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DIGEST  
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Web Site. [WWW.Liverpooltt.Freeserve.co.uk](http://WWW.Liverpooltt.Freeserve.co.uk)

# EDITORIAL

Well It's still 11-up which is the predominant issue to a lot of our grass roots players, I'm sure that most have accepted it and just got on with it, but I have had a "letter to the Editor", that's right, a letter to the Editor, as a matter of fact, 3 letters to the Editor, so things are looking up. A letter from Arthur Garnett describing his total misgivings on 11-up, a letter off Tony Harris on his concerns over "rule abuse", and one from Brian Crolley supplying names to an old Photo, ( letters on page 18 & 19 )

Alex Murdoch, ETTA Chairman, has just released his 2<sup>nd</sup>. Newsletter, this is an encouraging source of information for those interested in the wider aspect of our sport, in fact it has been decided to issue a copy of these Newsletters to every team captain and league officials affiliated to the ETTA, over 8000 members!, hopefully all players will finally see and read these, and get some idea what is being done for our sport, or attempted to be done. Talking of affiliation, the latest count of teams registered for the 2003-04 season is 271 down on last season, with 3 Leagues leaving the ETTA altogether over concern about the 11-up issue, no doubt those Leagues will have enjoyed their continuing use of the 21-up scoring, but how long before their feeling of isolation hits home. I would have thought it better to stay affiliated and campaign from within for change, maybe there aren't many players in those leagues who aspire to higher competition. On the subject of less teams this season, 11-up isn't the only reason why teams may be dropping out, loss of Venues is another, our own league has suffered this problem recently, and it seems to be getting worse, at the end of the current season, 2 more clubs, Marconi and Liverpool YMCA, will be forced to find new premises, the YM. have at present 4 teams, and Marconi have 3 teams, in the L&DTTL that is, Marconi have more teams who play in the Business Houses League. Another, rarely thought of result of having to find new premises, is the financial aspect, the cost of hiring rooms capable of playing in has risen dramatically, when they can be found that is!, and the days of large company / organizations subsidies coming to an end, players have to face the realization, that if they want to play, they are going to have to pay - "more". Another club with this threat hanging over them from last season is of course Bath St. decision time for them can't be far away, so hopefully, by the time the last Digest of this Season comes out we will have some good news to report on this worrying subject.

For those of us who use the Web, the new ETTA web site has finally got off the ground and can be found at <http://www.englishtabletennis.org.uk/>, and from first appearance, looks very impressive, hopefully it will provide an easy and quick way of keeping up to date with Table Tennis.

Our own L&DTTL web site has registered a memorable point, having just passed the 30,000 hits in the (approx) 3 years that our webmaster John Langton has been doing it, the site gets loads of hits from ex. Liverpool players around the world, the popularity stems from the fact that John updates the site regularly, so well done John and his many contributors.



I was trawling through some of the different Leagues on the ETTA site the other day, just for bits of news, and I thought of John Gratton from Wavertree Labour who moved to Sheffield because of work commitments, so I clicked on the Sheffield and Hallam TT. League web site, they list all their Clubs and players, so tongue in cheek, I had a look for John, and sure enough, there he was, playing for Wadsley Bridge TT. Club, playing in the 4<sup>th</sup>. Div.( the Sheffield League has 7 divisions, 24 clubs and 536 players ), John is holding his own with 89% avg. so good to see he's still playing.

Did you read the Echo Junior Sport supplement of March 2<sup>nd</sup>? it carried a large photo of the Under 16 Table Tennis team of Birkdale High school Southport, who had won through to the National Schools Table Tennis Final held in Leicester on Saturday March 6<sup>th</sup>., the prize for the winning team is a trip to China, our local connection is that Tom Bray, who plays for Bootle J.C. 'A' is one of the Birkdale Team, the Birkdale team is ably coached by Dave Graham, also Bootle J.C. and pro. Coach Andrew Eden. Birkdale School seems to be a magnet for table tennis as a popular sport, and I'm sure the saying "success breeds success" is very true in this case, but I also think that you need interested staff in the schools to get this success off the ground in the first place. Our own attempt to get a junior competition to run alongside the recent Liverpool Closed failed at the first hurdle, plenty of invitations and entry forms went out to many schools, but very few replied, so it was cancelled. Anyway, we must applaud Birkdale High for their achievements and hope these young players keep on playing.

January 13<sup>th</sup>. 04, England played Germany in a European League match, over 700 fans packed in to the Venue at Portsmouth hoping for a classic match, Germany won 3-0. First set in 3 games, second in 3 games, and the last set in 4, the

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report went on to say that approx. 600 of those fans stayed on to watch a bit of classic table tennis entertainment from that classic entertainer himself John Hilton and another 'oldie' Alan Cooke, I 'm sure those fans who stayed probably thought it was too early to go home anyway, but after being entertained by John and Alan, were glad they did stay, I remember the match against Israel in Liverpool, we could have done with cheering up after that one!

The Masters is the next big money tournament to be held in England, with a first prize of £40,000, this tournament will take place on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July, just days before the start of the Olympic Games in Athens, there will be extensive T.V. coverage by the BBC, and shown on T.V. the next day. With a pot totalling around £100,000, we are assured of a top squad of players competing in what is part of the \$1,000,000 World Super Circuit. The Venue for this extravaganza is The Fairfield Concert Hall in Croydon

Ken Armson has supplied me with his report of the recent 'Closed Tournament' at the Tennis Centre, quite an extensive account of all aspects of the event.

Another mention of distribution of the Digest, as you know, last season I changed the schedule a bit, 2 issues printed during the season, and the last one of the season as a starter for the next season, given out at the AGM, I haven't had any feed back about this, so I'm assuming that it's ok!, the last one is OK to put together and print, as I have most of the summer to get all reports in, but the two during the season are always a problem. Having put it together, got it printed, sorted and delivered to all the club secretary's, usually over two days, north end of Liverpool in one go (1 hour / 18miles) then mid / south Liverpool, (54 miles / 3 hours), and, to put it mildly, disappoints me when I hear from players weeks later, that they haven't seen a Digest, am I wasting my time?, I think the best way is for me to post Digests direct to each team captain for distribution to his team, how about that?.

In the last Digest, I mentioned the "Top 12" Tournament earmarked to take place at the Greenbank Academy 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> May, those dates have now been changed to the weekend before, 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May

Just a minor request to team captains, the match card records at the bottom of the card, there are a few getting through to Trevor without that very important information filled in, and that means Trevor has to start digging around for the previous cards to bring the League Tables up to date, so, come on captains, do it on the night, if you don't put a few comments on the back, at least make sure the main part is filled in.

A little tit bit of information from Tony Harris of the Police Club, Question " which Team has been playing the longest?" answer according to Tony " The Police", how does he know! A back issue of the League Handbook

from the early 1930's,( he thinks season 1931 / 32), mentions a Police team playing, as Tony says "bet not many people know that"

A little 'aside' from Doug Baker of CADWA club, "There's a guy at work who's name contains the name of our club, a Mr. Cadwallader. Also at CADWA we have Chris and Tim Ford, so you could say that Fords play at CADWA!"

It's good to see Doug's keeping his literary mind in tune, he misses writing for the Digest.

As Ken mentions in his nets and edges, the ETTA didn't send a men's team to the World Team Championships at Doha, and may even turn out to be an "own goal" as future Men's teams could be relegated to playing in the 4th. Division of International Table Tennis, the ETTA think not, but there may be more repercussions to come. But the Women's team of Helen Lower, Georgina Walker, Joanna Parker and Kelly Sibly, (bearing in mind that Joanna and Kelly are still juniors), did go, and play well, winning their group by beating, Norway, Portugal, Luxembourg, Ireland and Moldova, but lost in the next round 3-1 to the winner of Group 'H', Israel, star of the England team was Helen Lower.

The proposal to project the ball from below the shoulder to above the head, as mentioned in Ken's Nets and Edges, was discussed at Doha, but the objections were such that the Proposal was 'soundly defeated'. Also at Doha it was agreed that the 2007 World Championships will be held in Zagreb, Croatia.

16 year old Tom Creevy (Wav Lab) took the practical part of the Local Umpire examination at our Closed tournament and passed to become the first Liverpool league player to qualify as a Local Umpire.



Tom Creevy Umpiring the match between Mike Ashton v Paul Banks at the recent Closed, with Chief of Umpires Ray Lavin looking on

## CLOSED REPORT 2004 by Ken Armson

Having been in danger of not taking place due to lack of support our 2004 Closed finished on a high note when following one of the best Men's finals for some years Keith Williams emerged the winner, and a visibly delighted winner at that. His achievement was all the more notable coming as it did only a few weeks after his opponent, Kevin Dolder, had decisively beaten him 3-straight in a league match.

Clearly my appeal for support by way of an entry went un-noticed and with only a week to closing date it was looking likely our Closed was on the slippery slope to oblivion, a fate that has befallen many other Closed tournaments throughout the country. I purposely left the closing date as late as was possible even though this would involve having to complete all the paperwork in a tight timescale and knowing I would continue to receive telephone entries right up to the day. We eventually had enough to start on and sure enough I was receiving entries as late as the day before the event. I try never to turn anyone away but naturally need the main bulk of entries by the closing date as seeds have to be sorted and the draw made for each event.

Our date clashed with a GP in Bournemouth and a BJL weekend but with a packed calendar such clashes are inevitable and we have to accept any available date involving the lowest level of clashes and hope that you, the members, will give your own league some degree of priority. The result being that we lost entries for the senior and received none for the junior. The BJL clash also reduced our women's entry to four with the current champion also being a casualty. Our Men's champion having decided to take a season out meant no reigning champion in either of our two main events.

Deciding the format is always a difficult area but would not be so if competitors were happy for play to continue until late evening. Having studied the entry figures for all events I decided that this year we would run two of our most popular events, Over 55s and Veteran singles as straight knockouts and play both finals on Finals Night. I did so because I felt that the increasing entry for the Over 55s entitled it to be a Finals Night event as is the Veteran event. We do get a large entry for both these events but the entry for the doubles being larger, almost every competitor having entered, and knowing how quickly a doubles set can finish I felt it would be in the best interests of all competitors if I made this a group event in place of the Veteran event.

We run divisional events for the express benefit of divisional competitors to ensure everyone has an opportunity to compete in at least one event at their own level but sadly support for these events was again very poor. If anyone out there can come up with anything that will improve entries to these events I will be happy to give any suggestion serious consideration. Having said that I need also to add that the entry from 1<sup>st</sup> division players was no better. Total by divisions being; 1<sup>st</sup> 15, 2<sup>nd</sup> 9, 3<sup>rd</sup> 12, 4<sup>th</sup> 12

& 5<sup>th</sup> none. The remainder comprising 2 MS seeds who withdrew at short notice and players who did not enter the divisional singles. Several 1<sup>st</sup> division competitors play only as a reserve so the entry of regular 1<sup>st</sup> division players who actually competed was 12.

I cannot stress too strongly that this is YOUR tournament and myself and the Management committee run this on your behalf for your benefit. To those members who did enter and compete I would extend on behalf of the league my sincere thanks and appreciation not only for your support but also for umpiring when called on to do so. We only had a few hiccups in that area plus some who sloped off after the MS without staying to umpire after losing. Don't think I don't know just who fell into this category because I do. I don't mind how much or how often I am criticised or the odd insult that comes my way from time to time because that comes with the job. I do my best for every competitor knowing as I do that you are not there for me, it is me who is there for you.

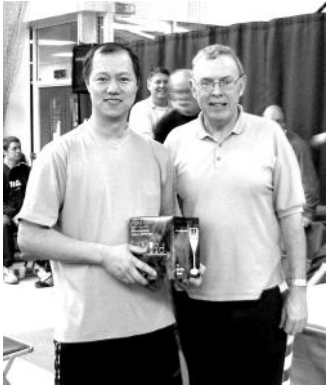
The D2 final was contested by Gemma Lloyd (Police) who defeated team colleague Jon Dyson in the semi and Andy Lloyd (Manweb) who had also defeated a team colleague, Dave Harse, in his semi final. Gemma then cruised to a 3-straight win over Andy and stretched only in the second game 13/15.

