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Table Tennis Digest

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No. 4

Editorial

By the time you read this—those who bother, that is—the A.G.M. will have taken place and the proposal to increase the Registration fee will probably have been passed and if so the complete fee—including E.T.T.A. and L.T.T.A. fees—will be around £1. This drastic increase has been forced on us due to rising costs and a continually decreasing membership and is necessary if we are to remain solvent. We have been living on a shoe-string and the voluntary unpaid assistance of league members for far too long and past increases have not been sufficient to keep up with rising costs in spite of the voluntary help of the members. So a sound case for an increase is easily raised.

What bothers me is have we really had value for our money over the years and will we get any improvement for the increased fee? Certainly we are well represented in the Lancashire and Cheshire League and at County and E.T.T.A. level, but what about matters nearer home such as divisional trophies and presentation of medals. Take league titles for example, we only have one divisional trophy—1st division—and this is such a paltry battered cup that there is no pride in being awarded it—if you are lucky enough to be awarded it that is. For the other eight divisions there is no cup or shield to show for a season of hard endeavour. Surely after 46 years we could have obtained sufficient trophies for each division.

On the subject of the medals, which is the only award for winning a division, these are rarely awarded at final matches as no-one seems really interested in attending to this task which members of winning teams hope—usually in vain—will be carried out. Instead medals are handed out at the A.G.M. and eventually find their way to winners. Is this really good enough? Each time this subject is mentioned to me by players, which is pretty often, I am amazed at their meek acceptance of no trophy and taking pot-luck as to when they will get their medals. They do complain about it but can't be bothered taking it any further.

Is it not time we woke up to this and made sure that local matters are given a higher degree of priority? Why not start campaigning through your club committee for more divisional trophies and proper presentation of trophies and medals. Let your voice be heard where it matters most instead of just grumbling amongst yourselves. You may be surprised at what it will achieve. You have the weapon available so why not use it.

My thanks to all who have assisted this season, particularly our printers who produced the last issue for me in ten days in spite of industrial troubles and Ian Blore who made a special journey to Bolton to pick up the magazine. This allowed us to have it distributed to most clubs before Easter. I believe the new editor will probably be Jack Lambert and I wish him the best of luck. For the benefit of those who want his address it is in the Handbook under English Electric. So you all know where to send your letters and articles for next season.

Lancashire and Cheshire League

Although final league tables are not yet to hand, due no doubt to the enormous number of league matches postponed during the coal crisis, I think the Liverpool teams have performed creditably in Lancashire and Cheshire circles.

The only question mark was against the Men's 'A' team who had to sweat it out waiting to know if they escaped relegation. The good news for them is that they did escape relegation. In this team the Selection Committee decided to experiment with a Youth policy and their tally of 5 points (Won 2, drawn 1) was sufficient to see them through. The Men's 1st team finished in 4th place with a tally of 7 points (Won 3, Drawn 1).

Inevitably the Ladies' 'A' team swept the board again, I understand that a rule change has been proposed, which, if carried, will enable them to play in the 1st division next season. With a record of Played 6, won 5, lost 1, and a sets average of 48 for and 12 against the Ladies' 1st team have been pipped by Manchester for the 1st division title.

We finished in 1st and 2nd places in the Youth division, I am surprised that leagues cannot find players to participate in this league and can only assume that some organisations only enter if they are reasonably assured of success.

The Junior team were unlucky to play their hardest matches at the beginning of the season before they had a chance to sample this higher class of table-tennis. I am sure that had the fixtures been in the reverse order, we would only have lost one match, that being against a very strong Stockport side.

BROMFIELD TROPHY

On Sunday, 7th May, at the Birmingham Athletic Centre, our Junior Girls were narrowly defeated by five events to four in the Final of the Coca-Cola sponsored national team competition, I am sure that every member of our league will want me to congratulate the non-playing captain and coach, John O'Sullivan, upon this great performance, and also his team for carrying the Liverpool banner to this stage of such an important competition. Well played Suzanne, Brenda and Barbara.

Final league positions are:—	P	W	D	L	Pts.	Posn. in	No. of
						League	Teams
Men's 1st	7	3	1	3	7	4	8
Men's 'A'	7	2	1	4	5	6	7
Ladies' 1st	6	5	0	1	10	2	7
Ladies' 'A'	7	7	0	0	14	1	8
Youth	8	7	1	0	15	1	5
Youth 'A'	8	5	2	1	12	2	5
Junior	9	4	0	5	8	6	10

May I thank the non-playing captains and other people who have transported our teams, also the secretaries of the various clubs who have provided playing facilities and refreshments throughout the season, without their help it would be impossible to run these teams.

ALEC DAVIDSON

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Liverpool Closed 1972

Mike Johns became the new Liverpool Closed Champion when he defeated Wally Allanson in the Final on Friday, 7th April. Although this result was predictable, Allanson fought hard and almost took the first game. Johns romped home in the second however and the result was never in doubt.

Brenda Williams became the new Ladies' Champion and for good measure also won the Restricted Singles. The fall of the previous champion, Suzanne Manning, narrowly ousted by Kathy Baxendale, left the way open for Brenda to meet Val Blore in the Final. Val found her young opponent too much to cope with and the new champion was duly acclaimed.

Brenda's progress through the rounds of the Restricted gave her much more trouble. Her defeated opponents included, Alan Nisted, Colin Field, Ron Jones, Alan Wood, Colin Hall, Brian Davey, and then in the Final, Alan Biggs—a formidable list. Biggs' list of victims includes Mrs. Lawrenson, J. R. Brown, W. Holmes, D. Murray and D. Crispin.

The new Junior Champion is Brian Johns, who defeated a below-par John McNee in a rather one-sided final. Colin Field's defeat of Suzanne Manning in an earlier round of this event completed a disappointing Tournament for her as far as the singles were concerned, but her fortunate choice of partners in the Mixed Doubles (Tony Clayton) and in the Women's Doubles (Barbara Kirkman) brought her two winners' prizes.

