

Table Tennis Digest

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TABLE TENNIS DIGEST

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No. 2

Editorial

Where have all the players gone?—gone to telly one by one—no, I don't think so, although to me it is surprising the number who do disappear to the fireside once "wifeitis" sets in—are there any wives in the audience?

Sometimes I think our players start too early these days — not for their individual good but for the good of the game. Or is it perhaps the apprenticeship that is not long enough. Whatever the age they start, a couple of city games, maybe a few medals and possibly a Division One place, then at eighteen into the big bad world of open age, and excepting for three or four bods, they just become another pretty good player—then what?

A few enjoy this situation and carry on this way for years, a lot get browned off with the repetitive jungle and pack in. Quite a largish group of our pretty good players prefer to be biggish fish in smaller ponds, instead of smallish fish in our biggish pond (some, of course, keep going in two or even more ponds). To keep the latter two groups interested, and to inject a much-needed fillip into our system, new ideas are required and a chance for very good players who don't reach the top, to obtain something material out of the game. A handicap competition at the closed, a team handicap, or individual divisional championships—or what would you suggest?

It seems a pity that so many players disappear from the game on reaching the top or, if they carry on, have little to show for their efforts.

So we have an English Open Champion. Pete D'Arcy won the English International Veterans' Championship at Brighton; our success at top level is so rare that it is nice to be able to write of Peter's many successes up and down the country culminating in this great win.

LOCALS ABROAD

As reported briefly in the last "Digest," the men's team had an excellent win against Manchester, in the league. Both Pete D'Arcy and John Marshall, recorded good wins over Tony Boasman, and, along with John McNee, all three players beat Ian Walmsley; John McNee and Peter combined well to win the vital doubles sets.

The ladies have played three matches in the last six weeks, winning all three, but pride of place must go to their victory at Manchester. This has been a key fixture in the championships for many years, the last two encounters going to Manchester by 6 sets to 4. Even the presence of England No. 4, Sue Lisle, could not stop our titanic threesome of Brenda Williams, Barbara Kirkman and Sue Manning, from winning this one, 6 sets to 4.

By defeating Oldham 10-0, with Julie Black playing in place of Sue Manning, and also Blackpool 6-4, the team this time being Brenda, Barbara and Janet Rumjahn, two girls now lead the table with a maximum points rally of 18 from 4 matches.

In the match at Blackpool, the first set saw Barbara trailing by a game and 20-13, only to win the next 9 points, and the game 22-20, and then the third, against the home No. 1, Connie Ford (nee More), to give us a good start. In the last set, with the score at 5-4, Brenda beat Connie, also in the third, for a vital two points.

The Junior team suffered their first defeat at the hands of Crewe, when they lost by 6 sets to 4, Graeme Black making his city debut, in place of Tony O'Connor, who was involved in school exams.

At the last count Pete D'Arcy had won ten veterans' tournaments! In the first round of the Stiga English Club tournament, English Electric travelled to Horwich, beating their champions, R.M.I., 9-0.

The second round finds them at home to Little Lever C.C., Bolton champions, and a star-spangled line-up.

Paul Tsang (Liverpool Y.M.C.A.) one of our nicest and most improved players, lost in the final of the English University championship to Donald Parker, the Preston international. Paul beat last year's champion in the semi-final.

In the Ascot/Butterfly National Cup Competitions the men's team lost at home to Manchester in the Wilmott. Not surprisingly Manchester strengthened their team for this match, with the inclusion of Kevin Forshaw in place of Ian Walmsley.

John Marshall and John McNee both beat Tony Boasman, with John McNee also scoring a fine win over Kevin Forshaw 20, 21, 19.

Wally Allanson played in place of Peter D'Arcy, who was unavailable, turning in a very creditable performance. Selected reserve, Paul Tsang missed this one, as he had gone home to Hong Kong for a month's holiday.

In the J. M. Rose Bowl, Round 2, the Ladies beat Manchester 6-3 away, another victory, with three wins by Brenda, two for Barbara, and one for Sue. The Junior Boys beat Blackpool at home 5-0 in Round 2 of the Carter Cup. This turned out to be an easy win for Keith Williams, Neil Roberts and Tony O'Connor, and puts the boys into Round 3, where they will play either Preston or Huddersfield.

The Norman Cook Handicap Trophy is usually dominated by teams from the lower divisions and has, since its inception, given no joy to Liverpool. This season's draw was no exception when our team travelled to Nelson, and we had to give our opponents 8 start in each game. Our team of John McNee, Pete (The Open) D'Arcy, John Marshall and Brenda Williams, fought well, the match being in the balance right up to the final set when Dave Newton beat John Marshall. Pete played exceptionally well in beating Arthur Hartshorne 22-20, 19-21, 21-19, a very difficult player to beat even from scratch, and also defender Brian Weightman

21-19, 21-17, who was also beaten by John Marshall 21-23, 21-13, 21-17. Brenda Williams convincingly saw off Edna Harling 21-18, 21-17, but in the doubles with Peter, just failed to win the set that we had hoped would clinch the match.

The last item of news is perhaps our best item for many a year.

Pete D'Arcy made his 11th Veterans' title a real triumph as Peter won the English Open Veterans' Championship when in the final he beat G. Chapman (Surrey). It's nice to have an English champion around. I reckon Peter is our only post-war champion. Congratulations on a terrific performance.

Liverpool 5, Blackburn 5 (Oh! dear)
English Electric 6, Little Lever C.C. 3

DON DAVIES/J.A.L.

The Merseyside Open Tournament

November, 1974

Denis Neale retained his singles title at this season's Open Tournament when he defeated Alan Hydes in a closely contested final. Denis also took the Men's Doubles title once again, with Alan, their final opponents being Mike and Brian Johns.

Anita Stevenson became the new Women's Champion when she beat the top seed, Susan Lisle, in another exciting Final, and then Anita and Susan teamed up to retain their Doubles title with a good win over Karen Rogers and Mandy Mellor.

These results are, I expect, well known by now, and I would like to concentrate my remarks in this summary on the fortunes of our local players, whose results may not be quite so widely advertised. It was, perhaps, fortunate for these players that I found it possible to cancel the Friday night play and put all of them in the draw for the Saturday events.

Five locals had good wins in the first two rounds before losing to stronger opposition in Round 3. These were Brian Davey, Peter Lee, Paul Tsang, Paul Taylor (Bath Street), and Wally Allanson. Four players won their first event and then lost in Round 2. They were: John McNee, Peter D'Arcy, Neil Roberts and Keith Williams.

