



# Table Tennis DIGEST

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LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE.

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EDITORIAL  
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## EDITORIAL

Last season showed in two respects what hard work and co-operation can do, Bill Harris's tournaments were one of the best things that have happened for years, Bill Harris certainly worked hard, and the top players deserve every credit for their tremendous co-operation - yes! I know have said it before but I am saying it again - well done Bill and Keith and Brian and Phil and Peter and Dave and one and all.

The second was the tremendous job that Don Davies did in keeping us practically up to date with table tennis news in the Liverpool Echo and on Radio Merseyside. The work and time that Don puts in to keep his two and three and sometimes four reports up to date is unbelievable - as soon as one report is out the next one has to be prepared, hard work for sure and certainly co-operation from the media.

It pleases me to put on record our sincere appreciation for the air time and news coverage afforded us by the Radio Merseyside and the Liverpool Echo.

It is always a pleasure to welcome new teams to our league, this year we have with us St. Giles, Waterloo and University, to them, and the brains behind the teams who are going to do the work, Anne Patefield and Messrs. R.Hayes, P.J.Baker - welcome, it is nice to have you with us, I nearly included Youth Training Centre but they went before they came - if you see what I mean.

After nine league matches and one in the cup, Palmerston are the only unbeaten team, and Bath St., the only team without a win, Peter Lee was the last player to lose his 100% going down 26/24 in the third to P.Thompson of Electric. Rafter's look the likely favourites and Bath St., certain relegation candidates along with Trinity. My tip for the cup, Wavertree. In only the third week of the season champions Y.M.C.A. got a shock when they lost 4/6 to newly promoted Bootle, 2 wins each here from P.Hutchings and J.Rankin.

The Rafter's team really started with a bang and have led the division from the start. Main rivals Wavertree didn't help matters by losing 10-0 to Rafter's but although Rafter's were worthy winners, Wavertree did deserve a couple of sets, as Dave Roberts battled for over an hour only to lose out both times in the third. While Roy Smith came back from 13-20 down to lead 22-21 on match point but eventually lost the set 22/24. Special praise to E.Hardman here who was in outstanding form but a dismal performance from W.Percival who never looked like winning. Palmerston were surprised by Elec. 'A' match score 5-5, G.Black winning both his singles and N.Conquest beating B.Davey, biggest shock here was B.Crolley and A.Jones beating former Liverpool doubles champions K.Williams and B.Davey in straight sets, but Palmerston redeemed themselves by taking Rafter's unbeaten record winning 6/4. Man of the match was G.Parr who beat both Manning and Timewell with Ron Brotherton also winning two, beating Hardman and Ashcroft.

In Bootle we now have another team capable of challenge with two players now rated in the top ten Hutchings & Rankin and that constant battler Ricky Brown, they are currently in third place. Y.M.C.A. 'A' will have to do better if they want to stay up, Ted Mandaluff has had some good wins beating P.Ashcroft of Rafter's and Ron Brotherton of Palmerston. Wav. 'A' have done quite well due mainly to M.McEvoy who has already beaten top players E.Hardman, T.Manning, D.Roberts, P.Thompson and J.Ramon. Young junior Les Molyneaux took the honours against his club's 'B' team winning all his three sets. Wavertree 'B' continue to disappoint even with the good players M.Bevan, K. Jackson, P. Birchall they have only gained 16 points from 8 matches. Their best game to date, although losing 10/0 to Y.M.C.A., they actually lost 7 sets in the third. Both Elec. and Elec. 'A' with plenty of good players to choose from are both enjoying successful seasons, Fred Pheysey has beaten W.Percival and P.Luxom plus A.Timewell and G.Parr, while G.Black and G.Lennon both beat M.Pu Y.M.C.A. Number 1. Maghull have some useful sociable players in their club and look set for a long stay in Division 1, my old team mate G.Brownlee beat top Liverpool player Malcolm Pu while M.Royden beat W.Percival. Trinity are fighting really well to stay up, using T.Killip and J.Highams experience to good advantage. Bath St., must be having their worst season ever, with only 8 points from 8 matches are firmly at the bottom. Still, D. Butterworth, my old Y.M.C.A. team mate has beaten two of the top players in Mal McEvoy and Phil Thompson.

Here are some peculiar scores: M.McEvoy bt. J.Rankin 3/21; 22/20; 21/17; P.Lee bt. T.Killip 19/21; 21/14; 21/6; P.Hutchins bt. J.Higham 21/15; 22/24; 21/6; R.Smith bt. R.Bevan 21/19; 19/21; 21/5; R.Smith bt. R.Green 18/21; 22/20; 21/4: Best averages to date:

	P	W	L		P	W	L
K. Williams*	20	19	1	A. Timewell	20	17	3
P. Lee*	18	17	1	R. Brown	20	17	3
R. Brotherton*	12	11	1	E. Hardman*	20	17	3
P. Hutchings*	20	18	2	P. Ashcroft	20	17	3
J. Rankin*	20	18	2	D. Roberts	18	15	3
T. Manning*	14	12	2	P. Luxon	20	16	4
P. Turtle	16	14	2	B. Davey	18	14	4
R. Smith	20	17	3				

\* 1 and 2.

## DIVISION 2

## LES FRENCH

It's nice to be back home after a few years in the lower divisions.

To avoid the 'drop' will be hard. It seems that Trinity A and Y.M.C.A. B are doomed, with Colonsay very likely to join them. I expect the promotion battle to be between six teams. Pace setters are the young Vernon Sangster side, who have already opened up a useful gap. Hot on their heels, are Jewish A, Vernon Sangster A, Eng.Elec.B, Maghull A and Rafters A. E.E.B's challenge depends largely on the frequency with which Joe Green turns out. Without him the team seems to struggle, as demonstrated by an 8-2 defeat by Elec.Supply.

