

Table Tennis Digest

Volume 26

Number 2



Official Magazine

OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Table Tennis Digest

All correspondence must be
addressed to the Editor
"Table Tennis Digest"

Published during the
months of December,
January,
March and May.

— Editorial Board —

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Vol. 26

JANUARY 1973

No. 2

Editorial

Let's see now, where did we finish off last month? I hope that we were agreeing that the magazine is the place to air your views and the club committee is the place to make your voice heard if you are not satisfied with a rule or the way something is being run.

To certain people the latter applies to the Digest, first of all we have to convince the committee and the majority of our club that the Digest is no bon and if we are successful we then have to convince over two thirds of an Annual General Meeting, which is quite a different proposition to a couple of blokes jumping up on their own initiative at an A.G.M. and saying the Digest is no bon (Common Market stuff here).

Prior to this season I had the feeling that I was one of the silent majority which I estimated about 90% who called the Editor and the Digest many harsh words PRIOR to receiving the 'mag' and on receipt of same I joined the deadly hush whilst reading and enjoying it all was then forgiven and I was 100% Digest fan again. Now of course, in my "elevated" position I must be for our little Magazine and join the 5% for and is there 5% against? These figures are based purely on my thoughts as I write.

So you have on the one hand rising prices and a 90p fee which includes four issues of the Digest which in turn is invariably about three weeks out of date (O.K.—at least!!) Non-posting of score cards make the league tables far more out of date than the time lag in producing the mag. this is a fact. Note the differential in matches, in the two tables produced to date.

On the other hand you have a unique magazine, the envy of many outside who have only periodic bulletins, which has been tolerated for over 21 years by players and officials from this league and which endeavours to keep you in the

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picture on all local items of news however big or small despite the fact that the people who are interested in contributing to the magazine are a very limited band.

The time lag incidentally, includes Eddie Cameron's essential records, Ken Armson's personal records, an arduous task, correspondents receiving, writing and posting notes—not an easy task if the baby is ill or you work a few nights overtime and then the compiling and editing. So is the time lag so great? The printers are the only ones paid, it costs everyone else cash!

I make no apology for belabouring the matter—I feel it is important you now have all the basic facts as I see them.

Lancashire and Cheshire League

Rarely can our Liverpool teams have been in such a healthy state. The mens first team share the top spot with Bolton and Preston while their main rivals appear to be Bolton the game at Preston will be a real tough one. All three teams have played 3, won 2, drawn 1.

The 'A' Team are second in Division 2 North having played five, won three, drawn one and lost one. The mens 3rd team are 4th in Division 4 North with a record of played four, won two, drawn one and lost one. The Youth Team have played three with a win, a draw and one loss.

And now for the big guns, the Junior Team are undefeated having won four games from four matches. The ladies are really showing their male counterparts the way. The first team are top with Manchester both teams having won three games. The 'A' team have won four games jointly with Southport. So the big games for the Liverpool girls are against Manchester and Southport (The latter at English Electric, Friday, January 26th). In the Norman Cooke Cup which is a handicap competition with teams consisting of three men and a girl, our team was at full strength with D'Arcy, Clayton and Allanson against Macclesfield at English Electric, but what happened to the girl friend? When she had not arrived at about ten to nine Janet Rumjahn very nobly stepped into the breach and despite her lack of match practice had to give 10 points in 21 as did the rest of the team. I feel that a team handicap would be much more conducive to a good match than individual handicaps. Liverpool lost 8-2.

With Tony Clayton opting for his home town of Hull (Wot no tea and ham sandwiches—not even a ball) in the Willmott Cup—they lost 5-2 to Chesterfield—John Marshall made one of his rare appearances for the Liverpool team and although not winning played exceptionally well against the strong Stockport side away, Liverpool lost 5-2 Wally Allanson winning the two Liverpool games.

Congratulations to Val Blore on being selected for Lancashire 2nd Team.

J.A.L.

MERSEYSIDE OPEN

The Merseyside 2-Star Open Tournament November, 1972.

Trevor Taylor became the new Merseyside Open Champion at the Tournament held at Dunlop's on November 25th. He beat all his opponents in straight games, confirming his position as top seed, crushing Brian Burn 7 and 7 in the Quarters, Mike John 9 and 16 in the Semi-Final and Tony Clayton 17 and 10 in the Final.

Tony Clayton reached round four before being taken to three by Derek Munt. He then knocked out Jimmy Walker 17 and 21 in the Quarters, Alan Ransome 13 and 18 in the Semi-Final before his two straight Final defeat.

Only four local players managed to win through more than one round, unfortunately, while in the Men's Doubles event, the results of local players were even less rewarding.

Mike and Brian Johns won the Men's Doubles Title. They beat Trevor Taylor and Jimmy Walker in an exciting Final 17-21, 21-11, 21-18. The Johns brothers had previously defeated Brian Burn/Peter Taylor in the Quarters and Laurie Landry/Tony Clayton in the Semi-Final, both in three games.

Miss Susan Lisle managed to retain her Women's Singles Title but she was made to fight hard in both Semi-Final and Final. Judith Walker nearly won in the semi, Susan just getting home 21-19, 10-21, 21-18, while Anita Stevenson caused her some anxious moments before her Final success, 16-21, 21-18, 21-9.

Mandy Mellor, unseeded, achieved a good win over the third seed, Brenda Williams, 9 and 18, but there were no other real upsets in this event.

The Women's Doubles Title went as expected to Susan Lisle and Anita Stevenson. They beat Elaine Tarten and Gillian Taylor 21-12, 21-17, in the Final.

The most exciting Final of the whole Tournament, however, was without doubt that between Desmond Douglas and David Alderson for the Junior Boys' Singles Title. Each had won one game 21-18, and in the third Alderson had achieved a very big lead and seemed to have the Title in his grasp. Douglas, however, gradually reduced the margin, point by point, and took the game, and the Title, 21-19.

John McNee had an excitingly close quarter final battle with Desmond Douglas, losing 21-18 in the third game.

Anita Stevenson became the new Junior Girls' Champion when she defeated Gillian Taylor, 21-18, 21-19 in the Final. Gillian had earlier knocked out the second seed, Brenda Williams, 22-20 in the third, and a more surprising 21-6, 21-8 win over the third seed, Judith Walker, in the Quarter Final.

