



Table Tennis DIGEST

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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EDITORIAL
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EDITORIAL

Our magazine has its many supporters, the undoubted leader of the Digest Supporters Club is Les French. From the days when Billy Stamp and his committee agreed to its formation and Jack Pattison and Des Loughrey put it on the map in far off 1950, it has been a source of information, contention, nostalgia and quite often good reading. At this point we must remind you that we won an E.T.T.A. competition for THE best Table Tennis magazine in the country.

Unfortunately times have changed and costs have shot up to the sky. Our registration fee is now £2.92, and our magazine costs £100 for 600 copies. The C.T.L. Agency, our producers, do it as cheaply as anyone can, when it was being printed we travelled to Bolton to keep the costs down (petrol was on the house, not on the league). So despite numerous offers of a cheaper product, we feel we have always had the cheapest - which to us is the best. Can we afford the Digest?

As a firm Digest supporter surely I must be or I would n't go through blood, sweat and tears to keep it going (and cash). But my faith is shaken a bit when a bloke comes along and says - a corking bit of news for your next Digest, Joe Bloggs has just had triplets! The very item word for word had been in the previous Digest, a copy of which was about twelve inches away! The point I am making is - Do you read it? After that - Do you want it?, can YOU afford it, are you interested? The rules state that you must have at least two copies a season - think about it.

Ken Armson and I accept criticism of deliveries - this once again is purely a cost reduction exercise. We try to deliver all we can - a letter costs 16p

With two thirds of the season now gone, Rafter's still set the pace at the top and are set to win their first league title for many years. They had a double set back, for after losing their first match of the season 6/4 v Palmerston they then went down by the same score at home to Y.M.C.A.

Wav.Lab. have now redeemed their pride, for after the big defeat by Rafter's, they did what Rafter's failed to do, first beating Palmerston 6/4 with R.Smith winning all his three sets, they then went to Y.M.C.A. winning by 7 sets to 3, a super treble here by Mal McEvoy who beat M.Pu and P.Lee in both singles and doubles, R.Smith again won two singles against P.Lee and H.Johnson plus a great display of hitting by P.Luxon who beat P.Turtle 21/7; 21/18.

Y.M.C.A. seem to have lost their way a bit lately, for after their good 6/4 win over Rafter's they were soundly beaten by both Wav. and Palmerston, they were in for even a bigger shock when they went to Bootle losing 10-0 for the first time ever. Palmerston's only defeat to date was away to Wav.Lab., they have beaten the other three top teams, Rafter's 6/4; Y.M.C.A. 8/2 and Bootle 7/3, with B.Davey having a fine season and R.Brotherton only losing a handful of sets.

Special praise to Keith Williams, 3 times Liverpool champion and Liverpool and Lancs County Player, a great sport plus a great club man who never misses a match, be it against the top or the bottom. Keith must be the most consistent first division player since the days of Gordon Birch, his up-to-date record reads as follows: played 40, won 39, lost 1, a really fantastic record.

Bootle have had a great season in Division One, and are currently in the top four, they were just beaten 6/4 by Wav.Lab., but J.Rankin was in fine form beating both Wav.1 & 2 Roberts and McEvoy in singles and doubles. For a promotion team to beat the current premier champions 10-0 must surely be a league record.

English Electric while failing to challenge for honours recently always manage to finish in the top 6 and are a very hard team to beat, they lost 7/3 to both Rafter's and Palmerston and narrowly lost twice to Wav.Lab. and Y.M.C.A. 6 sets to 4.

Jewish have now started to pick up points hard and fast, and since the last issue have beaten Wav.'B' 6/4 with E.Clein beating Birchall and Bevan. They then beat Y.M.C.A. 'A' twice 8/2 and 7/3 and drew with Elec.'A' in the cup J.Henshaw beat P.Turtle 2 straight. One of the best performances of the season must go down to Julian Quirk of Jewish when he beat Bootle 1 & 2 Hutchings and Rankin in the same match.

Maghull continue to do well and beat Wav.'B' 7/3 Royden beat Bevan in 2, they also drew with both Wav.'A' and Y.M.C.A.'A' and G.Brownlee picked up one against Palmerston beating Alec Bryce. Wav.Lab.'A' did well in the first half but will find sets harder to come by now that M.McEvoy has gone into the first team. Les Molyneaux had a great 21/19 in the third win vs H.Johnson, Y.M.C.A. Wav.'B' are still struggling to pull away from the bottom and will have to battle harder to stay up, still Rod Beavan showed his true form by beating Rafter's duo E. Hardman and P.Ashcroft and with Billy Wardle playing more often should start to pick up more sets as they did by beating Wav.'A' 6/4.

Elec.'A' seem to have more close matches than anyone else, they only lost 6/4 to their own first team where N.Conquest beat both F.Pheysey and T.Williams, they also lost 6/4 to Y.M.C.A.'A', beat Bath Street and Wav.'B' 6/4 and drew with Jewish.

Y.M.C.A.'A' having lost F.Lay to the first team will have to fight hard to stay up, they have plenty of players to help them out if only they will play, Trinity had a good 7/3 win over Bath St., T.Killip won all three here, they then beat Wav.'B' 6/4 where J.Higham starred beating R.Bevan and K.Jackson, they finally lost to Maghull 6/4 where M.Keane picked up two beating M.Royden and G.Brownlee. N.Royden beat P.Luxom and T.Killip beat R.Smith. Bath St., now look doomed, best result was a draw with Wav.'B', where captain Fred Bainbridge won 2 beating P.Birchall and K.Jackson both in the third.

