



Table Tennis DIGEST

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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EDITORIAL

The emergence of a new era of top clubs has brightened a depressing season. Less Clubs, less teams, less players and teams cracking up during the season. Poor old Division 5 - they do suffer.

The resurgence of Rafter's with a cup and league win in successive seasons. Bootle S.C. arriving at the top and proving themselves better than most and with mainly new stars. Maghull establishing themselves as a top club and Vernon Sangster and Vernon Sangster 'A' now arriving to prove themselves. But, as a whole, I feel we could do with a crash of inspiration from somewhere to brighten our scene.

Congratulations to George Smith of YMCA in achieving at one stroke that which I failed to do on numerous occasions (it must be personality and charm) and have the finals played in a special 'Finals Week'. This was a terrific success with good crowds at all except one - no bar there - was this significant? I think not, but, still, I must say all the NON T.T. addicts seemed to enjoy a tiddy at the bar at the other games.

DIVISION 1

ROY SMITH

Congratulations to the Rafter's squad of T.Manning, E.Hardman, A.Timewell, P.Ashcroft and M.Mercer, the new Liverpool Premier Champions. Rafter's made the title safe by beating Wav.Lab. 7-3; Palmerston 8-2 and Y.M.C.A. 6-4 and in these three matches anchor man T.Manning only lost one set.

Wav.Lab. lost any chance they had when losing 7-3 at Rafter's, where D.Roberts won his two beating both T.Manning and A.Timewell, in fact Rafter's are the only

team to have beaten Wavertree this season in 30 league and cup matches.

Palmerston fizzled out after losing 8-2 to Rafters and 6-4 to Wav.Lab., and yet again failed to win a major honour. However, No :1 K.Williams should finish on top of the averages. Perhaps a good defender might make all the difference, as I can't remember the last time the eventual champions of Liverpool won without a defensive player in the side?

At one stage Y.M.C.A. went from bad to worse, losing badly 9-1 to Wavertree 'B', they then lost to Wavertree Lab. 7-3 both in the league and the cup semi-final and seem to lack a top class No:1. Bootle avenged their cup defeat by beating Rafters 6-4. They have been the surprise team here and put up a tremendous fight for the title to the very end. In fact my team of the year is Bootle.

Electric after making the top teams fight hard in the first half, finally gave in, losing the reverse fixtures 8-2 each time to Rafters, Wav.Lab. and Bootle, and as expected, finished in a respectable fifth position: G.Lennon (Eng. Elec. 'A') had a good win over Wirral champion E.Hardman (Rafters), and his team cruised to a respectable position.

Wav. 'A' conceded three sets to Elec. 'A' but still managed a draw with Billy Wardle beating B.Crolley, G.Lennon. Mike Tierney has taken the pressure off the younger players for most of the season by playing No:1. Mick still has the ability but no bat to help it. Wav.'B' battered Y.M.C.A. 9-1, again Bill Wardle won his two beating P.Turtle and F.Lay with M.Feerick also beating F.Lay. Ken Jackson has had some good wins this season most notable when beating the Southport Business House champion, Liverpool No:2 Paul Hutchings. Rod Bevan had a good win over Wav.Lab. first team No:2 Mal McEvoy and made D.Roberts pull out all the stops losing 18-21 in the third.

Maghull must have enjoyed their first season in Div.1 using youth and experience combined to finish well away from relegation. T.Murphy chopped up both youngsters S.Green and B.Wardle (Wav.A) and M.Royden beat A.Timewell (Rafters).

Jewish have had some funny results beating Wav.'B' twice then losing 9-1 to relegation threatened Trinity. E.Clein, Jewish No:1 recorded a fine double over D.Roberts and P.Luxon (Wav.Lab) while J.Henshaw beat N.Pu and P.Turtle (Y.M.C.A.) Y.M.C.A.'s 7-3 win over Maghull might just keep them up, but where will they get the players to do it again next season. Trinity have fought magnificently too at the end to try and stay up, beating Maghull 8-2; Y.M.C.A. 6-4 and Jewish 9-1. W.Royden beat G.Smith, T.Killip beat R.Smith. Bath St. drew four matches near the end of the season (when it was too late); with Trinity, Maghull, Y.M.C.A. 'A' and Wav.'B' with P.Ross picking up some good wins beating N.Jagg, M.Royden and A.Bryce.

Congratulations to Wayne Percival, my team mate, on winning the closed Championship, pity Wayne's 56% for Wavertree couldn't have been better.

Congratulations to Vernon Sangster on their great achievement of getting two teams into the first division at their first attempt. Jewish 'A' provided stiff opposition, keeping the issue open until the penultimate week, when the Sangster first team beat Bath St.'A' 8-2. The Sangster 'A' team (the older lot) had sealed things up the week before when beating Rafters 'A' 8-2. Their last game was against each other with the first team needing a 10-0 win to take the title. Their hopes were dashed in the first set when Les French beat Chris Ford. The match ended with a 6-4 win for the 'young-uns'. Paul Gittins won his two, John Greene beat Bill Harris and Val Franco convincingly.

Two vital factors in the 'A' team's success. Firstly their signing of Peter Flint in December and secondly my own switch to a combination bat at that time. My record up to then was 15 wins and 11 defeats. After losing two sets in the first two matches, I won 26 and lost 2 thereafter, for 74.2% overall, losing only to Mike Mercer of Rafters. Bill Harris was consistency itself, for a 83.3% record. Ian Wensley 63.1% and Val Franco 62.5%.

Paul Gittins was the leading scorer for the first team with 87.5% record, including two victories over Joe Green of E.E.'B'. Adam Bennion was next 73.1%, closely followed by John Greene 72.9% and Chris Ford 68.5%. Their failure to win the title could be put down to poor performances against CADWA, drawing and then losing the return 6-4 and also to a 6-4 defeat by Eng.Elec.'B', without Joe Green. On the credit side they had two great 8-2 wins over Jewish 'A', the second being a great match. Chris Ford, improving rapidly during the season, was the star with two straight wins over Roy Bradbury 15-13 and Jim McMillan 17-17.

The 'A' team also beat Jewish 'A' 7-3, with good wins for Les over Roy Bradbury 7-17 and Ian Burrows 17-10, to add to Peter Flint's double over McMillan and Hudson.

In the return match Jewish forced a draw. Ian beat me this time, 19 in the third, and with a good double for Jim McMillan over Bill 14-12 and Ian Wensley 15 in the third a win looked on the cards. Bill Harris beat Roy Bradbury for the first time to save the day. Peter won his two again.

Jim McMillan was Jewish's top man with 79.3%, followed by Bob Hudson 75% and Roy Bradbury 71.4%, Ian Burrows 63%.

At the other end of the table, with Trinity 'A' and Y.M.C.A.'B' doomed for some time, it developed into a triangular battle between CADWA, Colonsay, and Bath St.'A' to avoid the drop. Rafters 'A', at one time under serious threat, started turning out Mike Mercer for a series of matches. He was undefeated, the team sped to safety.

CADWA ended up with a series of defeats, including a vital 9-1 defeat by Colonsay in which their only success was a win for Ken Hartley over Dave Riley. In fact

they played Colonsay twice, the first match resulting in a 6-4 defeat, Ken winning three sets and Trevor Hughes beating John O'Sullivan. Colonsay fought hard near the end with a good 7-3 win over Palmerston 'A' and a great 4-6 scoreline against Jewish, however, they joined CADWA in the bottom four. Bath St. 'A' just escaped following their re-ranking of Peter Ross and Mal Cray. John Letch ended with 36.4% and Mike Moran an unexplicable 28.1%. In fact, Bath St. might not have survived had it not been for the generosity of Alan Biggs, who agreed to play a walk-over match, saving them 2 sets and also a fine performance from Mike in winning his two singles against John Greene and Adam Bennion in an 8-2 defeat by V.S.

