



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.

VOLUME

31

FEB 78

NUMBER.

2

It looks good, it reads good, and by golly it's really good - or is it?. Have you decided? The layout of the first issue can be improved on - but the layout of this issue may not be unless correspondents are on time - if we obtain a quick return from correspondents an orderly magazine in sequence can be produced. If not Divisional notes will be typed - and that means printed in the order in which they are received now there's a thought that could bring them in a little quicker - who was the lazy man - the last printed - what subtle brilliance.

Vacancies could occur on the management committee this season why dont you put up - or shut up - bit nasty there, were'nt you Mr. Editor. If you do feel strongly about what is going on stand for the committee. If you feel you cannot completely commit yourself, become a city team captain, our junior team have not had a captain this season and have stumbled from crisis to crisis, there are numerous jobs at the open and closed you could help out on - think about it, it is very easy to play your one game a week and play hell with those who give up so much of their spare time to help you.

Two of our favourite members and workers for the cause have just become Mummy and Daddy and other players on Merseyside and in Canada have become great uncles and great aunties and more important (I should know!) grandma and granddads, I offer on your behalf to Janet Davies (nee Rumjahn) and Don our congratulations and the sharing in a small way their happiness in the birth of a bouncing baby.

ALL NOMINATIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND PROPOSED RULE ALTERATIONS MUST BE IN THE SECRETARY'S HANDS BY MAY 1st.

The bad news is that we have lost our only current International John McNee, I am afraid he has found a new job and a new club way down South. The city, teams number one player, his quiet command of the game and the table will be missed together with his ice cool hard hitting (although I have seen him explode) - good luck John, may you go from strength to strength.

HOW ABOUT MY NEW LITTLE GAME - PUZZLE FIND YOUR DIVISION!

Dutch's 7, Harding 3, the result of the clash of the big two in this division. At Christmas however, (these notes only go up to Christmas for the most part) they stood level, with the prospect of a fierce battle in the New Year to come. Stars of the match were Malcolm Green for Dutch's and for Harding, Dave Williams who had wins over George Hughes and Ken Dutch. Closest win of the night, Mike Elson over George Files 18-21; 21-18; 22-20.

Another close game for Mike Elson, going down 21-23; 22-20; 21-19; to a battling Ray Mooney of Trinity. Great stuff from Ray who started the New Year in similar vein with a fine 2 games win over Stan Draper (English Electric). It's hard to split the two top clubs but I'll stick my neck out and tip Dutch's. (That should put Harding in an optimistic mood). Below these two the competition is just as close and exciting with many tough games.

Liverpool Jewish 6, Crawfords 4, catches the eye, Lee Soon and Bill Davies with two singles and the doubles together clinching the match. Jewish's draw with the Vagabonds 'A' was highlighted by Roger Bennions three wins. Two good wins by Bohemians over English Electric 7-3 and Cadwa 'B' 6-4, Ken Davies two singles in each. Tremendous performance from Ken against Dutch's beating both George Hughes and Ken Dutch and in the doubles with Alan Kiel only going down 21-23; 24-22; 13-21; to Mal Green and George Files. Bohemians easily win my award for the most hospitable and friendly club in this division, the best night out in a season. A fine win for Frank Pattinson of Maghull over Mark Smith (Wav.Lab.) 21-19; 15-21; 21-19; and Frank also stakes a claim for the closest game of the season by going in the first 34/36 to Geoff Connor (English Electric). Unfortunately for Frank he lost the second as well 16/21. Vagabonds 'A' were surprisingly beaten 9-1 by Harding with only reserve Les Higham winning. A 7-3 win over Crawfords however, was more like their usual form, Dave Rooney and Higham two each here.

R.Woodley and C.Bruford have been picking up most of Bath Street's points lately. Bruford scored his sides only two against Bohemians and Woodley got two useful points with fine wins over the Trinity pair of Ray Mooney and Joan Monaghan. In the other struggling teams A. McAlle is winning all St. Hughs points while Vagabonds 'C' I'm afraid to say are not winning any points at all.

Mal McEvoy certainly did his stuff for Wavertree Labour against Dutchs, beating Mal Green 20-22 21-17; 21-18; and George Files 19-21; 21-10; 21-18; and with Mark Smith beat George Files and Ken Dutch. Four good points for Labour there, the other winner being Mark over George Hughes. Wavertree would do even better if they could put their four strongest players each week.

That's all for now, you'll probably be reading these notes after the season has finished but please dont complain to me about that.

DIVISION 2

"Harry"

Although there are no radical changes in the division, certain changes have taken place which have made a significant difference to some teams. English Electric "B" have been devastated by losing their two best players, Brian Crolley and George Cheng to their first division teams. Up until Christ mas they have been maintaining a middle of the table position, but since then their morale and results have nose dived with a result that they will now be hard pushed to avoid relegation. Linacre are also in a similar struggling position, having lost their star player Harry Reeve, who has gone back to sea. Harry has been having a very successful season, beating Ken Jones and Gordon Brownlee of Maghull (still not enough to prevent Linacre losing 4-6) beating Dave Crispin and Gareth Jones to inspire Linacre to a fine 6-4 win over Police (A.Hopwood also had a double win over Len Dyson and Don Chalkley) and finally took Linacre's only two points against Y.M.C.A. "B" by beating Harry Johnston and Ken Roscoe. An indication of Linacre's low morale without Harry showed itself in a 2-8 defeat at the hands of Bath Street "B". Bath Street "B" have strengthened their team by the inclusion of Frank McCann, leading them to 7-3 wins against Colonsay "B" and Old Swan. Frank also beat Brian Crolley 21-19 in the third and, with great support from Jack Letch beating George Cheng and Alan Jones, and Clive Chislett beating Bill Ellard and Alan Jones, Bath Street forced a creditable draw against English Electric "B". With Linacre and English Electric now slipping Bath Street "B" have a chance to avoid relegation.