### Gemma Lloyd Div. 2 winner



### Gavin Lloyd, Div.3 winner with Grahame Reid

In D3 we had a partly similar scenario Gavin Lloyd (Police) beating team mate Tony Harris in their S/F. George Lennon (Cadwa) and Mike Ashton (Wav Lab) contested the other S/F George emerging a comfortable winner in 3. Not wanting to be out done by his sister, Gemma, Gavin took the D3 title btg George 7 in the 5<sup>th</sup>. Clearly Gavin likes to get his money's worth; his 3 k/out matches all going to 5 games.



**Billy Cheung Div.4 winner** and probably thought he was on an easy ride but Bert had other ideas and stretched him to 5 losing 8 in the fifth.

The line-up for both the Over 55s and Veterans event was quite impressive sending out a signal that most of our top players are over 40 and quite a number over 55 and having no junior event sending yet another signal that is unfortunately ignored by most and in that area I seem to be alone. It is brilliant that so many players continue to compete and compete well and are still enjoying table tennis, the unfortunate aspect being that there are no juniors in the wings to displace them. Were it not for older players we would not have a league let alone a tournament and it is for that reason these veteran events are now an important part of our tournament and finals night programme. In the Over 55 semi finals Peter Taylor (Cadwa) bt Dave Harse and Ken Jackson (Bath St) bt Alan Chase (W'loo). Peter winning 5, 10 & 8, to take the final fairly comfortably. The Veteran Singles saw Keith Williams (W'loo) take the first steps that were to make this what the record books will surely title The Keith Williams Year and he cruised comfortably to the final Ken Jackson joining him.

I believe the decision to play the doubles in groups was welcomed by the competitors and this event has been in groups previously. I managed to get the seeds right the pairings of Williams/Kenwright, Birch/Chase competing in one s/f and Jackson/Taylor, Dolder/Wearden the other. Keith continuing his progress towards what was to be a remarkable finals night when he and partner Lawrence Kenwright moved into the final with a 6,7 & 9 win over Ted Birch and Alan chase. . Not so easy for Kevin Dolder and Tim Wearden who although winning in 3 were pushed by Ken Jackson and Peter Taylor 8, 10 & 9.

Only 4 women contested the WS leaving me with a problem in that they would have to play as a group and this would normally decide the winner and runner up. However, as we needed a Women's final on finals night I decided the top two finishes in this group would contest the final on the Tuesday evening and it was no real sur-

prise when Clare Peers and Alice Howard finished as finalists ahead of Gemma Lloyd and Terri-Ann Nolan.

There were 12 groups for the MS event most finishing without any real upsets the trend continuing in the quarters when Kevin put out Mikael Bellec who was a possible surprise winner of his group, not that he would agree, Ken Jackson putting out Omid Khaiyat in a hard fought 5-gamer, Ken taking the 5<sup>th</sup> game 5, Lawrence beat Peter Taylor in 4 having already clinched his return to finals night as Keith's partner after an absence of some 20 years. Not surprisingly Keith became the fourth semi finalist beating Keith Bird in 4 and no doubt Keith, who is no easy opponent, was happy to have taken a game off his namesake, the only person on the day to do so.

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### **Finals Night**

was not as well supported as in past years those who did not attend missing a tremendous Men's final, an historic night and an excellent hot and cold buffet. No surprises in the Men's semis Kevin taking Ken Jackson out in 3 and Keith dropping a game to Lawrence in a match that made it clear to everyone present that Keith had no intention on the night of being anything other than a winner.

Next came the Over 55 final moved to finals night in recognition of the importance of this event in terms of entries and contested by a previous winner in Peter Taylor and newcomer to the event Ken Jackson. Ken proved too consistent for Peter winning 5, 10 & 8 for his first Over 55 title.



**Ted Birch with O/55's winner Ken Jackson**

Of the seven events Keith was in four of them, not an easy scenario to set up so the Doubles came next Keith & Lawrence v Kevin and Tim, a 5-game tussle, Kevin and Tim going 2-1, Keith & Lawrence fighting back and taking the 4<sup>th</sup> game 12. The final game was yet another nail biter each pair striving to take a commanding lead and it went to deuce Keith and Lawrence winning game 10. It might not have been a classic encounter but it was a real spectators match as fortune swayed one way and then the other and no one could be certain of the outcome. I am sure Tim Wearden will long remember his first appearance in a Liverpool League Closed final when he and

Kevin came so close to becoming doubles champions at the first time of asking. Once again it was the determination of Keith to be a winner that inspired what was virtually a scratch pairing to become winners, both Keith and Lawrence's original partners having pulled out due to injury.



**Doubles winners Keith Williams and Lawrence Kenwright with Mr. David Fawley**

We had to have a short break to allow Keith a rest before his next final and ran the raffle, a chance to mention yet another Williams, this time Keith's wife, Lorraine, who ran the raffle virtually single handed on Sunday and again on finals night and did an excellent job and I would extend our thanks to her for having undertaken this task.

With one title already under his belt and two more in the offing Keith met Ken Jackson in the Veterans final both contestants seeking to win a title they had held previously. Having been handing it out in the Over 55s



**Veterans winner Keith Williams with Mr. Leo Crone**

Clare Peers and Alice Howard contested the Women's Singles, both being previous champions and Clare having beaten Alice in their group encounter on the previous Sunday. Although the set went to four games neither player was at their best and Clare never looked in

danger of losing a very ordinary final and duly won 7, -8, 7 & 7 to take the Ladies title for a third time her previous successes having been in 1996 & 97. She also became only the second person to win this title under two names the other person being the late Mabel Neary who also won it as Mabel Francis with Clare having won it in 96 & 97 as Clare Newns.



**Women's singles winner Clare Peers with Mrs. Carol Crone**

The final match of the night, the Men's Singles, starring Keith and Kevin had all the ingredients to make it one to remember and just as many to make it just another match. Both have long pedigrees in respect of Liverpool Closed titles, previous champions, previous teammates, and previous doubles champions. Kevin was also clearly hungry to win back the title he had surprisingly lost the previous year to Paul Hutchings. Not that Paul would call it a surprise having played his heart out and raised his game to new heights on the night. Both players and many spectators were also aware that a few weeks previously Kevin had convincingly beaten Keith in a league match and although Keith had already shown he was not only in brilliant form but also looking for a remarkable hat trick few could have foreseen or expected the final result. Kevin took the first comfortably game 7, Keith settling down to take a close game 11/9. In the third Keith out played Kevin trumping all his efforts to take commend of the game to snatch it game 11. Kevin pushed aside the third game and didn't allow Keith in and took the fourth game 5. What had been evident throughout out the match was Keith's determination to win and that just as clearly his desire and determination was unsettling Kevin and affecting his game. Keith stepped up his game in the fifth and Kevin struggled to cope with a player who on the night was able to handle his best shots and force him to make errors and Keith won game 8 to take the set and win back the Men's singles title. Everyone present will surely recall for many years Keith's open joy at having won the title for a 9<sup>th</sup> time having recorded his first Men's championship win way back in 1977.

That this was a popular win was also evident for Keith had won everyone over his play throughout the evening having been brilliant, his behaviour as always impeccable and his desire and determination shining bright. A remarkable night for everyone but most of all for Keith who won three titles on the night possibly the first time this has happened and a feat that may never be repeated. Yes, the title 'Year of Keith Williams' fits nicely and I for one cannot recall having witnessed a more openly delighted and joyful winner. Well done, Keith.

The event itself could not have taken place without the important input of a number of league members and I extend to everyone who helped with loading the equipment, setting up and taking it down and then unloading it again at the Police club my personal thanks along with those of our league Management committee. Sunday evening when everyone had gone off home or to the pub a small band dismantled the equipment, loaded it onto the transport and then went on to the Police club to unload it in the dark, illumination being provided by torchlight. There is also our Captain of Umpires, Ray Lavin, who did a sterling job on the Sunday and those umpires who officiated on finals Night. George Smith, who kept our wall charts up to date, a task he carries out efficiently at all our events, Arthur Garnett, our tournament organiser who attends to all manner of tasks to bring it all together on the day. Special thanks also go to our wizard on the PC, Editor, photographer and producer of the programme for Finals Night. I reckon it was his best ever production and must have taken a lot of time. We had an excellent team on Saturday afternoon and unfortunately a much smaller team on Sunday evening but without them our tournament could not have taken place. If I mention names I am certain to overlook someone but the important thing is that we know who they were and need them to know just how much their assistance was appreciated. Must not forget also our non-elected Transport Manager, Dave Oakes, who also doubles as our Treasurer, for his input in organising the transport and for training me on how to operate the tail lift. Most of all my thanks to all the competitors for supporting our Closed tournament.



**Keith Williams after receiving the Men's singles Trophy from Mr. Leo Crone**

**Losing Finalists in the various events**



**Andy Lloyd- Div.2**



**George Lennon- Div.3**



**Burt Rivers- Div. 4**



**Peter Taylor- O/55's**



**Ken Jackson  
Veteran Singles**



**Kevin Dolder  
Men's singles**



**Alice Howard  
Women's singles**



**Open doubles, Kevin Dolder and Tim Wearden  
with Mr David Fawley**

## Match Secretary

## Don Davies

## CADWA

The second round Wilmott Cup group matches in National Team Championships, took Liverpool to Yorkshire, where they had to win at least two matches in a four teams round robin, to qualify for the next stage. Kevin Dolder, Keith Williams and Chris Ford, went down 5-3 against Northumbria which left no room for error when they faced hosts Huddersfield, but a 5-3 victory kept their hopes alive. The last match against Hull was a nail biting affair, but with the sides level at 4-4, Ford won the decider which earned the 2003 runners-up a place in the penultimate round.



Howard replacing Cherith, who left to take part in a play off in New Ferry against Clare Langford in the area schools' singles final, the 2003 Liverpool champion edging home 11-8 in the fifth. Wirral and Liverpool now move into separate groups, where they should qualify for the national finals in Derby.

The ladies veteran trio of Brenda Buoeu, Sylvia Graham and Sue Burgess, travelled to Cambridgeshire for the semi-finals of the Pat Archdale Cup, opening their account with a 5-0 win over the Wokingham & Bracknell League, who had earlier lost 5-2 to hosts North Herts. The winners of last match would top the group and with both sides having already qualified for the finals, pride was the main objective. We finished third a year ago and a 5-3 success over North Herts, booked our place in the four teams national finals in Derby at the end of the season.

The ladies team of Clara Howard, Cherith and Sylvia Graham did just enough to take both points away to Manchester, winning two each and seem certain to take the runners-up spot for the second season in a row.

Danny Horner won the Wirral Closed men's singles title at Arrowse Park, beating Steve Gittins in the final. The open veteran singles event produced a small piece of history when Stephanie Howard became the first woman ever to reach the final of the event but it was Michael Tierney who lifted the trophy, winning 11-8, 11-13, 11-8.

The two top ladies teams in the north west, were involved in second round group matches in the National Team championships at Arrowse Park where Wirral took on Liverpool and Birmingham, in the J.M.Rose Bowl. Holders Liverpool, opened with a 5-0 victory over Birmingham, thanks to Alice Howard, Cherith Graham and Brenda Buoeu, the midlanders staying at the table, where they suffered another 5-0 drubbing at the hands of Clare Peers, Gemma Lloyd and Terri-Anne Nolan.

The last match was a repeat of the 2003 national final in Halewood, when Liverpool overcame Wirral to lift the trophy for the first time. But on this occasion, Wirral scoring an emphatic 5-1 victory, Alice Howard beating Terri-Anne Nolan to save the white wash, Clara

Howard replacing Cherith, who left to take part in a play off in New Ferry against Clare Langford in the area schools' singles final, the 2003 Liverpool champion edging home 11-8 in the fifth. Wirral and Liverpool now move into separate groups, where they should qualify for the national finals in Derby.

