



Table Tennis DIGEST

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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EDITORIAL

For many years I have been a table tennis secretary between 15 and 40 members. Until a couple of years ago a football secretary, between 25 and 30 members and involved in office functions between 30 and 60 staff. At table tennis dances we always topped 100 the limit for the room. Football dances 130 to 250. Office functions 120-200.

So I thought with about 600 members in the table tennis league plus old comrades and friends and nearly a hundred (including spouses etc.,) receiving awards in a proper presentation atmosphere with friends having a drink and chat, running a dance with two or three hundred attending was a piece of cake - I was wrong.

To the few who did support the dances and the league finances, thank you. Particular mention to Stan Clark and Maghull, Dave Wilson and Bootle and Bill Proffitt and Fords.

With the co-operation of our correspondents we have managed to conform to the management committee's directive and produce the magazine in November and February, the one for the A.G.M. has been a bit tight, even though I received the first notes on April 13th. I think we will make it!

THANKS TO LES FRENCH, BARRY MEYER, DON CHALKLEY, MIKE ELSTON, EDDIE CAMERON and STAN CLARKE.

Did anyone spot the February 'Deliberate' mistake!?

Congratulations to the Wavertree Labour Club on winning one of the closest championships for many a year. Wavertree were locked in combat with Vernon Sangster for the whole season. In the final week Labour needed a 10-0 win over E.E. 'B' to make sure, should Sangster beat Rafters and Mag.'A' by the same margin. As it transpired, Sangster could manage only 7-3 against Rafters, so it looked like the final margin would be 4 sets, with Sangster beating Maghull 'A' by 10-0 earlier in the season. In that final match there was more drama to come. Steve Green's lift to Maghull fell through at the last minute. After arranging to be picked up at Lime Street Station in the little time available, it was discovered that there was a lightning rail strike. (Will Armson stop at nothing to win the championship?). Steve missed the game, Sangster had to fight all the way to salvage a draw and preserve their unbeaten record.

What a great season for Labour 'manager' Ken Armson. The championship, followed by a television appearance. No, our game isn't catching on at last, it was as the Railway Union spokesman. The Wavertree Labour team were deserved winners. Superbly led by dedicated, sportsman Keith Williams, with so many qualities as a player and person, who ended up with 52 wins and only 4 defeats. Welshman John Hook weighed in with 47-7 and how many teams over the years can boast the current Liverpool Closed Champion at number THREE. I'd like to add a personal note here. With our own John Rankin against Dave in the final of the Closed, obviously I was biased. However I'm sure that I'm echoing the thoughts of everybody who knows Dave how pleased I am that he has put his name on the Roll of Honour. Dave's unconventional style of play, his absolute determination to do well for his team, make him one of the most respected players around. Dave ended up with 50 wins and 8 defeats in the League and was an ever-present, along with his captain Roy Smith, who ended with 44-15 and was always an inspiration to the team. Faced with a team such as this, what else could Vernon Sangster do but come second? Full marks to John Rankin, who, with 48 wins and only 2 defeats had the best record in the city. Only Tony O'Connor and Keith Williams managed to beat him and John had recorded victories over both of them earlier in the season. Steve Green was disappointed with his 36 wins and 12 defeats and I was overjoyed with 35 wins and 15 defeats for my best ever in the First Division. Peter Flint, with 29-7, missed too many games and this was the decisive factor in putting Sangster out of reach of the title. Early on in the season it looked like Bootle would also be challenging strongly. They fell behind a little but their chances nose-dived when Tony O'Connor stopped playing in mid-January. Paul Hutchings was a tower of strength with 41-5, well supported by Ricky Brown 26-18 and Lawrence Kenwright 25-25, who finished the season in good form. Tony's record was 21-2 when he stopped. Rafters, with a large squad, were best served by Alan Timewell 31-9 and Graham Parr 28-8, with Paul

Ashcroft 34-13, the only other regular player. Their results improved considerably with Ian Smith turning out frequently to qualify for the cup semi-final. Clearly it paid off handsomely when Rafter's unexpectedly beat Wav.Lab. in the semi and went on to beat Bootle in the final.

Down at the other end of the division we say goodbye to Eng.Elec.'B' and Plessey. Plessey made a late bid with some improved results, but if they were expecting Maghull 'A' to falter they were mistaken. They, too improved dramatically, so Plessey were well behind at the end. In fact, Maghull 'A' did well enough to catch up the next group. Wav.Lab.'B' and Vernon Sangster 'A' had kept comfortably clear and were joined by Wav.Lab.'A' and Eng.Elec.'A' who both had team problems. Billy Wardle 18-18, stopped playing and was replaced by a Third Division player of many years, Pete Davies, then ranked for the 'C' team. I was under the impression that players could not be re-ranked 'through' teams. Explanation, John, please. Still, their 'B' team was undisturbed, and possible relegation problems were avoided. A bit unfair to Plessey, I think. Eng.Elec.'A' lost Joe Green at Xmas and it's hard to see who was ranked up to replace him. The inevitable team changes at Electric caused a fair amount of discontent among the 'A' and 'B' team players, who rarely had the same team for two matches in succession.

I'd like to publicly express my thanks to the Maghull 'A' team for being sporting enough in the match against V.S. to actually start it about 8.50 p.m. You are always guaranteed an enjoyable evening against this team, if only to listen to the Murphy/Allen chat show. Frank reckons he's talked more opponents out of games this season than ever before. Frank's best performance was a 15-6 victory over Paul Kinsey 28-23 to add to a 12-18 win over Ray Jackson. He ended up with a 20-32 record. Alan Chase did best with 26-30, well-supported by Ted Birch, with 21-27. Mick found the going tough. For Plessey I'd expected Trevor Owens to do better than 21-33. He seemed to lack the determination of years gone by. Ray Lavin did best with 17-21, with the genial Bob Edwards ending with 20-33 and Peter Wass completed the team. For Eng.Elec.'B' only Brian Crolley had any success, but he too dropped from 16-18 to 18-32 at the end of the season. Full marks to Kevin Parker and Frank McCann, for trying hard to the bitter end.

One success story was the transfer of Sh.. no, Eric Hardman to Maghull. Eric's enthusiasm rubbed off on the whole team, which rose rapidly up the table to catch up the Electric first team. Eric ended up with 34-16. Neil Royden improved considerably to end with 25-27. Brother Mark had 18-23, with Dave Tagg on 15-35.

One factor has marred the division this year. That is the fact that all too many teams varied from week to week. The YMCA side were very unsettled, with only Peter Taylor 38-18, playing in every match. Peter Lee missed a lot at

the end and finished with 30-14. Harry Johnston 20-20 had a disappointing season by past standards, 20-20. Student Mike Stephenson, who could claim a win over Keith Williams, only ended with 6 wins and 6 defeats.

Vernon Sangster 'A' struggled a bit. John Greene had a disappointing season, mainly due to his involvement in basketball. He can do much better than 16-24. Bill Harris ended up with 23-27, the first time in his career he has dropped below 50%. It was left to Chris Ford, with 29-29 and captain Paul Gittins with 31-25 to keep the side clear of relegation.

English Electric, missing Phil Thomson, did well to maintain their usual league position. Tommy Williams 24-19 was a useful replacement. Fred Pheysey 29-22 was as reliable as always, but Alec Sill 18-30 and Rod McPherson 19-35 were but shadows of the players we have known. For their 'A' team, Richie Cragg did well to end with 21-29 in his first season in this division. Jimmy, the 'Mouth', Lynch had 20-20, but Graeme Black had a disappointing season with 18-32.

