



# Table Tennis DIGEST

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE.

EDITOR

Jack Lambert.  
4, Rhosesmor road,  
Liverpool L32 7QU.  
546-3081.

EDITORIAL  
BOARD

A. Upton.  
J. Mc.Kim.  
D. Cameron.  
K. Armson.

DEC 77

VOLUME 31

NUMBER. 1

As you have no doubt heard through the grapevine, this is our new offering of the Digest.

Last season a semi cash crisis was reached when the cost of printing and producing went up a few pounds - the committee in their wisdom decided to bash on regardless.

This season the cost nearly doubled which left us with no alternative but to abandon the Digest in its' old form and produce this effort, which is cheaper to produce than the old cost of printing.

In the first instance we tried to negotiate a more reasonable rate with our printers, although we agreed that we had been getting away with murder for years and the new rate WAS a reasonable rate. We eventually came up with this new method which is cheaper than our previous one but places much more onus on Mr and Mrs Editor. We always have one excuse for being late - this time you can pick one of a dozen from no printer onwards.

What do you think?. As in all matters regarding the local game the decision if we are to carry on by this method or any other is entirely up to you at the A.G.M. And lets face it, if you can vote to fine yourselves 50p for a late card - you can vote for anything - well almost.

Nice to see a few new clubs and faces - welcome to the new boys who are going to carry the cans Messrs Geggie, Walsh, Lewis, Gillespie, Lavin and Wilson (the latter two well known at Linnets & Trinity) and to the clubs and players of Action Committee, Aigburth, Bootle, Princes Park Meths., and Longreach, may they have a long and happy association with us.

The Trebor Closed Championships and the Barclays Bank Merseyside Championships will be held at the Kirkby Sports Stadium on the unusual dates of Sunday, January 15th. for the Closed and Friday and Saturday the 17th and 18th of March respectively for the Merseyside. As you can see from the titles we are receiving sponsorship from Trebor Sweets and Barclays Bank Ltd., for these major events of ours. I am sure the committee would like me to put on record our deep appreciation of the valued assistance our local game is receiving from Trebor and Barclays Bank.

Other events which you may be interested in are Saturday, January 14th Norwich International Championships (Finals) at Brighton with almost certain television coverage, Saturday, 11th February, Lancashire 2 star at Bolton. Norwich Union English Championship Finals, Saturday 18th. February, (T.V. again we hope). Saturday, March 4th, Yorkshire 2 star at Huddersfield. Saturday 8th. April, South Yorks 2 star at Sheffield also Millom Junior 1 star, Cumbria. Sunday 23rd April, the Cheshire 1 star at Birkenhead. No doubt owing to the convenient venue this proved to be a very popular tournament with our juniors last season - let us hope the same enthusiasm is shown again.

The second point of discussion around at the moment (The first of course - when is the Digest due?) is the avalanche of first and second division players suddenly appearing in Division 4. Some cases are unavoidable, but some are the faults of the management committee or clubs and could be stopped. My club has many arguments against the Wavertree Labour suggestion of pure ranking but at no time would our arguments be taken to the farcical stage. I will endeavour to obtain examples of how pure ranking works in other leagues.

Dear Jack,           - The Modus Operandi or Orrell's Farewell to 3B

This may sound a dreary heading but read on and you may, at the end, be wiser.

You may remember Orrell teams saying that they were not very sure of having their clubroom for the 1977/1978 season, well, unfortunately this came to pass.

At first the Action Committee were confident of finding alternative premises but hope gradually turned to despair until a fairy godmother in the shape of Waterloo Park brightened all our faces by saying 'Why not join the Orrell Club to Waterloo?'. Tables were duly transported, Waterloo Park even held a 'Meet the Members' social evening and all were convinced that a new and stronger club had emerged.

As 3B teams know, both Waterloo Park and Orrell had teams in 3B. However, the merger of the two clubs did not seem to affect any other team and obviously both teams would want to stay the same. A look at the Liverpool regulations revealed no problems, of course we would have to let the League know what had happened, so a letter was sent with the registrations explaining and saying both teams wanted to stay the same and Waterloo Park would therefore be grateful if League positions could be retained. No news is good news and off we went on summer holidays.

The news received on handbook night that we had forfeited rights to the league positions previously held by Orrell was greeted with disbelief. Within 24 hours an appeal was lodged with the Lancashire Table Tennis Association and a fortnight later the appeal was considered by the committee.

The decision was that although the Appeals Committee had considerable sympathy with the way the old Orrell teams had been treated, they found that the Liverpool League had operated in accordance with its accepted Modus Operandi. I understand a Modus Operandi requires only one established precedent. When the Liverpool League were asked what this was, they quoted a 'Bedford' club joining Beauclair and having to start again at the bottom. In which League the 'Bedford' club had played previously was not revealed. As to which year a club last forfeited its league positions by merging with another club, the Liverpool League could not say.

Since then we have spoken to people who say the Liverpool League came to this decision years ago to prevent some fiddling which was happening. We have met others who say a team called University went straight into Division 3 when they had a Huddersfield town player. Others think that there was once a rule. Everyone can now tell us how we should have worked it to have kept our league position. The aspect which seems unsatisfactory, however, is that an obscure precedent was used to punish unnecessarily a perfectly fair club.

The Committee rightly act in a similar way to the police in that they administer the laws, spot offenders and punish them. The police, however, act differently with an innocent person heading for trouble than when a villain is about to commit a crime. They might let the latter incriminate himself so that they can put him away for a while. If however, they saw a blind man heading for the edge of the pier they would certainly stop him from falling off.