George Smith brought us a local victory when he disposed of Terry Donlon 21-15, 21-13 in the Final of the Veterans' Singles. In the Semi-Final, he had overcome Roy Jones, last year's losing finalist, in two straight games, 21-8, 21-15.

The total prize money for this year's Merseyside Tournament was £200, provided by our Sponsor, Barker and Dobson Limited. The firm also donated a number of jars of confectionery, which were presented to the holders of lucky programme numbers during the Finals Evening. We are all extremely grateful to Barker and Dobson Limited for their generous help and we hope that our Tournament brought them some useful publicity.

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Finally, as Tournament Secretary and Referee, may I put on record my sincere thanks to all those people who assisted in any way with the smooth running of the event. Many players and officials, known friends and friendly visitors, gave untiring help throughout the day. All helped to achieve what we all set out to achieve—a successful Tournament.

Brian Leeson.

Merseyside Open – Postscript

Was Helen Gourlay (Daddy, Nick Y.M.C.A.) aged one the youngest spectator at the Merseyside? The happiest—the young chap who won the Barker & Dobson bottle of sweets—his eyes had popped out that far, they rested on the top of the bottle!

Norwich Union backed the English Closed Champions and they became The Norwich Union English Championships. I am sure our committee are more than grateful to Barker & Dobson for not taking our name—it remained The Merseyside Open.

From 9.30 in the morning till eleven o'clock at night—How many words do you reckon Brian Leeson spoke—How many miles do you reckon Jack McKaig walked?

A nice gesture by our chairman's wife Lil Upton in presenting on behalf of the Committee Mrs. M. Lambert wife of Barker and Dobson's Managing Director with a bouquet of flowers in appreciation for the charming way in which she made the prize presentations.

Since losing its three star status through administrative difficulties (nudge nudge—elbow elbow—say no more!) our tournament has not been adversely commented on in Table Tennis news so we seem to have gained our lost laurels. This year seemed very smooth with lots of hard work.

Ormesby is a great club—the male side certainly helped to make our tournament a success.

Top players comments were varied—excellent layout—oh for a cup of tea and a sandwich after six—not much personal consideration—atmosphere lacking a final—dinners top class—canteen service up to close down excellent—prizes superb for a two star.

Five of the juniors who represented England in the European Youth Championships at Vyjle, Denmark competed, Douglas and Alderson providing a magnificent junior final.

Tony Clayton (Eng. Elec.) who reached the singles final must be the nearest approach to a local to just miss winning the English Closed and Merseyside Open being at University and living here and signed on for one of our leading teams.

When the draw was made on the stage for the bottles of sweets presented by Barker and Dobsons there must have been a fiddle!!! with two management members winning prizes, Arther Upton and Ken Black! Unfortunately for Ken he only won the booby prize—The Liverpool Mints. While Pete Lee (L'Pool Y.M.) won the super-de-luxe star prize THE EVERTON MINTS!!!

The officials, players and the Digest wish to put on record their appreciation of the considerable assistance given at the Merseyside Open Tournament by Barker & Dobsons and Dunlops.

A BIG THANK YOU FROM US ALL.

J.A.L.

Divisional Notes

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Wav. Labour	13	11	1	1	101
Eng. Elec.	12	11	0	1	95
Liv. YMCA	12	10	1	1	94
Trinity	12	5	4	3	69
Liv. YMCA 'A'	12	7	3	2	67
Wav. Lab. 'A'	12	4	5	3	52
Rafters	12	3	6	3	51
Eng. Elec. 'A'	12	3	7	2	48
Colonsay	12	1	5	6	46
Mossley Hill	10	4	5	1	45
Wav. Lab. 'B'	12	2	6	4	45
Bath St.	12	3	8	1	44
Crawfords	11	2	7	2	41
Liv. YMCA 'B'	12	1	9	2	32

I hope you have all had a good time over the Christmas break and a happy New Year to you all. It could well prove to be Wavertree's Happy New Year if their early season form can be maintained. I don't only mean the first team either. After a terrible start to the season the 'B' Team are getting themselves together and have played their last five games undefeated. If they keep this kind of team effort I am certain they will avoid relegation.

Talking as I have been on the relegation situation, Colonsay, early season candidates for the drop, seem to have rallied to the call and without their "Star" players have had some good results. Dave Williams seems to have been the inspiration to these results with a lot of help from Les Evans and Sue Manning.

English Electric should win the cup but I think they will be pushed all the way by the Y.M.C.A. With Pete Turtle still maintaining his great form and their good doubles play I think they might just do it. In their match against Wavertree Labour they showed just how important doubles now are in this League. They took both doubles and George Smith (one) and Peter Turtle (two) took their other sets in what appears to have been a good drawn game.

I see John Marshall has returned from London for a Christmas gathering of points to help steer Rafters from the lower realms of the first, although A. Timewell has been doing a good job in his place. Another

player picking up a list of useful sets is Pete Lee of Y.M.C.A. 'A'. His first season (Captain as well) in the first has improved his game no-end and this has been rewarded with a couple of games with the City 'B' team. Also his team-mate Paul Tsang is proving to be a formidable No. 1 and is adding some big "scalps" to his "belt".

The surprise team of the season could well be Trinity. After two seasons as relegation candidates they appear to have a settled team and are having some great wins and results. Here again one player seems to have inspired the rest of the team. J. Griffiths wins a few but it is his consistency that has bolstered his teams performances, the good form of Ricky Brown has helped a lot too.

The Y.M. 'B' seems to be heading for relegation, they have been beaten by all the lower teams and have recorded only one win so far this season. Therefore, the Y.M. 'B' are my New Year forecast for the drop along with Crawfords (Sorry Les!). My tip for the title is Wavertree Labour and English Electric for the Cup. Now let's see just how wrong I can be in my predictions for the New Year.

RON BURKE

Wav. Labour 'B' M/N Thursday.
Mossley Hill 'A' M/N Thursday.

