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TABLE TENNIS DIGEST

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No. 2

Editorial

Our thoughts as we play our one or two or more games a week are far removed from finance until our Captain asks for our weekly subs, which in the main, we try to avoid paying or reluctantly pay, but we must pay up to help to keep our club going. The same applies to the league; management and players are both essential to our set-up and, much as we hate it, so is finance.

Our main sources of income are: Individual (£704) and Team (£196) subs, also the E.T.T.A. draw (£162). Expenditure: "Digest" (£317), Administration (£262), Handbook (£120) English and Lancashire fees (£177), Match Expenses (£143). There, together with the details and advertisement in the last issue on the survival of the "Digest", you have our financial facts of life. Not the E.T.T.A.'s or the Management's, but yours and mine, from a table tennis point of view.

To survive we must be solvent—is there a financial wizard in the house to wave a magic wand?—I doubt it. So what do you suggest the Management Committee should do. You have time to air your views through the "Digest" or through your club committees or secretaries, who will carry your deciding votes at the A.G.M.

A couple of notes on the expenditure side—the "Digest" printing and issuing costs are at a positive minimum on this side, and on the match expense side there are lots of labours of love where no charge, or a minimum charge, is made, possibly in other spheres as well.

Anyway, think about it—if your answer is short and cryptic—just pick up the phone and tell Don Cameron or myself.

Letters to the Editor

21 Armscot Close.

Dear Sir,

What a funny chap Ted Jane is; fancy remarking about ranking "fiddles" in 3A when such remarks are obviously aimed at his own club. I am assuming they are aimed at Bath Street, as they are the only club with two teams in that division.

Does he, I wonder, feel he has been "fiddled" out of a place in Bath Street 'C'. No doubt Brian Cunningham & Co. would have something to say about that.

I could tell him a thing or two about apparent fiddles, such as a club with an acknowledged champion registered and playing regularly but not shown on their ranking list. Now that is what I call really naughty. Or players who can only hold down a place in a low team one season, and jump seven teams the next. Now there is "fiddling" with real class.

If it will help Ted feel any better about any lack of promotion, let me give him a general view of what constitutes an acceptable ranking list. This, I must stress, is not an official view. It is one where the ranked player turns out regularly for his team and turns out occasionally as a reserve for a higher team.

So far as I am aware, Bath Street 'C' and 'D' meet this 100%. This would appear to make Ted's complaint a personal one. Dare I venture to suggest that it would be better to air his views on his club's ranking list within his own club rather than titillate us all with their alleged misdemeanours!!!

Yours fiddlefully,

K. ARMSON

(Wavertree Labour T.T.C.).

Dear Sir,

Many players have asked me—mainly those with good averages—why no Averages were produced for last season. This was due to the fact that almost every division had missing scorecards.

I personally wrote to all the secretaries concerned, but not one could be bothered replying. As players' averages were affected, in some cases quite extensively, I decided to be as indifferent as the club secretaries and not waste my time producing Averages which, in many cases, would bear no relation to the players' true average.

I could name a club now who have sent in only two cards to date for one of their teams, for whom their secretary plays. It is odds on that at least one or more of these cards will never arrive. That will affect the averages of eight players. Need I say any more.

Yours faithfully,

K. ARMSON.

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THE WORLD CUP

THE LATEST DETAILS:—There is no doubt that if you do not organise your day out it could be quite expensive. As we have already stated, a quite ordinary meal can cost about £2.50—cafeteria type—so at least one sandwich meal is indicated. Parking will cost you £1 for the day, split four or five ways—not bad. The Centre has a monopoly on both items—if normal procedure for the Centre is followed you will be taken by bus (free) from the car park to Number 5 Hall, and on arrival here you purchase your car park ticket. When you return to the car park you will not be allowed in without this ticket—so make sure you purchase one.

If travelling by car you stay on the M.6—number four turn-off is just past the M.5 junction—but you stay on the M.6, then when you come off the motorway the Centre is well signposted.

The Championships set-up consists of two arenas, the main stadium, which consists of 7,000 seats, having four table courts, the general stadium having 16 table courts and seating for 3,000.

The opening ceremony, on Saturday, March 26th, will start at 11-30 a.m. and play will commence at approximately 14.00 hours. All other days, play will start at 9-00 a.m. Team event finals will be played on Wednesday evening March 30th. Individual events—the finals will start at 14.00 hours on Tuesday, 5th April.

A convenient method of travelling to Birmingham is being arranged by Graham Crompton, on behalf of the Lancashire Table Tennis Association. This will cost £2 return for a day or period return by coach. Providing the numbers are available there can be no queries, but if there are any they WILL be ironed out. Details and pamphlets should be available by the time the "Digest" is ready for issue.

With quite a time to go before the closing date for entries, 27 countries have entered, including the Republic of China, favourites for many titles, and Hungary, with the World Champion, plus the U.S.A., South Korea, etc.

As I stated in the last "Digest", if I can help or liaise in any way, I will.

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LOCALS ABROAD

In the last two seasons we have seen the departure from the League of some of our best players in Tony Clayton, Peter D'Arcy and Wally Allanson. However, our most recent loss, that of Liverpool Closed Champion, Paul Tsang, is a blow to our championship hopes and to the First Division strength in general. Paul has decided to leave these shores and return home to Hong Kong for two or three years at least. He represented Liverpool in 49 City matches for Youth, Men's 1st, 'A' and 'B' teams. Just for the record, he was on the winning side 36 times, with only 9 times on the losing side. I'm sure every one that met this most likeable and modest person, would like to wish him the best of luck for the future.

LANCASHIRE RANKINGS: Ladies—Julie Black, No. 2; Juniors—Tony O'Connor, No. 1.

John McNee is ranked No. 4 in Scotland. John won the Spanish Singles title in Seville. Scotland were 3rd in the team event, and he also played for Scotland against Spain and Wales in European Div. 2 matches.