Maghull A are a nicely balanced side with plenty of fight. I've never seen Alan Chase, Ted Birch or Mick Allen give up a point willingly and Dave Newton always gives his best. Rafters A seem to have a very variable side. At its best it is a match for anyone in the division, with Mike Mercer, the redoubtable Bill Crafter, Rob Wylie & Don Davies, not to mention Clive Chislett. They started well with 8-2 wins over Colonsay and Palmerston A. These were followed by 6-4 defeats by fellow contenders E.E.B. and Jewish A. Jewish A are a very experienced side. Captain Bob Hudson is well supported by the sociable Jim MacMillan and Roy Bradbury (I'm sure he'll fall asleep during one of his games - he's so relaxed). Ian Burrows completes a powerful side.

After the maulings by the Bootle side last season, people were curious about the strength of the Vernon Sangster sides. The young first team, strengthened by the return of Paul Gittins after two seasons with Trinity, are a good bet for the title, with no weaknesses and a reserve of the calibre of Bill Harris to call upon. 14 year old Adam Bennion (older players should compare him to Gordon Birch at the same age) is consistency personified, lacking only in power due to his small stature. We can't wait for him to grow taller. A future first division player of high calibre, that is for sure. John Greene, at his best,

has a fierce hitting game. Looper Chris Ford completes the side. The 'old' V.S.A. team, in direct contrast, is basically a defensive side, Bill Harris is a tower of strength, well-supported by the contrasting styles of Val Franco, Ian Wensley and myself.

One player in excellent form early in the season is Julie Prince (nee Black) of E.E.B. including a great win over Jim MacMillan. Joe and Julie are well-supported by Kevin Parker, Frank McCann and Ro Craddock. Their best performance to date was a 7-3 win over Jewish. Joe beat Bradbury and MacMillan. Bob Hudson replied with 2 for Jewish. Electric also demolished Maghull (without Ted Birch) 8-2. Joe and Julie won 2 each with Kevin and Ro each taking a singles. Alan Chase beat Kevin & Dave Newton beat Ro for Maghull's only successes. Vernon Sangster gave their chances a great boost with a superb 8-2 win over Jewish A, dominating the singles with 7 wins. Electric Supply have the same side as last year, but were unfortunate to meet both V.S. teams in the first two weeks, losing 8-2 and 9-1. They were near the top last year, so you can see how the standard has gone up. C.A.D.W.A. too, have the same players doing duty. Trev and his team all fight for every point but they must be considered as possible relegation candidates despite an excellent draw with V.S. Trevor had a notable win over Bill Harris to add to that over John Greene. In fact C.A.D.W.A. were 4-0 up in this match. Bath St., 'A' are one side I expect to end up in mid-table. Mike Moran, Mal Cray, Jack Letch and Peter 'Lentek' Ross form a hard-working side which must be a pleasure to play in. Nice people with the right attitude.

Police have started off in the relegation zone, but they, too, have played some tough opponents early on and I expect them to pull clear. Last season they were strengthened by new arrival Steve Baker, a very likeable 'Aussie' and he and Dave Crispin form the nucleus of a good side. Watch out for the Baker/Crispin doubles combination, one of the best in the division. Captain Don Chalkley and the very sociable Tom Purcell complete the side. Colonsay, with John O'Sullivan tempted out of the nether regions by the prospect of playing with the feminine charms of Lynne Fennah and Barbara Kirkman are a good side but are going to find the going tough, especially as they are bleeding promising Dave Riley. Dave had a good win over Frank McCann. John must have been so chuffed that he didn't notice Ro Craddock beat him 19, 19. Electric won 7-3. Julie Prince confirmed her good form in this match in an exciting tussle with Lynne. Julie took the first game 15, going down only 19 in the second, before Lynne clinched it 15 in the third. Julie also lost narrowly to John, 19, 19. One result which damaged Colonsay's chances was a 10-0 defeat at Maghull. A good win for Pip Newton here over John. The Palmerston 'A' side from St. Helens is good against 'modern' players but seems a little suspect against good quality defensive play. They were trounced 8-2 by Rafter's, yet managed a draw against Eng.Elec. (Green 2, Prince 2, Jennings 2). In fact they have drawn quite a few games, against Elec.Supply, Bath St 'A' and also with leaders V.S. One player to watch out for is Chris Browne of Y.M.C.A. 'B'. He has had some good wins but is fighting a lone battle. Trinity 'A' are also lacking in

experience for this division. Tommy Lawson has notched up a few good wins, including one over Val Franco and another 16 in the third over Trevor Hughes to save a whitewash by C.A.D.W.A. Jewish 'A' set back Maghull's promotion hopes with an 8-2 defeat. Alan Chase had a narrow win over Jim MacMillan and Ted Birch beat Bob Hudson but Bradbury 2 and Burrows 2 starred for Jewish. Vernon Sangster 'A' fought out draws with Bath St., 'A' and Police Harris 2 Cray 2 were outstanding in the first match and Baker 2 (including a win over Bill Harris) Franco 2 in the other. Bath St., 'A' managed to beat Police 6-4, although Baker didn't play. Crispin 2 & Cray 2 did best on the night, although Police were unlucky, with 6 sets going to 17 in the third or closer. Bath St., also beat C.A.D.W.A. 6-4, despite the absence of Mike Moran. Ross and Cray took 2 each and young reserve Tony Kendall did well to beat Ken Hartley 22-20 in the third.