Unfortunately players were arriving late on each evening during the week and consequently late starts brought about late finishes. The premises are supposed to be vacated by 10-30 p.m. but on no occasion was this possible. I must therefore consider the Consolation events to be deleted from the programme next year unless prompt starts can be guaranteed.

I must record my sincere thanks to everyone who helped in the running of the Tournament and I believe that everyone who attended either as a competitor, spectator or voluntary helper, really enjoyed the occasion.

A detailed list of results follows:—

MEN'S SINGLES—Quarter Finals.

- M. Johns beat J. McNee 15, 19;
- N. Eckersley beat B. Johns -15, 13, 21;
- E. Mandaluff beat A. Tolson 12, 19;
- W. Allanson beat D. Roberts 19, 8.

Semi-Finals:

- Johns beat Eckersley 15, -18, 15;
- Allanson beat Mandaluff 14, 9.

Final:

- M. Johns (Colonsay) beat Allanson (Eng. Elec.) 20, 14.

MEN'S DOUBLES: Quarter-finals:

- Clayton/D'Arcy beat Brownlee/Allanson 5, 9;
- B. Johns/McNee beat Roberts/Tierney 12, -20, 20;
- Marshall/Owens beat Mandaluff/G. Smith 16, 17;
- M. Johns/Eckersley beat Bailey/Turtle 19, 17;

Semi-finals:

- Clayton/D'Arcy beat B. Johns/McNee 11, 17;
- M. Johns/Eckersley beat Marshall/Owens 17, 9.

Final: Clayton/D'Arcy beat Johns/Eckersley -18, 26, 17.

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Quarter-finals:

- K. Baxendale beat S. Manning 16, -18, 20;
- V. Blore beat J. Reynolds 13, 11;
- B. Kirkman beat S. Rimmer 17, 12;
- B. Williams beat J. Mackenzie 10, 11.

Semi-finals:

- Blore beat Baxendale 19, -9, 15;
- Williams beat Kirkman 18, 17.

Final:

- B. Williams (Colonsay) beat V. Blore (Cadwa) 14, 12.

Continued on next page

WOMEN'S DOUBLES: Semi-finals:

S. Manning/B. Kirkman beat J. Rumjahn/P. Lawrenson 13, 7;
J. Mackenzie/V. Blore beat J. Reynolds/M. Lovelady -18, 15, 19.

Final:

Manning/Kirkman beat MacKenzie/Blore 16, 18.

MIXED DOUBLES: Quarter-finals:

Clayton/Manning beat Marshall/Mackenzie 16, 13;
Eckersley/Williams beat Burke/Lovelady 9, 8;
B. Johns/Baxendale w/o G. Smith/Lawrenson;
M. Johns/Kirkman w/o Allanson/Black.

Semi-finals:

Clayton/Manning beat Eckersley/Williams 19, 10;
M. Johns/Kirkman beat B. Johns/Baxendale 9, -18, 19.

Final:

Clayton/Manning beat M. Johns/Kirkman 11, 16.

JUNIOR SINGLES: Quarter-finals:

B. Johns beat D. Holland 10, 12;
C. Field beat S. Manning (Miss) 10, 18;
Miss B. Williams bt K. Williams 18, 20;
J. McNee bt Miss B. Kirkman 17, 13.

Semi-finals:

Johns beat Field 14, 12;
McNee w/o Miss B. Williams.

Final:

Johns beat McNee 16, 11.

VETERAN'S SINGLES: Quarter-finals:

E. Mandaluff beat F. Lacey 6, 8;
A. C. Land beat J. Clewett -18, 10, 22;
W. Harris beat J. Davidson -18, 15, 15;
N. R. Jones beat T. Killip 16, 18.

Semi-finals:

Mandaluff beat Land 13, 13;
Jones beat Harris -18, 4, 9.

Final:

Mandaluff beat Jones 13, -8, 19.

RESTRICTED SINGLES: Quarter-finals:

B. Davey beat P. Carney 19, 13;
Miss B. Williams beat C. Hall 11, -17, 17;
A. Biggs beat D. Murray 19, 18;
D. Crispin beat J. Letch -20, 9, 12.

Semi-finals:

Miss Williams beat Davey 15, 10;
Biggs beat Crispin 19, -18, 18.

Final:

Miss Williams beat Biggs 6, 18.

MEN'S CONSOLATION SINGLES: Quarter-finals:

P. Lee w/o F. Pheysey;
R. Evans beat N. Fagan 3, -12, 6;
H. Johnston beat A. Merali 15, -16, 17;
S. Holland beat G. Brownlee -16, 16, 16.

Semi-finals:

Lee beat Evans 14, -17, 17;
Holland beat Johnston 12, 19.

Final:

Holland (Moss. Hill) beat Lee (Liv. Y.M.) 12, -13, 11.

WOMEN'S CONSOLATION SINGLES: Quarter-finals:

A. Bell beat J. Barton 13, 19;
M. Lovelady beat S. Theis 15, 9;
J. Rumjahn beat B. Black 20, 15;
J. Rimmer beat C. Wake 9, -23, 19.

Semi-finals:

Lovelady beat Bell 10, 5;
Rumjahn beat Rimmer -7, 16, 17.

Final:

Lovelady (Orrell) beat Rumjahn (Rafters) -15, 18, 13.

BRIAN LEESON

In Retrospect

With the season over I like to look back and see what, in retrospect, were the "big moments" for me.

The August visit to Ostend for the European Youth Championships was an admirable start. The pleasure of meeting so many old friends, particularly Louis Van Heybeeck, the captain of the Belgian Junior team who speaks perfect English, has a charming wife and did all he could to make sure I enjoyed my stay. The disappointment was that superb fighter Nicky Jarvis getting "so near and yet so far" in the Boys Singles, losing to the Russian Sapyrkin 21/11, 18/21, 26/28; sweat poured from Jarvis who had given every ounce of energy—a supreme albeit unavailing fight.

