

# Table Tennis Digest

Volume 27

Number 1



*Official Magazine*

OF THE

**LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE**

# TABLE TENNIS DIGEST

All correspondence must be  
addressed to the Editor  
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## *Editorial*

Quite a unique start to the season—not a new club to be seen—with due respect to United Biscuits—you would be crackers if you didn't realise that they were Crawford's, even though Electric Supply are Crawford's—think about it or have a chat with Les Evans. Stanley House—old friends of long standing are back with us. So for once we say to the stalwarts of our league, welcome to a new season and may all your games be enjoyable. Each season I suppose brings a new challenge whether you are going up the ladder or on the way down, or even an even keel man who just plays for the night out. But every so often shouldn't we have a wind of change? Are there too many stalwarts in too deep a groove? I feel this could be a fault in our set-up. How nice it would be to find half a dozen young girls and chaps bulldozing their way on to the committee with fresh ideas and youthful exuberance and **HARD WORK**, because make no mistake, the key to a good committee man or woman is **WORK**. Even though we all annihilate at least one of them per season in our club rooms, the guys and dolls on the front page are the ones you have to thank for your weekly game and without their efforts there would be no table tennis.

So how about the groove, is it too deep and staid?—It's a thought anyway. Another thought how about a ten team three-a-side Premier Division!!!

England's football team are out of the World Cup, but England's Table Tennis team will be very World Cup minded in 1977. England's Table Tennis and this means you and me will be judged by the show WE put on so do support your chairman's appeal.

# World Championships - Fund Raising

## AN APPEAL FROM THE CHAIRMAN TO ALL MEMBERS

As you are possibly already aware from the advance publicity through other channels, the staging of the World Table Tennis Championships in 1977 has been entrusted to the English Table Tennis Association, and although on paper this may appear to be some considerable time away, the Association is duty bound, particularly in view of the tremendous financial involvement, to put plans into operation immediately in order to achieve the target which must be reached, to enable this mammoth event to be successfully staged.

These plans include the organising of a National Raffle on a gigantic scale with dual benefits to both the Association and to the participating League, the latter receiving 25% of all monies received from tickets sold. It will be one of the biggest raffles ever held in the Country, with a first prize of a Morris Marina 1.8 T.C. Four Door Saloon Car, (today's value £1,300) and with numerous other worthwhile prizes including Colour Television Sets, Holidays in Majorca, Washing Machines, Radio Sets, etc., (100 prizes in all—a total of £7,500 in value).

In this latter connection, I understand that the League Treasurer, Don Cameron, has already forwarded a limited supply of books of tickets (priced at 10p per ticket, in books of 10 tickets) to Club Secretaries for sale by you, the League Members. If this is not already the case, please ensure that your Secretary obtains a supply, and/or alternatively, if your Club has exhausted the quantity already distributed, do not hesitate to approach Don Cameron for a further consignment. Remember the League benefits to the extent of 25% of all sales, and if we should reach the happy position of selling more than the quota allocated, we then benefit to the extent of 50% on all additional sales.

In addition to the financial benefits to be derived by our League from active participation in this scheme, and these in themselves are of major importance, I am naturally concerned in my capacity as National Councillor for Lancashire, and as a newly elected member of the English Table Tennis Association's Management Committee, that the status of my own League shall be enhanced by the results of its efforts associated with this project. I therefore make this urgent appeal to you one and all to making this a 100% Liverpool effort.

Thanking you in anticipation of your help.

Yours sincerely,

ARTHUR E. UPTON,  
Chairman.

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## Letters to the Editor

Dunlop Sports Co. Ltd.,  
Allington House,  
136-142 Victoria Street,  
London SW1E 5LD.

Dear Jack Lambert,

I am writing to congratulate you on winning the E.T.T.A.'s League Magazine competition and to say that we are arranging to send you separately 12 dozen Barna Super 3 Crown Table Tennis balls, etc., etc.

I intend coming to the Merseyside tournament this year and perhaps will have the pleasure of seeing you there.

Again, congratulations and best wishes.

W. EVANS

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Dear Sir,

As a fellow award-winner in the E.T.T.A. Magazine Competition I would be obliged if you could ask Jack Lambert on my behalf for any recent copies of "Table Tennis Digest".

I must congratulate Jack on winning the Competition and hope that I may draw some ideas from his magazine. I would also like his permission to use any of his material in our local magazine, "Table Talk". Thanking you in anticipation.

T. HOWSON, General Secretary,  
Mansfield and District Table Tennis League.

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16 Avolon Road.

Dear Sir,

You will no doubt have noticed that in recent Merseyside Open Tournaments the Mixed Doubles Event has been omitted. This Event has, in the past, caused more delays and has upset more time-schedules than any other. Bringing together four players, usually scratch pairings anyway, to play a round, has extra difficulties, especially when one player or more is still involved in other events. Leaving out the Mixed, therefore, has without doubt ensured the smoother running of the Tournaments and also enabled more competitors to enter the other events.

I am seriously considering leaving out the Mixed Doubles Event from the Liverpool Closed Tournament in future as this, once again, is the event which causes more delays and frustrating hold-ups than any other, especially when we are always so short of time. At New Heys, the venue for the Closed, we are supposed to be CLEAR OF THE PREMISES at 10-30 p.m., which is why I must insist on a 6 p.m. start to fit in all the necessary games. Even so, many players have great difficulty in arriving before 6-45 p.m., which does not help to ensure prompt finishes.

I would like, however, to introduce a new singles event into our Tournament, namely a Youths' Singles Event. This would be open to Liverpool and District players under the age of 21, both male and female. Singles events produce less problems than doubles, and I believe an extra competition for our younger players would be more beneficial and would stimulate greater interest.

I would be most interested to hear your readers' opinions of my outlined suggestions. My preparations for our Liverpool Tournament begin in January/February, so it is very important that any points of view are brought to my notice as soon as possible. Otherwise I must assume that my new recommendations are acceptable to everyone and I will endeavour to implement them in the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

BRIAN LEESON,  
Hon. Tournament Referee.

# LOCALS ABROAD

To clarify this column, its heading does not take you to the upper reaches of the Amazon or the banks of the Ganges, but basically refers to items concerning the players and when playing in competitions OUTSIDE the jurisdiction of the Liverpool League.

