
Table Tennis Digest

Volume 30

Number 4



Official Magazine

OF THE

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TABLE TENNIS DIGEST

ALL correspondence must be
Addressed to the Editor
"Table Tennis Digest"
051-546 3081.

Published during: the
months of December,
January March and May.

Editorial Board

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4 Rhosesmor Road, Liverpool, L32 7QV

Distribution: K. A. ARMSON

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Vol 30

MAY 1977

No.4

Editorial

One way or another I don't suppose we will ever see the end of another season as this last one has been. We had an International match in our midst for the first time for many, many moons and against the Chinese wizards — we could not have had better or more scintillating opposition, what great ambassadors for table tennis and their country — and what about Chang Li fellahs (photos wanted).

The World Championships (on the right days which were all but a couple) lived up to their expectations — I have yet to meet a person who did not thoroughly enjoy their day out — the excellent mixture of Sportacus and table tennis was superb. I suppose the television coverage was perhaps open to a little criticism but after past T.V. efforts I think Tony Gubba and the BBC did a great job for us.

And then our own venture at Kirkby Sports Centre with over a hundred extra entries for the Closed Championships giving a strong vote for a one day tournament — which was just fine up till six o' clock and then chaos and darkness reigned until 11-30. A real sorting out job required here.

Congratulations to all of our league champions — L'pool Y.M.C.A. again, but finding it more difficult than it was with the home made Y.M.C.A. crew. Colonsay Div. 2 champs. Linacre Div 3A their first major honour in nearly thirty years and Alex, Jack and Frank still there of the original five. Vagabonds — Div 3B. Kirkby Sports Div. 4A. Fire Service A Div. 4B. Dutch's Div 5A Champions at their first attempt. Electric Supply 'A' Div 5B. As in all competitions these players miss the excitement and glamour of cup warfare but these are THE top teams of their divisions who have to keep in top gear all season.

A swift and snappy counterpunch came from our Secretary and Chairman to my last Editorial when they announced that BARCLAYS BANK LTD. are kindly sponsoring next year's Merseyside Barclays Bank Open Championship a great boost for our local game.

Wavertree Labour want the old problem of a ranking list based on order of merit to be discussed and possibly introduced for the 78/79 season — your views will be most welcome

As additional tables are now available a few vacancies now exist in the Merseyside Coaching Association. Applications to:

**JACK LAMBERT or
JOHN O'SULLIVAN.**

Letters to the Editor

339, Holden Road,
Leigh.

During a recent match in which I was participating, two members of the opposing team were using illegal bats. The bats in question had normal rubber 9n one side, with the other side plain unstained wood. I sympathise with the players in question because with the continual changing of bats to gain an advantage, anything apparently goes. However, the law clearly stated that "If a side of the blade used for striking the ball is not covered, the wood shall be dark coloured, either naturally or by being stained, not painted, in such a way as not to alter the frictional characteristics of the surface. I hope that in future editions of the Digest, points of law are printed each time, and a simple question and answer be put in an "Umpire's Corner" to help all players to keep updated with, the current rules.

JACK EVANS, County Umpire, Palmerston.

A controversial piece of legislation this Jack which requires clarification. Editor.

21. Armscot Close, Liverpool,

To Call or Not to Call

At the Headman Cup Final I studied the service of the players. In my opinion all the players either foul served continuously, or used one or more suspect serves. The most common fault was an apparent belief that the palm of the hand started from the tip of the fingers.

Why were they not called? Why is it that we rarely see anyone called at league level?

The answer, I feel, lies in the peculiar decision of umpires at the 'Worlds' to call the Chinese players, yet completely ignore the Women's Singles champion. She repeatedly cupped her fingers round the ball when serving. By holding the ball steady in this way she was able to improve her service yet not be called.

So, if international umpires cannot correctly answer the question of when to call, and when not to call, who can blame players for ignoring the service rule and just get on with the game.

The service rule is so badly abused that it is time it was revised or properly implemented. Which brings us back to square one. If it is difficult for international umpires to call correctly what possible chance has anyone else got?

After the umpiring shambles at the 'Worlds' can we now expect the I.T.T.F. and the E.T.T.A. to sort this out and make things easier for players and umpires at every level?

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CUP FINALS

FORREST CUP: University 7 — Elec. Supply 'A' 3

Played at English Electric, official Alec Gould, P. Bilson of University upset favourites Elec. Supply beating Reg Cumotsey 21-17; 21-15; Simpson and Rigby beat Cameron and Cumptsey 14-21; 21-13; 21-10. T. White beat Sid Green 21-18; 17-21; 21-14; J. Rigby lost to Dennis Underbill 14 and 14, and brought Supply into the game. J. Simpson beat Alan Cameron 10 and 15, and White beat Cumptsey 19-21; 21-8; 21-17. Rigby lost to Green 24-22; 14-21; 22-24: (5-2). Bilson lost to Cameron 7-21; 9-21 (5-3). Simpson beat Underbill 15 and 14, making the score 6-3 and a good victory for University and their supporters, Bilson and White beat Underwood and Green 8 and 16. A good match.

STAMP CUP: Fire Service 'A' 1 — Polytechnic 9

Played at Kirkby Sports, official Don Cameron. Having seen both teams in action I thought we were in for a humdinger here. How wrong can you be. Roberts brothers beat Davies and Kirsooo 17 and 18. Anderson and Ong beat Watson and Jackson 21-15; 30-28. E. Ong beat Pete Davies 17 and 18. Neil Roberts beat Kenny Jackson 15 and 17. Alex Anderson beat George Kirsoop 16 and 16. Phil Roberts beat John Watson 21-19; 11-21; 21-18. John really fought to keep the Fi^e Service in the game but that was it 6-0. Anderson lost to Jackson 21-18; 14-21; 14-21. Neil beat Watson 21-11; 13-21; 21-18. Phil beat Davies 19-21; 21-19; 21-9. Ong beat Kirsopo 21-17: 21-14. In the final of a Cup I think we should have lights OVER the table!

