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No. 2

Editorial

I think we can consider ourselves rather fortunate in the fact that the present emergencies have had very little effect on our local table tennis scene apart from the extra cold room. Petrol rationing, if it happened to come, could curtail our players who live away from their clubs and off the main routes; this could be quite a domestic problem, as the days of the local player playing for the local club went with the coming of the car. A far greater problem would be created for inter-city games.

A bigger problem could be created with power cuts. On occasions a fire and a power failure have curtailed games, on each occasion all parties had their own ideas on how the problem could be solved—take a 5-2 score line, analyse it home and away, relegation, championship, cup winning, losing—how would you solve it? Do we need a new rule or does Rule 30 the management covering exigencies suffice?

Brian Leeson made public his time and motion problem at our tournaments. You will find the total response on another page! Some comment I feel should be made. The crunch is that mixed doubles give an extra game to the also ran who travels from London to Liverpool or Crosby to Allerton—the top boys and girls get their full allocation of games.

Junior boys and Junior girls, open singles, restricted singles and now an under 21 singles, the only point I would make is that the mixed gives everyone a chance of an extra game, the under 21 gives an extra game to players most of whom are already getting an extra game! There are so many aspects of the problem which Brian has put into print, but once he had made his decision don't forget you had your chance.

LOCALS ABROAD

The Stiga National Club Championships has brought together our two local champions, English Electric and Business House Champions, Otis Elevator. Both clubs are rather unhappy about the pairing, the individuals having played against each other at least a couple of times a year for the past—well quite a few years. They pay their pound for a change not a repeat of a recent league match.

The Nalgo team have again started chasing their national title with a 10-0 win over Wirral, after losing 6-4 to Lancashire County in the Final at St. Helens last year, well-known players here include Val and Ian Blore, Mabs Frances, Mal Clark, Joe Doherty, Don Davies and Pete Carney.

Julie Black (Eng. Electric) and Keith Williams (Rafters) have now been called to the Lancashire Juniors first team.

News is trickling in of open tournaments being cancelled—now it has started where will it stop?

In the National Coca Cola K.O. (Wilmot Cup) we have defeated Chester 7-2 and Bury 6-0 (W. Allanson, P. D'Arcy and J. Marshall—two apiece). In the next round we play Farnworth or Stockport and will no doubt find the opposition a little tougher.

The ladies, in the Rose Bowl, have beaten Warrington and Blackpool with cool 9-0 victories. Wirral or Stockport appear to be the next round rivals.

Manchester beat the boys in the Carter Cup, the girls are still in the Bromfield.

The Cup with a difference is the Norman Cooke Memorial Trophy; here we have three gents and a lady playing on a handicap basis, each of our players give each Blackpool player eight points start in the first round—not an easy thing to do.

Non-playing team captains for the season are: Men's 1st Team—Don Davies (Sefton); Men's "A"—Ron Marshall (Rafters); Ladies' 1st—John O'Sullivan (Colonsay); Ladies' "A"—Ken Black (Eng. Electric); Youth—Brian Leeson (Colonsay); Junior—Alec Davidson (Linaere).

A.D./J.A.L.

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MERSEYSIDE OPEN TOURNAMENT

November 1973

Denis Neale regained the Men's Singles Title at the recent Merseyside Tournament when he defeated Nicky Jarvis in two straight games in the Final. He achieved this without losing a game in any round and for good measure, added the Men's Doubles Title to his tally, partnered by Alan Hydes.

Added interest to this year's Tournament was brought about by the entries of several Commonwealth players. The Canadian number one, E. Caetano, and number four, P. Gonda, had several good wins, including a doubles victory over Tony Clayton and Laurie Landry. The Canadian pair then came within an ace of defeating the top seeds, Neale and Hydes, in the Semi-Final. G. Munday, the Australian number six, and his partner, R. Kelly, also contributed to the splash of Commonwealth colour.

Most of our local players were eliminated in either the first or second round. Paul Tsang lost to B. Mitchell, 14 and 18, Wally Allanson lost to the leading Canadian, E. Caetano, 7 and 7, Ted Mandaluff lost to Nigel Eckersley, 13 and 20, John Marshall lost to P. Beck, 15 and 18, and George Smith lost to Brian Johns, 10 and 11. Dave Roberts went to three against the Yorkshire junior, A. Kilburn, losing 21/17 in the third, but by far the most successful local was Peter D'Arcy, who got through three rounds before falling to Brian Johns, 14 and 13. In the second round, Peter had defeated the seeded Jimmy Walker in three games, 22/20 in the third, causing the slightly indisposed Yorkshireman to withdraw from the doubles.

In the Men's Doubles, D'Arcy, partnered by N. Eckersley, achieved another good result by defeating the strong Yorkshire pair, Ransome and Alderson, 8 and 17.

The Women's Events were also brightened by the inclusion of three Commonwealth players, Miss V. Nesukaitis, ranked number one in Canada and number three in the Commonwealth, won the Women's Singles Title. Her opponent in the Final was Miss A. Stonestreet, the New Zealand number one. Miss Stonestreet, partnered by Miss K. Fraser, New Zealand number four, also reached the semi-final of the doubles before losing to the holders and eventual winners, Susan Lisle and Anita Stevenson.

In the smallest women's entry for many years, our local players achieved little noticeable success. The nearest approach to this was the appearance of Brenda Williams and Julie Black in the semi-final of the doubles. They lost unfortunately, 8 and 9, to Karen Rogers and Mandy Mellor.

The Tournament was sponsored once again by Barker and Dobson Ltd., and the prize money of £200 was presented to the winners and runners-up by Mr. George Yates, Deputy Chairman of the E.T.T.A.

A summary of the leading results follows this report.

BRIAN LEESON,

Hon. Tournament Referee.

RESULTS

Men's Singles—Round 4

- D. Neale (Yorkshire) beat G. Munday (Australia) 21-9, 21-11.
- B. Johns (Cheshire) beat P. D'Arcy (Liverpool) 21-14, 21-13.
- J. Krier (Hull) beat A. Kilburn (Teesside) 21-14, 21-14.
- A. Hydes (Yorks) beat J. Hilton (Hyde) 21-15, 21-11.
- D. Douglas (Birmingham) beat E. Caetano (Canada) 21-18, 21-19.
- D. Alderson (Yorkshire) beat M. Johns (Cheshire) 21-18, 19-21, 21-19.
- L. A. Clayton (Yorkshire) beat A. Barden (London) 21-16, 21-10.
- N. Jarvis (Yorkshire) beat D. Parker (Lancs.) 21-19, 21-19.

