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Table Tennis Digest

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Table Tennis Digest

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No. 4

Editorial

Was the season good, bad or just another season? I suppose each individual and club have their own answer.

We started off with a flurry on the Digest, the only comments I have to make on that score is that we are back to square one for next season, no amendments having arrived to date. My original percentages for and against the magazine were a bit hazy as most people accept the magazine as it is without comment and have no really strong feelings either way. League Winners English Electric, Sefton, Beauclair, Vagabonds, Beauclair 'A' Ratters 'B', St. Johns and Mossley Hill must surely feel satisfied with their league championship wins, there is no doubt that it is tough at the top, the pressure is on from first to last and all these teams are to be congratulated on staying the course so strongly. Spare a thought for John Hankin and his Trinity boys, Top of the rest (If you see what I mean) in Div. 1., runners up in the Readman Cup, Hyde Cup also in Divisions 3B and 4B as I was saying it's 'ough at the top. A season of great loss losing a personality and friend in Jack Pattison. The Linnets Club and the Ladies Division, both of whom dropped unfortunately by the wayside, otherwise things have changed very little, apart from club conditions, which seem to deteriorate a little each season.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first season which has helped me learn so much of the Liverpool scene. To the few who have shown an interest and helped out, my thanks and gratitude to Ken Armson and Arthur Upton for putting me on the right path and Ken's Div. 2 notes, Ron Burke, both of these boys are doubtful correspondents for next season so stand by Division 1 and Division 2 volunteers, Rob Lock, Brian Cunningham, Ken Brady and Colin Pratt, two new boys with a good flair, Barry Meyer, Alec Davidson and Eddie Cameron (I believe Eddie is writing a book - "Editor's I have Served Under") a small but dependable band. To Wallace Ltd., our printers who do a splendid job at reasonable cost (Dan will hate me for saying that) and maximum co-operation.

In the National Competition for the best magazine we were judged on our March issue - which was 3 of Vol. 26. Although I have recieved no official news yet I believe we were number one magazine in the country which must give a pat on the back to all who have ever been associated with the Digest over the years, with the accent on the present team mentioned on this page. To our advertisers and others who help us and Don Cameron books so much, Barker & Dobson, Colborne Trophies, Dunlops, Glovers Automobiles, John Jaques & Son., Jack Sharp and Whitty's our thanks and we hope you continue to support the country's number one magazine.

LOCALS ABROAD

The following are the final excellent league placings of our city teams as provided by Alex Davidson:-

FINAL LEAGUE PLACINGS WERE:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Men's 1st Team Div. 1 (3rd)	7	4	2	1	43	27	10
Mens A Team Div. 2 (2nd)	8	5	1	2	51	29	11
Men's 'B' Team Div. 4 (4th)	8	4	2	2	44	36	10
Ladies 1st. Team Div. 1 (2nd)	6	5	0	1	49	11	10
Ladies A Team Div. 2 (Top)	8	8	0	0	53	27	16
Youth Team (Top)	8	6	1	1	54	26	13
Junior Team Div. 2 (Top)	8	8	0	0	66	14	16

I went to Preston to report the Liverpool teams vital championship game we failed gloriously - without Clayton - holding a team including Parker 4-4 and losing the last two for a 4-6 loss. I think I found part of the answer to my last months Editorial — there was interest here OUTSIDE Club level. They had more umpires than we have spectators at a city game — THREE. Over 70 enthusiastic and partisan supporters watched the game. We had a supporter Wally Sill (Eng. Elec.).

Most of the Preston folk had arrived because of first class coverage of the game, something we have great difficulty in obtaining. I will endeavour to give dates, times and places of main city games and local tournaments next season.

At Bolton, in their last match the mens first team were victorious by 7 events to 3, Wally Allanson, Pete D'arcy and John Marshall each winning two, Pete having a good win over Schofield.

The Ladies 1st team also beat Bolton by 10/0, to finish second to Manchester a team of players gathered together, it seems to me, for the express purpose of winning the division.

In Div. 2. the mens 'A' team also finished runners-up, George Smith Alan Tolson & Paul Tsang winding up with a good home victory over Burnley. For the fourth consecutive season, the Ladies 'A' Team, Val Blore, Jean Jennings and Julie Black must surely have created a record by again winning the Division.

The men's 'B' Team, by winning their last two matches against Leigh & Southport 'A', both 9-1, surprised several leagues in their division.

I know that Leigh were confidently expecting to gain at least the one point necessary for them to gain promotion.

Brian Leeson's youth team finished on a triumphant note, winning at Blackpool 6-4 and then at home 8-2, to Blackpool 'A'. In this Division, the

continued on next page

main challenge came from St. Helens who finished second.

Alec Davidson was unable to take the junior team to Manchester for their outstanding match, Les Walsh of Orrell kindly helped out and saw the lads successfully defend their undefeated record against the Home 'A' Team.

In the Business House Championships held at Plessey's, George Smith won the singles title beating John Marshall 14-21; 23-21; (Phew!!) 21-17: In the semis George beat Pete Lee 13 and 19 and John beat Trevor Owens 18-21; 23-21; (Phew!!) 21-17: In the doubles Owens and Marshall beat Smith and Ted Gilmour 17-21; 26-24 (Phew!!) 21-16: Letch and Moran and Edmunds and Clayton were losing semi-finalists.

Tony Clayton won the consolation singles in the European University Championships beating a Russian student in the final.

In the Bromfield Cup semi-final our girls lost 6-3 against Cheshunt in London after an arduous weekend of travelling. Sue, Brenda and Julie winning a game apiece.

In the English Club Championships English Electric had a hectic game against Gatley Y.M.C.A. Tony Clayton beating Derek Schofield 17 in the third, in the final game for a 5-4 win. A walk-over in the next round over Leicester Y.M. or Birmingham Y.M. who had not completed their fixture when the following round should have been completed takes English Electric into the semi-final again against Ormesby.

A.D./J.A.L.

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Cup Finals

RUMJAHN CUP - LINACRE 5 - SEFTON 5

Played at the Wavertree Labour Club with Arthur Upton in charge, this was undoubtedly the most dramatic of all finals. The drama started with the first game, when after Ken Ainsworth had beaten Bill Crofter 21-7 he lost the next two games on the expedite 18-21; 18-21; Harry Reeve beat Don Davies 18-21; 21-15; 21-15; Jack Davidson lost to John Doncaster 24-26; 19-21. Frank Lacey lost to Duncan Sayle 21-19; 11-21; 11-21, and Reeve beat Davies 18-21; 21-15; 21-15. At the interval firm favourites Sefton could consider themselves a little fortunate to be 3-2 up. A cup of Ken Armson's tea inspired Sefton who quickly went into a 5-2 lead. Ainsworth losing to Davies 17-21; 21-23; Davidson lost to Crofter 20-22; 13-21.

