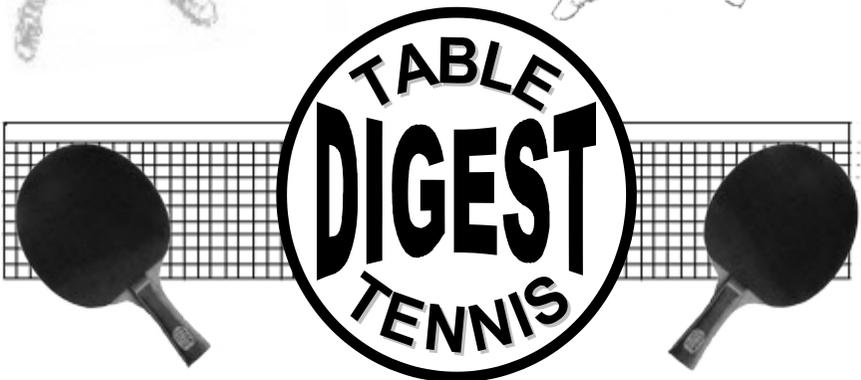
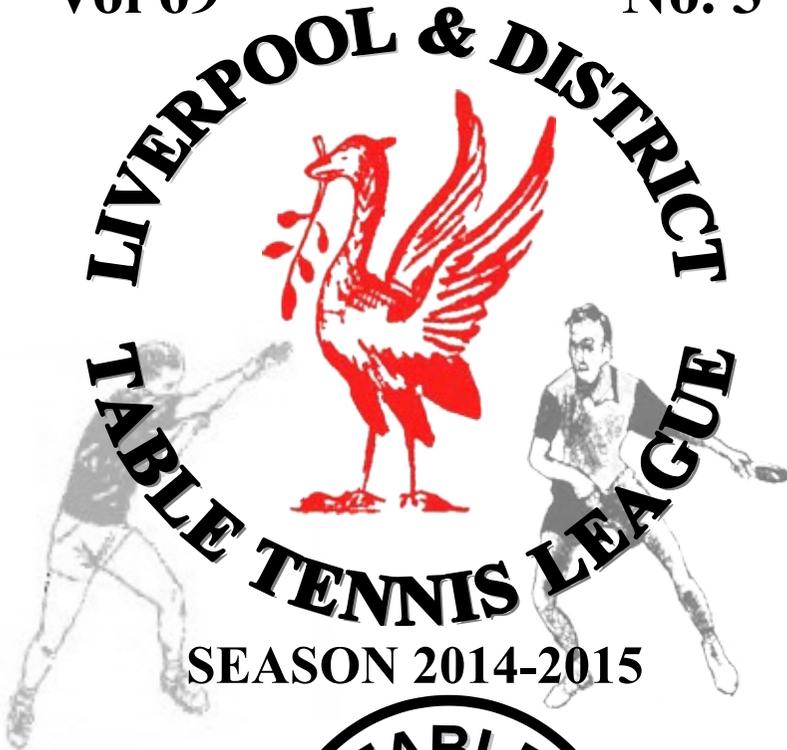


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Editorial

A little note I received from Don D. -: ' It was a surprise to learn that a challenge is being made to the existing TTE Chairman, Sandra Deaton, Deputy Chairman Sue Hughes and Treasurer Keith Thomas after just twelve months in post. This has come from former chairman Alex Murdoch, Peter Bradley and Martin Clark with the election taking place in May.'

I have had a quick look at the manifestos and Biographies from our incumbent Management team who were given an overwhelming vote after the last election only two years ago, but after only one year Chairman Andy Seward passed away, the 'possible' panic didn't materialise as the team moved up one level and got on with the job Andy had set out. This team must be doing something right as they have become more 'professional' having accomplished what Sport England had demanded before the last elections when future funding was in doubt, and have now obtained funding for a further two years, and with the National Council reformed as an 'advisory' capacity it now feels as if the tail is no longer wagging the dog!, this Management team should be given at least another two years before being challenged.

Hopefully you will have noticed that T.T.England has digitalised the printed versions of Table Tennis News, a total of 549 editions were printed from the first in Nov. 1935 to the final one July 2010, there was a break from May 1939 to Oct 1946. To scan 549 editions is a lengthy and time consuming feat for a team let alone a single 'scanner', for all that scanning thanks must go to Graham Frankel, I'm not sure why or when Graham decided to digitise them but we can imagine the difference between a stack of 549 printed versions and a hard drive storage. A few years ago I undertook the task of scanning all the printed versions of our own league magazine The Digest, first one was printed Oct. 1950, and as you appreciate, is still going, just!, with only 253 editions printed to date, but still time consuming to digitise. I have been looking through (pot luck!) some old TTN editions, so you may see some articles from them I will print in the Digest from time to time, the first one being an Obituary about the person who is given the honour of starting organising T.T. in the Liverpool area approx. 1925, read it on page 16, we still remember him through the Div. 4 KO Cup, Mr. L.E. Forrest.

To fill in a bit of spare space I have added a few articles on coaching, Premier coaching centres, and schools, to build on the article I received from Paul Gittins (Vol68 No.3) about the coaching set up at St. Johns Primary School. One article from The Greenhouse project in London, (page 14), centred around the Urban Table Tennis Academy, and one centred around the Sycamore Table Tennis Academy (page 15), and local schools in Nottingham. Also an article Don D. had in his Echo T.T. Column about ex. Cadwa player Joel Webb, who will represent

Merseyside in the forthcoming Schools individual Butterfly Championship - despite only taking up the sport four years ago. The St Margaret's School pupil is the current Lancashire Schools champion and has already received national ranking.

Joel will be one of more than 300 players representing 50 counties at Tipton Sports Academy in the Midlands this Saturday (April 25) for what is the largest one-day event in the table tennis calendar in England.

Spotted at the age of 14 by former England player Keith Williams, who was coaching at St. Margarets at the time, Joel - who trains at Formby TTC - has won titles across the country including success at the prestigious Sussex Grand Prix. Joel's first season was with Cadwa 'D' in the 2010-11 season, the following season in the 'B' team squad, by the 13-14 season he was in Cadwa's 1st team, this season he switched to Wavertree Labour, along with a young Joe Pilkington, Ryan Maynard and Thomas Haddley are now clear favourites to win the League Championship.

In a relatively short time it shows what can be done by 'catching them young' with lots of help, coaching and encouragement, and at the end of the day. If you read all the articles, the help and encouragement is done by a few helped by the many of volunteers from rank and file club members, the need is there, it just needs the motivation to ask!

There are dozens of schools out there with the same eager youngsters, who will give strong encouragement to anyone prepared to help with 'playing table tennis', I can't really say 'coaching', as there are many complications with that, but just someone to get the interest going is the best we can do at times, to share our years of experience, it does work!

Congratulations to Crosby's Steve Green for winning the Mixed Vets. Title at this season's Blackpool G.P. beating John Magnall 3-1, in the Final on 12th May 2015.

Thanks again to all the Digest contributors, our five Divisional reporters have done a quick turnover from leaving until the latest week possible, week 23, it may be too late to get printed copies to some players before the end of the season, for those on the internet, it doesn't matter!, it can go out on line anytime!.