Quarter-Finals

- D. Neale beat B. Johns 21-11, 21-6.
- A. Hydes beat J. Krier 21-17, 21-14.

D. Douglas beat D. Alderson 21-19, 19-21, 21-8.
N. Jarvis beat L. A. Clayton 21-17, 21-19.

Semi-Finals

D. Neale beat A. Hydes 21-17, 21-12.
N. Jarvis beat D. Douglas 21-14, 13-21, 21-19.

FINAL

D. Neale beat N. Jarvis 21-19, 25-23.

Men's Doubles—Quarter-Finals

D. Neale/A. Hydes beat N. Eckersley/P. D'Arcy 21-12, 21-19.
E. Caetano/P. Gonda beat L. A. Clayton/L. Landry 21-19, 21-15.
D. Parker/J. Krier beat G. Munday/R. Kelly 21-17, 21-18.
N. Jarvis/D. Douglas beat M. Johns/B. Johns 21-12, 16-21, 23-21.

Semi-Finals

D. Neale/A. Hydes beat E. Caetano/P. Gonda 22-20, 13-21, 21-17.
N. Jarvis/D. Douglas beat D. Parker/J. Krier 21-10, 21-17.

FINAL

D. Neale/A. Hydes beat N. Jarvis/D. Douglas 21-15, 21-11.

Women's Singles—Quarter-Finals

Miss S. Lisle (Culcheth) beat Miss C. Knight (Yorkshire) 21-17, 21-11.
Miss A. Stonestreet (New Zealand) beat Miss K. Rogers (Leics.)

21-17, 21-9.

Miss A. Stevenson (Leics.) beat Miss K. Fraser (N. Zealand) 21-16, 21-7.
Miss V. Nesukaitis (Canada) beat Miss J. Richardson (York) 21-9, 21-4.

Semi-Finals

Miss Stonestreet beat Miss Lisle 21-19, 23-21.
Miss Nesukaitis beat Miss Stevenson 22-24, 21-19, 21-17.

FINAL

Miss Nesukaitis beat Miss Stonestreet 20-22, 21-17, 21-16.

Women's Doubles—Semi-Finals

Miss S. Lisle/Miss A. Stevenson beat Miss A. Stonestreet/
Miss K. Fraser 21-15, 21-16.
Miss K. Rogers/Miss M. Mellor beat Miss B. Williams/Miss J. Black
21-8, 21-9.

FINAL

Miss Lisle/Miss Stevenson beat Miss Rogers/Miss Mellor
14-21, 21-15, 21-16.

Veterans' Singles—Quarter-Finals

D. Schofield beat J. Mason 21-17, 21-18.
E. Mandaluff beat J. Clewett 20-22, 21-17, 21-14.
L. Browning beat W. Harris 21-13, 21-7.
G. Brook beat G. K. Smith 21-12, 21-10.

Semi-Finals

D. Schofield beat E. Mandaluff 21-13, 21-12.
L. Browning beat G. Brook 24-22, 21-12.

FINAL

D. Schofield beat L. Browning 21-8, 21-18.

Junior Girls' Singles—Semi-Finals

Miss C. Knight beat Miss A. Stevenson 12-21, 21-14, 21-14.
Miss K. Rogers beat Miss B. Williams 21-12, 23-21.

FINAL

Miss Knight beat Miss Rogers 21-14; 19-21, 22-20.

Junior Boys' Singles—Quarter-Finals

D. Alderson beat C. Rogers 21-8, 21-10.
R. Wiley beat N. Hallows 11-21, 21-19, 21-15.
A. Barden beat A. Kilburn 21-14, 21-13.
S. Souter beat M. Mitchell 21-4, 21-8.

Semi-Finals

D. Alderson beat R. Wiley 21-11, 23-21.
A. Barden beat S. Souter 21-13, 21-13.

FINAL

A. Barden beat D. Alderson 19-21, 21-12, 21-19.

MANAGERIAL MATTERS

Rarely have I had the clarification of a point made so quickly as I have had to the second part of my editorial or failing that John McKim (Beauclair) our secretary, is a clairvoyant. However, he wishes to make the following points both in their own way so important.

The committee, through our secretary, give the following guidance in the event of a game being interrupted by a power cut. If it is impossible to continue the game later the same evening the game will be continued at a rearranged date from the exact point play ceased; i.e., if the score is 5-2 and John McKim is beating Arthur Upton 11-7 in the first game the game will continue on the re-arranged date with the score 5-2 and the score 11-7 for John McKim against Arthur Upton—with the players playing the remaining games as per card.

The second item refers to our very new Vice-President, Mr. Eric Caird—no, I am sorry, Eric Caird sounds better and more like old times. The news is good for the league and particularly good for our junior boys and girls at the Closed Championships when they will be playing for the Eric Caird junior girls' silver trophy and the Eric Caird junior boys' silver trophy.

You may have guessed by now our little secret—yes, Eric has presented to the league these two excellent trophies with the accent on youth. As the league is not exactly well endowed with trophies, the generous gesture is doubly welcome.

From us all in Liverpool and perhaps particularly from the girls and boys—thank you Eric, a pleasant but not surprising gesture from someone who has been part of our scene for so long. I hear you would like to be at the Closed sometime to present your trophy—the first one would be a good one—for a start!

JOHN MCKIM/J.A.L.

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Divisional Notes

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	D	Pts
L'pool YMCA	14	12	1	1	111
Wavertree Lab.	13	11	0	2	107
English Elec.	13	11	1	1	96
Palmerston	14	9	3	2	86
Rafters	15	8	6	1	84
Trinity	13	9	3	1	83
Bath Street	15	7	8	0	76
Wav. Lab. "A"	13	6	4	3	68
L'pool YMCA "A" ..	14	3	7	4	59
English Elec. "A" ..	14	5	9	0	57
Colonsay	12	2	8	2	43
Sefton	13	2	11	0	36
Wav. Lab. "B"	13	0	11	2	29
Waterloo Park	14	0	13	1	15

In this issue's notes I am not going to comment on how teams are faring in the division, this can readily be seen from the league table; but instead from the scorecards received. I have picked out some of the more interesting results and will give a brief report on them.

