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Table Tennis Digest

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OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Table Tennis Digest

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No. 1

Editorial

You may find this very hard to believe, but there was a time when EVERY-ONE looked forward to the six issues of the Digest and it was the heart of Merseyside Table Tennis. I wonder was it because at the time we had the most enthusiastic non-playing table tennis supporter of all time as editor — our late vice-president — Jack Pattison. With his verve, personality and hard work, the Digest outgrew all its growing pains and grew to be a force in our table tennis world and the envy of many outside. Jack was a unique chap, so enthusiastic, cheerful and such a terrible umpire, he had firm and sensible views on all aspects of the game. He bobbed in and out of matches and meetings at the most unexpected moments — Amongst my most recent memories of him is chatting with Jeff Ingber about Benny Casofsky and Hyman Lurie with a beer in the comfort of English Electric lounge and boosting a couple of 4th Division players in the 'warmth' of Colonsays stage. He groomed two Liverpool Champions who became County players, a great guy who will be missed so much by so many of us.

Since those happy times of Jack's work on the Digest and incidentally Des Loughrey's able assistance times and cash have changed.

There were rumbles at the A.G.M. and a letter this month has started the ball rolling. With fees of nearly a £1., are you getting value from your fees which include the Digest — are you? State your case for — or — against, there are three more issues before the A.G.M. as in this matter and all matters concerning the local game, the rules are made by you, we presume for your benefit and if you feel they can be improved by you — and that means each individual, you all have the power to start the ball rolling through your club committee, but you can stir it up here first or at least make your ideas or feelings public and open for discussion.

Lancashire and Cheshire League

It's happened again, just when it appeared that one of our members was going to graduate from the junior team via the Youth and Men's 'A' Team and be ready to challenge for a place in the full Liverpool side, fate has taken a hand and decided otherwise.

Two seasons ago it was John Barton who seemed destined to make this move, but his studies required him to leave Liverpool for the University. This season it is John Marshall whose business commitments have demanded that he reside in Bristol for a short spell.

I had a letter from John last week. He is playing in the Premier Division in Bristol, 3-a-side and says that although the top teams in the division are not as strong as ours, the bottom teams are much stronger, and competition is therefore, much keener, he hopes to return to Liverpool in time to play the last seven league matches for his club Rafter's.

Our sason in the Lancashire and Cheshire League began on a sour note when I was unable to arrange transport for the men's 'B' team to Bury. This resulted in a walk-over for the home team and a fine for ourselves. Despite the shortage of volunteers to take our teams, I am glad to say that to date this is the only match we have lost.

The men's 1st team drew at Manchester with sets from Tony Clayton (2), Wally Anderson (1), Pete D'Arcy (1) and a doubles victory. They followed this up with an 8-2 victory over Farnworth, although I understand that our visitors were a player short.

Our Ladies' 1st Team have only played one match, this, at home to Crewe, resulted in a 9-1 win.

In 'A' Team circles, the men have beaten Manchester and Barrow, whilst the ladies have defeated Burnley and Manchester Banks. Julie Black has been playing in this team and the experience will no doubt sharpen her game.

After their disastrous start, the men's 'B' Team has beaten Wigan 8-2 and drawn with Horwich.

The Youth Team of Paul Tsang, Peter Lee and Eric Hardman drew at St. Helens. For their next match at home to Stockport, Steve Fewtrell has been selected in place of Eric, who this season has not settled down to anything approaching his best form.

An un-changed (from last season) junior team of Colin Field, Keith Williams and Brian Davey has opened with two 7-3 victories over Blackburn and Blackpool, both away from home. On each occasion, the opposing No. 1 won his three sets beating each of our lads.

Although it is early in the season, I have been gratified by the response of club secretaries in my appeals to stage home fixtures, if I had a similar reply with regard to transport to away matches, a successful season would be assured.

ALEX DAVIDSON.

Late Results:

Junior Team 8, Wirral 2.
Youth Team 8, Stockport 2.
Wirral 3, Ladies 'A' 7.
(Wirral's first defeat)

How to avoid a 10-nothing walk-over

Aigburth P.H. Aigburth Vale Div. 5A M/N Mon.
Blundellsands L.C.C. Warren Road Div. 5A Wed. "A" Div. 5B Wed.
Colonsay De La Salle, Carr Lane 1st Div. 1. Mon. "A" Div. 2 Thurs.
"B" Div. Mon. "C" Div. 4B Mon, "D" Div. 5B Thurs.
Cross International, East Lancs. Road, Div. 5A Mon.
Lancs. County Police St. Chad's Drive, Kirkby, Div. 5B Mon.
Mossley Hill, Palmerston, Elm Hall Drive, 1st Div. 1 Wed.
"A" Div. 5B. Wed.
University Div. 4A Mon.
Wav. Labour "B" Div. 1. Tues. "D" Div. 2 Wed.
Vagabonds "B" Div. 5B Wed.