The Wirral Closed championships qualifying rounds, produced a number of interesting results, none more so than in the veteran singles where Stephanie Howard, made good use of her draw when top seed Roy Smith withdrew. In the last four, Mrs. Howard beat Mike Ashton, ( who beat Ahmed Thabet in the Closed) 11-8 in the fifth to earn a final meeting against Michael Tierney, the victor over Dave Harse in the other semi'. The open veteran singles event produced a small piece of history when Stephanie Howard became the first woman ever to reach the final of the event but it was Michael Tierney who lifted the trophy, winning 11-8, 11-8, 11-13, 11-8.

Danny Horner won the men's singles title at Arrowse Park, beating Steve Gittins in the final

Mrs. Peers will do battle with Gemma Lloyd in the ladies singles final. The ladies doubles final was played on Saturday, Clare Peers and Brenda Buoeu beating Gemma Lloyd and Terri-Anne.



Liverpool Ym 1st team seem to have the title well and truly sewn up . The trio of Lawrence Kenwright, Peter Lee and Omid Khaiyat, as a team, have been consistently performing well and are just too strong for the rest. They seldom come away with ten points but the important feature is that they always win. They did however come close to achieving a whitewash against Bath St. 'A' but were thwarted by the partnership of Ian McElwee and Claire Peers who pulled out a tremendous doubles win over Peter and Lawrence 6 in the 5th. YM again felt the wrath of another woman when they faced Wavertree's Alice Howard who had a stormer of a night beating Peter and Omid. Alice was also two games up against Lawrence but couldn't maintain the performance and was pipped in the 5th. Never mind Alice, you may have been beaten by a good looking , muscle bound millionaire but just think Alice , he could probably lift a ton but I bet he can't bloody spell it. (oohh a bit below the belt I hear you say , how do I sleep at night - I won't once Lawrence reads this ).

In the same match Omid put up a better fight then he did in their last meeting and was two games up against fellow defender Roy Smith but Omid failed to take the initiative and lost 7 in the 5th. It's reported that Roy's game against Lawrence was a classic display of attacking brilliance pitted against equally superb defensive play. The game eventually went to the YM number one, pinching it in the 4th. Neither Lawrence, or Omid paid much heed to Gary Watson's unorthodox style and both eased to comfortable victories although the same could not be said about Peter Lee who, surprisingly, just couldn't get into the game and lost in straight sets. The match eventually going 6-4 in YM's favour.

YM's 7-3 scoreline over Fords had the feel of a Kevin Dolder appearance but who needs the 'Lowry figure look -a-like ' when you've got Bob Hughes grinding out the performance of his career with a five set thriller



win over Lawrence. Peter also came unstuck against Tom Murray and M. McKenzie losing both in the 4th set. Omid remained unscathed winning all three without dropping a set.

Unfortunately for second placed Waterloo, Kevin did make an appearance and duly put on an awesome display of table tennis, emphasizing what an exceptional talent Kevin is. There aren't many players who will walk away from the table having beaten Keith Williams two, five and eight. Wayne Percival and Alan Chase also suffered a similar fate. I'm sure Kevin wished that he could've reiterated this performance when facing Keith in the 'Closed ' final but we all know what a resilient talent Keith is and it's the measure of the man who, having suffered such a thrashing , can then pick himself up and perform at a level worthy of any final. Back to the Fords match, James Eaton had a gruelling 12/10 decider against Alan Chase whilst Kevin partnered Tim Weardon to a doubles win over Keith and Wayne resulting in both teams sharing the spoils.

Waterloo managed one better in their 6-4 defeat of two man Cadwa. Ken Hartley and Peter Taylor lost to Keith but then rallied to both have victories over Ted Birch and Alan. I've just recalled a conversation between Ted and Bath St 'A's Eddie Crowley whilst they were knocking up at Waterloo. Eddie was wondering as to how many lawyers it would take to stop a moving bus? "Never enough" was

shouted from the bowels of the Waterloo bar. Police's Steve Gittins was the sole singles winner when their respective teams clashed, with Alan and Ted again losing out. Steve then joined Jon Dyson in a memorable doubles win over Keith and Ted. With the absence of Keith for the YM'A' game , Waterloo could only manage one point and that was courtesy of Ted having a good five set win over Keith Bird .

Cadwa are closely on the heels of the Waterloo boys but it's been ' famine or feast ' for the Cadwa team having on occasions fielded a full team , inclusive of Chris Ford but then struggle to turn out three players for other games . It's a similar plight which has affected many teams within the division, my own included, and which will become more prevalent during the latter stages of the season once reserve players have fulfilled their quota. Cadwa did manage a full team when they squared up to Harold House and with the assistance of Chris Ford walked away 9-1 winners. Alec Bryce could be forgiven for feeling somewhat aggrieved, for having gone to five in all of his games he still went home empty handed. The sole winner being Steve whally, who beat Peter Taylor, again in five. Chris continued his winning ways during Cadwa's 6-4 win against YM'A'. Chris comfortably won his three but the other results were a mix and match. Tony Whelan beat Ken and Peter Taylor, who also lost out to Ahmed Thabet and Keith Bird. Ken Hartley then wreaked revenge against Ahmed and Keith. Just to add to the confusion, Cadwa's 6-4 defeat at the hands of Maghull was also a cocktail of clashing styles and results. Matt Wilson won all his three (that was the easy bit). Fred Pheysey and Alan Jones both beat Mike Power whilst Ken Hartley and Peter Taylor both beat Fred and Alan.

Wavertree's Alice Howard, Roy Smith and Gary Watson are just about holding onto the Champions League fourth spot. A 2-8 defeat at the hands of the Police team wouldn't have helped their cause but it certainly put a smile on my face. I , believe it or not ,

won all three, as did young Tom Page who incidentally, is playing some great ping pong. I must confess that my defeat of Alice and Gary was, in the words of the great Alf Perry, "somewhat fortuitous" but these days I'm happy to take a win in any form. Steve had a good win over Roy but lost out to Alice and Gary. Marconi were Wavertree's next opponents and they unfortunately felt the backlash with a 9-1 defeat but I just can't help feeling that Trevor Owen had the last laugh, saving the whitewash with a great win over Gary Watson. Bath St's Ken Jackson held the colours aloft in their clash with the Wav trio. Kenny won all his three comfortably and, aided by Fred Bainbridge, contributed to a fine doubles win over Alice and Gary. Unfortunately, neither Fred or Brenda could impact on Alice or Gary. The match finishing 6-4 in Wav's favour.

YM 'A' are, in my view, the favourites to take the third spot. The good form of Tony Whelan, the consistency of Ahmed Thabet and the introduction of Keith Bird suggests a formula that will probably see YM 'A' reach their highest position for some seasons. Evidence of this was displayed in their 8-2 victory over the Bath Street first team. Tony Whelan has certainly improved this season. His backhand is more solid and he seems to be getting one or two more loops on than previous seasons. This was evident against Bath St. when he won all of his three games including a great 12/10 five set winner against Kenny Jackson. In years gone by Kenny would've lapped up Tony's game but not on this occasion. Kenny still remained too strong for Ahmed and Keith Bird, winning both in straight sets. Keith Bird compliments the team by falling within the YM mould of being a good, solid, consistent player. His relaxed, almost lazy gait is very deceiving and belies his sharpness over the table as well as the ability to make some tremendous off the table shots.

The teams consistency was however somewhat dented in their 7-3 defeat at the hands of Harold House. Neither Tony Whelan or Ahmed could

penetrate the H.H. team of Ken Connor, Alex Bryce and Steve Whalley and it was left for Keith Bird to save the blushes with a solid personal performance. YM'A' soon made amends when they faced Police. Again Tony Whelan was in fine form and won all his three. Gavin Lloyd did however make him work for his money by taking him to the deciding set. My five set win against Ahmed coupled with Steve's good win against Keith Bird brought our only points.

Fords have obviously erased their perennial relegation worries with the introduction of Kevin Dolder to the team. They've also managed to find some resilience within the club to collate a rough squad consisting of Kevin, Tim Weardon, James Eaton, Tom Murray and Bob Hughes. On the occasion that my Police team faced the chaps, Steve, my brother, had to return home due to family problems, leaving just Gemma Lloyd and I to face Kevin, Tom and James. Gemma was unlucky not to beat Tom or James, both games going all the way. I, surprisingly, had a good game against Kevin, losing close in the 5th. Apparently if I'd beaten Kevin (apart from having to wake up) I'd have been the first person to do so in the league within the last four years. That's a tremendous record. Tim Weardon reckoned that my modesty would've have prevented me from putting the win in the digest. Yeah okay.

Bath Street, all things considered, will probably settle for a mid table position. It's not been their best season to date but it's difficult for all players in any team to maintain a high level of play season after season. This is why you have to take your hat off to the likes of Kevin Dolder, Keith Williams, Chris Ford and I'd certainly put Kenny Jackson amongst this group of players who, even when they're playing below par are difficult to keep up with. As if to prove the point, Kenny won all three against Maghull, even though he was taken to the 5th set by Matt Wilson. Matt continued with his good form by beating Fred Bainbridge and Brenda Bouey. Fred Pheysey will be disappointed losing in the 5th to namesake Fred Bainbridge as would Alan Jones who also lost in the 5th to Brenda. Bath

St. will also have to be careful that Tony Harris doesn't get on their case having lost 6-4 to their 'A' team. Ian McElwee had a great 5th set win over Kenny and then come back from being two nil down to beat Fred in another tremendous game. Kenny regained his winning ways by beating Claire Peers and Eddie Crowley but Claire managed to take solace in defeating Fred and Brenda. Eddie had a miserable night, the 'toss' being the only thing that he won all night

Bath St.'A' continued their winning streak with an impressive 9-1 win over Marconi. Bob Edwards coming close, losing 9 in the 5th against Claire. Trevor Owen, who is making a habit of saving the day for his team, came to the rescue by beating Eddie. Bath St's win was, however, short lived and the 9-1 score reversed when they faced the Police team consisting of John Rankin, Steve and Tom Page. John was back after recovering from an ankle injury and was in no mood to take prisoners. Claire Peers decided to spoil the Policeman's ball by beating our kid Steve.

In comparison to previous seasons Harold House must be disappointed with their current position. Last season they finished mid table and prior to that I'm almost certain it was in the top four. They still command the same team but as previously stated, it's so difficult to maintain the consistency within the team. They did pull together against the potential relegation team of Maghull with a fine 8-2 victory. Ken Connor played well and won all his three against Nick Miller, Fred Pheysey and Alan Jones. Alec Bryce again suffered the curse of the 5th set at the hands of Nick Miller whilst Fred beat Steve Whalley comfortably in straight sets. Incidentally, does anyone have the foggiest idea what Ken Connor mumbles in between points, It really does tickle me. I mean, this guy should come with sub titles.

The Police team is also suffering the effects of a gruelling season. John Rankin has made some cameo appearances but injury, together with work commitments has taken its toll. Tom Page's college duties, has also limited his involvement which has in my view watered down his impact

upon the division. Tom is a talented young player and has already made his mark with good wins over Ian McElwee, Roy Smith and Gary Watson. Hopefully next season we will see Tom feature more regularly and perhaps witness his full potential. I'm presently recovering from a very painful bout of 'tennis elbow' which may cause me to miss what's left of the season. This just leaves brother Steve who, as reliable as ever, holds the fort week in. The team will always have the worry of relegation looking over our shoulder, but it would appear that current league table indicates that Maghull and Marconi are favourites to return to the second division.

