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# Editorial

The next Liverpool Closed has been booked for Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2013, at the Wavertree Tennis Centre, Entry forms will be completed soon and hard copies sent out to Clubs, but will also be added to our web sites for downloading, again we mention in advance the need for volunteers for setting up and taking down!!

When Nikki Murphy was chosen as the Liverpool Table Tennis Development Officer, there were a few amongst us who wondered why, as she doesn't play League table tennis, but credit must be given to her for the way she has gone about her 'new job', her involvement in Ping Liverpool, and in the Trade area of the Echo Arena during the Men's World Cup, the follow on after Ping, and her involvement in starting TT at the Liverpool Cricket Club and the Florence Institute, must be encouraging, maybe the decision was right to employ an organiser rather than a coach! Read her report pg. 14  
Anyone heard anything from the Anfield Academy?

I attended my second 'big time' T.T. tournament recently, the Men's World Cup at the Echo Arena, fantastic is all I need to say, Don Davies has put together a report about the involvement of various members of the L&DTTL on page 5. My first visit to a 'big time' tournament was when England played Israel at Greenbank a few years ago, I wasn't impressed, but this one Wow!

Tom Purcell has sent in an explanation of why he decided on a controversial point while Umpiring at the recent Men's World Champs pg 17

Whereas we are losing teams and players from the top ranks of the League, we are seeing new players joining at the lower end, who I'm sure, are playing with the same interest and enjoyment as those at the top, I think (hope) that those new Clubs with one team in the League will soon be entering another team to use up their spare night.

Coaching for beginners, the ETTA are trying to encourage relevantly 'non players' to take up basic coaching, ie. School teachers, community volunteers etc. TT is an ideal sport for schools, but if teachers aren't interested, the youngsters won't be encouraged to play. see pg 16

Schools -: I don't get much info these days so can't add anything, the South Sefton Schools League seems to have folded, due I think lack of interest from the Teaching side, and I haven't had any contact from the Liverpool Schools I used to, but early days yet, maybe next Digest.

Greenbank Sports Academy has multiplayer T.T. coaching and practice on Tuesday nights, at £3 a session, and are running a Tournament for players with disabilities. pg. 13  
Marconi and Wavertree Labour still have their coaching sessions.

Fancy a night out clubbing between TT tables, last season I ran an article from Ged Howard about a night Club in town, The Shipping Forecast on Slater Street, which had installed a TT table for clubbers to have a go, I don't know if it's still operating, but the next stage has happened in London, a night club with 16 tables, and very successful it seems, read pg 15

Fines are more compared to the same time last season, thank you very much says the ManCom! but when a team gives a walk over, or a player doesn't turn up, it's not them who pay the fine, in effect, it's the whole club who pay, as it comes out of the Club funds, the players who always turn up are paying extra for those who don't!!!

I had a Letter from Marconi's Chris Spedding, at first I wasn't sure what to do with it, but I think we may have found another Paul Gittens, but only, it seems, if someone winds him up, now I'm not suggesting anything, but I'd love to receive more letters off Chris. pg 18

I had an E-mail from Pat McCloughan who played for Liverpool YM in the 90's asking to be remembered to his ex team mates. pg 13

Bootle YM's John Taylor is going in to Hospital for an Op. on his spine, we wish him well and hope he's soon back at the 'table, or at least 'doing the scoring', and BYM's Alan Chase was also rushed into hospital to have a stent fitted in a major artery, he's had a remarkable recovery and is back playing, hope he takes note!

I suppose there's loads going on at other Clubs but I don't get to hear about it, otherwise it would be here.

I always seem to forget someone I meant to mention, so thanks to our / your reporters, we do have 5 but due to Ian McElwee having just had a 'Quad' heart Bypass op recently, he's recovering well but has asked to miss this one, (good luck Ian from all), Cadwa's Satish Ranka has promised to take up the Div. 4 from Doug Baker, (thanks for many issues Doug) but due to other commitments, can't start till next Digest, and Marconi's Ken Roberts has sharpened his literary skills by taking on the 5<sup>th</sup>, We still have Wav. Labours's Paul Banks, but his team having won promotion to Div. 1 last season, has agreed to take on that Div, thanks Paul!, and Bootle YM's Mike Hughes has agreed to carry on with Div. 3 even though he's playing in Div. 2, (think he'll be back in Div. 3 next season though where he'll be much happier, so the 'Editor' has knocked up reports for Div's 2 and 4, to save disappointment!., We don't have Paul Gitten's 11 Up, due to his severe Arthritis problem, he's still to be seen on the circuit with Sam and Jack but not playing, hopefully soon, (get well Paul!).

So all that's left is to wish everyone -:

**A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND AN  
ENJOYABLE NEW YEAR**

With the MWC successfully completed, thoughts turn to the 2013 Fawley Construction Liverpool Closed on Sunday 17th February at Wavertree Tennis Centre. In recent years 'finals night' was staged at the Fairfield Police club and for the past two seasons, Cadwa TTC. This season, though, the league will break new ground when staging the finals at the Greenbank Sport Academy, Greenbank Lane, Liverpool 17, on Tuesday 26th February. The league staged a Merseyside Junior 4\* Open there and the ETTA chose it for an England v Israel international plus a Top 12 tournament, the hall's facilities include 450 tiered seats, a bar and restaurant. Forms will be available next month from club secretaries.



The new ETTA computer ratings shows two of the league's youngsters in the top twenty Cadet rankings. Robert Barker (Crosby High) stands at 13 with Joe Pilkington (CTK) one place lower, while in the Cadet girls list, Amy Hutchings (Maghull) is listed at 13 after being 33 in September. Tom Hill (Wav. Lab) is the highest placed in the league at 26 with the Crosby High pair of Barker and current Liverpool Closed Junior champion Dempsey, at 61 and 71 respectively with Pilkington, one place lower than Dempsey. Sixteen year old Joel Webb (Cadwa) ranked at 207 Junior in England and coached by Dave Graham and Keith Williams, won his first junior open tournament in October at the Blackpool 2 star, beating Kin Fung Chan (Cheshire) -8, 4, 4, -5,6. Keith Williams moves up to second place in the veterans rankings with Closed men's singles champion Tomasz Rzeszotko listed at 9, Keith stands at 47 in the men's list while Tomasz is at 41.

Chatting to Michael Tierney at the MWC, he mentioned that a surprise visitor to the Wirral practice centre was Bruce Cain, the runner-up in 1965 to Kenny Roberts in the Closed men's final. In 1964, he won his only Closed title, beating holder Gordon Birch in the junior final. Sister Barbara, a Cheshire county and Liverpool ladies' 1<sup>st</sup> team player, was more successful, winning three Closed ladies' singles titles, adding the mixed on

two occasions with Peter D'Arcy and the ladies' doubles four times with Joyce Randall. Should Bruce decide to play league table tennis, it would be difficult to recall a player who returned to the league 43 years after leaving.

Whilst reading a 1962 Digest I noticed the name of Eddie Amoo, who, as a junior, that year, played at Stanley House in division 6. I'm fairly sure that he was part of the Liverpool group, The Chants, formed in 1962 and signed by Brian

Epstein and made their Cavern debut backed by The Beatles!! The averages showed Eddie in second place - P48, W 40 - 83.33%, lying behind W. Wood (Crawford's) on 87.55%. Not one first division player of the 12 listed, remains in the league, the nearest approach being Dave Ferguson (then Rafters) but, two seasons ago, Ted Mandaluff was in third spot on 91% and Bill Harris, the longest surviving Closed champion (1955) and who still attends

Closed finals night, was on 75% level with the late George Smith. Of the other seven divisions listed, only Arthur Harrison of Crawford's, (now Wav. Lab) is registered at present in the league. Roy Smith, runner-up in the Junior event in 1960 and the champion the following year and Oakhill's John Higham (Bootle YM<sup>2</sup>) were not shown in the published averages, hence their omission.

An exhibition and demonstration took place last month at Liverpool Cricket Club when members of the public were invited to attend and take part in a coaching session. The club were members of the league in the early 60's, having five teams spread over the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> division. The 1<sup>st</sup> team won division 4 and the A and C teams' were runners-up in divisions 6 and 8. The club are to continue with the coaching sessions with a view to applying for league membership next season. You may recall, that a few years ago, the former Liverpool YMCA spent a season at the club but, I gather the cost of the room hire put them off.

Don Davies  
Chairman

# Div. 1

# Paul Banks

New season and a new reporter for the first division - or in other words 'a new forum for my ramblings and half baked ideas.

The first item on the agenda is to thank Ian Mcelwee for doing such a sterling job reporting on the first division for all this time.

My initial thoughts so far are that similar to previous seasons in the second division there has been a steady increase in young players coming through however this time it's great to see them playing in the first division and shaking up the old guard.

So lets go through the teams in the order of their current position.



With a game in hand on Crosby High 'A' you have to feel that his team has the strength to make up that deficit. Top of the averages so far for Crosby is Mark Bleakley who appears to be playing on a more regular basis than in previous years and he made short work of Crosby High 'B' beating Rob Wylie, Gavin Lloyd and Gemma all in three.

## Crosby High 'B'

So next we have the 'B' team and what a testament it is to the Crosby set up that they have three teams at the top end of the first division - albeit having played an extra game than their closest rivals.

This team of Rob Wylie, Gemma Grant and

Gavin Lloyd have been together for a few seasons now and despite a bit of a drubbing at the hands of their stable mates CHA 8-2, seem to be acquiring their points from tied matches or close losses.

Their best win so far was home to CADWA 8-2. This was especially notable for Gemma picking up three (in three) and young Tom Miller collecting two valuable points as a reserve.

## Christ The King

The first Christ The King team is two points behind Crosby High 'B' and on the same points as Bath Street Marine but with a game in hand over both of them. The team has had a consistent line up of Keith Bird, Omid Khaiyat and Peter Walsh Jr but fairly inconsistent results including a 9-1 over bottom of the table Marconi but a 7-3 loss to second to bottom Wavertree; an impressive 7-3 over the high flying youngsters at CHA but a 9-1 loss to the Police.

## Bath Street Marine

Well it's all change at Bath Street and from looking at the cards it looks like it took the two Crosby teams a few weeks to sort the line ups out. The pattern that seems to be emerging is that Bath Street Marine (hereafter to be referred to as BSM) are made up of Gary Watson, Ken Jackson, Ricky Brown and Fred Bainbridge. BSM have played a game more than stable mates Bath Street Marine 'A' and are only three points ahead of them which should prove interesting and when they met in the first derby fixture of the season it was the second team who overcame a slightly weakened first team, hopefully now that the line up seems to have stabilized they can get down to some team bonding going forward.

## Bath Street Marine 'A'

Okay so the second team (hereafter to be referred to as BSMA) has had less of an identity crisis than their older sibling and therefore Clare Peers, Dave Roberts and Dermot Tierney have had less of a bumpy start and could very likely move past them when collecting their game in hand.

Fords 'A'

## Fords

Well there's no changes here - every year Fords seem to win from the front, usually they are escorted by a team from Crosby High but so far it seems to be the Police who thanks to a strengthening of the force are keeping Fords under close surveillance.

The team appears to be mainly Malcolm McEvoy, Andy Taylor and Terry Turner. The team is at the top because they haven't lost and the closest they have come to that position so far was a 6-4 win over the youthful Crosby High 'A' where Jamie Hewitt, Robert Barker and Jack Dempsey pushed them all the way.