One of the first surprises of the season was provided by Palmerston when they defeated one of the "elite trio," namely English Electric, by six sets to four. It must be noted, in fairness to Electric, that both Gordon Birch and Eddie Clein were missing from the team; nevertheless, in Eric Youd and Rod McPherson they did have able replacements. Sammy Holland appeared to be the hero of the night with wins over Youd (19 and 20) and McPherson (19-21, 21-17, 21-11) and then teaming up with Alec Bryce, defeated D'Arcy and Youd in the doubles (11 and 13). Bryce had a fine win over D'Arcy (18-21, 21-15, 21-19) and Wayne Percival also beat Youd (16 and 19). Dave Holland then linked up with Percival to defeat Allanson and McPherson in the second doubles (18 and 19). Electric successes:— Wally Allanson beat both Bryce (12 and 15) and Percival (10 and 21). D'Arcy beat D. Holland (21-9, 17-21, 21-17) and McPherson beat D. Holland (17 and 21).

Trinity appear to be living up to what I forecast about them in the last issue, i.e., giving the title contenders a run for their money. This appears to be the case when playing away to the Y.M.C.A., when they

finished the evening four sets to the good.

M. Truman and B. Bagot (playing at 1 and 4 respectively) were the successes of the Trinity team. Truman took both his singles, excellent wins over Tsang (21-7, 17-21, 22-20) and Turtle (23-25, 21-11, 21-11) and then in the first doubles supported by Bagot, beat Tsang and Turtle (18-21, 22-20, 21-15). Bagot took Trinity's fourth set with a good 19 and 16 win over George Smith.

Only Ted Mandaluff of the Y.M. squad kept his "100%" on the night, defeating Brown (14 and 17), Bagot (19 and 16) and with Smith beat Brown and Harris (11 & 19) in the second doubles. Paul Tsang beat Ricky Brown and both Smith and Turtle had wins over Bill Harris to complete the Y.M. total.

A bottom of the table clash between Waterloo Park and Sefton resulted in a 7-3 away win for the Sefton Club.

The Reid brothers provided the three sets for Waterloo; Alan Reid beating Crafter (21-19, 20-22, 21-16) and D. Sayle (15 and 17) and with the assistance of his brother, duly defeated Crafter and Sayle (12 and 15) in the doubles. Davies and Doncaster (Sefton) picked up two singles apiece and in the second doubles beat Olsen and Delamere 21-18, 16-21, 21-19. Bill Crafter beat G. Reid (11 and 18) and Sayle beat Olsen (21 and 19) to complete Sefton's seven-set tally. Bath Street provided the opposition for a struggling Wavertree Labour "B" team. Fraser Farquharson showed his team-mates how it should be done with two fine victories over Val Franco (21 and 15) and Roy Jones (20 and 15). Alas, that was all the sets Labour could muster in the match. Arthur Taylor and Billy Clayton picked up their four singles and allied to Franco's win over Gordon Brownlee (17 and 15) and Jones's win over Rod Bulmer plus wins in both doubles, gave Bath Street a handsome 8-2 win.

Two important games bearing on the title race, i.e., Wavertree Labour v Y.M.C.A. and Wavertree Labour v English Electric both resulted in 5-5

draws. Wavertree were the away team in each case and lacked the services of John McNee in the Y.M. fixture. I will leave comment on these games until the next issue as I lack the English Electric v Labour card.

A last note:—My Wavertree "B" team colleague, Ken Jones, was, I suspect, rather hurt when I failed to mention his thrilling three-set victory over first teamer John McNee in the previous notes. Well, here you are, Ken—your claim to fame this season, duly recorded. I bet Ken Armson was as pleased as Punch for you, I don't think!!!

GORDON NEVINS.

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Rafters "A"	15	13	1	1	113
Trinity "A"	13	10	2	1	91
Bath Street "A"	14	9	4	1	84
Beauclair	13	8	5	0	72
Limacre	13	8	5	0	69
Colonsay "A"	13	6	6	1	68
L'pool YMCA "B"	13	6	6	1	64
Crawfords	10	6	2	2	60
Police	13	7	5	1	58
Trinity "B"	14	3	10	1	56
Colonsay "B"	13	3	10	0	51
Vagabonds	14	3	11	0	51
Old Swan	11	4	6	1	44
Police "A"	13	0	13	0	30

It begins to look as though Rafters "A" and Trinity "A" will finish 1st and 2nd in this division, although not necessarily in that order. Rafters "A" since that early defeat by Trinity "A" have been carving up the opposition in no uncertain manner, including 7-3 against Bath Street "A" and 8-2 against Crawfords. They appear to have a strong squad of players to choose from as the appearance of Dave Ferguson would indicate. It is not that long ago he was playing No. 1 in their first team. Peter Short has also played and along with regular member Peter Rumjahn and Reg Hetherington, were also part of the first team of not so long ago. One thing is certain, that Rafters would like two teams in the 1st Division next season, and with players of this standard available, they ought to do it.

Trinity "A" would also like to join their first team in division one and the regular team of Alan Chase, Tom

Kilip, Alf Southall and John Higham should be strong enough to do it.

Their results are pretty consistent although they did lose 6-4 to Bath Street "A". The winners for Bath Street were M. Moran, A. Gouid, A. Walton, who won two, and a good win for C. Thompson 21-19, 21-15 over Tom Kilip. The doubles were halved and 5 of the 10 sets went to three with Bath Street winning 4 of them. Having seen this result I was somewhat surprised to see that the very next week this same Bath team had lost 6-4 to Colonsay "A", the most noteworthy performance here being a double win for C. Field over A. Gould and C. Walton. However, I think congratulations are in order to the other three players on the Colonsay team, P. Rutherford, B. Kirckham and J. O'Sullivan, on a very good win. They won both doubles as well, which makes a great deal of difference.

It must have been a close match between Police and Trinity "B" which Police won 6-4. Six of the ten sets went to three and double winners were Barry McLeod for the Police and D. Wilson for Trinity "B". The Police won both doubles, and here again, as with the Colonsay "A"—Bath Street "A" match, it made the difference between winning and losing. I often think a majority of teams do not take enough notice of their double pairing. In many cases players play with their mates instead of perhaps another player who would make a better doubles partner.

