



# Table Tennis DIGEST

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LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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## MEDITORIAL OR THOUGHTS OF A NUMBER FOUR

Oh! good, the league tables have arrived.

Now, according to my own records, our team should be top with three matches in hand and no sets dropped.

Huh! look at this - a typical error by the fixture secretary! He's got us next to bottom having played six matches more than the team below us.

Now although on paper, it looks as if we've lost all our matches, he obviously hasn't taken into account our letters to the league committee claiming walkovers over all the teams we've played so far, in view of their unsporting behaviour and pathetic and inadequate playing facilities.

Look at the top team for instance, what did we find when we arrived at their place? Immediate and unbridled hostility, that's what!

"Hello lads" they said "Hope we have a good match - the cakes and butties are ready now if you want them - and what would you like to drink? tea with, or coffee without?". If that's not ungentlemanly conduct I don't know what is!

Then there's that room of theirs, if you can call it a room, there's not enough room to swing a bat in! and I've seen better tables on wheels in Birkenhead market.

The decor's O.K., I'll give them that - I mean that black wallpaper with table tennis balls sized dots is very tasteful, although I am not too happy about that open trap door in the floor, at one end of the table. Now I'll not say anything about their slippery floor, but it's interesting to note that Robin Cousins and John Curry have signed on for them this season.

Those blobs of chewy on the table don't help either, not to mention those concrete supporting pillars one of which passes through the table on the left hand side. Oh! and there's that old heating boiler that sends jets of steam up the leg of your keks at crucial points.

And what about their net? - a pair of second hand tights stretched between two six inch nails would be better - come to think of it, it is a pair of tights stretched between two six inch nails.

It's about time they got that roof fixed as well, we'd have won that Cup match last year if it hadn't been for the snow on the table - and that barman will have to go an' all, I mean it's bad enough having the bar behind the Umpire's chair in the first place but does he have to put trays of empty glasses on the table while he opens the door??? I'm beginning to think he does it deliberately - the least he could do is wait till the rallies have finished.

The more I think about it, the more I feel we have sufficient grounds to get them expelled from the league - I'll write a letter right now - 'ang on - what time is it? Hmmm! 7.20 p.m. I'd better leave it until tomorrow, our opponents will be arriving any minute now and it's my turn to move the 'orse and cart out of the playing room .....

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## DIVISION 1

## LES FRENCH

This year's championship seems to be destined for Rafters, with Bootle, Palmerston and Wavertree Labour the only serious challengers. The regular Rafters side of Trevor Manning, Eric 'Sherlock' Hardman, Paul Ashcroft and Alan Timewell is very strong and must be favourites to retain their title.

Bootle, with new signing Tony O'Connor replacing John Rankin, have made an excellent start and are my tip to be Rafters' closest challengers. With Paul Hutchings and Tony they can take on the best players. Lawrence Kenwright, is rapidly developing into a top-class player and with Ricky Brown, the team will be hard to beat.

Wavertree Labour also made a great start, with Dave Roberts, Captain Roy Smith and Phil Luxon dropping only two league sets between them before they met newcomers Vernon Sangster. Malcolm McEvoy had dropped 4 sets and on the eve of the V.S. match decided to transfer to Palmerston. Labour have replaced him with John Hook who had been turning in some great performances for the 'A' team and has already beaten Keith Williams, McEvoy and Roberts. Percival and Hardman have tasted defeat. Only Tony O'Connor and Peter Flint have beaten him to date.

The Wavertree - Vernon Sangster match had everything. The first three sets all went to 18 in the third or closer. Sangster won them all. John Rankin beat Roy Smith, then Peter Flint repeated his cup victory over John Hook. Les French took away Phil Luxon's 100% league record 22-20 in the third. Dave Roberts beat Howard Flint easily then we saw an epic battle between John Rankin and John Hook, with the Wavertree man taking it 10-21, 24-22, 23-21. Sangster went 4-2 up when Flint/Rankin beat Hook/Roberts, again in the third. In the Captain's battle, Roy beat Les easily but Sangster went 5-3 up with a surprisingly easy 17, 10 win for Les/Howard over Roy/Phil. Peter Flint then won the match with a devastating 21-9, 21-10 win over Dave Roberts. Phil beat Howard 21-18, 24-22.

Vernon Sangster tasted their first defeat at Bootle by the same scoreline, 6-4. Tony 'Sugar' O'Connor (at least that's what I thought he said) and Ricky Brown both won 2 for Bootle. Peter Flint won two for Sangster, Paul beat John Rankin deuce twice.

Palmerston made a poor start to the season despite the excellent form of Keith Williams. They lost their opening match 6-4 to Wav.Lab.'A'. Then they were beaten by Vernon Sangster 7-3, despite an heroic performance by Keith Williams, who beat his 'bogey' man Peter Flint and then John Rankin. Now that they have signed Malcolm McEvoy their team has a more solid look as shown by recent wins of 6-4 over Y.M. and 7-3 over Bootle, without Paul Hutchings.

Both English Electric and Y.M.C.A. had a series of impressive wins which kept them in touch with the leaders. For Electric, Phil Thomson had been playing with great conviction to win his first ten sets, before losing to O'Connor and Hutchings at Bootle, who won 7-3. Electric have drawn with Y.M. and V.S.

