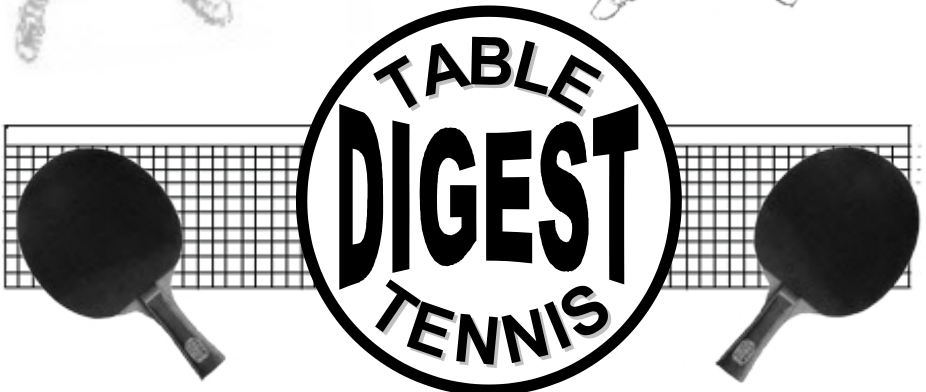


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Editorial

Let's start with the apologies! this Digest was intended to be out at the early part of March, but due to personal circumstances has now been delayed till mid April, my apology to my Divisional reporters who did a quick turnaround after match week 18, and delivered their reports to me asap, it won't be long before I'm asking them for their end of season report!!

This season has been a big disappointment to me personally, as due to physical and family problems I have only managed to play in two matches, I've been able to watch a few more, but at my level, it's not the same as playing, and I can't see an improvement any time soon!

All Cup Competitions have now been played up to their Finals, at time of printing this, only the Date and Venue for the Frank Murphy Final has to be decided, all other are listed on page 15, **try and visit your own division final.**

Results on page 15

The second year of the Junior Development Division (JDD) has had another good season, 5 over 13 teams and 6 under 13 teams, this year we had the use of the excellent facilities at the The Anfield Sports and Community Centre in Breck Road, with great help and encouragement from the Staff of the Centre, the competition ran smoothly for the 13 week season. But credit for the success of this division must go to the Volunteers who turned up every week, the 11 teams were coached from four Clubs, St. Johns Primary School, coached by members of the Police Club, The Crosby High teams, some coached by the Crosby High Club, and some coached by the Bath St. Marine Club, and the Waterloo teams coached by the Waterloo Club, so thanks to those Club Secretaries who attended every night, Paul and Steve Gittins for St. Johns, Graham Chellew for Waterloo, Dave Graham for Crosby High and Graham Turner for the Bath St. Marine teams, and as would be expected, a lot of parents with their encouragement, the League can look forward to new young faces appearing, some have already made appearances in the 5th Div., maybe another Rhys Davies will emerge as time goes by!

Presentation Night was well attended by both Players, Parents and helpers, where the excitement of taking part in competition was well in evidence amongst the youngsters, with trophies presented by Bill Fawley, who sponsored the JDD, stalwart Bill Harris, and BsM's Ian McElwee, who stood in for Jonny Taylor who had unexpected work commitments. **Results on page 12**

The 90th Anniversary of the Liverpool Closed Tournament has come and gone with a reasonable turnout competing, also played at The Anfield Sports and Community Centre, with the Finals Night once again played at St Johns Primary School, MC'd by Paul Gittins, with another excellent buffet put together by Pauls wife Janet, what would we do without volunteers???. This year's competition once more sponsored by Fawley Construction, **Results on page 14**
Pete Wlsh Junior videod the whole nights matches, with his mobile phone and selfie stick, I think he was glad when the

last match had finished, the links and a word of advice can be found at the bottom of page 3.

I started this Editorial commenting on my 'problems', both physical and family, can I add another, 'mental', I'm told this comes with age to some!! Everything starts taking longer to do, I find that the Digest is one of those things that take so much of my time, and contrary to the thought that problems get lighter as you get older, I find the opposite tends to happen, having said that, I have realised that I have been Editing, printing, sorting, stapling, packing and posting/delivering for 16 years, my first was Vol 56 No.1, having taken over from Ken Armson in 2001, so folks, it is time for me to step down! The new online 365 site is starting to take off as far as the L&DTTL is concerned, with up to date info on local league TT, I hate to say it, but most players are only concerned with match results, any other info is soon found on the likes of Utube and facebook etc, except of course the Divisional Reporters who still do a great job, but since match comments have been in decline for a number of years now, it is only the skill of those reporters to make their reports interesting

And finally, just to say, "when things go wrong they go wrong", I have just had a horrendous few days starting with an Ipad mini belonging to a relative with MND, it managed to get itself disabled due to forgetting a password, Apple don't mess about when it comes to security, I finished up three and a half hours on the helpline to Apple in America, they were brilliant, helpful, and patient, I had to link the Ipad into my Laptop to enable Apple to work on it, the Ipad had to be returned to its factory state, they couldn't do that because my virus protection on my laptop wouldn't let them, so I had to let them take control of my Laptop, and between us, under their instructions, delete a host of programs. The Ipad was cleared, set up with new passwords and up and running. I had the problems then, having to recover the programs I had deleted from the laptop, done, I thought that was that, but when I came to my PagePlus Digest software, oh dear, it was all over the place, my original program had been set up years ago on an earlier windows, updated with new drivers, but I had no luck, I had to go on line, get a later version which had completely changed its operating methods, so to cut a longer story short, the moral of this story is, do not forget passwords, if you do, get it to an expert for recovery, before trying blindly to remember what it was!!

Again I give my thanks to all contributors, and another apology for the lateness of this edition, and to reporters who will find their contribution has been 'nipped' a bit, I don't normally cut someone's efforts, but it was necessary this time!

So to continue reading the Digest, **We** need a budding Editor, printing may be done by others! with the majority of players now reading on line printing requirements have been reduced, so volunteer names PLEASE, to me or members of the ManCom.

One more edition for this season!!!

With the League's 90th Anniversary season drawing to a close, the destiny of the division one title, somewhat unusually, is still to be determined. In recent seasons, prior to the reign of Ford being ended by Crosby High a year ago, it was generally tied up weeks before the last few matches. While compiling this column, I received a card from the Crosby High A crunch match with Ford which went to the car men 7-3 putting them two points ahead of Police with one to play.



Hopes of a Liverpool team collecting a divisional title weren't to be and fifth place was all the men could muster, however, our record included a 4-2 defeat by current 'champions' Chester & Ellesmere Port who finished top of the Premier Division. A year ago, on behalf of the Liverpool League, I drew attention to the Rule appertaining to the number of appearances a player must make in their League for whom they represent to be eligible to take part in a LCTTL fixture, however, this was fudged by the LCTTL Management Committee.

Putting that disappointment to one side, we will on April 27th have two senior teams in cup finals although, the men 'qualified' without playing a match, the Ladies, on the same night in the same Hilton TTC, will be looking to bring home the only LCTTL trophy we have yet to win, the Mabel Neary cup. For those members' who weren't around when Mabel played in the League, she was a fine tactical, competitive and tenacious player who gave the same respect to each point from the first to the last point of a game, she played for Crawford's (Biscuits) and Wavertree Labour and represented Liverpool in the Lancashire and Cheshire League and for Lancashire. She was a regular tournament player and reached the Liverpool Closed Ladies singles final on six occasions, becoming champion in 1970 beating Val Blore (nee Lee), in 1987 she inflicted a shock victory over Brenda Buoy in the final, having lost to the Colonsay player four years earlier. Her last outing in the Closed Ladies singles final came in 1998 when losing to Paula French 23/21 21/19. That 28 year span between Liverpool Closed Singles finals is a record highly unlikely to be beaten by a female. The nearest approach to her total by a current lady is the 20 year span achieved by Clare Peers. On the men's side, Keith Williams with a massive 37 years between first and last M/S finals is also, unlikely to be overhauled.

A number of players contested the Closed Finals for the first time - Mitchell Barker and Connor Whitehead doing so in their first appearance in the championships, it was most encouraging for the future of the sport in the city with 12 year old Rhys Davies (Crosby High) reaching the men's semi final. The prestigious Montague Burton men's singles Cup, first won by Mr. J.R. Bather in 1927 has over the years been won by very few young players but those who have achieved it include Mark Thomas, Andrew Eden, Kevin Dolder and Adam Robertson all of whom, though, were older than Rhys. His task in becoming the youngest men's singles finalist meant

him beating Thomas Haddley for the second time in a fortnight having scored a shock victory over the 2016 M/S runner-up in a league match in March. Thomas made no mistake this time when it mattered, taking it 3-0. Davies, who played last year for England in a Mini-Cadet international event in Switzerland, is eligible also to represent Wales as well as the country of his birth, Luxembourg. He did, however, retain his title in the Junior Singles and looks to have a very promising future, he has similarities to former Wales' number one, Adam Robertson, who annexed the Liverpool Closed M/S title in 2000 when beating Kevin Dolder 21-15, 21-11, in the

final.