Police were also unlucky against Jewish 'A', with 6 sets in the singles going to three, but with only Dave Crispin winning the third game. Police went down 8-2. Police were involved in the most exciting match of the season so far when they played Maghull 'A' in the Rumjahn Cup. Their first encounter ended 5-5, with Police coming back from 5-3 down. Baker 2 and Chase 2 were in top form. The replay, under excellent captaincy, went with call to 4-4. In the ninth set, Don Chalkley beat Pip Newton 18 in the third for Police to take the lead for the first time. Police were now 1 set and two games ahead. Maghull needing the last set in two straight. A quick tot up of the points made the final set a bit of an anti-climax. Police had already won as 21-0 twice wasn't good enough. In the event Ted Birch did beat Dave Crispin 21-18, 22-20 to level it 5-5, 22-22, but those extra points were vital.

One individual set worthy of mention occurred in V.S.A.'s match against Elec. Supply. Ian Wensley won the first game 23-21 against Peter Carney. The second game was timed and with the score 20-19 to Peter expedite was enforced. Peter won 21-19. The third game, with both players new to the system went like a yo-yo. Ian clinched it 24-22. Some close sets - Bill lost 22-20, 20-22, 19-21 to Bob Hudson. John Briggs lost 19-21, 23-21, 14-21 to Bob in the same match. Wing Law beat Tom Purcell 20-22, 21-16, 25-23. Rob Wylie beat Mike Mahoney 21-19, 19-21, 23-21. Rob and Don Davies had a rare encounter in a league match, albeit in the doubles, Rob aided by Ken Hartley, beat his brother, partnered by Duncan Sayle, 23-21, 18-21, 23-21.

Eng.Elec 'B' crash 7-3 to Bath St., 'A' and are rapidly dropping out of the promotion race. Vernon Sangster 'A', with 10-0 and 9-1 wins over Y.M.'B' and C.A.D.W.A. in the space of two days, draw level at the top with the V.S. first team. Tommy Lawson has a great win over Jim McMillan and Joan Monaghan plays equally well to beat Ian Burrows. Colonsay score an excellent 6-4 win over Police.

#### DIVISION 3A

MIKE GRIFFITHS

A strong 3rd division this year and plenty of well matched teams. At the top are Bootle who should have no problem in winning the division. They have

already seen off Plessey 6-4 and the previously unbeaten Maghull 10-0. Courtaulds will be the other team challenging at the top, having dropped only 3 points from their opening 3 matches. In the Plessey v Bootle match Miller beat Trevor Owen and R.Lavin, and Lawrence Kenwright beat Stan Harvey and I.Blore, - just 24/26, 21/18, 26/24. Plessey's points came from Owens and Blore over Dave Wilson, Lavin over Downing and a doubles. At the other end Trinity, Wavertree Labour and Liverpool Jewish look likely to struggle. Surprisingly, Vagabonds have made a poor start losing 8-2 to Argot. Argot in turn lost to Jewish 6-4, for whom Lewis Rosenbloom and R.Lussey won 2 and John Finnegan beat Geoff Blackburn who had a good win over Ted Barnes the next week. To make this a thoroughly confusing triangle Vagabonds then beat Jewish in week 3, with Barnes back on form beating Finnegan and Graham, while the Jewish points came from Lussey and Delahunty doubles.

At the time of writing Trinity and Wavertree Labour have just drawn with Allan Hall and the writer winning all their games for their respective teams. Alan has been picking up some other useful points like his double at Bath Street against Tony Roberts and John Watson. For once Vernon Sangster are not at the top, and are just concentrating on consolidating their 3rd division place. They lost 8-2 to Courtaulds, Roger Bennion and Barry Mounsey both beating Frank Hughes, and even their victories have been close affairs, 6-4 against Colonsay and English Electric and 7-3 against Bath Street. Against Bath Street, Roger Bennion kept his team on edge, he lost to Tony Roberts 21/19, 18/21, 19/21 and lost to John Watson 17/21, 21/17, 18/21, but won his doubles two straight.

English Electric did well to take four points off the strong Maghull team.

Colin Fyles beat Chris Roberts and Colin Pratt beat Ray Tagg. Electric took both doubles. And they showed how important the doubles are in their match against Colonsay, winning both again in a 6-4 win. Colin Fyles won both his singles against Nelson & Piper. George Wright, Alan Wood and Al Baker appear to be the basis of the Police 'A' team this year. They should have a reasonable season having already beaten Jewish and Wavertree Labour 8-2. Al Baker got their only point against Plessey with a 22/20, 18/21, 23/21 win over Neil Hawthorne. Some useful performances in the first few weeks:- John Finnegan beat John Armstrong (Maghull) 15/21, 22/20, 23/21; Ron McEvoy (Wav.Lab.) beat Pete Mercer (Bath St.) 13/21, 21/16, 22/20; Alan Wood beat Dave Williams (Argot) 16/21, 26/24, 21/16; Mal Clark of Trinity beat Dave Piper of Colonsay two straight; Alan Hewett (Eng.Elec.) beat Phil Kavanagh (V.S.) 23/21, 21/19; Arthur Birch (Wav.Lab.) beat Colin Price (Courtaulds) 24/22, 13/21, 21/19.

That's all for now. Remember, mark your scorecards with any games you feel deserve a mention in these notes. If you want a special mention you've got to beat Miller, Owen or Bob Edwards of Courtaulds.

#### DIVISION 3B

SUE HUGHES

For most teams playing in this Division it must seem that they are confronting an Aigburth or Bath Street or English Electric team every other week, which

is hardly surprising because more than half of the teams come from those three clubs.

The first Derby of the season went to the English Electric duo of the 'D' and 'E' teams, with the youth of the 'D' team overcoming the experience of the 'E' team by 9/1. The 'E' team's only win came from the doubles partnership of Albert Parker and Ron Simister with a 21/19, 24/22 result over Peter Holmes and Ian Lunt. Richie Cragg and Rob Peverall needed 3 games to beat the 'G' team's other combination of Wally Sill and Ken Black.

