



Table Tennis **DIGEST**

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EDITORIAL

Quite honestly, I don't know where to start- so how about at the bottom. Well, dare I say that not many people were thrilled with the fixture list not an easy task when you are compiling even seven divisions and there is no reason why Division 6 should continuously suffer as they have done in the past. But big gaps don't help • an odd free week is welcome when cup ties and rearranged games come along -I did hear 13 teams mentioned? Have records been established? Have our players and teams accomplishments ever been bettered? men champions Division 1 Lancashire and Cheshire league ladies, champions Division 1 Lancashire and Cheshire league, Norman Cook cup winner (a handicap Lancashire and Cheshire competition for a lady and gents team), Bren-da Buoeay ladies Lancashire close championship, fills very young lady won the championship in 1972, how about that! Keith Williams , men's Lancashire closed champion - not a surprise from such a talented and dedicated player, Andrew Eden and Chris Ford, Lancashire doubles champion - what can you say of that little list and there's more.

Chris Fords commitment to Liverpools' entry to the National League (which is sponsored by the Leeds Building Society) has been quite tremendous and has paid off with a championship title with a nice little cash prize - but considerable finance had to be found for this prestigious L.B.S. com-petition and Chris appears to have been the brain behind it all.

I suppose I could go on about another excellent finals night at the Police Club, even more spec-tators this time - you should get along - cup finals all top class at their own level, not forgetting our champion teams Colonsay - English Electric 'A' and Plesseys - English Electric 'D' Rodney Youth, Bath Street 'D' and Colonsay 'B'. Congratulations to them all; there are still more, but I think the above are enough for the moment.

DIVISION ONE

KEN ARMSON

The season ended on a highly competitive note which also decided the championship and probably created history due to the match concerned being played on a neutral table, the home club not being able to use their own venue. Electric Supply needed a 6-4 win with Colonsay needing at least a draw. Electric Supply brought in Lawrence Kenwright in place of Les Molyneux with Colonsay bringing in Rob Lowe to replace Chris Ford who was on his honeymoon. Good job he does not play for Wavertree Labour as I share the same views as that well known football Manager on babies and weddings etc. taking place outside the season. Anyway, fortunes swayed very little and Electric Supply went into the final set with a 5-4 lead and the championship was settled with the final set of the season. It went to Phil Thomson who defeated Lawrence 16 in the 3rd. This gave Colonsay the draw they needed and a match which saw Stuart Richards lose two and Phil Thomson, who was a match doubtful, emerge a 4 set winner. So its congratulations to Colonsay ably led by Chris Ford. They are worthy champions and will give a good account of themselves in the National Championships. They also set the seal on a great season when they completed the double beating Liverpool Y.M. 6-4 in a closely contested Readman Cup Final.

Electric Supply should not be too disappointed for they were in there right to the end and could so easily have been champions instead of Colonsay. They have no-one to blame but themselves and can look back on silly sets lost during the season. Also against them was Mal's sudden loss of form which cost them precious sets. I was sorry to see Les Molyneux omitted from the team for that final match for he has given them 100% and assume it was a case of his standing down, not being dropped. Liverpool Y.M. finished strongly in 3rd place, only 8 points adrift of the leaders and, I must confess, posed a much bigger threat than I had thought possible. Looking back on their 8-2 defeat by Colonsay and their narrow defeat in the Read-man Cup one has to reflect that perhaps they too never really thought they could do it, but they could have done. Their performance in the Cup Final was tremendous and for me the man of the match, or the part I watched, was Mike Mahoney. Not for the sets he won, but those he could have won. He played his heart out and came within a hairsbreadth of swing-ing the match Y.M.'s way. All he lacked to back his brilliant play was that elusive touch on the bat from Lady Luck. Close fought sets are often decided by the merest touch of luck, Mike never got any. I was pleased for him and Peter when they took the Men's Doubles in the Closed. A worthy win by a deserving pair. Peter passed a joking remark to me at the Readman Final about being the almost theirs, but I am sure he must have been reflecting on the fact that they could have proved me wrong about their chances. Incidentally, several players have commented as to my not having forecast the possible champions. If you read my first notes carefully you will realise that I correctly forecast Colonsay.

Wavertree Labour finished a fairly poor 4th after their last season's championship. Their sets total of 131 was way below what they could have achieved. Two factors weighed heavily against them. Firstly, they convinced themselves they could not repeat their tremendous efforts of last season and were obviously drained to some extent by this effort and their own views. Secondly, they changed to a four man formation and it flopped. Proving once again that championships are won by a regular turn-out which helps weld ability, team spirit and effort into a winning combination. They might have provided the two finalists in the Veterans Closed but can point to some good results against their younger opponents. No matter their views, I know they could have done better had they had the same belief in themselves that I had. O'okay, I am biased, but they know deep down it is true.

Close behind came Cadwa whose captain, Neil Gravener, lacked the necessary back-up. The return of Graham Parr and Paul Ashcroft was weakened by too many non-appearances and dropped sets when they did play. In spite of the loss of Paul Dilger early in the season, Bath Street finished a credible 6th with a good team spirit allied to some good results. They blotted their copybook by conceding a 10/ walkover to Y.M. in their final match. Not what is expected of any team, least of all a 1st division team. English Electric tied with them on 112 points, a placing due largely to Andrew Eden. I should say, a much matured Andrew Eden, for he has put behind him his attitude of last season and lets his

bat do his talking for him. This new approach was in evidence at the Closed Finals when Stuart Richards talked himself out of the Final whilst Andrew kept his mouth shut and allowed his talent to take over. He also gave much greater allegiance to English Electric and won 43 of his 45 sets played. He ended a great season by winning both the Junior and Mens Singles at the Closed and I feel certain he is heading for many more successes. Great ability is often marred by less attractive points but Andrew certainly seems to have seen the light and is a better player for it. Is it expecting too much to hope that others might follow his example.

Wavertree Labour 'A' woke from their slumbers part way into the season and got down to the business of attaining a respectable position which they achieved by over-taking Police and Y.M. 'A'. Not an auspicious but looking at their individual results the marked improvement can be clearly seen. Police plodded on hampered by duty calls on their players, but never being in any real danger. Only Gareth Jones was an ever present and John Rankin showed he still has a long way to go if he is to get back to his previous standard. I don't really think he has sufficient interest or reason to provide the necessary impetus. He will probably always be a player other players will be pleased to beat, but never again a player few can beat.

