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No. 3

Editorial

Compared with other A.G.M's with which I am associated it amazes me at the number of rule amendments we have each year and players still find cause for complaint.

The track suit rule is a hot one—my Table Edge—comments on this rule were omitted in the last issue through lack of space. When the rule was first mooted only the odd bod had a track suit outside the City team, now every minnow has one and arguments for the rule then bear no relevance to arguments against it now, which go something like this. "He comes straight from work in denims or terylene trousers, puts a pair of pumps on and obeys the rules. I come fully rigged out for table tennis, leave my track suit jacket on and break a rule"?

The three walk-overs and you are out rule serves the purpose of killing off teams that are not interested and treat the rest of us with contempt. Against that, however, is a little naughty secretary who doesn't inform you of alterations and if you are a big club three slip-ups are so easy, but if you are a small club you are allowed three slips for ONE TEAM. Who suffers in the multi-team club—not the villains, but the dead keen youngsters at the bottom—they are either out, or put in a division too strong for them. Surely fines and eventual expulsion for the offending team—with a not so drastic disciplinary action for secretaries or captains who make genuine mistakes are more in line with fair play.

Three of our most popular players have suffered personal tragedies over the past few weeks, Jean Jennings (McKenzie), Mabs Francis and Jack Davidson. I have received many messages of sympathy for all three. It is always difficult to say what you feel—so I take this opportunity of letting you know that you are in the thoughts of your many friends.

LOCALS ABROAD

The ladies "A" team match v Warrington at HOME found the Liverpool team with only two players; however, Sue Smith (Rafters) and Julie Black (Eng. Elec.) heroically won the necessary six sets between them. But two players and at home—ugh!

Possibly the outstanding Liverpool win for many moons came when Brenda Williams (Colonsay) beat Carole Knight (Ormesby)—England number one—in the under-17 West Midland Junior Tournament.

Pete D'Arcy and Nigel Eckersley added another doubles scalp to their collection in the Pontefract Open.

Childwall Valley Girls' High School (Colonsay) reached the final of the English Schools under-13 competition. Our representatives at the Lancashire schools' finals are Terry O'Connor (Colonsay), Graham and Julie Black (Eng. Elec.) and Sue Smith and Kenneth Williams (Rafters).

With John McNee (Wav. Lab.) and Pete D'Arcy (Eng. Elec.) in the Cheshire Squad and John Marshall (Rafters) and Wally Allanson (Eng. Elec.) in the Lancashire squad, the city was well represented in the winning county teams on March 9th.

In the second round of the Stiga English Club Championship, English Electric lost 5-4 to Gatley Y.M.C.A. Stockport—the score 4-4 one game each, Wally Allanson 20-18 up in the third, and loses 22-20—pretty close and exciting.

Brave actions by the team selectors lately, whether you agree or not decisions are being made.

The first teams 0-5 in the Wilmott Cup at home to Stockport continued at Stockport, going down 1-9, McNee the lone winner. Pete D'Arcy returned against Preston winning 2 of the Liverpool 4. Preston won 6 the same as they did last year AT Preston but then they had Donald Parker!

Car drivers required URGENTLY for City teams. Petrol allowance granted. Even if you can only manage the odd match.

Oh dear, Stockport again; our Ladies "A" lost 7-3. But the girls went to Preston and beat the undefeated home side 6-4.

J.A.L.

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CUP FINALS

RUMJAHN CUP

RUMJAHN CUP—RAFTERS "A" 5, BATH ST. "A" 5

Reg Hetherington and Alan Walton started our all-night session at the Palmerston Club taking just under an hour for Walton to draw first blood for Bath Street 15-21, 21-17, 23-21; the expedite being called in the second. Dave Ferguson then beat Colin Thompson 21-13, 21-19; Peter Rumjahn lost to Mike Moran 13-21, 17-21; Ferguson and Hetherington beat Gould and Thompson 21-16, 21-17. Pete Short gave us a judicious display of picking them out with his backhand in the first, winning 21-9; in the last two games, matching Walton's terrific defence and missing expedite by seconds in each, 19-21, 21-14.

Came the interval when Ken Davies (Palmerston) and Rene Sturgeon (Beauclair) looked after us well with Rafters in a 3-2 lead. Ferguson made it 4-2 against Alec Gould 27-25, 11-21, 21-12, and Rumjahn and Short lost to Moran and Walton 19-21, 11-21. A battle of tacticians saw Rumjahn win over Gould 16-21, 21-18, 21-18. (How come you lost your two Alec with all those ace services and forehand kills!). Moran beat Hetherington 21-10, 17-21, 21-8, and the heat was on for Short and Thompson, courageous and crisp hitting gave the latter a 21-19, 21-18 win and a five all score line.

Ken Black had a harder job than most officials; he was assisted by Don Davies with the umpiring and Arthur Upton in the chair. Most of the large crowd stayed for the 12-30 finish, a tense and exciting struggle but too dour and nerve-wracking to be a great game.

(Watch out for our next thrilling instalment).

HYDE CUP

ENGLISH ELECTRIC "B" 6 ENGLISH ELECTRIC "C" 4

Don Cameron, the official in charge at the Wavertree Labour Club, commenced this final by reading bye-law 48, paragraph 6, sub-section 8. Which roughly says, "Any final which I am in charge of DOES not finish at breakfast time!" So at 7-33 Brian Crolley, of English Electric "B" took on the top man of English Electric "C", Clive Strettle, and lost a terrific game 17-21, 21-18, 13-21. George Bradley beat Ro Craddock 21-14, 21-13; Alan Jones beat Wally Sill 19-21, 21-14, 21-7; and Billy Ellard beat Craddock 21-18, 21-15; Bradley lost to Strettle in a fine game 18-21, 19-21, and at the interval Ellard beat Pete Lewis 21-14, 24-22; Bradley and Ellard, in a hurry, beat Sill and Lewis 21-11, 21-10, giving the "B" boys a 5-2 lead. Captain Sill put a new look on things with a hard-hitting win over Crolley 21-14, 20-22, 21-16; Strettle and Craddock lost the first to Crolley and Jones 21-16, but won the next two 13 and 15 and left Jones and Lewis with a battle of nerves at 5-4 which Jones won 15 and 15 and the Cup for the "B" team.