The trio of Bath Street teams are led by the 'B' team which has notched up some good wins in the opening few games and could be up with the leaders at the end of the season.

The other two Bath Street teams, the 'D' and 'E', have had a few good individuals who including Andy Armstrong (E team) double over Vernon Sangster's Richie Heatherington and Steve Gittins and then completed his hat trick with Tony Kendall in the doubles. In the new look Bath Street 'D' team Ann Jowett has returned to Liverpool League Play and her triumphs to date have included a 23/21, 23/21 victory over Bill Stanley of Wavertree Labour 'C'. In the same game Karen Gibson came back well to beat Pete Davies 8/21, 21/19, 21/10.

Aigburth have fielded two new look teams, both with familiar names. Playing under Aigburth 'A' go Bill Leeming, Bill & Harry Holmes, Jim Lightburn, who after a season of nomadic wandering appears to have found a home with the Aigburth Club. They started the season against long time rivals Linacre in a confrontation described as the Old Veterans v Veterans. The youthful team triumphed as Linacre won 7-2 with 8 games going to 3. I hope someone had a calculator on hand to show that Linacre won 528-474 points. A mammoth struggle of 1,002 points. Even if Linacre don't win the Division, they definitely get the top award for Cordon Bleu refreshments.

Tip for the top in Vernon Sangsters, the latest successful squad to come from the Harris/French coaching school. Judging by the results to hand at present they have yet to lose a match and will be hoping to follow other V.S. teams on their steady climbs through the Division. Paula French, Lancashire No.6 scored a good 21/11, 24/22 win over Wally Lewis, her team's 8-2 victory over Electric Supply, though Wally gained his revenge on Sangster's Captain, Steve Gittins.

English Electric D's only defeat to date came at the hands of Electric Supply 'A', with a 6-4 result. The match included Richard Cragg's only loss at the time of writing when Electric Supply's number one, P.Baker won 21/14, 23/21.

#### DIVISION 4A

STAN CLARKE

Welcome to another season of table tennis, having spent last season languishing in Division 5A, it's nice to be back amongst so many old friends and opponents. Thanks to Eddie Cameron for last season's 4A Notes which I followed with great interest.

I recall that when I last wrote these notes that I said that division 4A had never been stronger, well this season it seems even stronger, the results that I have seen so far show that no one team is likely to dominate this season, and there will be very few easy matches.

It seems incredible that after only six weeks of the season, there is not one unbeaten side in the division. The last unbeaten club to surrender their unbeaten record were Maghull 'C' who lost to Cadwa 'A' 6/4 when Andy Howarth had to withdraw with an arm injury during the first set of the match.

Electric Supply seems to be using a pool of six players with A.Harrison, A.Leigh and T.Lynch forming the backbone, with Ernie Owen, J.Moore and Eddie Cameron appearing as required. It can't be bad to have a player of Ernie Owens quality available when the occasion demands. Maghull 'C' rely on the old hands Andy Howarth, Alan Smethurst and Stan Clarke, and having lost Steve McGarity to college, have called up another well known face who has been absent from the game for some years Dave Berry, another of the ex Beauclair players who have formed Maghull.

Rafters emergence as a team capable of challenging for promotion after several years of relying on Jerry O'Keefe and Alan Nisted to stave off relegation, is due to C.Roberts and D.Sayle playing one and two and allowing Jerry and Alan to drop down the order where they are likely to win much more than they will lose. Bootle 'B' are another team who seem to be playing a squad of players having used seven players in the first few weeks of the season. They are a very young team and all bear the stamp of Dave Wilson's coaching, they also have the distinction of being the only team in the league to have a brother and sister, Jackie and Dave Wilson junior playing the same side. Cadwa 'A' are another side who are strong and very experienced, with Ian Fletcher, Tony Moon, Peter Dobbs and Ian Douglas forming the main body with N.Grosvenor and Carol Flood available - when needed. English Electric have an interesting line-up with those two old war horses Stan Draper and Les Harper passing on their experience to Chris Birch and Alan Thompson.

Bootle J.C. have improved their strength with the signing of Phil Normanton to share the number one spot with Dave Burton, allowing Sylvia and Dave Graham to argue who should be No:3. Vagabonds 'A' and 'B' seem to be having an internal battle for supremacy with the 'B' team currently showing the 'A' team how it should be done. Richmond and Barker Dobson are playing their long established teams and both can feel that their results have not been a proper reflection of their playing abilities.

Bath St. 'G' at the time of writing are lying next to bottom with only ten points from three games, however I feel they will soon settle down and I shall be very surprised if they haven't improved their position by the next set of notes. That leaves only Bootle J.C. 'A' to talk about and I'm sorry to say that I can only see one outcome for them, it's a shame for Ron Makin, Leo Crawford, Peter Byrne and Jim Gordon are a very friendly sporting and



enthusiastic team, but I'm afraid that will not be enough to save them from relegation.

A few results worthy of note, Ken Ray, Vags, beat C.Roberts, Rafters 21/17; 28/26 to score Vags only success of the match. Les Crawford, Bootle J.C. 'A' beat John Taylor Richmond - 21/19; 18/21; 21/16, for the only singles success, then combined with Peter Byrne to beat Tim McCoy and Dave Batty 15/21; 21/16; 21/17 in the doubles, Richmond running out 8/2 winners.

#### DIVISION 4B

JACK LAMBERT

Courtaulds, Jewish and Colonsay are all trying to baffle me, all have a double look. Courtaulds 'A' look the most impressive to me, at a quick glance although they had a fair old battle with their 'B' team, Preston beating Moore and Geddes both in the third, Wright beat Mellor to gain the 'B' teams 3 wins but four of the rest went to three. Alan Guy and Muriel Cox lead the two mainly inexperienced Colonsay sides.

