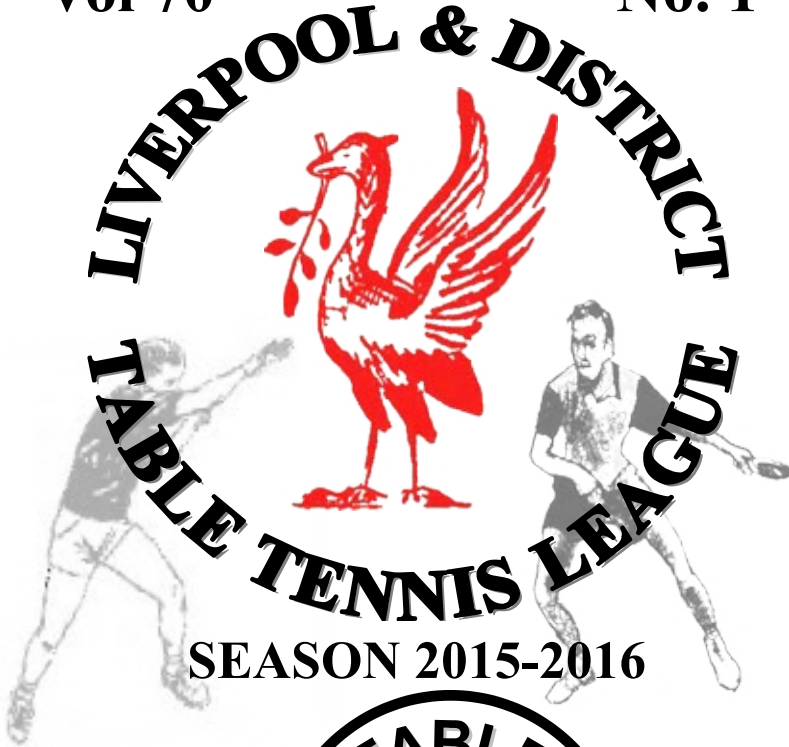


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Editorial

Another season started, the first Digest I've used week 8 as a cut-off point, hopefully this hard copy will arrive in your hands before the Christmas Break for those not on the internet, for those that are on line, available sooner. Four regular reporters and one new, Pete Walsh (Jnr) has agreed to do the Div.1 report to relieve Don Davies of the task, Don had taken on the 1st Div. report even though he didn't play there, so my grateful thanks to him, Pete does play in the 1st, so he can add comments to players he knows. Div. 2 again has Ray Jackson, Ray is still playing in the 1st, (I think he was expecting to be playing D2 this season!) but with Thomasz Rzeszotko joining his team, 'the future looks brighter'. Ian McElwee is doing, and has done for a long time, Div. 3, even though he is now playing in Div.1, so for Ray and Ian, hard work only having the match cards to relate to. Div. 4, Ken Roberts and Div. 5 Jimmy Williams are reporting on the Div's they play in, so they will see the players they report on, but having said that, all their reports are what makes the Digest, and my gratitude goes out to all of our reporters.

Don Davies has had to give his N&E a miss this time, but has knocked a bit together to highlight the fact that the L&D TTL has returned to Lancashire & Cheshire County Competition, Paul Hutchings, Thomas Haddley and Steve Green form the squad, and are doing very well after the first weekend.

The Junior Development Division of the L&D TTL has now passed week 6 of their 10 week season, and is still as competitive as at the start, the attention from all the youngsters is so encouraging, Paul Gittins and Graham Chellew should feel 'a job well done', and also the other Regular helpers who turn up with the teams every match, Steve Gittins, Graham Turner and Ged Howard. Paul has written a full report on the JDD on pages 14 & 15.

Sadly two of our League players passed away during the summer break, heartfelt messages from their club friends are in the Obituaries on pg. 18.

Steve Rowe, used to play with Marconi, now mainly in Wigan has just been running a Young Officials Award course at St. Francis Xavier's College Liverpool, the course was planned in order to help pupils with their current GCSE table tennis choice, Steve has the backing and encouragement of the school staff, pg. 5

Dad's Army, as well as the new film due to arrive on the 'silver' screens, regular players in the bottom divisions, will be well aware of the social team members of Maghull, who have gone to tremendous personal expense to make their own mark on 'smartening up' the League (and a laugh!), pg.16.

There's an interesting article found via searching through the old ETTA Archives of the TT Magazine, 'sponge bats' the forerunner of the bats we use now, no holding up progress, pg. 17.

Remember the Olympics, money no object, the billions of pounds spent on the London Olympics was promised to create a legacy of sporting activity for the nation, did that legacy take off and continue, an interesting article which says 'NO' it didn't, except for a few sports, of which Table Tennis is one, that did, pg. 7

Cup results from Div. Cups rounds 1&2, semi-final draw not taken place yet, and a prelim. draw for the Frank Murphy Handicap Cup, due to having more than the normal 32 starter teams, pg 19

Latest League Tables back page 20

Trevor doesn't do a table anymore showing how much is being squandered by players to the detriment of their Club finances, I used to show it at the back of each Digest, don't know if that was because the League may feel a bit guilty, don't see why, cos sometimes shock treatment is the only way, the number of walkovers are increasing, players playing short, cards or envelopes with multiple cards in, not having a stamp on, which means it has to be collected from the nearest sorting office, at multiple times the cost of a stamp. Match Cards still not filled in properly, this makes more work for match secretary to compile league tables which everyone expects to be up to date!, Trevor does have a 'table of defaulters' though, on his updated tables page, admitted there is a slight difference to this season's match card from previous seasons, but it isn't rocket science to fill them in correctly, look at your team match books!! PLeeeeeeeze!!

And of course all the photo's used in the Digest are in colour, and don't do justice printed in B/W, the online version does have a little 'edge'

Only a few more weeks to Christmas Day, the years just flash by, then off on another year!!

Best wishes to 'ALL' for Christmas and the New Year from all the Editorial Staff.

Nets and Edges

Don Davies

Don sent his apologies to me as due to other commitments he was unable to compile his usual N&E, but has managed to send the following relating to the L&D TLL's commitment to County League competition, also mention of the Wirral League; his N&E's will resume next Digest. Editor



The Liverpool men's team returned to Lancashire and Cheshire League action at the weekend after a break of eight years and made a promising start in the first of two sessions at the Hilton Centre, Horwich.

In their opening match in the premier division, Paul Hutchings,

Thomas Hadley and Steve Green seemed to be affected by the 9am start and although coming close to forcing a draw when trailing 3-2 to Bury, they lost the next encounter and the match 4-2. This didn't appear to affect them, though and proceeded to thrash Warrington, Oldham and Manchester 6-0 in their next three matches.

Player Averages						
Player	Team	P	W	L	Win	
Joe Killoran	C. and E. Port	8	8	0	100.00%	
Aaron Beech	C. and E. Port	8	8	0	100.00%	
Paul Hutchings	Liverpool	8	7	1	87.50%	
Thomas Haddley	Liverpool	8	7	1	87.50%	
David Griffith	Bury	7	6	1	85.71%	
Graham Jeffries	Bury	7	6	1	85.71%	
Stephen Green	Liverpool	8	6	2	75.00%	
Zak Cantor	Bury	8	5	3	62.50%	
Nick Mooney	Oldham	8	5	3	62.50%	
Anthony Bates	Trafford	8	4	4	50.00%	
Wayne Percival	C. and E. Port	8	4	4	50.00%	
Tony Vaughan	Trafford	8	3	5	37.50%	
Olivier Barthelemy	Warrington	8	3	5	37.50%	
Gary Watson	Warrington	8	3	5	37.50%	
Matthew Fields	Preston	8	3	5	37.50%	
Brian Clements	Manchester	8	3	5	37.50%	
John Hope	Manchester	8	3	5	37.50%	
Nadeem Ahmed	Manchester	8	2	6	25.00%	
Gabriel Wilding	Oldham	8	2	6	25.00%	
Ian Mclean	Oldham	8	2	6	25.00%	
Phil Biggs	Trafford	4	1	3	25.00%	
Amy Hutchings	Warrington	8	1	7	12.50%	
Keiron Beswick	Preston	8	1	7	12.50%	
Andy Clark	Preston	8	1	7	12.50%	

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Chester And Evesmere Port	4	4	0	0	20	4	8
2	Bury	4	4	0	0	18	5	8
3	Liverpool	4	3	0	1	20	4	6
4	Oldham	4	1	1	2	9	15	3
5	Trafford	4	1	0	3	8	15	2
6	Manchester	4	0	2	2	8	16	2
7	Warrington	4	1	0	3	7	17	2
8	Preston	4	0	1	3	5	19	1

Wirral League

Wirral League players' Mitchell Barker, Gemma Grant, Gavin Lloyd, Milan Puchala, Steve Green and Phil Luxon, have still to taste defeat in division one this season while Jonathan Taylor, John Chan, Alan Timewell and Robin Barker have each been beaten just once.

DIVISION 1	P	W	D	L	PTS
NFGR	7	7	0	0	67
NBCC	7	6	0	1	52
Pinewood	7	5	1	1	44
Wall Manor	8	4	1	3	40
NFGR II	8	1	3	4	34
Hoylake	7	1	3	3	30
Phoenix	6	3	1	2	29
Our Lady's II	7	1	3	3	29
NBCC II	7	2	1	4	29
Our Lady's	8	2	1	5	26
Spinners	6	2	0	4	24
Nfgr III	6	0	2	4	16

Division 1.

Pete Walsh (Jnr.)

Welcome to another season of highs, lows and shifting sands in what appears already to be an interesting juxtaposition to last year.