DIVISION 2

L.A.FRENCH

After 15 matches the promotion battle has narrowed down to three teams, with the two V.Sangster sides out in front, hotly pursued by Jewish 'A'. As expected Police and Elec.Supply have recovered well. Elec Supply's stalwart has been captain Alan Biggs with 22 wins and 10 defeats. Police once again rely heavily on Steve Baker and Dave Crispin both with 19-9 in singles and an 11-2 doubles record together.

For the front runners Paul Gittins 21-3 and Adam Bennion 19-5 lead the way for V.Sangster, Bill Harris 28-2, Ian Wensley 18-6 for V.Sangster 'A', with Roy Bradbury 19-3, Jim McMillan 15-5 doing best for Jewish.

At the other end of the table Trinity 'A' seem certain to take the wooden spoon now that Y.M.C.A.'B's team has been strengthened. Old friend Ted Mandaluff, less mobile than in his golden years, but still difficult to play against, is joined by Dominic Tai. The team however, is too far behind to avoid the drop. I'd like to take this opportunity of saying publicly to Ted, on behalf of everyone who knows him, how much pleasure we've had over the years from his wooden bat exploits and how much we admire his fighting qualities, team spirit and friendly personality. Do you remember Ted's duels with Tony Clayton, and the Mandaluff-Clein epics? If you don't, ask someone. Long may we be graced with your presence Ted.

Colonsay are still firm candidates despite John O'Sullivan's optimism, but they need a good run to save the day and their form (Lynne Fennah 9-13, Barbara Kirkman 9-13, John 10-14) isn't good enough. Cadwa are also struggling, with Trevor Hughes 14-10, Robin Brackley 10-10 and Ken Hartley 11-11 doing their bit. They could be saved by a mini-crisis at Bath Street. Peter Ross 17-7 has been moved up, leaving Mai Cray 19-9 and Jack Letch 10-18 to soldier on.

Eng.Elec.'B' are the Jekyll & Hyde characters of the division. They lost 9-1 to Palmerston and then they knocked Jewish 'A' out of the cup. A few days later they lost 8-2 to Jewish in the league. Joe Green, with 11 wins and only one defeat (by Paul Gittins, 14,10) leads the way, with good support from Frank McCann 11-9, Julie Prince 13-11 and Kevin Parker 10-10.Rafters 'A' have relied heavily on the

good form of Clive Chislett, 12-4, which includes a remarkable double over Jewish 'A' (14,12 over Jim McMillan & 23-25, 14, 18 over Roy Bradbury). To my mind this is the best performance of the season, challenged only by Joan Monaghan's double over Rob Wylie, 16 in the third and Duncan Sayle, 18 in the third, in Trinity 'A's 7-3 defeat by Rafter's. Mike Mercer has won the six sets he has played but Duncan Sayle, 10-12, and Don Davies, 9-15, are not finding things easy.

Palmerston 'A's top scorers Neil Jennings, 14-10, Mike Mahoney, 12-14.

Maghull 'A' are too good for most teams, with Alan Chase 25-5, and Ted Birch, 20-4, in great form. Mick Allen, 16-12, and Pip Newton, 14-12, are giving good support.

Trinity 'A' lost 6-4 to EE 'B', with five games going to 18 in the third or closer. Mike Corcoran won his first set of the season, beating Frank McCann by 22-20, 21-19. Bath St.'A' and Rafter's 'A' drew (Chislett 2, Sayle 2) with John Letch having a tough battle with Steve Roberts before winning 16-21, 27-25, 23-21. Bath St., beat Palm.'A' 6-4, with seven sets going to three (Ross 2, Cray 2, Letch 2). Colonsay beat Police (without Crispin) 6-4, including a good win for Lynne Fennah over Steve Baker, 16 in the third. By contrast, Lynne lost 12, 9 to Don Chalkley in the same match. Colonsay had the misfortune to be faced by George Smith & Jimmy Clewett when they faced Y.M. These two won 4 out of 5 sets and also Bill Trueman won his first set of the season by beating Dave Riley 22-20 in the third. Colonsay took the rest to force a draw. Eng.Elec. 'B' beat Rafter's 'A' 6-4, mainly due to 2 from McCann and a good double from Ro Craddock over Don Davies, 9 in the third, and Duncan Sayle, 15,14. Bill Crafter made a rare appearance for Rafter's, winning his two. Cadwa beat Y.M.C.A. 6-4 (Brackley 2, Law 2) and did well to hold Police to 4-6, with Robin beating Dave Crispin 23-21 in the third, Trevor adding 2. Police drew with Elec.Supply (Baker 2, Crispin 2, Ernie Owens 2). Ernie did well against Jewish, beating Bob Hudson and taking Jim McMillan to three, in his sides 6-4 defeat. Reserve Paul Baker also beat Hudson and Ian Burrows and then teamed up with Peter Carney to beat Bradbury/Hudson 22-20 in the third. I'll bet Bob was happy that night! Supply fought back to draw with Rafter's after being 5-1 down. Peter Carney beat Rob Wylie 23-21 in the third to start the revival which ended with Alan Biggs also beating Wylie to square the match. One 'close' match was between Jewish 'A' & Palm. 'A', with seven sets going to three. Jewish won ALL of them to win 9-1. Police jolted Maghull's promotion hopes, winning 6-4, Tom Purcell beat Ted Birch, and Dave Crispin won both of his sets 22-20 in the third.