The Jewish 'C' team look more than useful, losing only two games against their 'D' team, but they were won by reserve Dave Cohen the star of stage, screen and radio and seriously Liverpool Jewish, undoubtedly one of the games characters. Talking of personalities the 'D' team have John McKim our secretary, it was interesting to see him play Margaret Collins the other week, both ex stalwarts of the defunct Beauclairs Club. Margaret is one of the few regulars of the mixed grill English Electric side. I apologise if I appear to be creeping (and I am). Another of our outstanding personalities Ken Armson slipped in as reserve against Police 'C' (If I don't creep I may lose this lucrative job) Ken lost to Sue Anderson 8/21; 22/20; 18/21 and beat Steve Streets 22/20; 19/21; 20/22, Police winning 7-3 Ritchie Winkle winning all three games.

Two good draws - I love draws - no cracks please! For Colonsay and Muriel Cox won her two but Vernon Sangster hit back winning both doubles. Colonsay 'B' were the other 5 all team again Colonsay winning both doubles with Terry Cohen beating Alan Guy and Paul Manning. While draws are my favourite result 6-4 are a good second and with plenty of them knocking about things look good for our division. Mabel Neary and Bill Stanley had doubles in their sides 6-4 against Eng.Elec. (Alan Thompson 2) Malcolm Green and Warren Davies for Jewish did a similar double act against Maghull 'D' (H.McGarity 2). Two of our pretty good sides clashed head-on Maghull 'D' 6 (Gregory 2) Bath St. 'F' (John Boulton 2). Perhaps the best win of the session was the Colonsay 'B' 7-3 win over Police 'C' Damion Turner the heroine with three wins, undoubtedly the best individual performance was by Dave Thomas and Alan Thompson of Electric beating Kirkby's top men Steve Collins and Steve Grant 12 and 13.

Which brings me to the Kirkby team - undoubtedly in my opinion our team to carry all before them. Austen of Courtaulds 'A' beat Kevin Jordan 19/21; 25/23; 21/17, and Dave Cohen beat Steve Grant 16 and 13, the only two singles registered against the Kirkby boys. Martin Neary of Colonsay 'C' won his sides only three sets against Maghull 'D' and Trinity 'C'. With Ray Parry at No:3 this must

be yet another good side, Ken Davies won his three in Trinity's 7-3 win over Courtaulds 'B' (Wright 2) five games going to three. Oh dear! another V.I.P. Basil Townsend a member of our Appeals Committee with Vernon Sangster 'D' Muriel Cox beat Paul Beasley (V.S.) 23/21; 26/24: and with Kristina her daughter lost to Gill Harris and Neil Montague 23/25; 21/14; 18/21. We could have quite a good season.

DIVISION 5A

JACK LAMBERT

At the moment your notes have not arrived - my apologies. Unfortunately I have very little knowledge of your division apart from what the league table tells me. At the time of writing old timers in Maghull and Cadwa lead the way but Warwick Bolam and University are undefeated with matches in hand (what happened to your cards?) which could produce an interesting situation. Nice to see Waterloo our other new team with University gaining a few scalps. We will try and give you extra coverage in the next magazine.

DIVISION 5B

BARRY MEYER

Welcome to another season, with a special welcome to our two new clubs, St. Giles and Waterloo. Waterloo seemed destined to fight out the wooden spoon position with neighbours Brownmoor Park, but let's hope they don't lose heart - things can only improve! At the other end of the table Rafters are carrying all before them and must be certainties for a quick return to the fourth division. They have dropped only three sets to date, all of them at Aigburth, with Pauline Lawrenson and Sue Smith losing their 100% records to Peter Meyer and Jean Reynolds losing hers to me. I can't see any No:3 or 4 lowering the colours of Janet Davies.

Aigburth or Kirkby seem the likely runners-up but Warwick Bolam may just spring a surprise and Maghull and St.Giles will give most teams a fight. John Pigott and Ian Manning of W.Bolam had an amazing doubles against E.Stoddern and N.Pursglove (St.Giles) losing 21/19; 1/21; 21/23. G.Daw had a good night against W.Bolam winning both singles in a 7-3 defeat, seven sets went to three in this match. Argot have a promising youngster in Steve Ward who has already had good wins over the experienced Ron Cockcroft and Alan Rycroft of Maghull, as well as Peter Meyer.

Norman Zalud of Jewish was a sole winner at Kirkby beating Ronnie Worthington, he also teamed up with Norman Simmons for the lone win at Aigburth, beating Peter Krugent and Alan Crist, Ian Dunkow and Peter Lee (No not that one) of Kirkby are undefeated on the three score cards I have to date. By the way Kirkby let's have your Record filled in at the bottom of your card - and we'll have a "Keep Eddie Cameron Happy" season. In fact let's all have a happy sporting season.

Dear Jack,

The Expedite System has apparently been giving cause for some heated discussion in certain league matches and the Management Committee has asked me to try to explain how the System should operate, for the benefit of all players. I did write a similar letter which appeared in the Magazine several seasons ago but there is no harm in stressing the important points again.

First of all, I must emphasize that it is compulsory to use the Expedite System. You cannot decide not to use it. It is included in the Laws of Table Tennis and must be implemented in every game.

The first problem, therefore, is who must time each game? Strictly, of course, a timekeeper (or Assistant Umpire) should be appointed for this purpose, but the Umpire himself can undertake this additional duty. It would be hard to believe that every game in every Division of the Liverpool League is timed in this way, but seriously that is what is supposed to happen. I hope as a result of this letter more league games will be controlled properly according to Table Tennis Law.