The League knew the outcome of what Orrell were doing and yet did not even warn them. They allowed us to carry forward our guarantee fees and Lancashire returned our appeal fee. They could have had these five times over for a timely warning. So its farewell Wally and all the rest of you lads and lasses. We can either leave Waterloo in the lurch or try to stick it out until 1979/1980, the earliest we can hope to get back.

To Jewish who were given our place - 'It's an ill wind.....' To our other readers beware of all Modus Operandi.

Yours in sport,

Peter Wilson, Ken Miller, Dave Jones, A. Williams.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE LEAGUE

The Mens 1st. team in the past two seasons has been most disappointing. The main reasons for us not challenging more strongly are, firstly, that all too often the recognised strongest team was not available for various reasons, and secondly the loyalty to, and honour of, playing for one's City seems to have diminished for certain players!. The Men's 1st. team squad contains Liverpool Champion Keith Williams John Marshall, John McNee and Tony O'Connor. The Men's 'A' team after two title winning seasons in the 4th Division and last year the 3rd. Division, are in the 2nd. Division North, and have started the season with a 7-3 defeat by Bolton 1st., and a good 6-4 away win over Manchester 'A'. One promising aspect of this team is the improvement of 15 year old Graeme Black, who in his first season of Senior Inter City play, started by winning two singles in each of the two matches played.

Men's 1st. v Farnworth lost 6-4 away - Team T.O'Connor, J.McNee, K.Williams.

McNee lost to Dave Constance - 11-21 19-21  
 O'Connor beat Bryn Farnworth - 21-18 21-16  
 Williams lost to Clive Heap - 19-21 18-21  
 McNee beat Farnworth - 21-17 21-17  
 Williams lost to Constance - 14-21 17-21  
 O'Connor lost to Constance - 11-21 19-21  
 Williams lost to Heap  
 O'Connor lost to Heap - 17-21 17-21  
 Williams beat Farnworth - 21-14 22-24 21-17  
 McNee lost to Heap - 19-21 21-15 17-21  
 O'Connor beat Constance - 21-18 13-21 21-16

A very tight match but the Home Team always ahead, the best set being the defeat of England No: 18, Dave Constance by Tony O'Connor.

Men's 1st. v Manchester Home lost 6-4.

O'Connor lost to Brian Kean -	19-21	21-14	11-21	0	1
Williams beat Bowen (Pl.1)	14-21	21-19	21-18	1	1
McNee beat Pete D'Arcy -	20-22	21-12	21-18	2	1
Williams lost to Keay	14-21	21-14	19-21	2	2
O'Connor lost to D'Arcy -	17-21	21- 8	15-21	2	3
McNee lost to Bowen -	21-18	20-22	22-24	2	4
& O'Connor & Keay					
McNee beat Bowen -	16-21	21-11	23-21	3	4
Williams lost to D'Arcy	16-21	21-18	14-21	3	5
McNee beat Keay -	22-24	21-15	21-19	4	5
O'Connor lost to Bowen	13-21	16-21		4	6

John McNee at his best winning his three singles in Match 9, we should never have lost. With the score at 2-1 to Liverpool, the next three sets cost us the match. Kean beat Williams and D'Arcy beat O'Connor, the chance of a point slipped away when O'Connor and McNee led 20-18 in the third, only to lose 24-22. I dont think Tony O'Connor has lost four events in one match before, I only hope it is a temporary loss of form.

LIVERPOOL 2 LYTHAM 5 - Away - Norman Cook Memorial Trophy - Lytham received 8 points in every game. P.Lee, R.McPherson, G.Black. Liverpool 'A' 3 - Bolton 7 (Home)

Manchester 'A' 4 - Liverpool 'A' 6 (Away) K.Williams, G.Black, C.Strettle.

Ladies 10 - Crewe 0 - Away; Ladies 10 - Blackpool 0 - Home.

Wilmott Cup Round One - Liverpool 6 - Huddersfield 0; McNee 2; O'Connor 2; G.Smith 2.

Carter Cup - Round One - Liverpool 4 - Manchester 5 - O'Connor 3; G.Black 1; P.Coyle.

The ladies team has been strengthened by the return to representative play of Barbara Kirkman after one seasons break. She joins Sue Alexander and Julie Black to form a formidable trio, which at the risk of putting the Indian sign on them, could once again bring home the title.

## DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	D	PTS.
Wav.Labour	15	14	1	-	125
L'Pool Y.M.C.A.	14	12	1	1	105
Colonsay	15	8	6	1	88
Palmerston	14	9	3	2	84
Rafters	15	8	4	3	81
Eng. Elec.	14	7	4	3	77
L'Pool Jewish	14	5	6	3	66
Trinity	13	6	5	2	64
Eng. Elec. 'A'	13	5	7	1	63
Wav. Lab. 'A'	14	5	8	1	56
Trinity 'A'	14	3	8	3	54
Bath St.	14	3	9	2	54
Palmerston 'A'	14	2	10	2	46
L'Pool Y.M. 'A'	15	-	15	-	27