Y.M. 'A' escaped the bottom two places suffering from the same syndrome as Labour 'A' in living in the shadow of a more successful club team, but their avoidance of the possibility of relegation owes more to the weakness of the two below them than their own efforts although they did achieve a few creditable results including a victory against Labour 1st. Colonsay 'A' had little difficulties in staying above Labour 'B' but did little else. A team of contradictions, with only Rob Lowe really doing himself justice and some very contradictory results. They possibly suffered from the demands for the success of their lower teams which clearly influenced the club rankings.

Last, but by no means least, came Labour 'B' on a hiding to nothing with nothing to give except effort they plugged away with their highlight being attaining double figures when they reached the giddy heights of 10 sets won and went on to make it 11. Their most flattering moment coming when Electric Supply brought in Lawrence Kenwright in the absence of Les Molyneux rather than risk a reserve dropping a set.

Will these two go down? Last season for the first time the league moved away from the accepted relegation and promotion practice. This was spotted only, to my knowledge, by Don Davies. Now they seek to imply this is a 12 team division and not a 14 with two short and therefore two will be relegated. It will be interesting to see how it is dealt with.

With these being the final notes there is little space available to write about good results but I will slip a few in. Start with Ken Jackson who recorded a win against Mal McEvoy to avoid a 10/0 whitewash. As this was Electric Supply's next to last match, Ken can rightly say he played a part in the eventual outcome of the championship. In the same match he almost settled the title on his own when he lost to Les Molyneux 20/22 in the 3rd. In another match which also played its part Colonsay beat Y.M. 6-4 with Colin Rourke standing in for Chris Ford and winning a vital set against Peter Lee. Neil Gravener keeping the pressure on Colonsay in the following match by taking four sets from them with Ken Hartely assisting him in the doubles. Colonsay again had a reserve, this time it was Rob Lowe doing his stuff and winning two. Dave Tagg put his recent illness behind him and recorded a 2 straight win against Dave Roberts. Against Y.M. Phil Luxon took a set off Mike Mahoney. Always modest, Phil proclaimed that his 'rabbits' are Dave Roberts and Mike.

Should look for a noteworthy result from Fred Pheysey but not being able to find anything I will give him his much desired mention by commenting that he is now the only 1st division player I know of who still stamps his foot when serving and who also gets away with it. Watch it next season, Fred, for I will be seeking to umpire one of your sets!!

Congratulations to Chris Ford, his British League team-mates and all who assisted them, on gaining promotion in their first season. One way and another it has been a great season for Chris. Congratulations also to Don Davies and the Liverpool Men's and Ladies team on their successes, two Championships and for the first time ever the Normal Cooke Trophy. All in-volved in these successes

have really put Liverpool table tennis on the map. Don's record for successes as Match Secretary for Liverpool must be getting near previous bests and may even have pushed him to the front, a fitting reward for his tremendous input into a very demand-ing post.

That is it for this season. I hope to be back next season when I will be hoping to talk about the problems which can and do arise from the postponing of matches affecting promotion or relegation in addition to my other friendly comments. I expect I will once again be over-whelmed by your praises. One final plea, please try and fill your scorecards in properly next season. This might be the top division for playing standards, but it is still near the bottom for card standards. To close a piece of news most may have already heard. Wavertree Labour may lose their premises before next season and if they can't find other premises they will join the growing list of past clubs. Hopefully they will survive.

DIVISION 2

SYLVIA GRAHAM

Hail! the conquering heroes would seem an appropriate cliché as far as English Electric 'A' are concerned. Not only have they taken the Rumjahn Cup, share the second division honours with GPT; they also provided two of the three man teams which won the Frank Memorial trophy. I'm sure that was the highlight of their season, and a suitable end to what was an exciting season as far as the second division was concerned.

The secret in winning this division, which I maintain is the toughest in the league is to field a team which is strong from top to bottom and which has the breadth to consistently take both doubles. The two top teams, GPT and English Electric 'A' certainly fall into this category with Bootle Jewish Club and M.C.Y.A. not far behind.

My own team Bootle Jewish Club have certainly caused me some disappointment - sorry lads perhaps I did a 'Saint 'n Greavsie' on you, and that combined with what I can only describe as bad team management certainly led to their demise. They definitely have the ability so my only comment to them is come on and get it together for next season!!!

M.C. Y. A. were promoted unexpectedly from the third division before the season started, and with hindsight they certainly deserved it I always thought they had the talent to reach the second division, even when they first started in the league and undoubtedly they have their sights on first division status. In any case I can't see them dropping back down. At the same time as the above teams were fighting it out at the top an even bigger scramble was taking place at the bottom of the division. Bath Street 'A', Bootle Y.M.C.A. Electric Supply 'A' and Liverpool Y.M.C.A. 'B' were all desperately gleaning sets to avoid the drop. Unfortunately two teams get relegated each season and this year the losers were Bath Street 'A*' and Liverpool Y.M.C.A. 'B'. The second divisions loss is my divisions gain so I'll look forward to seeing you all next year. Both these teams are good teams on paper and had some good results. Bath Street 'A' beat M.C.Y.A. by 8 sets to 2 when Colin Owen surprisingly lost the two. Against GPT however, Colin came back and took his sides only set to deprive GPT of the outright divisional honours. A 9 to 1 defeat would appear a veritable massacre but not so! I saw the card and the match could have been a draw. Fred Bainbridge lost to Trevor Owens 22/20; 17/21; 18/21; Colin Owens beat Ray Lavin 21/16; 13/21; 21/19; and lost to Ted Gil-mour 21/16; 12/21; 22/24: (ask Ted how close it was) and Billy Clayton lost to Ted 18/21; 21/12; 20/22.

Bootle Y.M.C.A. and Electric Suply 'A' played a tactical season, avoiding the drop by picking up a couple of points against the better teams and then beating or drawing with the rest. John Higham had a good season for Y.M. with Alan Cameron providing a good portion of Supply's points.

Good wins for Alan include Alan Chase 26/24; 21/16; Bobby Owen 21/16; 21/18; Frank Mc-Cann 21/19; 21/14; and a double against his 'old' team Fords.