HYDE CUP: Liverpool Jewish 'A' 6 — Bath St. 'B' 4

Played at Palmierston, official Eddie Cameron. Warren Davies lost to Alec Gould 24-26; 5-21. Les French beat Brian Aldred 15 and 16. Gerry Goldring lost to Alan Waddington 21-16; 19-21; 14-21, Jimmv Cummings beat John Letch 21-2; 21-16. Davies and Goldring lost to Gould and Waddington 14-21; 21-17; 14-21. Cummings beat Waddington 21-8; 21-15. Davies lost to letch 14-21; 20-22. French beat Gould 23-21; 17-21; 21-16. Despite all that had gone before this was the crunch game at 4-4 Goldring beating Aldred 15 and 15. Cummings and French beat Letch and Aldred 16 and 16. THE final of the series — a great game.

Continued on next page

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CUP FINALS

RUMJAHN CUP: Colonsay 8 — Merseyside Police 2

Played at Crawfords, official Alec Gould. Norman Challoner lost to Barry McLeod 20-22; 11-21. Tony O'Connor beat Don Chalkley 21-10; 21-8. Dave Williams beat Dave Crispin 16-21; 21-18; 21-14. O'Connor beat Gareth Jones 21-14; 23-21. Nicky Cray beat McLeod 19-21; 21-12; 21-12. Williams beat Chalkley 11 and 12. Challoner lost to Jones 21-14; 18-21; 19-21. Cray beat Crispin 21-11; 20-22; 21-14. O'Connor and Challoner beat Jones and Crispin 23-21; 21-16. Williams and Cray beat Chalkley and McLeod 21-10; 17-21; 21-11. A good fight by the Police against the strong Colonsay side.

READMAN CUP: Wavertree Labour 8 — English Electric 2

Played at Bath St., official Alec Gould. Roy Smith lost to Clive Strettle 17 and 16, Wayne Percival beat Joe Green 12 and 15. Dave Roberts beat Jimmy Lynch 21-12; 19-21; 21-18, quite a battle. John Fennah beat Green 9 and 16. Roberts beat Eric Hardman 21-13; 14-21; 21-13. Percival lost to Strettle 15 and 19. Smith and Fennah beat Strettle and Lynch 21-14; 10-21; 21-15. Roy Smith, fittingly, as he has had a great season beat Lynch 17 and 17 to win the match. Fennah beat Hardman 11 and 12. Percival and Roberts beat Green and Hardman 21-14; 11-21; 23-21.

A composed performance by Wavertree and a niggling one by Electrics captain which possibly upset his team and made it a mediocre final. Y.M. are 5-3 up, Dave Roberts is losing the third game to Peter Lee and Dave unleashes a devastating forehand, at the same time Pete dives to the floor as Dave's bat flashes past his head, and STICKS high in the wall like a stag's head! A unique shot to say the least — from which the spectators never recovered — neither did Pete — he lost!

J.A.L.

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LIVERPOOL CLOSED TOURNAMENT 1977

Keith Williams became the new Liverpool Singles Champion when the annual Tournament was held at Kirkby Sports Centre. Keith had a convincing two-straight win over Roy Smith in the Final and took the Title for the first time. His path to the Final was not a particularly difficult one and with easy wins over D. G. Ridgway, D. Truman, F. Lay and. W. Harris, Keith reached the Quarters without dropping a game. Against Dave Roberts, the top seed, in the quarter final round, he was forced to go to three but came through safely in the end, in spite of an unfortunate break in concentration while the match table was moved at the end of the second game.

Clive Strettle provided hard opposition in the Semi, but here again Keith succeeded and reached the Final to attain a glorious victory.

Roy Smith, an unexpected contender for final honours, reached the last rounds unseeded and with a number of extremely close wins under his belt. He just managed to overcome Peter Turtle 19/21. 21/9, 21/19 and his next opponent, the young Nicky Cray, gave him an even closer match, the score against Nicky being 26/24, 17/21. 23/21. Roy followed this with a straightforward two games win over Mike Tierney, before defeating the second seeded player, the St. Helens Champion. Wayne Percival in the quarter final. He then disposed of Eric Hardman in the semi before yielding to Keith Williams in the Final.

Sue Alexander became the Women's Singles Champion with a not altogether unexpected victory in the Final over Julie Black Sue also took the women's Doubles Title in partnership with Paula Breithaupt. defeating mother and daughter pairing, Betty and Julie Black, in two straight games.

The Men's Doubles event provided Keith Williams also with his second success. With B'ian Davey as his partner, the Rafter's pair overcame all opposition to take the Title, including a good win over the top seeded pair, Dave Roberts and Wayne Percival, in the Semi-Fin al.

The Restricted Singles provided some very closely contested matches, but the winner, Jimmy Cummings of Liverpool Jewish, the top seed for the event, must be the best player the third division has had in its ranks for a number of years. Perhaps this result might encourage Jimmy's Club to promote him to a higher team next season. His hardest match was against the ever youthful (!) Harry Reeve of Linacre who. I must point out, has now ensured his inclusion in a Second Division Team next season. Jimmy just managed to beat Harry 22/24, 21/19. 21/17.

J. C. Quirk, also of Liverpool Jewish, was another perhaps unexpected contender in the final stages of the Restricted. He had enjoyed wins over D. Collier, A. Hewett, J. Reynolds, K. Foulkes and B. Aldred before meeting Bobby Owen in the Semi-Final. Bobby won Quite convincingly and then had to face Jimmy Cummings in the Final. Bobby's opponents on the road to the Final included J. Prescott, M. Royden. R. McEvoy, P. Coughlin and G. Cheng. Bobby in fact defeated all his various opponents in straight games, before losing the Final in straight games.

The Junior Boys Title went as expected to Graeme Black, although his two straight win over Nicky Cray in the Final was not easy. Probably Graeme's hardest game was his 22/20, 23/2¹ defeat of S. Farr in the second round, but George Cheng took a game off him in the next round.

The Junior Girls' Title was won by Loretta Hardman. who won the Event without conceding a game. Clare Turner, the losing finalist, had been taken to three in her Semi-Final against Miss K. Gibson.

The Veterans' Title was eventually secured by Tom Killip with a two straight win over Jack Davidson. Tom had in earlier rounds defeated Norman Chaloner, Mal Cray 23/21 in the third, and Bill Harris 21/19 in the third in the Semi-Final, before beating Jack Davidson.

RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES

Semi-Finals: K. Williams beat C. Strettle 21/14, 17/21, 21/17; W. R. Smith beat E. Hardman 21/14, 21/19. **Final:** K. Williams beat W. R. Smith 21/11, 21/13.

