This should teach him the virtues of moderation.

He is, however, the same old fighter who played nearly 20 years ago for Falkland, and set his team a fine example by winning both his sets two straight.

Townsend does not seem to have made a great deal of progress since his Regional days. He certainly hits a ball very hard on both wings, but his defence needs tightening. He also seems to have spasms of wildness, one of which lost him the game against Holttum, for when leading 18—14 he became wild and lost 18—21.

Miss Wilcock beat the home secretary Baldwin, mainly by use of her strong forehand. What a pity the rest of her game is not on a par with that forehand!

Though losing to Fairhurst, she certainly caused him some anxious moments. Along with Bath, I thought she tried the hardest for the losers.

Baldwin seems too solicitous for his opponent's welfare to be as effective as he might. I got the impression at times that he got greatest pleasure from his opponent's winners than from his own. Perhaps the C in I.C.I. stands for Chivalry.

The match of the night was between Jones and Carridge. Jones, with his sandpaper-covered bat, half volley and surprise forehand, is a very awkward

player to deal with. He allows his opponent little margin of error.

The first game went to Carridge, due to a combination of patience, good footwork and picking the right ball to hit. Jones got the second, Carridge's patience seeming to wane.

The third began with Jones surprisingly losing his touch, and in no time ends were called with Carridge leading 10—1. It looked all over. They then scored point for point until 18—9—still it looked all over.

Great Recovery.

Then Jones really got down to the job and levelled at 20—all. A wonderful recovery. Then 21—all and Jones suddenly has a wild swipe at a tempting high ball and hits off. How often one has seen this human failing before. Carridge seized his chance and got the next point for the match.

Jones, however, had little trouble in beating Hartmann 6 and 6, Hartmann though having many nice strokes, being apparently resigned to defeat from the first point.

Holttum did well for I.C.I. beating both Townsend and Carridge. With the score 5—4, he faced Carridge and after the latter's show against Jones, I anticipated a hard struggle, especially as the result of the match depended on it. It was, however, an anti-climax, for Carridge never reproduced his earlier form and seemed to give up after losing the first game.

Holttum I understand is shortly leaving Liverpool—a heavy blow to I.C.I.

Bath hit hard to beat Dixon two straight. His long back sweep suggests he is using a scythe not a bat. Dixon put up a good fight against Townsend before going down in the third.

It is clubs like these that are the backbone of the League and they set an example that some of our more illustrious teams could well follow. Not only did Osterly arrive as a team, but not one player on either side left until the match was finished. None of this coming and going in penny numbers.

Well done, and thanks for an enjoyable evening!

Lofters Now Cup Favourites

OUTSTANDING event in recent matches was Lofters's 6-4 win over Rafters, the latter's first defeat this season.

The match was remarkable in that all the sets for were won in straight games, two games only going to deuce. J. Lloyd and W. Finnetty each won both their sets; B. Waterson and N. Lamb fell to L. Rumjahn but accounted for J. Brennan and R. McMullen respectively, while K. Rumjahn and R. McMullen scored the other two sets for Rafters.

Not only does this result perhaps establish Lofters as favourites for the Bartholomew Cup, but gives them and Bohemians a greater chance of winning the League championship. At present they are both trying for second place, their return match with each other having once again resulted in a draw.

M. Jones beat B. Waterson 21-15 in the third game to avenge her defeat in the Daily Mirror tournament the previous evening, and also beat Nan Lamb by the same margin.

Result in Balance.

I think however, the result will be in the balance until almost the last match, as there are one or two very interesting needle matches to be played by the foregoing. With Balfour and Oakhill still in the running there may yet be one or two surprises.

Balfour gained a decisive 7-3 victory over Bohemians in their return match and it is encouraging to note how well their young recruits, Pat Spranger and J. Richardson, who are now regular members of the team, are playing. They have both shown great improvement this season and have several good victories to their credit.

What a pleasant surprise it must have been for Brenka when they gained two points at the expense of Linnets, whom they beat 9-1. The only winner for Linnets was A. Brown.

Brenka have strong hopes of saving themselves from relegation and are pinning their faith on J. Harley who, although she has been on their books since the start of the season, has only recently been able to turn out for them, not forgetting D. Wilson, who has such

an excellent record, together with T. Kirby, E. Cantwell and E. Finnis.

They are also looking forward to the early return of Mrs. Murray, who has unfortunately been in hospital. Great interest will be centred on their vital return match against C.L.C., who at present have a slight advantage.