The Y.M. "B" have been choosing a different team each week, but there are some good players amongst them. If they could turn their best players out each week the team I could see would be Ian Burrows, Geoff Wilson, Noel Fagan and J. Doherty. This team, as far as I am concerned, would be somewhere up at the top challenging for promotion. When Crawford played them recently I had the pleasure of beating Ian Burrows, though only just, in the third. Over the past few years Ian has often been in the same team as myself, so this was the first time I had played him in a match, and I must say that I enjoyed it. Mind you, I did lose one in this match, but since I do not like losing, I am not

going to give the bloke a mention. Anybody who beats me has got no chance of a mention in this column. There must be a moral in there somewhere.

The relegation position has changed a little. Colonsay "A" have pulled their socks up and moved out of the danger area, but their "B" team, however, have moved into the danger area and joined fellow strugglers, Vagabonds, Police, Trinity "B", Old Swan and Police "A". You can take your pick who goes down, mine, well I will say Police "A" and Old Swan, and leave the rest to Providence and the next issue, Commiserations this issue to Ted Barnes, of Vagabonds, who lost 18-21, 22-20, 22-20 to B. Davy of Rafter's "A" and to two other Rafter's players, P. Short and R. Hetherington, who were beaten in a doubles match 25-23, 17-21, 24-22, by M. Moren and C. Thompson of Bath Street "A".

KEITH FITZSIMMONS.

Beauclair M/N Monday.

DIVISION 3A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
English Elec "B"	11	11	0	0	95
Knotty Ash	14	8	3	3	87
L'pool Jewish	13	9	2	2	84
Beauclair "A"	12	8	3	1	77
Maghull	13	7	2	4	73
Rafter's "B"	12	7	5	0	72
Cadwa "A"	13	7	5	1	65
L'pool YMCA "D"	15	4	8	3	65
English Elec. "D"	13	3	10	0	50
Wav. Lab. "C"	12	2	7	3	49
Bath Street "C"	11	4	6	1	48
Bedford House	10	3	5	2	44
Polytechnic	10	2	8	0	28
Giro	13	1	12	0	23

As we roll into 1974 accurate forecasting becomes difficult due to the number of missing results, as few teams appear to have played 12 matches. Some of these matches may have been postponed and it is a safe bet that the rest merely unposted.

Eng. Elec. "B" are now well settled in at the top and with apparent matches in hand they have already put themselves well out of reach of their would-be challengers. In their clash with promotion contenders Knotty Ash they dropped only one set when B. Crolley lost to Paul

Reed-Clayton 26-24 in the third thus confirming their undisputed claim to the top place. Liv. Jewish may well take a couple of sets from them but I feel the most they can hope for is a 7-3 against. Having cast an eye over the possible merits of a 3B cup win, I am of the opinion that they have no chance and the cup is already booked for Eng. Elec. "B". If the draw is kind to us I even fancy an all 3A final. Failing this an all Eng. Elec. Final.

Although Liv. Jewish have a few results missing they now appear to have the edge over Knotty Ash for the runner-up spot and I expect to see them in 2nd place when these notes are published. This may be disappointing for Knotty Ash, who strongly fancy themselves as possible promotion candidates, but with all due respect to them I don't think they are strong enough or good enough as Bedford House showed when they held them to a draw in spite of losing both doubles. With the "old Firm" which makes up Beauclair "A" still setting a hot pace as outsiders, Knotty Ash may have to be content with a final 4th place. Beauclair may have no chance of promotion but they certainly look good enough to finish above Knotty Ash. Unfortunately for Beauclair their match with Jewish dispelled any thoughts they may have had for promotion when they were beaten 8-2. This result also confirmed Jewish as probable runners-up. Mind you, Jewish have had a few slip-ups themselves as they dropped 4 sets to Giro, lost to Maghull 6-4 and could only manage a draw with Y.M. "D". As Beauclair beat a strong Y.M. "D" team earlier on 9-1, I could still be proved wrong about Beauclair and Knotty Ash.

Maghull have dropped out of the running as outsiders and it looks as if they will finish up somewhere round the middle of the table. The team of Stan Clarke, Eric Taylor, Stan Draper and Allan Howarth has plenty of experience but appear to lack the consistency necessary in any promotion attempt. Liv. Y.M. "D" also have this problem but in their case it is mainly due to lack of experience and I stand by my previous forecast that this team will finish fairly high up the table and cause a few upsets on the way. Their

draw with Jewish justifies my confidence in them.

The middle group is gradually settling down and with so little to choose between teams like Cadwa "A", Rafter's "B", Bath St. "C" and even the great white hope, Wav. Lab. "C" who have managed to push themselves up the table, accurate place forecasting is difficult. With so little between them most of their matches finish as very close contests but with Rafter's "B" seeming just a little bit stronger, although no more consistent they should finish as leaders of this group.

Elec "D" must have had a preview of my last notes as they cast off all prospects of relegation by beating Giro 10-0. This result, coupled with a steady gathering of sets, has put them well clear of Giro and Polytech and possibly out of the bottom three. Much will depend on Bedford House, but their draw with Jewish could be the start of the improvement I mentioned in the last issue and certainly confirms that they are in a false position. This position is largely of their own making for the team has the ability and experience but the players seem unable to make full use of this; better times may lie ahead and then again any sustained improvement by the teams lower than them could put them in trouble.

Polytech and Giro have become isolated at the bottom and appear to have no chance of avoiding the drop. Another clash, this time at the bottom, between Polytech and Giro has almost certainly pointed out Giro as wooden spoonists for they lost 8-2 to their companions in distress. Strangely enough both these teams have a player capable of holding his own with most players in the division, the players concerned being Alan Nolan for Giro and D. Harrison for Polytech. Unfortunately for both teams neither of them turn out regularly. Both of these teams could well have a chance of avoiding relegation if they could turn out their strongest team regularly, even at this stage of the season. Some of their results definitely point to such a possibility such as both taking four sets off Cadwa and for Polytech a 6-4 win over Bath St. and for Giro a 7-3 win over Bedford House. It would certainly add a bit of interest if

such a revival did take place. Here's hoping both teams have made a New Year Resolution to make every effort to avoid relegation.