Over the Christmas holiday the Ladies' team had a good win over Macclesfield in a Wilmott Cup tie. Although being down 2-0 they eventually won 5-2, Sue Alexander's three wins being supported by wins from able reserve Ann Carline and Paula Breithaupt (both Liverpool Jewish), three wins for Graeme Black (Eng. Elec.) and a doubles with Peter Coyle (Colonsay) gave Liverpool boys four of their six games, Peter winning the other two. Paul Brown (Kirkby Sports) made his debut here. As usual, the Ladies went down 4-6 at Stockport, their bogey team, but Sue won her three again.

Feb. 17, 18, 19—**NORWICH UNION ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIPS.**

Feb. 20—**MILLOM JUNIOR 1-STAR.**

March 6—**LANCASHIRE JUNIOR 2-STAR.**

March 20—**SALFORD-ECCLES 1-STAR.**

April 17—**LIVERPOOL CLOSED, KIRKBY.**

April 24—**CHESHIRE JUNIOR 1-STAR, BIRKENHEAD.**

J.A.L./D.D.

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Table Edges

Eric Ferguson (Police) will have to visit hospital for an operation on both legs but his enthusiasm for the game does not wane. You will still see him around as non-playing captain and if you twist his arm VERY gently, he will play. Good luck, Eric.

The Merseyside Coaching Association has survived its first year, which must be a good test of any organisation. It still has its original gang of coaches and administrators plus a few new ones. They are working strictly to National Coaching schemes laid down by John O'Sullivan and Dave Williams, with a few ideas thrown in, such as homework and programme cards.

Eric Caird arrives home from a business trip in Cheshire after a technical confrontation with the local constabulary, but in the hall he finds a letter post-marked Cheshire, waiting. Oh! dear me, says Eric—or words to that effect!! When the letter is opened—deep love and affection for Ken Armson, who has posted his "Digest" from Wallasey.

A regular and welcome visitor to our Closed Championships—Mike Lijinski (ex-Harold House and Anfield)—this time umpiring a final.

Unlucky for Beauclair but unluckier for Ted Birch when, after a stumble in the dressing room at Palmerston, he finished up in hospital with a suspected broken ankle, which turned out to be not too bad, as Ted is playing again under a severe handicap. The prelude to the incident was unfortunately, a bad-tempered and unfriendly game. The sequel was more amusing—when hearing cries of horror and screams of terror from the vicinity of Ted's cubicle, a very perturbed and anxious Mike Allen dashed in to see what they were doing to "poor old Ted", only to find the cries coming from the next cubicle and an injured drunk!

Bernard Hand, of Bohemians fame, spends most of his time coaching up Workington way. Last year he won the Pontin's Prestatyn championship and reached the quarter-final of the Pontin's championship. According to him he retired through old age, but the doctors said it was a torn cartilage.

While Bohemians are in the news it is worth noting, says Chris Reynolds, that they still play at the same place, off Queens Drive, past the Jolly Miller, in the pavilion with the cosy bar. But they are slightly disguised by a block of flats—go past and to the rear of the flats and there you have ye olde English Bohs. just as they were and are.

Umpire Betty Black—cigarette in mouth, both hands under the table—"which hand" says Bett, as she takes cigarette from mouth with left hand—with great perception "Right" says the opposing player—fair enough.

J.A.L.

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Our Xmas Story

So there were these two blokes, you see boyo, having a friendly Xmas knock-up and in walked four wise men. We have come from afar and playing you we are they say. No we aint the two say we play you in May. O.K. cheers and a happy Crimble or Crimbo say the four wise men. I say sez the two if we can get two other shepherds along who at the moment will be feeding their faces with pie (get it' shepherds pie)., we could play our jolly league match now. Super say the four what a luvly Christmas jest-ure. So ye merry Xmas league match was played, and the four wise men went their way into the night having beaten the shepherds (less sheep) to pulp 10-0. Wot jolly chaps, Mery Xmas, I've seen better players in a packet, Jolly hockey-sticks and other such seasonal remarks came from the four wise men as they ploughed their way home through snow and ice in their sleigh.

The following morning along came secrooge and said the shepherds were having their tea and had'nt had any Christmas pud and the game should have been played on pancake Wednesday anyway. I am going to see Farthur Christmas about this.

Meanwhile down at Lewis's grotto (where believe it or not that is where the four wise men had arranged the match) the ugly sisters said to their Prince "claim the glame it looks as though the four wise men have followed a plane light instead of the shining star! So they have claimed ten pints off the four wise men!?"

The answer to how Farthur Chrupton—I mean Christmas and his reindeers sorted out the spiffing pantomime may be published in the next atissue (yes someone's caught a cold!?).

J.A.L.

I doubt it as the fixtures are complicated enough now.—Ed.

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Divisional Notes

DIVISION 1

	P	W	LD	Pts	
Liverpool Y.M.	14	13	0	124	
Wav. Labour	15	14	1	114	
Eng. Electric	14	11	2	92	
Palmerston	14	10	3	82	
Eng. Elec. 'A'	14	6	7	74	
Rafters	12	7	3	73	
Trinity	13	6	5	69	
Palmerston 'A' ...	14	5	6	66	
Bath Street	13	4	7	66	
L'pool Y.M. 'A' ...	13	3	8	46	
Trinity 'A'	14	1	10	43	
Rafters 'A'	15	2	13	38	
Wav. Lab. 'A'	13	3	10	37	
Bath Street 'A' ...	14	1	11	2	37

This year's Readman Cup has so far produced no surprises. The first round saw holders Y.M.C.A. win 7-2 against Palmerston who had a hero in Jack Evans, who beat Peter Turtle 22-20 in the third. Evans and Burrows beat Marshall and Smith in two straight games. Y.M.C.A.'s major contenders, English Electric, Wavertree Labour, and to keep the peace, English Electric 'A', all had fairly safe passages into the quarter-finals. Bath Street went down 10-0 to Wavertree Labour and Rafters 'A' went out 7-3 to Electric. Wavertree Labour 'A' had a narrow win over second division English Electric 'B'. Tierny and Morgan won two each for Labour. Crolley, Ellard and Thomson all won one apiece for Electric. Rafters moved into the quarter-finals with a comfortable 7-3 win away to Trinity. The only draw of the round was Y.M.C.A. 'A' and Trinity 'A'. Trinity eventually go through on sets, when the replay was also a draw. Harry Johnston was the only player to win all his four singles and still finished on the losing side!