## DIVISION 2

L'Pool YMCA 'B'	15	13	1	1	109
Rafters 'A'	14	9	2	3	90
Beauclair	14	12	1	1	89
Maghull	15	9	4	2	87
Bath St. 'A'	14	8	4	2	82
Colonsay 'A'	14	9	4	1	79
Police	13	6	3	4	74
Palmerston 'B'	14	5	8	1	68
Vagabonds	15	4	9	2	68
Linacre	14	5	7	2	67
Eng. Elec. 'B'	13	5	7	1	64
Bath St. 'B'	14	2	10	2	49
Old Swan	14	-	13	1	37
Colonsay 'B'	15	-	14	1	27

## DIVISION 3A

Kirkby	13	12	1	-	103
Cadwa	13	11	2	-	94
Trinity 'D'	13	11	2	-	92
Wav. Lab. 'B'	13	9	4	-	78
Fire Service	12	8	4	-	77
L'Pool Y.M. 'C'	13	8	5	-	75
Police 'A'	14	5	6	3	70
Eng.Elec. 'D'	12	7	4	1	64
Bath St. 'C'	13	5	6	2	62
Maghull 'A'	14	1	9	4	51
L'Pool Jew. 'B'	13	3	8	2	48
Cadwa 'A'	14	2	8	4	46
Rafters 'B'	15	-	15	-	39
Bath St. 'D'	14	1	11	2	29

## DIVISION 3B

L'Pool Jew. 'A'	13	12	-	1	118
Elec. Supply	13	12	-	1	109
Trinity 'C'	13	11	2	-	95
W'loo Park	13	8	5	-	77
Wav. Lab. 'C'	14	8	6	-	73
Eng. Elec. 'C'	13	7	6	-	71
L'Pool Jew. 'C'	14	7	7	-	71
Beauclair 'A'	14	4	9	1	63
Palmerston 'C'	12	6	5	1	56
Eng. Elec. 'E'	10	2	7	1	29
Trinity 'B'	12	3	10	-	27
Bath St. 'E'	12	2	10	-	26
Old Swan 'A'	14	-	13	1	25

P W L D PTS.

## DIVISION 4A

Dutch's	15	14	-	1	123
Harding	14	12	2	-	114
Crawfords	14	10	2	2	97
Vags 'A'	15	8	5	2	96
L'Pool J.A	14	10	2	2	95
W.Lab. D	13	7	3	3	78
Trinity F	12	7	4	1	67
Cadwa B	14	5	8	1	61
Bohs	13	5	7	1	55
Eng. E. F	12	4	8	-	51
Maghull C	14	3	10	1	41
St. Hugh's	13	1	12	-	34
Bath St. G	12	2	10	-	28
Vags. C	14	-	14	-	9

## DIVISION 4B

Elec. Sup.A	13	12	1	-	116
Kirkby A	14	11	3	-	102
Colons C	13	9	2	2	83
Cadwa C	13	9	4	-	81
Police B	13	9	3	1	80
Eng. Elec.G	13	9	2	2	72
Bath St.F	14	7	5	2	72
Police C	13	5	7	1	62
Maghull B	13	2	8	3	51
Cadwa D	13	3	9	1	45
Trin. E	14	2	11	1	45
Bohs. B	13	-	11	2	26
Vags. B	13	-	12	1	25

## DIVISION 5A

W'loo Pk.A	13	13	-	-	116
Trin. H.	13	12	-	1	109
Longreach	14	12	1	1	107
Kirkby B	14	11	3	-	99
B. & D.	13	6	5	2	72
Beauc. B	13	8	5	-	68
L'P.Jew.E	13	4	8	1	64
Maghull E	15	4	9	2	60
Wav.Lab.E	14	5	7	2	59
Trin.G.	14	5	8	1	59
Bohs. A	14	4	8	2	58
E.E.'H	14	4	8	2	55
Elec.Sup.B	13	-	13	-	19
Col. E	13	-	13	-	5

## DIVISION 5B

W'loo Pk.C	15	12	2	1	106
Alburgh	14	12	-	2	104
Prin.Pk.	13	11	2	1	98
Bootle	15	8	4	3	86
W'loo Pk.B	14	9	5	-	85
Police D	13	7	5	1	77
Colon. D	13	7	5	1	70
Trin. I.	13	5	7	1	54
L'P.Jew.F	12	3	8	1	48
Halewood	14	4	9	1	43
Kirkby C	10	4	6	-	38
Wav.Lab.F	12	1	11	-	38
Maghull D	13	1	12	-	30
Action Com	9	1	7	1	28

By the time you read this 'Digest' happy Christmas and New Year. With so few cards to start with I am going to concentrate this article on the playing performances of a few players.

Keith Williams our Singles champion has started his season well, he has beaten all the one's and two's who have faced him. These include such names as John McNee, Ricki Brown and Eddie Clein. His two losses have been against Pete Turtle and Francis Lay. Frances has had some remarkable wins this season, apart from his win over Keith, he has beaten Brian Davey, Wayne Percival and Tony O'Connor. Frances beat Tony 21-11 in the third and with these performances must come into the city team reckoning. John McNee was also a victim of Ronnie Brotherton, going down two straight 21-16; 21-16. However in the same game Ronnie lost to Peter Lee 21-23 in the third. Mike Truman is still a force to be reckoned with, beat the improving Thomson of Colonsay, 21-16; 21-18, and Dave Williams in three. However, Eddie Clein was not so fortunate. In what was a slow start Dave lost the first game 16-21, but by this time the expedite rule was in force and Dave then ran away the following two games 21-7; 21-12. Although playing as reserve, Alan Pickering did well in beating Paul Morgan and narrowly losing to Phil Moon in the bottom of the table clash between L.Y. 'A' and Wav. Lab. 'A'. Staying with the high riding Wavertree Club, the consistency of Dave Butterworth provided the only thorn in Wavertree's win at Bath St. Dave won the only point by beating Dave Roberts two straight 21-18; 21-19.