Cont/d.....

Palmerston have strengthened their team considerably by the inclusion of Jim McMillan and are now well clear of relegation. His two singles wins over Alec Gould and Clive Chislett helped Palmerston to a 6-4 win over Bsth Street "A" (Bill Clayton replying with wins over Arthur Land and Jim Riding). Palmerston went on to thrash Vagabonds 8-2 with Bobby Owen the only Vagabonds player to stop the rot with wins over Arthur Land and Jim Riding. Bob was Vagabonds outstanding player against Rafter's "A" with wins over Bill Crafter and Ron Rumjahn (Tom Johnstone providing the only other win over Ron Rumjahn). Bob and Tom also provided the inspiration with two singles wins over each in a drawn match with Police. Other teams in similar positions close to the top with both making changes are Maghull and Bath Street "A". Maghull have lost Ken Jones, but have replaced him with either of the Walmsley brothers from the Southport league whilst Bath Street are now playing Chris Coogan (another Southport recruit) in place of Val Franco. Just before these changes took place a close match between the teams ended in a 6-4 win to Bath Street "A". Police continue in much the same vein managing to draw with most of the top teams. This included Beauclair in a match in which Don Chalkley won both singles. They slipped up going down 4-6 to Maghull however, in a match where Steve Farr showed his improved form by beating Don Chalkley and Len Dyson. Colonsay "A" have been managing to put out a more regular side lately and as a result have moved up the league. They illustrated their potential by beating Y.M.C.A. "B" in the Rumjahn Cup with Sue Alexander and Peter Coyle both beating Ted Mandaluff. Colonsay were perhaps somewhat unlucky to be held to a draw by Beauclair after two double singles wins by Sue Alexander and Peter Coyle. However, their doubles did not match this and Beauclairs doubles pairs fought back from the brink of defeat. Colonsay "B" and Old Swan still labour at the foot of the division. For Old Swan however, Pete McAdam has been having a fine season with perhaps his best accomplishment coming against Y.M.C.A. "B" beating Harry Johnston and Ken Roscoe and then teaming up with Pete Dobbs to beat Johnston and Clewett. Perhaps the best individual performance for Colonsay "B" was provided by Mal Cray in beating Bill Clayton and Chris Coogan of Bath Street "A". The only other point was provided by John Roper beating Clive Chislett.

DIVISION 3B

Les French

The championship now seems certain to go to Jewish 'A' by virtue of a fantastic sequence of big wins. Not since the third week have they dropped more than one set in a match - real championship form. Elec. Supply have kept in touch with an impressive record, and were just six sets behind at the mid-season break. Jewish 'A' have only dropped 12 sets in 12 matches, heartbreaking for those clubs behind them. Elec. Supply's hopes were set back when beaten 7-3 by Trinity 'C' Newcomer Frank Brady and Mike Keen won five sets between them, Frank's arrival has strengthened Trinity's challenge and they should now be able to put more pressure on the top two. It's a pity (for Trinity) that Frank didn't arrive earlier because the gap should prove to be too great to make up with such a hot pace. The relegation issue has been thrown wide open again. After 12 matches Old Swan 'A' have 25 pts., Bath St. 'E' have 26 pts., Trinity 'B' have 27 pts., and the new look Eng. Elec. 'E' team seems weak enough to lose their 8 sets advantage. I think it will be between Old Swan 'A' and Eng.Elec. 'E' for the wooden spoon. Trinity 'B' improved their chances by hammering Bath St. 'E' 8-2. Old Swan 'A' didn't even bother to turn up to their Home match against Jewish 'A' - a poor state of affairs, maybe they've already given up. Some good individual performances from our lower teams - Norman Cutler's double against Bill Holmes and Jim Lightburn of Beauclair 'A' in Trinity 'B's' 8-2 defeat. Tony Halligan had a narrow win over Alan Hewett, back in the Eng. Elec 'C' team after a club reshuffle. F. Taylor did well to beat Wally Sill in this match, won 8-2 by Electric. Alby Parker had a good win over Ernie Owens in Eng. Elec 'E's' 8-2 defeat by Elec. Supply. Andrew Nelson beat the experienced Harry Holmes for his sides only set against Beauc. 'A', Andrew also took Bill Leeming to three, Dave Southworth won his sides only set by beating George Higham. Norman Cutler lost to Ken (were you born at Easter?) Davies. Latest news is that Jewish 'C' have lost Roy Lussey and Warren (I'm going to change my bat) Davies, in a club reshuffle. They've been replaced by Ann Carline, who played for Liverpool Ladies team frequently last season, and Cathy Gore. Eng.Elec. 'C' have lost Julie Black and Ro Craddock (that Captaincy has certainly done things for him!) to their 'B' team, and we'll all miss the good natured Brian Cullen now in the 'D' team.