Now for some good individual performances. For Trinity, Tommy Lawson beat Jim McMillan, Martin Truman beat Bob Hudson and Steve Baker. For Y.M.C.A. Ron Jones beat Alan Chase, 14 in the third and Mick Allen 12,9. For Colonsay Dave Riley beat Mal Cray. For Rafter's, Rob Wylie beat Paul Gittins and John Greene. Don Davies also beat Greene in the same match. For V.S.A. Ian Wensley beat Ted Birch, on expedite, 5-21, 21-19, 21-19.

The best team performance of the season I'm sure came from Cadwa, when they beat Jewish 'A' 8-2, including a great double for Ken Hartley over Roy Bradbury and Ian Burrows. Trevor Hughes also beat Burrows 15,12 and reserve Roy

Lussey. Robin Brackley beat Bob Hudson. To cap it all, untried doubles pair Hartley and reserve Peter Dobbs beat Bradbury/Hudson in two straight.

Top doubles combinations: 'McMillan/Burrows 8-1, Crispin/Baker 11-2, French/ Wensley 6-2, Chase/Newton 9-4, Bradbury/Hudson 7-4.

Stop Press: Mal Cray has moved up at Bath Street.

DIVISION 3A

MIKE GRIFFITHS

I finished off the last set of notes by saying that if you wanted a special mention one of the people you had to beat was Keith Miller of Bootle. Well Keith lost his 100% record to Colin Fyles of English Electric, and what a magnificent victory it was, 21/17, 19/21, 21/14, for his sides only point that night. Peter Wass of our other top side Plessey was nearly another victim of Colin's but Peter finally won 23/21, 16/21 21/17 - a great game I'm informed.

My prediction that Bootle would have no problem in winning this division appears to have gone the same way as most of my other predictions over the years. Plessey now seem to be favourites, and Bootle may look back at the end of the season to two matches in December which could have cost them the title. Firstly, they dropped 3 to Vernon Sangster, Phil Kavanagh beating Lawrence Kenwright, John Cowley beating John Tsang and Cowley and Roger Bennion combining to beat Tsang and Kenwright. A week later they played reserve Jackie Wilson against Trinity and only won 6-4. Plessey on the other hand have had no such setbacks, and a 10-0 win over the never easy Argot team was particularly impressive. Trevor Owen was taken to three by Billy Hargreaves and by Geoff Blackburn who can consider himself very unlucky to lose 20/22, 21/16,20/22.

With Bootle and Plessey well clear of the rest, the next three positions are filled by Argot, Courtaulds and Maghull. The Courtaulds and Maghull match was a mammoth affair with 8 sets going to three, and Courtaulds winning 6-4. Rod Bulmer beat Bob Edwards who beat John Armstrong 18/21, 21/11, 21/19. Dave Croot won two for Courtaulds beating Bulmer and Chris Roberts, and Courtaulds made sure of the win by taking both doubles. They were not so fortunate against Argot however who beat them 6-4 with Billy Hargreaves in fine form beating Edwards and Croot. A word for John Armstrong who beat Trevor Owens 21/14, 21/16 in the Maghull v Plessey match.

Down at the bottom, Trinity and Wavertree Labour look doomed, neither side having won a match. There have been some impressive wins by players in these teams, however, none more so than Mal Clark's double over Geoff Blackburn and Mike Elson of Argot. In the same match John Simm and Dave Williams played one of the most exciting games I've ever seen, with John winning 21/18, 17/21, 21/18 for one of his finest wins. Alan Hall had a good double over Alan Hewett and Jerry Richardson of Electric and Ron McEvoy beat Colin Fyles 21/17, 19/21, 21/17.

Hovering just above the relegation zone but in no danger are Police 'A', English Electric and Colonsay. Alan Wood's side had their best result against Maghull with a 5-5 draw. Fine wins for George Wright over John Armstrong and Alan over Chris Roberts. The match between Police and English Electric ended 6-4 to

Electric with the two Colins, Fyles and Pratt scoring doubles. Colonsay also beat Police 6-4 thanks to doubles by Harry Nelson and Dave Piper.

Les Lewis put in a great performance for his team at Bootle by beating John McLoughlin 9/21, 21/17, 21/19 and John Tsang 17/21, 21/19, 21/12. Bootle won 7-3.

The middle of the table is filled by Vagabonds, Liverpool Jewish, Vernon Sangster and Bath Street. Vagabonds, after a slow start are moving up the division, and they thrashed Bath Street 9-1; Ray Howard's win over Doug Ridgeway being their only consolation. Bath Street did better against Jewish gaining a draw, where Ray Howard was again their star performer beating Lussey and Davies. Another drawn match was between Jewish and Vernon Sangster, Phil Kananagh two for V.S. and Ray Lussey and Lewis Rosenbloom two each for Jewish. The gap between top and middle however was emphasised by Bootle's 10-0 win over Vags, Plessey's 10-0 win over Bath Street and Courtaulds 8-2 win over Jewish.

Some good individual performances:- Barry Mounsey (V.S.) beat Ray Lavin 25/23, 21/16; Ron McEvoy beat Geoff Blackburn 18/21, 21/19, 21/18; John Hankin a double over John Finnegan and Steve Graham of Liverpool Jewish; Alan Hewett beat Dave Williams 21/18, 21/18, for his sides only point against Argot.

I must think of a competition for the last issue, we haven't had one for ages.

DIVISION 3B

SUE HUGHES

Due to a postal mix-up the majority of 3B Division cards found their way to the National Union of Railway Works H.Q. in London. So apologies if you had the win of the season and don't get a mention for it, the only consolation is that it could have been brought to the train drivers.