Lancs. Junior Rankings show Neil Roberts (Liverpool Y.M.C.A.) 6 and Clive Strettle (Eng. Elec.) 9. Need I say that Brenda Williams and Sue Manning both of Colonsay top the girls followed by Julie Black (Eng. Elec.).

Pete D'Arcy (Eng. Elec.) together with Nigel Eckersley (Ex-Colonsay) won the East of Scotland and the Meadowbank (Edinburgh) Men's Doubles.

After one of our most successful seasons for many years, I am optimistic that we can again produce the kind of table tennis which will surely reflect itself in the matches in our own league, says Alec Davidson. It is always pleasing to see a junior go "through the ranks", and this season John Marshall seems to have earned a permanent place in the Men's 1st team, who have beaten Manchester and drawn at Farnworth. For the latter match John was "Outward bound" and John McNee stepped in with Wally Allanson and Pete D'Arcy, a night which I am assured Wally will want to forget. The men's 'A' team beat Blackpool 10-0 and then lost 4-6 to Blackpool 'A'. Even allowing for travelling and a different table, these seem incredible results.

What can one say of our ladies? Surely this must be our year to win the division, when it happens victory will be that much sweeter because we know that our players are genuine members of our league and not gathered together for the occasion.

The Ladies' 'A' team continue to triumph, although they had an unexpected defeat at Macclesfield, losing 6-4 their first defeat for a long time.

By winning 7-3 at Stockport and 9-1 against probably their strongest rivals, St. Helens the YOUTH team seem determined to again sweep the board. I am always surprised that so few leagues enter this division, this year again only six are represented.

David, in the guise of our junior team is finding a very big giant in the junior first division. However, our players have many more "junior" years ahead of them, and with somewhat easier fixtures to come, they are bound to improve. To date Keith Williams, Neil Roberts and Peter Rutherford have formed the team which has lost 1-9 to both Lancaster and Morecambe and Manchester.

A.D./J.A.L.

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# The Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Liverpool League was held at the Y.M.C.A. on Friday, 25th May, 1973; an unfortunate selection in two respects first of all, it was the eve of the Spring weekend an unpopular night by any standard and secondly, Bill Shankly and the lads were doing their tour of the city.

These few points may be of interest apart from those which have already received magazine comment. We have a shortage of non-playing captains for city teams and have one less team this season on that count. It is important to let Eddie Cameron know if a game is postponed. Eric Caird ex-Rafters and St. Simon and St. Jude was elected a Vice-President of the League.

Wavertree Labour proposed an amendment to Rule 20 whereby if a specific team gave away two walk-overs (as opposed to the present three by a club) that that particular team should be expelled and not the bottom team in the club as the present rule states. Bedford House tried a similar tack—just two walk-overs per club and out—instead of three. This amendment did not receive a seconder so both amendments were lost. From the vicinity of Ernie Sturgess (Bedford House) came cries of "You rotten lot", etc.

APH Linnets proposed that runners-up medals should be presented as for cup winners. This too went by the wayside on the lines that (a) we cannot afford them and (b) who wants a runners-up medal anyway.

Major items of expenditure include the Digest £220; English and Lancs. affiliation fees £117; match expenses £98; handbook £83; phone bills £104. A loss on the Liverpool Closed of £42 but a profit on the Merseyside Open of £105.

I know that secretaries are aware of these facts, but how many of the other lads and lasses are ?

J.A.L.

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## Umpiring, etc. . .

The team you are playing, plays in a large canteen and the ball has rolled down to the far end. One might think that the time to give the score would be when the ball has been retrieved and the contestants ready to play the next point **NOT SO**. The score should be called as soon as you can be heard. Which means in a normal league game **at the moment** the point has been won or lost.

The ball is served hits the net and falls in your opponents court 'a let'—you agree ? The ball is served hits the net and goes out of play **NOT** touching your opponents court. A point away to the player receiving the service—agreed ?

The ball is served, hits the net and is going out of play as in the previous instance but the receiver catches it with his bat ! We have the server serving off, the receiver vollying and the umpire in a hell of a mess. Until he decides to regard the receivers bat as the table (use your imagination !) and calls the correct decision 'A LET'.

A player may receive advice from anyone during any authorised interval or suspension of a game.

A player may not receive advice from anyone during a game (Dad's please note) such as a pause for towelling or a change of ends in the last possible game of a match.

ANY MORE ? (Yes, one already received from Norman Cooke (Orrell).

J.A.L.

## Divisional Notes

### DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Wav. Lab. ....	9	9	0	0	81
L'pool YMCA .....	8	8	0	0	74
Eng. Elec. ....	7	7	0	0	58
Trinity .....	8	6	1	1	52
Wav. Lab 'A' .....	9	4	2	3	44
Rafters .....	8	4	3	1	43
Palmerston .....	8	4	3	1	39
Colonsay .....	8	2	5	1	31
L'pool YMCA 'A' .....	7	2	3	2	31
Eng. Elec. 'A' .....	9	2	7	0	30
Bath St. ....	8	1	7	0	29
Sefton .....	8	2	6	0	26
Wav. Lab. 'B' .....	8	0	6	2	18
Waterloo Park .....	9	0	8	1	14

Before reviewing early form and match results, I am sure you would wish me to extend a hearty welcome to the newly promoted clubs—Second Division Champions, Sefton and their runners-up, Waterloo Park.

Setting the early pace for this seasons honours are last years runners-up—the Liverpool Y.M.C.A. team of Ted Mandaluff, George Smith, Paul Tsang and Peter Turtle. In the leadership stakes sets lost are most relevant pointers to championship form and Y.M. have started their campaign well.

Last years double winners, English Electric have not fared as successfully. Three sets dropped to Rafters (John Marshall's 24/22; 14/21; 17/21 win over Gordon Birch, a highlight here). Two sets to Sefton (thanks to a fine double by J. Doncaster over Eddie Clein 27/25, 23/25; 21/9! and Eric Youd 21/17; 14/21; 21/15) and dropping both doubles sets against Colonsay. The Dave Williams/Sue Manning 'Combo' proving too much for Clein and Allanson, who suffered a 14/21; 21/18, 21/14 defeat. In the other doubles a walkover was claimed. As all team members seemed to have participated in the rest of the match, would anyone care to explain the circumstances in which the set was claimed (injury perhaps?).