C.L.C.'s best performance so far this season was when they took a point from Rafters. It is interesting to note that this year has brought personal success to their No. 1—A. Leightley. She has scored victories over O. Dickinson, R. Royle, M. Jones and M. Alcock.

The position in the Second Division has not greatly altered. Waterloo Park and Beauclair still have what should be a secure lead. Osterley must have given Waterloo a scare when they only just failed to beat them by a narrow margin and had to be consoled with a draw. L. Olsen, of Waterloo, won the most vital set against M. O'Donnell 15-21, 21-10, 28-26.

Celebrated Return.

It does seem a great pity that Osterley women's team are without the services of M. Wilcock, but it speaks well for them that they evidently prefer to rely on the merits of the their regular team and do not even call on Muriel for even their toughest matches and may possibly just miss promotion.

Beauclair also lost a valuable point to Aigburth after a close match when M. Hadden celebrated her return to the Aigburth side by winning both her sets.

Great progress is reported of Julie Roberts—Beauclair's youngest member, who from being a raw recruit at the beginning of the season, has worked her way up from the bottom of the second team to being a valuable reserve for the first team.

Congratulations and best wishes to B. Waterson who by defeating M. Jones in the area final has qualified to enter the B. Zone Final of the Daily Mirror tournament on March 20th.

Several clubs are active with their tournaments and I hear that one of the most enjoyable and best organised was played at Cadwa recently, when Ivy Crafter beat J. Roberts in the final of the women's singles.

Is There A Great Fiddle?

By J. D. PATTISON

IT would appear that there is a considerable body of opinion in the league at the moment greatly concerned with the amount of "fiddling" that is said to be going on this season.

Fears are being freely expressed as to the future well-being of our organisation and the forecasts made are indeed gloomy. Chaos is the most popular word which is being applied, while it is also being stated that the league rules are being grossly abused.

As a consequence there is a strong movement afoot for some sort or reorganisation; for some additional form of restriction on the movement of players in teams and from one team to another.

But has there been this great fiddle, this abuse of rules?

Not New

To my knowledge switching of players has gone on in the league for nearly 20 years. Older members will confirm that in pre-war days certain captains were noted for attending matches with several team cards in which the order of players varied and for them to produce the appropriate one after snatching a glance at their opponent's team.

That was 20 years ago, yet the league has continued to prosper—aye, to flourish, and we have had many seasons of good competition.

Much is being made of the point that fiddling is most unfair to the smaller clubs because they have not the playing strength with which to do likewise. One cannot deny that there is truth in that statement, but is there any sport at which the smaller club is not at such a disadvantage?

How on earth can officials of any sports organisation legislate to remove that without applying excessive restrictions on the bigger members of their competition?

Would anyone suggest, for instance, that the Football League should tell Liverpool F.C., who are at the moment doing all they can to find a combination that will preserve their first division status, that they must not play this or that player in their premier side. Or give similar orders to Everton, now fighting for promotion?

I know I will be told that that is not a fair analogy, but why not? I may be flying into higher and wider spheres than our own, but surely the fundamentals of all sporting competitions are the same.

In any case, we have in our own league to-day splendid examples of small clubs who have held their own with their larger rivals. What better one than 15th Crosby? They have won both League championship and Readman Cup—and while only a one-team club.

Meteoric Rise

Another example I might quote is the meteoric rise from regional status of Litherland, accomplished while a one-team club. Surely what they have is possible of repetition by another club.

Most heavily hit by any fiddling must, of course, be the work-club, but that is because they are bound by their own rules to play only employees. And is it not quite possible that while such clubs may have their lean periods in the quality of their players, they could also have their bounteous periods.

No doubt those who prophecy disaster for the league will tell us the amount of fiddling at present taking place is unprecedented. They may be right for quite frankly I could not make a comparison with pre-war years.

But could they? Records of players' appearances are kept to-day, but it is only within the last few years that they have been kept. One then can only speak of previous years by guesswork.

I have written in the above vein because I fear the imposition of excessive restrictions on the clubs in an effort to meet what is alleged to be taking place. To my mind there are enough restrictions at present and I have a firm belief that we shall find much of the fiddling will level itself out, just as most things have a habit of doing.

But may I end on a note of appeal. There is an old saying never to change a system unless you are absolutely sure that what you are replacing it with is better. I would ask the league officials to consider that homily and to be quite certain, before they advocate a change, that it is going to benefit the league.