Reeve and Lacey lost their first doubles 17-21 against Davies and Doncaster and were 15-20 down in the second, but before Captain Sayle could get his hand on the cup it was 20-20 and the Linacre pair won 22-20 and the last game 21-16. From then on it was tension all the way. Ainsworth & Davidson beat Crofter and Sayle 22-20; 18-21; 21-19; being 10-5 down at the change over, at this point our Vice-President Ken Jones suggested they were playing 4-4-2. I disagreed I thought it was 5-4-1! The last game was a Lacey & Doncaster cliff hanger, Lacey winning 16-21; 21-14; 21-19, in the last game he first took the lead at 17-16 went to 19-16 — 19 all and won 21-19. This was undoubtedly Linacre's moment of glory with here Harry Reeve having a splendid night. In true Rumjahn Cup tradition the house of Rumjahn was represented by Kay and Ron.

HYDE CUP - TRINITY 'B' 4 - BEAUCLAIR 6

Played at Palmerston with Ray Hebson in charge. Tom Killop lost 9-21; 21-15; 16-21 to Ted Birch in the first game John Higham then lost surprisingly easily to Frank Murphy 11-21; 10-21; John Hankin lost to Harri Harrison 18-21; 17-21; Tom Lawson stopped the rot beating Dave Berry 21-7; 20-22; 21-16;. Then came a so near yet so far game for Highams when losing to Birch 21-13; 21-23; 10-21; At 4-1 up Bob Hudson officiated for tea. With a superb back-hand display Killop then beat Harrison 21-12; 21-18; Lawson recovered from 5 or 6 points down in each game but still lost to Murphy 17 and 18; Hankin beat Berry 21-19; 17-21; 21-16 to make the game interesting at 3-5; but Birch and Murphy's made it six with a terrific 21-8; 21-12 win over Killip and Highams.

To set the score in it's right perspective Hankin & Lawson beat Harrison & Berry 21-18; 21-15; a superb final in every way and fitting of our best looking cup, with two of the strongest teams ever competing for it, over half of the players still having Division 1 and 2 dust on their boots. A good crowd and an ideal set-up for a final provided by the Palmerston Club. A special word for Dave Wilson who umpired so many games with a touch of humour. A final for competitors and hosts and officials to look back on with considerable satisfaction.

FORREST CUP - UNIVERSITY 2 - YORK HOUSE 8

Played at Crawford's, the official in charge Eddie Cameron. A whirlwind start by the York House boys Martin Dale of Crewe losing to Tony Ginley 21-19; 16-21, 17-21; John Carroll of Swaffham, Norfolk lost to Kevin Alleyne 15-21; 21-14; 13-21; Keith Lightfoot of Chelmsford lost to Jim Smith 13-21; 21-15; 14-21; Brian Thomas of Cambridge lost to Ginley 9-21; 12-21; Carroll then beat Arthur Wishart 21-19; 21-15 to make the score 4-1 for York House. Dale lost to Alleyne 13-21; 17-21; and fittingly Jim Smith beat Thomas 21-13; 21-12 to win the cup at 6-1; Lightfoot beat Wishart 21-15; 21-19. Thomas and Lightfoot lost to Smith and Wishart 13-21; 21-11; 18-21. Dale and Carroll lost to Ginley and Alleyne 20-22; 19-21. Some close stuff and good games of table tennis but, as a final I don't think it really got off the ground, played in freezing cold with no cup, three spectators and a runaway win for York House.

RUMJAHN CUP - (REPLAY) SEFTON 8 - LINACRE 2

Played at Trinity with Arthur Upton in charge, Harry Reeve carried on where he left off beating Duncan Sayle 21-12; 21-12. But for Linacre that was just about it. Bill Crofter beat Jack Davidson 21-19; 10-21; 21-13; Dan Davies beat Ken Ainsworth 21-11; 21-13; John Doncaster beat Frank Lacey 21-18; 18-21; 21-15; Davies beat Reece 21-19; 21-13; Crofter and Davies beat Ainsworth and Davidson 21-19; 21-6. With Sayle fighting for a win and Lacey as tenacious as a terrier we had a superb game for the match with a Sayle win 21-18; 18-21; 21-18; making the score 6-1 and the extra shine Joan Davidson had put on the cup went to worthy winners Sefton.

A Doncaster - Davidson spectacular followed — tension now eased 21-19; 21-19; Crafter and Ainsworth nearly got down to an all night stand but a few judicious Crafter hits eased the situation to a 21-9; 21-19; win. The two heroes of the last game joined to make the score line a little more respectable beating Doncaster and Sayle 21-13; 21-16.

Top marks to Trinity 'B' for giving up the match room at short notice. After congratulating Sefton on a great win, Ron Rumjahn mentioned that he watched his Dad play Linacre before the 1914-18 war and they had the same team then! I don't believe that — do you?

STAMP CUP - PALMERSTON 'A' 9 - LIVERPOOL POST OFFICE 1

Played at Liverpool Y.M.C.A. with John McKim in charge. Two of the first four games went in Palmerston's favour by a shade, if they had gone to the Post Office side it may have given them the confidence that they so badly needed. Ken Davies beat Paul Morgan 16-21; 22-20; 21-9. Bob Hudson beat Alf Hayes 21-14; 21-9; Keith Owen beat Phil Luxon 21-11; 21-12; Nigel Shaw beat Hayes 21-13; 16-21; 22-20; Davies and Hudson lost to Luxon and Morgan 21-19; 19-21; 15-21; Owen beat Morgan 21-16; 13-21; 21-17; Davies beat Brian Fuller 21-18; 21-18; to make the score 6-1 for the strong Palmerston team. We followed a result once again with the evenings best game Shaw beating Luxon 21-17; 16-21; 21-11. Hudson beat Fuller 21-18; 21-14; attacking all the way!! Owens and Shaw beat Hayes and Fuller 21-15; 21-12; giving Palmerston as convincing a victory as the scores denote. But Post Office must be well pleased with their first season back in the league. Vice-President Rene Sturgeon presented the cup and awards. George Smith managed the canteen staff magnificently and Dave or was it Sam Holland smashed his camera taking photos!