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Sefton	11	9	1	1	80
Waterloo Park	12	10	2	0	78
Police	12	7	4	1	76
Trinity 'A'	11	6	4	1	67
Colonsay 'A'	11	6	3	2	61
Liv. YMCA 'C'	11	5	5	1	59
Linacre	11	5	5	1	56
Bath St. 'A'	10	5	3	2	52
Rafters 'A'	10	2	5	3	46
Colonsay 'B'	11	2	8	1	42
Wav. Lab. 'C'	11	4	6	1	41
Old Swan	10	3	7	0	41
Wav. Lab. 'D'	11	0	11	0	11

In spite of a couple of minor setbacks Sefton and Waterloo Park are firmly settled in at 1 and 2 and barring accidents these two now look likely winners with the odds slightly

in favour of Sefton to take the title, as they have been more consistent than Waterloo who have had too many 6-4 victories. It remains to be seen whether or not they can improve on these results in the return matches. Sefton, however, have the bit between their teeth and will take some stopping. Their doubles record is the best in the entire league and they dropped their only doubles set in the 6-4 defeat by Waterloo Park when Crafter/Sayle lost to Reid/Reid. As these two subsequently lost against Bath St. 'A' again in a 6-4 defeat only the Davies/Dancaster combination remain unbeaten. The doubles partnership for Sefton has brought 25% of their points total and assured their well-earned place at the top. So, if you want to beat Sefton you must first win the doubles. Police have moved into 3rd place but they lack the strength and consistency to really have any chance of disposing either of the top two. They are being pressed by Trinity 'A' who have emerged as possible outsiders and made a mess of my first notes, like Police they lack that little extra to make them challengers instead of outsiders. Two Trinity teams in the first division next season could have been a possibility for many people share the view, disputed by the Trinity team, that this is not the strongest second team they could put out. The ranking system they use appears to be based on team friendship as well as ability and it does seem to work as theirs is an enjoyable team to play against.

The Y.M. have re-ranked again and if this new team turns out regularly they could cause quite a few upsets and finish much higher than first expected but they appear to have little chance of overhauling the leaders. Bath St. 'A' whose results have not been as good as expected finally showed better form by beating Waterloo 6-4 and as they too have re-ranked better results may lie ahead, but I have my doubts about how often this re-ranked team will turn out. Either way we can expect possible upsets from them as well if the result against Waterloo can be maintained. It could be that they have their sights set on the Rumjahn Cup.

Down at the bottom the battle for survival continues unabated and Wavertree Labour 'C' have now

dropped into the relegation zone along with Rafters 'A'; Colonsay 'B' and Old Swan and it now looks like any two from these four to accompany Labour 'D' into the 3rd division next season. The Wavertree players successfully pulled it out last season and escaped the drop and they are strong enough to do it again and have started their revival with a 6-4 win over Trinity 'A'. In this match Alf Southall messed his averages by losing twice and as one Trinity player jokingly put it a good heading for these notes would be "When will Alf Southall win in 1973". This now makes Alf 3rd in the averages instead of joint 1st with Alan Reid in 2nd place is Harry Reeve, lost 3.

With Rafters still not producing good results the position looks pretty bleak for them for it will probably need a total of around 90 to 100 to avoid the drop and in spite of a good team on paper they just don't seem capable of making the grade. but with Colonsay 'B' and Old Swan also being unpredictable this issue may not be settled until the very end of the season particularly as all four will now be striving harder for those extra points that may mean the difference between 2nd or 3rd division play next season. I won't be at all surprised to see some tactical moves in some team orders. Much may also depend on the walkover claimed by Trinity against Old Swan which I believe has gone before the M.C. as a result of an appeal by Old Swan, all good "friendly" stuff.

Best win lately was that of Brian Jessop (Labour 'D') who beat G. Jones (Police) 30/28 in the 3rd to lead his team into double figures in their points total.

If you think forecasting the leaders is easy how about these few results: Bath St. 'A' lost to Sefton 9-1 but beat Waterloo Park 6-4. Waterloo then beat Sefton 6-4 does this mean Sefton for the title or Waterloo? To help work it out Sefton drew with Colonsay 'A' who were beaten 8-2 by Waterloo. Against Old Swan Sefton won 9-1 whereas Waterloo could only manage 6-4. I don't know what your opinions are but for my money it all reads that the best team is currently at the top—hope the league tables correspond with that!!

KEN ARMSON

DIVISION 3A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Vagabonds	11	11	0	0	95
Liv. YMCA 'D'	12	8	3	1	72
Police 'A'	11	8	3	0	69
Crawfords 'A'	11	7	3	1	65
Cadwa 'A'	11	6	4	1	58
Eng. Elec. 'B'	11	2	6	3	57
Liv. Jewish	11	5	4	2	57
Rafters 'B'	10	5	3	2	57
Bath St. 'C'	11	5	6	0	51
Maghull	9	4	5	0	42
Liv. Poly.	11	2	8	1	39
Crawford's 'B'	11	1	10	0	24
Crawfords 'D'	10	0	9	1	14

Crawfords 'D' only offered token resistance at Rafters where they lost 10—0. All sets being decided in two games Crawfords 'D' had earlier managed a draw with Liverpool Polytechnic. A. Bell winning two.

English Electric 'B' put up a good performance at Liverpool Y.M.C.A. although defeated 6—4, K. Roscoe and Peter Roberts winning two each for the Y.M.C.A. English Electric have only won one match yet at the time of writing are in fifth place in the Division.

It was a demoralised Bath Street 'C' who lost 9—1 at Liverpool Y.M.C.A. Two of their players losing all their kit as a result of car thefts shortly before the match. It is doubtful whether Y.M.C.A. will win nine sets when they visit Crosby. Bath Street 'C' were on the receiving end of another 9—1 defeat by the strong Vagabonds team.

Maghull are certainly not the team they were last season although the team is virtually the same. I look to them to improve during the second half of the season. I think they will be responsible for one or two shock results. No doubt the signing of Alan Edwards will strengthen their team.

Crawfords 'A' are in second place at the moment hotly pursued by Police 'A' and Liverpool Y.M.C.A. and it will be close as to who joins Vagabonds in Division 2 next season. Crawfords 'A' are fairly strong but have yet to meet Vagabonds. Unless Crawfords 'A' have a good result they will almost certainly be overtaken by Police 'A'. The inexperienced Liverpool Y.M.C.A. will have to show a little more consistency to keep the

pressure on Police 'A' and Crawfords 'A'. I think in the early weeks of the New Year there will be defeats for Police 'A' and Crawfords 'A' and Liverpool Y.M.C.A., which may result in radical changes at the top of the Division. All the teams down the league as far as Maghull are capable of better things.

