

Table Tennis Digest

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OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

TABLE TENNIS DIGEST

All correspondence must be addressed to the Editor, "Table Tennis Digest", 051-546 3081.

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No. 3

Editorial

The Merseyside Open Championship to most of us may not equate with a football fan's visit to Wembley, but at the same time for 36 seasons it has attracted not only the top British players but the world's top players. They have been on our doorstep for all to see and enjoy. Our young and older players have had a chance to have a "go" at the top names. Most of all, the prestige of an "Open" means a lot in the table tennis world.

For two seasons we have not had a Merseyside—as I write it looks as though it is dying very peacefully. We have no major sponsors—mini sponsors are not available. Two alternatives could be taken; one would be to run a small prize tournament that would perhaps make it a localised (Lancashire, Cheshire, etc.) tournament with few big names; the second would be for our league to relax their right to run the Championship and invite all the Merseyside leagues to form a joint committee and make it a "truly Merseyside". Liverpool and Business House committee members I have spoken to are more than enthusiastic about the idea. It should not be vetoed out of hand because individuals on either side do not see eye to eye. And why only Liverpool and the B.H.? Could we not invite Southport and Wirral who have direct links, and did I hear someone say why not St. Helens, Warrington and Widnes? It is the Merseyside, so let's have a go. Each league sponsoring an event, each league with a committee member. If cash surplus was made after that, a share-out. Is this too much to ask of our friends? If it is, fair enough—we have gone down with a fight, but don't let the Merseyside die whilst lethargically dozing by the television.

A scoop for local table tennis is the visit of the Chinese wizards to our Kirkby Sports Stadium on Thursday, April 7th. I believe it is their only game outside the World Championships—watch the local press for details.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The amendment to Rule 15 introduced at the last A.G.M. has caused many comments and some severe criticism. The Rule was sponsored by the smaller clubs with one or two teams who often found their aspiration honours dashed by the larger multi-team clubs who were able to judiciously strengthen their challenging teams into invincibles for crucial matches by sliding in the good player, often to be found at No. 1 in their next lowest team.

The Management Committee do not believe that it could adjudicate against a rule which called for order of merit grouping. There is no real reason why friends cannot play together or a senior player "father" a team of youngsters or even a team being reorganised to suit night school or transport arrangements.

If we initially group players who are likely to stay as a team (and in the case of the players who can only play occasional games add these to an appropriate group) then we have declared our intention to take on the rest of the teams in the division and we embark on a competitive season with ambition and hope. If we know, and we do know, that for one or other reasons mentioned above, that we have one or two players in lower teams who are better players, then there is a temptation to use these players in difficult matches for the higher team. If we decide to register the "occasional" player as one of the four we can put the "spare" players in the lower team and play him as a reserve for the "occasional" except in the hard matches when we can trot out our good reserve. Rule 15 stops the "occasional" player technique being used in clubs to strengthen lower teams on a permanent basis but we in the Management Committee look for consistency in team appearances and expect all clubs to accept these basic principles. Oddly enough, some 13 clubs found it necessary to consider their course of action due to the introduction of the rule this year.

Some clubs advised the league of grouping changes prior to the 50% deadline, some clubs by virtue of missing cards were frantically trying to prove their case, some were reluctantly re-grouping, some were quite upset. Most, however, recognised the basic concepts. Some folks say let us tighten the rule further, perhaps one or two clubs are looking for ways of getting around the rules.

The majority of players and officials play table tennis in Liverpool for enjoyment without a thought for "organising" success. Let us hope the majority will squeeze the minority into complete obscurity and that the only questions to be asked about Rule 15 will be "Why is it there?"

EDDIE CAMERON.

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Letters continued

32 Dyson Street,
Peasley Cross,
St. Helens.

Dear Sir,

After many years playing in the Liverpool League, starting with the old Gas Board team (Lucem), then moving to Cadwa, Colonsay and finally Palmerston, I have decided to retire from competitive table tennis at the end of this season.

Before doing so, however, I would like, through the "Digest", to thank the Liverpool League Committee and clubs for their generous acceptance of outside players.

Since my introduction to the Liverpool scene there has been a steady stream of players from the St. Helens League into Liverpool, many of them persuaded by me to do so. Obviously to improve their play by competing in what I consider one of the best run and most competitive leagues in Lancashire. I have thoroughly enjoyed my experiences in the Liverpool League and will look back with pleasure on the matches and the many friends I have made.

A. HEYES,

(Old Woolly Back), Palmerston T.T.C.

58 Beechburn Road,
Roby.

Dear Sir,

Although I am only a youngster to table tennis secretarial work I remember when a very good social occasion was experienced when visits to Wavertree Labour Club were involved. Obviously with the fire they have a valid excuse for no refreshments, i.e., tea and biscuits, and yet I have knowledge of over seven teams being involved with not being offered any kind of liquid refreshment (with a bar being downstairs, Ken, surely a half would not have been out of place). I remember when old friends Hoban, Jessop and Neary made you feel much more at home, so can we possibly revive the previously good atmosphere, the sort we associate with the renowned Wavertree Labour. Even though we can't find your towel, Ken.

TREVOR HUGHES,

(Secretary, Cadwa T.T.).

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LOCALS ABROAD

Lancashire and Cheshire League Results since First "Digest":—

Men's 1st Team

Blackpool—(Home) 9-1—Marshall, O'Connor, Strettle.
Bury—(Home) 8-2—McNee, O'Connor, Williams.
Preston—(Away) 6-4—Marshall, O'Connor, P. Lee.
Stockport—(Home) 5-5—McNee, O'Connor, G. Black.

Men's 'A' Team

Lancaster & Morecambe—(Home) 6-4—Williams, McPherson, Lee.
Blackpool 'A'—(Away) 3-7—Strettle, Williams, McPherson.
Bolton 'A'—(Home) 8-2—Williams, McPherson, Lee.
Lytham 'A'—(Home) 9-1—Williams, McPherson, Lee.

Ladies

Manchester—(Away) 1-9—J. Black, P. Breithaupt, A. Carline.
Macclesfield—(Home) 8-2—Breithaupt, Carline, S. Alexander.
Preston—(Away) 7-3—Breithaupt, Carline, Alexander.