December brought the visit of the Chinese team—and front page publicity for our sport. The two matches I saw I enjoyed, but without putting too fine a point on it, they weren't the most fiercely contested I've seen. The Chinese were excellent diplomats and perhaps my highlight was going to the reception given in their honour at the Sportsman's Club in London. I did enjoy watching one player more than any other—the fabulous Liang-Ki-Liang. A player with an orthodox grip, a complete range of strokes, attacking, defending, forehand, backhand, you name it he could do it. He moved with all the grace of a gazelle and killed with the striking power of a cobra. The way Liang put away serves with that murderous backhand of his was lethal in the extreme.

Nothing has quite the same atmosphere as the English Open at Brighton and this year was just as good. Power-cut threats couldn't darken the joy of the English in which the stars shone as brightly as ever. Super-star Bengtsson glittered above all others but even he was eclipsed in the team event by the left-handed Yugoslav star Anton Stipanovic unbeaten in the team games. English players didn't impress too much but Trevor came close to beating Bengtsson 3-0 and in the team event Simon Heaps had a wonderful win over the Hungarian star Peter Rozsas. The determination and skill of Rumanian Maria Alexandru was again there for all to see—and a "treble"—Ladies' Singles, Ladies Doubles and Mixed Doubles was her hand—the same as last year! A great fighter on the table and a charming person off it.

Yes, it's been quite a season!

PHILIP REID

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Divisional Notes

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Eng. Elec.	26	23	0	3	210
Wav. Lab.	26	22	2	2	201
Liv. Y.M.C.A.	26	21	3	2	188
Colonsay	26	13	12	1	138
Wav. Lab. 'A'	26	13	10	3	137
Bath St.	26	9	10	7	135
Rafters	26	10	11	5	131
Eng. Elec. 'A'	26	11	12	3	126
Liv. Y.M. 'A'	26	10	11	5	123
Mossley Hill	26	10	13	3	111
Wav. Lab. 'B'	26	8	16	2	99
Trinity	26	5	19	2	81
Linnets	26	4	20	2	70
Wav. Lab. 'C'	26	1	21	4	70

The league and cup double has gone to Eng. Elec. although their league success was due in the final instance to their 'A' team. In their match against Wav. Labour they took four very valuable sets which in consequent weeks proved to be the downfall of the Labour club. This result must rate as the best of the season with every member of the team pulling their weight to achieve what in effect was the title for their 1st team.

In the cup final Elec. won comfortably 7-3. Doubles for Allanson and D'Arcy sealed the match, Birch and Youd picking up one each, Tony Rigby proved to be Wavertree's star winning two singles, both at crucial times, he also teamed up with D. Roberts to win their doubles. Five of the sets went to three with E. Youd beating Tolson 22/20 in the third. It seems that Electric are the best team in the division even without Tony Clayton, although they brought him in against a strong Colonsay team (which didn't include Mike Johns) just to make sure. It did, only just, ensure a win, 6-4 and Tony's three sets proved to be of valuable assistance in what otherwise could have been a good win for Colonsay. Ian Johns, Colonsay's 2nd division player won his two beating the recently crowned Lancs. Closed Champion Wally Allanson and E. Youd.

After saying in the last issue that the Y.M. had dropped out of the reckoning they proceeded to show me that they are far from a spent force by drawing with Wavertree and Eng.

Elec. In the latter match G. Smith won his two beating D'Arcy and Allanson. Bailey and Mandaluff won one each and the doubles were shared. With results like this who knows what next season holds in store for them.

Another team to show my judgment up are Trinity, with 35 sets out of their last six games. It seems that the inclusion of B. Harris and B. Bagot has made all the difference to this team. Their drive to escape relegation has succeeded at the expense of Linnets. A brave attempt to stay up which may have succeeded if Colonsay had turned out anything like a 1st div. team against Trinity, a 10-0 win in the next to last game of the season when even one or two sets are vital to relegation candidates is rather more than a bonus. With the team Wav. Labour 'C' had available for matches they should have been well clear of relegation. Their players are not 2nd division material and it seems that either there is a certain lack of interest or they all turned out together too late in the season to avoid relegation.

In their 'crunch' match v. Wav. Labour, Electric got the result they wanted winning 6-4, leaving themselves needing only a win against Colonsay to win the league. This they did to win the league by 9 sets. Tony Rigby again won his singles and doubles for the Labour club and in a great game Dave Roberts beat Gordon Birch 16, -19, 19; to give them four sets. But, alas, the inclusion (again) of Tony Clayton assured Electric of victory and the title.

Now for a run-down on the remaining teams and how they have fared during the season.

Mossley Hill: Could be a harder team to beat next season if Brotherton and D. Holland improve from experience gained from matches this season. Rafters: John Marshall has been a revelation to this team this season. His all attacking style seems to have brought an improvement in his team-mates, and as always they are a hard team to beat. Bath St.: This team has seen some matches between them and they don't get any

easier to beat as they get more experienced. Wav. Lab. 'B' and Y.M. 'A': Both teams have had little to shout about this season but Burrows and Merali of Y.M. and Tierney and Brewer of Wav. Lab. have had good seasons. Wav. Lab. 'A': Being under threat of suspension (from Wav. Clock) by my team-mates if I don't give them a mention this seemed the easiest way to do it. Ted Gilmour, always full of fight has had a fairly good season, always offering his advice to team-mates and opponents. Roy Smith surprised everyone this season by developing a back-hand hit. I believe he has also threatened to develop a 'loop'. John McNee, or 'smiler' as we call him, has had a great season for us. And now to our discovery of the season, me. In my first season, yes, first season, I think I've done quite well and had I not been writing the notes I'm sure I'd have got a mention.