The Expedite System is printed on page 10 of our League Handbook so there is no need for me to re-state it here. However, some explanation of Expedite Procedure might be useful.

The Timekeeper must start the clock immediately the ball is first in play in each game. He can stop and re-start it for lengthy interruptions of play e.g. the ball going outside the playing area, change of ends, adjustment of clothing, towelling, replacement of damaged equipment or recovery from a fall.

After 15 minutes of play have elapsed, the timekeeper calls "time", the umpire calls "let" and informs the players that the rest of the set will be played under the Expedite System. Play then re-starts without any interval.

The Players serve alternately, as if the score has reached 20-20, and the return of strokes of the receiving player or pair must be counted audibly, from one to thirteen, by a stroke-counter. If play carries on after the thirteenth stroke of the receiving player or pair, the umpire must call "Stop" and award the point to the receiver.

The Expedite System is imposed after 15 minutes play in any game and throughout all subsequent games of that set, but it can be introduced at any time at the request of both players or pairs, provided 15 minutes play has not taken place in any one game.

I hope other points (e.g. who serves first when Expedite is introduced) will be clear to everyone after reading page 10 of the handbook, but if there are any other difficulties which need explaining, no doubt your readers will be in touch.

*Yours expeditiously,*

Brian Leeson. (International Umpire and National Referee)

Dear Editor,

Following the handbook meeting I gather from one or two comments from clubs that the somewhat summary response to the question relative to Maghull's team placings had been interpreted as an attempt by the committee to hide something. Far from it, as the main purpose of the handbook meeting is to launch the new season we were more concerned with the need to conclude the essential business of the evening at a reasonable time, however the explanation of Maghull's position is very simple and because of our familiarity with it, we assumed that the short answer would suffice and would be understood.

To elaborate, you will know that until recently we consistently filled league vacancies by promoting teams from the division or divisions immediately below the division with the vacancy, and this strictly on the previous season's performance. However recent AGMs recommended that we consider filling vacancies from suitable applicants who could clearly indicate their strength. This recommendation was accepted by the committee, but it is surprising that few clubs apply to take advantage of the situation. If you examine Maghull's position you will see that each team was promoted where due from the previous season in a similar manner to any other club. We had in addition a vacancy in Division 2 caused by Beauclair and received an application from Maghull to be considered for this vacancy, their grounds for applying were impeccable, they had signed the entire Beauclair team. They were granted the vacancy which meant an adjustment being made to their team suffixes.

The committee had honoured their commitment to the AGM.

Why did we not consider clubs other than Maghull? Simple, no other clubs applied.

Yours sincerely,  
E.Cameron, Hon Fixture Secretary

#### HANDBOOK ALTERATIONS

Bath St. Sec: A.Waddington, 79 Ince Avenue, Liverpool 4 - 263-4682 'E' Team, Div.3B - takeover No.8 fixture.

Brownmoor Park. 1st Team Wed. 'B' Team, Thurs. Sec: 924 7446.

Cadwa 'B' Team Div. 5A Friday takeover 4 fixture.

Courtaulds - no jeans to be worn in Bootle Golf Club : Sec.J.Geddes, 249 Southport Road, Lydiate - 520 1436.

Eng.Elec. 'H' Team 5A out, Secs. office 525 8371 - 30

Kirkby S.C. Sec : M.Travis, Coopers Moss Farm, Cut Lane, Kirkby. 546 2619 and 5551.

Liverpool Jewish 'F' Team, Div. 5B Thurs, takeover No.7 Fixture.

Liverpool Y.M.C.A. 'C' and 'D' Teams, Div 3B out.

Maghull C.C. 'C' Team, Div. 4A, Thurs, 'A' Team Div.2 Tuesday.

Moor Park - out.

Trinity 'D' Team 4A, E Team 5B both out.

Vernon Sangster 'A' and 'C' Teams play at Christ Church, Buckingham Road.  
'E' Team 5B, takeover 5 fixture: 'D' 4B takes over 5 fixture : 1st and 'B',  
'D', 'E' Fri. 'A' Wed : 'C' Tues.

Wavertree Labour - 'G' Team 5A out, 'F' team, Div.5B out, 'B' Team M/N Wednesday.  
Youth Training, 100 Gloucester Place, Liverpool 6. Div 5A Fri.

Sec : H.Sanderson, No : 11 Fixture. c/o Club 263 6411 - now out.

University : 2nd Floor, Old Students Union. Div. 5A M/N Thurs. Sec : P.J.Baker,  
1 Dahlia Close, Walton Park, Liverpool 9. No : 12 fixture.

Vagabonds 'B' takeover No : 9 fixture, Div. 4B.

Police 'C' Div. 4B - out.

### "DO YOU REMEMBER"

Nostalgia has figured quite often in our MAG over the years so when the 1956-57 handbook forced its way to the fore and I picked it up, I thought here was a good source of "Memories are made of this".

It was surprising that John McKim and Arthur Upton had not been there for ever - Bill Stamp was our Secretary and Jack Hughes our Chairman - Jack did a tremendous job after Billy died, keeping the changeover on an even keel. Eddie Cameron was Fixture Secretary - of course, Don Cameron - Auditor. John McKim, Peter Rumjahn and Jack McCair all had Committee commitments.

Alec Gould was not Secretary of Bath Street, George Aspinall was - how about that! Brian Leeson was Secretary of Fairlawn, a tiny tennis club in West Derby. Harry Holmes was Secretary of Lussac (University), Peter Rumjahn, Match Secretary of Rafters. Eddie Cameron was Secretary of Victoria Park, up the stairs and over the workshop in Wavertree. Les French was Secretary of West Derby Y.H.A. Youth Club.