KEN ARMSON.

DIVISION 3B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Cadwa	13	10	1	2	88
L'pool YMCA "C"	12	9	1	2	87
Orrell	12	9	2	1	85
Bath Street "B"	12	8	3	1	78
English Elec. "C"	12	8	3	1	76
Trinity "C"	12	8	4	0	68
Rafter's "C"	14	6	7	1	65
Colonsay "C"	13	5	6	2	61
Police "B"	13	3	9	1	54
Maghull "A"	13	1	8	4	42
English Elec. "E"	12	2	7	3	39
Waterloo Park "A"	12	2	11	0	34
Old Swan "A"	11	0	9	2	33

Now that the half-way stage has been reached we have a clear picture of the league positions.

The top five teams have now established themselves but with no clear-cut leader, there will be a battle royal for the promotion spots. Cadwa, Y.M.C.A. "C", Bath Street "B", Orrell and English Electric "C" are the five teams from whom the champion club will appear and if I must hazard a prediction then I think I must plump for either Cadwa or Orrell. Dave Piper, captain of Cadwa, predicts that they will take the title by just a few points. If Roy Williams (Cadwa) presents all teams with a bottle of Scotch to drink during the match, I can't see anyone beating them.

English Electric showed their strength when they beat a strong Y.M.C.A. team, Clive Strettle, Wally Sill and Pete Lewis all winning two, Ro Craddock losing one to Y.M. captain, John Donnelly, and Y.M. winning both doubles.

Bath Street slipped up against middle of the table Colonsay, for whom Alan Guy and J. Read won two each. Both doubles going to Colonsay and only John Letch, Paul Taylor and A. Waddington winning one each for Bath Street. Of the 6 sets which went to 3 games, Colonsay won all 6, a team of stayers.

Middle of the table clash between Maghull and Rafter's resulted in a 5-5 draw. Alan Edwards and Neil

Royden winning all five for Maghull, Pauline Lawrenson 2, Eileen Mansell and Janet Rumjahm one each for Rafter's. Eileen Mansell having lost the first game 16-21 to Ken Stevens, sorted out her tactics and won the third game 21-6, well played.

Cadwa's 10-0 beating of Trinity was a good win, Roy Williams using his weird and wonderful defence to beat two good hitters, P. Grugel and Harry Randalls. The Police side, which I've not yet seen, have had some good results. They took 4 off a full-strength Cadwa side with E. Ferguson, D. Rimmer and J. Mills winning one each and Ferguson and Mills winning their doubles. Roy Williams lost 3 and Ian Blore 1.

English Electric "E" won the battle of the bottom three clubs when Old Swan, Waterloo Park and Electric played each other within a couple of weeks.

English Electric winning 13 sets out of 20 and Old Swan and Waterloo Park 9 and 8 respectively. Rob Napier and Peter Dobbs for Old Swan, and Bill Spencer and L. Woosey for Waterloo. Another fine match to watch was Rob Napier's win over Dennis Brookfield of Colonsay, who fought back 3 times when well behind and only lost 17-21, 22-20, 20-22.

Robbie Chew made his 3rd Division comeback for Orrell but lost all three against the Police. Welcome back Robbie, for the 7th time, Pete Grugel and Stan Smith figured in star matches when losing to Eileen Mansell and Pauline Lawrenson respectively (Trinity against Rafter's 6-4).

Dave Piper (Cadwa) lost two to L. Griffin and Les Linforth (Old Swan), Les also beating Val Blore to take 3 off a top team. The only set going to three games was the doubles with Roy Williams and Val Blore winning 17 in the third.

Jean Reynolds showed her slip when losing to Wally Sill in straight games, good win for Wally this, and in the same match reserve Graham Black beat Janet Rumjahm, again in two straight. Rafter's finally beating Elec. "C" 6-4 in an exciting and hard-fought battle.

Have you noticed the difference in handshakes at the end of a set; they

range from the firm, honest "Well played" or "Hard luck" down to just a grunt and the offering of a limp, feeble hand. I know we must hate our opponents, but please, only during play; when it ends either give or accept credit sportingly. A happy and successful New Year to you all.

COLIN W. PRATT.

DIVISION 4A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Vagabonds "A"	13	13	0	0	106
Trinity "D"	13	10	2	1	101
United Biscuits	14	11	2	1	101
English Elec. "F"	13	8	3	2	86
APH Linnetts	15	6	5	4	83
Cadwa "B"	13	5	6	2	72
Police "C"	11	7	4	0	63
Bath Street "D"	11	6	5	0	57
Orrell "B"	12	2	8	2	42
Knotty Ash "B"	14	4	9	1	40
University	8	3	4	1	36
Barker & Dobson	11	2	9	0	33
Blundellsands	11	1	10	0	22
Woolton "A"	12	1	11	0	17

Well, here I am writing the notes for Vol. 2 from the cards received the same day as I received our Vol. 1. Let's hope it doesn't take that long to get this issue out, otherwise we'll be reading the May edition during the first match next season!

It looks like I was right about Vagabonds overtaking United Biscuits as the latter dropped five sets to English Electric (as a shock result) and I believe Vagabonds beat them 9-1. I have not details yet of this match but they obviously "CRUMBLLED" before the power of Doug Ridgeway and Co., and I would think the result drove them "CRACKERS."

Woolton "A" will have to pull their socks up if they want to stay in the league—two walkovers conceded already and the season only ten matches old. Judging from the date of the English Electric game they'll have to decide between table tennis and football. I know which I'd prefer.

Bath Street are having a very "in and out" sort of season with wins over Elec. "F" (8-2), Cadwa "B" (6-4) and Linnetts (6-4) but defeats by Trinity "D" (10-0), Vagabonds (10-0) and Orrell (7-3). Part of their trouble seems to be in getting a settled team.