Electric 'B' Cadwa, Jewish and Fords were never really in danger of relegation; in fact until the half

way stage Electric 'B' were near the top of the division. I think their undoing was being unable to field a consistent side fielding a permutation of nine different players during the second half of the season. Cadwa on the other hand finished the season well.

Apart from turning out a weekend side against Bootle Jewish Club they suffered very few defeats from Christmas onwards.

Liverpool Jewish had two outstanding players in John Henshaw and Eddie Clein. John had convincing wins over Francis Lay of Liverpool Y.M.C.A. and Alan Radcliffe of Supply 'A' Cadwa and English Electric 'B'. Then last but not least there's Fords. All I can say is what a nice squad they seem to be. Usually a settled side, they play good table tennis, never get into disputes and always provide a good atmosphere win or lose, and that's what table tennis should be all about. They even gave my mate Dave Garbe a game so they must have compassion too!!

Now onto the results. Lots of interesting results on the cards but still no comments to help me, no numbers down the side showing the order of play, so I'll assume you're leaving the decision as to what is interesting to me. Don't be annoyed when you don't get a mention for some glorious or not so glorious feat if you can't be bothered to bring it to my attention. A prize for the neatest cards should go to GPT. Nice clear handwriting no mistakes and always correctly filled in. A prize for consistency should go to Justine Thomas in her defeat of Billy Clayton 21/8; 15/21; 21/8: and Brian Crolley 21/9; 13/21; 21/9: Does this mean you like play-ing hard bats Justine? - but need a rest in the middle? or did you only like one side of the table. Close matches:- M. Alen v N. Miller 22/20; 21/19; M. Power v T. Birch 19/21; 23/21; 21/19: R. McPherson v T. Owens 22/10; 15/21; 28/26: T. Mandaluff v A. Biggs 21/14; 20/22; 23/21: B. Edwards v N. Jennings 17/21; 24/22; 21/19: R. Lavin v J. Huntington 19/21; 21/18; 24/22: A. Chase v C. Spedding 18/21; 23/21; 21/18: A. Cameron v P. Scarsbrick 21/23; 21/16; 21/19: J. Lau v K. Miller 20/22; 23/21; 21/16: T. Mandaluff v J. Lau 25/23; 22/20. Good wins K. Bennett v F. Lay 21/11; 21/17 and N. Miller 21/18; 21/18: P. Jennings v A. Southall 21/18; 16/21; 21/7: B. Clayton v L. Pilkington 21/19; 21/9; L. Pilkington v R. Edwards 21/19; 13/21; 21/16: B. Crolley v A. Cameron 21/16; 21/18; and M. Liu 21/17; 21/16; J. Huntington v A. Chase 1/19; 21/17; J. Lau v A. Clarke 21/17; 21/18: F. Bainbridge v F. Lay 21/18; 21/10: P. Jennings v D. Sullivan 21/16; 21/16: 1. Miller v A. Chase 24/22; 21/15: M. Corcoran v J. Thomas 21/13; 21/18: Well that's all for this issue. Hope you enjoyed the season, now have a good long rest and we'll see you bright eyed and bushy tailed in September.

DIVISION 3

COLIN PRATT

The team of the year turned out to be English Electric D who not only won the league, but beat close rivals Colonsay in the Hyde Cup Final.

Colonsay without their number one player Colin Rourke were never really in with a chance and Electric won 6-1. Reserve Paula French beat John McLoughlin to prevent the whitewash, and Mike Power took a game off Keith Miller. So congratulations to Frank Brady (Liverpool Restricted Champion), Keith Miller, Ricky Brown, John McLoughlin and Tommy Downing for your efforts this year and best of luck in the second division. I'll probably only mention you again if you lose games, but then that's the price of fame.

Now for the sad bit, Linacre finished up in bottom place and, correct me if I am wrong, head towards the 4th division for the first time since the North Region league days. With 4 games to go Linacre were 4 points ahead of Wavertree who had held bottom position for most of the season. But Linacre only scored 2 more points while Wavertree scored 16 to finish 10 ahead and remain in this division.

Safe in 3rd place some 40 points behind the leaders were Plessey (GPT) who also used the squad system so essential these days. Plessey had good and bad results depending on their team and the opponents and against Electric D Tony Moon prevented a whitewash by beating Tommy Downing,

well done Tony - now the apology, in the last issue I wrongly reported that Tony had beaten Wally Sill when in fact Wally won 21,18,14.

I put my foot in it again when I mentioned that Cadwa were in the relegation zone, we played them the next week and they walloped us 6-4. Rob Davies, Don Davies and George Higham each won two games in a very determined manner. Heres an odd game-master craftsman Frank Lacey wins first game 21-18, Mark Whittaker makes tactical adjustments and wins second game 21-7. Frank takes advice from his fairly experienced team and plays a blinder only to lose 24-22 in a cracker of a third game. Frank (Linacre) proved their luck was out when they played the top team, 5 games going to deuce and Frank losing to Keith Miller and John McLoughlin 24-22,25-23,22-20. Now that is bad luck.

Most teams have had some very good wins and one of the best was Bath Streets 10-0 win over Job Centre after losing 1-9 in the first meeting. Sylvia Graham was involved in two terrific battles with Colin Owens and John Letch losing at deuce each time, and Mark Jagger lost two, to Colin Owens and John Watson. John is playing his best T T ever with his combination bat and to beat Mark so convincingly was a very good performance. Sorry about that Mark - but it really is news when you lose two in one match.

Dave Graham and Dave Crispin fought out a real top-spin battle when Job Centre beat Police 7-3, Dave G winning 18 in the third. In the same match Alan Langfeld stepped in as reserve, outlasted Alan Wood and just lost in three to the unusual style of George Wright.

Electric C lost 1-9 to Colonsay but there were three great games, Ro Craddock just lost in three to Paula French in a thriller but went straight back on to beat Ian Wensley in a game full of breathtaking rallies with Ian retrieving and Ro hitting with great power. We then had the game of the night, Julie against Colin Rourke, the first game great -15 to Colin, the second game fantastic, close to the table top-spin hitting down both wings, both players apparently playing on automatic pilot, Julie wins 28-26. Third game even better, neck and neck, hit for hit with Colin edging home 24-22. Now that's what we call table tennis.

