



Table Tennis DIGEST

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE.

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VOLUME

32

DECEMBER 1978

NUMBER.

1.

A cordial but belated welcome to our new teams, Courtaulds, Moor Park, St. Francis de Salle, Vernon Sangster and Plesseys and their working secretaries Messrs. Ryan, Nelson, Tagg, French and Harvey the brains behind the new contingent, you know I seem to have heard the last two names before somewhere! Nice to have you all with us.

Which brings me to a brickbat and a bouquet. What in heavens name did the teams existing in Division 5A do to have a crypto second division thrust on them? An excellent young club like Longreach instead of finding themselves in the honours, find themselves outclassed by first, second and third division players - youngsters in other clubs with all of six months playing time and enter with enthusiasm find it very hard to enthuse when playing so far out of their class. At the A. G. M., we must have a showdown to see if Rule 22 is to be acted upon.

Do we regularly demote two teams as per Para. 1. of the rule? And in Para 3, do the management at their discretion offer a very good team promotion to a vacancy that may occur? The rule was passed, by over two thirds of an A. G. M. and has never been acted upon. It may upset an odd club but could ruin a division. What is a very good team? Think about it and speak your piece here or at the A. G. M. or BOTH.

Good thinking and extra work in the short term for the Tournament workers. The Merseyside Open takes place on Friday and Saturday, March 16th and 17th. The Liverpool Closed will take place on Sunday, March 18th. There is no doubt Brian Leeson and the two Ronnies - sorreee - the two Kens will have to be on parade most of the time, but more helpers will be required to spread themselves over the two days and a long evening. With first class tables available for the three days at the excellent Kirkby Sports Complex (Full approval of all the leading players last season). Two bumper tournaments are in the offing. I repeat good thinking and a bouquet to all concerned.

HANDBOOK ALTERATIONS

Merseyside Open Fri and Sat. , March 16th and 17th.

Liverpool Closed - Sunday, March 18th.

Bath St. Match Sec: P. Mercer, 15 Myrtle Gr. 22 - 928 0697.

Cadwa - All teams Friday except 'D' Monday.

Colonsay 'E' Team 5A - out.

Kirkby 'C' Team 5B - out.

Maghull - 1st. Div. 2. 'B' - 4B Thursday 'A' Team 3A, 'C' Team 4A Tues.

M'Side Fire Brigade - 3A - out.

M'Side Police 'C' Team Div. 4B - Mon Prescott Road. 'E' Team Div. 6 Tues.
Prescot Road, 'F' Team Div. 6. Thurs. Marsh Lane.

Moor Park Div. 5A Wednesday.

Plesseys - Whitfield, Roby Rd. , (Bowring Park) Div. 5A - Friday.

Princess Park Meths. 4B - out.

Rafters - Raquets Club, 102 Upper Parliament St. 8.
First team Div. 1. 'A' Team Div. 2. Thurs.
'B' Team 4A 'C' Team Div. 6. Mon.

St. Hughs 4A out.

Trinity 'C' 3B - Mon.

Waterloo Park - 1st. Civil Service Club, Edge Lane
Thornton Tues - 'A' Wed. 'B' Mon. 'C' Mon at Trinity TTC.

Wavertree Labour 'A' Div. 1. Thurs: 'C', 3B Wed: 'F' 5B Fri: 'G' 6 Fri:

Waterloo Park have hopes of their pavilion at Brownmoor Park becoming available in the New Year.

Wav. Labour 'E' Div. 5A, have now taken over Colonsay 'E' fixtures for the rest of the season.

Ex Liverpool No. 1 Tony Clayton is now an England selector.

Nice to see those young handsome debonair gentlemen Stan Clarke (Maghull) and John Hankin (Trinity) are now members of the Management Committee and working very hard.

John McNee won Central Scotland Open and West of Scotland Open.

Mark Thomas won the Intermediate Mens Singles title at the Humberside 3 Star open, beating Martin Kinsella, he also won the Boys Singles at the Swansea Open and the Boys Doubles at the Swansea Open with Mark Byles. John McNee will be travelling to North Korea to represent Scotland in the World Championships - nice going John.

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DIVISION I

After a long absence from this division, I must first of all note that the all round standard is much higher than before. The strength, instead of being concentrated in a few teams, is now well spread. Dominating the division is the big six including Wavertree Labour, Y. M. C. A., Rafters, Palmerston, Trinity and English Electric, but the four second string teams of these clubs are now much stronger and this is illustrated by numerous close results between first and second teams. Picking up the pieces and fighting out for relegation places at the bottom are Jewish, Beauclair, Colonsay and Bath Street.

The league has always been used to Southport and Wirral League players being involved. Latterly migrants have included players from the Wigan and St. Helens Leagues, but perhaps the most significant influence at present is the invasion of North Wales players. Mark Thomas, Wales number one junior and top senior player in North Wales from the Rhyll League, joined by Greg Powell also from Rhyll have established Wavertree Labour at the top and as long as they remain their position looks unshakable. Wavertree were without them for the first few matches and subsequently struggled to 6 - 4 victories, but their return has seen a number of big wins. Mark outlined his impact ability with a close win over John McNee, which saw Wavertree to a 6 - 4 win over Y. M. C. A.

Mark Byles, another junior player, ranked top senior in the East Flintshire League, is doing well with English Electric and Trevor Manning from the Wrexham League is not losing many for Rafters. In a match between these two, Mark's wins against John Fennah 21 - 19 in the third set and Neil Roberts were not enough to prevent a 3 - 7 defeat for English Electric. Possibly their two other young players Graeme Black and George Cheng have not enough experience yet for English Electric to make a serious challenge. Rafters have had quite a successful start with a 6 - 4 win over Trinity, Alan Timewell beat Ricky Brown and Alan Chase with Steve Williams replying for Trinity with wins over John Fennah and Gordon Exell. Rafters recorded a win by the same score against Palmerston with Trevor Manning beating Keith Williams and Alec Bryce.