A unique game with two teams from one club in the final and appropriately well looked after by Brian Jessop (Wav. Lab.) but ex-Eng. Electric. To quote Don Cameron, a fine, sporting game with a tense finish and players hitting the ball when it was there to be hit—result a 10-35 finish.

J.A.L.

The Worlds - 1977

The January, 1974 meeting of the National Council was probably the most momentous in the history of the E.T.T.A. By its decision to introduce a World Championship Levy, the Council gave complete support to the Worlds Steering Committee for its plans to organise and finance the championships in 1977.

A whole generation has almost passed by since the 1954 championships and many faces have disappeared from the scene.

So the decisions are being made by a new generation and it is worth pointing out that the governing body of table tennis in England is probably the youngest of any sport, with the average age well under fifty years. This means that Councillors these days are still well in touch with the mass of players in the country, indeed most Councillors are still regular players themselves and their main concern is for the expansion of the game and the enhancement of the sport's image to the general public. There can be no better way of gaining this than to organise the World Championships in 1977.

The enormity of the task before us can be judged by the fact that it will be the largest single sports championships ever held anywhere in the world; there could be over eighty national associations taking part and the budget at present is around a quarter of a million pounds.

The financing of the championships will be a combined effort with all members being asked to provide only a modest contribution. This is to be by way of a players' levy designed to bring in about £50,000 over a period of three years, that is, only 20% of the anticipated total cost.

Further finance will come from sponsors, television fees, admissions, sales, and, of course, assistance from our own government in the form of a grant from the Sports Council. Their reaction has been excellent.

To assist in finding sponsorship the E.T.T.A. has contacted one of the largest advertising organisations in the world and a full scale presentation of the championships to the public will be made very soon. This will show that we really mean business and that the game of table tennis is moving into the big league.

It is a fair question to ask why such an enormous cost for an event lasting only a couple of weeks; approximately £20,000 per day. First, the cost of hospitality is the major factor and this because the I.T.T.F. rules require full cost of hospitality to be borne by the host country for a minimum number of players and officials of every national association taking part. There is no zoning; the entry is open to all members of the I.T.T.F. which, by 1977, will number well over 120, and could well be the largest international sports federation in the world. If only a record number of 80 nations enter, the minimum hospitality will be for about 700 people. With the cost of accommodation and food rising rapidly and regularly, it is easy to estimate a cost of £10 per person per day by 1977, even allowing for specially negotiated terms. So hospitality alone accounts for half the total budget. The hire of the venue will also be a large item when it is considered that the playing area is only part of the facilities required. There will be a great demand for office and conference accommodation and, of course, for practice facilities. This might even mean the erection of temporary buildings.

A great deal of assistance is expected to be given by firms supplying goods or facilities free of charge in the way of advertising. The cost of hospitality for any team which the E.T.T.A. will be obliged to pay will be at least £1,000. It is expected that this idea of sponsoring visiting teams will be sold to 40 or 50 firms with export trade.

continued on next page

It is important to remember that the Players' Levy is intended to act as a guarantee to be called up in the event of any loss. If there is a profit—well, let's deal with that when it comes!

We all know that our game can provide enjoyment, relaxation, exercise and even education for people of all ages; it is a family game that just needs that little boost of publicity to bring in the many thousands at present playing on the fringe of organised competitions.

An event of the magnitude of the 1977 World Championships will create great interest and give table tennis a tremendous boost, which in turn will give a permanent benefit to local leagues and counties as well as to the E.T.T.A. I do not think that a three years levy of 25p is too much to ask from those people who still play and enjoy their weekly game, whether they win or lose.

In all my 18 years on the council I have never seen such a display of determination to "think big". It is really very encouraging and it is to be hoped that this spirit will find its way down to the roots of the sport—the players.

TOM BLUNN,
Hon. Treasurer, E.T.T.A.

MARGARET

In the immediate post war era and until the mid-sixties, a charming lady graced our management committee until politics (Table tennis ones) took her from our midst. During this period she was continuously an elected management member, women's representative and when the Digest came along she was correspondent for the ladies' division. For quite a number of years she was tournament secretary—not a bad record before we had heard of Women's Lib. We all had a lot to thank Margaret for, during that period, particularly perhaps the ladies. A smile, a pleasant word, were always yours at the handbook meeting. When hard workers and pleasing personalities are mentioned Margaret must be amongst the very best. I regret to have to report that Margaret Linder passed away last week.

J,A,L,

CHARLES MOORE

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Divisional Notes

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	D	Pts
English Elec. ...	22	20	1	1	182
L'pool YMCA ..	22	20	1	1	177
Wavertree Lab.	21	17	2	2	163
Rafters	21	13	6	2	129
Palmerston	23	12	8	3	125
Trinity	21	12	6	3	124
Bath Street	23	11	11	1	119
Wav. Lab. 'A'..	21	8	8	5	107
Eng. Elec. 'A'..	21	8	13	0	86
L'pool WM 'A'..	21	6	11	4	84
Colonsay	19	4	12	3	68
Sefton	22	4	18	0	63
Wav. Lab. 'B'..	19	0	17	2	35
Waterloo Pk. . .	22	0	21	1	28

In three successive weeks the top three teams, "Labour," "Y.M." and "Electric" played each other and as I mentioned in the last notes, due to lack of score cards, I would delay my comments on them until this issue.

Firstly, "Y.M." played hosts to Wavertree Labour and with the Labour Club lacking the services of their No. 1, John McNee, they looked like they were in for a struggle to maintain their interest in the championship battle. The Labour team consisted of Dave Roberts (1), Mike Tierney (2), Ron Burke (3) and Alan Tolson (4). Doubles: Roberts/Tierney and Burke/Tolson.

Y.M. were at full strength:— Paul Tsang (1), Peter Turtle (2), George Smith (3) and Ted Mandaluff (4). Doubles: Mandaluff/Smith and Tsang/Turtle.