I predict a rather exciting battle at the top of the table and if Fords are to retain their title they will surely have to keep their focus.

## Merseyside Police

It's a fairly similar story for the Police who have won most of their matches by a big margin except the 6-4 win against the youthful Crosby High 'A' where Jamie Hewitt, Robert Barker and Jack Dempsey pushed them all the way.

The matrix of the team is predominantly Jon Taylor, Aaron Beech, John Hope and Joe Mullin, however Steve Gittins has also been added to the Police's weaponry where he bagged a brace at Marconi.

## Crosby High 'A'

In third place at this early stage of the season is Crosby High 'A', this, it could be argued is due to the fact that they have played an extra game, but I think that this team of Jamie Hewitt, Robert Barker and Jack Dempsey who have been mentioned twice already will be in the final reckoning at the end of the season.

## Crosby High

Okay - I hope you all appreciate how hard my slow functioning brain is working here as all of the Crosby teams are bunched together at the sharp end of the division.

It seems to me that the mainstays of this team are Mark Bleakley, Olivier Barthelmy, Steve Green and Cherith Graham.

The second team from the Ford garage comprises Graham Cleary, Ken Connor, Mat McCormick, Paul Kinsey, Andy Town and Denise McEvoy. Now that we are moving down the placings - the wins are harder to come by and the losses more frequent. The best showing so far for Fords 'A' came against close rivals BSMA with Ken Connor unbeaten on the night despite Clare narrowly losing 11-8 in the fifth set.

#### CADWA

At first glance you would have expected a team that includes Keith Williams and Thomas Rzeszotco to be in a fairly strong position in the division, but of course they aren't always available so the rest of the team are doing a sterling job maintaining their position.

George Lennon, Craig Scarisbrick and Joel Webb appear to be turning out on a regular basis for CADWA but it's only when Keith or Thomas play that they are able to take wins (so far).

#### Christ The King 'A'

CTKA seem to have quite a roster of players; including: John Lau, Peter Taylor, Joshua Matthewman, Dave Tagg, Tony Whelan and the one constant so far, Ahmed Thabet. Despite some heavy losses the team has had some good wins - notably a 7-3 win against BSMA where Ahmed took home the match ball for a well deserved treble.

#### Wavertree Labour.

Now we come to the two promoted teams from the second division and both are finding it a bit of a struggle in the first. Wavertree are finding things a little easier when their top two players are on the team sheet - namely Tom Hill and Joe Pilkington. This was very much evident in the second week of the season as Joe took his three and Tom lost out on maximum points by being pipped at deuce in the fifth by Keith Bird in Wavertree's win over Christ The King.

#### Marconi

Currently 11 points behind Wavertree - Marconi are finding it even harder to pick up significant points.

Despite this Bob Edwards had a great night at CHA beating Rob Wylie and Steve Green and Adrian Bramham managed a hat trick at Fords 'A'.

So its very much early days and there is expected drama to be played out at both ends of the table. Fords are currently 5 points ahead of the Police at the top and Marconi are 11 points adrift at the bottom - which at each pole can be quite significant statistics.

Good luck for the next quarter.

Paul Banks

Wavertree Labour

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## 2012 Men's World Cup

Hopefully, everyone who attended the Men's World Cup thoroughly enjoyed the occasion whether for just a session, a day or all three days of the championships. Those not having witnessed a major TT event will, I'm certain, have been astounded at the standard of play and the general organisation of the event. Following such a successful outcome, feedback from the ITTF and ETTA was, as expected, very favourable according to reliable sources at the Echo Arena. League members' played their part, undertaking various duties one of which involved Mike Power, Rob Davies and Andy Cowell, operating digital scoring machines - while Stan Clarke and Tom Purcell were accorded the honour of umpiring, Tom having also done so at the 2011 event in Paris. Russell Thornton spent each day on the top table assisting in the production output of play on the overhead television screens. Arthur Garnett and Rob Davies made a number of trips to Manchester airport on the days leading up to the event in a 'meet and greet' role where they met the majority of the international stars. Arthur, sometimes working until late at night, transported ITTF officials and guests to and fro, and continued doing so the day after the event finished. Jack Dempsey, John Greene and Matty Laird weighed in with invaluable help - liaising with Dave Evans, who was responsible for 'Field of Play'. Jenny Evans (Dave's wife) was also there for the duration taking on a number of roles while John Langton, Dave Noden, Ken Roberts and Liverpool's TT Development officer Nikki Murphy and the ETTA's Mick Moir, turned in long stints in the Topspin Donic, 'come and try it' area. The impression one gains once entering the Liverpool Echo Arena is of a tremendous facility with welcoming friendly staff, brilliantly managed by John Moore who did as much as anyone to ensure a fantastic event. The upshot of staging such a successful international competition may be realised in the next year or so when the venue is selected for the 2017 world championships when it hopefully, will be Liverpool. With very reasonable ticket pricing, it must be said that the attendance each day, could have been much higher and whilst more 'locals' were expected to have supported the event, in my opinion it was the lack of outside support which was responsible for the vast number of unoccupied seats. It was noticeable at the private in house closing ceremony, no mention was made of the league's band of volunteers for their efforts prior to, during, and after the conclusion of the event. I was proud and thrilled that the City Council, ITTF and ETTA put their faith in the league to help run this fantastic ground breaking event and one which should stand us in good stead when future prestigious events are handed out. Well done to all concerned.

Don Davies Chairman

Your reporters have done a swop from last season, Paul Banks is now playing in Div. 1, so has volunteered to do that report, and Ian McElwee has stayed on to do Div.2. But as Ian has just had a Quad Heart By-pass op, he has understandably asked for a little longer to recuperate, so it's the Editor 'doing his best'!!

At this early stage in the season, we are starting to see the 'haves' and the 'have not's', the teams who have the players for this division's standard, and those who are here for the experience, Bath St. Marine 'B' have dropped out, (three walkovers) because they couldn't maintain a regular team of this standard, as well as their 'C' team, (promoted from Div. 3 on merit). Bootle YM suffered the same fate when their first team lost most of the players during the summer break, pointless to fill their place with players lower down if not strong enough, so BYM's First team gave 3 walkovers and withdrew, leaving the 'A' team squad to play at their level in Div. 2. A further anomaly was Bootle YM 'B' team being promoted because of the influx of new teams lower down causing the unusual changes to the divisions, consequently playing out of their depth, played 7, won none, drawn none, 3 points from 70, at this stage of the season the lowest points tally of the 5 divisions, but hopefully things will improve, and they will get some benefit from the 'experience', would smaller divisions, where the gap between the top and the bottom was a bit closer be the answer!

Working down the League table at week 7, Cadwa 'A' were sitting on top, the regular squad of Paul Evans, Graeme Black, and Mike Power, with young Joel Webb starting to make regular appearances, the team has had a good start with 5 wins 1 draw and only losing 1. They got off to a good start with an 8-2 win against Bootle YM 'B', Eddie Preston spoiling the show winning both singles. Another 8-2 win followed at Marconi 'A', Mike dropping two, but first appearance of young Joel, winning his 3. Next two matches were 6-4 wins, the doubles win being the difference in both matches. A good 8-2 win over BsM. 'C', Paul 2, Graeme 3 and Joel 2, and a tough doubles win in 5 for Paul and Graeme against Colin and Rob, after being 2 down. First loss, coming against Crosby 'C' going down 7-3, without Graeme, Joel winning the 3 points, two singles against Craig Lowe and Tom Miller and teaming up with Paul for the doubles, styles v experience here, Joel beats the youngsters, can't cope with Sylvia's game, won't be long though!

Well done to H. House's Peter Findlater, putting a 'dent' in Graeme's 100%, but Cadwa did well pulling back from 5-1 down to pull off the draw with, what seems, the obligatory doubles win, (100% after week 7).

Christ the King 'B' just missed out on promo last season, coming third, but look as if they are going to push hard this season, Dave Tagg, Billy Cheung, Peter Taylor and Peter Walsh Snr. are the core, but with a big squad of reserves including John Lau and Joe Killoran should always be able to field a strong team, First match of the season at home

against H. House 'A' ended in a draw after a good start, and a 5-4 lead into the final doubles game losing in 3, a few points lost there! A 10-0 win at BYM 'B' by Dave T. Billy C. and Peter W Snr. must have cheered the team up. But the following week Marconi 'A's Bob, Frank and Peter, beat Billy (3) Peter T. (1) Peter W. Snr (0) 6-4. A helpful 7-3 win over Wav. Lab. by Dave T. (3), Peter T. (3) and Peter W.Snr winning one in a 5 setter with Mike Tierney, but D.T and P.T dropping the doubles to Dave Harse and John Rowan. Another draw followed against Police 'A', another one leading into the last match 5-4, Peter T. losing in 4 to Steve Gittens. An 8-2 win away to BsM 'C' and then losing 6-4 at home to a lowly Crosby 'C', not really promotion stuff!

Harold House's first team of Steve Whalley, Kevin Lewis and Alec Bryce are running third now, but only because of games played, a free week against BsM 'B'. Season started with a 9-1 win against Crosby 'C', Kevin going down in 5 to Tom Miller saving a whitewash, then an 8-2 win over their 'A' team, surprisingly Steve and Kevin losing the doubles to Rod and Mark Barnes. A draw against Bootle YM 'A' was a good result away, another derby followed against their 'B' team with 7 points in the bag, (but 3 dropped!). A good 6-4 win over Wav. Lab. 'B' with a weakened team Rod and Peter Findlater helping out, mind you, Peter had a good night, winning his 3 singles and pairing Alec to win the doubles. Peter was in again against Cadwa 'A', with Kevin and Alec, to pull off a draw, Kevin 2, Alec 1 and Peter 2, and maybe his best win of the season, certainly to date, a 3-1 over Graeme Black.

Wavertree Labour 'A's regulars Roy Adams, David Harse, John Rowan and Mike Tierney, started with a good 7-3 win away to H.H. 'B', then a good 7-3 win home to BsM 'B', only to have it expunged later, but still in the mood, a 6-4 away win followed for Roy, David and John against their 'B' team. Back to earth again, against a full strength Cadwa 'A', going down 6-4, Graeme Black doing the damage, winning his 3 singles and the doubles, worse to follow, 7-3 down to Ctk 'B', David and John winning their matches against PeterWalsh Snr. and combining for the doubles. A confidence boost followed for Roy, David and John, home to BYM 'B', the clean sweep saved by Bert Rivers beating David in 5. A 6-4 win for Roy, David and John at Marconi 'A', all having a clean sweep against Ian Wensley.

Bootle YM 'A's Alan Chase, Ted Birch, and John Higham could have got an automatic promotion to Div. 1 with the demise of the 1<sup>st</sup> team, but decided that the 'will' wasn't what it was a few years ago, so started with a tough 5-5 draw against newly promoted BsM 'C', Alan 2, going down in a 5 gamer, Ted 2, going down in a 5 gamer, John winning his 5 gamer, and Alan and Ted losing the doubles in 5 to Colin and Rob. A 7-3 loss to Crosby 'C', with four 5 gamers, losing them all, a home draw against H.House

followed, Alan getting his clean sheet with 3 singles and combining with Ted for the doubles, John beating Alec for the fifth set, H.H. 5-4 up into the last set. An 8-2 home win against a short H. H. 'A', and the following week an 8-2 win away to H.H. 'B', Ted and John going down to Peter Findlater, both in 5. A 6-4 away win at Wav. Lab. 'B' followed, two each off Alan and Ted beating both Lee and Mario, combining for the doubles win, a win from John against Mario, but all falling to Yan Xin.