From the few cards available Electric Supply 'A' are holding on to the number one spot, with a pack of four or five teams hot on their heels. They hold on to this position despite a recent slip-up against Eng.Elect. 'D' when Paul Baker (Elect.Supply) picked up his three games to give Elect. Supply their only 3 points of the game. Paul beat Rickie Cragg and Alan Brown before partnering Chris Fowler to dispose of Peter Holmes and Ian Lunt. This match provided some close games, for all players, especially Eng.Elect's Ian Lunt who narrowly beat A.Kelly 24/22; 19/21; 23/21 and then needed to go to 21/19 in the third before getting the best of Chris Fowler.

Two other promotion challengers are the experienced Bath St.'F' in the youthful Vernon S.T.T.C. 'C' and it was Sangsters young attackers who emerged as 6-4 winners when the two teams met. However, Billy Clayton's steady style was too much for Sangster's M.Finnegan and Steve Gittins, who both lost to Billy in the singles and again when they met him and partner Reg Edwards in the doubles. Bath St's other point came from Eric Ferguson's 21/7; 21/12 victory over M.Finnegan.

The other two Bath St. teams, the 'D' and 'E', have had a mid-season shuffle, with Dave Cunningham and Sue Hughes moving to the second division and other team members swapping places. Before the change-round though, Andy Armstrong found himself the winner of a close game 21/15; 17/21; 22/10 against Police 'B' s Richie Winckle when he was reserving for Bath St 'E'. The following week Andy was back in his own team and facing Richie again, but this time Richie found his form to win 21/13; 21/11.

Judging from the present set of cards, the Police team find themselves holding up the division. Though they have players capable of better things in the division, it would appear they have difficulty in fielding a regular team. However, Derek Rimmer recently chalked up a good 18/21; 21/19; 21/19 win over Aigburth's Brian Aldred.

Wav.Lab.'C gave Brownmoor Park a run for their money recently before going down 6-4 but with 5 of the games they lost going to three. Pete Davies of Wavertree was the star of this game beating Alan Williams 21/15; 21/17 and then just pipping Tony Delamere 22/20; 23/21. Another close game in that match came when Norman Berry (Wav.Lab.) inflicted a 22/20; 21/19 defeat on Norman Cooke.

Other players who have recently saved their teams from a whitewash are Bill Leeming (Aigburth 'A' getting his team's only two points by beating Linacre's Harry Reeve 10/21; 21/12; 21/18 and Jack Davidson 11/21; 21/14; 21/17. Karen Gibson and Andy Armstrong's doubles win over V.S.T.T.C's P.Davies and Paula French 18/21; 21/18; 22/20. Norman Berry (Wav.Lab.'C) 9/21; 21/15; 21/16 over Alan Kelly (Elect.Supply).

EVEN IF YOU HAVEN'T ENTERED DON'T FORGET THE
MERSEYSIDE OPEN AND THE CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS AT
THE KIRKBY SPORTS CENTRE, MARCH 28th and

IF YOU FEEL IN A REALLY GOOD MOOD PERHAPS YOU WOULD LIKE TO
DONATE A WASHING MACHINE OR TELEVISION TO OUR DRAW AT THE
DANCE, MIND YOU, WE WOULD STILL BE MORE THAN PLEASED IF YOU
JUST SENT A BOTTLE OF SHERRY OR A BOX OF CHOCS ALONG.

DIVISION 4A

STAN CLARKE

The top of the division seems to be developing into a two horse race for the champion spot between Electric Supply 'B' and Cadwa, with Maghull 'C' and Bootle J.C., Bootle 'B' and Rafters 'B' all trying desperately to get in touch with the top two. It is interesting that at the time of writing five of the top six have improved their sets per match average over the first half of the season, the exception being Rafters 'B', whose average has dropped by -7 per match, which accounts for their

fall from third place to sixth.

Realistically Electric Supply and Cadwa must be favourites for promotion, both have continued to pick up points at an average of over 7 per match, and it would need a major slip by either for them to lose the lead they have built up over the chasing bunch.

Maghull 'C's decline can be traced to an injury to Andy Howarth which has left them without their No.1 for nine games so far, and which combined with the absence of Alan Smethurst for three games really killed any chance they may have had for promotion.

Bootle Job Centre will almost certainly take over the number three spot when they play their games in hand. They have done well to reach this position and but for one or two loose results earlier in the season would be much nearer promotion.

Bootle 'B' have blown any chance they may have had due mainly to inexperience in my opinion, they are not yet quite ready for the older players who will not allow them to play loops and hit and are not yet prepared to knuckle down and push.

Vags.'B' are really showing their theoretically superior 'A' team the way home, despite some very good results from Ken Ray.

The team that has surprised us most is Barker & Dobson, though they are unlikely to be better than a middle of the table side with their present line up, they have a very good foundation with Les "The hit" Travis, the man who hits shots which everybody knows cannot possibly go on, but do, and Fred O'Sullivan, who seems to have borrowed more than just his bat from his more famous brother whose name escapes me!

English Electric have failed to make any impact despite the fact that Ken Black and Albie Parker have replaced Chris Birch and Alan Thompson. Richmond have fallen from the standards they have set over the past few years, and seem to be having trouble raising a team some weeks.

Bath St.'G' are a real enigma, somehow they have managed to fall five games behind the rest of the division, possibly because their Southport based players have had travelling problems during the recent bad weather, even so I would have expected them to have taken more points than they have. That leaves only Bootle J.C.A. - sorry fellers better luck in the 5th Division next year.