The 'big' match, the return game between Labour and Sangster, attracted a large audience. At the start, Labour were leading the division by 6 sets. Labour had Rob Bevan 26-33 in for the injured John Hook, whilst Paul Gittins, with impressive wins over John Hook, twice, and Dave Roberts replaced yours truly. The opening set saw Dave Roberts and Roy Smith beat John Rankin and Peter Flint. The sets went with call until 4-4 and included a brilliant game between Dave Roberts and Peter Flint, with Peter taking it 19 in the third, Steve Green got his revenge over Roy Smith, 18, 13, but was no match for Keith Williams. Paul Gittins also had a superb set with Dave Roberts. This set was one of the best I've seen all season, with Dave edging home - 20, 17, 20. Paul followed this up with another great performance to beat Rob Bevan 12, - 20, 16. So it was 5-4 to Sangster and what a finale. Keith v John. John took the first 21-16, but Keith was brilliant in the second to take it 21-10. The last game had some exciting moments before Keith took it 21-18 to square the match. What a great spirit of friendly rivalry in front of an appreciative audience. Incidentally, when John played Keith he was still unbeaten with 39-0. Another great match was between Maghull and Rafters. Two great wins from Eric over Ian Smith 17, 16 and Paul Ashcroft 17, -14, 18 laid the foundation of a great draw for Maghull. Dave Tagg had his best win, beating Graham Parr 17 in the third. Mark Royden beat Alan Timewell again, 14, -15, 13. Brother Neil just lost 23-21 in the third to Alan, but combined with Eric to beat Paul and Graham in the doubles, again 22-20 in the third. The Wavertree Labour v Rafters match contained some rare score lines. Dave Roberts beat Paul Ashcroft 21-1, 21-7, but was then beaten by Alan Timewell. Paul beat Roy Smith to make amends. Alan lost to John Hook, who lost to Mike Mercer, who lost to Keith. It's all very confusing. Fittingly, the match ended in a draw.

Some good individual efforts: Chris Ford beat Tommy Williams 18, 11 and Rod

McPherson: Alan Chase beat Graham Parr in 2; Jeff Huntington beat Alan Timewell in 2; as did Malcolm Pu. Steve Gittins beat Jimmy Lynch and Mick Tierney: Richie Cragg beat Phil Luxon: Paul Hutchings beat Keith Williams again.

DIVISION 2

DON CHALKLEY

Congratulations to Electric Supply, League champions and Rumjahn Cup winners and Cadwa runners-up in both. Last year Maghull created a record of 26 wins out of 26 games but Supply have amassed 20 more points. Their only blemish has been the early season draw with runners-up Cadwa. I haven't received all the score cards but what I have shows Malcolm McEvoy unbeaten in 44 games. Les Molyneux 37-42, Brian Davey 34-40 and Paul Baker 26-40. Congratulations Malcolm on your marvellous run. He also reached the semi-finals of the Closed. The support from Les, Brian and Paul ensured quick success. Paul was unable to finish the League matches because of his studies. Alec Bryce was a good sub. Their main threat had been the Cadwa team of Mike Mahoney, Neil Gravener, Neil Jennings and Alan Radcliffe and the second game played ended 6-4 for Supply, Les Molyneux beating Alan Radcliffe 21-13 and Malcolm McEvoy and Les Molyneux beating Neil Jennings and Alan Radcliffe 21-15 both in the third. In view of these two results the lads from Cadwa were looking forward to giving the champions a fight in the Rumjahn Cup final. However, despite a couple of tight games, Supply won the first six games in a whitewash. At one stage Cadwa looked reasonably certain to be runners-up but didn't quite apply the "coup de grace" as they should have done. Mike Mahoney was consistency itself again with 34-38 and Neil Gravener with 30-36 was an asset, Neil Jennings and Alan Radcliffe gave support with 22-38 and 19-36 respectively. A reverse against Bath St. 6-4 didn't assist their cause with Alan Walton beating Neil Jennings and Alan Radcliffe in straight games; Ken Jackson beat Mike 22-20 in 3; Neil Gravener beat Ken 24-22 in 3 and Dave Butterworth in 2. Vernon Sangster 'B' drew with Cadwa, Steve Gittins beating Mike and Alan in straight games, Sue Manning beat Neil Jennings and Alan Radcliffe. Jewish managed to get John McGee from the Widnes League to replace Jim McMillan who is recovering from his operation. They remained consistent and ended the season with YMCA 'A' and their own 'A' team to play with 19 points to obtain a play-off with Cadwa for runners-up. They beat YMCA 9-1 and obviously decided they couldn't beat their second team 10-0 and then beat Cadwa in the play-off. There had been a problem at Jewish when their electricity failed. They forfeited a 10-0 walk over to their 'A' team who were already safe from relegation, it is to their credit they didn't do it vice versa for a play-off. What a farcical situation to be in. It doesn't strike me as desirable that clubs can leave games until after the season and then if they had wanted to, help their other team out. I think a change of rules is needed to make clubs play games between their own teams either on time or immediately after.

For Jewish, Eddie Clein was as consistent as ever with 35-40, Roy Bradbury with 26-38 was as talkative as ever!! I'm only joking Roy, Bob Hudson had

26-38, Jim McMillan 16-26. Bath St. were unfortunate to lose the consistent Ian McIlvee 23-30 with cartilage trouble. Hope you are better now Ian. They were lucky to find Kenny Jackson now finished with the Fire Brigade and living in the wealthy north of Merseyside! Alan Walton had 23-32, Peter Ross 20-26 and Dave Butterworth 14-26. Draws at home with Police and Jewish 'A' didn't help their cause, Gareth Jones beating Kenny in 2 and Val Franco in 3 and Dave Crispin beating Peter 23-21 in 3 in an ill tempered last game. The other match found Paul Morgan beating Peter in 2 and D.Armson in a similar manner, Ian Burrows beat Dave Butterworth in 3. Their match with Vernon Sangster 'B' looked a cracking match, every game went to three. From 0.4 V.S. 'B' clawed their way back and lost 4-6. Steve Gittin beat Peter and Alan. Ian nearly beat K.Jackson 21-19 in 3. Sue Manning beat Dave Butterworth, Brownmoor Park with Bill Spencer Alan Williams, Fred Bainbridge and Steve Wellman fought hard in the team's first season in the Second Division with Steve 25-36 and Fred 19-34 and were good sporting opponents. A 6-4 loss to Cadwa was a good result with Steve beating Neil Jennings 21-19; 24-22 and then Alan in two. Fred beat Neil Gravener 21-12 in 3. Bath St. 'A' had very unsettled teams and looked from early in the season likely to be relegated. Those sporting 'young' gents from Linacre fought hard, lost well and retained their natural friendliness. It was nice to see Wav.Lab. 'B' played their games (as far as I could see) knowing they were outclassed. At one stage Jewish 'A' looked likely to go down but as soon as they could produce John Henshaw, Paul Morgan, Ian Burrows and Richard Stevenson on a regular basis it was obvious survival was possible. They had a tremendous second half with Paul Morgan turning up at 1,2,3 and 4, having their best successes 13-18. Police were once again fighting for survival particularly with Dave Crispin either ill or injured and he missed nine matches (Tom Purcell and I struggled). The miner's strike with extra hours for the Police didn't help us and Bill Spencer was kind enough to delay a match for a week because of our problems. We still played Jewish 'A' and Brownmoor Park without Dave and were pleased to survive again. During the season Gareth Jones with 35-52 played consistently well. Gareth is a vastly improved player. With Sue Anderson he won our Police North West Regional Mixed Doubles and they only lost in the finals of the National Firsts, well done. Although Colonsay finished below Police I believe they gave three walk-overs and I am only pleased that these walk-overs didn't affect either promotion or relegation. They had young A.Taylor with 23-32, a good start and this lad will improve.

YMCA have played at least 12 players and we had the misfortune to play George Smith and M.Yate on both occasions and we were pleased to get 9 out of 20 points. My apologies to George for sacrificing myself, but we needed the points. Malcolm Pu lost 13-14, Maurice Yate unbeaten in 16 but I do know he lost that record later. Vernon Sangster 'B' held their own and I was pleased to see Steve Gittin beat some really good players, after I had beaten Sue Manning in 2, I had one of my biggest hidings, Steve thrashed me 21-9; 21-; and he and Gareth had a cracker with the Welsh wizard winning 21-19 in 3. Steve finished on 22-36

and Sue 25-38. Ian Wensley and Paula French gave invaluable assistance. Trinity had a poor second season and they lost the Trueman brothers and Ray Tagg came in. Mick Kean with 29-40 only lost to the best and looked as sharp as ever. John Higham was as consistent as ever with 25-46 and 'young' Tom Killip had 23-46, he still looks as fit as a fiddle and I am envious of his lack of grey hair!