Junior Boys

Bolton—(Away) 6-4—T. O'Connor, G. Black, P. Thomson.
Stockport—(Home) 6-4—Black, P. Coyle, P. Brown.
Blackpool—(Away) 7-3—O'Connor, Black, Coyle.

Southport Championships

John Fennah (Wavertree Labour) beat Eric Hardman (English Electric).

Business House Championships

Geoff Edmunds (ex. very ex-English Electric) beat Peter Lee (Liverpool Y.M.C.A.).

John McNee, back to No. 2 in Scotland, lost 21-18, 15-21, 18-21 to World Champion Istvan Jonyer, in the Welsh Open Team event, when Scotland lost 3-0 to Hungary.

Scotland beat Switzerland 4-3 (away) John McNee beating Swiss No. 1, Lazlo Foldy 21-14, 22-20.

However, in the European Division 2 Championship decider, Scotland were defeated by 5 sets to 2, and failed to gain promotion.

North West Select v China

Thursday, April 7, at Kirkby Sports Centre.

Liverpool Y.M.C.A. beat St. Helens champions, Sidac, 6-3 to reach the last 16 in the English Club Champions Cup.

Liverpool Ladies lost to Leicester in the Rose Bowl and the Gents lost to Halifax 5-4 in the Wilmott Cup. Leicester had two England-ranked players in their team, Anita Stevenson and Karen Rogers. It was a treat to find the Leicester girls a convivial, charming trio with no tantrums and an impeccable turnout. The big, robust Halifax team were just as jolly as they looked. I hate saying this, but they actually cracked jokes on occasions when losing a point. How much better all of their attitudes to the game compared to the load of bad language and tantrums we have to put up with so often.

D.W.D./J.A.L.

Team captains and transport have been more difficult than ever to find this season and teams will have to go if captains cannot be found. It is to Don Davies's credit that no game has yet been cancelled. I know I have said it before but it bears repeating that, in my opinion, Don's job is the most thankless on the management—his work and contacts are mainly outside the League and so are little appreciated inside. The complete lack of interest in the old Lancashire and Cheshire notes is further proof that city games and the work entailed in arranging them, is tough going for Don.

J.A.L.

Table Edges

JUST A REMINDER—RULE 2 STATES NOMINATIONS FOR THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS SHALL BE SENT IN WRITING TO THE ORGANISING SECRETARY NOT LATER THAN MAY 1st. RULE 9 PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO RULES FOR SUBMISSION MUST REACH THE ORGANISING SECRETARY NOT LATER THAN MAY 1st. THE BEST OF LUCK WITH A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY.

Until recently notifications of these two rules have been sent to all clubs. But the league and secretary are in no way obligated to officially notify clubs of these rules. This is the only notification secretaries will receive.

Late news has it that a stupendous announcement will be made in the near future that will crunch the Editorial into the ground.

Eddie Clein's transfer from English Electric to Liverpool Jewish, for purely personal reasons, came as a surprise after ten years with the East Lancs. Road club. What a glorious note to go on, with two great wins over Scottish international John McNee and George Smith, of Y.M.C.A. and a draw against the strong Y.M. side.

O.K. the Rose Bowl is for the ladies and the Willmott Cup for the gents, another mistake like that and I can see me losing my job!?!?

The Merseyside Coaching Association has acquired a table of some repute—it is a table that should bring tears of nostalgia to the eyes of Eileen Mansell, Reg Hetherington, Tom Partington, and many other Smithdown Road wallahs! It is the old Balfour table and has been donated to the association by Joyce Randall. This brings the number of tables available to the Association to 14. Joyce is a member of the M.C.A. coaching panel and during her Liverpool days gained fame with the very good Balfour and Bohemian teams.

A number of clubs seem to be treating our number one unofficial rule with contempt. Bluntly, I would rather get home half an hour earlier than have a tea party—but no cup of tea and a biscuit hits at the foundation of our social side.

If wives and mums are going to throw old table tennis books, badges, programmes, etc., out, ask them to throw them this way and NOT in the bin. We are interested in any old T.T. items, particularly appertaining to the local game.

Seeing Cyril Smith (Bath Street) sitting in the stand at Cardiff, I thought there is one Eddie Cameron missed. Who is the oldest regular player? Any challengers for Cyril—he has retired!

Two of our greatest players, Arthur Taylor (Bath Street) and Gordon Birch (English Electric), have not played a league game this season—how sad and how they were missed.

J.A.I.

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HYDE CUP SEMI-FINALS

VAGABONDS v LIVERPOOL JEWISH 'A', at Crawfords

The match started predictably with Bobby Owen beating Gerry Goldring 21-14, 21-19 and newcomer Jimmy Cummings beating Doug Ridgway 13, 7 to level the score 1-1. Ted Barnes then did well to beat Les French 19, 17. Tommy Johnstone then beat Paula Breithaupt 17, 11 to give Vagabonds a commanding 3-1 lead. Ted v Gerry Goldring and Ted won 10, 14 to make it 4-1. With Jewish desperately needing a win, Jimmy and Paula went on against Bobby and Doug. They won the first 22-20, lost the second 20-22 and were 20-16 up in the third with Paula serving to Doug. Four good serves produced four kills, all off, and the score was 20 all. Bobby and Doug won the next two points to put their side into a 5-1 lead. This was the signal for a great fight-back by Jewish. Les and Gerry beat Ted and Tommy 21-13, 11-21, 21-14, and then Les went straight on to overwhelm Tommy 21-12, 21-9 to make the score 5-3. Then came the crunch match between Jimmy and Bobby. Jimmy won 14, 13 to make it 5-4. In the last set Doug won the first, narrowly, 21-19 but then Paula took the next two games 21-15, 21-13 to level the match 5-5. What a match. Played in great spirit and a credit to the sportsmanship of both teams.

STOP PRESS

Replay — LIVERPOOL JEWISH 'A' 7, VAGABONDS 3

BATH STREET 'B' 8, POLICE 'A' 2, at Jewish

Bath Street much too powerful in all departments for this Police side. The final score was 8-2 to Bath Street who are a powerful side and most worthy finalists.