Maghull did however win the battle to avoid the wooden spoon with a respectable 7-3 win over Marconi. This too was a night of conflicting styles with all the Maghull boys dropping a set at some stage of the match. The in form Matt Wilson lost to Bob Edwards but overcame Trevor Owen and Ted Gilmore. Bob Edwards then went on to lose in straight sets to Alan

Jones and game 5 in the 5th set to Fred Maghull's Alan Jones eased his earlier defeat by Trevor with straight sets wins over Bob and Ted. The doubles was also a cracker with the Maghull pair of Matt and Fred pinching it 13/11 in the 5th against Bob and Trevor. I think that Marconi has accepted that relegation beckons but just to add to their woes the team is now struggling to find players. Bob Edwards was involved in a car crash which, although not seriously hurt, did cause him severe whiplash. This has precluded him from participating in recent games. Trevor, because of this, has had to call upon lower divisional players to come in as reserves.

My worst fear is that I may turn up for a game against Marconi to find Peter Wass standing at the other end of the table. This man, I'm sure you're all aware, has a volcanic backside. I can recall several seasons ago whilst playing Peter that his frequent flatulence virtually drowned out the umpire. At the conclusion of the first game, whilst changing ends, Peter apologized for the outbursts but assured me that his flatu-

lence was completely odourless. At the end of the game I informed Peter that doctors should be able to sort out his problem. "What, my backside?" Peter said. "No" I said, "Your nose."

A quick thank you to all my filed correspondents, who regularly provide written comments on the match cards. I really do appreciate all contributions and although the subscribers have increased, it would be nice for each match to receive an entry no matter how short. Just give it a go.

Well it's time to put pen and paper down and return to the world of reality. My children assist with this process by having that awful knack of bringing you back down to earth with a big bump. Just today I returned home and told them that I had a surprise for them. I said, "I've got some sweets and I'm going to give them to the person who never answers mummy back and always does what they're told. So who's going to get them?" "In unison the kids said," You are, Daddy!"

## Division 2

## Sylvia Graham

## Bootle J.C.

My isn't it exciting? With just four weeks of the season left there is no out and out winner to the division...nor is there a clear runner-up. I don't think there has ever been a closer finish and the top teams are waiting for each of the others to make a mistake and I'm afraid that one mistake is all that'll be needed to see the chance of promotion fade away. I think **Liverpool YMCA 'B'** were the first to falter when they lost ten nil at **Bootle JC 'A'**. It was one of those matches where the important points all went JC's way and however well the YMCA side played and however close the games they just couldn't get the win. **Manweb** also seem to be slightly losing touch though they shouldn't be written off completely. Personally I think promotion has become a four horse race in which there are no real favourites and the teams are **Cadwa 'A'**, **Bootle JC 'A'**, **Manweb 'A'** and **Police 'A'**.

Relegation I think has already been sorted out. **Wavertree Labour**



**'A'** have decided to drop out of the division because they just couldn't field a side. Bill Stanley carried on relentlessly match after match but after losing Mick Tierney to the first division side and with Richie Jones being no longer available I think he felt it time to concede that it was pointless carrying on when he would be the side's only regular player. I think we should congratulate him because it wasn't an easy decision to take and

although he was enjoying his matches he didn't think it fair for teams to travel long distances to find they would be facing a team fielding only two players. I look forward to seeing Bill in this division in the future with a settled 3-man squad.

**Waterloo 'A'** are the other relegation side. Although they started the New Year well with an 8:2 defeat of **Bootle JC** followed by a 6:4 loss to **YMCA 'B'**. I think they have left it too late. Ritchie saw a little light at the end of the tunnel after the JC match... but I think the tunnel is somewhat longer than he thinks but he is determined that the team will go down fighting. Graeme Reid of **Fords** will be sad to see **Waterloo** relegated because nostalgically he always thinks of it as 'Big Al's' team and he says that it would be a shame to see them go especially (as he comments!!) if other Southport League players with quirky behaviour traits remain in Division 2. (aside to Graeme...I always publish comments but I don't expect

such 'bitchy' behaviour in this division!!)

The team that has impressed me since December is **Manweb 'A'**. If you remember...in the last issue I had all but written them off...then suddenly I don't know how or why...they started hitting form and from the beginning of December they have been having a purple patch to say the least....I'm beginning to wonder what they could possibly be on because the improvement is vast and sudden. In **Cadwa's** 6:4 loss to **Manwb 'A'** Graeme Black won three for **Cadwa**. Mike Power commented that it was a pleasure to play in the same team as Graeme and with respect to everyone else the division he thought Graeme the best player. Mike also considers Paul Evans the most improved player this season and from the match results I must agree.

The **Bootle JC** derby saw the 'A' team pick up valuable points in a 6:4 win with Dave Evans scoring a hat-trick for the 'A' team and Julian Quirk picking up two and the doubles

for the other side. Brian Crolley said that it was a fiercely competitive match with Dave Evans as the star. That same week **Manweb** went down 6:4 to **Liverpool YMCA**. The match was allegedly worthy of a cup final in which every game was close and could have gone either way. However even Dave Harse following Matthew Syed's advice and glueing up his back hand could not stop the fastest players in the division....or so I am led to believe. In the clash between **Police 'A'** and **Fords 'A'** the player of the match was Robby Goldson with two wins though Terri-Anne could also set her claim to it with her two singles wins and a doubles win with Gemma Lloyd against Graeme Reid and Robby Goldson. Apparently, Gemma and Terri-Ann hit through the 'saw' of Graeme and Robby whilst the latter pair played up to their usual high standards.

**And lastly the roles of honour: (Not many 'cos I've only 4 weeks cards!)** (this could be due to my new system of getting match cards to the writers as

soon as possible, weeks 7 to 10 went out just before Christmas, I put each batch through Sylvia's letterbox myself, must have been thrown out with the Christmas cards, or their 'guard'dog's eaten them!. Editor) **Facesavers:-** Only two this time! Julie Richley (Wavertree Labour 'A') beat Sue Burgess (Bath St.'C') -10, -6, 5, 7, 10. Pete Holmes (Waterloo) beat Terri-Anne Nolan (Police 'A') -6, -12, 7, 6, 7.

**Close Wins:-** Graeme Black (CADWA 'A') beat Les Molyneux (Manweb 'A') -8, -6, 4, 11, 11. Paul Evans (Manweb 'A') beat Mike Power (CADWA 'A') 3, -11, 12, 11.

**Good Wins:** Sue Burgess (Bath St. 'C') beat Peter Wass (Marconi 'A') 11, 6, -13, -0, 10 and Frank McCann (Marconi 'A') 8, 5. Alf Perry (Fords 'A') beat Dave Tagg (Liverpool YMCA 'B') 6, -9, -5, 5, 10. Dave Evans (Bootle JC 'A') beat Les Molyneux (Manweb 'A') 9, -4, 8, -7, 10

*Another set of Sylvia's Cryptic teasers are at the bottom of Page 17*

## Div. 3.

## Tony Harris

## Merseyside Police

In my last Div 3 notes I mentioned two clubs who appeared to have 'fiddled' their grouping order putting the stronger group of players below that of the weaker, therefore gaining an unfair advantage when it comes to playing reserves. One of the clubs, Bath Street did not abuse the situation and after signing on a new number 1 for the 'C' team they rectified the problem but it seems to be another story for the other club, CADWA (see Letters to The Editor for more details)

Anyway, back to business.

Division 3 is no place for the faint hearted this season. It's proving to be a real dog-fight at both ends of the table with promotion and relegation issues likely to go right to the wire.

**Police 'B'** are still in number 1 spot but only just. They suffered two losses within a week in December, 6-4 away at Bath St. 'C' and six days later, in a top two clash,



CADWA 'C' inflicted a heavy 7-3 defeat on Police 'B' taking the CADWA outfit to top spot for the first time this season. Comfortable wins, 9-1 v Waterloo and 8-2 v Manweb 'B' was followed by another defeat for Police 'B', away at Bootle YMCA, 6-4. John Higham and Richie Winckle starred for the home teams with wins for John over Gavin Lloyd and Tony Harris and Len Dyson and Brian Burrows for Richie. Further victories, 7-3

at home to Wav. Lab. 'B' and 8-2 v CADWA 'B' have returned Police 'B' to top spot but there are three teams snapping at their heels.

**CADWA 'C'** were pushing Police 'B' all the way in the title race but a little bird tells me that they have fallen foul of their controversial ranking list. A 7-3 victory away at Marconi 'B', 8-2 home win over Manweb 'C' and the victory over Police 'B' took CADWA 'C' to the top of the table, and a week 10 white-wash over Wav. Lab. 'C' confirmed them as new title favourites. It was then that they faced the two Bath St. teams, losing 7-3 away to Bath St. 'D' followed by a 9-1 thrashing by the resurgent Bath St. 'C' team. And herein lies another story as it is reported that when Rob Davies played in the 9-1 defeat to Bath St. 'C', he was an ineligible player having already played 6 games up as a reserve (he forgot about a 1<sup>st</sup> Div. Match he'd played earlier in the season). The

upshot is that the penalty for playing an ineligible player is to lose any points the player may have won and to have 10 points deducted from your total at the end of the season. Oh Dear!

A 10-0 away win at Waterloo 'B' for CADWA 'C' was followed by another defeat, 4-6 at home by Manweb 'B'. I'm told that Colin Rourke will be playing most of the remaining matches but it seems a tall order if they are to make up the points with just 7 matches remaining.

**Bootle YMCA** are in third spot and have put an impressive string of victories together. A week 7, 7-3 home victory over Manweb 'B' could have gone either way really as five sets were decided in the fifth game, four of these in favour of YM. Note-worthy wins on the night were Richie Winckle, 12-10 in the fifth over Trevor Barraclough and Danny Every, 11-8 in the fifth over Alan Evans. Further victories, 8-2 at home v Bath St. 'D', with eight 'funny' rubbers on display according to Roly, and a 7-3 away at Wav. Lab. 'B' have kept Bootle YM in the frame. Their week 10 home match with CADWA 'B' saw George Lennon, 3, and Steve Graham, 4, playing as reserves and the expected 8-2 defeat for YM ensued. They bounced back with four straight victories, 8-2 away at Marconi 'B', 8-2 away at Manweb 'C', 6-4 home to Police 'B' and 6-4 away at Wav. Lab. 'C' and this definitely keeps them in the title race.

**Manweb 'B'** in fourth spot will fight all the way and are also capable of securing a promotion place. They followed the disappointing 7-3 defeat at Bootle YMCA by an impressive 10-0 whitewash over a weakened Wav. Lab. 'C'. Away at CADWA 'B' they were faced with George Lennon, 3, and Rob Davies, 4, playing up as reserves but pulled off a battling 6-4 win. Trevor Barraclough starred with a 3-1 defeat of George Lennon and a straight 3 win over Rob Davies. In their home match against Marconi 'B' Rob Barker came in as a reserve and promptly won his three, 11-5 in the fifth v John McCann, straight games v Bobby Bell and a doubles point with partner Neil Jennings. A keenly con-

tested Manweb derby match saw the 'B' team gain a 6-4 win over the 'C' team, Alan Evans taking 2 points for the 'B' with straight game wins over Neil Jennings and Peter Carney. In the 8-2 defeat at Police 'B' Alan Evans was in fine form with a straight games victory over Gavin Lloyd as well as a doubles point. Week 13 saw a 7-3 home win for Manweb 'B' over Wav. Lab. 'C', this time Sharon Norman pulling out the stops with straight games wins over Tony Connor and Colin Fyles. Not to be outdone, Arthur Harrison beat Colin Fyles, 11-8 in the fifth, beat Dave Williams 3-1 and teamed up with Sharon to ensure a doubles point v Colin and Dave. The excellent 6-4 away win at CADWA 'C' showed what a battling side Manweb 'B' are and this match saw tremendous wins for Alan Evans and Trevor Barraclough over George Lennon, both 3-1.