Tom Purcell, who is always in demand, was selected to umpire in the European Championship's Qualifying matches on April 11th in Preston. The men were beaten 3-1 by Slovakia while Spain registered a 3-0 victory over the Women. A near capacity crowd was entertained with a show of impressive defensive skills coupled with tremendous reflex counter hitting from the Slovakian number one Wang Yang which Liam Pitchford won 3-2 from 2-1 down. The men travel to Bratislava for the return match next week.

Liverpool Closed Finals youtube footage...

I have braved cramps in my arms once again this year to record footage of the Ldttl Closed finals.

Following an issue being raised regarding privacy of the YouTube footage I have had to tinker with the accessibility settings.

As a result, one of the Men's Semi-Finals and the Final itself is not accessible unless authorised by myself.

I am able to allow access to certain YouTube accounts registered with email addresses supplied to me.

If you wish to have access to view the mentioned finals please send me an email telling me who you are to; somebodysomeplaceelse@yahoo.co.uk

The unrestricted footage can be viewed by clicking or copy and pasting the following links;

Junior Boys Final
Connor Whitehead vs Rhys Davies
<https://youtu.be/NXJYmXxdKY>

Open Doubles Final
Jonathan Taylor/Mitch Barker
Vs

Dermot Tierney/Ben Chen
<https://youtu.be/-dGjXznMrSo>

Men's Semi Final 2
Jonathan Taylor vs Aaron Beech
<https://youtu.be/Rtekbxl-on8>

Pete Walsh Jnr (ish)

Division One

Pete Walsh (Jnr.)

Week 13

2nd Division's Ian McElwee had a bitter sweet match for Bsm 1st team away to Crosby High as despite losing all three he pushed Gavin Lloyd to four games, then Cherith Graham and Yameen Al-Dahiri to five sets. Crosby triumphed 8-2 with Gavin being the stand out player, beating Dave Roberts in three games. Greenbank were beaten 9-1 at Crosby High A in a match which saw Mathew Laird losing to Dave Tagg in five despite Laird being on point against some bloke called Pete and Ahmed Thabet- Pete being beaten game 1 in two out of the three. Olivier Barthelemy and the always improving Rhys Davies finishing without dropping a point.



Jack Dempsey and Rhys Davies won all their games against their 1st team when Crosby High A played, Dave Graham partially filling in for a missing player on the first team it seems but was only able to play the first match up against Rhys when he pulled out with an injury, the match ended 9-1 for the second team.

Kevin Dolder was unbeaten playing for Fords against the first team of Merseyside Police taking Jonathan Taylor and Mitch Barker in four but beating Aaron Beech in three, despite this he ended up on the losing side with Andrew Town and Andy Taylor losing all their games including the doubles making the end result 7-3 to Police.

When visiting Maghull Wavertree Labour were boosted by a returning Joel Webb who assisted in their 8-2 win by beating Connor Whitehead, Amy Hutchings and Paul Banks without losing an end. Joel ended up as the player of the match, however Arash Khozoe beating British league player Connor in five games stands out as a contender for performance of the match. Connor only just lost to Thomas Haddley in five games so wasn't playing too badly at all.

Week 17

Greenbank first team beat Wavertree Labour 7-3 in which the home team's two top players Omid and Keith won all their games comfortably, Peter Walsh Senior making his second 1st appearance since suffering a stroke almost exactly a year before, steady progress is being made since that fateful night and long may it continue.

Merseyside Police won 6-4 at Maghull, where Connor Whitehead beat Aaron Beech and Joe Mullin but was beaten by Jonathan Taylor in four, Amy Hutchings beat Joe and Beth Farnworth beat Aaron to complete their four points.

Week 14

Tournament and British League regular Beth Farnworth won all three games playing for Maghull against Crosby High first team, Rob Wylie pushing her the furthest taking her to deuce. Her contribution tipping the balance in a tight match ending 6-4 to winners Maghull.

Merseyside Police A lost 6-4 To Bsm when an in form Claire Peers dispatched Matthew Kelly, Paul Gittins and returning Joshua Mathewman -no mean feat when both Paul and Joshua were sharp enough to beat the consistent Dave Roberts.

Wavertree Labour lost resoundingly to league contenders Fords as Thomas Haddley uncharacteristically lost all three to Andy, Terry and Paul. The match finishing 9-1 with Roy Smith showing he still has the game to turn the tables beating Paul in four games.

Week 18

Jack Dempsey completed two wins against Paul Hutchings this season in the Crosby High A vs Maghull match, an accomplishment rarely seen, the match ended 6-4 to Maghull thanks once again to Connor Whitehead.

In the game of Fords at home versus Greenbank first team Kevin Dolder once again won all his matches including a victory over Keith Williams who rarely loses never mind in three, Kevin also beat Omid and Joe Killoran in three games too. Greenbank were able to claw the match back to a 5-5 draw however due to a concerted team effort.

Week 15

Jack Gittins fought well against Gavin Lloyd taking him to five games in the Merseyside Police A away trip to Crosby High, Joshua Mathewman fighting equally hard against Gavin to become the victor showing he can still trouble most players despite recently returning after only playing 6 games last season, the match ended 7-3 to Police.

Jonathan Taylor avenged his early season loss in three to Thomas Haddley, beating Thomas in a topsy turvy encounter with the scores being 14-12, 7-11, 11-8, 8-11 and 11-7 when Wavertree Labour travelled to Merseyside Police, the match ended 9-1 to Police with the one point being earned by Thomas beating Aaron Beech in five.

At the time of writing similar to the last digest Jack Dempsey is at the top of the leader board for Player of the match but Thomas Haddley has overtaken Paul Hutchings creeping up on Jack.

Week 16

8-2 to Bsm was the result when they played at Greenbank A, some bloke called Pete and Ahmed Thabet earning the only two points for the losing side, Ahmed taking the big scalp of Dave Roberts in four.

Division 2

Ian McElwee

This season the division is one of the most competitive I have known. In the main teams are fairly equally matched with only 34 points separating current leaders Crosby High B (85 points from 14 matches) from St Anne's, who prop up the division at the moment with 51 points from 13 matches. When they met the score was 6/4 in favour of the Crosby side and in general terms the majority of matches in the division are close run affairs such as this example.

The Crosby team are probably exceeding their own expectations, in the 4 matches they have won during the reporting period

Chris Spedding has remained unbeaten going home with the MOM accolade on each occasion. In the 7/3 win over BSM B Chris was well supported by team mates Roger Neil and Sylvia Graham who each won 2. They lost 7/3 to a strong East Wavertree team for whom Tom Creevy hit top form winning on each of his 4 visits to the table, Crosby's points came via Chris who beat Lee Madin and Ray Jackson and a fine win over Lee by Sylvia.

Bootle YMCA (82 points from 14) are in 2nd place and have had some excellent results including a 9/1 victory over CADWA A and 8/2 over Wavertree Labour A. In the defeat of CADWA A Jeff Huntington and Alan Chase won their 3 singles, John Higham's only loss was to Ian Burrows and Ted Birch joined Jeff to secure the doubles. Nice to see Ted playing again after a period of ill health. The same 4 were involved in the win over the Wavertree side for whom Phil Luxon was in excellent form beating Alan and John.

3rd placed CADWA are on 81 points with a match in hand over the top 2, they won 7/3 when facing Bootle YMCA for whom Wayne Percival replaced Jeff, he along with Alan and John lost to MOM Paul Evans, Graeme Black had a rare loss in going down to Wayne, and Mike Power contributed with a win over John Higham. BSM A are equal on points with CADWA but there was no match for them when they met, Graeme was in superb form and Paul won 2 singles. Matt Wilson made his debut for BSM and did well to get the better of Mike and Paul. Grahame Reid replaced Graeme Black when they drew with Wavertree Labour A, Phil Luxon continued his run of form for the Wavertree side winning each of his singles, CADWA's points came via 2 from Paul Evans, 1 each for Mike and Grahame R, and the doubles.

