



Table Tennis^{TO} DIGEST

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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EDITORIAL

What a great boost the end of the season gave to Liverpool Table Tennis, and what satisfaction it must have brought to those who work so hard behind the scenes and often find the end result a damp squib.

It started with 'Finals Week'. The first final, the Stamp Cup, was a good starter; Merseyside Youth Chinese Association played Warwick Bolam 'A' - a good result for the Chinese boys - but we had eight enthusiastic 'YOUNG' men playing their hearts out and interested in their table tennis future - how nice.

And so Finals week went successfully and well attended on. Until Thursday came at the English Electric Club when the explosion came - Rafters vs. Electric Supply - there was a privileged full house to see one of our all time great finals, a credit to the game and players, the result a 21-19 to decide the match said it all - my goodness, my Guinness.

So, you win some and lose some. Is that so? Well we had a super days table tennis at Kirkby, and for once we came away not dreading that we might have to see ANOTHER table tennis match. It was an excellent day - and if I haven't made myself clear - without a surfeit of Table Tennis.

We arrive at Finals night at the Police Club - not I thought one of our bright ideas - how wrong can you be! Undoubtedly one of the all time successes of the Liverpool League. Truly great, the games were good, the beer was good, the tea and biscuits were good, the atmosphere was terrific and the crowd magnificent - over 200 all evening and about 170 at one time.

We know the brains behind these successes and their lieutenants, so I have avoided names. However, the Police Club success makes me mention Alan Woods - how he worked! I would have given you a hand Alan only I was suffering with something between the Bubonic Plague and the dreaded lergy.

So, another season has ended and one that must go down as controversial and at the same time uninspiring. What has been the outcome of 26 weeks of toil and endeavour?

As some look back on dropped sets which may have lost them ground, Bootle can look back on a tremendous end of season surge which swept the other contenders to one side and from being one of the pack they pushed to the front to finish as champions. Although at the finish there were only two points in it and Elec. Supply may feel they were pipped at the post, the truth is that the best team did finish as champions. It also has to be taken into account that in doing so they did give away a 10/0 w/over. Possibly the first team under this points system to do so and finish as 1st division champions.

The delays in results coming forward made it difficult at times to assess league positions, and although at times seeming to be trailing, Bootle always looked dangerous. This may not have been a notable season, but Bootle have proved themselves to be worthy champions. Congratulations to all the team and in particular to Paul Hutchings whose keenness and enthusiasm have taken him from a beginner to member of a 1st div. championship team. It is nice also to see Ricky Brown amongst the honours being a player who always gives his club and team 100%. Congrats. also to Dave Wilson who started the club and has put in a lot of hard work which has now been rewarded in the best possible way.

Elec. Supply received their share of the spoils by winning the Readman Cup and will probably be amongst those looking back at dropped sets. They need look no further than themselves, for in their last match they had it all to do and failed. Not so Bootle, who knew what was required of them and did the job properly. Elec. Supply lacked the strength in depth to finish off what had started last September and suffered a killing blow when Mal McEvoy dropped an important set to Malcolm Pu. They have relied too heavily on Keith Williams and Malcolm, and when they have gone down they have felt it. Nevertheless, they have had a good season, and now that the disappointment has worn off they should be feeling well satisfied. Malcolm has disappointed many admirers of his bat breaking technique by getting through the season without once demonstrating his prowess.

Liverpool YM. lived up to expectations and managed a very creditable 3rd place. They have pushed the leaders all the way, but I doubt they are happy. More than a good all round team is needed to win titles, for although they do well against average and weaker teams, when you meet the strong ones your weaknesses are exposed.

Maghull, who were always pushing and at times looked dangerous, had to settle for 4th place. They never overcame the handicap of conceding a 10/0 w.o., and towards the end began to fall away when internal squabbles split the team and the club. A case of certain players thinking they were bigger than the club.

Wavertree Lab., whose results were hampered by the absences of Rob Bevan and his in and out form when he was available, also had to contend with a late season injury to Dave Roberts. They were always in with a chance, but appeared to give up the fight too soon. This was a surprise from players who have previously fought to the end, and know that championships have to be earned the hard way. This culminated in none of the team turning out against V. Sangster and the two who were expected failing to put in an appearance, leaving a lone reserve from their 5th team to do their job. Not what we would expect from any 1st div. team, let alone a leading one, but symptomatic of the problems affecting our sport.

Rafters decided to make 3-a-side rules of their own and played short on twelve occasions giving away a possible 40 sets. Not much of an encouragement to the players who did turn out regularly, and yet another stain on this division. They had obviously decided early on to go for the cup, and in late season still had ranked players needing matches in order to qualify. They failed to win the cup at the last hurdle and I feel justice was done. Their antics and lack of interest in the league spoil the season for many teams, and if this is the best they can give this league then they should play elsewhere. They were not alone, as I have already stated, but they were out in front in that respect.

V. Sangster were never really in with any chance, and with the club plagued with team problems any possible challenge soon faded. Cadwa and English Electric had a fairly quiet season, lacking strength to get into the title battle. Cadwa must be well pleased with the results of their first season back in this division, for with a well balanced team who played regularly, relegation was never a threat. They got themselves settled in and showed they cannot be taken lightly.

Wavertree Lab. 'A' & 'B' along with V. Sangster 'A' escaped the drop, and so far as the 'B' team were concerned it was a real tightrope escape, for on paper they should have been sunk without trace. The club has been left with no room for complacency, for the 'A' teams total included a 10/0 w.o., and the 'B' team received a 10/0 gift from V. Sangster in the final match. The credit for the 'B' team's escape belongs to Paul Kinsey, never knowing what his team would be he kept giving everything in their cause. I doubt even Phil Luxon would risk his money on either of them for next season. For V. Sangster 'A', the team changes earlier in the season paid off handsomely, and they have survived for another season.