Maghull 'A' slipped badly, fielding reserves on many occasions. Mick Allen stopped playing in the new year and Ted Birch kept coming back from on top of the Andes in Peru to play his matches. Ted ended up with 73.8 and was the mainstay of the team along with Alan Chase who had 71.1%, Dave Newton had 47.8%.

The Police team ended the season on an unhappy note on learning of the proposed transfer of Steve Baker to Yorkshire. Steve, on his short stay with us, made a lot of friends with his quality play and pleasant personality. I'm sure that I'm speaking for everybody in wishing him well in his new surroundings. Steve ended with 71.7%. Dave Crispin had a disappointing season by his standards, ending with 60%. Tom Purcell, always difficult to beat ended with 36% and captain Don Chalkley had 37.5%.

Electric Supply also climbed high in the table, with Peter Carney in great form later on to end with 59%. Alan Biggs was their most successful player with 64.6%, Alan Cameron 50%.

Many people have said to me that they thought that this was the strongest second division that they could ever remember. If you look at some of the averages below 50% and reflect upon the known qualities of the players, you'll see what I mean.

Kevin Parker	42.9%	Lynne Fennah	45.8%	Barbara Kirkman	46%
John O'Sullivan	40%	Jim Riding	38.6%	Duncan Sayle	38.6%
Tommy Lawson	31%	Rob Wylie	23.5%	Robin Brackley	35.2%

Trinity rose to the occasion against Y.M. to record their only win of the season. With wins for Mike Corcoran over Ted Mandaluff and Tommy Lawson over Wing Law. Joan Monaghan and Mal Clark both beat reserve T. Whitty and Trinity took both doubles. Dominic Tai replied with two for YM.

When our club played Rafter's 'A' we had the pleasure of playing against one of the outstanding players of our league since the war, Peter Rumjahn. It was nice to see him still playing a good standard of table-tennis. Peter has always stood for everything that is right and proper in the game. His stroke play is still immaculate, despite difficulties with varieties of rubber these days. Long may we be graced with your qualities, Peter.

Peter figured in the 'strangest score of the season', when beating Ro Craddock by the amazing scoreline 8-21, 21-5, 21-9.

Good performances: Alan Biggs beat Roy Bradbury 15-11 and Ian Burrows in the same match. Frank McCann beat Paul Gittins 15-17 and Adam Bennion, 19 in the third, to help his team to a 6-4 win. Tom Purcell beat Bill Harris 14-18. Kevin Parker beat Ted Birch 24-22,23-21 and lost 21-19,24-26,19-21 to Alan Chase. Jack Letch beat Ted Birch, with Dave Cunningham recording a victory over Alan Chase.

Another candidate for the best match of the season was CADWA's 7-3 defeat by Palmerston 'A'. four sets ended 19 or deuce in the third with nine sets containing a 19 or deuce game. Mike Mahoney, 54%, won two for Palmerston and Trevor Hughes, 55.6% the same for CADWA. Neil Jennings was Palmerston's top scorer with 62.5%.

I'd like to close with a tribute to Bill Harris, whose support, enthusiasm and never-ending efforts have been such an important factor in enabling our club to bring two teams from the fifth division to the first in successive seasons.

DIVISION 3A

MIKE GRIFFITHS

I mean it this time, definitely no more predictions. I could of course claim that I got it right first time. Anyway Bootle fully deserve to be our champions, and in the end had a comfortable 9 points margin over Plessey. Bootle made sure of victory with an emphatic 9-1 win over Plessey, a result even I would not have predicted. Man of the match was undoubtedly John McLoughlin who beat Ray Lavin 21-19,8-21,22-20 and Trevor Owen 18-21,21-14,25-23. With both teams picking up 9 or 10 points every week, Plessey could never recover from this defeat.

These two fine teams finished some 50 points ahead of the rest of the pack. This was lead by Courtaulds, who had a great season but never had the consistency to challenge for honours. A Bob Edwards double over Owens and Lavin helped them to 4 points off Plessey but only Dave Moore could win against Bootle. Although they beat Argot 6-4, Courtaulds then lost to Vagabonds 7-3 (Owen and Barnes 2 each) and drew with Maghull (Bulmer 2).

Argot finished fourth just 3 points behind Courtaulds, and they have been involved in some interesting matches. They managed four points off Bootle thanks to fine performances from Billy Hargreaves who beat Lawrence Kenwright 21-18, 13-21,21-18, Geoff Blackburn who beat John McLoughlin 21-14,10-21,21-19 and Dave Williams who beat John Tsang. They were again in top form when they convincingly beat Vagabonds 8-2. It can't be very often that Bobby Owen and Ted Barnes fail to register a singles win between them. The unpredictability of our game was emphasised however when Maghull beat Argot 7-3 despite the fact that No.1 John Armstrong failed to win a singles. In fact he lost to Hargreaves 20-22,2-21!! (somebody will now tell me that this is a misprint). Chris Roberts and Ray Tagg won all their games for Maghull.

Maghull and Vagabonds finished on equal points and can both be pleased with their seasons. Vagabonds took the honours 6-4 in the January meeting. Maghull won only two singles but their doubles play saved them from heavier defeat.

At the other end of the division, Trinity and Wavertree Labour were relegated. Allan Hall's form throughout the season was impressive and he added the names of Harry Nelson, Barry Mounsey and John Armstrong to his list of victims. Arthur Birch had a fine second half and can be well pleased with wins over Sue Anderson, Jerry Richardson, Roger Bennion and Chris Roberts. Another player to have an excellent finish to the season was Mal Clark of Trinity who seemed to get a new lease of life winning 8 of his last 14 singles. His victims included Steve Graham and Ray Lussey of Jewish, Mike Elson and Doug Ridgeway.

Bath St. and Eng. Electric finished on 89 points with Police just one point ahead. Electric beat Bath St. 6-4, Rob Peverall and Colin Fyles winning 2 each, but in a disappointing second half they surprisingly lost 9-1 to Jewish. Bath St. as ever, used an amazing number of players during the season, 10 on the scorecards I have at the moment. John Watson, Ray Howard, Tony Roberts and Tony Kendall appeared to be the most regular. These four thrashed Police 9-1 but went down 8-2 to Jewish.

The lads from Argot have kindly brought the following games to my attention. In the Argot v Colonsay match which ended 5-5, Dave Goodwin beat Geoff Blackburn 6-21, 21-16, 24-22; Mike Elson beat Brian Leeson 21-19, 19-21, 21-18; first doubles Blackburn and Elson v Nelson and Leeson went to Argot 23-21, 25-23 but not to be outdone Colonsay in the shape of Piper and Goodwin beat Hargreaves and Ward 15-21, 21-19, 25-23. Against Police, Geoff Blackburn was again suffering in the third 19-21, 21-19, 18-21 to George Wright, but Dave Williams beat Alan Wood 21-19, 12-21, 22-20.

Other good wins, close games and whitewash savers:- John Simm (Trinity) beat Doug Ridgeway 18-21, 21-19, 22-20; Phil Kavanagh (VS) beat John Hankin 21-14, 23-25, 23-21; Tony Kendall beat John McLoughlin 29-27, 21-16 (my spy at this match tells me it was a great hitting display by Tony); this hitting however appeared to be well handled by Roger Bennion who beat him 22-20, 19-21, 21-18; Dave Piper's double for Colonsay over Phil Kavanagh and John Cowley of VSTIC. Colin Fyles of Eng. Elec. beat Ian Blore of Plessey 21-15, 15-21, 24-22. John Cowley beat Trevor Owen 16-21, 21-31!! 22-20.

It looks like it will be back to the fourth for me next year, so somebody else will have the honour of writing these notes. Jack - have you sounded out Roger Bennion?