WHY NOT A "HOME" TABLE

Mrs. Kay Rum'ahn, of Rafters, sends us the following letter which touches on some interesting points.
SIR:—In his notes last month Peter Rumjahn censured players for not supporting the city's teams when on their home ground.

Perhaps Peter, being on the Selection Committee, is in the fortunate position of knowing when and where these matches are to be played, although on one occasion this season a committee member and the Press arrived at Waterloo Dock to watch Liverpool play Manchester only to find that unknown to anyone the match had been transferred to African Oil.

Monthly List

Irrespective of the general club members, surely it would be only courteous to inform the Press of any change of venue.

Is it not possible, through the *Digest*, to print a list of forthcoming events each month so that every member of the League would know what was taking place. I feel certain these inter-city games must be arranged some time before they are due to be played. If not, why not?

Then too, a word of criticism of the venues chosen. I know it is not easy to find a suitable room, but surely the players should have some "home" advantage and play on a table to which at least one or two of them are accustomed, and should have sufficient back and side room to enable them to play their natural game.

To watch Bernard Hand and Ted Rumjahn endeavouring to play a doubles at Bohemians, with their backs literally to the

wall, was just ludicrous. Is it not possible to hire the room above the gym at Balfour for inter-city matches?

One last query? What are Liverpool's colours? Surely if individual clubs must register their playing colours, it is not too much to expect some conformity among city players.

On one occasion this season I took two youngsters to watch and when asked which was "our" team I had to point out that "we" were the team in the variety of shirts—the opposition were all in regulation shirts of the same colour, with badges.

Never have I seen such a conglomeration of irregularity as displayed by our male representatives. Neither have I seen one of them wearing a Liverpool badge this season. Is the Liver bird extinct?

ROUND AND ABOUT

THERE was something of a *quid pro quo* flavour in two recent signings. Linnets, for instance, have signed the Wirral League player and member of the Birkenhead R.A.F.A. club, Ted Morris, while Miss R. Royle, of Anfield, has signed up with Birkenhead R.A.F.A.

Another noteworthy signing is that of Miss Muriel Wilcox of Osterley, by Bohemians, to play in their women's team. When she plays she will be making her debut in the women's divisions. Mrs. Steen Farrell has also returned to the Bohemians.

The amount of your support can make or mar the success of the Closed Championships. Do your best to make them a success, both at Dingle Vale and the Liverpool Y.M.C.A. for the finals.

The recent weather has not helped Mr. Jack Neill, the North Region secretary, to make the recovery he—and we—hoped he would. Let us hope the Weather Clerk will now give him a better chance. He's badly missed in the "North."

INNOVATION IN TOURNAMENT

WE are making an innovation in our regional tournament this season in the way of a South Region "old boys" event. It is singles and is open to all players who were eligible for our tournament during the previous three seasons, except winners and finalists.

All the club secretaries have now got the entry forms for the tournament, which is being played at Cheshire Lines, and I do hope you will all enter to ensure success. Matches for the week commencing March 8th, the week we are playing the tournament, should be re-arranged and Mr. Williams notified of the new dates.

The prizes will be presented to the winners by Mr. Jack Wivell, and vice-president of the League, at a South Region dance at Cheshire Lines on Saturday, March 13th. This has been made possible by Mr. Jack Grayson and the Cheshire Lines Club Committee, who are organising it on behalf of the Region and to whom our sincere thanks are due.

"Big-Heads"

Jack McKim, Beauclair's captain, has sent me a strongly worded complaint regarding late arrivals (and non-arrivals) at matches. Similar complaints are constantly coming from other sources. In one instance a visiting team just didn't bother to appear, leaving the home team kicking their heels all night.

We all know of those incurable types who came late because they are too important to arrive early and they are deserving of sympathy for their large size in hats tends to blind them to their own manners.

It is rank bad manners to arrive late at a match without a reasonable excuse, and equally bad manners to leave early. There are some who always leave when their sets are played, showing a lack of interest in the remainder of the match which is insulting to friend and foe alike.

Let us then make it a point of honour to arrive early and stay to the end and leave the "arriving to the applause of the gallery" to the big-heads. I do urge all captains to apply the rules by claiming sets of players not present by 8 p.m. This method can end all these complaints.