As the Readman Cup moves into the quarter-final stages, the league championship already looks "sewn up" for the third year running, with Y.M.C.A. well on top. Again the only interest is, who will go down? Bath Street 'A' and Rafters 'A' are my favourites. Sandwiched in between these two are Trinity 'A'; Y.M.C.A. 'A' are not clear either, but have games in hand.

The intense battle between

these sides is interesting and in some cases, surprising. Trinity 'A' drew well with Y.M.C.A. 'A' 5-5, with Alan Chase and Ted Mandaluff performing brilliantly for their two sides. In Trinity's 6-4 win over Bath Street 'A', it was Alan Chase again with two singles and a doubles win. However, Trinity 'A' came down with a bump against Rafters 'A', Rafters 'A' having their best result since their return to Division 1 table tennis. The result was 9-1, with John Higham the sole winner for Trinity.

Y.M.C.A. 'A', in my opinion, are far too strong to go down. In Johnston and Mandaluff they have two very experienced players and to prove it, they are stringing together some very useful successes. Harry's best performance of the season was in a 3-7 defeat to English Electric. Harry had an excellent win over Eddie Clein and added Jimmy Lynch to his list of successes. Palmerston 'A', who are doing remarkably well this season, won 9-1 against Y.M.C.A. 'A'. Y.M.'s winner coming from Ted Mandaluff with a 21-14, 21-18 win over Jack Evans.

For those of you who read this _____?! in the last issue, the answer to the small quiz was Palmerston. This issue's quiz is:- What club do you go to and stand in pitch darkness for the home side to arrive. On arriving the lights go on and the organ starts to play. The umpire cries "Let" and the response is a verse of "Silent Night". I am sure the club in question can have a laugh at this, for they did on the night.

Wavertree Labour 'A' recently called on that good old veteran, Tony Moon. He only seems to play when I do. However, he still failed to talk himself into winning a game. Seriously, Wavertree Labour 'A' have beaten fellow strugglers Rafters 'A', Trinity 'A' and Bath Street 'A'. From these three games they netted 20 points from a possible 30. This could be decisive in their staying up in the latter half of the season.

All the best!

ERIC HARDMAN.

DIVISION 2

	P	W	LD	Pts
Colonsay	13	13	0 0	104
L'pool Jewish ...	14	10	3 1	86
Palmerston 'B' ...	14	8	3 3	80
Beauclair	13	8	2 3	79
Police	13	8	5 0	78
Eng. Elec. 'B'	13	6	4 3	73
Maghull	13	6	6 1	66
L'pool Y.M. 'B' ...	13	4	7 2	61
Colonsay 'A'	12	4	5 3	60
Old Swan	15	4	9 2	59
Elec. Supply	15	3	10 2	55
Cadwa	12	5	5 2	54
Rafters 'B'	14	2	11 1	48
Trinity 'B'	14	0	11 3	37

Colonsay's passage on the way back to the 1st Division has continued relatively undisturbed despite rarely fielding a full strength side. Nick Cray, missing from early matches, has been a significant influence in strengthening the team. He has lost only once at singles, against Phil Thomson, of English Electric 'B'. Tony O'Connor has only once been extended to three sets, by Micky Allan, of Beauclair. Dave Williams has lost only four singles and Norman Chaloner a few more. Their established first doubles pair of O'Connor/Chaloner has lost only once, to Frank Murphy and myself, of Beauclair, and their second pairing of Williams/Cray has also lost only once, to Alan Jones/Phil Thomson, of English Electric. With this strength, points against a full-strength team are hard to find. English Electric managed a 2-8 result and Beauclair fought hard for 3-7. In addition to the doubles win Beauclair's other result came from my beating Dave Williams 21-19 in the third set and Frank Murphy beating Norman Chaloner 22-20 in the second set which went to expedite. Most teams have been picking up points against Colonsay's reserves, notably Police, who gained three out of four points, this way, and lowly Trinity 'B', who obtained a similar result. The outstanding performance here was J. Kelly's two wins over Dave Williams and John O'Sullivan.

Trinity 'B' have improved notably with draws against Cadwa and Y.M.C.A. 'B'. J. McLoughlin won both singles against Dave Murray and Trevor

Hughes, of Cadwa, and J. Kelly again did well to beat Jim Clewett and Alan Pickering, of Y.M.C.A. They also took four points off a rapidly slipping English Electric 'B', with T. Downing becoming one of the few players to beat Phil Thomson this season. Rafters 'B' look a similar certainty for relegation. The only relief from their gloom was provided in a 7-3 win against Y.M.C.A. 'B', with Peter Rumjahn making a rare appearance and winning both singles. The teams looking most likely to join Trinity 'B' and Rafters 'B' in relegation are Electric Supply and Cadwa. Electric Supply have a balanced team but nobody outstanding, and Ernie Owens is not having the success he has achieved in the past to lift them. However, they have beaten Cadwa and drawn with Colonsay 'A' and with a good second half could pull clear. For Cadwa, Mike Power has had a good season, beating Frank Murphy and Mick Allan, of Beauclair, to help the team to a draw, but he will need more support from the others if they are to improve.

Any team averaging less than five points per match is in danger in this competitive division and this applied to Colonsay 'A', Y.M.C.A. 'B', Old Swan and Maghull at the time of writing. Now that John O'Sullivan has dropped down from reserve position in Colonsay's first team to their 'A' team, results have improved. In a close match against Maghull, John won both singles including a close result of 25-23 in the third set against Ken Jones. Peter Coyle also won both singles as Colonsay 'A' won 6-4. Despite another fine performance from Peter against Y.M.C.A. 'B' his two singles and doubles with John O'Sullivan were their only points in a 3-7 defeat. Y.M.C.A. 'B' had Jim Clewett in consistent form. Both Jim and John Hewitt won both their singles in a drawn match with Palmerston 'B'. In particular John Hewitt did well to beat Arthur Land and Bob Hudson. Against Beauclair, John cleverly disposed of Frank Murphy with careful control of his top spin but lost to me as Y.M.C.A. went down 4-6. Old Swan have been

slipping lately with heavy defeats inflicted by Police, Maghull and Y.M.C.A. 'B'. In the match against Y.M.C.A., John Linforth was the only one to win a singles against Jim Clewett 22-20 in the third as Old Sawn lost 3-7. Of this group Maghull look the most likely to establish themselves. Their home conditions give them an advantage and Beauclair are the only team able to beat them at home. Playing conditions are cramped and very cold, the floor is slippery and the table is perhaps the slowest in the division. Gordon Brownlee's high average is instrumental in keeping their position safe.