Peter Rumjahn had 88 46% in the number 2 spot in Division 1. Alec Gould 76% number 6 in Division 2. Frank Lacey was 3rd in Division 3 with 78 94%. Peter Turtle number 1 Division 4 - 100%, not bad Pete for Everton Y.M. Les Lewis now returned to Colonsay had 80 41% with the old Anfield Club. Bobby Owen had 81 25% for Y.M. at number 2 in Division 6. Dave Butterworth number 2 for Rafters in South Region 92 10% and is that Mike Gallagher of Vagabonds at number 3 at 90 90% for Rafters? Peter Carney (Elec.Supply) at number 6 with 75% for Cadwa.

Wavertree Labour were in the South Region, as were Harold House - the present Liverpool Jewish and champions. English Electric Division 3 with Maghull, Linacre, Waterloo Park, Police and Beauclair - next to bottom. Cadwa and Bath Street, Division 2, Rafters and Y.M.C.A. Division 1.

Now for real golden oldies, or you must be getting on a bit - Don Power - African Oil, Reg Grey - Anfield, Joe Ellison and Eileen Mansell - Balfour, Rene Sturgeon - Beauclair, Ken Jones - Bohemians, John Todhunter - Brenka (yes Courtaulds), Bil Crafter - Cadwa, Sam Bennett - Dunlops, Tom Larkin - Linacre, Jim Green - Linnets. Bob Chew - Litherland, Alan Heague - Police, John Coveney - Liverpool Y.M., Nan Lamb - Lofters, Pat O'Connell - RAF Assn. Eric Caird - Rafters, Brian Harding - Stanley House, Bert Ariss - Warbreck Moor, Jack Seddon

- Waterloo Dock, Austen Hayden - Waterloo Park : All Secretaries.

Adverts : Jack Sharps ever faithful - Stuart & Dorfman, good old Eric. Monty's sweet shop - Albert Montgomery. Dickensons - furnishings - Olive. Barker & Dobson. Ted Rumjahn - Approved Coach. Jaqurs Table £40. Sponge Bat 12/10 (64p). Track Suits 34/6 (£1.70). Happy Days!! Makes you think!

#### TABLE EDGES "AND THAT"

Card reads Vernon Sangster 'A' walk over Vernon Sangster - the segundo team giving the game to the primero team - conceded in advance - don't you find that rather interesting? I did.

The problem is brilliant or not so brilliant players playing raw beginners. There appears to be three distinct opinions. The first, which I entirely disagree with. Hammer them into the ground - crush and annihilate them - if they can't take it they shouldn't play, how will they gain experience if you don't go all out - it's the only way for them to learn.

Number two with which I have a little sympathy mainly from good young players. They murdered us last season (or the one before) and now we are going to murder them.

Number three which is my kettle of fish - live and let live after you are six or eight points ahead or 8 or 10. Relax give your opponents a game, encourage them even coach them if necessary. The first and second options only tend to drive all but the dedicated out of the game.

I mention this as I have just seen a card which has three 21/1's on it - a 2,3 and 4, three 5's etc., sorry but these scores do not impress me.

I received what can only be described as a brief history of the Liverpool league from Peter Rumjahn, as Peter in 1982 celebrates 50 years with the league, I will use extracts from time to time and when I retire I think I will try and add the odds and ends and compile a history of the Liverpool League! Are you serious? Yes! and who the hell do you think you are Jimmy - have you seen Sir John or Lord Arthur? No! Well you had better start creeping again. Without taking the glamour off Peter I believe at the anniversary dinner Moya Jones and I established that Alan Aycroft (Maghull) was the oldest serving member and he is still playing regular I.T. Of course Peter has more stories to tell than hum drum league stuff of Alan and I.

When was our last all ladies game? Answer 14.9.81. Colette Coral, Ann Patefield, Calrone Nelson, Eileen Wiggans vs Pauline Lawrenson, Jean Reynolds, Sue Smith and Janet Davies.

Incidentally, our humorous table tennis review in the last issue was by Peter Mercer of Bath Street.

A few puzzlers around the clubs - Plesseys have an Aigburth flavour - Aigburth and Maghull have a taste of Beauclair and Bootle with a Trinity look, it's all very puzzling.

Only a two team outfit was the old Beauclair Club, but both teams were full of personalities, characters and very good players (and awkward ones - players I mean). Bringing all the charm and administrative ability and devastating defensive play of a good Evertonian to the club, in recent years was Frank Murphy. Frank would be the first to acknowledge the work put in in the early days by Rene and Sam Sturgeon.

The club was given the Red Card by Beauclair Tennis Club (the present Jewish Club) and moved to temporary premises at the old Victoria Park Club in High St. Wavertree, but soon moved to the premises we know in Bedford Street, they were guided there mainly by Rene and up to Division 1 and down again. A good club - excellent premises, sorry to lose you but we will remember Rene, Sam, Stan Porter, Ted, Frank, Harry, Billy, Mick, 'Harry', Bill, John, Richie and Edna Palmer, Margaret Collins, Dave and many other players.