BSM A have been running along quite well and have been boosted by the return of Ken Jackson to the squad, although not completely mobile due to a knee problem he has won all his singles, in a 9/1 victory over East Wavertree Ken and Fred Bainbridge both remained unbeaten with me losing out to Ray Jackson. It was a similar story when we beat CADWA A 8/2 with Ian Burrows and Alan French getting the better of me. After a fairly slow start to the season Fred is probably playing better than I have ever seen him play over the past 30 years or so, not many players peak at the ripe old age of 73!



East Wavertree A (65 from 13) seem to be enjoying life and some fine wins in their first season at this level, possibly their best win to date was in beating 2nd placed Bootle YMCA 6/4. Joey Williams and Tony Dixon excelled beating both Alan Chase and John Higham, Lee Madin also got the better of John and combined with Joey to clinch victory with a 5th set win in the doubles. The club's overall strength in depth was illustrated when Neil Colville and Ray Jackson joined Joey in an 8/2 win at Sefton Park, Alan Davies saved face for Sefton Park getting the better of Joey and Neil.

The East Wavertree B Team are pushing the A team all the way and are also on 65 points having played an additional match, they certainly have a taste for local derby matches running out 8/2 winners over their A team and beating their first team 6/4. In the win over the A team Ray Jackson and Neil Colville remained unbeaten and John McCann edged out Tony Dixon. Joey and Tony played up alongside Tom Creevy for the first team when the B team beat them. The talented Tony Mullally joined forces with Neil and John for the B team. Joey was in top form in winning his 3 singles but it was one of those nights for Tom as he went down 11/9 in the 5th set in each of his singles matches. Neil and Tony each won twice and Paul Loftus combined with Neil to clinch the doubles.

BSM B (64 from 14) have earned the safety of mid table by picking up points on a regular basis, even in defeat. They have had a couple of 6/4 wins over Sefton Park and St Anne's with Barry Davis undefeated in each match, in the Sefton Park match he was supported by Rob Peat who won 2 singles and combined with Barry to take the doubles. In the St Anne's match Colin Mitchell and Dave Stoddern each took a point and Colin joined Barry to win the doubles. They pushed CADWA all the way before going down 6/4 and could well have earned a draw as Rob pushed Graeme Black before losing out 11/8 in the deciding set.

Next in line are CADWA A (61 from 14), although they have lost 10 of their matches they rarely suffer heavy defeats and are managing to keep their heads above water. They have recorded 2 (6/4) victories over St Anne's and East Wavertree B during the reporting period. Mark Slater is having a good season and contributed 2 single wins plus combining with Ian Burrows to take the doubles against St Anne's. Ian and Grahame Reid both got the better of Dave Bradley to ensure victory. The experienced Alan Timewell replaced Mark for the East Wavertree B match, Ian Burrows produced a MOM performance to take his 3 singles including a 16/14 5th set win over Jimmy Williams. Alan chipped in with 2 wins and Grahame got the better of Jimmy. Ian was once more in top form winning his 3 singles and combining with Mark to win the doubles when they beat BSM B 7/3, Alan had a long hard night beating Barry Davis and Colin Mitchell in 5 sets and

losing out to Dave Stoddern in the 5th.

Sefton Park (58 from 13) are currently in relative safety from relegation but cannot afford any poor nights between now and the end of the season. CADWA A only had Mark and Ian available when Sefton Park beat them 6/4, the consistent Alan Davies remained unbeaten, in the doubles he and his partner Mike Perry lost a couple of sets 11/4 but won the remaining sets 15/13, 17/15 and 12/10. Come the end of the season their 7/3 victory over close rivals Wavertree Labour A may prove to be highly significant, Ian Laird was the star of the night winning on each of his 4 visits to the table, Alan beat Dave Harse and Martin Krause with Mike Perry gaining an 11/9 5th set win over Dave.

I am genuinely surprised to find Wavertree Labour A (54 from 12) so low down the table, in Phil Luxon, Dave Harse and Martin Krause they have a well balanced and, on paper, strong team, indeed when these 3 are available they are a threat to most teams. This combination was too strong for St Anne's beating them 7/3. Phil was undefeated on the night, Martin won 2 and Dave won 1. They then secured a draw with high flying CADWA who were missing Graeme Black, Phil again won his 3 singles with Martin winning 2, I was possibly their star man when they beat BSM A, I had one of my senior moments forgetting to bring my glasses with me, I tried to play, without success, losing to Andy Bird and reluctantly had to give walk overs for my other 2 prospective matches. Wavertree's remaining points came via Phil and Martin getting the better of Fred Bainbridge and the pair combining to take the doubles. With a match or two in hand over most teams a

couple of good nights should take any thoughts of relegation away.

East Wavertree also have games in hand having played 12 in gaining 53 points, they have players in their squad who should have them placed much higher but, for whatever reasons, rarely field their strongest side. However, they have picked up of late. Tom Creevy, Lee Madin and Ray Jackson combined to beat top of the table Crosby High B 7/3. Tom was brilliant on the night working hard to win his singles, beating Chris Spedding 12/10 in the 5th, Sylvia Graham 11/9 in the 5th and Mark Davies 11/8 also in the 5th. (Tom's results on the night possibly made up for the reverse situation referred to earlier when he lost his 3 singles 11/9 in the 5th when facing the club's B team), Ray provided fine support winning 2 points and Lee Madin added a further singles win. This vein of form continued when Ray was joined by "reserves" Neil Colville and Tony Mullally in their 8/2 win at Sefton Park, clearly the strength and depth is there for them to move up the division, the question to be answered is how often will they manage to field a strong side?

St Anne's may be bottom of the table with 51 from 13 but they rarely get beaten by a wide margin. They pushed Crosby High B all the way before going down 6/4. Both Hassib Nuree and Israel Isaac beat Sylvia and Roger and if it wasn't for the fine play of Chris Spedding they could have forced a draw. They did get a good draw when they faced East Wavertree with Bernhard Frank their top man, winning each of his 3 singles backed up by Hassib who got the better of Lee Madin

Division 3

BSM "C", Maghull "A", Maghull "B" and Arriva went through to the Semi Finals.

Division 3 table toppers Maghull 'A' are looking very good, followed by Merseyside Police, both teams looking promotion material, but they are being chased by a very good Bootle YMCA 'A'. Every other team in the division are all fighting very hard to get points and most of them springing surprise results every week, so even the top teams cannot relax.

I would like to highlight some of the unsung heroes of our division like Ian Findon of Sefton Park "A", Ian is always available to play for his team, he always plays very well, fighting for every point in every game and he is the best host in the division, you should have seen the spread he put out just before Christmas in their match v BSM "C". Another is the stalwart of Linacre, Harry Reeve, Harry is the man who runs the Linacre Club as he has done for many years, he also knows everybody even the top Russians, and is a top class player and sportsman of the highest class.

Match WEEK 13. BSM 'C' 7 v Wavertree Lab. 'C' 3, this was a very good match, hard fought for on every point. Wavertree Lab 'C' put out a very good team of Andy Bird, Michael Dugdale and Alan Liu, the best game of the night was Michael Dugdale against Mal Kent, the hitting was extraordinary, Mal won this one, Michael Dugdale then

Brian Crolley



beat Andy Cheung and Brian Crolley, Andy Cheung beat Andy Bird and Alan Liu, Mal Kent also beat Andy Bird, Brian Crolley had two very hard games against Alan Liu and Andy Bird, just coming in to win these games, Alan Liu beat Mal Kent, the doubles went to Mal and Andy just overcoming Michael and Andy in 5, what a wonderful match to start the New Year, both teams enjoyed the night. Linacre 1 v BSM 'D' 9, BSM 'D' played very well with Daren Taylor and Dave Noden winning 3 each, and combining to win the doubles, only Charlie Bradshaw saved the whitewash by beating Ted Cramsie very close in

the 5th to get the only point for Linacre. Bootle YMCA 'A' 0 v Maghull 'A' 10, a weakened YMCA Team could not cope with the strength of Maghull 'B'. Paul Banks, Steve Braddick and Michael Stewart were just too good. Tom Doubtfire put up a tremendous performance for Bootle YMCA 'A' just losing 9-11 in the 5th to Paul Banks. Sefton Park 'B' 3 v CADWA 'B' 7 Ian Wensley and Frank Mc Cann won 3 each with Martin Latham getting 1, Sefton Park with Paul Jennings and Robbie Puddifer winning 1 each, they also took the doubles, Ian Findon always puts up a fine game but just lost out to Martin Latham in the 5th, this must have been a very good game. Arriva N. W. 4. V Police 'B' 6, Derek Scotland was again the outstanding player winning his 3 games with

