



Table Tennis DIGEST

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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EDITORIAL

What do you think of the new rules and regs? I don't think much consideration has been given to the main body of bread and butter players. You can play with any concoction of rubber that they put together in the depths of China. If you are lucky enough to get hold of the latest type before anyone else you could become champion of Europe! But don't you dare play with the bat that started it all off - a plain wood.

Keep your hand flat, throw the ball up etc., the original reason was to stop finger spinning your way to victory. Now much greater spin is imparted with fancy rubbers and no action - on the contrary they are encouraged - even two different kinds of spin, one on each side!?

Quite honestly I don't understand all the fuss about stamping - there are far worse distractions.

I wish I could read into any new rule something that would make the game more attractive to watch at the top level or less expensive at our level.

A cordial welcome to the Rodney Youth club, our lone new club. May we hope that they stick the pace better than last time.

Beware correspondents and rejoice readers, I have had guide lines laid down by the Management for the issue of the Digest regardless of correspondent's returns.

With about a third of the season gone the title battle seems to be between Wav.Labour, Vernon Sangster, champions Rafters and Bootle. Wavertree, with the acquisition of Keith Williams, are a formidable line-up, especially as Dave Roberts is in great form. Dave has 12-0 (wins-defeats). Add the tenacious defence of Roy Smith (10-2) and the attacking talents of Welshman John Hook (10-2) and they must be a good bet for top spot.

Vernon Sangster, with the addition of Steve Green 15-3, have emerged as strong contenders and will push Labour hard all the way. Spearheaded by the in-form John Rankin (16-0) and fast improving Peter Flint (11-1), who is rebuilding his game after changing his bat rubber, they have some excellent results, and yours truly is playing his part with 14 wins and 4 defeats to date.

Champions Rafters have made a disappointing start (for them), fielding weakened sides on a number of occasions. They drew with bottom club Plessey. Trevor Owens had two great wins over Wayne Percival and Paul Ashcroft. Rafters have dropped three sets to Eng.Elec. 'A' and 'B', Maghull and Wav.Lab. 'B', underlining their team problems. Only Alan Timewell (14-0) and new signing Graham Parr (8-0) have set the standards of last year.

Bootle, have their problems and I can't see them ending up as runners-up again this season. They have the same team but no real reserve strength. Tony O'Connor (11-0) has missed two matches so far and without him the team is considerably weaker. They had a disastrous visit to Maghull, without Tony, and went down 7-3. Maghull, with new signing Sherlock Hardman solving the 'Case of the Hutchings Forehand' and also beating Lawrence Kenwright for good measure, produced a great team effort. Both Neil and Mark Royden won their singles. Lawrence Kenwright's early form (10-6) has been disappointing. Paul Hutchings 14-1 has been a tower of strength, with Ricky Brown weighing in with a 10-4 record.

My forecast is that the teams will end up in the order listed at the top of the notes.

The relegation issue is much clearer. Plessey, finding themselves in the first division after coming only third in Div.2, are out of their depth and will surely be relegated. They have picked up only 13 sets from 7 matches. They are likely to be joined by Maghull 'A', who have had a tough start to the season playing all of the championship contenders in the opening weeks. Alan Chase must be devastated with only 4-14. Mick Allen, 4-16, is finding the going tough, but Frank Murphy 10-14 and Ted Birch 5-9 are doing better. It's nice to see Harry Harrison still around. He travels from Llanwrst to help out.

On last season's form, Wav.Lab.'B' would have been obvious relegation candidates along with newly promoted Eng.Elec.'B'. Both of these teams have made

better starts than I expected, leaving Maghull first team third from bottom. With their new signing Eric (who's he?) Hardman, they should pull clear.

Wav.Lab.'B' are doing much better, mainly due to the better form of Ray Jackson and Mick Tierney. Ray has had some outstanding matches. He beat both Peter Flint and Steve Green of V.S. and also beat John Hook for good measure. Ray has 6-6 to date. Mick has 5-9. New signing Paul Kinsey has been disappointing with 4-10.

Eng.Elec.'B' have picked up sets regularly, with Brian Crolley 8-8 doing best. Kevin Parker and Alan Jones are fighters and have had some useful wins. The Electric 1st team, who have promoted Tommy Williams at last, could have been a force to be reckoned with, had not Phil Thomson gone abroad. Tommy, with 12-2, has been well-supported by Fred Pheysey 11-7 and Rod McPherson 6-10. Alec Sill, with 3-15 has been disappointing, but can claim a victory over Roy Smith.

Y.M. look like ending up in fifth position again. Peter Lee won his first 12 sets but has since lost four to V.S. & Bootle. Peter Taylor has opened the season well (11-3) but Harry Johnston 6-6 and Jeff Huntington 8-6 have lost too many to make a real challenge at the top.

Wav.Lab.'A' & Eng.Elec.'A' are both useful sides, with good players capable of wins against the best. Wavertree's side have Rob Bevan 5-5 and Billy Wardle 9-5, from last year. They are joined by Phil Luxon 6-4 and newcomer Barry Wentworth 5-7 from Wirral. Electric have Joe Green 7-5 and Jimmy Lynch 9-5 from Wigan, together with Graeme Black 5-11 and Richie Cragg 8-8.