As expected, Maghull 'A' are relegated, but they went down still full of fight and enthusiasm at the end as they had been at the beginning. What they lacked in skills they more than made up for in their approach to the game. Some of our so-called 'stars' and top teams could learn a lot from them.

English Electric 'A' will accompany them having lost heart for the fight and gave every appearance of being resigned to their fate. This need not have been so, for they had the ability to do much better as they showed at the beginning when they beat the then champions, Wavertree Lab. 6-4, and followed up by taking four sets from their 1st team. A sad end to a promising start which could have been avoided had they continued to show any sign of effort and urgency.

In more general terms, the season has been a disaster so far as this division is concerned. Players have not given to their clubs the regular turnout which they should, and there has been a marked lack of interest and enthusiasm. Too many players have too many other commitments in other leagues, and their loyalty to our league and teams is dependent on which match in which league they consider to be most important. The standard of scorecards continues to be abysmal with many arriving late, and the majority incorrectly filled in. Most captains pay little attention to this important feature of their job, and often don't even appear to know who their opponents are. I sometimes wonder if they know just what being a team captain involves.

I got the impression at the 1984 A.G.M. that many players in this division feel the league owes them something, but it might be better if they put their own house in order and get their priorities right before telling the members of this league how the 1st division should be run. At present it is a shambles, and the only people responsible for this are the players themselves. This attitude is reflected by the top players at local tournaments, when many adopt the attitude that it is wrong they should assist in any way. Such work is for

peasants in their view. Even umpiring when beaten is often more than their vanity can bear. Stand back and take a good look at yourselves and see if you fit into this category. When did you last check the scorecard to see it is properly filled in? Present on time for matches? Give a hand at tournaments with umpiring and moving tables etc? You will find yours is a very dim reflection. Any league, as with any club, is bigger than the players, and you get out what you put in, and for most of our 1st division players that is precious little.

On a slightly brighter note, congratulations to Alan Davies, Wavertree Lab., who when playing as a reserve had a very creditable win against Alan Chase who is not the easiest of players to beat. Commiserations to Rafter's who were having a party to celebrate playing with a full team only to find one of their team missing. To add insult to injury their opponents also played short. Congratulations to Electric Supply for using the least number of reserves and the wooden spoon to Wavertree Lab. 'B' for the most (14). To a certain female player, a little homily, love may be wonderful but so is being where your club expect you to be. To Mal McEvoy my apologies for daring to give the impression that Trevor Manning had beaten him. As he was at pains to let me know, he 'always' beats Trevor. I did humbly apologise for this error when he phoned me about it. For those who may find it difficult to believe, let alone accept, that I can be humble, let me assure you it has been known to happen. I would like to be able to congratulate a team for keeping their order unchanged, but surprise, surprise, I cannot find one. To those who never missed a match for their team, keep it up next season, and for the many who did miss matches, how about trying for a 100% appearance record next season. You never know, you may actually enjoy it.

If the proposed Rule changes by the Management Committee on playing order are adopted at the A.G.M., it may bring about the improvement 1st div. players are clamouring for. The image of this division is heavily tarnished, and anything which can improve this must be welcome. Let us hope that next season will bring about a return to more acceptable standards and more dedication from the players. Those who play at 1st division level should always ensure that they set the right standard for others to follow.

I don't expect everyone, or anyone, for that matter to agree with my views, but if the message gets home then everyone will benefit. Enjoy your summer and come back in September full of dedication and enthusiasm.

A final message to Les French, you looked good at the 'Closed' Finals and we all hope your improvement will be maintained and we will see you back next season. If only to prevent the 1st division players having to read the rubbish I churn out.

DIVISION 2

DON CHALKLEY

Congratulations to Bath Street on completing the double. The team continued the season in the same manner it started with, the only hiccup being the 8/2 defeat by Jewish on 29th January; their only wins being Kenny Jackson over Roy Bradbury, and Ian McIlwee over Roy also. Bob Hudson won a titanic battle over Kenny 19/21, 24/22 and 21/19. Bob beat Peter Ross in 3, and with Roy beat Kenny and Dave Butterworth. Paul Morgan, who played several winning games for his first team, beat Ian in 2 and Dave Butterworth. Jim McMillan beat Peter and Dave in 2, and with Paul beat Ian and Peter in the doubles.

It was fitting that Jewish also are promoted because both teams were matched in the Rumjohn Cup Semi-Finals! Would you believe it, first game was 5/5 with Kenny Jackson beating Paul and Bob, and Roy beating Peter and Ian with the doubles shared.

Replay on 1st March at Jewish resulted in the same score with Bath Street winning the last game of the evening, 1st doubles to again level the match and win 25 games to 23. Again Roy won 2, beating Ken and Peter. What a substitute! Mark Pearson beat Jim McMillan and Paul Morgan in 2, and then teamed up with Kenny Jackson to beat Roy and Bob.

For Bath Street, Ian McIlwee with 45/54 in all games, Ken with 43/52, Peter 33/5 and Dave 31/50 were supported by Mark Pearson 9/10 and Billy Clayton 4/4.

For Jewish, Jim McMillan with 29/32, Bob Hudson with 27/40, Roy Bradbury 21/38 were supported by Eddie Clein 15/28, John Henshaw 9/12 and Paul Morgan 9/12.

Bootle 'A' had looked promotion contenders for most of the season but losses to Jewish and Bath Street finished them off, and in fact Vernon Sangster 'B' finished just above them.

Bootle 'A' had also been forced to a replay in their semi-final of the Rumjohn Cup by English Electric 'B', with Nigel Conquest coming in to beat Derek Sullivan and John McLoughlin.