Krzysztof Lenyk winning 1 for Arriva N.W. Steve Gittins and Matt Evans won 2 each and teaming up to take the doubles

with Brenda Buoeuy putting in a great win to take the match. Match WEEK 14. Maghull 'B' 10 v Bootle YMCA 'B' 0, a fine performance from Sue Hughes, Alan Chan and Matthew Cranney each winning 3, with Sue and Mathew also winning the doubles, Bootle YMCA team of Steve Daniels, John Taylor and Colin Hughes found out how hard this Division really is. BSM 'C' 3 v Wavertree Lab 'B' 7, Wavertree Lab 'B' had Lee Farley, Alan Lui and Gavin Minnet playing this week, all tough table tennis players and gentlemen, Andy Cheung, Mal Kent and Brian Crolley fought very hard to get 3 points, 1 from Brian, 1 from Mal, and Mal and Andy Cheung won the doubles, very close in the 5th for BSM 'C', the rest of the games went to Wavertree with Lee and Alan getting 2 each with Gavin Minnet putting in another fine performance to win all 3 of his games. Sefton Park 'A' 6 v Linacre 4, Neil Jennings, Robbie Puddifer and Ian Findon got Sefton Park off on the right track each winning 2 games, but Linacre fought back with Alek Charcenco winning his 3 games in fine form and teaming up with the great Harry Reeve to win the doubles, great stuff Harry. Merseyside Police 'B' 10 v BSM 'D' 0, it looks like BSM 'D' of Darren Taylor, Ted Cramsie and Dave Noden hit the wall of Police 'B' consisting of Steve Gittins, Brenda Buoeuy and Matt Evans, the Police 'B' are a very good team and must be in very good form to get 10 against BSM 'D', these BSM "D" players do not fall over easily. Bootle YMCA 'A' 6 v Arriva N.W. 4 Shakil Malik 3, Liam Shaw 2, Tom Doubtfire getting the points on the board for Bootle YMCA, John Rowan 1 and Krzysztof picking up 2 very good points and the doubles for Arriva.

Match Week 15. Maghull 'A' 9 v BSM 1, Maghull 'A' players Steve Braddick, John Langton and Michael Stewart were far too good for BSM 'C', Ray Hibbs win over John Langton avoided the whitewash, but Mal Kent, Brian Crolley and Ray Hibbs fought hard all night, I thought Michael Stewart was the star player on show, his style is so quick and accurate on both wings making it very difficult to get a shot in first, well done Maghull 'A'. BSM 'D' 4 v Maghull 'B' 6, a very steady Sue Hughes putting in a fine performance to win all 3 of her games, Matthew Cranney winning 2 and Phil Christie winning 1 for Maghull 'B', Ted Cramsie is playing very well taking 2 games and teaming up with Darren Taylor to win the doubles, big hitting Dave Noden beat Phil Christie to make this a good result for BSM 'D' against a very strong Maghull 'B'. Bootle YMCA 'B' 0 v Bootle YMCA 'A' 10, once again Shakil Malik, Tom Doubtfire and Eddie Preston did the damage, all winning 3 each, and Shakil and Eddie also winning the doubles. Eddie Preston stood in as reserve and put in a tremendous performance to beat John Taylor 12-10 in the 5th. Wavertree Lab. 'B' 3 v CADWA 'B' 7, these CADWA boys just turn it on, Ian Wensley winning 3 and Frank McCann and Peter Wass both winning 2, Mario Giove putting up a fine performance to win 2 and to team up with Terry Jones to get the doubles. Wavertree Lab. 'B' 8 v Sefton Park 'A' 2, where do Wavertree get these players from, Andy Bird, Alan Liu and Michael Dugdale, once again putting in great efforts, they had to play well to get on top of Sefton Park 'A' with Neil Jennings, Robby Puddifer and Ian Findon fighting all the way. Linacre 2 v Merseyside Police 'B'

8, Alek Charcenco is having a great season, anybody getting wins over Steven Gittins and Brenda Buoeuy must be playing very well indeed, Matt Evans won his 3 and teamed up with Steven to take the doubles.

Match Week 16. BSM 'C' 8 v ARRIVA NW. 2, BSM 'C' had Matthew Wilson playing for them in place of Andy Cheung who was away on his hols in Hong Kong, Matthew Wilson's inclusion winning his 3 and the doubles with Mal Kent reflected the score in this match, I have to say Arriva N.W. of John Rowan, Krzysztof and the ever reliable Graham Rollinson played extremely well, but Krzysztof hurt his knee and this did not help Arriva's cause, in fact not a lot went right for them on the night, I bet they cannot wait to play BSM 'C' in the semi-final of the Div. Cup. Wavertree Lab 'C' 6 v Wavertree Lab 'B' 4, we are so lucky to have such a mass of talented players in this Div. Andrew Bird, Alan Liu and Garry Minnet putting up an outstanding performance to beat a very strong Wavertree Lab 'B' side of Lee Farley, Mario Giove and Dave Goulden, this must have been a great match with Alan Liu being the star of the night. M/side Police 'B' 10 v Sefton Park 'A' 0, Steve Gittins, Brenda Buoeuy and Matt Evans, three wonderful players and great to play against even if they do beat you as they did to Sefton Park 'A'. Maghull 'B' 8 v Linacre 2, another fine performance from Alek Charcenco beating Phil Christie and Alan Chan. Bootle YMCA 7 v BSM 'D' 3, Ted Cramsie and Dave Noden both put in tremendous efforts to take Shakil Malik to 5 sets, as did Ted's efforts against the ever improving Liam Shaw, Steven Daniels had a good win over Ted Cramsie. CADWA 'B' 1 v Maghull 'A' 9, Ian Wensley avoided the whitewash for CADWA 'B' by beating Michael Stewart close in the 5th, a magnificent effort.

VETS CUP WEEK 6th Feb. 2017, the Handicappers of this event should be applauded for their efforts, one match went to 1 point, another to 3 points, another to 7 points and another to 8 points, pretty exciting stuff.

Match WEEK 17.

Bootle YMCA 'B' 2 v BSM 'C' 8, Steven Daniels was the star of the Bootle YMCA 'B' team beating Mal Kent and Brian Crolley, his game against Brian was a classic, fought out to the very end with Steven just coming out the winner in 5, Andy Cheung won his 3 in style and also winning the doubles with Mal Kent. Maghull 'A' 8 v Wavertree Lab 'C' 2, Michael Dugdale must have played really well to beat Steve Braddick, Gavin Minnett also put in a fine performance to beat Michael Stewart and what about Michael Dugdale and Terry Jones just losing out to Paul Banks and Michael Stewart in 5 in the doubles, also Alan Liu just losing out to Paul Banks in 5, these are tremendous performances. Arriva N.W. 9 v CADWA 'B' 1, it just amazes me how good the teams are in this division, this Arriva team would terrify the life out of most teams, this week I am going to sing the praises of the opposition, CADWA 'B', Frank MacCann, Peter Wass and Ian Wensley, these fellows fight for every point and in the end just got the doubles, still, well done playing against a very sporting Arriva N.W. team. Sefton Park 'A' 3, v Wavertree Lab 'A' 7, Sefton Park 'A' always putting in strong performances to pick up points almost every week, this week it was Neil Jennings winning 2 and Robbie Puddifer winning 1 against a very strong Wavertree Lab 'A', who

had Lee Farley winning 3, backed up by Dave Golden 2 and Mario Giove, 1. Merseyside Police 'B' 8 v Maghull 'B' 2, Sue Hughes and Matthew Cranney put in tremendous efforts to beat Brenda Buoe, this whole match was hard fought 5 games going to 5 and Police won 4 of them, surely nothing can stop Police 'B' of Steve Gittins, Brenda Buoe and Matt Evans now. Linacre 2 v Bootle YMCA 'A' 8, Alek Charcenco was again in fine form winning 2 for Linacre, but Bootle YMCA 'A' fielding Shakil Malik, Tom Doubtfire and Liam Shaw were just that bit too good.

Match WEEK 18.