The closest Wavertree have come to being beaten this season is against Colonsay. At one stage in the game Nicky Cray had only to win his third game against Roy Smith to earn Colonsay a draw. After the shock of Percival and Smith losing to O'Connor and Nicky Cray, Wavertree swept into a 3-1 lead. Wins for Dave Roberts over Thompson and Wayne Percival in a tremendous game with Tony O'Connor, and the first doubles put Wavertree into this position. However, Colonsay were not ready to give up. Nicky Cray was sent back to do battle with Mike Tierney, Nicky won two straight 21-18; 21-16, Roy Smith now came into the action by defeating Dave Williams convincingly. Colonsay came back again, Tony O'Connor still troubled from his earlier defeat lost the first game to Dave Roberts 21-19. He took the second 21-13, and in a tremendous third game won 21-19. Wayne Percival went back on to increase Wavertree lead again, however, it took him three games to dispose of Dave Williams. Colonsay however, were still determined to obtain a result from this match. Phil Thomson went on to beat Mick Tierney 23-21 in the fifth-three-gamer of the night. The score to recap is now 5-4 to Wavertree. The newly promoted Colonsay had young Nicky Cray to play the Liverpool singles finalist Roy Smith to put a halt to Wavertree 100% record. Nicky won the first game 21-11 and Roy took advantage of his experience to take the following two games 21-14; 21-12.

With just less than half the season gone, Wavertree Labour have opened up a seven point lead over Y.M.C.A and with Marshall playing again must surely close this gap. By the half way stage I expect Wav. Lab. to be on top by only a couple of points. My tip for the championship is still Wav. Lab. as they are the settled side of the two. Palmerston 'A' suffering from a lack of Wigan players like my own club Eng. Elec. look good candidates for relegation. Y.M.C.A. 'A' I think are as good as relegated. All the best.

DON'T BARK AT BANCLAYS - BANK AT BARCLAYS.

NOTE: - THE MERSEYSIDE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS AT KIRKBY SPORTS CENTRE ON FRIDAY 17th AND SATURDAY 18th MARCH, WILL BE SPONSORED BY BARCLAYS BANK LTD.

Y.M.C.A. 'B' resemble the Y.M.C.A. 'A' team promoted two years ago and three of the promoted teams return after only one season in the third, so that division has a 1975 look about it.

This season brings few changes, but although most of the old faces are getting a little older, their play itself shows a timeless quality.

Towards the foot of the table three of the promoted teams are in the same position as they were two years ago. Colonsay 'B' look in a hopeless position with Old Swan. When these two teams met the result was a draw thanks to L. Fennah, who follows the typical Colonsay tactic of playing in a number of teams (she also turns out in the (A) side). Pete Dobs won two for Old Swan in reply. Bath St. are better placed thanks to Clive Shislett topping their averages. Best results to date are a draw with Linacre and four points from the Police where Jack Letch did well in beating Dave Cris-in. Linacre are a little higher and look as if they will be fighting it out with Palmerston to avoid relegation for the rest of the season. I doubt if Linacre would be in their present position if they turned out their strongest team regularly. Any four from seven players are likely to turn out. However, Harry Reeve is in splendid form, showing this in beating Frank Murphy and Mick Allen in a hard fought match against Beauclair when they narrowly went down 4-6. Palmerston 'B' are short of players and regularly turn out different players. C. Parr making a rare appearance against Rafter's beat Ron Rumjahn and Don Davies, but could not prevent a 3-7 defeat.

Towards the middle of the table are Vagabonds and Colonsay 'A'. Although Ted Barnes beat Harry Reeve and Jack Davidson, Frank Lacey's wins over Bobbie Owens and Doug Ridgeway saw Vagabonds go down 4-6 to Linacre. Colonsay 'A' with new signing Sue Alexander would be in a much higher position if they could manage to get their ladies county player to turn out more regularly. Without Sue they went down to a heavy 2-8 defeat to Rafter's 'A' with Peter Coyle and Harry Nelson winning the only singles against Dave Ferguson and Don Davies respectively. The point was emphasised in a narrow 4-6 defeat against Y.M.C.A. 'B' when Sue beat Harry Johnston and Ken Roscoe. In a large group with an outside chance of promotion are Maghull, Bath St. 'A', Police and English Electric 'B'. Maghull fought out a long drawn match with Colonsay 'A'. Dave Piper "sweated out" to a 30-28 win in the third set against Ian Blore and Colonsay hung on again with Harry Nelson beating Ken Jones 22-20 in the third. Although Gordon Brownlee beat Ted Mandaluff 21-19 in the third they went down heavily 2-8 to Y.M.C.A. 'B'. However, against another leading team Rafter's 'A' they gained a draw, thanks to Ken Jones and Gordon Brownlee beating Don Davies. In the same match Gordon lost 19. 21 in the third to Dave Ferguson. Bath St. 'A' looked in contention to return to the first division until they lost heavily 3-7 to Beauclair. The most striking play was shown by Mick Allen in his most amazing form to thrash Val Franco. There followed a 0-10 thrashing by Y.M.C.A. 'B' but the score marks the close nature of much of the play. Their best result was a 7-3 win over English Electric 'B' with John Pritchard beating George Cheng and Bill Ellard. English Electric have lost Phil Thomson who was replaced by George Cheng. George helped English Electric to a 7-3 win over Linacre by beating Harry Reeve and Norman Appleby. Police are missing Barry McLeod, but achieved a good draw against Rafter's 'A' with Gareth Jones beating Ron Rumjahn and Clive Roberts. Bill Crafter replied with two singles wins for Rafter's. His steady play has been a regular feature of Rafter's challenge to regain their first division status.