No mistake though in the replay, with Frank Brady beating George Lennon and Brian Crolley in 2.

The final however, resulted in a 7/3 win for Bath Street, but I haven't received the card so can't go into details.

For Bootle 'A', Frank Brady with 35/44, John McLoughlin 26/36, Keith Miller 25/44 were well supported by Derek Sullivan who had a very good first year in the 2nd Division with 34/48.

Vernon Sangster improved, and I notice that Paula French went up to the 1st Division and Chris Ford came down. Ian Wensley, with 33/40 was their most consistent player, supported by evergreen Bill Harris 31/46, Sue Manning 23/38. Chris Ford 6/10 and Dave Tagg 8/14.

I did forecast last time, that our Police team were doomed, mainly due to the miner's strike, and events proved me right with only a 6/4 away win over Colonsay and a couple of draws to help us out of our misery.

I am afraid English Electric 'C', Cadwa 'A' and Electric Supply 'A' are the others doomed.

The talking point was the match played on 4.4.85 between Jewish 'A' and Jewish with the 'A' team winning 9/1 to remain in the 2nd Division.

The 1st team comprised E. Clein who conceded 3 walkovers, Bob Hudson who beat Warren Davies and lost to Richard Stevenson 21/19 in 3. The other two were M. Poole and A. Gelling, with no sign of Bradbury or McMillan.

My information is that Jewish by then were assured of promotion and the 'A' team survived just as a result of this game.

This was a re-arranged game, and though it smells of "skullduggery", I am assured by Roger Bennion that firstly there was good reason for the original game not to be played, and secondly good reason for Clein, McMillan and

Bradbury not to attend.

It doesn't seem long - is it last season since Jewish had to beat the 'A' team 10-0 to have a play off for 2nd phase and promotion? On that occasion they conceded a 10-0 walk over to the 'A' team, though it is fair to say the latter's survival didn't just depend on that result.

However, in my opinion, even if the result this year was contrived, I am sure in the past, clubs with two teams in the same league have assisted each other out of sheer loyalty to their club. It mightn't seem right, but I cannot see it is unlawful.

I did feel sorry for Alan Biggs of Electric Supply 'A' who agreed to play a re-arranged game with Police on an inconvenient night, short of two of his best players. Despite this, Alan's team won 9/1 and this kept alive their chances until he heard the Jewish result.

Some players who had a good season were Tom Killup with 27/36 and Andrew Taylor with 34/42.

Our sympathy to Andrew who put up a good fight to lose the Junior singles in the "Closed" for a second time to Bernie Wentworth.

Talking about the "Closed" reminds me that it was a pleasure to see so many at our Police Club for the finals, and it was nice to see Les French.

Les is gradually improving, and you can see he still has that spirit. He promised to be back playing next year. I was expressing my pleasure to him over Paula's win in the Ladies Singles. Les was quick to tell me that the low point of the season for Paula was when she lost to a 'bum' like me! He'll be there again!!

Volunteers needed for a new correspondent next season so let's see you inundate Jack Lambert with offers.

DIVISION 3A

STAN CLARKE

Congratulations to Bath St. 'A', worthy winners of the division by 29 points, which from only 24 matches is in my humble opinion a huge gap, and is a fair reflection of excellence of their season. They lost only one match against nearest rivals, Fords. Hero for Bath St. in this game was Val Franco with a fine double over Alan Cameron and Arthur Pearce, whilst for Fords, Caroline Hemmings showed the power of her top spin with wins over Alan Walton and Bill Clayton - Fords winning both doubles.

To emphasise the strength of Bath St. 'A', and to add the icing to their season, they also won the Hyde Cup Final, beating Colonsay 'A' 6-0; both finalists coming from this division. Fords finished in second spot, and I am sure they will cope very well in Division 2. They have a very strong pool of players; they could well field two teams capable of winning promotion from 3rd, but due to shift work and other commitments they seldom turn out the same team in successive weeks. Had they been able to turn out their strongest team every week then the top two spots might well have been reversed.

Vagabonds, who at one stage seemed to be mounting a serious challenge for promotion, finally had to give best to Fords, finishing in a good third place, but almost thirty points behind. It's my feeling that they are only 1 player short of a second division place, a very steady team and a nice bunch of guys. Sylvia Grahams' Bootle Job Centre finished fourth; another good steady team who may well be pushing for promotion this time next season. Electric Supply 'B' in fifth spot will, I'm sure, consider this season a bit of a disappointment in Alan Kelly, Tommy Lynch, Alan Nister and Arthur Harrison. They have a team which should be much nearer the front runners; almost eighty points behind the top spot is not a true measure of their ability.

Colonsay 'A' turned out to be the team of the second half of the season, rising seven places since Christmas, and an appearance in the Cup Final. I just wonder what they got in their stockings - I'm sure the older members of the team will not be upset if I suggest that Colin Rourke has to be considered their player of the year, with a string of very impressive wins against good class opposition, and still under fifteen years of age - I hate him!

Bath St. 'C' seem to have had problems turning out their strongest team regularly. John Letch and Karen Gibson seem to have been their most regular players, with John Watson and Dave Aimsom making up their usual squad. Brownmoor Park are something of an enigma to me, I find it difficult to understand how they managed to finish outside the top half of the division with Fred Bainbridge, Alan Williams, Bill Spencer, Norman Cooke and John Forrest to choose from. I would have expected a much higher position from them. Trinity 'A' suffered as much from playing short as any other problem. I really did enjoy playing in their new premises; it's so much more enjoyable playing in a warm room, especially with the promise of a well earned drink in a pleasant bar at the end of the match.