Merseyside Police 'A' has a big squad led by new name Florin Barbus, Steve Gittens, Jon Dyson, Ben Aitkin and Brenda Buoeuy, and as we'll see 11 others capable of helping out. First match produced a good win, new signing Florin Barbus getting his first singles 100% and helping Steve and Jon to a 7-3 start, only for BsM 'B' to drop out and the loss of those points. Not knowing that BsM would be dropping out, Steve, Jon and Danny Russell followed up with an 8-2 win against Wav. Lab. 'B', Jon and Danny each got 3 and Steve 2, must have got an early finish, no sets going to 5. Steve, Jon and Brenda went away to Cadwa 'A' and lost 6-4, Steve got 2, both 5 setters against Paul Evans and Mike Power, Jon got 2 off Paul and Mike, with MOM going to Graeme Black for his 3 singles and doubles with Paul Evans. What did I say about "a big squad and 11 others .....", next match Steve Danny and Sam Gittens took on Ctk 'B', and still managed a draw thanks to a treble and doubles with Steve from Danny, Steve chipped in with one off Peter Taylor, Sam is still on the learning curve, but still managed to push Dave Tagg and Billy Cheung to 4. Steve, Jon and Tom Purcell visited and dish out a 10-0 whitewash to Bootle YM 'B', it could have been a bit different if Richie Winckle had had a bit more luck, losing all his single in 5 and doubles in 4. Another good 8-2 win away to H.H. 'A' for Jon, Ben and Brenda, Jon and Ben happy with their 3 singles each, Brenda chipping in with 2, but Jon and Brenda losing out to John Hughes and Steve Wearden in a 5 set doubles.

Marconi 'A's Frank McCann, Ian Wensley, Andy Lloyd and John Molyneux are holding their own mid table, but got off to a shaky start going down 7-3 to Wav Lab. 'B' Ian getting 2 and one from the 'other half' Peter getting one, Ted came in from a long way down to help out. A strong turn out from Cadwa 'A' took 8 points off Andy, Frank and Ian, Frank unlucky to lose two of them in 5. Bob Edwards made an appearance with Frank and Peter to take six points away to Ctk 'B', all lost to Billy C., all beating Peter Walsh Snr, Bob and Peter was, beating Peter Taylor but Unlucky Frank again losing in 5, the doubles win made the gap. A confidence boost came along the following week, with a 10-0 win against Bootle YM 'A'. The 3 musketeers went to H.H. 'A' the following week (Frank, Ian and Peter) for a good 6-4 win, Frank getting his treble, Peter 2 and Ian 1, H.H.'s Eddie C. losing out on his 3. Next match was another 6-4, this time going down to Wav. Lab. 'A', two off Frank, Two from Andy, but the cupboard was bare for Ian, 12-10 down in the 5<sup>th</sup> against John Rowan, but the squad seems to settling down.

Wavertree Labour 'B' only just missed the drop last season, but with the same squad have got off to a better start, first match had Don Xia, Lee Farley and Mario Giove take 7 off Marconi 'A', Lee had 100%, his 3 singles and the doubles with Dong, four 5 setters, Dong going down to Ian Wensley, Mario going down to Peter Wass, Lee beating Peter after being 2 down and Dong and Lee combining to win the doubles. Three defeats followed though, down 8-2 away to Police 'A', Dong rolling Steve G. in 3 straight, and combining with Mario to beat Steve G. and Jon D. in the doubles, then down 6-4 to their 'A' team, Dong losing in 5 to Roy, but beating David in 5, Lee got one and Mario added two, then 6-4 down away to BsM. 'C', Lee getting three, one a 5 gamer with Rob P. beating Dave in 4 and combining with Lee to win the doubles in 5. A 6-4 home win against Crosby 'C', only one 5 gamer, Dong overcoming Sylvia. A new name on the sheet, Yan Xin, away to H.H., 6 5 gamers, 3 wins each, good wins for Yan Xin over Alec in 5 and Rod in 4, but MoM goes to Peter Findlater for his 3 singles and the doubles with Alec. Fifth 6-4 in a row, going down to Bootle YM 'A', 4 5 gamers, 2 wins each, MoM must go to Yan, beating Ted in 5, John in 4 and Alan in 3.

Newly promoted Bath St. Marine 'C' ran away with Div. 3 last season and started with a credible draw away to Bootle YM 'A', the same BsM squad of Colin Owens, Rob Peat and Dave Stodden, 4-1 up at one stage, then 4-4, Colin beating John H. to make it 5-4, but Dave going down to Alan in 4, for a good starting draw. Two 6-4 wins followed for Colin, Rob and Dave against H.H.'B' and Wav. 'B', but then Graeme turns up to dampen the spirit, going down 8-2 away to Cadwa 'A', Colin getting the 2 against Paul E. and Joel W. Another 8-2 defeat followed at the hands of Ctk 'B', Rob and Dave getting their 2 from Peter T. A confidence boosting 10-0 win at BYM 'B' followed, Richie W. pushing Colin and Dave to 5 in both games.

Crosby High 'C' have a strong squad to pick from but seem to be concentrating on Roger Neal, Craig Lowe, Tom Miller and Sylvia Graham. Roger, Tom and Sylvia got the season off away to H.H. going down 9-1, Roger and Tom losing the only two 5 gamers, but Tom did get their only win, 3 straight over Alec. A good 7-3 home win against Bootle YM 'A', Craig 100%, his 3 singles, 2 of them 5 gamers, then with Tom against Alan and Ted for another 5 game doubles cracker, 9-11, 11-9, 7-11, 15-13, 13-11. H.H. 'B' and Wav. 'B' slowed them down with two 6-4 defeats but Craig, Tom and Sylvia bounced back with a good home 7-3 home win against Cadwa 'A', Craig beating Paul and Mike, going down to Joel in 5, Tom also beating Paul and Mike, going down to Joel in 3, Sylvia got her treble against Paul in 3, Mike in 5, and Joel in 4, Paul and Joel got the doubles in 5. A 6-4 away win at Ctk 'B' Craig the only treble.

Harold House 'A's John Hughes, Rod McPherson and Mark Barnes got off to a 'quiet' start, 5-5 away to CtK 'B', and could have done without the 8-2 thump off their 1<sup>st</sup>, Rod beating Steve in 5, and combining with Mark to beat Steve and Kevin in the doubles. And then the confidence booster comes along with a 10-0 over Bootle YM 'B', followed by an 8-2 loss for Rod and Mark at Bootle YM 'A', Mark beating Ted and John, but one man down doesn't help. Then a 6-4 loss home to Marconi 'A', followed by a 8-2 battering off their 'B' team, Rod saving grace with two. Police 'A' took another 8 off them, no luck for Rod losing his 3 singles, all in 5

Harold House 'B's' first match saw Peter Findlater, Steve Wearden and Eddie Clein lose 7-3 to Wav. 'A', Peter and Steve both beating John Rowan, both sets in 5, and combining to win the doubles. Steve was joined by Howard Flint and Stuart Hardy for their match at BsM 'C' Howard and Stuart getting 2 each in the 6-4 loss. A good 6-4 win

at home to Crosby 'C', Peter getting MoM with 3 singles and the doubles with Steve. Not much luck, going down 7-3 against their 1<sup>st</sup> team, Peter getting 2 and Steve 1. An 8-2 loss at home to Bootle YM 'A' Peter winning 2 of his four 5 game visits to the table, both singles, an 8-2 battering dished out to their 'A' team certainly helped moral.

Bootle YM 'B', 'every ones friend' because Richie Winckle, Eddie Preston, Bert Rivers and Mike Hughes didn't really want to be here, a twist of fate, 7 matches, five 10-0, one 9-1 and one 8-2, Eddie had a good start against Cadwa 'A', two 5 game wins against Paul and Mike, then the dust settled, 10-0, 10-0, 10-0, 10-0, 9-1, 10-0, in amongst that lot were 14 -5 game sets, losing 11 of them, when your luck's out, etc, etc. But one thing's for sure this squad aren't quitters, a probable no, no season may lie ahead, with a bit of luck someone may give them a W/O, but I'm pretty sure they won't play short, good luck lads!!

## Div. 3

## Mike Hughes

### Week 1

BSM (D) v Arriva NW A good start to the season for BSM with an 8-2 win, a good win by K Lenyk, against Brian Crolley winning in 3, both Mal Kent and G Turner winning all their single games.

CADWA (B) v CADWA(C) as expected a win 7-3 for the B team, reported that it was a far tighter match than the score tells, S Graham for the C team MOTM winning all of his Singles .

Bath St (F) v Marconi (B), a good away win for 4-6 for Marconi, looking at the scores it was a tight match. Neil Colville MOTM winning all of his singles.

Police (B) v Police (C), a strong win 8-2 for the C team, overcoming the B team with some ease.

Maghull (A) v CADWA (D), a good win for CADWA 8-2, Only Xiannin losing 2 of his games.

Huntsman Wood V BSM (E) A, close won match for Huntsman Wood 6-4 with 4 games going to 5 sets and 2 to 4. MOTM was John McLoughlin winning all his games including the doubles with his partner Lee Madin.

Wav. Labour (C) v Maghull, a good win for Wav Lab 7-3, It looks a tighter match than the score indicates, with some close fought games.

### Week 2

CADWA (D) v Wav. Labour (C), a close win for CADWA 6-4 with 4 games going to 5 sets and 3 going to 4. MOTM was Paulius Vengalis winning his 3 singles.

CADWA (C) v BSM (D), an easy win for BSM 2-8 with only 2 games going to 5 sets BSM winning both MOTM was Barry Davis Winning his 3 singles along with the doubles.

Maghull v BSM (F) an easy win for Maghull 8-2 with only Tom and Alan losing 1 game apiece, MOTM John Lang-



ton winning all his 3 singles along with his doubles playing with Tom .

BSM (E) v Maghull (A), an overwhelming win for Maghull with Colin Mitchell saving the white wash by beating George Frost in a closely contested 4 setter.

Police (C) v Huntsman Wood, a good win for the Police 6-4, losing 3 5 setters and the doubles, Paula Adamson being WOTM winning her 3 singles for the Police.

Arriva NW v Police (B) a good 6-4 win for Arriva, in a closely contested match with 5 games going to 5 sets and 2 to 4.

Marconi v CADWA (B), a match that could have gone either way with 4 games going to 5 sets but ending in a 5-5 draw, looks a fair result.

### Week 3

CADWA (B) v BSM (F) a good 6-4 win for CADWA, Ian Burrows for CADWA MOTM winning his 3 singles with guile, pace and footwork, how does he do it? worth more than a mention is Graham Oakes at 78 still playing close games, well played.

BSM D v Marconi (B) looks like a hard won draw 5-5 Graham Turner being MOTM winning all his 3 singles, reported with a smile and panache, this is how all games should be played, win or lose.

Police (B) v CADWA (C), an easy win for the Police 7-3, only Steve Graham putting up any real resistance winning 2 of his 3 games along with his doubles with his partner Rob Davies, MOTM was Tom Lynch for the Police winning his 3 singles, 1 going to 5 sets winning the final set 11-9.

Maghull v CADWA (D), a strong 9-1 win for CADWA with John Langton saving the white wash for Maghull, MOTM was Grahame Reid for CADWA winning all of his singles.