READMAN CUP - TRINITY 1 - ENGLISH ELECTRIC 9

Played at Bath Street with Arthur Upton in charge — ably assisted by Alec Gould, who did a fine job on the upper room. The best game of the evening was the first when Ricky Brown upset the boat with a fine 23-21; 21-19; win over Pete D'Arcy. Bob Bagot lost to Eddie Clein 8-21; 20-22; a tight finish to say the least; Alan Chase lost to Gordon Birch 14-21; 9-21. The new look Bill Harris lost to the on form attacker Wally Allanson 18-21; 15-21; Bagot lost to Birch 8-21; 16-21; Brown lost to Clein finishing on expedite 21-23; 15-21. Harris lost to D'Arcy 10-21; 21-13; 10-21; giving English Electric the cup for the fourth time with a 6-1 score line. Chase lost to Allanson 14-21; 9-21; Chase and Bagot lost to Birch and Clein 13-21; 14-21; Harris and Brown lost to Allanson and D'Arcy 15-21; 16-21. O.K., so it wasn't a classic, but well done Trinity on reaching the final and getting in the honours and who am I to say great stuff English Electric? — but it was great stuff as they had beaten Y.M. and Wavertree on the way to the final.

The games are reported in sequence of being played. Good manners were well to the fore, there was one minor incident in all the finals, which I had the good fortune to nip in the bud myself. I do feel that these occasions are highlights for most players and the social side becomes very important when the senior partner comes along for her only game of the season, it is nice to be able to buy her a tiddley at the bar it makes the evening much more pleasant for wives or sweethearts (whichever one you happen to bring). As this magazine is a resumé of the season's activities I felt that our own cup finals were quite important, I hope you do.

J.A.L.

Divisional Notes

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	D	Pts
English Elec.	26	25	0	1	215
Liverpool YMCA ..	26	21	4	1	196
Wavertree Lab.	26	19	4	3	181
Trinity	26	8	11	7	128
Eng. Elec. 'A'	26	8	12	6	123
Rafters	26	10	12	4	121
Palmerston	26	10	12	4	118
L'pool YMCA 'A' ..	26	9	12	5	116
Bath St.	26	11	13	2	115
Wav. Lab. 'A'	26	8	12	6	108
Colonsay	26	5	13	8	106
Wav. Lab. 'B'	26	7	14	5	104
L'pool YMCA 'B' ..	26	6	14	6	95
Crawfords	26	4	18	4	94

English Electric 'Double' winners again, Liverpool Y.M. 'B' and Crawfords relegated. After a long drawn-out struggle both issues were settled but in totally different ways. Electric won the title by 'hammering' the opposition into defeat (notably the defeats of Wavertree 1st and Y.M. 1st teams by nine sets to one) and Crawfords and Y.M. 'B' were relegated by a combination of claimed walk-overs and freak results (like Wavertree 'B' defeating the Y.M. 1st by six sets to four).

The relegation battle really 'hotted up' in the last few weeks of the season with six clubs facing the drop to division 2. It was about this time the 'freak' results turned up. Wavertree 'B' defeated Wavertree 'A' who in turn drew with Crawfords. On the same night Wavertree 'B' were beating Colonsay so throwing them into deep trouble. Colonsay made amends for this in an unusual match against Liverpool Y.M. 'B'. Five games were played (four of which were won by Colonsay) and five walk-overs were claimed (four to Y.M. and one to Colonsay). The match resulted in a draw and Dave Butterworth had the distinction of winning and losing a set without even playing. This match appears to have been a 'farce' according to one of the players, with people arriving after nine o'clock and claiming walk-overs because someone had got fed up and gone home. Nevertheless Colonsay managed to 'acquire' the sets they needed to stay-up. Crawfords on the other hand did not. Their match against Mossley Hill (or is it Palmerston?) cost them the chance of staying up.

According to Les Evans, Crawfords had claimed the game 10-0. According to the league tables Mossley Hill had, I'm not saying who it should go to, just that at times when every set is vital it seems teams will do anything to stay up and because of this table tennis suffers.

The Y.M. 'B' team after a dismal start showed everyone that they can 'play a bit' with only one defeat in their last eight games including wins against Crawfords 6-4; Wavertree 'A' 7-3; Trinity 7-3, and their own 'A' team 7-3. Draws against Rafters, Mossley Hill and English Electric 'A' were also obtained, the only setback being a 6-4 defeat by Wavertree 'B'. Stars of this great end of season performance were Geoff and Graham Wilson (no relation), Dave Butterworth, Phil Clarkson (with John Marshall amongst his victims 22-20; 21-12) and Nick Gourley.

At the other end of the table it seems the pressure was too much for the Wavertree 1st team, after working hard to stay with Electric they lost it all in two matches against English Electric and Wavertree 'B' (9-1 and 3-7 respectively). Losing twelve valuable sets at a time when they were neck and neck with Electric appeared to crack in their fighting spirit and this showed later when they lost to Wavertree 'A' (John McNee losing both his singles). Just after this Y.M. 1st team lost 9-1 to Electric, Ted Mandaluff being their only successful player and so went any hope of a good climax to the season.

The middle of the table consisted throughout the season of five teams 'the Y.M. 'A'; Rafters; Trinity; English Electric 'A' and to a latter extent Bath Street. All of whom performed well against the top teams, defeated the bottom teams and battled hectically against each other. Notable performances from these teams were Y.M. 'A' 5-5 against Wavertree 1st.; Trinity 4-6 against English Electric; English Electric 'A' 5-5 against Wavertree and Rafters 4-6 also against Wavertree.

It seems like only a few months ago that I was getting my bat out for a pre-season practice and you can

bet it will only be a couple of months before we are all practising again for the coming season. I hope everyone enjoyed their games this season and are all looking forward to doing battle again next season, I also hope the two 2nd Division teams promoted this season are not overawed by the first division as it appears Y.M. 'B' and Crawfords were (hope to see you both back the season after next) and that we find a team strong enough to relieve English Electric of 'THEIR' trophy next season.

RON BURKE.

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Sefton	24	19	1	4	170
Waterloo Pk.	24	17	3	4	151
Bath St. 'A'	24	16	5	3	148
Police	24	13	8	3	146
Trinity 'A'	24	11	10	3	130
Linacre	24	11	9	4	129
Colonsay 'A'	24	11	10	3	120
Colonsay 'B'	24	8	12	4	114
Rafters 'A'	24	7	11	6	112
Old Swan	24	8	16	0	108
L'pool YMCA 'C' ..	24	7	15	2	107
Wav. Lab. 'C'	24	9	13	2	102
Wav. Lab. 'D'	24	0	24	0	23

Bath St. raced on towards the end in top gear and then with promotion in sight they stumbled and then fell at the last hurdle. The stage was set for a dramatic finish, two matches to play, 14 sets needed, alas, it was not to be. Old Swan made a tactical switch in order which netted them four sets and Colonsay 'A' saved their best performance for this occasion and won 6-4. So Bath St. missed promotion by a mere four sets but they kept interest up right to the end of the season. Hard luck lads, your efforts deserved a better reward.