Tsang, Turtle and Smith dropped four singles between them. Tsang to Roberts (19 and 19), Turtle to Roberts (10 and 17) and Burke (19 and 17). Smith to Tierney (13 and 17). Y.M. singles victories included "Mandv's" double over Burke (21-15), 15-21, 21-6) and Tolson (12 and 17). Tsang's defeat of Tierney (21-15, 17-21, 21-14) and Smith's win over Tolson (12 and 17). In the doubles Roberts and Tierney beat Smith and Mandaluff 19 in the third and in another "3-setter" Tsang and Turtle beat Burke and Tolson 17 in the third. Result: 5-5.

This was a good performance for Wavertree especially considering the absence of perhaps the No. 1

player in Liverpool (on present form)—John McNee; and it must have been a real confidence booster when they came to play English Electric the following week.

Again this match provided a drawn result indicating that there is very little to choose between our top threesome — strengths and weaknesses being very evenly balanced. Highlights: Wally Allanson's defeat at the hands (or perhaps the bat!) of McNee. John started badly losing the first game to single figures, but getting into his stride he took the remaining two games 15 and 18. He completed a fine double by beating Pete D'Arcy 16 in the third. Other results:—Roberts lost to Allanson 9 and 14; Roberts lost to Birch 23 and 19; Tierney lost to D'Arcy 11 and 9. Tierney beat Youd 19 and 11; Burke lost to Birch 17 and 21; Burke beat Youd 8 and 12.

Doubles: Roberts/Tierney lost to Allanson and D'Arcy and McNee/Burke beat Birch and Youd. In the third fixture played, Electric v. Y.M., Jack Lambert's stalwarts went one better than the Labour Club, recording a 6-7 win. Allanson and D'Arcy, both undefeated on the night, and with one other singles from Eddie Klein plus a doubles win (Klein and Birch), they brought their tally of sets to six. Now just to mention several other closely contested matches from the middle of the table. All these games resulted in either draws or 6-4 wins for one of the clubs involved.

Field and Manning (Miss Sue) both keeping a clean sheet on the night. Liverpool Y.M. "A" losing to Bath St. 6-4. (Harry Johnston completing a good double over Roy Jones and Billy Clayton).

Liverpool Y.M. "A" drew with Palmerston. Dave Butterworth's double over Alex Bryce and Wayne Percival highlighted here.

Colonsay losing to Wavertree Labour "A" 6-4. Sue Manning again picking up her two, and I hear one of the defeated opponents wishes to remain anonymous, but I think you'll find his name at the bottom of these notes.

Trinity drew with Bath Street. Ex-Bath Street player E. Hardman no doubt enjoying his successes over his former team mates Arthur Taylor (15 and 15) and Bill Clayton (17 and 10), Roy Jones for Bath Street beat Bagot (11 and 20) and Brown (14-21, 22-20, 19-21).

Liverpool Y.M. "A" beat Wav. Lab. "A" 6-4. Ted Gilmores (Wav.) good win over Phil Clarkson a feature here.

Wavertree Labour "A" lost to Eng. Elec. "A" 6-4. Roy Smith's (Wav.) match with Rob Brotherton, an exciting and excellent game to watch, Rob running out a 21-19, 20-22, 23-21 winner.

Palmerston beat Trinity 6-4. Bryce's double over Trueman and Bagot and Percival's double over Trueman and Harris, the features of this match.

Bath Street beat Wav. Labour "A" 6-4. Trevor Owen's (Wav.) wins over Taylor and Coogan, both two straight, and Billy Clayton picking up two for Bath Street with wins over Ted Gilmore and Roy Smith.

GORDON NEVINS.

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Rafters 'A'	22	20	1	1	174
Trinity 'A'	22	18	2	2	161
Beauclair	21	14	7	0	123
Colonsay 'A' ..	21	11	9	1	113
Bath St. 'A'	19	11	6	2	111
L'pool YM 'B'..	21	11	9	1	109
Colonsay 'B' ..	23	9	14	0	102
Crawfords	19	9	7	3	97
Trinity 'B'	22	7	12	3	97
Linacre	21	9	11	1	92
Police	20	8	7	5	92
Old Swan	19	5	13	1	74
Vagabonds	22	3	17	2	73
Police 'A'	20	0	20	0	43

It looks now as though the cup and league are destined for Rafters "A". They have further strengthened their side with additions of A. Timewell and Ron Rumjahn and now look unstoppable. They reversed their only defeat at the hands of Trinity "A" by winning the return match 7-3 with double wins for Dave Ferguson and A. Timewell. For Trinity "A" Alf Southall had a very good win over Ron Rumjahn 21-18 in the third and Tom Kilip and John Higham both beat Reg Hetherington in the

third to complete Trinity's three sets.

The Rumjahn Cup semi-finals were held recently and Rafters "A" beat Linacre 6-4 and Bath Street "A" defeated Beauclair 7-3. Bath Street "A" appear to have had a comfortable passage; they were 3-0 up before Frank Murphy pulled one back for Beauclair by beating C. Thompson 21-16, 21-18. Wins by A. Walton over K. Harrison 21-16 in the third and C. Thompson over Ted Birch 21-19 in the third and then M. Moran making the score 6-1 by beating Frank Murphy two straight gave Bath Street their passage into the final. In the finals they will meet Rafters "A" whose match with Linacre was much closer as they started by being 1-0 down. They recovered to take a 4-1 lead but back came Linacre to make the score 4-3, Dave Ferguson beat Jack Davidson 21-16, 21-13, and Peter Short beat Frank Lacey 21-5, 21-15, to make the match safe for Rafters "A". As for the final, well Bath Street "A" are not noted for being consistent and as such could produce some fireworks or on the other hand they could just as easily not play quite so well. My prediction is a win for Rafters "A" as they appear to have that bit of extra power in their team. I think congratulations are in order to Colonsay "A"; they actually beat their own "B" team and that does not happen very often. Barbara Kirkman had two good wins over Harry Nelson and Ron Evans, and C. Field also had a double over Erian Leeson and Harry Nelson. They have now recovered from a bad start and are moving up the table and should finish in a respectable position. It must be John O'Sullivan's steadying influence over the younger players. Well, something like that anyway.