Huntsman Wood v Arriva NW, another win for Huntsman Wood, 6-4, MOTM Larry Stone for Arriva winning his 3 games.

Maghull (A) v Police (C) a good win for the Police 3-7, the score card indicates a far closer match than the score gives you to believe, with some tight games.

Wav. Lab.(C) v BSM (E), a strong win for Wav Lab, 9-1, with only Colin Mitchell putting up resistance taking 2 games to 5 sets winning 1 and losing the other 8/11, 11/8, a good effort to save the white wash.

#### Week 4

CADWA (C) v Huntsman Wood, the first 0-10 white wash of the season, well played Huntsman Wood, only Paul Webb came close to saving the day for CADWA, going down 10/12 in the 5<sup>th</sup> set.

CADWA (B) v Maghull, a good 6-4 win for Maghull, only Ian Burrows holding up CADWA, s end winning all 3 of his games CADWA's MOTM .

BSM (F) v BSM (D), the second 0-10 of the season, an excellent win for the D team.

BSM (E) v CADWA (D), a good win for CADWA 3-7, 3 of the games going to 5 sets with CADWA winning all 3 in tight games MOTM Josef winning all 3 of his singles and also his doubles.

Arriva NW v Maghull (A), a tight match with no team coming out on top with a 5-5 draw, John Mc. being MOTM for Maghull winning his 3 singles.

Police (C) v Wav. Lab. (C), a win for the Police 7-3, good to see Terri Ann playing, winning 2 of her 3 games .

Marconi (B) v Police (B), a good win by Marconi 7-3, with the Police only picking up 3 games against Marconi's No.3, both Andy Owens and Dave McMahon winning all their singles and doubles game, joint MOTM .

#### Week 5.

Police (B) v BSM (F), a good result by the Police 7-3, John Moore being MOTM for them winning all his 4 games played, a better result for Len Dyson winning 2 of his 3 games.

Maghull (A) v CADWA (C), an overwhelming 10-0 win for Maghull, the 3<sup>rd</sup> whitewash of the season, both Doug Baker and John O'Sullivan came close to saving the day for CADWA, losing a game apiece in 5.

Huntsman Wood v Marconi (B). A good win for Marconi 3-7, Joe Whittingham did well winning 2 of his 3 games for Huntsman Wood, losing only to John McCann MOTM for Marconi winning all his 4 games.

Maghull v BSM (E), a good win for Maghull 7-3 John Langton MOTM for Maghull winning all 4 matches played.

Wav Lab (C) v Arriva NW an excellent win for Wav Lab 10-0, with Arriva being the 4<sup>th</sup> white wash of the season, both W Bondek and P Tomczyk for Arriva went to 5 , both losing 11/8 in the 5<sup>th</sup>.

CADWA (D) v Police (C), a good 6-4 win for CADWA against a strong Police team, both Josef and Paulius winning all their single games in close fought matches, all

Josef's games going to 5 and 2 of Paulius's games to 5, an unlucky night for the Police.

BSM (D) v CADWA (B), an extremely close fought match with BSM holding the lead the first half of the match but CADWA coming back the second half to get a 5-5 draw , with 5 games going to 5 sets CADWA taking 4 of them, the doubles only going to 3 sets, CADWA winning in a close game 9-11, 9-11 & 10-12 . Looked an exciting nights Table Tennis, Mal Kent MOTM for BSM winning his 3 single games.

#### Week 6

ArrivaNW VCADWA (D), looks a bad night for Arriva losing 1-9 , only saving a white wash by winning the doubles in the final game of the night.

CADWA (C) v Wav Lab (C), a good win by Wav Lab 3-7 with Paul Morgan being their MOTM winning all 4 games he played in, Steve Graham was unlucky against him in the last game of the night going down in the 5<sup>th</sup> set 9-11.

CADWA (B) v Police (B), a closely contested Match with no team taking advantage in a 5-5 draw, George Higham MOTM for CADWA winning all of his 3 single Games.

Marconi (B) v Maghull, a strong 9-1 win for Marconi, only Peter Holmes saving a white wash for Maghull in the last game of the night.

#### Week 7

BSM (F) v Huntsman Wood, another win for HW 4-6, their MOTM Lee Madin, winning his 3 single games, two close games going to 5 sets 10-12 & 11-9, the other games were also close, looks like another good nights T/T.

BSM (D) v Maghull, looks a tight Match with honours even at 5-5, 6 games going to 5 sets, MOTM for Maghull was John Langton winning all his 4 games.

BSM (E) v Arriva NW. A good 7-3 win for BSM, BSM took a 4 game lead before Arriva pulled 1 back , their other wins coming in the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> games, an uphill task after going 4-0 down,

Wav Lab (C) v Marconi (B). A good win for Marconi 3-7 only 3 games going to 5 sets with Marconi taking all 3, MOTM Tony Mullally for Marconi taking all 3 of his singles.

Huntsman Wood v CADWA (B), a strong win for HW, 7-3, Lee Madin being their MOTM, winning all 3 of his Matches.

Maghull v Police (C), a good win for the police 4-6. Sue started the night beating Police No 1 Danny in 4 sets, and then lost out to Tom and Len, but they are both hard players to beat, Danny went on to beat Both John & Phil, "it can be a funny old game sometimes".

Maghull (A) v BSM (F). A good win for BSM 4-6, Peter Holmes being MOTM for Maghull winning all 3 of his singles .

CADWA (D) v CADWA (C), the C team started the night under pressure being 1 player down, this was a position they never recovered from, only Steve Graham winning his 2 singles .

Another new season started, we have lost your regular Div. 4 reporter Doug Baker, after many years of compiling his detailed reports has decided to have a rest, not from playing, just from the 'excitement' of finding the interesting things to say about you Div. 4 players, so for now you have the Editor, but hopefully you will have a new reporter for the next issue, Cadwa's new Secretary, Satish Ranka has agreed to have a go, but due to pressure of studies has asked to miss out on this one, by the time the next issue appears, he will be known to all.

An unusual make up of the division this year, due to the improving interest in local T.T. seven new teams joined the League during the summer, which meant 6 teams were promoted from Div. 5 rather than the normal 2, and we lost the top 4 teams to Div. 3. After a quick look at the cards, it's good to see that the new young improving players from the 5<sup>th</sup> have been given their chance in the 4<sup>th</sup>.

At this stage of the season after week 7, newly promoted Sefton Park 'A' is pulling away with an 8 point lead over Marconi 'C', continuing on from their record last season of not losing a game, with three 9-1 wins two 7-3's and two 6-4's Park 'A's Peter Tod, Robbie Puddifer, Fred Cowley and Ian Findon look the team to beat, their most satisfying win to date is probably beating their 1<sup>st</sup> team 6-4.

Next match, against Arriva 'B' had a comment on the match card, "The first home game of the season turned out to be another really good night, lots of laughs and exciting Table tennis. Match of the night was Peter v Harry H. it had everything"

Second placed Marconi 'C's squad of Matt Evans, Paul Loftus, Dave McMahon, Russell Thornton and Bobby Bell, look strong enough to stay right behind S. Park 'A', who they lost 6-4 to, with young James Haskell from the 'D' team helping out, with two wins of 9-1, an 8-2, a 6-4 and a draw against a strong Arriva 'A', and their only defeats being two close 6-4's against Wavertree 'D' and Park 'A', should keep them in contention for the big P!

3rd placed Sefton Park struggled a bit to get a regular team out, and for the first few games Ian Laird, Mike Perry and Derek Traynor, having to use reserves from their 'A' team squad to make the four up, but in their derby with the 'A' team, bringing 'young' Eric in, going down 6-4, Derek added to the card with "What a start – points to prove!!!, good start by some. No Ray Jones, (back, join the club!) Welcome back Ian Laird, thanks to dear old Eric for standing in, well played, D.T.". Week 3 at Maghull 'B' produced a 5-5 draw which had eight 5 setters, D.T. pointing out that they didn't dare stop for tea, bickies and after match refreshments. Then in week 4, a name from the past appears, Ian's partner from the past Alan Davies, (good to see you back Alan, remember there's lots of youngsters in this Div.!!!) appears as No. 4, with an immediate effect on the team, two 9-1's and two 7-3 wins, and Alan rightly moving up to No. 2, should be a good

season to follow these two Park teams for the prestige, and the other Derby.

4<sup>th</sup> Placed Maghull 'B's squad of Rod Bulmer, Amy and Janette Hutchings, Steve McGanity and Denise Chorley look as if they rotate the team whatever. They were gifted 3 points in the first match, against Cadwa 'E' when Ged H. and Shantanu S. played out of order, Ged beating Amy in 3, 13-11 in the third, and Shantanu winning both against Janette and Denise, only to lose by playing out of order, so a good start for Mag 'B'. Next up was a good draw against Linacre, two clean sheets from Linacre's Harry R. and G.o.t. M. (girl of the match) young Amy winning against Aleks C. and Charlie B. and her doubles. A draw at Sefton Park, an 8-2 win against Arrive 'B', then a good 10-0 away win followed (without Amy) against 'young' BYM 'C', Mag. skipper Janette wrote on the card "a great nights T.T. the match score didn't reflect the close games, excellent sportsmanship and hospitality from Bootle's young upcoming team, Thanks!" How tough it's getting showed in their next matches, going down 8-2 to Marconi 'C' and 9-1 to Arriva 'A' Bootle Y.M. 'C'

5<sup>th</sup> Up is Wavertree Labour 'D', a young Ben Chen leading the experienced (dare I say 'old') Alvin Tso, Alf Perry, Alan Biggs, and Arthur Harrison, A tough start against Linacre, down 7-3, without Ben and Alf, picking up the points at the bottom end thanks to Arthur and Francis L. helping out. Once Ben and Alf came back, a different team emerged against Sefton Park, Ben winning 2, Alf winning 2, and splitting up to win both doubles, Alvin adding one for a 7-3 win. Wk's 3, 4 & 5 followed with wins of 8-2, 9-1 & 6-4. Wk 6, without Alf, a wake up call, losing 8-2 to a strong Arriva 'A'. They were lucky to get away with a draw against the youngsters of Marconi 'D' in week 7, coming back from 5-2 down.

Linacre's Squad of Aleks Charcenko, Harry Reeve, Charlie and John Bradshaw, Ken Ainsworth and Harry Nelson (not played yet) are there and will hold their own, with 3 wins two draws and two losses to date, best win was a 7-3 away to Maghull 'C', a treble for Aleks and a double for John.

Mid table Arriva 'A's Larry Stone, Brian Hornby, Graham Rollinson, are playing down from last season, along with Yanos Wator and Josef Klimala, after just holding on to 3<sup>rd</sup> from bottom in Div. 3 last season, giving Kristof, Pawel and Wacek a chance to show how to manage in the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The 'A' team got off to a good start with an 8-2 win at BYM 'C', followed with a draw at Marconi 'C' Harry H. helping out with a double, then another draw at Mag. 'D' Larry and Josef with doubles and combining to win their doubles. Next two matches were wake up calls, slipping up against Marconi 'D', losing 7-3, then going down 9-1 against top team Park 'A', Brian H. saving the whitewash with a 3

straight win against Robbie, Josef unlucky to lose both his singles in 5 against Fred and Ian. The wake up worked, with Larry, Brian and Graham playing, they won the next 2, 8-2 and 9-1.