DIVISION 3B

SUE HUGHES

Electric Supply 'A' who set the pace for most of the season have warded off all challenges, though Vernon Sangster's 'C' have finished with a strong run, despite problems fielding a regular team at the beginning of the season. Supply averaged more than 7 points a game which has ensured that Les Evans, Wally Lewis and Co., join their first team in the second division with Paul Baker, Chris Fowler adding considerable attacking strength to the team they should have no difficulty staying there. They picked up a very useful 9 points from Bath St. 'B' one of their nearest

rivals with Eric Ferguson saving the home team from a whitewash by beating Les Evans 24-22,12-21,21-17. At the beginning of the season V.S. 'C' seemed set to combine their clubs rise through the divisions. Despite a mid-season hiccup, when they slipped to a surprising 4th, Paula French and Steve Gibbins have steered the team to the top.

Eng.Elec.'D' also hovering around the top of the table recently beat Sangsters 6-4 with Rowan Flint scooping a double over Richie Cragg 21-9,21-19 and Rob Peverall 21-15,21-11 then teaming with Mark Reed to beat Richie and Rob in the doubles to give Sangster three of their points.

Eng.Elec.'D' have been one of the most consistent teams in the division having won more matches than anyone else. However, Eng.Elec.'D' captain Richie Cragg must feel that Aigburth is his bogey team, as Brian Aldred recently beat him for the second time this season to give Aigburth their only point of the confrontation. When Eng.Elec.'D' met the other Aigburth team, the 'A' team of Messrs.Bill Leeming, Phil Holmes, Harry Holmes and Jimmy Lightburn the score card showed that Electric had secured a 9-1 victory but it could have easily been a draw, as 6 of Electrics 9 points were taken on a deuce or 19-21. Just one of those nights for the Aigburth boys. Moving down the table a little way are Brownmoor Park - Linacre, it was Linacre as the 7-3 victors when the two teams met, with Harry Reeve in his usual devastating form, firstly beating Alan Walton 21-14,21-16 and Norman Cooke 21-8,21-14 then partnering Alan Norwood for a convincing 21-5,21-8 doubles victory over Norman and Sealeaf. Wav.Lab.'C' are the draw specialists of the division, with 7 to their credit at the moment. Obviously a good choice on the points pool. Two of their recent draws came against Aigburth and Bath St.'D'. In the Bath St. match, five of the sets were decided 21-19 in the third including Mabel Neary's 21-15,12-21,21-19 victory over her Southport Ladies team mate Ann Jowett. Ann gained her revenge when she beat Bill Stanley 16-21,21-12,19-21 and then partnered Karen Gibson to beat Mabel and Gill 17-21,21-14 and (yet again) 21-19.

Eng.Elec.'E' have stayed in a secure mid-table position all season with Alan Jones at number one recording several good wins including a recent 21-16,21-11 win over Elec.Supply's Paul Baker who hasn't lost many this season.

There isn't much to report on the two Aigburth teams as the 6-4 scoreline in favour of the first team illustrated when they met. The first four at the top of the score card went to Aigburth 'A' at the cost of R.Forshaw and A.Crist but Brian Aldred and Eric Wood picked up two apiece - both doubles went to Aigburth first team. Bath St's.'D' and 'E' teams have both experienced a mid-season shuffle of players, although one of them may be doomed for relegation. There have been several good individual wins including Andy Armstrong 22-20,21-19 over Alan Kelly Elec.Supply and Brian Cunningham's 24-22,21-10 over Vernon Sangster's Steve Gittins and Steve Bakers 14-21,18-21 over Alex Gould which breaks Alex's run of successes with his newly discovered attacking style.

The Police team finds itself at the bottom of the table, which is more due to their inability to field a regular team rather than the ability of the players.

Sue wrote her notes before she went to work in Blackpool for 6 months and before the end of the season. 14-21, 18-21?

Editor

DIVISION 4A

STAN CLARKE

Congratulations to Cadwa 'A' Divisional Champions and runners-up Electric Supply. The best of luck in Division 3 next year. The final positions were in doubt until the very last moment, Cadwa had completed their games and were leading Electric Supply by seven points, but Supply 'B' had a rearranged game to play against Bootle Job Centre, which was only played after the official end of the season, in the event the match finished as a draw, John Moore, playing up the order, winning both singles for Supply 'B' and Phil Normanton, Dave Burton and Dave Graham winning a single each, but combining to take both doubles, so Supply 'B' were left with second place and the knowledge that only a couple of sets lost prevented them being champions.

Ian Fletcher's boys not only won the division but featured as the 4A representatives in the Forest Cup Final, where they had the misfortune to come up against a very powerful Kirkby team from 4B. It would have been difficult enough for Cadwa with a full strength team, but they unfortunately lost the services of their No:1 Neil Gravenor who had left the country to work in Germany, not that Ian Douglas, who took his place, was in any way disgraced, in fact he pushed the Kirkby lads nearer than some of the more regular players. Kirkby ran our easy winners, 9 sets to 1 with Ian Fletcher Cadwa's hero.

Bootle Job Centre finished in third place and might very well have pressed the top two even closer, if they had not conceded a walkover to Richmond. Strangely both Job Centre teams conceded a walkover to Richmond this season. It is quite out of character for Job Centre to give games away, as they must be one of the keenest teams in the league and have managed to attract some very useful players to their squad, if they can keep them all until next season they must be a very good bet for promotion, although they will have to do so without the help of Sylvia Graham for much of the season as she and Dave have decided to produce a team of their own. The first signing is due in about six months, congratulations to them both, and commiserations to the poor child, who will probably be born with a bat in each hand, cover his/her parents in "Happiness", produce a great deal of "Friendship", cause the occasional "Feint" for Sylvia, and produce the inevitable little bits of "Tackiness" in the usual places.

Maghull 'C' have a remarkable record finishing a fairly comfortable fourth, their best results being a draw with Rafters and two defeats of Bootle Sports Centre. Part of the reason must be the number of players they have had to use, only Stan Clarke being an ever present this season. Rafters and Bootle S.C. both flattered to deceive, both teams looked capable of great things, but in the end were unable to produce the necessary results regularly. However, after a couple of months extra coaching, next season they may well be a different matter.

With the exception of Job Centre 'A' who will be leaving us to return to 5A the remainder of the division have spent what I hope has been an enjoyable season, turning out each week to provide the "cannon fodder" for the stronger player, and just occasionally proving to be the unexpected stumbling block which makes the nasty hole in an otherwise lovely booking average. That is the beauty of this game, the occasional totally unexpected and wholly unpredictable reversal of fortunes which occur in some game almost every week of the season. Long may you all continue to enjoy your game, and have you thought, that if you can find the right combination of "Funny Rubbers" you too may be unbeatable next season.

For the last time this season a run down on the players who have produced points for their teams in trying times:- Ken Ray, Vags 'A' beat Stan Clarke, Maghull 'C' 21-15; 21-15; M.Patterson, Bootle 'B' beat Arthur Harrison, Supply 'B' 18-21; 23-21; 21-14, Albie Parker, Eng.Elec.'F' beat Tom Lynch, Supply 'B' 21-16; 22-20, Ken Ray, Vags. beat Dave Graham, Job Centre 24-22; 21-16, Peter Byrne, Job Centre 'A' beat Les Travis, B & D 21-13; 18-21; 21-14, Dave Batty, Richmond beat Gordon Langshaw, Vags 'B' 21-15; 16-21; 21-19, Peter Byrne, Job Centre 'A' beat Steve McGannity, Maghull 'E' 23-21; 21-18; Fred Sullivan, B & D beat Dave Berry Maghull 'C' 21-16; 21-14 and finally Ron Makin and Jim Gordon, Job Centre 'A' beat Steve Arkwright and John Wright, Bath St.'G' 21-18; 10-21; 24-22. All of these worthies winning the only set in a nine one defeat.

That completes another season and I look forward to seeing you all again later in the year, or better still you can buy me a pint at the league dance.