Best solo performance of the

season to date was K. Lightfoot (University) defeating Ray Gavin (Linnetts) 21-12, 21-9. Another great win was by G. Hughes (Knotty Ash "B") 21-17, 21-18 over Gordon Crompton (Trinity "D") this saved his team from a whitewash. Other face-savers were by S. Anderson (Police) -16, 14, 15 against Colin Fyles (Elect. "F"), D. Williams (Woolton "A") 16 and 17 against B. Aldred (Bath St.), B. Thomas (University) -23, 17, 19 against Gordon Crompton, and Margaret Lambert (B. & D.) two wins against Knotty Ash over G. Hughes and Ken Ray. It's nice to see Knotty Ash having some success after their poor start with that 8-2 defeat of Barker and Dobson, a terrific 6-4 win over University (without any walkovers), and a draw against Orrell "B". The induction of C. Blackburn seems to have helped their cause although all the others seem to have hit form as well. University seem to be having trouble in completing their Home matches on time and are conceding a couple of walkovers each time. I understand they have to be out of their premises at 10-00 p.m. so please do try to arrive early and try to win your games ON the table.

Peter Greaves (Bed.) had quite a night at Vagabonds, losing 21-3, 21-9 to Henry Goodman, but beating Robert Brownlow 21-2, 21-13. B. Hamilton (Woolton) put up a good fight to lose only 18-21, 22-24 to Tom Johnstone (Vags.) but then lost 9-21, 1-21 to Alan Rycroft.

A card from the Forrest Cup has got me baffled. It is for Knotty Ash "C" v Post Office and lists all four players from both teams, is signed only by the home captain (Ken Ray) but concedes a 10-0 walkover to Post Office. I would be grateful if someone could throw some light on this one for me.

Trinity seem to have hit form with a vengeance lately, dropping only two sets in their last six league games and having two cup wins over 4B opposition into the bargain. The addition of so far unbeaten E. Hughes in place of Paul McLaughlin has given them more all-round strength and they should provide a strong challenge to the best.

R. Alcock (Bath St.) had bad luck in their match against Trinity losing

21-19, 15-21, 19-21 to John McLaughlin and 21-15, 19-21, 21-13 to Alan Gillespie. A few more hoar-stoppers to finish with—B. Thomas (University) v G. Hughes 21-19, 18-21, 21-23. Bob Kelly (B. & D.) v Betty Black (Elec. "F") 21-19, 19-21, 24-22. Ken Jones (U.B.) v Chris Roberts (Cadwa) 21-19, 14-21, 26-24. Ron Reynolds (Bath St.) v Ron Pritchard (B/Sands) 23-21, 20-22, 20-22. Joe Bird (Linnetts) v Brian Cullen (Elect. "F") 24-22, 21-10, 21-23. Peter Meyer (Linnetts) v Betty Black 22-20, 18-21, 21-19, and finally (—all cry for me, please) Mike Power (Cadwa) v Yours Truly 19-21, 21-19, 22-20.

BARRY MEYER.

DIVISION 4B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Palmerston "A"	13	13	0	0	124
Panto	15	13	1	1	122
L'pool Jewish "A"	13	10	1	2	94
Woolton	12	5	2	3	65
Knotty Ash "A"	12	5	5	2	64
Orrell "A"	13	7	6	0	64
Colonsay "D"	13	6	5	2	63
Bath Street "E"	14	4	7	3	61
Vagabonds "B"	13	4	8	1	48
Cadwa "C"	10	5	4	1	67
St. Hughs	12	3	8	1	46
Police "D"	12	2	9	1	41
Knotty Ash "C"	13	1	9	3	34
Maghull "B"	12	0	12	0	17

Palmerston proved their overwhelming superiority in this division when they beat their only serious rivals, Panto, 9-1. But this heavy defeat was not without some honour to Panto for Phil Luxon achieved their only set with a two straight victory over Bob Hudson. This is the first set Bob has dropped since leaving the 1st div. which covers approx. 40 matches. This must now rank as the best win of the season and is even more noteworthy than Ted Jane's victory over Dave Newton (sorry Ted). So superior are Palmerston that although the ranked team have not yet played together the reserves, if that is the correct term, have not even weakened the team. Palmerston are now set to record their second successive cup and league double and there is every possibility they will repeat this again in the 3rd div. next season.

Panto look certain, draw permitting, to finish up in the Final again

with Palmerston and will again have to be satisfied with being runners-up. It is a safe bet that Palmerston are not Panto's favourite opponents. Mind you, with full details of the draw now apparently classed as "Top Secret" they may have already been drawn together when you read these notes.

With these two now home and dry the main interest still centres round the 3rd and 4th spots which could still include promotion. Jewish "A" are making the running here and have emphasised this with a draw against Panto. Jewish, incidentally, are the club who cause me most headaches; this team in particular, as two W. Davies play for Jewish and both have played in this team. When marking the averages I am never quite sure just which Davies is playing, as they rarely make this clear. So please, Liv. Jewish, make a definite distinction between the two Bills when making out score-cards and make life a little easier for me. There are several contenders for the 4th spot with little to choose between Orrell "A", Knotty Ash "A" and Colonsay "D" who are also closely followed by another group, any one of which could easily move into the reckoning. Of these I have a fancy for St. Hughes, who have a pretty strong No's 1 and 2 who are well supported at No. 3, but they seem to lack strength in the No. 4 spot and also in the doubles. With a little more effort and consistency they could quite easily move higher up the table. At the time of writing they have only won 6 doubles sets from 20 played and there is room for improvement here.

By now Woolton will be wondering just where they fit in as I have overlooked them completely, so before all those already mentioned start thinking they have been dropped out let me assure them that Woolton are the stumbling block that has to be overcome if they want that 4th place which is at present held by Woolton. There is not a very secure hold for them they have made several slips, their most recent being held to a draw by Knotty Ash "C".

This lack of consistency seems to be a feature of most teams in this division. They look good with some results but appear to lack that little

extra that could put them on a par with Panto. St. Hughes beat K. Ash "A" but only drew with K. Ash "C". Woolton only drew with K. Ash "C" and could only scrape home 6-4 against Maghull "B". Orrell "A" beat K. Ash "A" 7-3 only to lose 9-1 to Colonsay "D" who have earlier on been beaten 9-1 by K. Ash "A". These results could be put down to a general levelling out amongst teams in this division but I am firmly of the opinion that lack of consistency and effort is the main cause. It is always the consistent teams who are prepared to give every effort that finish well up the table.