Cadwa 'E' got off to an unfortunate start, Ged, Satish, Lewis and Shantanu all playing out of order against Mag 'B', Ged having beaten young Amy, and Shantanu beating Janette and Denise, (Trevor doesn't miss out on these discrepancies). Next match Doug B. had moved into the squad and helped with a good draw against Wav. 'E'. Week 3 saw Mag. 'C' not turning up at Cadwa, gifting back the 10 points Cadwa 'E' had given to Mag 'B' in the first match, much appreciated I'm sure! The following week a strong team of Satish, Shantanu, Ged and Lewis overpowered the young Mag. 'D' team 8-2, with 4 sets going to 5. A good draw away to Linacre followed, ged getting his double against Charlie and Ken, but Doug and Satish unable to cope with 'powerhouse' Aleks. The following week another playing out of order turning 6-4 into 7-3 loss against Sefton Park at home when new player Xianmin Chang went straight in as No. 1 instead of No.2, quite a test coming up against Ian Laird and Alan Davies for his debut!, what must have been the best set of the night, Doug beating Mike P. in 5, to lose the point as 'out of order'. With two Club Secs. in this squad, disappointing to see Trevor's playing out of order \*\* sign, with the 11 points dropped Cad.'E' would have been 2<sup>nd</sup> from top!!

Maghull 'C's squad of Alan Chan, Lung Sing Yu, Naresh Tagore, Jimmy Abrose, and Loon Wai Yu got off to a good start with an 8-2 win at Wav. Lab. 'E', Alan and Lung with doubles and Loon with a treble, the following week, a 10-0 win over their 'lads' and Harry's team, then a slip up, they forgot to go to Cadwa 'E', 10 lost points!. Two reserves out for the visit of Linacre didn't help going down 7-3, but the game between Alan and Aleks (the powerhouse) must have been a cracker, with Alan's penhold against Aleks smashes, first game 11-9 to Alan, 3-11, 12-14, 12-10, 1-11 (ran out of steam!!). A 9-1 loss at Sefton P. Alan and Lung pushing Ian L. to 5 games, two good 8-2 wins followed against Arriva 'B' and Bootle YM 'C'

Nice to see Marconi have given the lads of the 'D' squad a chance to stay together after winning promotion from the 5<sup>th</sup> the squad of James Haskell, Jack Nelson, Andy Chaloner, Luke Oluoyombo and joined by Adam Kee got off to a great start with an away win at Arriva 'B', Jack and Andy with trebles. Next game at home to the young Bootle YM 'C' team, a tough one, going down 7-3, but Andy winning his two singles against David in 5 and Saul in 3. Another tough one against their 'C' team followed going down 9-1, a good 7-3 win against Arriva 'A' followed with a treble off Andy, partnered by Jack for a 5 game doubles win. They had a good 8-2 away win at Mag. 'D' against Mag's young team, with trebles from James and Jack and a good double from Adam. Their toughest match to date must have been their visit to full strength Sefton P. 'A', where they came away with 3 points, Jack beating Fred in

5 and Andy beating Ian in 4 and a great 5 game doubles win by Jack and Andy over Peter and Ian, after being 2-0 down. A 5 all draw then followed against the oldies of Wav. Lab. 'D', Andy getting another good win against Arthur in 5, Adam an excellent win against Alan B. in 3, new player Gary Stanton beating Francis, and also winning both doubles, a good night.

Wavertree Lab. 'E's squad of Colin Fyles, Andy Bird, Stan Clarke Dave Williams and Dave Goulden, has been joined by Karen Chen (no relation to Ben), got off to a shaky start away to Mag. 'C', going down 8-2, one single and doubles win for Stan. A good draw at Cad. 'E', Colin and Bill Stanley winning their singles, followed by a good 6-4 away win at Linacre, Bill getting the treble, and Colin beating Aleks at his own game, (smash), but losing in 5 to Harry R. Losing 9-1 to Sefton P. slammed the breaks on, but the match of the night must have been Bill's steady play against Alan D's attacking to give Bill a 3 straight win to save the whitewash, bet the air was 'steamy!'. A chance of an 8-2 win a way to Arriva 'B' was lost when only 3 players turned up finishing as a 5-5. Another draw at home to young BYM 'C', Karen winning a hard 5 game set with Liam, but losing to Tom, Colin got his 100% on the night. They lost 6-4 against T Marconi 'C', five 5 game sets on the night, both doubles, one each, Stan beat reserve Jack Nelson, Colin lost to Matt, and Karen beat Matt. Wav. 'E' have a strong squad, just getting their act together.

Bootle YM's young team had a tough baptism, coming up against an Arriva 'A' team's players who had played in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Div. last season, but this season had given way to let their 'Polish' boys form their 1<sup>st</sup> team in Div.3. So Liam, David, Tom and Josh took on Larry S., Graham R., Josef K. and Harry H. losing the first 2 matches, Liam to Larry and Josh to Harry, but good wins by Tom over Graham and David over Josef, but that was it, Tom just missed out on a double, losing to Harry in the 5<sup>th</sup>. Week 2 the YM 'C's Liam, David, Saul and Josh visited Marconi 'D', another full team of young players, James H. Jack N. Andy C. and Daniel L. but after a good 8-2 win away last week, Marconi must have had stage nerves, losing 7-3 tonight, but a good double from Andy winning both his matches against David and Saul, Tom the only player with a clean sheet, beating Jack, Daniel and winning his doubles. Next match was another tough one, (they are all tough!!), unbeaten last season, Sefton Park 'A', same strong team of Peter T. Robbie P. Fred C. and Ian F., but a great double from Saul against Robbie and Ian, both in 5, and a good win for Tom against Fred, again in 5, in fact 6 of the sets went to 5, skipper Liam going down to Robbie in 5, and Josh losing to Fred in 5, a good night T.T., but the doubles made the difference, so important to get settled doubles! Next visit to Wavertree 'D', up against more experience of Ben C. Alvin T. Alan B. and Arthur H. 9-1 to the home side, it could have been a whitewash bar for the marathon between Arthur and Josh, first game to Josh 11-4, next two to Arthur 14-12 each game, the next to Josh 12-10, and the final game to Josh, 17-15, wow!

It only gets tougher, next week going down 10-0 at home to Maghull 'B', and then a creditable draw at Wav. Lab. 'E', Tom another treble, and week 7, going down at home 8-2 to a strong Maghull 'C', four 5 setters, evenly shared.

Arriva 'B's' squad led by Harry Hughes, Alan Jones, Ray Guy, Gary Mavris and Paul Murphy, are definitely struggling, without a win, with one draw they've managed 17 points, half pulled in by skipper Harry, having been involved in 10 5 game sets they've lost 7, when your luck's out!!!, still early days yet and the other teams aren't too far above.

Bottom of the pile are Maghull 'D's' Luke Courtney, Michael Stewart, Phil Carlin, Danny Hall, ably led by

## Div. 5

Well another season is upon us and it's great to see some additional teams in the Division, a warm welcome to you all, and in particular to our two new teams to the League, East Wavertree and QVC.

Week 1 produced some resounding wins. QVC beat Waterloo 10-0, albeit Jamie Kemp was taken to 5 sets by both, Graham Chellew and Gavin Minett. Huntsman Wood beat Wavertree Labour F 10-0 and Marconi E beat Maghull E 10-0, yours truly managing to just beat Brian Gregory in 5 sets. Great match notes from Alan Smethurst, describing his team as Dad's Army, and even giving each member of the team their respective alias from that great TV series!

Good win too for Bootle YMCA D over Cadwa F, with both Alan Cameron and John Taylor only just beating Craig Santangeli in 5. Good win for East Wavertree over Bath Street Marine H, and all things even in the Bath Street Marine G against Police D with Cyril Penny just ousting Neil Thomas 12-10 in the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Week 2 saw an epic struggle between Sefton Park B and Bath Street Marine G, honours even at 5-5, although 3 games went to 5 sets and 4 games to 4 sets. A good win for Marconi F over Waterloo 10-0 got them up and running. Huntsman Wood gave another strong performance over Bootle YMCA D, but a good double from Steve Daniels over Paul and Steve Rees, restored some pride. Other wins of note were Ged Howard of Cadwa F over Chris Browne of East Wavertree, Ged winning 14-12 in the 5<sup>th</sup> and Chris Noone beating that old war horse Jack Highton 11-9 in the 5<sup>th</sup>. Another close game was Dominic Greene of Police D beating my old doubles partner Gordon Langshaw of Wavertree Labour F again in the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Harry McGanity, a young team which was promoted before they were ready due to the influx of new teams last season, but sticking at it. To date mostly big losses, but some notable individual wins for Mike Stewart against seasoned Bobby Bell in 5, to save a whitewash. Their 'C' team didn't help, with a 10-0 'experience', Michael pushing Naresh to 5. Phil beating Brian Hornby in 5, and Danny beating both Brian and Ray in 5, (Arriva 'A'). Michael beating Ged Howard in 5 (same school ??), Michael beating Andy Chaloner in 5, and Michael beating John Bradshaw in 4, all to save whitewashes, so playing up is experience, and stick at it.

## Ken Roberts



Week 3 produced some tighter results as players started to settle down into the new season. 3 matches producing 6-4 results and 1 match 5-5. some notable performances in the 6-4 matches, were Eric Wood (known to some of us as Woodsie's Dad) beating Gordon Langshaw in 3 straight, Sean Chapman of QVC beating Brian Gregory of Maghull E in 5, and a real closely fought battle between Neil Thomas of Police D against Jim Geddes of Bootle YMCA D, Neil prevailing 13-11 in the 5<sup>th</sup>. The Marconi derby produced a good win for Marconi E with Tony Low winning both of his for the F team. Another strong performance from East Wavertree over Huntsman Wood albeit 3 games went to 5 sets, Tom Creevy beating Steve Rees 12-10 in the 5<sup>th</sup> and Chris Browne winning both of his in 5 against Jessie and Joe.

Week 4 saw East Wavertree piling on the pressure with a 10-0 win over Police D. however Paul Gittins had to retire through injury, hope he makes a full recovery. Marconi E had a good win against Bath St. Marine G. The old grinder Billy Clayton picking up both for Bath St. Marine. Good match between Maghull E and Marconi F, Faye Taylor beating Keith 11-8 in the 5<sup>th</sup>, and Wilf beating Paul Trubshaw 11-6 also in the 5<sup>th</sup>. The Home Guard edging it 6-4. Waterloo produced a strong performance against Wavertree Labour F even though Wavertree only fielded 3 players. Both QVC and Bootle YMCA D also having good wins, Carol Robertshaw beating Tom Lewis 13-11 in the 5<sup>th</sup> and in the Sefton Park match, Jim Geddes of Bootle YMCA, losing out again in a very close game 13-11 in the 5<sup>th</sup>, against Paul Ellis.

Week 5 produced 2 matches where one of the teams had a player short, in the case of the Wavertree Labour F versus Marconi E match, this was quite a set back for Wavertree as the match was still very close. Gordon producing a good double win over Frank Proffitt and Richie Pucula. Good double for Darren Taylor of Bath St. Marine H over both Paul and Steve Rees of Huntsman Wood. Another tight game between Bath St. Marine G and Maghull E, Bath St just edging out Maghull 6-4, however Alan Smethurst (Corporal Jones) had to retire injured, hopefully he too will be ok. Another good win for QVC over Marconi F, Faye just edging Jamie 11-9 in the 5<sup>th</sup> for Marconi and Tommy Lewis of QVC edging out Paul 11-7 also in the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Good wins in week 6 for Huntsman Wood, East Wavertree and Wavertree Labour F. Graham Chellow restoring some pride for Waterloo against East Wavertree with a 5 set win over Conor Creevy. Brian Gregory of Maghull E also restored some pride with a good win over Mike Dugdale, to rescue a point. Bath St. Marine G also had a good win over a high flying QVC team, although slightly weakened without Ian Douglas, Albert Parker getting a good double over Steve Cadwallader and Jamie Kemp. Marconi E won a close match against Bootle YMCA D 6-4, Gary Stanton getting a good double against Alan Cameron and John Taylor, both in 5 sets.