Palmerston 'B' have consistent performances from Arthur Land and Bob Hudson. Bob has a slower rubber now on his backhand side and this seems to be giving him more control. He showed this against Beauclair's defensive players, easily disposing of Frank Murphy and Ted Birch to give Palmerston a 6-4 win, their best result of the season.

Four teams are challenging for the second promotion place. They are English Electric 'B', Jewish, Police and Beauclair. English Electric's slide appears to have started after fielding a reserve at Maghull where they went down 4-6 and continued with a 3-7 hammering by the Police. Phil Thomson, finally promoted to a position more in line with his ability for this match, beat Barry McCloud but narrowly lost to Dave Crispin 18-21 in the third set. However, the most significant disappointment must have been Brian Crolley's two defeats by Dave Crispin and Gareth Jones. John Hodges' periodic absences seriously weakens the Jewish, as against Y.M.C.A. 'B', when they lost 4-6. However, I note that they appear much stronger with new signing Joe Doherty. A crucial match against Police showed their strongest combination. Joe beat Gareth Jones, went on to a narrow victory of 22-20 in the third set against Dave Crispin and finished a successful evening winning his doubles with Les French.

Despite John Hodges losing both singles against Dave Crispin

and Barry McCloud, Jewish won 6-4. This defeat was the only blemish in a fine run which has taken them into the best position to join Colonsay in promotion. Beauclair have been hampered by Ted Birch's accident after the match against Palmerston, when the ligament in his ankle was torn from the bone. Without Ted, Beauclair staggered to a draw against Cadwa. For the next three matches Ted played with a plaster cast on his leg and produced what must be some of the most gritty performances of the season to win all his singles matches. Unfortunately, when the plaster came off his ankle was very weak and he could only offer token resistance against Colonsay.

In the Rumjahn Cup these four teams chasing Colonsay were paired together. Against English Electric 'B' Dave Money, of Jewish, had a good win against Brian Crolley, while Bill Allard replied, beating John Henshaw. The superior doubles strength of English Electric paid off to give them a 6-4 win. Beauclair also lost narrowly by the same score to Police. Fine performances by Barry McCloud, who came back against Frank Murphy, playing him at his own game, and then from 17-20 down in the third set against me, continued to fight back to win the next five points. Don Chalkley continued to increase my shame and win the match for Police by unexpectedly recording his first win ever against me.

"HARRY".

DIVISION 3A

	P	W	LD	Pts
Linacre	13	11	2	92
Bath Street 'C' ...	14	8	3	82
Trinity 'D'	14	6	4	76
Police 'A'	11	9	2	73
Fire Service	11	8	2	71
Colonsay 'B'	12	6	6	62
Maghull 'A'	12	5	6	61
L'pool Jew. 'B' ...	12	5	4	59
Wav. Lab. 'B'	9	5	1	54
Bath Street 'D' ...	13	3	8	53
Eng. Elec. 'D'	13	2	8	51
L'pool Y.M. 'C' ...	12	2	8	50
Crawford's	14	3	10	48
St. Hugh's	11	0	10	22

Pity your poor writer, working at Christmas on November cards,

knowing these notes won't see daylight for a couple of months hence. Just to be safe, I hope you had a good Easter.

I don't know of any postponement but there appears to be a lot of cards missing. Please search the bottom of your kit bags to make sure they have all been posted, and help to make a happy New Year for Eddie Cameron.

With good wins over Maghull 7-3, Y.M. 7-3 and Colonsay 9-1, high scores over the lower sides, the Fire Service now look like making a quick climb up our ladder to the 2nd Division. With the recent signing of Sue Alexander (formerly Sue Manning) and reserve J. Bird beating Andy Howarth, their only problem is who to leave out when all their players are available.

Although Police 'A' came unstuck 8-2 at Wavertree Labour, an 8-2 win over Maghull and a 7-3 against Linacre has kept them in contention. Lenny "They shall not pass" Dyson is proving a hard No. 1 to beat and the consistency of the evergreen Al Wood, George Wright and the much-improved Rimmer, makes them a well-balanced team.

Both Wavertree Labour and Linacre are still in with a chance but as neither side regularly plays at full strength, the odd points they are dropping are proving expensive.

The Wavertree side have a much better performance at home than away, 8-2 over Police and Bath Street 'C' and 7-3 v. Linacre, which suggests that visitors are having problems with the Labour's emergency arrangements since their recent fire.

After a surprise 6-4 defeat by Jewish, Maghull 'A' are out of the chase. Their most consistent player appears to be E. Taylor, with wins over Ray, Gavin, Al Wood, K. Ainsworth and Alec Davidson. In the Jewish defeat of Maghull, Dave Cohen had a real captain's night with wins over Andy Howarth and Smethurst. As expected, Jewish have now pulled themselves up to a much safer position with no further fears of relegation. Jewish can produce the goods when it is needed. Colonsay found

this out when Rosenbloom, Lussey and A. Cohen won all their singles to beat them 7-3.

Trinity 'D' are having a much better season than their last one. Tom Lawson, Paul Leonard, Stan Smith and Mal Clark are doing quite nicely with wins over Elec. 'D' and Bath Street 'D', and worthwhile draws against Jewish and Bath Street 'C'. In 5 cards I see Tom Lawson has only dropped two games at No. 1—great stuff in this division. It's a bit surprising that Colonsay 'B' are not in a higher position. Mal Cray, Brian Leeson, D. Goodwin and J. Roper are good enough to take the lower teams with high scores but wilt away against the top sides. Wins of 9-1 and 8-2 against St. Hugh's and Bath Street 'D' show one side and defeats of 7-3 versus Jewish and Linacre and 9-1 versus Firemen, show the other.