RON BURKE

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Liv. Y.M. 'B'	26	20	5	1	187
Crawfords	26	18	4	4	182
Colonsay 'A'	26	20	4	2	169
Police	26	14	7	5	151
Waterloo Park	26	15	10	1	146
Sefton	26	14	10	2	145
St. Edward's	26	10	11	5	122
Linacre	26	12	12	2	129
Colonsay 'B'	26	9	13	4	120
Wav. Lab. 'D'	26	9	14	3	112
Crawfords 'A'	26	7	16	3	104
Sparta	26	6	16	4	94
Beauchair	26	6	16	4	92
Eng. Elec. 'B'	26	2	24	0	66

And so after a great season-long battle Y.M. 'B' emerge as champions by the slender margin of 5 sets. The margin would have been even closer but for claiming a 10-0 w/over against the Police. I feel this is a most unsatisfactory way of winning a division for, as the first match was drawn, I do not think they would have won the return fixture 10-0. However, rules are rules, so congratulations to Peter Lee and Por Tsang as the two members of the team to play all season.

Crawfords came second and go into the 1st div. for the first time in their history. This has been the clubs best ever season for they also won the Rumjahn Cup. It is always difficult

to write about one's own team, if you shower praise on them they tell you you shouldn't have bothered and if you say nothing they moan about not getting a mention. Still, I think congratulations are in order to Mike Truman, Ernie Owens and Les Evans for an excellent performance in winning both promotion and the cup.

Third and fourth are Colonsay 'A' and Police. Colonsay conceded a w/over to Sefton in the last match they were to have played although it did not make any difference to their league position. They lost their chance of promotion when only beating Linacre 6-4, they needed at least 9 sets from this match, but without Ian Johns they found Linacre too much of a handful and could only manage 6 sets. The Police stayed with the leaders for a long time but their chances lessened for lack of a regular team and inconsistency. Still 4th place is not bad going and I still think that they will go even higher if they could find a regular team, Reg Gray has been ever present with most regular assistance from R. Pettit, B. McLeod and R. McMaster.

W'loo Park and Sefton are next with one point separating them. Earlier in the season Waterloo looked likely promotion challengers but inconsistency cost them the chance. Their main set winner has been Alan Reid ably supported by Graham Reid, D. Olsen and A. Delamere. Sefton have had a pretty successful season being cup finalists and finishing in 6th place. I think that if they get a settled team they could well be in the running for the honours.

Further down come Linacre, St. Edward's and Colonsay 'B'. There is not much one can say about Linacre, they seem to go on providing good opposition every season with the same players. Not so St. Edward's who have had trouble in turning a team out, beating Waterloo one week and losing to Electric 'B' the next. A regular team would undoubtedly put them much higher up the division. Colonsay 'B' could have been in trouble but for a few good early season wins and will have to watch out next season or they may find themselves likely relegation candidates.

Wav. Labour 'D' avoided relegation by producing an excellent late season

finish. The team started well enough, but seemed to lose its way in the middle and at one time looked to have very little chance of avoiding the drop. All credit to Ken Jones and the other three members, Rod Bulmer, S. Fewtrell and J. Hoban.

The four to go down are Crawfords 'A', Sparta, Beauclair and Elec. 'B'. Crawfords 'A' had team problems for the latter half of the season which did not help their chances of staying up. Sparta's two main set winners George Sanders and Ted Barnes just couldn't manage enough sets to keep them up whilst Beauclair with Ted Birch were in much the same boat. One or two players winning sets is not enough to keep a team in this division. Electric 'B' must be disappointed at going down after winning promotion last year but I am sure we will see them back fairly soon.

Congratulations this issue to young Alec Sill, son of Electric's Wally Sill. After playing many times as a reserve for the 'B' team he won his first set against Harry Reeve in two straight. Commiserations must go to his father—he lost to the same player in two straight!

A few reflections: The player I most enjoyed playing was Ted Birch of Beauclair. The player I least liked playing Paul Byrne (St. Edwards). The best match I played in was against Colonsay 'A' in the cup semi-final and my nomination for the most pleasant team to play against goes to W'loo Pk. That last remark should ensure a round of drinks for me when I next play against them. On to the averages and the top five, as far as I can make out, are as follows:— Ian Johns 100%, K Fitzsimmons 85%, A. Reid 80%, J. Griffiths 78%, P. Tsang 77%.

One final point—many thanks to Rob Lock (3B) for a couple of mentions in his notes. It's nice to know somebody reads the notes I write.

KEITH FITZSIMMONS

DIVISION 3A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Bath St. 'A'	24	22	2	0	190
Trinity 'A'	24	20	3	1	188
Liv. Y.M. 'C'	24	19	2	3	173
Liv. Jewish	24	11	11	2	135
Maghull	24	13	7	4	135
Police 'A'	24	14	8	2	130
Rafters 'B'	24	9	12	3	125
Linnets 'A'	24	7	14	3	95
Vagabonds	24	8	14	2	93
Cadwa 'A'	24	8	15	1	91
Bath St. 'C'	24	7	15	2	91
Colonsay 'D'	24	3	20	1	60
Police 'C'	24	2	20	2	54
University Expunged.					

Bath St. 'A' have won the division but only by a narrow margin. Trinity 'A' defeated Liv. Y.M. 'C' 7-3 in their last match leaving Bath St. with three matches to play to obtain at least 29 points. Fortunately they were not faced with any formidable opposition. Nevertheless a good performance by Bath St. when under pressure.

For the match v. Trinity the Y.M. strengthened their team by including Cummings and Jones in place of Donnelly and Cullen. However, the Trinity team were in a determined mood and their players fought for every point. The result was that sets that seemed to be lost were won and Trinity avenged their defeat at the Y.M. Liv. Y.M. threatened to challenge for the championship halfway through the season but failed to sustain their effort and eventually dropped well behind the leaders.

At the other end of the div. Colonsay and Police 'C' fought out the relegation issue to decide who joined the 4th div. next season and Police 'C' were the eventual losers and go back down after a very short spell with us. Despite their difficulties in raising a team Police 'C' did not concede any matches, although they played short on occasions. At least 4 other clubs in the division played short during the season. As I have written previously it is something we do not want to see increase. University were eventually expelled after conceding a number of matches but managed at least one game against most clubs. The exception being Liv. Jewish. I don't know whether it was a too early start for the Jewish at University or too late a start for the University at Jewish. Anyway, they contrived not to meet. Bath St. 'C'

conceded a w/over to Jewish by failing to arrive on the correct night. The news must have reached Cadwa fairly quickly because the following week they took pity on Bath St. 'C' and conceded a w/over. In actual fact they decided to play at the University on the same night, perhaps they were confused and thought it was Bath St. 'A' they were scheduled to play.