The addition of Ricky Brown to **Bath St. 'C'** has transformed a side facing relegation into one coming up on the rails with an outside chance of promotion. They were unfortunate to come up against CADWA 'B' who were fielding three members of their 'C' team as reserves and went down 6-4. That was in week 7 and they have remained unbeaten since taking the scalps of all the teams above them and soaring up the table. A home draw with Marconi 'B' was followed by a 7-3 away win at Manweb 'C' and an excellent 6-4 home win over Police 'B'. Ricky Brown had two tremendous battles in the latter match with Tony Harris and Paula French eventually winning both in the fifth while Peter Joiner had a really good win over Len Dyson 3-1. Another draw away at Wav. Lab. 'C' was followed by the result of the season so far, an amazing 9-1 victory over CADWA 'C' and two back to back 10-0's over Bath St. 'D' and Waterloo 'B' have helped their cause. Rob Peat is playing particularly well and has only lost a few points.

**Bath St. 'D'** appear settled in mid table security and can enjoy the rest of the season without any pressure. In a week 7 home draw with Police 'B' Billy Clayton was in top form beating Brian Burrows 3-1 and then in a very tight encounter he showed he still has

the stamina with a win over Gareth Jones, 11-9 in the fifth. An 8-2 away defeat at Bootle YMCA was followed by another home draw with Wav. Lab. 'C', Les Gee starring on the night with a double over Tony Connor and Colin Fyles. Up and down results followed for Bath St. 'D'. A 6-4 defeat at Wav. Lab. 'B' was followed by a very impressive 7-3 win at home over CADWA 'C'. Steve Nield was 'man of the match' with a titanic win over George Lennon, 11-9 in the fifth and a 3-1 win over Steve Graham. They then beat CADWA 'B' 8-2 at home this time Peter Ross starring with wins over Peter Roberts and John O'Sullivan. A disastrous 10-0 defeat to their 'C' team was followed by a 6-4 defeat at Marconi 'B' but Bath St. 'D' have done enough to be competing in this division again next season.

**CADWA 'B'** also look to be in a position of safety, 12 points ahead of a relegation place but it must be said that without the services of 'C' team members playing up they would be in serious trouble. Between weeks 7-14 'C' team reserves have amassed 20 points while playing for the 'B' team and this has led to discontent amongst some other teams in the division. To be fair, the 'B' team have had problems with availability of players but it could be argued that the problems were of the clubs own making. Rob, Ian and Pete will certainly battle for every point and they have all had good wins this season. Rob Peverall had an epic battle with Ted Cramsie in the 8-2 away defeat at Waterloo 'B', taking a point with an 11-6 fifth game win and in the home defeat to Manweb 'B' Peter Roberts had a good win over Sharon Norman. CADWA 'B's 8-2 win at Bootle YMCA was probably expected with George Lennon and Steve Graham coming in at 3 and 4, but it was Rob Peverall who starred on the night. He had an excellent 3-1 win over John Higham and won a tight 5 gamer with Roly Wright. A 6-4 home defeat by Wav. Lab. 'B' was followed by an 8-2 away loss at Bath St. 'D', Rob again taking two points with wins over Steve Nield and Les Gee. Further victories, 6-4 at home to Marconi 'B' and 9-1 away at Manweb 'C' look

enough to keep CADWA 'B' in a position of safety.

**Wav. Lab. 'B'** have re-ranked to include Clara Howard at number 1 and they also appear to be safe. A week 7, 7-3 home win over Waterloo 'B', 10-0 away defeat at Manweb 'B', 7-3 away loss to Bootle YMCA and a 6-4 home win over Bath St. 'D' reveal that it has been a bit of an inconsistent season for Wav. Lab. 'B'. In the Bootle YMCA match Dave Foulis starred at number 4 with wins over Danny Every, 11-6 in the fifth and a good win over Richie Winckle who hasn't lost many this season. At home to Bath St. 'D' Peter Houden earned two points with a double over Les Gee, 11-6 in the fifth and Dave Brighthouse. A good 6-4 away win at CADWA 'B' saw the much improved Paul Banks defeat Ian Burrows and John O'Sullivan, the latter 16-14 in the fifth. Peter Houden also won a tense five game over Rob Peverall. A fighting draw away at Marconi 'B' and a 6-4 home win over Manweb 'C' was followed by the 7-3 away defeat at Police 'B' where Clara Howard beat Tony Harris. If the players from Wav. Lab. 'B' all hit form on the same night and were a bit more consistent I feel that they would be a lot further up the table – maybe next year!

With Waterloo 'B' rooted to the bottom any one of the remaining three teams could be playing in division 4 next season as there is just 4 points between them.

**Wav. Lab. 'C'** head the trio (after week 14). Captain Tony Connor, one of the few penholders left in the league has had some excellent individual wins and I'm sure his team will fight for every point under his captaincy. In the week 7, 6-4 away defeat at Manweb 'C' Tony had a mammoth battle with Neil Jennings eventually taking the fifth game 16-14. Colin Fyles prevented the whitewash at home to Police 'B' with a good win over Brian Burrows, 13-11 in the fifth. In the draw away at Bath St. 'D' it was Mike Ashton's turn to star with victories over Steve Nield, 11-4 in the fifth and Peter Ross, 3-1 before taking a doubles point with

Tony over Steve and Billy Clayton, 12-10 in the fifth. A 10-0 whitewash away at CADWA 'C' was followed by an excellent draw at home to Bath St. 'C', Tony Connor inflicting a rare defeat on Ricky Brown, 11-7 in the fifth. A 7-3 win over Waterloo 'B' was followed by a 7-3 defeat at Manweb 'B' where Tony had another good win over Alan Evans in three games, all 12-10 and Mike Ashton in yet another five game beat Trevor Barraclough. Four points at home to Bootle YMCA meant that apart from CADWA 'C' Wav. Lab. 'C' have taken good points from all the top teams and it may be in the matches against relegation rivals that the final outcome is settled.

#### **CONTENTIOUS ISSUE -**

Although within the rules it doesn't appear fair that a club can withdraw the bottom team in Division 2 and then any players from that team can be moved into a group that is two below thus strengthening that team in the run in. I'm talking about Wav. Lab. 'C' who are in a relegation battle and if Ken Stanley does play for them and wins points to keep them in the third, the other relegated team can in my mind be quite rightly miffed!

**Marconi 'B'** were my tip for the drop at the start of the season but they are currently proving me wrong, placed third from bottom, just 2 points ahead of Manweb 'C'. They took 3 points off CADWA 'C' in week 7 when Bobby Bell had a really good double beating Rob Davies in three and then beat George Higham 11-8 in the fifth. An excellent 5-5 away at Bath St. 'C' followed with Ted Gilmour in top form with a win over Ricky Brown, 11-9 in the fifth as well as a win over Dave Stoddern. In their 10-0 whitewash of Waterloo 'B' John McCann put in a notable performance beating Ted Cramsie 11-9 in the fifth. Manweb 'B' and Bootle YMCA were too strong both inflicting 8-2 defeats on Marconi 'B'. Russell Thornton is playing well this season and he picked up a good point with a straight games victory over Danny Every. In the 5-5 draw with Wav. Lab. 'B' John McCann was promoted to number 1 and rose to the occasion with two tough wins over Clara Howard and Peter

Howden, both in five games. Reserve Tom Lynch, making a welcome return to Liverpool TT picked up a useful point with a win over Paul Banks. Andrew Owens seems to be having a good season at number 1 and in the 6-4 defeat at CADWA 'B' he took the points with a double over Rob Peverall and then Ian Burrows, 12-10 in the fifth. Andy also won two in their home win over Bath St. 'D' as did John McCann, back at number 3 defeating Peter Ross and Dave Cunningham.

It was nice to see Allan Biggs looking well at the 'Closed' tournament following his spell in hospital fitting a new knee, but his absence had definitely affected Manweb 'C' who find themselves in the second relegation spot. Captain Neil Jennings is a tough opponent and this is reflected in his team. Although having won only two games so far they have picked up good points in most matches. They picked up 4 points home to Wav. Lab. 'C' and 3 points away at CADWA 'C' where Rob Barker had an excellent win in three straight over George Lennon as well as a battling 5 game victory over Rob Davies. In the 7-3 home defeat to Bath St. 'C' Neil Jennings recorded a good win over Ricky brown coming back from 2 games down to win 11-6 in the fifth. 5 points at Waterloo 'B' was followed by a 6-4 defeat to their own 'B' team. In the 8-2 home defeat by Bootle YMCA Peter Carney earned a point with a win over Danny Every, 11-9 in the fifth. Two doubles points, a fine five game win for Neil Jennings over Clara Howard, and a victory for Peter over Paul Banks ensured 4 points away at Wav. Lab. 'B', and Neil earned the sole point in their 9-1 home defeat to CADWA 'B' with a win over Ian Burrows in the fifth.

**Waterloo 'B'** are finding it hard going in Division 3 but they must be admired for battling for every point and playing the sport in the right spirit. Ted Cramsie and Ken Nelson played well in the 7-3 defeat at Wav. Lab. 'B' as they both beat Clara Howard in the fifth. Heavy defeats, 8-2 at home to CADWA 'B'

and 10-0 away at Marconi 'B' was followed by a battling draw at home to Manweb 'C', Ted Cramsie gaining two points with wins over Peter Carney and Alan Cameron both in the fifth. Ted also secured the sole point in the 9-1 away defeat at Police 'B' beating Paula French in 3. Three points away at Wav. Lab. 'C' resulted

from good wins for Ted over Mike Ashton, Harry Nelson over Colin Fyles and Keith Wright over Dave Williams. Two successive whitewashes at home to CADWA 'C' and away at Bath St. 'C' have left no escape for Waterloo 'B' and they will probably be looking forward to an easier time in Division 4 next season.

So the run in is going to be tight, at the top and the bottom and as I said earlier it will be no place for the feint hearted. My predictions are: Champions - Police 'B', Runners up - CADWA 'C' with Bath St. 'C' a good chance of sneaking in on the rails. Enjoy the rest of the season.

## Division 4

Well we are nearing the "business end" of the season and the division really has turned out to be a three horse race with **Maghull 'A'**, **Liverpool YMCA 'C'** and **Harold House 'A'** turning out to be the Arsenal, Chelsea and Manchester United of the division. As we approach the final few weeks of the season there is next to nothing between these three teams with **Maghull** having a slender 6 point lead over **Liverpool YM** with **Harold House** a further point behind them. This situation could change very quickly though as YM have a crucial game in hand on their closest challengers. It really is going down to the wire this season, proof of the strength in the Liverpool League when you see the standard of players turning out regularly in division 4.

At this moment **Bath Street 'F'** are almost certainly doomed to drop down to the fifth next season, it is very difficult to see how they can possibly catch any of the teams above them when they are currently 37 points behind the team third from bottom, **Cadwa 'D'**. The potential other relegation spot will be much more closely contested though. **Linacre** currently occupy that place but no team from sixth placed Aigburth down can feel safe with only 14 points separating the teams in sixth and eleventh places.

**Bootle YM** and **Wavertree Labour 'D'** are able to relax and almost just cruise through the rest of the season, no chance of either promotion or relegation for either team, although **Wavertree** did suffer a slight setback when their 'E' team

## Steve Perry



gained revenge for an earlier defeat by beating them 7-3.

It does seem that for virtually every team in the division, it is a case of celebrating every point they are able to take from the top three, a point shown to me when I was talking to Rod Bulmer from **Maghull** who asked me how my team, **Wavertree Labour 'E'** had got on against **Liverpool YM**. When I told him that we had disappointingly lost 9-1, his reaction was different to mine as he said that it was one more point in his own teams favour, a sure sign of how close things are and how tense the three teams are going to find things right through till the end.

With things so tight will **Harold House** live to regret an "administrative error" in week 10 when they defeated **Cadwa 'D'** 7-3 only to lose a further 2 points after playing Rod McPherson and Mike Poole in the wrong playing order, something so small could prove to have a massive significance at the end of the season.