There are a number of players in the division who have impressed me with various aspects of their play, best service Gordon Langshaw, Vags.'B', closely followed by Phil Normanton, Bootle J.C. Best forehand drive, Clive Roberts, Rafters, most deceptive forehand Arthur Harrison, Elec. Supply closely followed by Ian Fletcher Cadwa. Most consistent player to date Derek Sullivan, Bootle, at present, unbeaten, best backhand chop Alan Smethurst, Maghull.

I have been taken to task by Cadwa for my suggestion in the last notes that Neil Gravenor only played as required, but at the time I wrote the last notes he had only appeared on one card and seemed to be playing as a reserve.

Finally a few personal triumphs in the face of adversity. Les Crawford Bootle J.C.'A' twice saving whitewashes beating Carol Flood, Cadwa 22/20; 23/21 and Ian Douglas, Rafters 20/22; 21/19; 21/11, Peter Byrne Bootle J.C.'A' beat Eddie Cameron, Elec. Supply 15/21; 21/18; 21/17. Harry Dears and Dave Berry, Richmond

took their doubles against Dave Burton and Sylvia Graham, Bootle J.C. 24/22; 21/11; and Dave Berry and Stan Clarke, Maghull beat Phil Normanton and Dave Graham, Bootle J.C. 21/16; 7/21; 21/18.

Also worthy of note Dave Batty beat Neil Gravenor 21/8; 21/19 and Harry Dears beat Peter Dobbs 21/11; 21/12; to take Richmond's two points against Cadwa, and finally Derek Sullivan Bootle 'B' took both points for Bootle in an 8/2 defeat by Elec.Supply by beating Arthur Harrison 21/13; 17/21; 21/19 and J. Moore 21/11; 21/16.

DIVISION 4B

JACK LAMBERT

My opening gambit in the last Digest naming Kirkby as our team of the year has proved more than right and their signing of Paul Brown makes them a super team. It is a bit ironic to see him and Norman Challoner playing three or four in the fourth division and as has been pointed out to me a few times they did accept promotion to Division One a couple of seasons ago and then opted out!

Vernon Sangster (3-7) are the only side to make an impression against them, thanks to Pete Davies beating Steve Grant and Norman Travis 15 and 18 in the third respectively. (I wonder what happened on Bonfire Night when Courtaulds 'A' didn't turn up against Jewish 'C' at home!). I would have expected the Sangster boys to do better than 0-10 against Trinity 'C'! Although Dave Southworth won his three, it was Margaret Collins who took the 'man of the match' with three wins in the English Electrics excellent 5-5 draw with Trinity.

Dave and John Southworth also excelled winning 5 out of their teams 7 against Courtaulds 'A'. Chris Birch won three of Electrics 5 against Colonsay 'C' (Muriel Cox 2) but Muriel's double against Courtaulds 'B' share the 5 all honours with a Danny Every double.

Plenty of well known table tennis names in the Wavertree Labour 'E' 5, Colonsay •C 5. All the Coxes (I nearly said clickety click), Muriel (2) Denise and Kristina - what happened to Yvonne? and Mabel Neary (2), Colin McEvoy and Alan Davies and what a game between Kristina and Alan 21/19; 18/21; 23/25 for Kristina, I bet Muriel died a thousand deaths at deuce! Were Pete or Anne there! or Betty or Ron! Quite honestly there are so many close and interesting games it is hard to select the best. Which makes it easy to pick an outstanding team like Kirkby, but how about the number two spot - John Bolton and Fraser Farquharson put a claim in for Bath St. with doubles against Colonsay 'B' but only 6-4. Colonsay 'B' then took on Jewish 'C' and lost 6-4 again, with seven games going to three Damian Turner winning 2 and Julie Baker beating Mal Green 19 in the third and losing to George Files 19 in the third, George beat Paul Mannings in the third and won his doubles with Mal quite a match.

Jewish 'D' took on Courtaulds with Tony Cohen outstanding winner of five of his six games, a draw at Courtaulds 'A' (D.Moore 3) and winning 6-4 against the 'B', Dave Cohen had a double here. Trinity 'C' (7-3) could also stake a claim to the number two spot Ken Davies and John Southworth had trebles

against Maghull 'D' (McGannity 2). Some of the young players should take a leaf out of Maghull's very pleasant and sociable book. Because as I have said before we nearly all speak English - even hello and goodbye would help sometimes.

A few of our ladies are carrying Women's Lib. too far, Muriel Cox doubles against Electric 'G', Courtaulds 'B', Colonsay 'B', Mabel Neary against Jewish ■C; Maghull 'D', Colonsay 'C, Margaret Collins - Trinity 'C Jewish 'D', Jewish 'E', Julie Baker - Colonsay 'C, Wav.Labour, more than holding their own our fair ladies.

Team heroes Bill Stanley (Wav.Labour) against Damian Turner (Colonsay) beat Fraser Farquharson, Bath St. 19 in the third. Wilf Gibson (Maghull) beat Steve Collins (Kirkby) and so did Eddie Preston (Courtaulds) 23/21 in the third. You only hit the highlights when you lose Steve because you win all the rest! Ken Armson (Wavertree) beat B.Harrison, Courtaulds 18 and 20: Jeff Banks (Maghull) beat Eddie Preston but 7 of Courtaulds wins were in the third!

Roly Wright (Courtaulds) beat Eugene Berger (Bath St.). A lot of top scoring games Martyn Neary beat Chris Reynolds 27/25 in the third. Thompson & Birch (Electric) lost to the Southworth brothers 19/21; 21/19; 21/23 and this game gained a draw for Trinity. Ted McGiveron beat Danny Every 21/17; 19/21; 22/20. Paul Manning (Colonsay) lost to Wilf Gibson 21/17; 19/21; 22/24! In the Wavertree and Colonsay match I mentioned earlier I notice Colin McEvoy beat Kristina 21/23; 21/14; 23/21. Quite a night for Kristina, Colin and Alan.