I would like to return to the question of the walk-over conceded to Jewish as it is one which may be of interest. On the night this fixture was due to be played the Childwall area was scheduled for a power cut from 6 to 9 p.m. No doubt Jewish were aware of this but did not notify Bath St. that the match would not be played in accordance with Match Reg. 12. Therefore at this stage the match is still to be played on the appropriate night. But suppose Bath St. had turned up on the correct night to find that the Jewish team, aware of the power cut, did not appear. Jewish claimed the game as they were aware Bath St. would not be appearing. The question arises though, can you claim a game that could not be played because of a power cut even though the opposition fails to appear?

It is unlikely that these circumstances will occur again but I think it would be interesting to know the Management Committee view.

BRIAN CUNNINGHAM

DIVISION 3B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Old Swan	26	22	2	2	202
Rafters 'A'	26	21	3	2	192
Colonsay 'C'	26	16	4	6	177
Cadwa	26	14	7	5	152
Police 'B'	26	15	6	5	149
Bath St. 'B'	26	15	7	4	144
Orrell	26	13	10	3	141
Sparta 'A'	26	7	14	5	113
Trinity 'B'	26	8	15	3	110
Hilltop	26	4	16	6	100
Eng. Elec. 'C'	26	6	16	4	92
Waterloo Pk 'A'	26	5	18	3	86
Liv. Jewish 'A'	26	7	19	0	81
Knotty Ash	26	4	20	2	81

Well, they have done it again!! Congratulations Old Swan in winning the division. They dropped 38 points during the whole season and have now taken three divisional titles in

three years. Their run-in consisted of 10-0 victories over Trinity and Police and 9-1's over Cadwa and Hilltop.

Rafters have finally made the 2nd division after some hard luck over the past couple of seasons. Well done Rafters—a successful prediction at last!! Colonsay, my other tip just failed finishing third. This was due to some shock results inflicted on them by Bath St. (7-3), Hilltop (6-4), Cadwa (5-5) and only a 7-3 victory over Knotty Ash.

The two relegated clubs, Liv. Jewish and Knotty Ash, were well behind at the finish. Although their records show 81 points apiece, they include claimed matches against Hilltop which should not have been. When a team travels halfway across Liverpool, waits from 7-20 till 8-55 in the rain, then finds a 10-0 result in the 'Echo' AGAINST them, imagine the feelings of the team. Then only a week later after kindly re-arranging a match over the phone at three days notice, you find the proposed date impossible to meet so you frantically try to contact the club secretary (he can only be contacted at work) and find he has been 'laid off' for three days due to the miners strike and the proposed electricity cuts!!! Hence another 10-0 and this against a club who have played table tennis for seven years and have NEVER claimed or conceded a match. As these two clubs have been relegated, the issue is closed, but if you want to play table tennis that way, I can assure you many friends will be lost.

English Electric took 25 points from their last four games to perform yet another successful life-saving act and finished just above Waterloo Park. S. Butchart and J. Martin winning most of Waterloo's points—I feel I must mention M. Moran (Bath St.) who rounded off a good season by beating C. Callaghan (Orrell) 18, -13, 13; Keith Kinnear (Old Swan) 12, 5, B. Leeson, A. Guy, C. Field, N. Cooke, H. Holmes, B. Davey and K. Williams (the young gentlemen from Rafters) and quite a few other players. Certainly the most improved player this season—well done. Closest score I can find was when Brenda Williams (Colonsay) defeated Ian Blore (Cadwa) 14, -31, 18.

After lending the Hyde Cup to 3A last year, Old Swan duly won it back by defeating Bath St. 'A' and completed an excellent double. The first match was drawn 5-5 with A. Walton and E. Hardman winning their singles for Bath St. and K. Kinnear scoring for Old Swan. In the replay Bath St. contributed to their 6-4 defeat by changing their playing order. Walton and Hardman were again the heroes, but the result was lost in their doubles combination. Kinnear again won his singles and teamed up with Hall to beat Walton/Gould 14, 20; Crispin/Linforth beat Hardman/Smith 10, 16.

I hope you have all enjoyed this season and I also hope that next season's table tennis will be played in the same sportsmanlike manner that this division is noted for, mixed with the keen and social atmosphere which makes it a pleasure to play—thank you.

ROB LOCK

DIVISION 4A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Crawfords 'B'	24	22	2	0	190
Liv. Y.M. 'D'	24	21	1	2	189
Liv. Poly.	24	16	5	3	174
Crawfords 'D'	24	15	5	4	157
Maghull 'A'	24	10	8	6	136
Rafters 'C'	24	11	10	3	129
Eng. Elec. 'D'	24	12	8	4	126
Eng. Elec. 'F'	24	9	12	3	110
Police 'E'	24	5	14	5	96
Bath St. 'D'	24	8	15	1	91
Cadwa 'B'	24	7	16	1	79
Liv. Jewish 'B'	24	0	21	3	43
Knotty Ash 'B'	24	1	20	3	40

What a crunch Crawfords 'B' 7, Liv. Y.M. 3 turned out to be. It meant both teams facing their last game level on points. Crawfords beating Police 10/0 and the Y.M. beating Cadwa 9-1. A great championship win for Crawfords with Carney the divisions joint No. 1 leading the way with Byrne and Conley not far behind, nine reserves being called.

A word of sympathy for the Y.M. who led the field all season and were pipped on the post. Allen shared the No. 1 honours with Carney, Jones, R. and Wishart giving great support and four reserves. Gilbert of Polytech. was our second top scorer, Habib, Keen and Zarzecki only missing 5 games between them calling on two reserves

in an excellent season. Crawfords 'D' always in with a chance, Lussey, Watson and Richardson were inseparable with number of sets won and played and calling on 8 players in all.