The relegation battles are producing some very close matches. Colonsay "B" beat Old Swan 6-4 and Police "A" 6-4 before giving Vagabonds a 9-1 hammering. The lone winner for Vagabonds being G. Crossley, who beat D. Goodwin 21-17, 21-17. Trinity "B" beat Police "A" 6-4, drew 5-5 with Vagabonds but lost 7-3 to Old Swan. Police lost 6-4 to Old Swan but they did get a draw out of Trinity "A". A very

good result this and it should give them hope to avoid the drop. The second division would seem a bit strange without a team from the Police. Vagabonds look to have become the third team to go down. They have been having some very poor results recently and I feel they have left themselves a bit too much leeway to make up.

You may have noticed that with some players I use christian names and with others just the initial. I know most of the players in this division, but not all, and so if you happen to think on, put christian names on the cards. It makes things a bit friendlier. Congratulations as well as commiserations this issue. Commiserations to P. Rutherford, of Colonsay "A", who lost to John Higham, of Trinity "A" 21-19, 21-23, 20-22. Congratulations to Dave Crispen, of Old Swan, who in a 6-4 defeat by Rafter's "A", beat both Dave Ferguson and A. Timewell. Not bad going that.

KEITH FITZSIMMONS.

DIVISION 3A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Eng. Elec. 'B'..	21	21	0	0	188
L'pool Jewish ..	21	16	3	2	141
Knotty Ash	22	10	8	4	126
Maghull	21	12	5	4	116
L'pool YM 'B'..	23	8	10	5	109
Beauclair 'A' ..	17	11	4	2	105
Cadwa 'A'	21	10	10	1	101
Rafter's 'B'	17	10	7	0	97
Bedford House	20	6	11	3	89
Wav. Lab. 'C' ..	19	7	9	3	87
Eng. Elec. 'D'..	21	4	16	1	77
Bath St. 'C'	16	8	7	1	75
Giro	22	2	20	0	50
Polytechnic ..	20	2	18	0	42

My forecasting abilities received a boost with the news that it was to be an all Electric Final in the Hyde Cup. Rafter's failing in their attempt to reach the Final to Elec. "C". They drew the first match and lost the replay 7-3. They were without Jean Jennings in both matches due to illness and this must have reduced their chances of success as Jean has been playing well. Jean is one of our most popular women players and I feel I speak for all players in wishing her a speedy recovery, although I understand she will not be playing again this season. The result of the Hyde Cup, like the champion-

ship, is a foregone conclusion, and I predict a 7-3 win for us.

The battle for runners-up to Elec. "B" is hotting up and my forecast for Knotty Ash also looks like coming up, for they have lost five matches since the half-way mark was reached. They appear to have struck a really bad patch and as a result promotion appears to be now out of their reach. If you are a betting man you could put your money on Bath Street "C", for when talking to Brian Cunningham recently he reckoned they could be considered for promotion. It being my "be polite to Bath Street week" I kept my face straight and promised to quote his remarks. Mind you, to be fair to Brian, they have been doing well this year and have yet to lose in a run which includes a win against K. Ash and a draw with Maghull. It is difficult to assess their exact position as they have a few early results missing but I still feel their final position will be a middle of the table one. Against K. Ash the brothers Cunningham had a good night winning three of their four singles (I won't mention who lost one) including a double over K. Ash No. 1, Paul Reed-Clayton, then teaming up to take a doubles set to help them to a 6-4 win.

Liverpool Jewish and Beauclair "A" are still the two obvious contenders and much may depend on their clash as I write these notes. The odds are slightly in favour of Jewish but a reversal would not surprise me. Beauclair are behind at present but have some matches in hand, or unposted cards. Both teams are going well and its really anybody's guess who will win promotion. I'll stick my neck out and say Jewish if only because I feel they are a stronger team all round than Beauclair.

Rafter's "B" are now going well and could well finish in 5th or 6th place but much may depend on how successful they are in filling the gap left by Jean Jennings. Maghull are also coming on strongly and turning in results which indicate that they will surely finish in 5th place and may even unseat K. Ash and take 4th place. This is a big improvement on last season's placings.

Giro and Polytech are definitely

due for the drop but Giro may well have a say in the promotion battle with the four sets they took off Jewish. Alan Nolan did all the damage winning three of his four singles and taking a doubles with G. Palmer. There could be a moral in this for in the first match he played at No. 1 and beat Dave Money and Roy Lussey. In the second, two weeks later, he dropped to No. 4 and could only win one against reserve B. Davies. After their two matches with Jewish they lost 9-1 to Cadwa "A" with Alan losing his three which makes the Jewish result look a really good one for them and a bad one for Jewish. Polytech also had a three set winner in the match against Maghull when Graham Wyide made one of his rare appearances and won his singles and a doubles with Z. Jarzecki.

Cadwa "A" look set to beat their points total of last season with a steady haul of points. Not a team you seem to notice but with a steady No's 1 and 2 in Tom Hughes and John Henshaw, backed up by Davies and Fletcher, they don't give much away and pick up the sets pretty regularly against every team with the exception of Elec. "B". Liverpool Y.M. "D" have not done as well as I expected, mainly due to several team changes, plus playing short three times. Something has obviously gone wrong in the team and this is being reflected in their results.

Elec. "D" have also kept plugging away and their steady haul of points could mean that they have definitely assured themselves of an escape from the bottom three at the end of the season. This position could now be filled by Bedford House who are still experiencing a lot of ups and downs in their results. I still feel they are too good for Elec. "D" and will finish above them.

Of all the teams who have experienced violent fluctuations in their results, my own will take some beating. They helped put the skids under K. Ash with a 6-4 win which included double wins for Alan Cameron and Bob Hamilton. They followed this with an 8-2 victory over Cadwa "A" only to be defeated 8-2 by Bedford House.

This was followed with a draw against Bath Street "C" when we pulled back from being 4-1 down with Alan Cameron again winning his two and gaining the draw for us in the process. Against Rafters we again lost 8-2, our only saving grace being that nine sets went to three and we had our latest ever finishing time of 23.20 hours—in English 11-20 p.m.

Have you noticed in matches how those who get a few net points one week have conveniently forgotten the next when it happens to them. I was forcibly reminded of this when we played Rafters as Tony Moon's opponents appeared to have more than their fair share of nets. So much so that Tony wanted to present them with the net. I vetoed this as they cost too much to replace and reminded Tony of the previous week when in each of his singles he had, amongst other nets, one which struck the post, bounced on top of the net and dropped on his opponent's side. To do it once is good, but twice is miraculous. Like I say, its surprising how quickly we forget our own lucky shots. Luck is like love, we all get our share of it. Try and remember this when it's your opponent's turn.