We should see a very interesting cup final this season too, with **Harold House** facing **Liverpool YM**, **Harold House** winning their semi-final 5-2 against **Wavertree Labour**

## Wavertree Labour

**'D'**, while **Liverpool YM** defeated **Wavertree Labour 'E'** by the same scoreline.

I would now just like to mention some good individual performances that I have seen on the cards:

Peter Barton of **Linacre** defeating Tom Downing of **Maghull** -6, 9, 6, 11, Andy McNabb of **Cadwa** defeating Mark Ambrose of **Maghull** -10, 9, 4, 12, Jack Davidson of **Linacre** over Alvin Tso (**Liverpool YM**) -3, 4, 6, -3, 6, Wilf Gibson (**Maghull 'B'**) over Mike Poole (**Harold House**) 11, 12, 14, Dave Batty (**Bath Street 'F'**) over Mike Hughes (**Bootle YM**) -5, 7, 6, 8, Andy Bird (**Wavertree Labour 'E'**) beating Paul Morgan (**Harold House**) -9, 3, 7, 7, Steve Perry defeating Rod McPherson 6, 10, -5, 5 in the same match, Andy McNabb and Jerry He (**both Cadwa**) defeating Mike Poole, Andy winning -2, 7, 7, -9, 8, and Jerry winning in 3 straight 6, 12, 7, Harry Reeve (**Linacre**) over Chris Roberts (**Maghull**) 10, 5, -9, 10.

So there you have it, a division so tight I am not even attempting a prediction of the winners or even of the two teams for promotion. I will go as far as to say that **Bath Street 'F'** will be relegated, (ok so I am not a mug punter!), but as for who goes with them, well your guess is as good as mine.

I will finish by wishing all teams good luck for the remainder of the season and hopefully the pressure won't get to anyone too much in the tight finish we are going to see happen between now and the end of the season, snapped bats are expensive to replace after all!

Well here I am again, writing the Div. 5 report, something I feel I shouldn't be doing when there are enough players out there who I am sure can put pen to paper and write a few words about the players you play against, I can only do it looking at the match cards!

Anyway, let's get going.

At the time of putting this together with the help of the latest league tables (week 16), we only have one team in all 5 Divisions with a 100% record intact, Div.5's Wavertree Labour 'F', 10 games played, 10 wins, and to be honest, I can't see them losing that record, they now head the division with a 27 point lead and a 2 game cushion above their nearest challenger, Harold House 'B', and to add their champions stamp to the proceedings, have just beaten H.House 'B' 10-0. Having a regular settled team of John Rowan, Ian Woods, Kevin O'Hanlon and Eric Spencer makes a big difference, especially with so many missing weeks.

Harold House 'B' are in second spot, but most of their points were from a good first half of the season, the second half started with a 7-3 loss to a strong Greenbank team. H.H. have only won one this half to date, a close 6-4 over the Bath St. 'H' team, regular No.1. John Hughes isn't having much luck, just losing to Dave Finn of Greenbank and Alan Smethurst of Maghull in 5 games, Dave Cohen though is putting a few wins together, notably against Ian Laird of Aigburth, Alan French of Police and Andy McCourt of Maghull, mind you, knowing Dave I'm wondering if he talked them out of it?

Third spot, Maghull 'C' are just behind H.House, but with 3 games in hand, so I think they could be moving into 2<sup>nd</sup>. Spot soon, they have a strong settled team, ably led by Harry McGanity, who doesn't lose many, with regulars Denise and Jeanette, and 4<sup>th</sup>. place seems to be

## Division 5

shared between Naresh and John. Having won 3 out of the last 4, the loss being a 9-1 from rampant Wav. Lab. 'F', but a good win by John Gillibrand over Ian Wood saved a whitewash.

Greenbank hold the 4<sup>th</sup> spot, 9 points behind H.House, but again with 3 games in hand, regular No. 1 Dave Finn is having a good season and pulled off two tremendous wins against Wav. Lab's. John Rowan and Ian Woods and Tony Edge's win over Kevin O'Hanlon saved 3 valuable points. Scott Robertson's appearance certainly stiffens up the team, with 4 wins from 4, plus two doubles teamed up with Dave Finn. Not knowing Greenbank's setup, so many players to play in so few games, if they could play their strongest team on a regular basis, I would put my money on a trip to the 4<sup>th</sup>. Div. Are there enough regulars to support a second team?

Aigburth 'A' are in mid table, with a mixed bag of results lately, a 5-5 draw with H.House, Eric Young winning his 2, a good 7-3 win against Maghull 'D', Derek and Jim both winning their 2 games with Ian Laird just pipping Alan Smethurst in 5, then two 8-2 defeats against Maghull 'C' and Greenbank, young Ian's win over Greenbanks' Dave Finn, 11-7 in the 5<sup>th</sup>, must have been a good'un.

Merseyside Police 'C' pulled off a good draw against against the team below them, Maghull 'D', with the classic come back from Dave Oaks, 2-0 down against Jeff Banks, to win 11-5 in the 5<sup>th</sup>, also a good win by Alan French over seasoned player Keith Whittaker in 4. Nice to see Dave Crispin back playing, his win against Wav. Lab's. Ian Woods saved the whitewash in that match. A 7-3 win against Bath St., an 8-2 defeat by title chasing Maghull 'C' and a 6-4 win over H.House 'B', winning both doubles making the difference. Police

seem to be having a better second half with a regular squad.

Maghull 'D' don't have anything to worry about other than to enjoy the game, a good draw against Police, winning both doubles, a tough 10-0 loss to Wav.Lab., only just losing both doubles in 5, then an 8-2 win against Bath St.'H', it must have been an early night, Bath St. only had 3 players, and only one set going to 4 games. Then they came up against their title chasing 'C' team, Steve Banks and Andy McCourt managed to take 2 sets, Steve beat John Gillibrand to make it 1-1, then Andy beat Jeanette to make it 2-2, after that it was all downhill, the 'C' winning 8-2, the return will be tougher as the 'C' team may need the 10 points in their title chase. The next game was a good 6-4 win over H.House, with a good double from Alan Smethurst, plus the 2 doubles in 5, then coming up an inform Aigburth, going down 7-3.

Bath St. 'H' lost to the Maghull 'D' team while playing one short, a most unusual problem for the 'Ladies team'. Up against the Police, they lost 7-3, Alby Parker having a good win over Alan Woods in 3, and Myra overcoming Steve Riley, again in 3, and then Alby and Lil Randles winning the second doubles against Alan and Steve in 3. Finally, their game against Wav. Lab.'F' produced the expected win for Wav.Lab. but a great win by Myra Lovelady over Ian Woods in 5 saved the whitewash.

So that's the 5<sup>th</sup> Div. only 8 teams and too many free weeks, but there seems to be a lot of free players about, why not put extra teams in next season. I would have expected to have seen a few players from the 5<sup>th</sup> at the recent Closed tournament, but sadly, not one.

Just a late reminder to the team Captains, please fill in the playing record at the bottom of the match card, it helps Trevor to keep the statistics up to-date.

Editor



## Merseyside Schools

Supplied by Secretary Frank Sorrentino  
*Merseyside Schools Individual Championships*  
*held at New Ferry Village Hall*  
*on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2004*

### Boys Under 11

**Loon Kong Yu** (Hudson County Primary School)  
beat Alex Stewart (Greasby Junior School)  
Ben Hodson and Stephen Broad were the losing  
semi-finalists.

### Boys Under 13

**Mitchell Barker** (Woodchurch High School)  
beat James Zarbel (Calday Grange Grammar School)  
Connor Malone and Josh McTaggart were the losing  
semi-finalists.

### Boys Under 16

**Tom Bray** (Birkdale High School)  
beat Jonathan Taylor (Rock Ferry High School)  
Richard Barker and Gun Wei Tsang were the losing  
semi-finalists.

### Boys Under 19

**Danny Horner** (Wirral Grammar School)  
beat Tom Page (Calday Grammar School)

### Girls Under 13

**Rachel Baker** (Sutton High School)  
beat Hayley Williams (Sutton High School)

### Girls Under 16

**Sophie Byron** (Prenton High School)  
beat Jordyn Layfield (Prenton High School)

### Girls Under 19

**Cherith Graham** (King George V High School)  
beat Clare Langford (Birkenhead VI Form College)

**All Winners Qualify for the ESTTA National Individual Finals at Fenton Manor Leisure Centre Stoke on Trent to be held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2004**

The Birkdale U16 Boys team played their National Final on March 6th. Finishing 4th. was a fantastic achievement considering the number of teams that started, well done Boys.

## Golf Tournament

For all the Golf fans, a suggestion was made to Peter Carney, at one of the Management Committee meetings, re. the possibility to set up a Tournament for members of the L&DTTL at his Golf Club, and Peter has done just that, I received the following letter from him, just in time for this Digest

I together with Paul Morgan have arranged to host a golf competition at our club (see below) and would be delighted if you could advertise the fact on the web site.

**The date we have arranged is:**

**Saturday 4th September 2004**

**Tea Times from 1.30pm.**

**The competition will be open to all registered Liverpool League players.**

at the

**Lee Park Golf Club**

**Childwall Valley Road**

**Gateacre**

**Liverpool L27 3YA**

It is our intention to include a meal for all competitors when prizes will be awarded. Non players will, I hope, space permitting, be able to attend for the meal or earlier should they wish.

The price for the day including Green Fees, food and prizes will be **£25.00**

Would it be possible to include a flyer, entrance form or the like in the end of season digest?

If you could put something on the web site perhaps you would include my telephone number for anyone who may be interested.

Peter Carney

Tel: 0151 426 3625

Email: [carney@rainhill89.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:carney@rainhill89.fsnet.co.uk)

As the next Digest isn't due out until the start of the next season, more information will be included on the L&DTTL web site, but in the meantime, those interested should contact Peter Carney so that he can 'fine tune' arrangements. **Editor**

*Here are another series of teasers from Sylvia, For those of you who's Christmas was spoilt trying to work out Sylvia's last teaser, the answer was Richie Cragg from Waterloo, I wonder if Richie got that one right!*

### **Latest Competitions – Name the Person**

**Competition 1** – All answers are three letters and they are the initials of someone in our division.

1. A colour a bit darker than beige
2. A mixed up little insect
3. Back to front – Jack's mum in Eastenders
4. You get one on holiday
5. One part of a Scottish Regiment
6. Cured leather

**Competition 2** – for all those who don't like the cryptic clues

1. A famous make of chocolates
2. The queen's only daughter
3. Part of a famous singing group

As usual ....**please** send all entries to Terri-Ann Nolan  
c/o Police Club

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

What do you do if your club has two teams in the same division with the prospect of one challenging for promotion and the other fighting a relegation battle?

It's easy really! You just reverse the grouping order, placing the stronger group of players below the weaker group, thereby ensuring that the stronger players will be able to play up as reserves in those crunch relegation deciders.

For example in Div. 3 CADWA 'C' are currently in second spot while CADWA 'B' have been stuck in the relegation zone for most of the season. Members of the 'C' team (up to 3 at a time on occasions) have played up as reserves for the 'B' team in almost every match, thus pushing the 'B' team into mid table security and pinching points from fellow title contenders.

The same situation exists in Div. 2 as Bootle JC 'A' are in second spot and their first team, Bootle JC are third from the bottom. Any team battling it out with Bootle JC are in fact battling with all of the Bootle JC club as any member of the club can play for the 'first' team.

These loopholes in the rules that allow clubs to 'fiddle' need sorting out and I'm calling on the Management Committee to do it with a proposed rule change at the AGM.

With the League Chairman and Organising Secretary members of one of the clubs I've mentioned it will be interesting to see if the M.C. respond, AND, if you the membership will support a toughening up on the issue Of ranking lists.

Tony Harris

## Editor

I think Tony's last remark a little out of order, the M.C. has already acknowledged there is a problem in the use of rule 13, and the Rules Committee have met and 'proposed' changes to rule 13. Player ranking has always been a problem, and has been there for many years, (even while Tony was on the M.C.) As regards Bootle J.C. what secretary at the start of a season, would have expected a team with 2 juniors in it, to be higher than a more experienced 1st team, hindsight in action?