It was nice to see "son of Tom", J.Killip, in the same team. Best of luck son, if you finish half as good as dad, you will be a good player. Some good wins were Bill Clayton 23-25; 21-17; 24-22 over Gareth Jones, A.Taylor beat J.McMillan 22-20 in 3, J.Forrest beat N.Jennings in 2, M.Tate beat I.McIlveen 21-18 in 3, P.Ross beat Ian also in 3. E.Clein beat M.Mahoney 24-22; 18-21; 21-19. Tom Purcell beat J.Worsley 22-20 in 3. I.McIlveen beat P.Baker 21-13; 21-5. M.Pu beat B.Davey 21-10 in 3. M.Cray beat R.Bradbury and R.Hudson in 3. H.Reeve beat Royden, G.Jones beat P.Morgan in 2. P.Ross beat R.Hudson 22-20 in 3. Steve Gittins beat M.Mahoney in 2: M.Keane beat E.Clein in 2; E.Clein beat I.Wensley, Ian retired and did not come out for third game (I gather these games were not played in the most sporting manner). S.Gittins beat Bob Hudson 22-20; 22-20. D.Crispin beat B.Davey 21-19; 22-20; A.Taylor beat B.Davey in 3; F.Lay beat N.Gravener in 3. See you next season.

DIVISION 3A

MIKE ELSTON

Well the season has finished and congrats. to Bootle A and English Electric D (good luck in Division 2 and commiserations to Rafters and Jewish.)

Bootle ran out comfortable winners losing only twice in the season (Bootle J.C. and Vags.). Both times No.1 Keith Miller was missing but nevertheless a fine performance by the victors. I just wonder if the team is strong enough in depth to survive in the 2nd anyway, only time will tell and good luck to them. English Electric finished a good second place due mainly to their ability to field the same four consistently, they only lost twice as well, both times to Bootle and both 1-9, surprisingly they fielded their strongest side, Dave, Julie, Roy and Ro, this side might find life in the second slightly better than the Bootle side because if anything the Elec. side is more 'experienced', Ro Craddock seems to have been playing since the league started many moons ago!!! Vagabonds yet again finished high in this division, they just seem to lack that little bit of push to get among the top two, although Bobby Owens had a good season. Elec.Supply, I must admit, have surprised not only me but a few other teams, they don't seem to rely on a 'star' player but all four are hard to beat, a good solid team and their position of 4th does not flatter them, well done.

Argot were a little disappointing because apart from Billy Hargreaves (84%) the rest of the team did not do themselves proud, mind you it was a rare occasion in the latter part of the season that the top four all played together, young Steve Ward filling in very well. Bootle J.C. settled into

the swing of things and their position in the division must be pleasing, isn't it nice to see a married couple in the same team and not one argument all night!!! The next four, Colonsay, Maghull, Bath St. and Trinity had their normal seasons, middle of the table, nice teams, plenty of drinks, enjoyable matches, hard teams to beat on their night. Kirkby lost a couple of players and brought in some youngsters under the careful coaching of Norman Challoner, they held their own but I must wonder if the enthusiasm for the stringent rule abiding overwhelms the enjoyment of the game, after all this is only the third division!!! Anyway Kirkby will be here next season and the experience gained by the team will no doubt help them push them further up the table. Plessey really improved in the second half of the season leaving the other two, Rafters and Jewish to face the prospect of 4th Division. Rafters just didn't put any run of good results together and have struggled all season. The problems of the Jewish team seem to be mainly internal and if they sort themselves out I am sure that Mal Green, Warren Davies and George Files won't be down in 4B for long. Some good results Maghull 4-6; Eng.Elec. 2, good wins for Andy Howarth. Supply/Vags 5-5, Tommy Lynch an excellent win over Bobby Owens 23-21; in the third. Supply also going down to Bootle 4-6; Eng.Elec. 6 Kirkby 4; 2 wins N.Challoner: Plessey's 9-1 win over Kirkby, young Tony Leary beating Ray Austin 22-20, 22-20; Bootle J.C's 7-3 win over Argot, Tony Barbert beating Bill Hargreaves in 2; Rafters losing 4-6 to Vags., Don Davies (2): Trinity losing 4-6 to Bootle, Dave Southwark (2): Plessey's draw with Bootle, Ian Blore's fine win over Ian Miller 17 in the 3rd Vags. good 6-4 over Bootle.

Looking through the result cards I noticed there was one team throughout the season who were involved in 16 4-6 or 6-4 results, this just shows how difficult some teams in this division are to beat, by the way, the team concerned won 8 (6-4) and lost 8 (4-6). I leave this season with the encouragement that next year will be just as good as this and that just maybe, but only maybe, slightly better.

P.S. It was pointed out to me that a certain I.Blore before he played a certain D.Ashby stated "If I lose this game I am packing up" - he did lose but I wonder will he be playing next season??

DIVISION 3B

STAN CLARKE

When policemen seem to be younger, time passes very quickly, then old age has arrived. With that in mind the season's seven months seem to have passed in weeks, can it really be six months ago that I tipped Cadwa 'A' and Electric Supply 'A' to be likely candidates for promotion? Nice to be right about something, I also got the relegated teams right as well. Congratulations to Cadwa 'A', champions and very worthy champions at that with a team composed of Trevor Hughes, Ken Hartley, Peter Dobbs and Mike Power showing talent, sportsmanship and just a touch of the unorthodox from Trevor and Peter. Runners-up spot came to Electric Supply 'A', their team of Peter Carney, Alan Biggs, Les Evans and

John Moore fought all the way, but in the end had to give best to Trevor's tribe. It may seem daft but I suspect that Supply may just be better equipped to survive in Division 2 than the Cadwa boys. Third place went to YMCA 'B' had it not been for some early season disasters, they might well have pressed the top two even closer, the fact that they lost only two matches shows their quality, but six draws put paid to any promotion hopes. English Electric 'C' may be disappointed with fourth place, they finished only 6 points behind YMCA having lost three matches. My own feeling is that they relied too much on their one and two to win all of their games and hope that Ian and Peter would pick up a couple between them for the win, that plan worked well most of the time but collapsed if George and Nigel failed to deliver the goods. George Lennon, English Electric reached the final of the restricted singles at the Closed where he met Ken Hartley of Cadwa both players suffered from nerves, George won the match 23-21; 21-13; Ken, I am sure must have been disappointed that he was unable to produce his usual league form. Vernon Sangster 'C' finished fifth place, only four points behind English Electric 'C'. With due respects to Roger Bennion, the signing of Roy Lussey complete with funny rubbers seems to have given the Sangster youngsters an added bite, could be that with Roy doing his blackbeard impression they were afraid to lose, whatever the reason Mark Heed, Neil Montague and John Cowley produced some fine wins. Bath St. 'B' finished in sixth place, and I am sure that Alec Gould and his merry men will be disappointed that they were unable to bounce back to Division 2 at the first attempt, their season has been marked by illness and loss of form, not to mention the promotion of Val Franco. Bootle 'B' finished in seventh place improving their position considerably since the half way stage in Dave Wilson and Derek Sullivan, they have a very useful not so awkward top two, Mark Patterson and Jackie Wilson have the going a little more difficult. Talking of Jackie, I understand that her mind has been on matters which some would think more important than table tennis, I am told that she will shortly be announcing her engagement (to a non-I.T. person) so may I offer Jackie the very best wishes and congratulations from myself and on behalf of all her friends in the Liverpool League, and Jackie, not a word about that underskirt.

Trinity 'B' put aside their early season problems and finished the season in fine style, they seemed to have used a large number of players this year, but with Mike Corcoran, Roy Williams, Les Travis and Mike Griffiths they can field a very useful side and they still have John Simm and several others in the reserves. In ninth place Bath St. 'D' must be very disappointed with players like Fraser Farguarharson, Dave Cunningham, John Pilkington, Eugene Berger and the resurrected Brian Jennings to call on they really should have done much better, mind you it's a close run thing between them and Maghull 'C' for the team with the largest alcohol intake per match, I must say I think Maghull win that contest for having strength in depth, whereas Bath St. 'D' rely too heavily on their one and two.

Maghull 'C' finished in 10th place and will be happy to have maintained their place in the division. Unlike some other teams in the division they had a very consistent season, they started badly and stayed that way all season, one of the few happy with his personal performance being Alan Smethurst, who started the season with a terrible run of defeats, but stuck to his guns finishing top of the Maghull averages, having been converted to "funny rubbers" by his coach. The bottom three places went to Aigburth Jewish 'C' and Colonsay 'B' in descending order. Aigburth are much to be admired, no power on earth is going to change their attitude to the game or their love of the despicable "Barna" bats, it would be interesting to know how many years of playing the team of Bill Leeming, the brothers Holms and Jim Lightburn can amass, I only hope that when the new law on bat rubbers is finally introduced it doesn't drive players like these out of the game.