Wally Sill has been joined by Alan Hewett, Kevin Parker and Brenda Williams. This team has a stronger look about it to me. One of the great characters of this division is Lewis Rosenbloom, who never gives in without a fight, had a good double over Wearden and Le Page and added the doubles for a fine performance in Jewish 'C's 6-4 defeat by Palmerston 'C'. Rob Peverall had a good match against Trinity 'C' taking Mike Keen to three and losing only 19, 18 to Tommy Lawson. John Collister of Wav. Lab. 'C' won his sides only sets against Palm. 'C' beating Higham and Gibbons. Some close games: Alby Parker beat Ernie Owens - 23-21 in the third; Harry Holmes beat John Southworth 23-21; 22-20; Stan Smith beat Bill Spencer 22-20 in the third; Peter Ross beat Alan Biggs 19 in the third; Alan Cameron beat Fred Bainbridge in the third. Leading Records (at week 14) (Of regular players) French 27-1; Keen 24-2; Goldring 24-2; Carney 23-3; Cameron 22-4; Wensley 23-5; Biggs 19-5; Owens 17-5; Breithaupt 16-4; Lawson 17-7; Leeming 17-8; Bainbridge 18-10; Craddock 15-9. Doubles: Lawson/Smith 11-1; Cameron/Biggs 11-1; Goldring/Wensley 11-1; French/Breithaupt 10-1; Owens/Carney 10-1. In the Hyde Cup Jewish 'A' carry our only hopes into the semi-finals after a great battle with Trinity 'C', Trinity 'C' were strengthened by 'reserve' Dave Wilson of the 'D' team and the debut of Frank Brady. Jewish 'A' had Julian Quirk replacing the injured Paula French (note change of name). Jewish opened up a 4-0 lead then Gerry Goldring's win over Mike Keen was the highlight of the evening - great attacking against an even greater defence making the score 5-1. I beat Dave Wilson to make it 6-1 for the match. The last set, with Frank Brady beating Ian Wensley with a ferocious display of hitting against Ian's superb defence, was sheer magic. Jewish won 7-3.

DIVISION 5A

Jack Lambert

The top of the table crunch game had a funny look about it when the Royden Brothers of Trinity 'H' beat a Waterloo Park 'A' side without a regular 5A player in it 6-4. Mark won three of his sides six and Bushell scored a valuable double for Waterloo, but this win gives Trinity the edge in what promises to be a tight struggle for the championship. Both teams were shaken - Trinity by Longreach in as even a match as I have seen points and games coming out almost identical - Mulhally was the Longreach hero in a top class performance by his team who shcked the potential champs with a draw on their own table. But Liverpool Jewish 'E' took our second favourites for the title to 4-6 Ian winning both singles and the doubles with Choi. Wilson and Miller doubles saved the day for Waterloo Park 'A'. The girls of Wavertree Labour 'E' plod on very nicely thank you, Monica having doubles against Eng. Elec. and Bohemians 'A' (Hutchinson 2) Miller a double against Electric with Betty and Amy also winning. Trabis was the only double winner in Barker & Dobsons draw with Trinity 'G' he also won his doubles with Woodburn. Tames and Borrowes won their doubles and a singles apiece. The B.&D. team have had a few tight games 4-6 against Beauclair 'B'. Davies A. having a 23-25; 21-19; 22-20 win against Travis, beating Greaves two straight and winning his doubles with Kee. Joan Jones had three good wins for the B & D team against Kirkby 'B' for whom a Collins treble gave the edge. Congratulations to the Kirkby 'B' team on reaching the final of the Stamp Cup against the strong Aighurth side. D.Turner (Colonsay E) beat Janet Connor (Electric) 21-15; 12-21; 21-16, for his sides lone win. Kilty (Colonsay) won his sides only two sets against Maghull who have had a few good wins. Colonsay must get top marks for bashing on regardless - and not a win in sight - nice work. G.Powell (Elec. Supply 'B') beat Annette Jones (Maghull) 21-19; 21-11: Monica O'Donnell (Wav.Lab) beat Cragg B and Williams D. for her sides only two sets - Hignett (Elec. Supply) beat Burrows (Trinity 'G') 14 and 15. Harper (Eng. Elec.) beat Williams E. (Longreach) 10-21; 21-19; 21-19. Sorry Willie but Cockcroft (Maghull) made it a bad week for Williams beating him 17 and 18, all lone winners these last few. Beasley (Jewish 'E') beat Stan and Steve of Trinity 'H' in his teams 2-8 defeat, which gives him a star rating. Barker & Dobson (Greaves 3) Electric 'H' 6 (Thomas B.2) 4. Bohemians A 6 (Jackson 3) Jewish 'S' 4. (Bunner 2) Beauclair 'B' 4 (Davies 2, Neary Martin 2) Wav. Lab. 'E' 4. (Smith P.2) close games which are good for the game. Waterloo Park 'A' seems to prefer to play away, lets hope their new premises are available for next season and the much strengthened Waterloo Park club can stick together, I feel that there is an open and shut case here for Rule 22 in Division 3B who are a team short.