John Marshall lost in three games in the first round to Nigel Hallows, the Lancashire County first team player. In the Doubles, however, John teamed up with John McNee to record three good wins, including one over the Lancashire County pair, Nigel Hallows and Ian Smith, beating them 21-17 in the third game. Marshall and McNee then made their exit from this event when they faced Neale and Hydes.

Brian Davey with Keith Williams and Paul Tsang with Peter Lee, both won through one round but then, coincidentally, both pairs were eliminated in turn by the seeded pair, Desmond Douglas and Derek Munt, each in straight sets.

There was only one local player who kept our flag flying in the Women's Singles. This was Barbara Kirkman. She recorded three very good wins, including a two-straight defeat of Mandy Mellor and, in the Quarter Final, another two-straight defeat of Cynthia Waite. She then met Anita Stevenson in the Semi-Final where Barbara lost, 16 and 17.

Julie Black unfortunately had to meet Susan Lisle in the first round and predictably lost in two-straight games.

There were no local pairings in the Women's Doubles event, a sad reflection on the state of Women's table tennis in Liverpool.

The local interest in the Junior Boys' event centred on Keith Williams. He coasted through four rounds without dropping a set and then narrowly

lost to the eventual winner, Nigel Hallows, 27-25, 21-17. Neil Roberts and Geoffrey Maher both beat one opponent but then fell at the next hurdle.

In the Girls' event, Julie Black had comfortable wins in her first three rounds before losing to the young Yorkshire girl, Lynda Hrysko, in the semi-final. In the Final, Lynda lost to Kathy Cropper, of Fleetwood.

Five other local girls took part in this event, but only Jeannie Buchanan (Liverpool Jewish) managed to record one narrow win.

In the Veterans' event, George Smith lost to Derek Schofield and Peter D'Arcy lost to Terry Donlon. Both these game were Semi-Finals and the Final resulted in an anticipated win for top-seeded Derek Schofield.

So many people help in the running of our tournament that to mention all of them here would be impossible. There are some, however, I must name and these include friends who are not members of the Committee. For instance, the Table Stewards, Tony O'Sullivan, Terry Marsh and Bobby Roberts, who together with Alec Gould, must have lightened considerably the load of our Captain of Umpires, Jack McCaig. The six boys from New Heys School, who acted as runners, etc., throughout the day. The ladies, who worked hard in the Canteen under the capable charge of Mrs. Lil Upton, these being Mrs. Betty Black, Mrs. Doreen Yates and Miss Eileen Mansell. I must make special mention of my two most capable deputies, Ken Armson and Ken Black, who carried out the tiring work of documentation so accurately throughout the day, and also Ray Hebson's characteristic impeccable work on the Wall Charts.

A special thank you must be made to John McKim, who successfully negotiated the reinstatement of the Merseyside Tournament after its cancellation.

Many of you will have been told about the extra difficulty which had to be overcome at this year's tournament. During the late afternoon, the microphone ceased to function, but in spite of this, play continued and the time schedule was not seriously affected. I must thank Mr. George Yates, who initially had to cope with this situation, having taken over the job of announcer during my short absence.

My sincere thanks must be recorded to all these helpers and indeed to all other helpers whose names have unfortunately not been mentioned in this report.

BRIAN A. LEESON

(Hon. Referee).

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Letters to the Editor

16 Avolon Road,
Liverpool,
L12 9ER.
6th January, 1975.

The Editor,
"Table Tennis Digest,"
Liverpool & District League.

Dear Sir,

The League Management Committee has asked me to put in writing, for everyone's benefit, an explanation of the Expedite System. Apparently there have been arguments in certain clubrooms about this and the position needs to be made absolutely clear.

The questions I have been asked to answer are as follows: (a) When do you introduce the Expedite System? (b) Can you choose to introduce it or not? (c) Do you need to warn the players? (d) Who decides when to start the System? (e) How is it implemented?

I will take each of these questions in turn and endeavour to explain as clearly as possible.

(a) WHEN DO YOU INTRODUCE THE EXPEDITE SYSTEM?

If a game is unfinished fifteen minutes after it has begun, the rest of that game and the remaining games of the match shall proceed under the Expedite System. This means that if, for example, the first game of a best-of-three match has not finished after fifteen minutes, the rest of that game, plus **ALL** the second game and, if it goes to three, **ALL** the third game must be played in entirety under the Expedite System.

(b) CAN YOU CHOOSE TO INTRODUCE IT OR NOT?

You have no choice whatsoever. Expedite must automatically be introduced after fifteen minutes. You have no right to decide that you will not use the system.

(c) DO YOU NEED TO WARN THE PLAYERS?

There is no need to warn the players before the match. The Expedite System is included in the Basic Laws of Table Tennis, which all players ought to read and understand. Ignorance of the Law is no excuse.

(d) WHO DECIDES WHEN TO START THE SYSTEM?

Officially, the lapse of the first fifteen minutes shall be noted by a timekeeper acting under the direction of the umpire. You will have seen this in operation at any of our Tournaments, County Matches, etc.

In a League Match, however, it is invariably the umpire himself who keeps a note of the time, although strictly, it ought to be another person.

The Timekeeper/Umpire shall interrupt play by calling "Stop" when the fifteen minutes have elapsed. The Umpire, play having been interrupted, shall call "Let" and shall notify the players that the remainder of the game and in fact the match, will be played under the Expedite System.

(e) HOW IS IT IMPLEMENTED?

Play, having been interrupted to announce the introduction of the Expedite System, shall then be restarted immediately without any interval. Each player shall serve one service in turn and, if the service and twelve following strokes of the serving player or pair be returned by good returns of the receiving player, the server shall lose the point.

If the interruption occurs during a rally, the game shall be re-started by service from the player who served in the rally that was interrupted. If the interruption occurs between rallies, the game shall be re-started by service from the player who received in the preceding rally.

Thereafter the return strokes of the receiving player or pair shall be counted by an official other than the umpire, designated for this purpose, the Stroke Counter. The numbers should be announced out loud, distinctly and clearly, but not shouted.

If play continues after thirteen good returns have been made, the umpire shall call "Stop" and give the point against the server, in favour of the receiver.

I hope this full explanation of the Expedite System is clear to everyone. If there are any difficult points which need further discussion, I will be pleased to hear about them and I will try to answer them. I can assure all your readers that the information I have given is absolutely correct and the System has been implemented in all International Matches, County Matches and Tournaments in which I have officiated. Also, incidentally, the relevant facts were confirmed for me recently at a National Umpires' and Referees' Conference by no less a person than Mr. Geoff James, who is the Chairman of the National Umpires' and Referees' Committee.