Other details minus a few cards with players called on in brackets, with top sets winner and most regular player following. Knotty Ash (11), Hall most sets, with Davies, D. and Rotheram most regular players. Maghull (7) Janes, A.—Clarke and Murgatroyd. Liv. Jewish (10) Cohen, M.—Anna Cohen, Eng. Elec. 'D' (9) Hunter and Johnson—Betty Black. Elec. 'F' (11) Crolley, Ariss and Callaghan honours even. Cadwa 'B' Power, M. and Biggs—Power, J. and Williams, K. Bath St. (13) Clarke, Georgeson. Police (9) Wilkinson and Morrissey. Rafters 'C' (8) Johnson and Winstanley—Winstanley. Liv. Y.M. had the best doubles record by far. It is amazing the number of times 'A' beats 'B'—'B' beats 'C' and 'C' massacres 'A'!

Many exciting results in the last batch. The strength of Crawfords 'B' and 'D' has been in their reserves Harvey winning two with Richardson when the 'D' team beat Elec. 'D' despite an excellent draw with Y.M. the latter slipped a bit at the end. Hunter beat Allan and Jones. In contrast Elec. 'F' finished like a bomb after a poor start, Crolley soon changed that, his double over Crawfords 'D' gave his side an excellent 6-4 win. At the bottom Knotty Ash (Hall 2) and Liv. Jewish (Taylor 2) fought a great draw 6 games going to 3. At the top Y.M. (Jones and Allen 2) beat Polytech. (Zarzecki 2) 6-4. Graves and Nisted scored doubles for Rafters against Elec. 'F'—5-5. Bath St. 6 (Dickenson 2) Police 4 (Wilkinson), Maghull 6, Murgatroyd winning two against Rafters 4. Not a w/over in sight so you could scarcely say we suffered with end of season 'itis', Cadwa took Crawfords 'D' (Francis 2) to a fighting 6-4, seven games to three. Young Winstanley followed last months marathon with a 17, -18, -19 defeat by Habib and then after losing 21/9 to Simister won 21/19, 23/21; gluttons for punishment these 'young whiz kids'!

An excellent season with the big guns slipping often enough to make it interesting. But what a pity most of

us are so out of touch of exciting happenings at the time.

JACK LAMBERT

DIVISION 4B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Wav. Lab. 'E'	24	19	3	2	172
Old Swan 'A'	24	18	4	2	158
Crawfords 'C'	24	16	7	1	154
Norris Green	24	16	7	1	152
Orrell 'A'	24	14	7	3	140
Eng. Elec. 'E'	24	12	7	5	135
Giro	24	13	8	3	125
Beauclair 'A'	24	10	11	3	114
Trinity 'C'	24	7	14	3	105
Cadwa 'C'	24	7	13	4	102
Police 'D'	24	5	16	3	89
Knotty Ash 'A'	24	2	21	1	59
Mossley Hill 'A'	24	1	22	1	55

Note:— Mossley Hill conceded game v. Giro by not posting card.

Congratulations go to Wav. Lab. 'E' as champions, they clinched the league with a final victory over Norris Green 8-2. Success was not achieved without a few setbacks but they kept plugging away and the title was theirs by 14 sets. Well done Capt. Tony Moon and team members Jessop, Fleming, Neary and Taylor. Old Swan finally made 2nd place as Norris Green collapsed in their last two matches and let them in, Old Swan looked in trouble when they lost their No. 1 C. Hall to the 1st team and obtained no replacement but they stuck doggedly to their task and it paid off. It's a lot harder surviving in the 3rd div. as promoted teams from last season have already found out. I think Wavertree will survive as their players are fairly experienced but Old Swan may have a struggle to stay up.

Crawfords helped to bring my early season prediction partly right by making 3rd place, a position which must have surprised them as after a series of ups and downs they looked right out of it. A late season injury to T. Thatcher and the occasional enforced absences of Eddie Cameron hampered their efforts. They must be considered one of the main contenders for next season.

Norris Green had to be content with 4th place after making a hash of their last two matches when they looked certain to be the runners-up, with an outside chance of the title, following their run of victories since

the half-way mark. Instead of a close result against Wav. Lab. and a win over Eng. Elec. 'D' they lost twice 8-2. Against Wavertree they all arrived late, two members not arriving until around 9 p.m. and were so unsettled they lost easily, only A. Speed putting up any resistance (2). Against Electric they crashed 8-2 and this must rank, for Electric, as the best result by any team and full credit must be paid them.

Orrell 'A' and Electric 'D' got the next two spots separated by only 5 sets. A fine performance by Orrell who early in the season were down at the bottom, a greatly improved side and they should be up with the leaders next season. A good performance by Electric who can feel well satisfied especially with that last match victory which split the promotion issue open. Woods and Fyles were the backbone of this victory with two singles each and a combined effort in the doubles.

The gap starts to widen now with Giro (125), Beauclair (114) and Trinity (105). Giro and Beauclair both had a disappointing season, particularly Giro who at one time were promotion contenders and then fell right away after losing Theo Mills, only J. Nelson maintained his form. Beauclair are capable of better than this but appeared to be undecided as to what was their best team. The regular inclusion of K. Hartley improved some of their results for he only dropped one set from 26 played. Trinity finished lower than expected due to not always having their strongest team out, but they had some good results and are probably well satisfied with their performance. D. Wilson had a good season with Hulm and Smith not far behind.

Cadwa gave a very disappointing account of themselves with the odd flash of good results. The team was experienced enough to have been capable of more consistency in their efforts and will need to try harder if they are to be more successful next season. Police suffered from their usual problem of uncertainty concerning players and this showed in their results. They don't let this bother them, however, and are a very sociable crowd. Mind you, you sometimes need a "file" to get out of their quarters.

Knotty Ash and Mossley Hill remained locked in battle at the bottom of the table throughout the season and it was Mossley Hill who eventually finished in the 'hot seat' as I forecast. Both had team problems and I feel that if they could have both had their strongest team out regularly we may well have found the bottom position occupied by another team.