Lying in second spot at this time is a newlook Wavertree-Labour first team; John McNee and Dave Roberts of last years team being supplemented by Mick Tierney and Ronnie Burke, Trevor Owens and Alan Tolson joining Roy Smith and Ted Gilmor in a Labour 'A' team many clubs would envy.

The Labour first team have been dropping one set per match, so let's have a few more 10-nil lads and then you'll really show 'em! (My newly acquired Labour bias for once getting the better of me! !).

As last year, Trinity (lying third), have made a superb start. With a five man pool—B. Bagot, R. Brown, E. Hardman, B. Harris and M. Truman—they have achieved victories over Labour 'B' (9—1), Bath St. (7—3), English Electric 'A' (8—2) and Palmerston (7—3). No doubt they will give the top three some tough encounters before the league is decided.

Wavertree Labour 'A', Rafters and Bath St. occupy the upper middle positions with Liverpool Y.M.C.A. 'A', Sefton, Colonsay and English Electric 'A' bringing up the rear. Of the last four named, Electric 'A' (my former team mates) are struggling a little at present, but under the astute captaincy of Fred Pheysey should soon fight their way out of trouble. Two new members of this 'A' team pool are Vic Chesham (recently returned from abroad) and Alec Sill (congratulations on your Youth Team selection Alec!).

Also, it's nice to see Ron Bretherton (even though he does talk funny) back in the swing after his recent serious illness.

Three teams who I think will be involved in the tenacious struggle to avoid the drop are Sefton, Waterloo Park and my own team Wavertree Labour 'B'. Sefton and Park have both suffered a fierce baptism in the division—Sefton losing to Y.M. First Team (10—0) and Electric First Team (8—2) in their first two matches; while poor Waterloo Park have lost to Labour First (9—1) a fine win by D. Olsen over Dave Roberts 22/24; 17/21 to save the single, Y.M. First (10—0), Electric First (10—0) and Rafters (9—1).

Labour 'B' have made a shaky start to say the least—but there is enough ability in the team to stay up with the proviso that a lot of "Gutsy" performances are forthcoming (naturally I do not exclude myself here). Here again, as with Sefton and Waterloo Park, meeting the top clubs in early fixtures has contributed to a low set yield.

GORDON NEVINS

## DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Rafters 'A'	9	8	1	0	66
Trinity 'A'	8	7	0	1	60
Crawfords	8	6	0	2	54
Bath St. 'A'	9	5	3	1	52
Beauclair	8	5	3	0	47
Colonsay 'A'	9	3	5	1	45
Linacre	8	5	3	0	40
Vagabonds	8	3	5	0	40
Colonsay 'B'	9	3	6	0	36
Trinity 'B'	8	2	5	1	34
L'pool YMCA 'B'	7	2	5	0	31
Police	8	3	4	1	30
Police 'A'	9	0	9	0	18
Old Swan	6	1	4	1	17

Welcome to the new season, and many thanks to Ken Armson for keeping the seat warm and writing the notes last season while I was away. Mind you, his notes weren't much good, but he did his best.

The usual start is to work out the candidates for promotion. I can only see five — Trinity 'A', Crawfords, Rafters 'A', Bath Street 'A' and Beauclair. Already this season Trinity 'A' have beaten Rafters 'A' 8—2 and drawn with Crawfords. The Rafters result was a very good one for Trinity with double wins for Alan Chasem, Alf Southall and John Higham. Crawfords have won all their matches so far, apart from the draw with Trinity 'A', and must consider their chances very good. Although they don't get many 10—0 results, they rarely lose and their victories so far include 7—3 against Bath Street 'A' and 8—2 against Beauclair, both promotion contenders. Bath Street and Beauclair must have a chance but a lot will depend on their results against the lower teams. A few 10—0 results will keep them in touch. My own impression is that they are a good bet for 4th and 5th in the League order.

How about relegation? There seems to be a wide choice from the early results. Police 'A' appear to be certainties, but for the rest you can take your pick of who goes down with them. Down there at the moment are Police, Colonsay 'A', Old Swan, Linacre and Liverpool Y.M.C.A. 'B'. It is however, early days yet and I will not commit myself to giving any predictions.

Vagabonds, Trinity 'B' and Colonsay 'B' are the only three left and I see them in the middle of the table

without any worries of relegation or promotion. Vagabonds look a little like the old Sparta with George Saunders and Ted Barnes in the team.

Trinity 'B' include Dave Newton and they have enough useful players in the club to keep the team well up in the division. Colonsay 'B' have Ron Evans and Harry Nelson and I do not see any danger for them. They beat their own 'A' team 7—3 in the first match of the season. Still there's nothing unusual about that, or is there? They do it every season.

I have a few results from the Rumjahn Cup none of which produced any surprises, Beauclair, Trinity 'A', Crawfords, Rafters 'A' and Colonsay 'B' all winning through to the next round.

Finally commiserations to K. Williams of Rafters 'A' who was beaten by John O'Sullivan 19/21; 22/20; 22/24.

KEITH FITZSIMMONS

## DIVISION 3A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Eng. Elec. 'B'	8	8	0	0	73
Knotty Ash	8	5	1	2	55
L'pool Jewish	8	7	1	0	53
Beauclair 'A'	8	4	3	1	48
Cadwa 'A'	9	5	3	1	43
L'pool YMCA 'D'	9	2	5	2	41
Maghull	8	4	2	2	41
Wav. Lab. 'C'	8	1	5	2	32
Bath St. 'C'	7	3	4	0	31
Eng. Elec. 'D'	8	2	6	0	31
Rafters 'B'	6	3	3	0	29
Bedford House	6	1	5	0	19
Polytechnic	6	2	4	0	19
Giro	7	1	6	0	15

The division has settled into the usual pattern with several teams making the running and it is already possible to pick out the probables who will be leading the battle for promotion. Eng. Elec. 'B' are the team making the early running. The results of possible challengers such as Knotty Ash, Liv. Jewish and possibly Beauclair 'A' and Maghull do not indicate their being strong enough to make a real challenge for the top spot. Plenty of surprises probably lie ahead but I fancy Elec. 'B' for champions with the runners-up being either Knotty Ash or Jewish. With my renowned record for usually being completely wrong this forecast is best ignored and all other teams can take



heart for all is not yet lost.