MEN'S DOUBLES

Semi-Finals: K. Williams / B. Davey beat D. Roberts/W. Perclval 23/21, 16/21, 21/16; M. Tierney/E. Hardman beat C. Strettle / J.Lynch 21/17, 22/20. **Final:** K. Williams / B. Davey beat M. Tierney / E. Hardman 21/14, 21/19.

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Semi Finals: Miss J. Black beat Mrs. M. K. Cox 21/15, 21/18; Mrs. S. Alexander beat Miss P. Breithaupt 21/16, 21/11. **Final:** Mrs. S. Alexander beat Miss J. Black 21/16, 21/10.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Semi-Finals: Miss J. Black/Mrs. B. Black beat Mrs. J. Reynolds/Mrs. P. Lawrenson 21/16, 21/14; Mrs. S. Alexander/Miss P. Breithaupt beat Mrs. M. K. Cox/Mrs. M. Neary 21/13, 21/13. **Final:** Mrs. Alexander/Miss Breithaupt beat Miss Black / Mrs. Black 21/13, 21/18.

RESTRICTED SINGLES

Semi-Finals: J. Cummings beat H. Reeve 22/24, 21/19, 21/17; R. Owen beat J. C. Quirk 21/18, 21/14. **Final:** J. Cummings beat R. Owen 21/19, 21/14.

JUNIOR BOYS SINGLES

Semi-Finals: G. Black beat P. McAdam 21/15, 21/10; N. Cray beat P. Thomson 21/13, 21/13. **Final:** G. Black beat N. Cray 21/19, 21/17.

JUNIOR GIRLS SINGLES

Semi-Finals: Miss L. Hardman beat Miss G. Harris 21/19, 21/11; Miss C. Turner beat Miss K. Gibson 14/21, 23/21, 21/16. **Final:** Miss L. Hardman beat Miss C. Turner 21/10, 21/11.

VETERANS' SINGLES

Semi-Finals: J. Davidson beat G. K. Smith 20/22, 22/20, 21/18; T. Killip beat W. Harris 17/21, 21/11, 21/19. **Final:** T. Killip beat J. Davidson 21/18, 21/18.

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Divisional Notes

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	D	Pts
<i>Division 1</i>					
L'Pool Y.M.	26	23	2	1	219
Wav. Lab.	26	21	3	2	182
Eng. Elec.	26	21	4	1	177
Palmerston	26	17	5	4	157
Rafters	26	15	8	3	149
Trinity	26	14	10	2	139
Eng. Elec. 'A'	26	11	13	2	137
Bath St.	26	10	11	5	128
Palmerston 'A'	26	10	12	4	123
Wav. Lab. 'A'	26	8	16	2	102
Trinity 'A'	26	3	19	4	84
L'Pool Y.M. 'A'	26	5	19	2	81
Bath St. 'A'	26	1	20	5	75
Rafters 'A'	26	4	21	1	67

Congratulations again to champions Liverpool Y.M.C.A. John McNee has decided to retire, average 89-6. John Marshall played and won 16 games; Turtle 85.4, Smith 86.3 and Lee 81.8.

Wav. Lab. now have a great incentive next season! Roy Smith ended his best ever season by topping his team's averages with 85.49, John Fennah 80 per cent, Wayne Percival 83 per cent and Dave Roberts 77.2 per cent.

Eng. Elec. are just short of a little experience for a serious assault on the championship. Clive Strettle with 85.4 per cent topped the club's first division averages. Second was myself with 80 per cent and joint third were Jimmy Lynch and Joe Green with 62.5 per cent.

If Palmerston could only field a regular side, they too could hold a serious challenge to Y.M. next year. Ronnie Brotherton had 79.49. Alec Bryce 73.8, Les Molyneux 55.2 and George Hardy 56.2 per cent.

The above four teams along possibly

with the promoted pair of Colonsay and L'pool Jewish should contend for next year's championship.

My predictions for next year are Wav. Lab. to pip Y.M.C.A. to the title. The Readman Cup to come to Eng. Elec. Relegated will be Trinity 'A' with Y.M. 'A' or Bath St., how's that for sticking my neck out?

Rod McPherson finished his season with an average of 57 per cent. Fred Pheysey however, pipped Rod for the team's top average, his being 58.8 per cent, Alec Sill after a disappointing start to his season showed great determination in finishing with 47.5 per cent. Graeme Black in his first season in Division 1 had 36 per cent. Rafters with town champ Keith Williams 79 per cent ended their season in fifth place. Alan Timewell with 65 per cent and

Brian Davey, for me the most improved player of the season had 54 per cent. This average was for playing at No. 2 in the team, whilst last year playing at four it was considerably less. Ken Darlington finished his season on 45.4 per cent.

Rickie Brown of Trinity had 67.5 per cent while Bill Harris had a good 62.5 per cent. Dave Truman playing his first season in the division had a creditable 46.8 per cent. Jimmy Merrick ended his season with 42.8%. This could have been considerably less counting the matches claimed against him. Arthur Hayes and Roy Bradbury had an average of 66.6 per cent and were joint tops of their team averages. Jack Evans had 60.5 per cent while Ian Burrows had a very surprisingly low 45.6 per cent.

Dave Butterworth's magnificent start to the season was not to continue and thus his final average was 60.8 per cent. On the other hand Chen had a poor start, and a fine finish. In fact he lost only five games in the second half of the season, thus finishing on 56.5 per cent. Alan Reid had 37.5 per cent and Mike Moran 35.4 per cent. Wav. Lab. nulled them-

selves well clear of the relegation zone. This was largely through their captain Mick Tierney 52 per cent. He was ably supported by Peter Hur-worth 43 per cent, Paul Morgan 35.4 per cent.

In the scramble to avoid relegation. Alan Chase 62.5 per cent saw all his efforts come to a good cause in keeping Trinity 'A' up. Alan's supporting cast of John Higham 31.5 per cent, Tom Killip 22.7 per cent, Dave Newton 19.4 per cent and. Dave Wilson never gave up the fight for survival and thus deserve at least one more season. The experience of Ted Mandaluff 35 per cent and Harry Johnston 43.7 per cent combined with the enthusiasm of Frances Lay 25 per cent and Noel Pagan 20 per cent were enough to ensure Y.M. 'A' another season in this division. Alas, Alan Walton's fine effort Of 63 per cent was not enough for Bath St. 'A'. It will be interesting to see if Alan with Bath St. top singles average in the first division plays in this division next year? Val France 30.7 per cent, Bill Clayton 29 per cent. Rafters 'A' really felt the loss of so many of their players this season. Boh Rum-jahn finished on top of the team's averages with 40.4 per cent. Dave Ferguson 37.5, Don Davies 20.8 per cent.