Vernon Sangster 'A' team have lost Adam Bennion, who is studying for 'O' levels. He has been replaced by John Greene, who's had a disappointing season, so far (5-13). Paul Gittins 13-9, is doing better than last season and Chris Ford's game is improving continually. Chris has 12-10 to date, including a 21-17, 9-21, 23-21 win over Ian Smith, Warrington City player. Bill Harris 8-12, completes the side, which should keep clear of relegation, especially if John returns to some good form.

The big talking point of the season, so far, has been the transfer of Eric Hardman from Rafters to Maghull. In his last game for Rafters, Eric lost two straight to Kevin Parker and also to Graeme Black, sets he would have won convincingly in normal circumstances. Clearly all is not well in the Champion's camp.

The Cup match between Y.M. & Electric had some high drama. The first match ended up all square (Lee 2, Pheysey 2). In the replay the score stood at 5-4 to Y.M., with Fred Pheysey to play Harry Johnston. The game's situation was that if Fred won in two straight, Elec. would go through. If Fred won in three there would be a point count. Fred duly won the first and was 20-17 up in the second, with Y.M. all but out. Harry pulled it back to deuce and won the second.

Harry then won the third 21-16 to win the match. Peter Lee won 2 again. Tommy Williams won 2 for Electric.

Another tight match saw Wav.Lab.'A' beat Plessey 6-4. Four of the sets ended up 21-18 in the third and Phil Luxon's two sets were both won 26-24 in the third. Only Billy Wardle scored convincing wins. Bob Edwards and Ray Lavin both beat Paul Kinsey.

It's nice to see Trevor Owens back in the first division where he belongs, after a long absence. There are no better stylists around and all he needs is full fitness to be the powerful force of old. Trevor has 7-9 to date but will only get better.

Now for some individual performances - Ted Birch, still one of the finest sportsmen around, did well to beat Paul Ashcroft 12 in the third. Neil Royden beat Roy Smith 19, 24-22. Mick Allen beat Fred Pheysey 22-20 in the third, and lost 22-20 in the third to Tommy Williams in the same match. Well done, Mick. Frank Murphy beat Rod McPherson 14,19. Neil Royden beat Rob Bevan 20,14. Richie Cragg beat Lawrence Kenwright 17,15 and Ricky Brown 9,22. Richie also did well in defeat, going down 16 in the third to Alan Timewell and 19,19,19 to Paul Ashcroft.

To close I'm going to list a few players who are the life-blood of our game. People who give nearly everybody a good game but don't have that little extra that puts them in the headlines every week. They are also win with modesty and accept defeat in a sportsmanlike manner. If I mention Ricky Brown, Mick Tierney, Ray Jackson, Bill Harris, Peter Taylor, Fred Pheysey, Dave Tagg, Alan Chase, Frank Murphy, Ted Birch, Mick Allen, Bob Edwards, Ray Lavin, Peter Wass, I'm sure others will forgive me for missing them out.

See you around

SECOND DIVISION

DON CHALKLEY

The Second Division with two going up and four down is used to changes. However, this year sees many losses and from the 1st Division we have received Y.M.C.A. 'A' and Liverpool Jewish. Division 3A gave us Cadwa and Vernon Sangster 'B' while from 3B we have Brownmoor Park, Colonsay, Linacre and Wavertree Labour 'C'.

The start of the season has seen the almost new team of Electric Supply apparently already heading for Division 1, with the team of Malcolm McEvoy, Les Molyneaux, Brian Davey and Paul Baker, Lex. The only hiccups they have had were :- 5-5 draw at Cadwa with Neil Graveney beating Davey and Baker and 6-4 win away at Y.M.C.A. This last game appears close from the score card with McEvoy beating Stevenson 22-20; 22-20; and Molyneaux and Baker beating Hughes and Kendall 21-19 in the third. Electric have crushed their main rivals Bath St. 9-1, and Trinity 10-0. For E.Supply, M.McEvoy is unbeaten 14-14; L.Molyneaux 9-12; B.Davey 11-14; and P.Baker 8-14. Jewish have rearranged

their teams with completely opposite results, first team of E.Clein 10-12; Roy Bradbury 9-12; Jim McMillan 5-6; Bob Hudson 11-12 have played most of the games.

The first game against the Police was with John Henshaw in for McMillan and unfortunately for John he lost in straight games to Gareth Jones and Alan Wood. Gareth completed a hat trick by beating Eddie in two and the double with Alan. Eddie just beat Dave Crispin 22-20 in the 3rd. Colonsay then gave them a fright, this time Jewish having their full team. Dave Riley has had two good wins over Clein and Bradbury. A.Taylor also won 2, beating McMillan and Hodson in 3 (This is Bob's only loss in my cards) and what a way to lose 21-23; 23-21; 23-21 to Taylor. Jewish have had no more scores to date and with Clein and Hudson winning all since then there have been some big scores.