DIVISION 4B

JACK LAMBERT

What can you say about a team that wins the cup and league and are undefeated in both competitions? A superb performance by Steve Collins, Steve Grant and Norman Challinor, the latter being undefeated and ahead on set wins by a hair's breadth, secretary Neil Travis was only a shade behind.

Kirkby have been firm favourites for the title from the word go but the number two spot has been wide open finishing with a straight fight between Jewish 'C' and Trinity 'C'. With two points clinching it for the Jewish boys, Malcolm Green leading the way with George Files and Warren Davies the 'stirrer', the backbone of a fine performance. The hard luck boys Trinity 'C' were superbly led by John Southworth and Ken Davies, with Dave Southworth and Roy Parry were equi-set winners and gave fine support, with Chris Reynolds filling in nicely when they were absent.

For Eng.Elec, Alan Thompson improved as the season went on and led the way with Margaret Collins also having a good season and Chris Birch only missing a game. Tony Cohen was the strong man for Jewish 'D' with Dave Colam having some good wins, with Richie Blackburn and John McKim the backing boys. Alan Guy was the Colonsay 'B' leading set scorer and only a shade behind the divisional leaders. Damian Turner also had an excellent season. Joan Turner and Muriel Cox finished about even set winners, but Muriel played all her games at number one. In her

Colonsay 'C' team Paul Manning is a young man of promise, Martin Neary supported Muriel well and Kristina must come good.

Courtaulds 'A' and 'B' and the Courtaulds Club as a whole deserve every credit for surviving after losing such an excellent club. The room they moved into was truly excellent (but not for table tennis). Eddie Preston of the 'B' was top of the Courtaulds teams, Roly Wright, Danny Every and Mile Hughes gave excellent support and all had goodish records. For the 'A' team stalwart Jim Geddes (he was brave enough to take over from Nick) young Mellor and Harrison played great supporting roles.

The young Vernon Sangster team cracked a bit at the end but Paul Beesley had a very good record with Marty Finnegan close behind. Maghull 'O' champ was our old friend Jeff Banks, Keith Whittaker and Wilf Gibson not missing a game and giving valuable support with Brian Gregson. Our leading lady was undoubtedly Mabel Neary with an excellent record. Bill Stanley and John Wallace were regular supporters for Wavertree Labour; Harrison (Courtaulds) beat O'Neill (Colonsay) 21-18,20-22, 24-22. In the Jewish 'Derby' Dave Cohen beat Dorman and Files and Tony lost to Dorman 20-22,21-17,27-29. Neary (Colonsay) had an excellent victory over Farquarson 12-21,21-8,21-9; Colonsay 'B' did very well, the best in fact to take 4 from Kirkby. English Electric became very excited when they led Wavertree 5-3 but Bill Stanley and Mabel cooled them down 5-5. They eventually beat Jewish 'D' 6-4. Birch 3; Whittaker (Maghull) beat Christie (Kirkby) 21-19,17-21,21-18; Gregory (Maghull) beat Green (Jewish) 22-24,24-22,21-11.

Farquarson easily top man for Bath St. but a good season for Eugene Berger, John Bolton and Neil Pritchett in that order. Take away Kirkby's terrific record and we had a reasonably balanced Division with not a lot of 9-1,10-0 score lines.

DIVISION 5A

BARRY MEYER

Congratulations to our champions - Rafter's, leaders from the first game and never looking likely to lose a match. Their closest game was at home to Aigburth 6-4 and I wasn't even playing! Highlight of this match was a magnificent two straight doubles win for Peter Knight and Alan Crist over Sue Smith and Jan Davies. Jan had the division's top single average with only one league defeat (by Peter Lee of Kirkby). From the cards to hand it appears the top No:1 rests between Peter Meyer and Dave Stoddern with Dave apparently unbeaten in the league since Christmas including a nineteen and eighteen win over Peter at Southwood Road.

Aigburth stole the runners-up spot from Kirkby over the final few weeks, mainly owing to an unbelievable 10-0 win for Argot at Kirkby and it was as easy as it looked because only two sets went to three and the closest of these was 21-10. Maghull came storming up the table late on, dropping only six sets in wins over Jewish, Warwick Bolam and Kirkby although Kirkby must be considered unlucky as four of their seven defeats in their match were by two points in the third. However, it does prove the old 'uns can still fight and it included a win by Alan Rycroft over Peter Lee 19-21,21-19,22-20 - whew! St.Giles had a good first season, as did the young Warwick Bolam team who do not rely on one or two players

to pick up most of their points as some of the other mid-table teams do. A little more consistency could see them much higher up the table next season. One of their players who really impressed me was Jon Piggott who beat Eric Wood and myself in a 3-7 home defeat. Even better, he beat Sue Smith 16 and 19.

Argot improved steadily throughout the season, stemming partly from the introduction of Norman Wilkinson in November. Brownmoor Park also had some good results as the season progressed and have a couple of good young prospects in Tony Luxford and A.Blackburn. Jewish continued collecting some good points without winning many matches including three at Rafters including a very good win for Stuart Polak over Sue Smith. Talking of Jewish, best wishes to Anna Cohen for a speedy recent recovery from her recent illness. For Aigburth Alan Crist had a highly satisfactory first season and can only improve with stronger competition in Div.4 next season.

Waterloo finally gave up the ghost and robbed us of a bit of glamour if not competition and with the demise of Vernon Sangster and non-starters Wav.Lab, we finished with a rather decimated division - leaving some teams with no match for up to a month. If only a solution could be found to this problem which crops up nearly every year in the fifth division.

Personal notes on the season:- Most enjoyable match, Kirkby at home: Most enjoyable game versus Ian Dunkow (we won and I won!): Most enjoyable opponents; Maghull (as always) and Rafters - it's not as bad when you lose to players near your own age or older.

Have a nice close season and I look forward to seeing some of you in the fourth next season - and perhaps a few more the following year.

DIVISION 5B

DAVE DAVIES

Congratulations to University. Although it was a forgone conclusion by Christmas that they would win the league, they were never totally merciless with the weaker teams. Part of this is due, no doubt, to the frequent changes in personnel. Melanie Ringrose, certainly lost form during this second half - the pressures of academic life, perhaps? I wish them well next year, and anticipate that they will trouble most 4th Division teams.

A surprise result for second place with Maghull 'F' taking the honours. They had been top or thereabouts all season, but this seemed mainly due to the number of completed fixtures. Although a good and much improved side, most people seemed to expect Cadwa 'B' to be runners up - except Maghull 'F' that is. They have shown the need for consistency throughout the season.

Cadwa 'B' have been most formidable opponents. They were the only team to win against University beating them 6-4, but unfortunately they lost 13 points by default during the season. The points may have lost them promotion, although due to dropouts higher up, they are still in with a chance.

Being selfish, I hope all three get promoted it will give Warwick Bolam a better chance of winning something next year. The lads have enjoyed the season, except

perhaps when they played Maghull 'F' at Maghull. Warwick Bolam were 'murdered' 9-1 - a night they wish to forget.

Brownmoor Park 'A' and Waterloo seemed to have had fair seasons especially Waterloo, considering it is their first season, Andy Nelson taking most of their honours.

Electric Supply and Liverpool Jewish 'E' have had disappointing seasons in terms of points, but like most of the teams in the division, they enjoy playing. There is little back-biting, although one or two teams like to make 'tactical changes' in their line up. Carnegie are an improved side from last season's. Like Maghull 'G' they have been defeated frequently but stoically come back for more.

Maghull 'G' may have taken the wooden spoon but have given a few teams some surprises - like Cadwa 'B' and Electric Supply, both drawn matches. By the way, which team does Frank Leece play for?

I hope Courtauld 'C' move of ground is beneficial. The problems that have occurred at Bootle Golf Club must have affected their approach to the game, and they should do better next season.

Overall an enjoyable season, with many interesting matches. Which returns me yet again to scoring the match as a running total. Have you tried it? It gives a lot of insight in retrospect and also helps idiots like me to 'see' how the matches develop.