It does help when compiling these notes, if the record of the home club is filled in at the bottom of the score card. Cadwa 'A' are the main offenders followed by Crawfords 'D', Police 'A', Liverpool Y.M.C.A. 'D' and Crawfords 'B' have also lapsed on at least one occasion.

In conclusion may I request the team captains to draw my attention to any outstanding performances by the members of their team. My address is in the handbook and a brief note to me will bring them a mention in the Digest. Now is the time to write.

BRIAN CUNNINGHAM

DIVISION 3B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Beauclair	11	11	0	0	91
Cadwa	9	6	1	2	63
Eng. Elec. 'C'	10	5	3	2	60
Trinity 'B'	8	6	1	1	59
Police 'B'	10	6	4	0	58
Orrell	9	5	3	1	53
Crawfords 'C'	10	4	4	2	43
Hilltop	12	2	9	1	40
Norris Green	11	4	5	2	40
Old Swan 'A'	8	2	5	1	34
Bath St. 'B'	8	2	3	3	34
Waterloo Pk 'A'	10	1	8	1	28
Colonsay 'C'	10	1	9	0	27

I am afraid I shall have to open this column with a grumble, especially to Bath Street, Old Swan and Trinity. At the time of writing every team in this division should have played 13 League matches, allowing for postponements and a successful cup run, 12 matches should have at least been played. Now it does not take many people to conclude that either 12 or 13 scorecards should have been sent to good old Mr. Cameron, but no!! no!! no!! Bath Street have brilliantly managed the superb total of 8 matches (only two more than when I wrote last November!). Trinity and Old Swan have managed 9 matches. What can

you do . . . Everyone is asking for a more up-to-date league table and saying that the news is stale, and yet the problem is so simple . . . it lies with each club secretary, not with divisional writers, printers, editorial board or anyone else, but with you, and this cannot be stressed enough. It must also be added that the only two clubs to have submitted all scorecards were my own club Hilltop and Beauclair. (After all you have to practise what you preach) so come on, please make an effort.

Back to the promotion issue, I feel I can confidently say that Beauclair will win the title as they are 30 points clear of the second club Trinity, mind you, if Trinity win their three games in hand 10—0 they would be level, but they won't and so will finish second, 30 points is a big lead. Cadwa will I am sure push all the way for a second division place, but they have a habit of dropping silly sets here and there and will probably finish a good third.

As Wavertree Labour did not start this season, only one club will be relegated, and that club will be either Waterloo Park or Colonsay. Favourite must be Colonsay, even though they picked a gift 8 points up from Hilltop (Please accept Hilltops apologies, but Liverpool F.C. seems to be the attraction this season).

Nice to see Robbie Chew back in action, pity he chose Orrell instead of Hilltop. Also glad to see some new names amongst the divisional writers. Can Colin Pratt persuade his brother to start playing again? In reply to the two young ladies who wrote to me (at least I get fan mail—this job does have its perks if anyone would like to take over) I have passed on your letter to the Editor, so it should be in this edition, unless we have had a sudden influx of 'Letters to the Editor' !!! Wish I could write more, but I've no scorecards.

ROB LOCK

DIVISION 4A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Rafters 'C'	9	8	1	0	65
Maghull 'A'	9	7	2	0	64
Eng. Elec. 'D'	8	5	3	0	49
Bedford House	8	5	2	1	45
Bath St. 'D'	10	4	6	0	45
York House	7	5	2	0	44
Eng. Elec. 'F'	8	4	4	0	38
Cadwa 'B'	8	1	6	1	29
Police 'C'	9	2	7	0	29
University	6	2	4	0	24
Orrell 'B'	8	1	7	0	18

You do not need a crystal ball to see that the winners of our Division will have a lower total of sets to their credit, than any divisional champions for quite some time. This low total is not only due to the loss of three teams at the start of the season, as we did not have an unbeaten team left after the first six matches.

At the half-way stage there are still six teams in contention by my reckoning, although York House, Maghull and Rafters remain joint favourites, English Electric 'D', Bedford House and Bath Street are all capable of being in at the finish, if they can find their best form consistently.

The last of our "hundred percenters" were York House, who lost 6—4 to Bedford House in a hard-fought game. Although they were without J. Smith whom I rate as the best man in the Division, A. Maguire and K. Alleyn both young players of considerable promise able replacements each winning one singles. Bedford House held the edge in the doubles however, winning both in the third. After losing both their opening two matches the inclusion of Ian Atkinson seems to have improved the all-round team display and they haven't lost since.

Maghull did their chances no harm, when they defeated near rivals Rafters 9—1, R. Graves prevented the whitewash for Rafters beating N. Royden 21/13, 16/21, 19/21. The fact that the University do not field their best team each week has prevented them from gaining a higher position. Still nobody can count on them being easy prey as potential wooden-spoonists as Orrell found when losing 9—1. M. Mullarkey prevented a clean sweep by the students defeating M. Dale 21/17, 21/19. Police 'C' seem

to have the same problem of being unable to play their best team consistently. The inclusion of Jean Reynolds improves their performance when she is available as shown when winning both her singles and doubles in their 7-3 win over Bath Street.

English Electric 'F's best display was the 6-4 victory over Maghull (Lewis, Callaghan 2 each). Having played in the 5-5 draw between Cadwa and Bedford House, I can see why the Cadwa players feel they have been unlucky this season. After leading 5-3 they then lost the two closest sets of the night, first I beat D. Walters 22/20, then Volka Mibula beat V. Broome 23/25 both in the third. I hope 1973 brings them and everyone in our Division better luck than that.

KEN BRADY

DIVISION 4B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Knotty Ash	10	8	2	0	62
Beauclair 'A'	8	8	0	0	59
Eng. Elec. 'E'	9	6	3	0	56
Trinity 'C'	8	7	1	0	56
Liv. Jewish 'A'	10	5	5	0	55
Giro	9	4	5	0	50
Woolton	9	5	3	1	48
Cadwa 'C'	9	3	6	0	35
Knotty Ash 'A'	8	1	6	1	25
Police 'D'	10	1	9	0	23
St. Hugh's	7	0	7	0	16
Orrell 'A'	3	1	2	0	9

With the halfway stage now reached we have a clear picture of the league positions. The title race would appear to be between Beauclair and Trinity 'C', Beauclair winning the first clash 6-4 (no more details available) but the positions could easily reverse in the 2nd half of the season.