All things considered its been a good season, the division has evened up a lot and the gap between the teams is closing all the time. Results have proved this regularly during the season. If some can strengthen the 'tail' and put a little more effort into it there could well be a battle royal for promotion in a season or two. The top four clubs have all proved this season that a little extra effort can turn a possible even result into a good win.

KEN ARMSON

DIVISION 5A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Bedford House	24	24	0	0	209
Linnets 'B'	24	18	4	2	161
Orrell 'B'	24	14	7	3	154
Liv. Poly 'A'	24	17	5	2	153
St. Hugh's	24	15	8	1	151
Rafters 'D'	24	16	7	1	139
St. John's	24	11	11	2	127
Vagabonds 'A'	24	9	12	3	117
Woolton 'A'	24	7	16	1	78
Knotty Ash 'C'	24	5	18	1	69
Goodlass Wall	24	4	20	0	62
Maghull 'C'	24	3	20	1	61
Barker & Dobson	24	3	20	1	59

Bedford House clinched the league, remaining undefeated for the season. I wonder if the finish would have been more exciting, had Polytechnic, Linnets and Rafters maintained the form they all showed in varying degrees. Bedford House also won the Stamp Cup by the narrowest of margins, after leading 5-1. Ernie Sturgess gave the best display of his career when beating Seftons' No. 1 D. Murray. Dave Owens won both his singles and doubles, then as a fairytale finish, Pete Roberts won the match beating Ray Smith 23/21 in the third, on Pete's 21st birthday.

Polytech. had a good late run, just failing to take runners-up spot. Now we must wait to see who, if any, the committee decide to promote outside of the top three. St. Hugh's had a

good 7-3 win over Linnets, if they stay down I rate them as having an outstanding chance next season. Woolton continued to improve beating St. John's 6-4, D. Williams beat Gillespie 19/21; 22/20; 21/16; and Knotty Ash 8-2, P. Hargreaves beat Brown 25/27; 21/14; 19/21.

Down at the bottom Goodlass Wall did not help their chances when they conceded a home w/over to Maghull, when fellow strugglers Barker and Dobson had beaten the same team 9-1.

Some close ones to finish, G. Ridgeway (Vags.) beat S. Thind (Poly.) 20/22; 21/19; 20/22. A. Nisted (Rafters) beat A. McAlle (St. Hugh's) 25/23; 19/21; 23/21. N. Kelly (Poly.) beat F. Bradley (Goodlass) 22/24; 21/12; 23/21.

If we get lots of results like that next season, roll on September!

KEN BRADY

DIVISION 5B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Sefton 'A'	20	19	0	1	183
Linnets 'C'	20	15	5	0	144
Woolton	20	14	4	2	143
H.U.C.A.	20	15	4	1	142
Maghull 'B'	20	9	10	1	97
Giro 'A'	20	9	9	2	84
Police 'F'	20	7	12	1	74
Eng. Elec. 'G'	20	5	11	4	70
Bath St. 'E'	20	5	15	0	66
Cross Inter.	20	4	16	0	61
Vagabonds 'B'	20	2	18	0	36

Sefton (7) led the championship race throughout the season and proved themselves true champions. No. 1 man Murray with a 100% league record was the division's outstanding player. Not far behind were Biggs, A. and Smith, R. So little separates these players from Hargreaves (Woolton) and Mikulla (Linnets) on sets won, that I must, with a couple of cards outstanding give them joint number two place to Murray.

Huca (7) with the three Hughes boys and Carter only missing 5 games between them had a great season Hughes, J. E. topping their sets won. Woolton (4) were even more tight—Hargreaves, Stenson, Lathom and Elson playing in every game. Maghull (5) were close on their heels with one game missed between Pattinson, Barnes, Smith, F. and top scorer

Adams, Linnets (8) with a late start worked hard to successfully complete their fixtures, Brown and Roberts not far behind Mikulla.

Other records—players called on in brackets—top set scorer and most regular player are Bath St. (12) Heather Jane—Heather Jane. Police (13) Foulkes, Knipe, Vagabonds (7) Ledger, Bradshaw and Manley. Cross Inter (6) Ashburner top scorer, together with Pickard, Thurlow and Lavery despite many defeats only missed six games between them, great stuff. Giro (7) Postles—Brown, Eng. Elec. (6) play a rota system so top marks to youngsters Janet Connor, Sylvia Theis, Connor, G. and Julie Black, who incidentally won through to the all England under 13 final at Birmingham as Lincs. representative.

Linnets and Sefton were the best doubles combinations.

After beating Huca 6-4 in the semi-final of the Stamp Cup Bedford House out-generalled our top team Sefton 6-4 and left me open to rude remarks and gestures from Brady, Sturgess and Co.!!

10-0's and walk-overs predominate in our last results—the only time I agree with a walk-over—when you cannot re-arrange a game. What happens on the table is what the game's all about.

Eng. Elec. drew with Giro and Police (Knipe 2), Connor, G. and Sylvia Theis winning 3 games. Maghull had three tight 6-4's beating Police (Heague 2) and Bath St. (Brookfield 2) and losing to Giro (Brown 2), Smith, F. winning 5 of his sides 6 games. In one of the few interesting top of the table clashes Linnets (Roberts and Brown 2) beat Huca (Hughes, J. E. 2) 6-4.

The top and bottom of the division were too far apart in playing standards for it to be a great season. But it cannot be too bad when you have so many keen players in a lower grade.

JACK LAMBERT

WOMEN

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Colonsay	10	10	0	0	90
Rafters	10	6	3	1	72
Crawfords	10	7	2	1	68
Crawfords 'B'	10	4	6	0	31
Crawfords 'A'	10	2	8	0	26
Police	10	0	10	0	13

WOMEN'S HANDICAP

Crawfords 'A' 4 1 2 1 19+28 47	
Police	4 0 3 1 10+33 43
Crawfords 'B' 4 2 2 0 18+24 42	
Crawfords	4 4 3 1 30+ 6 36
Rafters	4 4 3 1 23+ 8 31

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The editor stated his views on out-of-town players in a brief dozen pages or so in the last issue, now I know where the rest of my column went! All I want to say on the subject is that if clubs are desperate enough to try and win things this way, then they deserve all the problems they receive.