The trend of results also indicate a fairly compact middle group with little to choose between them. Cadwa 'A', Bath St. 'C', Rafter's 'B' and Y.M. 'D' will probably be in this group with the remainder of the teams hovering in or around the relegation zone. Even here it looks as if Polytech and Giro are in the most danger as Elec. 'D', Wav. Lab. 'C' and Bedford House all look strong enough to stay well ahead of these two and could easily finish higher than some teams already mentioned.

Of the promoted teams Bedford are finding the going a bit hard at the moment although to be fair I don't suppose they expected, or for that matter even wanted, to be promoted. Giro are finding the going hardest and have complicated matters by conceding a w/over to Y.M. 'D'. Don't know what happened here but so early in the season it is only to be regretted. I expect the results of Bedford to show a gradual improvement and would not be surprised to find them on level terms with the middle group.

Elec. 'D' are also finding the going a little tougher than the 4th div. but they are getting the sets and with no apparent relegation problems are capable of improving their position at the expense of others. Those of you who suffer the indignity of being beaten by young Julie Black may get the opportunity to salvage some pride by beating the cause of their trouble, namely her father who at present appears to be bottom of the averages in the Black family. What I suppose you could call a 'black outlook'. Sorry, couldn't resist that.

Bath St. 'C' promise to be a real writer's headache for they have beaten Beauclair 'A' and Maghull 7-3, only to go down to Cadwa 'A' 6-4. I strongly suspect that having 'retired' as divisional writer Brian Cunningham has decided it is his duty to make forecasting as difficult as possible for his successor.

Liv. Y.M. 'D' finished 3rd last season but with a changed team prospects do not look as good this season. The team has a couple of youngsters who show promise of making their mark in the future. When playing them away you can expect to take refreshments alone, even to the extent of pouring you own tea as they have

not yet discovered that there is more to a match than just playing your sets. A top half position should be theirs and I anticipate them causing a few upsets later in the season.

Polytech started their season a couple of weeks after the rest but their early results indicate that another battle to avoid relegation lies ahead of them and having lost 9-1 to promoted Elec. 'D' their chances cannot be considered good. Still, these are early days and they have plenty of time to climb to safety.

One team left to mention, my own, Wav. Lab. 'C' surely the pick of the bunch. When playing us you can expect pathos, seriousness, extreme changes of temperament, comedy and the ultimate in T.T. luxury—dried milk. Anything can happen, and usually does and in between we even include a bit of T.T. at no extra charge. I don't suppose Y.M. 'D' will agree with all of the above as our two matches with them just didn't go according to our usual system. There always has to be an exception and unfortunately they happened to be it. We do sometimes try to be serious but with such a mixture it is not always possible only when I am in the team is there any semblance of dignity coupled with intelligent and skilful T.T. ! ! Mind you with John Hoban as chief wit and Rob-Hamilton as our temperamental captain serious table tennis just has to take a back seat. Our one claim to fame in the Labour club is that we are the only team with a bit of glamour around in the shape (very shapely at that) of Alan Cameron's wife. Sorry if I have gone on at length about my own team but in previous seasons I have always been accused of deliberately leaving my own team out but this one is a writer's dream. You name it they have it and every match is worth remembering. To give just one example what team could rearrange a home fixture and then forget to turn up. No wonder I am going from part grey to all white.

KEN ARMSON

### DIVISION 3B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
I. pool YMCA 'C' ...	8	7	0	1	62
Orrell .....	8	6	1	1	58
Bath St. 'B' .....	8	6	2	0	56
Cadwa .....	8	6	0	2	53
Eng. Elec. 'C' .....	8	5	2	1	50
Rafters 'C' .....	8	4	3	1	48
Colonsay 'C' .....	8	3	3	2	38
Maghull 'A' .....	8	1	3	4	35
Trinity 'C' .....	7	4	3	0	35
Police 'B' .....	8	1	7	0	29
Old Swan 'A' .....	7	0	6	1	20
W'loo Park 'A' .....	9	1	8	0	19
Eng. Elec. 'E' .....	7	0	6	1	14

Firstly, a belated welcome to another season. May I start by welcoming the newcomers, Y.M.C.A. 'C' from the second division and Rafters 'C', Maghull 'A', Trinity 'C' and English Electric 'E' from the fourth division.

The one team missing from last season (Promotions apart) is Hilltop and it is unfortunate that this popular club has had to disband. I hope to find that Rob Lock and the rest of his team have signed on to continue playing for another club, if so, best wishes to them.

This report is based on early games, so I hope you will bear with me if my news is slightly out-of-date.

From these early results the two teams making the early running are Bath St. 'B' and Y.M.C.A. 'C'.

Bath Street are strong throughout and really play to win. They suffered their only defeat at the hands of Cadwa 4-6 with all 8 players winning at least one and I. Blore winning three.

Y.M.C.A. 'C' are unbeaten so far and with Brown's perseverance Fagin's loop, Donnelly's incessant chop and Alam's speed of shot they will be in the running at the seasons end.

Cadwa held Y.M.C.A. to a draw and would appear to have played mostly strong teams so far so they too might well figure in the tilt for the title. Orrell will again be prominent in this division, they have a very strong team headed by ex-Business House star Cyril Callaghan and not only win most matches but enjoy their table tennis and make visiting teams most welcome.

The 'C' Teams of Trinity, Colonsay, Rafters and English Electric all have players capable of upsetting the top teams and will win more matches than they lose.

The bottom five teams are headed at the moment by Maghull 'A' but this position could alter and it will be an interesting fight to avoid relegation.

Maghull have Alan Edwards at No. 1, he has lost only one to date but has yet to play the big names.

Close games this season include:—

Blore (Cadwa) beating Brown (Y.M.C.A.) 15, 22, 23.

Fagin (Y.M.C.A.) beating Guy (Colonsay) 18, 22, 28.

Alam (Y.M.C.A.) beating Woosey (Waterloo) 26, 21, 23.

Brooke (Colonsay) beating Byrne (E.E.) 21, 22, 25.

Guy (Colonsay) beating Callaghan (Orrell) 15, 21, 22.

Unbeaten doubles duo's so far are Clark and Taylor (Bath St.) and Hankin and Randles (Trinity).