BSM 'C' 4 v BSM 'D' 6, the 'C' team were always lagging behind by 2 games, mainly because the 'D' team served stronger, otherwise there was not much in the games, the highlights were Andy Cheung win over Darren Taylor and Brian Crolley's win over Ted Cramsie, Dave Noden's win over Brian Crolley and Darren Taylor's win close in the 5th over Brian Crolley. Andy Cheung beat Dave Noden and Andy and Mal Kent won the doubles, Mal Kent and Dave Noden fought for the last point which Dave Noden won very close in the 5th set to gain the victory. Maghull 'B' 8 v Sefton Park 'A' 2, Alan Chan was man of this match winning his 3, with Sue Hughes and Phil Christie winning 2 each and the doubles for Maghull 'B', however as ever Neil Jennings and Robbie Puddifer fought back to take hard fought games off Sue Hughes and Phil Christie, but do not forget the efforts that Ian Findon puts in week after week, Ian is the salt of the earth, he puts 100% into the game. Wavertree Lab 'C' 4 v Arriva N.W. 6, these are results I love to see, Alan Liu beating the formidable Derek Scotland, what a win this is, however 'Scotland' got right back by beating

Andy Bird and Michael Dugdale and then taking the doubles with Krzysztof, Krzysztof Lenyk was the man of the match winning his 3 games for Arriva, Graham Rollinson again put in fine efforts to take both Alan Liu and Andy Bird to very hard games. Wavertree Lab 'B' 2 v Maghull 'A' 8, the strength of Maghull 'A' once again showed up beating a very strong Wavertree Lab 'B' team, the high lights of the night must have been Mario Giove beating Paul Banks and Lee Farley beating John Langton, very good wins these, Michael Stewart being man of the match winning all his 3 games for Maghull 'A'. CADWA 'B' 7 v Bootle YMCA 'B' 3, Frank MacCan was in outstanding form winning his 3, backed up by Ian Wensley 2 and Martin Latham 1 for CADWA 'B', Steven Daniels winning 2 for Bootle YMCA 'B' backed up by Richard Winckle taking a good win for Bootle YMCA 'B'. Bootle YMCA 'A' 3 v Merseyside Police 7, Matt Evans was the top man for M/side Police 'B' having won all his 3 games, he must have been pleased beating Shakil Malik, he was well backed up by Steve Gittins and Brenda Buoe, however Shakil fought back for Bootle YMCA 'A' winning 2 and taking the doubles with the ever improving Liam Shaw.

This is the week that we look at the Div 3. League Tables, Maghull 'A' and Merseyside Police 'B' are looking very good in the promotion race with Bootle YMCA 'A' chasing them very hard. Bootle YMCA "B" and Linacre will have to fight very hard to get away from the bottom, however those in the middle will have a say in all the remaining matches.

Brian Crolley

Division 4 Ken Roberts

Week 9 starts with a good win for Police C over Cadwa C 8-2, Purvi and Chris H picking up the 2 points for Cadwa, Alan French just losing out to my old team mate Dave Mc -10 in the 5th. A much closer game was Maghull C against Sefton Park C, Maghull edging it 6-4, a hard fought match with half the games going to 5 sets, Luke C picking up both of his games for Maghull. Same score for Maghull D against Wavertree Labour D, Wavertree coming out on top, Janette "Lady of the Match" picking up her two games for Maghull, excellent win by Janette over the strong Robin B. QVC beat Waterloo B 8-2, Gary C and Lewis picking up Waterloo's 2 points, Gary having a battle royal for his point winning game 11 in the 5th against Mick. Very close game for current leaders Bath St Marine winning 6-4 against Arrive A, excellent win for Wacek over Miguel for Arriva, Graham T picking up his two for Marine and Gary S doing the same for Arriva. Strong performance by current 2nd place Bootle YMCA C, beating Waterloo A 9-1, Jeffaich saving the whitewash with a good win over Bert.

Week 10 kicks off with Maghull C and Cadwa C finishing all square 5-5, another hard fought match, Vaclav



winning both for Cadwa C, pushed all the way to 5 sets in both games by Steve Mc and Luke. Sefton Park B beat Maghull D 8-2, however Maghull only had 3 players, Janette winning one for Maghull and a doubles win for their 2 points. Bath St Marine whitewashed Waterloo B 10-0, showing what a strong squad they are. Waterloo A however beat QVC 8-2, Ponchu winning his two for QVC against Nikolaj and Jeffaich. Arriva A beat Wavertree Labour D 7-3, Robin B picking up his two for Wavertree, albeit just pipping Eddie W game 10 in the 5th. Bootle YNCA C beat Sefton Park C 7-3, good win for Jamie here for Sefton Park beating Eddie P, Mark Brooks picking the other two points for Sefton.

Week 11 saw Bootle YMCA beat Cadwa C 9-1, however Cadwa were a player short, Purvi saving the whitewash for Cadwa. Sefton Park C lost out to Waterloo A 4-6, Chris G winning a brace for Sefton and Pete R and Graham C doing the same for Waterloo. Current third Police C beat Maghull D 7-3, Janette and Loon winning one each and a doubles for their 3 points. All square between QVC and Bath St Marine, Panchu winning a brace for QVC and Miguel

doing the same for Marine. Hard fought match between Sefton Park B and Arriva A, Arriva winning 6-4, yours truly winning both for Sefton and Yanusz returning the compliment for Arriva. Wavertree Labour D beat Waterloo B 8-2, Paul M beating Steve J for one point and Lewis beating Jason for the other.

Week 12 saw the Maghull "Derby" finish 6-4 in favour of the C team, Steve Mc winning both for the C team. Sefton Park B beat Waterloo B 9-1, Gary and Tony winning a double to save the whitewash however only 2 games were won in 3 sets, so it was a lot closer than the score suggested. Waterloo A beat Cadwa C 7-3, unfortunately Cadwa had a player short, Vaclav winning one, and then the doubles with Alan French, Dougie beating his old team mate Pete R for the third point. Police beat Arriva A 7-3, Tom P and John M winning both their games for Police and Eddie and Yanusz plus a double for Arriva's points. Bath St Marine beat Wavertree Labour 7-3, Steve J and Terry winning a game each plus a double for Wavertree, Steve having a hard game against Graham T winning game 11 in the 5th.

Week 13 saw Sefton Park C beat Cadwa C 6-4, however Cadwa played short, Chris G winning his two for Sefton. QVC beat Wavertree Labour D 7-3, Steve and Terry winning a game each and a double for Wavertree. Bootle YMCA C beat Maghull D also 7-3, Janette, Naresh and Denise winning one each for their points. Bath St Marine produced another strong performance to beat Sefton Park B 8-2, John G and Bobby picking up Sefton's points, Miguel winning both again for Marine. Arriva A whitewashed Maghull C, and Police beat Waterloo B 6-4, in a tough match with 6 games going to 5 sets, Graham C winning a brace for Waterloo, Police picking up both doubles to help clinch the match. Sefton Park B beat Cadwa C in a rearranged match this week, John G picking up both for Sefton. Hard fought match with all sets going to 4 or 5 games, nerves played a big part for Alan French's game against Richie winning in the 5th, and admitted that during the 5th game he suffered "severe twitching"!

Week 14 saw Maghull D beat Waterloo A 6-4, Naresh and Loon picking up two each for Maghull and Jeffaith doing the same for Waterloo. Bootle YMCA C beat Arriva A 6-4, Eddie P and Mike H winning two each for Bootle and Arriva winning both doubles to keep the score tight. Current third place Police beat current leaders Bath St Marine 6-4. Miguel and Pete Ashley winning both for Marine, again Police winning both doubles helped to secure the win. Waterloo B beat Maghull C 9-1, Luke C saving the whitewash for Maghull. Wavertree Labour D beat Sefton Park B 8-2, Paul Morgan and Faye supplying the 2 points for Sefton.

Week 15 saw Sefton Park C beat Maghull D 6-4, in what was a very close game with only one match being decided in 3 straight, Chris and Jamie picking up 2 each for Sefton. Bath St Marine E were too strong for Maghull C winning

10-0. QVC beat Sefton Park B 7-3, John G, Faye and a doubles win providing Sefton's 3 points. Police C beat Wavertree Labour D 6-4, Jason Ao winning his two for Wavertree, and both Tom P and Dave Mc doing the same for Police. Waterloo A beat Arriva A 6-4, however Arriva were a player short, Jeffaith winning both of his for Waterloo against Eddie and Yanusz. Good win for Waterloo B over Bootle YMCA C 6-4, Graham C winning his two for Waterloo over Mike H and Jim G, Eddie doing the same for Bootle.

Week 16 was unusual as two teams were unable to field a side. Police C drew 5-5 with Sefton Park B. John G having an excellent night beating Tom P and Brian B, Police again won both doubles to help clinch the draw. The battle of the top two teams ended in a win for Bath St Marine E 6-4 over Bootle YMCA C. Miguel and Peter winning both for Marine, Bootle picking up both doubles. The Waterloo "Derby" resulted in a win for the B team 6-4, both Lewis and Stuart won both of their games for the B team. Wavertree Labour were too strong for Maghull C winning 8-2. Danny Hall won one by beating Steve J and they picked up a double for their 2 points.