Y.M.C.A. started well with 19 sets from W.L.B. and Maghull. The first doubles between Flint/French and Harry Johnston/Peter Taylor (nee Turtle) boasted four combination bats. The V.S. pair won 19,16. Peter Lee made his claim to fame in this match by coming back from 13-4 down against Peter Flint to win 21-19 in the third.

The relegation battle seems to be between four teams, Wav.Lab.'B', Y.M.C.A. 'A', Maghull and Jewish. I think that Y.M. will collect the wooden spoon due to their unsettled team. Maghull have better players in their club, so it would seem that they have decided that it will be easier to get promotion from the second division than avoid relegation.

Jewish seem very dispirited this year. Eddie Clein isn't taking his game seriously (I never thought I'd live to see that day) which shows with only two wins from 10 sets. John Henshaw and Richard Stevenson have the same record as Eddie with Julian Quirk doing best, with 4 wins. Jewish also have good players in their 'A' team, like Maghull, also challenging for promotion.

Wav.Lab. 'B' are struggling but won't give up. Mick Tierney and Les Molyneux both only have two wins out of 12 sets and Mick Feerick has only one win, Ray Jackson, with 3/10 is doing better. I expect either Jewish or W.L.B. to go down with Y.M. 'A'.

Wav.Lab. 'A' and Vernon Sangster 'A' form their own little group in mid-table, free from relegation worries. Billy Wardle is playing well and can boast a win over Peter Flint. W.L. 'A' did well to hold Rafters to 4-6. John Hook beat Wayne Percival 21-16, 22-20 and Eric 'Sherlock' Hardman 21-18, 17-21, 21-18. Billy Wardle also beat Masterspy 22-20, 18-21, 21-17 so clearly he didn't do enough research on the Wavertree team. Billy partnered Rob Bevan to a great doubles win over Wayne/Eric 19, 18. It was left to the young talents of Paul Ashcroft and Mike Mercer to save the day for Rafters.

Electric, without Phil Thomson, drew with Y.M.C.A. Stand-in Tommy Williams beat Peter Taylor 19,13. Only Peter Lee managed to win both of his singles.

Steve Green is having an excellent season for Y.M. 'A' with 7 wins out of 10. Steve beat Eddie Clein and Julian Quirk but his team lost 7-3 to Jewish.

Steve did it again when Y.M.'A' beat Wav.Lab.'B' 7-3, Captain Ron Jones won his first sets of the season in beating Les Molyneux and reserve Jim Madigan.

To close, some good individual efforts in 9-1 defeats. Mark Royden beat Mal McEvoy 18, 11. Dave Tagg beat Lawrence Kenwright 18,26, Les Molyneux beat Ricky Brown 16,19, beat Fred Pheysey 17,17. Tommy Williams beat Alan Timewell 18,18, beat Roy Smith 17,14. John Greene beat Paul Ashcroft 23-21, 22-20. Paul Gittins beat Rod McPherson 20-22, 21-13, 22-20. Ray Jackson beat Graham Parr and Alec Bryce in an 8-2 defeat.

Finally, I believe a Jewish away match was abandoned due to failure of the lights. You'll never guess where, but it suffices to say that Elec. Supply are in the second division.

## DIVISION 2

DON DAVIES

With half the season completed and with most of the results in it is not difficult to assess the promotion and relegation candidates. Normally your note writer indulges in a guessing game after about five or six matches of who will finish where. Having seen all the teams except Electric B and Plessey it is clear that Maghull 'A' barring accidents will be Champions with either Jewish 'A' or Electric 'B' as runners-up. Maghull's team of Alan Chase, Frank Murphy, Ted Birch and Mick Allen, all of whom have First Division experience have proved a difficult side to beat with three sets being the maximum they have dropped in a match. Alan Chase has been the mainstay losing only to Richie Cragg (Eng.Elec.C) and Mike Mahoney (Palmerston). In the last match in the first half of the season Jewish 'A' with a 100% record also were the visitors to Maghull and were hoping to be the first team to beat the leaders. The home side however not only kept their unbeaten record but gained their thirteenth consecutive victory winning by 7 sets to 3. Both teams juggled their team order with Frank Murphy at number 1, Al Chase, Birch and Allen while Jewish lined up Roy Bradbury, Bob Hudson, Ian Burrows and Jim McMillan. Chase and Birch remained unbeaten, while Murphy beat Bradbury, Allen losing to Burrows and McMillan, Hudson picking up the other Jewish set against Murphy, Maghull took both doubles.

English Electric 'B' are also a difficult side to beat and have lost only to Maghull 7-3 and Jewish 9-1, Jim McMillan losing to number 1 Brian Crolley. The next two teams Plessey and Electric Supply are neck and neck for fourth place the Roby Club having worked their way through the divisions and have earned their place the hard way. Number 1 Trevor Owens who played many times for Liverpool Men's 'A' team and made a few appearances for the First team including on one occasion in 1971 against Stockport, when he stood in for Tony Clayton, then ranked number 3 in England! He is joined by former Aigburth team-mates Ray Lavin and Peter Wass the quartet being completed by Bob Edwards. Elec.Supply started off badly losing four of their first six matches but have picked up recording six wins and a draw in their next seven matches and regularly turn out Allan Biggs, Peter Carney, Paul Baker and Alan Cameron. Another team with a regular

line-up is Palmerston 'A', Mike Mahoney and Paul Kinsey both having recorded good wins in the First Division in the past and they are joined by Neil Jennings and Jim Riding. With only two teams in the league, the Police rely heavily on their top four players being available which means the usual line-up is Dave Crispin, Tom Purcell, Don Chalkley and back after a break of three years is Gareth Jones. They are at a distinct disadvantage as outsiders are not allowed to play for them and the loss of Steve Baker was a great blow to them.