Colin had to work just as hard the following week against a much different type of opponent, the defense of Mark Jagger (Job Centre) and in a very tense game Colin again squeezed home, this time 21,18, 20.

When relegation candidates met at Wavertree, the games went with the call up to 2-3 but Frank Lacey evidently had not read the script and proceeded to beat Denise Conroy in three games. Mal Cray as usual won both his games, against Denise and Peter Jones, 22-20 in the final game. Linacre won 7-3 to give them some slight consolation.

Plessey turned out a very strong team to beat Maghull 8-2, Stu Fay beating Ted Gilmour and Mark Whittaker both in two straight to prevent a disaster. Cadwa played very well to get a 4-6 against the same Plessey side with George Higham beating Paul Morgan 10 in the third and just losing to Peter Wass 21-23,21-15,21-23. Rob and Don Davies won a singles each and combined in the doubles to win a nail-biter against Mark and Paul 13-21,24-22,24-22. This game went with the call until the seventh game when Don Davies upset the applecart by beating Peter Wass, but Plessey won the last three. It's a pleasure to read Dons cards, order of play, running scores and asterisks - well done.

A very important game for Wavertree in the fight for survival was their 7-3 win over Plessey. They drafted in Ray Jackson at No. 1 and he won both his singles in close games against Ted Gilmour and Mark Whittaker but with Mabel Neary, lost the doubles to Ted and Pete Wass. Plessey had started badly when their first choice went wrong, Denise Conroy beating Mark Whittaker to put Wavertree one up. Calls went OK until Ted lost to Ray in the ninth game leaving Wavertree 6-3 in the lead. Up stepped Pete Wass to play Joan Connors - Pete has been Plesseys player of the season and is beatable only by the very best in the division. Unfortunately nobody had told Joan this and she decided to win, 21-19,17-21 and into the third game neck and neck it looked a lost cause for Joan when she was 18-20 down but she kept her composure to take the next four points to win 22-20. It

was the spirit which enabled Wavertree to beat the relegation battle - well done.

Len Dyson has had his moments good and bad this season, his win over Mike Power of Colon-say was a high point, he took Frank Brady and Ricky Brown to three and he beat Julie Prince and Ro Craddock. On the low side he did let Ken Armson score 29 points against him - sorry Ken.

The top of the table clash Electric D and Colonsay was a good match to watch, both teams won four singles but Electric took both doubles to win 6-4. Colin Rourke won two beating Frank Brady and Keith Miller, and Mike Power did well to beat Ricky Brown.

Many thanks to the captains who put asterisks next to the star games, it certainly guarantees a write-up. Thanks also to the teams who fill in the sections of the score-card, it helps me to work out lots of little things about the games, number of games played, order of play, rankings etc. Having said that, I have to report that lots of cards are incomplete, and an improvement is requested.

Now the politics, Do not vote to outlaw the couple of players who play with plain wooden bats. Do vote to let them remain. A couple of wooden bats will not make any difference to the enjoyment of the game for the great majority of us but to ban them would hurt our friends who have used them for the past 20-30 years.

While on the subject of politics - Bring back that wonderful tactic which Captains had, the ability to switch the team order around to match up certain players and styles. That nervous wait when the team orders were exchanged, and the agony of a wrong decision in a cup or crucial game

DIVISION 4

KEN ARMSON

The promise of a tight championship battle which looked on the cards at the beginning started fading very early and soon disappeared as Rodney went from strength to strength. That they finished as champions and Cup winners is just reward for their consistency and with our con-gratulations they make a speedy return to the 3rd. division. Waterloo promised to make a fight of it but were never able to match the big win consistency of Rodney to enable them to stay with mem. They had the advantage of experience but Rodney had youth and appetite to spur them on. When you have been through it all before it comes a little bit harder to raise your game. Obviously Waterloo lads would have preferred to go up as champions or Cup Winners but the taste of promotion will not be any different for the lack of either. Best of luck to both teams in the giddy heights of 3rd division play next season.

English Electric 'E' continued their revival and got themselves into 3rd place, 8 sets ahead of Electric Supply 'B' who for good measure they beat 8-2; as they did Waterloo. Their victory against Waterloo bringing down on both teams the wrath of the Management Committee. Waterloo were one short and someone very foolishly put in a name and scores and the two captains then signed the card. Could the same form from Day 1 have brought them promotion? We will never know, but all credit to them for their effort Mind you, no team which includes Ritchie Cragg should perform badly for he is the only player I know who gives 101 % in effort and it often gets him home against better players. This kind of effort is bound to rub off on his team-mates. Electric Supply 'B' had to be content with 4th place and can look back on a good season with a lot of good results which included a draw with Waterloo and a John Moore win against Alan Walton. As this was only Alan's second league defeat of the season it was a win to savour.

In spite of a lot of narrow wins and losses the fact that these four were the best is clearly illustrated by the league table. The gap between 4th place Electric Supply 'B' and GPT 'B' being 17 points. GPT 'B's claim to fame was a draw with Rodney, only the second team to manage this, and Trevor's victory against Alan Walton. They appeared to blot their copybook by conceding a 10/0 walkover to Action. Very unusual for GPT to concede a match. Bath Street 'C' were the other team to exceed 100 points and can be happy with their contribution. I expected a little better from them for they had the

look of a team with promise which was not reflected in their results.

ull 'A' came next very closely bunched and the walkover act continued with GPT being on the receiving end this time with Brownmoor conceded the final match. It is always the other team's fault and this time when Brownmoor conceded the final match. It is always the other team's fault, but the one certain thing is that most walkovers breed animosity and lead to further walkovers. I have heard a few grumbles about playing conditions at Action, but would say that we have to be prepared to accept whatever a club can provide. What is most important is that we have clubs with us and my advice is to get on with the game for it is the same for both teams. I welcome any team, especially those from clubs such as Action for this is where a lot of players start. We need more clubs and more players so let's not worry too much about less important matters. Anyway, it makes for a good excuse when you lose. Keep up the good work, Action. Didn't bother Brownmoor, they whacked them 3-7. The week after Action claimed the walkover against GPT they had to concede a walkover to Maghull 'A' being unable to raise a team.