* * *

Talking of these "visitors", most of whom are more than welcome, shouldn't there be some sort of qualification before they can enter the "Closed"? Say a minimum of fifteen matches, just to show that they are interested in the league.

* * *

Once more Armson heads for semi-retirement and a rumour reaches me that a certain ominous figure from the East Lancs, Road will take over next season. Good luck to you Mr. Lambert, I have a feeling that you will strike "sparks" off some of our readers.

* * *

Talking of straight divisions (and we will next season, won't we Jack?) thanks are due to Old Swan for providing a strong argument in favour of the present system. Well done lads!

* * *

Once more the thorny question of re-arranged games has arisen with the teams having originally set a date and then one finding their best player unavailable trying to arrange a further postponement. The usual ill-feeling has crept in, with their opponents claiming a walk-over, and appeals and counter appeals, etc. Without taking sides, do we play for enjoyment or don't we?

* * *

Sad to see that the "veteran" of at least four seasons, John Barton, has decided to retire. Rumour has it that he is about to have his hair cut, and like Samson of old he'll never be the same again.

* * *

Nice to see both of English Electric's clubs doing well in the 1st division. I think Ian Smith could learn a thing or two about separate development from the set-up between their 1st and 'A' teams.

* * *

Ah well, another season over, and I must say that this league gets more like the Football League every year, with clubs desperately scrambling to sign stronger players, usually from anywhere but Merseyside. My tip for next year's champion signers, well I don't like to say, but I think they'll be "crackers" if they fall to temptation.

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Did you know that . . .

- The 'Merseyside' was the first 'Open' tournament to be held in Lancashire and attracted 205 entries in its first year. Several internationals took part and the Men's Singles title went to the English international S. Proffitt (Manchester). Liverpool were well to the fore, however, for Foulis and Forrest reached the final of the Men's Doubles only to lose to the international combination of Todd and Cooke. Don Foulis received some compensation when in partnership with Miss J. Bartholomew he won the Mixed Doubles.
- The tournament was held over three days with the prelims on the Thursday and Friday and the Finals on the Saturday night at Picton Hall. Admission to the finals was 1/- and a programme cost 2d.
- In his programme foreword the then chairman of the Liverpool and District League, W. J. Miller, described it as the greatest TABLE-TENNIS CONTEST (his capitals) ever held in Liverpool.
- Jack Sharps are our oldest advertisers and in this programme advertised Table-tennis tables from 57/- to £7 6s. 0d.
- The Mixed doubles event totalled eleven entries with five internationals amongst the 22 players. Although the home-based victory which resulted is uncommon today such victories were quite frequent in the 'Merseyside's' early years such was the playing strength of the Liverpool league.
- The Ladies' doubles was introduced to the tournament in 1931/32 when Miss A. Pollitt/Miss J. Bartholomew (both Liverpool) were the victors and the following year saw another home victory for Mrs. A. Bartholomew/Miss J. Bartholomew.
- 1934/35 was another important landmark for the Junior Singles was introduced and resulted in another 'homer' for L. Berman. The entries reached a record 342, but more important still the Men's Singles was won by a Liverpool player when Ken Hyde defeated A. D. Brook in the Final after what was later described as a "wonderful battle". In the programme the organisers were claiming it to be the Premier tournament in the provinces.
- So prominent and profitable was the 'Merseyside' that the programmes were very ambitious affairs. In 1935, for example it was a magazine type with 26 pages and included details of previous winners, most of the draw and a plan of the seating and tables. Barna balls were advertised at 4/- per dozen. The Ladies' Singles event had 6 internationals competing.
- The tournament was not held in 1930/31 because the English 'Open' Championships were held that season in Liverpool. These took place at Lewiss's in February, 1931. In 1931/32 the E.T.T.A. made the 'Merseyside' a recognised feature and allotted the last week in November as its annual date.
- Our 'Open' was one of the major events and a must for the top players and in 1933 the great Victor Barna entered and dominated the competition. He won the Men's Singles and with the French player M. Haguenuer as his partner took the Men's Doubles also.
- In 1946 the league celebrated its 21st year and the 'Merseyside' took a special place in its celebrations. That year it was spread over five—yes, five—days with the prelims at the Gordon Institute and the Finals on the Saturday at the Liverpool Stadium. The souvenir programme cost a 1/- and well worth the price. Interesting articles, tributes from many well known personalities and plenty of photo's (I wonder how many of these programmes are still in existence?).
Victor Barna won the Men's Singles, still played on a best of five, by defeating Johnny Leach 3 games to two after a great comeback from being 2 games down. He also won the Men's Doubles in partnership with A. Haydon defeating Johnny Leach and Jack Carrington in two straight.
- Even in 1951 the 'Open' was still being advertised as the largest tournament outside London, with the Finals at the Philharmonic Hall. Victor Barna, Johnny Leach, Jack Carrington, Geoff Harrower and the famous Rowe twins being amongst the host of top players competing.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

To Coach or Not To Coach—Is there any question?

After talking to some friends at the Closed Tournament, one talking point to come up was the fact that the Liverpool League does not follow the national trend of having large coaching sessions for Youth and Junior players. These coaching sessions are most beneficial to younger players, making the gap from the lower divisions to the higher sphere easier to bridge.

The city does have fully qualified coaches and I'm sure somewhere in the city there is a room in which three or four tables could be put up, even at a charge to those being coached. I'm sure enough people would go to receive benefit from more experienced players.

Coaching of some sort must take place if Liverpool is to have players of a high standard. There must be lots of young promising players who through lack of experience against certain types of players have been disillusioned after a series of defeats against players who appear to be of a lower standard than themselves. They lose interest and begin to think they are not good enough to play in the higher sphere of table-tennis. It is up to Liverpool to find the facilities and coaches to make our younger players believe they are good enough to play and win at a National level. I think it is about time something was done by the league for our younger players.

Yours faithfully,

RON BURKE,

(Wav. Labour).

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