After staggering along from one defeat to another and getting the odd sets here and there, Police "D" met Maghull "B" and dished out a little of what they have been receiving and won 10-0 with only one set going to 3. John Christian, their new secretary, was the unfortunate one to spoil the card. This victory has helped close the gap with K. Ash "C" who have had some good results just lately, having drawn with Woolton, Bath St. "k" and St. Hughes and beaten bottom club Maghull "B" but Police "D" have games in hand which could help them overtake Knotty Ash. The improvement in the K. Ash "C" results started a couple of matches after the return of Chris Blackburn, who has not played for several seasons following, if my memory serves me right, a leg injury. The rest of the team all seem to have found their form about this time and this has led to their much improved results which, if maintained, could put the Police deep in trouble. Their match with K. Ash "C", due about now, may give us a better guide. My fancy is for K. Ash to stay up and Police to go down with Maghull "B".

Like all good writers, I have kept the best bit of news last, and this is that we have found a writer for this division who will take over for the last two issues. Ted Jane is the volunteer. He has apparently been carried away by the praise I gave him but I also suspect he has had a glance at the 2nd div. notes and decided it can't take much to come up with something better than that. Must say I agree with him there!!

KEN ARMSON.

DIVISION 5A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Stanley House	9	7	0	2	75
Palmerston "B"	8	7	0	1	70
Trinity "F"	8	5	3	0	54
Rafters "D"	7	6	1	0	44
Panto "A"	8	5	3	0	43
L'pool Jewish "B" ..	9	3	6	0	36
Vagabonds "C"	9	1	7	1	22
Colonsay "F"	7	1	6	0	21
Barker & Dob. "A"	8	2	6	0	20
Woolton "B"	6	0	5	1	10

Palmerston "B", fielding in the main a team of well-known ladies, and Stanley House, although absent from our league for a while, still have a few familiar names on their books—these are the two teams who are making things buzz and have not really a cloyish game to report on. Goodman (Vags. "C") beat Ali 21-13, 21-13 and W. Kelly (Rafters "D") beat Ahmed 27-25, 21-12, they are the only slips by either team in the league over the last period. Although in the cup Trinity "F" had their big moment when they drew 5-5, but with one absentee they lost 8-2 in the replay. Chris Daybell and Prescott were tops for Trinity. Ali was the key man in the Stanley House-Palmerston draw, beating Mabs Francis 21-16, 21-16 and losing to Davies who won two 18 and 14.

Vagabonds "C" had a close one 4-6 to Post Office "A", the only game going to three—McBrien beating Taylor 25-23, 20-22, 21-15, Kennedy's three being the turning point for the P.O. Liverpool Jewish "B" won by a similar score against Colonsay "F" with Davies, W. Thomas and Glover all on top form. The Colonsay girls are finding it tough going, but don't we all at first. Carline and O'Malley showing better form.

Goodman and Brownlow A.R. scored the five sets that gave Vags. "C" a draw against Woolton B.C., Christy winning his three.

Greaves (Barker & Dobson "A") v Rafters "D" and Brownlow A.R. (Vags. "C") v Jewish "B" saved their sides from a whitewash. The Rafters side have disappointed a little, dropping more sets than I had expected. With Stanley House in the semi-final and Post Office "A" and Palmerston "B" battling for a place, we must be firm favourites for the Stamp Cup, and how about Vaga-

bonds "C" still in with a chance after a draw at English Elect. H!?

JACK LAMBERT.

DIVISION 5B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
English Elec. "G" ..	10	8	1	1	68
APH Linnets "A" ..	9	8	1	0	67
Trinity "G"	10	4	3	2	54
Maghull "C"	8	4	2	2	52
Rafters "E"	7	4	2	1	43
Palmerston "C"	8	2	3	3	40
Police "E"	6	3	2	1	39
Colonsay "E"	9	2	6	1	32
Palmerston "D"	6	3	3	0	30
English Elec. "H" ..	11	2	9	0	30
Lancs. Police	6	3	3	0	28
Trinity "E"	11	1	10	0	19

Our late arrivals are proving a pretty strong bunch. Despite an unfortunate walkover conceded to Trinity "E", A. P. H. Linnets "A" appear to be favourites for the championship, beating top teams Trinity "G" 9-1 (lone win for Armstrong), Maghull "C" 7-3, Rafters "E" 7-3, an exciting match for Kelly W., who retained his 100% by beating Gasgarth 21-17, 22-20, and Higham 21-11, 21-17, their first league defeats of the season. An excellent 8-2 win over close rivals English Electric "G" completed a very successful period.

Maghull "C" and Police "E" have also made quite an impact, Smeethurst and Banks proved too much for the Police when they met, winning six games between them. After taking a 4-1 lead the Maghull team cracked at English Electric "G" eventually losing 6-4, Black G. winning three of the six.

Hunter J. lead the way for a first win for English Electric "H" over Palmerston "C" winning his three games. Lancs. Police enter the news with a walkover to Palmerston "D", the Police boys appearing to be having a tough time with shift work; let's hope Moxham and company overcome their difficulties. When they beat English Electric "H" 7-3 with Spedding and Riley doubles, they did better than the score suggests, as the "H" team had a cheer group of 15, including grandma's and grandads.

Palmerston "C" with draws against Colonsay "E" (Swan 2), Trinity "G" (Hulm 2) and Maghull "C" (Banks

2), look good bets for the coupon. With Inge and Roberts scoring doubles nice to see young Roberts back in the fold!

Anita Cross of Trinity "G" beat Waddie of Police "E" 20-22, 22-20, 23-21, won her singles against Illingworth and lost 19 in the third in the doubles. Oates of Police won his two in a hardfought drawn game which, in fact, helped to keep them both behind the leaders.

In a bottom of the table clash Allanson, Owens and Roskill scored doubles for Palmerston "D" in their 7-3 win over Trinity "E" whose captain, Mellow, scored his side's lone win against Colonsay "E".

Quite a few cup results around Electric "H" 6-4 win over Jewish "C" an exciting one with Thompson doing well with three good wins. English Electric "G" our favourites for the cup, look like having a tough time in the semi-finals.

Without having a league table in front of me, I feel we are going to have our most exciting fight for the runner-up spot for years, with

English Electric "G" favourites all season, facing a strong challenge from Maghull "C" and Police "E". Trinity "G", Palmerston "C" and Ratters "E" must feel they are in with a chance.

JACK LAMBERT.