DIVISION 5A

DAVE DAVIES

Having accepted this job, it struck me that I hardly know anyone, in fact the teams surviving from last season number only four out of eleven. Yes, only eleven with Youth Training dropping out fairly early.

Maghull 'F' is not the team of the same name from last season. Either that or Debbie Clarke has undergone a sex change. Whatever happened to decorative Debbie? At the time of writing this new Maghull 'F' has four wins out of five games and dropped only twelve points, and are certainly going to be tough to beat.

If Brownmoor Park 'A' continue as at present they should be back into Division 4 next season. Two other teams are still unbeaten, Warwick Bolam and University. It is nice to see Liverpool University back into the Leagues. From the results and the rumours going round it would seem that University are the favourites to take the title this season.

Warwick Bolam had an excellent start but have begun to falter, having dropped eight points in the last two games.

Cadwa 'B' are certainly playing a "POWER"-ful game - sorry about

that one - they are also playing very well having lost only by default to Maghull 'F'. An interesting result for Carnegie was the match against Electric Supply 'C'. A good win for Carnegie, although some injury resulted during the match to P.Barton. The name has appeared on further score sheets so fortunately the injury has not been too serious.

Some interesting matches I would like to have seen are as follows, Carnegie versus Electric Supply, 8-2 victory to Carnegie. Brownmoor Park 'A' versus Maghull 'F' 6-4 to Brownmoor Park, and one at which I was present and a close fight, well fought by Waterloo was Warwick Bolam versus Waterloo 6-4 to Warwick Bolam.

Liverpool Jewish 'E', Courtaulds 'C and Maghull 'G' were all having a bit of a sticky time at the start of the season, but no doubt they will improve as the season progresses.

Having now completed the first half of the fixtures, it looks like the title for the division is going to go to University. They are certainly a strong team and should give Division 4 teams some trouble next year. The best result against them up to now is that of Maghull 'F'. On this occasion University were without Melanie Ringrose who has run rings around most of us when she has played.

Due to fixture re-arrangements, University have yet to meet the Power-ful Cadwa 'B' - That would be fun to watch. Cadwa are also unbeaten, except by default, Warwick Bolam managed to take four games off them.

Maghull 'F' have led the points table from the beginning. They have been lucky enough to keep up with their fixtures. By the end of the season, I expect them to be under Brownmoor Park 'A' and Warwick Bolam, who along with Waterloo, make the season to come still full of interesting matches. Warwick Bolam have had tough battles with the other three - first rounds going to Warwick Bolam. Hopefully as well, the second rounds. Brownmoor Park 'A' have held off both Maghull 'F' and Waterloo. Ken Miller winning in three against Mike Nelson and H.McGavity.

Carnegie are a much improved side, and must have been pleased to draw with Waterloo, Billy Baker having two good wins. It is therefore a surprise to see the same team defeated by Maghull 'G'. Ah, well! Maghull 'G' seem to be the most likely candidates for the wooden spoon, but they are certainly a team with character. The division would not be the same without Debbie and Dave.

Liverpool Jewish 'E' started the season badly, but the return of Elton Hillman has strengthened the team. They gave Warwick a surprise by taking four games off them.

The ladies, and gentleman, of the Electric Supply 'C are not getting the results but are tough opponents. Ask Brownmoor Park and University.

I'm sorry if I have missed anyone, but the personnel are so vastly different to last year. By the way, Dave Harrott's method of scoring each set as a running total is a great idea. Perhaps it's old hat in higher divisions, but I've never seen it before. It certainly gives some insight into how the match progresses.

Well, so much for predictions! Last issue I reckoned it was a toss up for the wooden spoon between Waterloo and Brownmoor, then the latter went and spoiled things with four successive victories culminating in a 6-4 win over promotion candidates Aigburth - a great performance even allowing for the fact that Peter Meyer was missing from the Aigburth line-up.

Unfortunately, Waterloo haven't been able to climb the table with their neighbours, but all credit to them for plugging away each week; stick with it Colette, Eileen, Caroline, Ann and company, it's nicer to have u with us.

One good thing about the season to date is that I can't find one case of a team playing short with the exception of Brownmoor conceding 10-0 W/O, at Kirkby. Rafters continue to carry all before them and are our only representatives in the semi-final of the Stamp Cup, so good luck girls and keep the 5B flag flying. There is a battle royal going on for second position between Kirkby and Aigburth, which may not be decided till the last match of the season, Ian Dumkow and Peter Lee are the main points winners for Kirkby with Peter Meyer the star for Aigburth. In the clash at Southwood Road, Aigburth won a well contested match 8-2 with Peter M. beating Ian and Peter L., the former by a nerve tingling 23/21 in the third. Ian also lost to Barry Meyer that night, thereby doubling the number of league sets he'd dropped this season. St.Giles are having a good first season with No.1 Dave Stoddern having some good scalps under his belt, including a 23/13; 16/21; 24/22 win over Steve Ward of Argot, who could well be a future first division player with the right coaching.

Maghull are a team I thought could have done better but either old age or beer guts - or both may be catching up with them! However, they still enjoy their game and are a pleasure to play against. They were unlucky to go down against Warwick Bolam, losing all five of the three setters in the match. Ron Newsham was their sole winner. Jewish have picked up some useful points including five from Rafters with wins for T.Bunner and R.Soloman over Jean Reynolds, surprising this, as R.Soloman had previously given Colette Gonnell of Waterloo a win.