Notable wins during the season were Alan Reid's 23-21; 18-21; 21-15; over Peter Turtle. A. Moon increased his average to 25 per cent, by beating P. Birchall, (A good job he wasn't playing my sister). Rikki Brown had a fine double win over Clive Strettle 21-19; 21-19; and myself 17-21; 21-19 25-23. The ?!X! came back from behind in both the second and third game to win, Francis Lay beat Ron Brotherton 17-21; 21-17; 21-19. Alec Sill had a 21-16; 24-21 win over Peter Lee. John Pritchard beat Fred Phey-sey. G. Simms, I wonder who this Gillian Simms is, she was the only woman player to play in the first division this season, I hope she plays more regularly. (She's better looking than the other Palmerston players). Enjoy your summer, come back fit for next season.

ERIC HARDMAN.

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	D	Pts
<i>Division 2</i>					
Colonsay	26	24	1	1	211
L'Pool Jewish	26	21	3	2	175
Beauclair	26	14	5	7	154
Palmerston 'B'	26	15	6	5	151
Police	26	15	8	3	149
Eng. Elec. 'B'	26	12	8	6	147
Maghull	26	11	12	3	127
Colonsay 'A'	26	11	11	4	124
L'Pool Y.M. 'B'	26	7	15	4	110
Old Swan	26	7	14	5	109
Cadwa	26	5	17	4	98
Elec. Supply	26	5	18	3	93
Rafters 'B'	26	5	18	3	92
Trinity 'B'	26	3	19	4	80

Congratulations to Colonsay, who, in finishing 36 points ahead of their nearest rival, proved themselves to be one of the strongest teams promoted to the first division. All credit to Tony O'Connor for sticking to his relegated team of .last season, despite some sarcastic remarks from other first division commentators. Club loyalty amongst the better players is becoming rarer these days. The consistency of Dave Williams and Norman Chaloner was an expected factor in achieving their superiority, but the additional strength of Nick Cray, who now appears as one of the most promising young players in Liverpool, completed a team which should now hold its own in the first division. Colonsay's only defeat was by Liverpool Jewish who, with their strengthened team, easily escaped from the rest of the challengers to finish in second place. Eddie Clein finished his part season undefeated by beating Tony O'Connor and Nick Cray and John Hodges, produced one of the best performances of the season to beat Nick and Norman Chaloner. Jewish brought up another new signing in J. Cummings, who beat Dave Williams, but lost narrowly to Norman Chaloner.

Of the other challengers, Beauclair fin-

ished third for the second season in succession and with three of their players approaching veteran class, the sands of time appear to be running out. Palmerston 'B' improved their position by strengthening their team with George Van Sant or Keith Owen in the second half. In a tight match against Beauclair, they were also helped by Jim Ridings' improving play with Jim beating Frank Murphy and Mick Allen. Frank, however, produced one of the best performances of the season, coming back to beat George Van Sant when he looked well beaten.

The fifth and sixth positions were filled by the other teams at one time challenging for promotion, Police and English Electric 'B'. Since Christmas the form of the Police has deteriorated, being thrashed 9-1 by Jewish, thanks to Jewish's perception that Police would fiddle their order. Eddie Clein playing at No. 4 caught Dave Crispin and Barry McLeoud playing at No. 3 and 4. English Electric 'B', as last season, finished in a position close to the top, but not quite good enough. Phil Thomson perhaps did not quite achieve his early promise and the team was weakened by the prolonged absence of Bill Ellard in the later stages.

In the middle of the table, Maghull and Colonsay 'A' played each other in the last match of the season and Peter Coyle pulled Colonsay through to a 6-4 victory with wins over Ken Jones and Ian Blore. Colonsay 'A' have been improving all season finishing off with a 7-3 win over Police. Maghull have established themselves in their first season in the second division and should be able to maintain that position in future.

Y.M.C.A. 'B' and Old Swan just managed to keep clear of relegation. Y.M.C.A. were indebted to the experience of Jim Clewett. but their three other players improved during the season and they could well improve on this performance. Old Swan were also beholden to their No. 1 John Linforth to keep them in the division. John's improvement was ironically demonstrated by his defeat of Old Swan's ex No. 1 Dave Crispin and he followed this by

teaming up with Fred Price to beat Dave and Gareth Jones in the doubles. However, there was not enough support to prevent Old Swan going down 3-7 to Police and more support may be needed next season if Old Swan are to avoid relegation in future.

The four relegated teams have never really looked like avoiding the drop all season. Electric Supply and Cadwa were promoted last season, but as there seems to be a yo-yo position between second and third divisions now, they can perhaps look forward to a swift return. Rafters 'B' and Trinity 'B' both lost players to higher teams and younger players brought in as substitutes were struggling. However, both teams improved notably and in the end were not far apart from the rest of the league.

Top Averages:—(Players of over 20 sets)
Tony O'Connor 95.83; Nick Cray 91.11; Norman Chaloner 80.76; Dave Williams 78.84; John Hodges 73.91; John Henshaw 72.00; Barry McLeoud 72.00; Dave Crispin 70.34; Peter Coyle 70.00.

"HARRY".

DIVISION 3A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
<i>Division 3A</i>					
Linacre	26	23	2	1	190
Colonsay 'B'	26	17	7	2	157
Fire Service	26	17	7	2	154
Wav. Lab. 'B'	26	15	6	5	149
Trinity 'D'	26	14	6	6	147
Bath St. 'C'	26	13	8	5	144
Police 'A'	26	15	9	2	143
L'Pool Jewish 'B'	26	13	8	5	139
Maghull 'A'	26	11	13	2	127
L'Pool Y.M. 'C'	26	7	15	4	118
Eng. Elec. 'D'	26	4	18	4	101
Bath St. 'D'	26	6	18	2	100
Crawfords	26	5	20	1	88
St. Hugh's	26	1	24	1	63

What a finale to the season, all the T.T. on TV, but I hope it doesn't produce a new crop of players who think that, to win points, it is necessary to make more strokes with a towel than with a bat. I visited Birmingham myself and the first players I met, loosening up and itching to get on a table, were the entire Linacre Squad — so that's why they won our Division. Well done Linacre, I always knew the best teams were in the north end. Try and stay up this time or the League may strike a special award for you — the Silver Yo-Yo! Congratulations as well, to Colonsay, who cut it so fine that I had to re-write these notes when the final League table came out. The late inclusion of Alan Guy to strengthen the Colonsay Squad, apparently did the trick. Also some of the Fire Service results, near the end, suggest that they became complacent and eventually someone forgot to sound the alarm. I doubt if Crawfords will be staying down in the Fourth for long, it was only their bad start to the season which let them down. In the second half they were just as good, if not better than the two teams just above them.