Tom Killip and John Higham have been in the same team for a number of years and enjoyed the last few seasons playing in the First Division before being relegated. The Trinity number 1 is Mike Keane and Martin Truman completes the line-up with brother Dave also a useful player filling from time to time - Dad Mike having hung up his 'bats' - remember the miniature knocking-up bat! The other relegated team is Bath Street who apart from an occasional change turn out Fred Bainbridge, Clive Chislett, Mal Cray and Peter Ross although Dave Butterworth, Bill Clayton and Ian McElwee have also appeared.

From the next five teams will almost certainly come the four relegation candidates, Elec.Supply 'A', Bath St. 'A', Bootle 'A', Eng.Elec. 'C' and Rafter's 'A'. Four of those five teams met each other recently both matches ending in close results. Eng.Elec. 'C' lost at home 6-4 to Bath St. 'A' although Richie Cragg scored a superb win over Dave Butterworth and also beat John Letch, Rob Peverall also beating Letch with Cragg and Ian Lunt winning their doubles event. One week later Bath St. 'A' entertained Bootle 'A' with Butterworth, Letch, Alan Waddington and Bill Clayton all winning one each while for the visitors Ian Miller beat Butterworth and Waddington and John McLoughlin beat Letch and Clayton, the doubles events being shared the final score being 5 sets all.

The Quarter-finals of the Rumjahn Cup pairs Trinity 'A' with Police, Jewish 'A' v Eng.Elec. 'B', Elec.Supply v Plessey and Bath St. 'A' against Palmerston 'A'. In the First round Jewish and Maghull drew at Dunbabin Road but then in the replay with Red Birch replacing 'Harry' Harrison, the home side were beaten 6-4. Maghull will kick themselves for having let a 5-2 lead slip away from them, Alan Chase was unbeaten in his four singles events.

Eng.Elec. 'C' fought out a draw with Police with both Cragg and Peter Holmes beating Crispin but could not repeat their achievements in the replay, the Fair-field side winning by 7 sets to 3.

### DIVISION 3A

JACK LAMBERT

Without picking up a bat or hitting a ball I find myself promoted from Div.4B without a medal in sight - although come to think of it I didn't do too bad at the dance.

Some time ago outside my notes I mentioned stalwarts and backbone players of the league. We have more than a few here - to name a few (and put my foot in it for the many I have not) Arthur Harrison, Electric Supply many battles - Tom Lawson

and Joan Monaghan, Trinity - remember Knotty Ash T.I.C.; Jim Geddes and Les Higham, Courtaulds; Trevor Hughes - the casual sec. and Ken Hartley, Cadwa. Dave Cunningham, a Bath Street evergreen. Norman Challoner, Kirkby C. George Wright, Alan Wood, the happy sec. and boozy Sue Anderson and all the Colonsay gang, Dave Piper, Harry Nelson, Dennis Goodwin and our rule wizard Brian Leeson. Wally Sill my co-director and R.Craddock - my competition sponsor Eng.Elec., Malcolm Green - tactician and George Files, Jewish, Bill Hargreaves and Mike Elson memories of Woolton B.C. and how about Vagabonds - Ted Barnes, Eng.Elec. and Anfield?! Bob Owen, super coach, Doug Ridgeway, Rafters and Ian Johnstone, Victoria Park (have a look in the 1918 handbooks for Vict.Park and Anfield) Ian Wensley and hard hitting Sue Manning a rose by any other name! - Vernon Sangster.

and then there's Maghull -

The Championship as usual I think is a foregone conclusion I cannot see anyone pipping the strong Vernon Sangster boys and girls tens against Jewish and Colonsay indicate their strength and the Colonsay outfit is more than fair with ten also against Jewish. Cadwa will be the number two outfit but could put up a bold challenge for the title.

I am sorry about Courtaulds and Police 'A' because there are so many nice guys amongst them! I am also sorry that the championship is as usual cut and dried. This however, leaves a great battle for mid table supremacy. Vagabonds put out too many weak teams and their form is not as consistent as of old. The Electric boys seem set for a battle - Supply and English, but I prove myself a coward by saying that Argot, Trinity 'A', Colonsay 'A' and Kirkby will all fight for the three spot. To prove a point Trinity 'A' and English Elec.'D' fought a draw, Alan Brown 2 and Wally Sill and Keith Wright really taken all the way when they beat Joan Monaghan and Tom Lawson 18-21; 25-23; 21-19. Another draw saw Reg Edwards and Mal Green excel with three wins each. One could say that this was Trinity's month, a 7-3 against Electric Supply, Lawson beating John Moore 26-24 in the third and Joan beating Alan Leigh 24-22 in the third, a 9-6-4 against Kirkby - Norman Challoner and Steve Collins won the four with Dave Southworth getting a treble.

Bobby Owen (Vags.) tried to dent Vernon Sangster hopes by beating Steve Gittins and Ian Wensley but trebles from Paula French and Mark Reed clinched a 7-3 for V.S.