Closest single game of the season to date was a 30/28 for Pauline Lawrenson (Rafters) over Tony Carroll of Vernon Sangster. R.Polak of Jewish won his side's only two singles against Argot, beating Steve Ward and P.Rivera in straight games. P.White (Warwick Bolam) saved the whitewash at Aigburth with wins after Peter Knight and Ros Merriman. Other lone winners have been A.M. Patefield (W'Loo) 21/17; 15/21; 21/16 over P.Rivera. A.Rabie (Jewish) 14/21; 21/9; 21/14 against A.Pursglove (St.Giles) and Dave Stoddern against Jean Reynolds (Sorry Jean, but it's not news when you win!).

Once again please help our fixture secretary by filling in your records or match cards.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

19 Childwall Mount Road

Dear Jack,

In these days of space travel, the silicone chip, how come we cannot manufacture a strong table tennis ball. We at Jewish go through so many in a season, that we are told not to hit the ball too hard, because of the expense. Hence the pushers, myself, Tony and Dave Cohen, Lewis Rosenbloom and Bob Hudson. I read Roy Lussey's letter in the Digest about backbone players and wallowed in a little nostalgia. Great moments in this game of ours, stick in the memory. For example during the power cuts a few years ago when I played a guy from the old Linnets Club in Aigburth. It was one game all and 20-7 to him. I clawed myself back to 20 all, when suddenly the lights went out and the game was abandoned, I felt like crying. Another great moment was when I played a lady player from Liverpool Pirates and the ball bounced up her skirt, but didn't come down. She obviously did not want to put her hand to retrieve it so she started jumping up and down on the spot. After what seemed an eternity the ball bounced down, and the whole room yelled out cock-a-doodle-do!

Incidentally Roy Lussey whom we have playing at our club, out of pity rather than for his ability, is more than 25 years old as he claims, he went to see Fay Wray in King Kong at least six times, his favourite singer is Vera Lynn and favourite comedian Sandy Powell. So I reckon that he must be at least 57.

Roy introduced me to the old Victoria Park Club in Chestnut Grove, I don't remember how many years ago it was, but petrol was 4 shillings a gallon, the Kop at Anfield was 2 shillings and my wages were two and a half quid week.

I remember one day tripping over lengths of steel in Jim Horton's workshop (whatever happened to him?) on the way up to the room, and gashing my leg so badly I had to have 10 stitches in it. The whole team took me to hospital and we forfeited the game 10-nil. The team that day was myself, George Cope, John Isterling and Jimmy Magnall, the last three being real 'golden oldies'.

My hopes and wishes for the New Year are as follows:-

- i. That teams that find it difficult to say hello and goodbye, become more sociable in the future.
2. That old glory hunter Norman Challoner gets out of the lower division to give us also-rans a chance.
3. That Les French is offered a coaching job in Kuala Lumpur and that he takes it.
4. That Derek Dorman can arrive much earlier than his usual 9.00 o'clock and that he is sober.
5. That Ken Armson joins the "Loonies" sect and is put out to grass.

My awards for 1982 are:-

Sportsman of the Year - yourself Jack because you never moan when you lose (I suppose you get used to it).

Club of the Year - Maghull for their friendliness.

Veteran of the Year - Wally Sill, who, like Muhammed Ali does not know when to pack in, and will still be playing when Everton win an F.C. trophy.

Heroes of the Year - all those players (myself included) who always get knocked out in the first round of the 'closed' and still come back for more.

Finally Jack, best wishes to all players and officials for the coming year.

Warren Davies,
Liverpool Jewish

TABLE EDGES

The Police Club and Alan Woods are having a rough time at the moment their 'C' team in Division 4B have now dropped out.

Brownmoor Park's match night is Tuesday.

It is custom and practice in most sports for semi-finals to be played at neutral venues. As these are difficult to obtain we had to discontinue this practice. As so many clubs have a distinct home advantage these days (they never used to have) I think semi-finals should be played on a home and away basis.

These are not adverts but table tennis points of information on holidays:-

The Lions Holiday Club at St.Martins, Guernsey has four Stiga tables - Horace Mallet at 38972.

The Derbyshire Holiday Centre at Rhyl is holding a table tennis week at Easter including coaching practice, ladies and gents competitions and three aside team events plus all the usual holiday facilities.

Further details from 0745 4495 or I have a little more info.If you happen to be at Wavertree Labour you will find their secretary speaking with a distinct Japanese accent - the reason for this is that he won a competition which took him to Tokyo for a nice long visit to see Liverpool in their World Championship play off - nice work Ken Armson, you appear to have had a better time than the winners of a certain radio competition who arrived after the game.

George Aspinall of Bath Street should have read Geoff, Bill Spencer of Waterloo Park informs me on a recent visit to his new and very, very nice little club,

I think if I had a table tennis wish it would be for all our clubs to have a just right cosy set up like this.

Incidentally, ray Spanish didn't come out too good with my Primero Sigundo deliberate mistake in the last mag, - Oh you didn't notice!

THE PRESENTATION DANCE WILL TAKE PLACE

AT

THE POLICE ATHLETIC CLUB,
PRESCOT ROAD, ON THURSDAY MAY

13th.