Jewish 'C' had a traumatic season which only started to improve after the transfer of Roger Bennion back to his old club, had they played the team that they turned out in their last match i.e. J.McGhee, M.Poole, Roger Bennion and Dave Cohen then they would never have been in the relegation zone. Colonsay 'B' are relegated, Bath St. 'E' having been withdrawn, which is a pity for Alan Guy who has played well all season. I am sure their young reserves benefitted from the experience.

And finally a roll of honour of those who saved a whitewash:- Roy Williams Trinity beat Mark Reed V.S.C. 21-19; 21-19: Alan Smethurst, Maghull 'C' beat Bill Trueman YMCA 21-16; 22-20: J.McGhee, Jewish 'C' beat John Moore, Elect. Supply 21-11; 21-12; Dave Cohen, Jewish beat Dave Evans VSC, 21-17; 14-21; 21-8: S.Graham, Jewish beat Dave Berry, Maghull 21-16; 13-21; 21-12: Damion Turner, Colonsay, beat Peter Dobbs, Cadwa 14-21; 22-20; 25-23: and finally Alan Smethurst, Maghull, beat Dave Cohen, Jewish 22-20; 21-15.

DIVISION 4A

JACK LAMBERT

Our team of the year must be Fords, two seasons in the league and two championships and cup winners twice, congratulations to Bill Proffitt and his squad, Ken Bennett with 100% record in cup and league, with Arthur Pearce not far behind. Bill and Geoff Mao fighting it out for the number three spot and Dave Garbe and Jack Wilson completing the super squad.

I thought Alan Wood and George Wright were old mates but they really sank my forecast, although Alan, Albie Baker and Richie Winkle all finished with pretty good and near identical sets records. It was of course the splendid University side who turned on the heat, with Mel Ringrose just pipping Steve Denison for top sets winner in the Division with Steve sharing the number two spot with Ken Bennett. Neil Parker and Tony Montague were the other stalwarts in the excellent University runners up side.

Cadwa 'B' didn't let me down in a clear cut number three spot with Ian Fletcher

having a great season and the Division's joint number three, Rob Davies, Peter McAdam and Neil Hodgson all having a good season. Vagabonds 'A' only called on a couple of reserves all season which must have helped the team spirit. Mark Whittaker was outstanding in the Division's joint number three spot of set winners with John Gratton, Gordon Langshaw and Ken Roberts giving excellent support.

Brownmoor Park finished with eleven points and four heroes Adrian Blackburn was their top scorer! Harry Blackburn, Ron Makin and David Condillac only missed four games between them all season. The Maghull 'F' team top scorer Bill Salter. Frank Leece, laugh a minute Dave Lamden and Jim Gill also only missed a handful of games, but Maghull 'E' 5 and Warwick Bolam 5 are the teams who called on the least players during the season, both teams together with English Electric are very reluctant to let anyone know their christian names - I wonder why??? Steve McGannity lost to Pablo Wilkinson and 'Conchita' Cowans, Harry McGannity beat Wilkinson and Dave Davies, Peter Brownlee top scorer with an excellent season beat Cowans and Lester J.Piggott with Steve Banks missing one of his side's three reserve games. Vagabonds 'B' had 7-3's against Courtaulds Danny Every and Jim Geddes winning singles with Rolly Wright their top man and evergreen Les Higham their other regulars not getting off the mark. Another 7-3 for Vags. against Rafters 'B', Pauline Laurenson and Sue Smith (their top scorer) winning a singles each with Jean Reynolds their other regulars not scoring. Get back to table tennis Sue, all is forgiven - you have had your bit of fun at the squash courts.

Top performance however, was against their strong 'A' team (Whittaker 3) Ken Ray and Dave Batty top scorer winning a singles each, Mike Gallagher not getting off the mark and Jack Taylor not playing. The elderly gentlemen from English Electric won and drew with the strong Fords side, Albert Parker (top set winner) winning his two against Geoff Mac and Bill Proffitt both in the third, Wally Sill also beat Bill 19 in the third and Ted Jane (a strong reserve) beat Geoff 23-21 in the third. Ken Black and Stan Draper with business commitments have not had the best of seasons, but still they can't complain at their age!!?

Any statistics I have are all given less a few cards and for me as a secretary, record of 21 out of 40 games is much better than 20 out of 20 that is why I quote top set winners as opposed to best average. Not a lot of cards we got!

In a good draw by Cadwa 'B' against Fords (Garbe and Bennett 2 each) their strength was in winning both doubles. Another draw between Courtaulds and Maghull 'E' was quite a battle, seven sets going to three - I hope you started at 7.30 p.m. A good win by Warwick Bolam over Police with three for Owens. Ray and Batty won 27-25 in the third against Wright and Geddes. Three good points for Maghull 'F' in the local derby against the 'E', H.McGannity and

Banks trebles. Police 'A' 3, Cadwa 'B' 7 - seven games to three Rob Davies beat Richie Winkle 21-12; 25-27; 22-20, Terry Montague beat Neil Hodson 21-23; 23-21; 22-20. My goodness Ken Bennett's 100% looked a bit fragile against Neil Parker, he won 23-21; 19-21; 24-22, Fords 6-4 that game. Danny Every wins the only two for Courtaulds against Vags 'A' both in the third against Langshaw and Roberts, Ron Makin beat Ken Ray 18-21; 21-18; 22-20. Jim Geddes beat Jason Oh 21-17; 8-21; 22-20.

A couple of lone winning heroes 'Pablo' Wilkinson (W.B) beat Peter Macadam 21-18; 17-21; 21-19: Ken Ray beat Richie Winkle 16 and 18, Sue Smith beat Jim Geddes 14 and 14 and lost to Les Higham 19 in the third. Adrian Blackburn beat Jerry O'Keefe 18 and 20.

And then there was the bloke who thought Mel Ringrose was a bloke - how wrong can you be - sorry Melanie.

DIVISION 4B

BARRY MEYER

So endeth another season without a medal, I think I'll see if there are any vacancies in the Blind League next season! Seriously though folks congratulations to Cadwa on winning the league. Since taking over the lead after five matches they never looked like being challenged, although if Waterloo hadn't lost 10-0 to them in the first match of the season, the Nelsons and Co., would have made it a very close run thing as they were unbeaten for the rest of the season. They also inflicted Cadwa's only defeat on them in the return 6-4, the double being the decisive factor with Andie and Mike Nelson beating Alan Cameron and Tony Moon in the third and Ken Nelson and Andy Armstrong having an easy 9 and 15 win over Les Griffin and reserve Jack Power. Jack however, had a great 16, 17, 19 win over Ken in the singles. Vernon Sangster came third despite conceding a 10-0 W/O at home to Elec. 'E' and losing 3-7 to Aigburth. They were also a player short at Colonsay but snatched a draw. The bottom end of the table produced excitement until the last couple of games which left Electric 'G' at the bottom as Aigburth pulled clear of them and Jewish 'D' with three good wins in the last five matches which saw them almost catch Courtaulds and B/Moor Park both of whom they defeated. The Aigburth Brownmoor game (7-3) was a cracker with the Crosby team somewhat unlucky as Norman Cooke lost 22-20 in the third to Peter Meyer and Ken Miller was beaten 24-22 in the third by Eric Wood. End of term report on all the teams:- Cadwa and Waterloo - Much too strong for us lesser mortals, should easily hold their own in the third. Vernon Sangster - Good players but could do with a bit more commitment, should have had perhaps 20 more points. Wavertree Labour: Fell away badly after a great start to the season. English Electric 'E': Always a pleasure to play against, enjoy their I.T., difficult to beat but never look like world beaters. Maghull: Ditto. Colonsay: Kept improving throughout the season; all the youngsters seem excellent prospects for the future, especially Colin Rourke and Kristina Cox. With John or Muriel to guide them could really go places