All square in week 7 for Bath St. Marine H against Police D 5-5. Only 1 game won in 3 sets, the rest either 5 or 4 sets. Another strong performance from Huntsman Wood against Sefton Park B, Huntsman Wood fielding all of their players from the same family!

Good results to for Cadwa F against Waterloo, with Ged maintaining his unbeaten record. According to the match comments Maghull E seemed to be playing against not only the Bootle YMCA D team but the faceless opponents of Mr. Net and Mr. Edge!

Some other good results, Gordon Langshaw winning his 2 for Wavertree Labour F against Shaun and Steve from QVC and Tom Creevy and Carl Macauley also keeping their unbeaten record in tact against Marconi E, yours truly losing to Carl in the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Well as the season unfolds, early signs are that East Wavertree and Huntsman Wood are the teams to catch. Marconi E and Bootle YMCA D also contending, with QVC and both Bath St. Marine teams also up there. However it also seems that having a regular strong team out can also affect your table position at this early stage. Some results have been particularly surprising due to that situation. It has been an enjoyable start to the season, particularly as a lot of new players, some who have never played in the Liverpool league before are adding to the enjoyment and enthusiasm of it all.

**I received this e-mail out of the blue from Pat, I didn't know Pat, but he still follows the L&DTTL via the internet, I have his contact details for future contact if required.**

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**From:** [Pat McCloughan](mailto:Pat McCloughan)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 22, 2012 5:36 PM  
**To:** [rolv@ttdigest.co.uk](mailto:rolv@ttdigest.co.uk)  
**Subject:** Liverpool Table Tennis Digest

Dear Sir/Madam,  
Just to say hello to all players in Liverpool, including my old team mates (Peter Lee, Deli Olyumbo, Peter Taylor, Mike Mahoney, Keith Williams, Ahmed Thabet etc.) who I remember fondly back in the 1990s when I played in Liverpool.  
I'm back playing a lot now – Irish vets and seniors – and hopefully will have a chance to play in Liverpool in the near future.

Best regards,  
Pat

PS. I still have old Digests from my time in Liverpool.

**There's a lot going on at Greenbank, but we rarely get to know about it, I found this by chance trawling through the Internet for 'fillers' for this Digest**

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### **Greenbank Table Tennis Club**

#### **Practice**

7 – 9pm Tuesday  
Age: Juniors and adults  
Cost: £1 per session,  
Contact: Mark Palmer 0781 369 2614  
This is an inclusive session and is available to disabled and non-disabled participants.

#### **Merseyside Open Disabled Table Tennis Tournament**

Greenbank Sports Academy hosts the annual Merseyside Open Disabled Table Tennis Tournament which will next take place on 9 December 2012. Disabled participants of any level are encouraged to take part in this British Grand Prix Circuit event.

#### **Individual Play**

Greenbank Sports Academy offers table tennis tables for hire on an individual basis. Ask for details, very reasonable charges

# Table Tennis Development Update

## September

Men's Table Tennis World Cup  
28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

The World Cup proved a massive success, in particular the activity area where I was based throughout the weekend. Although there were not as many spectators as we hoped on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday saw an increase in numbers coming down to watch the professionals in action. Friday was mainly used as a day for school visits for the table tennis but because there was not enough time to promote the events and tickets, not many were sold. Having said that, the schools that did visit had a great time and really enjoyed themselves. The activity area saw around 500 people have a go at playing table tennis throughout the weekend, joining in a competition or attempting to beat the robot!



and a variety of different sports teams. The squash players expressed an interest in table tennis which is where the idea of setting up a table tennis club night came from. The exhibition night was very successful, 5 volunteers turned up, around 20 people came down and saw a master class demonstration, played against the robot and also joined in free play. The 6 week trial of a social table tennis club night Tuesdays 7.30-9pm has been a massive success with around 15 turning up to each session. I am meeting with the club to discuss having a club night on a permanent basis.

## Legacy Table Figures

Not only did September see an increase of recreational participation because of the World Cup, the legacy tables are still in constant use and I calculated an approximate figure of 2,500 participants playing recreational/social table tennis in September. The figures are based on the World Cup and the visits to several of the legacy tables who I am in regular contact with.

## October

### Recreational Sessions

The Florence Institute in Toxteth began table tennis nights on Tuesdays and Fridays for juniors and seniors. Tuesday 4-5pm juniors, and Friday 8.30-9.30pm seniors. Some of the Ping! volunteers have been going down to coach the sessions so they are yet again being a massive help! The sessions currently have very low figures but I am working with The Florrie to increase participation and see how we can attract more people. Also, I will be linking with the Belvedere Community Centre in the very near future to link both The Florrie and The Belvedere together to increase figures in the L8 area.

## Liverpool Cricket Club

Liverpool Cricket Club held an exhibition night on 19<sup>th</sup> October with the aim to promote table tennis to their existing members. The club has around 3,000 members

## November

### Level One Table Tennis course

After a lengthy process, there will now be a Level One table tennis course in Liverpool in January. Along with my line manager we wanted to put the 5 regular and fantastic Ping! Volunteers, **Jing Shi, Andy Cowell,**

**Ken Roberts, Tunde Fakunle and John Langton,** on a level one course as a thank you for their hard work, they all help out when they can and I can't compliment them enough, but it also means they can then enjoy their coaching, but as a paid qualified coach. I have had a lot of help from Premier League 4 Sport (PL4S) from both the LFC and EFC departments with regards to funding the places on the course. Positive Future North Liverpool (PFNL) have also helped and because of that, alongside the Ping! volunteers, several PL4S and PFNL coaches are also on the course. Therefore there will be 12 newly qualified table tennis coaches in the New Year.

Overall I am keeping myself busy with lots of different projects going on as well as attending different competitions and events to get a better idea of table tennis and table tennis in Liverpool. I am still thoroughly enjoying my job role and hope that the funding comes through in the New Year so I can continue on as development officer.

Nikki

## **Nicola Murphy**

Liverpool Table Tennis Development Officer

**Harry Wallop is a Feature Writer at the Daily Telegraph**  
**Thursday 29 November 2012**

**Social ping pong: pick up a bat and have a ball**

passion for table tennis with a difference has surfaced among clubbers, at festivals and at raves

"This place is absolutely amazing: it reminds me of my youth club from 30 years ago," says Val Moore.

It looks nothing like any of the lino-floored, strip-lit, spotty-kid youth clubs that I knew, but she has a point. We are standing in a cavernous, underground room with 16 ping-pong tables, surrounded by groups of laughing office workers clutching beer and wine glasses and shouting above the loud music. Trendy retro posters are on the wall and waiters double up as ball boys.

Welcome to the latest night club craze: "social ping-pong".

In the 1950s it was dance halls, in the 1990s it was pool bars, and – if this is anything to go by – the 2010s will be the decade we put away our disco shoes and pick up a table-tennis bat.



Workers relax with a spot of 'social ping pong' at Bounce, a new bar and restaurant in Holborn, central London  
Photo: CLARA MOLDEN

Val and I are in Bounce, a club recently opened in Holborn, central London, that is already seeing up to 1,000 people a night pass through its doors. Val is with a group of nine fellow NHS workers who are celebrating an office move – and giggling at each other's efforts to get a little white ball over a very small net.

By 6.30pm, the venue, which also has a restaurant and large bar, is heaving. Some ping-pong players are novices, holding the bats as if in an egg-and-spoon race; others are already working up a sweat and showing off with twizzly serves and flamboyant smashes.

Adam Breeden, co-founder of Bounce, says the way the game has taken off is "phenomenal". "We knew it would be popular but it has exceeded our expectations."

Bounce is just one of a small but growing number of venues championing the sport, which started out as a Victorian parlour game and expanded into a tool for international Cold War diplomacy.

Ping, in Earls Court, west London, takes credit for getting there first, opening as a pizza-restaurant-cum-table-tennis-venue in July – a pizza-pong, or ping-parlour, if you will. (Though I feel it would make more sense to combine Chinese cuisine and table tennis. Then you could have ping-pong-dim-sum. It has a ring to it.)

The co-founder of Ping, Jonny Boud, who previously ran nightclubs, says he noticed people on a night out had stopped going to both a restaurant and a club during the recession. "They've wised up to the expense of it. We wanted an excuse for them to stay in the same venue and have fun. And it is such a sociable game.

"There is nothing worse than those pool bars, where the guys are all playing pool and the girls are standing around and watching. With ping-pong, the girls can take on the boys and beat them."

Bars in Newcastle, Manchester, Bristol and Brighton have also woken up to social ping-pong and are running weekly or monthly events which combine spinning discs and little spinning balls. Both Bounce and Ping plan to expand beyond the capital.

As is so often the case, the phenomenon started in New York, with a club called Spin, backed by Susan Sarandon, the Hollywood actress and self-described "ping-pong propagandist".

One British company has already developed a high-concept variant called Ping Tron, which involves playing in a blackened room with UV lighting and glow-in-the-dark bats and balls. Part rave, part sport, it is a decidedly odd idea. But it proved a hit at music festivals this summer, where the company set up its special temporary dark room outdoors.

Ping-pong's comeback is a world away from the origins of the game, which started as an after-dinner competition for those born a century too early for the rigours of voting for X Factor contestants. It was elegant fun for the late-Victorian upper-middle classes, who took leisure very seriously.

No one is more thrilled about the revival, in whatever psychedelic form it takes, than Joe Jaques, the eighth generation to run the games company that bears his family name. Jaques of London started off making ivory chess sets in Hatton Garden in the late 18th century before progressing on to croquet, tiddlywinks, Ludo, and ping-pong, which it claims to have invented, or at least codified and commercialised, in 1891.

Jaques Junior is not surprised it has become a hit once again. "It is so accessible and easy to play. You can get the basics within three seconds and, once you start playing, you are infected."

In a wonderful piece of serendipity, Bounce is situated in the basement of a building that used to house Jaques's headquarters, until the company was bombed out during the Blitz.

"I'm not exaggerating to say it brings a tear to my eye to think they are playing ping-pong on the site where it all started," he says.

And it makes sense that the game has moved from people's dining rooms to nightclubs, says Breeden at Bounce. "Space in people's homes has shrunk."

A table can cost well in excess of £300, twice the price and 100 times as bulky as a Nintendo Wii or Xbox. This partly explains why those looking for a fun night out have embraced the game so enthusiastically, even if they have to pay £26 to rent a table for an hour at Bounce. The main reason, though, is that ping-pong is absurdly good fun.

Val Moore tells me she hasn't played since her youth club days, and I haven't played since an overly competitive

family holiday two years ago, when a brother-in-law set up a table-tennis ladder in a bid to humiliate his nephews and nieces.

But within minutes I am slicing, dropping and smashing as if a gold medal depended on it – and working up an appetite for a pint. To add to the thrill, we are playing on one of the tables used at the London 2012 Games, bought by Bounce at the post-Olympic auction.