Although St. Hugh's only managed to stay with us for one season, here's hoping they enjoyed, and benefited from, our company.

The latter stages of the season produced some interesting results:—

Linacre 6 — Fire Service 4: Harry Reeve and Frank Lacey (2 apiece) dampened the Fire person's enthusiasm.

Linacre 7 — St. Hugh's 3 — a great fight by the McAlle Bros. Eng. Elec. 4 — Linacre 6 and Eng. Elec. 4 — Fire Service 6. Paul Coughlin 100 per cent here. Linacre 7— Colonsay 3—Reeve again and Ainsworth showing who's boss. Wav. Lab. 6 — Fire Service 4, Wavertree don't labour in vain when they field a full side. I see Phil Luxon was re-grouped down to us. Trinity 10 — Fire Service 0 — Charity begins at home — and stays there when the visitors don't arrive. Fire Service 2 — Colonsay 8,— Was this the promotion decider? Colonsay 5 — Jewish 5 — A big night for Lussey. Colonsay 6 — Police 4 — Mal Cray in form. Police 3 — Trinity 7 and Trinity 6 — Bath St. 'C' 4. Tom Lawson and Stan Smith doing all the damage. Bath St. 'C' 7 — Maghull 3 — Two wins for Dave Cunningham. Bath St. 'D' 7— Maghull 3 — Surprise, Surprise! Crawfords 6 — Bath St. 'D' 4, Ditto.

Give or take a few cards, here are the leading averages from each team, as near as I can make them.

	P	W	%
H. Reeve	30	28	93
W. Sherburn	36	29	80
F. Lacey	40	31	77
A. Davidson	16	11	69
C. Chislett	46	31	67
J. Roper	48	30	62
P. Ooughlin	38	22	58
R. Lussey	40	22	55
S. Alexander	26	24	92
T. Lawson	46	36	78
K. Ainsworth	40	28	70
A. Horwood	26	18	69
D. Cunningham ...	50	32	64

S. Smith	.....	40	24	60
C. Smith	.....	52	29	56
S. Harvey	.....	40	22	55
M. Cray	.....	44	39	88
A. Spencer	.....	50	39	78
M. Neary	.....	30	21	70
R. Peverall	.....	44	30	68
L. Dyson	.....	42	27	64
G. Wright	.....	44	26	59
L. Rosenbloom	.....	46	26	56
G. McAlle	.....	42	17	40

There were a couple of others with high averages taut I don't believe played 8 and won 8 really qualifies. Some interesting thoughts come out of this table, such as:—

Would the firemen have made it if Sweet Sue had helped from the start?

The strength in depth of Linacre!

The outstanding No.1 performances by, Mal Cray, Tom Lawson, and Alan Spencer.

Have a nice summer.

TED JANE.

DIVISION 3B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
<i>Division 3B</i>					
Vagabonds	26	23	1	2	208
Bath St. 'B'	26	23	1	2	204
L'Pool Jewish 'A'	26	20	3	3	191
Eng. Elec. 'C'	26	20	6	0	176
Eng. Elec. 'E'	26	18	5	3	166
Waterloo Park	26	12	11	3	145
Beauclair 'A'	26	11	13	2	116
Palmerston 'C'	26	10	15	1	110
Orrell	26	6	17	3	107
Old Swan 'A'	26	8	17	1	98
Trinity 'C'	26	8	15	3	95
Bath St. 'E'	26	5	19	2	85
Rafters 'C'	26	5	20	1	66
Colonsay 'C'	26	0	26	0	53

What a season! With three teams so dominant. Vagabonds were worthy champi-

ons and they will be accompanied to the second division by Bath St. 'B'. Jewish 'A' won the Hyde Cup as consolation.

The championship battle was finally decided when Vagabonds trounced Palmerston 'C' 9-1 and Eng. Elec. 'E' 8-2. Bath St. 'B's chances faded when held 6-4 by Wat. Pk. Good wins for Bill Spencer and Pete Ross over John, Letch, and an excellent win for Fred Bambridge over Alec Gould.

Colonsay 'C' and Rafters 'C' were relegated due to a late improvement by the young Trinity, 'C' side for whom John Dixon, 56 per cent was the mainstay, Rafters chances were ruined by a heavy defeat by Trinity 'C' 9-1, I am sure they will be much happier in the lower division. Colonsay's young players were out of their depth in this division but their enthusiasm was maintained. Frank Rogers beat Marie Lupton and Alan Hall 23-21 in the third in consecutive matches. For Rafters, Pauline Lawrenson was the most successful. Rafters fought hard against Palmerston 'C' before going down 6-4. Jean Reynolds beating Gill Simms and losing to Ken Davies 16 in the third, Colonsays points were won largely by Alan Guy (75 per cent) and the Guy/Brookfield doubles (67 per cent).

Old Swan improved during the season with Pete McAdam (54 per cent) their most successful player with late wins over Wally Sill 9, 7 and Alec Gould. Les Griffin (48 per cent) had wins over Alun Williams (Orrell) 11, 9 Julie Black 14, 17 and John Letch 10, 19. Tony Halligan's game improved. He lost only 26-28 in the third to Brenda Williams. Alun Williams and Pete Wilson both 58 per cent whose doubles combination (75 per cent) was one of the best, were Orrell's strength. Ken Miller 36 per cent. Dave Jones 32 per cent completed a team who are a pleasure to play against. Beauclair's mainstays were Billy Holmes 64 per cent and Bill Leeming 60 per cent, Harry Holmes managed 40 per cent.

Waterloo Park had a good season. Tony Delamere 71 per cent had the best record but Peter Ross (63 per cent) and Bill Spencer (62

per cent) also did well. Fred Bainbridge 37 per cent played at &o. 1 with, less success than Bill and Tony against the same players.