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Divisional Notes

DIVISION 1

	P	W	LD	Pts
Liverpool Y.M. ...	21	20	0	189
Eng. Electric	21	18	2	148
Wav. Labour	20	17	3	145
Palmerston	20	13	4	121
Rafters	18	12	4	111
Trinity	19	10	7	102
Eng. Elec. 'A'	20	8	11	102
Bath Street	20	7	10	92
Palmerston 'A' ...	20	7	10	92
Wav. Lab. 'A'	19	6	13	67
Trinity 'A'	21	2	15	66
L'pool Y.M. 'A' ...	19	3	14	58
Bath Street 'A' ...	21	1	16	57
Rafters 'A'	21	3	18	50

No claimed matches so far— and then the latest cards arrived, more work and a claimed game card from Palmerston 'A'—NO MORE PLEASE! In the Wavertree Labour—Trinity 'A' cup clash, Dave Wilson was beaten 22-20, 2-22, 17-21 by Dave Roberts and Alan Chase's win of 21-10, 21-13 over Paul Morgan was his side's solitary cup set. Also in the cup, Wavertree Labour 'A' 4—English Electric 'A' 6. Labour played in order of strength which threw Pheysey's tactics, playing one, HE beat Tierney, but lost in three to Harworth. McPherson, playing four, beat Morgan and Luxom. Hurworth completed his double, beating Joe Green. Green and Black went down without a struggle to Tierney and Hurworth in the doubles and Tierney beat Black. Going through my cards I find Home advantage makes very little difference, in fact quite the opposite. Y.M.C.A. started the year with two Home wins over Trinity 'A' 9-1 and Bath Street 10-0. In the corresponding fixture Trinity 'A' came worse off, they went down 0-10.

Wavertree Labour began their season with 18 points from 20. The same two corresponding fixtures produced 13 points. (Rafters, away, lost 0-10 but at home) went down 1-9, the one point being an excellent win for Ronnie Rumjahn over Wayne Percival 21-15, 11-21, 21-15. Bath Street lost 2-8 at Wavertree, but won 6-4 at Bath Street. Wavertree won without Percival,

Fennah lost to Butterworth and Chen.

English Electrics' two opening games brought them 17 out of 22 points. Chase had a good win over Clein, and Newton over Lynch. In the return Electric just managed a 6-4 win. Clein and Lynch were out and the ageless Wally Sill with Mike Weston, deputised, beat Killip and won his doubles with Strettle and lost to Chase, 18 in the third. Electric's Clive Strettle and myself won 2 singles. Against their first team, Electric 'A' were out for revenge and changed their earlier 1-9 defeat to 4-6, Weston deputising for me. Jimmy Lynch's new bat won two singles (and it's paid for) against McPherson and Alec Sill. Eddie Clein beat Joe Green but lost to Pheysey. Clive Strettle beat McPherson and Pheysey and, with Lynch, beat Sill and Green.

Palmerston beat English Elec. 'A' 6-4 in their first game at Electric. McPherson beat Bryce and Molyneaux, Sill beat Van-Sant. However, in the return game at Palmerston, English Electric still lost 4-6 despite the home side being short of Ronnie Brotherton. Pheysey beat Hardy and McPherson beat Van-Sant. Alec Bryce took advantage of "Home Ground" by beating McPherson 21-18, 22-20. Rafters, who now look to the leadership of Keith Williams, started their season with a 5-5 draw with Palmerston 'A' team. Williams (2), Darlington, Timewell. In the return game Palmerston 'A', minus Evans, and Rafters minus Darlington, switched Arthur Heyes to one. Arthur had a fine win over Keith Williams, 21-16 in the third, and Arthur can also add my scalp to that. How about a Liverpool Cap next season?

Usually, complaining players are just looking for an excuse, having lost in away games, instead of looking for ways to win while playing. As I expected Trinity 'A' and Y.M.C.A. 'A' are pulling themselves clear of the relegation zone. What an effort from Wavertree Labour 'A' though! Lying next to bottom in last issue they trounced Trinity

7-3 and Bath Street 'A' 8-2. Bath Street 'A' had their first home win 8-2 to Rafters 'A'. France and Walton 2 singles each, both doubles and a singles each off Clayton and Pritchard.

In the next issue I will try and calculate a few averages. (It saves some work for Ken Armonson). Y.M. drew with English Electric and lost to Wavertree Labour. Don't forget to enter the "Closed".

ERIC HARDMAN.

DIVISION 2

	P	W	LD	Pts
Colonsay	20	20	0	165
L'pool Jewish ...	19	14	3	123
Eng. Elec. 'B'	21	11	6	123
Beauclair	20	10	4	115
Palmerston 'B' ...	20	11	5	114
Police	18	9	6	102
Colonsay 'A'	19	9	7	99
Maghull	19	9	8	93
Old Swan	21	6	10	93
L'pool Y.M. 'B' ...	20	5	11	86
Cadwa	20	5	12	76
Elec. Supply	20	3	14	70
Rafters 'B'	19	3	13	69
Trinity 'B'	21	1	16	60

Palmerston 'B' started this second half well, beating Police 7-3, Bob Hudson and Palmerston's new signing, Alan Mercer, winning both singles. They followed this up with an 8-2 win over English Electric 'B' with Bob still doing well to beat Brian Crolley and Bill Ellard. Arthur Land also crowned a night on a knife edge by beating Brian Crolley 22-20 in the third and going on to reverse a previous defeat by beating Phil Thomson, also 22-20 in the third. Two weeks later, against Old Swan, a team fighting against relegation, they crashed to a 3-7 defeat. John Linforth outlined his steady improvement over the years by beating Bob Hudson and Arthur Land, but Pete Dobbs and Fred Price also contributed by winning both singles.