And for the heroic lone rangers, Roby Wright a singles and doubles against Kirkby's 8, the singles against a name from the past Duggie Christie - welcome back and junior Les Higham a lone one against Eng.Elec., Ted Barnes the one against Argot, Alan Wood the police hero against Elec.Supply, and Dennis Goodwin also against Supply. Steve Baker, Bath St. 24-22; 25-23 over Pete McAdam (Cadwa) and Tom Lawson against Trevor Hughes. Has Tom now left the fold?

If you really fancy writing a sequel to this dramatic and exciting story, contact Ken Armon or myself.

Somewhat to their surprise, perhaps, Brownmoor Park find themselves not only top but also sweeping all before them. The same players could only manage fifth place last season. This poses the question, is this division weaker this season, or have they improved? A little of each, I think. They are playing with the confidence of having played regularly together and having a few wins behind them. With the now real probability of promotion in their sights their confidence will be increasing with every match.

Linacre are again pushing for promotion and although they are well placed I don't think they will make it back to the second division. However, they can never be taken lightly and are one of the teams whose results against the championship hopefuls may be the deciding factor. They had a good result against Brownmoor Park gaining four sets and drew with Liv.Y.M.'B'. The Y.M. team fancy their chance of going straight back into the second division and are trying to keep in touch with the leaders. With wins against V.S.S.'C' and Bath St.'B' to their credit they cannot be overlooked. Against them is the factor that they are weak in the tail, but Ted Mandaluff is convinced they can do it. Such is Ted's reputation that players consider it a feather in their caps if they beat him. Their results against Aigburth when they could only manage a 6-4 win and against Elec.'E' when they scrambled to a draw place a real question mark against their ability to win promotion.

One team to watch is Colonsay who are also bidding to make a quick return to the second division. With a mixture of youth and experience they look a good bet. In their favour are their good results against their rivals and a strong pointer is their result against Wav.Lab.'C'. Whilst the others have struggled against the Labour Club, Colonsay whacked them 10-0.

The only other likely contenders are Bath St.'B', but having lost 8-2 to Colonsay, Brownmoor Park and Y.M. 'B' in successive weeks their only real hope of success lies in finishing in the top four.

Taking all the results to date into account and even allowing for Colonsay's apparent problem in fielding a regular team they look like being the team to accompany Brownmoor Park into the second division.

At the bottom Aigburth 'A' are already doomed. The changes in the club that have resulted in everyone moving has thrown the players from their 'B' team into this division and they are finding the going very heavy. Their only good result and one which they must have found very satisfying was a draw against their own first team. The first team were without Bill Holmes and 'shuffled' their team order by dropping Harry Holmes to No.4. This was not a good idea as Harry lost his two singles to Barry Meyer and Peter Knight.

At this stage it is risky to say who will go down with Aigburth 'A'. It could be one of the Bath Street teams, but with the 'D' battering Aigburth 8-2, the 'E' battering the 'D' 8-2 and getting a 7-3 win against Elec.'E' and five points from Aigburth, such a prediction could well look sick.

In the cup stakes we are doing well, but the opposition in 3A is very strong. Y.M.'B' came a cropper in the first round losing to Maghull 'B' 6-4. Linacre restored our honour in the next round by disposing of Maghull 'B' 7-3. Could this be a pointer in the championship stakes?

Although only managing a lower mid-table position Cadwa 'A' are doing very nicely in the cup. After losing to Bath Street 'B' 9-1 in the league they met shortly afterwards in the cup and this time were winners by 8 sets to 2. They kept up the pace in the second round with a 7-3 win over Courtaulds. If they had produced the same form in the league they could have been up with the leaders. From seven league matches they notched only 30 sets. In just two cup matches they notched 15 sets against strong opposition.

As I am only standing in for Barry Meyer who is unfortunately not well enough to write the notes for this Issue, I will leave him to deal in more detail with the personal results of the various players. Being chicken I am also leaving him with the forecast of who goes down with his team and will content myself with merely saying watch out, Warren Davies!!

#### DIVISION 4A

STAN CLARKE

Welcome to a greatly altered division, with six new teams from the last season, it would be a brave, or foolish man, who would attempt to forecast promotion and relegation candidates at this early stage of the season, but keep reading as I attempt to prove just how foolish I can be. It would appear that the teams promoted from the fifth division are at least holding their own, and indeed are producing the occasional surprise result, which may explain, why no team has so far shown any sign of breaking away from the pack. So far this season there have only been two 10-0 results, both against Vagabonds 'C' the first when they turned up with only two players against Trinity 'B' and the second when they were a little unlucky to lose against Maghull 'C' with Dave Batty figuring in three sets that went to three and losing all three.

As an indication to promotion challenges I like to look at the 'sets for' average of the teams, any team running at an average of 7 sets per match or more, can expect to be very close to promotion. At the time of writing there are three teams who are averaging 7 sets per match, Bootle 'B', Bootle Job Centre and Maghull 'C', and even at this early stage of the season, I feel that the eventual champions will come from these three. If pressed I would stick my neck out and suggest that the most likely champions are Bootle 'B', with Brian Aldred, Dave Wilson, Derek Sullivan, Mark Patterson and Jackie Wilson they have a squad that will prove very hard to beat, and has a nice mixture of aggression and defensive liability. Bootle J.C. also have a good squad, but I feel their balance is not quite as good as the Dave Wilson squad. Maghull 'C' should not be ruled out with Dave Berry almost back to his form of five years ago, combined with Alan Smethurst's reliability and Andy Howarth's unorthodox style, they only need yours truly to win the odd game and they will give anybody a hard game.