So it's Sefton and Waterloo Park for division 1 next season and then back to division 2 the season after! Sefton settled the championship some time ago and have proved themselves worthy champions and cup winners. I know they are all pleased at the opportunity to have a season in the 1st division and am sure they will enjoy it — especially Don Davies! Congratulations to the whole team for a fine double. Waterloo finished some time before the rest with 151 points and then had to wait and see if anyone would overhaul them, although neither they or Bath St. are

particularly interested in going up. The two promoted teams each have only one player capable of holding his own in the 1st division.

The team who could have changed all this — Trinity 'A' — only finished 4th, but as I have already pointed out with their strongest available players they would have been going up instead of Waterloo. Possibly as champions and cup winners also. Police finished the season with a gallop and narrowed the gap far more than seemed possible earlier. Just a slightly stronger team and theirs also could have been a different ending. Linacre finished in their expected position but can look back on a notable performance when they turned a seeming defeat into a noteworthy draw in the Rurn-jahn Final. They went down in the replay but I am sure they were well satisfied with themselves. Mind you, you have to watch them at matches as they really try to take charge. We were firm when they played us and were successful in having the match played "according to rule!"

Colonsay 'A' finished the season which they started so brightly in 7th place just above their own 'B' team who were revitalized with the introduction of Ron Evans and dragged themselves clear of the relegation zone with some good results. With the strength they have available the club must feel disappointed with the 'A' team's placing.

Liverpool Y.M. 'C'; Wavertree Lab. 'C' & 'D' go down and Rafters 'A' and Old Swan just survive until next season at least. I don't think many teams took notice of my previous comment that a target of at least 100 sets is required to avoid relegation. How right I was is shown in the table where Y.M. 'C' and Wavertree 'C' go down with totals in excess of 100. Another significant factor in the relegation struggle is regular teams. Any team in this zone must turn out their strongest team regularly if they are to survive. A victim of this were Wavertree Labour 'C' who lost a player early in the 2nd half who could not be replaced and to my mind that was the time when their relegation became a certainty. I am certain that neither the Y.M. 'C' or Wavertree 'C' will languish long in the 3rd and I would not be sur-

prised to see one, if not both winning promotion next season. Wavertree Labour 'D' even in relegation made some impact as they are the only team in the entire league who failed to win at least one match. In spite of this I do not think any team enjoyed their matches more than they did and you could always be sure of an early finish when playing them. Come to think of it that's another record they hold.

To clear up one misunderstanding, I can definitely assure everyone that there is no truth in the rumour that John Linforth was seen to smile during a match. This rare phenomena was apparently due to an attack of wind.

As I received no support from my team-mates — that's my excuse — I also will be relegated so a new writer will be needed for this division next season. So during the long summer days ahead when table tennis is pushed aside for better things like mowing the lawn, etc., why not give it some consideration. Think of the pleasure in panning the bloke who had that lucky win against you with a disputed edge! Better still just mis-spell his name or ignore him altogether. The possibilities are endless, the experience rewarding, the end result satisfying. You also make a life-long friend if you get your notes in handy and a very disgruntled editor if you don't. All in all a fascinating prospect which should result, as usual, in nobody applying for the post — such is life!

Back to business. Final averages are not available due to the fact that someone in the Liverpool Echo post room has started collecting score cards for a hobby and I am unable to complete the averages until they get bored with their new hobby. Top is Alan Reid with 85%; closely followed by Bill Crafter with 82%; no-one else appears to be in the eighties. On 75% are R. Evans and B. McLeod, 74% A. Walton, 72% A. Chase, 71% H. Reeve and Women's Lib. rears its head in the shape of Barbara Kirkman also with 71%. The averages seem to indicate a levelling up in this division with all teams bar one represented — no prize for guessing which one — and the averages of several players in the top four being on a level with some of

those from lower teams. The league table also bears this out for only 18 sets separate Wavertree 'C' and Colonsay 'A' plus the fact that Wavertree 'C' and Y.M. 'C' are relegated with over 100 sets.

Almost forgot, congratulations to Brian Jennings and Jean MacKenzie who were married toward the end of the season. I wonder how many table tennis marriages this makes for Rafters? Unfortunately we played them just before the wedding when they were still fresh. A couple of weeks later and we might have been able to boost our sets total above our matches played total with a couple of sets from the happy couple.

KEN ARMSON.

DIVISION 3A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Vagabonds	24	22	2	0	197
Police 'A'	24	19	4	1	155
L'pool YMCA 'D'	24	18	5	1	154
Crawfords 'A'	24	16	7	1	143
Rafters 'B'	24	12	7	5	138
Eng. Elec. 'B'	24	10	10	4	135
Cadwa 'A'	24	11	11	2	120
L'pool Jewish	24	10	11	3	117
Maghull	24	8	13	3	112
Bath St. 'C'	24	9	14	1	101
L'pool Poly.	24	3	18	3	77
Crawfords 'B'	24	1	19	4	57
Crawfords 'D'	24	1	19	4	54

Vagabonds who have been on top throughout the season easily won the Division.

Three unfavourable results probably cost Liverpool Y.M.C.A. 'D' promotion to Division 2. These were a 7-3 defeat by Crawfords 'A' and two marginal 6-4 victories over Crawfords 'D' and English Electric. Of the three, Crawfords 'D' was the most surprising result. Mabel Francis defeated Neil Roberts and Peter Roberts. Crawfords also took both the doubles. In the game against English Electric, Alex Sill beat Ken Roscoe and Peter Roberts. Jim Brown and Neil Roberts had doubles for the Y.M.C.A. Crawfords 'A' had too much experience for the Y.M.C.A. and were convincing winners. Rob Rohrer and Les Sille won two each for Crawfords.

Rafters had two good results. Against Police 'A' they drew and

against Vagabonds only lost 6-4. In the game against Vagabonds Paul Byrne defeated Ted Barnes and George Sanders; Eileen Mansell beat Roger Lowey 21-15; 17-21; 21-11. Paul Byrne and Jean Reynolds won their doubles to complete Rafter's four.

The consistency of Police 'A' has gained them the promotion to Division 2 next season. Although not winning by big scores, six wins, a draw and one defeat at the end of the season was sufficient to see them home. The same team has played throughout the season, namely Alan Wood, Ron McMaster, Dick Hough and Alan Garnett. Only on a few occasions have they used a reserve and it has obviously paid dividends.

By contrast Liverpool Jewish have fielded a different team almost weekly. Nevertheless they have had some good results. Dave Cohen and Dave Money have been the mainstays of the team. The other two positions being filled mainly by a permutation of Anne Cohen, Tony Cohen and the two Davies's. Inconsistency was their problem probably due to the various team changes. For instance in successive weeks they defeated English Electric 6-4 and then lost 6-4 to the weaker Liverpool Polytechnic.