Yours sincerely and expeditiously,

BRIAN LEESON.

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Divisional Notes

DIVISION 1

| | P | W | L | D | Pts |
|--------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|
| L'pool Y.M. | 16 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 139 |
| Eng. Elec..... | 16 | 13 | 3 | 0 | 121 |
| Rafters | 16 | 14 | 2 | 0 | 119 |
| Wav. Lab. | 16 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 90 |
| Palmerston | 16 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 89 |
| Trinity | 14 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 77 |
| Trinity 'A' | 16 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 73 |
| Bath St. | 16 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 70 |
| Eng. Elec. 'A' .. | 14 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 70 |
| Rafters 'A' | 15 | 5 | 10 | 0 | 65 |
| Sefton | 16 | 2 | 12 | 2 | 51 |
| Colonsay | 15 | 3 | 10 | 2 | 43 |
| Wav. Lab. 'A' .. | 14 | 3 | 11 | 0 | 39 |
| L'pool Y.M. 'A' .. | 16 | 1 | 15 | 0 | 34 |

Last season Wavertree Labour 'B' and Waterloo Park were relegated with 49 and 32 points respectively. This season whoever goes down will surpass 49 points and must surely mean more equality in strength throughout the first division. From the current league table it will be any two from four. Sefton, after a good start, due to their new acquisition, John Fennah, have now been caught up by three other teams. Colonsay's team is now rather more settled than at the start of the season, and have scored wins over relegation rivals Wavertree Labour 'A' 6-4, and Y.M.C.A. 'A' 7-3, Chaloner and Kirkman winning all their singles in both games. Barbara Kirkman also scored another two wins in a 5-5 draw with Bath St.

At the other end of the division, a two-horse race sees Y.M.C.A. 7 points clear from Eng. Elec. It would be nice to see Y.M.C.A.'s name go on the first division championship, but this will depend on Eng. Elec's power to sign on any more "stars."

Paul Tsang is leading Y.M.C.A.'s title hopes, and must surely play himself into the present town team. Of the cards I have, he has been beaten only once, and that was by Liverpool champion, John McNee, 21-16, 21-23, 21-23.

Rafters and Wavertree Labour look like coming home third and fourth, respectively. They are taking useful points off the top two and are beating teams beneath them fairly well. One exception, though, was Eng. Elec. 'A' v

Wavertree Labour, the score was 8-2 and Smith and Tierney were the sole point-savers for Wavertree.

The newly-promoted teams, Trinity 'A' and Rafters 'A' seem set to take a mid-table position and they have no need to fear relegation. Palmerston, Trinity, Eng. Elec. 'A' and Bath St. look like finishing in the same position as the previous two years. Eng. Elec.'s gamble last year to play Alec Gill in the first division is now paying off and I think his hard practising is now bringing him results.

The close scores of 21-18, 30-28, earned Neil Roberts a very fine win over our recently successful town player, John Marshall. This is Roberts' first season in the first division and another junior to join him although it depends who turns up for his first team, is Liverpool junior, T. O'Connor. In the Readman Cup he added R. Bagot (Trinity) to G. Smith's (Y.M.C.A.) scalp which he took at the Lancashire Closed.

At the other end of the scale (pardon the phrase), Bill Harris, Trinity 'A', a veteran now for a couple of years, has found a new lease of life since moving from Y.M.C.A. three years ago, and then this season falling from Trinity's first team to their second. P. Lee, Alec Bryce, R. Williams and B. Davey will no doubt vouch for me when I say that he is very awkward and difficult to play against, but keep it going, Bill!

The Readman Cup shows the top two in the league being kept apart up to the semi-final stage. They are joined by 1973 finalists, Trinity, and their biggest rivals in the league, Trinity 'A'. Naturally the Trinity club hope their two teams are drawn against each other in the semis, thus ensuring one team in the final. If the draw does go in Trinity's favour I expect Trinity to go through, though I'll bet Alan Chase will have something to say about that.

Finally, I can see Eng. Elec., 'A' having a busy New Year, as they seem to be three games adrift of most other teams. Could it be

that score cards are being hoarded or collected by team captains like rare coins. If you think that this article is a load of drivel, please, first concede the fact that at least I have had a go. Happy New Year all.

ERIC HARDMAN.

DIVISION 2

| | P | W | L | D | Pts |
|-------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|
| Bath St. 'A' | 14 | 13 | 1 | 0 | 101 |
| Colonsay 'B' | 15 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 100 |
| Colonsay 'A' | 14 | 12 | 2 | 0 | 91 |
| Eng. Elec. 'B' .. | 15 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 91 |
| Beauclair | 15 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 86 |
| Rafters 'B' | 16 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 82 |
| Trinity 'B' | 15 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 80 |
| Elec. Supply | 15 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 79 |
| Waterloo Pk. | 15 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 70 |
| Bath St. 'B' | 14 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 69 |
| Police | 15 | 5 | 10 | 0 | 69 |
| L'pool Y.M. 'B'.. | 12 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 39 |
| Wav. Lab. 'B' .. | 15 | 0 | 12 | 3 | 35 |
| L'pool Y.M. 'C'.. | 14 | 0 | 13 | 1 | 28 |

The positions at the top of the league are far from resolved at this, the half-way stage of the season. The only certainty is that Bath St. 'A' will win the division comfortably. Their team of Val Franco, Chris Coogan, Alan Walton and Alec Gould, have virtually clinched the title by beating their nearest rivals, Colonsay 'A' 3-2, Eng. Elec. 'B' 9-1, also removing Colonsay 'B' from the cup 5-5, 8-2. Their league match has still to be played. Val Franco has lost only one match to date, to Alan Waddington, his clubmate. Well done, Alan. There are few steadier players about than Chris and Alan and with Alec showing a new lease of life, they will be worthy champions.