Plessey 'A' and Maghull 'B' finished on level points and will both be glad to see the end of the season, and hope to regain a little lost form during the closed season.

University and Kirkby also finished on level points, but as University won 6 matches against Kirkby's 3, they finished next to the bottom with the Kirkby youngsters in bottom place. However, I'm sure the experience will prove a great benefit to Norman Challoners youngsters.

The most upsetting aspect of the season was the number of walk-overs conceded, especially in the closing weeks of the season. I only hope that next season we can complete all the fixtures before the end of the season.

Final roll call of the season, Gerry Richardson, Plessey, beat Derek Goodwin, Colonsay, 22-20; 17-21; 21-19: P. Mercer, Bath St. 'C', beat Jack Wilson, Fords, 21-14; 21-18: Tony Barber, Bootle J.C. beat Alan Cameron, Fords, 16-21; 21-17; 21-8. Karen Gibson beat Billy Clayton 21-14; 22-20 in the Bath St. Derby. Roy Austin, Plessey 'A', beat Jack Wilson, Fords, 21-16; 21-12: Muriel Cox, Colonsay, beat Eric Ferguson, Bath St. 'A', 17-21; 21-15; 21-19: John Pilkington, Bath St. 'C', beat Derek Goodwin, Colonsay, 21-18; 21-15: Ian Blore, Plessey, beat Tom Johnson, Vags., 12-21; 21-15; 25-23: Peter Wass, Plessey, beat Alan Kelly, Elec. Supply, 11-21; 21-14; 21-11: and finally, Peter Lee, Kirkby, beat Dave Southworth, Trinity, 21-12; 18-21; 21-17.

Well, the curse of Griffiths strikes again! After me tipping English Electric to win this Division they blew it, and even failed to win promotion. Will Colin Fyles ever speak to me again? Congratulations however to Linacre who came from the pack to prove worthy champions. Consistency won the day. Well done also to Bootle for keeping going when they seemed to have let their promotion chances slip.

One sour point did emerge, and that is that some of Ken Armsom's first division comments (last issue) have proved true here. It is unfortunate that Vernon Sangster proved to be decisive in the promotion battle by playing 2 short against Linacre, giving them an easy 9-1 win. Bootle were even luckier, nobody turned up to play them! A week later English Electric faced a full strength V.S. team and were held 5-5. In such a close division these results must have been important. As I don't know the full reasons for these happenings, I shall climb down from my soap box and get on with the action.

As I said, Linacre won it on consistency rather than with a dramatic run at the end. Whilst other teams slipped up they carried on winning most weeks, not spectacularly, but enough: 8-2 against Cadwa, the same against Trinity. Their 7-3 win over Electric was obviously vital, being only Electrics second defeat at the time. Jack Davidson and Frank Lacey were the stars with two singles each, while Nigel Conquest did the same for Electric.

Bootle certainly seemed to have blown their chance when they went down 7-3 for the 2nd time to Electric (Conquest, Holmes & Fyles winning two singles each) and a week later could only draw with Trinity (M.G. 3!!) but they fought back with great credit and an excellent 8-2 win over Maghull probably clinched promotion for them. Dave Wilson gained revenge over Steve Royden 21/15, 26/24, while Tony Luxford and Mark Patterson won all their games.

Bath Street 'B' and Maghull pushed the leaders all the way, but both dropped points in matches they might have expected to win. Waterloo would certainly have been delighted with the 5 points they took off Maghull, Ken Nelson beating Chris Roberts and Pete Brownlee, and son Mike also beating Brownlee. Win of the night though, in my opinion, was the doubles success of Mal Clark and Mike Nelson over Steve Royden and Peter Brownlee. Maghull also drew with Liverpool Jewish for whom Stevenson beat Royden, and Maghull were grateful for 2 wins from John Armstrong.

Bath Street also had their drawn matches to look back on. They brought in Rob Williams at No.1 to hopefully strengthen them enough to win the division, but unfortunately the other members appeared to lose form. Four points were dropped to Wavertree Labour, where Alan Davies can be pleased with his win over Eric Ferguson, and three more at Waterloo where Alec Gould lost two. In the final weeks they drew with both YMCA and Cadwa. Against YMCA, Rob Williams joined the handful of players who have beaten Tony Kendall, whilst for YM., P. Williams had a good win over Reg Edwards. In the Cadwa match however, Reg was star man for his team, beating Rob Davies and Tony Moon, and for Cadwa, Neil Hodson beat Eric Ferguson and Alec Gould.

The match between Maghull and Bath Street 'B' ended 6-4 in favour of the former. Steve Royden won two, including a win over Rob Williams, and Pete Brownlee did likewise.

Trinity finished a creditable sixth, and showed the benefit of having a settled squad, using only 5 players all season. They relied heavily on Mike Corcoran, and lost 7-3 to Wavertree Labour without him, but Cadwa and Bath Street both fell 8-2 to enable Trinity to establish their top half position. Similarly, ~

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS

TUESDAY 16TH APRIL AT

HON REFEREE :

FINAL

1. Semi-Finals - Men's Singles (a) KEITH WILLIAMS (ELEC.SUP.) v
(b) PAUL HUTCHINGS (BOOTLE S.C) v
2. Junior Final ANDREW TAYLOR (COLONSAY) v
3. Veterans' Singles Final ALAN TIMEWELL (RAFTERS) v
4. Restricted Singles Final TONY KENDALL (L'POOL Y.M.) v
5. Women's Doubles Final JULIE PRINCE (ENG. ELEC.)
and v
MURIEL COX (COLONSAY)
6. Men's Doubles Final PAUL HUTCHINGS (BOOTLE S.C)
and v
JOHN RANKIN (BOOTLE S.C)
7. Women's Singles Final PAULA FRENCH (V. SANG.) v
8. Men's Singles Final (a) KEITH WILLIAMS v