The other challengers for second place at the moment are Y.M.C.A. 'A' who have already used 10 players. The main players appear to be F.Loy 7-10, T.Kendall 5-10, D.Toi 5-6 and B.Hughes 5-8. There is no doubt that the Y.M. could rise to the occasion and their reserves are of better quality than most teams but they lost 6-4 to Bath St. They then reversed this result against Trinity. Another cracker was the narrow loss to E.Supply. Trinity have made a much better start than last year despite the same four or five determined players - Mike Keane 10-12; Tom Killop 7-14; John Higham 8-14 and Martin Truman 5-8 with brother not quite so successful. However, although thoroughly beating most teams, Trinity has not made an impact on their immediate rivals. The Cadwa team contain Mike Mahoney 5-6; Neil Gravener 3-6; Neil Jennings 1-6; Alan Radcliffe 2-6. The lads must be pleased with their early draw with the leaders. They drew 5-5 with Trinity (M.Mahoney 2-2; and Martin Truman 2-2) they then lost 2-8 to Jewish (Clein 2, Hudson 2). Cadwa's only wins M.Mahoney beat J.Henshaw and N.Gravener beat R.Bradbury. Bath St. started with Dave Butterworth 6-10, Ian McMee 7-10, Fred Bainbridge and Alan Walton, but Fred has departed to Brownmoor Park and Peter Ross has returned. I know these lads have made a good start to the season with only that big loss against the leaders to worry them. Welcome to Ian who tells me it is his first season in our league despite playing in the Business Houses League. A steady left hander, of sound disposition who uses his two varying sides to good advantage. A steady side who have beaten Y.M.C.A. 'A' 6-4; Trinity 6-4.

I have mentioned the main contestors for promotion, though V.Sangster 'B' have already proved their worth with Sue Manning 6-8; Paula French 5-10; Ian Worsley 6-10. Against E.Supply at home Sue beat B.Davey in 2 and Paula beat P.Baker 21-19 in 3 in an 8-2 defeat. However, Jewish inflicted a similar score with Sue beating Roy Bradbury 23-21 in 3 and Montague/Wensley beating Clein and McMillan. Steve Gittins returned against Police whom they beat 8-2 and he looked vastly improved and an asset to Sangster.

Colonsay have D.Riley at (1) (6-8); A.Taylor 8-8; Barbara Kirkman 3-8; and

the first two named have made a cracking start to the season. Police have Dave Crispin, Gareth Jones, Tom Purcell and myself. The only one to come good consistently is the new streamlined Gareth with 10-14. Dave hasn't hit consistent form though Tom does have the close results go against him for instance losing 24-22, 35-33 to John Bolton. The rest of the Teams like Police are struggling with Bath St.'A' having only Billy Clayton 5-8 showing consistent form.

It appears that only Billy and Alan Waddington play regularly. I note a 10-0 walkover claimed against Colonsay but I hear the latter had made a genuine mistake and want a replay. Brownmoor Park have S.Wellman 5-6; A.Williams 4-8; W.Spencer and N.Cooke and re-inforced by Fred Bainbridge.

The best win was 9-1 away over Liverpool Jewish 'A', a good start for Wellman but at the moment going is not too easy.

Linacre have the same gang of pleasant but determined "lads" re-inforced by Mal Cray. The latter has had some good wins to date and there has been some good individual wins. H.Reeve beat M.Pu in 2 and Ken Ainsworth beat A.Kendall in 3; Mal Cray beat L.Molyneux in 3 and F.Lacey beat P.Baker in 2, team consistency at the moment is lacking. The other two teams Wav.Labour 'C' with J.Madigan, P.Davies, M.Neary, J.Ashley are really struggling as are Jewish 'A' with John Henshaw and Ian Borrows and others not having much success.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

DIVISION 3A

MIKE ELSON

Well after many seasons of writing comments in our score book I have finally put pen to Digest and come up with these notes.

Even at this early stage of the season the team of the Division must be Bootle 'A', remember two seasons ago when they were undefeated, can any team lower their flag, their strong line-up of Keith and Ian Miller, John McLoughlin and Brian Aldred must take some beating.

Elec.Supply 'B' have started the season well by winning their 1st matches they have a consistent side of Alan Leigh, Alan Kelly, Tommy Lynch and Arthur Harrison. Vagabonds once again, will be there at the finish, Bobby Owens is playing well and if he is supported by Ted Barnes, Tom Johnstone and Doug Ridgeway they will also be a hard team to beat. Eng.Elec.'D' also have a formidable side, you know one thing about this division is that on paper, no one side can be called a 'push over'. "Easy game tonight, we're only playing at" No such luck you are usually saying, "Another tough one, Fred Bloggs is still their No.1 and if so and so is at 4 then I will settle for 5-5.

Teams such as Bath St.'C' (Karen Gibson) Rafter's 'A' (Don Davies), Maghull 'B' (especially if John Armstrong is at 4), Colonsay 'A' (with Derek

"Mr.Consistent" Goodwin), Kirkby (Steve Collins & Neil Travis) my own team Argot, Billy always in top five averages Hargreaves, Dave "unorthodox" Williams and Geoff "Sorry I'm late" Blackburn, all prove very hard teams to beat, who is left? ah yes, Liverpool Jewish, who improve as the season develops which unless Plessey 'A' do, they will find themselves back in the 4th. I haven't had the pleasure as yet, of meeting Bootle J.C. but from their results I think they will hold their own which can also be said of Trinity 'A'. Some close games, Sylvia Graham (Bootle J.C.) vs Karen Gibson 23-25; 19-21; Ted Barnes (Vags) vs Peter Highton (Argot) 21-19; 19-21; 21-19, Dave Rooney (Vags) vs Chris Roberts (Mag.) 21-23; 20-22. George Files (Jew) vs Dave Massie (Rafters) 11-21; 22-20; 22-24; Warren Davies (Jew.) beat Tommy Lynch (Supply) 28-26 in one, a tight three games, can anybody beat that? if so, let me know. White-wash savers, W.Davies (Jew.) vs Elec.'D'; Danny Kinnaird (Bootle J.C.) Julie Prince (Eng.Elec.) and Dave Piper/Derek Goodwin (Colonsay) all against Bootle 'A'. Well, I have tried to mention a few, next time a few more, if there is a next time, keep the ball rolling, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

DIVISION 3B

STAN CLARKE

To those of you who thought you would have a good 'notes' writer this season I will apologise in advance. I am as surprised as anybody to find my name over the divisional notes. I was expecting a season in which I could concentrate on playing, when out of the blue, in a secondhand N.U.R. envelope, arrived a selection of score cards, with a demand for completed notes within the week.