Our champions, Electric Supply 'A' lost their unbeaten record 7-3 after a terrific battle against Colonsay 'C'. Seven games going to three, O'Sullivan beating Evans 18 in the third and Underhill losing to Lynne Fennah and Brookfield 21 and 18 in the third. Lewis beat Guy and Brookfield to become Electrics hero. Eng. Elec. 'C' also lost their unbeaten record at Kirkby 'A' with a 10-0 thrashing although losing four games 19 in the third - still - 10-0 oh! dear!

Another first, this time a win for Trinity 'E' 7-3 against Vagabonds 'B'. A father and daughter triumph for Gillian and W.Harris winning 5. P.Gittins the other two. The win was followed with a nice neat 5-5 against Magull, Harris W. again and P. Gittins winning four out of their 5 top of the card wins and McGarrity D. winning 3 of Maghull's five bottom of the score card wins.

There have been some great games, all Eng. Elecs. seem to be 6-4 or 5-5 (how about Kirkby!) and Police 'B' and 'C' fought a battle royal, two wins each from Rimmer and Ham for the 'B' were counteracted by two great doubles wins from the 'C' team. Mixed fortunes for Cadwa C and D against Bath St. 'F', a great win for the full strength 'C' team - dare I say it 10-0 followed by a hammering a couple of days later for the 'D' 8-2. Two tough 6-4 defeats for Police 'C' against Bath St. 'F' (Mercer 2) and Cadwa 'C' (Murray 2) a regular Murray would make this a pretty strong side. Bath St. had a tough 4-6 against Kirkby 'A' (Cragg R.2) seven games going to three. Andy Jones won his two for Bohemians 'A' Summersgill winning his sides only other game against Trinity 'E' (Gittins P. and Hankin 2) If only we had some method to cash in on young players like Jones and Adam Baig who have natural ability and no easy way of receiving coaching. The doubles swung Eng. Elecs usual 6-4 in their favour against Cadwa 'D', Cowley J. and Pratt won two each. A. Fyles double gave Electric an unusual 7-3 score line against Police 'C'. Not a lot of news from Vagabonds 'B' single wins for Gallagher against Cadwa 'C' Ray against Police 'B' and Moss against Colonsay 'C' were of course bad news for the team. How is this for a funny (Not for Conley) score line. Mercer won his sides lone set 6-21; 25-23; 21-9. Another loner was Sue Hughes (Maghull) who won the battle of the sexes against Heather Stirrup 21-17; 21-12.

If you want to make a name for yourself you have to beat O'Sullivan J. (Colonsay 'C') or Harris W. (Trinity 'E') as according to a quick check they both have 100% records. Also having an excellent season for their teams Murray (Cadwa 'C') Lynne Fennah and Guy (Colonsay) Evans, Lewis Underwood (Electric Supply) Pratt (Eng Elec) Cragg R. (Kirkby 'A') Purcell (Police 'B'). A win against any of these guys could make you player of the month!?

TREBOR

J.A.L.

LIVERPOOL CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIP

MENS FINAL M. Thomas beat C.Strettle 13 and 19.

SEMI FINALS Strettle beat G. Powel 15 and 16; Thomas beat R.Brotherton ;3 and 15

QUARTER FINALS Brotherton beat P.Lee 19 and 18; Powell beat N.Cray 19 and 19;

Strettle beat M. Tierney 20, 19 and 17; Thomas beat K.Williams 11, 20 and 15.

On the way to the final our worthy champion Mark Thomas beat Cheng, Sill A. Williams D. and Wilson D: Clive Strettle beat Evans J, Turtle, Charnock and Horwood. Not many real shocks but B.Davey beat R.Smith 17-18; G.Cheng beat G.Smith 16 and 15 and N.Cray beat seeded D.Roberts - 18; 14 and 14.

WOMENS FINAL Sue Alexander beat Barbara Kirkman 16 and 10, in the semis - Sue beat Muriel Cox 8 and 11 and Barbara beat Paula French 15 and 14.

MENS DOUBLES M. Thomas and G.Powell beat K.Williams and K.Davey 17 and 11; Thomas and Powell beat T. Charnock and J.Evans 14 and 14 and Williams and Davey (The holders) beat D.Roberts and M. Tierney -8; 23.21 (a close one) 16 in the semis.

WOMENS DOUBLES Sue Alexander and Barbara Kirkman beat Mabel Neary and Muriel Cox 12 and 11.

RESTRICTED FINAL S. Walmsley beat M. McEvoy 17 and 18.. Semi-finals: McEvoy beat R. Brown-17 20-19. Walmsley beat N.Chaloner 13 and 18: Quarter Finals Chaloner beat K.Jackson 19 and 15: Walmsley beat A.Hewitt 19 and 17; Brown beat L. French 11 and 13; McEvoy beat M. Monaghan 9; 18-20. Junior Boys Final M. Thomas beat G.Black 13 and 17 in the semi-finals Thomas beat N. Cray 16; 7 and 15: Black beat M.Walmsley 19; 20 and 17 in the quarters. Thomas beat G.Parr 11; 17-10: Gray beat D.Nam 10 and 14; Walmsley beat P.Coyle 24 - 8:12; Black beat T.Truman 16 and 19. A very encouraging entry for this event.