English Electric 'F' are enjoying a good opening to the season with Albie Parker, Stan Draper, Ken Black and Margaret Collins proving a stumbling block to many less experienced opponents. Maghull 'E' have surprised some people with an excellent opening eight games, Harry McGarrity is coaxing his young team mates along very well, with Peter Brownlee producing some very good wins.

Does it seem to you that every time you turn up for a match the opposition seems to be called Vagabonds or Maghull? I don't know how you feel about it, but I feel that three teams from one club, in any division, is at least one team too many, mind you my feelings may be biased because I can't beat Ken Kay or Gordon Mangshaw, yet. It is interesting to see that for the second year running Vags.'B' have managed to beat Vags.'A' despite changing team letters this season, and if you find some of the faces in Vags.'C' familiar, but cannot place them, it is just possible that you may have played against Richmond in the past. Trinity 'B' are an unknown quantity to me, though some of the names have a familiar ring, John Sim, John Hankin and John Southworth for example. Cadwa 'B' look very 'Powerful', pun intended, with sons Mike and Dave supporting dad Jack and Dave Stokes and Ian Andrews filling any vacancies. Warwick Bolam predictably are finding 4A much tougher than the last two years in 5A, their only win to date being over last year's rivals Maghull 'E' but they are still improving and at home at least, will provide a few problems. Barker & Dobson are missing their Number One from last year, Les Travis, apparently injured at work, which is putting a great deal of pressure on Fred O'Sullivan to try to pick up points at No.1, and that is not easy this year with so many good players about. University have also suffered from the loss of good players, only two of last year's squad remain and I feel that they are going to struggle unless they can turn out their strongest team every week. Rafters 'B' are the team which is providing the biggest shock so far this season, last year they were challenging for honours and with almost the same line up this year they are finding games very hard, having lost all six played so far, how a team with players like Alan Nisted and Jerry O'Keefe can be struggling so badly I don't know, the absence of Clive Roberts is obviously a great loss, though he did turn out against Maghull 'C', I only hope he will be able to make more appearances later in the year.

Finally, a few results worthy of note:-

F.O'Sullivan, Barker & Dobson beat Mal Dixon, Bootle J.C. 23-15; 21-15: for the only success in a 9-1 defeat. Ken Ray Vags.'B' beat Andy Howarth and Stan Clarke, Maghull 'C': P.Wilkinson and J.Piggott, Warwick Bolam beat Stan Clarke, Maghull 'C' and young Piggott beat Eddie Moss, Vags.'B' for the only singles success, Owen and Wilkinson combining to beat Dave Rooney and Mike Gallagher in the doubles, all of these the only points winners in 8-2 defeats.

#### DIVISION 4B

MIKE GRIFFITHS

This season we have a TRUE fourth division in 4B, with no outstanding teams running away. As a result the top of the division sees five teams in a challeng-

ing position just prior to Christmas. Maghull lead the way with a very experienced fourth division side, B.Gregory, Jeff Banks, Wilf Gibson and Keith Whittaker. Their only defeat so far was in the first week against Colonsay 'C' 8-2. Since then Wavertree Labour have given them their hardest match, taking four off them, John Ashley two wins.

Trinity 'C' appear to be just behind Maghull and closing. Their only defeat was at Maghull where Ken Foulkes saved them from a whitewash with two wins. Since then the team has gone from strength to strength, and the loss of Foulkes to the third division has been offset by the inclusion of Mike Corcoran who at the time of writing is unbeaten. Trinity's best win was 7-3 over Plessey where Mike Corcoran beat both Blore and Austin 15 in the third. The doubles events however proved to be vital, Trinity picking up both in desparately close games; Corcoran and Griffiths beat Austin and Harvey 21-18, 20-22, 24-22 and Royden and Simm beating Blore and McEvoy 21-18, 18-21, 21-19.

As you all know, I dislike to dwell on my own team for too long!! (unlike some from last season) but I must mention Trinity 'C' v Colonsay 'B', one of the best and most exciting matches I've ever played in, five sets went to three and there were nine deuce games. Pick of the bunch were Alan Guy's win over Ken Foulkes 17-21, 27-25, 21-19; Mike Griffiths' win over Julie Turner 21-23, 21-17, 23-21; and John Simm over Damien Turner 23-25, 21-19, 24-22. And the result? ... 5-5, most fitting.

Colonsay 'B' are naturally amongst the front runners as well. They suffered their first defeat against equally well placed Plessey. The result was 6-4, two wins for Alan Guy (I think he is unbeaten as well), but doubles for R.Austin and Ron McEvoy gave victory to Plessey. Colonsay have not been fielding a regular side for various reasons but are lucky to have players like Muriel Cox below them and available to step into the side without weakening it.

The Plessey team have matches in hand and should be up with the leaders. They are perhaps not getting enough 9-1 and 10-0 victories at the moment. They dropped 3 to English Electric for whom A.Thompson had an excellent win over Ian Blore and a further three to Colonsay 'C', Muriel Cox, two and Kristina a good win over McEvoy.

Our ladies team Rafters are holding a mid-table position. Their best result was a 7-3 win over Vernon Sangster. Sue Smith and Jean Reynolds winning two each.

The Courtaulds' derby ended 8-2 to the 'A' team, a result which reflects the teams league position. The 'B' teams only successes were Ron Mellor over Danny Every and John Paulo over Kathy Haydon.