OUT

Crawfords "E" Div. 5A. "F" Div. 5B.
Hilltop "A" Div. 5B.
Jewish "B" Div. 4A.
Linnetts (How sad) Div. 2. Div. 3A. Div. 4A. Div. 4B.
Liverpool Poly. "A" Div. 4A.
Liverpool Police "E" Div. 4A.
Sefton General "A" Div. 4B.
Woolton "B" Div. 5B.
Wav. Labour "E" Div. 3B.
York House "B" Div. 5A.

IN

University for Polytec. "A" Div. 4A.
Cross Inter. for Crawfords "E" Div. 5A.
Blundellsands for "B" Fixture 5A.
Aigburth P.H. for York House "B" 5A.
Blundellsands "A" for "B" Fixture 5B.
Liverpool Post Office for Woolton "B" Div. 5B.
Colonsay "D" for Crawfords "F" 5B.
Lancs. Police for Norris Green "A" Div. 5B.

This is purely an information page. Rule 25 must be strictly adhered to.

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Obituary

The frequency with which familiar faces depart from the scene of Liverpool Table Tennis occurs far too often and it is with profound regret that we record the death of one of our most esteemed associates, Mr. Jack Pattison.

Jack had been connected with the League over a period of very many years and his valued contribution as a former Editor of the "Digest" played a prominent role in the League's success. It was however, in the pursuance of his journalistic profession that he will best be remembered and his regular features on Table Tennis published in the local press under the nom de plume of "Dunbar", be they critical or containing words of praise, provided the outlet of publicity for the League's activities. Up to the time of his death, Jack was one of the League's respected Vice-Presidents, an acknowledgement which he had deservedly earned for long and devoted service, but above all he was held in affection by the countless circle of friends which he made during his lengthy association with the Table Tennis fraternity throughout Merseyside.

In conveying our deepest sympathy to his widow Isabel, and to his family in their sad bereavement, may I also express the sentiments which I know we all share, the Liverpool League will indeed be the poorer by the loss of such a popular personality.

ARTHUR E. UPTON,
Chairman.

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Divisional Notes

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Wav. Labour	7	7	0	0	63
Eng. Elect	7	7	0	0	58
Liv. Y.M.	6	6	0	0	53
Liv. Y.M. "A"	7	4	3	0	36
Trinity	6	2	2	2	33
Wav. Lab. "A"	7	3	3	1	33
Eng. Elec. "A"	8	2	5	1	31
Colonsay	6	1	2	3	26
Crawfords	7	2	4	1	26
Rafters	8	1	6	1	26
Bath St.	5	2	3	0	20
Liv. Y.M. "B"	7	1	5	1	19
Wav. Lab. "B"	7	1	5	1	19
Mossley Hill	4	1	2	1	17

Well, after a few days hurried practice we find the season upon us, and by the look of some early results a few day's practice hasn't been enough. Results like English Electric 7; Wavertree Labour "B" 3; Y.M. "A" 3; Wavertree Labour 7 and Y.M.C.A. 7; Y.M. "A" 3 are making life very interesting to the top.

Wavertree Labour and Y.M.C.A. seem to have made an identical start to the season, both leaving English Electric a few sets adrift at this stage. Of the Wavertree team D. Roberts is playing well. This stems from his selection to the Cheshire II team. He also reached the last sixteen of the men's singles in the North of England. On the other hand the Y.M.'s good start has been aided by P. Turtle's great return to form. His acquisition of a new "Anti-loop" bat seems to have inspired his play and he is now "defending" his 100% record very effectively.

Trinity have made a great start to the season with two wins and a draw in their first five matches. This revival is due to the good form of J. Griffiths and B. Harris with R. Brown and B. Baget adding the occasional sets. Trinity's revival seems to have left the more established clubs like Colonsay, Rafters and Wavertree Labour 'B' in trouble. Colonsay have again been weakened by their better players not signing on. At the moment they only have I. Johns of last season's team playing for them, and as they have yet to play any of the top three teams they

could be in trouble as the season progresses.

Rafters have signed on a new player, A. Timewell to replace John Marshall, presently in London, but even with his inclusion they are struggling to find their form. Wavertree Labour "B" are another team in the same situation after taking three sets off English Electric with two reserves they now find themselves at the foot of the table. I hope this will not be a permanent position throughout the season. In the Electric match E. Moran won his two singles and F. Farquharson won one. This shows that the sets can be won if the effort is forthcoming.

Liverpool Y.M. "A" have made a good start to the season with I. Burrows, P. Lee, P. Tsang and H. Johnson all winning their fair share of sets. Good results here against Wavertree Labour 3-7 and Y.M.C.A. 1st 3-7, (who says these matches aren't competitive). Lets hope they even things up for the top three by taking some sets off English Electric. Another team to start well is Crawford's, newly promoted they have surprised a lot of people with their strength in depth and fighting spirit, keep up the good work and I'm sure you will stay in the first. Mossley Hill have strengthened their team with A. Bryce the ex-Colonsay player who is currently holding down the number one spot quite effectively.

I would like to finish on a note of appeal. As you know the Digest of late is suffering from lack of correspondence. A note or letter or even any ideas you may have to improve its format would be greatly appreciated, after all it is your digest and you should try to help run it, all you have to do is write to the Editor.