I have just received the following letter as an E-mail from Brian Crolley of Bootle J.C  
(.not the original which went missing)



Undefeated Champions of the Liverpool and District  
Circa 1956-57 Table Tennis League (Div. 2.) [Photo. by DOUG. WARD]

The Second Photo is much harder, I can only be sure of Wally Allinson 2nd left, it looks like 2 of the Rumjahn Brothers, possible Don Foulis on the right who did a lot managing teams in those days, the fellow 3rd left looks surprisingly like Alan Timewell, but I do not remember him in those early days, the chap on the extreme left I have no idea about. Sorry about my guess work with the 2nd photo, but if anybody else comes up with the answers I would like to hear from you.



Editor. Thanks Brian, (These are the two photo's I found in the archives of Bootle YM.)

Arthur Garnett  
Bootle YMCA Table Tennis Club.

Monday 1st March, 2004

### ELEVEN UP

We are now well past the half way point of the present season and can honestly say that this, for me, has been the most disappointing season ever. My results are not too much different from previous seasons, so that's not the problem. It's the feeling of total dissatisfaction when leaving for home at the end of each fixture. The first match of each evening is frequently over before either of the players have "warmed up", and, in the case of a 3 - 0 victory or defeat, seems over before it has begun. What do our administrators want...fewer players playing shorter games....I don't think so ... but I fear that that is the future they are presiding over, and that they seem quite ignorant of the consequences of the decision. Obviously I do not refer to our local administrators, who brought the issue up at our last AGM, allowing the floor to make a decision on which way to cast our vote.

I remember, about 12 years ago, attending a "meeting" at the Police Club where those in attendance were treated to a "view" of the future. This included "eleven up" so that there would be more "vital" points for television consumption. TWELVE YEARS AGO!!! ...so this has been on the agenda for a long time. It would appear that those who wanted everyone to play "eleven up" have been trying for some considerable time to bring it into force. We are treated occasionally by being told that "21 up is dead, it will never be brought back". If "eleven up" was introduced for the television, it seems a total waste of time in this country where the television coverage is at best very, very sparse. If television coverage is not improved in this country then why should

we persevere with this "sprint" of a game?

The comment that annoys me the most is "it's still the same game. It's still table tennis, only up to eleven instead of twenty one". I find this comment quite fatuous. What would be the comment of an 800 metre runner, if told that he must now only run 400 metres, and them be told "it's still the same.....running". I feel that, at my standard, it is definitely not the same game. That is my opinion. I don't know if anyone else has the same opinion and I don't claim to speak for anyone else.

It leads to questions about how this dictatorial decision was taken in the first place. I know that the representative of the Liverpool and District Table Tennis League voted against this change. When he cast that vote he did so for the membership of our League and not for himself. I don't know exactly what his personal position is, but I trust and respect him and know that he would only cast his vote as instructed by our A.G.M. How many other people voting on this had that mandate? How many votes, if any, were cast by County Associations which don't actually run Leagues. How many votes were cast without a mandate. I feel as though the E.T.T.A., have treated me as if I had just been scraped from the bottom of their collective shoe. I am worthless in their eyes except for the money they take from me each year. Well perhaps now is a good time to dissuade them from this view.

I haven't finally made up my mind about next season yet, but don't be surprised if you don't see me playing what has become, for me, a poor game. My current position is this -

*WHY SHOULD I WASTE MY TIME EACH WEEK PLAYING A GAME I NO LONGER ENJOY?*

Arthur Garnett

Reply to Arthur,

If I wasn't the Editor, I would send in a letter to whoever was, and I hope others will take the opportunity of replying to Arthur's letter.

To me the satisfaction / dissatisfaction can be more dependant on how we or our opponent plays on the night, I wouldn't have got much satisfaction out of winning 21-5/ 21-6, as much as winning 11-9 / 11-9/ 9-11 / 9-11/ 14-12. all hypothetical, but I would have played "5" demanding games, if I'd have lost the last game, I would still have played 5 demanding games. I hear players saying they don't get warmed up until after 11, and if behind, (in 21-up) they've got a better chance of turning the game around, I know it has been done many times, but to expect that, is taking the credit away from your opponent, surely after the first game in 11-up, win or lose, you are warmed up and know what the other player is up to, if not, you wouldn't have been warmed up after 11 in 21-up.

To address Arthur's analogy of the 400 and 800m runner, my thought is he would run faster in the 400m rather

than pace it for 800m, to me that's what we have to do in 11-up, start quicker, don't get left behind, but having said that, being 8-2 down doesn't mean you can't pull it round.

I have only been playing TT. 'Continuously' for the last 28 years, having started playing around 1954, so I can't admit to being 'set in my ways', and have been able to adjust, not so much how I play, I'm afraid I am set in my ways over that one, but how I think of the game, I have got used to 11-up, but if scoring was to go back to 21-up, OK, I would play that way, *even* if some committee has decided it for me, ( I think rubbers have had a bigger impact on table tennis than scoring, but players have adjusted). To me, scoring is a means to an end in competition to find a winner, am I making it too simplistic?.

Arthur's last comment is the most worrying, "why play each week not enjoying the game", unhappily there's only one answer to that, you don't bother playing, but without seeming patronising, I would have thought Arthur loves the game too much to go that far.

Roly Wright

Division 1 - Readman Cup

HAR. HOUSE 5 v BATH ST. 'A' 1  
LIV/POOL YMCA 5 v FORDS 0

Division 2 - Rumjahn Cup

BOOTLE J.C. 'A' 5 v L/POOL YMCA 'B' 3  
M/SIDE POLICE 'A' W/O v WAV. LAB. 'A'

Division 3 - Hyde Cup

MANWEB 'C' 0 v BOOTLE YMCA 5  
CADWA 'B' 0 v M/SIDE POLICE 'B' 5

Division 4 - Forrest Cup

L/POOL YMCA 'C' 5 v WAV.LABOUR 'E' 2  
WAV.LABOUR 'D' 2 v HAR. HOUSE 'A' 5

Division 5 - Stamp Cup

BATH ST.'G' v WAV.LABOUR 'F' W/O  
AIGBURTH 'A' 5 v M/SIDE POLICE 'C' 1

Readman Cup

Harold House went into a 4-0 lead against Bath St.'A' before Clare managed to pull one back. Alec Bryce making sure of the match, winning the next game for H.H. Liverpool YMCA were on form against Fords, winning in straight five, Lawrence Kenwright and Omid Khaiyat getting 2 each with Tony Whelan getting the 5th.

Rumjahn Cup

Bootle J.C.'A' v L/pool YM 'B' Bootle in front at each stage, 2-1, 3-1, 3-2, 4-2, 4-3, Dave calls Tom on for his third visit to the table, v Miguel, YM. need this one, but young Tom made sure of the match, winning 3-1 for his 100%. Police 'A' go through on a W/O, Wav. Lab.'A' having just dropped out of the League.

Hyde Cup.

Manweb 'C' just couldn't get started on the night, and gave Bootle YM. a quick passage through. There was a Pool match on in the club with a Hot Pot supper laid on, was that the reason for a quick finish ? (it was delicious!) CADWA 'B' were no match for top of table Police 'B' but the game between Rob Peverall and Gavin Lloyd must have been a cracker, Gavin having to go to 5, another good win was Brian Burrows beating Steve Graham, Police clinched it with the doubles.

Forrest Cup.

The top of Table L/pool YM 'C' team soon polished off Wav.Lab.'E', only Steve Perry trying to put a "spanner in the works", winning both his singles, YM's Steve Kee winning both his singles, and in the doubles game played. The Wav. Lab. 'D' Team were up against the other Title contenders, Harold House 'A' and got off to a disastrous start, 4-0 down, but what must have been a cracking doubles, Ken Armonson & Stan Clarke playing Eddie Clein & Paul Morgan, ( I know who my money would have been on, but then I'm usually skint!), 1-1, 2-2, Ken and

Stan clinching the 5th 11-9, but Martin winning the next set in 5. to win the match.

Stamp Cup

This round was a bit of a non starter for the 5th Div. Bath St.'G' had dropped out of the League, giving Wav.Lab. 'F' passage to the Final without having fired a shot. Aigburth 'A' beat Police 'C' 5-1, only Bob Rawlinson managed to get to the game for the Police!!

So the five Finals are -:

- Div. 1.  
Har. House v Liverpool YMCA
- Div. 2  
Bootle J.C.'A' v M/Side Police 'A'
- Div. 3.  
Bootle YMCA v M/Side Police 'B'
- Div. 4  
L/Pool YM 'C' v Har.House 'A'
- Div. 5  
Aigburth 'A' v Wav. Lab. 'F'

Finals Venues will be announced as soon as arrangements have been made.

But Finals night Dates will be as shown in the Handbook

Frank Murphy Memorial Trophy

Third Round Results

FORDS	493	v	LIV/POOL YM	362
MANWEB 1	440	v	AIGBURTH 1	427
W/LOO 1	369	v	BOOTLE YM 1	476
LINACRE	558	v	BATH ST. 5	542

Fords v Liverpool YMCA

A disaster for the YM. Fords Captain Grahame states on the match card that he had arranged date of match with YM's sec. 2 weeks in advance, but the Ym's team not informed until day of match, so only two YM. players managed to make it, but credit to those two who did play against the inevitable. The moral here for all those hard pressed secretaries is not to sit on information, but to get it out to players concerned ASAP, before it gets forgotten.

Anyway the match started with YM. having a 71 point start by way of the Handicap, but after the first walkover game Fords had taken the lead by 6 points. Fords only lost one game on the night, but YM's 2 players kept pulling points back, Fords finally won by 131 points, but with 126 coming from walkovers, with a full team, might the result have been different.

Manweb 1 v Aigburth

Another tight game to the end, Manweb 1 started with a 185 point hill to climb, they won every game on the

# In Memorium



**Ken Jones** Liverpool League Vice President  
Passed away on 31<sup>st</sup>. January 2004 aged 80

Ken played for Bohemians TTC and was the non playing Captain of the Liverpool Men's 1st team. He was for many years the Liverpool Echo table tennis columnist, having taken over from his father-in-law Jack Pattison, who went under the name of Dunbar, Jack was also a Liverpool League Vice President.



Ken married Jack's daughter Moya, who was the Liverpool Closed Ladies singles champion in 1958, 60 & 61.

Ken was also a great fan of Liverpool F.C. having attended the Liverpool v Everton Derby match just hours before he died. Our Heartfelt sympathy is extended to wife, Moya

Don Davies  
Chairman

night as would be expected of this team, but the Aigburth players kept collecting valuable points along the way, with the match hanging on the last game between the two one's, Dave Harse for Manweb and Eric Wood of Aigburth, at the start of the last game Aigburth still had a 14 point lead, Dave doesn't give much away in any game let alone deciding games, and went on to win both games, but Eric pulled back 15 points, but Manweb 1 won by 13 points, 440 to 427, well done Aigburth for putting up a good fight.

## Waterloo 1 v Bootle YMCA.1

Waterloo1 all Div.1 players, Bootle YM. 1 all Div 3 players. Bootle started with a 130 point lead, and we would have expected Waterloo to start whittling away at that lead right from game one, but it wasn't happening, Bootle actually won 8 of the 18 games of the night, and the points cushion never went below 100 in Bootle's favour. Bootles team of John Higham, Danny Every and Richie Winckle played out of their skins, and Waterloo's Ted Birch, Alan Chase and Mick Alan just couldn't get started, Bootle winning the match 476 to 369. Match card comment from the gracious losers

" Absolutely stuffed by a better team"

## Linacre v Bath Street 5

What a nail biter this one was, with both teams more or less from the 4th Div. Bath St. started with a 19 point lead and held on to the lead up to the 6th game, after which they led by just 1 point 437 to 436, after game 7 they were 2 points in front 478 to 476, after game 8, they were still in front 519 to 516, the tension must have been

electric going into the last set, Linacre's Harry Reeves v Bath St's Dave Cunningham, on the way through the match, Bath St. had won 7 of the games, but Harry's consistency rarely falters, Harry won both games, but Dave pulled in 23 points, which left Linacre the victors by 558 to 542.