At the bottom, Kirkby and Cadwa are struggling. Neil Hodson of Cadwa looks a fine prospect and can be pleased with wins over Kathy Haydon, Ian Massie (Wav. Lab), Gary Daw (V.S) and Martin Neary (Colonsay). Kirkby are led by experienced Doug Christie and have the enthusiastic Arthur Brindle who can claim victories over Norman Zalud (L'pool Jewish) and J.Wallace of Wav.Lab.

Sorry these are a bit brief, I hope to be able to spend a bit more time on the next lot. Please help by marking scorecards.

This year we have one fifth division only but we have a full complement of teams and hopefully all will see the season out in full which will be quite a novelty for a fifth division. Seven of our numbers are from last season's 5A, three from 5B, two from the fourth divisions and two are new teams. The new teams are experiencing opposite fortunes, Kirkby 'B' are struggling near the bottom whilst Fords, not only a new team but a new club to our league are cruising happily away at the top. Fords have been playing in the Widnes league, they have a strong pool of players but are also handicapped by the shift work system which may rob them of their better players for crucial matches. Seven out of Fords' first nine matches have resulted in either 10-0 or 9-1, Waterloo with a 5-5 draw have spoiled Fords 100% record of wins but even at this early stage Fords look likely to lead the rest home.

Down at the bottom a terrific fight is already taking place for the honour of being next to bottom. Liverpool Jewish 'E' and 'F' are in there fighting it out. So far the 'F' are looking for their first win of the season but the 'E' team have already chalked up a notable 7-3, - against the 'F' team of course. Running a successful team is reasonably easy, running less successful teams can be full of problems. There are no problems at Liverpool Jewish and no more enthusiastic teams will be found anywhere in our league. There is Norman Simmons' team and there is Anna Cohen's team, neither of them can play regularly. John McKim, Joseph Aaron, Dennis Cohen and a couple of Steinbergs support Anna. J. Dutch (following in father's footsteps), B. Krazner and a couple of Polaks support Norman. All these folk enjoy their table tennis and perhaps what is more important they do their utmost to ensure that their opponents enjoy not only their table tennis but also the evening in full. I have already had the pleasure of seeing Norman Simmons in full flight, his forehand is devastating when it goes on and Norman is not one to hold back and play safe just to get his eye in. Anna on the other hand is prepared to play a containing game.

There is a growing gap between the bottom three and the rest of the division. Third from bottom is Kirkby 'B'. It is sometimes difficult to keep pace with the fortunes of Kirkby, they seem to move up, drop out and reappear at random. Their current 'B' team is captained by M. Monaghan supported by a crop of youngsters including A. Gallagher, P. Christie, K. Doyle, A. Davies, J. Miller and T. Leary. Some of these lads can only just see over the net but they are already showing signs of application and skill which is the keynote of the Kirkby coaching system. They are currently on their learning curve but most of them will already be playing up to ten times the amount of table tennis some of us old fogeys can manage and it will only be a matter of time before they come good. Give them this season to acclimatise and if they remain, watch for them taking off next season.

Finally, I was questioned recently about the service rule and quoted the definition shown on page 10 of the handbook. This is an extract only however, and did not cover the point in question. Subsequently it has been verified that the

onus is on the server to ensure that the referee can see the ball thrown upwards from the palm of the hand. We should all tidy up our services, they are just as much the rules of the game as is the height of the net, don't forget whoever plays Fords in the Cup Final will find a league official in charge and the service rule enforced - it might be a bit late to change styles then.

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#### TABLE EDGES

Congratulations to Eric Ferguson of Bath Street although perhaps better known at Police - on being awarded the honour of the M.B.E. A very cool 63-26 average last season and 31 wins proves his perseverance and how he has nicely overcome his operation. More congratulations indirectly to the Police, although Marie Lupton now plays for Electric Supply - Marie or super cop is now Chief Superintendent Lupton - I'll buy you a Scotch next time we meet (only if I win of course).

The Merseyside Open and Liverpool Closed will again take place at Kirkby Sports Centre. Sponsors are urgently required - however small or large the sponsorship may be - contact John McKim, Arthur Upton or committee member.

Two items which are more important than bats or players, are tables and rooms, there is always a shortage of both. Tommy Lynch of Electric Supply is looking for a table - any offers?

The League Presentation Dance will take place at the Plessey's Club, Broadgreen on Friday, April 8th. We are looking for prizes for our draw - contact Jack Lambert or any committee member. We hope for a sell-out, a jolly time and an improvement on last year.

Girls are in the news - after Marie - we have Sue (now) Manning (again) back after having a baby, she had a chat with Julie Prince nee Black, and Julie is now out for a season waiting for a happy event and making one of our ex popular players Betty Black very happy. Barbara Kirkham has deserted me, John O'Sullivan and another five or six hundred blokes and is getting married in February - best wishes from us all Barbara!

How does a 100 years of table tennis grab you? It doesn't! that is the amount of playing time put in by Peter Rumjahn and Alan Rycroft between them. In the past we have haggled over the oldest playing member of the league. With two magnificent players of 50 years standing in our table tennis fraternity - I think it is sufficient to say Alan and Peter must rank as all time greats.

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#### HANDBOOK ALTERATIONS

Aigburth:- Peoples Hall, Aigburth Vale : Sec: B.J.Meyer, 43 Beechwood Road, Liverpool 21. (H) 933 7610 (B) 709 2147 : 1st Team Friday, 'A' Team Wednesday.