Virtual Champions

Cheshire Lines A beat Beauclair 8-2 to become virtual champions, and on the following night beat Anfield C, leaders of the Central Region, by the same score in the Hyde Cup, thus qualifying to meet Vagabonds in the semi-final. The whole region, I know, will join me in wishing them well and in the hope that the Hyde Cup will end up at Southmead Road.

Beauclair, without Porter, beat Linnets A 6-4 to gain a well earned second place, but although Linnets are third they still have to play Cheshire Lines, but whatever happens in that match the top three positions will be unchanged.

Beauclair's team are strong enough to warrant promotion and it has been their bad luck to bump into a Cheshire Lines side which is, in my opinion, one of the most powerful I can remember in any region.

DRINK

MOORHOUSE'S "YOR COLA"

AFTER A MATCH AND YOU ARE READY FOR ANOTHER

All Enquiries to—

**MOORHOUSE BROS., 55 EVERTON ROAD
ANField 3248. LIVERPOOL, 6**

Did Not Even Say "Sorry"

THE Regional Secretary still being far from well after five weeks' illness, has handed me his notes to write up for him, particularly emphasising that there must not be any leniency to the guilty.

The Management Committee have recently been worried by a state of apathy which is existing in a lot of clubs. One particular case of indifference to the urgency of the situation occurred recently in our Region and considerably your secretary.

As far as can be remembered it has always been considered an honoured privilege to be selected to play for the Region to which one belonged in the inter-region medals competition and it cannot be recalled when last a player declined this invitation.

Weeks Notice

Regretfully a secretary and one of his players have earned black marks. Telephoned on a Friday morning exactly a week before we were due to play the South, this secretary was informed his player had been selected; would he notify him and communicate the result. This, it was assured, would be done by the Monday.

Monday came and passed; Tuesday followed and so it came to Wednesday, two days before the match.

At 4-15 p.m. the Regional Secretary telephoned the club secretary who blandly said a message had been left by the player at 1-30 p.m. that day which simply said ; "Cannot play." No expression of sorrow or regret.

It will be agreed that this is a typical instance of complete indifference to the urgency of a situation by a secretary and a deplorable could'nt-care-less attitude by the player.

The crowning blow to our Secretary was yet to come when the club official offered him one of his other players.

It was not the full might of the North that accounted for the South at Linnet, for apart from the player who turned down the invitation, Joe Delamore has now become available.

Each of our players gave of his best. Tobin, who came in as reserve, had the "jitters" badly in his first set but he played splendidly in his second when, along with his club colleague, Jack Owen, he inflicted defeat on the unbeaten Johnny Grayson.

Cairns was superb and Turtle never had us in doubt regarding the outcome of his duels, while Joe Lovelady was his usual clam and assured self.

Here is the match card in order of play (South names first) :-

S. Porter (Beauclair) lost to J. Owen (Maghull) 15-21, 21-14, 20-22; B. Pardy (Linnet) lost to L. Cairns (Bootle Y.M.C.A.) 21-18, 12-21, 20-22; O. Hughes (C.L.C.) lost to P. Turtle (Everton Y.M.C.A.) 18-21, 14-21; D. Rodrigues (Linnet) beat W. Tobin (Maghull) 21-17, 21-18; Porter lost to J. Lovelady (15th Crosby) 18-21, 21-17, 17-21; J. Grayson (C.L.C.) lost to Tobin 8-21, 17-21; Hughes lost to Cairns 19-21, 10-21; Pardy lost to Lovelady 16-21, 21-9, 13-21; Grayson lost to Owen 17-21, 15-21; Rodrigues lost to Turtle 7-21, 13-21.

Decision Protest

A letter complaining bitterly of an umpire's decision in a vital phase of a needle match is well supported by eye witnesses of the rival teams and neutrals.

The match is 5-4, last pair, third game, score 20-19. Match point player hits a drive with his hand resting on the table and is awarded the game.

Protest was made but the umpire stated that he did not see any hand on the table, although his own player truthfully stated he had his hand on the table before making the shot. The umpire stood to his decision and said he did not see it.

Maybe he did'nt, maybe he did, only his conscience knows. But I repeat our Secretary's instructions that to win by cheating is to earn lifelong disrespect and distrust.

Ironically later this team arrived at the opponents' headquarters at 8-40 p.m. They would have been chagrined had their rivals said: "We claim the match 10-0 according to rule."

How fortunate they were to be playing sportsmen, well knowing they would get a hiding, preferred to play than claim a hollow victory.

If the cap fits, think it over and endeavour to redeem some of your lost respect.