Y. M. C. A. started without John McNee and struggled to hold their normal position. Hence they lost 4 - 6 to English Electric with Clive Strettle beating Peter Turtle and Peter Lee 21 - 19 in the third set. However, with John's return an 8 - 2 win over Trinity resulted and with Malcolm Pu gaining in experience Y. M. C. A. should finish close to the top once again. Trinity are perhaps one of the weaker teams of the top bunch, but they achieved a 6 - 4 win over English Electric with Eric Hardman beating Clive Strettle and K. Parker. George Cheng replied with wins over Steve Williams and Ricky Brown. Palmerston have a strong team indicated by a 9 - 1 result against Trinity "A" with Mike Keane picking up the only point against Alec Bryce.

A better result for Trinity 'A' a team with large pool of players was a draw against English Electric 'A' with Mike Keane showing his form again to beat Rod McPherson and Alex Sill. Y. M. C. A. 'A' chose from a large pool of players, including ex first team players Francis Llay and George Smith, but perhaps more noticeable is the improvement of ex-Maghull player Steve Farr. In a 6-4 win over English Electric, Steve beat George Cheng and K. Parker. Wavertree Labour 'A' include Dave Roberts in a strong pool of players and with young players Phil Laxon and Malcolm McEvoy gaining in experience they will finish well up the league. They beat Trinity 6-4 with Dave Roberts beating Eric Hardman and Steve Williams and Mal McEvoy beating Ricky Brown and G. Taylor. English Electric 'A' are holding their own going down only 4-6 to Wavertree Labour.

Colonsay have lost Tony O'Connor and Nicky Cray, leaving Phil Thomson as the only consistent performer. He beat Rod McPherson and Fred Pheysey of English Electric "A" with support from Dave Williams wins over Fred and Brian Crolley they went down 4 - 6. Sue Alexander remains a perplexing player - particularly good against some of the good defensive players - thrashing Eddy Clein of Jewish - then going down 23 - 25 in the third against Julian Quirk. She had no difficulty in hitting through Trevor Mannings' sound defence. Jewish look a strong candidate for relegation as Eddy Clein and Julian Quirk seem to be the only players picking up points. Beauclair after a good start with 6 - 4 wins over Bath Street and Colonsay will find it difficult to avoid relegation. However, a recent result such as a draw against English Electric, with Frank Murphy beating Graeme Black and George Cheng and Mick Allen producing his best form to beat Clive Strettle, leaves room for hope. Bath Street also are finding it hard going, but their inclusion of Chris Coogan substantially strengthens the team and it may revolve around how often they can include Chris as to whether they avoid relegation or not. With Chris beating Mal McEvoy and Phil Luxon - then linking up in the doubles to beat Dave Roberts and Mick Tiemey, they drew with a strong Wavertree Labour "A" team.

"HARRY"

DIVISION 2.

DON CHALKLEY

I volunteered to write this column when I realised that last year's writer "Harry" had left us to fight with the big boys. However I didn't expect that my term as writer might be of short duration unless our Police team can make their customary recovery after Christmas.

This year the second division appears to contain some very good teams with those relegated and three of those promoted all showing well.

At the time of writing it appears to be a straight fight for promotion between Palmerston "B" (at present unbeaten), Palmerston "A", YMCA "B" and Kirkby. Outsiders are Electric Supply, Wav. Labour "B" and Rafters "A"

Candidates for relegation are Jewish "A" (now apparent certainties.) Maghull, Police and Vags with Bath Street "B" and Colonsay "A" not too far away.

The youngsters of Palmerston "B" with the aid of some experienced reserves are carrying all before them both in singles and doubles. Their elders in the same club Palmerston "A" lost 6 - 4 to them and despite having used 7 players to date are in the chase.

YMCA "B", the "YO-YO'S" of the 1st and 2nd Div. were beaten 7 - 3 by the youngsters and Norman Chaloner's Kirkby youngsters have only lost once.

Electric Supply have only played 4 players and this is reflected in their doubles results with 8 wins out of 10.

Wavertree Labour "B" have also only played 4 players but have not achieved the same success in doubles.

It is noticeable that Harry Nelson has not yet appeared for Colonsay "A" and I believe he had an attack of "tennis elbow". I hope we see his return to fitness this year. Another early absentee was Dave Crispin who fell awkwardly from a wall when trying to arrest a would be burglar. Since his return he has played very well in both singles and doubles with Gareth Jones.

Maghull have also sorely missed the Walmsley brothers and Steve Farr and must be glad they missed promotion last year!

Jewish have also lost Les French and others and are sadly depleted.

To date the best averages are as follows:-

G. Parr 6/6, K. Jackson 6/6, C. Coogan 6/6, M. Mercer 11/12, N. Chaloner 9/10, A. Mercer 5/6, P. Ashcroft 6/8, J. McMillan 6/8, J. Riding 6/8, J. Clewett 6/8, H. Johnstone 6/8, D. Crispin 8/10, L. Fennah 8/10, B. Owen 6/8.

Good wins to date:-

Coogan beat S. Mercer 21/14 in 3rd, bt. Paul Ashcroft in 2, bt. L. Fennah in 3. P. Hurworth bt. P. Brown 22/20 in 3. J. Letch bt. T. Mandaluf 21/12 in 3, bt. P. Brown 21/8, 21/10. G. Brownlee bt. S. Mercer 21/15, 21/14, bt. Ferguson & Crafter in a 2/8 loss.

Tight games:-

A. Guy bt. L. Dyson 22/24, 22/20, 22/20. J. O'Sullivan bt. G. Jones 26/24, 20/22, 21/19. D. Chalkley bt. L. Fennah 23/21, 22/20. J. Keating bt. D. Ridgway 21/23, 19/21, 21/19. Fennah/O'Sullivan bt. Pritchard/Coogan 19/21, 21/19, 21/19. L. Fennah bt. L. Burrows 16/21, 22/20, 22/20. A. Thabet bt. A. Cameron 9/21, 23/21, 32/21. Carney/Owens bt. Johnstone/Thabet 24/22, 24/22, F. McCann bt. P. Birchall 25/23, 24/22.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. Let's make a resolution to try to prevent the spread of illegal serves, so well illustrated by some top class players and copies by many youngsters.