The three teams above will probably fight it out for second place, with Beauclair as outsiders. Dave Williams has been outstanding for Colonsay 'A' and with John O'Sullivan, Les French and Ron Evans to back him up, the team is hard to beat. This team has created a new record, containing three coaches. Poor Ron, he get too much advice. They defeated Colonsay 'B' 6-4. Tony O'Connor was ill but Dave Piper beat John and Ron and Alan Guy scored a good double over Dave and myself, both deuce in the third, to save the day. Alan's results have improved considerably with his anti-loop bat. Colonsay 'A' beat Eng. Elec. 'B' 7-3 by

winning seven singles, but came unstuck against Beauclair 4-6 with Dave Williams absent. This match was repeated a few nights later in the cup. This time Colonsay were at full strength and won 6-4. Frank Murphy was outstanding in both matches. The vital set was Ron Evans' win over Mick Allen, who had annihilated him 15-9 a few nights earlier. Colonsay 'B' have a team of great variety. Tony O'Connor is a great prospect for the future and only a few have had the pleasure of beating him to date. With only one season in the fourth division behind him, Tony has done remarkably well. Dave Piper's topspin and Harry Nelson's chop add to Alan Guy's anti-loop to make this an awkward team to play against. They had a 5-5 draw with Eng. Elec. 'B' and had an excellent 8-2 win over Beauclair, with Harry Nelson beating Murphy and Birch. English Electric 'B' have kept in touch with the two Colonsay teams, largely due to 9-1 wins over Electric Supply (without Fitzsimmons), Police and Rafters 'B', a feat which they will find very difficult to repeat. Only Bath St. 'A' have managed scores like these against these teams. The E.E. 'B' players, George Bradley, Brian Crolley, Billy Ellard and Alan Jones, have all won their fair share of sets, so theirs is a real team effort. Beauclair have welcomed back Harold Wilcox after a few years' absence and have Frank Murphy in excellent form this season. Mick Allen can raise his game to great heights, but is inconsistent. A special word about Ted Birch is called for. He can be relied upon to be a tenacious, fair but friendly opponent and to my mind he is the perfect sportsman. Take a bow, Ted, you deserve it. You, too, Frank.

It is pointless discussing the middle of the table teams—there aren't any. The team fourth from the bottom, involved in relegation, could easily finish fourth from the top. Avoiding relegation is going to be a real headache for all the rest of the teams. The two Y.M.C.A. teams and Wavertree Labour 'B' have no hope, due to loss of players from their respective clubs and are only third division teams. As I see it, the club most likely to join them is Waterloo Park or

possibly Bath St. 'B'. Alan Reid is as good as ever but Jim Martin, Dave Olsen and Tony Delamere don't pick up enough sets for safety. Good wins over Ron Evans and Noel Fagan, Jim Noel had excellent doubles over Murphy and Birch and also Bradley and Crolley. Bath St. 'B' have a better balanced team but lack a powerful player to win consistently at No. 1. Paul Taylor could improve sufficiently to make all the difference. John Letch (anti-loop) is always difficult to beat and had a great double against their 'A' team, beating Walton and Coogan. A 6-4 win over Eng. Elec. 'B' shows their ability and the problem of avoiding relegation this year.

The other teams involved in the struggle: Electric Supply, Police, Trinity 'B' and Rafter's 'B' are all very experienced and don't give much away. Barry McLeod is having a great season for Police, with his league record bettered only by Val Franco. Against my team he beat both Dave Williams and myself. I'm not such a good "scalp" for most players, but for Barry it's the first time after many years of trying. Well done, Barry, especially after losing the first game 10. Electric Supply are a good side with Keith Fitzsimmons and Ernie Owens playing, but Keith's appearances have been relatively rare, so the team is lower down than usual. Dave Williams had a good double over these two. The week before Keith lost both sets to John Higham and Dave Newton, of Trinity 'B'. These two also got doubles against Colonsay 'A'. Tom Killip had a good win over Chris Coogan. Dave Wilson completes a very competitive team. Rafter's 'B' can turn out a useful side but their form is erratic. Brian Jennings beat Barry McLeod twice in their cup matches with Police, with Rafter's winning after a drawn first match.

Individual performances worthy of note, not already mentioned above: Shahidul Alam (Y.M. 'C') beat Newton (Trinity), Jennings (Rafter's); Brian Aldred (Bath St.) beat Alec Gould, Billy Ellard and Al Guy; Harry Nelson beat Birch and Murphy, McLeod and Jones; Ray Graves (Rafter's) beat Birch, Allen; Barry McLeod beat Alan Reid 11, 16. Ken Armson for

exceeding 11 points in one game v Rafter's 'B'.

Will team captains please note that as they play Colonsay 'A' I will be expecting a dossier of information about their team for inclusion in future notes. Make a note of any good performances and unexpected defeats in your team. These, along with averages and matches of particular quality or having exciting finishes are good "Digest" material.

LES FRENCH.

DIVISION 3A

| | P | W | L | D | Pts |
|-------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|
| L'pool Jewish .. | 14 | 12 | 2 | 0 | 104 |
| Police 'A' | 16 | 11 | 4 | 1 | 98 |
| Vagabonds 'A' .. | 16 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 91 |
| Old Swan | 11 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 89 |
| Beauclair 'A' .. | 16 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 83 |
| Bath St. 'C' | 13 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 81 |
| Trinity 'D' | 13 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 74 |
| Maghull | 14 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 73 |
| Cadwa 'A' | 14 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 66 |
| Eng. Elec. 'D' .. | 15 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 58 |
| Crawfords | 14 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 52 |
| Wav. Lab. 'C' .. | 15 | 2 | 13 | 0 | 46 |
| Knotty Ash | 14 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 39 |
| Bedford House .. | 13 | 2 | 11 | 0 | 36 |

Since the last issue Old Swan have strengthened their team with the re-signing of Keith Kinnear. This brings together again the team which swept them into Division 2, and will probably turn the promotion race into a comfortable win for Old Swan instead of the expected battle with Liverpool Jewish.

Police 'A' are still there, but have thrown away their chance with some very unpredictable results. Trinity 'D' trounced them 7-3, only Alan Woods (2) and George Wright winning for Police. Alan won one set 25-27 in the third after having lost the 2nd 21-6. The following week saw another upset when Crawfords took an immediate liking to the new premises and went away with a 6-4 win, which included doubles for Ken Jones and Stan Harvey. Stan has returned to the fold and is turning in some good results. Eddie Cameron assures me that there are no thoughts of relegation at Crawfords, only promotion!! Against Liverpool Jewish, who were without John Hodges, Police gave a better account of themselves with a 7-3 win.

Trinity 'D', who I foolishly said

would probably avoid relegation, are busy making my suggestion look a bit ridiculous. This team entered the league a couple of seasons back as St. John's and presumably have some arrangement that they stay together. They have had a run of good wins which include 6-4's against Beauclair 'A' and Vagabonds 'A'. At the time of writing they have not lost a match since early in the season. They obviously have a very good chance of finishing in the top six. Bath St. 'C' are another team trying to prove me wrong, and look like succeeding. They had a very creditable draw with Vagabonds 'A', eight sets being decided in the 3rd and only lost 6-4 to Police 'A'. They now look certain to finish in the top half if they can maintain this form and I will probably be in the market for a new "crystal ball".