KEN ARMSON.

DIVISION 3B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
L'pool YM 'C'..	19	15	1	3	141
Orrell	21	14	4	3	139
Cadwa	21	13	3	5	131
Bath St. 'B'	19	14	3	2	131
Eng. Elec. 'C'..	19	13	3	3	126
Trinity 'C'	20	12	8	0	103
Rafters 'C'	20	9	9	2	92
Colonsay 'C' ..	20	8	10	2	90
Police 'B'	19	4	13	2	76
Maghull 'A'	19	2	12	5	66
Eng. Elec. 'E'..	19	2	13	4	61
Old Swan 'A' ..	19	1	15	3	61
Wat'loo Pk. 'A'	19	3	15	0	53

Firstly may I offer the congratulations from all in Division 3B to the winners of the Hyde Cup, English Electric "B" of 3A winning a thrilling final by 6-4 against English Electric "C" from 3B, Col'n Strettle winning his 3 and Wally Sill the fourth.

At the top of our division we now have a clear leader, Y.M. "C" having strengthened their team,

have opened up a gap and look like holding off all challengers to take the title. In their match against previous leaders Cadwa, Y.M.C.A. drafted in N. Roberts for his only league game of the season (by my records) and they really set things alight with a 10-0 victory.

Incidentally, they also brought in N. Roberts for the cup semi-final but lost this one 1-9 to English Electric "B".

At the other end of the division the situation is tense. With one team to go down the three bottom teams are scrambling for points. Waterloo have brought in Graham Reid and ex-Commando star Stan Williams to try to save them, Old Swan are playing Les Griffin and Les Linforth in the same team and English Electric "E" have been seen at Australia House!

Orrell had a good win over Bath Street 6-4 with Cyril Callaghan and Joe Lovelady each winning two and Orrell winning both doubles. Both Bath Street pairs have excellent results in their doubles games and looking back through the Orrell cards I find that Cyril Callaghan and Norman Cooke are also 90% plus.

If you want an interesting, tiring tactical game then play at 1 or 3 against Bath Street. This way you'll come up against Alan Waddington and whether you win, or lose, I can assure you you'll enjoy the game. Alan is not a plodder nor is he a big hitter, he just plays each point as though his life depends on it and wont give up trying until the game is over—well done Alan.

In the next issue I'll be analysing the backhand smash of John Letch which I see he has modelled on Jack Lambert's!??

Trinity are doing well snapping at the leader's heels and have a very strong pool of players. They had a good win over Orrell 6-4 with Stan Smith winning two, one of which was over Cyril Callaghan who hasn't lost many this season. Nice to see Harry Randall's playing well again after his serious illness last year.

Police against Rafter's 5-5 was a fine game. Jean Reynolds losing two (and that is news) to George

Wright and Derek Rimmer, and Pauline Lawrenson and Janet Rumjahn winning 2 each. The Police won both doubles. Maghull suffered a heavy defeat at the hands of Cadwa 1-9 with Richard Barnes playing a captain's role and winning 21-19 in the third against Roy Williams (another pound Roy). In this match Val Blore staged a rescue act in her game against Ken Stevens. Having lost the first game 15-21 and losing in the second 16-19, Val went on to win 15-21, 21-19, 21-5.

Colonsay 7, Rafter's 3; Alan Guy and J. Read again the match stars—winning 3 each.

A great game to watch—Doug Johnston against R. Greaves in the recent relegation match English Electric "E" versus Waterloo. The match score was 5-4 for Waterloo and in the last set of the night we were treated to a fine exhibition of table tennis with R. Greaves finally winning 20-22, 22-20, 26-24. This certainly wasn't relegation standard.

I noticed in the last Digest that Division 3B had a spread of only 50 points separating the top team from the bottom while all other divisions had a much bigger difference.

This proves to me that the overall standard of play is higher in 3B than it is in 3A. We could always prove this by challenging 3A en bloc and adding a week on the season's end to play the matches. Any takers Ken?

COLIN W. PRATT.

DIVISION 4A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Vagabonds 'A' ..	18	18	0	0	153
Trinity 'D'	19	15	3	1	146
United Biscuits	19	15	2	2	136
Eng. Eec. 'F' ..	20	11	5	4	131
Cadwa 'B'	17	8	6	3	99
Police 'C'	18	7	9	2	83
A P H Linnets ..	17	6	7	4	81
Bath St. 'D'	17	7	9	1	77
Orrell 'B'	15	2	10	3	47
Knotty Ash 'B' ..	20	3	15	2	44
Barker & Dob...	17	2	15	0	37
Woolton 'A'	13	0	13	0	8
University & Blundellsands records expunged.					

Well, Vagabonds continue to force ahead and it seems Trinity

are the only team with the slightest chance of catching them, although Vags. won their home match 6-4 to complete the double over their nearest rivals. Eric Hughes had a hand in three of Trinity's sets, including a great 21-8, 21-16 win over Doug Ridge-way.

Two teams have dropped out of our division. It was no surprise to see Blundellsands go as they had shown a complete lack of interest all season, but I was amazed that University should withdraw owing to "Lack of players," as they had used at least twelve players to fulfil their fixtures to date.

English Electric and Cadwa had a good match with victory going to Cadwa 6-4, Keith Williams being the only player on either side to win both his singles, including 21-17, 19-21, 21-9 against Brian Cullen, who had a very good 21-5, 21-11 win over Chris Roberts.

Ray Gavin (Linnets) broke Tom Johnston's (Vags.) 100% record in Vags' 8-2 win. Fred O'Sullivan (B. & D.) had a good solo win over Jim Catterson (Police) 23-21, 23-21. Other single winners include Joan Monaghan (Knotty Ash) 21-19, 21-13 against Eric Pemberton (Cadwa), Fred O'Sullivan (again) 19 and 14 vs. Tony Thatcher (U.B.), Ken Jones (U.B.) -22, 14, 19 vs. Ray Smith (Vags.), J. Williams (Woolton) 13, -17, 14 vs. C. Hoare (U.B.), Dave Jones (Orrell) 11-21, 23-21, 22-20 over Gordon Crompton (Trinity) and Colin Le Feuvre (B'sands) 2 wins over Pritchard and Reynolds, of Bath Street.