Rafter's and Beauclair look favourites to achieve runners up position. Just one point separated the teams until they met in a hard fought match which saw Beauclair run out 6-4 winners. Ted Birch's steadily improving play with a more orthodox bat has led Beauclair to their familiar position as the season reaches its half way stage and in this match he achieved two comfortable singles wins over Dave Ferguson and Ron Rumjahn Don Davies replied with wins over Frank Murphy and Mick Allen.

Lastly, Y.M.C.A. 'B' (or should it be 'A'?) have established a clear lead at the top and look as if they will repeat their 1975 success. Harry Johnson is a more awkward competitor than ever and he was the main inspiration in their very narrow 6-4 victory over Beauclair when he won both singles comfortably. Y.M.C.A. however, only scraped home in the end by two closely fought doubles wins.

Kirkby and Cadwa, both new teams to the division are currently leading the division with Trinity 'D' and Fire Service close on their heels, and I think the eventual champions will come from among these four teams.

Coming through the 5th and 4th divisions in successive seasons, have now established themselves at the top of 3A. I think most people will agree that the division is currently stronger than for some years, and you only have to look at the teams languishing in the relegation zone to realise just how high the standards of the top team are.

The bottom five teams have managed only four wins between them and five draws. Rafter's 'B', Division 2, last year, are third from bottom with eight successive defeats which must prove something.

An interesting statistic is the number of 10-0 wins, 9 so far, and six at 9-1, that is over 25% of games so far and compares with only eight draws, and eight wins by 6 to 4, six of the last being games concerning the top four clubs, all of which would seem to indicate that the gap between the top four and the rest could be very large indeed by the end of the season. One thing that is very noticeable is the number of players that have been used so far, especially amongst the lower teams, which must present problems, particularly in the doubles, my own team is a good example, having played seven different players in only eight matches.

There have been some very tight and interesting matches. The first week Trinity 'D' lost 4-6 to Kirkby, six sets going to three, Trinity's hero was Dave Wilson who beat N.Chaloner and P.Brown in the singles, then combined with T.Downing to beat Brown and Monaghan in the doubles. Kirkby then lost 4-6 to Cadwa, Mike Bower and Ken Hartley winning their singles to ensure victory. Not to be outdone Trinity then beat Cadwa 6-4 Dave Wilson again winning two singles, but matched by Trevor Hughes who beat John McLoughlin and Alan Gillespie, then combined with Chris Roberts to beat Wilson and Downing in the doubles. Kirkby showed that they can be disturbed by beating lowly Maghull by the smallest margin, when they must have expected better, Andy Howarth was the man of the night for Maghull with wins over Mark Monaghan and John Rankin. In contrast Bath St. 'C' thrashed Maghull 8-2 then visited Kirkby and lost 10-0 and failed even to win one game, the heaviest defeat of any team this season and rather strange with players of the calibre of Alan Spencer and the brothers Cunningham. However, I hear Bath St. have taken steps to strengthen both teams, and I see my old friend Cyril Smith has joined the 'D' team, just to prove that it is possible to hit the net every other shot, but so far even Cyril has'nt been able to inspire his colleagues to their first victory. Liverpool Jewish have an interesting line-up with David and Tony Cohen, Anne Carline and Cathy Gore, a combination of experience and youthful exuberance, or beauty and the beast, depending on your outlook. Fire Service seem to have emerged from their internal dispute with an even stronger squad than last season, but they came to grief against Cadwa losing 7-3 with Ken Jackson and John Watson winning one single each, then combining to beat Mike Power and Trevor Hughes in the doubles.

There have been a number of players who have saved their teams from a whitewash. Ahmed Thabet Y.M.C.A. 21/14; 20/22; 22/20 over T.Downing Trinity 'D'. John Donnelly Y.M.C.A. v John Rankin Kirkby, John Collister, Wav. Lab. 'B' v John Rankin, Kirkby, this is a real nail biter of a match, 7 sets going to 3, and the luckless Wavertree winning only one. Jerry O'Keefe, Rafter's 'B' beat Ken Jackson Fire Service in three. Anne Carlin, Jewish 'A' beat R. Brockly, Cadwa, 11-21; 21-8; 22-20. Perhaps the most surprising win was that of Harper and Woodley, Bath St. 'D' who beat Power and Hughes for their teams only point in a 9-1 defeat.

There was a bit of family pride for Eng. Elec. 'D' in their 8-2 defeat by Trinity 'D' father and son Albie and Kevin Parker recording Electric's two wins. There were several other good personal performances, but lack of space prevents mentioning them all, perhaps next time.