The real action in this division took place at the bottom for no-one yet knows just who, if any, will go down. Bootle Y.M. in their clash with Labour 'D' gave them a great boost when they thrashed them 9-1 and things looked good. Three weeks later they met the other team involved, Jewish 'B' and lost 6-4 with Ted Cramsie and Roy Lussey doing the damage for Jewish. They also recorded a good result against Electric Supply 'B' managing four sets with a great double from Roly Wright. Labour 'D' worked just as hard with dedicated captain Tony Connor spurring them on.

Ushered by Brownmoor 9-1 in their penultimate match they stormed back to beat Bath Street 6-4: with 2 from Tony and 2 from his Wirral team-mate, Mike Ashton. All this effort would have been to no avail had not the capricious Lady Luck in the unbelievable shape of Jewish 'B' bestowed a smile on them and turned a 6-4 defeat in their bottom of the table clash into a 8-2 victory because Jewish played out of order. Their joy may well be short lived as it looks likely this division will be treated as harshly as the 1st. A little unfair, they may feel, but that is life. You win some, you lose some.

Jewish strove just as hard, pinching the odd set when they could off such as Waterloo (Roy Lussey) and Rodney (Roy, again), and beating Maghull 'A' away, 6-4 with a double for Les Travis. They did likewise to Bootle Y.M. All this only to find themselves the architects of their own misfortune which sent them to the bottom.

Looking at results in general, the top two, plus English Electric proved yet again that to be in with any sort of chance you must have a 1 & 2 capable of achieving a very high winning percentage. This is just as clearly illustrated with Electric Supply 'B' who's number 1 achieved a high percentage but they could not sustain this at number 2 and had to supplement this at 3 & 4 thus losing the benefit of some of their wins. For this they can thank Alan Evans who only dropped two. Should they have ranked him higher? English Electric were high in both positions but lacked the extra margin which Rodney and Waterloo could achieve. For Rodney, Alan Noor only dropped two, Justin Quinn five, with reserve Joe Williams, who put in quite a few appearances, only dropping one. For Waterloo, Alan Walton dropped only two and Alan Reid 8. No-one else coming near these five plus Alan Evans. They were the five who put their teams on the way to promotion ably assisted by their respective 3's & 4's. But it is that Number 1 spot in particular which is the most crucial.

You all ranked highly on the scorecard front with your only failing being that many of you showed your Match Number as the number of matches played to date. This should be shown as the Handbook Match Number irrespective of the number of matches you may have played i.e. if you reverse your first match with your opponents then the Match Number should show 26. When you play what should have been your first match you would show number 1. Attention to these little details will make life a little easier for Eddie Cameron as his wife Wyn won't have as much to nag about, this being one of her pet hates.

Finally, if you are likely to be in this division next season and fancy having a go at writing the notes, just get in touch with Jack Lambert any time up to late September. If there are no taken I will assume

that in spite of some earache given me you accept none of you could do better. Just for the record, I write how I see results etc. and not how some would like me to see them. Have a good summer, see you again next season.

DIVISION 5

Unfortunately no notes received - So congratulations to Bath Street 'D' on an excellent season winning Cup and League. Also to Vagabonds who finished runners up. A terrific effort here by Kenny Rea who lost his top team (always a major problem) but kept the vagabonds flag flying.

Electric Supply 'C' were wooden spoonists, but should keep their status with a bit of luck.

DIVISION 6

JACK LAMBERT

A quite decisive championship win by Colonsay 'B' most of their wins have been so decisive that they are not news what can you say when a sides basic result is 10-0, while quite a few reserves have been used, congratulations to the champs Paula French, Barbara Kirkman, Dave Piper, Stan Clarke and Brian Jennings a pretty strong squad. I thought their 'E' team were a bit cheeky pinching a game when Alan Hunter beat Stan Clarke 19 & 21. So did YC Wong of University 'A' beating Martin Hunter 18 & 14. Alan and Martin have been two of the mainstays of the 'D' team with Gary Jennings, finding themselves in a very good mid table position.

Bootle Jewish Club 'B' must feel more than satisfied with their season, runners up in both Cup and League an excellent season. Alan Langfeld, Ray Parry, John Pilkington, Nick Rice and Coy. All played their part in their promotion a fitting result was the 5-5 with University Tony Liu and Ray Parry winning doubles for their respective sides Craig Wilson and Mike Watson have been the mainstays of the University who together with their 'A' team have survived vacations and studies to complete their seasons. YC Wong has been their number one man he has had many players alongside mainly Sajid Siddig and Nick Rees.

Rodney Youth under the excellent guidance Roy Cook Hannah have done well although the 'B' struggled a bit at the end, the club itself was responsible for easily the top attendance at the cup finals. Both teams called on many reserves the 'B' team in particular, although John Garbe has been a tower of strength Dave Cheung (2 against Jewish 'E') and John McRreadie have given strong support in the local Derby Dave and John (doubles) won the only games for the 'B' Without the Jewish Club we would have no division with their D - E & F grac-ing our scene the 'F' finishing in the top position with a pretty regular team of Derrick Gorman, Gordon Nelson, and Ken Miller and of course the brain behind the club (and the beard) Dave Cohen still a hard man to beat. The Dutch team, I mean the 'D' team with Russell Thornton have plodded away all season with Susan and Julian catching up on Ken. It's difficult to sort out a key man in the 'E' team, is it Les Walsh and is it the Les Walsh?

Bath Street 'E' cracked under the strain and withdrew before the end of the season. In fairness to Bootle Jewish Club 'C' I must say that they offered Jewish three dates which were turned down -I presume on account of their personal wrangle before claiming their walkovers. For University Mike Watson had two good wins against Jewish 'E' and for University 'A' Shariq Choman won his sides game against Colonsay 'D' and University again Tong Liu scored trebles in their outstanding 7-3 win against Colonsay 'D' hope Dave Piper wasn't too badly injured. I don't believe this Stan Clarke beat Don Gibson 25-23; 21-23; 28-26. How did they last the pace and who supplied the oxygen. YC Long had a couple of loaners against Colonsay 'D' and Liverpool Jewish 'E'.

I was surprised to find no player had a 100% Brian, Paula and Barbara all lost the odd game, but of course were top of the pops. It was nice to see young players coming in from Rodney Jewish and Colonsay, 'D' I only wish they played more often, let's hope there are more and more next season.