I really haven't had much time to observe what has been going on, so I have no little stories to pass on. It really is a fraud to have me writing notes when I have spent all of my previous undistinguished career extolling the virtues of the 'A' stream, and hiding in fourth and fifth divisions. You can imagine the shock to my system to find that we had been promoted to 3B, after finishing a poor third in 4A last year, mind you it has given me the opportunity to meet some old friends.

Since my last traumatic visit to the third, it seems to be much more difficult, every week the opposition seem to turn out at least one first or second division player and occasionally you run into a full second division team pushed down by stronger signings in the higher teams. As is my usual stupid habit, I will now tell you who is going to take the promotion and relegation places. The promotion places are easier to predict, we are already left with only four teams with a realistic chance of promotion, Electric Supply 'A', Cadwa 'A', Y.M.C.A. 'B' and E.Elec.'C'. Of these four I suspect that English Electric 'C' will not figure in the top two, despite the fact that they have the very impressive George Lennon at No.1 (what's he doing down here in Division 3? pot hunting?) and the very useful Nigel Conquest at 2, they seem to have problems with the 3rd/4th places, with a number of reserves appearing

in place of Ian Lunt and Peter Holmes. Y.M.C.A. 'B' have impressed me most, they seem to have settled on a five man squad, choosing between Dominic Tai, Wing Law, Ted Mandaluff, Bill Truman and Chris Browne with John Donnelly playing Captain. In Dominic, Wing and Chris, they have players who produce shots of great power, it's a long time since anybody hit a fore-hand loop at me, with the sort of power that Dominic generates, backed by that wily old bird (guess how old he is?) Ted Mandaluff who is continuing to break the hearts of lesser players each week with his Dulux bat. Y.M. and Electric Supply produced a well fought draw when they met at the Y.M. recently, Dominic Tai beat Peter Carney and Alan Riggs, but not to be outdone Les Evans responded for Supply with victories over Browne and Mandaluff, who said he can't play against fancy bats, with Peter Carney beating Chris Browne and John Moore losing to Wing and Mandy. That only leaves Cadwa 'A' at the time of writing only they and English Electric have won all of their matches, their line-up of Trevor Hughes, Ken Hartley, Mike Power and Peter Dobbs, they have already beaten their nearest rivals Electric Supply, mind you it probably felt like a home game for them on Supply's slippery floor, Ken Hartley and Peter Dobbs did the damage winning their singles, Trevor beat Les Evans, the unfortunate Mike Power promoted to No.1 for the evening losing to Peter Carney and Alan Biggs with Peter also beating Trevor.

The remainder of the Division seems at first glance to be totally composed of Bath St. teams with three teams in the Division, it's my guess that by the end of the season we will all have seen more than enough of Bath St. I must say that I'm rather surprised that Bath St. 'B' are not nearer the top of the Division with Val Franco, Eric Ferguson, John Letch and Alec Gould to call on, they do not lack experience. Mind you they came a cropper against V.S. when Mark Reed beat Val and Eric, Neil Montague beat Eric and John Pilkington (reserve in place of Alec). Roy Lussey beat John Letch in a 7-3 win, Bath St's successes being one each to Val and John Letch over John Cowley and John Pilkington beating Roy. Bath St.'D' are no mugs either with regulars Fraser Farquharson, Dave Cunningham, Eugene Berger and John Pilkington, though they have only won two to date, beating Trinity 'B' and Colonsay 'B' both by 7-3. Bath St. 'E' seem to be having trouble with players, they also seem to have dropped a long way behind with these games having gained only 1 point from two matches to date.

Maghull 'C' and Aigburth are currently running neck and neck, indeed the recent match at Maghull ended in a draw, a night that was mainly distinguished by the horrible smell of Barna bats, five of the revolting things were on display, ugh! It's enough to make me tear off my funny rubbers in frustration. What's the betting that there are more Barna's on display in this division than in any other.

At the bottom of the division, where Bath St. 'E' are currently propping up the rest, things are already fairly desperate. Colonsay 'B' are finding things

hard and are not helping their own cause by continually playing under strength teams, Alan Guy has only played in two matches and that can't be right for a team that is struggling. I know the reason, but if they want to avoid the drop they will need to sort things out fairly soon. Jewish 'C' and Trinity are currently in the danger zone. Trinity have a good squad and I would not be surprised to see them climbing away from the relegation zone very soon. Bootle 'B' runners up in 4A last season are finding things much tougher this term, Dave Wilson and Derek Sullivan are winning regularly but Mark Patterson and Jackie Wilson have still to produce the form they are capable of.