With only 3 cards, 3 different line-ups and 3 captains, it is tough spotting the regulars for Y.M. 'C'. Ron Jones and John Biggs appear to be ever-present with John Donnelly, John Reynolds, Dennis Corkery and Ahmed Thabet making guest appearances. John Donnelly's double against Wavertree Labour made a draw a good result for Y.M. The relegation position now looks like any 2 from 3, with Electric 'D' just keeping ahead of Crawford's. Watch these two fight for every point from now on.

After visiting St. Hugh's I know now why they are bottom!—they have to shift so much furniture to set the room up that by the time the match starts they are exhausted. Seriously, Messrs. Begley, Hughes and the McAlles will have to learn the technique of higher division T.T. to have any hope of staying up, the points you don't give away are just as important as the ones you win (I wish I could remember that, too).

Back at our Northern outpost, Maghull have put in a lot of time and money installing a new "non-slip" floor. After polishing it with the seat of my pants, I'm afraid it defies description, as well as the Trades Description Act, for Maghull now have a skating rink to go with their Winter Sports Stadium.

END PIECE.—After playing St. Hugh's, Bath Street 'D' walk back into town for the bus home. On the way our veteran captain explains the landmarks to his young innocents: "There's a strip club down that street!" "They have topless dancers in that bar". "That's were I saw 'Last Tango,'" etc.

It's amazing where you can go with a Pensioner's Pass.

TED JANE.

DIVISION 3B

	P	W	LD	Pts
Bath Street 'B' ...	14	13	1 0	111
Vagabonds	13	12	0 1	107
L'pool Jew. 'A' ...	14	10	2 2	100
Eng. Elec. 'C'	12	9	3 0	81
Eng. Elec. 'E'	13	8	2 3	76
Waterloo Park ...	13	6	5 2	70
Beauchair 'A'	13	6	6 1	64
Orrell	13	4	9 0	56
Palmerston 'C' ...	12	5	7 0	54
Bath Street 'E' ...	12	3	9 0	41
Rafters 'C'	13	4	9 0	41
Old Swan 'A'	12	2	9 1	39
Trinity 'C'	14	3	11 0	38
Colonsay 'C'	12	0	12 0	22

Pride of place at this stage of the season goes to Bobby Owen, of Vagabonds, for having the only 100% record (18-0) in the division. Bobby, with his many years' experience in the first division, has given Vagabonds an invincible look for a third division side. Ted Barnes, another player with many years in the first division, and Bobby Owen form a formidable duo for any team to face. Ted's record to date is 18-2. Add to this Bobby's doubles record with Doug Ridgway of 8 wins and 1 defeat (to Paula and I) and you can see that to get a result against Vagabonds either Bobby or Ted have to be defeated. There are very few people in the 3rd div. capable enough, so the team looks unbeatable. This assumes that Doug Ridgway and Tommy Johnstone don't win anything. As Doug is having his best season for years with 15 wins and 3 defeats (two of those in the one match v Jewish 'A') and Tommy, too, with 14 wins and 4 defeats, you can see why Vagabonds are favourites for the cup and league double. Nevertheless Bath Street 'B' are making them fight all the

way and by the half-way stage I expect Vagabonds to be ahead by only 4 or 5 sets. Bath Street 'B' are a well-balanced side with all of the team over 70%, with Brian Aldred the most successful. In addition they have the best doubles record in the division with both pairs having 8-1 records. Aldred/Letch have only lost to Owen/Ridgway, of Vagabonds, and Gould/Waddington's only defeat was to Alan Guy/Denis Brookfield, of Colonsay 'C'.

Bath Street 'B' have now opened up a 10-point gap from my own team, Jewish 'A'. This gap is too large to make up on teams scoring 8 and 9 every week so we'll have to be content with third place. I have a 26-4 record to date, losing only to Ted Barnes and Alan Guy in league matches. Gerry Goldring and Warren Davies have maintained their usual high standard (both 67%) and Paula Breithaupt, with 19 wins and 11 defeats, continues to improve rapidly. Paula's doubles play goes from strength to strength. I'll be asking her for some hints soon.

The relegation issue is gradually resolving itself. Colonsay 'C' seem certain to end up at the foot of the table. I'd like to pay tribute to two young players in this team, Frank Rogers and Nicky Tremarco. They have only won one set between them yet they haven't missed a match. They have been thrust into the third division by changes in club playing strength and its nice to see young players accepting defeat graciously and yet maintaining their enthusiasm. Well done lads, keep trying. Alan Guy has been playing regularly for this side but not with as much success as usual, due to an injured back. I hope you're 100% fit again soon, Alan. It looks like Rafters 'C' will join them in the fourth division next year, as they have already fallen behind Trinity 'C', despite an 8-2 "gift" by Trinity when they turned out three reserves in such a vital match. Pauline Lawrenson has their best record (8-12). You can judge Trinity 'C's' potential from their match against Vagabonds. They lost 10-0 but look at these results. Ray Wainwright lost 19, 19 to Ted Barnes and

21-23, 20-22 to Doug Ridgway. Norman Cutler lost 19-21, 21-16, 21-23 to Tommy Johnstone. Dave Southworth lost 15-21, 21-13, 19-21 to Ted Barnes. Bad luck, lads.

Old Swan 'A' have Les Griffin back in place of Peter Dobbs, promoted to the first team. Pete McAdam continues to improve and had a great match against Bath Street 'B'. He beat Alan Waddington 14, 14 and then lost only 19 in the third to Alec Gould. Les Griffin beat Alec for Old Swan's only other success. Jean Reynolds, of Rafter's, turned the tables on these two when she beat Les 12, 13 (a great win, Jean) and then Pete 21-19, 16-21, 21-19. Old Swan won the match 6-4.

Waterloo Park have done well recently. They had an amazing cup match with Bath Street 'E' with EIGHT matches going to three. The odd thing is that the third games were all won 21-14 or under. Waterloo Park emerged as winners due to double wins from Bill Spencer and "Delo". Tony Delamere also had a great match against Vagabonds, beating reserve Alan Rycroft and losing only 25-23, 23-21 to Bobby Owen. Bill Spencer also took Ted Barnes to three in this match won 9-1 by Vagabonds.