Barker & Dobson - Match Night Thursday.

Bath Street - 'F' and 'G' Teams out.

HANDBOOK ALTERATIONS (Cont'd)

Cadwa 'C' Team 4B Friday - take over Bath Street 'F'  
Courtaulds 'G' Team M/N 5A out; 'B' Team M/N Monday  
Kirkby Sports 'B' Team Div. 5A Tuesday - take over Courtaulds 'C'  
Liverpool Jewish Sec: R.Stevenson, 15 Fulwood Park, L17 5AD : (H) 727 3527 :  
Match Sec: Mrs. A.Cohen, 65 Dudlow Lane, Liverpool L18 (H) 722 3708.  
Maghull C.A. 1st M/N Monday : 'D' M/N Tuesday  
Plessey 1st M/N Friday 'A' Team; 4B M/N Friday; take over Aigburth 'B'  
University - Sec : G.Hayward, 25 Croxteth Gr. L8 ORU  
Vagabonds - 'C' Team 4A Tuesday, take over Bath Street 'G' Club 228 2568  
Eng.Elec. : Club 525 3159  
Warwick Bolam M/N Friday  
Wavertree Labour 'A' Team M/N Wednesday  
Bootle S.C. Club : 523 4212

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Metropolitan Borough of Sefton  
Bootle Stadium Sports Centre  
Maguire Ave, Bootle.

Dear Sir,

Being aware that not many people appreciate the amount of work that goes into producing such an excellent publication as your Digest, may I please ask you to accept my personal congratulations on the fine quality of production and editorial content.

One of the most important contributions to any sport must be the regular publication of a magazine or news sheet and the table tennis players of Liverpool and District should consider themselves most fortunate in this respect.

Naturally, I am most pleased and proud of the way in which the Bootle Stadium teams have progressed under the guidance and dedication of Dave Wilson. It has been a pleasure to assist him in whatever way we can and in case he has been too modest to tell you, the Table Tennis Club were awarded an annual trophy in recognition of the club bringing most prestige to Bootle Stadium in the season just past.

Please keep up the good work with the Digest and I can assure you that at least one reader looks forward to seeing it!

With best wishes,

Yours truly,

K.J.Matthews, Manager.

27 Elsinore Heights  
Halewood, Liverpool 26

Dear Jack,

If any time you could spare a little space in the Table Tennis Digest would it be possible to print a League Table of the DIVISION ONE TITLE WINNERS, like for instance - Balfour (8 titles) Rafters (7 titles) etc., I know many of the present players didn't know the Balfour Club, but up and coming teams like Bootle and Vernon Sangster could possibly look on it as a goal to aim for in the future.

Yours in Table Tennis,  
Ted Mandaluff, Y.M.C.A.

\* \* \* \*

Romsey Road,  
Lyndhurst, Hants.

Dear Jack,

Thank you for the copies of the Digest, I note you still have problems related to multiple teams from one club (3 in one division can't be very satisfactory?) - and ranking. You ask for inspiration!

You could, I suggest, do worse than look into the system used in Crown Green Bowls (Inter County) and Flat Green (Indoors) (Inter Club and Inter County), in both instances equal numbers from each club/team play each other simultaneously 'Home & Away' applied to your situation - you still have 5 players in a team? - you would have 10 instead! You might have say a PREMIER league, permitting one team only per affiliated club? Using last season's results, this would give you a Premier Division consisting of:- Rafters, Wav.Labour, Bootle, Palmerston, Eng.Elec. Y.M.C.A. Maghull, Liverpool Jewish, Trinity, Bath Street, Vernon Sangster, Elec. Supply, Police, Colonsay.

You have thirty affiliated clubs? of whom twenty seven have more than one team? The idea could possibly be extended to two divisions. Clearly the first five ranked players would play Home when their team is named FIRST and AWAY when named second - thus the top rankers would play each other every fixture.