JUNIOR GIRLS Heather Stirrup beat Jackie Wilson 15 and 12.

MENS CONSOLATION G. Brownlee beat T.Truman 17; 19 and 12.

LADIES CONSOLATION Mabel Neary beat Yvonne Cox 6 and 8.

VETERANS SINGLES D. Ferguson beat N.Challoner 11 and 14 in the semis Challoner beat W.Harris 10-5 and 23-21 (EXPEDITE) Ferguson beat A. Biggs 9; 13-16.

A good tournament(in my opinion - what's yours?). It can be improved on with a captain of tables, deputy to take over from Brian whenever needed and the finals to take place immediately the rounds have been completed.

Congratulations to Brian Leeson, Ken Armson, Ken Black for this exhausting full days work which provided us with an excellent tournament and of course to their many assistants. Maybe a few more helpers FROM THE CRITICS WOULD PERFECT OUR CHAMPIONSHIPS.

DIVISION 2 - Continued.....

At the top of the league Y.M.C.A. 'B', Beauclair and Rafter's 'A' are still clear of the rest. Rafter's continue to make steady progress beating English Electric 'B' 7-3 (being mainly pegged back by George Cheng who beat Don Davies and Clive Roberts). In the first match after Christmas they became the first team in the league to defeat Y.M.C.A. 'B'. The score was 6-4 but I have no details as yet. Beauclair struggled after Christmas, but more lately have shown more determination with a 7-3 win over Bath St. 'A'. Bill Clayton lost both singles very narrowly 19-21 in the third set to Ted Birch and 24-26 in the third to myself, but perhaps the most significant was a superb performance by Mick Allen to beat Chris Coogan. Alec Gould replied with wins over Frank Murphy and Mick Allen.

Y.M.C.A. 'B' lthough losing some impetus recently with a draw with Vagabonds and 4-6 defeat by Rafter's are still clear of their challengers. Their position is not insurmountable, however, and the periodic absences of Harry Johnston through back trouble seriously weakens the team.

"Harry"

Promoter sends a telegram - 'Either meet my demands or count me out.

Reply: One, two, three, four, five six seven eight nine ten'

My apologies to all Div 1 and Div 3A readers.

I'm a criminal lawyer - Aren't you all.

Mary had a little watch
She swallowed it one day,
Now she's taking little pills,
To pass the time away.'

I'm sorry I didn't go to your party'
'Oh' weren't you there'

Our dog is like one of the family' -
'No kidding - which one'.

CHEESHIRE V LANCASHIRE

G. R. YATES

I.C.I.'s Newton Works, Hyde was no place to be for a Lancastrian on Saturday, Jan. 21 when Cheshire against all the odds, pulled off a gripping 6-4 win after trailing 3-4. What a night, what a crowd, what a result!.

Cheshire chairman Lou Moran made light of being without a seat for such a multitude was in keeping with a meeting of the National Front and how they applauded the coup-de-grace administered by David Constance over Phil Bowen in that final all-decisive set.

Both opening sets could not have been bettered, both going to three, Donald Parker coming out the winner in his opening clash, against Constance, and Nigel Eckersley squaring matters with -17, 24, 20 tightrope affair against his former teammate John Hilton.

Bowen claimed the third against an out-of-touch Brian Johns but the score was again equated when Susan Lisle and Lynn Fennah (on Debut) accounted for Wendy Shaw and Suzanne Alexander. Cheshire then took the lead with Eckersley and Johns successful over Parker and Hilton in a set that, on paper, was Lancashire's for the taking.

But back came the Red Rose with wins by Mrs. Alexander, over Doreen Schofield and Parker a comfortable winner over a 'drained' Eckersley and it was 4-3 for the visitors whose tail stiffened appreciably.

It dropped just a little as Sue Lisle, as expected, saw off Wendy Shaw but it was very much between the legs after Johns, playing like someone inspired, came back from a first game deficit to demolish Hilton in the next two. And after such a reversal of fortunes, Constance could hardly fail in the final set nor did he being a comfortable winner.

In fairness to Hilton, he had only that morning flown in from European League match against Czechoslovakia and driven himself up from Heathrow to Hyde.

L. & C.T.T.L. - DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	P	A	P
Farnworth	5	5	0	0	35	15	10
Preston	5	4	1	0	36	14	9
Manchester	5	3	1	1	31	19	7
Liverpool	4	2	0	2	23	17	4
St. Helens.	5	1	2	2	22	28	4
Bury	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Blackburn	5	0	1	4	14	36	1
Stockport	5	0	0	5	11	39	0

Stockport, last season's winners of the Women's Division 1 are still unbeaten, as they were last season, their team of Doreen Schofield, Di Johnson and Janet Carr having clobbered Wirral (9-1), Preston (10-0), Southport (10-0) and Liverpool (9-1), Leading Positions:-

Continued...../

Leading positions:- Con..../

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Stockport	4	4	0	38	2	8
Manchester	5	4	1	43	7	8
Liverpool	5	4	1	34	16	8
Blackpool	4	3	1	24	16	6

On the Junior front Barrow, last season's champions, are still unbeaten but so too are Bury, five out of five, and Liverpool. Bury would appear to have an above average trio in Robert and Chris Freely with Phillip Hoy splitting the brothers in order of merit. Leading positions:-

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Bury	5	5	0	41	9	10
Barrow	3	3	0	27	3	6
Manchester	4	3	1	29	11	6
Liverpool	2	2	0	17	3	4

GRANADA REPORTS

All went well in the first round of the Granada Reports TV Knock-Out T.T. Tournament and interest throughout the region is keen with good crowds, especially at Rochdale where the home team went out 3-6 to Farnworth whose Clive Heap and Bryn Farnworth lost to Tim Hatton, for the winners David Constance had a treble. First round results were:-

Group 1

Ellesmere Port 4 Wrexham 5
Liverpool 8 Chester 1

Group 4

Bury 9 Southport 0
Rochdale 9 Farnworth 6

Second round ties.