The Eng. Elec. sides fought it out to the bitter end for supremacy with the 'C' team ending up 7 sets ahead. George Cheng had 77 per cent and Brenda Williams 75 per cent for the 'E' team but the 'C' team had a more all round side, led by Brian Cullen 68 per cent with Julie Black and Wally Sill both 67 per cent and Ro Craddock on 64 per cent.

My own team was transformed by the arrival of Jimmy Cummings whose 23-1 record speaks for itself. Bobby Owens was the player to spoil his record. I ended with 91 per cent and when Gerry Goldring switched to wood / anti loop bat his record improved from 60 per cent to 80 per cent. Paula Breithaupt did well to end up with 50 per cent.

Our champions Vagabonds, were consistency itself with Bobby Owen 90 per cent and Ted Barnes 84 per cent. Captain Doug Ridgway 73 per cent and Tommy Johnstone 71 per cent backed them up well. Bath St. 'B' kept the championship in doubt up to the last match with Alan Waddington 80 per cent. Brian Aldred, 76 per cent, Alec Gould 72 per cent and John Letch 70 per cent making a great team. In addition Aldred / Letch were the division's best doubles pairing with 24 wins and 2 defeats and Gould / Waddington runners up with 23-4. Nearest rivals were Cheng / Parker 20-3. Owen / Ridgway 18-5, Sill / Cullen 16-5. Williams / Wilson 15-5, myself and Paula 21-8

Contenders for match of the season Wat. Pk. 4; Eng. Elec. 'E' 6. Eight went to three, with four of them 19 in the third and one went to deuce. Heroes were Bill Spencer and George Cheng.

Beauclair 'A' and Eng. Elec. 'C' had a great match with 9 sets going to 3 games or deuce. Harry Holmes beat Ro Craddock and Bill Leeming beat Wally Sill for Beauclair's successes.

Col. 'C' turned out a useful side against Jewish 'A' who won 10-0 including Alan Guy,

and Barbara Kirkman for the first time together Ro Craddock beat Ridgway and Johnstone in Vags. 6-4 defeat of Eng. Elec. 'C', Ken Davies beat Alan Guy 18, 17. Bill Leeming beat Ted Barnes 18 in the third. Derek Inge beat Brenda Williams 18 in the third.

Best young players — George Cheng, Julie Black, Pete Mc-Adams, Paula Breithaupt, John Dixon, Tony Halligan and ever young Alec Gould. I enjoyed all of our matches except those against Palm. 'C'. In one their captain turned up against us, introduced two new lady players and promptly sacrificed them at 1 and 2 to move Ken Davies to 4 and Derek Inge to 3. Then their captain left! Palm, lost 8-2 As they had no relegation worries, I wonder why this was the only occasion that they 'fiddled' all season. It makes you think about the motives seeing that the first match contained the only bit of 'aggro' we've met all season.

To end on a happier note — most sporting team — Orrell! Most sporting player — Alan Waddington.

Best wishes.

LES FRENCH.

DIVISION 4A

<i>Division 4A</i>	P	W	L	D	Pts
Kirkby	24	22	2	0	188
Cadwa 'A'	24	19	3	2	182
Polytechnic	24	19	1	4	180
Vagabonds 'A'	24	17	6	1	150
Eng. Elec. 'F'	24	15	6	3	150
L'Pool Jewish 'C'	24	11	12	1	129
Cadwa 'B'	24	11	10	3	123
Trinity 'F'	24	8	16	0	117
Wav. Labour 'D'	24	11	12	1	114
Vagabonds 'C'	24	6	17	1	71
Orrell 'B'	24	4	18	2	69
Bath St. 'G'	24	1	20	3	53
Police 'C'	24	1	22	1	34

The end of another season, and congrat-

ulations go to Kirkby and Cadwa 'A'. If recent history repeats itself there won't be any relegations, so I won't bother to offer any commiserations. Only six points covered the top three teams, in what turned out to be a close and exciting finish. Kirkby, with their internal team problems just managed to hold on from Cadwa 'A' who came back courageously and Polytechnic who finished with a late run.

Kirkby clinched the title with a marvellous 10-0 away win over a full strength Vagabonds 'A' team. Jimmy Prescott and Ritchie Cragg were the heroes, Ritchie beating Alan Ry croft and Dave Rooney, while Jimmy beat Roger Lowey 15/21, 21/13, 23/21 and Joan Monaghan 19/21, 22/20, 24/22. Paul Brown played in every match and had an excellent season, as did Muriel Cox.

Rob Davies and his Cadwa team, certainly deserve their promotion. Ken Hartley and Chris Roberts were their outstanding performers, and Ray Smith also had a good season. Liverpool Polytechnic are a mystery to me. Their club policy may be to give everybody a game. I don't know, but certainly their cup winning team would have won this division. Their 7-3 win over Kirkby confirms this, but they only play their strongest players, namely Nell and Phil Roberts and Alex Anderson in the really important matches and consequently lose points to the weaker teams.

How about this for reversal of form:— English Electric 'F' 4, Vagabonds 'A' 6; Roger Lowey the star with wins over Andy Byrne and Ken Black; five days later, Vagabonds 'A' 2. English Electric 'F' 8; Byrne and Black both beating Lowey. Fitting in the circumstances that the teams finished level. Joan Monaghan was an ever present for the Vags. team in which Roger Lowey and Dave Rooney shared top place.

Although his team finished low down, Peter Meyer of Orrell certainly didn't, and a remarkable double-double cannot go unmentioned. Peter beat Ray Smith and Ken Hartley of Cadwa 'A' and also Paul Brown and Mark Monaghan, great stuff.

Wayertree Labour's position surprises me, as the following results would indicate a much higher finishing position; Wav. Lab.8, Cadwa 'B' 2; Wav. Lab. 7, Jewish 3; Wav. Lab. 7, English Electric 3. But still they finished lower than Trinity who won less matches and none against teams who finished higher than them. J. Collister was Labour's outstanding player whilst the presence of Ken Armson was often vital. Some teams seem to forget that there is a point to be won for every set, so if you're 9-0 down there's still something to play for. Trinity did not lose 10-0 all season and consistently picked up points against the higher teams. A word here for John Simm who epitomised the term 'will to win' when he beat Alan Rycroft 16/21, 21/17, 21/19. For Trinity Paul Mcloughlin finished top of the averages, only losing four singles in 1977, in what was a fine team effort.