The leaders are being hounded by English Electric, Knotty Ash and Giro and each of these sides are capable of producing upsets.

At the lower end of the Division St. Hugh's are the only team still to win a match but Police 'D' and Knotty Ash 'A' are also finding it difficult against the top 6 teams.

There are no players left with 100% records, all the top players have now beaten each other although

W. Leeming lost his 100% to G. Mills of Police 'D', an excellent performance.

The 90% plus men are T. Downing, W. Leeming, W. Holmes, J. Lightburn, J. Ainsworth and A. Nolan, only Downing and Wilson have 100% in doubles. Beauclair—after defeating strong Giro and Knotty Ash sides—both 9-1 let their slip show when only winning 6-4 against English Electric and Jewish, D. Sultman and J. Conroy beating W. Leeming and H. Holmes in the doubles—a thing which won't happen much this season.

Quite a night for G. McAlle of St. Hugh's when he won all three for his side against Jewish. After beating J. Conroy and E. Dorfman quite easily he then teamed up with Mrs. C. Byrne to win the doubles, well done!

Woolton are now producing some good results, one of these being their 7-3 win over English Electric after being 1-3 down. D. C. Williams seems to be the mainstay of this side—being an "old school" type player and able to adapt his tactics to suit the occasion. Beauclair dropped 3 sets to Woolton which might prove costly later on in the season.

Cadwa are having a poor season for them, Carol Flood and M. Power winning most of their sets so far. Orrell 'A' have lost several players this season and have had postponements—consequently their performance cannot yet be assessed.

In the Forest Cup 4B are still represented by Giro, Knotty Ash, Police 'D' and Jewish.

Knotty Ash beating Beauclair on total sets won after a replay—the crunch game would appear to be K. Wright's win over W. Holmes 21/19 in the third in the replay when Knotty Ash switched J. Ainsworth and Reed-Clayton (a tactic which did not pay off). A. Hall and K. Wright winning their doubles against W. Holmes and J. Lightburn to clinch victory. Jewish eliminated the other top team Trinity 'C' with a good all round performance. E. Dorfman and L. Taylor playing very well here, Dorfman beating previously unbeaten T. Downing 21/15.

Will all Captains play their part

and fill in the bottom line on the score cards please. Giro, Jewish, Woolton please note,

COLIN PRATT

DIVISION 5A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
St. John's	11	9	1	1	95
Woolton 'A'	11	8	1	2	80
Vagabonds 'A'	11	8	2	1	74
Aigburth P.H.	10	7	2	1	68
Cross Inter	10	6	4	0	66
Blundellsands	11	4	7	0	54
Barker & Dobson ...	9	6	2	1	51
Knotty Ash 'B'	9	3	2	4	48
Trinity 'D'	10	4	6	0	40
Rafters 'D'	11	2	7	2	28
Tuebrook	10	0	9	1	20
Maghull 'C'	9	0	6	3	19
Harding	8	0	8	0	7

GOODLASS WALL RESIGNED---
RECORD EXPUNGED.

Oh! Barry lad, why didn't I keep my big mouth shut?? There was I saying in the last notes that there had been no 10--0 walkovers and what happens--no less than four in the next month i.e. Vagabonds 10, Harding 0; Barker & Dobson 10, Tuebrook 0; Blundellsands 'B' 10, Barker & Dobson 0 (MOST SURPRISING) and Trinity 10, Harding 0. These last two walkovers were in the Stamp Cup; it passeth all understanding.

Harding will have to pull their socks up if they want to stay in the league--two walkovers already and one home match versus A.P.H. Linnets in which they had all four players there, played three sets and then decided they didn't want to finish the match. What a way to play table tennis.

My heart bleeds with Frank Bradley with Goodlass Wall having to resign from the league owing to players leaving the Company. He had shown great enthusiasm in turning up for all their games and had some very good results including wins over Stenson and Hargreaves of Woolton and against Alan Gillespie of St. John's when he was the only player to arrive.

The promotion race is really hotting up now with St. John's taking a fair lead but Vagabonds, Woolton and

A.P.H. Linnets very closely grouped and fighting hard to catch St. John's. The next few matches may clarify the position slightly as many of the top six clubs are playing each other, but it seems we are in for a very close finish to the season with the top four not decided until possibly the last match. It is unusual that with St. John's pulling so far clear, none of their players are in the top four of the averages to date and by my reckoning only one of the top four players comes from the top four teams. Top positions:-- Stan Prince (Blundellsands) 100%; J. Ashburner (Cross Inter) one defeat; Jeff Pownall (Knotty Ash) and Ray Gavin (A.P.H. Linnets) 2 defeats. Cross Inter had a very close home game against St. John's the 3--7 score line hardly does them justice as no less than eight sets went to three games, Ashburner having a hand in all of Cross Inters three wins.

Some face-savers: P. Spilsbury (Rafters) 21/14; 21/13; V. M. Goldberg (A.P.H. Linnets); S. Tam (Harding) 23/21; 21/18; V. J. Kenwright (Cross Inter); A. Rice (Tuebrook) 21/10; 21/12; V. M. Glenn (Blundellsands). All of these saved 10--0 wins against their team.

Knotty Ash are having a strange kind of season with draws against Vagabonds, Woolton and A.P.H. Linnets (with only 3 men!!) but defeats against Trinity and Barker & Dobson and only a draw against Rafters. Part of their trouble seems to be getting a settled team.

May I ask team captains to put the first names of their players on the card instead of initials as I would prefer to use full names when mentioning players in the notes and it also helps to create a friendlier atmosphere at the matches if one can ask for Fred against Harry instead of our No. 2 against your No. 3.

To come back to the original remarks I made regarding walkovers, surely if you find your team is unable to arrive for a match someone can find the time to 'phone the secretary of the opposing Club and let them know. Given a reasonable amount of notice I feel sure that most Clubs will be only too willing to rearrange the game for another time, thereby saving your Clubs a fine and the loss

of 10 points. I know I would much rather play a match and lose 10—0 than claim a walkover even if a medal depended on it. So think about it; you know it makes sense.

Would secretaries please note that the Clubs 'phone number for A.P.H. Linnets is—727 3357.

Finally, may I wish you all a somewhat belated Happy and Enjoyable New Year.