Finally a roll of honour of players who prevented a whitewash, winning the only set in a 9-1 defeat:- Bill Leeming, Aigburth beat Dave Cunningham, Bath St. 'D' 21-16; 17-21; 21-18. Alan Guy, Colonsay 'B' beat Trevor Hughes, Cadwa 'A' 21-18; 21-15. P.Mercer, Bath St. 'E' beat Peter Dobbs Cadwa 'A' 21-10; 18-21; 21-19. Bill Leeming, Aigburth beat Peter Carney, Elect.Supply 'A' 21-10; 15-21; 21-13. Brian Cunningham, Bath St. 'D' beat Rob Peverill, Eng.Elect. 'C' 11-21; 24-22, 24-22, close stuff. Derek Sullivan, Bootle 'B' beat Les Evans, Elect. Supply 23-21; 21-16. J.Aaron, Jewish 'C' beat Bill Truman, Y.M.C.A. 21-13; 21-18. M.Poole, Jewish 'C' beat Mark Read, V.S. 'C' 21-14; 10-21; 22-20 and finally John Hodges, Jewish 'C' beat Rob Brockley, Cadwa 'C' 21-16; 21-11.

Just a parting thought, have you noticed how many 'dry' venues there are in this Division? It should be investigated by the Committee.

Don't blame Ken, Stan, blame me. Can anyone get me off the hook and write these notes - PLEASE? Editor.

DIVISION 4A

JACK LAMBERT

Is it in with the old (Police 'A') or in with the new (Fords)? These boys are setting the pace and I think will fight it out to the end. I must make Fords slight favourites, despite shift work complications they have a strong squad and despite a first ever defeat by English Electric 'F' thanks to an Albert Parker treble - the doubles with Ken Black. With a full strength team playing regularly Electric could be title contenders, but the rest of Fords games show hefty wins with Ken Bennett in fine form with 100%, Police on the other hand have a couple of 6-4 wins against Vagabonds 'A' (Mark Whittaker 2 eight games going to three!) and University (Neil Porter 2), George Wright only losing one during this period. George played for Bootle Police during the 1926 General Strike.

I have a weakness for Draws (I say that in the best possible taste) they are invariably good competitive games, Cadwa 'B' against University (Mel Ringrose 3) and Eng.Electric (Ted Jane 3), Ian Fletcher doing well for Cadwa - Vagabonds 'B' 5 (J.Highton 3), Rafters 'B' 5 (Jerry O'Keefe 2), Jerry played for St.

Edwards in the haunted house in Sandfield Park, Trinity 'C' also 5-5 with Vags. Les Travis 3, what happened to the rest of the Barker & Dobson boys Les?

While I quite enjoy doing your notes and see most of you during the season, if any resident 4A member feels like having a go that is O.K. by J.L. Familiar names and old opponents abound - Sue, Janet, Jean and Pauline are struggling a bit, surprising with youth and beauty on their side.

A couple of good wins for Warwick Bolam, D.Wilkinson and Dave Davies sharing six of the wins - good stuff, Dave Batty winning the two for Vags 'B' and a 6-4 against Courtaulds, J.Piggott and C.Owens this time, seven games going to three. Courtaulds started with a good 6-4 against Eng.Electric 'F', Les Higham and Roly Wright sharing in the six wins.

I won't tell you the result of the Maghull Derby game F.v.E., but five games went to three with the F on the losing end. The Brownmoor Park 'B' boys are having a rough time but they bash on regardless and won three good points against a strong Trinity side, the two Blackburn boys and Condillae the winners, with Les Travis two and the doubles. Bill Slater of Maghull 'F' won his two against Vags.'B' (Dave Batty 2 again) beating Mike Gallagher 21-18; 22-20; and Ken Ray 22-20; 22-20 in a 6-4 Vags. win. Both Cadwa 'B' and University show good results despite Cadwa (Peter McAdam 2) losing their opening game to Vagabonds (Mark Whittaker 2) 6-4 and University have the one defeat against Police. Vags.'A' also a nice close knit side.

Match Richie Winkle (Police) 100%. Roly Wright beat Mark Pierce 21-10; 21-19; Fords won 9-1 Warwick Bolam 6. John Gratton beat Ian Fletcher 29-27; 12-21; 21-16. Have a good season, Festive and T.I.

DIVISION 4B

BARRY MEYER

Welcome to another season in which I'll enjoy meeting some old friends from years gone by as it's about 5 years since I played in this division. I wasn't in the championship team then, and no doubt I won't be this year! Already it's beginning to look like a two horse race between Cadwa 'C' and Wavertree Labour 'D', originally my money would have been on the latter, but as the Childwall outfit won the 'Battle of the Giants' 7-3 on their opponents table to shoot to the top of the league, I must now tip Tony Moon and Company for a medal. The match between them produced an astonishing set when Alan Birch (W.L.) defeated Alan Cameron 21-12; 5-21; 21-4. The fight for third place looks likely to be won by Waterloo (despite an 0-10 at Cadwa) closely followed by Electric 'E', Vernon Sangster and Maghull, though not necessarily in that order - I'm not sticking my neck out that far!

We look set for a battle royal against relegation between Brownmoor Park, Kirkby and Elec.'G'. I'm rather surprised to see Brownmoor struggling so much as on paper they seem to have a pretty useful side. Ronnie Stevenson appears

to be the only player showing any form of consistency and was an excellent sole winner at Cadwa 21-17; 21-13 against Tony Moon. Other sole winners:- Elton Hillman (Jewish 'B') 18,9,16 against M.Hughes (Courtaulds); Ken Dutch (Jewish) a super double over Stanley and Birch (W.L.); P.Christie (Kirkby) a double versus W/Loo (Ken Nelson and Andy Armstrong - 23-21 in the third); also 21-18; 19-21; 21-15 against Ted McGiveron (Elec.E), Les Harper (Elec.G) 13 twice against Peter Meyer (Aigburth): Peter Lee (Kirkby) a double over Stanley and Birch (again), come on lads, you'll never catch Cadwa this way.