As Charlie Russell, who I end up playing a game with, says: "Anything that is vaguely Olympic-related, but doesn't require too much exercise, is bound to be a hit."

Cadwa's Ged Howard spotted this last year -:  
"This trend has spread to Liverpool with the Shipping Forecast on Slater Street sporting a full size table tennis table" -:  
I remember going into the Vines in the City Centre 40 years ago when it had 4 snooker / billiard tables and play for ages, imagine T.T. Tables instead !!!  
Editor

## Coaching for Beginners

Become a Coach and inspire others to succeed! The role of a sports coach is to motivate and support people who want to develop new skills and begin a healthier lifestyle. Coaching is one of the most rewarding roles in sport, success is not possible without quality coaching!

Learning to become a Coach benefits you and the community, developing communication and analytical skills, teamwork and leadership. Sports Development via coaching delivers positive aspects of an active life throughout the community.

The ETTA aims to provide a quality and inclusive coach education programme serving coaches of all abilities, provide specialist CPD and establish a World Class Coaching Framework. To achieve this aim the ETTA organises the following coaching courses:

### **ETTA Introduction to Table Tennis Award – 3 Hours**

This course is suitable for anyone wanting to learn about the sport of table tennis for the first time. It is mainly a practical course with some theory which provides an introduction to starter table tennis skills. The aims of the course are to: Enable participants to organise safe, enjoyable and purposeful table tennis activities; Inform participants about the basic skills required at the starter level; Inform participants about further opportunities to take part in table tennis in the community as officials, umpires and coaches through further Coach Education courses provided by the ETTA.

### **ETTA Introduction to Coaching Award – 6 Hours**

This award is suitable for parents, sixth formers, candidates for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, table tennis players or those who work within the youth or leisure/sport services. It is mainly a practical course with some theory, and provides an introduction to

table tennis coaching. The aims of the course are to: Enable participants to organise safe, enjoyable and purposeful table tennis activities; Enable participants to organise suitable competitive games for their players; Inform participants about further opportunities for their pupils to take part in table tennis in the community as officials, umpires and coaches through further Coach Education courses provided by the ETTA.

### **ETTA Teacher Award – 6 Hours**

This award is suitable for qualified or student teachers. It is mainly a practical course with some theory, and provides an introduction to table tennis coaching. The aims of the course are to: Enable Teachers to organise safe, enjoyable and purposeful table tennis activities suitable for use in their school; Enable Teachers to organise suitable competitions for their pupils; Inform teachers about further opportunities for their pupils to take part in table tennis in the community as officials, umpires and coaches through TT Networker and Coach Education courses provided by the ETTA.

### **ETTA Young TT Networker Award (Youth Leadership Award) – 6 Hours**

This practically based course aimed at 15-19 year olds can be delivered as a bolt on to the Community Sports Leaders Award (CSLA), or as a stand alone course. The course aims are to:

1. Enable Young TT Networkers (leaders) to organise, safe, enjoyable and purposeful Table Tennis activities aimed primarily at young people.
2. Provide a lead into Table Tennis coaching, organising competitions, umpiring, table tennis development and an awareness of table tennis for all.

More information can be found on the ETTA web site

# Disputed Decisions

In local table tennis leagues if there is a dispute about an edge or other umpiring decisions the players often agree to play a “let” and replay the point. Officially, according the Laws of Table Tennis, this shouldn’t happen. A “let” can only be played at certain times during a game, eg, the ball touches the net in service or a ball comes into the court from another game and disrupts the match.



At the Men’s World Championships 2012

I was umpiring at the Men’s World Cup at the Liverpool Arena with 11 other international umpires. Two incidents happened when I was umpiring matches and a number of spectators asked me for an explanation after the games.

In one of the group matches I was umpiring the match between Ma Long of China and Chuang Chih-Yuan of Taipei when Chuang suddenly picked up the ball after it had been served by Ma Long. The score was 10-9 to Chuang. I couldn’t see why Chuang had picked up the ball and I presumed he had picked up the ball because he believed the service was a net service.

I asked Chuang why he had picked up the ball after the service and he informed me that the service ball from Ma Long had hit Ma Long’s shirt during service and was therefore a fault. I advised Chuang that I hadn’t seen the obstruction. I asked my assistant umpire if he had seen the obstruction and he replied that he hadn’t. I also asked Ma Long if the service ball had hit his clothing during service and he advised me that the ball had not hit his shirt. In view of this discussion I informed Chuang that he had committed a fault by picking up the ball and I awarded a point to Ma Long. Chuang continued to dispute the point and at one point he spoke to Ma Long in Chinese. I again asked Ma Long if the ball had hit his clothing and he again told me that it had not hit his clothing. After a further discussion between the two players Ma Long asked me to play a “let” service and I heard a number of spectators shout for a “let” service.

The International Laws of Table Tennis stipulate when a “let” can be called, during a match, by an umpire and the circumstances surrounding this disputed point were not one of those reasons. In addition Chuang should not have picked up the ball during the rally. He should have raised his arm and I would have played a let. Even a local league player knows you “play to the umpire’s decision”.

I told both players that I couldn’t play a “let”, awarded the point to Ma Long and instructed both players to continue the game. They again spoke in Chinese, Chuang served the next point at 10-10 and Ma Long immediately returned the service into the net thereby giving the point to Chuang. If I was really being pedantic I should have given a yellow card to Ma Long for bringing the game into disrepute but overall the game was friendly. If Ma Long was so keen to give the point to Chuang all he had to do was tell me that the ball hit his shirt and I would have awarded the point to Chuang.

In a later game I was umpiring between Xu Xin of China and Samsonov of Belarus there was a disputed point when a return from Xu Xin clipped the side/edge of the table nearest to the assistant umpire. Xu Xin insisted the ball hit the edge of the table but I couldn’t tell whether it hit the side or the edge of the table. The laws of table tennis state that where there is an assistant umpire he has the final decision on whether a ball touches a side or an edge of a table nearest to the assistant umpire. I therefore asked my assistant and he stated that the ball had touched the side of the table; I therefore awarded the point to Samsonov. Xu Xin continued to argue his point and I therefore asked Samsonov for his opinion and he advised me that the ball had clipped the edge of the table and the point was therefore Xu Xin’s.

I could have insisted in following my assistant’s decision, that the ball had hit the side of the table, but it would have been very likely that on the next service Samsonov would have thrown the point away and bring the game into disrepute. I therefore agreed with both players, changed my decision and awarded the point to Xu Xin.

These two incidents highlight that even at the highest level there can be disputes over points. The vast majority of players are honest and will admit when a ball touches an edge or when they commit a fault. In addition umpires have to manage the games according to the Laws and Regulations of Table Tennis. If there is a disputed point and both players cannot agree over the outcome, the umpire has to make a decision in accordance with the Laws of TT.

Tom Purcell  
International Umpire

# The Power of the Pen

Rumour has it that several years ago a well known local player (same first name as me and same surname as a very popular car manufacturer) threatened to sue Paul Gittins over his (very funny) comments made about him in the Div 1 notes. Well, I am now in the same position. "What have you got against Paul Gittins?" I hear you ask. "Nothing at all" I reply, "Paul is an absolute gentleman." I am referring to another Paul, a certain Mr Banks, who has subjected me to a campaign of libellous comments using his power as Div 2 notes writer. Unfortunately I can't afford to sue him so I am replying via my first ever letter to the Digest, after many seasons in the Liverpool League.



never gets any letters and will definitely publish it." Ian McElwee was also there, listening open mouthed to what Paul has put me through. "At least I'll have a break from it in Div 1 this season until we get relegated" I said, only to be told by Ian that he and Paul have swapped and Paul is now doing the Div 1 notes! You couldn't make it up.

Trevor has since continued to encourage me to write this letter, probably because he thinks this will wind Paul up even more. So let's see whether this letter pricks Paul's conscience, otherwise litigation may be the only answer. Over to you mate - I'm sure

you won't let Trevor and Adrian down.

Paul nominated me as MVP in Vol 65 No.3, calling me the Preston Powerhouse. That's nice, I thought, only to be brought back down to earth in Vol 65 No.4 by being blamed for my team failing to finish in 4<sup>th</sup> place by 1 point because I lost to Tony Kendall 11-9 in the 5<sup>th</sup> (on an edge) and 11-7 in the 5<sup>th</sup> to Clare Peers, despite her beating both my team mates 3-0. I first met Paul a few years ago in the Preston Summer League and, because I always found him to be such a nice guy, I accused Trevor Owens of providing Paul with copy about me. Trevor vehemently denied this and promptly pinned Vol 65 No.4 to the clubroom wall, open at the relevant page, for all to read during the following season.

P.S. I wish Paul Gittins and Ian McElwee a full and speedy recovery from their current health problems.

Regards, Chris Spedding (Marconi)

Thanks for the letter Chris, I can assure you that Paul was not aware of this letter before he reads it in the Digest, and I would think he will read it in the 'spirit' it was intended. Anyway you didn't get a mention in Paul's latest report, I'm not sure if that's good or bad! Have a good season.  
Editor

Further comments last season included me winning my 3 but likely to ruin it all for my team mates later in the season, changing the Preston Sh\*thouse to the Preston Powerhouse (or did the Editor do this?) and stooping to new lows in the last issue by mentioning his 11-9 in the 5<sup>th</sup> win over me (but forgetting to mention all of his nets and edges?), referring back to my defeat against Clare Peers and questioning my bottle in close games. For some unknown reason Trevor is always highly amused by Paul's comments (adding weight to my earlier theory) and Adrian Bramham now shows them to his wife and then rings me 4 times a year in stitches saying "Have you read Banks' notes in the latest Digest?"

When I went to my club last week for a pre-season knock with my team mates and to pay Trevor my subs (he smiled when I handed him 2 crisp £20 notes, but this quickly disappeared when I asked him for £9 change), I asked them what they thought had upset Paul - is he jealous of me for some reason or is it because I usually beat him? Adrian's theory was that it's because I had the temerity to point out several errors he had made in Vol 64 No.1, including John Higham beating me in a match I didn't even play in! From memory, Trevor subbed for me in that match (further supporting my earlier theory). Trevor's face suddenly broke into an evil grin (luckily he had put his teeth in), usually reserved for when I walk off the table after a defeat, stating "Why don't you write to Roly Wright? He will love it as he

## Division 3

	Name	Club	P	W	Ave
1	KOUDELIK Josef	Cadwa D	20	18	90%
2	VENGALIS Paulius	Cadwa D	20	18	90%
3	REID Grahame	Cadwa D	8	7	88%
4	MADIN Lee	Huntsman W.	18	15	83%
5	KENT Mal	Bath St M. D	12	10	83%
6	OWENS Andrew	Marconi B	12	10	83%
7	STONE Larry	Arriva N.W.	6	5	83%
8	McCANN John	Marconi B	18	14	78%
9	ADAMSON Paula	M. Police C	9	7	78%
10	MULLALLY Tony	Marconi B	9	7	78%
11	LANGTON John	Maghull	21	16	76%
12	JENNINGS Neil	Wav.Lab C	12	9	75%
13	TURNER Graham	Bath St M. D	12	9	75%
14	CROLLEY Brian	Bath St M. D	15	11	73%
15	GRAHAM Steve	Cadwa C	15	11	73%
16	McLOUGHLIN John	Maghull A	15	11	73%
17	DAVIS Barry	Bath St M. E	21	15	71%
18	HOLMES Peter	Maghull A	21	14	67%
19	PYE Geoff	M. Police C	12	8	67%
20	LYNCH Tom	M. Police B	9	6	67%
21	MORGAN Paul	Wav.Lab C	21	13	62%
22	BURROWS Ian	Cadwa B	18	11	61%
23	HIGHAM George	Cadwa B	21	12	57%
24	DYSON LEN	M. Police C	18	10	56%
25	MOORE John	M. Police B	9	5	56%