As the season once more gets underway and the score cards begin to arrive there are the inevitable surprise wins and shock results. On paper, Cadwa would seem to be the team "most likely to succeed", after missing out on promotion by the narrowest of margins. They renewed their attempts for second division status, with five wins in their first five games. Trevor Hughes at number one has won 9 out of his first ten games and Messrs. Brackley, Davies and Hartley have only lost a handful of games between them. Liverpool Y. M. C. A. 'C' are another team in contention for the honours, as they too have not yet suffered defeat, although their 7-3 victory at Old Swan saw 7 of the games go to 3 sets. (Must have been a late finish.) Despite this early defeat, Old Swan look certain to finish in the top few places. Pete McAdam at number one has yet to lose and is making a habit of winning 22/20 in the third, as Briggs (YMCA), Foulkes (Bath St.) and Wood (Police) will all testify. Linacre return to the third division table-tennis scene and suffered a surprising 6-4 defeat at the bats of Cadwa 'A', L. Fletcher (Cadwa) beat Lacey and Davidson in the singles then combined forces with G. Garton for the doubles. Dave Cunningham and Alan Spencer were the victors for Bath St. against Old Swan, winning their singles and combining in the doubles to take 5 points for Bath St. Kevin Parker playing at number one for English Electric has started the season in great form, his best win to date must be the 21/14, 22/20 defeat of Bill Hargreaves (Harding.) In the same match Wally Sill did the 'double' by beating P. Stenson 21/14, 21/15 and followed that with a 19/21, 21/13, 21/15 victory over D. C. Williams, to give English Electric a 6 - 4 win over newly-promoted Harding. Our other newcomer to the division is Dutch, but they started their third division play with a 9 - 1 defeat by Old Swan (K. Dutch beating B. Richardson 21/14, 21/19 for the single point.) At the time of writing this Liverpool Jewish 'B' have yet to register their first win, despite good individual performances by L. Rosenbloom who has beaten Paul Reed Clayton (YMCA) 13/21, 21/17, 22/20 and also taken both his singles in the 7 - 3 defeat by Cadwa 'A'. The new-look Trinity team of Royden, Royden, Royden and Royden (sounds a bit like a firm of solicitors), have started the season on a good note, with Mark Royden their star player.

It is comparatively easy to point to potential champions, but the difficulties arise when looking at the candidates for relegation. Judging by present results any one of 5 teams could be holding up the division in weeks to come, but I do not intend to alienate any teams by suggesting who will be there at the end of the season (especially as my own team is currently in the danger zone.) As a comparative new-comer to the division, I must believe the more seasoned campaigners when they tell me that this is one of the hardest 3A's for many years and should therefore prove to be a very exciting and competitive season.

P.S. If you think that your match deserves a mention or if you have any close games, comebacks, etc., make a note on the scorecard.

With the season almost halfway over, the title race would appear to be between two teams, Trinity 'B' and English Electric 'B'. English Electric I think might just have the edge after defeating Trinity 6 - 4 with Brenda Williams and Julie Black winning both their singles and also their doubles. Both these teams have experienced players who have moved down from higher divisions and the finish at the top might prove to be very close.

Palmerston 'C', English Supply 'A' and Wavertree Labour 'C' appear to be the Teams likely to be pushing for third place.

The two teams promoted from division 4B seem to be experiencing differing fortunes. Electric Supply are more than holding their own whilst Colonsay 'C' are holding up the rest of the division.

English Electric 'E' are doing better than their 'C' team in fact, when they both met the result was 6 - 4 in favour of the 'E' team! There would appear to be something wrong with the thinking of the ranking committee at English Electric.

An argument that has been going on for some time has been the order of play adopted by some teams. I can understand some fluctuation in playing order but when a player moves from number 1 to number 4 in the space of 2 weeks I begin to wonder - 'A. Parker' please speak.

It is often said that this is a funny game we play and some of the individual results to date would tend to bear this out. Julie Black beat Tom Killip in a close fought game 20/22, 21/19, 25/23, Tom Killip beat Joe Bird 15/21, 21/11, 21/16, and then Joe Bird beat Julie Black in two straight games, 21/16, 21/15.

A name to look for in the future in M. Corcoran from Trinity. Although young in years he is maturing rapidly in his game. Some of the 'old hands' he has proved this to are F. Bainbridge of Waterloo Park, D. Cohen of Jewish and myself.

As this is my first effort of writing the divisional notes I hope that I've covered points of interest and not upset too many people. If during any future matches you see me scribbling away, be careful what you say as you may be quoted in the Digest.

4A NOTESSTAN CLARKE

Welcome back to a new season, and a particular welcome to the new teams in the divisions. Not having played in 4A for a couple of years I am running across many old friends and meeting a number of new opponents. My first reaction to the division is that the standard of play has risen considerably over the past few years, there seems to be only two teams that can be called weak and the rest range from useful to very strong.

It is always dangerous to predict who will be the eventual promotion teams after such a short part of the season but I feel that the eventual pair will come from Wavertree Labour D, Waterloo Park A and Kirkby A, with English Electric F as outsiders, if they can play their strongest team regularly. My own opinion is

that Kirkby's lack of experience may well be the reason that they finish outside the top two places. Wavertree Labour and Waterloo Park both have a wealth of experience and seem to be winning those extra few points which Kirkby are letting slip, an interesting indication is that matches between the three have ended in draws.

At the other end of the division things are more clear cut, Vagabonds seem certain to face relegation and Maghull C are only likely to "stay up" due to the fact that there are only thirteen teams in the division. There may well be other teams in trouble but as some team captains seem loathe to fill in the record at the bottom of the Score cards it is difficult to judge. If team captains wish to take that as a hint I'm sure Eddie Cameron will be even more grateful than your divisional scribbler.

It would also be a help if you could indicate on the score card if you think a particular game deserves a mention in the notes. Alan Williams and Co., were particularly good at this at one time, and it does help the Writer no end.

I'm sorry to report that Rafters B have conceded the first walk-over of the season to Waterloo Park A though I understand that there is more to the story than appears on the Score card.