Photo's of all this seasons Cup Final teams are on pages 16 & 17, more can be found on my web site

Nets & Edges

Whilst reading a Digest from 1953 I came across an item which could easily have been included in an edition in more recent times. It relates to a call for 3 players' per side in all divisions! This is the format in many leagues and I'm sure it will eventually be introduced into our league. Many of today's players will have played in teams comprising of 5, 4 and 3 per side while Roy Smith, Peter Taylor, Trevor Owens and Eddie Clein will also have been involved in a Youth Division where I believe all matches were staged on Friday. I have for a number of years advocated the introduction of a Premier Division, comprising of ten or twelve 3 - a- side teams' where all matches are staged in a central venue on a set night. Many Lawn Tennis Leagues' have a set night for different levels of play although, of course, the matches are staged on their own courts. I seem to recall from when I was a member of Vagabonds, all of their first team matches in the top division were played on Tuesday, both home and away. This is something that many of the leading players would relish while those who appear in more than one league can plan their diary accordingly.

With a Cadet/Junior division likely to be formed with matches being staged at Saint John's, Kirkdale, Crosby High and Merchant Taylors', this is the blue print for my suggestion as set out above.

Ken Dutch, although not having played in the league for a number of years, sadly passed away recently aged 92.



Son Julian, Granddaughter Joanne and Ken Dutch in a photo taken while playing together for the same North Meols team in the Southport League.

He will be remembered by many and in particular, those who played in the lower divisions. Ken's son Julian sent me a piece on his Dad's playing career which started in the late 1940's for Rafters when he was in the RAF, stationed in Speke. From there Ken went to the Linnet

Don Davies



TTC in Aigburth before creating something other keen table tennis players' would like to aspire, when in the 1970's, he started his own TT club – Dutch's. After they quit the league Ken joined Liverpool Jewish before moving to the Southport League where he played for North Meols in the 1990's when he was in his mid 80's. Julian said he was proud to have played with his dad at Jewish and in Southport where their line up spanned three generations when Ken, Julian and daughter Joanne, played in the same team at North Meols.

The Lancashire County TT Association announced recently for the County Junior and Senior Closed Championships, to be staged in Garstang on Sunday. The tournament comprises of ten events although, players are only able to enter two singles events. In the ten events there is plenty of scope for players of all ages and standards – including O/40, O/50, O/60's, open singles and doubles plus Banded Junior and Ladies' singles. Entry forms may be obtained from the LTTD web site or from the organiser Jim Bolton 07768000157 or J.bolton@carpenter.com

When the 53rd World Championships commence on April 26 in the ancient city of Suzhou, China, Belgium's Jean Michel Saive will be participating in the championships for the 24th time. His first was in 1983 when only 13. Quite Amazing!

This is the fifth time the championships have been staged in China when on every occasion the men's singles crown was won by a player from that country and ten times overall. The last time the title went to a European was in 2003 when Werner Schlager lifted the St Bride Vase. This year's event 100 National Associations will be taking part and the ITTF claim that these championships will be the most viewed sporting event ever.

On the day I submitted this to the Editor, it was announced that the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) has been judged to be the number one International Federation in the category of Global Popularity and Expansion. ITTF President Thomas Weikert stated "It is a huge honour for the ITTF to win this prestigious category". For a more detailed report on the award – go to the ITTF web site.

Finally, of the 32 men's singles seeds, how many do you think use the 'Pen Hold' grip? After guessing, look on page 14 for the answer.

Division One Notes

When compiling the notes for the first issue in December, I mooted that we may see new champions after eight seasons of Ford domination. Led by Kevin Dolder together with Andy Taylor, Terry Turner, Mal McEvoy, Paul Kinsey and latterly, Keith Williams, they saw off all comers in that period before things at the club went awry due to issues which have been well documented. However, as is often said 'all good things come to an end' and this is inevitable, at least for this season. Having in the last issue, tipped Crosby B to capture the title, I must say that was a little hasty for at the time of submitting this copy, its Labour's to lose for I can't see them letting it slip. With Crosby High B picking up just six points at Police, Labour require only 14 points from a possible 30, to capture the title they last won in 2006.

Of the challengers, Police, it has to be said were never in with a shout and although suffering only two more losses than Crosby B, they weren't able to overwhelm opponents and mop up those vital extra points. Jonathan, Aaron Beech and Joe Mullin, whilst being a talented trio, didn't have the fire power of Labour and Crosby B and fourth place, is probably an acceptable finishing position.

The middle order teams' BSM A, CTK, Crosby A and BSM all stand well adrift of the top four and took significant points from the title challengers and averaged between four and five points per match which is always enough to remain clear of the relegation zone but, a few short per match of becoming title aspirants.



A number of remarkable victories recorded over the past seven months, the stand out 'shock' though, has to be twelve year old Harry Watson's two wins over Jonathan Taylor. I asked JT about this latest loss and said I couldn't recall a player beating him in recent years, on two occasions in the same season.

Realistically, I suggested that only Kevin or Keith may have done so but, he was unable to remember but, agreed my guess could be true. In fairness to him and unsurprisingly he sportingly admitted that Harry fully deserved his two victories, so well done to Harry and Jonathan.

With the division kicking off with thirteen teams, only twelve completed the season following the decision of the Crosby High club to drop the A team who, in the middle of March, lay in seventh place, by intentionally conceding three walk over matches. This meant their 'A' team results being expunged from the divisional records.

In the lower reaches of the table those teams lying from ninth to thirteenth were in danger of being sucked into the relegation zone. Favourites to take the drop was Marconi but, with teams' not knowing how many will play second division TT next season, the next few weeks will be a nervous period for CTK A, Police B and Police A. Crosby High, standing only three places above Marconi, do have the bonus of matches in hand and assuming they are able to call on Ryan Jenkins, they'd have a guaranteed three but more likely, four points each time he plays which would see them finish in mid table.

As we move into the final stretch, the title is almost certainly already won by Maghull, so the exciting bit is “who will get the runners up spot”, and who will avoid the dreaded relegation.

Week 17

Maghull had their usual win over Crosby High C, with Amy just losing out 11/13 in the fifth to Matt Laird, to secure another whitewash, the two Pauls winning theirs. Cadwa A’s Peter Taylor proved too strong for Sefton, but with Mark Slater’s win over Ian Laird their only other success, Sefton took the honours.

Harold House’s Peter Findlater was another hat trick hero against Cadwa, and with two each from Steve Whalley and Alec Bryce, they ran out comfortable winners, Paul Evans picking up a couple for Cadwa. Alan Chase, Ted Birch and John Higham each scored a brace in Bootle YMCA’s win over Wav Lab A, Phil Luxon also scoring a brace for Wavertree. Lee Farley and Dong Xia scored a couple and Mario Giove one plus the doubles in Wav Lab B’s close win against Bath Street C, Rob Peat and Colin Mitchell scoring two each for Bath St. Bath St B had two each from Ricky Brown and Ian McElwee in their draw with Marconi A, who had double from Neil Colville and Tony Mullally.

Week 18

Ian McElwee and Sam Pierce picked up trebles for Bath St C in their win at Wav Lab A, and Josef Koudelik with a treble and two from Peter Taylor helped Cadwa A to overcome Harold House A. Steve Whalley took the honours with a treble in Harold House’s draw at Sefton, Alec Bryce for H.H. and Alan Davies and Peter Tod for Sefton picked up two apiece. Rob Peat and Dave Stoddern scored braces as Bath St C won a close game with Bootle YMCA, Alan Chase scoring a couple for Bootle. Paul Hutchings and Paul Banks again remained unbeaten in Maghull’s win at Cadwa, Amy scoring a couple, with Paul Evans saving the whitewash. A Matt Laird Treble and two from Sylvia Graham helped Crosby High C to a win against Wav Lab B, Johnny Chen picking up a pair for Wavertree.