next season. A great 8-2 win over Elec.E. Kirkby: Another young team and in Phil Christie they have a kid with real promise. Peter Lee has done a smashing job as captain pushing and goading them. Courtaulds: Have relied almost entirely on Bert Rivers (mainly) and Tony Shellbourne for their points. Seem to lack team spirit. Brownmoor Park: Helped by the acquisition of Norman Cooke (use a Halex ball if you want to beat him!) half way through the season but a disappointing season generally considering the players at their disposal. Aigburth: Could do with a couple of youngsters to push the three veterans for the places. Also need a captain who can win more than eight games in a season (excuse me while I shed a tear). Jewish 'D': Steady players, an occasional flash of brilliance from Norman Zalud - (like when he beat me); have possibly suffered through having to use too many players. Eng.Elec. 'G': Even a great team spirit hasn't been able to help them; some good individual performances but unable to put it together regularly. Like most of the bottom few teams, perhaps too long in the tooth to make any dramatic improvement now. Will be missed though if they are relegated. Good performances recently included Phil Christie beating Terry Richardson (Elec 'E') 21-17; 19-21; 21-11 and John Paulo (Courtaulds) a 24-22; 21-19 win against Ted McGiveron (Elec.'E'). Pick of the close ones:- Ted McGiveron beat Dave Lyon (Kirkby) 21-17; 22-24; 21-19; Peter Lee beat Alan Birch (W/L) 18-21; 22-20; 21-19; Jerry Richardson beat Richard Blackburn (Jewish) 19-19, 19: Dave Evans (V/S) lost to Mike Nelson 25-23; 13-21; 21-23; Wilf Gibson (Maghull) beat Colin Fyles (Elec.'E') 19-21; 23-21; 21-19; and Ted McGiveron (isn't he getting a lot of mentions) beat Hon Stevenson (B/Moor) 19-21; 21-19; 21-19 in a game which was a joy to watch with both players attacking non-stop for three games. Well, hope you enjoyed your season - see you in September.

DIVISION 5

ED.CAMERON

In the first issue of the magazine three teams were nominated as the likely contenders for promotion, I suggested that of the three the Police were most likely to fall by the wayside because they probably would not be able to field their full team often enough. Mr. Scargill however let me down, he started his antics far too late allowing John Moore and his team to a comparative easy league championship finishing ten points ahead of nearest rivals Bootle J.C. 'A'. As I write this the Police are still fighting out the Stamp cup final against Cadwa 'D' after an initial 5-5 draw. The Police have had team problems but in Sue Anderson and Keith Wilkinson they have been able to draw on capable reserves and fully deserve their success. If the Police is a success story, then Bootle J.C. is a tragedy, particularly for their captain Steve Kelly. Finishing runners up Bootle J.C. will be promoted and in normal circumstances that in itself is a good reason to celebrate, but what happened to the team that was cruising along on top of the league looking fairly certain to carry off both the league championship and the Stamp cup?

Steve Kelly as captain had a difficult task, he had a useful squad of experienced players, Dave Thompson and Ray Chapple playing in the Southport league were established at one and two, Ray Parry ex Trinity was number three and Steve slotted in at number four, that is when he did not give up his place to John Thompson (Southport league) or Tony Barbet (Wirral League). With this wealth of talent Steve left himself out on many occasions but always travelled with the team as a dedicated captain. The first setback to Bootle J.C. came when visiting Rodney Youth, two of the Bootle team arrived half way through the evening, too late to take part in the match and Rodney won the game 6-4 on default. The missing players preferred to play in the Southport league, Bootle J.C. were of secondary importance. To make matters worse Bootle J.C. were a man short in the semi-final of the cup - against the Police, they lost 7-3 and - you've guessed it, a Southport player did not arrive.

Chatting to the fixture secretary, he confirmed that his sympathies were with Rodney Youth, they turned up on time but had little choice of games, the rules are clear enough and far too many teams attempt to take advantage of the old pals act expecting late comers to be given unlimited latitude. If we are playing in the Liverpool league we should give them preference or ask to be substituted if giving preference to another league.

Returning to the league, Cadwa finished well clear in third place and with vacancies in the divisions above will probably be promoted also. As far as Cadwa are concerned they are simply 'going back'. This team was formed to make way for club signings during the last closed season. Cadwa first team have this season earned promotion to Division 1, it would be ironic if Jack Power and the lads are expected to form another new team to make way for more summer signings.

University 'A' managed to play all their games a week before the end of the season and as they do not start at the first week there is a lesson to all who claim it is impossible to complete the season on time. Halfway through the week following the concessionary week the league tables cannot be finalised, in our division there are still five cards outstanding. University or Argot could finish fourth, both are hoping that vacancies in the higher divisions will enable them to gain promotion.

Liverpool Jewish 'E' are likely to finish bottom with their 'F' team one place higher but as usual they will be judging their season on the social evenings rather than the results, some have to finish at the bottom, Liverpool Jewish carry off this distinction with a great deal of panache.

It seems that I can now discuss the Stamp Cup and report a further success for the Police who disposed of Cadwa 6-1 which was somewhat surprising after the initial 5-5 draw. The Police blame themselves for not taking the trophy at the first time of asking. Apparently when the first doubles were called

upon in the original match the normal pair walked to the table only to be advised that they were not the formation they had given to the officer in charge. They were not aware of their mistake up to this point but the match had to be played in accordance with the cards provided with the result that Cadwa were able to make up the leeway.

I trust you have all enjoyed your season, for all those promised notes for the magazine which must have gone astray in the post - try again next year. Have a good holiday.

CUP FINALS

STAMP

POLICE 'B' 5 - CADWA 'D' 5

John Christian lost to Tony Morris 11 and 13, a good call by Cadwa after Police had forfeited the advantage of winning the toss. Len Dyson beat Dave Stokes 10 and 11, Christian lost to Rob Brackley 4 and 11: John Moore beat Dave Power 17 and 18. Dyson beat Brackley 12-21; 23-21; 21-16; with Rob leading before deuce this could easily have been a crunch win for Cadwa, both players were magnificent in a pulsating game. Keith Wilkinson beat Power 21-8; 18-21; 21-13: another good game. Moore lost to Morris 11-21; 21-18; 19-21: it gets more exciting all the time. Wilkinson beat Stokes 4 and 14, Dave playing much better than the score suggests, 5-3 for Police. Then a doubles arrives on the table that isn't on the card. Police have to play with the 'wrong' double pairings and everything depends on the doubles. Dyson and Wilkinson lost to Brackley and Power 19-21; 21-19; 17-21: Christian and Moore won the first 15 and lost the second when they appeared to have sewn up 22-20 and the third 15. A credit to both teams and exciting for the near full house. Played at English Electric with Alex Gould in charge.

FORREST

FORDS 6 - CADWA 'C' 4

Geoff Mao lost to Paul Jennings 15-21; 25-23; 17-21: Ken Bennett beat Les Griffin 14 and 12: Arthur Pierce and Billy Proffitt beat Alan Cameron and Tony Moon 13 and 20, Bennett and Mao beat Griffin and Jennings 16 and 15. Pierce lost to Alan Cameron 16 and 13: Proffitt beat Moon 21-18; 20-22; 24-22: how close can you get? Billy establishing big leads and Tony fighting all the way - a game to remember. Pierce beat Jennings 21-18; 17-21; 21-17. Fords lead 5-2: Mao loses to Moon 19-21; 21-13; 16-21; tense and exciting, Proffitt loses to Griffin 21-11; 19-21; 16-21: quite a game with Bill completely on top and Les fighting to keep his side in the cup and succeeding with a great fight back 5-4 to Fords and Cameron had to face undefeated Bennett to save the match, first game to Ken 15, Alan fights back and wins 11 after a terrific and nail

biting game, Ken clinches it for Fords 16. Played at the Police Club, Eddie Cameron the official in charge - trophies presented by Vice President Jack Lambert with Mr and Mrs. Alan Wood providing excellent refreshments.

HYDE

BOOTLE 'A' 6 - VERNON SANGSTER 4

John McLaughlin lost to Mark Reed 11 and 13, Keith Miller beat Roy Lussey 11 and 13 all square. Ian Miller lost to Neil Montague 16 and 15, McLaughlin lost to John Cowley 18-21; 21-16; 20-22; great stuff. Another close one Frank Brady losing to Montague 21-19; 16-21; 19-21. The doubles were the crunch for Bootle, Ian and Keith beat Mark and Neil 19 and 15: John and Frank beating John and Roy 18 and 10.

With Sangster boys going great guns Bootle have quite a job on! Ian beats Roy 20 and 14, Keith beats John 21-11; 8-21; 21-11, I can't stand this, again everything on the last game. Brady loses the first to Read 16 and then pulls out all the stops and beats Mark 14 and 11 again the tension and the crowd make another superb final.