RON BURKE

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Waterloo Pk.	9	8	1	0	59
Sefton	8	6	1	1	55
Trinity "A"	8	4	3	1	49
Police	8	3	4	1	46
Colonsay "A"	7	5	1	1	41
Linacre	7	4	2	1	40
Bath St. "A"	7	4	2	1	37
Liv. Y.M. "C"	8	3	5	0	36
Wav. Labour "C"	7	3	4	0	29
Colonsay "B"	7	1	5	1	28
Old Swan	7	2	5	0	27
Rafters "A"	6	1	4	1	24
Wav. Labour "D"	7	0	7	0	9

Welcome back to yet another season with yours truly taking over from Keith Fitzsimmons who has had a deserved promotion whilst I have had an undeserved one—4B to 2nd. Keith has told me that he expects me to maintain the same standard with my notes as his own last season. Being a polite chap I refrained from telling him that wouldn't be very difficult! Now on to business.

The somewhat unexpected front runners at the moment are Sefton closely pursued by Colonsay "A" and their early season meeting ended in a draw. Both are unbeaten and look likely promotion candidates, which is pretty surprising as Sefton could only manage 6th place last season and still have the same team and Colonsay "A" have three players from their "C" team which only finished 3rd in 3B and one from their "B" team which only just avoided relegation last season. With all due respects to them it doesn't look as if the standard in this division is improving, as I feel sure they will agree.

Accurate forecasting is pretty difficult at the moment with the Police having apparently lost their anchor man, Bob Pettit, and making a slow and undistinguished start which has already lost them a lot of ground and another possible contender, Waterloo Park, still playing mainly for pleasure and not being really interested in the possibilities of promotion.

The promoted teams have made very little impression, which I find surprising as it was expected that Rafters "A" and Bath St. "A" would do well, but with their teams not yet being as strong as expected they have

yet to make their mark, and if Rafters don't make it soon they could well find themselves involved in the relegation struggle. Old Swan appear to have at last reached their level and after carrying it all before them in the lower divisions must now get used to being just another team in this division but at least they should have no relegation problems for this season anyway. Trinity "A" could well pay dearly for clubs decision to split their playing strength for some reason which is not yet apparent for it is as hard for the lesser teams in this division to stay up as it is for the stronger ones to achieve promotion. Only three to go down makes it a little easier but a final total of at least 100 sets may well be necessary.

One definite candidate for relegation must be Wavertree Labour "D" and this is hardly surprising as the team is the one which won 4B last season and who, due to changes in the club, now find themselves in this division. Our fellow clubmates in the "C" team now treat us with respect as we took 3 sets off them and it could easily have been five!! The "C" team look a likely middle of the table team, good enough to trouble everyone but lacking that extra ability to become challengers. However, with Captain John Hoban fresh from his cruise to warmer climates anything is likely to happen to this team.

Linacre are again well placed but cannot see them finally managing much better than 6th place but if any team is capable of providing shock results and upsetting the top teams it must be them. Liv. Y.M. "C" could well turn out to be the 'dark horses' of this division. At the moment they are in a similar class as Labour "C" but I believe a re-ranking is taking place in the teams above them which could result in this team being strengthened and making them possible runners in the promotion stakes. They will have a bit of leeway to make up but have plenty of time in which to do it.

Some notable victories, Colin Hall (Old Swan) got a good double over Brenda Williams and Colin Field of Colonsay. John Doherty (Y.M.) beat Bill Crafter and Alan Reid both in the third and Jack Davidson had a good double against Bath St. when

he beat Billy Clayton and Alan Walton both in two straight. Rumour has it that Bill Clayton has decided it is too hot in this division so he has nipped back into the 1st team in place of Eric Hardman.

Finally, I am truly sorry to see the name of Linnets disappear from the league for we can ill afford to lose such a long serving club. I see that some of the players from that club have entered under another name and I feel it is a sad reflection on such a well known club that they could not couple its name with their new title. A small thing maybe, but one which I feel must be said.

KEN ARMSON

DIVISION 3A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Vagabonds	6	6	0	0	54
Police "A"	6	5	1	0	42
Crawfords "A"	7	5	2	0	41
Liv. Y.M. "D"	7	5	2	0	39
Eng. Elec. "B"	7	1	4	2	35
Cadwa "A"	6	3	3	0	29
Bath St. "C"	6	3	3	0	28
Liv. Jewish	6	2	3	1	28
Rafters "B"	6	2	3	1	28
Maghull	5	3	2	0	26
Liv. Poly	7	1	5	1	26
Crawfords 'B'	6	1	5	0	16
Crawfords "D"	5	0	4	1	8

With the season only a few weeks old Vagabonds have established a clear lead at the top of the Division. This time last season they were at the other end of the table. Their present position can be attributed to the fact they have strengthened their team by the inclusion of ex-Sparta players.

The Police also have a useful side and can be relied upon to be somewhere near the top of the Division. It is doubtful if any of the remaining teams will be able to challenge for the Championship. The best they can hope for is a night of glory.