Week 19

Rob Midgley scored a fine treble for Harold House, but unfortunately that was all they managed against a



Marconi trio of Neil Colville, John McCann and Tony Mullally. Another treble in a losing cause fell to Harold House’s Peter Findlater, as two each from Josef Koudelik and Mark Salter saw Cadwa A take the win. Bath St B had a Ricky Brown treble plus two from Barry Davis in the win over their C, for whom Rob Peat picked up a couple. Alan Chase scored a treble in Bootle YMCA’s win against Crosby High C, who had doubles from Matt Laird and Sylvia Graham. Trebles from the two Pauls and a double from Amy Hutchings kept up the unbeaten record as Maghull defeated Sefton, Ian Laird scoring the single success for Sefton.

Week 20

Lee Farley scored a treble for Wavertree Lab B but Sefton had pairs from Alan Davies and Ian Laird to secure the win. Graeme Black remained unbeaten and Paul Evans had a brace in Cadwa’s win over Bootle YMCA, for whom Ted Birch scored a pair. A hat trick from Phil Luxon and two each from Dave Harse and Danny McEvoy took the win for Wavertree Lab A against Harold House A. Another Ricky Brown treble and two each from Ian McElwee and Barry Davis saw Bath St B win at Crosby High C, and a treble from Neil Colville and two from Bob Edwards enabled Marconi A to win a close game with Cadwa A.

Week 21

Maghull won again at Cadwa A with Paul and Amy Hutchings remaining unbeaten, and only a Peter Taylor defeat of Paul Banks for Cadwa. Ted Birch’s defeat of Mike Perry was all Bootle YMCA managed as trebles from Alan Davies and Ian Laird plus a double from Mike Perry saw Sefton pick up another win. Wavertree Lab B’s Dong Xia remained unbeaten but that was all they managed as Harold House had doubles from Steve Whalley, Alec Bryce and Peter Findlater. Three from Graham Black plus two for Paul Evans helped Cadwa to win at Bath St B. A treble from Dave Harse and two from Phil Luxon helped Wavertree Lab A to draw at Marconi A, Bob Edwards scoring a couple for Marconi. Rob Peat with a treble and a Dave Stoddern pair saw Bath St C draw with Harold House A.

Week 22

Well they lasted till week 22 but Maghull, who were without Paul and Amy Hutchings, lost to Wavertree Labour B. Labour had doubles from Dong Xia and Lee Farley, while Maghull had doubles from Paul Banks and John Langton. Steve Whalley with a treble and two from Alec Bryce helped secure a close win over Bootle YMCA, who had an Alan Chase double, Alan just lost in five to Steve Whalley. Barry Davis took the honours in Bath St B's win at Sefton, remaining unbeaten, plus two each for Ian McElwee and Ricky Brown Neil Colville and Tony Mullally scored hat tricks in Marconi A's win at Bath St C, Colin Mitchell beat John McCann to save the white-wash. A Dave Harse treble and two from Phil Luxon secured the win over Cadwa A, who had a brace from Josef Koudelik.

Week 23

With team back to full strength Maghull proved too strong for Bootle YMCA, Paul Hutchings and Paul Banks remaining unbeaten. Marconi A had trebles

Division 3.

East Wavertree continue to dominate the division and are the only undefeated team throughout the whole league having won 19 and drew 2 matches, however, something went wrong at week 23 when they were unable to raise a team and conceded a walk over to Maghull B. Amongst a series of 8/2 and 9/1 wins in recent weeks at week 19 lowly Wavertree Labour C held them to a draw. Joey Williams and Carl McAuley each won 2 but number 1 Heiko Krugel lost to Arash Khozdee and Michael Dugdale, Andy Bird had 2 hard fought victories over Joey (11/8 in 5th set) and Carl (11/9 in 5th).

BSM E with 136 points from 21 matches have done very well during the reporting period and now lie in the 2nd promotion spot, they have established a small gap between Marconi B (125 from 20), Merseyside Police C (121 from 21) and Maghull B (119 from 21). The Bath St team beat Linacre 10/0 with Ted Cramsie and Charlie Bradshaw engaging in an epic battle of wills before Ted won 12/10, 9/11, 10/12, 11/9, 13/11. When they faced promotion rivals Maghull B they had the luxury of bringing in Julian Quirk in place of the unavailable Sam Pierce, Julian has had a few months of ill health and was playing

from Bob Edwards and Neil Colville plus two from John McCann which proved too much for Crosby High C. They had a Sylvia Graham win over John McCann their only success. Doubles from Phil Luxon and Danny McEvoy helped Wavertree Lab A to a close win over Bath St C, who had doubles from Rob Peat and Dave Stoddern. Peter Taylor and Josef Koudelik remained unbeaten in Cadwa A's win over Wavertree Lab B, and Steve Whalley was the star of Harold House's draw at Bath St B, Ricky Brown and Ian McElwee scoring doubles for Bath St.

Well the title is almost certainly won, and Bath St B look likely runners up so who will finish bottom. Well Harold House A and Bath St C are most likely with Harold House having games in hand, but they have to win them.

Maghull couldn't manage all the records, they have at least lost one, but they will win the league, and have won the cup, and most certainly Mr Hutchings ain't gonna lose.

Ian McElwee



first division prior to this. His experience shone through as he won on his 4 visits to the table, Ted contributed with fine wins over Phil Christie and John McLoughlin junior, with Graham Turner also beating John as BSM ran out 7/3 winners.

Marconi B are beginning to wilt a little with injuries to Frank McCann and Peter Wass, as a result it is doubtful that they will be able to sneak into a promotion spot, never the less they have had an excellent season before the effects of the war

wounds (First WW I think) set in. They were too good for BSM D with Frank, Ian Wensley and Peter each winning 2. A narrow 6/4 loss to Maghull A and 7/3 loss to CADWA B have followed as they have dropped off the pace a little.

Merseyside Police have done well to get themselves to the fringes of the promotion battle, they have been helped by Steve Gittins beginning to play again after a long lasting shoulder injury, he joined Brenda Buoeu and Steph Shober-Thomson when they beat Linacre 10/0. He and brother Paul must have enjoyed the experience of Steve playing with his nephews Jack and Sam when they defeated BSM D,

reserve for the BSM side Julie Cornish excelled in beating Steve in 4 sets. We will have to wait until the end of the season before knowing the significance of their excellent 7/3 win over 2nd placed BSM E. Steph was the MOM in winning his 3 singles and combining with Jack to take the doubles, Brenda beat both Ted Cramsie and Sam Pierce with Jack also beating Ted.

Maghull B still have an outside chance of promotion if they have a good run in, their chances were somewhat deflated when they lost 7/3 to the in form Police side. Sue Hughes was at her best on the night beating Brenda, Steph (11/9 in 5th) and Jack to gain the points for Maghull, their cause has been strengthened by 10/0 wins over Linacre and Marconi C and the walk over conceded by East Wavertree.

Arriva NW are proving to be the best of the rest with 110 from 20. John Rowan, Brian Hornby and Derek Scotland combined to earn a credible draw against BSM E, John and Derek won 2 with Brian doing well to beat Ted 11/9 in the deciding set. Derek was in top form winning his 3 singles and combining with John to win the doubles in a 6/4 win at BSM D. They saved their best form of the season for when they faced Marconi C running out 9/1 victors. However, things were not as easy as the score line suggests with Brian showing true grit to beat Matt Evans 11/9, Paul Loftus 11/6 and Dave McMahon 14/12 all in the 5th set. It just was not Matt's night as he also went down 13/11 in the decider to Derek.

I know from talking to and reading his match card comments that Brian Crolley and his team have enjoyed the season. The usual team of Andy Cheung, Brian and Mal Kent are competitive and when on form do well as when they beat Maghull B 8/2. This was a tremendous match with 7 matches going to 5 sets and you have to feel sorry for Peter Holmes who lost his 3 in the 5th set. Andy beat him 12/10 as did Brian and Mal beat him 11/8. Mal Kent had a good win over John Rowan when they went down 6/4 to Arriva.