Division 3B.Les French

Already the chase for honours seems to have narrowed down to two teams - Electric Supply and Jewish 'A' with Trinity 'C' in pursuit. Electric Supply are a team without a weakness. Alan Cameron is a reliable No:1. having lost only to Mike Keen of Trinity 'C', and Ian Wensley and myself, Alan has 19-3 to date. The likeable Peter Carney (19-3) at No:2 has lost only three to date, to Mike Keen, Bill Leeming and Fred Bainbridge. Alan Biggs (16-4) and Ernie Owens (15-5) complete a very useful side. My team Jewish 'A' also has strength in depth. To date my record is 21-1 and Gerry Goldring has 18-2. I lost to Mike Keen too - as nice a bloke as I've met for a long time - but Gerry beat him for Mike's only defeat to date (21-1). Gerry has lost only to Peter Carney and in the cup to Trevor Hughes of CADWA (Jewish won 7-3) from that inferior division 3A. We also have Ian Wensley, playing better than at any other time in his career, (19-3) and the steadily improving Paula Breithaupt, -(She'll have to change that name) who is now a force to be reckoned with (14-6). The match between Jewish 'A' and Elec. Supply ended in a draw with doubles for Alan Biggs, Peter Carney and myself. Ian Wensley pulled off a dramatic (24-22) in the third win from behind against Alan Cameron. Paula and I beat the two Alans for their only doubles defeat to date.

Trinity 'C' are the only challengers. They have an excellent No:1 in Mike Keen, well supported by Tommy Lawson (12-6) and Stan Smith (12-8) but Mal Clark (8-10) isn't strong enough for the team to make a real challenge to the other two. The Lawson combo are hard to beat and are the only pair to beat Paula and I to date. Waterloo Park's chances were set back by 7-3 defeats by W.L. 'C' and E.E. 'C' and then 8-2 by Elec. Supply. Jewish 'C' made a great start, despite an 8-2 setback against W.L.'C', but recent defeats of 10-0 by Elec. Supply and 9-1 by Trinity 'C' puts them out of the race. Led by Warren Davies (13-9) and well backed-up by Roy Lussey and Mel Snyder (both 13-9) and the irrefragable Lewis Rosenbloom (11-7) this team has real character. Barna's forever! Sorry Roy. In the E.E.'C' team only Ro Craddock is doing well. Julie Black, Wally Sill and Brian, three-bat, Cullen have been very disappointing. Must be the change in captaincy. Long live Wal. Wav. Lab. 'C' are erratic. Good wins over Waterloo Park 7-3 with Ashley and Birchall starring and a great win for Malcolm McEvoy over Bill Spencer, and over Jew. 'C' 8-2 but disaster against Supply 10-0, Jew. 'A' 9-1 and St. Helens, sorry, Palmerston 'C' 8-2. Beauclair 'A' are a mid-table team who rely heavily on the talents of the ever-green Bill Leeming and Billy Holmes. Palmerston 'C' at full strength have an impressive look about them and will create many surprises e.g., an 8-2 win over E.E. 'C' with Ashcroft and Gibbons both beating Julie Black and only Captain Craddock could boast a singles win. Trinity 'B' have a young side lacking in experience, with Norman Cutler the best prospect. He had a good double over Cyril Smith and Eugene Berger to help his side beat Bath St. 'E', 6-4. Bath St. have Ted Jane as their mainstay with young Andrew Nelson as a fine prospect for the future. Ted had a good double over Ross and Cooke of Waterloo Park but his side lost 7-3. Eng. Elec. 'E' have an experienced side but are struggling. Alby Parker has the best record (6-8) but Rob Peveral can claim a great double over Julie Black and Wally Sill to score his sides only sets in the Electric Derby game.

Old Swan 'A' are likely Wooden Spoonists. This side has great potential. Tony Halligan is their only success at the moment (7-9) and his doubles partnership with P.Cherry is doing well (5-2). His best wins have been over Warren Davies, Alby Parker and John Ashley.

Stop Press. Fred Bainbridge had a great win over Mike Keen.



Firstly, I will make my usual plea for information re outstanding wins, close games etc., which you think deserve including. Let me know when you play Trinity or mark it on the score card.

Two promoted teams are setting the pace at the moment, Harding and Dutch's, chasing them are Crawfords and it is difficult to see anyone challenging these three teams for the title. The clash between Dutch's and Crawfords produced a 5-5 draw, while Crawfords have already beaten Harding 7-3.

Just behind the top three come the Vagabonds and Trinity 'F'. Trinity's new signing Joan Monaghan has started off in fine form for her new club with a row of impressive wins. Against her old club Vagabonds 'A', Joan beat Nick Ryan 21/18; 18/21; 22/20 and Dave Rooney 11/21; 21/16; 21/19, and with Paul Haffenden took the doubles against Rooney and K. Ray. Other wins to her credit include those over Stan Harvey and N. Hawthorne of Crawfords.

Vagabonds now have Nick Ryan and Dave Davies accompanying Dave Rooney and Roger Lowey. Great stuff from Roger against Dutch's getting all his sides three points playing at one, singles wins against Malcolm Green and George Files and a double with Dave Rooney. (I get the impression you Vags lads have 'nt forgiven me yet for my 'tavern' remarks last year!)

Three wins by Mal McEvoy, over Stan Harvey and E. Cameron in the singles, gave Wavertree Labour a draw against Crawfords. Mal can also add Julian Quirk to his list of useful wins.

St. Hughs to say the least, have made a disastrous start, five 9-1 defeats leaves them bottom of the division, along with Vags 'C' this after being relegated from the third last season.

Nice to Maghull 'C' finally making it into the fourth. Once again Messrs Gibson, Gill and Pattinson form the backbone of the team, although at the moment they are finding this division a bit tough. The same applies to another promoted team Bohemians who also have a familiar line up in Derek Evans, Alan Kiel and Chris Reynolds. The clash between two clubs ended appropriately 5-5, two wins each for Evans and Pattinson.