Relegation problems for not only Crawfords "D", but also Crawfords "B". Liverpool Polytechnic are now without D. Gilbert who was capable of holding his own at No. 1. Perhaps he will return before the end of the season and help them clear the relegation zone.

Crawfords "D" twice and Cadwa have been on the receiving end of 10-0 defeats. One of the winning

teams was English Electric "B" and this can be considered their best performance so far this season. I doubt if they will again win by this score.

Cadwa have also been involved in two close matches. In the first they lost 6-4 to Liverpool Jewish. Seven of the sets went to three games. D. Money winning two for Liverpool Jewish. A fortnight later Cadwa entertained Rafters "B" and won 7-3. Here six sets went to three, J. Henshaw and R. Davies winning two each for Cadwa.

On the whole not an eventful start to the season. Only two players remain unbeaten G. Sanders and E. Barnes of Vagabonds.

In conclusion, I would like to refer to an incident during a recent match. At the end of the first game, a player complained that his opponent was foul serving. This was disputed by the alleged offender. The second commenced with the ball being served the same way as in the first game. The umpire—who was from the complainant's team accepted the service as "Good". After the game the argument continued, but nobody was able to produce a Rule Book to substantiate who was right.

The question which crossed my mind was:— Should a player complain at the end of the first game, or should he wait until the set is over? Bearing in mind the complainant could not prove he was right on the evening. Opinions if any, to the Editor please. Incidentally, the complaining player won two straight.

BRIAN CUNNINGHAM

DIVISION 3B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Beauclair	6	6	0	0	49
Cadwa	6	4	0	2	43
Eng. Elec. "C"	7	4	1	2	43
Orrell	7	4	3	0	42
Trinity "B"	5	4	0	1	39
Police "B"	7	3	4	0	34
Crawfords "C"	6	3	2	1	30
Old Swan "A"	4	2	1	1	23
Bath St. "B"	5	1	2	2	22
Norris Green	6	3	3	0	22
Waterloo Pk. "A"	7	1	5	1	19
Hill Top	7	0	7	0	18
Colonsay "C"	7	0	7	0	16

As we are now well into another Table Tennis season and as you will receive the digest sometime around Christmas (I hope) it is a rather belated welcome greeting we send to Beauclair, Old Swan, Crawfords and Norris Green, who are all, incidentally doing very well indeed.

Looking at the League Tables there are only 21 points separating the top club English Electric, and the bottom club Colonsay, so it looks as though we are in for another close, exciting and competitive season.

English Electric after scraping clear from relegation last season now head the table. They have a completely new look—**OUT**—are Wally Sill, Ken Black, Ron Craddock and Albi Parker—**IN**—are B. Crolley, A. Jones, D. Hunter, D. Johnson and what's this—Jack Lambert ! ! ! ? ? — is he trying to do a Ken Armson—play, write and edit ? ?—best of luck Jack—you'll need it.

Beauclair are back with a bang (and a bar) and Dave Berry—I look forward to renewing a few battles with Dave. Other members of the team are F. Murphy, K. Harrison and E. Birch, who has only lost one game to date and that was to Cyril Callaghan (Orrell) 19/21; 21/19; 21/18; who has also only lost one—to John Higham (Trinity) 21/19; 21/16. Trinity, in fact, have quite a formidable line-up of Killip, Higham, Hanking and Lawson (last year's No. 1) and should be there or thereabouts at the end of the season.

Cadwa have held both Trinity and English Electric to 5—5 draws. Ian Blore being the hero on both occasions. He beat Killip two straight, John Hankin 21/8 in the third, Jack Lambert two straight and B. Crolley 21/16 in the third.

At the other end of the table Colonsay are bottom, and could well stay there as they seem to be experimenting with their youth. Brian Leeson and Bill Jones are picking up odd points against mediocre teams, but I don't think this will be enough, still all credit for trying. The three ladies in Colonsay's team deserve a mention. Miss J. Turner, Miss C. Jones, Miss C. Gore, even if they are slightly out of their depth. Just above Colonsay lie Hilltop and our problem is not inexperienced youth, but simply lack

of players, Lou Cohen has kindly come out of retirement to help us out, so I will take this opportunity of asking any interested parties to write to me (14 Weaver Avenue, Lathom, Ormskirk) or better still contact Alan Rycroft (526 7547). How about it! What's happened to Sparta's team? There must be some readers who are interested.

As this is the first edition this season I will repeat yet again **THIS IS YOUR COLUMN** please use it. Anything you want mentioned in the notes, tell me, write to Jack, Ken Armson.

It seems to me that there are many who are ready to criticise yet to few help.

ROB LOCK

DIVISION 4A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Maghull "A"	8	6	2	0	54
Eng. Elec. "D"	7	4	3	0	39
Rafters "C"	4	3	1	0	25
Bedford House	5	2	2	1	24
Police "C"	4	2	2	0	22
Eng. Elec. "F"	5	3	2	0	23
York House	3	3	0	0	19
Bath St. "D"	4	1	2	1	17
Cadwa "B"	5	0	4	1	16
Orrell "B"	5	1	4	0	14
University	3	1	2	0	13

The loss of four teams from the original line-up of our division, and the addition of only one was not the brightest of starts for us. It does have its advantage however, it means we all have enough "free" weeks to make claimed matches an absolute non-essential. Therefore, the champions of our division will be worthy winners.