Old Swan, however, remain an inconsistent side, particularly vulnerable without John Linforth. This was illustrated when they went down 3-7 to Cadwa. Although Pete Dobbs maintained his improved form, beating Trevor Hughes and Dave Murray, Fred Price remained unconvincing, going down to

Trevor Hughes and Mike Power. By this result Cadwa lifted themselves and it now looks a close fight between them and Old Swan as to who is relegated with Electric Supply, Rafters 'B' and Trinity 'B'. Although Electric supply drew with a Police side weakened by the absence of Barry McLeoud, they struggled to achieve the same result against Trinity 'B'. A good result for an improving Trinity side with Jim Kelly beating Ernie Owens and Alan Biggs. Peter Rumjahn is a strong influence now in lifting Rafters 'B' to better results. Notable wins for Peter, in Rafters' narrow defeat at the hands of Jewish, were recorded against John Hodges and John Henshaw. Another good result for Rafters was a draw against English Electric 'B' with Jerry O'Keeffe beating Alan Jones and Bill Ellard.

Thanks to Peter Coyle's rapidly improving form, Colonsay 'A' appear to be steering clear of relegation. He demonstrated how to deal with defensive players by confidently disposing of Frank Murphy and Ted Birch, but this was not enough to prevent them losing 4-6, due to Mick Allan and myself winning both singles. Y.M.C.A. 'B' maintain a middle position, as does Maghull. In a key match between these two clubs, Maghull won 6-4 with Ken Jones winning two singles, including a close match against Jim Clewett 23-21 in the third. Ian Blore also won both singles. Gordon Brownlee became the first player to beat Tony O'Connor, as Maghull took three points off a full-strength Colonsay side.

I was hoping for a close fight for the second promotion place this year, but as often happens, sides sign on new players on the last lap and it becomes a formality. This looks the case this year as Jewish, with new signing from the first division, Eddy Clein, now look to be clear favourites to clinch this spot. In his first match against Beauclair, Eddy was instrumental in helping Jewish to a 6-4 win, despite Mick Allan's fine play in beating Dave Money and John Henshaw. Since Christmas Beauclair's form has been poor.

This was epitomised in a 3-7 defeat by English Electric 'B' with Bill Ellard achieving a shock double against Frank Murphy and Ted Birch. However English Electric have been erratic and they now look out of the promotion hunt. Police have lost some ground with the absence of Barry McLeod, but are perhaps the only team now left who can challenge Jewish for second place. Colonsay appear to be putting out their full team more often and are now registering 10-0 wins—recently against Y.M.C.A. 'B' and Electric Supply.

In the Rumjahn Cup, Colonsay, Police and English Electric 'B' predictably moved into the semi-finals. English Electric were pushed very closely, but were inspired by Brian Crolley's double over Ken Jones and Gordon Brownlee. Brian recorded a 27-25 second game against Gordon and these two must be the best in the division of that dying breed—the orthodox (i.e., non-loop type) hitter. The other surprising semi-finalist is Electric Supply, who beat Y.M.C.A. 'B' handsomely 7-3 with Pete Carney and Ernie Owens winning both singles.

HARRY.

DIVISION 3A

	P	W	LD	Pts
Linacre	20	17	2 1	150
Fire Service	20	14	4 2	125
Trinity 'D'	20	11	4 5	117
L'pool Jew. 'B' ...	21	10	7 4	111
Colonsay 'B'	19	11	6 2	106
Police 'A'	19	12	6 1	106
Bath Street 'C' ...	19	9	7 3	100
Wav. Lab. 'B' ...	17	9	4 4	96
Maghull 'A'	19	9	9 1	96
L'pool Y.M. 'C' ...	19	4	12 3	81
Eng. Elec. 'D' ...	19	3	12 4	74
Bath Street 'D' ...	19	4	13 2	73
Crawford's	19	3	15 1	55
St. Hugh's	16	0	15 1	35

Fame at last! At least one person reads my notes, though I am not sure what he reads into them!!?? League tables in the last issue have once again proved me a poor prophet by showing that the team now coming through is Linacre, with Fire Brigade and maybe Police 'A' hot on their heels.

Linacre's last defeat came back in November when they went down 7-3 on the Police table. The only other hiccup was a draw with the Fire Brigade. 10-0 over Wavertree Labour; 9-1 v Bath Street 'C'; 8-2 v Jewish and 7-3 over Trinity speaks for itself. Linacre have so far used 7 players, all so good you can't call any of them reserves. A new name to me is N. Appleby, who stepped in twice to impressively beat Brian Cuninghame and Ken Foulkes (Bath Street 'C') and Stan Smith, R. A. Hall (Trinity).

The Fire Brigade did themselves a lot of good by beating both Wavertree Labour and the Police 8-2, which helps to make up for a disastrous December when they drew with Trinity (P. Lennard 2 plus doubles) and crashed 9-1 to Bath St. (C), J. Bird being their sole winner.

Police 'A' have let things slide lately by losing 4-6 to Colonsay (Mal Cray and J. Roper 2 each plus doubles) and, as mentioned, the Fire Service. The Police played Jewish twice within a week, winning 7-3 at home and losing 8-2 away. So one up to Jewish. Late news just in—Police have drawn with Wavertree Labour and a weakened side minus George Wright, lost 8-2 to Bath Street 'D'. This probably puts paid to Police hopes of promotion.

Bath Street 'C' are again showing what a steady side can achieve. Their only star is Alan Spencer, who so far has only dropped four games. Another strength of the Bath Street kids is the doubles, where all four players are averaging around 70%.

Colonsay 'B' were undefeated in 6 matches over December and January. Notable wins include 9-1 over Y.M., 8-2 over Maghull and 6-4 v Bath Street 'C'. Trinity must have had a late night at Colonsay when they drew with 6 sets going to three, and 9 games decided at 19 or deuce. J. Roper eventually took Mal Clark at 31-29. You're always sure of a battle when you meet Trinity with results showing respectable scores against the top teams and good wins over others. Their

recent 7-3 win over Y.M. showed a good team effort, with Paul Leonard once again the star, beating A. Thabet and J. Briggs. Trinity had a gift of 9-1 from Wavertree Labour, who only turned up with two players. With that kind of support from team-mates, Fraser Farquharson and John Hoban must have wondered if their journey was necessary! After their early promise Maghull have now settled down in the middle of the division. In December, in three matches, they surprisingly lost to Crawford's and Y.M. and in between drew with Bath Street 'C'. E. Taylor had a good night, beating the Bath Street strong men, Al Spencer and Ken Foulkes, Andy Howarth also having a double over the Cunningham Bros. Apart from their win over the Police, Liverpool Jewish have been having a thin time lately, but wins over Bath Street 'D' (8-2) and English Electric (7-3) should keep them out of trouble. Against Bath Street Jewish introduced J. Quirk, a young reserve, who proceeded to teach his elders how to loop. If he doesn't gain a regular Div. 3 place soon, there ain't no justice.