BARRY MEYER

While my club and others may be sympathetic to your views on walkovers, Barry, you may have the hierarchy on your track as the rules are clear on this point.—Editor.

DIVISION 5B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Mossley Hill 'A'	11	10	0	1	98
Vagabonds 'B'	11	8	2	1	76
Panto	10	7	1	2	74
Knotty Ash 'C'	12	5	5	2	63
York House 'A'	10	7	2	1	60
Bath St. 'E'	11	6	5	0	56
Maghull 'B'	11	4	4	3	55
Colonsay 'D'	10	4	4	2	44
Lancs. Police	10	2	7	1	43
Eng. Elec. 'G'	10	1	7	2	35
Trinity 'E'	10	2	8	0	29
Tuebrook 'A'	9	2	7	0	22
Blundellsands 'A' ..	9	1	7	1	20

Mossley Hill as anticipated march on relentlessly and despite calling on reserves they have dropped only one set in the last period. Pownall (Knotty Ash) beating Davies 21/15; 18/21; 21/19; he also had another good win over D. Ridgeway 15/21; 21/17; 21/17; but Johnstone with 3 wins clinched the game for Vagabonds 'B' who won 7—3.

Morgan of Post Office is having an excellent season and was mainly responsible for his sides draw against Lancs. Police for whom this was an excellent result Gardner winning two. But the young Colonsay side went one better and thanks to Kilty pulled off a 6—4 away win, Byrne winning two of the four for the Police.

York House 'A' seem to have lost their way a couple of times fortunately for them one was on the way to English Electric. Don't forget Rule 20—three times and you're OLT Maguire and Waters pulled out all

the stops in a 6—4 win against Bath St. who seemed to have slipped a little despite a 6—4 win against Electric. Maghull slipped in smartly and 7—3 wins against both of them, F. Smith winning all six games a great effort. Leslie (Tuebrook) and Carol Daybell (Trinity) both scored doubles in their teams 7—3 victories over English Electric who as you may have gathered are having a rough time, as are Blundellsands. White-wash savers were Pattinson (Maghull) v. Post Office; Ellison (Tuebrook) v. York House 'A'; Vaight (Trinity) v. Post Office. McGuire (York House) beat Leslie (Tuebrook) 23/21; 22/20; a real close one by two of the divisions finest young players.

Cup ties certainly brought excitement with them Colonsay 'D' beating Knotty Ash 'C' on games after two 5—5 draws. Pownall winning four and Davies winning three for Knotty Ash. English Electric were winning 5—4 in their Cup-tie with Post Office and won their first game in the doubles 21/19; with a 19/16 lead in the second, we were all set for the surprise of the round but Morgan and Kenny recovered to a 22/20 win and beat Ariss and Sylvia Nevins 21/17 in the third for a draw and an inevitable 8—2 thrashing at the Post Office in the replay.

Hudson (Mossley Hill) has a 100% record but top scorers who have won 19 out of 20 games are Davies (Mossley Hill) who lost to Pownall (Knotty Ash) and Morgan (Post Office) who lost to D. Ridgeway (Vagabonds), Pownall is one behind this pair.

MOSSLEY HILL 'A' M/N THURS. DAY.

JACK LAMBERT

Fixture Secretary's Note:—

Please check your team record and if you do not agree write me giving points total and scores against match numbers.

Club secretaries must note that no matches will be allowed to extend beyond the season. Matches not played will be awarded to the away team 10—0. You should arrange dates for all outstanding matches now. Please advise dates to the Fixture Secretary.

Letters to the Editor

77, Chamberlain House,
Liverpool L25 3QZ.

Dear Sirs,

Re Ken Armson's comments (Digest Vol. 1) regarding the extinction of the Linnets club, I feel it was rather unfair of him to make remarks without knowing the facts which are as follows:—

1. Until two weeks before the start of the season I was still hopeful that Linnets would be able to carry on in the old Clubroom but I was then informed that owing to various reasons very few of the players from last season would be playing this time which would have meant five or six players finding £80—£100 to enable the club to keep going.
2. I was then left with a fortnight to find new premises and came up with Aigburth Peoples Hall. I was unable to contact the club secretary personally and had to deal through a third party and was asked to apply formally in writing for the use of a room there and the letter would be read out at the next Committee Meeting which was *after* our league handbook meeting. Under the circumstances I considered our best chance of getting a place in the club was to ask to enter a team under the name of Aigburth Peoples Hall and hope this would be accepted. I then attended the handbook meeting and entered Aigburth Peoples Hall deleting Linnets. I did not know for certain that our application for premises had been accepted until four days before the first match.
3. This is a less important but still valid point; if we had kept Linnets name and moved premises then we would have had a team of 4th-5th division quality playing in the second division, which would'nt exactly have done wonders for our morale.

We took the decision to disband Linnets with the deepest regret and after 10 years with the club I was extremely upset at the handbook meeting as the announcement was made.

However, I am delighted to say that with effect from 1st January, 1973, we have been given permission to change our name to APH Linnets and I sincerely hope that we will be able to keep the name of Linnets going for many more years.

Yours faithfully,

B. J. Meyer.

(Formerly Secretary Linnets TTC, now Secretary of APH Linnets).

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Dear Sir,

In the December issue of the "Digest" Mr. Sturgess sets out a very good case for the abolition of the "Digest". While my head wholeheartedly agrees with him regarding the cost, my heart says keep it going. I know the league tables are out of date when we get it but to me the Digest is more than a results paper. It's a fund of memories and recollections and keeps us in touch with players from other divisions. The tribute to Linnets was very well written, but how sad to see another old established club disappear. Talking about old established clubs I wonder which club has the longest unbroken record in Liverpool league. I am open to correction but I would imagine Rafters, English Electric and Waterloo Park to be very strong candidates for that honour. I wonder who is the longest serving team secretary? How about Alan Heague of the Police? To answer a question in the last Digest, Alec and Jack Davidson and myself have been playing for Linacre 24 years. We started in the old North Region and through years of change and re-organisation finally found ourselves in our present niche the second division. I should imagine that we can claim one record in the Liverpool league, that of never having bought a table in our career. Jack Davidson made our first table 24 years ago from old wooden bulkheads from merchant ships, ably assisted by some ham handed labourers! We had enough wood for two tables so we kept one and sold the other one to Lofters. Two seasons ago we decided it was time we had a new table, so Jack made another one and we sold our original table for £20 which paid for the materials for our new table. I think anyone who has played on it will agree it's as good as any £80 table. Alec Davidson is now on his third book of records in which are entered every game in which Linacre have played. Looking back through the pages is like taking a roll call of the Liverpool league. What memories these bring back. There must be something in the Linacre air that encourages longevity. Of our "Junior" members Harry Reeve has been with us 15 years, Alan Horwood 11 years and Ken Ainsworth 10 years. One of these days we hope to win the veteran singles at the Liverpool Closed by sheer weight of numbers! Mind you we'll have to crock those youngers crs like Ted Mandaluff and George Smith. I must apologise Mr. Editor, for rambling on about Linacre but I always enjoy reading about other clubs in the Digest and thought your readers might like hearing about ours. If more of us write letters to the Digest it will make it more interesting and might help to secure its future.