Played at English Electric with Roger Bennion official in charge and trophies presented by Jack Lambert.

RUMJAHN

ELECTRIC SUPPLY 6 - CADWA 0

A sporting gesture from Brian Davey gave Cadwa first call Malcolm McEvoy and Brian beat Mike Mahoney and Neil Gravener 17-21; 22-20; 21-19: Malcolm and Mike stay on and test each other to the full 21-19; 16-21; 21-18: Two up for Supply but what a start to a finals game, they don't come any better. Les Molyneux beat Gravener 21-13; 19-21; 21-16. Davey beat Neil Jennings 9 and 18. Paul Baker beat Alan Radcliffe 12 and 16: Some superb hitting from Malcolm beating a fighting Neil Gravener 21-9; 21-23; 21-16: Cadwa may consider themselves a little unfortunate to meet one of the all time great Division 2 sides, played at English Electric with Jack Lambert the official in charge. Chairman Arthur Upton introduced ex-international Ted Rumjahn, who in Rumjahn cup tradition presented the trophies. Ted was supported by his daughter Janet Davies.

READMAN

BOOTLE 0 - RAFTERS 6

Ian Miller lost to Ian Smith 12 and 11, Ricky Brown lost to Alan Timewell 18 and 19: Miller lost to Timewell 11 and 12: Paul Hutchings lost to Smith 12-21; 21-17; 19-21; Ian and Ricky put up a great fight to keep Bcotle in the game but lost 20-22; 23-21; 17-21: Lawrence Kenwright lost to Graham Parr 19 and 14 and Rafters have won the cup. Tony O'Connor getting table

tennis and marriage mixed up didn't help Bootle and accordingly the game lacked the fire there should have been in our senior cup final, particularly after the excitement of the previous finals. Conditions at the Electric Supply were of the happiest quality put on by Alan Biggs and Les Evans. Official in charge Alex Gould, trophies presented by Mr. Arthur Upton.

STAMP REPLAY

CADWA 'D' 1 - POLICE 'B' 6

Dave Power lost to Len Dyson 13 and 15; Tony Morris lost to John Christian 21-11; 21-23; 18-21: was this the turning point? Dave Stokes lost to Keith Wilkinson 12 and 18, Power lost to Christian 13 and 15, Stokes lost to John Moore 18 and 20: Robin Brackley beat Wilkinson 14 and 15, a ray of hope? Morris lost to Moore 17 and 21 and the Police had won the cup at the second attempt without the tenseness of the first game.

The game was played at English Electric with Don Davies official in charge and trophies presented by Jack Lambert. Cadwa requested that the remaining games were played.

'Finals Week' was again a success, good crowds at all games, the Readman perhaps a bit dodgy for our senior cup, the crowds make or break a final. The Cadwa club and Trevor Hughes are to be congratulated on the support they gave to their teams in the four finals in which they were involved.

1984 CLOSED TOURNAMENT

SPONSORED BY THE LIVERPOOL SPORTS COUNCIL AND HELD AT
KIRKBY SPORTS CENTRE ON SUNDAY 1st APRIL

Hon.Referee : Mr. B.A.Leeson

FINAL EVENTS

1. SEMI-FINALS MEN'S SINGLES

(A) Dave Roberts	v	Keith Williams	21-16;16-21;22-20.
(B) John Rankin	v	Paul Hutchings	21-9;15-21;21-11.

2. JUNIOR FINAL

Bernie Wentworth	v	Les Molyneux	21-17;21-17.
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3. VETERANS' FINAL

Alan Timewell	v	Peter Taylor	15-21;21-15;21-14.
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4. RESTRICTED SINGLES FINAL

George Lennon	v	Ken Hartley	22-20;21-15.
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FINAL EVENTS (Continued)

5. WOMEN'S DOUBLES FINAL

Sue Manning		Mabel Neary	
&	v	&	21-13;21-14.
Paula French		Joan Monaghan	

6. MEN'S DOUBLES FINAL

Rankin		Williams	
&	v	&	21-12;21-18.
Hutchings		John Hook	

7. WOMEN'S SINGLES FINAL

Julie Prince	v	Sue Manning	21-16;19-21;21-18.
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8. MEN'S SINGLES FINAL

(A) Roberts	v	(B) Rankin	21-16;21-14.
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A word of praise and congratulations to Brian Leeson for his tremendous work prior to the day of the championships and to Brian and his assistants Ken Armsen, Roger Benyon, Stan Clarke, Bill Leeming, Don Davies, Arthur Upton who put in a full day about 14 or 15 hours at minus time and a half, and thanks of course to the many other helpers who are often not appreciated.

ETTA DRAW

FIRST PRIZE COMES TO LIVERPOOL

The League was fortunate enough to have had four tickets which drew horses. One went to the Police and the other three remarkably went to friends of the Treasurer who had sold the tickets, more remarkable was that 2 tickets went to the same person and that these tickets were consecutively numbered. Even more remarkable was that one of these won first prize, so the lucky man not only got £400 but another £10 for his other ticket. So you never know your luck.

The draw itself was fairly well supported by the league and all praise must go to Sylvia Graham for her persistence. The League has benefitted to the extent of £162 which means that we can keep our own member's subscriptions at the same rate as last year (but don't forget there will be increases due to the increase in the Affiliation fees both to the ETTA and Lancs ITA.)

Don Cameron
Hon. Treasurer

Colmar Table Tennis Club play near the Swiss-French border and are local champions, they are also area champions, which qualifies them for the French National Club championships to be played in Paris. The teams inspiration has been Phil Thomson of English Electric who, together with Sibohan his wife are thoroughly enjoying their French visit.

Phil is also local champion having beaten the previous 'unbeatable' local champ by three sets to one.

Amongst the prizes of medals, champagne etc., has been a holiday in Austria - not a bad haul - nice work Phil - see you soon.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Jack,

Re: Andrew Byrne deceased

You may not recall me but I used to play table tennis in the Liverpool League quite a few years ago and we have met on a few occasions.

It is my sad duty to inform you that our mutual friend above died suddenly on 25th March 1984. He was in fact cremated on 30th March 1984 in a ceremony in Whitehaven in Cumbria where he died. Since both of his children lived in Southern France and were not successfully contacted until 28th March I did not have definite instructions to arrange the funeral until the day before it in fact took place.

I am sorry to be the bearer of such bad news. I also regret that Andy's many friends in the Liverpool League were not able to pay their last respects. I am afraid the arrangements for the cremation were in the end very rushed and I did not in fact know for certain that the arrangements for 30th March need not be cancelled until 7.30 a.m. on that day when the two children finally reached Whitehaven.

I should be most grateful if you would communicate the news of Andy's death to his friends.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

N.J.FAGAN for

Thelwell Fagan & Co.

Yes, I remember you well Noel and a rare black mark to Andy for channelling you to YMCA and not to English Electric when he was playing for us and you were lodging with him while you were studying at University.

What can we say about an optimistic and true character like Andy Byrne. Despite

waiting for two operations he was always optimistic about playing 'next year'. He last played for English Electric and the Taxes team in 1979, he also played for Crawfords, Waterloo Dock and Oakhill, he ran with success with Pembroke Harriers and he was always interested in his sports and was forthright in his opinions. His wife and family lived in France, he really enjoyed the company of his University friends and we enjoyed Andy's companionship - I understand now why there was no reply when I phoned him for an invitation to our Finals Night - thank you Noel, and a sad farewell to one of the game's personalities. A fighter to the end in Table Tennis and life.

Bootle S.C.

Dear Jack,

I would like to take this opportunity to refute any rumours that have come about after a comment that was made in the first division notes of the last issue. The comment, and I quote was "Bootle were without Paul Hutchings who was off colour and decided not to play". It seems that some people because of this flippant and irresponsible comment jumped to the conclusion that Paul was avoiding John Hankin. It has also been suggested that Paul deliberately did not play in this fixture in order to give the Vernon Sangster team some easy points in their quest to win the league.

Neither of these suggestions could be further from the truth. The fact of the matter is that Paul was ill and unable to play. Also it is a pity there was "No comment" about Wav.Lab. B's 6-4 over Wav.Lab.'A', if there had been it may have been a guide as to why Vernon Sangster 'A' finished as league champions of the second division two years ago while the Vernon Sangster first team finished as runners-up.