It's a bit unusual to see a Y.M. team on the fringe of the relegation zone and a 6-4 defeat at Crawford's has not helped, though a 9-1 win over St. Hugh's has. Perhaps if Ahmed Thabet turns out more often their position will become more secure.

Some cunning captaincy at English Electric 'D' is now bringing in more points and hotting up the action. Since Xmas, Paul Coughlin and Rob Peverall have been playing where they will do the most good. Rob Peverall has had an inspired spell, beating Bird and Ashley, of the Fire Brigade. George Wright, Cyril Smith and Mabel Neary are other notable scalps. There are also signs of a revival at Bath Street 'D' with the burden of the effort falling on Clive Chislett and Cyril Smith who were the only winners against the Fire Service. Bath Street knockers please note—this match was played as the snow came down. The match started after 8 p.m. and the last two Firemen arrived

after 9-0 p.m. but no games were claimed. It now looks like curtains for Crawford's unless they can improve their points average—just over 3 per match is not enough. The 6-4 wins over Maghull and Y.M. in December have not been repeated since. A. Harrison appears to be putting up the most fight with wins over A. Smethurst and P. Leonard.

Nothing can save St. Hugh's now, but all praise to their captain, G. McAille, who nearly always features on the credit side in the 9-1 and 8-2's that go against them. They also seem to pick up more points from the doubles than the singles.

TED JANE.

DIVISION 3B

	P	W	LD	Pts
Bath Street 'B'...	21	18	1	2 163
Vagabonds	21	18	1	2 163
L'pool Jew. 'A' ...	20	14	3	3 140
Eng. Elect. 'C' ...	20	15	5	0 134
Eng. Elec. 'E' ...	20	13	4	3 123
Waterloo Park ...	20	8	8	4 109
Beauchair 'A'	20	9	10	1 92
Orrell	21	5	12	3 86
Palmerston 'C' ...	19	6	12	1 77
Old Swan 'A' ...	18	5	11	2 68
Trinity 'C'	20	5	13	2 66
Bath Street 'E' ...	18	4	13	1 61
Rafters 'C'	19	5	14	0 53
Colonsay 'C'	17	0	17	0 35

Jimmy Cummings' signing for Jewish 'A' makes Jewish just about the strongest side in the division. The Vagabonds' side were unbeaten until they met the new Jewish, when they crashed 7-3. Les French and Gerry Goldring both won two for Jewish with Bobby Owen two for Vagabonds. Bobby and Doug avenged their earlier defeat by Paula and I, winning 10-21, 27-25, 21-15.

The Vagabonds—Bath Street 'B' game ended in a draw after a fight-back from 5-1 down by Bath Street. Heroes Alec Gould, Bobby Owen and Tommy Johnstone, with two wins each. Bath Street also drew with Jewish with two wins each for John Letch, Cummings and myself. They are my tip to take the title.

English Electric 'C' held the top two to 6-4 and beat the "old" Jewish 6-4 with a double from Wally Sill. They call on Mike

Weston for the tough matches. The Electric derby ended in a 6-4 win for the 'C' team which included Weston in place of Sill! Six went to three. Bobby Owen's 100% record went to Ken Davies, of Palmerston 'C', who also beat Ted Barnes to produce the best individual performance of the season. Ken is a colourful character, his top spin beating most defensive opponents but is apt to give up when faced by a good hitter. It is a hollow victory when your opponent doesn't do his best, so play the game, Ken, in every sense of the word.

On Ken's special night, Vagabonds were fortunate to get away with an 8-2 win. Inge lost 20-22, 21-18, 20-22 to Ridgeway. Davies/Inge lost 21-23, 21-11, 19-21 to Barnes/Johnstone, and Roberts lost 17, 20-22 to Johnstone.

English Electric 'E' have signed triple ex-women's champion, Brenda Williams, who just wants to play for enjoyment. Against Jewish she beat Liverpool team member, Paula Brethaupt 10, 19, but lost to Warren Davies 21-17, 24-22. Warren also beat George Cheng to help Jewish to a 6-4 win. Waterloo Park held Bath Street 'B' to 7-3 due to an excellent double win for Bill Spencer over Alec Gould and Letch. They also drew with Jewish with Tony Delamere starring with wins over Gerry and Warren. Spencer avenged his earlier defeat by Paula 16-21, 21-19, 21-19, a nerve wracking night with 5 games out of 6 going to 19. Waterloo also had a great 8-2 win over Beauclair with a double for Fred Bainbridge over Billy Leeming and Billy Holmes. Peter Ross beat George Ashcroft 31-29 in the third. Beauclair 'A' had a ding-dong match with Palmerston 'C' with seven sets going to three. Bill Leeming beat Ken 15 in the third and Derek Inge 23-21 in the third.

Norman Cooke, of Bath Street 'E' won his side's only two sets against English Electric 'C' by beating Julie Black and Brian Cullen.

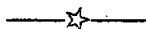
The relegation battle between Trinity 'C' and Rafter's 'C' to see who joins Colonsay 'C' for the

drop, is hotting up. Trinity have fought back, drawing with Waterloo Park and Orrell, so things look black for Rafter's, even though they beat Colonsay 6-4.