Bath Street had a good 6-4 win at A. P. H. Linnets with doubles for John Pritchard over Ray Gavin and Peter Meyer and for K. Dyer over Peter and Barry Meyer. These two also won their doubles for Linnets in the same match, beating Ron Reynolds and Ron Georgeson.

Police "C" and Knotty Ash had a cracker in the Cup, with the former just winning 6-4. Seven sets went to three including what must be one of the closes games for a long time, i.e., J. Reynolds (Police) beating R. Reilly 21-17, 21-23, 29-27.

As far as I can see Eric Hughes (Trinity) has only lost one match to date, against Arthur Harrison

(U.B.) 21-17, 19-21, 9-21; Harrison won both sets for Biscuits in this 8-2 defeat.

Carol Wake (Orrell) had a rather erratic match against University, losing 21-9, 8-21, 12-21 to D. Williams and beating R. Bottomley 21-13, 13-21, 21-9. If Orrell as a team could find a bit more consistency they would climb the table quickly. All their players have had very good individual wins at times but they never seem to all hit form at once and even seem to have had good and bad games in one night, such as John Huxley's winning three-setter against Linnets' Joe Bird after losing 12 and 13 to their number four (guess who?).

Brian Cullen (Eng. Elec.) had a good double over Trinity's Gordon Crompton (two straight) and John McLaughlin (15 in the third).

Apart from Vagabonds, Electric are the only team to have come close to Trinity in the last few weeks, taking four sets off them in this match, D. Hunter (against Gordon Crompton) and Colin Fyles (versus Allan Gillespie) being their other set winners.

Finally, a few close ones:—Marie Gaul (K. Ash) v. Eric Pemberton 10-21, 27-25, 21-23. Carol Wake v. Norman Morrisey (Police) 10-21, 24-22, 20-22. Keith Williams (Cadwa) 14-21, 21-16, 25-23 v. Gordon Crompton. Gordon Crompton 21-19, 23-25, 21-19 v. Ray Gavin (Linnets)—a 10-0 win (five 3-setters) for Trinity here—John McLaughlin 17-21, 22-20, 21-19 over Ken Jones (U.B.) and Ray Gavin 21-16, 20-22, 22-20 against Glyn Hughes (Knotty Ash).

BARRY MEYER.

DIVISION 4B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Palmerston 'A'	21	21	0	0	197
Panto	22	19	2	1	175
L'pool Jew. 'A'	18	13	2	3	123
Woolton	20	11	5	4	118
Cadwa 'C'	19	13	5	1	116
Knotty Ash 'A'	22	8	10	4	105
Orrell 'A'	21	10	10	1	99
Bath St. 'E'	21	10	6	5	94
Colonsay 'D'	19	8	8	3	91
St. Hugh's	19	6	11	2	83
Vagabonds 'B'	21	6	12	3	79
Police 'D'	19	2	15	2	55
Knotty Ash 'C'	20	1	14	5	51
Maghull 'B'	22	0	22	0	24

It's a pity Ken Armson doesn't play in 4B then I could spend the next two pages writing about him.

As a newcomer to this division, as well as these notes, I would like to compliment everyone on the high standard of play I have so far witnessed this season. This is all the more praiseworthy when one remembers the number of teams promoted to "3B" since last season, and the equally high number of teams elevated from the 5th. In fact from observations of matches in higher divisions, there appears to be some levelling off of abilities, and the gap between the divisions now seems somewhat narrower. Perhaps the pyramid league has sorted itself out at last.

I have no doubt that Bob Hudson and his boys at Palmerston will prove this point for me next season, and will go through 3B just as easily as they have through us. There is no point in asking who is going to beat Palmerston (ask Owen), but is anyone going to take more than two games off them?

The youthful Panto side are also well established in the No. 2 slot. A word of praise here for this new look team. The transition from last season's veterans, good enough though they were, has made the team even better.

In the Forrest Cup semi-finals Ken Armson's prophecies were unfortunately upset with Panto going down 6-4 to Vagabonds "A" team. From the scorecard Vags appear to have had a fairly clear-cut win. The only games that might have turned the tables were Paul Morgan going down 21-14 and 26-24 to Doug Ridgeway, and Massie losing 21-15 in the third against the same player. In the other leg, a strong Palmerston side of Land, Hudson, Owen and Davies did their usual annihilation job by beating Trinity "D" 10-0. As Trinity are currently second in 4A they must be glad Palmerston are in our division. With ex-first and second division players making up the teams for Palmerston it looks like a final worth watching. However, my money is still on Palmers-ton, who appear to have more strength at 3 and 4.

Meanwhile back at the league, Jewish have now pulled away from

the crowd, and have a firm grip on third place. Jewish and Woolton drew 5-5 recently; this must have been quite a match. W. Hargreaves was the outstanding player for Woolton with a fine double over Richardson and Dorfman, the Jewish one and two.

Now their scorecards are coming in Cadwa "C" are trying to "Power" (M.D. and J.) their way into a possible promotion position, and have jumped from tenth to fourth place since the last mag. Carol Flood, the leading ladies' player in our division, has helped quite a bit as well. Recent victims of Cadwa are:—Maghull (10-0 twice), Vags "B" (9-1), St. Hugh's (7-3) and Bath Street (7-3).

The No. 1, M. Power, came through these matches 100%, Knotty Ash "A" are just about managing to keep in touch with the front runners but they came unstuck against their own "C" team recently. With such a gap between the two teams—how come they made a draw? Perhaps both sides had the advantage of a home table.

Adding both glamour and style to the Knotty Ash "C" team, Miss L. Myhan is pleasing to watch. With more experience she could be in the running for Liverpool Ladies honours.

The Orrell "A" team are a more settled squad this season. The regulars, Miller, Mullarkey, Walsh and Stevenson are producing consistent results. Their best win so far—8-2 over Bath Street and their biggest disappointment 10-0 versus Panto.