In week 17 QVC beat Police 6-4. Tom P played 3 in this match as Brian was stuck in work and couldn't get to the game, this was possible as Tom was already there and could step in using the MR10 rule, Andrew and Panchu won a brace each for QVC as did Tom P for Police. All square between Sefton Park C and Waterloo B. Chris G enjoying another good night for Sefton winning both and Lewis doing the same for Waterloo. Arriva A beat Cadwa C 7-3, Alan F and Patricio won one each plus a double for their 3 points. Both Gary S and Wacek claimed a brace each for Arriva. Sefton Park B beat Maghull C 9-1, however, Maghull did play with a player short, Julian and Luke combining to win a double for their point. Bath St Marine E beat Waterloo A 8-2, Phil and Gary winning a game each for their two points. Bootle YMCA C proving too strong for Wavertree Labour D winning 9-1, Richie Pandy picking up Wavertree's point, beating Bert.

Week 18 saw Bootle YMCA C beat Sefton Park B 6-4, John G picking up both beating Eddie and Richie, Kenny Young enjoyed a good win over Mike H in 5 sets. QVC beat Maghull D 9-1, Joe Rock saving the whitewash by beating Ronnie. Bath St Marine E beat Sefton Park C 8-2, Roy C beating Peter and a doubles win for their two points. All square between Waterloo B and Cadwa C. Vaclav and Alan winning a brace each for Cadwa, and Stuart returning the favour for Waterloo. Wavertree Labour beat Waterloo A 7-3, George Liu and Jason winning two each for Wavertree. Police beat Maghull C 8-2, Maghull winning both doubles for their points and Tom P settling back into his customary No.1 spot.

Although Bath St Marine have a lead of 20 points as of the time of writing these notes, it is important that they carry on fielding a strong regular squad as Bootle YMCA and Police are not too far behind, waiting to see if Marine falter at all.

See you all for the end of season notes.

Welcome back to the second report on a most interesting, competitive and enjoyable season. As stated previously, the general standard across the division seems to be of a higher standard this time around (although last season's winners, Bath Street, were very strong – currently riding high at the top of division four and in a position to potentially complete the 'double'). The current high level of play is a product of numerous factors including a significant number of players who you would usually expect to be playing higher, greater squad numbers and an influx of new/experienced returning players.



Obviously this appetite for the game is a good thing on every level. This all adds up to a challenging season with most teams more than capable of taking points from each other. As it stands at the moment, all of the top four (and possibly five?) teams have a chance of winning the division. A look further down the table sees Harold House A currently climbing the table and proving to be a match for most teams in the division (providing they field their strongest players on a regular basis).

Week 9 saw an impressive Maghull E share the honours in an evenly fought match at high flying Wavertree Labour E. Joe Rock (Jnr) picking up a fine win over Alf Perry (64%) with Brian and Andy also picking up a valuable point each to add their double victories. Alvin and Richie (97%) picking up both of their singles for the home side, adding to Alf's three straight win over Brian. The other teams at the top managed to win big and keep the pressure up on their rivals: East Wavertree C 9-1 against Greenbank B (Simon Cranke coming from behind to pick up his sides sole point in a dramatic five set win over Lol Cain), an experienced Cadwa D matching this result with an impressive 9 – 1 against Waterloo C (a determined Sean Chandler preventing the whitewash). A strong 8 – 2 win for Sefton Park D at home to Harold House A kept them in touch at the top.

Week 10: Derek Traynor (86%) led Sefton Park D to a 5 - 5 draw at East Wavertree C, winning his three on the night. Lol Cain, enjoying his first season in the league, picking up a valuable win for the home side against the comparatively experienced Alan Staniland. Excellent 6 – 4 win for Arriva NW B at Cadwa D. Gary Mavris (66%) and Satish Ranka (95%) both winning three for their respective sides. Derek Aspinall unlucky to lose both of his singles in five against Ray and Alan. Harry Hughes (70%), for Arriva, also unlucky to lose out to Satish in the fifth (12 – 10). Impressive 8 – 2 win for Harold House A at Bath Street G with recent signing Rod McPherson (75%), along with Eddie Clein (75%), emerging from the table undefeated on the night. Des Logan producing a typical captain's performance to beat a determined Clive Fisher in the fifth set and consequently earn a valuable point for the home side.

Week 11 produced a heavy 9 -1 defeat for Bath Street G at Sefton Park D with the evergreen Bill Clayton

preventing the whitewash. A closely fought match at Waterloo C saw the spoils shared with visitors Sefton Park E. The steady Mark Brooks (75%) winning his two singles for Sefton and Dave Turner having an excellent night for the hosts - winning both of his singles 12 – 10 in the fifth (against Faye and Philip). Dave also teaming up with David Harper to take the doubles. Well done. Great, evenly contested, match. A very good 8 – 2 win for Wavertree Labour F over Harold House A. Gordon picking up a notable double over Colm and Simon. No mean feat.

Week 12 saw the pressure intensify at the top with a number of big wins for the teams involved in the battle for promotion. Cadwa D whitewashed Bath Street G, East Wavertree C defeated Wavertree Labour F 9 – 1 (David Williams preventing the whitewash with a close win over Lol), Sefton Park D also winning 9 – 1 (without Derek Traynor) at Bath Street Marine F. Great win for Bath Street's Tom Bell over Dave Cunningham to pick up his teams sole point. Wavertree Labour E took advantage of a severely weakened Greebank A (playing with two players short) to maintain the weeks pattern of 9 – 1 victories. Colm and Simon combining to win a hard-earned point in the doubles. Maghull E also picking up a 10 – 0 win courtesy of a walkover against Harold House A.

Week 13 saw the post - New Year fixtures deliver a range of excellent wins for visiting teams. Sefton Park E won 7 – 3 at Harold House with Tony Lowe (80%) and Mark Brookes both winning their singles - and combining to win their doubles. Rod winning his two for the home side. Cadwa D picking up a fine 6 – 4 win at Sefton Park D in a closely fought match. Standout performers on the night being Satish Ranka for the visitors and James O'Grady for Sefton – both winning their three. Excellent win for Bath Street F at Wavertree Labour F (6 – 4). Julia Cornish winning her three, ably supported by the experienced Ned Hassim who won his two singles. The dependable Eric Spencer winning two for the home side (including a doubles victory alongside Gordon).

Week 14 witnessed a challenging week for both of the Bath Street sides (F and G) – both losing 10/0 to Wavertree Labour E and Sefton Park E respectively. Cadwa D also whitewashing Maghull E 10 – 0. Another big win for East Wavertree C against a strong Waterloo C (9 -1). Matthias Mach (62%) impressing in an excellent win over the steady Geoff Metcalf and a good double for Ged Howard (87%) over Tony McDonald and Sean Chandler after losing the first game in both sets. An excellent night played in great spirit, with the Waterloo side, despite the heavy defeat, playing some great table tennis. Sefton Park D keeping the pressure up at the top of the table with an 8 – 2 win over Wavertree Labour F. Impressive win for Eric Spencer over Derek Traynor

(11- 7 in the fifth). Femi picking up a further point for the visitors with a good win over Dave Cunningham. Excellent double for Simon Craske in Harold House A's 7 – 3 defeat at Arriva NW B – including a three straight win over Gary Mavris.

Week 15 saw an emphatic 10 – 0 home win for East Wavertree C over a competitive Arriva NW B with just the one set going to a fifth game, the left-handed hitting of Gary Mavris pushing Jimmy Williams (90%) to a final game. The honours were shared in a close game between Greenbank B and Harold House A. Rod and Eddie remained unbeaten on the night for the visitors, with Nicholas and Tim picking up notable wins for the home side.

Week 16 produced a series of close matches (apart from Arriva NW B showing their durability to bounce back with a strong 9 – 1 win over Bath Street F) including an excellent 6 – 4 win for Sefton Park E at Maghull E. The reliable Tony Lowe (he won't lose many playing at four) winning his three for the visitors. Ged Hanley also having a fine night and doing similar for the home side. Sefton Park D were on the other side of a 6 – 4 result, losing to fellow title challengers Wavertree Labour E. Richie Pandey and Jason Ao (83%) both having a great night and winning their three. Faye Taylor, the standout performer for Sefton on the night, winning her two singles against Stan and David. Excellent wins.