Frank Lacey.

No apology needed here Frank, a wonderful and interesting letter about a great club, 9½ out of 10 for picking oldest and second oldest—see separate article—English Electric second oldest, but a surprise awaits you when I let you know the joint second longest members! Sorry, can only give about 6-10 on the longest serving secretary. Regarding the Linnets article I regret to say two items were omitted from the original, one was a reference to the fact that Barry Meyer had endeavoured to keep the flag flying for the club over the pas' couple of years. The second would have made sense out of the hotch potch of the last paragraph, which should have read:— Poor Jim, his obsession for the game produced every human emotion from bitter resentment to esteem and admiration of the highest order. His ambitions, to quote his own words were—"To make Linnets a great club and Liverpool a great table tennis power again", etc., Ed

Dear Sir,

In reply to the Editorial and the letter from Ernie Sturgess (Last issue) regarding the continuation of the Digest.

Of course we are getting value for money with our fees. Consider what we are getting for the very small sum of less than £1.

- (a) Twenty six or more nights out each season arranged for us to follow our pastime.
- (b) One Table Tennis handbook giving details of same; all we have to do is look through the pages and turn up on the right night.
- (c) (Most important of all) 4 issues of one of the most entertaining magazines which can be kept and read time and again for reference. What else can we have for a pound in these inflationary days? 4 packets of cigarettes? 4 double whiskies? ONE night out at the cinema for two (Ice cream etc., EXTRA)?

Would these be more memorable than a whole season of table tennis AND 4 magazines? I doubt it.

With regard to Mr. Sturgess' idea of having one newsheet delivered to each club, can he imagine the state they would be in after twenty players had read through them once, not forgetting that many clubs have anything up to fifty players. Also many players only get to their clubroom on match nights and would not find the time to read through notes during the match whilst watching the games as well. These are not only my own view but also those of all the other members of my club. We all look forward to receiving our Digest and would be prepared to pay even higher fees to keep it going.

P. K. Meyer, APH Linnets TTC.

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'The Ladies'

There's a sadness in their sadness when they are sad,
And a gladness in their gladness when they are glad,
But the sadness in their sadness and the gladness in their gladness,
Isn't in it with their madness when they are mad.

What the hell has that to do with the Womens Divisions, I don't know really, but there seems to be a connection somewhere. And after all it is an ode to the ladies.

In my opinion they, without their knowledge, killed themselves. Apart from the champions and sometimes including them, they all seemed to be a nice friendly closed society with knitting, chatting and table tennis all fitting in snugly. But unless you were good there was no way in, there was no place for the beginner (The position is not far removed in the mixed division). So when the odd bods disappeared, there was no one to fill the gaps, unless they were pretty good.

A separate division appeared for the fair sex in 1937-38. The division was Bootle, Clubmoor, Edge Hill Girls Club, Leyfield, Liverpool, Maccabi Association, St. Simon and St. Jude, Sundene, Tinwald, Wembley, Automatic Telephones; Clubmoor won the League, Tinwald were runners-up, the secretary was Ivy Pollitt (Crafter).

The division went from strength to strength, tough at the top of Division 1, and very weak at the bottom of Division 2, an ideal situation. Two full divisions, with twelve teams in each in the middle 50's. Lofters won Division 1 with Joyce Lloyd and Beryl Watterson heading the averages, runners-up were Balfour (Olive Dickinson number 4 lady) Division 2 Linnets 'A' and Brenka S. Farrel (Beauclair and C. Glead (Ogdens) top ladies.

In the early 60's Bohemians were king pins—with Moya Pattison-Jones leading the way and gaining a County Cap, although things were going well for Bohs and Moya and Joyce Randall things with the ladies in general were cooling off a little and continued to do so until by 71/72 season when they only had eight teams—four from Crawfords, Rafters, Cadwa, Police and champions Colonsay and this was to be the last line up of the ladies division when they crashed in September, 1972.

As there are still plenty of ladies about what about a three a side ladies knock out competition for interested clubs? They could call it the Nostalgia Cup—it would be a great excuse for chatting about happier days and Pauline Laurensen could finish her knitting!

Outstanding ladies, there have been so many—I take my life in my hands—for the ones I miss out. In the beginning Nora Norrish was the only Liverpool girl to represent England in the Corbillon Cup, but Rita Doolan, Joyce Bartholomew, Edie Malloy were also capped for England and at the end we have starlets Sue Manning and Brenda Williams, England ranked juniors. In between, apart from those mentioned we had County players Judy Crafter, Eileen Mansell, the way she is playing now she must be at least 22, the quick wit and humour of Betty Black. With four youngsters, I was (as usual) waiting in the Duke St. club room for the Pirates to arrive and in walked Maureen King with a pint and a six inch cigar—the youngsters eyes nearly popped out, glamour tons of it but no names here Jack!?

Hart hitter Mabs Francis, hard to beat Jean Reynolds, hard workers Margare Linder, Rene Sturgeon and Val Lee, Bluey and Pinky the May twins although not regular ladies division players helped the Liverpool team to the final of the Rose Bowl and lost to a team which included the Rowe twins, many other names come to mind Amy Bell, the Lils, Upton, Rimmer, Jenkins, and Robinson, Myra Lovelady, Pat Brown, Edna Moore, Barbara Topping, Ivy Crafter, where do you stop? There must be so many girls I have missed and there must be so many stories to be told, however, there is no doubt that these girls throughout the

continued on next page

years had an enviable camaraderie all of their own which we all admired and no doubt they will miss so much.