Maghull pulled off an unexpected win against Jewish, with good wins for Sean Rees over Cathy Gore and Dave McGarity over Ann Carline. English Electric F took Trinity F to the cleaners 8/2, this without Stan Draper playing, Trinity's 2 points coming from defeats to the luck-less D. Thomas, by Mike Griffiths and Paul McLoughlin. In the draw between Way, Labour and Waterloo Park there were singles defeats for Fraser Farquherherson and John Hoban at the hands of Norman Cook, whilst in the game between Kirkby and Wavertree both Tommy Williams and Ritchie Craggs won both singles, the surprising thing about this game was that Fraser again lost both singles as did Pete Davies. In the draw between Cadwa B and Bohemians 7 sets went to 3, three of these games going beyond deuce in the third. Cadwa also took 5 sets to 3 games against Bath St., but couldn't stop the Crosby team winning 10/0.

Once again there have been a number of notable performances by individuals saving their teams from whitewashes. Ian Massie of Cadwa beat F. Griffiths of Trinity, Dave McGarrity of Maghull beat Ted McGiveron of English Electric F, also A. Roberts of Bath St. E against Pete Wilson of Waterloo Park A, and Peter Brownlee of Maghull C beat Paul McLoughlin of Trinity F. Cathy Gore of Jewish beat Ian Lunt of Kirkby for the only single win for Jewish. Stan Clarke and Steve McGarrity of Maghull both beat Clive Bruford of Bath St. My old friend Cyril Smith is at it again beating Brian Cragg of Kirkby aided by K. Gibson who beat Ian Lunt. Bill Davies of Jewish showed the way against Norman Cook of Waterloo Park and Anne Carline collected another point by heating Ken Miller; Henry Thomas and Eddie Moss gained Vagabonds first 2 points of the season by beating Ken Roberts and Ian Andrews of Rafters B. Last but not least Alan Nisted and Jerry O'Keefe of Rafters gained two points against Kirkby A. In conclusion may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful and Successful New Year.

DIVISION 4B

JACK LAMBERT

We are rather fortunate that we have only two outstanding teams - so Aigburth and Bootle can fight it out for the championship and the rest of us can enjoy reasonable table tennis most weeks. Unlike other divisions were being outclassed awaits you every other week.

What could be indicative of the championship were the results of our two star teams against Kirkby 'A' (who are a pretty useful outfit, to say the least) Kirkby had to thank Williams T. for a brilliant treble in their draw against Aigburth, beating Aldred 18 in the third and Knight 12 & 12. Lavin winning his three (as usual) for Aigburth. Then Bootle showed the way with a solid 7 - 3 against Kirkby, Hutchings (a natural good 'un this boy) and Williams D. with doubles paving the way. To make matters even more interesting Bootle were at home, Aigburth were away with a reserve. In the away game without a map and compass Kirkby will be lucky to find the bowling pavilion!

Results of 10 - 0 are NOT news but Old Swan 'A' fought well for points when losing by this score to Bootle - four games going to three.

Match of the month McDevitt (Cadwa D) beat Tsang (Bootle) 24 - 22; 21 - 23; 21 - 17. It seems as though Old Swan 'A' and Cadwa 'B' lost their way to Bath St. and Maghull with 10 - 0 walkovers. We are only here for the game you know chaps - don't forget it's three and OUT!

Maghull 'B' are favourites for the treble chance - two wins by Gibson giving them a draw against Eng. Elec. 'G' with a good double from Whittaker. The Thomas "Brothers" won four of Electrics 5 sets.

The Police derby between the B and C brought a surprisingly easy 8 - 2 for the 'B' Purcell and Ham winning all their games for the 'B' team. Eng. Elec. 'G' have surprised themselves with a very respectable position at the moment and nice wins over Bohemians 'A', Thomas B. and Huntington winning their three, and against Trinity 'E' Thomas B. again! Two wins for our old correspondent Mike Griffiths for Trinity (I always said you were a good'un Mike! What about signing up again?) Lots of lone heroes - Staunton (Cadwa D.) 21 - 14; 23 - 21; against Sue Anderson. Cutler (Trinity E) an excellent double against Cadwa 'C', Banks (Maghull B) 21 - 19; 20 - 22; 19 - 21, over Collins (Kirkby) a close contender for match of the month, but certainly a great win. Winkle (Bohemians A) beat Sutton (Kirkby A) 15 - 21; 21 - 18; 21 - 14. Cutler again beating Tsang (A famous T. T. name) Bootle 10 & 15; Massie (Cadwa D) beat Harris (Police B) 12 - 21; 21 - 18; 23 - 21, these were their sides only winners. Leason (Bath St. F) fought hard to save a whitewash for his side against Aigburth losing 20 - 22; 21 - 19; 20 - 22 to Davies M. I think the division has sorted itself out, Aigburth or Bootle for the title. Old Swan 'A' or Cadwa "D" for the Wooden Spoon both trying their best with those two ten nil walk-overs. The rest can cattle it out for the middle bit and it could be an interesting battle.

The late inclusion of Plessey to add to the formidable Vernon Sangster team has removed any serious competition for the top two places in this division. This is bad news for the promising Longreach team, who I expect to finish a comfortable third. This young side has great potential. Aply led by the likeable Tommy Mulhally, this team will go far. Frankie Fogg is a tenacious little player with a great future. Pete Jackson & Richie Hetherington also have potential.

Plessey have an experienced side, with Trevor Owens at No. 1. Trevor's technique is so correct that I hope that young players in this division will watch him closely and learn something. (That'll make him play well, Stan.) Nice to see you back, Trev., albeit in a strange division. It's a pleasure to watch you play. Plessey's captain is evergreen Stan Harvey - a great competitor, but friendly too, the hallmark of a good captain. Fred Price & Les Griffin complete a useful side. My own team, Vernon Sangster, also have strength in depth. On paper, probably a little stronger than Plessey, this side probably won't be champions, having lost valuable sets early on with a weakened side. Bill Harris is too good for everyone in the division except Trevor and I shouldn't lose either, except to Trev., so its hard for any team to get a result against us. In addition, my wife Paula and newcomer Kevin Davies, who is undefeated to date, are a force to be reckoned with and will only lose a few all season. Kevin has lightning reflexes and is an exciting prospect. Just watch him go when he has perfected his forehand technique to go with a talented backhand. In addition, Kevin's as nice a lad as you'll meet anywhere, so he has a great future.

The match between the big two ended in an honourable draw. Trevor and myself each won two singles, with Trevor's win over Bill Harris, in the third, the highlight of a hard-fought match. Paula lost to Trevor, but beat Les Griffin. Bill beat Stan, who made amends with a narrow win over Paul Gittins, as did Fred Price.