Week 17 saw a dramatic debut for the all action David Lovelady at East Wavertree C. The Bath Street G player winning his two singles in three straight, also combining with Barbara Allcock to edge out Jimmy and Lol 11-9 in the fifth in an enthralling doubles match. Barbara hitting some great forehands in an exciting battle. However, the home side took the rest of the sets to seal a 7 – 3 win. Shantanu (70%) and Patricio (65%) led Cadwa to a parallel 7 – 3 scoreline at the improving Greenbank B with both players remaining undefeated on the night. Good singles victories for Greenbanks' Ali and Simon who also successfully combined in their doubles to comfortably overcome Chris and Derek. A

strong Harold House A line-up saw the week out with a 10 – 0 win at Bath Street F, pushing themselves to a mid-table table position. And rising.

Week 18 saw an excellent double for Waterloo C number one Tony McDonald including a great win over Sefton Park D's Derek Traynor. Geoff Metcalf also picking up two wins (including a doubles win alongside Tony) for the home side. A very encouraging 5 – 5 draw for the Waterloo C side against strong opponents. Other notable wins this week included an excellent 7 – 3 win for Arriva NW B over Wavertree Labour E, East Wavertree C's 9 -1 win at promotional rivals Cadwa D and a consecutive commanding 10 -0 win for Harold House A over a three man Wavertree Labour F. Despite the heavy defeat, Francis Lay putting in a typically determined performance for the Wavertree side against Rod in both singles and doubles.

Final thoughts: As we approach the home straight, East Wavertree C lead the hunt for promotion at the top and are followed extremely closely by Wavertree Labour E, Sefton Park D and Cadwa D. There is nothing in it and all to play for which adds to the drama and excitement of the run in. Expect some twists and turns. Mid-table sees a number of strong sides battling it out such as Maghull E, Waterloo C and Harold House A. Currently propping up the table, but not exactly rooted, are the two Bath Street sides and Greenbank B.

Apologies for any particular individual performances/matches I have probably missed – however, any match commentaries/observations on the reverse side of the match card are more than welcome (such as outstanding game/performer) and will always be included in the subsequent divisional report. Best of luck to all for the remainder of the season...including both Cadwa D and Wavertree Labour E in the forthcoming cup final! Enjoy your table tennis.

Junior Development Division

The L&DTTL JDD 2017 season has now come to its conclusion, 40 youngsters between the ages of 7 to 15 competed throughout the season in Under 13 and Over 13 divisions. The Waterloo 'A' team consisting of Sean Chandler, Aiden Mooney and Owen Campbell were worthy winners of the Bill Fawley Over 13 divisional trophy, Jack Taylor, Stanley Benson and Harry Griffiths fought well ensuring that Crosby High 'A' finished as divisional runners up.

The Under 13 divisional trophy, which bears the name of one of the most respected gentleman in table tennis, 'Arthur E. Upton', will be presented to the youngsters representing Crosby High 'C' the team consisting of brothers Euan and Finn Mason, and supported solidly by Hugh Frediani-Bellis, were very rarely troubled and cruised to become

the inaugural winners of the Under 13 division. The Waterloo 'B' team, consisting of Nathan Jago, Ciaran Chandler and Mathew Sexton showed great spirit and determination to finish as divisional runners up.

The 'Bill Harris' handicap cup competition allowed all teams, regardless of age to compete against each other, the goal of this competition was to ensure that the weaker teams held the advantage. This resulted in severe handicaps being set against the stronger teams. The eventual finalists, Crosby High 'C' (Euan & Finn Mason and Hugh Frediani-Bellis) and St Johns 'C' (Ryan Sung, Louis Cheung-Turner, Caleb Higgs) were both from the Under 13 divisions. The final was held at St Johns Catholic Primary school and after some fantastic table tennis, Crosby High 'C' managed the double

by adding the cup to their previously won league title.

All the youngsters enjoyed the thrill of

playing the matches under controlled 'final conditions' and in front of a small crowd of coaches and parents. This valuable experience will no doubt bode well for them in the future.

The youngsters were recently treated to an abundance of events when they competed in the JDD tournament which was held at the Anfield Sports & Community Centre. Top seed Sean Chandler continued his unbeaten league record when beating Euan Mason in the final of the Open event. The Open Plate saw Ben Calder successfully overcoming the ever improving Luke Govier. The U13 final had an element of déjà vu for Euan Mason who having progressed to his second final, lost out to the eventual winner Jack Taylor. The St John's pair of Caleb Higgs and Ryan Sung fought it out in the U13 Plate event, Caleb taking the title in the 5th set. The U11 Open title went to Jack Savage who was pushed all the way by Ben

Calder, Aimee Birkett once again retained the Girls title when beating her team mate Nikola Majda, the U11 Girls competition saw Megan Smith lift the trophy against Maggie Clark.

By the time this article goes to print, 40 youngsters accompanied by their parents will have attended the JDD presentation evening held at St Johns Primary School, special guests Jonny Taylor and Bill Harris, with Bill and Vivian Fawley kindly presenting the youngsters with their well earned awards.

A special thank you to all the staff at the Anfield centre and in particular the coaches and parents for supporting the children throughout the season.

Paul Gittins

JDD Handicap Cup Final

held at St John's School on Tuesday 14 March.

The final was between St John's 'C' (average age 9) v Crosby High 'C' (average age 12+).

The Teams –

St Johns 'C' – Louis Cheung Turner; Ryan Sung and Caleb Higgs
Crosby High 'C' – Hugh Frediani-Bellis; Euan Mason; and Finn Mason

Having come through the first two rounds of the new Handicap Cup competition for the L&DTTL Junior Development Division by narrow margins the Crosby High 'C' boys, (coached at Bath St. Marine) found themselves in the Final facing the young lions of St Johns School 'C' Team. (coached at M/Side Police Club)

The JDD has operated for just 2 seasons, and this season was split into an U13 Division and an O13 Division. In the cup competition all the teams were involved with their different ages and standards of play being reflected in the handicaps allocated for each match. Being the 'senior' team in the Final and the elder team, the Crosby High 'C' had a massive 144 point handicap disadvantage for the match, which comprised of 9 sets of singles, each set being 2 games played to 15 points. This meant that the St John's team had to score just 126 points on the table, and frankly it looked as if the Crosby High boys would have a mountain to climb to overcome the handicap. Looking at the scores when the two teams met in the last week of the JDD league a handicap of around 120 points looked to be about the maximum that it might be possible to overcome. The final, played on Tuesday the 14 March at St John's School, was a great match played in an excellent spirit by both teams. And well supported by parents and Team Managers. The Crosby High boys knew that they would have to restrict their young opponents to scoring no more than 7 points in each game and in the first two



sets Euan and Finn respectively did exactly that conceding just 13 and 14 points respectively in the 2 sets. Set 3 and up stepped Hugh, Hugh has been playing table tennis for just 6 months, and the level of his improvement was plain to see on the night, so, much so, that by the end of the night he had gained the 'Man (or should that be Boy?) of the Match' award, in his 3 sets Hugh conceded a total of just 25 points. All 3 boys stuck to their task, played with great discipline and determination and really kept it together as well as showing how much they have each improved. By the end of the 7th set, the gap between the two teams had been closed with the St John's team just 2 points ahead. This was a truly tremendous effort to overcome the big handicap and finally to win by a clear margin of 36 points. Well done Crosby High boys, a great achievement.

The trophy for the cup and for winning the U13 division of the JDD was presented at a presentation evening held on Tuesday 28th March at St Johns School at 7pm.