Next we have Maghull A and Marconi C on 92 points who are both ticking over nicely in mid table. John Langton is having a good, consistent season and won his 3 in Maghull A's 6/4 win over Marconi B, team mates Alan Chan and Matt Cranny both beat Martin Lathom. The same 3 players played out a

draw at CADWA B with John and Matt each winning a couple and combining to take the doubles.

Marconi C have not been at their best in recent weeks suffering heavy defeats to Merseyside Police C, Arriva NW and Maghull B, however they had a nice 7/3 win over Bootle YMCA A at week 18. Matt Evans had a great night winning his singles and combining with Paul Loftus to take the doubles, Paul beat both Eddie Preston and Mike Hughes but lost out to Bert Rivers whilst Colm Cox beat Eddie.

Bootle YMCA A are in 10th position and are a good, competitive team. Shakil Malik joined Eddie and Mike when they had a comprehensive win over Linacre. Both Shakil and Eddie remained unbeaten on the night with Mike adding his contribution with a win over Chris Blackburn.

After a disastrous start to the season CADWA B have steadily improved both form and results and currently stand on 76 points, typical of this improved form is demonstrated by them beating high flying Marconi B 7/3. Ian Burrows was unbeaten on the night, Graham Reid beat Frank McCann and Martin Lathom and Ian Lunt beat Martin. The following week Steve Graham replaced Ian Burrows when they faced Maghull A, in this match Graham was in top form in winning his 3 and Steve and Ian both beat Alan Chan to secure a draw.

Wavertree Labour C have been on a late drive to get out of the bottom 2 and stand 7 points behind Wavertree Labour C with a game in hand. Besides drawing with East Wavertree they have beaten BSM D and Maghull A by 7/3 score lines and Marconi C 6/4. Andy Bird and Arash Khozdee each won their 3 singles supported by Michael Dugdale's 5th set win over Brian Crolley in their win over BSM D. Terry Jones played in place of Arash for the Maghull A match when he, Andy and Michael each had 2 wins and Andy and Michael teamed up to win the doubles.

Linacre on 58 points have found the going tough but turn up every week, give 100% effort and display a high degree of sportsmanship. In their defeat at Bootle YMCA A Alex Charcenko and Charlie Bradshaw both beat Mike Hughes whilst Chris Blackburn pushed Eddie Preston all the way before losing out 11/9 in the 5th set.

Division 4

Ken Roberts

Before I comment on the weekly matches, I would like to congratulate East Wavertree on their Divisional Cup success over St. Annes 5-2. It was an excellent night of Table Tennis played in good spirits with a very good turn out of supporters for both sides.



I will start with East Wavertree in **week 17** overcoming Police D 6-4. Some hard fought games here, in particular Tom P beating young Tom 14-12 in the final set and Carl for Wavertree beating John game 9 also in the final set. Sefton Park A overcame Arriva A 9-1, Vacek saving the whitewash by beating Robbie. Maghull C lost to Bootle YMCA B 7-3. Saul and Liam picking up a single each against George and Steve respectively. 4 games going to 5 sets in this encounter. My own team Marconi D enjoyed a good win over Cadwa C 8-2. Dougie and Paul picking up their 2 points. St Annes had a tough game against a spirited Maghull D just pipping it 6-4. Bath Street Marine F found it a lot easier with a 9-1 win over Wavertree Labour D, Robin saving the whitewash with a win over Josh.

Week 18 saw three matches producing clean sweeps, St Annes taking all points against Bootle YMCA B, Bath Street Marine F against Cadwa C and Sefton Park A against Maghull D. Maghull C beat Wavertree Labour 7-3. The evergreen Alf picking up both against George and Steve and Terry overcoming Denise. Another 7-3 result, this time for Marconi D over Police D. John and Len picking up a single each against myself and Martin. John G winning both games again

including a battle royal against the very strong defence of Len. A good night with the match played in the usual good spirit. East Wavertree beat QVC 8-2, good wins for Shaun and Tommy for the QVC points over Tony and Ged.

A good performance from Sefton Park A in **week 19** saw them beating Bootle YMCA B 9-1, Tom D picking up their only point against Paul M in 5 sets. St Annes picked up another full house against Wavertree Labour D albeit without Alf. Maghull C beat a much weakened Cadwa C 9-1, Shantanu picking up their point against Naresh. Bath Street Marine F beat Police D 7-3, John and Tom P picking up a single each against Darren and Josh. QVC beat Arriva A 7-3, Josef enjoying a good win against Shaun and Janos against Ian J. East Wavertree inflicted a heavy defeat on Marconi D 8-2, some very close games here though. John and myself picking up the 2 points.

Week 20 saw Marconi D lose out to Bath Street Marine F 6-4, lots of close games in this one, Ray picked up a brace for Marconi beating Josh and Dave N and then teamed up with John to win the doubles. Another strong performance by East Wavertree beating Arriva A 9-1, Janos saving the whitewash with a win over Ged. Maghull D won a close game against QVC 6-4, Ian D picking up his two games for QVC against Mike and Luke. Police D were too strong for Maghull C beating them 8-2, Naresh and Denise winning one each for their points, Police are strengthened when Paula is available to play. Another hard

fought game for St. Annes, coming out on top against Cadwa C 6-4, Paul picking up a brace for Cadwa against Francis and Mohamed. Sefton Park beat Wavertree Labour 8-2, Alf once again picking up both to rescue 2 points for Wavertree.

A good contest between Marconi D and Maghull C kicks off **week 21**. Marconi just coming through winners 6-4, Janette playing very well for Maghull to win both of her games against Richie and Phil. Sefton Park beat Cadwa 7-3, the “Jennings Derby” between Paul and Neil saw Paul victorious over his brother. Very close between QVC and Bootle YMCA, QVC winning 6-4, some long hard games here, Shaun in particular for QVC picked up both in 5 sets against Saul and John. Top of the table clash between East Wavertree and Bath Street Marine saw a very convincing win for East Wavertree, only 2 games were won in 3 straight here, proving what a struggle it was for both teams. Josh and Darren picking up one game each for their points. The final game in week 21 saw Arriva A just hold off Maghull D 6-4, S. Braddick winning both against Ray and Brian.

East Wavertree produced another full house against Maghull D in **week 22**, Harry took Ged to 5 sets only to just miss out game 9 in the last. Police D beat Sefton Park 7-3, Robbie picking a game up against Tom and Paul also winning one against John M, the game played in a pleasant atmosphere. Bath Street Marine gave another good account of themselves with a 8-2 win over Maghull C. Janette picking up a game against my old mucker Dave Nod. My own team Marconi D came up against some excellent Table Tennis from league leaders St. Annes with a 8-2 defeat, John and Richie providing our 2 points. A much closer affair between Bootle YMCA and Arriva A. Bootle winning 6-4. Janos

winning both of his against Tom and John respectively.

Week 23 kicks off with another strong performance from East Wavertree with full house against Maghull C. A much closer contest between Sefton Park and Marconi D saw Sefton Park come through victors 6-4, tough games here with half of them going to 5 sets, John G winning both again for Marconi, Richie just losing out to Paul M game 9 in the 5th. QVC just edged out Cadwa C 5-4. Final score line due to both teams playing short, unfortunate really because of the 5 games which were actually played, four of them went to 5 sets, so it probably would have been a very tough match if both teams had played with a full squad. All square between Maghull D and Bootle YMCA, again half the games running into 5 setters, Saul picking up both for Bootle and Danny doing likewise for Maghull. A real tussle between St. Annes and Bath Street Marine F, with St. Annes winning 7-3. 5 games went to 5 sets in this battle. Finally Wavertree labour beat Arriva 6-4. Robin winning 2 against Vacek and Josef and Arthur repeating the task against Brian and Janus respectively for Wavertree.