The juniors of Colonsay "D" are proving quite a handful; they are improving every match. I don't fancy playing them next season. Whilst Davis and Kilty are still having to fight for their points at One and Two. O'Connor and Dunne seem to have the measure of most three and fours they meet, and the team is always picking up points from their doubles—even against Palmerston. Bath St. "E" must hold the record for the highest number of players called on—eleven so far this season, but the team has recently settled down more with John Stewart (ex-Bootle Y.M. and Lucem), Brian Aldred, and yours truly, making regular appearances. In an effort to avoid being

known as the Bath St. "Chair" club we have recently tried out several juniors. However, except for Southport whizz-kid Paul Leonard, most of them have yet to lose their "L" plates.

Down in the dropping zone, Vags "B" and Police "D" look like surviving, but watch out for Knotty Ash "C" who could still make a fight of it. Maghull "B" has been busy, if not successful, this year. After losing 10-0 five times in a row F. Pattinson spoilt the second books by winning 23-21, 12-21, 21-16 against Mullarkey at Orrell. Finally, "If the cap fits" department. Generally speaking, poor playing conditions will only produce poor players. So perhaps some time spent in the club room could do more for your game, in the long run, than practice time on the table does.

So how's your slippery floor, card-board table or shady lighting?

TED JANE.

DIVISION 5A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Palmerston 'B'..	13	12	0	1	115
Trinity 'F'	13	10	3	0	97
Stanley House..	10	6	1	3	73
Rafters 'D'	12	8	4	0	61
Panto 'A'	11	5	5	1	50
L'pool Jew. 'B'	12	3	9	0	43
Colonsay 'F' ..	11	3	8	0	36
Bark. & Dob. 'A'	13	3	10	0	36
Vagabonds 'C'..	11	1	10	0	20

Woolton 'B' record expunged.

The girls hit the headlines this month with pride of place going to Palmerston "B" on reaching the final of the Stamp Cup. Lil Wynne, Marie Lupton and Muriel Cox winning the games to take them through. Mabs Francis was absent from this game — a personal tragedy for which we offer our sincere sympathy, keeping her away. Inge with a win, stood in. Just as significant in its own way was the first win for Colonsay "F" girls against Barker & Dobson "A", Julie Turner and Julie O'Malley winning two sets each.

The top of the table clash was turned the way of Palmerston "B" by Davies K., who made his second appearance of the season for Palmerston, both he and Mabs Francis winning their three games.

Pierce winning two of the Stanley House 3. The latter gained some consolation by beating Eng. Elec. "H" in the other semi-final 7-3, Ali and Pierce two apiece.

Still in the news with Stanley House we find Post Office "A" and Trinity "F" forcing them to a draw, Hayes and Maguire for Post Office and Prescott for Trinity winning two sets each in these excellent results.

The Kellys from the "E" team did Rafters "D" rather well in winning 5 in their 7-3 win over Liverpool Jewish, Nisted, still with 100%, winning the other two. Anna Cohen with a 14-21, 22-20, 21-16 win over Maher and winning the doubles with Rudnick, who saved his team from a whitewash against Barker & Dobson—a good win for the toffeemen, Learner having a couple of wins.

Travis had a lone win for Barker & Dobson's against Trinity "E", beating Wainwright 16-21, 21-17, 21-11; Ali and Jenkins beat Hayes and Stevens (Post Office) 19-21, 21-19, 24-22; pretty close. With a division of 10 one dropping out, as Woolton "B" have done, becomes a major disaster. Quite frankly the three and out rule must be one of the most unfair in our book (although perhaps not in this instance).

JACK LAMBERT.

DIVISION 5B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
A P H Lin'ts 'A'	18	17	1	0	145
Eng. Elec. 'G'..	16	12	2	2	111
Rafters 'E'	16	10	3	3	98
Maghull 'C'	15	8	3	4	97
Trinity 'G'	16	7	5	4	90
Police 'E'	16	4	9	3	72
Palmerston 'D'	14	4	7	3	62
Lancs. Police ..	14	5	7	2	61
Eng. Elec. 'H'..	18	4	14	0	60
Palmerston 'D'	14	4	8	2	59
Colonsay 'E' ..	17	4	11	2	57
Trinity 'E'	17	3	13	1	43

As anticipated, both of our semi-finalists, English Electric "G" and "H", lost their games in both cases 7-3; Hubbard and Thompson were outstanding. Including old father Hubbard and excluding U-no-Hoo. both teams had an average age of 14 years and that cannot be bad. As I have previously suggested,

the second place is where the battle really is and despite league positions the following results support my claim.

Rafters "E" beat Trinity "G" 6-4. Sue Smith had quite a battle with Anita Cross, Sue winning 18-21, 21-17, 23-21. Then followed two draws with Electric "G" and Maghull "C", Kelly W. bashed on regardless, but Johnson and Kelly J. both had a double against these teams. Then we have Trinity "C" with draws against Electric "G" (new boy Jraeger 2) and Maghull "C" (Whittaker 2). Hulm and Kelly J. were in top form in the first and second game respectively. Then Police "E" (Oakes 2) lost to Electric "G" (Connor 2) 6-4. Oakes also won his two against Palmerston "C"; in this game Amy Bell and Monica O'Donnell lost 21-19, 17-21, 21-23. Add those scores to Amy's hilarious war dance and you have to admire her stamina! Palmerston "C" also won their local derby with the "D" team, Millie Harris and Roberts winning two each. Monica O'Donnell won her two in the Palmerston "C" win over Electric "H" and Joyce Barton came back to form when winning two of her side's four against the same team.

Phil Thompson scored a double against our potential champions, APH. Linnets, he has had an excellent first season.

Colonsay "E" had a good win over local rivals Electric "H", Lambert P. beat Donna Hunter 17-21, 21-17, 21-18; both of these young players appeared to really enjoy an excellent game. Donna won her other game against Collins 21-9, 19-21, 21-19. Rooney and Swan (Colonsay "E") were lone winners against Maghull "C" and Electric "G". Sawyer (Lancs. Police) did a similar job against APH. Linnets.

Trinity "E" keep bashing away Prescott doing the life-saving act against Electric "G" but Vaight lost 17 and 19 both in the third—tough going. Kelly W. (Rafters) lost his 100% against Trinity "E"; he arrived too late to play his first game!

JACK LAMBERT.