TABLE EDGES

Roy Smith one of our most discerning, knowledgeable and likeable top class players gives us all an interesting talking point - a Top Ten Liverpool players over the past 20 years - 1 Tony Clayton (English Electric) 2, Ralph Gunnion (Linnetts) 3, John McNee 4, Arthur Taylor (Bath St.) 6, Keith Williams (Palmerston) 7, John Marshall (L'pool Y.M.) 8, Gordon Birch 9, Wally Allanson 10, Pete D'Arcy (All English Electric).

I, of course, have immediate ideas on Roy's basic selections - another time. But how do you assess, just say a player does a John Hilton and has one brilliant season at the top and then becomes below ordinary (in his own sphere of course) you have Arthur Taylor who rose to the top packed in and came back to the top a couple of times or Pete D'Arcy who stays at the top forever, he has just entered the National rankings at 50! Probably a personal opinion like Roy's is best.

CUP FINALS

STAMP : Maghull 'F' - University 6 : Ian Herriott of London gave University a fine start when he beat Harry McGannity 17 and 7. Mark Baker of Coventry beat Steve Banks 10 and 5. Dave Harrot of Cambridge lost to Peter Brownlee 14 and 21, a close one with Dave 15-20 down in the second. Ian again in top form beat Steve 12 and 7. Colin Parker of Kent lost to Brian Taylor 14 and 9. Herriott and Harrot beat Banks and McGannity 8 and 13. Harrot beat McGannity 13 and 14, Baker beat Taylor 16 and 16 to clinch the match for University 6-3. Parker lost to Brownlee 20-22, 21-13, 11-21, an excellent game finishing off an excellent match, with Herriott and Brownlee outstanding for their respective teams. Dave Wilson was the official in charge, the cup and trophies were presented by Jack Lambert, with V.I.P.'s John Hankin, Stan Clarke and Don Davies in attendance. J.A.L.

FORREST at Liverpool: Official in charge Mr. Don Cameron:-

Peter Dobbs v Steve Collins	17-21; 21-17; 14-21
Tony Moon v Norman Challoner	16-21; 9-21
Ian Fletcher v Steve Grant	19-21; 18-21
Peter Dobbs v Norman Challoner	12-21; 8-21
Tony Moon v Neill Travis	21-23; 16-21
Ian Douglas v Grant	14-21; 18-21
Douglas/Dobbs v Collins/Grant	14-21; 21-15; 20-22
Fletcher/Moon v Challoner/Travis	14-21; 14-21
Douglas v Collins	22-20; 18-21; 20-22
Fletcher v Travis	11-21; 21-9; 21-12

Cup and medals presented by Mr. Don Cameron.

CADWA No:1 Neil Gravenor left to work in Germany on Friday last. A match played in good spirit with Cadwa a little unlucky in the final score, Ian Douglas thrown in at No:1 particularly unlucky to lose to Steve Collins 20-22 in the third after leading 20-18. However, Kirkby by far the stronger team and thoroughly deserved their win. Second year in succession that Kirkby have won the cup.

Stan Clarke

HYDE: Electric Supply 4 Bootle 'A' 6. John McLoughlin beat Chris Fowler 19 and 15. Keith Miller lost to Paul Baker 21-17; 16-21; 21-23. Keith was 20-15 up in the third! Lawrence Kenwright beat battling Wally Lewis 18 and 16. Tommy Downing lost to Fowler 16-21; 21-13; 13-21: despite the water logged pitch! McLaughlin beat Alan Kelly 5 and 6, Downing lost to Lewis 12 and 15 (score 3-3 and quite a ball game has developed). Miller beat Kelly 16 and 13, Kenwright beat Baker in a crunch game 15-21; 21-11; 21-16: but back came Supply, Miller and McLaughlin. lost to Baker and Fowler 21-12; 17-21; 19-21: (Score 5-4) Kenwright and Downing lost the first 15, Kelly and Lewis lost the second 14 and are 18-14 up in the third but the Bootle boys came back to win the set and match 18 and 6-4. Phew, this excitement is too much!

A great game at the English Electric Club with John Sullivan in charge, and Life Member and Vice Chairman Jack McCaig presenting the cup and trophies with Stan Clarke in attendance.

J.A.L.

RUMJAHN: Vernon Sangster 8 English Electric 'B' 2: At the Electric Supply Club, Chris Ford lost to Joe Green 9 and 16. Paul Gittins beat Frank McCann 21-16; 17-21; 21-18: a close one. Adam Bennion beat Kevin Parker 21-17; 14-21; 21-9: and then Adam beat Julie Prince 16 and 17, a good call. Gittins beat Green 18-21; 21-13; 21-19, John Greene beat Parker 21-23; 21-17; 21-15: Gittins and Bennion lost to Julie and Green 21-18; 8-21; 12-21; (5.2 is this a fight back!?) perhaps it should have been when Ford beat Julie 9-21; 21-17; 21-18: but the score is 6-2 and a triumph for Vernon Sangster. Ford and Greene beat McCann and Parker 15 and 18: Greene beat McCann 21-23; 21-17; 21-15. I quote our Chairman, Arthur Upton - "Top marks for this game, I give it an excellent rating", and match official - Alec Gould - "A superb game". John McKim, our secretary and Kay and Ted Rumjahn were the V.I.P.'s in attendance, Ted presented the trophies, Roger Bennion produced a programme of the match a very pleasant innovation.

J.A.L.

READMAN: Wavertree Labour 8 Rafters 2: The match commenced on a high note with Roy Smith losing to Eric Hardman 17 and 16 in a superb game. Follow that! They did with heavy drama, good table tennis and a full house at English Electric. Malcolm McEvoy beat Alan Timewell 15 and 17. Phil Luxon beat Paul Ashcroft 22-20; 15-21; 21-12: Dave Roberts beat Hardman 13 and 16, Smith and Luxon beat Manning and Hardman 16-21; 21-16; 21-18: a vital win. Roberts and McEvoy beat Timewell and Ashcroft 21-16; 21-23; 21-14: After beating Labour 10-0 and 7-3 in league games Rafters had it all to do. Roberts beat Manning in a terrific game 16-21; 21-15; 21-13; and won the cup for Wavertree. Luxon beat Timewell 20-22; 21-16; 21-16; McEvoy beat Manning 22-24; 21-13; 21-12; Smith lost to Ashcroft 10 and 19. The fighting spirit of Wavertree overcame what was perhaps an over confident Rafters side. Alec Gould was the official in charge, chairman Arthur Upton presented the cup and medals and introduced Bobby Roberts of Royal Liver, a winner of the first Readman Cup Final, League Secretary John McKim was present and also Alan Mercer, Secretary of St.Helens League. Don Davies produced a very informative programme.

The Stamp Cup was very well supported. The Hyde better still as was the Rumjahn, The Readman had a record crowd. Sorry Forrest you were the odd one out. What a difference a few spectators make to the atmosphere. With best part of eighty at the Readman, and Wavertree, Rafters and English Electric providing refreshments it turned into quite a table tennis social event.

J.A.L.

APPEALS BOARD

The Liverpool Management Committee ruled that the following matches be rearranged. However, Vernon Sangster and Rafters applied to the Appeals Board with the following results:-

1. Liverpool Y.M. 'B' v Vernon Sangster:
Match to be re-arranged.
2. Vernon Sangster 'A' v Rafters 'A':
Match awarded to Vernon Sangster.
3. Wav. Lab 'A' v Trinity:
Match to be re-arranged.

Wavertree Labour appealed to County Appeal Board - their appeal was rejected at the meeting on 1st April.

John McKim - LEAGUE SECRETARY

P.S. It must be pointed out that Wavertree were willing to replay their game, but protested against the Management's decision in principle and in fact on rules.