Regards,

Don Foulis

<u>DIVISION 1</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts.															
Rafters	12	11	1	-	97	Brownmoor Park	13	12	-	1	100									
Bootle	13	12	1	-	95	Colonsay	12	10	1	1	87									
Wav.Labour	13	9	4	-	88	L'pool YMCA 'B'	13	9	-	4	84									
Palmerston	12	9	3	-	79	Bath St. 'B'	13	9	4	-	82									
L'pool YMCA	13	6	5	2	72	Linacre	13	6	6	1	77									
Wav.Labour 'A'	12	6	6	-	64	Vernon Sang. 'C'	13	8	4	1	73									
Eng.Elec.	11	5	4	2	63	Wav.Lab. 'C'	12	7	4	1	69									
Vernon Sang.	9	7	1	1	58	L'pool Jewish 'C'	13	4	9	-	56									
Vernon Sang. 'A'	12	5	7	-	53	Bath St. 'E'	13	4	9	-	55									
Maghull	13	2	11	-	36	Bath St. 'D'	13	4	8	1	48									
L'pool YMCA 'A'	12	1	11	-	28	Aigburth	12	2	7	3	44									
L'pool Jewish	11	2	8	1	28	Cadwa 'A'	11	3	6	2	44									
Eng.Elec. 'A'	8	2	6	-	22	Eng.Elec. 'E'	13	1	10	2	44									
Wav.Lab. 'B'	9	-	9	-	17	Aigburth 'A'	12	-	11	1	17									
<u>DIVISION 2</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts.	<u>DIVISION 4A</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts.									
Maghull 'A'	13	13	-	-	103	Bootle 'B'	12	12	-	-	90									
L'pool Jewish 'A'	13	11	1	1	92	Bootle J.C.	12	12	-	-	89									
Eng.Elec. 'B'	13	11	2	-	85	Maghull 'C'	13	9	3	1	86									
Plessey	12	6	3	3	71	Eng.Elec. 'F'	13	5	5	3	66									
Police	12	5	5	3	69	Vagabonds 'A'	12	6	3	3	64									
Elec.Supply	12	6	4	2	66	Maghull 'E'	13	4	5	4	63									
Palmerston 'A'	11	6	4	1	60	Trinity 'B'	11	4	5	2	57									
Bath St.	12	6	6	-	59	Cadwa 'B'	12	3	6	3	56									
Trinity	12	2	5	5	52	Vagabonds 'B'	11	3	7	1	50									
Bath St. 'A'	12	3	7	2	47	Vagabonds 'C'	13	2	7	4	47									
Bootle 'A'	12	2	9	1	44	Barker & Dobson	11	2	5	4	45									
Elec.Supply 'A'	13	1	10	2	39	Warwick Bolam	11	3	5	3	45									
Rafters 'A'	11	2	7	2	39	University	10	1	7	2	33									
Eng.Elec. 'C'	13	-	11	2	34	Rafters 'B'	10	-	8	2	29									
<u>DIVISION 3A</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts.	<u>DIVISION 4B</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts.									
Cadwa	13	12	1	-	109	Maghull 'D'	13	12	1	-	99									
Vernon Sang. 'B'	12	11	1	-	95	Plessey 'A'	13	11	2	-	98									
Vagabonds	13	9	4	-	75	Trinity 'C'	12	10	1	1	90									
Eng.Elec. 'D'	12	6	2	4	71	Colonsay 'B'	11	9	1	1	81									
Argot	12	7	3	2	70	Way.Lab. 'D'	12	7	5	-	71									
Elec.Supply 'B'	12	4	6	2	64	Courtaulds 'A'	12	7	5	-	65									
Kirkby	12	4	6	2	61	Rafters 'C'	12	5	6	1	65									
Colonsay 'A'	13	4	5	4	60	Vernon Sang. 'D'	10	5	5	-	55									
Maghull 'B'	12	6	5	1	59	Eng.Elec. 'G'	13	5	8	-	54									
Trinity 'A'	11	6	4	1	58	Colonsay 'C'	12	4	8	-	52									
L'pool Jewish 'B'	12	4	6	2	49	Courtaulds 'B'	11	4	7	-	41									
Bath St. 'C'	12	2	8	2	43	L'pool Jewish 'D'	11	2	8	1	35									
Police 'A'	13	1	12	-	24	Cadwa 'C'	13	1	12	-	23									
Courtaulds	13	-	13	-	22	Kirkby 'A'	13	-	13	-	11									

<u>DIVISION 5</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Fords	12	11	-	1	100
Brownmoor Pk 'A'	13	10	2	1	88
Wav.Lab. 'E'	13	6	5	2	76
Brownmoor Pk 'B'	12	7	2	3	75
Maghull 'G'	12	6	4	2	70
Elec.Supply 'C'	12	6	5	1	69
Waterloo	13	6	5	2	67
Bootle J.C. 'A'	11	7	4	-	65
Argot 'A'	12	5	5	2	62
Maghull 'F'	11	3	6	2	50
Carnegie	12	3	7	2	45
Kirkby 'B'	11	3	8	-	28
L'pool Jewish 'E'	11	1	10	-	18
L'pool Jewish 'F'	11	-	11	-	17

<u>LEAGUE TABLE OF OUTSTANDING MATCHES</u>	
Division 3B	3 matches outstanding
Division 3A	5 matches outstanding
Division 2	5 matches outstanding
Division 4B	7 matches outstanding
Division 5	8 matches outstanding
Division 4A	9 matches outstanding
Division 1	11 matches outstanding

All the above matches should be rearranged within the season and the Fixture Secretary advised of dates.

16 Kingswood Avenue  
Liverpool 22

Dear Jack,

It is with the very deepest regret that I write to inform you of the death yesterday of Gordon Brownlee of Maghull C.A. T.T.C.

Gordon was known and respected throughout Merseyside Table Tennis for his enthusiasm and dedication to the game, from his early start at Bootle Y.M.C.A., which bred so many good players at that time, to Wavertree Labour where he spent so many years in the senior divisions. He then took the unusual step of dropping two divisions to join Maghull C.A., a club which at that time had a reputation for a friendly evenings table tennis, but not much history of successful teams. Gordon's arrival changed all of that though still a friendly club we began to feel that we could at last be amongst the winners. Gordon took responsibility for running the first team and was a secretary's dream, seldom needing help to sort out team problems and providing the necessary encouragement to attract other good players to the club. In my view it is entirely due to Gordon's efforts that we finally managed to land a team in the first division, and successfully maintain that position during the past year.

Nonetheless, however badly Gordon will be missed by the table tennis fraternity his loss will be felt much more by his wife and children, at this sad time our thoughts are firmly with Gordon's family to whom we express our deepest condolences.

Yours sincerely,

Stan Clarke, Sec.Maghull C.A. T.T.C.