Who will be the winners ?

Early results point to York House, with the former V.M.C.A. trio of Smith, Ginlay and Wishart. They have already defeated two major rivals, Maghull "A" 7—3 (Smith, Wishart 2) and English Electric "D" 6—4. Rafters "C" may well also be in the running, as they showed when scoring the first 10—0 of the season over Orrell.

Maghull have perhaps had their best start for some time, winning four out of their first five. My own team Bedford House found them in

fine form when they defeated us 8—2 (Draper, Clarke, Pemberton 2 each), but just to show what a strange game it is, we reversed the score seven days later, on the same table 7—3 in the Forest Cup. Luck was not on the side of Electric "F" in their defeat at Rafter's (8—2) G. Connor retired hurt and had to concede 3 sets—we wish him a speedy recovery. The Editor was their hero winning one of his singles, and teaming up with P. Lewis to win his doubles. O'Keefe, Kelly and Hughes replied with 2 each for Rafter's. Bath St. 7—3 win over Cadwa was closer than the score suggests, the following were all resolved in the third (Bath St. names first)—J. Mills beat R. Davies 23/21; Miss H. Jane beat C. Roberts 26/24 then Miss Jane/Miss Kitto beat Davies/Roberts 23/21.

Finally, I would like to point out the efforts of our new editorial staff, to make this year's Digest a success. At last year's A.G.M. however, some people suggested that we are not being practical about its format and economics. It is up to all of us to consider this and express our feelings at the end of the season. Maybe it is possible to produce a better, cheaper journal with more relevant information.

KEN BRADY

DIVISION 4B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Liv. Jewish "A"	8	4	4	0	48
Knotty Ash	7	5	2	0	46
Trinity "C"	6	6	0	0	45
Beauclair "C"	5	5	0	0	39
Giro	6	4	2	0	39
Eng. Elec. "E"	5	4	1	0	30
Woolton	6	3	3	0	26
Cadwa "C"	6	1	5	0	21
St. Hugh's	5	0	5	0	11
Knotty Ash "A"	5	0	5	0	10
Police "D"	5	0	5	0	9
Orrell "A"	2	1	1	0	6

May I take the opportunity of welcoming Woolton, Liverpool Jewish and St. Hugh's to this division to join up with the regulars from last season. As no fewer than four teams from this division were promoted, all into 3B, this season we are looking for some new front runners.

From the early results in so far, it looks as though the leading teams

will include Beauclair 'A' (better known as Sparta), Trinity 'C', Knotty Ash and Liverpool Jewish, but it is early days yet and Orrell 'A' and English Electric 'E' are capable of producing good results. Orrell 'A' start each new season slowly due to a lack of summer practice but within weeks now they will be a very difficult side to beat.

Linnets and Sefton have already dropped out of this division and this will ease relegation worries which would have haunted Police 'D' and Knotty Ash 'A', both these teams have yet to win their first match and the Police have "hailed" in 10 different players in their first three games in an endeavour to find a winning formula.

Beauclair have made the most impressive start with two 9-1 victories over strong Giro and Knotty Ash sides for whom A. Nolan and J. Ainsworth played well, both stretching W. Leeming and W. Holmes to three sets.

Trinity 'C' have started with four straight victories although against lesser opposition than their rivals, T. Downing so far winning 6 for his 100 per cent. The other 100 per cent. players are H. Randalls of Trinity, and the Beauclair trio of W. Leeming, W. Holmes and J. Lightburn. Other players who should figure in the individual averages this season are J. Ainsworth of Knotty Ash, A. Nolan of Giro, P. Grugel of Trinity and R. Napier of Electric.

It will need a few more games yet for the doubles situation to sort itself out, but by mid season we should have some leaders in this specialised department of our game. I feel that a lot more practice is required before full advantage is taken of the two doubles games and many matches can be won or lost by good or indifferent doubles performances.

The matches English Electric against St. Hugh's and Jewish against Cadwa must have taken at least until midnight as 8 out of the 10 sets went to a third game before Electric and Jewish finally won 7-3. In their two matches A. McAlle and R. Peverall were unlucky, playing 9 games without winning a set.

One of the season's most enthralling sets so far was the great doubles play of R. Napier and P. Lewis of English Electric against A. Nolan and J. Nelson of Giro. The Electric pair just taking the honours in this tactical battle 15/21; 26/24; 23/21.

Woolton have used seven players so far in a promising start against good opposition with W. Hargreaves and D. Williams producing good results, their doubles results however, are not as encouraging.

December stages the first battle of the two top teams Beauclair versus Trinity so that in the next issue of "Digest" we should have a clearer picture of our league table.

COLIN PRATT.