Alun Williams was Orrell's star in his side's 7-3 defeat by Vagabonds. He beat Tommy Johnstone and Bob Owen, and he and Pete Wilson became only the second pair to beat Bobby and Doug Ridgeway in the doubles. Alan Hewitt turned on a great performance against Bath Street 'B' by beating Alec Gould and Alan Waddington. George Cheng also beat Alec but Bath Street won 6-4. Bath Street 'E' had a thrilling draw with Orrell. Cooke had a good win over Alun Williams and Pete beat John Stewart, both 18 in the third. Old Swan 'A' drew with Waterloo Park, Pete McAdam beating Spencer and Bainbridge. Trinity 'C' were unlucky to lose 8-2 to Old Swan. John Dixon was Trinity's hero with two wins. There was an equally good performance by young Paul Corrie to defeat Norman Cutler and Alan Hall 25-23 in the third. Colonsay 'A' did well to hold Bath Street 'B' to 6-4 with two from Alan Guy. Ron Georgeson, Bath Street 'E' beat Jim Lightburn, Beauclair 18-21, 23-21, 24-22. B. Cullen (English Electric 'C') beat P. Breithaupt (Jewish) 25-23 in the third. Brian Aldred (Bath Street 'B') beat Kevin Parker 22-20 in the third. Cullen beat Bainbridge (Waterloo Park) 21-14, 20-22, 24-22. Corrie (Old Swan) beat Hall (Trinity) 21-15, 20-22, 25-23.

Bobby Owen — 34 wins, 4 defeats; Les French—43-5; Ted Barnes—34-8; Alan Guy—17-5; Brian Aldred—33-9; George Cheng—30-8; Alan Waddington 34-10; Alec Gould—31-9; Letch/Aldred—19-1; Gould/Waddington—17-4; Owen/Ridgeway—15-4; French/Breithaupt—17-5; Cheng/Parker—13-3; Sill/Cullen—11-3.

LES FRENCH.



DIVISION 4A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Kirkby	19	17	2	0	146
Polytechnic	19	14	1	4	139
Cadwa 'A'	18	13	3	2	132
Vagabonds 'A'	18	13	4	1	117
Eng. Elec. 'F'	18	11	4	3	110
L'pool Jew. 'C'	16	9	6	1	92
Trinity 'F'	17	6	11	0	87
Cadwa 'B'	19	6	10	3	86
Wav. Lab. 'D'	19	6	12	1	80
Orrell 'B'	18	4	12	2	56
Bath Street 'G'	17	1	13	3	41
Vagabonds 'C'	15	3	11	1	36
Police 'C'	15	0	15	0	18

Making the headlines in this issue is Les Higham, the new signing of Vagabonds 'C', who by beating Paul Brown 21-19, 21-14, ended the latter's 100% record. To complete a memorable double he beat Mark Monaghan, also two straight. Vagabonds 'C' also showed their improved form by soundly beating Orrell 8-2, a good win for Nick Ryan over Peter Meyer 10-21, 21-19, 23-21. However, Les's 100% record went crashing to a brilliant display from Mark Royden, of Trinity, who won 21-18, 21-14.

I'm afraid my prediction in the last "Digest" has put the jinx on Cadwa 'A' who have slipped up badly in the last two months. Two wins each by Alan Rycroft (81%) and Dave Rooney (62%) helped give Vagabonds 'A' a draw against them, while Wavertree Labour took advantage of a weakened team to take three points. Ken Hartley is Cadwa's top player at the moment, only having lost a couple. It looks odds on a Kirkby victory now. They are finding real consistency and a succession of convincing wins has taken them ahead of Cadwa 'A'. The team's averages speak for themselves:—Monaghan 87%; Brown 96%; Muriel Cox 88%; Jimmy Prescott 81%.

With four successive wins, Trinity 'F' finally got back on the winning trail after losing so many close matches. Our 6-4 defeat by English Electric 'F' was highlighted by Mike Corcorans win over Albert Parker (79%) 8-21, 21-16, 21-16. Another notable win by Mark Royden over U. K. Ong, of the Polytechnic 21-17, 20-22, 21-19. I must

mention here (because I promised I would) the form of Paul McLoughlin, who has played a large part in Trinity's recent successes. Good wins include those over Gil Rowbotham (Liverpool Jewish) and Nick Ryan.

Eric Young (64%) won Jewish's only point against Kirkby' with a win over Muriel Cox 21-19, 13-21, 21-14. Eric and his team-mates, Gerry Richardson, Bill Davies and Gil Rowbotham are doing very nicely in the mid-table area. A draw with English Electric catches the eye, Ken Black being the only player to win all his games, closest game of the night being Andy Byrne's win over Gerry Richardson (58%) 17-21, 21-18, 21-17.

Another sole winner, J. Power (42%), of Cadwa 'B', who had an excellent win over Chris Roberts (82%) 21-19, 15-21, 23-21 in the Cadwa derby match. Cadwa 'B' have also slipped up a bit recently and allowed the gap between themselves and Jewish, along with Trinity, to close.

Polytechnic drew with Cadwa 'A' to keep up their challenge. Neil Roberts (94%) again winning his two. A comfortable win for them over Vagabonds 'A' 7-3 to underline their third place spot.

Still looking for their first wins of the season are Police 'C' and Bath Street 'G'. Ian Harper picked up two points for Bath Street at Jewish, an excellent win over Julian Quirk 23-25, 21-12, 24-22, while R. Woodley salvaged a single win for them against Polytechnic.

In the Forrest Cup, Polytechnic will represent this division in the final after beating Cadwa 'A' in the semi-finals. Liverpool Jewish did really well to reach the last four before going down to the powerful Fire Service of 4B. No forecasts for the final but good luck Poly.

To end off with, a few performances which I think deserve a mention:—Miss K. Gibson (Bath Street) losing narrowly to J. Power 21-17, 21-23, 28-28; Mike Gallagher (Vagabonds 'C') beat Ron Simister (English Electric) for his side's only point;

Mal McEvoy (Wavertree Labour) another lone winner for his side against Polytechnic, beating Phil Roberts 21-17, 11-21, 21-19; Carole Flood (Cadwa 'B') beat Dave Rooney (Vagabonds 'A') 21-16, 12-21, 21-16.

MIKE GRLEFFITHS.

DIVISION 4B

	P	W	LD	Pts
Fire Service 'A'...	17	16	0 1	148
Wav. Lab. 'C' ...	17	12	2 3	122
Trinity 'E'	19	13	5 1	117
Police 'B'	19	11	5 3	102
Maghull 'B'	21	8	11 2	102
Eng. Elec. 'G'.....	18	8	7 3	87
L'pool Jew. 'D' ...	15	6	6 3	86
Bath Street 'F' ...	18	10	8 0	80
Police 'E'	19	6	10 3	80
Vagabonds	16	5	11 0	65
Police 'D'	16	5	10 1	64
Orrell 'A'	19	3	15 1	59
Cadwa 'C'	19	1	14 4	54

Fire Service 'A' with hard-hitting Jackson still 100% and Watson recently losing his first game to Quirk (Jewish), continue to set the pace, but Wavertree Labour 'C' kept up with them in the last session with a 53-52 advantage over six games. Top marks to McEvoy R. and Doubles who have only lost one between them in eight games.