Final face savers were Ron Stevenson (again) who beat Jeff Banks (Maghull) 19 and 17 and thirteen year old Colin Rourke (Colonsay) 19, 17, 16 against P.Woods (W'Tree).

English Electric 'E' are having some late nights with an above average number of three setters, epitomised by size - evenly split in the 5-5 draw against Vernon Sangster, Aigburth's game against them had seven three setters (11.20 finish) with Electric winning 8-2. However, at least our Peter and myself had the satisfaction of taking the 100% doubles record off the two Colins (Fyles & Pratt). Colin F. came from behind twice at Maghull to defeat George Frost 22-20 in the third and Wilf Gibson 21-19 also in the final game.

The Maghull vs Vernon Sangster match produced three of the closest sets of the season with both doubles going to Maghull, George Frost and Wilf Gibson edging out Geoff Daw and Tony Luxford 21-19; 20-22; 23-21 and Jeff Banks and Keith Whittaker defeating Dave Evans and M.Finnegan 21-13; 20-22; 22-20, Whittaker lost to Finnegan 13-21; 21-15; 26-28. Some more close ones to finish: Don Gibson (Courtaulds) beat Andrea Power (Colonsay) 24-22; 19-21; 21-19: Richard Blackburne (Jewish) defeated Peter Knight (Aigburth) 22-20; 18-21; 23-21: Andy Armstrong overcame George Frost 22-20 in the third and Harry McGarrity 26-24 in the third in Waterloo's match against Maghull and last but not least Bert Rivers (Courtaulds) beat Tony Moon 21-16; 18-21; 24-22 - one case where Moon River's wasn't wider than a mile !!!

DIVISION 5

ED. CAMERON

The long hot summer was a pleasant memory of the past. We threaded our way through the traffic in closing darkness with a heavy drizzle and a chilling atmosphere. Parking behind the foreboding building, we entered to instructions along the corridor and down the stairs. It was then that we saw it - a robot monster, like a second cousin to a Dalek. It appeared to be on a life support machine, its heartbeats were controlled and regular. An octopus-like, growth rose from its head, its two reddish pink eyes stared glazed and unwinking and at regular intervals the stricken monster emitted a high pitched ear piercing shriek. The room inside was of tropical temperature - harsh bright lights illuminated the implements of torture in the far corner. What looked like the executioners, all in dark navy sat on a bench staring at the operating table, large and formidable in the middle of the room. We felt like sacrificial lambs

as one by one we were selected for treatment. The floor was slippery, yet we saw no sign of blood, but then robots do not spill blood. We lost 8-2 the Police Captain - John Moore refusing to turn the screw in his two singles. John Christian, Len Dyson and Derek Rimmer were not so generous. Len Dyson is well over six foot and his arms appear to be almost as long as he rolls his body an inch or so either way in an effortless return. John and Derek rely more on experience and patience, on the other hand, Captain John likes to have a go, but this evening he was worrying about having to break into his five pound note for refreshments. This Police team is good enough not to hang round in Division 5. When you visit beware of monsters.

Enough of this nonsense, everyone knows that the first issue of the magazine must include forecasts for promotion. We have eight survivors from last season and we welcome five new teams with a particular warm welcome to Rodney Youth who are a new club introduced by Peter Lee of Liverpool Y.M.C.A. Peter has been giving a helping hand at coaching the lads which means that we are likely to see considerable improvement as the youngsters gain confidence.

Wavertree Labour 'E' were top of last season's survivors but Bootle J.C. 'A' are currently top of the league, Cadwa D are well up and have drawn with both Bootle J.C. 'A' and Merseyside Police. These latter three are likely to be fighting it out at the end and the top two will probably be the two most likely to field their full teams more often than their competitors. Judging on past years performances, the likely failures will be the Police, therefore my choice for promotion must be Bootle J.C. 'A' and Cadwa 'D'.

Do not think that any potential promotion hopes will have it easy, Wavertree Lab. 'E' have the ability to upset any team, the University whilst comparatively unknown have a very useful list of players and may not have fully reviewed their strengths. Argot 'A' had a second half run last season which saw them shoot up the table, presumably they could easily get into their stride again. Down at the other end of the table the two Jewish teams will be making sure that they maximise their enjoyment from each match irrespective of challenging for promotion. I am sorry to note that Norman Simmons is not playing this season, but welcome Tony Cohen from Jewish 'F'. Tony has played in the higher Divisions for many years, he will achieve a good average this season, but we will soon bring him down to our level. One comment heard this season is relative to foul serving, check the rules and tidy up now, do not wait to be pulled up in an important cup match.

May I wish you all a good Season's table tennis and don't forget, if you have anything to add to these notes, just drop me a line.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK -

On a circular recently distributed to all Club Secretary's with the League Tables it was stated in error that under the new Bat Regulations all bats

would have to be covered on both sides. Players using one side only of the bat to strike the ball, need only have that side covered, but the side not used for striking the ball must be of a different colour to the covered side.

It is probable that the E.T.T.A. will at their next Annual General Meeting be asking for a substantial increase in fees, and the question is often asked "What do we get out of affiliation to the E.T.T.A."