COLIN PRATT

### DIVISION 4A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
United Biscuits .....	8	8	0	0	67
Vagabonds 'A' .....	8	8	0	0	64
Eng. Elec. 'F' .....	8	6	2	0	57
APH Linnets .....	9	4	3	2	55
Trinity 'D' .....	8	5	2	1	54
Cadwa 'B' .....	7	4	3	0	48
Bath St. 'D' .....	7	3	4	0	33
Police 'C' .....	7	3	4	0	29
University .....	5	3	1	1	28
Orrell 'B' .....	7	1	5	1	22
Blundellsands .....	6	1	5	0	19
Barker & Dobson ...	8	1	7	1	18
Knotty Ash 'B' .....	7	0	6	1	14
Woolton 'A' .....	7	0	7	0	2

What a great start we had to the season—only two weeks gone and Blundellsands had given a 10-0 HOME walkover to Police and Bath St. had two players short at Orrell. Still, things have improved since then, so let's hope it stays that way.

Well, according to early form it looks like United Biscuits are hoping to walk away with the league but I believe Vagabonds will soon catch up and it will be a two horse race for the title.

My idea of the final line-up is:—  
 1. Vagabonds; 2. United Biscuits;  
 3. Cadwa 'B'; 4. Police; 5. APH  
 Linnets. Barker & Dobson and APH  
 Linnets had an incredible match with  
 no less than eight sets going to three  
 but Barkers only success was  
 Margaret Lambert's 23/21; 13/21;  
 25/23; win over Peter Meyer in a  
 great fight back here after being down  
 15/20 in the third.

Some more sole successes: Jack  
 Lambert (Elec. 'F') 21/8; 22/20;  
 against Alan Rycroft (Vags.). D.  
 Jones (Woolton) 21/12 in the 3rd v.  
 Barry Meyer (Linnets). Dave Jones  
 (Orrell 'B') 21/16 in the 3rd against  
 John McLaughlin (Trinity). Carol  
 Wake (Orrell) 21/18; 24/22 v. Alan  
 Rycroft, Ron Pritchard (B'sands)  
 21/18 in the third over Ron Reynolds  
 (Bath St.). Alan Gillespie (Trinity)  
 15 and 9 against C. Fyles (Elec. 'F')  
 —a very good win this for the Elec-  
 tric team — and finally Fred  
 O'Sullivan (B. & D.) 21/15 in the  
 3rd against A. Thatcher (United  
 Biscuits).

United Biscuits had a surprisingly  
 easy 10—0 win over the Police with  
 Ken Jones having a fantastic 21/4;  
 21/8 win against N. Morrissey. John  
 McLaughlin did his side proud,  
 having a hand in all three sets they  
 won against Vagabonds, beating Alan  
 Rycroft and Doug Ridgeway in the  
 Singles and with Alan Gillespie win-  
 ning the doubles against Alan and  
 Ray Smith. Having mentioned four  
 of Alan Rycroft's defeats I must be  
 quick to point out that he has won  
 a few games as well!!

It's amazing, but to date, the only  
 team who have played unchanged  
 through all their games is bottom-  
 of-the-table Knotty Ash.

The team of Miss J. Monaghan,  
 Miss M. Gaul, G. Hughes and P.  
 Doyle have yet to win a set, but there  
 are no signs of their failing to enjoy  
 their games. Keep it up girls and  
 boys and I hope to report some  
 success in the next Digest. By the  
 way, sorry I don't know your first  
 names, perhaps you could put them  
 on your cards; that goes for one or  
 two other teams as well—I'd much  
 prefer to use full names in the notes.

Going back to the story about  
 Barker & Dobson, I've just gone

through their score cards for four  
 matches and find they've had SIX-  
 TEEN three-setters and won only  
 ONE. How's that for a hard luck  
 story to end with?

BARRY MEYER

#### DIVISION 4B

	P	W	L	D	P	Ts
Palmerston 'A' .....	8	8	0	0	74	
Panto .....	8	7	1	0	63	
L'pool Jewish 'A' ...	7	5	1	1	49	
Knotty Ash 'A' .....	8	4	2	2	48	
Woolton .....	8	4	2	2	47	
Orrell 'A' .....	8	5	3	0	46	
Bath St. 'E' .....	8	3	3	2	37	
Cadwa 'C' .....	6	4	1	1	34	
Colonsay 'D' .....	8	3	4	1	34	
St. Hugh's .....	8	2	6	0	32	
Vagabonds 'B' .....	8	3	5	0	32	
Police 'D' .....	6	0	5	1	15	
Knotty Ash 'C' .....	8	0	8	0	10	
Maghull 'B' .....	7	0	7	0	9	

As we have not yet found a writer  
 for this division I am filling in and  
 hope that my miserable efforts will  
 compel one of you to feel you could  
 do better. If anyone is interested  
 please contact Jack Lambert. No  
 references required.

You don't need a crystal ball to  
 forecast that Palmerston 'A' will be  
 as successful in the division as they  
 were in 5B. I suppose the only con-  
 solation to be gained from this is the  
 fact that if the team as ranked played  
 regularly most of you would not even  
 get a decent game against them. For-  
 tunately this has not yet happened  
 and in my opinion never will. I can  
 only sympathise with Panto who had  
 to play second fiddle to Palmerston  
 in 5B and now find themselves in  
 the same boat again. As these two  
 look certain to finish 1st and 2nd  
 Panto can only hope that next  
 season will find them in a different  
 section of the 3rd div. to Palmerston.

Having said that let's forget about  
 the big two for this issue and con-  
 centrate on the rest of the division  
 for there is still a possible chance  
 of promotion to be fought for as it  
 will depend how many places are  
 available. With the top five from last  
 season having been promoted Jewish  
 'A' should now come into the reckon-  
 ing for a fairly high placing and so  
 far they have made a nice start with  
 24 points from 3 matches. They drew  
 with Woolton who finished six sets

behind them and will be looking to do better this time. Cadwa 'C' have also had a fair start and these three look certain to be in the battle for 3rd and 4th place. Others may show up later but it is a little early to gauge the strength of the other 5 teams promoted with the two leaders. One possible choice for a good placing could be Colonsay 'D'. Bath St. 'E' may or may not do well but they have already made their mark by being the first team to take a set off Palmerston. This win was achieved by Ted Jane over Mike Newton and for my money must rank as one of the best wins we will see this season for Newton has played in the 1st div. and also the 2nd fairly often. The scores show a really tight set with Ted winning 22/20; 24/22. Newton, incidentally, is not at present ranked in the first three Palmerston teams, I wonder why not?