Group 1

Anglesey v Denbigh
East Flint v Wirral
Llandudno v Rhyl
Liverpool v Wrexham

Group 2

Blackpool v Mid-Lancs
Preston v Barrow
Hundburn v Burley
Nelson v Lytham/St. Annes.

Group 3

Widnes/Runcorn v Macclesfield
Mid-Cheshire v Warrington
Manchester v St. Helens.
Crewe v Stockport

Group 4

Wigan v Salford/Eccles
Farnworth v Bolton
Blackburn v Oldham
Bury v Ashton.

Because of the rule debarring players registered with thier legues after Dec. 12/77 such personalities as Denis Neale (Farnworth) Donald Parker (Preston) and Nigel Hallows (Bolton) will not be able to compete. There must be a moral there!.

Con...../

LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE - DON DAVIES

The Mens team after suffering two early season 6-4 defeats have recovered with good wins over Blackburn away 9-1 and Bury away 6-4. Our home match against second place Preston saw them trailing by 5 sets to 3 but Williams beat Alan Whittle and O'Connor beat Steven Turner to give us a draw and a good point, with Tony scoring a hat trick of wins.

In the first round of the Granada TV K.O. tournament we were drawn to play Chester at home and John McNee, Keith Williams and Clive Strettle saw us to a comfortable 8 sets to 1 victory. The second round gave us another home draw against Wrexham at English Electric and the thirty spectators (the best crowd for many years) saw some fine defensive play by the coloured Wrexham number one Trevor Manning. His two wins over Keith Williams 21-17, 21-14 and John McNee 21-19, 21-11, gained the only victories for the visitors and were well deserved. In the final set he went down to Tony O'Connor 19 20 -9 with Tony playing really well to break down the defensive wall.

Once again the draw has been kind by giving us a home tie against Anglesey.

Results cont.

Men v Blackburn away won 9-1 J McNee K William C Strettle
 Men v Bury away won 6-4 K William C Strettle B Davey
 Men v Preston home drawn 5-5 T O'Connor K Williams C Strettle
 Men v Stockport away won 6-4 T O'Connor K Williams C Strettle

The Mens A team has had a season of mixed fortunes using eight players in their six matches, a different team turning out in every match. At the start of the season the strongest team was Keith Williams, Peter Lee and Clive Strettle, but not until December 17 could this trio turn out together and by then two matches had been lost. In addition to them George Smith, Graeme Black, Rod McPherson, Brian Davey and John Marshall all turned out.

Results

'A' v Preston 'A' home lost 8-2 K Williams G Smith C Black
 'A' v Blackpool 'A' away won 8-2 K Williams P Lee C Strettle
 'A' v Nelson away lost 7-3 C Strettle G Black B Davey
 'A' v Blackpool home drawn 5-5 J Marshall P Lee G Smith

The junior boys made a good start to the season by beating Bolton 9-1, Macclesfield 8-2, Hyde 7-3 and drawing with champions Barrow in Millom. However, any chance of winning the division for the first time since 1961. was when the boys played in Manchester. The lack of a team captain to transport the boys has caused no end of headaches this season. For this reason our full strength team was unable to play in the Manchester fixture, with reserve having to play at very short notice. Tony O'Connor was successful in his three singles sets but the match was lost by 7 sets to 3.

Results	Bolton	(H)	won 9-1	O'Connor	Black	Cheng
	Macclesfield	(H)	" 8-2	"	"	"
	Hyde	(A)	" 7-3	"	"	"
	Barrow	(A)	drawn 5-5	"	"	"
	Manchester	(A)	lost 3-7	O'Connor	Geoff Maher	Clive Roberts

It should be noted that Tony O'Connor has won 14 singles out of 15 played, also well worthy of praise is English Electric's George Cheng, in his first season has won 9 out of 12.

The Ladies team suffered their heaviest defeat for over nine years when they played league leaders Stockport. Having already beaten Manchester 6-4 one would have expected at least a draw against a team containing two veterans. However, former England No 9 Diane Johnson, Doreen Schofield and Janet Carr proved too strong for Sue, Julie and Barbara and ran out easy 9-1 winners, Sue's defeat of Doreen Schofield being our sole success.

In the J.M. Rose Bowl, Bradford were our third round opponents, but a disastrous start saw our girls trailing 4-0. A brief recovery to 2-4 was to no avail when the visitors made it 5-2.