Migrating stars from other areas like Ryan Maynard and Shaun Hall have returned to their native leagues after wowing with flashes of brilliance and testing the diverse range of playing styles that is the L&DTTL with their own unique brand.

The league is all the richer for their input and I wish them the best of luck. Meanwhile the stalwarts of the league like Keith Williams (83% in 24) and Paul Hutchings (100% in 21) continue to impress consistently attaining their very high standards.

Whilst the emerging talents of Harry Watson (27.27% in 11) and Rhys Davies (42.86% in 7) with youth on their side bring reassurance there is plenty more where that came from.

Week one overall summary

Christ the King (6th) as they were still known at the start of the season faced Crosby high a (1st) at home for their first match which saw John Goodall (80% in 15) prevent a team loss with three hard fought five setters against Omid Khaiyat (58.33% in 12), Peter Lee (77.78% in 9) and Joe Killoran (100% in 6)- the latter being the only player to beat him.

BSM B (12th) gave Marconi (11th) a torrid time beating them 8-2 in a match which saw Ricky 'the chopper harris' Brown (53.33% in 15) triumph without dropping a game against the trio of Chris Spedding (41.67% in 12), Adrian Bramham (47.67% in 21) and Bob Edwards (0% in 3). The longest game of the match being between Adrian Bramham and Barry Davis (33.33% in 21), with Adrian losing to Davis 15/13 in the fifth set.

Police (8th) travelled to BsM (13th) Winning 8-2 with youngster Harry Watson (27.27% in 11) giving a good account of himself against Ray Jackson (33.33% in 15), Tony Kendall (33.33% in 12) and Fred Bainbridge (9.52% in 21), two of his games going right down to the wire in the fifth set. Jonathan Taylor (91.67% in 12) coasting to three wins and Joe Mullen (71.43% in 14) not far behind him with only one game going to five sets against Kendall.

Crosby high (2nd) played at home to newly promoted Maghull (10th) in a closely fought 6-4 victory with Paul Hutchings mini-me Amy (16.67% in 24) narrowly missing out in five setters against Cherith Graham (52.94% in 17) and Jack Dempsey (50% in 2).



Dempsey almost stripping Hutchings snr of his long standing 100% record in five sets.

During this encounter Chris FORD tore his calf in his first game against Gemma Grant (35.71% in 14) in this match and had to concede the remaining games. I wish him a speedy recovery.

A 6-4 defeat at home was the result of Fords (9th) versus Wavertree Labour (7th) which saw the impressive Joel Webb (100% in 3) win all three against Andy Taylor (71.43% in 21), Terry Turner (47.62% in 21) and Andrew

Town (47.62% in 21) only dropping one set against Terry. League newcomer David Griffiths (83.33% in 12) beating Town and Turner looks like one to watch. Christ the king a(6th) played against the Newly formed Waterloo(3rd) at home beating them 7-3. The highlight of the match was Joe Killoran(100% in 6) beating Keith Williams(83.33% in 24) in a five set thriller featuring outstanding loop to loop rallies.

In *Week two* Billy Cheungs Greenbank (5th) beat Bsm (13th) 6-4 without him dropping a game, most notably a three set win against Jackson. Crosby high a (1st) were unstoppable in a sound 10-0 defeat for the visitors Bsm b (12th) with Ian McElwee (33.33% in 6) being the only player to take a set when playing Gary Watson (75% in 20).

Similarly Crosby high (1st) had a 10-0 win visiting the Police (8th) with Harry Watson (27.27% in 11) almost clawing back a point in a five setter against Cherith Graham (52.94% in 17).

Paul Hutchings (100% in 21) senior's long standing unbeaten record was tested in their Maghull (10th) home venue 7-3 loss against Fords (9th) stretched to five sets by both Andy Taylor (71.43% in 21) and Andrew Town (47.62% in 21).

Weeks three and four saw the welcome return of Tomasz Rzesztko (88.89% in 9) from a horrendous injury whilst playing in a tournament, a player of great talent and is equally humble. It was business as usual for him not dropping a set against Bsm (13th) with Marconi (11th) winning 6-4.

Waterloo (3rd) beat Bsm (13th) 8-2 in a game in which Claire Peers (77.78% in 18) was beaten by Steve Green (85.71% in 21) and Denise Mcevoy (28.57% in 14)... however it appears the losses put fire in her belly and she played out of her skin to beat Keith Williams ending with 11/5 in the fifth.

Weeks five and six starts with an excellent win for Marconi's (11th) Adrian Bramham (47.62% in 21) against Police's (8th) Joe Mullin (71.43% in 14), coming back impressively from two sets down to win 15/13 in the fifth, unfortunately Ade was on the losing side with the final result being 8-2.

Waterloo(3rd) lost to Wavertree labour (7th) 7-3 in an epic game which saw Thomas Haddley (88.89% in 18) beat Keith Williams (83.33% in 24) in three and Steve green (85.71% in 21) in four. Newcomer David Griffiths also beat Keith Williams in what appears to be a close four setter ending with two 12/10's Bsm a (4th) beat Crosby high (2nd) 8-2 and the enigmatic Dave Roberts (77.78% in 18) was instrumental in the victory winning all three of his games including beating Jack Dempsey (70% in 20) in three sets, a notable win on any day.

In **week seven** Paul Hutchings (100% in 21) saw off another potential loss by defeating the returning Thomasz (88.89% in 9) In five sets. Paul's Maghull (10th) team losing to Thomasz's Marconi (11th) 6-4. Claire Peers (77.78% in 18) played well to come back from a set down to beat Joe Mullin in four turning a potential loss for Bsm A (4th) against Police (8th) into a draw.

With Crosby high and Crosby high A being placed first and second respectively it'll be interesting to see

who can be Christmas number 1. In the middle of the table a further Derby rivalry between Greenbank and Greenbank A, (formerly Christ the king) is closely contested with only one point between them. Whilst at the bottom of the table Bsm and Bsm B are fighting it out with a gap of two points.

Whilst browsing the New 365 website I noted it had a section entitled Player of the Match.

I believe this works using some type of game win algorithm calculation, If I'm wrong please correct me. The current standings on this are;

Rk.	Player.	PoM
1	Paul Hutchings	7
2	Thomas Haddley	4
3	Steve Green	3

Will you make it in the top three in the next report? Or beat one of them?

I will keep an eye on this for the next issue and brownie points will be attributed.

Have a Happy Christmas and see you in the New Year!

Peter Walsh Jnr(ish)

Young Officials Award Course at Francis Xavier's College, Liverpool

Course Tutor Steve Rowe has been helping enthusiastic pupils on a Young Officials Award Course St Francis Xavier's College Liverpool. The course was planned in order to help pupils with their current GCSE table tennis.

The school realises that using the Young Officials Award course is a great step in order to help the pupils gain a higher mark when being assessed for officiating as part of their GCSE table tennis.

There is much to learn, and lots of rules and regulations that the children will have never heard before.

Passing on the knowledge is one thing, but the main thing is that the kids themselves take onboard the knowledge and then put into practice for their own benefit. 13 pupils took part, and tried to understand all the rules and regulations an umpire needs in order to officiate a table tennis game.

Steve said: "I enjoy tutoring this type of course. Passing on knowledge that can potentially help a pupil gain higher marks towards their overall PE assessment, which gives a lot of satisfaction.

"This type of course is perfect for schools to use, and i would recommend that schools contact Table Tennis England and book a Young Officials Award course" Six pupils in particular showed good learning, and performed well when scoring games. Speaking clearly and confidently. Being confident and assertive when scoring a competitive table tennis match is extremely important.

Teacher Andrew Murphy said: "I have really enjoyed the course, and also learned many things myself. I just hope the kids now use the knowledge they have learned. We intend to continue with extra sessions in order to follow on from the course"

The school ran a further 2 courses on 17th and 24th November 2015.

See more at: <http://updates.tabletennisengland.co.uk/northwest/2015/11/20/yoa-course-at-francis-xaviers-college-liverpool/#sthash.zstoUItN.dpuf>

n.b. For a successful school course to run it is imperative to have the full backing of Teachers, as seems the case at SFX

Division 2.

Ray Jackson

Well here we are with the first weeks of a very interesting season in this division. With no team relegated from the first, it could be very open this season, with some regulars maybe going to the promised land at the end. We'll see. Could Wayne Percival, Graeme Black, Phil Luxon ! get back to where they belong, or could newcomers East Wavertree spring a surprise.

WEEK 1 East Wavertree had the star performer in Heiko Kluegel in their draw at Bath St C, who's Julian Quirk and Sam Pierce each managed a brace. Paul Gittins remained unbeaten in Police A's close defeat of Bath St D. and Mark Slater of Cadwa A did likewise in their win at Wavertree Labour B, Dong Xia picking up Wavertree's pair.

Wayne Percival held the Bootle YMCA's team together in their draw with Sefton Park, Alan Davies and Ian Laird scoring a couple each for Sefton. Paul Evans' hat trick was enough to help Cadwa to a win over Wavertree Labour A, and Marconi B conceded a walk over, and look like they're dropping out.

WEEK 2 A very impressive 9-1 win was reduced to 7-3 as Crosby High B's Tom Miller was ineligible, Matty Laird and Sylvia Graham remaining unbeaten against Police A. Graeme Black was also unbeaten in Cadwa's win at Bath St D. Marconi A's trio of Neil Colville, John McCann and Tony Mullally proved too strong for Wavertree Labour B, and Julian Quirk was too strong for Cadwa A, Ted Cramsie picking up a double.

Wayne Percival didn't drop a set in Bootle YMCA's draw at East Wavertree, who had doubles from Heiko Kluegel and Ben Chen. Marconi B again gave a walkover.