Good wins so far for Carol Flood (Cadwa 'B') over Stan Draper (English Electric) Mike Corcoran (Trinity 'F') over Mal McEvoy; Alan Kiel beat Alan Leigh 16/21; 21/16; 27/25; Paul Haffenden (Trinity) over Andy Byrne (Electric).

Don and Karen Gibson, with two singles wins each gave Bath St. the base for their sole win to date over St. Hughs. English Electrics form has been disappointing this season, only Stan Draper their signing from Maghull is playing with any consistency.

Leading averages so far (after approximately 7 matches) Mike Elson, Billy Hargreaves (Harding), Joan Monaghan 85%; Stan Harvey 83%; Malcom Green, George Hughes, Ken Dutch (Dutch's) Dave Williams (Harding) and Mike Griffiths (who?) 78%. Sole winners for their teams, Sally Reed for Bath St. against Andy Byrne; A. McAlle over P. Stenson (Harding) and George Files (Dutch's) K. Davies (Bohemians) beat George Hughes and Ken Dutch.

At the moment only Trinity and Dutch's bother to put first names on the score cards, can we have a few more now please?. All the best for 1978.

Sorry to have to say this, but it is a pity about Les Evans and his very good Electric Supply 'A' team being in on our division, which they won before a game was played. Without them we could have had one of the most exciting seasons ever with at least five teams fighting for the championship, the rest will have to fight it out for the runners-up spot. Kirkby 'A' are my favourites at the moment - in the crunch game with our champions they lost 7-3 with Conley and Underhill doubles for the champs, they also lost to Police 'B' (Purcell 2) but had a resounding win - 8-2 over Police 'C' with doubles from Cragg, Holmes and Williams T.

The unbeaten run of English Electric 'G' has really shaken English Electric 'G', they only drink so much to relieve the intense pressures that have built up on the team!!!. Their 6-4 wins have become legendary but lets be fair the excellent singles form of Captain Pratt has had a lot to do with it plus his doubles with Betty Black.

Ray and O'Mara took all the honours in the local Derby draw between Vagabonds 'B' and Bohemians 'B', Bohs had another draw with Maghull 'B', O'Mara again - with Sue Hughes and Whittaker doubles for Maghull.

Cadwa C and D have all round team ability with the 'C' proving their strength with an 8-2 win, with Garton C. beating Cowley F. 21-17; 14-21; 21-17. and Bond beating Stokes 21-14; 10-21; 24-22. Colonsay had to thank three wins from O'Sullivan J. for a 7-3 win over Cadwa 'D' and Guy was their saviour with three against Bath St. 'F' for whom Woodley won 3 in a five all draw. Young Nelson had three good wins against Electric - but three wins from Betty Black the East Lancs side their USUAL 6-4.

Star man for Trinity 'E' has been Gittins with wins over Cragg and Holmes of Kirkby and Stokes and Cowley of Cadwa 'C' these were more than meritorious as they were the only sets his side won in both games. Gallagher of Vags 'B' also won his sides lone two against Electric. Baig (Bohemians B) beat Sawyer (Police 'C') 21-17; 21-19, and Watkins (Cadwa 'D') beat Spedding (Police 'C') 21-17; 23-21, lone winners in separate games. Murrays three for Cadwa 'C' proved decisive in an excellent win over Police 'B', reserve Garton G. had two good wins also. The Kirkby and Electric Supply was a corker, six games going to three, Eveans beating Cragg 16 in the third, Blackburn beating Hoime 23-21 in the third and losing to Williams 19-21 in the third and Underhill beating Williams 22-20 in the third. With the singles tight as a drum Supply won their doubles 7 and 17 and Kirkby won theirs 13 and 9.

Another tough one was the Maghull 'B' v Cadwa 'D' five all draw - six to three again with excellent doubles from Cowley J and Whittaker.

In the second half of the season the return game at Kirkby between them and Champions Electric Supply should be very interesting, and heaven help anyone if Colonsay put out their full second divisions' fourth division side if you see what I mean.

TREBOR/SHARPS SWEETS SPONSORED THE LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT  
LEAGUE CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS WHICH WERE HELD AT KIRKBY SPORTS  
CENTRE ON SUNDAY JANUARY 15th.

BARCLAYS BANK LTD.

SPONSOR THE MERSEYSIDE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS AT KIRKBY SPORTS CENTRE  
ON FRIDAY 17th OF MARCH AND SATURDAY 18th OF MARCH.....

OFFICIALS, PLAYERS AND ALL TABLE TENNIS ENTHUSIASTS WISH TO THANK  
BARCLAYS BANK LTD., FOR THEIR SPONSORSHIP AND TREBOR/SHARPS SWEETS.

Do we start with congratulations or commiserations?. As the congratulatory one is unique we must start with congratulations to the Royden family of Steve, Stan, Neil and Mark who form the Trinity 'H' team and on top of being the only family to field a complete team are also doing pretty well in the place, which is very good when you consider that above them they have a more than average third division side. Why you may ask, all I can say at the moment is that the ex Orrell team from Division 3 are very embittered on having obtained new premises at Waterloo Park to find that they had lost their Division 3 status and find themselves in Division 5A.

I must say that in the interest of new teams, regardless of their strength, and of the many weak teams and not so good players I am not exactly overjoyed at the third division side coming in our division and hammering all and sundry and depriving a good new team of honours. Longreach doing extremely well as a new team had the edge over Kirkby 'B' in a top form battle thanks to two good wins each from Mulally and Williams E. although the latter had a close one beating Williams T. 19 in the third who had a hand in two of Kirkby's wins.