So to the Semi's in the next round, would you believe it, 3 of the 4 teams, Manweb 1, Fords and Linacre, have already got Finals experience, only Bootle are new to the dizzy heights of a final, can they be the "new kids on the block", we await the draw.

And the the Semi Finals were played week commencing Monday 15/3/04

MANWEB 1. **369** v Bootle YMCA 1. **387**  
At Manweb.

FORDS **498** v LINACRE **458**  
At Fords (repeat of last season's Final)

So the finalists for the 2003-04 Frank Murphy Trophy are -:

**FORDS** v **Bootle YMCA 1**

Having been taken by a coach to an Industrial Tribunal for unfair dismissal and lost the ETTA could do with studying manuals on how not to waste our money. Sport England slashed funding for the Junior Academy and the ETTA had to close it down and were then left with a surplus of coaches. They terminated whatever contract arrangements they had with coaches affected only for one to take them to a tribunal. I don't know who said what etc but the bottom line is the ETTA lost and it is us who will in effect be footing the bill.



This has also had a knock on effect on the planned revival of Regional Centres of Excellence the plan having had to be put on hold until the outcome of the Tribunal. Still to be decided are the terms of any compensation package presumably incurring further delay to the R.C. of E?

We lost our Regional Development Officer, Martin Ireland, who moved to a new post of Volunteer Manager and when his post was re-advertised the ETTA decided none of the British based applicants were suitable, one being from our league, I did hear a rumour there were two, and appointed instead an applicant currently resident in Singapore. The mind boggles.

There are currently a number of Regional Development Committees and the new ETTA team have decided to have much larger RDC's that inevitably will cost more to run and probably have as much impact on development as our current RDC that has not met for nearly 2 years. Seems their promise to reduce the number of ETTA committees was an empty one.

Like many local leagues we still have a large number of players who hold the view that changes in the service law do not apply at local level and continue to serve straight off the hand, shield the ball or throw it back. During a recent discussion on this and how changes are frequently ignored at local league level an interesting comparison with other sports was put forward. Would these same players if playing in a local football match say to the other players or the referee we will ignore the offside law today. Or if playing cricket would they decide not to have LBW. Or in a golf competition agree their opponent whose ball lands in a bunker be allowed to move the ball onto the green. The answer to all those situations would be a resounding no so why do those of you who continue to ignore the service law do so? The reality of it being that this is a form of cheating that we all condone because we don't want any hassle.

Which brings us to the next interesting point connected with the service law. A proposed rule change to the ITTF annual meeting is for the ball to be thrown up from below the shoulder to above the head. A similar change having being narrowly defeated last year and may well be successful this year. Possibly not to the same height but certainly well above the current 16cm interpreted by some of you as meaning the palm of the hand! But, there is always a but, this has been put forward by China, Germany and the ITTF and China has a record of putting forward rule changes and then withdrawing them at the last minute. If they do this again it is probable it may not go forward even though Germany and the ITTF appear to have proposed the same change.

The VETTS, the biggest TT association outside of the ETTA, pride themselves on being one big happy family. Try telling that to Eddie Crowley who in his first Veteran tournament was treated disgracefully. An error by an umpire (not a qualified umpire) in putting the wrong name down as winner led to the Control personnel putting through the wrong person. Eddie went to them a number of times to point out he had not been called and having waited for a very long period quite naturally wanted to know when he could expect to be called. He received an uncaring reply to go away, he was not the only competitor etc. When the error was brought to Eddie's notice he went back to the Control table to inform them and was 'politely' told it was his entire fault as he should have checked the wall charts and anyway it was now too late as the player concerned had played in several rounds and had then lost. No concern was expressed, no apology was forthcoming and the attitude of the Control personnel left much to be desired. Mistakes can and do happen and sometimes they come to light too late for a correction to be possible, but to adopt an uncaring and unhelpful attitude towards the innocent victim is no way to run an event of any kind and in particular a VETTS event. Some unfortunately hold the view that the competitors revolve round them when in actual fact it is the other way round. A competitor is a customer and a tournament cannot take place without customers.

A change being put forward by Japan is to introduce a series of measures designed to outlaw gluing up, within two years. Many will see this as being no bad thing but I reckon they would have more chance selling water to a Venetian than successfully banning gluing up.

In a move designed to support the Grand Prix circuit the ETTA in their wisdom decided that one qualification for senior players wishing to be considered for international selection was that they must play in at least 3 Grand Prix tournaments. Seems most players gave this the two-finger salute and this, plus funding problems appears to have led to the ETTA deciding not to send a Men's squad to the World championships. Not the kind of first likely to impress Sport England and an indictment of the current standard of our table tennis so far as international level is concerned

Proposals to replace affiliation fees with an individual membership fee are well advanced and this change

could take place in 2005/06 and may possibly reduce the overall running costs of clubs. This fee may also see the end of the current player licence fee.

We have just held another highly successful Closed tournament in spite of a shortage of customers and Finals Night was just as successful in spite of a shortage of spectators. Those present enjoyed a tremendous Men's final and will long remember the delight openly expressed by Keith Williams on becoming the Men's Singles Champion. Truly a night to remember for Keith as well as for those present and a plentiful hot and cold buffet for everyone followed.

Ken Armson makes reference on his 'Nets and Edges' page to the proposal to replace affiliation fees with individual membership fees, the following is an extract from the "Discussion Document" sent out by the ETTA. Can you align yourself to any of these 'comments and observations'?

**Editor.**

#### **6. GRASS ROUTES COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS**

- a) There is a great enthusiasm for table tennis across the whole spectrum of players, officials and parents.
- b) There is a definite interest from table tennis fraternity in being part of the ETTA.
- c) More information is needed about table tennis to cover all levels of our sport.
- d) All levels would like to get some form of table tennis magazine sent to them on a direct basis.
- e) All grass root players like the competitive side of the sport, but many do not like all the changes and do not see why they should have to affiliate unless they get real benefits for so doing.
- f) The lack of communication is of major concern to players and officials.
- g) To "belong" to the ETTA or a local club is of great importance to young people.
- h) Local leagues are in two opinions. Those who play in competitions outside of their Local League are much more aware of the ETTA and its programmes, than those who only play Local League, many believe that the ETTA is nothing to do with them and does nothing for them.
- i) Many young people like the competitive side of the sport, like looking at ranking lists and want more opportunity to play competitively.
- j) Very few young people in schools are aware of the ETTA but would like to belong to an association, but with more information and a membership card.
- k) Some Local League and club players regard their once a week match in a Local League as a social night with a bit of exercise and want more from the ETTA.
- l) Those who play in competitions have different needs and requirements from the ETTA than the players who play once a week.
- m) Clubs may find it hard to recruit new players and would welcome greater support and help from the ETTA in this area.
- n) Some grass roots players resent having to pay a fee and honour all the rules, feeling detached from the ETTA.
- o) Many grass root players are not aware of what their affiliation fee is used for. The fees for the ETTA are fixed for all teams, but Local League and County Association fees, which they have to pay, vary widely.
- p) Strong views exist from grass roots in what they get from the ETTA in return for their affiliation fee.
- q) Many grass roots players would like some form of affiliation card and associated benefits and meet more with an ETTA representative.
- r) Grass roots are, in many cases, very interested in knowing about the ETTA and its programmes.
- s) A form of insurance seemed like a good idea.
- t) County Association and Local League information is circulated, but very often does not reach the players.
- u) The TTNews magazine is rarely seen at Local League level, even though a complimentary copy is sent to every Local League Secretary, and many players do not even know of its existence.

# Liverpool & District Table Tennis League

## League Tables as at the 16th March 2004

Division 1	P	W	D	L	Pts
Liverpool YMCA	17	16	0	1	124
Fords	18	10	2	6	105
Waterloo	17	12	2	3	104
Liverpool YMCA 'A'	17	11	0	6	101
Cadwa	18	9	1	8	100
Wavertree Labour	19	8	1	10	98
Harold House	19	10	1	8	93
Bath St	19	9	1	9	93
Bath St 'A'	18	8	1	9	91
Merseyside Police	17	6	0	11	72
Maghull	18	2	0	16	50
Marconi	17	1	1	15	39

Division 2	P	W	D	L	Pts
Cadwa 'A'	18	13	2	3	119
Marweb 'A'	16	13	0	3	105
Merseyside Police 'A'	17	10	5	2	104
Bootle JC 'A'	16	12	1	3	102
Liverpool YMCA 'B'	16	11	0	5	94
Marweb	16	9	1	6	94
Fords 'A'	17	2	2	13	71
Bath St 'B'	18	5	2	11	70
Bootle JC	17	4	1	12	65
Marconi 'A'	17	2	4	11	63
Waterloo 'A'	16	2	0	14	33
Wavertree Labour 'A'	Withdrawn Records				

Division 3	P	W	D	L	Pts
Merseyside Police 'B'	19	14	2	3	131
Cadwa 'C'	19	15	0	4	128
Marweb 'B'	19	12	2	5	119
Bootle YMCA	19	14	0	5	117
Bath St 'C'	19	9	4	6	114
Bath St 'D'	19	8	4	7	94
Wavertree Labour 'B'	19	9	3	7	89
Cadwa 'B'	19	6	2	11	86
Wavertree Labour 'C'	19	7	3	9	82
Marweb 'C'	19	3	2	14	71
Marconi 'B'	19	3	3	13	67
Waterloo 'B'	19	1	1	17	42

Division 4	P	W	D	L	Pts
Harold House 'A'	20	17	2	1	152
Liverpool YMCA 'C'	18	16	0	2	141
Maghull 'A'	18	15	0	3	138
Wavertree Labour 'D'	19	9	4	6	106
Bootle YMCA 'A'	19	6	8	5	101
Wavertree Labour 'E'	19	6	3	10	86
Bath St 'E'	19	7	1	11	83
Aigburth	20	6	3	11	79
Maghull 'B'	19	7	2	10	75
Cadwa 'D'	17	4	6	7	68
Linacre	19	3	4	12	66
Bath St 'F'	19	0	1	18	35

Division 5	P	W	D	L	Pts
Wavertree Labour 'F'	12	11	0	1	98
Greenbank	12	8	1	3	75
Maghull 'C'	11	7	1	3	67
Harold House 'B'	13	6	1	6	63
Aigburth 'A'	13	4	3	6	60
Merseyside Police 'C'	11	4	1	6	42
Maghull 'D'	12	2	2	8	41
Bath St 'H'	10	0	1	9	24
Bath St 'G'	Withdrawn Records				

Div 3 Wk 12 Cadwa 'C' v Bath St 'C' Match Score 1-9. Cadwa 'C' played ineligible player 1 Pt deducted, Bath St 'C' awarded 1 Pt

Revised Match Score 0-10 Cadwa 'C' additional penalties, financial & 10 Pts deducted at the end of the season.

Div 5 Wk 8 Greenbank v Bath St 'H' Match Score 8-2 Greenbank played out of order 3 Pts deducted & financial penalty. Bath St 'H' awarded 3 Pts. Revised Match Score 5-5

Div 4 Wk 10 Harold House 'A' v Cadwa 'D' Match Score 7-3 Harold House 'A' played out of order 2 Pts deducted, Cadwa 'D' awarded 2 Pts. Revised Match Score 5-5.

Even at this stage of the season, 3 games to go, there are still many crunch games to be played, I think Liverpool YM's 1st team in Div.1. has too much all round strength to be caught, same with Wav.Lab. 'F' in the 5th.. But the other 3 divisions could be a case of going to the last games to decide promotion and relegation.

Just a reminder that the League tables are updated every Tuesday by Fixture secretary Trevor Owens, and shown on the L&DTTL web site by John Langton each week, so to keep an eye on changing places, that is where to look!