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MERSEYSIDE POLICE CLUB

MR. B.A. LEESON

E V E N T S

v	<u>JOHN RANKIN (BOOTLE S.C.)</u>	21/8	21/17	+
v	<u>DAVE ROBERTS (WAV. LAB.)</u>	21/15	21/17	/
v	<u>BERNARD WENTWORTH (WAV. LAB.)</u>	22/20	12/21	18/21
v	<u>DAVE WILSON (BOOTLE S.C.)</u>	21/8	21/15	+
v	<u>BRIAN JENNINGS (BATH ST.)</u>	21/11	13/21	9/21
	<u>BARBARA KIRKMAN (COLONSAY)</u>			
v	and	17/21	15/21	+
	<u>KRISTINA COX (COLONSAY)</u>			
	<u>KEITH WILLIAMS (ELEC. SUP.)</u>			
v	and	21/17	16/21	21/13
	<u>MALCOLM McEVROY (ELEC. SUP.)</u>			
v	<u>BARBARA KIRKMAN (COLONSAY)</u>	22/20	21/18	+
(b) v	<u>PAUL HUTCHINGS</u>	18/21	21/15	21/14

YMCA, who finished seventh were dependent on Tony Kendall who will probably top the averages. Unlike Trinity, who they beat 6-4, they could not field a regular team and their position deteriorated accordingly.

Bath Street 'D' who struggled early on, continued their rise up the table, and in successive weeks drew with both Bootle and Linacre. Brian Jennings obviously strengthened the team, and he had a notable double over Reeve and Davidson of Linacre. John Pilkington also beat Jack Davidson 20/22, 21/15, 22/20. Together with a later draw with Electric, these made a remarkable hat trick of draws. Form like that all season could have made them promotion candidates.

The battle to avoid the second relegation position was also close at the end of the season. Aighurth were relegated a long time before the end and managed only one win against Jewish, Bill Leeming and Bill Holmes winning 2 each. Despite some useful performances, Waterloo finally made the drop, but only 5 points separated 4 teams. (Rumours are rife however that major new signings may see Waterloo bounce straight back!!).

Liverpool Jewish never had a settled team from one week to the next, and along with Vernon Sangster were lucky to survive relegation.

And so to a final small batch of eye catching games, starting with a sensational scoreline 13/21, 21/18, 21/3 for Fraser Farquharson over Nigel Conquest; Roy Williams (Trinity) beat John Ashley (Wav.Lab.) 17/21, 21/16, 21/7; a rare double defeat for Tony Kendall at the hands of Mark Reed and John Cowley of V.S.; Joan Monaghan beat Peter Holmes 21/15, 12/23 21/17; Andy Armstrong (Waterloo) beat Jack Davidson 16/21, 21/15, 21/7 (a lone winner); Dave Cunningham beat Dave Wilson 21/16, 21/17 but lost to Bill Leeming 21/12, 20/22, 17/21. Billy Holmes beat Andy Armstrong 21/19, 16/21, 21/14.

And finally the answer to last issue's quiz. The combined ages of the Linacre and Aighurth teams was 1784 years. I have confirmed this with the Editor.

DIVISION 4A

JACK LAMBERT

Congratulations to the Police 'A' team on a convincing championship despite the difficulties and extra work over the past year. About ten players were called on with Alan Woods leading set winner closely followed by Len Dyeon.

Bootle J.C. 'A' were convincing runners up with Dave Graham leading the way, but he was well supported by Steve Baker, Mal Dixon and Roy Parry. The third place proved a right battle with Jim Geddes leading his tight little team of Roly Wright, Les Higham and Danny Every to a one point lead. Warwick Bolam 'A' team, in the true sense of the word, Colin Owens was the lead man but Dave Davies, Phil Wilkinson and Carl Ledson, a good team improving all the time. Vagabonds 'A' were 'even Steven' with Warwick, but called on more players with Ken Roy, Dave Batty and Jack Highton the mainstays.

Tony Morris was Cadwa 'C' top set man with Ian Fletcher and Jack Power still going strong. The Maghull 'E' and 'F' teams were a secretary's dream, the 'F' team only called on one reserve, Bill Salter was leading man, other ever presents Frank Leece, Peter Ellison, and my old sparring partner, Keith Whittaker. A similar story from the 'E' team with Harry McGamity in the lead, backed by Steve Banks, George Frost and Jimmy Gill.

Andrea and Mike Power with Julie Baker battled on for Colonsay 'B' with not a lot of success. Jewish 'C' were the biggest 'pool' team with only Dave Cohen, who had a good season, and Adam Geiling were regulars. Les Harper of English Electric 'F' improves with the years, and Margaret Collins keeps looking more like her old self, but Electric had a rough season. Jean Reynolds and Pauline Lawrenson kept the Rafter's flag flying, but their partners were many and varied.

It seems many clubs battled to put teams out, although it was nice to see the REAL TEAMS turning out. Not many, if any, walk-over results in our division to everyones credit.

My assessments were based on the cards I received, and I feel a few were missing Julie Baker beat Danny Every 13 and 11. I wonder what next season will bring.

DIVISION 4B

PETER MAYER

Well another season over! Hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did. As expected from mid-season Wavertree Labour have won the division closely followed by Rafter's. Congratulations to them both, and I am sure you all join me in wishing them equal success in the 3rd. next season.

I suggested in my last report that my team Aigburth were ready to make a surge in the second half of the season, this they did. Unfortunately in the wrong direction!

It is nice to record that the lads from Vernon Sangster started picking up a few points in the second half - gaining a very creditable draw with Brownmoor Park. A really excellent show here by Chris McKinnell beating John Forrest 24/22 in the third. Well done Chris.