The following is an extract from an E.T.T.A document sent out to support their claim for increased fees which the Committee thought should be brought to the attention of all players.

Appendix to NC.Q10

1252/505/NKR 12.9.83.

Q Supposing the membership refuses an increase?

A The E.T.T.A's income from the other sources referred to in the note would reduce. Sooner or later, and probably sooner, the Association would have to dramatically curtail activities like coaching, team training, participation by England teams in international events, development of juniors and many other activities. The number of permanent staff employed would have to be reduced. Eventually, the Norwich Union English Open would have to be dropped as well as the English Junior Open. And there would be no chance of organising prestigious events such as the Commonwealth Championships, for example, which help to sell the sport to the public and give a boost to its sales potential.

Q What will the Leagues get out of it?

A The object is to ensure that the E.T.T.A. prospers. The leagues are the E.T.T.A. The leagues will benefit by increased membership which will bring them increased income. This will enable them to expand their activities. This is in addition to the increased benefit they will get from improved and extended services from the national body. But there is more to it than that. As table tennis players, supporters and enthusiasts, surely we want to see table tennis thrive and prosper. We want to see England players and teams winning international championships. Surely we would all like to have a World Champion, or even a champion of Europe. We all take pride in achievements by our national players and teams in the major sports of football, cricket and athletics, so why not table tennis? But success cannot be achieved without financial investment in it.

Q Why do we want the E.T.T.A?

A With respect, the question is narrow, short-sighted and mean. It is the wrong question to ask. The right question is "Why does table tennis in this country require an E.T.T.A?" The answer is in order to provide a central co-ordinating point for a wide variety of aspects of organisation and administration of the sport. Some examples of these are representations of English table tennis in the I.T.T.F. and E.T.T.U., contacts and negotiations with the Sports Council, television, the sports trade and sponsors, organisations, coaching, umpiring and refereeing of international matches, team training, major tournaments, etc., etc., etc.

None of these aspects, nor many others could be co-ordinated and conducted satisfactorily - some would not be pursued at all - if there were no E.T.T.A. Put another way, if there were no E.T.T.A., one would have to be set up. Sport today is business and a sport needs a national body. There is no sport of any standing which does not have one.

John McKim - Hon.Secretary

FROM THE FIXTURE SECRETARY'S DESK

Please check your League Tables - do you agree? If not let me know by listing the match numbers and individual scores.

If you have any outstanding matches, make sure the re-arranged dates are fixed and advise me. Any matches not played by Christmas must be played no later than Week 26.

Have a look at the heading of the new score cards - the match number is that shown on page 18 of the handbook, the brackets are to enter your fixture key numbers. The reason is to help in keeping the League Tables correct. The match number clearly shows the date the game should have been played and the team key numbers help us to identify the correct team which is invaluable when many clubs have more than one team in the same division.

EXAMPLE:-

Match No. ...19....
LIVERPOOL and DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE
Wavertree Labour (3) v Wavertree Labour 'A' (7) date. 3 Feb. '84.

HANDBOOK ALTERATIONS

- Bath St. 'B' & 'D' Teams play at Liverpool Road Methodist Church, Crosby.
- Cadwa 1st & 'D' Teams, Monday. Other Teams Friday.
Trevor's Home Number 489-3608.
- Elec.Supply 1st. Team, Tuesday: 'B' Team, Thursday: 'A' Team, Tuesday.
- Eng.Elec. 'F' Div. 4A and 'G' 4B M/N's Wed. (They were never out).
Jack Lambert District L32 7QU
- L'pool Jewish 1st Wed: 'A' Tuesday: 'B' & 'C' Mon.: 'D' Tuesday : 'E' Thurs:
'F' Team, Tuesday play at Synagogue, Church Road North, Wavertree,
take over fixture 13, Div. 5.
- Kirkby 'C' Team out Division 5.
- Maghull 'D' Team Div.4B - Thurs: 'B' Team Div.3A Tuesday.
- Trinity 'A' Team Div.3A play at Bootle Y.M.C.A. (Happy memories) Park Street, Bootle.

DIVISION 1	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Vernon Sangster	9	8	-	1	75
Bootle	9	8	1	-	67
Rafters	9	8	-	1	65
Wav.Labour	7	6	-	1	58
L'pool YMCA	9	6	3	-	56
Eng.Electric 'A'	10	5	5	-	49
Wav.Labour 'A'	9	5	4	-	44
Eng.Electric	10	4	6	-	44
Maghull	10	4	6	-	38
Vernon Sang. 'A'	10	2	7	1	38
Eng.Electric 'B'	10	2	6	2	37
Wav.Labour 'B'	9	1	7	1	31
Plessey	9	1	7	1	21
Maghull 'A'	8	-	8	-	17

DIVISION 2	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Elec.Supply	10	9	-	1	84
L'pool Jewish	10	7	2	1	65
L'pool YMCA 'A'	10	7	2	1	63
Cadwa	8	5	1	2	55
Bath St.	8	6	1	1	51
Trinity	9	4	4	1	49
Vernon Sang. 'B'	9	5	4	-	48
Colonsay	8	5	3	-	40
Police	9	2	7	-	38
Brownmoor Park	9	2	5	2	37
Bath St. 'A'	7	3	4	-	34
Linacre	8	-	7	1	21
L'pool Jewish 'A'	7	-	7	-	14
Wav.Labour 'C'	10	-	10	-	11