Dave Wilson, Bootle.

103 Norville Road
Broadgreen

Dear Jack,

Div.4B - Barry Meyer

I agree with Barry's comment on the problem of foul service, it should be 'cleaned up' and I support him in his attempt to do so.

When these young players are being coached, they should be made aware of the service rule, not only for the good of their own game, but also as part of the teaching of correct procedures of the game. From time to time when warning a player of a foul service, or just having an advisory chat after a game, I have found that a youngster is quite unaware that he has been doing anything wrong.

It is also sad to add that good examples of correct services are few and far between.

Come on everyone - let's read up, brush up, and clean up on the service rule!

Yours sincerely
Joyce Barton

NOTE: Any chance of quoting the rule in the Digest?

103 Norville Road
Broadgreen

Dear Jack,

A 'thank you' to Les French for his interesting contribution to the Digest regarding the new ideas for table tennis bats.

In your Editorial, mention is made of the number of players in the game decreasing. I would suggest that one of the reasons for this is because of this trend to make table tennis more sophisticated (?) by introducing more expensive and technical sounding table tennis bats.

How many of us started off playing at home with the cheap wooden sandpaper covered bat? The next step would be to buy a pimped rubber bat (which would last for many years, by the way, without needing to have its rubbers replaced). In other words, are we discouraging prospective new players by using present day bats which are not only very expensive, complicated to understand because of the different rubbers, but they are also more difficult for the beginner to begin playing with since it would not be easy to keep control of the ball.

Perhaps there is another reason for the falling numbers in players coming into the game. How many of us started playing after we had started working - playing in the work's canteen during our lunch-break? Sadly, with all this unemployment due to a lot of firms having closed down, youngsters are not getting the opportunity of discovering table tennis from this outlet. However, what about the unemployed youngsters? Perhaps someone, somewhere, can come up with a good idea of promoting this enjoyable game to them, both for their benefit and ours? That is, of course, if they can afford to buy a bat - and if they know what kind of bat to buy.

I agree with Les in his final paragraph: The 'grass roots' of league play is the breeding ground of future players. Also, we stand to lose even more players - our 'pillars' of the league - if the plain wood surface bat and the traditional 'Barna' type bat are banned.

Yours sincerely
Joyce Barton

IN MEMORIAM

At one of their meetings the Management Committee will carry out the last rites and then with positively indecent haste they will inter the sad remains of the League Presentation Dance. There will be no talk of pleasant memories. No last lingering thoughts of good times past. Just a haste to rid themselves of what has become an encumbrance and a positive embarrassment to all concerned.

So what came into being as a result of pressure from members has died as a result of the failure of those selfsame members to give it their support. Those who opposed its' introduction will be able to say "I told you so". Those who have tried to make it a success will have "if only" to say.

We will at least be able to say that we tried and failed miserably to succeed. You, the members failed miserably to even try. You are vociferous in your comments on what we need, but silent in your support when we try to answer you.

Many will come forward with their excuses, but we tried to satisfy you by changing the venues and trying to get the format right, but your lack of response remained the same. We could and should have been able to make this a financial and social success and all members would have benefitted from that. Instead we are left to pick up the pieces of a disaster.

Just in case you are smugly telling yourself you are not to blame let us examine the facts.

We have approximately 550 registered members and twenty-eight clubs many of whom are multi-team clubs. Of these 28 clubs many have never been represented at any dance. Of the registered players 80% possibly more have never attended a dance. Not even when they had a trophy to collect.

Many will put forward the excuse that the Dance is only for those collecting trophies, a typical excuse. Last season the club which won the premier cup and division very reluctantly sent one player to collect their trophies. This season they again won the premier cup and this time could not be bothered sending anyone. In the lower divisions one team completed a cup and League double and were overjoyed with their successes. For several of the team's members it was their first ever success. Their response was typical of others for they sent one representative to collect their trophies.

Of the 28 clubs fifteen were not represented at all. Three others had one member present. Of the 130 at this season's dance only about 55 were registered players. Where were the other 500? Quite a few of that 130 have supported every dance even though they had won nothing. They knew, as the rest of you must have known, that this was also a social occasion. A chance to have a chat and a drink with team mates and opponents who you see only fleetingly during the season. For it is a fact that for many players attendance at matches involves arriving late, playing their sets and then leaving early so frequently that they don't even get to know their team mates let alone their opponents.

We don't claim we had the format right or that the acts have been 100% successful, but we kept trying. It is difficult to assess how much money will be available from ticket sales. We would have got it right if you had given us your support. Next time you have a moan about the shortcomings of the league don't forget to include your own shortcomings in relation to your support.

K.A.

TABLE EDGES

Fernhill are interested in starting a team - any Club or players interested in forming a nucleus contact Norman Challinor at Kirkby Sports Centre or contact Norman if you are interested in a coaching course run locally.

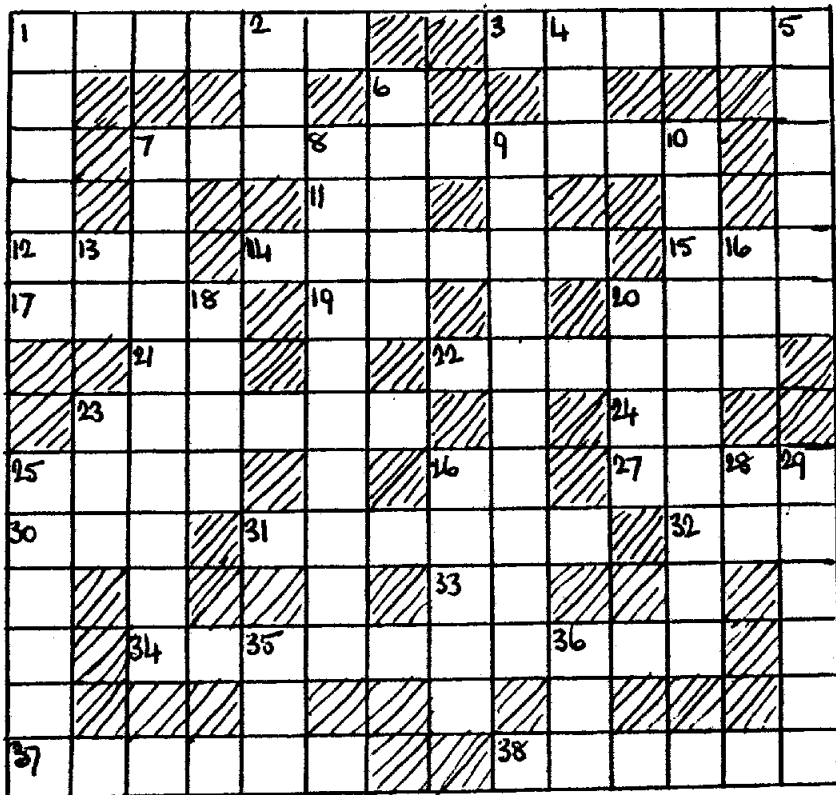
If you have a youngster in your Club with any potential contact John O'Sullivan or Roger Benn or even me urgently.

I am very interested in a difference of opinion going on in Table Tennis News at the moment between John Preen, England's number one Daddy and Stuart Greenberg. Preen wants as many and varied rubbers as possible to improve our commercial aspect and Greenberg wants a standardised bat. I am for Greenberg. A year or so ago a leading Tennis player and an Australian cricketer deviated from their standard implement. The reaction was worse than if an atom bomb had fallen on Wimbledon or Lords. We nearly all have a different THING in our hands when we play, one could hardly call some of the THINGS a bat or racquet.

Its a rough tough game this game of ours, poor Jan Davies of Rafters pulled leg muscles against Maghull 'F' and will be out for the season. Nice to hear that you are on the mend Jan.