Of the top teams only Old Swan have continued to show real form and since their early season defeat by Liverpool Jewish 6-4, they have had a string of really big wins. As a result they are now well placed to take the lead when they catch up on fixtures.

Beauclair are not producing very good results. They lost to Jewish 7-3; Vagabonds 'A' 6-4; Crawfords (they're there again) 7-3; Old Swan 8-2 and managed a draw with Elec. 'D'. Their best win was 9-1 against Wavertree Labour 'C'. This pushes them well down the table and possibly into the bottom half.

Both Crawfords and Electric 'D' have firmly established themselves as steady, middle of the table teams, Electric in particular having a much better season than last. They have beaten Crawfords 6-4 (I wonder what that makes them?), Cadwa 'A' 6-4, Wavertree 'C' 7-3; drew with Beauclair and managed four sets off Bath St. Crawfords have also made their mark with the 6-4 win against Police 'A' and a 7-3 against Beauclair 'A' and a draw against Maghull. Both teams must be well satisfied with their first half results and are probably hoping for even better things in the second half.

While the top lot battle on for the very doubtful privilege of getting "hammered" in the 2nd division next season, the battle for 3rd division survival goes on at

the bottom. With probable early contenders Crawfords, Electric 'D' and Cadwa 'A' having pulled themselves well clear, the battle has narrowed down to three, these being Bedford House, Knotty Ash and Wavertree 'C'. At the moment there is very little between them and just a couple of good results could pull any one of them clear. Bedford House showed what they are capable of when beating Crawfords 7-3, with H. Tan winning two at No. 1. He had another double when they took another four valuable sets from Vagabonds 'A'. Knotty Ash may appear to have the weakest team but still manage to keep pulling in the sets. They took three from Bath Street, with Marie Gaul their only singles winner, beating Cyril Smith 19 in the 3rd; they managed to take both doubles. They took another three sets off Trinity 'D' with Tony Leigh getting a double and John Ainsworth one, had a draw with Cadwa 'A' and took two sets off Old Swan, with Leigh and Ainsworth again doing their stuff. Winning valuable sets from these teams must give them heart and if they keep it up the chance will still be there.

Only Wavertree Labour 'C' have failed to justify themselves and have in the process lost to Bedford and Knotty Ash. Far more effort and endeavour is needed if they are to pull clear. To my regret, all I seem to write about lately is the poor showing and relegation prospects of Wavertree Labour teams. This obviously gives me little pleasure. I know we will come good again, but for me personally, it is a sad sight to see us struggling in three divisions.

KEN ARMSON.

DIVISION 3B

| | P | W | L | D | Pts |
|------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|
| Linacre | 16 | 13 | 1 | 2 | 118 |
| Palmerston 'A' | 13 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 112 |
| L'pool Jew. 'A' | 15 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 88 |
| Vagabonds | 14 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 86 |
| Eng. Elec. 'C' | 13 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 86 |
| Old Swan 'A' | 15 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 72 |
| Trinity 'C' | 15 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 71 |
| Eng. Elec. 'E' | 15 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 63 |
| Colonsay 'C' | 15 | 3 | 10 | 2 | 60 |
| Rafters 'C' | 15 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 58 |
| Cadwa | 13 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 58 |
| Police 'B' | 15 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 55 |
| Waterloo Pk. 'A' | 14 | 3 | 11 | 0 | 49 |
| Orrell | 16 | 2 | 12 | 2 | 44 |

At this stage of the season, Palmerston 'A' and Linacre have established a clear lead over all rivals, with their clash ending 8-2 in favour of Palmerston 'A'.

Doing their best to keep up with the top two are English Electric 'C', Vagabonds and Jewish 'A', all on the eighty-odd point mark.

It appears that in the last issue I upset Waterloo Park 'A', tipping them as candidates for relegation, but looking at the table as it stands now, and just having been beaten by them, I think they will finish around the middle (sorry lads).

The relegation battle is between Orrell, Cadwa and Police 'B'. Orrell fought a good draw with Electric 'E' and lost 4-6 to Police 'B' (L. Walsh 2). Police 'B' in turn drew with Cadwa (D. Oakes 2).

With a bit more consistency, Old Swan 'A' are a team that could move up the table. They beat Orrell 9-1 and Rafter's 'C' 9-1, but then lost to Colonsay 3-7.

Excellent wins by (dare I say it) veteran Brian Leeson over P. Lewis 21-13, 21-9 and by R. Robinson over Julie Black 19-21, 21-19, 21-15 plus a good double by I. Read, was not enough to prevent English Electric beating Colonsay by 6-4.

Some successes.

I. Christian 23-21 in the third versus R. Stevenson (Orrell) and A. Gillespie (Trinity 'C') 22-20 in the third versus Griffin (Old Swan).

Teams from this division through to the last eight in the Hyde Cup are Palmerston 'A', Linacre, Eng. Electric 'C', Vagabonds and Jewish 'A'.

Back to the league. Most of the teams in the bottom half of the division are very evenly matched, and it is possible that the relegation issues won't be decided till the final couple of matches. If one of the bottom teams could string together 2 or 3 wins, they could escape the drop. I think the safety figure will be about 70 points.

It is very difficult for me to give an accurate account of matches played, not having actually witnessed them, but one match that I will remember for a long time to come, was one that I was privileged to have taken part in. I am, of

course, referring to the Hyde Cup quarter-final tie between English Electric 'C' and Jewish 'A'. It took place on a Saturday night for reasons which I won't go into now.

I won the first, beating R. Craddock 15-21, 18-21. Julie Black and Gerry Richardson were next on the table with Julie winning 21-10, 11-21, 21-16. One set all.

Suddenly the door opens and in walks the Jewish first team of Morey, Hodges, Henshaw and Hughes, fresh from their quarter-final win over Electric 'D' earlier in the week. They had obviously come to run the rule over their next possible opponents.

David Morey gets the drinks in, and things start "swingin'".

Wally Sill versus Roy Lussey and its first game to Roy 23-21. Second game to Wally 21-16. Wally mops his brow, he knows he's in a game. Memories go back to earlier in the season when we fought a draw and Wally beat Roy easily. Things are different now, and Roy's forehand is working well. Ten-nine, third game and Wally is glad of a breather. Twelve all, fifteen all and deuce. Twenty all point to Wally and Roy serves off the table. Game to Wally and Electric take the lead 2-1 after a fantastic game.

The fourth game between Brian Cullen and Mike Power was their third meeting of the season, with Brian having won the previous two quite comfortably. This time it was different, Mike winning 22-20, 22-20.