Congrats too to Ian Black (W. Lab.) for being first to lower Don Davies colours - 16 in the third. Peter Knight, Aigburth, for beating Alan Rivers, Courtaulds, and Wally Sill for also beating Don Davies two straight.

It was a pity the division was two teams short this season and University not being able to play some games and having to be dropped from the league.

However, here's to a full division next season and that we will all continue to enjoy the best indoor sport in the world for a long time to come.

DIVISION 5

EDDIE CAMERON

Merseyside Chinese Youth Association are the team of the year, they carried off the cup and league double with their form and confidence accelerating week by week in the second half of the season. In the first half of the season they recorded two 10 - 0 wins, in the second half they won their last five league

games 10 - 0 and carried off the Stamp Cup by the same margin. Peter Choi and David Ng provided the experience, but John Lau and Kar Lee proved to be the most improved players in the division by the end of the season. Rodney Youth, my choice for champions did not let me down, and finished up just three points less than M.Y.C.A. M.Y.C.A. received two walk-overs, one was deleted but the other was against a team that took four sets from them in the corresponding match in the first half of the season. That is not to say that M.Y.C.A. would not have won 10 - 0, but it does help to point out that teams giving walk-overs not only let themselves down but can create seemingly unfair situations, such situations are more embarrassing to the teams receiving walk-overs than to their rivals. What about the walk-over that was deleted? A glance at the league tables will show ten teams only in our division at the final count, the other four records were expunged because the clubs in question had given three walk-overs each, and the rules say that in such circumstances each club 'loses' its lowest team. The results of all the matches played by the expunged teams are then removed from the record; in the case of our division we were left with ten clubs, and some of those were hovering close to disaster. At least two clubs have filled in the names of players who did not take part in matches. These will be considered by the committee at their next meeting. Warwick Bolam 'A' were the finalists in the Stamp Cup Final held at English Electric; they brought their supporters with them and provided a spirited opposition to the experienced M.Y.C.A. Their team of D. Water, R. Peat, P. Porter, E. Mandsley and G. Stevenson finished seventh in the division and are improving rapidly. They tell me that they are determined to keep together and fight their way up the league. Snag is that Warwick Bolam are school based, with their first team as 'old boys' and their second team the training ground for the latest batch of pupils. Mr. Davis and his colleagues are to be congratulated for their excellent organisation and success in promoting our game. Waverley Labour 'E' finished third in the division, ably led by Mabel Neary, whose enthusiasm for the game never weakens. Arthur Birch, Billy Shaeffer, Tony Connor and Ken Armson drew away from the 'field' but were never quite able to match the top two. The performance of Unity to finish fourth in their first season is commendable, Ken Hignett believes that this year's experience of the more cunning arts of some of the opposition will rub off on his own lads who will be making a real challenge for honours next season. Bath Street fielded many experienced players, Brian Cunningham is an old adversary of mine, C. Blackburn, R. Woodley, D. Hudson, S. Arkwright and D. Gibson have had mixed fortunes, but just about made the top half of our depleted division. Electric Supply missed Marie Lupton, Marie has had a bit of trouble with her back and it has been gratifying to hear so many good wishes for her speedy return to the game. Peter Highton strengthened the squad but the team seldom played the same players two games running, and their low position in the division was inevitable. Brownmore Park struggled along but enjoyed themselves. Jerry O'Keefe had a good season for Rafter's but needed a bit more solid support to make progress. Liverpool Jewish 'F' had a much better season, their 'E' team supported the rest of the league, but sad to say the 'F' team were deleted as were another fifth division specialists in Maghull 'G'. Kirkby also suffered along with Litherland, but we hope that the clubs can put their houses in order and re-enter their teams with more confidence next season.

1984-85 has been a memorable season. It has seen division 5 produce the highest standard of table tennis for years, perhaps for ever; we have seen the introduction of three new youth teams hopefully pointing the way to a new source of future club strength, and with this we have seen the introduction of new young blood, many of whom have the potential skill and already possess the enthusiasm to quickly move up the league ladder.

I am afraid I did not receive many written contributions for the notes this season. I did receive many verbal comments and hope that these have been presented as intended. Good luck for next season.

STAMP CUP FINAL

MERSEYSIDE CHINESE Y.A. 10 WARWICK BOLAM 'A' 0

At the English Electric Club, Peter Choi beat D. Waters 16 & 16, Kar Lee beat Eric Maudseley 11 and 14; David Ng beat Geoff Stevenson 22 and 16; John Lau beat Maudseley 14 and 14; Choi beat P. Porter 13 and 14; Choi and Ng beat Waters and Maudseley 10 and 17; and the Chinese boys had won the cup. A couple of fight backs followed, or were we more relaxed? Lau and Lee beat Porter and Stevenson 15-21; 21-14; 21-12. Ng beat Waters 21-10; 21-23; 21-10. Lau beat Porter 18 and 14 and Lee beat Stevenson 9 and 19.

A fairly good crowd to watch two enthusiastic sides. The official in charge was Eddie Cameron with Vice President Jack Lambert presenting the trophies.

FORREST CUP

WAVERTREE LABOUR 6 ENGLISH ELECTRIC 'E' 2

Wavertree opted to play at home having won the toss. In the first game at Liverpool Y.M.C.A. Bill Stanley lost to Albert Parker 17 and 16 and the favourites were one down, Woods and Jones beat Parker and Ken Black 19 and 14 and then Ian Black and Stanley beat Wally Sill and Keith Wright 21-15; 16-21; 25-23 - a great game and a crucial win. Black lost to Parker (not again) 18-21; 21-18 (Albert was 18-12 up) 19-21: Black beat Wright 16 and 14; Woods beat Sill 19 and 17. The official in charge was life member and Vice Chairman Jack McCaig, who presented the trophies ably assisted by Ken Armson. Jack had personal problems during the evening but managed to soldier on. Our best wishes to his wife.