As these tables are produced you have failed to return a total of 91 cards—not a very co-operate spirit to enter the New Year with!

Will all Club Secretaries please advise by the end of February the re-arranged dates for all matches which have been postponed to date.

Will you also check the League Tables and if you do not agree your record write to confirm the position by quoting the scores against the week numbers.

It will be assumed that failure to advise indicates the home team have conceded the matches 0-10.

It should be noted that 3 such walkovers involve your club dropping a team.

EDDIE CAMERON,
Fixture Secretary.

THE OUTSIDE WORLD . . .

The Norwich Union English Open Championship takes place at Brighton: February 28th—March 2nd. A wee bit handier than Crystal Palace!

World Championships 1975, New Delhi, India, February 1st—10th. 1977 England (Brighton) so sell your tickets and help out.

As previously mentioned BRIAN LEESON (Colonsay) is now a National Referee. If you are interested in following suit, contact Mr. C. J. CLEMETT, 7 BROOKMEAD WAY, HAVANT, HANTS.

For European cup matches Dunlop Super 3-star have been adopted by the E.T.T.A. City players please note.

In the European Youth Championships, Athens, LINDA HOWARD and DESMOND DOUGLAS (ex-Merseyside Junior Champion) won the mixed doubles event beating Thorsell and Hellman (Sweden) -14, 19, 18.

DESMOND DOUGLAS (Warks) is number 1 England junior. DONALD PARKER (Preston) is number 2. Judith WALKER (Yorks.) number 1 girl and LINDA HOWARD (Surrey) number 2. BRENDA WILLIAMS (Colonsay) is down to 9 from 6.

For the cost of postage our league may receive any reasonable quantity of up-to-date rule books as issued by Barclays Bank. How about a couple of stamps Don Cameron?!

Liverpool and District (Pop. nearly 1,000,000) coaching at club level at Bath Street, Colonsay and English Electric, about 7 tables. Reading (Pop. 123,000). Two sports centres with 29 tables—well over 300 JUNIORS passing through the coaching scheme. With intensive Summer coaching for 70 juniors plus seniors.

J.A.L.

TABLE EDGES

Ken Stanley (Bolton) won the Merseyside Junior title in 1933, later becoming an English International. He is now the business Manager of George Best and looked after the commercial side of English footballers in Mexico.

I wonder why Ebby Scholer (Germany) was given pride of place on our handbook? Wally Allanson, our local champ, or a fond farewell to Tony Clayton might have been more appropriate.

Is it six or seven times that Gordon Birch (Eng. Electric) has topped the league's averages? It must rate as a phenomenal record for a man whose only contact with bat and ball for the past few years outside the weekly match has been the odd night for a laugh with the very young players.

The following local papers will publicise our game if they are provided with table tennis news—Liverpool Weekly News, Bootle Times, Walton Times, Kirkby Reporter, Crosby Herald and Maghull Times; there may be others. How much are we to blame for lack of publicity when these people can't get all the gen on table ten!?

Despite being unwell over the Christmas holiday, Rene Sturgeon has been fully occupied with Cup Draws and Lincoln Handicap Draw Tickets. Do your best with the draw tickets; they help our budget and keep our subs. down. Rene would like all counterfoils and cash returned by February 28th, 1974, and a £5 or more can be won for your club.

The Rules are made for you and by you. There is no 'orrible goblin putting them in the book to make your table tennis life miserable. Some are factual, some are for guidance and can be bent a little to make our life on the table easier all round.

Whichever way it is, all you require is a two-thirds majority at the A.G.M. and you have a new rule.

The name of Tom Partington (United Biscuits) will be missing for a while as he is entering hospital for a minor operation. We wish you a speedy recovery Tom.

The last time Crawfords posted a match card was November 5th. How's that for the Guinness Book of Records.

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Umpiring and Rules

Apart from your divisional notes it appears that Rules and Umpiring are very close to your heart and have caused more than a ripple of interest. Doubles and the bat are your main worries.

Doubles I have covered and met with limited success—but apparently differences of opinion still occur. I publish a further interpretation of the rule and offer the space to a senior umpire who may be even more explicit.

A and B versus C and D.

First game serving side can decide who serves A or B. Receiving side can decide who receives C or D.

Second Game side who received in first game now serves and can decide who serves C or D. But whoever serves must serve to a player different from the first game.

Third Game side who served in first game serves again; they can decide who serves A or B. Receiving side now have a choice who receives and it is **not** necessary for it to be the same as first game. On the score reaching ten in the final game the receivers will change over.

Norman Cooke (Orrell) was the first to ask for specific details on "The Bat." Since then queries have flowed in. I quote the relevant part of the Rule as it stands:—

Rule 4—The Racket. The racket may be of any size, shape or weight. Its surface shall be dark-coloured and matt. The blade shall be of wood, continuous, of even thickness, flat and rigid. If the blade is covered on either side this covering may be (a) of plain, ordinary pimpled rubber, with pimples outward, of a total thickness of not more than 2mm or (b) of "sandwich," consisting of a layer of cellular rubber surfaced by plain, ordinary pimpled rubber—turned outwards or inwards—in which case the total thickness of covering of either side shall be not more than 4mm. (Then follows reference to pimples and how they are to be distributed) and no cracks please.

The part of the blade nearest the handle and gripped by the fingers may be covered with cork or other materials for convenience of grip, it is to be regarded as part of the handle. Similarly if the reverse side of the racket is never used for striking a ball it may all be cork or any other material convenient for gripping. The definition of racket cover materials refers only to the striking surface. A stroke with the side covered with cork or any other gripping surface would, however, be illegal and result in a lost point.

continued on next page

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UMPIRING AND RULES

Commencing June 13th, 1973, for a period of two years, the E.T.T.A. has followed the I.T.T.F. policy of allowing the following experimental revisions prior to taking firm decisions on rule change.

1. The bat need not now be of the same colour on both sides; but both sides must be of a uniform dark colour.
2. The bat blade may be now other than wood, e.g., metal plastics, etc. (The restriction to wooden bats was originally intended to reduce the incentive to proliferate the combinations of materials).
3. (An extra item). White or light-coloured edging to playing shirts is now permitted, but must not be "unduly obtrusive." (At present shirts and bats must be black, green, red, brown or blue, and are strictly subject to an official colour card check).

J.A.L.

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