I have said all along that this season has produced a very close contest at the top of the division. Here we are 3 games from finishing the season and as I write this report St Annes are leading East Wavertree by 11 points, but East Wavertree have a game in hand. Bath Street Marine F are 4 points behind East Wavertree, but have played 1 more match. It's going to be a very close call this year, and it has helped that the top 3 teams have played very consistently using their regular strong players. Enjoy your summer break.

Division 5.

Jimmy Williams

As we approach the familiar final sprint towards the finish line the order of teams has pretty much settled down. However, there remains a significant amount of points to play for that will undoubtedly have an impact on the final positions at the end of the season. Waterloo remain top of the league and require a small number of points to cement their position as deserving winners of the division. However, the battle for the other promotional place is still



alive and kicking with either Sefton Park B or Bootle YMCA C looking the most likely. Further down the table, there is little between most sides and the final table may look quite different to its current order. Still a lot to play for – including (final) position, pride and practice.

Week 17 produced a 9- 1 victory for Merseyside Police E over an incomplete Marconi E side. The law men picking up all the singles with Cameron Murphy and Martin Latham picking up the sole point for the visitors in their doubles encounter with Mike Winder and Sam Hughes (12 – 14 in the fifth). A hard fought 5 – 5 draw in the match between QVC A and Arriva North West B with the consistent Bob Finnegan the star man of the night, winning his three for the home side, opposing number one Harry Hughes, picking up a singles and a doubles for the visitors. Excellent notes from Des Logan on Bath Streets' close encounter with Waterloo A, a match played in the right spirit that produced no less than five games that went to the final set. Good win for the improving Keith Dudley over Nikolay Primuk, whilst George Chellew and Paul Mainey were the star men for the visitors winning both their singles to help lead their side to an important 4 – 6 victory.

Week 18 saw Waterloo put a relatively inexperienced Waterloo A reserve side to the sword 9

-1 in their club derby, with nine of the ten sets being decided in three games. Excellent win for George Chellew (17/15) in the final set over Jeff Hornby to pick up the sole point for his side and continue his run of good form. Second placed Sefton Park B also produced a strong 1 – 9 victory at Wavertree Labour E with eight of the sets being decided in three, Francis Lay preventing the whitewash with a 3 – 1 win over Eric Wood. An experienced Bootle YMCA C team winning 3 – 7 at Arriva North West B to stay in the hunt for promotion,

Steve Daniels and Roly Wright winning their three for the visitors to keep the pressure on their rivals, excellent comeback from 0 – 2 down by Harry Hughes to win the final three games and defeat Colin Hughes.

A richly deserved first win of the season in **week 19** for the hard working Marconi E against an experienced Maghull E side, Tony Lowe, returning to the side at number 1 after a long absence out through injury, leading from the front and guiding them towards a key win, Phil Murphy picking up an impressive brace for the home side. Star man for the visitors was Andy McCourt, picking up both of his singles, including a 10/12 victory in the fifth against Tony, great match. Another close contest was Bootle YMCA's 6 -4 win over a spirited Cadwa D side, excellent night for the Sumner lads, both winning their singles (and Kieran combining with Colin to win their doubles) and playing a huge role in their sides' important win, well done. The experienced Ian Burrows winning his three for Cadwa, along with an impressive win for Derek Aspinall over Colin Hughes (10/12 in the fifth).

Week 20 produced a tight match between QVC A and a determined Bootle YMCA C with the visitors edging it 4 -6, an epic game between Tommy Lewis and Roly Wright finished with a

21/23 win in the fifth for the Bootle YMCA number two, the ever improving Jason Sumner continuing his good form and winning his three for the visitors. The Sefton Park Derby match resulted in an emphatic 2 – 8 win for the B side, Jamie Whitty winning the sole singles point for the C team with an impressive 3 – 1 success over Ray Jones, Alan Staniland and Roy Cunningham picking up the other point in a very close doubles set over Eric and Ray. Bath Street G produced another solid performance in their 3 -7 win at Cadwa D, Albert Parker and Julia Cornish successful on their three visits to the table, Chris Halliday showing great composure to come back from 1 -2 down to win 11/8 in the fifth against Bath Street captain Des Logan in the final set of the night. Strong 2 - 8 win for Waterloo at Arriva North West B with the final score not reflecting the closeness of the match, six of the sets on the night being decided in the fifth – Harry Hughes and Paul Morrey picking up a win each for the determined home side. Harry also unlucky to lose to Gavin Minett 9/11 in the fifth after coming back from 0 -2 down. In the wider context, a hard fought win that represents another significant stride towards the title for Waterloo.

A strong performance by QVCA in **week 21** in their 3 -7 win at Bath Street Marine G, Des and Julia picking up a singles each – to add to Keith and Albert combining successfully in the doubles. A rainy night in Maghull never dampened the spirit of the host team who produced a match winning performance to defeat a very experienced Wavertree Labour E side 6 -4. An enthusiastic crowd (including the injured Corporal Jones – hurry back Alan) was treated to some fine performances by players from both sides with Ged Hanley (Maghull E) and Gordon Langshaw (Wavertree Labour E) both having a fine night. Notable doubles win for Brian and Andy over Gordon and Francis (12/10 in the fifth) to seal the match in the final set of the night, a great night of table tennis. A significant 2 – 8 win for a strong Waterloo A at Marconi E with Tony Lowe picking up a couple of points for the home side – a singles victory

followed by a doubles success alongside Martin Latham.

Week 22 produced a hard earned 6 -4 win for Bootle YMCA C (playing with an incomplete team – how important may that turn out to be?) over a competitive Bath Street Marine G team, great win for Keith Dudley over Steve Daniels (11/8 in the fifth) with Bill Clayton unlucky to lose both of his sets in five to Steve and Roly. Sefton Park B enjoyed a comfortable 2- 8 win at Cadwa D to keep them in the hunt for promotion – Chris Halliday winning a singles (in five over Jamie Whitty) and a doubles (combining with the evergreen Jack Highton) for the home side. A great battle between Sefton Park C and Marconi E resulted a 5 – 5 draw, star man on the night was Marconi’s Martin Latham who was victorious on his three visits to the table.

Week 23 saw an enthralling game between Sefton Park B and QVC A with the home side edging it 6 -4, Ray Jones won his three for Sefton, with Tommy and Bob both picking up their singles for the visitors, the match being settled by the two doubles wins for Sefton (once again emphasising the importance of the doubles). Another good win for Waterloo A 2 – 8 at Wavertree Labour E in a hard fought game – the away team winning all four of the games that went to a fifth set, Eric Spencer winning his two singles for the hosts, including a good 3 -1 win over Nikolay. Strong performance by Arriva North West B at Marconi C (1 – 9) with the away side in fine form. Another excellent, and potentially crucial, result, involved Bootle YMCA C picking up a 4 – 6 victory at top of the table Waterloo. Star men for Bootle were Steve and Colin who both won their three, with Nikolay also winning his three for the home side.

Week 24 pitches Sefton Park B against Bootle YMCA C – a match that could have a huge bearing on who finishes up in the second promotional place.

The World Seniors Championships

By Matthew Syed

I sat next to a man called Charles at a dinner on Saturday night. He had spent his life working in the youth sector and in retirement has got involved in table tennis. Last year, he travelled to Auckland to play in the World Seniors Championships and, to his great delight, won the silver medal in the over-85 doubles.