I'll bet there's a lot of rivalry between the two English Electric sides this season. They're neck and neck in the league table. The 'E' team held Jewish 'A' to a draw with the aid of two sets from George Cheng. George is one of the nicest young players around and he's having an excellent season with 18 wins and just 2 defeats, both of them in the first two matches of the season. His best win to date was over Alun Williams, of Orrell 20-22, 21-17, 22-20, to help his team to a 6-4 win. Alun's team-mate, Dave Jones had a nerve-wracking game with the volatile police-woman, Marie Lupton, before he put her away in HIS locker 14-21, 21-19, 26-24. Palmerston won this match 6-4. Dave also had a good win over Billy Holmes, of Beauclair 'A', 21-17, 20-22, 21-18. Billy beat me 17 in the third in our cup match, so what else can I say? I would have liked to have seen the game between Ken

Miller, of Orrell and Brian Cullen, of English Electric 'C'. These two likeable players are as sporting as any in the league and are a credit to the game. Brian won 23-21 in the third. Wally Sill fought hard for English Electric 'C' against Vagabonds before losing 21-14, 23-21 to Bobby Owen and to Ted Barnes in the third. Then, against the other top side, Bath Street 'B', Wally lost 23-21 in the third to Alec Gould and then 18 in the third to Alan Waddington. Bad luck, Wal. I hope you don't play as well against Jewish. If you do, please lose again!

The promotion clash between Bath Street 'B' and Jewish 'A' ended in a 6-4 win for Bath Street, even without 'flu victim Alec Gould. The singles were split 4-4 with only Alan Waddington and myself managing two singles. Bath Street took both doubles for the match.

In the Hyde Cup (the 3B Cup, sorry), Vagabonds, Bath Street 'B' and Jewish 'A' have all reached the semi-finals. Vagabonds eliminated 3A rivals Wavertree Labour 'C' 6-4. I have no details of any cup matches except our own. We survived due to two composed performances from Paula Breithaupt. Against Beauclair 'A' having earlier won her first set, Paula had to play the last set against Harry Holmes with the score at 5-4. She won convincingly 17, 11. Then, in the next round, against Bath Street 'C', she faced Brian Cunningham with the score 5-4 again. She won 16 in the third to put Jewish 'A' into the semi-finals for the third successive year. Warren Davies is determined to win a trophy at least once in his career, so watch out Vagabonds.

To close, here are a few good individual performances to add to those already mentioned. Gerry Goldring beat Alan Guy 18, 18; Ro Craddock beat Tommy Johnstone 11, 12; Young Tony Halligan, of Old Swan, took a game off John Letch; Nicky Tremarq took Peter Ross, of Waterloo Park, to three; Pete Wilson, of Orrell, beat Billy Leeming (Beauclair) 15, 15; Harry Holmes (Beauclair) beat Warren Davies 9 in the third (later avenged by Warren). LES FRENCH.

DIVISION 4A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Cadwa 'A'	13	10	2	1	99
Kirkby	11	11	0	0	93
Polytechnic	12	8	1	3	84
Vagabonds 'A'	12	9	2	1	81
Eng. Elec. 'F'	12	8	2	2	75
Cadwa 'B'	13	6	5	2	71
L'pool Jew. 'C' ...	11	5	5	1	56
Trinity 'F'	12	3	9	0	52
Wav. Lab. 'D'	13	3	9	1	52
Orrell 'B'	12	3	7	2	40
Bath Street 'G' ...	12	0	9	3	29
Vagabonds 'C' ...	11	2	8	1	25
Police 'C'	10	0	10	0	13

With half the season gone, Cadwa 'A' and Kirkby are the Divisional pacesetters with Liverpool Polytechnic not far behind. The clash of the two leaders produced a 7-3 win for Kirkby, but Cadwa got their revenge in the cup with a thrilling 6-4 win. Ray Smith's win over Paul Brown, a reversal of the league match, was perhaps the crucial tie. At the moment Cadwa 'A' are my favourites for the title, although Kirkby are unbeaten, but Cadwa seem able to win their matches by convincing margins. Cadwa's worst defeat was at the hands of the Polytechnic 8-2, for whom Neil Roberts is top man, beaten only once so far, from my scorecards. Top player in the division must be Paul Brown, who is still unbeaten in the league. He has now taken over the No. 1 spot at Kirkby from Mark Monaghan, who has lost a couple this season, notably to Ray Smith 22-24, 21-18, 21-18 and perhaps, surprisingly, to B. Boyles, of Polytechnic.

At the other end of the division, Police 'C' and Vagabonds 'C' are the main contenders for the wooden spoon. Police managed a draw with Bath Street, thanks to a double by J. Ironside (minus wheelchair!!!), but little else has gone right for them. Vagabonds 'C', too, have been on the receiving end of some heavy defeats, most of their points coming from the unorthodox bat of Nick Ryan.

It's been all change at the Labour Club in the last month Tony Moon has been moved up and Lunt and Riley have dropped a division. Their places have been taken by Ken Armson.

Malcolm McEvoy and J. Collister, with only Mark Smith surviving the reshuffle. Now, with a much stronger team all round, their results have improved accordingly, but I'm sure they are losing points due to the suspect temperament of their younger players, perhaps Ken will sort them out now.

Another team to show great improvement, but this time without wholesale team changes, is Cadwa 'B'. My own team, Trinity 'F', had a tremendous tussle with them, Cadwa just taking the honours 6-4. Carole Flood and D. Power won two singles each for Cadwa and yours truly did likewise for Trinity with wins over Ruth Jaeger and J. Power both in three. Seven sets went to three, and the match was only decided by the last two doubles games, both won by Cadwa. Closest match of the night was surely the win by John Simm (Trinity's version of the 40th Panzer Division) over Jeff Power 27-25, 10-21, 22-20, which lasted nearly half an hour. A good win also for Cadwa 'B' over Liverpool Jewish 'C' 7-3, Carole Flood again winning her games.