LIVERPOOL CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS -1989 BRIAN LEESON

Andrew Eden (English Electric) achieved the distinction of becoming Liverpool Junior Champion and Liverpool Men's Champion when the Finals were completed at Merseyside Police Club on April 18th. Moreover, his two successes came without losing a game to any of his opponents in either of the events. In the Senior event he overcame Jack Davidson, P.N. Wilkinson, C. Spedding, L. Kenwright and then in the semi-final Keith Williams. In the Junior event, he defeated R. Beattie, P. Lau and finally Justine Thomas, the Welsh number one Junior girl, who plays for Cadwa.

Andrew had to face Stuart Richards (Colonsay) in the Men's Final, but Stuart, who took the title last year, could not prevent the England ranked junior from claiming the major honour this year.

Stuart's path to the Final was via Alan Walton, Robot Davies, Graham Parr, Roy Smith, and in the semi-final, Neil Gravener, who had eliminated Mal McEvoy in the quarters.

Justine Thomas successfully defended her Women's Singles Title against Brenda Buoey (Colonsay), a repeat of last year's Final, in fact Justine, who had recently returned from representing her Country, Wales, in the World Championships in West Germany, recorded wins over Sylvia Graham and Paula French before meeting Brenda in the Final. Justine, with her partner, Denise Conroy, also managed to take the Women's Doubles Title, defeating Sylvia Graham and Barbara Smallwood in a very close, three games Final.

The Men's Doubles event produced unexpected winners. Having beaten the holders and top seeds, Keith Williams and Lawrence Kenwright, in the semi-final, Peter Lee and his new partner, Mike Mahoney, then proceeded to upset the second seeded pair, Stuart Richards and Phil Thomson, in the Final. Ming Liu and John Lau had achieved some fine wins in this event, defeating the strong pairing of Chris Ford and Andrew Eden, before eventually losing to Stuart and Phil in the semi-final.

Roy Smith lost his Veteran' s Title to Alan Timewell in an interesting three game match, played at Kirkby on the Sunday, while the Restricted event, played initially in groups for the first time, was finally claimed by Frank Brady. His Final against Colin Rourke was the closest of all the Finals and either player could have taken the huge trophy, so close was it

CLOSED RESULTS on Page 14

CUP FINALS

Maxwell. Fyffe:- Colonsay 'D' - 6 Bootle J.C. 'B' -1

This cup came out of the archives and started our biggest ever cup season. Paula French beat Paul 21/16; 21/12; in the opening game. Brian Jennings bright as ever beat Ray Parry 21/9; 23/21: Stan Clarke lost to Richard Beattie 21/16;20/22(17-12down here) 11/21;and makes the game interesting. Barbara Kirkham beat Jonathon Wolferson 10& 11. Barbara and Paula beat Paul & Paul 8 & 10. Brian and Stan beat Jonathon and Richie 8 & 16, it fell to hard working Barbara to clinch the game beating Ray who also had three games 9 & 18. A better game than expected with a pleasant atmosphere.

Played at English Electric with Jack Lambert the official in charge and presenting the trophies. Sylvie Graham and family assisting with the refreshments.

Stamp:- Bath Street 'D' - 6 Aigburth 0.

Peter Mercer beat Bill Leeming in a tough starter 14-21: 24-22: 21-14: Rob Peat and Dave Stoddem beat Charlie Gallantry and Harry Holmes 11/21; 21/11; 12/16 and Peter and John Langton beat Bill Leeming and Billy Holmes 18 & 12, early doubles give everyone a nice warm up. Peter beat Charlie 21/16; 20/22; 21/9: John beat Billy Holmes 14 and 15 and Rob Peat clinched the game by beating a fighting Bill Leeming 20 & 20 not as easy as six nil sounds but that's the way it goes (or sounds) when you play to a result.

P layed at English Electric with Jack McCaig in charge and presenting the trophies.

Forrest:- Waterloo 3 Rodney Youth 6

Waterloo won the toss and decided to bat at home!!

Ken Nelson lost to Joe Williams 16-21; 21-12; 18-21: an interesting start. Alan Walton beat Justin Quin 8 & 17, Alan Reid lost to Alan Noor 13 & 18: Ray Hibbs lost to Joe 13 & 18. Ken lost to Justin 12 & 13. The two Alans meet in the crunch game at 4-1 for Rodney, the Noor boyo beating the Walton boy 21-14; 14/21; 21/11: at last a game for Dele Olumbo who lost to Ray 15 & 17: (now 5.2) Alan Reid and Alan Walton beat Alan Noor and Delle Olum-bo 21/19; 17/21; 21/17: despite Dele's brilliant serves (5-3) the nerves are starting to jingle a bit but Ken and Ray lose to Justin and Joe 12 & 16.

A fantastic crowd - probably Rodney's kop roar unnerved the "young lads" from Waterloo, but it all made a good game and exciting match.

Played at the Police Club with Stan Clarke in charge and Arthur Upton presenting the trophies. Alan Wood does make a good cup of tea despite what everyone says.!

Hyde Cup:- English Electric 'D' 6 Colonsay 'B' 1

Frank Brady and John McLoughlin beat Ian Wensley and Bill Harris 16 & 12 Keith Miller and Rikki Brown beat Mike Power and Paula French 11 & 12 so everyone has had a game, very nice. Keith beat Mike 14/21; 21/16; 21/14: a good game. John lost to Paula's hard hiring 17/21; 21/19; 17/21: another good'un. Rikki beat Ian 13 & 18 (71 strokes in one rally). Frank beat Mike 18 & 10, and Keith won the cup by beating Bill 17 & 13. A tough job for Colon-say without their No. 1 (was he eligible you may ask?) A nice gesture from the Electric boys making "you know who" go up and collect the trophy.

Played at the Police Club with Alan Woods in charge and Alan Woods presenting the trophies and Alan Woods in charge of refreshments - he does make a good cuppa!!