The Fixture Secretary wishes to thank all those secretaries and team captains who wrote and contacted him regarding incorrect records and re-arranged matches. These are however in the minority. Posting of cards still seems to be an afterthought for Wavertree Labour and others.

Please keep cards, with records endorsed fully posted and if you have any matches to re-arrange, do it now within the season.

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TABLE EDGES

Who would you say was the strongest ladies club in our league? Colonsay, Rafters and Palmerston must come into the reckoning. Do they know—whoever they are—that they are eligible for the Stiga English Ladies' Club championship?

In the days when I was a mere divisional correspondent (Get him!?) I had cause to mention Black Power. Now it has really come into its own when Betty, Julie, Ken and Graeme Black (Eng. Elec.) take on Jack, Michael, Stephen and David Power (Cadwa) in a challenge match at the end of the season. Ali and Frazier will have nothing on this contest.

Sufficient to say that if Volume 26, Number 3 was the country's number one magazine, Volume 27 number 2 would have been a great contender for the booby—no further comment. (With no reflection on any correspondent).

Derek Schofield (Gatley Y.M.C.A.) was reminiscing on crowds of the past during the annihilation of the Liverpool team in the Wilmot Cup. And he quoted how 250 spectators raised the roof at Stockport after he had caught up from 15-20 down to 20-20 in the third against Peter Rumjahn, but he said his toughest games were always against Ted. With Janet in the company he certainly said the right thing without knowing.

With a win over champions Eng. Elec. and a greatly improved team performance in every way, the Palmerston team's star was shining brightly in Div. 1. Unfortunately it became sadly tarnished when conceding a walk-over to the champs in the semi-final of the league's premier trophy.

Come to think of it Schofields didn't mention the final result so Peter MUST have won!

One of the thankless jobs is the finding of at least 15 venues for cup semi finals and finals—it is an impossible task to find top class venues for them all. As clubs voted that semi-finals MUST be on a neutral table, they must appreciate that Rene Sturgeon does a grand job in providing venues, thanks to the clubs who help out.

If a team haven't the amenities for tea making—fair enough. Otherwise there can be NO excuse for the breaking of number one unofficial rule—interval tea and a chat.

Ralph Gunnion (ex-Bootle Y.M. and Linnets) one of our all-time greats, was recently married at Bangor (N. Wales).

At a recent National Council meeting it was proposed to place a levy on each team place plus one reserve of 20p, 25p or 30p. The 25p was passed and that it be a guarantee fund against loss and returnable to leagues if not used. The levy, commencing 1974-75 for three years, was expected to bring in £50,000 for the World Cup Fund. This has to be confirmed at the A.G.M.

Congratulations to Mabs Francis (Crawfords & Palmerston) and Billy Neary (Wav. Lab.) on their recent engagement.

Is this a look into the future—Rafters 7, Wavertree Labour 3. What can YOU see in the crystal ball?

Liverpool Closed Championship Finals at Newheys Comprehensive School, Greenhill Road, Friday, April 19th, 7-15 p.m. approximately.

Alec Davidson, Lancashire and Cheshire League Match Secretary, is unable to accept nomination next year due to business commitments.

Please bear this in mind when submitting your nominations for next year's committee.

J.A.L.

PHIL REID poses the question . . .

HAS SANDWICH RUBBER BEEN DETRIMENTAL OR ADVANTAGEOUS TO TABLE TENNIS ?

I've lost count of the times I've been involved in arguments on this topic. But I can't ever remember putting in print my thoughts before.

When Satoh won the Worlds at Bombay in 1952 he started a new trend in table tennis. Or rather brought some old ones back. He was penholder grip (and only one other penholder grip player had ever won the "Worlds"—Zoltan Mechlovits, way back in 1928) and he used sponge rubber. Sponge rubber had been tried before, too—well before the war—and whilst one or two players had been successful, they were by no means widespread.

Sponge rubber—which could be completely negative—was clearly a menace and was replaced by sandwich rubber—the bats so popular today. That's a very brief potted history, so now to the main argument—detrimental or advantageous?

Many old hands will tell you table tennis isn't like it used to be (but then—it NEVER was). The rallies between attacker and defender have largely vanished from the scene. True. I'm told there were some epic games between Bergmann, a first-rate defender, and Vana, a superb attacking player. Even in local table tennis we had some wonderful matches between attacker and defender. I bet it happened all over the country. But . . . what happened when two defenders played? Now that wasn't so attractive. In 1936, in Prague, at the Worlds, two players played for over two hours for the first point. That couldn't have been too exciting. It is probable that the spectacle between defender and attacker was more attractive than anything we have seen in recent years. Possible, particularly with the large number of attacking players and so much appearing to favour him. Sandwich rubber, fast tables, expedite, etc. It is said two attacking players cannot equal an attacker and a defender as a spectacle. It could be right in the main. Yet the best display I have ever seen of table tennis was a few years ago at Birmingham Central Hall, when two Chinese attackers played an exhibition. Li Fu-jung and Chiang Tse-Tung. True, the former defended, penholder grip, many yards back from the table on occasions, but he was still basically an attacking player.

What is less exciting today is the quick repetitive half-volleying, vital though it is. In other words, the middle game has lost its appeal. But there are still attractive players to watch. If defenders are in a minority (and they are) who could fail to be captivated by the magnificent play of Eberhardt Scholer, one of the all-time "greats"? Marie Alexandru is another defender—but who hits more bravely—and crisply—at expedite?

This is at International level and the answer must surely be, "A good player is a good player in any age. Perhaps there are fewer 'classics' these days but by and large I would say play is as attractive as ever it was." What about league level? Those long pushing games, where players could win merely by experience and patience, have gone. Young players develop much quicker and talent is the criterion. This must be good for the game. It gives the youngster a chance to break into the big time at a very early age. One of my county's senior team players is 13 years of age. He is ranked number 2 and is unbeaten in county matches. Unthinkable, surely in pre-war days.

So—what is the answer? That table tennis has moved with the times, is much faster than it used to be and demands much higher standards of fitness at top level. Has sponge been advantageous or detrimental? I would say neither. It's just put table tennis on a different wavelength. It's certainly not harmed the game. You have only to see how much it's developed in the last twenty years to appreciate that.

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