Police managed their solitary win thanks to a double by Alan Wood over Vagabonds 'C', but too many walk overs here. Bath Street deserve praise for fighting on despite numerous reverses, they play the game in a fine spirit.

Now a few wins which are worthy of mention: A double for A. Ham (Police) over Carole Flood and R. Brackley (Cadwa 'B'), his side's only points; Barry Meyer beat Ken Black 21/12, 16/21, 21/19; Gill Rowbotham beat F. Cowley (Cadwa 'B') 21/19, 21/16; Albert Parker beat Ken Hartley 16/21, 23/21, 21/18.

It was nice to see this division well represented at the closed, you may have heard about my brilliant fourth place win in the raffle, well it was the only thing I did win.

The leading averages for those players who played regularly. were as follows; Ken Hartley 84 per cent, Paul Brown and Chris Roberts (Cadwa 'A') 83 per cent, Ray Smith and Jimmy Prescott 77 per cent, Mark Monaghan and Albert Parker 73 per cent, Roger Lowey and Dave Rooney 69 per cent. Neil Roberts of Poly had 95 per cent but played only 22 sets and Alex Anderson had 85 per cent from 28.

Thus ends the epistle of M.G. to the faithful of 4A, if I failed to mention you or your team I'm sorry, but I only write these notes to ensure that I get a mention. Hope you enjoyed the season, I did, keep practicing. See you around.

MIKE GRIFFITHS.

DIVISION 4B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
<i>Division 4B</i>					
Fire Service 'A'	22	21	0	1	187
Wav. Labour 'C'	22	16	3	3	161
L'Pool Jewish 'D'	22	11	10	1	127
Trinity 'E'	22	13	7	2	123
Police 'B'	22	13	6	3	120
Eng. Elec. 'G'	22	9	9	4	108
Maghull 'B'	22	9	10	3	107
Bath St. 'F'	22	10	10	2	97
Vagabonds 'B'	22	6	16	0	86
Cadwa 'C'	22	3	14	5	75
Orrell 'A'	22	3	18	1	66
Police 'D'	22	5	16	1	63

note: Police 'E' expunged

Congratulations to Fire Service 'A' on a really sustained championship performance. Jackson and Davies were their top performers — Jackson only lost one game and. Davies only missed one, they had a good backing group in Watson and Kirsopp and Cullen playing no small part. For the runners up, Wav. Labour 'E', who came very strong at the end — Birchall was top man closely followed by McEvoy R. with excellent support from Hoban and Jessop .

Until the withdrawal of Aimson Jewish 'D' were a close knit side with Quirk leading the way and Ann Carline and Cathy Gore following in that order. Edwards was star man for Bath St. 'F' with Bruford and in the latter

stages Harper second and third. Cadwa 'C' finished with a good draw at Bath St. (Edwards 2) Wilson C. was top man with Biggs following Stokes rarely let the side down.

Betty Black and Pratt both had a good season in singles together in doubles for the nicely placed Eng. Elec. 'G' team.

Banks and Draper were tops for Maghull 'B' but together with Sue Hughes and Whitaker missed less than a handful of games between them. — a secretary's dream team.

Not far behind as dream teams come Police 'B' and Orrell 'A', Police had a basic five with Purcell T. as the division's top scorer and Ferguson next best for his team. Orrell finished up in top of the table form 4-6 at Electric (Pratt 2) and Police 'B' (Christian 2) and were the only team to dent the Fire Service 100 per cent with a 5-5 draw. Stevenson top scorer and Walsh never missed a game, and Purcell R. missed one — not bad for a team fighting against relegation and survival as a club, they may not be with us next season — I sincerely hope that they are. Police 'D' who were in trouble from time to time had ever presents in. Spedding (top scorer) and Sawyer — lift up your hearts lads — all is not lost!!

A good season for Davies of Vagabonds 'B' well supported by Holden, and Ray Mooney of Trinity 'E' just edged himself ahead of Wilson G. and South-worth the latter being an ever-present.

Results I have quoted are minus a few cards and I have quoted from this top set of scorers and not averages. Congratulations to Purcell T. (Police 'B') who was our top set scorer, he missed one game. He was followed by Davies P. (Fire Service) who missed two and Quirk (L'pool Jewish D) who was an ever present. Quirk and Davies were equal second.

JACK LAMBERT.

DIVISION 5A

Division 5A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Dutch's	22	21	1	0	199
Kirkby 'A'	22	21	1	0	185
BOHS	22	16	5	1	154
Maghull 'C'	22	16	5	1	145
Trinity 'G'	22	10	10	2	107
Kirkby 'B'	22	10	11	1	106
Barker & Dobson	22	9	9	4	104
Wav. Labour 'E'	22	5	14	3	85
L'Pool Jewish 'E'	22	7	14	1	79
BOHS 'A'	22	5	16	1	75
Eng. Elec. 'H'	22	2	19	1	49
Trinity 'H'	22	2	19	1	32
Fire Service 'B' expunged					

A brilliant first time effort by the Dutch's boys brought them the championship, hardly a whisker between the top scoring efforts of Hughes G., Green M., Dutch and Files not missing a game between them, terrific stuff, I make Mal Green a shade ahead of the rest and joint league top scorers with Cragg of Kirkby 'A' who were runners up with Holmes P. and Chaloner P. giving great support. In a fine end of the season battle between these two teams Dutch's come out top thanks to hero Ken Dutch with Cragg winning his two for Kirkby.

In the battle for the wooden spoon Trinity 'H' were "Victors" but one can only have the greatest admiration for Gill Harris, Finnegan and S. & P. Gittens who only won a handful of games between them and very rarely missed one. Eng. Elec. 'H' played an enthusiastic squad with father and son Dave and Brian Thomas coming out as top set winners.