HYDE CUP

BATH ST. 'A' 6 COLONSAY 'A' 0

At the Maghull Club, Billy Clayton beat Harry Nelson 15 and 12, Val France beat Derek Goodwin 20 and 17, Mark Pearson beat Colin Rourke 10 and 19, Alan Walton beat Dave Piper 12 and 9, Clayton beat Goodwin 18 and 14, Pearson beat Nelson 12 and 17. Maybe a bit one sided but who cares - this is a top class Bath St. side and not a bad Colonsay team either. Six well known and experienced players, and Alex Gould and Brian Leeson umpiring and Colin and Mark could feel a little out of it, but they have a great future. Official in charge was Stan Clarke with Vice President Jack Lambert presenting the trophies.

RUMJAHN CUP

BATH ST. 6 BOOTLE S.C. 3

At the Police Club Dave Butterworth lost to Frank Brady 12-21; 21-18; 13-21: Ken Jackson beat Derek Sullivan 16 and 16, Pete Ross and Butterworth beat Sullivan and Keith Miller 16 and 11; Ian McElwe beat Dave Wilson 18 and 15. Jackson lost to Brady 21-19; 20-22; 18-21: A tough one this, McElwe beat Miller 17 and 21. Jackson and McElwe lost to Brady and Wilson 12-21; 11-21: Ross beat Sullivan 15 and 21; 21-15; 21-18. Dave Butterworth clinched the game for Bath St. with a 13 and 10 win over Dave Wilson whose Bootle Boys had fought all the way.

Ken Armson was the official in charge with Janet Davies and Ted Rumjahn the 'Rumjahn' rep., Ted presented the trophies.

READMAN CUP

ELECTRIC SUPPLY 6 RAFTERS 4

At the English Electric Club Les Molyneux lost to Wayne Percival 14 and 16: Brian Davey beat Allan Timewell 13 and 15, Keith Williams lost to Trevor Manning 11 and 13: Mal McEvoy beat Paul Ashcroft 9 and 13: Molyneux beat Timewell 20 and 12.

Despite the scores all the games had been top class, but the next one was a game to remember. Williams beat Percival 17 and 19, Davey lost to Ashcroft 15 and 16. What a match this is turning into. Davey and Molyneux lost to Manning and Ashcroft 16-21; 21-18; 18-21 (Supply 5-4 up). McEvoy and Williams beat Timewell and Percival 12 and 19.

This was one of the all time great finals with EVERY player, winning or losing, turning on some superb stuff. A fortunate full house were the lucky ones. Stan Clarke was the official in charge with Arthur Upton, our Chairman, presenting the trophies. Brian Leeson and Bill Harris umpired.

THE LIVERPOOL CLOSED TOURNAMENT 1985

Keith Williams won the Men's Singles Title for the fourth time when the Finals of the Closed Championships were held at Merseyside Police Club on Tuesday, 16th April. In an exciting Men's Final, Paul Hutchings took the first game, but Keith secured the next two games and added 1985 to his previous winning years of 1977, 1980 and 1981. Paul had disposed of last year's Champion, Dave Roberts, in the semi-final, but cannot yet add his own name to the list of champions.

The Men's Doubles event, however, is a different picture. Paul and his partner, John Rankin, seem to regard this title as automatically their own and, true to form, they overcame Keith and his partner, Malcolm McEvoy, in an entertaining final, winning this event for the fourth successive time. Incidentally, Paul and John had, a few days earlier, won the Civil Service National Championship Men's Doubles event and so deserve extra congratulations.

Paula French became the new Women's Champion when she defeated a former champion, Barbara Kirkman, in straight sets in the final. Barbara had accounted for last year's champion, Julie Prince, in the semi-final. Barbara achieved success in the Women's Doubles, however, when partnered by Kristina Cox, a win over Julie Prince and Kristina's mum, Muriel, made history. This was the first time that a daughter had faced her mother in a Closed Final.

Alan Timewell retained the Rikki Brown Shield when he overcame Dave Wilson in the 'Veterans' Final, while Bernie Wentworth had much more difficulty retaining the Eric Caird Cup in the Junior Final. Andrew Taylor provided determined opposition, but in this encounter between the two Cheshire County juniors, Bernie emerged the winner.

The League's newest Trophy, donated last year by North West Engraving, for the Restricted Singles, was claimed by Brian Jennings who defeated the top seed, Tony Kendall, in three games.

This year's experiment of holding the Finals on a different occasion seemed to have been successful. The initial rounds of the various events were completed smoothly at Kirkby Sports Centre on Sunday 31st March, to be followed 16 days later by the staged finals at the Police Club. A large, appreciative audience turned up to witness the play, and I'm sure that everyone enjoyed the evening. Thanks indeed to Alan Wood and his Police colleagues for organising the venue, and I hope that a similar evening can be looked forward to next season.

Brian Leeson

TABLE EDGES

Match Regulation 4 states:- "No player shall play more than 30 matches per season." Quite an interesting rule.

Did you see the photo of our handsome champion Keith Williams in the Liverpool Star?

Surely one of the outstanding results of the season was the Liverpool Jewish 'A' team win over their first team. When you consider that the first team had only lost two matches all season. The 'A' teams 9 - 1 win was a truly masterly performance.

Our sincere appreciation must be recorded of the publicity given to our game by the Liverpool Echo in particular, also the Liverpool Star.