DIVISION 5A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
St. John	7	6	1	0	63
Woolton "A"	7	6	1	0	57
Cross Inter.	7	5	2	0	49
Vagabonds "A"	7	5	1	1	41
Aighburth P.H.	7	4	2	1	38
Barker & Dobson	5	4	0	1	34
Knotty Ash "B"	6	2	1	3	33
Blundellsands	8	2	6	0	32
Trinity "D"	7	3	4	0	29
Rafters "D"	7	2	4	1	22
Maghull "C"	6	1	3	2	19
Tuebrook	7	0	6	1	17
Goodlass Wall	5	1	4	0	16
Harding	6	0	6	0	10

Welcome to another season which, judging by some of the early results seems likely to be one of the most exciting for years with the title not being decided until very near the end of the season.

Some results which seem to show that form has not really settled down yet: St. Johns 9, Vagabonds 1, A.P.M. 2, Vagabonds 8, St. John's 4, A.P.M. 6, or—Maghull 0, Woolton 10, Barker Dobson 5, Maghull 5, Woolton 4, Barker Dobson 6. The St. John v. A.P.M. match must have been the closest played for a long time, with no fewer than seven sets going to three games.

Les Harper (Vagabonds) deserves sympathy for two of his results, i.e. against R. McCracken (Knotty Ash) he lost 19/21; 21/23; and in the doubles with Brian Phillips lost 37/25 in the third against Mike Gold-

berg and myself (A.P.M.). Les appears to delight in going to three games as results of 8/21; 21/8; 20/22 against J. McLoughlin (St. John's) and a win of 21/5 in the third against D. Humphreys (Goodlass Wall) seem to prove.

Woolton and Barker Dobson seem to have improved immeasurably since last season—let's hope they can keep it up and make a strong challenge for the title.

Most of the newcomers seem to be struggling somewhat and I hope they won't lose heart. If S. Prince can play regularly for Blundellsands I feel that they will get enough points to pull clear of the bottom of the table.

I must be mad to make predictions at this stage of the season, but here is my idea of the top five at the end of the season; (1) St. John's; (2) Vagabonds; (3) A.P.M.; (4) Woolton; (5) Cross Inter., although Woolton could prove me wrong by winning the Division.

One bright spot to finish with, there have been no 10-0 walkovers so far and I can only find one case of a team playing short, let's hope we can keep this up and make this the best division in the league for attendances.

BARRY MEYER.

DIVISION 5B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
York House "A"	7	6	1	0	45
Mossley Hill "A"	5	5	0	0	43
Knotty Ash "G"	7	4	2	1	43
Panto	5	3	1	1	33
Vagabonds "B"	5	3	1	1	32
Maghull "B"	6	3	3	0	30
Bath St. "E"	4	3	1	0	29
Lancs. Police	7	1	5	1	27
Trinity "E"	6	2	4	0	25
Colonsay "D"	7	2	4	1	25
Eng. Elec. "G"	7	1	4	2	25
Blundellsands "A"	5	0	4	1	13
Tuebrook "A"	4	1	3	0	10

For once we are NOT on the receiving end of the "Drop outs" — we have one only missing team, I wonder how the others feel to be on the receiving end?

We certainly have a mixed grill of youth and experience, a warm welcome to all our 'newies' I only

wish you had a nice cosy division for starters but, you have a few really tough ones to come during the season, and top of these must be Mossley Hill 'A'—or is it Palmerston?—who went 'o Vagabonds and took seven points away shared between Hudson, Davies K., and Alexander. Ridgway G, had a hand in two of Vags, wins, an excellent performance, as Vags. have a pretty strong set-up.

Two young teams with expert guidance had a great little battle: York House A (Jim Smith) 6; (Maguire and Alleine 2); Colonsay D (John O'Sullivan) 4; Rutherford having a hand in three of the wins, these latter boys are De La Salle pupils—both teams are learning fast. Which is good or bad whichever side of the 30-40 age group you're on.

Nice to see the Maghull 'going' back with us again, they have the same foursome as last season led by Brown R. English Electric G seem to be using their team for the introduction of youngsters (how about the plump elderly gentleman?). Graham Black at 10 has won his first game and Dave Money, Jnr, soon followed suit.

Lesley and Barrington of Tuebrook were double winners against Trinity, Vaight having a hand in two of the latter's 3 wins. An encouraging win for the new Tuebrook club. Another tough one for Trinity E (A. Gavin 2) when losing 6-4 to Knotty Ash 'C' Pownall and Hughes G, both scoring doubles.

Blundellsands 'A' and Lancs. Constabulary had an early chance to test their new surroundings with the Police (Wilcox and Leigh 2) proving too strong in an 8-2 win. I hope the tennis club can retain their early interest. Their 5-5 draw with Vagabonds (Armitt 2) should help, Prince having three good wins. A full strength Vagabonds team beat the Post Office who were without Malcolm Allison—sorry Alf Heyes. It was D. Ridgway who this time took the honours.

Bath St. led by our old friend Georgison look a good solid team with 8-2's flowing easily. Laycock (Lancs. Police) and Lefevre (Blundellsands) did well to save their sides a whitewash against Mossley Hill and Maghull 'B'.