“It was one of the best experiences of my life,” he said. “My wife and I turned it into a six-week holiday around New Zealand and Australia, but the table tennis was the highlight. I play most of the senior competitions. It is an amazing community and it keeps me fit, too.” Seniors’ table tennis may seem like a niche activity, but it is part of a wider phenomenon that is slowly changing the sport. Niche activities are growing: every week I am bumping into people who have found a new, unsung, almost subterranean activity, and have become hooked.

The son of my doctor is one of the world’s best in bouldering (a form of rock climbing performed without ropes or harnesses). A neighbour is an expert in Ultimate Frisbee. Last week, I was introduced to a man who is in the UK top ten in Racketlon (competitors play a single game to 21 in each of badminton, tennis, squash and table tennis, with the winner scoring the highest on aggregate).

In his book, *The Long Tail*, Chris Anderson looked at how our culture and consciousness are being increasingly shaped by niche phenomena. Much of his argument is based on the retail sector, where in the past it was only the blockbuster DVDs and books that ended up in the local store because it was only the big hits that justified the financial cost of shelf space.

Today, that has changed. Unlimited space at online stores such as Amazon, coupled with algorithms that lead consumers deeper into the labyrinth of niche products, means that the non-hit market has grown to a vast size. Virtual communities are devoted to fringe bands. Online video companies do a roaring trade in black and white Swedish movies. Each niche product may not get many hits, but the cumulative number devoted to the sector is expanding.

Sport is experiencing an echo of these deeper, perhaps inexorable trends. Two factors are in play, the most important being that the internet can enable cohesive fringe sport communities to blossom. In the past, the few hundred people interested in over-85 table tennis were so dispersed geographically that they never felt connected to a larger network, let alone a genuine subculture.

Today, there are online forums and web pages, run by volunteers and used by the wider community. At dinner on Saturday, Charles talked to me about his rivals from China, Spain, Thailand and France, all of whom he is virtually connected to. The tournaments seem to have a deeper meaning as a result: when the community comes together, they are not attending a reunion, but developing a relationship.

If you cannot get to the competition, you can watch it online — a second factor driving niche sports. In the past, it cost about £20,000 to hire a TV crew to broadcast for a day. Today, you can stream a tournament for little more than the cost of a video camera and an internet connection.

Over recent years, I have watched the National Table Tennis Championships final online (with live commentary). For international events, the same applies, with the International Table Tennis Federation streaming many of its top competitions. The virtual community is not merely connecting participants, but spectators, too.

Perhaps the most fascinating thing is that niche sports are fragmenting. Table tennis used to be a game with a clear governance structure and set of rules. Today, it is solely a name for a family of sports that all share a resemblance, but which have their own overlapping communities.

Hardbat table tennis is played with pimples-out rackets, a throwback to the 1940s. Then there is Ping-Pong, a game with its own governing body and rulebook, and which has its own World Championships each year at Alexandra Palace under the promotional wing of Barry Hearn. Matches are played with sandpaper bats and a different scoring system.

Large sports will doubtless continue to dominate conventional mediums (television, newspapers, radio). The 80:20 rule associated with Vilfredo Pareto, the economist, whereby 80 per cent of the money and prestige of a sector is dominated by 20 per cent of the participants, will remain intact.

But the long tail will nevertheless continue to grow. I recently received an email from the

association of Muggle Quidditch, in which two teams of seven players mounted on broomsticks play on an ice hockey rink-sized pitch. It has more than a dozen national associations.

For a long time, I worried about cultural fragmentation, not just in sport but beyond. Regular readers will know that I am a believer in unifying institutions. The monarchy played this role, as did the BBC and the England football team. My fear about proliferation is that we may lose our sense of solidarity. If we are all involved in our own niche interests, where is the wider sense of identity? I have come to realise, though, that this is a naive position, not least because the social and technological dynamics of the long tail cannot easily be resisted.

Talking to Charles made me realise that fragmentation is an expression of individualism. Instead of our interests being dictated by the editorial decisions of the person who chooses which DVDs to stock at HMV or which sports to air on the BBC, we can make our own choices.

We have become the curators of our own lives, the editors of our own destinies. We can play and watch football, if we choose, but we can also take a deep dive into an astonishing plethora of activities and sports that exist in our world, each nurtured by volunteers and each with a unique subculture. The long tail is here to stay. We should probably embrace it.

April 15 2015

The Sycamore Table Tennis Academy

Sycamore sowing seeds of success at school 2nd April 2015 Action from one of Carlton le Willows Academy table tennis sessions Coaches from Nottingham Sycamore Table Tennis Academy are boosting the search for the champions of the future.



Having been impressed by the skill and enthusiasm of students at lunchtime and after-school table tennis sessions at Carlton Le Willows Academy in Gedling, Nottingham, Sycamore has designated the school a satellite club. It means professional coach Harvey Stevens goes into school to work with Year 7 students during the weekly after-school club – with the ultimate aim of some of those players starting to play in regional and then national matches. Jason Ramage, vice-chair of Sycamore – one of Table Tennis England’s Talent Development Centres – said: “Carlton le Willows has such a massive take-up with table tennis, it’s just amazing. “Normally school clubs have about 10 students attending – Carlton le Willows routinely has between 20 and 30. Our coach was blown away by the enthusiasm there. It seemed the perfect place to become a satellite club.” Table tennis began taking Carlton le Willows by storm after new outdoor tables were introduced for students to play on at lunchtime and breaks. Demand was so high that a lunchtime club with eight table tennis tables was set up in the hall, with a weekly after-school club added soon after. The initial idea to introduce outdoor tables came from the Academy’s student-led school council and head teacher Craig Weaver says he has been delighted with the results: “The idea for table tennis came from the students and they have taken up the opportunity with such enthusiasm and spirit, it has been amazing to see. “The impact on school life has been extremely positive and of course it backs up the Carlton le Willows ethos, which aims to give all

students the chance to achieve the very best for themselves. “Thanks to the school-sports club partnership with Sycamore Table Tennis Academy, we now have the benefit of professional coaching so who knows, we may be nurturing an Olympic table

tennis champion of the future right here at Carlton le Willows.” The enthusiasm of pupils at Carlton le Willows helped it to become a satellite club

As a designated satellite club for Sycamore

Academy, Carlton le Willows, which has around 1,350 students aged 11 to 18, will benefit from a number of weeks’ funding from Table Tennis England for the coaching. Students will also have the chance to take part in Sycamore’s own clubs, with the potential for selection for regional and national matches. Ramage added: “Nottingham is a hot spot for table tennis, which is why Sycamore was designated a Talent Development Centre. We aim to provide the best players in the region with a pathway towards the ultimate goal of playing table tennis for England.” Paul Stimpson April 2, 2015 - See more at: <http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/sycamore-sowing-seeds-of-success-at-school/#sthash.DWpbqkiu.dpuf>

Action from one of Carlton le Willows Academy table tennis sessions - See more at: <http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/sycamore-sowing-seeds-of-success-at-school/#sthash.ehVCMI2N.dpuf>

One of the L&DTTL former Champions Kevin Dolder will know plenty about Sycamore, having been involved with their National League team for a while.

answer to Don’s teaser on page 3 “how many Pen Holders will be in the 53rd World Championships”, the answer is Two.