Two sets all and the excitement is building up. Craddock and Sill send out for scotch and soda. Its brown-mixed and pints of Tartan on the Jewish side of the room.

Richardson beats Craddock in the fifth 21-11, 22-20 and its 3 sets to 2 for Jewish. Half-time comes and we need the break for various reasons.

It's 4 sets to 2 for Jewish after the first doubles between Brian and Wally and Power and Lussey, with the victors winning 21-17, 21-16.

In walks Jack Lambert and Ken Black and the spectators then number about twenty.

The second doubles between myself and Richardson and Black

and Craddock, and we win 21-19, 23-21 for our first doubles win for four matches. Gerry makes a comment that he "carried" me—he was probably right.

Five sets to two and we are nearly there, so we think, but the drama has only just begun.

Brian Cullen against Roy Lussey, and Brian "walks" the first 21-6, probably because of the effect the third brown-mixed is having on Roy. But Roy is nothing if not a fighter and takes the second 21-18. Seventeen against twelve for Roy in the third and he looks home and dry, but he relaxes and Brian uses his experience to its fullest advantage, levels the score, then runs out 21-19. Five sets to three and the tension is unbearable.

The battle of the bunny rabbits next with Warren Sill and Warren Davies in a dour struggle. Wally wins the first 21-7 and I take the second 21-13 with memories coming back to me of fifteen years ago when I came sixteenth in the world-famous Butlin Cup. Wally wins the third 21-18 and its 5 sets to 4.

This is the World Cup, the Grand National and the Boat Race rolled into one.

The ale still flows and the final set begins. Julie Black versus Mike Power. Julie won their last meeting, but Mike promises revenge. Julie wins the first 21-18, and Mike the second 21-16. Can Mike take us into the semis or can Julie make us have to go through all this again. (Kenneth Wolstenholme would have a coronary commentating this one). Ten-nine ends, and its anybody's game. Fourteen to twelve to Power and a double bounce. Julie doesn't like it. The umpire hesitates then gives the point to Mike. Fifteen to fourteen and I am a nervous wreck.

Then suddenly its all over. Mike Power punches the air, he's won 21-14. Jewish 'A' are in the semi-final and a terrific evening has come to an end.

I am sorry if I have dwelled too much on this game, but it was certainly something to remember. Anyway, I promise I won't mention my own club again for the rest of the season.

Incidentally, don't be surprised if you see me in your clubroom in the near future to report a vital promotion or relegation battle.

WARREN DAVIES.

DIVISION 4A

| | P | W | L | D | Pts |
|----------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|
| Bath St. 'D' | 14 | 13 | 1 | 0 | 119 |
| Palmerston 'B' . . . | 12 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 109 |
| Maghull 'A' | 13 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 86 |
| Rafters 'D' | 13 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 72 |
| Eng. Elec. 'F' . . . | 12 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 63 |
| Cadwa 'B' | 13 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 62 |
| Police 'C' | 13 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 56 |
| APH Linnets | 14 | 5 | 9 | 0 | 54 |
| Stanley House . . . | 12 | 3 | 9 | 0 | 50 |
| Polytechnic | 9 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 49 |
| Woolton 'A' | 13 | 1 | 12 | 0 | 23 |
| Barker & Dobson | 13 | 1 | 12 | 0 | 17 |

Well, it's now obvious that Palmerston are going to prove too good for the rest of the division. I thought Bath St. might have given them a pretty close game but in the event they lost 9-1, the sole winner being Dave Cunningham with a 21-17, 21-14 success over Ken Davies. Woolton had a night to remember with a 6-4 win over APH Linnets—their first win for over two years. Single wins by Colin Tunstall over George Morgan and Steve Tones over Peter Meyer and a combined doubles win by them over the same two Linnet players, gave them the three sets needed to add to three walkovers conceded by Linnets. Police forced a good draw away to Rafters, including both the doubles. Eileen Mansell was the only player on either side to win both singles.

K. Hartley (Cadwa) had a good night at Bath St., winning his team's only two sets, beating Brian and Dave Cunningham. Polytechnic seem to have a really good player in D. Harrison. He doesn't appear to play regularly but showed his class with wins such as 21-9, 21-7 over Colin Fyles (Eng. Elec) and 21-15, 21-17 against Alan Smethurst (Maghull).

Colin had a tiring night at Linnets against the Meyer brothers, losing to myself 19-21, 23-21, 21-23 then beating Peter 15-21, 21-15, 21-19 with a good pull-back from 15-19 in the third.

Hard luck story of the month must be the two defeats K. Brew

(Stanley House) suffered at Maghull. He lost 25-27, 24-22, 20-22 to Stan Clarke and 20-22, 21-10, 22-24 to Frank Patterson.

One game I would have liked to see was between Betty Black (Eng. Elec.) and Pauline Lawrenson (Rafters). Betty ran out the winner 21-16, 16-21, 21-18 and I am told it was magnificent stuff.

Barker and Dobson are having a rather bad time of it this season and look like finishing in the wooden spoon position, which I find a bit surprising, because they have not really bad players in the team. I hope to see them improve in the second half, as I feel it only needs a bit more push for them to win a few sets.

How about this for a crazy score in the Bath St. v Polytechnic match in the doubles in which the Cunninghams beat A. Anderson and S. Parke 19-21, 21-6, 21-2.

Some close games now:—Sue Anderson (Police) v Peter Meyer (Linnets) 21-17, 11-21, 24-22; Tony Hain (Police) v Norman Wakefield 21-13, 20-22, 25-23; Jack Power (Cadwa) v Stan Clarke (Maghull) 22-20, 17-21, 21-19; Dave Smith (Linnets) v Chris Roberts (Rafters) 16-21, 23-21, 19-21; and Dave Cunningham v A. Anderson 22-24, 21-14, 23-21. Only sole winners not previously mentioned have been Colin Pratt (Eng. Elec.) v P. Morgan (Palmerston) 13-21, 22-20, 21-17, and a doubles Les Travis and Fred O'Sullivan (B. & D.) over D. Harrison and P. Roberts (Poly) 21-13, 21-15.

I hear one player in this division has taken up the cry of calling his opponent "A bloody fisherman" every time a net cord is scored against him. Perhaps he should realise it takes skill to keep the ball at the right height and anyway we are all angling to win our matches and perhaps we think his scalp is a particularly good catch. Anyway, next time we play him perhaps we should just try to edge a win!

Finally, a belated wish for a happy and successful New Year.

BARRY MEYER.