I like the looks of the Knotty Ash 'A' team on paper and have a feeling they will do far better against the teams already mentioned than last season. Their main problem could be lack of strong reserves.

Most of the promoted teams look likely to be strong enough to avoid dropping back down again. The two exceptions at the moment are Maghull 'B', who have only gained 3 sets from 4 matches and at present are in bottom place and Knotty Ash who are just above them with 5 sets. This will be a relief to Police 'D' who finished last last season but avoided the drop as the division only had twelve teams. They are not doing much better this time round but do have 12 sets to show for their efforts to date, which is a slightly better average than last season. Their matches with Maghull 'B' and Knotty Ash 'C' could well decide who takes the plunge.

As the season goes on I expect the division to split into four parts with Palmerston and Panto well out in front. The second part comprised of the stronger remaining teams from last season, then the newly promoted teams with the bottom group comprising of the four relegation candidates, for in this group I must include Vags. 'B' who are also finding the going a little hard. However, they did beat St. Hugh's 6-4 which could be a good indication that they don't

intend to be classed relegation candidates for longer than is necessary.

It is a little early in the season to start talking about individual results but I must again mention Ted Jane who has dropped only one set so far which is pretty good for a newly promoted team and shows Ted still hasn't lost the old touch and combines it with a lot of experience. Should I have to continue writing these notes in the absence of a volunteer I promise not to mention Ted again. So that's your lot Ted for this season, suggest you have it framed.

KEN ARMSON

#### DIVISION 5A

	P	W	L	D	P's
Panto 'A' .....	7	4	3	0	37
Trinity 'F' .....	5	3	2	0	33
Stanley House .....	4	3	0	1	32
L'pool Jewish 'B' ...	6	3	3	0	31
Rafters 'D' .....	5	4	1	0	27
Palmerston 'B' .....	3	2	0	1	22
Colonsay 'F' .....	5	1	4	0	21
Barker & Dobson 'A'	6	2	4	0	19
Vagabonds 'C' .....	5	1	3	1	19
Woolton 'B' .....	4	0	3	1	9

Reverse my introductory notes on 5B and we are off—but I must say more than a little sad with only 11 teams.

A first glance gives me the impression of a pretty strong Division, a team of Mabs Francis, Millie Harris, Joyce Barton and Monica O'Donnell was the kind of team I had expected from Palmerston, they represented their 'B' team against Post Office and Mabs and Millie both winning three of their seven with Jamieson two of his sides three. Only Mabs remained for the next game, Marie Lipton, Lil Wynn and Davies being held to 5-5 by the Stanley House boys. Nice to see them back in the fold again with a pretty good side.

While losing a few sets Rafters 'D' looks a pretty strong outfit and keep on winning—the 6-4 win over Jewish (Davies W. 2) was a close one with Hughes G. and two doubles swinging the game. Vagabonds 'C' (H. Goodman 2) and Woolton B.C. (G. Hester 2) had quite a tussle without a singles going to 3 a pretty far 5-5. Greaves of Barker & Dobson 'A' led his side to a 6-4 win over nicely turned out Colonsay 'F' girls

who may have thought themselves worth a draw having lost 8 games 21—19 or at deuce. These girls certainly share the sets around and give a good account of themselves losing 7—3 to Vagabonds 'C' (McBrien and Brownlow two each) six games going to three, four being lost at 18.

Travis and Armitage were lone winners for Barker & Dobson against Trinity 'F' and Post Office 'A'.

Trinity did well to take 3 points at Rafter's, but I won't tip Rafter's for the league until I see how Palmerston sort themselves out.

It would be nice to have someone from this Division write the notes.

**JACK LAMBERT**

**DIVISION 5B**

	P	W	L	D	Pts
APH Linnets 'A' ...	7	6	1	0	51
Eng. Elec. 'G' .....	6	5	1	0	41
Police 'E' .....	4	3	0	1	32
Trinity 'G' .....	6	2	3	1	29
Lancs. Police .....	6	3	3	0	28
Rafter's 'E' .....	4	3	1	0	27
Colonsay 'E' .....	7	2	5	0	26
Palmerston 'C' .....	5	1	3	1	20
Maghull 'C' .....	3	1	1	1	18
Palmerston 'D' .....	3	2	1	0	18
Eng. Elec. 'H' .....	6	1	5	0	16
Trinity 'E' .....	7	1	6	0	14

League Tables by **EDDIE CAMERON.**

After being in the tragic position of being 8—11 down in teams at the start of the season to division 5A, we now find ourselves in the almost respectable position of being 12 teams to 11 up, a much happier situation.

The first card I have happens to

be the first game I saw—Rafter's 'E' v. English Electric 'G', I timed my entry to perfection and was immediately offered coffee or tea by a charming young lady—in true Rafter's tradition. The game was competitive but friendly and had a cordial atmosphere that so many games lack. Perhaps some of our seniors should see some of these games and find out what it is all about. Kelly W. for Rafter's and Black G. for Electric were the star men in a 6—4 win for the latter.

Rafter's, English Electric and Colonsay 'E' have all been tangled up with the close ones, Rafter's beating Colonsay 'E' 6—4 Kelly W. and J. winning 5 of the six and Colonsay 'E' beating Electric 'H' 7—3. Sue Hughes winning two of the latters three on her debut and Swan and Dunne doing a similar good job for Colonsay.

Most of the other games show pretty substantial wins, with Trinity 'E' Millar breaking through for his team's first point in the local derby with their 'G' team. They deserve to gain many more for their great spirit.

Lancs. Police slipped badly at APH Linnets 'A' with Tulip the lone winner—not to worry this is where very few will get any change this season. Palmerston I thought might offer a challenge with the addition of so many of Crawfords ladies, but I feel that they are not quite organised yet!

Have a good look at the alterations as we have so many on the list.

**JACK LAMBERT**

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# 'LUIGI'

For the past four years we have had the pleasure of the company of Tony Clayton of Hull, Yorkshire and England on our Liverpool scene. When I was asked if we were interested in an England ranked player signing for English Electric, my pulse rate did not increase a great deal, Tony was ranked No. 11 at the time and his name only just registered.

However, we signed the up and coming youngster and under the diligent guidance and coaching of Sill, Parker and Lambert he eventually reached the England number 2 spot!