Longreach lost 10 - 0 to Plessey, with Pete Jackson losing only 21 - 23 in the third to Fred Price. Tommy Mulhally did well to hold Trevor to 21 - 23, 17 - 21 and Frankie Fogg lost only 19, 16 to Fred. Longreach fared a little better against Vernon Sangster, losing 8 - 2. Tommy beat Paul Gittins but lost to Paula. Frankie made amends, winning 18 in the third.

Close behind these three I expect to find Elec. Supply B and Courtaulds. They both had an easy programme early on and shouldn't fall behind until the closing weeks when they play the big three. More about these teams in a later issue.

Bohemians B and Moor Park both have useful players, but no strength in depth, so should finish in mid-table.

Jewish E seem favourites for the wooden spoon. They have keen youngsters in Lawrence Abramson, Harriet Lipkin & John McKim. Lawrence and Harriet won't win many just yet so the team is rather weak. English Elec. H are similarly placed, with the very sociable Andy Byrne leading an inexperienced side. Wavertree Labour E bring back memories of the Women's division, with Milly Harris, Amy Bell and Monica O'Donnell still getting a regular haul of sets. Barker and Dobson have a well-established team who play for the social side of the game. Les Travis is a match for most and Fred O'Sullivan can claim the honour of a game off Trevor Owens. They had a good 8 - 2 win over E.E.H. and followed with a 6 - 4 win over Jewish E.

sam St. G should keep clear of relegation young team looked after by Ted Jane. Ted is one of an unsung group of our table-tennis fraternity who deserve a lot more praise than they get. Those club-minded people who give up their time to look after teams of young players, often to the detriment of their own game. We salute you, Ted, and others like you.

There aren't many cards to give you match details from but here goes. M. Lynch won his sides only set v Longreach, beating Hetherington. Wavertree Labour's Amy and Monica won their sides three sets v ESB Young Dave Foulis of EEH had a good double v Bath St. G. P. Smith and M. West-Jones both had trebles in Moor Park's 6 - 4 win over WLE. John McKim and Raymond Pollak both had doubles for Jewish to earn a draw v EEH. Bohemians B had a creditable draw with ESB with trebles for Alan Leigh, Colin Blackburn and Hutchinson. (Christian names on scorecards, please) Les Travis of Barker & Dobson won his sides only set v Moor Park, beating the likeable D. Hudson. C. Quilliam of Bohs had a treble against Courtaulds. He was also the only player to win two singles. in Bohs 6-4 win over WLE. Amy Bell beat Johnson 25-23 in the third, but Johnson made amends by beating Milly Harris 14-21 22-20 22-20. Then Milly, with Betty McEvoy, won the second game in the doubles 32-30, only to lose the third game. A great match. Finally J. Jones beat Frankie Fogg for Moor Park's only win against Longreach.

DIVISION 5B

KEN ARMSON

Last season it was with some relief that we saw some of the stronger teams move up to the 4th division and this season we can continue to feel relieved, as unlike 5A our general strength is more in keeping with the 5th division.

The current leaders, St. Francis and V. Sang. 'A'; who should also finish the season in that order, can consider themselves fortunate that they were placed in this division, for had they been in 5A. they would only have been also-rans. All this means that there several teams who will be finding themselves in a much higher position than they probably envisaged at the start of the season.

What the exact league positions will be when you read this I cannot say, but at present Wat. Pk. 'C' (or 'B') are in 3rd and Wav. Lab. 'F' 4th. Wat. Pk. narrowly missed going up last season and will not be surprised at their position. They will possibly be regretting the arrival of the leaders who are both new to the league this season. Were it not for the ridiculous system we operate of leaving vacancies in higher divisions whilst packing the 5th & 6th with strong teams, some of which could easily hold their own in the 2nd division one of the Wat. Pk. teams might have had a chance of being moved up at the Handbook Meeting.

Wav. Lab. 'F' will be extremely surprised at being quoted as 4th, for they finished 5th from bottom last season. Will the heady prospect of possible promotion be in their minds now? For they now have a more settled team after some early season problems and could well improve on their results. St. Francis gave them the same treatment they gave 2nd place V. Sang. 'A' with a 9-1 thrashing. Their only set coming from Bill Stanley. Bill will never set the Table Tennis world alight, but with a style that is all his own, he is getting the results and enjoys his T. T. more than anyone else I know.

With the promoted Aigburth having strengthened their team - Ray Lavin must read my notes - they have entered an 'A' team with us and we can expect them to be challenging strongly for a place in the top four. The team contains players from the original 1st team and having taken three sets from St. Francis they seem strong enough to be in at the finish. This also applies to Maghull 'D' who have brought in Alan Rycroft at No.1 along with some other changes. The match between the two teams ended in a draw, but Maghull came a cropper against Action Comm. when with Alan Rycroft not available they were soundly beaten 7-3.

The battle 3rd & 4th place, with the prize a possible chance of promotion due to vacancies in the 4th division will centre around these teams. At the moment it looks as if Wat. Pk. or Aigburth could pull away from the others, but it is too early for one of my rash, and usually incorrect, predictions.

If it is tough at the top, it is even tougher and rougher at the bottom, with Vags. 'B' yet to win their first sets. A state of affairs which I hope will be altered. This really, is what participation is all about. It is easy to be keen to play when you are part of a successful team, but it is more to your credit when you can be relied on to turn out every week knowing you are on a hiding to nothing.

Action, Halewood, Police 'D' and Colonsay 'D' look like keeping Vags. company at the bottom. Colonsay seem to be fairly weak and the Police average. Action and Halewood are again proving to be lacking in that little extra which I thought the experience of the past season would have given them.

I see that once again the 'Echo' have let us down by not publishing any notes or results and I feel it is time we gave them a miss and transferred to another paper. I have received no cards for over 3 weeks and am not relishing the arrival of a couple of hundred cards now outstanding.

Several players have already told me that I am responsible for the late publication of this issue as I apparently failed to send the scorecards out promptly, and as it is likely there will be none at all for the next issue I expect to see the New Year in, suspended from Eng. Electric's lights and being bat-whipped by our worthy Editor. I just hope he doesn't use a hard rubber bat.