Liverpool Polytechnic did not have sufficient strength throughout the team and were in the relegation zone throughout the season. As Linnet's dropped out only one team will be relegated i.e., Crawfords 'D' who did not have a good start to the season. This is a pity for since Christmas their results have improved and with a better start they may have avoided relegation.

Maghull had team problems towards the end of the season being without their number one Dick Watson. They cannot be considered to have had a satisfactory season. On paper they had sufficient strength to finish high in the division.

Bath St. did not fare too well in the second half of the season. Their night of glory was taking the first two sets off Crawfords 'A' who, however, had other ideas and went on to win 8-2.

Cadwa held their middle of the

table position without too much difficulty. Surely the most unpredictable team in the Division. Having some excellent wins and then losing to teams they should have beaten.

Crawfords 'B' only managed one win throughout the season. In this final match — against Bath St. — Ken Jones and Dave Cunningham probably had the longest set of the season in the Division. Ken Jones even'ually won 15-21; 25-23; 29-27.

Finally, full marks to English Electric for defeating Vagabonds 7-3. Alex Sill and Billy Ellard won two each for English Electric.

BRIAN CUNNINGHAM.

DIVISION 3B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Beauclair	24	24	0	0	194
Trinity 'B'	24	21	2	1	193
Cadwa	24	17	4	3	166
Eng. Elec. 'C'	24	12	7	5	130
Orrell	24	12	9	3	126
Bath St. 'B'	24	11	9	4	124
Norris Green	24	9	11	4	106
Police 'B'	24	8	12	4	104
Old Swan 'A'	24	6	16	2	92
Crawfords 'C'	24	7	14	3	85
Waterloo Pk. 'A'	24	4	16	4	84
Colonsay 'C'	24	3	18	3	81
Hilltop	24	2	18	4	75

Owing to holidays, late cards, cricket and a late shift Rob Lock is missing his first notes for four years.

As anticipated, Beauclair and Trinity 'B' proved to be far too strong for any other Division 3 team, 'A' or 'B', but let's be fair; if Beauclair had fielded a representative side regularly last season they wouldn't be here. Killip and Higham certainly looked strong Division 3 players. I think I am correct in saying the championship depended on the last game and despite Trinity 10-0 over English Electric (six games to three) led by skipper Murphy, Beauclair took the championship with a 9-1 win. Congratulations to both teams.

Cadwa had a good season, Ian Blore and Williams R. topping the averages, with Dave Piper and Val giving strong support, Leeson and Johnson gave them a bit of a shock when Colonsay beat them 6-4. At the same time Colonsay didn't endear themselves to Hilltop by claiming a

10-0 against Police and Rob Lock reckons a team changing its night shouldn't be able to claim a 10-0 walk-over! Not to mention forcing Hilltop to play with only one man — serves them right for being Liverpudlians!!!

Police seem to favour away tables — so they should with three different home tables, Wright & Dyson top marks.

English Electric beat Old Swan 8-2 and Old Swan 3 weeks later in the cup won 7-3 at Electric, but Electric won the decider league game 7-3. Brian Crolley and Jones A. had good seasons for Electric, Fairclough and Griffin came good for Old Swan. Callaghan is as steady as ever for Orrell who seem to have slipped a little since last season. Mike Allen returned home to revitalise the Norris Green team generally, his 3 out of 4 against Cadwa great stuff!

Bath St., bringing in Waddington, finished in a healthy position with old faithfuls Letch and Clark keeping the flag flying. Crawfords and Waterloo Park slipped away nicely from relegation and are no doubt well satisfied.

I have endeavoured to fill in with a few end of season details without any records to refer to.

J. A. L.

DIVISION 4A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Rafters 'C'	18	16	1	1	138
Maghull 'A'	18	13	5	0	119
Bedford House	18	11	5	2	116
Eng. Elec. 'D'	18	12	5	1	112
University	18	8	8	2	83
Bath St. 'D'	18	5	11	2	79
Police 'C'	18	5	12	1	76
Eng. Elec. 'F'	18	6	10	2	72
Cadwa 'B'	18	6	11	1	67
Orrell 'B'	18	1	15	2	38
York House expunged.					

Rafters championship win demonstrated once again the advantage of having a good settled team throughout the season, only eventual runners-up Maghull could match them on this score. So every congratulations go to Ray Graves, Bill Kelly, John O'Keefe and the father and son Hughes partnership (ex. H.U.C.A.), all of whom pulled their weight in a great team effort. Although O'Keefe

was, perhaps their most consistent winner, I was most impressed with the form of Kelly and I see he has not lost since November.

The loss of York House (three cheers for the cup winners) meant only eighteen games counted and this did have a bearing on the second spot but nobody can deny Maghull thoroughly deserve promotion, both Stan Draper and Stan Clarke having outstanding seasons. I think both these teams will more than hold their own in the third division. Next came Bedford House for whom Ian Atkinson had a great season and at the risk of being called biased, I am tempted to name him as the division's number one of those left at the end. Pete Roberts and Volker Mikula gave him great support and they could always be counted on to give the best teams a game. Incidentally, Mikula has gone to America to continue his studies and I know you will join me in wishing him good luck. Fourth place and a Cup semi-final shows it has been a reasonably successful season for Electric 'D', Julie and Ken Black, Albie Parker and Ron Simister all showed some great form and they can count themselves unlucky not to be amongst the promotion stakes. The reason why they were not, was they slipped badly after Christmas and their 6-4 defeat by their 'F' team was one of the surprises of the season. Betty Black had a great double for the 'F' team over Simister and Parker and this was backed up with another from Pete Lewis. I bet there was some leg-pulling in the Black household that night with Julie and Ken on the receiving end from Betty and Graeme. I make no apologies for naming my set with Keith Lightfoot of the University as one of the most exciting of the season (well, for me anyway), after losing the first -14 I was trailing 12/20 before taking the second 22/20, then I took the third 21/18 after trailing and left Keith kicking himself. He has done a fine job this season in running his team however, and I for one think he in particular thoroughly earned his cup-final medal.

Police may not have pulled-up many trees this year but they are always fun to play against, Ex-Sgt. Catterson being quite consistent at No. 1 and being well backed by Miss

Ward and Miss Anderson, Bath St. suffered at the loss of Mills and Power at the half way stage but Ted Jane stepped in bravely to take over the number one spot and to show example to the younger players in the team. His daughter Heather along with Julie Black, must be among the finest prospects in the lower divisions.

Rob Davies must be disappointed in Cadwa's low placing but he personally has had quite a good season. He had a ding-dong battle with Jim Smith (York House) before losing 18/21, 23/21, 20/22. Orrell looked like taking the wooden-spoon all season but this did not deter them from putting in a lot of effort. It might not be any consolation to them that they will not be relegated but I am sure this year's experience will stand them in good stead.