No sooner had he signed and played a couple of games than we found ourselves visiting him in the Royal Infirmary for three to four weeks. On the Monday after his discharge he was on the table playing a league match and losing the first game—but eventually beating Alan Tolson (Wav.Lab.) (I think) in three. He lost two sets in the Liverpool league during his four year stay both to H.R.H. The Duke of Mount Pleasant—The Right Honourable Ted Mandaluff. These games were gems of sportsmanship as one might have expected. In fairness to Clayton in the first game he played Ted, D'Arcy and Birch (His coaches!)

With his help the English Electric club twice reached the semi-finals of the English Club Championships being beaten each time by the fabulous Ormesby Club from Middlesborough led by Dennis Neale.

During his stay here he played regularly for the Liverpool team, sometimes travelling the length of the country to play a game. He won numerous local doubles titles, including the Merseyside Mens with Laurie Landry. He felt strongly about the closed singles being won by a local.

He was runner-up in the Merseyside Open Singles losing to Trevor Taylor and runner-up in the English Closed Singles losing to Dennis Neale. It would be difficult to enumerate his International appearances and tournament wins, but we were all at Belle Vue to see him play against China.

One afternoon I received a 'phone call and Tony apologised saying that he would have to scratch from the club tournament as he had just been told he was going to Singapore that night!

He played there in half of the Commonwealth championships for England, carried on to Japan and played in the world championships and then followed it up with the big break through when with the England team he was invited to China and became world famous front page news in all the national papers as the 'Ping Pong' diplomats, European championships, English University champion, European University championships etc., all followed.

Whilst I constantly bemoan the lack of coaching facilities locally for the average youngster—Tony and I had one thing in common we were NEVER coached. So don't look at me—remember Tony and play and play and play and you may go one better than he and become England's number one WITHOUT A COACH.

Tony eventually told me that he had his degree and there was only a 50/50 chance of his playing this season. One 50 being he would happy to obtain a job here and play. However, a little girl with a heart and a couple of arrows came along from Bristol and that was it—love is the sweetest thing—cupid had won again, our loss is Bristol's gain.

One regret perhaps with major table tennis commitments and studies his local league appearances were limited, but what we saw were great. He was vulnerable—he was the first to admit this, but his hitting and the power of his hitting was a joy and so exciting to watch.

I quote John Wren an ex-editor:—"Not only is he an exceptional player but he also has his head screwed on the right way, which is more than you can say for a lot of other players of less ability and a higher opinion of themselves"—John Wren, November, 1970.

It has been a pleasure to have him with us and wherever he is playing we will be rooting for a great player and a charming chap on and off the table—Good luck Tony, see you around we hope.

J.A.L.

# THE SCOREBOARD, THE CAPTAIN AND EDDIE . . .

Have you ever been to a handbook meeting? Have you noticed anything significant as the score cards are separated and handed out by Rene Sturgeon? Have you heard the snatches of conversation that goes on between these innocent little white cards as they wend their weary way to the various clubs? Such as, "See you at Eddie's place". — "If I'm late getting to Eddie's, hang on I'll definitely be there". — "I hope I get a decent club and not one who stuffs me in an old coat and forgets me". — And so on.

Have you as a captain no thought for these little fellows? Don't you feel a heel for not getting them to Eddie's on time? Have Mr. and Mrs. Eddie got to turn into big bad wolves (see Rule 16) before you will co-operate?

The last league table was produced and issued right up to the match you were playing THAT WEEK. There were seven days of grace, (cup matches were being played) yet there were 27 incomplete records in divisions 1, 2, 3A and 4B.

Divisions 5A and 5B are too chaotic to check on. Divisions 3B and 4A must be as near as makes no matter to champion score card 'stampandposters' allowing for Wavertree Labour out, and University not having played. From Eddie Cameron congratulations and thanks for your co-operation — to the rest. Ugh.

A few other points, Colonsay delivered 3 weeks late. Liverpool Jewish did not sign the card, add up the sets or include the record. Fred Pheysey (English Electric 'A' Captain) tried to 'fiddle' into the Rumjahn instead of the Readman Cup.

A score card was returned to Linnets to identify letters of home and away team it was made 'easier' by the match being 14 weeks out of sequence.

How about a slogan as a New Year resolution for all team captains? Eddie has 'thought' of donating a prize on the lines of Play and Post.

E.C./J.A.L. )

P.S.: As quick as a flash, the immortal bard was there—Play games fairly, Post cards early

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# HOW TO AVOID A 10-0 WALKOVER

Apart from having the good manners (Rules apart) to notify your opponents if you don't intend turning up.

**APH Linnets:** 'A' Div. 5B take over Linnets 'B' M/N Thursday, Div. 5A 'A' team out.

**Beauclair:** Div. 3A 'A' team M/N Monday.

**Bath Street:** (Club details) 'C' team 3B should read 'B' team.

**Colonsay:** 'B' team Div. 2 M/N Monday, 'C' team Div. 3B M/N Thursday.

**English Electric:** Div. 5B add 'H' team, M/N Friday. Take over Polytech 'A'.

**Lancs. County Police:** M/N Tuesday.

**Linacre:** Now play at Crosby Labour Club, Crosby Road.

**Liverpool & Bootle Police:** 1st team Div. 2 M/N Friday, Div. 5B add 'E' team M/N Tuesday. Take over 'C' fixture.

**Liverpool Jewish:** 'A' team M/N Thursday, Div. 4B add 'B' team Div. 5A Wednesday. Take over APH Linnets 'A'.

**Liverpool Polytechnic:** 'A' team Div. 5B out.

**Liverpool Post Office:** Div. 5A add 'A' team M/N Wednesday. Take over Y.M.C.A. fixture play at Parcels Department, Hatton Garden, 'A' team only.

**Liverpool Y.M.C.A.:** 'E' team Div. 5A out.

**Maghull Community Centre:** 'C' team 5A out, 'C' team now in 5B. M/N Tuesday, take over 'B' fixture, 'A' team Div. 3B M/N Wednesday, 'B' team Div. 4B M/N Tuesday.