WEEK 3 Wayne Percival again proved invincible in Bootle YMCA's win over Cadwa A, Alan Chase also remaining unbeaten. Bath St C had a Julian Quirk hat trick and doubles from Sam Pierce and Ted Cramsie in their defeat of Marconi A, Bob Edwards picking up a couple for Marconi. A Phil Luxon hat trick was the highlight of Wavertree Labour A's draw with their B team, and Graeme Black was again unbeaten in Cadwa's draw with Crosby High B, who had doubles from Tom Miller



and Matty Laird. Paul Gittins scored a fine treble in Police A's win over Harold House, and Heiko Kluegel, Lee Madin and Tony Dixon each scored doubles in East Wavertree's win at Sefton.

WEEK 4 Paul Gittins with three and Jack with a pair helped Police A to overcome Sefton Park, Park's Ian Laird also scoring a couple. Graeme Black took the honours again as Cadwa drew with Harold House, Steve Whalley and Peter Findlater scoring doubles for Harold House.

Another draw saw Bath St D and Wavertree Labour B share the spoils, Bath St's Rob Peat, and Wavertree's Lee Farley and John Williams each picking up doubles. Sam Pierce was too hot for Wavertree A as Bath St C took the win, and Wayne Percival and Ted Birch scored trebles in Bootle YMCA's win at Marconi A, Marconi's Frank McAnn saving the whitewash defeating Alan Chase. Heiko Kluegel is looking good in the second division for promoted East Wavertree, remaining unbeaten in their win at Cadwa A, Lee Madin and Thomas Creevy scoring doubles.

WEEK 5 Julian Quirk and Sam Pierce scored hat tricks in Bath St C's win against their D team, and Lee Farley and Dank Xia scored likewise in Wavertree Labour B's win over a depleted Crosby High B. Graeme Black again and Paul Evans remained unbeaten in Cadwa's defeat of Police A, and Ben Chen scored a treble and Joey Williams a pair in East Wavertree's defeat of Marconi A, Marconi's Tony Mullally also picking up a pair.

Sefton's Alan Davies scored a hat trick, and Pete Tod and Mike Perry two each as they got the better of another depleted side, Cadwa A. Dave Wavertree Labour's Dave Harse scored a fine treble, but being a player short meant they could only muster a draw at a Wayne Percival less Bootle YMCA.

WEEK 6 Doubles from Alan Davies and Peter Tod helped Sefton to a win at Cadwa, but they couldn't stop Graeme Black from continuing his unbeaten run. Trebles from Steve Whalley and Kevin Lewis helped Harold House in their defeat of another depleted team, Wavertree Labour B, Labour's Lee Farley saving the whitewash with a win over Peter

Findlater. Despite a hat trick from Julian Quirk, Bath St C couldn't get the better of Crosby High B, Matty Laird and Sylvia Graham scoring doubles. Another hat trick performance in defeat saw Bath St D's Rob Peat remain unbeaten in their loss to Bootle YMCA, Alan Chase, Ted Birch and John Higham scoring doubles. Dave Harse scored another hat trick in Wavertree Labour A's win over East Wavertree, and Neil Colville and Paul Loftus scored doubles for Marconi A, as Mark Slater did for a depleted Cadwa A, in a Marconi win. The league will be loving all these fines for depleted teams.

WEEK 7 Roger Neal was the unbeaten star as Crosby High B got the better of Bootle YMCA, and Julian Quirk took the honours as Bath St C defeated Harold House, Sam Pierce also helping with a pair, and Kevin Lewis got a pair for Harold House. Phil Luxon was back on form as he remained unbeaten in Wavertree Labour A's win at Cadwa A, Dave Harse picking a up a double for them and Mark Slater for Cadwa. Ian Laird scored a fine hat trick in Sefton's draw with Marconi A, Neil Colville and Tony Mullally picking up doubles for Marconi, and Rob Peat and Dave Stodern remained unbeaten in Bath St D's win at East Wavertree.

WEEK 8 Graeme Black got his usual treble in Cadwa's win over Wavertree Labour B, Lee Farley and John Williams picking up couples for Wavertree. Julian Quirk with three and Sam Pierce two in Bath St C's draw at Police A, Paul Gittins scored two for the Police. Steve Whalley and Kevin Lewis remained unbeaten in

Harold House's defeat of Bootle YMCA, Alan Chase saving the whitewash, defeating Peter Findlater. Rob Peat and Colin Mitchell scored hat tricks in Bath St D's win against Cadwa A, in a match of six five setters. Could have been so different. Dave Harse and Aresh Khozore scored trebles in Wavertree Labour A's win over Marconi A. So with a third of the season gone Bath St C lead the way, closely followed by Cadwa, Bootle YMCA, East Wavertree and Wavertree Labour A, so Wayne, Graeme and Phil are still in the hunt for pastures new. It's hard to comment on the bottom places as there is hardly anything in it from top to bottom, but at the moment Wavertree B and Cadwa A occupy those bottom two places.

It should be an interesting second third, and you'd have to be a brave man to gamble on the final places, much depending on the teams turning out their top players week in week out.

THE billions of pounds spent on the London Olympics was promised to create a legacy of sporting activity for the nation.

But the latest figures show that participation in grassroots sports each week is plummeting. The number of people aged 16 and above taking part in sport at least once a week has slumped by 400,000 since 2012, according to figures highlighted by the Local Government Association. They show that, in 2014-2015, 15.5million took part in sport in England, down from 15.9million in 2011-12.

Of the 46 sports assessed, only six - athletics, cycling, netball, table tennis, archery and fencing - have shown a significant rise in participation. Councils warn a 'couch potato' culture is worsening our obesity crisis. Ian Stephens, from the LGA, which represents councils, said: 'We are in the midst of a full-blown obesity crisis which is being exacerbated by plunging levels of grassroots sports participation. This is creating a lost generation of obese kids and putting the NHS under enormous pressure.'

Vast amounts of public money were spent on the Olympics. The initial cost of the 2012 games spiralled upwards from an initial estimate of £2.4billion in 2005, reaching an estimated £8.8billion by the close of the games.

In 2008, then-Olympics minister Tessa Jowell said the aims of the games were to 'get more people active' and 'inspire young people through sport'. She recently admitted that the legacy of the games had not worked. She told Radio 4's Today programme 'My particular concern is that the second legacy promise was to transform a generation of young people through sport. Actually, children in school now are playing less sport than they were in 2009. That's why it is a wasted opportunity

Sport England has a £500million budget to boost sports participation between 2013 and 2017. A spokesman for Sport England said that since 2005, when the 2012 games were awarded to London, participation has gone up from 14million taking part in sport current level of 15.5million.

Division 3.

Ian McElwee

Division 3 notes November 15

East Wavertree A team have had a tremendous start winning all 7 matches played in amassing 55 points, they certainly have a strong squad of players. No 1, Lee Madin, lost his 100% win record when losing in 5 sets to Bootle YMCA's Shakil Malik at week 8. Shakil also got the better of Joey Williams in an amazing battle where he took the match 16/14 in the 5th. in another hard fought match, Tom Doubtfire hung on to beat Tony Dixon 11/8 in another 5 setter, the final result was 7/3 in favour of the Wavertree side. They started slowly by the standards they have subsequently set with narrow 6/4 victories over BSM F and Marconi C, after that they seem to have gone from strength to strength with a series of high scoring wins, if they carry on in this vein they will take some catching.

Despite East Wavertree's strong start they have not yet managed to pull away from the chasing pack. Second placed Maghull B are only 7 points adrift. Their strongest team seems to be John Langton, Steve Braddick and Alan Chan ably supported by Loon Wai Yu. All 4 have been in top form in securing 9/1 victories over Merseyside Police B (Brenda Buocy beating Alan), CADWA B (Alan French beating Loon) and Wavertree Labour C (Maghull losing the doubles). They have, however, slipped up on 2 occasions including going down 6/4 to Bootle YMCA. Shakil and Tom each won 2 singles, Liam Shaw won 1 and Bootle took the doubles. Their other loss was 7/3 at BSM E with Mal Kent and the ever young Brian Crolley each winning their 3 singles and Andy Cheung beating Loon.

St. Anne's lie in 3rd place with 47 points from 8 matches, they beat Wavertree Labour C with Isaac Israel and Hasib Nuree each winning 3 and Francis Dako 2. Dave Bradley came in for Francis against Sefton Park A and beat Roy Cunningham to support Isaac and Hasib who again won their 3. At week 8, with Francis back playing with Isaac and Hasib, they had a fantastic 10/0 win over CADWA B.



Arriva NW are in 4th place boasting 6 wins from 8 matches and have 46 points, John Rowan and Derek Scotland remained undefeated in their singles and combined to win the doubles 12/10 in the deciding set when they faced Wavertree Labour C, Graham Rollinson added his support in beating Terry Jones for their best win of the season. When facing CADWA B Derek was again unbeaten with John losing out to the experienced Alan Timewell and Graham chipping in with a win over Ian Lunt as they ran out 7/3 victors.

Bootle YMCA are a match for most and are having a good season, their only losses being to the league leaders East Wavertree and against a strong Marconi C team both by 7/3 margins, they currently stand on 44 points from 8 matches. Week 4 brought out their best when they won 9/1 at Wavertree Labour C, Shakil and Tom were unbeaten, with Michael Dugdale getting on the score sheet for Wavertree with a brilliant 11/9 5th set win over Saul Keelan. When they entertained Sefton Park A Shakil was once again in top form winning his 3, Liam Shaw won 2 (losing to Paul Jennings) and Eddie Preston got the better of Neil Jennings.