With so few games actually counting it has been a case of making the best of it, with some teams idle for weeks on end. This did not go towards creating team spirit and with this in mind, all the games I have played in, have been exceptionally enjoyable and of quite high standard. I hope we all don't have such adverse circumstances next year and the playing standard continues to rise throughout our division.

KEN BRADY.

DIVISION 4B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Beauclair 'A'22	21	1	0	170	
Trinity 'C'22	19	3	0	166	
Knotty Ash22	17	4	1	157	
Eng. Elec. 'E'22	15	7	0	142	
Giro22	12	10	0	122	
L'pool Jewish 'A' 22	11	11	0	114	
Woolton22	11	10	1	108	
Cadwa 'C'22	10	10	2	105	
St. Hughs22	2	18	2	68	
Knotty Ash 'A'22	4	17	1	60	
Orrell 'A'22	4	18	0	59	
Police 'D'22	2	19	1	49	

As you will see from the final league placings, we had a few changes at each end of the division in the last 3 or 4 matches.

You will remember that I tipped Knotty Ash and Trinity 'C' to fill the top two positions in a close finish.

Well, my team happened to be playing Beauclair on the night they read my forecast and they then proceeded to show us just how they have won numerous league championships in the past few years. In Beauclair's last 6 matches they took 49 points to surge past Knotty Ash and take the title. The team of Bill Leeming, Billy Holmes, Harry Holmes and Jimmy Lightburn will do well in the 3rd Division and we wish them luck. Bill Leeming and Bill Holmes top the singles averages and Leeming with Harry Holmes were the top doubles pair. In second place came Trinity 'C', 4 points behind and their game against Beauclair proved to be the clincher. Trinity imported B. Smith into their team for this match, a tactic they have done against each of the top teams and one with which I personally don't agree. However, it made no difference to Beauclair who swept to victory 6-4, Bill Leeming winning 3 and Bill and Harry Holmes 2 each.

I wrote that T. Dowling and D. Wilson of Trinity were the top doubles pair and they promptly lost 3 matches in 4 weeks to English Electric, Giro and Beauclair but they just keep the league as top pair.

Commiserations to Knotty Ash in 3rd place, after a great season they finished by being held to a draw by Cadwa and then lost to Woolton 3-7, strange results for them after such consistent play.

At the bottom we had a sudden surge by St. Hugh's who won their 2nd match and drew another which lifted them up 2 places and left Orrell 'A' and Police 'D' holding the wooden spoon.

Two players who have risen to prominence this season are W. Hargreaves of Woolton who capped a fine series of wins by beating Bill Leeming, T. Downing and John Ainsworth all in 2 straight, and George Bradley of English Electric who lost only two in the half season he played. My tip is that he won't lose that many all next season, mind you I've a terrible reputation with forecasts.

Cadwa finished the season strongly and their team from the three Powers, Carol Flood and R. Peverell should do well next year. Cadwa's draw

against Knotty Ash was a change from the previous week when they drew with St. Hugh's.

The return of A. McAlle to St. Hugh's team sparked off their first win 8-2 over Orrell 'A', the only success for Orrell being L. Walsh who won 2 and went to the third game in the other.

English Electric finished the season well with 10-0 victories over Police and Knotty Ash 'A' and good wins over Jewish, Giro and Woolton.

George Bradley, Rob Napier and Colin Fyles all playing well and reserve Jack Lambert coming in for myself in the last two matches winning 4 out of 6, one being a fine win over D. Wilson of Trinity.

E. Dorfman was the season's star for Liverpool Jewish, ably supported by E. Goldring who was the only success in the 1-9 defeat by English Electric. I hope that next season, when we will be joined by the promotion teams from Division 5, will be as enjoyable as this season and I look forward to meeting you all again.

COLIN PRATT.

DIVISION 5A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
St. John	22	18	1	3	185
Vagabonds 'A'	22	17	3	2	163
APH Linnets	22	17	3	2	159
Woolton 'A'	22	13	7	2	117
Barker & Dobson	22	11	8	3	106
Knotty Ash 'B'	22	8	8	6	105
Cross Inter.	22	6	11	5	103
Blundellsands	22	7	14	1	99
Trinity 'D'	22	9	12	1	97
Tuebrook	22	4	16	2	65
Maghull 'C'	22	2	15	5	61
Rafters 'D'	22	3	17	2	57

Congratulations to St. John's on finishing champions, something which looked a certainty from very early on in the season. They have proved to be the most consistent team, beating most of the weaker teams 10-0 whereas their nearest rivals were dropping the odd set or two in nearly every match. Vagabonds finally won the battle for second place, finishing four points ahead of Linnets. Well done Les and Co.,—it was a great fight.

Well, I don't think I made a bad

job of forecasting in the first issue, getting the top four correct and only being one set out for fifth place, which would have gone to Cross Inter only for them conceding a 10-0 walkover to Barker & Dobson. I only wish my Pools forecast could be that accurate!!

I reckon there have been far too many 10-0 walkovers in this division and most of them could have been avoided with a bit of foresight; why do we always leave it until the last week before trying to rearrange outstanding matches. Or even after how is it that with every player having a handbook, a team can still manage to mistake a match night as Woolton did for their match at Vagabonds? Anyway enough of the moans, let's get back to the news. I am told that Cross Inter will be unable to play next season owing to re-building at their factory. I hope, if they are unable to find new premises that they won't be lost to the league and their players will get fixed up with other clubs.

It looks almost certain that at least four teams will be promoted for next season, so let's hope there will be some new teams to fill the vacancies as we are already two teams short.

With a few score cards still to come in, Rafters appear favourites for the wooden spoon but the enthusiasm of these youngsters has been a lesson to many higher placed teams and if they can consistently show the form they have displayed individually on occasions they could well be challenging the best next season. Alan Nisted had by far the best win of the season when he beat John McLaughlin (St. John's) 21-13; 21-8. Susan Smith has been having some bad luck lately with a lot of very close defeats including 21-12; 22-24; 22-24; against J. Griffiths, (Woolton).

W. Gibson (Maghull) had a really close one against J. Roberts (Blundellsands) losing 26-24 in the third. This was quite a match all through as Blundellsands won six sets all in the third game, whilst Maghull's four sets were all two straight. Stan Prince (Blundellsands) lost two for the only time this season at home to Vagabonds losing to Ray Smith and Dave Rooney. Ray has really hit top form after a few surprising defeats early in the season and is unbeaten in the last ten or so games.