**National Giro:** 1st Team Div. 3A M/N Thursday, 'A' team Div. 5B out.

**Old Swan B.C.:** 1st team Div. 2 and 'A' team Div. 3B M/N Thursday.

**Orrell:** 'B' team Div. 4A M/N Monday.

**Palmerston:** Div. 5B add 'D' team M/N Monday take over 'A' fixture.

**Tuebrook:** Div. 5A out.

**Waterloo Park:** 'B' team Div. 5B out.

**Wavertree Labour:** 'C' team Div. 3A M/N Wednesday, 'D' team Div. 3B out.

21 out of 35 clubs with alterations and there are **more** if you are a secretary!

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## DATES TO REMEMBER . . .

- Jan. 3, 4, 5—Norwich Union English Championships, Crystal Palace.  
,, 5—(Saturday), Yorkshire Junior 2-Star, Hull.  
,, 12—(Saturday), Lancashire 2-Star, Bolton.  
,, 13—(Sunday), Edinburgh Open.  
,, 26—(Saturday), Pontefract Open 1-Star.  
West of Scotland Open.
- Feb. 9—(Saturday), South Yorkshire 1-Star, Sheffield.  
,, 16—(Saturday and Sunday), Teesside 3-Star, Thornaby.  
,, 28—(Thursday, Friday & Saturday), Norwich Union English International Championships, Brighton.
- Mar. 8—(Friday), Liverpool v. Preston.  
,, 29—(Friday), Liverpool v. Bolton.  
(Both at English Electric).  
,, 9—(Saturday), Welsh Open, Cardiff.  
,, 10—(Sunday), Lancashire Junior 2-Star, Bolton.  
,, 16—(Saturday), East of England 2-Star, Scunthorpe.  
,, 23—(Saturday), Scottish Open, Edinburgh.
- Mar. 29—(Friday), Liverpool Ladies' v. Manchester.
- May 18 & 19—Halex English Junior Open.

J.A.L.



# TABLE EDGES

No, I am not leading a double life—there are two Mrs. M. Lamberts. Both in their own way helped our cause last season. Margaret, wife of Mr. Peter Lambert, Barker and Dobson Managing Director who has helped us so much with prizes and subsidies for both of our tournaments and Minna, my wife whose assistance with the publication of the Digest has been invaluable.

Ken Davies (Palmerston) wonders what happened to the excellent idea (in theory at least) of the Liverpool Junior Team playing in the first division? As one of our leading tennis players—he thinks the Lawn Tennis Associations idea of adopting schools might be helpful to the game. Do you think our clubs could cope Ken?

How many of our readers realised that last season they had an extra page of reading matter—Halex withdrew their advert and apart from the first magazine when we were caught on the hop an extra page has been yours.

Alec Davidson (Linacre) had hoped for a return of the Ladies' Division after the **encouraging entry for the closed.**

Excerpt from E.T.T.A. Bulletin 4.

The Liverpool League magazine 'Table Tennis Digest' emerged the winner and thus qualified for ONE GROSS of Dunlop Barna Super Three Crown table tennis balls. They achieved an excellent balance in local league gossip, National news and articles of general interest. So stand by Jack Lambert for your gift from Dunlop.

No. 2. Maurice Goldstein, Birmingham—Two Karenza Mathews and two Denis Neale bats.

No. 3. Vic Bennett, Norwich—Three Stiga bats.

No. 4. Harold Webb, North Middlesex—Two bats from Hancocks.

No. 5 Tony Hewson, Mansfield—Two table tennis holdalls.

No. 6 Judi Charters, Reading—Mystery prize from Cordell & Sons.

We are well reported these days at top level—Arthur Upton (Orrell) is on the E.T.T.A. managements and Chairman of the Discipline Committee. John McKim (Beauclair) Rules Committee, John O'Sullivan (Colonsay) Coaching and Schools Committee.

Despite having the worries of Liverpool (Kop type) on his shoulders Mal Clark has taken on the duties of Bath Street secretary from Brian Cunningham who has served the club so well for the past few years, but a most important step Irene and Mal both Bath Street members have formed a permanent 'mixed doubles partnership'—congratulations and the very best of luck from your many T.T. friends.

I see the brain behind our fixture list overcame the New Year's Day big heads probably by making the rabble PLAY on New Year's Eve—and New Year's Day, how's about that? As the price of tickets at English Electric Club are 50p on New Year's Eve and four times as much if you can get one! Electric and Y.M.C.A. have amicably arranged to play on Monday, 17th December when we have a free week AND NO HOLIDAYS.

Dunlop Barna, Halex and Nittaku are official balls for season 1973/74 to be used in the Liverpool & District Table Tennis League as laid down by the E.T.T.A. and our management committee.

Joan and Alec Davidson (Linacre) celebrated their Silver Wedding JUST BEFORE the start of the season (an astute move this but by whom). I think I am correct in saying that covers 25 years of Joan sharing Alec with table tennis and she remains as cheerful and jolly as ever! Congratulations from all of us and thanks for allowing us to share in a small way your happiness.

Our Chairman, Arthur Upton and his wife Lil were seen letting their hair down when they attended the wedding of Barbara Yates, daughter of George—Lancashire President—at the Summerhill Hotel, Bolton.

# POLICE FILE

Alan Heague succeeded Ronnie Crafter (who with his wife Ivy became stalwarts of the Cadwa Club) as Liverpool Police secretary in the 1951/1952 season. He continued in office when the section incorporated the Bootle force in 1967, this has made Alan responsible for the smooth running of more than a few Police teams and a helluva lot of players over the past years. No small task—despite the fact that one week you would play a police side and they would be potential champions and the next week the same team couldn't beat a drum! Shift work of course was the heavy burden he had to carry and he carried it well, it has now been passed on to John Christian who needs and receives our very best wishes.

Al served on the Management Committee for many years and amongst other jobs took over the thankless task of non-playing captain to the Ladies 'A' Team.

As a player he was an awkward cuss—never in the top class but always pretty good and always gave you a fight to the finish. A recent spell in hospital has slowed him down a bit but we are pleased to say he is now out and about again and is still on the police playing strength—so beware!

In mentioning Alan Heague's good work for the police table tennis and of course for the Liverpool League we hope we see him on the table a little more often in the future and in wishing him well I feel I must couple Alan's name with that other 'awkward cuss' Dick Hough as not only were they in the same category of no surrender table tennis stalwarts but played in the same team so long together. You might couple them as the terrible twins of the last decade who are still, we are pleased to say, going strong, long may we see Dick and Alan around.

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