Graham Turner

J.D.D. Closed Tournament

Open Winner	Sean Chandler
Open R/Up	Euan Mason
Open Plate Winner	Ben Calder
Open Plate R/Up	Luke Govier
U13 Winner	Jack Taylor
U13 R/Up	Euan Mason
U13 Plate Winner	Caleb Higgs
U13 Plate R/Up	Ryan Sung
U11 Open Winner	Jack Savage
U11 Open R/Up	Ben Calder
Girls Open Winner	Aimee Birkett
Girls Open R/Up	Nikola Majda
U11 Girls Winner	Megan Smith
U11 Girls R/Up	Maggie Clark
U11 Girls 3rd	Emily Bianco

Here are the results for the JDD Closed held at Anfield Sports & Community Centre ;
19 th March 2017
31 youngsters took part in the tournament, 140 matches were played in total, a long but enjoyable day.
Thank you to everyone who attended to help out.
The presentation evening took place on Tuesday 28th March at St Johns Catholic Primary School

A special thank you to the staff at the centre, particularly Michelle Taylor, all the tables and equipment were set up by the staff on the Saturday, allowing me to start the tournament as scheduled. Also, at the end of the tournament, we were only required to fold the equipment and leave it against the far wall awaiting staff to store it sometime today. Graham Turner - could you please convey our thanks!
Paul Gittins

J. D.D. Honours list 2017

Bill Fawley Trophy
Over 13 Division winners
Waterloo 'A'

Over 13 Division R/Up
Crosby High 'A'

Arthur E. Upton Trophy
Under 13 Division winners
Crosby High 'C'

Under 13 Division R/Up
Waterloo 'B'

Bill Harris Trophy
Handicap Cup winners

Crosby High 'C'

Handicap finalist

St Johns 'C'



Two of the O/13 & U/13 teams at the



JDD 2017 presentation night at St. Johns

**90 th Anniversary
of the Liverpool Closed Tournament
Sponsored by Fawley Construction
2017 Finals Night**

**Finals Night
Players**

Men's Singles Semi - Finals

1	Thomas Haddley	v	Rhys Davies
	11 / 4	11 / 5	11 / 8

2	Jonny Taylor	v	Aaron Beech
	7 / 11	10 / 12	10 / 12

Veteran Final

3	Thomas Haddley	v	Paul Gittins
	11 / 6	11 / 4	11 / 4

Open Doubles Final

4	Jonny Taylor & Mitch Barker	v	Dermot Tierney & Ben Chen
	11 / 5	11 / 6	11 / 6

Junior Final

5	Rhys Davies	v	Connor Whitehead
	7 / 11	4 / 11	11 / 9 7 / 11

Men's Singles Final

6	Thomas Haddley	v	Aaron Beech
	11 / 5	11 / 9	11 / 7

M.C. Stan Clarke

Umpires

Tom Purcell & Graham Rollinson

Played at St John's Catholic Primary School
Monday 10th April 2017

Events Completed on Sunday 2/4/2017

Ladies Round Robin Group

Winner - **Clare Peers** R/up **Amy Hutchings**

O/55's Singles

Winner - **Aleksandr Charcenko** R/up **Darren Taylor**

Division 2 (Round Robin Group)

Winner - **Ray Jackson** R/up **Ben Chen**

Division 3

Winner - **Alan Lui** R/up - **Michael Stewart**

Division 4

Winner - **Tom Purcell** R/up **Lewis Campbell**

Division 5

Winner **Jason Ao** R/up - **Jimmy Williams**



DIVISIONAL CUP

FRANK MURPHY VETS HANDICAP CUP

2016 -17

Div. Cup Semi - Finals

Division 1. Readman Cup

Bath St. Marine	3	v	5	Fords
M/side Police	5	v	3	Greenbank

Division 2. Rumjahn Cup

Bootle YMCA	5	v	0	Wav. Labour A
Bath St. Marine B	0	v	5	East Wav. A

Division 3. Hyde Cup

Maghull B	5	v	1	Maghull A
Arriva	5	v	0	Bath Street C

Division 4. Forrest Cup

M/side Police C	5	v	3	Q.V.C.
Arriva A	1	v	5	Bath St. Marine E

Division 5. Stamp Cup

Wav. Labour E	5	v	3	Sefton Park D
Arriva B	0	v	5	CADWA D

Frank Murphy Vet. H/cap Second Round Results

Maghull 3	412	v	411	Merseyside Police 2
Maghull 4	453	v	477	Bath St. Marine 5
Sefton Park 5	404	v	450	Bath St. Marine 3
Sefton Park 2	428	v	447	Bootle YMCA. 1
Waterloo 1	432	v	425	Wavertree Labour 1
Arriva 2	413	v	421	Sefton Park 3
Arriva 3	446	v	380	Crosby High 1
Cadwa 3	369	v	366	East Wavertree 2

Frank Murphy Vet. H/cap Third Round Results

Bath St. Marine 5	492	v	404	Sefton Park 3
Waterloo 1	461	v	444	Bath St. Marine 3
Cadwa 3	442	v	473	Bootle Y.M.C.A. 1
Arriva 3		v	win	Maghull 3

Frank Murphy Vet. H/cap Semi Final Results

Maghull 3		v		Bootle YMCA 1
Bath St. Marine 5		v		Waterloo 1

Frank Murphy Vet. H/cap Final

Bath St. Marine 5		v		Bootle YMCA 1
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Final to be played last week of season
Week Beginning 1/5/2017

Div. Cup - Finals

Division 1. Readman Cup

Fords v M/side Police

To be played at East Wavertree
on Monday 24th April

Division 2. Rumjahn Cup

Bootle YMCA v East Wavertree A

To be played at Merseyside Police
on Tuesday 25th April

Division 3. Hyde Cup

Arriva v Maghull B

To be played at Crosby High
Wednesday 26th April

Division 4. Forrest Cup

Bath St. Marine E v M/side Police C

To be played at Wavertree Labour
Wednesday 26th April

Division 5. Stamp Cup

CADWA D v Wav. Labour E

To be played at Bath Street Marine
Friday 28th April

League Tables to 8/4/2017

Division 1		P	W	D	L	Pts.
1	Merseyside Police	18	14	2	2	128
2	Fords	18	13	2	3	123
3	Crosby High A	17	10	2	5	99
4	Maghull	18	10	2	6	98
5	Greenbank	17	10	1	6	87
6	Crosby High	17	7	1	9	81
7	Wavertree Labour	19	5	2	12	80
8	Bath Street Marine	17	7	0	10	78
9	Harold House	17	5	2	10	70
10	Merseyside Police A	18	4	3	11	65
11	Greenbank A	18	2	3	13	61

Division 2		P	W	D	L	Pts.
1	Bath Street Marine A	21	14	2	5	135
2	Bootle Ymca	20	10	4	6	114
3	Crosby High B	19	12	0	7	108
4	Cadwa	20	11	3	6	106
5	Wavertree Labour A	19	11	3	5	98
6	Bath Street Marine B	20	6	6	8	93
7	Sefton Park	19	9	2	8	92
8	East Wavertree B	19	5	5	9	90
9	East Wavertree A	18	10	1	7	88
10	East Wavertree	20	7	1	12	88
11	St Annes	20	1	5	14	81
12	CADWA A	17	4	0	13	67

Division 3		P	W	D	L	Pts.
1	Maghull A	21	20	0	1	167
2	Merseyside Police B	21	16	3	2	151
3	Wavertree Labour B	22	10	2	10	123
4	Bootle YMCA A	19	13	2	4	121
5	Arriva North West	21	12	0	9	121
6	Wavertree Labour C	22	12	1	9	119
7	Maghull B	21	10	4	7	108
8	Bath Street Marine D	21	9	4	8	108
9	Bath Street Marine C	21	9	2	10	100
10	Cadwa B	21	8	1	12	87
11	Sefton Park A	20	4	2	14	64
12	Linacre	21	1	2	18	52
13	Bootle YMCA B	21	0	1	20	39

Division 4		P	W	D	L	Pts.
1	Bath Street Marine E	21	18	2	1	159
2	Merseyside Police C	21	16	2	3	141
3	Bootle YMCA C	22	14	3	5	137
4	QVC	21	12	4	5	130
5	Arriva North West A	21	11	3	7	123
6	Wavertree Labour D	21	10	2	9	109
7	Waterloo A	22	7	6	9	104
8	Sefton Park B	21	7	4	10	98
9	Waterloo B	21	6	2	13	85
10	Sefton Park C	21	6	3	12	84
11	CADWA C	20	5	2	13	68
12	Maghull C	21	4	4	13	68
13	Maghull D	21	2	1	18	64

Division 5		P	W	D	L	Pts.
1	East Wavertree C	21	19	1	1	161
2	Wavertree Labour E	22	18	2	2	159
3	Sefton Park D	21	15	2	4	141
4	Arriva North West B	22	14	5	3	138
5	Cadwa D	21	14	1	6	137
6	Maghull E	21	11	2	8	114
7	Waterloo C	22	7	4	11	98
8	Harold House A	21	6	1	14	95
9	Sefton Park E	21	7	1	13	86
10	Wavertree Labour F	21	7	0	14	79
11	Bath Street Marine F	21	5	1	15	66
12	Greenbank B	21	1	3	17	53
13	Bath Street Marine G	21	2	1	18	51

Edited & printed - Roly Wright. (Bootle YMCA)

e - mail -: roly@ttdigest.co.uk -0151 928 0378 web site -: www.ttdigest.co.uk