Rumjahn Cup:- English Electric 6 PlesseyGPT2

In my book this first game is the crunch, I have never nominated this before, Mike Corcoran beat Ray Lavin 20/22; 21/15; 21/16: Mick Allen beat Ted Gilmour 20 - 20 close, Ted Birch lost to Bob Edwards 15 & 18, the best of three outstanding games to date - and there's more! Alan Chase and Mike beat Bob and Ted 16 & 17, Mick lost to Trevor Owen 22-20; 20-22; close no doubt, then Trevor hit a superb purple patch and won!! Ted Birch and Ray play with scores up and down like yo-yo's, Ted 10-5 down at change ends but wins 17/21; 21/18; 21/19 Mike beat Ted Gilmour 17 & 10. This was a game to savour played at Liverpool Y.M.C.A., with Alex Gould in charge and Arthur Upton introducing Vice President Ted Rumjahn to present the Trophies. Janet accompanied Ted to represent the Rumjahn dynasty.

ReadmanCup:- Colonsay 6 Liverpool Y.M.C.A. 1

Chris Ford and Keith Williams opened this clash of the giants, Keith winning 16/21; 21/19; 21/15: Stuart Richards beat Peter Lee 26-24; 21-15; Phil Thomson lost to Keith 15 & 11 Stuart beat Mike Mahoney 21/12; 16/21; 21/17: top class players providing top class games to date but the next game (my crunch selection - and a doubles) took a bit of beating for suspense and the table tennis arts. Stuart and Phil beat Keith and Mike 20/22; 21/19; 24/22: the Y.M. combo were 17/11 down in the third but clawed back to deuce, however, Stuart and Phil edged their way through the tension after deuce in the third. Chris beat Peter 21/16; 9/21; 21/9 how's that for two up and down games. Stuart and Keith next - do I hear two crunch games in one match. Keith wins 22/20; 21/15; and the match stands at 4-3 for the Colonsay boys and Y.M. have played their trump cards ex* have they, along comes Peter and beat Phil 16 & 19 (4-4) a good call brings in the in form Mike with Phil winning 22/20; 21/19 so a 5-4 and Chris and Mike fight it out again and fight it was 23/21; 21/19; To finish the game on the high note that had prevailed throughout. Our luck of top class games in this final continued - but they don't come better than this one.

Two last thoughts what happened to the supporters!!

Rarely can a player have played as well as Mike Mahoney and lost four games.

Played at the Plessey club with Alex Gould in charge and Arthur Upton presenting the trophies, Stan Harvey's the man behind the scenes.

Frank Murphy:- Liverpool Y.M.C.A. 2 English Electric 5

Harry Johnson and Alan Chase staggered to the table in this veterans final - both players dis-carded their sticks and after some excellent table tennis, Alan won 14 & 17. George Smith beat Ted Birch 14 & 16! Harry lost to Fred Pheysey 13 & 11. Peter Taylor lost to Ted Birch 20 & 16: George lost to Alan 18 & 18: Peter & Fred had a right battle Peter the winner 21/17; 16/21; 21/16: Harry Johnson started this next game like a whirlwind, his hard hitting to both wings left poor old Ted bewildered and with 7 points, Ted won the next two 15 & 13 with brilliant play from both players - a feeling here that Ted was playing with bat and heart. How appropriate that these boys should win the trophy at the second time of asking having been associated with the inauguration of the trophy together with N. P.C. Mick Allen and that Ted should win the game that counted. A significant remark from the Y.M. players that they wanted to win it more than us. After a few remarks from Arthur Upton, he introduced Vincent Murphy, Frank's brother who gave a whimsical and nostalgic speech mainly appertaining to Frank. Arthur than introduced Moira Lovelady (nee' Murphy) to present the trophies. It was good to have Moira's husband Joe with us, well known to many of us oldies.

Amongst the nostalgia and happy memories of a great guy let us not forget that some superb table tennis took place.

100 CLUB NEWS

SYLVIA GRAHAM

Now the season has finished please start thinking about "pledging your troth" for the 89-90 season. I know we still have four draws left for this year but the closed season passes quickly and if we don't get the administration side of the 100 Club organised then we shall lose all continuity. You can get any number of forms from me at my home address.

The monthly draw winners were:-

January draw

1 £25 J.McKim 2. £15 S.Clarke 3. £12 Bath Street Club

February draw

1 £25 G.Graham 2 £15K. Hyde 3 £12 P. Lawrenson

March draw

1 £25 J. Prince 2 £15Liverpool Jewish Club 3 £12 Mrs. P. Rumjahn

April draw

1 £25 J. Davidson 2 £15 Mrs. D. Woods 3 £12 R. Parry

Keep supporting it and win a few quid in the process

FINALS NIGHT RAFFLE

The usual prize raffle took place on finals night and a grand total of £80.00 was raised. On a suggestion from Stan Harvey (GPT), the committee decided to donate the whole amount to Hillsborough Disaster fund, a gesture from the Liverpool League which we knew would meet the approval of its members. Thanks to everyone who gave so generously.

TABLE EDGES

Team Captains note suggestions, ideas and help in Colin Pratt's and Sylvie Graham's notes.

Sponsorship in sport is essential - the essence of sponsorship is publicity - T.V. Is the height and table tennis Digest probably the depth?, but if we know about it in our own little way we will do what we can for sponsors. However often we repeat any item we know about Andrew Eden is sponsored by Mawdesley Eating House is now number two Junior in England.

After their appearances on T.V. at the Preston Guildhall spectacular Brian Leeson the match referee and Stan Clarke will charge for autographs.

Business House championships, singles champ Chris Ford (Colonsay) beat Peter Lee (liver-pod Y.M.) doubles champs Kenny Jackson (Bath Street) and Geoff Edmunds (ex English Electric) beat Ford and Lee.

The influence of Ro Craddock shone through in the publicity, the Liverpool Closed received on Radio city. Roland was also to the fore when his firm Camerons Ltd., Austin Rover dealers of Formby sponsored the Liverpool men's team.

Ian Littlewood (English Electric) and Arthur Brindle of ex Kirkby have been selected for England to play in an international tournament in Belgium.

I think that it is worth repeating that the Leeds Building Society have sponsored Table Tennis with a cool £500,000.

Did you see the table tennis at 6.30p.m. the other Saturday purely an advert for our game - a challenge to sport and an invitation to play.

Division 1 Lancashire and Cheshire Ladies champions Paula French and Brenda Bouey and Justine Thomas.