DETAILS WILL BE OUT BEFORE YOU RECEIVE THE DIGEST

<i>DIVISION 1</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>Pts.</i>	<i>DIVISION 3A</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>Pts.</i>
Rafters	18	16	2	-	149	Plessey	18	17	1	-	155
Palmerston	19	17	1	1	149	Bootle 'A'	18	18	-	-	148
Wav.Labour	18	17	1	-	140	Argot	20	12	6	2	123
Bootle	18	15	3	-	137	Courtaulds	18	13	4	1	121
L'pool Y.M.	19	13	5	1	122	V.Sangster 'B'	19	11	6	2	106
Eng. Electric	19	11	7	1	117	Maghull 'B'	19	12	6	1	103
Wav.Labour 'A'	19	6	9	4	92	Vagabonds	17	9	5	3	91
Maghull	19	6	10	3	73	L'pool Jewish 'B'	20	8	9	3	90
L'pool Jewish	19	5	13	1	65	Colonsay 'A'	20	7	11	2	88
Eng.Electric 'A'	17	4	10	3	64	Eng.Electric 'C'	20	7	12	1	81
Wav.Labour 'B'	17	2	12	3	57	Police 'A'	19	5	12	2	75
L'pool Y.M.'A'	20	3	14	3	55	Bath St. 'C'	20	5	14	1	72
Trinity	20	4	16	-	48	Trinity 'B'	19	-	18	1	44
Bath St.	18	-	16	2	32	Wav.Lab.'D'	19	-	18	1	33
<i>DIVISION 2</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>Pts.</i>	<i>DIVISION 3B</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>Pts.</i>
V. Sangster 'A'	16	12	2	2	119	Elec.Supply 'A'	18	13	2	3	128
V. Sangster	16	13	-	3	117	Bath St. 'B'	19	13	5	1	122
L'pool Jewish 'A'	16	13	3	-	112	Eng.Electric 'D'	18	14	2	2	118
Maghull 'A'	18	9	7	2	112	V.Sangster 'C'	17	12	2	3	112
Eng.Electric 'B'	19	11	7	1	101	Brownmoor Park	18	11	5	2	111
Electric Supply	19	10	6	3	100	Linacre	17	10	4	3	104
Police	19	8	7	4	98	Wav.Labour 'C'	18	3	8	7	103
Palmerston 'A'	18	7	6	5	95	Aigburth	17	5	9	3	75
Bath St. 'A' ¹	19	7	6	6	88	Eng.Electric 'E'	17	6	9	2	68
Cadwa	17	4	7	6	78	Bath St. 'E'	17	3	11	3	66
Rafters 'A' ¹	16	4	9	3	66	Aigburth 'A'	15	2	13	-	51
Colonsay	16	3	10	3	58	Bath St. 'D'	15	2	10	3	50
L'pool Y.M. 'B'	19	1	15	3	51	Police 'B'	16	1	15	-	28
Trinity 'A'	18	-	17	1	35						

DIVISION 4A	P	W	L	D	Pts.	DIVISION 4B	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Cadwa 'A'	18	16	1	1	135	Kirkby	17	17	—	—	146
Elec.Supply ^f B ^f	18	16	2	-	133	L'pool Jewish 'C' ¹	16	13	2	1	111
Maghull 'C' ¹	18	11	7	-	no	Bath St.'F' ¹	16	10	4	2	101
Bootle J.C.	15	11	2	2	105	Colonsay ^f B ^f	17	10	6	1	97
Bootle 'B' ^f	17	10	5	2	99	Trinity 'C' ^f	16	10	4	2	96
Rafters 'B'	18	8	8	2	94	Maghull 'D'	19	9	9	1	95
Vagabonds 'B'	18	8	8	2	87	Courtaulds ^f B ^f	19	8	9	2	90
Barker & Dobson	17	8	9	-	79	V.Sangster	18	5	9	4	86
Eng.Electric ¹ F ^f	19	5	11	3	79	Courtaulds 'A' ¹	16	8	6	2	84
Vagabonds 'A'	18	5	12	1	76	L'pool Jewish ^f D ^f	17	6	8	3	76
Bath St. 'G'	14	5	7	2	62	Eng.Electric 'G' ¹	17	1	13	3	55
Richmond	19	3	15	1	61	Colonsay 'C'	19	1	13	5	52
Bootle J.C.'A' ¹	18	-	18	-	18	Wav. Labour 'E' ¹	18	1	15	2	

DIVISION 5A	P	W	L	D	Pts.	DIVISION 5B	P	W	L	D	Pts. '
University	12	12	-	-	102	Rafters ¹ C ^f	12	12	-	-	105
Maghull ¹ F ^f	15	10	5	-	102	Kirkby 'A' ¹	14	11	3	-	98
Warwick Bolam	14	12	2	-	98	Aigburth ^f B ^f	13	10	3	-	92
Cadwa 'B'	14	12	2	-	96	Warwick Bolam 'A'	13	7	5	1	73
Brownmoor Pk.'A' ¹	16	9	6	1	90	St.Giles	12	4	7	1	58
Courtaulds ¹ C ^f	15	3	8	4	59	Argot 'A'	12	4	6	2	52
Waterloo	13	5	7	1	58	Brownmoor Pk.'B' ¹	12	4	5	3	52
Carnegie	15	2	10	3	49	Maghull 'E' ^f	12	5	6	1	51
L'pool Jewish 'E'	14	2	11	1	47	Upool Jewish ^f F ^f	13	2	9	2	50
Elec.Supply ¹ C ^f	12	3	7	2	41	Waterloo ¹ A ^f	13	-	13		3
Maghull 'G'	13	1	12	-	26						

FIXTURE SECRETARY'S NOTE

When the league tables were compiled 70 cards were outstanding,
mostly due to to
postponed matches.

All matches must be completed in the week following the last week of the
season.

Please check your records, fix your outstanding matches and advise the
Fixture Secretary.