Marconi C, although in 6th place, are still within 7 points of 2nd place with 41 points from 7 matches. Their strongest team of Frank McCann, Ian Wensley and Peter Wass is capable of beating most teams at this level but they have not always been available together. These 3 pushed St Anne's all the way at week 4 securing a well-earned draw, Ian was the star of the night winning his 3 singles fairly comfortably. Dave McMahon has proved to be a more than useful reserve and joined Ian and Peter when they defeated Bootle YMCA A 7/3, Peter Wass was the main man winning his 3 singles, including an 11/9 5th set win to inflict a rare defeat on Shakil Malik, he teamed up with Ian to win the doubles, Ian beat Liam Shaw and Mike Hughes, with Dave beating Mike 11/8 in the deciding set. When they faced a strong Merseyside Police side

they had an excellent 8/2 win, both Frank and Ian remained unbeaten on the night and Dave had a good win over Brian Burrows.

The Merseyside Police are next in line with 39 points from 8 matches. They have had 3 good wins over CADWA B 10/0, Arriva NW 8/2 and BSM F 7/3. In the matches against CADWA and Arriva the team consisted of Steve Gittins, Brenda Buoey and Paula Adamson, Paula was unbeaten in both these matches but Derek Scotland played very well to beat Steve and Brenda and secure the 2 point for the Arriva team. Steve and Brenda were joined by John Moore for the match versus BSM F, Steve was unbeaten, Brenda beat Darren Taylor and Mickey White with John contributing with a 5th set victory over Mickey.

Bath St Marine E have won 4 of their 7 matches and stand on 38 points, they are a steady, reliable team with each of the players capable of producing outstanding results. They all played well in the opening match of the season to earn a 6/4 win over high flyers St Anne's, Brian Crolley excelled to win his 3 singles, Andy Cheung beat Israel Isaac and Dave Bradley with Mal Kent also getting the better of Dave. Despite Brian's efforts the MOM was awarded to Andy who miraculously saved 7 match points in beating Isaac 18/16 in the 5th and 4 match points to beat Dave 13/11, again in the 5th set. Brian repeated his hat trick of wins when he beat Steve, Brenda and Brian Burrows in a 6/4 win over the Police side. Son of Clarke, Mal, joined Brian in winning their 3 singles in a 7/3 defeat of Maghull B.

It's a little strange to find a club's A team in 9th spot when their B team are 2nd in the division, however, this is the case with Maghull A on 34 points. They have done well to win 4, draw 1 and only lose 2 matches to date, 3 of their wins have been by the narrowest of margins, 6/4, against Marconi C, Sefton Park A and St Anne's. Phil Christie has been playing particularly well and in the Marconi C match remained undefeated on the night, including teaming up with John Langton in the doubles. Week 6 saw them finally go up a gear with an 8/2 victory over CADWA B, Phil and John McLoughlin both remained unbeaten including combining to win the doubles, and George Frost had a good win over George Higham.

Bath St Marine F are not finding things easy after promotion but are slowly pulling clear of the relegation spots having won 29 points. Wins have been hard to come by but they had a great 8/2 victory over Maghull A, Darren Taylor, Josh Taylor and Mickey White all beat the in form Phil Christie, Mickey went on to win his 3 but was well supported by his colleagues with 2 wins a piece. Captain Dave Noden was joined by Miguel Montero and Keith Dudley when they travelled to Bootle YMCA A and forced a well deserved draw, Dave and Miguel each won 2 with Keith clinching the draw with a fine win over Saul Keelan.

Sefton Park A are a further 6 points behind BSM F but only 2 points ahead of 2nd from bottom Wavertree Labour C, the team is much changed from week to week with 8 separate players used in 7 matches. Their sole win to date came at the expense of bottom of the table CADWA B by a 7/3 margin, Robbie Pudifer was in excellent form winning his 3 singles (including a 13/11 5th set win over Alan French) and teaming up with Paul Morgan to take the doubles. Paul got the better of Ian Lunt who was out of luck when he went down 11/9 in the deciding set to Ian Findon. In their 6/4 loss to Bootle YMCA A Neil Jennings was winning 2 sets to 1 against Liam Shaw only for Liam to take the 4th 14/12 and the 5th set 15/13.

Wavertree's sole win came at week 6 when they beat Merseyside Police B 7/3, Andy Bird defeated Brenda Buoey and Joe Madigan, Michael Dugdale beat Brian Borrows and young Joe as did Terry Jones.

CADWA B are trailed off at the bottom with only 15 points from 8 matches, they obviously need a big upturn in form to pull away from their precarious position. Week 7 could have been the catalyst for this upturn in fortune when they had an excellent 6/4 win over BSM E, Vaclev Hollmann displayed fantastic fighting qualities to win each of his singles in the 5th set, he beat Andy Cheung 11/9, Mal Kent 11/7 and Brian Crolley 12/10 before partnering Alan French to win the doubles, Alan contributed with victory over Brian, and Ian Lunt beat Andy Cheung. Clearly more nights like this are required before the season's end. Have a good festive season.

Division 4.

Ken Roberts

Welcome to a new season. If it's anything like last season we are in for some cracking matches and a high standard of Table Tennis.. I'd like to welcome in particular two new clubs to the 4th Division this season, Linacre and Waterloo, some of the existing clubs have either added a team or revamped their teams with stronger players.

Week 1 kicks off with a strong performance by Bootle YMCA B against police, Bootle winning 8-2. Early signs are that this Bootle team are going to be a force to be reckoned with, Mike Winders picking up a single for the Police against John Taylor. All square in the match against Arriva A and QVC, Eddie picking up both of his against John App and Mick respectively, Gary was unlucky just losing out to Mick game 9 in the 5th. Another good performance from one of our new comers Waterloo B winning 7-3 over Arriva B. Harry H and Gary Mavris winning one each for Arriva against Jeff Hornby and Geoff Metcalf respectively, together with a double. The other new club Linacre have also arrived with a bang beating Sefton Park B 9-1, Chris Greaves saving Sefton's blushes with a win over Julian Dutch. All square in the match between Cadwa C and Wavertree Labour D, Paul winning a brace against Alvin and Fran respectively, Dougie managing to just out Alvin in a 5 setter, winning 11 in the 5th! My own team Marconi D came up against the other new team Waterloo A losing 6-4, John G winning both for Marconi against Paul M and Nikolay. Maghull C beat Bootle YMCA C 8-2, Steve Daniels and Jason winning one each for Bootle's two points.

Another strong win for Bootle YMCA B against Arriva B 9-1 in **week 2**, Alan Jones saving the whitewash beating John Taylor. A closer contest was Waterloo B against Bootle YMCA C, Waterloo running out winners 6-4, Both Gavin Minett and Phil O'Mullane winning both of their games. Very good result for QVC 7-3 winners over Linacre, John App and Shaun winning both of their games for QVC. Another hard fought game was Police 6-4 winners over Wavertree Labour D, the evergreen Alf Perry picking up a brace against Tom and Mick, nice to see my old team mate Eric Spencer making an appearance for Wavertree. All square between Maghull C and Waterloo A, Steve Mc and Naresh winning both of theirs for Maghull. Marconi D beat Arriva A 6-4, some close games here, John G picking up a brace for Marconi and Yanus for Arriva, both hard fought games against Eddie and Bobby respectively. Cadwa C beat Sefton Park B 6-4. another hard match with 4 games going to 5 sets, Dougie



winning both of his for Cadwa against Derek T and Eric (Woodsie's Dad) Wood.

A string of strong results for **week 3**. Arriva A beating Maghull C 7-3, Steve and Jeanette winning one each for Maghull with a doubles, Eddie and Kristof winning both of their games for Arriva. Another 7-3 win, this time for Linacre against Marconi D, Ritchie P picking up both of his, and Martin winning one for Marconi, James was unlucky for Marconi losing game 9 in the 5th against Chris B. Bootle YMCA B won 8-2 in their derby match with the C team, Steve D managing to beat Bert and Jason to beat Mike H. A closer result was Police beating Cadwa 6-4, Cadwa winning both doubles and Vaslav Hollchan and Shantanu winning one each against Neil. The Waterloo derby resulted in the A team winning 8-2, albeit unfortunately the B team had a man short, a very close game here between Father and Son with the son Graham just ousting Dad George game 15 in the 5th! Another good win for Wavertree Labour D, 8-2 over Arriva B, Harry Hughes beating Alvin, and Gary Mavris beating the evergreen Biggsy for their points. QVC beat Sefton Park 7-3, again 4 sets went to 5 games here, Derek T picking up both for Sefton Park and Mick both for QVC.

Week 4 saw three matches end in 6-4. The first was Wavertree Labour beating Bootle YMCA C. Kieran winning both for Bootle against Biggsy and Eric respectively, the evergreen Alf Perry also winning both of his against Steve D and Colin Hughes. The next 6-4 was Cadwa overcoming Arriva B, Harry H winning his two for Arriva, as well as full houses for Vaslev and Shantanu for Cadwa. The final match was a real tussle involving Bootle YMCA B and Waterloo A, Bootle running out winners, Eddie winning both of his for Bootle and Gavin returning the favour for Waterloo, again 4 sets went to 5 games. All square between Waterloo B and Arriva A, Jeff Hornby winning his two for Waterloo and Gary S doing the same for Arriva, Vacek was unlucky losing to Gavin game 10 in the 5th! Linacre produced a good win over Maghull C winning 7-3, Steve and Jeanette winning a single each for Maghull, Aleks winning his two for Linacre. Marconi D had a good night with a strong performance against QVC winning 8-2, Ian D beating Bobby and Mick beating myself for their points. The same score in Police's favour over Sefton Park B, Roy Cunningham and KenYoung winning one each for Sefton's points against Joe Madigan who has just returned from illness.