A draw was always on the cards for the evenly matched Maghull 'E' and Bohemians 'A', (Hutchinson 2). Cockcroft was the Maghull hero winning both singles - beating Carroll 27-25 in third. Cockcroft also helped Maghull to a very good draw against Barker and Dobson (O'Sullivan F. 2) winning his two again: Against Waterloo Park 'A' Travis won Barker and Dobsons only two sets beating Williams and Wilson, a top performance.

A 5-5 score line was a good result for English Electric 'H' against the stronger Liverpool Jewish 'E' team with Thomas B. having three good wins sharing the doubles with Thomas D. - his dad! At the same time a 4-6 against Longreach (Fairclough 3) was a good result for the Jewish team McKim winning his two.

Two singles wins for Davies A. and a doubles with Airton gave Beauclair 'B' a solid 7-3 success over Maghull 'E' (Annette Jones 2). Amy Bell, Millie Harris and Monica O'Donnell won their six singles for Wavertree Labour 'E' against Electric Supply 'B' who won both the doubles.

Lots of 10-0 score cards I am afraid which have no news value, a 1-9 at Colonsay gave their 'E' team a lone point to date won by Kilty against Beauclair 'B'. Lone winners for their sides Monica O'Donnell against Zalud of Jewish, Jones L. against Sawney of Kirkby 'B' 21-23; 21-18; 21-17. Powell v Kee Beauclair 21-16; 17-21; 22-20. Quilliam v Royden S. Trinity 'H' and T.omas D. v Royden N. Trinity 'H'.

Jones T. (Trinity G) was outstanding for his side in their wins against Electric 'H' 6-4 and Wavertree Labour 7-3 winning his four singles and a doubles. Airton of Beauclair 'B' did well to get a double in his sides 4-6 against Longreach (Mulally 3 - again!) Powell (Electric Supply B) won three of his sides 4 against Bohemians 'A' (Quilliam 2) With six games going to three Beauclair 'B' (Neary and Kee 2 each) Bohemians 'A' - 4 was a hard battle.

If you really want a mention and you fancy yourself as a big time press agent your moment has arrived - this is your column.

TREBOR/SHARP SWEETS - SPONSORED THE LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT LEAGUE CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS WHICH WERE HELD AT KIRKBY SPORTS CENTRE ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 15th.

OFFICIALS, PLAYERS AND ALL TABLE TENNIS ENTHUSIASTS WISH TO THANK TREBOR/SHARPS SWEETS FOR THEIR SPONSORSHIP.

Welcome back to all last seasons players and a special welcome to new comers Action Committee, Aigburth, Bootle and Princes Pk. We all hope you will be staying with the league and that you have an enjoyable season. New comers Aigburth have been introduced by Ray Lavin who last played a couple of seasons back. It is a pleasure to welcome him back, bringing with him a new club. In his last season he won the Restricted Singles at the 'Closed' and looks likely to follow this with a 100% average. Bootle have also been introduced by a league player, Dave Wilson of Trinity, who also coaches them. We can never have too many clubs or players and it is good to see players putting something back into the game.

Princes Park also have an ex league player, K.Brew who was last with us with Stanley House, I may be wrong here, but I think they are the first all coloured team we have had.

With five further teams being new additions by their clubs the division has a new look. Most of these players are already experienced league players most of Waterloo Park, players having moved over after the closure of Orrell. There they were just another team and now they find themselves in the running for champions. Must be a moral in that somewhere.

Waterloo Park 'C'; Aigburth and Princes Park look likely to provide the final champion with Police 'D' appearing as unexpected outsiders, although I can't see them getting higher than 4th place. Aigburth are hampered by a weak tail. They have tried to correct this by introducing another experienced player, Peter Wass who was last with us some seasons back. This has helped improve the team, but they are still dropping too many sets. Princes Park on the other hand are turning in very good results and could well be 1st or 2nd place when you read these notes. Waterloo Pk. 'C' appear to be favourites at the moment having drawn with Aigburth and beaten Princes Pk. and winning their matches by big margins. I feel that the final choice will, as last season, rest with the rest of us as none of the top three appear capable of turning in regular 10-0 wins and none can afford to drop sets.

Down at the bottom it looks like my own team, Maghull, Halewood and Trinity 'I' as most likely candidates for bottom placing. It looks very much as though it will be my team who will lose, or should it be win, this battle. With seven players available we try to give everyone a game and this has affected our results. That is our excuse for what it is worth. It is really too early to give any definite views as teams often show an improvement in the second half of the season. In the next issue I should be able to give a better assessment. With two of the four newcomers battling at the top Action Comm. and Bootle are struggling to hold their own near the bottom and although I have not mentioned them as candidates there is always the possibility we could finish with a new club at the top and bottom. More about this next issue. Finally we have a few young players with us and quite a few new ones and in order that they don't acquire bad habits, should you lose a set try and lose pleasantly. Blame yourself if you must, but not your opponent, his only crime is that he has got 21 before you. This happened in our match with the Police and completely ruined a pleasant match for both teams. Unfortunately, I was involved when my opponent was loud in his condemnation of me, crediting me with all kinds of luck. Although how you can be beaten 16 and 8 and claim your opponent is lucky is something I have not yet worked out. Winning is always important, but enjoyment in participation is even more important and playing at this level it is a premier requirement.