DIVISION 6

LES FRENCH

What a competitive division! No fewer than nine teams fighting for promotion due to vacancies in higher divisions.

Leading the field are Police F and YMCA D with 92, 91 sets from 12 matches respectively. YMCA's young team has the consistent David Ng and Dominic Tai at one and two. Billy Wardle is a promising No. 3 but George Lee relies too heavily upon spin service, with no real game to back them up.

Police F have Peter Kavanagh (what a backhand) at No. 1 and the experience of Eric Ferguson to back him up. It is rumoured that these two also play for the E team! Steve Streets and John Gregory complete a useful side. These two are closely followed by Courtaulds A (11-81) and the fast-improving Vernon Sangster B, who have the

distinction of being the only team to beat YMCA D. Basil Townsend had a good double win in this match. Vernon Sangster B also beat Courtaulds A (6-4), but fell (7-3) to Police F. V. S. B. have had repeated team changes due to shift work and night-school, but the re-ranking of Basil Townsend has strengthened the side and I expect them to finish up third. The Bennion father and son combination (Roger and Adam) is improving steadily (Adam is another Gordon Birch in the making-mark my words). Whirlwind Dave Aimson completes a side which will get better and better as the season progresses.

Police E and Vernon Sangster C both have 74 sets from 13 matches but I don't think that they will be serious challengers in the final reckoning. The Police E team seems to vary quite a lot and their results depend very much upon the composition of the team. V. S. C. have a huge squad and at full strength could maintain a serious challenge. The need to "blood" young players reduces their chances. Mike Delahunty and fast-improving John Green have done well but watch out for new signing Peter Davies, a real star in the making, as the promising Bootle A found out in Peter's debut match when he beat the one and three Dave Burton and Mal Dixon both in straight sets. This Bootle team (13-72) could also go places, with George Wilson adding his experience and Jackie Wilson at No. 4. Jackie's forehand is useful but the rest of her game needs developing. They had a good 6-4 win over the experienced Rafter's C side which boasts the consistent Jean Reynolds and Pauline Lawrenson at 1, 2 with Janet Davies' and Sue Smith's contrasting styles at 3, 4. Longreach A are possible promotion contenders, holding Police F and Courtaulds A to a draw but losing 7-3 to YMCA D. G. Leatherbarrow and Bob Fairclough seem quite useful but they have a solid looking team with no real weakness.

Maghull F have no aspiration for the title. Their one and two Crompton and Leece are hard to beat but they present the only serious challenge. Wav. Lab. G and Action Committee A are young promising sides but are lacking in experience. Aigburth B and Barker and Dobson A are struggling but enjoy their games and are pleasant, sociable opponents.

I'm sorry that there are few match details but I have had no match cards to work from, being a last minute stand-in.

For the best team performance so far I would choose from V. S. C.'s 8-2 win over Rafter's C or YMCA D's 10-0 hammering of Bootle A.

The great thing about this division is the number of real "matches" as shown by 6-4 or 5-5 results. YMCA have been defeated only by V. S. B. but have drawn with Police F and Courtaulds A. They have also been held to 6-4 by V. S. C. Longreach and Rafter's managed three sets. Police F are undefeated and have been held to draws by YM. and Longreach. V. S. B. held them to 6-4 and Aigburth B, Bootle A and V. S. C. gained three sets. Courtaulds A have lost only twice, to V. S. B. and V. S. C. (hate, hate,) have drawn with YM. and Longreach and held to 6-4 by Bootle.

V. S. B. spoil their chances with a weakened side against Rafter's B resulting in a 6-4 defeat. Their 6-4 wins over YM. and Courtaulds show their potential. Seven of Bootle's matches have been 6-4.

It is rumoured that Police F's mainstays Kavanagh and Ferguson may be moving to a higher division. If so, their challenge won't materialise and I expect YM. to be champions with V. S. B. as runners-up.

If they stay I fancy Police F might just do it, provided duty calls don't weaken their side in the vital matches against the top sides.

One thing is certain. It will take a consistent run to take the title.

A magnificent last minute effort from Les who let me have these notes - without the necessary cards, as no notes had been received.

Editor.

LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE LEAGUE

DON DAVIES

Although last seasons Granada Knock Out competition provided drama and excitement right up to the final in May our main priority was to claim the elusive 1st division title but fourth place was all we could manage. This seasons hopes took a nose dive when first we entertained champions Farnworth who have retained the services of England No. 18, Dave Constance now London based who won his three singles matches and the doubles with Steve Cowley against Marshall and Williams 19 in the third. Clive Strettle led Cowley 17-13 in the third only to lose at 19 but he then lost to Marshall 17 and 17 with Marshall Williams and Strettle all claiming the scalp of Clive Heap.

After John McNee had given us an opening set lead against Manchesters Mark Hankey 18, 18 the home side treated us with contempt winning the remaining nine sets with ease. Although McNee and Williams did take England number 2 John Hilton to three, McNee 19-21; 21-14; 15-21, Williams 21-23; 25-23; 9-21, we were never in with a chance.

The Men's A Team opened the season with a good away win at Barrow 7-3. Phil Thomson on his senior city debut gained a hat trick with Clive Strettle and Peter Lee two wins each. With a settled side this team should have no problems in gaining promotion to Division 2.

Wavertree Labours Greg Powell made his debut for the City 'A' team at home to Blackpool 'A' and with Peter Lee and Clive Strettle our men won by 10 sets to 0.

Ladies vs. Manchester: With Sue Alexander unwell at 5 p. m. on the match night Eng. Electric's Brenda Williams stepped in and made a successful return to inter city play after an absence of three years. In fact history repeated itself as on her last City appearance in December '75 Brenda played against Manchester and defeated Mary Leigh and Jean Nield and did so once again although Barbara's defeat of Jean Nield was our only other success.

The Ladies runners up last season to Stockport started the season beating Warrington 8-2 at home and then a good 7-3 win at Blackpool. Sue Alexander and Barbara Kirkman played in both matches with Paula French replacing Julie Black against Blackpool.