Division 1 Lancashire and Cheshire League men's champions Keith Williams, Malcolm McEvoy Stuart Richards.

ps. B.S. National league champions Chris Ford (player secretary) Laurence Kenwright, Keith Williams, Malcolm McEvoy, Andrew Eden, Paul Hutchins and Dave Newton.

CHAMPIONS ALL

The league finals night at the Liverpool Police Club sponsored by Bill Fawley Construction Co., goes from strength to strength. A well attended evening with every credit going to Brian Leeson and the Committee. Guess who made the - with Len and Tom.

One or two little rumbles when a couple of finals were not played on finals night.

There is no truth in the rumour that we asked Bill Fawley to sponsor finals night so that one of their lorries could take Frank Brady's restricted trophy home.

Your contributions to the Digest have bordered on nil (correspondents excepted) Do you still want one???

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE
ANNUAL CLOSED TOURNAMENT FINALS NIGHT
 TUESDAY 18th APRIL 1989 at MERSEYSIDE POLICE CLUB

HON. REFEREE : MR. B.A. LEESON

FINAL EVENTS

1 Semi - Final - Men's Singles

(a) Stuart Richards (Colonsay)	v	Neil Gravener (Cadwa)	21/16 21/16
(b) Andrew Eden (English Elec.)	v	Keith Williams (YMCA)	21/12 21/14

2 Junior Final

Andrew Eden (English Elec.)	v	Justine Thomas (Cadwa)	21/15 21/14
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3 Veterans' Singles Final

Alan Timewell (Wav.Labour)	v	Roy Smith (Wav.Labour)	21/15 19/21 21/12
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4 Restricted Singles

F. Brady (English Electric)	v	C. Rourke (Colonsay)	18/21 21/17 24/22
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5 Women's Doubles Final

Justine Thomas (Cadwa)		Sylvia Graham (Bootle J.C.)	
and	v	and	21/17 15/21 21/17
Denise Conroy (Wav. Labour)		Barbara Smallwood (Bath St)	

6 Men's Doubles Final

Peter Lee (YMCA)		Stuart Richards (Colonsay)	
and	v	and	22/20 21/19
Mike Mahoney (YMCA)		Phil Thomson (Colonsay)	

7 Women's Singles Final

Justine Thomas (Cadwa)	v	Brenda Buoey (Colonsay)	21/17 22/20
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8 Men's Singles Final

(a) Stuart Richards	v	(b) Andrew Eden	18/21 17/21
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT : To BILL FAWLEY CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD.

for generous sponsorship of this Tournament

FTNAL.TABLES											
DIVISION 1	P	W	L	D	PTS	DIVISION 4	P	W	L	D	PTS
COLONSAY	22	20	1	1	175	RODNEY YOUTH	22	20	0	2	186
ELECTRIC SUPPLY	22	18	1	3	173	WATERLOO	22	18	1	1	159
LIVERPOOL YMCA	22	17	4	1	167	ENGLISH ELECTRIC E	22	17	3	2	142
WAVERTREE LABOUR	22	12	7	3	131	ELECTRIC SUPPLY B	22	14	7	1	134
CADWA	22	11	9	2	124	GP.T. B	22	11	8	3	117
BATH STREET	22	10	8	4	112	BATH STREET C	22	8	11	3	105
ENGLISH ELECTRIC	22	11	9	2	112	ACTION YOUTH	22	8	13	1	96
WAVERTREE LABOUR A	22	6	13	3	96	BROWNMOORPARK	22	9	10	3	92
POLICE	22	5	15	2	82	MAGHULL A	22	5	14	3	91
LIVERPOOL YMCA A	22	4	13	5	74	BOOTLE YMCA A	22	1	18	1	70
COLONSAYA	22	4	16	2	63	WAVERTREE LABOUR D	22	3	17	2	67
WAVERTREE LABOUR B	22	-	22	-	11	LIVERPOOL JEWISH B	22	3	15	4	61
DIVISION 2						DIVISION 5					
ENGLISH ELECTRIC A	22	15	2	5	158	BATH STREET D	20	17	1	2	151
G.P.T.	22	18	1	1	158	VAGABONDS	20	14	5	1	128
BOOTLE JC	22	17	4	1	149	G.P.T. C	20	15	4	1	126
ENGLISH ELECTRIC B	22	11	8	3	120	MAGHULL B	20	15	3	2	125
M.C.Y.A.	22	12	10	0	111	POLICE B	20	8	8	4	104
CADWA A	22	9	8	5	110	AIGBURTH	20	6	8	6	95
FORDS	22	10	11	1	102	BOOTLE YM B	20	7	10	3	87
LIVERPOOL JEWISH	22	10	9	3	101	LIVERPOOL JEWISH C	20	6	12	2	83
BOOTLE YMCA	22	4	13	5	84	CADWA C	20	3	14	3	80
ELECTRIC SUPPLY A	22	3	14	5	84	AIGBURTH A	20	4	14	1	65
LIVERPOOL YMB	22	3	17	2	78	ELECTRIC SUPPLY C	20	0	16	4	53
BATH STREET A	22	4	17	1	65						
DIVISION 3						DIVISION 6					
ENGLISH ELECTRIC D	20	18	0	2	164	COLONSAY C	18	16	1	1	156
COLONSAYB	20	18	1	1	156	BOOTLE J.C. B	18	12	4	1	130
G.P.T. A	20	13	6	1	113	UNIVERSITY	18	12	4	2	124
BOOTLE J.C A	20	10	8	2	104	RODNEY YOUTH A	10	10	6	2	96
ENGLISH ELECTRIC C	20	11	8	1	104	COLONSAY D	18	10	7	1	96
MAGHULL	20	8	10	2	91	LIVERPOOL JEWISH D	18	6	9	3	83
POLICE A	20	7	12	1	90	LIVERPOOL JEWISH F	18	8	8	2	75
BATH STREET B	20	6	11	3	84	UNIVERSITY A	18	4	13	1	57
CADWA B	20	4	13	3	76	LIVERPOOL JEWISH E	18	2	14	2	46
WAVERTREE LABOUR C	20	3	16	1	64	RODNEY YOUTH B	18	2	16	0	37
LINACRE	20	2	15	3	54						
BATH STREET E - RECORD EXPUNGED											