As only a small majority of us prefer straight divisions to the pyramid system we find we have no starting off point for new teams and beginners, consequently they find themselves mixed with equi 2nd and 3rd division sides. (What happened to Sefton 'A' after making a farce of our division last season?). I find with the rarest exceptions these better class players adjust their games accordingly and in some cases finish up with a coaching session! So I find nothing particularly meritorious in a 21-1; 2k-3 score line on one card.

JACK LAMBERT.

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

At the start of a new season I would like to raise the whole question of the future of the Digest. The League rules lay down that the registration fee shall include the cost of four issues of the Digest but, as was pointed out at the Annual General Meeting they do not lay down the form the Digest should take. In view of the ever increasing cost of printing and postage I feel that we can no longer afford the Digest in its present form. Last season my club received their first Digests after we had played *eleven* matches. As the league tables were only made up to *five* matches and a great deal of the other information was out of date I don't consider that the issue was worth the paper it was written on never mind the time, effort and money that had gone into its production.

My idea is to publish the Digest as a News Sheet suitable for posting up on club notice boards. One copy of this news sheet should be sent to each club secretary at his home address by first class post. I suggest that the League Tables be made up to November 1st, January 1st, March 1st, and season-end and the news sheets be sent out as *soon as possible after these dates*.

Three sheets of foolscap paper would be sufficient for each issue, one for the league tables and the other two for matters of league and divisional interest. As it is intended to be displayed on a notice board I think it should be printed on one side of the paper only. I suggest that it should be Xeroxed rather than duplicated as this is a far simpler process and gives a better final result.

Lastly I would like to touch on the question of cost. Based on a league of forty clubs the cost of postage would be £4.80 per season (40 x 3p x 4 issues). In fact the final issue could be enclosed with the A.G.M. papers thus saving £1.20. The cost of Xeroxing depends on the size of the machine used and the number of copies done, but to my certain knowledge, it is possible to produce 40 copies each of three sheets for as little as 90p the lot, plus the cost of paper.

Allowing another 10 copies for the Editor's records and the Officers of the League the total cost of producing four issues, including the cost of the paper, would not exceed £6.00. Together with postage this makes a grand total of £10.80. Set this against the cost of the Digest in its present form which is in the region of £200 and I feel that the argument in favour of a change is unanswerable.

Ernest W. Sturgess,
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Linnets Table Tennis Club

Born: October 1st, 1951; Died September 18th, 1972.

Address: Somewhere in Aigburth.

First Secretary - Renee Sturgeon; Last Secretary - Barry Meyer.
- and in between there was Jim Green.

‘Be there man with soul so dead
Who never to himself hath said
This is my own, my native land’.

Yes there is—Linnets was their native land, and at its peak there were over eleven teams of them. I have not tried to find the reason for the eventual collapse of the club—it might hurt too much—then again there may be a perfectly plausible one.

Linnets - Jim Green - Jo's Cafe - Linnets - Aigburth - Jim Green - Lark Lane - Linnets, all fit snugly together. Apart from Jim's personal contacts and friends, the name Jo Green was not very often heard, but the name of this young lady must be mentioned. She must be young at least in heart to have accomplished so much for Jim and through Jim for the club. Not only did she run the cafe but her assistance, nursing, support and devotion to Jim Green in his personal life and table tennis activities—in the latter years mostly from his sick bed, not only prolonged Jimmy's life but the life of the Linnet Club.

The Club started in the South region and quickly reached Div. 1. Honours were few, runners up was their strong point. Amongst many second places were creditable performances in losing to Liverpool Y.M. '65, and English Electric '71 in the Readman Cup. Wins in the Rumjohn beating University '57 South Region, Ladies' Divisions. But their big season was '57/58, Division 1 runner-up to Balfour and beating Bohemians 8-2 in the Readman Cup. They had three players in the top six, Don Hobbs (2), Frank Thomas 5; Bill Pierce 6 (A point of interest: 1 was Arthur Taylor, 3 Reg Hetherington and 4 Ron Rumjohn) a great season for Linnets. Other Linnets names amongst those past and present too numerous to mention—George Morgan, Ray Lavin and Alan Dean, in till the end. Don Brown who is now on our appeals committee, Amy Bell, Tony G. Ralph Gunnion at the time England No. 6 who Jim at great personal expense brought up from Birmingham to hammer those ‘English Electric’ big heads (who were his personal friends). Gordon Birch beat Ralph in two straight games! Poor Jim, his obsession for the game attracted Liverpool a great table tennis power again. I feel I am near to achieving both ambitions with eleven teams mostly home produced and Liverpool *beating* Manchester for the first time in 30 years!

But fate decided a complete change of fortune and Linnets joined the other greats—Balfour, Anfield (St. Simon and St. Jude), Oakhill, Bootle Y.M.C.A. and others who have fallen by the wayside.

The club is ended but the memory lingers on.