Results

Ladies v St Helens	away	won 7-3	S Alexander	J Black	B Kirkman	
Ladies v Manchester	home	won 6-4	"	"	"	
Ladies v Stockport	home	lost 1-9	"	"	"	
Ladies v Preston	home	won 10-0	"	"	"	
Ladies J.M. Rose Bowl	v Blackpool	away	S Alexander	J Black	B Kirkman	Won 6-3
Ladies J.M. Rose Bowl	v Bradford	home	"	"	"	Lost 1-9

The doctor says I can't play golf - Oh, he's played with you too!

Confusion over Bats

The new racket law seems to have given rise to a number of queries but the principal change comes into effect on January 1, 1978. This concerns the thickness of any pimped rubber which, in future, will have an upper limit on its thickness of 2mm. The limitation of 4mm as the total thickness for sandwich rubber remains but the pimped portion must not exceed 2mm. The rumour also has it that the colour of the covering on both sides of a bat must be similar. This is not so, you can still have red rubber on one side and, say, green rubber on the other side. IF requested by your opponent, you must show him or her both sides of the blades before using a bat for the first time in a match. The new law is contained in the Norwich Union law booklets available from the E.T.T.A. office for the price of the postage.

You have a photographic mind - what a pity you never got it developed!

As I am battling with time to issue this Digest before the end of the Season, I have had to put it in for printing without notes for Division 1 and Division 3A which to date have not been received. J.L.

Last night I held a little hand
 So dainty and so neat
 I thought my heart would surely burst
 So wildly did it beat
 No other hand e'er held so tight
 Could greater gladness bring
 Than that I held so tight last night
 Four aces and a king

I enjoyed your book dear - who wrote it for you?
 Darling, I'm glad you liked it - who read it to you!

At the top of the table we have the closest title battle for some seasons with only a point or two separating Princes Park and Aighurth. The title will hinge on the outcome of their clash in the next to last week of the season. Aighurth have a decided advantage with a No.1 & 2 who I am certain will complete the season unbeaten, but Princes Park have strength in depth. I am going to stick my neck out, yet again, and plump for Aighurth with their experience to take the title, but won't be surprised if I am wrong.

At one stage if looked very much as though one of the W'loo Pk. teams would be in the running, but their challenge although strong has not been consistent enough when faced with the regular 9/1s and 10/0s of the top two. They suffered a further setback when their 'C' which was making most of the running, were defeated 7-3 by a new look Kirkby 'C'. A good pointer to the difference between the top teams for the same Kirkby team only just scraped through the following week 6-4 against Trinity, with seven sets going to three.

W'loo. also suffered a bit of aggro in their own 'derby' match which resulted in two players leaving the match in a temper and hampered their bid for points by conceding two w/overs. To their credit W'loo. immediately dropped them even though this weakened the 'C' team and affected their chances of promotion. I can only applaud them for their action for we can do without this type of player no matter what the cost.

Quite a div. this season for aggro. with the Police quietly disposing of a similar type of player and a further commotion in the Bootle v Maghull fixture over a umpiring decision. This resulted in the Maghull player becoming abusive when the Bootle secretary attempted to clarify the situation. Quite obviously all these players, and quite a few more like them, forget that participation and enjoyment comes before win at all costs.

I really booped when I mentioned Bootle as probables for bottom place. What a shock I got when we played them and got thrashed. Actually, it was my deliberate mistake. Did anyone spot it?

Dave Wilson has done a good job here and produced some promising young players, including his own daughter who reached the Final of the Junior Girls at our Closed tournament. Another team with promising juniors are Jewish 'F' for whom A. Bennion and P. Choi play with a confidence far in excess of their age. Given the right encouragement and coaching during the summer they could well make their mark in a higher team next season.

Halewood have again hit a black spot, for after a fine start which seemed to reflect experience gained last season, they conceded two 10/0 w/overs and followed this with a series of 10/0 defeats. Wav. Lab. on the other hand have come good after a poor start and have climbed into the top half with some good wins and a steady haul of sets. Not bad when you consider they frequently have to 'carry' me. My reluctant doubles partner, Bill Stanley, reckons I have put years on him with the pressure of having to play doubles virtually on his own. He tells lies as well!

I was right about Police, for their challenge petered out and the best they will manage will be mid-table. Only Tony Ham has produced the consistency required for a team wanting promotion. Mind you, if glamour helped to win promotion they would have a head start with Heather Finnegan as captain.

Colonsay and Trinity have played competently and regularly but lack the strength to really make their mark and can only hope for a near mid-table position. Trinity received a gift of two 10/0 w/overs which cannot compensate for a wasted journey and a spoilt night. Maghull have been sunk without trace and rely almost entirely on their captain, Harry McCanity, for points. Their young players who looked so promising last season have not shown the expected improvement.

Action Committee appear to be improving steadily, but it is difficult to assess them correctly as they are either hoarding scorecards or have a lot of matches outstanding. Either way, their name would appear to be a bit misleading as the Action part appears sadly lacking.