DIVISION 4B

| | P | L | D | Pts |
|-----------------|----|----|----|-----|
| Woolton | 15 | 13 | 1 | 112 |
| APH Linnets 'A' | 14 | 11 | 2 | 109 |
| Bath St. 'E' | 12 | 11 | 0 | 98 |
| Eng. Elec. 'G' | 14 | 8 | 4 | 88 |
| St. Hugh's | 13 | 8 | 5 | 80 |
| Trinity 'E' | 14 | 6 | 5 | 74 |
| Rafters 'E' | 14 | 7 | 5 | 72 |
| Colonsay 'D' | 13 | 6 | 7 | 54 |
| Knotty Ash 'A' | 15 | 2 | 13 | 0 |
| Orrell 'A' | 16 | 3 | 12 | 1 |
| Police 'D' | 13 | 3 | 8 | 2 |
| Maghull 'B' | 14 | 4 | 10 | 0 |
| Cadwa 'C' | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Vagabonds 'B' | 16 | 0 | 15 | 1 |

Having met most of you by the half-way stage, it is nice to see so many young players in this division. At last the bat and ball seems to be making a come-back over the guitar and pop music. Let us hope the present trend continues. Older players — why not lend the youngsters a hand? Sometimes giving them a few tips can be more fun than playing yourselves.

The New Year kicked off with Linnets 'A' losing their hundred per cent record by going down 6-4 to Bath St. 'E'. Linnets won both the doubles and John Gaskarth added his two to make their four points. Although Bath St. are now the only undefeated side in the division, this proves nothing, as they are still trailing Linnets by a few points, with the same number of matches played. The loss of Kevin Dyer to a higher team also puts more pressure on Messrs. Flanagan, Stewart, Jane and new boy Eugene Berger (still 100%) in the Bath St. team.

The Woolton club is also still in the race. With Bill Hargreaves giving them a certain two points every match, this must give his colleagues a lot of confidence.

After a late start Cadwa are catching up fast and look like being right up with the leaders by the season's end. Having used 5 players in their first two matches (R. Smith, K. Hartley, K. Guy, S. Power and G. Caren) Cadwa have so far beaten Orrell A' 8-2 and Vagabonds 'B' 9-1.

Some impressive scores are coming in from the English Electric 'G' team, with the results of Phil Thompson and Dave Money Jr., standing out. A recent draw

with Trinity pulled out the best in both sides. Six of the sets went to three, and were only decided in the last couple of points.

Joan Monaghan, of Knotty Ash, has been giving some of our top players a fright. Her power drives on both wings have taken John Gaskarth and Dave Money to three, and she has had good wins over Colin Flanagan and M. Elson (Woolton). A good double by Joan against Vagabonds, helped her side to a 7-3 win on the Queens Drive club's table.

With Fred Price sweeping almost all before him, the Rafters Juniors are holding a respectable place in the league. Messrs. Roberts, Maher and Kelly are doing well under his inspired example. Recent wins against Vagabonds, Orrell and Knotty Ash prove this—but where were you, Fred, when your team went down 10-0 to Bath St.?

The inclusion of L. Harper and B. Phillips has stiffened up the bottom half of the Orrell team. Along with D. Jones and R. Stevenson they now look like staying out of trouble.

One side in our Division must think I am a detective. By not filling in the bottom line of their score cards they leave no clues as to their whereabouts in the League Table. However, Sherlock Cameron, our record keeper, has announced that an arrest is imminent—the culprit is lurking somewhere in the Police team.

Heard the one about a British Ball that is currently orbiting our tables?

Rumour has it that it is so misshapen the makers are thinking of calling it the three-star Quassimodo!

TED JANE.

DIVISION 5A

| | P | W | L | D | Pts |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|
| Fire Service | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 105 |
| P.O. Panto | 11 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 83 |
| L'pool Jew. 'B' . . . | 10 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 79 |
| Police 'F' | 12 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 73 |
| L'pool Jew. 'C' . . . | 11 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 56 |
| Maghull 'C' | 10 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 48 |
| Trinity 'H' | 11 | 5 | 6 | 0 | 48 |
| Crawfords 'A' . . . | 11 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 47 |
| L'pool Jew. 'E' . . . | 12 | 3 | 9 | 0 | 39 |
| Barker & Dob. 'A' . | 10 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 21 |
| Trinity 'I' | 12 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 11 |

Despite a late start, the Fire Brigade boys are certainly showing a hot pace. The only breakthrough in a series of 10-0 victories was a 7-3 win over Liverpool Jewish 'B', Goldring 2 and Overend being the 3-star winners, although Bill Davies nearly made it 4, losing 21-17, 18-21, 21-23 to Ashley. These two teams must be our two promotion favourites; our third favourites, Post Office, could only squeeze a 21-16, 19-21, 24-22 Hayes win over Bird, of Fire Brigade, which must give the latter a firm grip on the top.

Rudnick 3 and Green 2 were the point winners for Liverpool Jewish 'C' in an exciting draw with Crawfords 'A' (Brown, A. 2) who found the going harder against Maghull 'C', who had two good wins apiece from Gill and Gibson in an excellent 6-4 win. Despite two excellent wins from Liz Faragher, Jewish 'E' went down 7-3 to Trinity 'H', Sanders and Tobin winning 5 sets between them.

In the wooden spoon battle, Jones, T., of Trinity 'I', saved his side from a whitewash, beating R. Thomas, Barker & Dobsons 'A' 18-21, 21-15, 22-20. A good nine for Barkers, but a good performance by Trinity's captain, Dickinson (both his games to three) and his boys, who battle on despite the tough going.

Police 'F' beat Maghull 'C' (Gill) 9-1, but six of the games went to three. Wood really fought against Spedding 19-21, 22-20, 17-21, and Tulip 19-21, 21-17, 19-21; a fighting captain—that's for sure. Barker & Dobson's 'A' 10-0 to Crawfords with Tasher losing to Smith 21-15, 11-21, 19-21—hard luck. Glenys Hulland (Trinity 'I') beat Gibson (Maghull) 10-21, 21-19, 21-18; Thomas and Tasker (B. & D.) beat Jeannie Buchanan and Marie Newton (Jewish 'E') 19-21, 19-21, 21-15; these were their side's lone winners, as was Rimmer (Trinity 'I') against Jewish 'C'.

At the time of writing all our 100% men are from Fire Brigade—Sherbourne, Davies and Cullen (but only a just here, a close win 21-19, 17-21, 21-19 over Wood (Maghull)). But the best record to date, for me, is Overend (Jewish 'B') never having missed a game

and lost one, closely followed by Sherburn (T.B.) mixed one and lost one.

JACK LAMBERT.