Despite a 6-4 win over English Electric (Prat 2), Orrell (Forshaw 3) look likely relegation candidates, and probably the only ones, owing to Rafter's dropping out. At the same end of the table Cadwa 'C' (Wilson 3) and Police 'E' (Conroy 2) fought out a 5-5 draw, Conroy and Wilkinson winning five in their side's very creditable draw at Police 'D' (Quirk 3).

Even Jim Tyrer couldn't stop Police 'B' beating Police 'D' (Jelley 2). Ferguson proved he can still win and Purcell, too, who is having a great season, having only lost a couple of games. The 'B' team went one better against the Police 'E' (Wilkinson 2) winning 7-3, Purcell and Ferguson taking 5 of the 7, and these in-form boys did the same again in their 6-4 win over Trinity 'E' with Mooney winning two and not a game going to three in such a close match.

In contrast, eight of ten games

went to three when English Electric 'G' beat Bath Street 'F' (Edwards 2) 6-4, but Fyles thinks there is no justice. Winning the first 21-7, he lost to Edwards 19-21, 23-25. In the doubles he won the first against Wright and Edwards 21-9 and then lost 15-21 20-22.

Ann Carline (Liverpool Jewish 'D') quickly took the hint and won her two against Maghull 'B' but Whittaker counteracted with a trio of wins and a 6-4 win for his side.

Too many 10-0 and 9-1's for it to be a good session and I must admit I still have a hankering for the old straight divisions and a levelling off of teams.

Stevenson (Orrell A) was his side's lone winner against Police 'D'. Spedding and Jelley (Police 'D') both saved the whitewash against Bath Street 'F' and Maghull 'B'. Banks (Maghull 'B') won his singles 24-22 in the third against Cullen (Fire Brigade) and his doubles with Sue Hughes who in turn beat Hoban (Wavertree Labour). Southworth and Mooney had doubles against Cadwa but Wilson's double was the star performance. Davis (Vagabonds) and Biggs (Cadwa) won their side's only set against Fire Brigade and Vagabonds.

Congratulations to Fire Service 'A' who play Polytechnic in the final of the Forrest Cup. Good luck to Pete Davies and his boys.

ENJOY YOUR TABLE TENNIS.

JACK LAMBERT.

DIVISION 5A

	P	W	LD	Pts
Dutch's	19	18	1 0	172
Kirkby 'A'	18	18	0 0	158
Bohemians	19	14	5 0	136
Maghull 'C'	16	13	2 1	112
Trinity 'G'	20	10	7 3	109
Kirkby 'B'	19	8	10 1	90
Wav. Lab. 'E' ...	19	4	12 3	77
Barker & Dobson	17	7	8 2	76
L'pool Jew. 'E' ...	17	5	11 1	64
Bohemians 'A' ...	18	4	13 1	54
Eng. Elec. 'H' ...	16	1	14 1	30
Trinity 'H'	16	1	14 1	18

Fire Service withdrawn.

O.K. Kirkby, I submit you stopped the all-conquering Dutch run and put me in my

place. Holmes 3, Chaloner and Cragg won their singles, and only Fildes, of Dutch's, offered token resistance with a single and doubles.

At the other end, Trinity 'H' changed a 2-8 home defeat to a five all draw at English Electric 'H'. Gillian Harris and Thomas, B., two of the youngest prospects, shone—both winning their three. Another 5-5 battle was between Wavertree Labour 'E' and Bohemians 'A' (Jackson 2). Amy Bell won her two in the Wavertree star girls' side—I wonder what an old time ladies' match would have been like with Amy and Betty Black performing their high jinks?

Yet another draw—Barker & Dobson, with Travis winning three and Jewish 'E', McKim and Bennion two apiece. These boys carried on their good form with doubles in a 7-3 win over Electric 'H' (Thomas, D., 2). Trinity 'G' (Sanders 2) fought hard against Bohemians but 2 Davies singles and a doubles with Kiel gave Bohemians, who are having a very good season, a 7-3 win, with six games going to three. Four games from Gill and Pattinson gave Maghull 'C', who are nicely placed at the top, a 7-3 over Kirkby 'B' (McGlore 2).

Bohemians 'A' seem to play better than their record suggests beating Electric 7-3 thanks to doubles from Jones and O'Mara, and losing 7-3 to Trinity 'G' for whom Sanders, Tobin and Jones, T. were all double winners.

Young Collins, of Kirkby, had good wins for the 'A' and 'B' teams and with two from Lunt beat Wavertree Labour 7-3 (Monica O'Donnel 2) seven games to three.

Bohemians and Dutch's have yet to call on a reserve—good team spirit here. Fire Service 'B' are out officially—and unfortunately Trinity 'H' deserve a medal. Holmes (Kirkby 'A') has dropped one game only to date.

Millie Harris 2 v Bohemians 2: Betty McEvoy had a good win over O'Sullivan (Barker & Dobson) and C. McEvoy won his first game here, great stuff. Gittins, P. v Jewish 'E' 1-9; Holmes and McGlore beat Gill

and Wood 21-23, 22-20, 21-19. Pattinson v Dutch 9-21, 21-19, 21-19 in a 9-1 defeat. S. Gittins lost 21-19, 17-21, 20-22 against M. Cohen (Jewish 'E') and just failed for a loner.

McGiveren (Electric) lost to O'Mara 9-21, 25-27, so easy and then as tight as a drum.

Enjoy your table tennis.

JACK LAMBERT.