Bark. & Dobsons, and Maghull 'C' plus the teams already mentioned formed the nucleus of perhaps the finest Div. 5 we have ever had. B. & D. had Travis as top man but O'Sullivan, Greaves and Woodburn all gave

great support. BOHS. team just missed a hundred per cent attendance by one, Davies K. and Evans were top men with Reynolds and Davies a shade behind. Both BOHS and Maghull 'C' had sixteen wins which must be good, but Bohs. proved their 3rd place with a 6-4 (Evans and Kiel 2) win despite a Wood double for Maghull who again missed less than a handful of games between Gibson. Pattison, Wood and Gill who were the top set men in that order. O'Mara and Jones A. (I never missed a game) were top set winners for Bohemians 'A' with Summersgill not far behind with Baig. A good 4-6 result against their first team. Another good result for Kirkby 'B' 4-6 against their 'A'. Lunt out ahead as top man with Williams D.. Cragg B. and Clarke even seconds. There was little to choose between McKim. Bennion, Beesley and late-comer Bunner with our Hon. Sec. just about in front, but don't John and Anna Cohen make a line mixed doubles. Tames was Trinity 'G's leading scorer with Sanders, Jones T. Burrows, and Tobin sharing most of the remainder of the 107 points evenly, Monica O'Donnell had a good season for the Wavertree Labour all star ladies team followed by Millie Harris, Arny Bell and Betty McAvoy.

All top set scorers judged without a few cards. There may have been stronger 5th Divisions from a playing point of view, but rarely one so interested in PLAYING table tennis with so many 100 per cent or near 100 per cent players —

great stuff.

JACK LAMBERT.

DIVISION 5B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
<i>Division 5B</i>					
Elec. Supply 'A'	20	18	0	2	163
Harding	20	18	1	1	157
Nat. Giro	20	13	6	1	128
Cadwa 'D'	20	12	8	0	110
BOHS 'B'	20	8	8	4	107
University	20	7	13	0	82
Wav. Labour 'F'	20	6	13	1	79
Halewood Y.C.	20	6	12	2	77
Maghull 'E'	20	5	12	3	77
Colonsay 'D'	20	6	13	1	72
Maghull 'D'	20	3	16	1	48
Nat. Giro 'A' & Vags. 'D'	expunged				

It's always nice to have an unexpected reversal and University provided one when they decisively defeated Elec. Supp. 'A' in the Cup Final. It has not been possible to assess their strength as they have never turned out their best players together in league matches. Their No. 1 in the Final, J. Simpson, for example has only played in one league match. Congratulations on their win and for showing they really were interested in winning.

This is about the only thing to their credit this season, for after a good start when it looked as if they would be properly organised they fell away. They conceded several w/overs in failing to complete their fixtures and had scorecards missing. In this league most clubs go out of their way to assist University teams, it is to their discredit that they do not respond accordingly by fulfilling their commitments and abiding by our rules, this season they blatantly broke the rules and were fortunate indeed to be allowed to compete in the Final. If this is their answer to the welcome we expend to them we would be better off without them.

Elec. Supp. got me halfway with my

forecast but the margin of victory was very small, they finished only seven points ahead of Harding to take the title. Their decision to play Peter Carney regularly was justified, for without him they may well have finished as runners-up. Congratulations to them and in particular to Alan Cameron (96 per cent) and Dennis Underbill (94 per cent) who carried most of the burden for so long. Commiserations to Harding, they pushed Elec. Supp. all the way but just failed to take the title. The task of carrying a poor No. 4 was too much for Williams (90 per cent), Elson (90 per cent) and Stenson (88 per cent). It also placed a great deal on them as with virtually no reserves they could not afford to miss any matches themselves. Both teams will do well in the 4th but if they want further success they will have to strengthen their teams.

The challenge from. Vags. 'D' faded rapidly away as they seemed to fall apart towards the end and almost lost themselves 3rd place. They did enter late, but there must be something wrong with the organisation in a club when they concede a w/over for failing to arrange a fixture from Week 1 as they did. This coupled with another w/over and two short in another match ruined any chance they may have had. This is unusual for Vagabonds who have always maintained a high standard.

Giro also fell away after a bright start and have to be content with fourth place. I can't help thinking that they don't really want promotion, being content to remain in this div. and just enjoy their game. However, both Giro and Vags. should move up into the fourth div. next season as there are vacancies available. If Vags. want to stay then they will have to be better organised, and if Giro want to go up they will have to remember to register their team in time.

Cadwa had a very good season after finishing bottom last season. They brought in a couple of new players and this blended with the experience of last season brought good results. Next season they should do much better, if the players can raise their game a

little and their improvement this season gives every indication they can do this. Their target must be a move to a higher standard and you don't need to finish on top, in the first four will do,

Maghull 'E' easily won the battle to finish higher than their 'D' team. They finished with a good total and can be well satisfied with their performance. Like their counterparts in the 'D' team they may have found results hard to come by, but I feel the Maghull club has seen the debut this season of their future first team. Experience brings its own reward and I am sure we will hear more of the McGanity's, Drapers and Brownlees in future seasons.

The same must apply to Hale-wood who can be well satisfied with their first season in the league. A bit out of their depth at first they improved gradually as the season progressed. I hope we will see them with us again next season.

Wav. Lab. 'F' got by with a mixture of youth and experience and blooded some new players also. The team never really got started and their results were not always as good as they could have been.

Colonsay 'D' finished next, to bottom but they can consider this to bear no relation to their improving ability. Vince Kilty came in halfway through to bring some steadiness into the team and if they maintain their end of season improvement throughout the summer we can expect them to finish well up the table next season. So watch out next season for

Robert Swan, Peter Walsh, Vince Kilty and Heather Stirrup.

It finally fell to Maghull 'D' to finish in bottom place, but they need not worry about this. Next season will see us all start level and they will be able to put their experience to good use.

The season for Cadwa 'D' was not completely without honour, for they were outright winners of the late scorecard competition with the arrival on 21st March, 1977 of a scorecard for a match played on 4th Oct., '76. They easily disposed of the puny attempt by Tony Moon (Wav. Lab. 'D') to take this title. His was for a Week 6 match which arrived a short while before theirs. I suppose their secretary, Trevor Hughes, would say "better a late card that finally arrives, than refreshments you never see!!"

I hope we will see you all back next season refreshed and eager to improve on this season's results.

KEN ARMSON.

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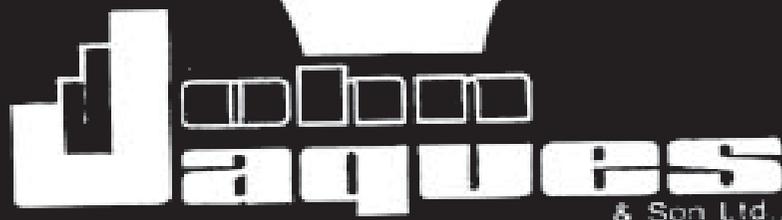
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