Week 5 kicks off with a great match between Arriva A and Bootle YMCA B, Arriva running out victors 6-4, Yanus winning both of his for Arriva against Bert and Jim G respectively, tough night for Eddy P losing in the 5th to Vacek (and with it his 100% record), and winning in the 5th against Eddie W. Another ding dong of a match was Bootle YMCA C and Cadwa, Cadwa winning this one 6-4, 5 sets went to 5 games here, Steve D and Jason S winning both their singles for Bootle's 4 points, Roly had a tough night losing out to both Paul and Shantanu in the 5th game. Linacre kept up their strong performance beating Waterloo B 7-3, Gavin picking up both of his for Waterloo, beating the very strong Aleks and Charlie, Harry Reeve stepping in to help win both doubles for Linacre. Wavertree Labour managed to edge out Waterloo A 6-4. Robin picking up his 2 for Wavertree and Stu his 2 for Waterloo, Alvin also won both of his for Wavertree. Another match where 5 sets went to 5 games, Marconi D beat Sefton Park B 8-2, Derek and Roy C picking up one game each for Sefton's 2 points, Eric (Woodsie's Dad) had a marathon 1st set against John G winning 23-21!! John went on to win the game however. Police C beat Arriva B 7-3. Good win for Harry H of Arriva beating the strong Mike Winder. All square between Maghull C and QVC. Jimmy picking up his two against Shaun and Ron for Maghull and Mick doing the same for QVC against Janette and Denise. Andy Mc also won his two for Maghull.

Week 6 saw a bit of a mix up between Waterloo B and QVC. Waterloo B winning 5-4, here unfortunately QVC played short and one of the doubles was a void game due to ineligibility of two players hence the score. Very good result for Wavertree Labour D beating Arriva A 8-2, Eddie W picking up a singles and a double win for Arriva's points, Robin and Alf winning their games again. The same score 8-2 for Marconi D over Maghull C, Steve Mc winning one and a doubles win for Maghull, however the score did not reflect the match as there were a lot of close games. All square between Bootle YMCA B and Linacre, as one would expect against two top teams, the "slim look" Eddy P winning both of his against Aleks and Charlie. Waterloo A beat Cadwa C also 8-2, Paul W winning one of his against Nikolay, again the first 4 sets on the card went to 5 games each, and were all won by Waterloo, so it could have been a different result if they would have gone Cadwa's way. Arriva B and Sefton Park B could not be separated with a 5-5, Derek T for Sefton and Ray G for Arriva winning their two singles. Police came out on top with a very close and hard fought 6-4 win against Bootle YMCA C, no less than 5 sets went to 5 games here, the Olympic final umpire Tom P won both of his singles against Steve D and Colin H, against the latter, winning game 7 in the 5th.

Police continued their winning streak beating Waterloo A 6-4 in **week 7**, Tom and Len picking up a brace each

for Police, Waterloo winning both doubles which is always an advantage. Linacre beat Wavertree Labour 8-2, Aleks and Chris B winning their singles for Linacre, Harry R stepping in for his doubles appearance and winning both with partner. Same winning score for Bootle YMCA C over Arriva B, Gary and Harry picking up one each for their points against Steve D and Colin H respectively, Harry was unfortunate to lose against Steve, 14-12 in the 5th! A strong performance by Bootle YMCA B winning 9-1 against QVC, Bob F saving the whitewash, picking up their point against John T. Another good performance from my own team Marconi D beating Waterloo B 8-2, Gavin beating yours truly to win their only singles. Arriva A ran out 7-3 victors over Cadwa C, some close games here too that could have gone either way, Dougie and Paul winning one single each for Cadwa, against Vacek and Gary respectively. All square for the final game of week 7 between Maghull C and Sefton Park B, Derek picking up a brace for Sefton and Mike S returning the compliment for Maghull.

Finally for this Digest **week 8**, all square between Police and Arriva A, Eddie winning both of his singles for Arriva against Mike and Tom L, Lenny doing the same for Police against Waclaw and Janusz, Tommy Lynch was unlucky losing game 9 in the 5th to Josef and similarly Waclaw losing game 10 in the 5th against Mike. Unfortunately QVC could not get a team together to play Wavertree Labour and so suffered a walk over. Bootle YMCA B beat Marconi D 8-2, I managed to pick up a single against John T, as did Martin, for Marconi's points, Martin was unlucky losing game 10 in the 5th against Mike H. Very hard fought game between Waterloo B and Maghull C, seven sets here went to 4 games each and 2 to five games. Waterloo getting over the line to win 6-4. Same score in Bootle YMCA C's favour over Sefton Park B, Kieran winning both his singles against Eric and Dave for Bootle, Jason having a particular busy night beating Dave C in 5 games and losing to Derek T in 5 games. Waterloo A gave another strong performance beating Arriva B 9-1, Gary saving the whitewash with a win over Graham C. Linacre also gave a strong performance against Cadwa C winning 8-2, nice to see Pete Roberts playing in the 4th again, he picked up a singles beating Chris, Paul W picked up Cadwa's other point beating Julian.

Well after the first 8 games of the season, Bootle YMCA B and Linacre seem to be the two strongest teams in Division 4, only 3 points separate them, however a mere 5 points behind them on 49 are Wavertree Labour D, Waterloo A on 48, Marconi D on 47 and Police C on 46 are all very close behind. With only 11 points separating 1st and 6th it's very competitive. It is imperative that the top 6 teams try and play their best regular players for them all to stay in the hunt. Have a great Christmas and all the very best to you all for 2016!

Division 5.

Jimmy Williams

Welcome to another season and the early signs suggest that there is quite a diverse range of players this season – to add to the wide array of styles you expect in this warm division. There are several experienced players more than capable of playing at a higher level, a large group of more than steady new players and a refreshing selection of beginners who will become increasingly stronger as the season progresses.



Ged Howard picking up both of their singles for the home side. Once again the importance of the doubles being highlighted with Maghull picking up both sets. Very strong 9 -1 win for Sefton Park C over Bath St Marine H with Jamie Whitty picking up two good wins over Tom Bell and Bill Clayton. Conversely, a very strong Bath St Marine G enjoyed a winning start to their season with a convincing 8 – 2 victory at

This all points to an exciting and competitive test for all.

Marconi E, Faye Taylor and Cameron Murphy both beat Barbara Alcock to pick up the two points for Marconi.

Week 1 produced a strong 8 – 2 win for an experienced Maghull D over the newly formed St Annes A, Dave Bradley, playing at one, picking up both of his singles with victories over Michael and Luke. A bumper crowd turned up to watch an unusually young Dad's Army team (Maghull E) achieve a splendid 9 – 1 win over an experienced Cadwa D. Impressive debut for 14 year old, man of the match, Luke Burgess who won his three, a determined Derek Aspinall winning a tight five setter on a tie-break to save the whitewash. Consequently William Hill's have sliced their odds of winning the title from 100/1 to 33/1. The points were shared in an excellent match between QVC A and Bath St Marine H, Mike Roberts winning his three for the home side and the evergreen Bill Clayton (looking very strong at 3) doing similar for the visitors, QVC A number one, Bob Finnegan, winning both of his singles in three games.

A hard fought 6-4 win in **Week 2** for St Annes A in a very friendly match against Wavertree Labour F, Lenco Abdi winning both of his singles on a promising debut for the home side, two rather close doubles sets being the difference and edging the match in St Anne's favour. Excellent result for Maghull D at East Wavertree B with the away side taking full advantage of an injured Joey Williams (retired from play due to injury) to edge the match 6 – 4, Tony Dixon and

Week 3 saw another comprehensive win for Bath St Marine G, 9 -1 over St Annes A, Lenco preventing the whitewash with a hard earned five set victory over Bill. A very good 8 – 2 win for Wavertree Labour E over Marconi E with new signings Steve Johnson and Kevin Coulthard both showing great promise and reaping the rewards for some fine attacking play, Tony Low picking up both of his singles for the visitors including a tie break victory in the fifth set against Stan Clarke. Emphatic 10 – 0 win for East Wavertree B at Wavertree Labour F with nine of the ten sets being settled in three games. A similar result at Maghull D with the home side outlining their promotion credentials through a strong 10 – 0 win over Bath St Marine H.

Week 4 produced a very good performance from QVC A. The home side beating the newly formed Harold House A 8 -2. The very steady Eddie Clein winning both of his singles for the visitors. An all action performance from East Wavertree B's Joey Williams led his side to a 6 -4 over Bath St Marine G with victories over Graham Turner and Miguel Monteiro, the only player on the night to win both of his singles in a very competitive and entertaining match, with only two sets being decided over three games. Another good 8 – 2 win for Dad's Army against a fairly inexperienced Sefton Park C. Star

performance from young Luke Burgess (an excellent prospect) and the return of Joe Rock (Pike) suggests a good future for the Maghull team, star man for Sefton Park was Chris Greaves who had a great night, winning both of his singles. Biggest scare of the night was a spider that ran across the room to get a better view of Andy and Sean's match – hero of the hour was the platoon commander, Captain Mainwaring, who soon put a stop to that with a yard brush!