The Junior Boys finished a disappointing fourth last season but with Liverpool Men's singles champion Mark Thomas, Wav. Lab. and Mark Byles Eng. Elec. opting to represent Liverpool, our hopes look better than for a few years.

The Norman Cook Memorial Trophy is one competition we have not had much success in as we invariably have given points start to the opposition. However, we recorded our first win since 1969 when even with 10 points start, 4th. Division Myndburn went out by 5 sets to 4. John Marshall 2 Keith Williams 1, Sue Alexander 1 and Marshall and Alexander mixed doubles were our set winners.

In the second round we had Blackpool as our visitors who received 5 points in every game which just about tipped the balance in their favour by 5 sets to 4.

WILMOTT CUP - LIVERPOOL VS. MANCHESTER

A capacity crowd of 85 packed the English Electric Club to watch the team that so convincingly beat us in last seasons Granada K. O. Final, once again put an end to our hopes this time in the National League Championship Wilmott Cup. The match marked the senior debut for 15 year old Mark Thomas who replaced John Marshall who has withdrawn from competitive play for Academic reasons. The visitors took a 2. 0. lead when Mark Hankey beat Thomas, and Bowen beat Keith Williams with McNee beating Darcy to make the score 1-2. Bowen and Hankey then beat Thomas and McNee respectively to leave former Liverpool Champion Peter D'Arcy the task of beating Williams to make the score 5-1 and reach the second round.

An astonishing change in fortunes for Liverpool saw Williams trailing 15-20 in the 3rd to win 26-24 after saving eight match points. McNee then beat Bowen 18 in the 3rd and Thomas made Manchester sweat when he beat D'Arcy two straight.

The final set matched Keith Williams with Mark Hankey with Mancunian gaining an invaluable hat trick of successes winning two straight to give Manchester the match by 5 sets to 4.

I would like to thank Jack Lambert and the Electric club for staging the match and hope that we have an overcrowding problem at all City matches!

CARTER CUP JUNIOR BOYS - HULL VS. LIVERPOOL

The first round draw incredibly paired our boys with the Humberiders a 290 miles round trip and in midweek to make matters worse.

However, Mark Thomas (Labour) and Graeme Black, Mark Byles, both Eng. Elec. with team captain Stan Clarke driving made the trip worthwhile when they beat a strong Hull team by 5 sets to 3. Mark Thomas 3 and Mark Byles 2 gained the sets after trailing by 2 sets to 0.

Arriving back in Liverpool at 1.15 a. m. meant that the two Marks whose homes are in Wales had to stay the night in Liverpool and didn't arrive back at school until lunch-

time the following day having been away from home for 21 hours! In the next round we travelled to Salford where in the opening League match our boys went down 6-4.

J. M. ROSE BOWL

The Ladies always look capable of doing well in this competition but usually fall to teams they should really beat. After receiving a 1st Round by we had to travel to Stockport the strongest league in our group on Sunday, December 3rd., after debating a length with our opponents as to the best date to play the match.

In the event of Julie Black being unable to play on the 3rd. as she had planned her work dates for the 17th. December to be free, the strongest player then available was Colonsays 15 year old Lynn Fennah. Suzanne, Barbara, Lynn and myself, acting as N. P. C., thought we had a good chance at putting off a victory but the experience of Di Johnson and Doreen Schofield proved too much on the day for young Lynn. She took them both and Glamorgan No.1 Debbie Coulthard to a deciding game in each of her matches only to lose on each occasion. Having already beaten Doreen Schofield in the final of the Cheshire Closed this season Lynn can only continue to improve and add to her already considerable tournament successes. Once again Sue Alexander proved what a good player she is when winning her three sets.

LOCAL SUCCESSES

In the Cheshire 11 v Clwyd County Match, Greg Powell beat John McNee, Sue Alexander has transferred over to Cheshire and played in the above match as did Mark Thomas and Rafter Trevor Manning for Clwyd.

LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE POSITIONS.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Men	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
Men A	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Ladies	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Juniors	1	0	0	1	4	6	0

NORMAN COOK MEMORIAL TROPHY (HANDICAP)

1st Round v Hyndburn Home won 5-4

2nd Round v Blackpool Home lost 4-5

National Comp. Draw

Wilmott Cup v Manchester 4-5 lost.

Rose Bowl v Stockport 3-5 lost.

Carter v Hull 5-3 won.

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Wavertree Labour	12	12	0	0	99
Rafters	13	10	2	1	86
L'pool YMCA	12	7	3	2	79
Palmerston	11	7	3	1	75
Wav. Labour 'A'	13	8	3	2	71
English Elec. 'A'	13	5	4	4	65
English Electric	12	6	4	2	64
Trinity	11	6	5	0	56
L'pool YMCA 'A'	13	4	8	1	52
Trinity 'A'	13	2	7	4	50
Bath St.	12	1	7	4	48
L'pool Jewish	13	0	9	4	41
Colonsay	12	2	10	0	39
Beauclair	12	3	8	1	37

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Palmerston 'A'	13	12	1	-	87
Kirkby	12	10	1	1	85
Palmerston 'B'	12	10	-	2	83
L'pool YM 'B'	13	8	4	1	79
Rafters 'A'	11	8	3	-	71
Wav. Labour 'B'	12	7	4	1	66
Electric Supply	12	4	6	2	62
Bath St. 'A'	11	6	5	-	60
Colonsay 'A'	13	3	9	1	48
Bath St. 'B'	12	2	9	1	46
Maghull	11	2	7	2	44
Police	11	2	9	-	39
Vagabonds	11	1	7	3	38
L'pool Jewish 'A'	11	-	11	-	14

DIVISION 3A

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Cadwa	12	9	2	1	78
L'pool YM 'C'	12	9	2	1	76
Old Swan	12	8	2	2	75
Linacre	11	8	3	-	72
Eng. Elec. 'D'	11	7	3	1	69
Harding	11	3	5	3	51
Dutch's	12	2	6	4	48
Police 'A'	11	3	6	2	48
Bath St. 'C'	10	4	3	3	44
Maghull 'A'	12	2	9	1	44
Cadwa 'A'	10	2	5	3	43
Trinity 'D'	9	3	5	1	36
L'pool Jewish 'B'	11	-	9	2	36