DIVISION 1

	<u>P</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>PTS</u>
Wav.Labour	20	19	1	-	167
L,pool Y.M.	20	16	2	2	149
Colonsay	21	12	8	1	124
Palmerston	20	12	5	3	114
Rafters	19	11	5	3	113
Trinity	22	10	9	-	111
Eng.Elec.	19	11	5	3	108
Eng.Elec.'A'	21	6	13	2	91
L,pool Jewish	19	6	9	4	84
Trinity 'A'	22	4	14	4	80
Wav.Labour 'A'	19	7	9	3	79
Bath St.	18	5	10	3	75
Palmerston 'A'	20	3	14	3	66
L,pool Y.M.'A'	19	1	18	-	37

DIVISION 3A

Kirkby	20	19	1	-	162
Cadwa	21	16	3	2	144
Trinity 'D'	20	16	4	-	133
Fire Service	20	13	6	1	131
Wav.Labour 'B'	19	13	5	1	120
L,pool Y.M.'C'	20	11	8	1	106
Eng.Elec.'D'	20	12	7	1	105
Police 'A'	20	8	8	4	97
Bath St. 'C'	19	9	8	2	95
L,pool Jewish 'B'	19	5	12	2	72
Maghull 'A'	20	2	13	5	70
Cadwa 'A'	22	2	15	5	67
Rafters 'B'	20	1	19	-	57
Bath St. 'D'	20	1	17	2	43

DIVISION 4A

Harding	20	18	2	-	167
Dutch's	19	18	-	1	154
Crawfords	21	13	5	3	139
Vagabonds 'A'	20	13	5	2	138
Wav.Labour 'D'	18	12	3	3	123
Trinity 'F'	20	12	6	2	113
L,pool Jewish 'D'	17	11	4	2	110
Eng.Elec.'F'	21	9	12	-	95
Cadwa 'B'	20	6	12	2	82
Bohs	20	7	11	1	78
Maghull 'C'	21	4	16	1	58
Bath St. 'C'	20	4	15	1	55
St. Hugh's	18	1	17	-	49
Vagabonds 'C'	20	-	20	-	9

DIVISION 5A

Trinity 'H'	21	19	1	1	177
Waterloo Pk. 'A'	19	18	1	-	160
Longreach	20	16	2	2	146
Kirkby 'B'	20	16	4	-	142
Trinity 'G'	20	8	9	3	94
Bohemians 'A'	21	6	13	-	88
Beauclair 'B'	19	9	10	-	86
Maghull 'E'	20	5	10	5	85
L,pool Jewish 'E'	17	6	10	1	84
Barker & Dobson	19	9	10	0	83
Beauclair 'B'	18	9	9	-	82
Wav.Labour 'E'	20	7	10	3	82
Eng.Elec 'H'	22	5	14	3	80
Elec. Supply 'B'	20	5	15	-	56
Colonsay 'E'	19	-	18	1	17

DIVISION 2

	<u>P</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>PTS</u>
L,pool Y.M.'B'	21	18	1	2	150
Beauclair	21	17	1	3	141
Rafters 'A'	20	15	2	3	132
Maghull	21	14	5	2	130
Bath St. 'A'	20	12	6	2	120
Colonsay 'A'	21	12	7	2	117
Police	20	9	7	4	108
Palmerston 'B'	19	7	11	1	97
Eng.Elec 'B'	21	6	12	3	91
Linacre	20	6	11	3	90
Vagabonds	20	5	11	4	89
Bath St. 'B'	21	4	14	3	82
Old Swan	20	-	19	1	43
Colonsay 'B'	21	1	19	1	42

DIVISION 3B

Elec. Supply	19	17	1	1	155
L,pool Jewish 'A'	18	15	2	1	152
Trinity 'C'	20	17	3	-	140
Waterloo Park	19	12	7	-	114
Eng. Elec. 'C'	18	11	7	-	103
Wav.Labour 'C'	18	11	7	-	97
L,pool Jewish 'C'	19	8	10	1	91
Palmerston 'C'	17	8	8	1	78
Beauclair 'A'	19	5	13	1	78
Trinity 'B'	20	6	14	-	73
Bath St. 'E'	17	3	13	1	46
Eng.Elec. 'E'	18	2	15	1	39
Old Swan 'A'	18	1	16	1	35

DIVISION 4B

Elec. Supply 'A'	17	16	1	-	152
Colonsay 'C'	18	14	2	2	125
Kirkby 'A'	18	13	5	-	122
Eng. Elec. 'C'	19	13	4	2	105
Police 'B'	17	12	4	1	104
Cadwa 'C'	16	11	4	1	103
Police 'C'	16	8	7	1	86
Bath St. 'F'	17	7	7	3	83
Cadwa 'D'	19	5	12	2	73
Maghull 'B'	18	2	12	4	60
Trinity 'E'	17	2	14	1	49
Bohs 'B'	19	-	15	4	43
Vagabonds 'B'	18	-	15	3	42

DIVISION 5B

Princes Park	20	18	2	-	161
Aighurth	20	18	-	2	160
Waterloo Pk. 'C'	21	14	6	1	134
Bootle	20	13	4	3	131
Waterloo Pk. 'B'	20	13	7	-	117
Wav.Labour 'F'	21	7	14	-	94
Colonsay 'D'	19	9	9	1	91
Police 'D'	17	8	8	1	89
Trinity 'I'	19	8	10	1	79
L,pool Jewish 'F'	20	3	16	1	66
Kirkby 'C'	16	6	9	1	62
Maghull 'D'	21	3	18	-	54
Halewood	19	4	13	2	51
Action Comm.	14	3	10	1	46