JACK LAMBERT

How to arrange a Semi-final

It came to pass that the cup draw brought together those great rivals Scottish Gas and Swingabbranch Whigs in the Semi-Final of the league's major trophy. At once the people who would most influence the result swung into action, those arch rivals Jack Sheeal and Ken Legdad, the respective secretaries. The league, in their infinite naivety, announced the venue, the local Y.W.C.A. Much to its Captain's disgust (he being Gorgeous George) Jack Sheeal promptly produced his local map, and announced that as the Y.W.C.A. was at least 750 yards nearer to the Whig's Club than his own, it was obvious favouritism. Legdad, not wishing to appear dilatory in the matter proclaimed that the Gas team always had better results at the Y.W.C.A. than the Whigs, and what better proof of "fixing" could there be? Neither team had dropped a set against Y.W.C.A. for ten years or so, but Legdad pointed out that a reserve from the Whigs "Z" team had been taken to "Deuce" once, however, he had been in love with his opponent "Randy Mandy" at the time.

The league promptly altered the venue to Rooftops, a venue at least six miles from at least one of the clubs, and renowned for the slippery floor, due to icicles dripping from the ceiling and refreezing, the speed of its table, a trained tortoise being able to play solo table-tennis with time to spare, and the quality of its refreshments, which would ensure the presence of one committee member to score at least. Legdad and Sheeal, only able to think of honest reasons for objecting, agreed reluctantly.

The league then made its second mistake, it announced a date. Immediately, in fact before he knew the date, Sheeal objected on the grounds that C. Barnes and D. Neale were not available on that night. The League were nonplussed, not only were these players not registered, half the committee hadn't heard of them, Sheeal agreed that he hadn't signed them yet, but who could say he wouldn't? Legdad drew level by stating that the named date was the 17th anniversary of the day he touched Johnny Leach's tracksuit, and his players always spent the night in meditation in the public bar. The League admitted defeat, and told the two Fuerhers to mutually arrange a suitable date.

Legdad and Sheeal met in a neutral pub, armed only with astrological tables and half a dozen lawyers each, they began the fateful discussion. Legdad made the first thrust, naming the day Sheeal No. 1's wedding anniversary, Sheeal countered with the night of the Whigs dart section dance, Deadlock!! After 3½ hours bitter (and whisky chasers) argument, agreement was reached. The matter would be referred back to the league for a 'Deshishun'.

The Fixture Secretary, Eddie Carnshaft, promptly resigned, but was coaxed back into office by Sheeal's promise of last season's result cards. With a decision worthy of Solomon, Eddie placed a number of dates into a hat and drew one out. To a hushed crowd, he announced that the date was set for the 5th January, on being informed that it was already the 15th January, he promptly fined both clubs and awarded the match to Rooftops. An embarrassed Rooftops Secretary Peter Ginjar explained that all his players had been signed by Les German, energetic overlord of Colontalk, and on investigation it was found that everyone else had been signed by him, so they had to award Colontalk the League and Cup.

Any reference to persons alive or dead (the latter appertaining to committee members only) is purely coincidental or is it? There appears to be some very shady goings on here and legal action may be taken against Net Cord and Table Edge by Scottish Gas and Swingabbranch Clubs. What is your opinion should Carnshaft have resigned or should a let have been declared.

Table Edges

Congratulations to Tony Clayton (English Electric) on being selected to play for England v. West Germany.

Brenda Williams (Colonsay) now ranked England No. 3 junior lost in round 2 of the Junior girls at the Cumberland Open but reached the semi-final of the ladies' singles.

Was Ken Hyde *our president* the finest player ever produced on Merseyside?

George Smith (Liverpool Y.M.) is now a veteran!!?

Sylvia Theis and Gordon Nevins (both English Electric) were married recently at St. Chad's, Kirkby. Chcer leaders from Bedford House, Wav. Labour and English Electric were present. To quote the words of the immortal Bard—'So please remember one and all—The game is more than bat and ball'—said Sylvia to Gordon on the third day of their Majorca honeymoon.

Pssst! ... The B.H. League have a team in the Lancashire and Cheshire league again. Team Manager, Bill Clayton (Otis and Bath St.); Geoff Edmunds (Otis and Eng. Elec.); Trevor Owens (Plesseys and Wav. Labour); Ted Gilmour (Otis and Wav. Labour).

John Molyneux (Wav. Labour) tripped over a 'Met cord' and injured his leg. He will be out of action all season. His column will be missed in the Digest and by the look of the league table his team miss him too. Get well soon.

I bet Eddie Cameron wishes that Orrell 'A's' away opponents would send their score cards in! I believe they are not the only ones to forget the stamp or the post box.

It has been suggested that some teams have little contact with their Hon. Sec. and would prefer four mags. to go to their captains. Well?

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Is it true that England's No. 1 Veteran and an England selector to wit had his Merseyside Open entry turned down — how to make friends, etc.

Whilst our fixture secretary was basking in the South African sun—on business of course—his wife was kindly putting our League Table together. Thank you Mrs. Cameron.

Have a look at the names of the correspondents—if the magazine is late they are in no way to blame—the new boy Ed. received a 101 per cent. cooperation from them.

For the first time since the inaugural issue of the magazine there are no Ladies' divisional notes, another sad blow to our local game. I am saying this farewell until the next issue.

How long would you reckon that Alec and Jack Davidson and Frank Lacy have been playing for Linacre in the same team?

J.A.L.