It is worth recording that the Business House Table Tennis League held a very successful hot pot supper and presentation dance, putting over £100 in the league funds

Incidentally, our leagues differ very little now. The B.H. is only basically for Business Houses, the main difference is they 'basically' start at 5.30 p.m. and we 'basically' start at 7.30 p.m.

Our tournament secretary, Brian Leeson, recently officiated at the Italian Open in Venice. As these notes go to press he is on his way to Bergen, Norway, for the Scandinavian Junior Championships.

I have mentioned this before, my postal code is L32 7QU.

<u>DIVISION ONE</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts
BOOTLE	26	22	3	1	183
ELEC. SUPPLY	26	19	1	6	181
L'POOL YMCA	26	17	8	1	173
MAGHULL	26	18	5	3	170
WAV. LABOUR	26	18	7	1	162
RAFTERS	26	13	11	2	143
VERNON SANGSTER	26	12	10	4	133
CADWA	26	11	14	1	112
ENG. ELECTRIC	26	8	16	2	106
V. SANGSTER 'A'	26	7	14	5	99
WAV. LABOUR 'A'	26	7	17	2	98
WAV. LABOUR 'B''	26	7	17	2	96
ENG. ELEC. 'A'	26	3	22	1	82
MAGHULL 'A'	26	3	20	3	78

<u>DIVISION 3B</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts
LINACRE	26	20	4	2	175
BOOTLE 'B'	26	17	4	5	167
ENG. ELEC. 'D'	26	17	3	6	160
BATH STREET 'B'	26	16	6	4	160
MAGHULL 'C'	26	15	6	5	148
TRINITY 'B'	26	9	12	5	134
L'POOL YMCA 'B'	26	14	9	3	131
BATH ST. 'D'	26	8	15	3	125
CADWA 'B'	26	10	12	4	120
W'TREE LAB. 'C'	26	7	16	3	113
L'PL JEWISH 'B'	26	7	15	4	113
V. SANGSTER 'C'	26	6	14	6	112
WATERLOO	26	6	14	6	108
AIGBURTH	26	1	23	2	54

<u>DIVISION 2</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts
BATH STREET	26	23	2	1	196
L'POOL JEWISH	26	21	3	2	176
V. SANGSTER 'B'	26	19	6	1	172
BOOTLE 'A'	26	18	6	2	171
ENG. ELEC. 'B'	26	15	8	3	153
TRINITY	26	14	9	3	147
COLONSAY	26	10	10	6	131
PLESSEY	26	10	11	5	125
L'POOL YMCA 'A'	26	8	15	3	117
L'PL JEWISH 'A'	26	6	17	3	99
ELEC. SUPPLY 'A'	26	7	15	4	97
CADWA 'A'	26	5	19	2	96
ENG. ELEC. 'C'	26	4	17	5	87
POLICE	26	1	23	2	53

<u>DIVISION 4A</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts
POLICE 'A'	22	19	2	1	162
BOOTLE J.C. 'A'	22	17	1	4	148
COURTAULDS	22	14	6	2	138
WARWICK BOLAM	22	15	3	4	137
VAGABONDS 'A'	22	14	6	2	137
CADWA 'C'	22	12	9	1	123
MAGHULL 'E'	22	9	11	2	107
L'PL JEWISH 'C'	22	5	15	2	87
COLONSAY 'B'	22	6	14	2	86
RAFTERS 'B'	22	5	17	-	71
MAGHULL 'F'	22	4	18	-	67
ENG. ELEC. 'F'	22	-	18	4	57

<u>DIVISION 3A</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts
BATH STREET 'A'	24	23	1	-	203
FORDS	24	22	2	-	174
VAGABONDS	24	17	5	2	147
BOOTLE J.C.	24	16	5	3	139
ELEC. SUPPLY 'B'	24	10	10	4	128
COLONSAY 'A'	24	12	10	2	123
BATH STREET 'C'	24	9	12	3	109
BROWNHOOR PARK	24	8	13	3	100
TRINITY 'A'	24	5	17	2	95
PLESSEY 'A'	24	6	16	2	89
MAGHULL 'B'	24	5	16	3	89
UNIVERSITY	24	6	17	1	82
KIRKBY	24	3	18	3	82

<u>DIVISION 4B</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts
WAV. LABOUR 'D'	18	16	1	1	147
RAFTERS 'A'	18	13	3	2	136
MAGHULL 'D'	18	13	3	2	125
ENG. ELEC. 'E'	18	13	5	-	111
KIRKBY 'A'	18	9	7	2	94
COURTAULDS 'A'	18	8	9	1	81
BROWNMOOR PK. 'A'	18	4	11	3	71
L'PL JEWISH 'D'	18	3	13	2	58
AIGBURTH 'A'	18	3	13	2	57
V. SANGSTER 'D'	18	-	17	1	20

THE RECORDS OF THE FOLLOWING TEAMS
HAVE BEEN EXPUNGED DUE TO THE CLUBS
CONCEDING THREE 0-10 WALK-OVERS
DIVISION 4B UNIVERSITY 'A'

<u>DIVISION 5</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts
KIRKBY 'B'					
LITHERLAND					
LIVERPOOL JEWISH 'F'					
MAGHULL 'G'					

<u>DIVISION 5</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts
M.C.Y.A.	18	16	2	-	147
RODNEY YOUTH	18	16	1	1	144
WAV. LAB 'E'	18	14	2	2	122
UNITY	18	9	7	2	91
BATH STREET 'E'	18	7	8	3	90
RAFTERS 'C'	18	5	10	3	87
W. BOLAM 'A'	18	9	9	-	84
ELEC. SUPPLY 'C'	18	4	11	3	72
BROWN PARK 'B'	18	3	15	-	53
L'PL JEWISH 'E'	18	-	18	-	10