THE MERSEYSIDE 2 STAR OPEN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD AT KIRKBY SPORTS CENTRE ON 27th MARCH 1982

Organising Committee: Hon.Chairman, Mr.A.E.Upton, Hon.Secretary, Mr.J.C.McKim, Hon.Treasurer, Mr.S.D.Cameron, Hon.Tournament Secretary, Tournament Organiser & Referee, Mr.B.A.Leeson (National Referee), Hon.Asst.Referees, Mr.K.Armson, Mr.R.Bennion, Hon.Equipment Officers, Mr.W.Leeming, Mr.S.Clark.

FINALS PROGRAMME

MEN'S SEMI-FINAL (1)	(Sale Moor)	Billy Gleave v Derek Schofield (Stockport)
		bt 21-17; 21-10
MEN'S SEMI-FINAL (2)	(Sheffield)	Steve Mills v Andy Bellingham (Wolves)
		bt 21-10; 21-12
JUNIOR BOYS FINAL	(Sale Moor)	Billy Gleave v Allan Cooke (Derby)
		bt 8-21; 21-11; 21-19
VETERANS FINAL	(Stockport)	Derek Schofield v Peter D'Arcy (Manchester)
		bt 19-21; 21-15; 21-18
WOMEN'S DOUBLES	(Preston)	Joy Grundy and Jean Parker (Preston)
		bt 21-11; 21-19
	(Staffs)	Jenny Cornock and Janet Dunning (Staffs)
MEN'S DOUBLES	(Wolverhampton)	Andy Creed and Allan Cooke (Derby)
		bt 23-21; 21-9
	(Bolton)	Steve Scowcroft and Peter D'Arcy (Manchester)
WOMEN'S SINGLES	(Preston)	Joy Grundy v Jill Harris (Walsall)
		bt 14-21; 21-8; 21-11
MEN'S SINGLES	(Sheffield)	Steve Mills v Billy Gleave (Sale Moor)
		bt 21-14; 18-21; 21-17

Acknowledgements to Baldwins of Wigan through Ro Craddock of English Electric and The Merseyside County Council.

CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sunday 28th March at Kirkby Sports Centre - Hon.Referee : Mr.B.A.Leeson

FINALS EVENTS

- SEMI-FINALS MEN'S SINGLES - Paul Hutchings (Bootle) beat Keith Williams (Palmerston) 21-14;15-21;21-3
Wayne Percival (Wav.Labour) beat Peter Flint (Vernon Sangster) 13-21;21-17;21-13
- JUNIOR BOYS FINAL - Mike Mercer (Rafters) beat Adam Bennion (Vernon Sangster) 21-16;21-15
- VETERANS' SINGLES FINAL - Fred Pheysey (Eng.Electric) beat Peter Turtle (L'pool Y.M.C.A.) 21-15;21-11
- RESTRICTED SINGLES FINAL - Lawrence Kenwright (Bootle) beat Keith Miller (Bootle) 21-13;20-22;21-17
- WOMEN'S DOUBLES FINAL - Julie Prince (Eng.Elec) and Sue Hughes (Bath St.) beat Barbara Kirkman (Colonsay) and Paula French (Vernon Sangster) 21-23;21-14;21-11
- MEN'S DOUBLES FINAL - Paul Hutchings (Bootle) and John Rankin (Bootle) beat Dave Roberts (Wav.Labour) and Malcolm McEvoy (Wav.Labour) 23-21;17-21;21-16
- WOMEN'S SINGLES FINAL - Julie Prince (Eng.Elec.) beat Barbara Kirkman (Colonsay) 16-21; 22-20; 21-15
- MEN'S SINGLES FINAL - Wayne Percival (Wav.Labour) beat Paul Hutchings (Bootle) 22-20; 21-14

ACKNOWLEDGMENT - To NORMAN SIMMONS AND CO., NORTH JOHN STREET, for generous sponsorship of this Tournament.

SUMMER COACHING FOR JUNIOR PLAYERS

A series of coaching sessions will be held during the summer months under the auspices of the Liverpool & District Table Tennis League. The series will be run and organised by John O'Sullivan and will probably be held at Trinity on Tuesday evenings (7-10 pm). The sessions will be free of charge but players will have to arrange their own transport.

All member clubs of the Liverpool & District League are invited to submit the names of interested Juniors to Don Davies, giving the following details:-

1. Name of Player
2. Club
3. Team/Division played in during 1981/82 Season
4. Date of Birth

If you have at least one more year as a Junior (under 17 on 30 June 1982) and are interested in being considered for a place on the course, make sure your Club Secretary submits your name.

R.H. BENNION - MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

D.M.Foulis,
Greenmead, Romsey Road,
Lyndhurst, Hants, SO4 7AR

Dear Jack,

A belated 'Thank you' for sending the 'Digest'. In your May issue you mention clubs breaking Cup Regulations and the League not being able to do anything about it until the next A.G.M. Presumably, the intention is to alter and improve the wording and thus close a loophole? May I suggest that Cup and other Competition Regulations should be separate from and independent of the League's Rules - and therefore capable of and subject to alterations by the Management Committee. This is the way it is in most other sports.

I have pleasure in enclosing a small cheque and with it my best wishes to you and the League for a Happy and Successful New Year.

Yours sincerely,
D.M.Foulis

English Electric I.T.C.

Dear Sir,

You may note that the English Electric 'C' team forfeited six points for playing an ineligible player. In point of fact the English Electric club submitted a ranking list on December 26th in accordance with league rule 15. Assuming that the league rule covered the automatic re-ranking, we would not have to wait weeks and possibly months for a committee approval, only then was the player selected. Incidentally I hear that we were the only club to obey the rule. So what happened to the teams who didn't submit re-ranking lists and broke the rule? did they lose the points or matches by playing to old ranking lists after January 1st.

Jack Lambert, Hon.Sec. English Electric

K.A.Armson,
21 Armscot Close.

Dear Sir,

Readman Cup Final

Having witnessed at first hand the reactions of certain players at a cup final I feel I should express my feelings in writing.

I took with me two members of my family and whilst I had told them I did not think we would win, I did assure them this would not only be an entertaining match, but one which would be played in a sporting manner.

Those I took along later expressed their disgust at the attitude and remarks of two members of Rafters team who were sitting alongside us. The griping and whining

was not only unbelievable, but also unacceptable from representatives of a club of Rafter's standing.

One of those involved did not at any time I was there, either during or after the match, congratulate the winning team. I clearly heard them imply our team captain was a cheat, implying that they had lost not by being beaten by a better team on the night, but by cheating. Other spectators and players could also hear these two players and for me what should have been a memorable occasion was brought down to gutter level.

No-one likes losing and we all generally think our opponent was lucky, but sportswanship and dignity are not about being a good winner, but being a good loser. Maybe, not right away, but when the heat of the moment has died away and you know that it was your fault for losing, not his for winning.

In regard to the remarks made about our team captain I will say that when the two players concerned have given the same service and dedication to a club and this league as he has and have the same respect for their opponents then they just might be in reach of him. Until that doubtful time arrives they should let their table tennis ability do their talking for them. Our captain plays in no other league and gives 100% allegiance to his club and this league. In my 17 years as club secretary I have never known him miss a match. His record in this respect will never be surpassed. To imply that he is a cheat drags those concerned and their club to the very lowest level.

We won because our players went to this match determined to win. They lost because they thought they just had to turn up and the cup was theirs for the asking. I am proud to be able to say this was our greatest ever victory gained for us by the determination of our players and the leadership of their experienced, dedicated and competitive captain. Unfortunately, it was marred by a disgraceful exhibition of bad sportswanship.

For me, this matter is now closed, but no doubt one player will again decline to speak to me for another two years.

Yours faithfully,

K.Armson, Hon.Secretary, Wav.Lab.I.I.C.