<u>DIVISION 1</u>						<u>DIVISION 3A</u>					
	P	W	L	D	Pts.		P	W	L	D	Pts.
Rafters	10	8	2	-	80	Bootle 'A'	9	9	-	-	76
L'pool Y.M.	10	9	1	-	79	Plessey	8	7	1	-	67
Wav. Labour	10	9	1	-	75	Argot	9	7	2	-	61
Palmerston	10	8	1	1	72	Courtaulds	10	6	3	1	61
Bootle	9	8	1	-	70	Maghull 'B'	9	6	2	1	52
Wav. Labour 'A'	10	4	5	1	50	V. Sangster 'B'	9	5	3	1	48
Eng. Elec.	8	4	4	-	45	L'pool Jewish 'B'	10	3	5	2	40
Eng. Elec. 'A'	9	3	4	2	40	Vagabonds	9	4	4	1	39
Maghull	10	4	5	1	38	Eng. Elec. 'C'	9	3	6	-	36
Trinity	9	2	7	-	25	Bath St. 'C'	8	3	4	1	35
L'pool Jewish	7	1	5	1	20	Colonsay 'A'	9	2	7	-	32
Wav. Labour 'B'	9	-	9	-	19	Police 'A'	8	2	5	1	31
L'pool Y.M. 'A'	8	1	7	1	16	Trinity 'B'	8	-	7	1	22
Bath St.	9	-	9	-	11	Wav. Labour 'D'	9	-	8	1	20
<u>DIVISION 2</u>						<u>DIVISION 3B</u>					
	P	W	L	D	Pts.		P	W	L	D	Pts.
Vernon Sangster	9	7	-	2	63	V. Sangster 'C'	8	7	1	-	58
Maghull 'A'	10	6	4	-	63	Bath St. 'B'	8	7	1	-	57
V. Sangster 'A'	8	5	1	2	57	Eng. Elec. 'D'	9	6	2	1	54
Bath St. 'A'	10	6	2	2	57	Elec. Supply 'A'	8	6	1	1	52
Eng. Elec. 'B'	9	6	2	1	53	Wav. Labour 'C'	10	3	3	4	51
Rafters 'A'	10	4	3	3	53	Linacre	8	5	3	-	50
L'pool Jewish 'A'	8	6	2	-	50	Brownmoor Pk.	8	5	2	1	49
Elec. Supply	10	4	4	2	49	Aigburth	9	2	5	2	41
Cadwa.	10	4	4	2	48	Bath St. 'E'	9	2	5	2	37
Police	9	4	4	1	43	Eng. Elec. 'E'	9	4	5	-	31
Palmerston 'A'	8	2	3	3	41	Aigburth 'A'	9	1	8	-	29
Colonsay	10	2	7	1	35	Bath St. 'D'	6	-	5	1	19
L'pool Y.M. 'B'	10	-	9	1	20	Police 'B'	7	-	7	-	12
Trinity 'A'	9	-	9	-	18	Police 'C' out					

<u>DIVISION 4A</u>						<u>DIVISION 5A</u>					
	P	W	L	D	Pts.		P	W	L	D	Pts.
Elec. Supply 'B'	9	8	1	-	62	Maghull 'F'	7	6	1	-	57
Cadwa 'A'	7	6	1	-	51	Cadwa 'B'	7	6	1	-	48
Rafters 'B'	8	3	3	2	49	Brownmoor Pk. 'A'	7	6	1	-	46
Maghull 'C'	8	5	3	-	48	Warwick Bolam	5	5	-	-	40
Bootle J.C.	7	4	1	2	45	University	4	4	-	-	35
Bootle 'B'	8	4	3	1	44	L'pool Jewish 'E'	8	2	6	-	28
Vagabonds 'B'	9	3	4	2	42	Carnegie	7	1	6	-	25
Vagabonds 'A'	9	4	5	-	40	Waterloo	6	2	4	-	24
Eng. Elec. 'F'	9	2	4	3	38	Elec. Supply 'C'	6	2	4	-	22
Richmond	9	2	6	1	36	Courtaulds 'C'	7	1	6	-	19
Barker & Dobson	6	4	2	-	32	Maghull 'G'	8	1	7	-	16
Bath St. 'G'	6	1	4	1	21						
Bootle J.C. 'A'	8	-	8	-	10	<u>DIVISION 5B</u>					
<u>DIVISION 4B</u>							P	W	L	D	Pts.
	P	W	L	D	Pts.	Kirkby 'A'	8	7	1	-	61
Kirkby	9	9	-	-	79	Warwick Bolam 'A'	8	6	1	1	56
L'pool Jewish 'C'	10	9	1	-	70	Rafters 'C'	6	6	-	-	55
Maghull 'D'	10	5	4	1	53	St. Giles	7	4	2	1	48
Bath St. 'F'	8	5	2	1	51	Aigburth 'B'	7	4	3	-	41
Trinity 'C'	7	6	1	-	48	L'pool Jewish 'F'	9	1	7	1	29
Courtaulds 'A'	9	4	4	1	43	Argot 'A'	6	2	3	1	23
L'pool Jewish 'D'	9	4	3	2	42	Brownmoor Pk. 'B'	7	2	4	1	20
Colonsay 'B'	8	3	4	1	40	Maghull 'E'	5	1	2	2	18
V. Sangster 'D'	9	1	5	3	39	V. Sangster 'E'	5	1	4	-	18
Courtaulds 'B'	9	3	6	-	36	Waterloo 'A'	6	-	6	-	1
Eng. Elec. 'G'	9	-	8	1	27						
Wav. Labour 'E'	8	1	6	1	22						
Colonsay 'C'	9	-	6	3	20						

All postponed matches from the first half of the season must be played by Week 26. Failure to agree dates and advise the Fixture Secretary may result in the Home Team forfeiting the matches 0-10. Forty nine cards have not been received to date. Are you posting your cards on time? Fines are mounting up.

### OBITUARY

#### BURSLEM

'Buzz' Burslem was a pretty popular and unassuming young player well known amongst the 5th Division fraternity, he enjoyed his games with the Maghull Club and won more games than he lost, despite his handicap, (he lost his arm in a football accident).

He had passed his 'A' levels and was an ardent Derby County supporter. On a recent Wednesday a couple of Derby's players were coming to make a presentation to him, unfortunately, on the Monday Neil died.

To his family we offer our sincere sympathy at the loss of a fine young man.