DIVISION 5B

	P	W	LD	Pts
Elec. Supply 'A'...	17	15	0	2 136
Harding	17	15	1	1 134
Nat. Giro	15	11	3	1 109
Cadwa 'D'	16	11	4	1 97
Bohemians 'B' ...	18	7	9	2 91
Vagabonds 'D' ...	15	10	4	1 90
Halewood Y.C. ...	17	5	11	1 68
Maghull 'E'	17	3	12	2 55
University	13	5	8	0 55
Wav. Lab. 'F' ...	13	3	10	0 45
Colonsay 'D'	15	3	12	0 40
Maghull 'D'	16	2	13	1 37

Note.—Nat. Giro 'A' expunged.

By the time you read these notes the season will be almost over and Electric Supply 'A' should have their ticket to the 4th next season booked as champions and Cup winners. I expect them to dispose of cup final opponents, University, quite comfortably, having beaten them previously 10-0. All credit to University for disposing of the threat from 5B. Aided by some strange tactics, which cost them a few bob, they beat Maghull 'C' 8-2 in the semi. As has invariably been the case in recent years, the draw favoured the weaker teams yet again by pairing the two strongest in the semis. Harding added to the confusion by not turning up. They claimed they had not been advised—I wonder why we bother printing the dates in the Handbook—so a re-match was necessary from which Electric Supply 'A' emerged the winners to set the seal on their superiority over Harding.

The list of winners against the top two has become so long I can no longer spare the space to print them. This not being Div. 2 or 3B, we are not allowed to waffle on for two full pages!!

Anyway, congratulations to all those who have done their bit.

The end result so far has been only four 10-0's to Electric Supply and one to Harding. You will probably not find another division in the league with such a record.

In the return top two clash Electric Supply demonstrated their concern by introducing Peter Carney to their team at No. 4. Peter is eligible to play for although all his previous matches have been for their 1st team in Div. 2. Harding countered this by reversing their order. It paid off as Dave Williams took a set from Peter, but they could only manage two more and lost 7-3.

Vagabonds have been getting the results, aided by the consistency of Gough and Farrell at 1 and 2. They beat Giro 6-4 with five sets from Gough and Farrell and only one from the 3 and 4.

Lower down in the order Cadwa 'D' are keeping faith with me and proving themselves a good middle-order team. The only top team they have made an impression on was Vagabonds when they managed a draw. They are competing with Bohemians 'B' for a final 5th place and at present there is little to choose between them, for Bohemians have also shown themselves to be a good middle-order team, but the club will have to watch the 10-0 walk-over rule.

University arrived at Bohemians with only one player, the "mysterious" T. White, who won his two at No. 1. Always assuming it was T. White. The following week Bohemians failed to turn up against Vagabonds and the next week they drew with Giro. Presumably they were worn out after playing a one-man University team and so decided to rest themselves to prepare for Giro!!

The position at the bottom is still confused but time is running out for Colonsay 'D', who must now be favourites. They keep picking up sets and have done well against Wavertree Labour 'F' and the two Maghull teams. I feel with a little more effort they might have pulled away from the bottom. This will be a relief for the two Maghull

teams and Wavertree Labour who have all found it a struggle at times.

The Maghull teams can console themselves with the thought that this being the first season for most of them, they have acquitted themselves extremely well. Their return clash ended in a draw.

These teams have a distinct family flavour with the McGanitys forming most of one team and the Drapers half of the other. The McGanitys are new to the league and the two younger members have shown a lot of promise and will benefit next season from the experience gained. The name Draper, on the other hand, is well known to most of us, for Jeff and Colin are the sons of Stan Draper. So far they have little to show for their efforts, but if they take after Stan then we can expect them to become reliable players and difficult to beat, for Stan is one of those players who, over the years, has shown a high consistency and a determination to win. Like father, like son, is the saying, and if it is true then Maghull can look to an interesting future.

One of the more pleasing aspects of recent years has been the increase in players following their parents into the league and providing us with possible future stars. It is also rare to see such players showing any of the extremes of temperament which is so common in young players today.

Halewood continue to pick up sets steadily and include a few match wins in their record. They have made a good start and I feel we will see a much improved team next season as a result of the experience gained. Wavertree Labour 'F' are still struggling along and are in danger of finishing only slightly ahead of Colonsay. Much of their troubles stem from the necessity of giving everyone a game, resulting in frequent team changes, which does not lend itself to consistency.

KEN ARMSON.



Secretaries please note:—

If you check the League Tables you will note that 82 cards are missing. Please dig them out now.

Many matches will have been postponed. Do not forget that all

matches due to be played by Xmas **must** be played or forfeited before the end of Week 26. One week is then allowed to play the balance. No extensions to this will be allowed.

E. CAMERON,
Fixture Secretary.

Happy Birthday

A small point missed last season was that the 50th birthday of the League coincided with the 25th birthday of the "Digest". That year saw Bath Street and Cadwa with us for the first time. It saw a League of 16 divisions, 82 clubs, 153 teams and about 1,180 players. Eddie Cameron wrote Division 3 notes, Don Foulis, our Vice-President, wrote an article as Chairman. Eric Caird, another Vice-President, captained Ratters 1st, Ted Rumjahn captained Ratters 'A', both Div. 1, Moya Pattison (Jones to you) wrote on T.T. clothing. Pinky and Bluey May (Mrs. Casselman and Mrs. R. Rumjahn) were photographed with the Rowe twins in the final of the Wilmott Cup. A. Gould won twice and showed himself a determined attacking player, Norman Cooke played attractive and entertaining table tennis, Peter Rumjahn wrote on choosing your bat. The finals of the Merseyside Open were held at the Philharmonic Hall, Victor Barna, Johnny Leach and the Rowe twins were there. Joe Delamere (Tony's dad) helped Crosby Scouts to a good win over African Oil—Div. 1.

Liverpool Y.M. v Bath Street—Bohemians v English Electric, Hyde Cup—Round 1! A Ken Hyde bat was 8/3 and a Jaques tournament table £40—that's not too bad, is it?

John Doncaster came into Oakhills Div. 1 team. Hough, Heague and Rennie Crafter were playing in Div. 2 for Police. Jack Davidson, Linacre, said our members are keen and will put up hard fights. Ernie Owens (Electric Supply) had left St. Michael's for the Forces, Eileen Mansell (Ratters) was the third member of the very successful Rose Bowl side.

On second thoughts this could have been our 26th birthday, but what's a year between friends. I think it depends on years or seasons.

J.A.L.

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