Faye Taylor remained unbeaten in **week 5** during Marconi E's hard fought 6 - 4 win over Harold House A, Eddie Klein and Steve Simpson winning their singles for the home side. Another big win (10 -0) for Maghull D in their divisional derby against their E team, a determined Keith Whittaker unlucky to lose in 5 to Danny Hall. Other notable wins this week included Wavertree Labour defeating Cadwa D 8 – 2 and a three man East Wavertree B beating Wavertree Labour E 7 – 3. Bath St Marine G cranked up the pressure at the top of the table with a 9 -1 victory over their club mates Bath St Marine H. Des Logan playing a true captain's role and digging deep to save the whitewash.

Week 6 saw all eight members of the Maghull E squad (strength in depth!) attend their side's impressive win over an experienced Wavertree Labour F, standout sets include Eric Spencer winning his two singles for the visitors and Brian Gregory beating Dave Williams 17/15 in an epic fourth game to take the set. Sefton Park C had a significant win over Harold House A (8 -2) including an excellent win for Alan Staniland (unbeaten on the night) over Eddie Klein, Kenny Young also keeping up his fine progress, winning his three. Very good 6 – 4 win for Bath St Marine H over a three man Sefton Park C side, Tom Bell winning a great encounter with Steve Johnson 12- 10 in the fifth, Kevin Coulthard unbeaten on the night for the visitors.

St Annes A beat Harold House A 6 – 4 in **Week 7** with Dave Bradley and Lenco Abdi both beating Eddie Klein in five, excellent result – especially with three players. At the top end of the table, a very strong Bath St Marine G, led by

number one Graham Turner, maintained their consistent start to the season with a 10 – 0 win over Maghull E. Maghull D kept their place at the top of the table with a resounding 8 – 2 win over Sefton Park C, Alan Staniland beating Liam Courtney (12 – 10 in the fifth) and Kenny Young defeating Danny Hall in three to win two points for the visitors. East Wavertree B enjoyed an 8 -2 win at Maroni E in a competitive but friendly match. Phil Murphy and Faye Taylor picking up the points for the home side via their wins over Brian Morrison. A close match between Wavertree Labour F and QVC A resulted in the points being shared, QVC's Mike Roberts unbeaten on his three trips to the table with Shanji Matthew unlucky to lose in five to Eric Spencer, Gordon Langshaw winning his two for the home side and Francis Lay chipping in with an excellent three straight win over Ron Houghton (18 -16 in the first).

Finally, **Week 8** produced decisive wins for the teams who currently occupy the positions at the top end of the table. A comfortable 10 – 0 victory for Maghull D over Harold House A (missing number one Eddie Klein), East Wavertree B beating St Annes A 9 – 1 (Dave Bradley saving the whitewash with a convincing win over Paul Rees), and Bath St Marine G winning 8 – 2 at QVC A. Wavertree Labour E producing another good win, 8 – 2 at Maghull E. A determined Ged Hanley having an excellent night for the home side – beating both Steve Johnson and Stan Clarke in close sets.

At the time of writing, the teams at the top appear to have very strong, experienced squads and usually play their strongest players on a consistent basis. Early signs suggest Maghull D are planning a swift return to division four and a very experienced Bath St Marine G have the squad to consistently win by big margins. Nevertheless, with a long season ahead, and lots of points to play for, there will be many twists and turns throughout the season. Thanks to Andy, Alan, Dave and Des for providing notes on their match cards. Have a great Christmas and New Year. Enjoy the break and return refreshed and ready to go again.

On Tuesday 22nd September, 2015 St Johns Catholic Primary School, Kirkdale, was the venue for the inaugural meeting of the six junior teams who make up the newly formed Junior Developmental Division of the Liverpool & District Table Tennis League. Eighteen youngsters aged between 8 and 15 years old made history by competing in the first ever matches which solely comprised of Juniors representing already formed adult table tennis clubs. Merseyside Police, as did Crosby High, sported two teams a piece whilst Waterloo TTC and Deyes High School completed the six team division.



Sam Taylor and David Rowland also achieved a full house when they faced Police 'A's' Carney Whitehead, Nikola Majda and Lewis White. Although the older boys in both matches took full points, none thankfully took the opportunity to morph into prima donna's and were all very respectful to their younger opponents. Conversely, the youngsters took the defeats with broad smiles and not a tantrum in sight, How refreshing!

L&DTTL Chairman Don Davies completed the opening ceremony by informing the youngsters and the gathered parents and coaches of past Liverpool Junior players who had during their time not only graced the junior scene but had successfully matured into well respected adult players, some even achieving international status. The nostalgic opening speech certainly motivated the competing teams to produce an enjoyable evening of table tennis filled with displays of sportsmanship, gritty determination and infectious enthusiasm.

Before I delve into the TT action, it may be beneficial if I quickly outline the format and philosophy of the Junior Developmental Division. The overall goal of the JDD is to encourage and promote junior table tennis within the Liverpool area and in particular targeting youngsters who have limited playing experience. The matches are played on a fortnightly basis and alternate between two venues: Police TTC and Waterloo TTC. The venue sizes have unfortunately dictated the number of teams playing within the division to six. All teams consist of 3 players and compete against an opposing team and play on the same night at the aforementioned venues, playing 9 single sets on two tables. The scoring system has been adapted to recognise all games won. A 3-1 defeat still ensures that the losing players single game counts in the final result. The matches commence at 6.30pm with hopefully a 9pm finish.

Well, enough of the introductions, let's get down to some table tennis. A packed crowd made up of parents, coaches and committee dignitaries were honoured to witness the majority of youngsters take part in their first ever competitive matches. The present league leaders Waterloo TTC, consisting of Lewis Campbell, Gary Corran and Owen Campbell, eased to a full point victory over Crosby 'A's' Louise Cooper, Jack Savage and Ethan Mills. Ged Howard's Deyes High boys Luke Burgess,

The match of the night took place between Crosby High's Elliott Cooper, Ted Sloane and Josef Wilson and Police's WPC's Aimee Birkett, Yasmin Chilton and Sherelle Rice, Elliott cruised to three comfortable victories whilst Josef had a nail biting 13/11 5th setter win over Sherelle. Both Yasmin and Aimee lost out to Ted in the 5th but Aimee made amends by gaining Police's only win by beating Josef.

Merchant Taylor's Boys school, this being the home ground of WTTC, was the venue for WK 2 of the JDD, Graham Chellew opened the evening by welcoming competitors and guests and extended the friendly atmosphere by providing tea and biscuits later during the evening. The first derby match of the JDD was played out between Police's Jack Brady, Sherelle Rice and Nikola Majda competing against Police 'A's' Carney Whitehead, Annie Joyce and Megan Williamson. Jack was triumphant in all his matches, Sharelle had the single loss to Carney 11-9 in the 5th whilst Annie scored up another win for the 'A' team by beating Nikola in 4 sets, Megan, although losing all 3, smiled throughout the match.

WTTC fielded the same winning team of Lewis and Owen Campbell and Gary Corran when they faced Crosby High's Elliott Cooper, Nicholas Moustka and Joseph Wilson. The older and slightly more experienced Waterloo boys proved too strong for the Crosby lads coming out comfortable winners, although Elliott Cooper was unlucky not to take his match with Gary Corran to the final set having lost the fourth 12-10.

The top match of the evening took place between Crosby 'A' and Deyes High, both teams employed a squad rotation by fielding a set of new players Crosby 'A's' lookalike brothers (not quite twins) Ewan and Finn Mason, who were proudly watched by granddad Des Logan of Bath Street, were joined by team mate Chris Moustka. The Deyes High crew consisted of Matty Toborne, Ryan Gilroy and Michael Heywood who, although eventually going home as 23-16 victors, had

to fight for every match, four of the nine matches went to the 5th set and not one player remained unbeaten on the night. It was a mixed bag of results, Crosby's Ewan Mason lost to Ryan Gilroy in the 4th but had his revenge upon Deyes High's number 3 Michael Heywood. Michael then went on to beat Chris Moustka in the 5th, Chris, not being down hearted, then picked himself up to comfortably beat Ryan Gilroy 3 straight. The pick of the bunch was the final match between the two number 1's, Deyes High's Matty Toborne and Crosby's Ewan Mason, the match eventually going in favour of Matty 11-7, 4-11, 10-12, 13-11, 11-7, what a fantastic finale.

WK 3 saw the Crosby teams face the two Police squads, Crosby's Elliott Cooper, who finished the night with a hat-trick 3 straight sets wins, was joined by team mates Ted Sloane and Ben Calder who had on paper a comfortable 24-8 team victory over Police's Jack Brady, Aimee Birkett and Yasmin Chilton. Ted also won all 3 singles but dropped sets against Jack and Aimee who then in turn went on to beat Ben Calder. Police's 1st team Carney Whitehead, Annie Joyce and Nikola Majda managed to stretch Crosby's 'A' team a bit further but still lost 24-14 albeit five of the nine matches were decided in the 5th. Carney Whitehead had epic successful battles with Jack Savage and Ethan Mills but lost out in the 5th to Louis Cooper who was also taken the full distance by Annie Joyce.

League leaders WTTTC's Lewis Campbell, Gary Corran and Owen Campbell went toe to toe with the current league 2nd placed team of Deyes High consisting of Luke Burgess, Sam Taylor and David Rowlands. This match had the potential to be a classic and it certainly didn't disappoint, Deyes High started strongly with wins for Luke Burgess and David Rowlands over WTTTC's Gary Corran, Lewis Campbell kept WTTTC within touching distance with a win over David Rowlands. With six matches gone, Deyes were leading 12-5 on the score card and looking to top the table, however, the WTTTC team dug deep with Owen Campbell beating David Rowlands, and Gary Corran beating opposite number 2 Sam Taylor. With just the number 1's to play, the match score was 14-14. No pressure lads, both Lewis Campbell and Luke Burgess entertained the crowd with some fantastic table tennis and it was inevitable that it would go to the 5th, Lewis the eventual winner 9-11, 11-8, 8-11, 14-12, 11-6, WTTTC winning the match 17-16. What an advertisement for junior TT.