5 Green Park Drive

Dear Editor,

This is my first season in the Liverpool League, or any other I.I.league for that matter, going back for many years to when the Barna reigned supreme, and I was a young lad.

Eighteen months ago, being grey and over forty, the last thing on my mind was table tennis, but a combination of circumstances changed all that. I suppose the first step was when I packed up smoking and consequently felt a great deal fitter. A nostalgic game at Prestatyn Holiday Camp with my son Martin - a chance encounter with the coach Alan Guy, who is of a similar vintage to myself - we both used to go to Waterloo Grammar and play table tennis at Wilson's Lane Methodist, Litherland - a chat with a colleague at work, John O'Sullivan, and

another with Gordon Brownlee at the nearby Maghull Community Association, at which I was at great pains to explain that I was only interested in getting my son started, followed by some regular out of season practice with a selection of players, mostly very patient and helpful, like Gordon and our Secretary Stan Clarke, from the very strong-in-depth Maghull Club, and ending with my selection as Captain of our 'G' team, which is playing in Division 5A.

Being captain of the bottom team requires the wisdom of Solomon, together with the skin of a rhinoceros. We have a pool of six players. The stronger players naturally feel that they should always be selected, but as we are the bottom team in the bottom division, the other players also need consideration and should be given a chance, not just to play, but also perhaps to win. The biggest blow to the team's morale so far was when the senior Maghull 'F' team was due to play us and found that they would be short of a regular player. Being at the top of the division meant that every point was important to them, so of course they called up one of our better players to play against his own team!

At the risk of being accused of sour grapes, may I comment that, on the face of it, Division 5A appears to be much stronger than Division 5B, whereas I understand that they are supposed to be divided equally. The following teams:- Warwick Bolam, Brownmoor Park, Waterloo and Liverpool Jewish all appear to have more senior teams in 5A, only Maghull having the nominally more senior team in 5B. Also, the Stamp Cup Final is between two 5A teams, University and Maghull 'F'.

I would like to nominate my team's Dave Lamden as Division 5A's "Character of the Season", with his unique, but match effective style, "overkill" smash (if he breaks another new Astoll 3 Star again, I'll not pick him for the next three matches!), loud self-exhortations to better things between points, equally loud claims for "edges", "nets" and "volleys" that escape the notice of the match ref. (and the rest of us) and enthusiastic acknowledgments of good shots, regardless of who the player is!

Finally, please feel free to use or discard any or all of the above material in the Digest.

W.Salter

Dear Jack,

We have been asked if we wish to reply to a letter that has been sent to you by the Secretary of Wavertree Labour Club with regards to a recent match in which our team completed. Unfortunately the exact contents of the letter are not known to us, but knowing the writer of the complaint we feel that no reply is necessary as the league knows this person and what he stands for.

We would also add before he complains he should put his own house in order.

How nice to see a girls team in the honours - it takes you back a bit - Pauline Lawrenson (Eng.Flec.1918, CADWA 1939) and Jean Reynolds of the old gang - Jean could go on for ever and Sue Smith (Miss Rafter's 1982) and Janet Davies how can she win games with a Liverpudlian husband like wot she's got! Congratulations.

To: Arthur Upton, John McKim, the Management Committee and all my other table tennis friends.

After last night my understanding of the Eamonn Andrews programme is much more appreciated. Arthur Upton's version of "This is your Life Jack Lambert" was quite brilliant, and to hear someone delving into my past to a crowded and attentive audience was to me quite unreal, I wondered what was coming next - and then came the lust bit and my secret was out!

I have to admit, to have so many shake me by the hand, and I don't forget the kisses - was quite a moving experience. Despite a late night and a fair sized head - did everyone buy me a drink, or did it just seem that way? It was not until the following morning that the thrill and appreciation of the whole thing really hit me!

For my part, what can I say about the game that I have loved, I have experienced every thrill, spill and heartbreak in the game. I have been a secretary for a long time only because I have had so many broad and wonderfully friendly shoulders to cry on, Jack Longstaffe Jimmy Byrne, Gordon Birch (he gave me one of my biggest thrills when we won the Readman Cup for the first time he walked straight across the Wavertree Club room and plonked it in my arms), Albert Parker and Ken Black and for so many years Wally Sill - a positive tower of strength to me and the English Electric Club - although we are not too friendly at the moment and come to think of it I am a bit cool with Sheila, Audrey and Alex after the "This is your Life" effort!?

To those of you who were not at the dance I was presented with the "Stamp Award of Merit" and a cheque to purchase a present of my choice. To say that I appreciate the honour is putting it mildly. I have tried to put a little back into the game that I have enjoyed so much, from Minna (she received a beautiful bouquet) and myself, thank you.

Jack Lambert

How did he manage to get into the magazine you may ask. Well, Joan from the C.I.L. Agency was on the phone and said she required a little more copy on the Friday after my presentation - was this also part of the plan that kept me in the dark and gave me the surprise of my life.

Our thanks to Alan Woods, Jimmy Jones and the Police Sports Club for the use of the dance hall in their excellent premises. What a superb buffet Peter Lee put on - he is in the sandwiches and catering business, so you know where to go, his address is in the handbook. To those who attended the dance - thank you for your support. We know that choosing Thursday was a bad night - it will be bigger and better next year. And I thought Alan and Peter could only play table tennis - you live and learn!

BOOTLE Y.M.C.A.

I cannot tell a lie. The 1956/57 handbook that I said pushed itself to the fore

in a previous magazine, was not mine - I realised this when I came to put it away. It was the LEAGUE handbook that Gordon Brownlee (Maghull) passed on to me, Gordon also passed on a Bootle YMCA handbook. Despite having no direct connection with the Y.M. I always had a soft spot for the club. After reading the handbook my admiration knows no bounds.

My only connection with the wooden hut (a big one) in Stanley Road was of course table tennis. You went in and turned right and there were what appeared to be hundreds of youngsters queueing up for the first two tables and doing everything wrong from a table tennis point of view - on the third table a more sedate group doing most things right in table tennis. You then pokes your nose through a large curtain and you played your match, and enjoyed it despite the squabbles over whose turn it was etc., on the other side.

Being 6'3" I have always been allergic to little fellas on the other side of the table especially if they hit hard and often, that is probably why I distinctly remember playing Ron Rumjahn at Clubmoor (his dad was Number 1) and Gordon Birch at Bootle Y.M. The latest was Les Molyneaux (Wav.Labour) about a year ago. I was fortunate to miss Adam Bannion (Vernon Sangster) on the way up, but I agree with Les French there are great similarities between Adam and the Birch character.

But back to the Y.M. it catered for all sorts and sizes of youth activities apart from 4 table tennis teams camping for instance was looked after by Brian Crolley of English Electric and there were 17 other sporting and social activities. There is a photograph of the Bootle Y.M. Div.2 Championship side in Gordon's handbook with no names.

Names we know from the Bootle Y.M. stable are Wally Allanson, Gordon Birch and Brian Crolley all of English Electric, Alan Timewell (Rafters), Roger Bennion (Vernon Sangster), Gordon Brownlee (Maghull), Albert Harris the current Everton goalkeeper at that time played for them. Ian Rogerson, and Fred Cadwallader were well known Bootle names of the past. Undoubtedly the best known was Ralph Gunnion who at his peak was near the top of the English Rankings with more than a few international caps, although unfortunately for us he gained most of his fame after moving to Birmingham. A good story about Ralph, when English Elec. were at their peak a few seasons ago, Linnets were also having a very good run with Frank Thomas and his Blackburn contingent. Jimmy Green had Ralph on his books and decided to bring him up here at his own expense from Birmingham to crunch the Electric champs. Gordon Birch beat him two straight!

The Y.M. finished as we knew it when the local councillors decided to pull down the hut and a new warden let his religious principles overcome humanitarian needs and the requirements of the youth of the area.

LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE RESULTS

First Team:- V Rochdale 8 - 2 Salford 5 - 5
Manchester 3 - 7 Preston 0 - 10
Stockport 3 - 7 Blackburn 9 - 1
Wirral 7 - 3

Keith Williams 11; Paul Hutchings 10

'A' Team:- V Preston 'A' 1 - 9 Farnworth 3 - 7
Salford 'A' 9 - 1 Barrow 6 - 4
Manchester 'A' 2 - 8 Lytham 5 - 5
Bolton 1 - 9

Ladies:- V Southport 8 - 2 Warrington 6 - 4
Bury 8 - 2 Salford 3 - 7
Manchester 8 - 2 Stockport 6 - 4
Preston 3 - 7 Oldham 10 - 0 W/O

Lynn Fennah, Barbara Kirkham, Paula French played in all games.

Junior First:- V Lancaster &
Morecambe 9 - 1 Crewe 2 - 8
Macclesfield 10 - 0 Farnworth 7 - 3
Wirral 10 - 0 Widnes/Runcorn 10 - 0 W/O

Adam Bennion, Paul Ashcroft, Laurence Kenwright

Junior 'A' V Preston 8 - 2 Stockport 'A' 10 - 0
Stockport 3 - 7 Warrington 'A' 8 - 2
Fleetwood 2 - 8 Oldham 'A' 9 - 1
Bury 'A' 6 - 4 Manchester 'A' 5 - 5

Les Molyneaux, Dave Riley and Paul Kavanagh played in all games.

Ladies - Rose Bowl Business Houses 4 - 5

Men - Wilmott - Stockport 3 - 6

Junior - Carter - Blackpool 6 - 0; Fleetwood 3 - 5

Norman Cook Handicap Business Houses 3 - 5

Don Davies

DIVISION 1	P	W	L	D	Pts
Rafters	26	23	3	-	209
Wav. Labour	26	24	2	-	196
Bootle	26	21	5	-	193
Palmerston	26	20	5	1	181
Eng. Electric	26	16	9	1	166
L'pool YMCA	26	15	10	1	151
Eng. Elec. 'A'	26	9	14	3	111
Maghull	26	10	12	4	109
Wav. Lab. 'A'	26	7	15	4	108
L'pool Jewish	26	8	17	1	93
Wav. Lab. 'B'	26	4	18	4	89
Liverpool Y.M. 'A'	26	4	18	4	78
Trinity	26	6	19	1	76
Bath St.	26	-	20	6	60

DIVISION 2	P	W	L	D	Pts
Vernon Sang. 'A'	26	20	3	3	193
Vernon Sang.	26	21	2	3	186
L'pool Jewish 'A'	26	19	6	1	169
Maghull 'A'	26	11	12	3	147
Elec. Supply	26	16	7	3	145
Eng. Elec. 'B'	26	15	9	2	141
Palmerston 'A'	26	10	10	6	133
Police	26	11	10	5	133
Rafters 'A'	26	9	12	5	127
Bath St. 'A'	26	9	11	6	111
Colonsay	26	7	15	4	105
Cadwa	26	5	15	6	100
L'pool Y.M. 'B'	26	2	20	4	82
Trinity 'A'	26	1	24	1	48

DIVISION 3A	P	W	L	D	Pts
Bootle 'A'	26	26	-	-	222
Plessey	26	23	2	1	213
Courtaulds	26	17	6	3	168
Argot	26	17	7	2	165
Maghull 'B'	26	15	9	2	150
Vagabonds	26	16	6	4	150
Vernon Sang. 'B'	26	13	10	3	137
Colonsay 'A'	26	10	14	2	121
L'pool Jewish 'B'	26	10	12	4	114
Police 'A'	26	6	18	2	90
Bath St. 'C'	26	6	19	1	89
Eng. Elec. 'C'	26	8	17	1	89
Trinity 'B'	26	1	24	1	66
Wav. Lab. 'D'	26	-	24	2	46

Note:- Engl. Elec. 'C' forfeited 6 points for playing an ineligible player

DIVISION 3B	P	W	L	D	Pts
Elec. Supply 'A'	22	17	2	3	164
Eng. Elec. 'D'	22	17	3	2	146
Vernon Sang. 'C'	22	14	5	3	138
Bath St. 'B'	22	14	7	1	134
Brownmoor Pk.	22	14	6	2	133
Linacre	22	12	7	3	123
Eng. Elec. 'E'	22	9	11	2	89
Aigburth	22	5	14	3	83
Bath St. 'D'	22	4	13	5	83
Wav. Lab. 'C'	22	3	12	7	82
Bath St. 'E'	22	2	14	6	76
Aigburth 'A'	22	1	18	3	69
Police 'B' Record expunged					

DIVISION 4A	P	W	L	D	Pts
Cadwa 'A'	24	21	1	2	185
Elec. Supply 'B'	24	21	2	1	181
Bootle J.C.	24	17	3	4	160
Maghull 'C'	24	14	9	1	143
Bootle 'B'	24	13	8	3	132
Rafters 'B'	24	11	9	4	131
Vagabonds 'B'	24	11	10	3	119
Vagabonds 'A'	24	9	14	1	107
Bath St. 'G'	24	8	14	2	101
Barker & Dobson	24	8	15	1	100
Eng. Elec. 'F'	24	6	15	3	98
Richmond	24	4	19	1	77
Bootle J.C. 'A'	24	-	24	-	26

DIVISION 4B	P	W	L	D	Pts
Kirkby	24	24	-	-	207
L'pool Jewish 'C'	24	17	4	3	157
Trinity 'C'	24	15	6	3	155
Colonsay 'B'	24	17	6	1	150
Bath St. 'F'	24	14	6	4	143
Courtaulds 'A'	24	11	10	3	121
Maghull 'D'	24	11	11	2	117
Courtaulds 'B'	24	10	12	2	115
Vernon Sang. 'D'	24	6	13	5	105
L'pool Jewish 'D'	24	6	14	4	89
Eng. Elec. 'G'	24	2	19	3	76
Colonsay 'C'	24	3	16	5	70
Wav. Lab. 'E'	24	1	20	3	55
Police 'C' Record expunged					

<u>DIVISION 5A</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts
University	20	19	1	-	161
Maghull 'F'	20	14	6	-	141
Cadwa 'B'	20	17	2	1	139
Warwick Bolam	20	15	5	-	131
Brownmoor Pk. 'A'	20	10	8	2	105
Waterloo	20	7	10	3	84
Courtaulds 'C'	20	4	9	7	84
L'pool Jewish 'E'	20	3	14	3	74
Elec. Supply 'C'	20	3	12	5	63
Carnegie	20	2	14	4	57
Maghull 'G'	20	2	15	3	55

Includes one University result as
4-0 abandoned following gas explosion.

<u>DIVISION 5B</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts
Rafters 'C'	16	16	-	-	134
Aigburth 'B'	16	11	4	1	102
Kirkby 'A'	16	9	6	1	89
Maghull 'E'	16	9	6	1	82
Argot 'A'	16	7	7	2	79
St.Giles	16	3	11	2	66
Brownmoor Pk. 'B'	16	4	7	5	62
Warwick Bolam 'A'	16	5	10	1	60
L'pool Jewish 'F'	16	-	13	3	44

Waterloo 'A' and Vernon Sangster 'E'
records expunged.

MORE TABLE EDGES

It was nice to hear from Mr. Fred Micklesfield one of our vice-presidents and ex chairman of the Liverpool League and Everton Football Club. He told me he doesn't go to any away games with Everton, but sees all the home games unless the weather is really bad - he was 93 last March! Pretty good going, he sends his best wishes to all members and we reciprocate his wishes and wish him all the best for the future.

Table Tennis News is available at £5.00 a season post free for 8 copies and it's nearly as good as the Digest.

Your Editor is very interested in any copies of volumes 7,8,9,20 & 21 that you do not require, or any other Table Tennis gems that mum or your charming wife is about to throw out.