DIVISION 5B

| | P | W | L | D | Pts |
|-------------------|----|----|---|---|-----|
| Stanley Hse. 'A' | 14 | 11 | 3 | 0 | 91 |
| Palmerston 'C' | 11 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 88 |
| Police 'E' | 11 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 80 |
| Eng. Elec. 'H' | 12 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 64 |
| Fazak. Hospital.. | 9 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 60 |
| Trinity 'F' | 11 | 5 | 6 | 0 | 59 |
| Fazak. Hosp. 'A' | 11 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 45 |
| L'pool Jew. 'D' | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 45 |
| Trinity 'G' | 12 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 41 |
| Colonsay 'E' | 11 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 33 |
| St. Katherine's | 11 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 28 |
| Rafters 'F' | 10 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 16 |

Two local derbies are first to catch the eye. Hulm, who is having a fine season, and Annette Cross lead Trinity 'F' to victory over their 'G' team with Walker and Griffiths getting the latter's two points. In the local youth derby between Colonsay 'E' and English Electric 'H' the latter only lost one game, Paul Chaloner beating Donna Hunter 15-21, 21-18, 21-13, breaking his duck.

The wins of Stanley House included Trinity's 'F'—Williams, C. beating Pedder 21-17, 22-24, 21-19; Jewish 'D', St. Katherine's (Chujor 2 wins) and close rivals, Police 'E' (Lawson 3 good wins), Williams, C. had a 100% record in these games, but then a funny thing happened on the way to Fazakerley Hospital. I don't know what it was but only Ray Daikin arrived and won his two—wot, no doubles!?!

A Marie Lupton double was not sufficient to save her side from a 6-4 defeat in the title battle against Police 'E'. Heaque's two sets clinching the game. Ricky Smith, with two sets, was the Colonsay 'E' hero when they registered their first draw against Trinity 'G' (Walker 2) and followed this with a win over St. Katherine's. Fazakerley Hospital did well to get a draw at Police, thanks to Dawson's 2 wins, and Heaque was there again with 2. I warned you about him last season.

Fazakerley 'A' (Lloyd and Sumner 3 apiece) had a good 7-3 win at Eng. Electric 'H'. A tough

night for Jeff Hunter, losing his singles 20-22 to Lloyd and 21-23 to Sumner in the third, and his doubles 19 in the third. At Trinity 'F' they in turn had a good 7-3 win with captain Kevin Parker winning his three and having a good season. Rafters 'F' came away with a surprise draw against Fazakerley 'A' (J. Gedling 2) Robert J.L. winning his usual two plus the doubles with Lever.

Swann (Colonsay 'E') was the lone singles winner against Stanley House and Palmerston 'C', Cheng and Sue Hughes doing a similar job for Electric against Palmerston and Police. Southworth and Walker (Trinity 'G') beat Williams and Brew (Stanley House) 13-21, 21-19, 21-19 an excellent, if solitary win.

At the time of writing Heaque (Police 'E') is our only 100% man, but Hulm (Trinity 'F') Williams and Brew (Stanley House), Marie Lupton (Palmerston) Dawson and Williams (Fazakerley), Chujor (St. Katherine's) have played more regularly and won more games.

JACK LAMBERT.

FIXTURE SECRETARIES' NOTE

During the Xmas holiday we checked the records and found that 126 cards had not been sent in.

Check your league table; if any club has more matches played than yours, you are probably inefficient.

For your conscience to be clear you must have posted a card for every match played and advised the fixture secretary about all postponed, preferably with a new date given.

EDDIE CAMERON,

Fixture Secretary.

TABLE EDGES

Mabel Francis (Palmerston) was having a really good season both on the table tennis table and with her cycling club, having topped the club's time trials. Unfortunately, together with other members of her club, she was involved in an accident with a car and was taken to Walton Hospital with multiple injuries including ten stitches in her head and a dislocated arm and shoulder (the right). Let's hope the New Year brings you better luck, Mabs.

Not many clubs could survive the Wavertree Labour exodus, Gilmour, McNee, Burke are amongst the many losses suffered. Alan Tolson is their latest loss—he is on his way to Australia—one of our nicest blokes and a great competitor. His type are almost impossible to replace—good luck in your new venture, Alan.

Our thanks to Eric Hardman (Trinity), Les French (Colonsay) for filling the vacant correspondents' seats in Divs. 1 and 2.

Cup Regulation Number 4 is surely the rule that is broken so often that players have taken it for granted that 7 days means Friday of the following week. Think about it—if you play your tie on Monday, you have either to play 3 games in that week or you have the choice of the Monday of the following week. 75% of us are only one night a week wallahs—so we all break the rule and play on the convenient day the following week.

The closing date for the Closed Championships is Saturday, March 8th. If you have difficulty in obtaining a form please contact Brian Leeson, Tournament Sec., 16 Avalon Road, Liverpool 12 — 228 5028. The Tournament dates are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, April 1st, 2nd and 3rd, with the finals on Friday, April 4th. All at New Heys School, as usual.

While the four-man team has almost cut out the fiddle or tactical move by the captain!!! it has been pointed out to me that the only way to run a league with teams of more than 3 is to have a ranking list. The persons concerned were amazed at our system.

A man who seems to be on the same wavelength as myself regarding coaching is Norman Challoner, ex-Wavertree Labour—playing at Colonsay and coaching at Eng. Elec. He is interested in coaching all and sundry if he could only find the place and the backing—he has the time, the interest and a coaching course behind him.

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The Outside World

Phil Reid, who has often contributed to our magazine, has completed a biography of Victor Barna, the world's all-time greatest player and personality—he won 15 world championships and played 50 times for England. At £3.00 a must for all lovers of our game.

A couple of hours down the M6 will take you to the 1977 World Championships, to be held at Bickenhill, Birmingham, from March 26th to April 7th, 5 minutes from the M6.

English 1, 2 and 3 rankings are now Jarvis, Neale and Douglas; D. Parker (Preston) is 8 and two old friends, Mike Johns and Tony Clayton, are 15 and 16. Jill Hammersley (Bucks), Linda Howard (Surrey) and Karenza Matthews (Middlesex) are 1, 2 and 3 ladies, closely followed by Susan Lisle (Ches.).

Quote: "There is no way that the World Championships at Birmingham can be run without all players in the country digging deep into their pockets."—John Woodford, T.T. News.

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One of the few V.I.P.'s to take an interest in our affairs is Mr. George Yates, deputy vice-chairman of the E.T.T.A. We are pleased to report that instead of an anticipated few weeks in hospital, a couple of days sufficed. His inoculations for his travels to Calcutta and Melbourne gave him much more trouble.

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