Best fight back I've seen this season was by Peter Meyer (APH Linnets against Mike Hulm (Trinity) winning 12-21; 23-21; 23-21; after being down 18-12 in the second and 20-14 in the third. Phil Vaight was the sole winner for Trinity in this game beating yours truly, it's no fun writing these notes—the only time I can give myself a mention is when I lose!! Other sole winners:—R. Pritchard (Blundellsands) 14-21; 21-14; 21-17; v. Lcs Harper (Vags.); T. Kelly (Maghull) 21-17; 15-21; 25-23; v. Brian Phillips (Vags.); Stan Prince (Blundellsands). Two wins at St. John's (v. Gordon Crompton and Alan Randall), M. Glean (Blundellsands) against — yes — me again 22-20 in the third and John Ashburner (Cross Inter) 21-17; 21-19; against Dave Rooney. Not even John could save Cross from a 10-0 defeat at St. John's losing to Gordon Crompton in three games and 21-12; 21-10; to John McLaughlin.

Knotty Ash continue to turn in some good results, none better than a 6-4 defeat of Woolton, Allen Leigh winning both singles and his doubles with Ken Ray. Barker & Dobson (without Marge Lambert) had a good 8-2 win off Blundellsands (without Stan Prince), Paul Lefourvre having a surprisingly easy win for Blundellsands 21-5; 21-7; against P. Woodburn and teaming up in the doubles with B. Emmerson to beat Fred O'Sullivan and Bob Kelly 24-22 in the third.

I haven't got all the score cards in to work out the averages but by my reckoning Alan Gillespie is top followed by Stan Prince, Ray Gavin, Mike Hulme, John Ashburner, Ray Smith and Waly Sherburn, but not necessarily in that order.

The team I most enjoyed playing against was Vagabonds (and they have the best beer in Liverpool — player I most enjoyed playing was Alan Gillespie ('cos I won), Club I least enjoyed playing at: Woolton and Tuebrook. (What a lot of noise, especially at Woolton next door to a 5-a-side football match in the gym is no place for a table tennis match).

Finally, may I wish you all a happy close season and I hope to see you all back fit and raring to go in September.

BARRY MEYER.

DIVISION 5B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Palmerston 'A'18	17	0	1	1	163
Panto18	13	3	2	1	136
Vagabonds 'B'18	12	4	2	1	114
Bath St. 'E'18	10	6	2	1	95
Colonsay 'D'18	9	6	3	1	91
Knotty Ash 'C'18	5	10	3	1	71
Maghull 'B'18	5	9	4	1	68
Lancs. Police18	4	11	3	1	71
Eng. Elcc. 'G'18	2	14	2	1	51
Trinity 'E'18	1	15	2	1	40

Congratulations to the strong Palmerston team on their cup and League triumph, 7 players were called on despite Hudson's 100 per cent, Davies pipped him on league sets, won and finished our number two man in the division, Alexander and Shaw giving top support. Any figures quoted are for league games only and exclude the odd cards from each club.

Post Office with 10 players had our top scorer for the Division in Morgan who only missed one game and helped his team to a healthy number two spot, Luxon and Hayes finished second and third in sets won for the club. They must feel well satisfied with their first season. A walk-over to Post Office didn't do Vagabonds a lot of good and I felt they could have done much better, Doug, Ridgeway was top of 7 players, Johnstone and Gordon Ridgeway following.

Maghull and Tuebrook B.C. only called on 5 players each, Barrington just pipping Leslie (carrying the weight at number 1) and Ellison, special mention for Speedy who didn't let the team down. Maghull carried on from last season Pattinson leading, with Smith F. Barnes (Number 1 spot) and Adams J. breathing down his neck.

Bath St. 13 players Georgeson top and Handley nearly ever present, Blundellsands 13 players—Brookshank, Pritchard and Laycock were the mainstays — if there were any. In true Police tradition Lancs. Police used 13 players, Moxon top scorer, followed by Leigh, but they get top marks for a superb doubles record. I hope they enjoyed their first season.

Pownall, Knotty Ash (10) was well up amongst our divisional leading scorers with good backing from Hughes G. The young Colonsay side improved as the season went on, of their eight players, Rutherford

topped their list, with Kilty and McGuinness doing well.

It was tough at the bottom for Trinity and English Electric, the latter winning the wooden spoon battle 7-3. Electric called on 12 players eight of these juniors — Sylvia Nevins, Black, G., and Money, Jnr., were best, Trinity's Vaight was their leading scorer but Paula McGuinness and Chatfield pulled their weight as well—oops sorry!

Hunter J. (Eng. Elec.) passed his first milestone with a win against Lancs. Police, Chris Daybell (Trinity) had three good lone wins for her side

and Joan Monaghan (Knotty Ash) saved a whitewash against Post Office. Not a bad season, but too many things went wrong for it to be a good one.

JACK LAMBERT.

The league tables — our most important local contributions produced as usual by our fixture secretary Eddie Cameron, an intricate and time consuming job. Whilst Eddie is our man he is the first to admit that Wynne his wife or Mrs. Fixture Secretary as she is more affectionately known, is the real brains behind the whole fiddle!!

Liverpool Closed Championships

Before a sparse crowd but in ideal conditions for finals night, Wally Allanson won his second singles title fairly comfortably beating Ian Johns 21-6; 21-13; Wally's toughest game was a 26-24 against old war horse Roy Jones. In the semi-final he beat John Marshall 21-6; 21-12; this win was a just reward for a couple of seasons of dedicated table tennis. Ian was a bit cheeky getting to the final beating seeded Dave Roberts in the quarters 21-15; 21-9; and brother Brian in the semis 21-14; 21-17; his first win over Brian for quite a few years, great stuff Ian. Brian in turn had put an end to Alan Bryce's excellent run 15 and 12 but Alan took the scalps of Ted Birch, Ron Burke, John McNee 9 and 18 and Dave Williams on the way.

In the men's doubles we had three of the four singles semi-finalists plus Tony Clayton — with Tony and Brian struggling to find form it was not a great game with Allanson and Clayton beating Brian and Ian Johns 21-19; 14-21; 21-18.

The same two girls fought out the Ladies Singles and Junior Girls, Brenda Williams and Sue Manning — Brenda took the juniors comfortably 21-16; 21-9. But the Ladies was a different tale altogether with Susan winning the first 14 and losing the second 13 and winning all the way through the third until Brenda popped in two points for a dramatic and tense win.

The Veterans final saw George Smith beat Bill Harris 21-15; 21-11; George of course has had a ball this season on the Veterans circuit. Nice to see Bill (singles quarter finalist) in the honours after a win over the terror of the wood Mandy. Alex Sill having defeated number one seed, Ted Birch, found himself against number two Tom Killip in the restricted final, Tom's old head won the day 18-13.

Tony Clayton and Barbara Kirkham bombed their way through the first game 21-10 in the mixed doubles final, but Ian Johns and Brenda Williams soon stopped that and won the next two 21-13; 21-15. John McNee and Colin Fields gave us an excellent first game in the Junior Boys — John winning 21-18 and in the second was right on top to win 21-11. Alex Sill caused the only upset here beating number 3 seed Keith Williams, but in turn was beaten by very bright prospect Neil Roberts.