DIVISION 3B

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Trinity 'B'	12	11	1	-	96
Eng. Elec 'B'	12	11	1	-	90
Palmerston 'C'	13	9	4	-	80
Wav. Labour 'C'	12	7	4	1	75
Elec. Supply 'A'	11	9	2	-	71
Waterloo Park	11	7	3	1	69
Colonsay 'B'	12	5	5	2	60
L'pool Jewish 'C'	13	3	7	3	58
Trinity 'C'	13	5	8	-	58
English Elec. 'E'	12	4	6	2	53
Beauclair 'A'	13	3	9	1	47
Bath St. 'D'	13	3	8	2	41
Eng. Elec 'C'	13	1	10	2	36
Colonsay 'C'	10	-	10	-	16

DIVISION 4A

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Kirkby 'B'	12	11	-	1	99
Wav. Labour 'D'	11	9	-	2	89
Waterloo Pk. 'A'	12	10	1	1	85
Trinity 'G'	12	7	4	1	71
Eng. Elec. 'F'	11	7	3	1	61
Trinity 'F'	12	5	5	2	61
Bath St. 'E'	12	4	5	3	58
Rafters 'B'	11	6	2	3	53
Bohemians	12	2	6	4	50
Maghull 'C'	12	3	9	-	39
L'pool Jewish 'D'	12	-	10	2	35
Vagabonds 'A'	12	2	10	-	30
Cadwa 'B'	11	-	9	2	29

DIVISION 4B

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Aigburth	11	9	-	2	99
Bootle	9	8	-	1	73
Cadwa 'C'	11	7	4	-	67
Kirkby 'A'	9	7	1	1	61
Police 'B'	9	6	2	1	58
Eng. Elec. 'G'	10	5	3	2	50
Trinity 'E'	10	1	7	2	35
Maghull 'B'	9	2	5	2	32
Bath St. 'F'	8	2	6	-	27
Police 'C'	8	2	6	-	27
Bohs 'A'	9	1	8	-	16
Cadwa 'D'	9	-	8	1	15

DIVISION 5A

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Vernon Sangster	12	11	-	1	106
Plessey	11	10	-	1	104
Longreach	12	10	2	-	92
Elec. Supply 'B'	12	7	3	2	73
Courtaulds	9	6	2	1	56
Moor Park	12	5	6	1	53
Bohs 'B'	11	4	5	2	49
Barker & Dobson	11	5	5	1	45
Wav. Lab. 'E'	12	1	9	2	34
Maghull 'E'	10	-	7	3	32
Bath St. 'G'	10	3	7	-	31
Eng. Elec. 'H'	12	1	8	3	30
L'pool Jewish 'E'	10	-	9	1	12

DIVISION 5B

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
St. Francis	11	11	-	-	98
Vernon Sangster 'A'	9	8	1	-	74
Waterloo Park 'C'	10	7	3	-	69
Wav. Labour 'F'	10	7	3	-	63
Maghull 'D'	10	4	4	2	55
Action Committee	10	6	4	-	49
Police 'D'	10	4	5	1	47
W'loo Pk. 'B'	10	4	6	-	47
Aigburth 'A'	8	5	2	1	45
Halewood	10	1	9	-	24
Colonsay 'D'	10	1	9	-	13
Vagabonds 'B'	10	-	10	-	6

DIVISION 6

	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Police 'F'	12	10	-	2	92
L'pool YM 'D'	12	9	1	2	91
Courtaulds 'A'	10	7	1	2	77
Police 'E'	13	8	3	2	74
Vernon Sangster 'C'	13	6	5	2	74
Bootle 'A'	13	7	6	-	72
Rafters 'C'	13	6	7	-	70
Vernon Sangster 'B'	10	6	2	2	67
Longreach 'A'	11	5	3	3	60
Maghull 'F'	12	2	9	1	37
Wav. Labour 'G'	12	-	10	2	32
Aigburth 'B'	12	2	10	-	29
Action Committee 'A'	10	3	7	-	27
Barker & Dobson 'A'	11	1	8	2	18

FIXTURE SECRETARIES NOTE:-

All outstanding matches at the end of December must be played by 6th April 1979.

One Weeks Grace is given for outstanding matches in the second half of the season.

No matches will be played after 13th April 1979.

Please check your League Tables and let me know if you disagree.

Eddie. Cameron.

TABLE EDGES

We are pleased to hear that Paul Brown (Kirkby Sports) is recovering nicely after a pretty nasty car accident.

The same applies to Stan Draper (Eng. Elec.) after an operation he hopes to be back on his winning streak shortly. Son Jeff incidentally is cracking the whip as one of the areas leading junior tennis players.

We all have our moments of glory - Stan Clarke (Maghull) must have had one when he took the Liverpool Junior Team to Hull (For a NIGHT match!) and they won 5-3, nice work Captain Clark.

Harry Harrison (Beauclair) has travelled from North Wales for his weekly game for quite a while, Byles (Eng. Elec.) and Thomas and Powell (Wav. Lab.) have now followed in his footsteps. These excellent players together with the 1,756 Lancashire players of Palmerston can in my opinion, do nothing but good for the game. I reckon Div. 1 is the strongest we have had for years.

Liverpool 4 - Manchester 5 a gate of 85 at the English Electric Club surely a post war record at least.

Our sincere condolences to Harry Reeve (Linacre) and Andy Howarth (Maghull) who have recently lost dear ones.

Keith Fitzsimmons (ex Linnets) our North Wales scout, does a pretty good job coaching in the Flint area and sneaks an odd game for Wav. Lab. - also travels of course from North Wales as does Trevor Manning, (Rafters).

If you add Bernard Hand (Bohemians) coaching in Cumberland, Mike Lijinski (Liverpool Jewish, Anfield Harold House coaching in Reading, Tony Clayton (Eng. Elec.) and Tony Green (Linnets) playing regularly in Bristol - our boys get around.

Congratulations to our Chairman Mr. Arthur Upton who is now an E. T. T. A. Vice President.

England versus Hungary - European Super division at Belper, Derbys. Wednesday 7th February details of coach trip from Don Davies 428 6092.

It is with regret that we have to inform you of the sad and sudden death of Roger Lowey of the Vagabonds club. We offer our sincere condolences to his relatives.