DIVISION 3A	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Bootle 'A'	10	10	-	-	84
Eng.Electric 'D'	9	7	1	1	65
Vagabonds	9	5	2	2	54
Elec.Supply 'B'	9	6	3	-	53
Colonsay 'A'	10	5	4	1	51
Argot	9	4	4	1	40
Bath St. 'C'	8	3	5	-	39
Maghull 'B'	8	4	3	1	37
Kirkby	8	1	5	2	34
Bootle J.C.	8	2	4	2	33
Rafters 'A'	7	2	4	1	26
Trinity 'A'	6	1	3	2	22
L'pool Jewish 'B'	8	2	6	-	22
Plessey 'A'	7	-	6	1	20

DIVISION 3B	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Elec.Supply 'A'	9	7	1	1	74
Cadwa 'A'	9	8	-	1	73
Eng.Electric 'C'	9	7	1	1	60
L'pool YMCA 'B'	9	6	1	2	58
Vernon Sang. 'C'	9	6	3	-	53
Bath St. 'B'	7	4	2	1	42
Bath St. 'D'	9	3	6	-	37
Aigburth	9	3	5	1	35
Maghull 'C'	9	2	5	2	32
Bootle 'B'	8	2	5	1	31
Trinity 'B'	7	2	5	-	23
Colonsay 'B'	8	-	7	1	20
L'pool Jewish 'C'	8	-	7	1	18
Bath St. 'E'	4	1	3	-	14

DIVISION 4A	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Fords	9	8	1	-	78
Police 'A'	10	10	-	-	75
Eng.Electric 'F'	10	7	2	1	61
University	8	6	1	1	60
Vagabonds 'A'	9	6	3	-	57
Warwick Bolam	9	4	1	1	47
Maghull 'E'	9	3	5	1	45
Courtaulds	10	3	7	-	36
Trinity 'C'	7	3	3	1	34
Cadwa 'B'	6	2	2	2	33
Vagabonds 'B'	8	2	4	2	33
Rafters 'B'	8	-	7	1	20
Maghull 'F'	8	1	7	-	18
Brownmoor Pk. 'B'	9	-	9	-	3

DIVISION 4B	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Cadwa 'C'	9	9	-	-	76
Waterloo	9	8	1	-	64
Eng.Electric 'E'	8	6	1	1	54
Wav.Labour 'D'	8	5	2	1	53
Maghull 'D'	9	5	3	1	53
Vernon Sang. 'D'	7	4	2	1	46
Courtaulds 'A'	8	3	5	-	37
Aigburth 'A'	8	3	5	-	32
Colonsay 'C'	8	3	5	-	32
Eng.Electric 'G'	9	2	7	-	29
L'pool Jewish 'D'	10	2	7	1	28
Kirkby 'A'	8	1	7	-	24
Brownmoor Pk. 'A'	9	1	7	1	22

DIVISION 5	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Police 'B'	9	8	-	1	71
Bootle J.C.'A'	8	7	-	1	65
Cadwa 'D'	9	5	2	2	59
Argot 'A'	9	6	3	-	52
Wav.Labour 'E'	9	3	5	1	47
Elec.Supply 'C'	9	3	2	4	45
University 'A'	7	4	3	-	40
Maghull 'G'	7	4	3	-	40
Rodney Youth	9	2	4	3	37
Kirkby 'B'	9	1	5	3	31
L'pool Jewish 'F'	8	-	5	3	25
Warwick Bolam 'A'	7	7	1	5	21
L'pool Jewish 'E'	9	-	8	1	10

MORE TABLE EDGES

We have about 3½ juniors to pick from for the Liverpool Junior Team.

So what can we do about our lack of youngsters?

There are so many oldies (all nice guys) but I hate to think ahead to five or ten years.

HANDBOOK ALTERATIONS (continued)

Warwick Bolam	Dave Davies, 8 Friars Walk, Formby, Tel. 36 79132
Rodney Y.C.	Rodney Street, Div.5. M/N Mon. Sec: D.B.Lee, c/o Club, take over fixture 2 Div.5.
Rafters	'C' Team, Div.4B out: Eric's gone to Maghull.

TABLE EDGES

Stamping is now a fault and you should lose the point, but when is a stamp not a stamp? The crunch is that when the bloke or blokess takes the Umpire's seat, he, or she should be an UMPIRE AND NOT just a scorer. So the stamp and losing the point is the Umpire's decision. Brian Leeson pointed this out to me the other day.

There will be no Merseyside Open this season - no sponsors. The Closed will take place as usual - sponsors required, contact Arthur Upton, John McKim or Don Cameron.

Copies of Table Tennis News is now available from J.Ashcroft & Co., 37 Victoria Street, Liverpool at 60p a copy. If you smile sweetly you could get a free copy of Table Tennis Rules.

The National magazine is struggling so if you don't get a copy from Ashcrofts you could get eight copies post free from the E.T.T.A. 21 Claremont, Hastings, Sussex, TN34 1HA for just £6.00.

I wonder why our old Digest friends from Bolton - Wallace Bros., were sacked and the job taken over by a Southern firm?

Also available from the E.T.T.A. Hastings, E.T.T.A. Rule Books 25p, E.T.T.A. Lapel badges 35p, cheaper if more than three bought. Ties, blue or maroon £2.00. Tournament diaries £1.50, all include V.A.I. and postage.