In the Women's Doubles final we had the terrible trio on the floor again Sue and Barbara against Brenda and Julie Black slipping in, the Sue Barbara combine came out top 21-13; 21-15.

The Men's Consolation Singles was won by Ron Burke who beat Keith Fitzsimmons 21-14; 21-12; and the Ladies Consolation winner was Sue Rimmer

who beat Gill Cross 19-21; 21-17; 21-17; a great game this. Gill also reached the semi-final of the girls in her first season.

Arthur Upton, looking fit after his recent car accident, presented the prizes and thanked Barker & Dobson and United Biscuits for donating prizes of sweets and biscuits (This was seconded by English Electric who nearly won the lot! :) and the New Heys caretaking staff for their invaluable assistance.

Arthur also thanked everyone else who had helped — and where do we start? with Brian Leeson who heads operations in this complex affair, to the folk who gave up their Easter Bank Holiday to make the lighting and tables appear — the equipment chief Ian Blore, plus Ken Armson, Keith Fitzsimmons, Bill Leeming and his family, to the stage team Brian and Ken. Ray Hebson and Ken Black doing the running and writing, to Janice McCaig and Linda Roberts who earned us so much cash and made Don Cameron Chief Cashier and doorman happy — and offered their services so freely and how about my favourites the sandwich makers and cha wallers — Lil Upton, Joe Green, Eileen Mansell and their helpers — our thanks to all who helped so much, I know there are lots more names, but we finish with Brian again as he makes sure that the place is cleared and ready for school opening the following Monday — a hectic job. While I would much prefer him to write these notes, when he requested me to write them he must have been suffering badly with tournamentitis.

Our local press coverage in the Echo was NIL, we had scores ONLY in the Daily Post, our last event and first mention of the season. I wonder what we did to the Post, time was when all the INDIVIDUAL tournament scores were published the following morning.

J.A.L.

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Letters to the Editor

19 Cedar Grove,
Waterloo.

Dear Jack,

Your recent endeavours to recall the past will no doubt have been received with considerable enthusiasm, particularly by the older members of the League, and I am sure that it has resulted in a period of reminiscing on the part of those referred to.

Such an occasion for the exchange of reminiscences was at the home of Kay and Ted Rumjahn on the evening of April 7th, when members of the Rafter's Club, both past and present, assembled to say "Farewell" to Eric Caird, whose business commitments have necessitated him taking up residence in the South of England, and to express their good wishes to himself, his wife Audrey, and son Malcolm in the new life upon which they were about to embark. A more tangible expression of the Club's appreciation of Eric's long service, and a symbol of the high esteem in which he was held, was in the form of a presentation made on the members behalf by the Club President, Mrs May (Mother of Finky and Bluey).

For a period of many years, Eric was the Rafter's Club spokesman at the League's Annual General Meetings and proved a most worthy "Ambassador" by the manner in which he represented their interests. He was gifted in the "Art of Debate" and the annual general gatherings could always be assured of a lively session, especially on the subject of Alterations to Rules. The older members of the League would I am convinced agree that A.G.M.'s have never been quite the same since he gracefully retired from the scene to devote his time and energies to the Scouting Organisation of which he had aspired to the high office of Liverpool Commissioner. His spirited endeavours in this particular field of activity were recognised in recent years when he was appointed Justice of the Peace.

Eric will, of course, be remembered for his valued practical contribution to the League's cause in the capacity of Editor of the Digest and by so doing added his name to that small but illustrious group who have performed this onerous task.

During the course of the evening (Lil and myself being privileged to be present) I was permitted the opportunity of expressing the League's thanks to Eric for services rendered, and of having the pleasure on behalf of the Committee to invite him to accept the nomination at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting as a Vice-president of the League. I am delighted that he has found it possible to accept the Committee's invitation, thereby ensuring that an association which has existed for so many years will be maintained.

A most enjoyable evening was enhanced by the provision of an excellent supper prepared by "Mine Hosts" and it was apparent to all present that no effort had been spared to ensure that the occasion was one to be remembered.

Trusting that you are well and with renewed thanks for the most valuable contribution which you are personally making in the League's interest.

Arthur E. Upton.

21 Armscot Close,
Liverpool 25.

Dear Sir,

You may not be too fussy about the title 'Locals Abroad'. I am even less happy about mixing Lancs. & Ches. notes with other items.

My first impression was that the Match Secretary had renounced the job of writing L. & C. notes, however, on reading the article I was able to pick out parts which had his style although the complete article was under the initials J.A.L. (Who is this anonymous writer I wonder?).

A large proportion of our money goes towards the expenses of L. & C. matches and I for one feel we should retain the L. & C. notes to enable us to see clearly how they are doing and not have to dig the facts out of a load of chit-chat.

As at least 50% of these matches are played at home venues I can hardly see how they qualify for the heading 'Locals Abroad'.

If you wish to publish the successes etc., of local players all well and good but please don't split up the L. & C. notes to pad the article out.

K. Armson, Wavertree Labour T.T.C.

16 Handfield Road,
Liverpool 22 ONX.

Dear Sir,

Once again we come to the end of another table tennis season and our next Digest, the May issue, will be the last for this season. May I take the opportunity of thanking the Editor and his staff for all the work they have put in during the last few months. Looking at No. 1, 2 and 3 issues has made me realise what a great contribution "J.A.L." has made to these, with articles like "Table Edges", The Ladies, Rafters, Locals Abroad, Our President and the Outside World. There has certainly been plenty of burning of midnight oil round the Kirkby area! In case any of our readers are unaware of it "J.A.L." is our modest editor Jack Lambert. Did you also know that Jack is the longest serving secretary in the Liverpool League? Long may he continue to serve the English Electric Club and the Liverpool League. As this is the last opportunity to print before the A.G.M. I hope all members will give careful consideration as to the future of the Digest. For my part, I hope to see it carrying on and thriving but to do this it needs articles, so come on folks get cracking and take the pressure of J.A.L.

Frank Lacey.

2 Charnalue Avenue.

Dear Jack,

First of all I would like to congratulate you and your staff for winning first prize in the competition to find the league producing the best table tennis magazine. I think they will be the first to agree that previous editorial staff helped to make this possible by setting such a high standard and giving us the opportunity to produce these notes and air our views.

To continue the good work of the Liverpool League, five of our seven teams finished the season as either champions or runners-up in their respective divisions of the Lancs. & Ches. League. There could not be a finer tribute to the continued improvement in the quality of table tennis in our organisation.

Alec Davidson, Match Secretary

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