# Player Averages

Due to limited space, only the top 25 in each division have been used here, a full list can be found on the League web-sites, including week 7. Qualification = 30% ( 6 sets)

Division 1						Division 2					
	Name	Club	P	W	Ave %		Name	Club	P	W	Ave
1	TAYLOR Jonathon	M/Side Police	14	14	100%	1	RUSSELL Danny	M. Police 'A'	6	6	100%
2	BLEAKLEY Mark	Crosby High	9	9	100%	2	BLACK Graeme	Cadwa A	18	17	94%
3	JACKSON Ken	Bath St Marine	9	9	100%	3	TAGG Dave	Christ t King B	15	14	93%
4	WILLIAMS Keith	Cadwa	6	6	100%	4	DYSON Jonathon	M. Police 'A'	12	11	92%
5	McEVOY Mal	Fords	18	17	94%	5	CHEUNG Billy	Christ t King B	15	13	87%
6	TAYLOR Andy	Fords	18	17	94%	6	LEWIS Kevin	Harold House	15	13	87%
7	RZESZOTKO Thomaz	Cadwa	9	8	89%	7	LOWE Craig	Crosby High C	12	10	83%
8	BEECH Aaron	M/Side Police	15	13	87%	8	YAN Xin	Wav.Lab B	6	5	83%
9	BIRD Keith	Christ The King	13	11	85%	9	CHASE Alan	Bootle YM A	17	14	82%
10	LUNN Michael	Fords	6	5	83%	10	WEBB Joel	Cadwa A	9	7	78%
11	WATSON Gary	Bath St Marine	6	5	83%	11	WHALLEY Steve	Harold House	9	7	78%
12	DEMPSEY Jack	Crosby High A	21	15	71%	12	ADAMS Roy	Wav.Lab A	12	9	75%
13	BARKER Robert	Crosby High A	21	14	67%	13	FINDLATER Peter	Harold H. B	21	15	71%
14	HILL Tom	Wav.Labour	12	8	67%	14	GITTINS Steve	M. Police 'A'	12	8	67%
15	GREEN Steve	Crosby High B	9	6	67%	15	BROWN Ricky	Bath St M. B	9	6	67%
16	TURNER Terry	Fords	9	6	67%	16	HARDY Stuart	Harold H. B	9	6	67%
17	HOPE John	M/Side Police	6	4	67%	17	LLOYD Andy	Marconi A	9	6	67%
18	WHELAN Tony	Christ t King A	6	4	67%	18	OWENS Colin	Bath St M. C	21	13	62%
19	CONNOR Ken	Fords A	21	13	62%	19	BRYCE Alec	Harold House	18	11	61%
20	ROBERTS Dave	Bath St M. A	20	12	60%	20	McCANN Frank	Marconi A	15	9	60%
21	LENNON George	Cadwa	12	7	58%	21	TAYLOR Peter	Christ t King B	15	9	60%
22	LLOYD Gavin	Crosby High B	12	7	58%	22	HARSE Dave	Wav.Lab A	18	10	56%
23	MULLIN Joseph	M/Side Police	11	6	55%	23	MILLER Tom	Crosby High C	18	10	56%
24	HEWITT Jamie	Crosby High A	15	8	53%	24	PEAT Rob	Bath St M. C	18	10	56%
25	KHAIYAT Omid	Christ t King	18	9	50%	25	WASS Peter	Marconi A	9	5	56%

  

Division 4						Division 5					
	Name	Club	P	W	Ave		Name	Club	P	W	Ave
1	CHEN Ben	Wav.Labour D	10	10	100%	1	MACAULEY Carl	E. Wavertree	10	10	100%
2	PERRY Alf	Wav.Labour D	4	4	100%	3	CREEVEY Thomas	E. Wavertree	9	9	100%
3	TOD Peter	Sefton Park A	16	15	94%	2	DOUGLAS Ian	QVC	8	8	100%
4	LOFTUS Paul	Marconi C	12	11	92%	4	GREENE Dominic	M. Police D	4	4	100%
5	DAVIES Alan	Sefton Park	8	7	88%	5	HOWARD Ged	Cadwa F	4	4	100%
6	REEVE Harry	Linacre	14	12	86%	6	FINNIGAN Bob	QVC	4	4	100%
7	STONE Larry	Arriva N.W. A	12	10	83%	7	OWENS Trevor	Marconi F	4	4	100%
8	STANLEY Bill	Wav. Labour E	6	5	83%	8	CLAYTON Bill	Bath St M. G	10	9	90%
9	CHAN Alan	Maghull C	10	8	80%	9	DANIELS Steve	Bootle YM D	10	9	90%
10	LAIRD Ian	Sefton Park	14	11	79%	10	NODEN Dave	Bath St M. H	10	9	90%
11	COWLEY Fred	Sefton Park A	16	12	75%	11	DIXON Tony	E. Wavertree	13	11	85%
12	McMAHON Dave	Marconi C	12	9	75%	12	TUCKER Andrew	Bootle YM D	6	5	83%
13	AMBROSE James	Maghull C	4	3	75%	13	LOW Tony	Marconi F	16	13	81%
14	DEVONISH Lewis	Cadwa E	4	3	75%	14	HUGHES Colin	Bootle YM D	10	8	80%
15	WRIGHT Roly	Bootle YM C	4	3	75%	15	REES Joseph	Huntsman W.A	14	11	79%
16	CHARCENKO Aleks	Linacre	14	10	71%	16	SANTANGELI Craig	Cadwa F	9	7	78%
17	FINDEN Ian	Sefton Park A	14	10	71%	17	LOW Daniel	Marconi E	13	10	77%
18	YU Lung Sing	Maghull C	10	7	70%	18	PROFFITT Frank	Marconi E	12	9	75%
19	HUGHES Harry	Arriva N.W. B	18	12	67%	19	REEVEY Conor	E. Wavertree	4	3	75%
20	YU Loon Wai	Maghull C	12	8	67%	20	PARKER Albert	Bath St M. H	14	10	71%
21	TAGORE Naresh	Maghull C	6	4	67%	21	BROWNE Chris	E. Wavertree	14	10	71%
22	HOWARD Ged	Cadwa E	6	4	67%	22	REES Paul	Huntsman W.A	14	10	71%
23	CHALONER Andy	Marconi D	14	9	64%	23	ELLIS Paul	Sefton Park B	7	5	71%
24	RANKA Satish	Cadwa E	8	5	63%	24	OLORUNFEMI Ade	Wav.Labour F	10	7	70%
25	TRAYNOR Derek	Sefton Park	8	5	63%	25	TAYLOR Darren	Bath St M. H	6	4	67%

# League tables as at 29th November 2012

<b>Division One</b>		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Fords	8	8	0	0	67
2	M/Side Police	8	7	0	1	60
3	Crosby High A	8	5	0	3	54
4	Wavertree Lab.	9	3	1	5	40
5	Crosby High	7	5	0	2	39
6	Crosby High B	8	2	1	5	36
7	Christ The King	7	4	0	3	34
8	Bath St Marine	8	2	1	5	34
9	Christ The King A	8	3	1	4	32
10	Bath St Marine A	7	2	1	4	31
11	Fords A	8	1	1	6	30
12	Cadwa	7	3	1	3	29
13	Marconi	7	1	1	5	14
14	Bootle YMCA	expunged				

<b>Division Two</b>		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Christ The King B	9	4	2	3	54
2	Wavertree Lab A	8	6	0	2	52
3	Cadwa A	8	6	1	1	51
4	Harold House	7	5	2	0	47
5	M/Side Police A	7	3	2	2	43
6	Bath St Marine C	8	4	2	2	42
7	Crosby High C	8	4	0	4	42
8	Marconi A	8	4	0	4	41
9	Bootle YMCA A	8	3	2	3	40
10	Wavertree Lab B	8	2	0	6	35
11	Harold House B	7	3	0	4	32
12	Harold House A	8	1	1	6	27
13	Bootle YMCA B	8	0	0	8	4
14	Bath St Marine B	expunged				

<b>Division Three</b>		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Cadwa D	8	7	1	0	58
2	Wavertree Lab C	9	6	0	3	56
3	M/Side Police C	8	7	0	1	55
4	Bath St Marine D	8	5	3	0	55
5	Marconi B	8	5	3	0	51
6	Maghull	9	5	1	3	49
7	Cadwa B	9	3	3	3	46
8	Huntsman Wood	8	5	0	3	45
9	Maghull A	9	2	1	6	40
10	M/Side Police B	7	2	1	4	31
11	Bath St Marine F	8	1	0	7	26
12	Bath St Marine E	7	2	0	5	25
13	Arriva Nth West	9	1	1	7	24
14	Cadwa C	9	0	0	9	19

<b>Division Four</b>		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Marconi C	9	6	1	2	62
2	Sefton Park	9	6	1	2	62
3	Sefton Park A	9	8	0	1	61
4	Wavertree Lab D	9	6	1	2	55
5	Maghull B	9	4	2	3	52
6	Linacre	8	4	2	2	48
7	Maghull C	9	5	0	4	46
8	Cadwa E	9	4	2	3	45
9	Arriva Nth West A	8	3	2	3	43
10	Marconi D	9	3	1	5	42
11	Wavertree Lab E	8	2	3	3	34
12	Bootle YMCA C	8	1	1	6	24
13	Arriva Nth West A	9	0	1	8	20
14	Maghull D	9	0	1	8	16

<b>Division Five</b>		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	East Wavertree	9	9	0	0	77
2	Marconi E	8	7	0	1	56
3	Huntsman Wood A	8	6	0	2	55
4	Bootle YMCA D	8	6	0	2	54
5	Bath St Marine H	8	4	2	2	45
6	Bath St Marine G	8	4	2	2	40
7	Cadwa F	8	2	1	5	39
8	QVC	9	4	0	5	39
9	Marconi F	8	2	0	6	35
10	M/Side Police D	9	3	2	4	34
11	Wavertree Lab F	8	2	0	6	32
12	Sefton Park B	8	3	1	4	31
13	Waterloo	9	1	0	8	24
14	Maghull E	8	1	0	7	19

Fines to Date 16/11/11	No	Fine	Total
Late Score Card	2	£4	£8
Player Short	4	£3	£12
Walk Overs 3 A-side	8	£9	£72
Walk Overs 4 A-Side	0	£12	£0
Walk Overs Cup 3 A-Side	3	£9	£27
Walk Overs Cup 4 A-Side	1	£12	£12
Played Out of Order	0	1.50 PP	£0
Ineligible Player	0	£0	£0
Total	18		£131.00

Fines to 28/11/12	No	Fine	Total
Late Score Card	4	£4	£16
Player Short	12	£3	£36
Walk Overs 3 A-Side	8	£9	£72
Walk Overs 4 A-Side	1	£12	£12
Walk Overs Cup 3 A-Side	5	£9	£45
Walk Overs Cup 4 A-Side	0	£12	£0
Played Out of Order	3	1.50 PP	£6
No Stamp On Score Card	0	£2	£0
Total	33		£202.00