Two new Talent Development Centres announced! 10th April 2015 Discovering and nurturing the elite players of tomorrow is the aim of Table Tennis England's two newest Talent Development Centres. Greenhouse Sports and Urban Table Tennis have joined the TDC network, bringing the total number of centres in England to seven. Both have well established table tennis programmes in their respective areas of London, working with hundreds of youngsters in schools and clubs. The partnership with Table Tennis England will enable both to provide extra coaching and support for the best young prospects and create a pathway for them to join the England Youth Squad and hopefully continue on to the top of the world game. Greenhouse Sports currently has 13 schools which feed into four hubs at The Bushey Academy, Capital City Academy in Willesden, Ernest Bevin College in Tooting and Raines Foundation School in Bethnal Green.

The organisation is in the recruitment phase to identify the best prospects from the players who attend the four hubs. The aim will be to have 20 youngsters aged nine to 14 in the TDC group, which will be overseen by head coach Helder Neves. Andries Pienaar, programme manager at Greenhouse Sports, said: "I definitely think the structure we have helps us – we have links with schools already, so we don't need to create those links. What we need to do is support the young people as much as possible to stick around in table tennis. "If we talk three or four years down the line, there need to be some of our young people that are a part of the England Youth Squad. "We are most probably the biggest table tennis deliverer in the country, so it makes sense for us to work with Table Tennis England and be part of their structures and not be seen to work on our own and outside of those structures. This is a great opportunity for us. "It will really benefit our young people to be a part of this pathway – they can see the pathway right into England representation and that's something we are very excited about." On the recruitment process, he added: "We've got a big push for girls' table tennis, so I would like the mix to be as close to 50-50 as possible." Urban Table Tennis currently work in 28 schools, 18 of them primaries, with between 400 and 700 children playing table tennis every term, in breakfast and lunch clubs and after school and as part of the GCSE syllabus. The club, which has eight full and part-time coaches, also works at Barnet Table Tennis Centre and Ellenborough Table Tennis Club and has teams in the French and Hungarian Leagues where players can sharpen their competitive and tournament play. Regular training camps are held in

France, Hungary and Romania. Gergely Urban, head coach said: "We're really grateful for the opportunity. We've been working hard for the past 10 years with the children and working on our system, and it feels like we've been accepted and belong in the top seven TDCs that Table Tennis England trusts to get youngsters to European standards. "We've delivered a good programme for the past 10 years and Table Tennis England see our qualities and have trust in us to give the players a chance to achieve their dreams.

Gergely Urban leads a session "We are already running our system and getting the children into our clubs, what this means is we will be in a position where the top children can play more hours. "All of them will have coaches assigned to them and we will provide extra one-to-one sessions and extra weekend sessions. We'll also get more sessions for the under-10s. "It will be hard work because this a big challenge to recognised in Europe but we believe our structure is strong and ready for it." Table Tennis England's Head of Coaching & Performance, Simon Mills, said: "The aim of the Talent Development Centre project is to significantly increase the quality and quantity of players in the England performance pathway, eventually contributing to sustained international success. "Both Greenhouse and Urban have significant experience and expertise, backed up by outstanding infrastructure, making them ideal partners for us – we look forward to working with them to create sustainable success." Both Greenhouse and Urban were chosen from a competitive tender process.

Table Tennis England would like to thank all others for their bids and would like to continue to grow the network of Talent Development Centres over the coming year. The other Table Tennis England Talent Development Centres are in Harlow, Nottingham, Ormesby (Middlesbrough), Plymouth and Bristol.

Paul Stimpson April 10, 2015 - See more at: <http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/two-new-talent-development-centres-announced/#sthash.M4ao74g0.dpuf>

2014 – 15 Season's Cup Finals



Division 1 The Readman Cup was won by Fords, beating Crosby High 'B' 5-4

Both teams L - R Graham Rollinson (u) Steve Green (CH) Shaun Hall (F) Terry Turner (F) Mark Bleakly (CH) Tom Purcell (U) Andy Taylor (F) Gary Watson (CH)



Division 2. The Dr. J. Rumjahn Cup was won by Maghull, beating Sefton Park 5 - 2,

with only two matches to go, Maghull are well on the way to the 'double' L - R Tom Purcell, Match Umpire, Peter Tod (SP) Ian Laird (SP), Alan Davies (SP), Paul Banks (M), Amy Hutchings (M) Paul Hutchings (M)



Division 3. The G.B. Hyde Cup was won by East Wavertree, beating Marconi 'B' 5 - 1

Another team in line for the double, L - R Ian Wensley (M) Heiko Kluegel (EW), Ben Chen (EW), Joey Williams (EW), Frank McCann (M), Matt Evans (M) Graham Rollinson, match umpire.



Division 4. The L. E. Forrest Cup was won by East Wavertree 'A' beating St. Annes 5 - 2

Both teams are topping the division and will probably win promotion, but the honour of the double could go down to the last match. L - R. Dave Bradley (SA) Tom Creevy (EW), Lee Madin (EW), Ged Howard (EW), Israel Isaac (SA), Ton Dixon (EW), Francis Dako (SA), Graham Rollinson (MU), Hassib Nuree, (SA), Carl Macauley (EW), Jimmy Williams (EW)



Division 4. The W. Stamp Cup was won by Waterloo, beating Wavertree Labour 'E' 5 - 0

Waterloo are assured promotion and the double. L - R Gavin Minett (W), Stan Clarke (WL), Jeff Hornby (W), Eric Spencer (WL), Phil O'Mullane (W), Geoff Metcalf (W), Dave Williams (WL), Gordon Langshaw (WL).



The Frank Murphy Memorial Handicap Cup was won by Bath St. Marine 2.

beating their BsM 1 team 334 to 323 points, both teams with members of the Frank Murphy 'Family'. L - R. Sue Berry (FM), Ted Cramsie (1), Graham Rollinson (MU), Barry Davis (1), Ton Kendal (1), Marjorie Murphy,(FM), Ken Jackson (2), Ricky Brown (2), Kevin Lovelady (FM), Myra Lovelady (FM), Darren Taylor (2), Dave Berry (FM), Brian Crolley and Bill Clayton (BsM members)

Joel Webb - Wavertree Labour

The St Margaret's School pupil is the current Lancashire Schools champion and has already received national ranking. Joel will be one of more than 300 players representing 50 counties at Tipton Sports Academy in the Midlands this Saturday (April 25) for what is the largest one-day event in the table tennis calendar in England.

Spotted at the age of 14 by former England player Keith Williams, who was coaching at St. Margarets at the time, Joel - who trains at Formby TTC - has won titles across the country including success at the prestigious Sussex Grand Prix. Joel's first season was with Cadwa 'D' in the 2010-11 season, the following season in the 'B' team squad, by the 13-14 season he was in Cadwa's 1st team, this season he switched to Wavertree Labour, and along with Joe Pilkington, Ryan Maynard and Thomas Haddley are now clear favourites to win the League Championship.



Success at the Butterfly Championships could lead to Joel being selected by the English Schools Table Tennis Association for the Invitation International held this summer to compete against teams from Guernsey, Ireland, Wales, Scotland and the Isle of Man. Joel plans to combine his burgeoning table tennis career with his studies. He recently accepted a place to read Sport and Exercise Science at Nottingham Trent University

D. W. Davies

Geoff Pullar Obituary: Died 25th December 2014 aged 79

England Cricketer, England International Junior Table Tennis player and CADWA TTC player.

Geoff first played table tennis in Liverpool in the early 1950's when entering the Merseyside Open (now Grand Prix) with his friend Bill Fawley (the current Liverpool League President) in the men's doubles. He joined CADWA during the 1967/68 season playing in a handful of matches but, his efforts couldn't save the Childwall club from relegation to division two. Geoff played in 28 Test matches for England, scoring 175 versus South Africa at the Oval when with Colin Cowdray, the pair put on 290 for the first wicket. He also hit 131 against India at Old Trafford, the first Lancastrian to score a test century at the ground. Prior to that, he played table tennis for England Juniors.