I give you a toast gentlemen,—THE LADIES—and their very own division over the years.

J.A.L.

Table Edges

The large Liverpool entry for the Lancs. at Preston were repaid by Brenda Williams winning the Junior Girls, beating Barbara Kirkham in the Ladies and Barbara and Brenda winning the doubles. I wonder, did they stay on for the magnificent Carnival Guild celebrations in the evening.

The season is less than a week off, you have half a team and no playing quarters—how easy to say to hell with it all and sign for another club, but, Bob Hudson (Mossley Hill) finished up with two excellent teams and a very nice club room—pretty cool stuff Bob!

Colin Field (Colonsay) is now number eleven ranked junior in Lancs. John McNee (Wav. Labour) is ranked number 10 in Scotland SENIORS, mainly through losing to Mike Johns in the Quarter Final of the Meadowbank Open and winning the juniors title.

The Ping Pong Association was formed in 1902. The English Table Tennis Association in 1926. How many members of our league do you reckon still belong to the former?

Just in case Brian Cunningham, his team and opponents haven't their handbooks with them next time the service query comes up I quote from the immortal bard—The ball goes up, the hand is flat—And then there's contact ball and bat. However, it is interesting to note that a certain young gent was selected for Liverpool Juniors and his service is a beauty!?

What Alec Gould says today Jack Carrington says tomorrow, Alec—September '72—Veterans should be at least 45 and maybe even 50. Carrington—December '72—We should consider veterans at 45. And so say all of us.

The Davidson Brothers, Frank Lacey, Tom Larkins and 'Mac' McGonigal played their first seven years together calling on a reserve twice! Answers to last months Linacre query given in Frank Lacy's welcome letter.

For John Molyneaux and Ernie Sturges info: League Dance 8 until 1 at the Carlton, Eberle Street, November 1st, whoops! sorry it was 1936!

We have at last a Liverpool Coaching scheme—and not before time—is it a private 'do'? if so O.K. finis. If it is an official League scheme—it would be interesting to know how players are nominated for same.

Superb front page photo on Table Tennis News of O. B. Haslam, England's number 6. Taken by our John O'Sullivan (Colonsay).

English Club Championship—local draw:

English Electric (Liverpool) v Levers (Ellesmere Port)

Moor Allerton (Leeds) v Otis Elevator (L'pool Bus. Houses)

Lever (Wirral) v Shropshire Orthopaedic (Oswestry)

English Closed: Tony Clayton carried on his runners up sequence as losing finalist in Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles and reached the semi-final of the Singles—not a bad run by any standards.

Your secretary has numerous books of draw tickets to dispose of, if he hasn't given you one, give him a reminder. Each book WE sell helps to keep our fees DOWN. All counterfoils have to be back to Rene Sturgeon by February 14th. So sell a book or six. Your club could win the star prize for selling the most books.

J.A.L.

Rafters T.T.C.

BORN 1946—STILL GOING STRONG

Present Secretaries:

Peter Rumjahn

Jack McKaig

Miss L. May (About the first

1947

Secretary)

The longest serving members of the Liverpool League, Rafters started life above an old garage in Roscoe Street, as the beams from the roof where just about head high, they gave the club its name—Rafters. Amongst its founder members were Jack McKaig (still going strong) Eric Caird (Remember those A.G.M.'s.) and Albert Montgomery (Ex-Committee and Digest Editor).

After a spell at Aighburth C.C. the club moved to its well known premises at Bentley Road with its lush conservatory entrance; there the club really came into its own and became so strong that the league requested that they split their playing strength, by doing so Balfour nipped in and won many honours that may have gone Rafters way.

The Rumjahn brothers Ted, Peter and Ron were really 'Kings' at this time and are the only three brothers to have represented England. The twins 'Bluey' and Pinky May and Kay Rumjahn kept the female flag flying. The Closed 1947 read—Men's Singles Ted; Mens Doubles Ted and Peter; Womens Singles May; Doubles Pinky and Bluey May; Mixed Doubles Peter and Pinky and so it went on with slight variations (with Ron mainly in the singles seat) on the theme until Bernie Hand broke through in 1954, but 1955 it was Ron again!

Honours of course flowed in both to the club and the individual despite the fact that the very strong Balfour Club really dominated the scene at the time. Rafters and Rafters 'A' won Div. 1 and Rafters Ladies won the ladies division, the Readman and Bartholomew cups were also won with many runners up to Balfour by the Men and Bohemians by the Ladies. Personal honours continued to flow in, Ron was one of our few post war stars destined for fame with International Caps against the home countries and in Czechoslovakia against the Czechs, unfortunately for table tennis he decided to mix his sports and table tennis suffered. The club was loaded with County and City Caps.

Names bring back memories so I mention a few, but there are many others no doubt—Grayson, Casselman, Short, Morley, McMullen, Ferguson, the Lovelady's, Jean Reynolds, Winstanley, and when arch rivals Balfour ceased to function in Smithdown Road, Eileen Mansell and Reg Hetherington added their quota of City and County caps to the club.

After a period of mixed fortunes good and bad in 1964 the club moved to the Igloo in Court Hey Park and while still holding their own with most, the crown of 'Kings' was becoming a little tarnished, however, the old guard soldiered on and more than survived.

We now have one of Liverpool's rare bright prospects coming through—John Marshall—let's hope he doesn't disappear as most of our local prospects appear to—other young hopefuls include Keith Williams and Brian Davey so it appears a new era for this great club is at hand.

Some years ago the management suggested that refreshmen's were getting out of hand and a cup of tea and biscuits would suffice as Boy's Club's etc., just could not compete with the 'spreads' that some clubs put on—but Rafters continued their top class refreshments, their goodies are really good—particularly as good as the top teams. Gordon Birch doesn't eat all day prior to a Rafters game!

This high standard is in keeping with all the high standards set by the club over the years, in every aspect of the game.

Winning or losing the club always seems to provide great competitors with the best interests of table tennis always at heart, Hetherington, Rumjahn, Mansells and Fergusons are great examples for any youngster to follow and I reckon Peter could make a bomb running a table tennis secretarial course and needless to say he gave me a hand with the beginnings of the club.

J.A.L.