CROSSWORD FOR LOCAL PLAYERS

COMPILED BY BRIAN LEESON



CLUES ON OPPOSITE PAGE

ACROSS

1. Foreign or local player
3. Firm for equipment
7. Area of local play
11. Film
12. Davies or Cameron?
14. Cadwa's leader
15. Not a miss
17. A hitch
19. Very rude initially
20. If the cap ---- wear it
21. American
22. Close at hand
23. A contrivance
24. English International briefly
25. Foot sore perhaps
26. A shortened Dave Armson
27. Fee collectors! (Only joking)
30. A good one helps you win 5
31. Only one of these on your racket please.
32. Plural of 15 minus aspirant
33. Capitalise Netherton Development
34. More I-I should be seen here
37. Those who fiddle their order perhaps!
38. Local President

DOWN

1. Do you need to insure your premises against these?
2. Transport to matches perhaps
4. United without Edward
5. You must win these in matches
6. Rumjahn, Taylor or Ross?
7. Well known Committee!
8. Winning shot
9. It's fine if you're late with these
10. Show
13. Not off
16. It's a pity without the start
18. Present
20. This hand must not touch the table during play
23. Time of light
25. I.I.Computer
26. Material, but not really for I.I.
28. Our sport initially
29. Try
35. Allow interruption of a rally
36. Used, perhaps, to fill in 9

ABILITY RATING

Crossword completed in:-

10 minutes	-	excellent
15 minutes	-	good
20 minutes	-	below average
25 minutes	-	poor
30 minutes	-	(I'm too polite to say)

TOP AVERAGES 82/83

<u>DIVISION 1</u>	G. O'Connor	-	Bootle	92.30
	T. Manning	-	Rafters	90.00
	A. Timewell	-	Rafters	88.88
	K. Williams	-	Huyton	86.00
	P. Hutchings	-	Bootle	85.18
<u>DIVISION 3A</u>	J. Lynch	-	Eng.Electric	95.45
	W. Hargreaves	-	Argot	90.74
	R. Owen	-	Vagabonds	88.88
	K. Hartley	-	Cadwa	88.33
	S. Manning	-	Vernon Sangster	84.48
<u>DIVISION 3B</u>	B. Wentworth	-	Colonsay	95.83
	B. Kirkman	-	Colonsay	91.66
	A. Horwood	-	Linacre	86.36
	E. Mandaluff	-	YMCA	86.00
	A. Delamere	-	Brownmoor Park	81.66
<u>DIVISION 4A</u>	M. Power	-	Cadwa	93.28
	D. Wilson	-	Bootle	92.59
	N. Parker	-	University	91.66
	B. Aldred	-	Bootle	85.96
<u>DIVISION 4B</u>	M. Corcoran	-	Trinity	92.05
	A. Guy	-	Colonsay	81.48
	S. Harvey	-	Plesseys	81.48
	J. Ashley	-	Wav. Labour	76.31
	N. Hawthorne	-	Plesseys	76.19
<u>DIVISION 5</u>	A. Pierce	-	Fords	100.00
	B. Profitt	-	Fords	94.44
	A. Nelson	-	Waterloo	88.00
	T. Luxford	-	Brownmoor Park	85.71
	M. Nelson	-	Waterloo	80.00

THIS MONTH'S DELIBERATE MISTAKE - WITH APOLOGIES TO DIVISION 2

A. Chase	-	Maghull	84.90
T. Owens	-	Plesseys	80.35
F. Murphy	-	Maghull	79.24
J. McMillan	-	Jewish	78.33
M. Mahoney	-	Huyton	76.78

K. Armson

DIVISION 1	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Wav. Labour	26	22	-	4	219
V.Sangster	26	22	-	4	210
Rafters	26	16	4	6	169
Bootle	26	19	4	3	166
L'pool YMCA	26	14	8	4	145
Maghull	26	11	11	4	126
Eng.Elec.	26	11	13	2	125
Eng.Elec. 'A'	26	7	16	3	107
Wav.Lab. 'A'	26	10	13	3	106
Maghull 'A'	26	5	17	4	103
V.Sangster 'A'	26	6	17	3	103
Wav.Labour 'B'	26	6	14	6	101
Plessey	26	5	18	3	80
Eng.Elec. 'E'	26	2	21	3	60

DIVISION 2	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Elec.Supply	26	25	-	1	223
Cadwa	26	19	4	3	189
L'pool Jewish	26	20	5	1	179
Bath St.	26	19	3	4	176
L'pool YMCA 'A'	26	16	8	2	143
V.Sangster 'B'	26	11	13	2	131
Trinity	26	10	12	4	127
L'pool Jewish 'A'	26	13	12	1	124
Police	26	7	14	5	116
Colonsay	26	9	14	3	111
Brownmoor Park	26	6	15	5	106
Bath St. 'A'	26	6	19	1	85
Linacre	26	4	20	2	72
Wav.Labour 'C'	26	-	26	-	38

DIVISION 3A	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Bootle 'A'	26	23	2	1	201
Eng.Elec. 'D'	26	22	2	2	185
Vagabonds	26	18	5	3	163
Elec.Supply 'E'	26	17	8	1	154
Bootle J.C.	26	13	9	4	139
Argot	26	15	8	3	138
Colonsay 'A'	26	11	13	2	122
Bath St. 'C'	26	11	15	-	120
Maghull 'B'	26	9	15	2	118
Trinity 'A'	26	5	15	6	111
Kirkby	26	6	17	3	107
Plessey 'A'	26	5	17	4	97
Rafters 'A'	26	5	18	3	83
L'pool Jewish 'B'	26	5	21	-	82

DIVISION 3B	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Cadwa 'A'	24	20	1	3	195
Elec.Supply 'A'	24	19	1	4	183
L'pool YMCA 'B'	24	16	2	6	162
Eng.Elec. 'C'	24	16	3	5	156
V.Sangster 'C'	24	16	6	2	152
Bath St. 'B'	24	14	6	4	140
Bootle 'B'	24	7	13	4	102
Trinity 'B'	24	8	14	2	96
Bath St. 'D'	24	8	15	1	93
Maghull 'C'	24	5	15	4	84
Aigburth	24	4	17	3	74
L'pool Jewish 'C'	24	2	21	1	64
Colonsay 'B'	24	1	22	1	59

DIVISION 4A	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Fords	24	20	1	3	188
University	24	19	2	3	182
Cadwa 'B'	24	18	3	3	175
Vagabonds 'A'	24	17	7	-	156
Police 'A'	24	16	8	-	151
Eng.Elec. 'F'	24	13	7	4	140
Warwick Bolam	24	11	11	2	121
Courtaulds	24	10	13	1	112
Maghull 'E'	24	7	14	3	104
Vagabonds 'B'	24	7	15	2	99
Rafters 'B'	24	2	20	2	63
Maghull 'F'	24	4	19	1	58
Brownmoor Park 'B'	24	-	24	-	11

DIVISION 4B	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Cadwa 'C'	24	23	1	-	203
Waterloo	24	22	1	1	191
V.Sangster 'D'	24	14	5	5	165
Wav.Lab. 'D'	24	16	5	3	151
Eng.Elec. 'E'	24	15	7	2	146
Maghull 'D'	24	14	9	1	137
Colonsay 'C'	24	6	14	4	99
Kirkby 'A'	24	8	15	1	90
Brownmoor Park 'A'	24	7	16	1	84
Courtaulds 'A'	24	4	19	1	79
Aigburth 'A'	24	7	16	1	78
L'pool Jewish 'D'	24	5	18	1	73
Eng.Elec. 'G'	24	4	19	1	64

<u>DIVISION 5</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts.
Police 'B'	24	21	1	2	192
Bootle J.C. 'A'	24	20	2	2	182
Cadwa 'D'	24	17	5	2	168
Argot 'A'	24	16	6	2	146
University 'A'	24	16	7	1	145
Elec.Supply 'C'	24	11	9	4	122
Maghull 'G'	24	9	14	1	114
Rodney Youth	24	10	11	3	107
Wav.Lab. 'E'	24	6	16	2	99
Kirkby 'B'	24	5	14	5	94
Warwick Bolam 'A'	24	7	16	1	86
L'pool Jewish 'F'	24	3	18	3	75
L'pool Jewish 'E'	24	-	22	2	30

These are the sixth set of League Tables produced by Wyn and Eddie Cameron this season. Add the nightly queries, chasing cards and many other problems, including an up to date record of Teams - this just gives a rough idea of the magnificent job Wyn and Ed. do.

THE SERVICE RULE

The ball should be placed on the palm of the free hand which must be stationary and above the level of the playing surface. Service shall commence by the server projecting the ball by hand only without imparting spin, near vertically upwards so that the ball is visible at all times to the umpire and so that it visibly leaves the palm. As the ball is then descending from the height of its trajectory it shall be struck so that it touches first the server's court and then passing directly over or around the net touches the receiver's court.