WK 4 was definitely the calm after the storm with all three matches producing almost identical match scores. This was perhaps the opportunity for the younger and less experienced players to gain valuable match experience and not to dwell too much on the final results. The Crosby High derby clash between Crosby's Josef

Wilson, and brothers' Ewan and Finn Mason, and Crosby 'A's Louie Cooper, Jack Savage and Ethan Mills ended with a comfortable win for the 1st team although Louie did manage to take a game off Finn Mason.

Yasmin Chilton, Carney Whitehead and Annie Joyce formed Police's 'A' team when they faced the older lads from Deyes High, Matty Toborne, Ryan Gilroy and Michael Heywood proved too strong for the girls although Yasmin went to the 5th with Michael whilst Carney started well against Ryan by taking the first game but eventually lost the set in four.

WTTTC's Lewis Campbell, Gary Corran and Aiden Mooney, who was making his JDD debut, welcomed Police 1st team to the table, Jack Brady did well to take Aiden to the 5th set whilst Sherelle Rice and Aimee Birkett fought well against league leaders but couldn't stop the WTTTC boys taking the match 27-2.

So four match weeks of the JDD have come and gone. It's inevitable that performances and match results will fluctuate throughout the season, that's the nature of junior table tennis particularly those playing competitively for the first time. Getting a win under your belt is always a great feeling and we shouldn't shy away from promoting a competitive edge, but developing table tennis skills should in my view run parallel with boosting a youngsters confidence and enhancing their social skills. Playing table tennis can tick all those boxes.

Before I sign off I'd like to offer a big thank you to all the coaches and helpers who have made the JDD possible, these include my brother Ste for his constant support with the Police teams - Graham Chellew and his squad of helpers up at WTTTC - Graham Turner who has the arduous task of single handedly running the two Crosby Teams but does it without any fuss, Teacher Ged Howard who on match days, after a hard day at school, rushes to McDonalds for his tea (see me about some discount), marks a pile of homework, supports the Deyes High team during the JDD matches and then walks to the local railway station to catch the train home. And where would we be without you parents and grandparents, ferrying your little cherubs from one place to another, be warned, once your youngster gets the table tennis bug, it's an ailment they'll have for life.

My final thanks goes to League fixture secretary Trevor Owens for designing a score card which would test the brain power of Prof Stephen Hawkins and the problem solving skills of the enigma team. We'll all be lost without you Trevor.

Maghull 'E'

otherwise known in the 5th division as “Dad’s Army”. Shown here sporting new team shirts, with a subtle Dad’s Army logo on the front and a funny Corporal Jones ‘one-liner’ on the back, “Don’t Panic, it’s only table tennis!!”



The old guard, seated on the front row from left to right are; Keith Whittaker (Private Frazer), Brian Gregory (Sergeant Wilson), Alan Smethurst (Corporal Jones), Wilf Gibson (Private Godfrey). – although judging by the photo, I think they should all be called Godfrey!! And standing on the back row from left to right are, youngsters; Ged Hanley (Private Walker), Joe Rock (Pike), Peter Gibson (Coach), Andy McCourt (Captain Mainwaring).

The team and nicknames came about a few years ago, when Alan and Keith were tempted out of semi-retirement by Andy, on the condition that he would run the team – hence the name, “Captain Mainwaring” was awarded.

Alan ‘Don’t Panic’ Smethurst was an obvious choice for Jonesy and the rest of the names just fell into place naturally. Honorary coach, Peter Gibson, is always on hand to give his valued support (albeit with a pint of lager in hand!). Peter’s dad, Wilf, is the oldest member, and although Godfrey only plays as a reserve these days, he is a regular member for the after match warm-down pint.

**Don't Panic !
it's only table tennis**



The team have had a steady start to the eason, but came crashing down to earth recently after a derby mauling by the much younger, ‘D’ team. Perhaps the effect of the shirts is starting to wear off? Anyway, you are always guaranteed a good laugh, good match and a good pint (in that order) down at Maghull Table Tennis Club. Looking forward to the rest of the season (and the new Dad’s Army film).

Andy McCourt (Captain Mainwaring) Maghull ‘E’ Table Tennis

Thanks to Club Member John Lagton for sending in the photo

Who remembers the first sponge bats, not many I think as they came in during the 50's, the 'silent destroyers', Thanks to Gordon Langshaw who came across this article from the ETTA site of the old Table Tennis Archive site.

Table Tennis

Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association

Edited by W. HARRISON EDWARDS

Vol. 14 No.2 NOVEMBER, 1955

NOT SO QUIET

THE SPONGE BAT may be silent in use, but it is still creating a big noise in table tennis. The controversy surrounding this unorthodox surface has entered a new phase this season with Brian Kennedy becoming the first leading home player to adopt it. Such has been his success that he has swept through the first three major tournaments. ' You would expect such performances to cheer the hearts of his county, but far from it. Yorkshire took the surprising step last month of calling a meeting to discuss the banning of players using the sponge bat from the county team! The motion, which would also have affected Ray Dove, thus virtually knocking the bottom out of the Yorkshire team, was defeated, but it is an indication of which way the wind is blowing. I am glad to see that the meeting decided against the ban, for while the surface is allowed by the ruling body and also the International Federation, players should be left free to make their own choice. The Yorkshire action, I understand, arose out of a friendly match against the Civil Service, which they won 6-4. The two singles, which involved Kennedy and Dove were apparently so boring that spectators began to walk out.

A CANCER

Yorkshire were therefore acting in the best interests of the game. Leslie Forrest, speaking as an official with 32 years in table tennis, says, "Sponge is like a cancer in the human body. It must be cut out before it is too late. "It can kill the game if we allow it to continue, The fact is we are not getting pre-war excitement of thrill following thrill, and, as I see it, those stars who change to sponge will, in the none too distant future, be entertaining, not the masses, but themselves." Forrest is afraid that Kennedy's success with sponge so far this season may lead to a big change over, for ,he feels the young players in particular will be influenced. But he is not so certain that sponge has been entirely responsible for Kennedy's good form. "Brian is playing so well I feel he would have been equally as successful with the orthodox rubber surface," he said.

TWO CAMPS

Meanwhile, leading players and officials are being divided into two camps. There are those who want sponge banned; others who say "Let's face it and it will die a natural death." Rosalind and 'Diane Rowe, [in their book "Twins on Table Tennis", openly state sponge should be banned. Johnny Leach, however, in "Table Tennis My Way", indicates he is in the other camp. He tells the young player not to run off and buy a sponge bat, and gives advice on how to combat the surface. Further he writes, "I am convinced that the player with a thorough basic training with pimpled rubber will come off best in :the end. Sponge all too often wins only by the opposition's mistakes; there is much more thrill and satisfaction in beating your opponent by your own good shots.

Leach also points out that different types of sponge have different re-action, and that brings us to another question.What is sponge? Different varieties are being invented all the time. Some are called soft rubber; there are other bats with pimpled rubber stuck over the top of sponge, and of course there is the "sandwich" bat of Tianaka, the present world champion. Thicknesses vary all the time, so that rather than merely ruling that sponge be banned it is a question of laying down definite specifications, instead of the present vague law: "The racket may be of any material, size, shape or weight, providing it is not white, light coloured, or reflecting."

HARRISON EDWARDS



Obituary Arthur Harrison 1932 - 2015



It is with great sadness that I have to write this Obituary after the sudden death of our good friend Arthur Harrison, this came as a great shock to me as only a week before we had been discussing the coming season. Arthur worked for Crawfords (Biscuits) and started playing T.T. at the Sport Centre in Mill Lane. In 1950 Arthur started his National Service in the Manchester Regiment, and was posted to Berlin where he found himself in the infamous Spandau prison guarding the notorious Rudolf Hess. On his return home, Arthur became a keen and reputable player for Crawfords, with Les Evans Rob Conley's team. On the closure of Crawfords in 1985, Arthur came to play for Manweb, and subsequently, Wavertree Labour.

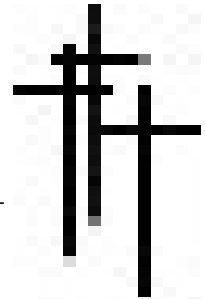
Arthur was a team Captains dream player, he upheld the virtues of true sportsmanship; reliability and loyalty.

Our thoughts and sympathy go out to Pat, Paul, Neil and all the Family, from all players and friends at Wavertree Labour Table Tennis Club.

Alan Biggs

Obituary Jeff Banks

Jeff Banks, an early days member of Maghull Table Tennis Club, playing till only a few seasons ago, passed away 28th September 2015, Jeff owned and ran the Trophy shop in Warbreck Moor , Aintree.



Jeff had polio from a baby (about 18 months, I think?). They said he'd never walk, but his mum and himself made sure of the opposite. He was an excellent cyclist as well as tennis, table tennis and a fantastic artist. He was an excellent player, very skilful and so full of life, liked a pint with the table tennis team, and reminiscing about old times. He would often talk about his good friend, Liverpool's Billy Liddell (I think he was proud to be a friend of his). I used to have good banter with Jeff and his son Steve, who were both big reds and me being a blue. He would do absolutely anything for you, I think he often treated me like a son and he was always concerned about how my job was going and how my wife and kids were, a very genuine person.