Just below the top three clubs come Vagabonds 'A' and English Electric. When the male members of Vagabonds can be persuaded to leave the local tavern, they look a pretty useful team, R. Lowey and Alan Rycroft being their most successful performers. Our European Catholic Schools' Champion from last season, Joan Monaghan, however, is not playing at her usual forceful best; in fact, for once, even I beat her.

A good performance from English Electric to take four off Kirkby, Andy Byrne and Ken Black beating Brown and Monaghan in the top doubles 15-21, 21-16, 22-20.

Now for some good individual performances — Mark Royden (Trinity) beat R. Boyles (Polytechnic) 21-18, 18-21, 21-19; Ruth Jaeger beat Muriel Cox 22-20, 11-21, 21-15; Ian Harper (Bath Street) beat R. Lowey and also Bob Davies of Cadwa 'A'; P. Meyer, of Orrell, beat Alan Rycroft; J. Power beat Andy Byrne 21-16, 11-21, 21-15 (do all

your games go to three?); M Jarman (Polytechnic) beat Jimmy Prescott (Kirkby).

Best wishes for the New Year.

MIKE GRIFFITHS.

DIVISION 4B

	P	W	LD	Pts
Fire Service 'A' ...	13	13	0 0	115
Wav. Lab. 'C'	12	8	2 2	83
Trinity 'E'	13	7	5 1	72
Police 'B'	13	7	4 2	68
L'pool Jew. 'D' ...	11	4	5 2	65
Maghull 'B'	13	5	6 2	64
Bath Street 'F' ...	12	8	4 0	58
Eng. Elec. 'G'	11	4	4 3	54
Police 'E'	13	3	8 2	49
Police 'D'	12	3	8 1	44
Vagabonds 'B' ...	10	4	6 0	42
Cadwa 'C'	14	1	9 4	42
Orrell 'A'	12	3	9 0	40

Orrell walk-over against Cadwa and Cadwa walk-over against Bath Street — let's hope the sequence stops there.

Main talking point is the strength of the new-look Wavertree Labour 'C' team and are they too late to challenge potential champions, Fire Service? I think so, and maybe not quite strong enough, despite the inclusion of my old team-mate, young Jessop. Cross my heart, I wrote that note before noting Fire Service had since beaten them 6-4, so I was only just right. Jackson and Davies did most of the damage (Jackson and Watson have 100%). Mind you, the old guard were doing quite well for Wavertree with 7-3 wins against Police, doubles here for Birchall and McEvoy, M., and English Electric. Betty Black and Pratt had a terrific battle with McEvoy R. and Birchall, winning 18 in the third.

Have the Jewish 'D' team cracked under the strain (none of them are as young as they used to be but three losses on the trot?) versus Bath Street 4-6, although Quirk won 2 but a great Hobson 3 decided the game; versus Police 'B' 4-6, Quirk again, but a Purcell double the decider, and versus Trinity 'E' 3-7, with Mooney winning five of Trinity's seven—which can't be bad.

Plenty of good tight games—draws include Maghull (Banks

2) and Electric 'G' eight games going to three; Cadwa 'C' (two good wins for Biggs) and Electric 'G'; and Cadway (Stones 2) and Police 'B' (Purcell 2). Purcell followed this with 3 wins against Electric, but an in-form Betty Black helped Electric to a 7-3 win.

Stevenson and Huxley, with singles and doubles wins, gave Orrell their first win over Vagabonds 'B' 7-3. Vagabonds, in turn, had an inspired 8-2 over Bath Street, Anne Crist winning a singles and her doubles with Bruford, Halden and Roy winning 5 for Vagabonds, 6-4 for Police 'E' (Conroy and Wilkinson 2) versus Maghull 'B' with Draper, S., nearly back to his best, after his troubled back.

A Wilkinson double failed to counteract double wins from Wright and Harper to give Bath Street 'F' a fine win over Police 'E'.

Jewish 'D' (Quirk 3 again!)—whatever happened to Anne and Cathy—won 7-3 against Police 'D', Spedding winning his two and then inspiring his side to a 7-3 win at Cadwa, winning his two, as did McCormack. Trinity 'E' slipped up twice at home 4-6 despite a Southworth double, Wright (2) clinching it for Bath Street 'F' and again versus Maghull 'B' (Draper 2).

Good performances include Tyrer (Police 'E') 14 and 19 win over Stevenson (Orrell 'A') 5 games going to three by Trinity 'E' against Fire Service. Anne Crist (B.S.) 16-21, 21-14, 23-21 win against Birchall (W.L.). Walsh (Orrell 'A') 18-21, 21-6, 21-8 win over Aimson (Jewish). and for Police 'E', Kelly beat Cullen (Fire Service) 12-21, 21-18, 21-15, and Catterson taking Davies' 100% in the same game 21-14, 18-21, 21-15.

A good session (some great games). Enjoy your table tennis and your night out.

JACK LAMBERT.

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DIVISION 5A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Dutch's	13	12	1	0	119
Kirkby 'A'	12	12	0	0	105
Bohemians	13	10	3	0	94
Maghull 'C'	12	10	2	0	83
Trinity 'G'	13	7	5	1	73
Wav. Lab. 'E'	14	3	8	3	61
Kirkby 'B'	13	5	7	1	57
Barker & Dob. ...	12	5	6	1	53
Bohemians 'A' ...	12	3	8	1	38
L'pool Jew. 'E' ...	11	2	9	0	32
Fire Service 'B' ...	9	2	6	1	29
Eng. Elec. 'H'	10	1	8	1	21
Trinity 'H'	13	1	11	1	18

A handicap of Dutch clogs appears to be the only way to stop the all-conquering Dutch's team—Green and Dutch having 100% records to date—not bad for a new team. How good are their home-made tables? The Kirkby 'A' team are chasing them all the way and are a tightly knit team with Cragg, Holmes and McGlone not having missed a game and only dropping one set each.

The outstanding feat of the season so far was by Tames, of Trinity 'G', winning both sets against Kirkby and then was really cheeky when, with Jones, T., he beat Cragg and Chaloner in the doubles 18 and 19. The wooden spoon battle between English Electric 'H' and Trinity 'H' saw doubles for Electric from Sheila Morris and McGiveron.