DWD



Table Tennis

English Table Tennis Association

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LESLIE EMBERRY FORREST

An appreciation from LESLIE WOOLLARD

ON Friday, February 17, 1961, our dear friend Leslie Forrest died of coronary thrombosis in Leeds Infirmary. With his passing, a light went out in English table tennis. He was only 59, a young 59. We knew that illness had dragged his heels in late years but it seemed inconceivable that one, who was a part of all we are, could pass with such tragic suddenness. Yet, could he have chosen his end, this would have been the way of it, in harness.

On the Sunday I had discussed some Association business with him. He confessed disobedience to his doctor's orders; he admitted how ill he was and knew what he should do. But to Leslie, the game was always greater than any person, and it was characteristic that Wednesday found him at Leeds making his County Championship report to the Yorkshire Executive. He collapsed, and despite his appeals not to disrupt the business of the meeting, was finally taken to the Infirmary where he died 48 hours later.

Leslie had no life of his own: forty years ago he gave it to table tennis and the Y.M.C.A. movement. These became his life; they absorbed, used and finally extinguished it. Greater and more brilliant men there may have been, but there never was a man of such absolute sincerity and untarnished honesty. His life was gentle. Violence he abhorred. He hated petty bickering, power-jockeying and the acrid atmosphere of personality conflicts, because he knew how much it/they injured the best interests of the game.

It is 39 years since he founded his first league in Barry (Wales). In 1925 he had started organising in Liverpool, first with the Y.M.C.A., then the League. This was quickly followed by 10 years of phenomenal pioneer activity in his birth-county of Cheshire and Lancashire, founding of the Lancashire County, and playing against Yorkshire in the first county matches. But long before that, in 1926, Leslie had become one of the founding members of the National Executive of the E.T.T.A., a membership retained for the rest of his life.

In 1938 he became Assistant Secretary of the E.T.T.A. (to Bill Pope) at the London headquarters, and Chairman of the Wembley League. In the post-war years he was the main pivot of Yorkshire's reformation and materially aided (with all the steadfast pride of a native "Tyke") Yorkshire's climb to the topmost level. In January, 1949 he married Aranka (a zealot of equal fervency) and a cousin of the one and only Victor Barna. Together they watched the promising emergence of Leslie's son "Sonny" in county colours. It seems a little sad that Leslie will not see his three-year-old grandson Steven make his debut. Dear Leslie his patience was greater than all of us. "I must tell you this" he would say, or "Let's talk it out over a brew." We would smile (and forever be amazed) at his super-meticulous concentration on every tiny detail. Nothing was too much trouble. He would do anything, write immensely long letters, help anyone. An Elder Statesman (and a Life Member) of the game: he may have been, but he never lost the golden touch on the heart of the game. He had fresh ideas, and he worked on them.

He loved the youthful side, developed, encouraged it, stayed young with it. Leslie Forrest was a fine Christian gentleman and one of the most lovable characters I ever knew. His loss is irreparable. His absence leaves a gap that cannot be filled, and a great sadness in the hearts of all who knew him. ...

League Tables as at 25/4/2015

Division One		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Wavertree Lab	20	19	0	1	172	28	172
2	Crosby High B	21	18	0	3	165	45	165
3	Fords	19	17	0	2	132	58	132
4	M/Side Police	19	12	1	6	123	67	123
5	Bath St Marine A	20	7	4	9	88	112	88
6	Bath St Marine	21	5	4	12	83	127	83
7	Christ The King	18	5	4	9	78	102	78
8	Crosby High	17	7	1	9	77	93	77
9	Christ The King A	20	4	2	14	68	132	68
10	M/Side Police B	20	5	3	12	67	133	67
11	M/Side Police A	20	4	2	14	65	135	65
12	Marconi	21	3	3	15	60	150	60
13	Crosby High A	record Expunged						
14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Division Two		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Maghull	22	21	0	1	183	37	183
2	Bath St Marine B	21	14	3	4	140	70	140
3	Harold House	22	12	5	5	129	91	129
4	Marconi A	21	14	3	4	129	81	129
5	Cadwa	20	11	5	4	116	84	116
6	Wavertree Lab A	21	9	4	8	103	107	103
7	Sefton Park	21	6	5	10	97	113	97
8	Bootle YMCA	21	8	3	10	96	114	96
9	Cadwa A	21	7	2	12	89	121	89
10	Wavertree Lab B	22	5	3	14	84	136	84
11	Crosby High C	20	6	2	12	76	124	76
12	Bath St Marine C	21	2	3	16	64	146	64
13	Harold House A	19	1	2	16	54	136	54
14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Division Three		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	East Wavertree	23	19	3	1	165	65	165
2	Marconi B	24	18	2	4	153	87	153
3	Bath St Marine E	23	14	3	6	150	80	150
4	Maghull B	23	11	4	8	134	96	134
5	M/Side Police C	23	13	2	8	128	102	128
6	Arriva Nth West	22	10	3	9	115	105	115
7	Maghull A	22	9	3	10	104	116	104
8	Bath St Marine D	21	8	2	11	102	108	102
9	Marconi C	23	5	5	13	97	133	97
10	Cadwa B	22	3	6	13	84	136	84
11	Bootle YMCA A	21	5	4	12	84	126	84
12	Wavertree Lab C	21	5	2	14	71	139	71
13	Linacre	22	4	3	15	63	157	63
14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Division Four		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	St Annes	22	20	0	2	172	48	172
2	East Wavertree A	21	18	2	1	161	49	161
3	Bath St Marine F	22	18	1	3	157	63	157
4	Sefton Park A	21	16	0	5	142	68	142
5	M/Side Police D	22	11	4	7	122	98	122
6	Marconi D	22	8	2	12	101	119	101
7	Cadwa C	22	7	3	12	98	122	98
8	Maghull C	23	6	3	14	92	138	92
9	Bootle YMCA B	22	5	5	12	85	135	85
10	QVC	22	6	2	14	75	145	75
11	Arriva Nth West A	21	3	3	15	71	139	71
12	Wavertree Lab D	21	5	2	14	71	139	71
13	Maghull D	21	3	3	15	62	148	62
14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Division Five		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Waterloo	22	19	1	2	172	48	172
2	Sefton Park B	21	14	4	3	139	71	139
3	Bootle YMCA C	21	16	3	2	138	72	138
4	Waterloo A	22	14	1	7	129	91	129
5	Arriva Nth West B	22	11	6	5	125	95	125
6	M/Side Police E	22	10	3	9	114	106	114
7	Cadwa D	21	13	0	8	113	97	113
8	Bath St Marine G	21	9	2	10	105	105	105
9	QVC A	22	6	1	15	89	131	89
10	Wavertree Lab E	21	5	2	14	88	122	88
11	Maghull E	22	5	2	15	77	143	77
12	Sefton Park C	22	1	5	16	61	159	61
13	Marconi E	21	1	2	18	50	160	50
14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Doubles Table

DIVISION ONE		P	W	L	Pts
1	Wavertree Lab	20	17	3	17
2	Fords	19	16	3	16

DIVISION TWO		P	W	L	Pts
1	Maghull	22	20	2	20
2	Cadwa	20	14	6	14

DIVISION THREE		P	W	L	Pts
1	Bath St Marine E	23	19	4	19
2	East Wavertree	23	19	4	19

DIVISION FOUR		P	W	L	Pts
1	East Wavertree A	42	34	8	34
2	Sefton Park A	42	34	8	34

DIVISION FIVE		P	W	L	Pts
1	Waterloo	44	34	10	34
2	Arriva Nth West B	44	28	16	28