Andy McCourt

I remember the years playing with Jeff, great times were had playing in 4th div, Keith Whittaker, Wilf Gibson, Jeff and myself, taking the mickey out of each other if you were having a knock with Jeff he would want you to go flat out, no holding back. In a match if an opponent hit ball past him one of us would say come on Jeff move your feet, he would tell us where to go. one time against Wavertree Labour away Jeff drove, we piled out of the car, ran up 3 flights of stairs sat waiting for Jeff, when he arrived we said come on Jeff " You're on now" you can imagine what he said everybody loved Jeff, I did, he used to call me son .
Brian Gregory

Jeff and I were very good mates over the years going back to the 1960's. As has been said, he would not give up on anything, particularly sporting wise, his aim was to win if at all possible, he actually beat me at hard court tennis once (not on a table) that's how seriously he approached his sport, a great man. He was very good at art, his painting was of the highest quality, in my mind, I think that he could have sold a lot of his work. He was a true Mason and a lasting friend. Stop now before I start crying.
Keith Whittaker

DIVISIONAL CUPS ROUND 1

Division 1 READMAN

BYE	XX	v	XX	WAVERTREE LAB.
GREENBANK	5	v	1	MARCONI
BYE	X	v	X	BATH St. MARINE
BYE	XX	v	XX	CROSBY HIGH 'A'
FORDS	3	v	5	M/SIDE POLICE
MAGHULL	5	v	1	GREENBANK 'A'
WATERLOO	5	v	3	BATH St. MARINE 'B'
CROSBY HIGH	5	v	3	BATH St. MARINE 'A'

Division 2 RUMJAHN

BATH St. MARINE 'C'	5	v	0	SEFTON PARK
MARCONI 'A'	1	v	5	HAROLD HOUSE
BATH St. MARINE 'D'	XX	v	XX	BYE
MARCONI 'B'	XX	v	W/O	CROSBY HIGH 'B'
CADWA 'A'	??	v	??	M/SIDE POLICE 'A'
BYE	XX	v	XX	WAVERTREE LAB. 'A'
WAVERTREE LAB. 'B'	1	v	5	EAST WAVERTREE
BOOTLE YMCA	2	v	5	CADWA

Division 3 HYDE

BOOTLE YMCA 'A'	5	v	2	BATH St. MARINE 'F'
CADWA 'B'	XX	v	XX	BYE
St. ANNES	5	v	0	SEFTON PARK 'A'
MAGHULL 'A'	1	v	5	M/SIDE POLICE 'B'
BATH St. MARINE 'E'	1	v	5	MAGHULL 'B'
EAST WAVERTREE 'A'	XX	v	XX	BYE
ARRIVA N.W.	XX	v	XX	BYE
WAVERTREE LAB.'C'	3	v	5	MARCONI 'C'

Division 4 FORREST

ARRIVA N.W. 'A'	3	v	5	BOOTLE Y.M.C.A. 'C'
CADWA 'C'	4	v	5	M/SIDE POLICE 'C'
LINACRE	5	v	1	MARCONI 'D'
Q.V.C.	0	v	5	WATERLOO 'A'
SEFTON PARK 'B'	XX	v	XX	BYE
BYE	XX	v	XX	ARRIVA N.W. 'B'
MAGHULL 'C'	3	v	5	WAVERTREE LAB. 'D'
WATERLOO 'B'	4	v	5	BOOTLE Y.M.C.A. 'B'

Division 5 STAMP

SEFTON PARK 'C'	5	v	1	BATH St. MARINE 'H'
EAST WAVERTREE 'B'	XX	v	XX	BYE
WAVERTREE LAB. 'F'	2	v	5	WAVERTREE LAB. 'E'
Q.V.C. 'A'	5	v	4	BATH St. MARINE 'G'
St. ANNES 'A'	2	v	5	MAGHULL 'E'
MARCONI 'E'	2	v	5	CADWA 'D'
BYE	XX	v	XX	HAROLD HOUSE 'A'
BYE	XX	v	XX	MAGHULL 'D'

DIVISIONAL CUPS ROUND 2

Division 1 READMAN

M/SIDE POLICE	5	V	1	GREENBANK
MAGHULL	1	V	5	CROSBY HIGH
WATERLOO	5	V	3	BATH St. MARINE
CROSBY HIGH A	5	V	1	WAVERTREE LAB.

Division 2 RUMJAHN

M/SIDE POLICE A	5	V	4	HAROLD HOUSE
WAVERTREE LAB.A	3	V	5	CADWA
EAST WAVERTREE	5	V	0	BATH St. MARINE D
CROSBY HIGH B	5	V	0	BATH St. MARINE C

Division 3 HYDE

MAGHULL B	5	V	0	CADWA B
EAST WAVERTREE A	5	V	4	MARCONI C
ARRIVA	5	V	4	St. ANNES
M/SIDE POLICE B	5	V	2	BOOTLE YMCA A

Division 4 FORREST

SEFTON PARK B	0	V	5	M/SIDE POLICE C
ARRIVA B	0	V	5	BOOTLE YMCA B
WAVERTREE LAB.D	3	V	5	LINACRE
WATERLOO A	0	V	5	BOOTLE YMCA C

Division 5 STAMP

MAGHULL E	1	V	5	EAST WAVERTREE B
CADWA D	X	V	W/O	MAGHULL D
HAROLD HOUSE A	X	V	W/O	WAVERTREE LAB.E
QVC A	X	V	W/O	SEFTON PARK C

FRANK MURPHY (VETS. HANDICAP CUP.)

PRELIMINARY ROUND DRAW.

TO BE PLAYED W/C 14TH DECEMBER 2015.

BOOTLE YMCA 2	V	MARCONI A
BOOTLE YMCA 1	V	ARRIVA 1
CADWA 2	V	BATH St. M. 7
EAST WAV. 2	V	CADWA 3
CADWA 1	V	GREENBANK 1
M/SIDE POLICE 2	V	WAV. LABOUR 2

HANDICAP LIST TO FOLLOW

BEST WISHES,

STAN CLARKE. CUP SECRETARY

League Tables to 30/11/2015

Division One		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Crosby High A	8	5	3	0	55
2	Crosby High	8	4	2	2	48
3	Greenbank	8	5	2	1	48
4	Waterloo	8	5	0	3	47
5	Bath St Marine A	7	4	1	2	43
6	Greenbank A	9	4	1	4	40
7	Wavertree Lab	8	4	2	2	39
8	Fords	7	3	1	3	38
9	M/Side Police	7	4	1	2	38
10	Maghull	8	1	1	6	33
11	Marconi	8	3	0	5	32
12	Bath St Marine	8	0	1	7	25
13	Bath St Marine B	8	1	1	6	24
14	Free	0	0	0	0	0

Division Two		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Bath St Marine C	9	6	2	1	60
2	M/Side Police A	8	5	1	2	46
3	Cadwa	8	4	2	2	43
4	Bootle YMCA	9	3	3	3	42
5	Sefton Park	8	3	2	3	41
6	Wavertree Lab A	8	3	2	3	40
7	East Wavertree	8	3	2	3	38
8	Harold House	6	3	1	2	37
9	Bath St Marine D	8	2	1	5	37
10	Crosby High B	6	4	1	1	36
11	Marconi A	8	3	1	4	35
12	Cadwa A	8	1	0	7	28
13	Wavertree Lab B	8	1	2	5	27
14	Free	0	0	0	0	0

Division Three		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	East Wavertree	8	8	0	0	63
2	Maghull B	8	6	0	2	54
3	Bootle YMCA A	9	6	1	2	50
4	Arriva Nth West	9	6	0	3	48
5	St Annes	8	4	1	3	47
6	Marconi C	8	3	1	4	45
7	Bath St Marine	8	5	0	3	45
8	M/Side Police B	8	3	0	5	39
9	Maghull A	8	4	1	3	38
10	Bath St Marine	8	1	1	6	32
11	Wavertree Lab C	8	1	1	6	25
12	Sefton Park A	7	1	0	6	23
13	Cadwa B	9	2	0	7	21
14	Free	0	0	0	0	0

Division Four		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Bootle YMCA B	9	6	2	1	62
2	Linacre	9	7	1	1	61
3	Waterloo A	9	5	1	3	54
4	Wavertree Lab D	9	5	1	3	53
5	Marconi D	9	6	0	3	53
6	M/Side Police C	9	6	1	2	49
7	Arriva Nth West A	9	3	4	2	46
8	Waterloo B	9	3	3	3	41
9	Maghull C	9	1	4	4	40
10	Cadwa C	9	3	2	4	39
11	Bootle YMCA C	9	2	0	7	38
12	QVC	9	2	3	4	36
13	Sefton Park B	9	0	3	6	31
14	Arriva Nth West B	9	0	2	7	26

Division Five		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	East Wavertree B	8	7	0	1	61
2	Maghull D	7	7	0	0	59
3	Bath St Marine G	7	6	0	1	58
4	Wavertree Lab E	7	5	0	2	46
5	Sefton Park C	8	3	1	4	35
6	QVC A	8	1	3	4	35
7	Wavertree Lab F	7	2	2	3	30
8	St Annes A	8	4	0	4	30
9	Maghull E	7	3	1	3	28
10	Bath St Marine H	8	2	1	5	28
11	Marconi E	7	1	0	6	21
12	Harold House A	8	0	0	8	19
13	Cadwa D	withdrawn				
14	Free	0	0	0	0	0

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT DIVISION						
	P	W	D	L	Pts	
1	Waterloo	5	5	0	0	125
2	Deyes High	5	4	0	1	120
3	Crosby High	5	3	0	2	82
4	Crosby High A	5	2	0	3	68
5	M/Side Police	5	1	0	4	50
6	M/Side Police A	5	0	0	5	19

Wishing all
A HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND AN ENJOYABLE 2016