To Finnegan and Gittins, P., congratulations on winning their side's first two sets of the season and to the rest of the Trinity 'H' team for battling away despite "winning" the wooden spoon battle 2-8.

Lunt and Clarke, of Kirkby 'B', won 18 and 22 in the third after two terrific battles with Cathy Gore and then found they would have won without playing, as Cathy, or her captain, were a little naughty and she shouldn't have played. Delahunty had a good double for Jewish 'E' as did Clarke and Williams for Kirkby 'B', who won 7-3. Despite going the way of most against Dutch's (0-10), Bohemians took five of the games to three, they had a couple of good wins over Kirkby 'B' (Collins 2) 8-2 and Jewish 'E' (Bennion 1) 9-1, and then lost 4-6 at Maghull 'C' for whom

Gibson was outstanding, winning both singles and with Pattison, beating Evans and Reynolds in the doubles.

The Barker & Dobson team have at last got their wish—a 5th Division run—and seem to be enjoying it with a nice 8-2 over Fire Service 'B' (Jackman 2) followed by a draw at Kirkby 'B'—Travis winning all his games. Kirkby shared their four singles but Williams, D. and Elaine McIvor won the fifth in the doubles against O'Sullivan, F. and Brown, J. 14 in the third.

Monica O'Donnell, with a double, saved Wavertree Labour 'E' from a whitewash against Kirkby 'A'. No equal rights here for the all-female Wavertree team. Although Millie Harris and Amy Bell won their side's 4 in a tight game at English Electric where the Thomas Combe father and son combination won four of their side's six.

Summersgill, winning both his singles, was responsible for pipping Kirkby 'B' 6-4 beating Cragg 13 in the third and with Jones, A., beating Cragg and Elaine in the doubles.

Heroes for their sides, McKim (Jewish 'E') v Trinity (1-9), Jones, A. (Bohemians 'A') v Trinity 'G' (3-7), Thomas, B. (Electric 'H' v Bohemians 'A') (1-9).

Enjoy your table tennis.

JACK LAMBERT.

DIVISION 5B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Elec. Supply 'A'...	12	10	0	2	95
Harding	12	10	0	2	94
National Giro ...	12	9	3	0	88
Vagabonds 'D' ...	12	8	3	1	76
Bohemians 'B' ...	12	6	5	1	70
Cadwa 'D'	10	6	3	1	55
Halewood Y.C. ...	12	4	8	0	51
National Giro 'A' ...	12	4	6	2	46
Maghull 'E'	12	3	9	0	43
University	9	5	4	0	41
Maghull 'D'	12	2	9	1	28
Wav. Lab. 'F'	9	1	8	0	28
Colonsay 'D'	11	1	10	0	22

Giro have already faded out of the title battle leaving Electric Supply 'A' and Harding to battle it out between them. With some results not yet available I don't

know which team will be top when this is published. Whoever it is the gap is unlikely to be more than 3 points, possibly less.

Both teams have the same problem of a weak tail and whereas Harding's No. 4 is probably the weakest, Electric Supply also have a weakness higher up. Their clash resulted in a draw with the added loss of three 100% averages. With weak tails and even weaker reserves, they both have their problems. Just remember my previous remarks and get stuck in. They have both got it all to do, so don't make it easier for them by dropping silly sets. You are there to provide the opposition not the audience. Don't be overawed by reputations but just remember that if you try you might, if you don't you won't. Yours could be the win that decides this race and there is a lot of satisfaction to be gained when your opponents depart without the 10-0 win they were anticipating. Amongst those doing their stuff are Bond (Cadwa), McDonald (Colonsay), Edmunds (University), Pownall (Halewood), all against Harding, L. Jones (Maghull), S. McGanity (Maghull), P. Smith and T. Jackman (Wavertree Labour) against Electric Supply.

Giro are full of promise, as always, but lacking the determination of the other two. They will certainly gain promotion—if they remember to register—but a little more effort and consistency in maintaining a strong turn-out would have made all the difference.

Vagabonds 'D' have slotted themselves into 4th, could be 5th, place and must be pleased to know that Harding consider them a danger. They lost against Harding 6-4 following the decision of Dave Williams to switch their order. Vagabonds accepted their offer and took four sets off the Nos. 3 and 4 playing at Nos. 1 and 2. Had Harding played their normal order they would almost certainly have won by at least the same score as Electric Supply, who didn't get the shivers, played as normal, and won 8-2. I've no views on tactics, but at this level of T.T. it is like trying to grow rice in a desert, and just as fruitless.

The return of University has again provided us with a team of unknown quantity. They will obviously do well, but having been soundly beaten by the top two has removed any chance of their being a threat. One thing they do seem to be equipped with this time round is a secretary who appears capable and interested in doing the job properly, although to date, he has yet to make his debut with the team.

Halewood have shown their paces, nothing to alarm front-runners, but certainly capable of holding their own against the rest. They gave a good account of themselves against Giro 'A', losing 6-4. I don't know how easy it is to get into their club, but I do know it is not possible to get magazines through the letter-box. Can't imagine them being very popular with the postman.

The two Maghull teams are holding a championship of their own with very little separating them at present. I think I will put my money on the McGanity family.

It is worth noting for any team that would like to get promotion that four teams were promoted from this division and five from 5A. We would have had five had Giro registered the club at the proper time. If you are around 4th or 5th place promotion is possible, for after the top two it is decided on best totals of 5A and 5B. This puts Giro 'A', Vagabonds 'D' along with Giro, firmly in the promotion stakes. My advice, for what it is worth, is fight for every possible set and treat every match as a promotion issue. The prize of a higher and more competitive standard of play is well worth fighting for. Study 5A table and it will give you a good idea of your chances.

Prize for the unluckiest team to date must go to Maghull 'D', their match against Giro resulting in nine sets going to three, of which only one finished in their favour. They lost the match 9-1. The result makes me wonder if Giro were taking it easy or did the Maghull team raise their game that night, only to find luck was not with them?

KEN ARMSON.