



Table Tennis DIGEST

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LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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No.1

EDITORIAL

The changes in play this season are not so dramatic as when we made the major overall change from five to four men teams, nevertheless a major change.

There is no doubt that the majority of the first division players desperately wanted the three aside setup, as expected it is going smoothly and according to plan; seems a little strange - seeing second, third, fourth and fifth division players voting on what the Division 1 wallahs wanted. One must assume that, where relevant, they were carrying out their first team's wishes.

The second part of the change has not been so smooth. The word 'fiddle' is still being thrown around. I have only heard reasons why we should NOT play in order. Of course, it could simply be that the very silent majority are quite happy with the new situation. The main contention is that you can still play your reserve at number one, it will be interesting to see how the committee treat the flaw in the rule. I would suggest that nineteen out of twenty last minute changes are 100% genuine. The twentieth would invariably be in an obvious crunch match, but there are others, one is quite funny but factual. However, both changes are here for this season. It is up to you whether they are with us next season.

Last season it was all change with players and this season it is all change with playing order following the adoption by the A.G.M. of 3-a-side for this Division only. Ironically, as I voted in my own right against it, my own club would have been in dire straits had we had to find enough players for 3 four-a-side teams in this Division. Having said that, I must also say for the benefit of one 1st Division player, that I had nothing to do with how Wavertree Labour voted on this particular issue as our voting cards had been correctly passed to Mabel Neary and Bill Stanley for them to vote as they had been instructed by the club.

Ironically, yet again, the claim that this step forward would do away with any fiddling in this Division was burst before a bat had been lifted when Electric Supply, who harbour an imagined grudge against the Management Committee, deliberately ranked a player at No.3. who I do not believe will lift his bat this season in any Division, let alone this one. This, to enable both Les Molyneux and Brian Davey to play in both the 1st and 3A Divisions. Their comments about sportsmanship fall pretty flat when you consider that they have shown scant regard for the 50-odd players in Division 3A.

Mind you, Malcolm McEvoy is not unduly put-out about this, as his view is that they have the 1st Division sewn up no matter who they have at No.3. He told me that the only question still to be answered is how many he and Keith will win the title by. Bootle and Liverpool Y.M.C.A., to mention but two, might be thinking differently.

Bootle had a serious setback to their chances of keeping in the hunt when John Rankin fell victim to appendicitis. Although only out for a few weeks, his game is certain to have been affected, and in fact he did not appear to have been playing to his best form prior to his illness, which was probably a side-effect of it. Theirs is a well balanced side, and in Lawrence Kenwright they have probably the best No.3 in the Division, and I am sure that in spite of Malcolm's views, they must have felt that they had a 60-40 chance of retaining the title.

With Wavertree Labour having had to alter their ranking for travelling purposes, any threat from that quarter has disappeared, as Bootle proved when they dismissed them from the Cup. That leaves only Liverpool Y.M.C.A. as an outside threat to Malcolm.

Rumours reach me of players asking for payment for their services. The mind boggles at the thought of any club being willing to pay to have a player fulfil his ego by representing them in the 1st Division of our League. Rumour it may be, but it is probably certain that some clubs do pay players' registration fees, and possibly allow them to play for free. As this practice, if it does exist, must be at the expense of players in lower teams, then those players should be asking the right questions of their club and stamp this practice out before it gets hold. We are, after all, supposed to be playing for the pleasure of participating, and not for monetary awards no matter what form they take.

Prior to the start of the season, I received a phone call from one player who, whilst in the process of trying to tell me how our Club should run its affairs, also passed comment on my right to express my views in these notes. This was quite a surprise, for I have always believed the role of Divisional writers to be critical, and, if necessary, controversial, in addition to giving news of progress and throwing in a few names. I often get the impression that most players only read our magazine to see if they have got a mention.

an I suggest that if you have a different view which you wish to air, then our editor will be more than pleased to publicise your views, provided they are not libellous. If we all agreed with each other it would be a pretty boring world. If you want a good controversial subject, let me say now that the 1st Division is not, as some think, the be-all and end-all of table tennis. Without the support of the lower Divisions in which most players started, there would be no 1st Division for anyone to bask in their own reflected glory.

A little anecdote on that statement. I recall a discussion a few years back when a then 1st Division player said to me that if he could not play in the 1st Division he would give up playing as no other Division was worth playing in. Each time I see his name on a score card, 3rd Division if you please, I am reminded of this, and is it not ironic to note that he has not even got a 100% record. I won't embarrass him by giving his name, for contrary to how it sounds, he is a pretty decent person.

On to the news and name dropping section. Obviously, Electric Supply must be favourites, for in a 3-a-side setup, Keith and Malcolm are not going to drop many sets, and as the doubles pairing for their team, they will also be hard to beat. With either Les Molyneux or Brian Davey to call on for the No.3 spot, they will take some catching.

Only Bootle, with Paul Hutchings, John Rankin and Lawrence Kenwright can offer any real threat, and the setback of losing John for a few weeks, and the following period of his getting back to form, must surely have put paid to their chances of posing any real threat. Liverpool Y.M.C.A. will be there, and look a good bet for at least a 3rd place, but as steady and consistent as their team of Peter Lee, Martin Tate, and Peter Taylor may be, they cannot match the greater ability of Electric Supply.

Wavertree Labour are well out of the running, with Roy Smith being replaced by Phil Luxon. He gives all round effort and quite a bit of ability, but is not another Roy Smith.

Pushing for a place in the top four we should also find Maghull, but in the Cup their strong line up was clinically disposed of by Electric Supply 7 - 3, which more or less sums up their chances of making any sort of impression this season.

It is at the bottom of the Division that we find the real cut and thrust for with four probable contenders in Cadwa, Bath St., Liverpool Jewish and Wavertree Labour 'B', it could well be an interesting fight. All things being equal, however, Cadwa look the least likeliest of finding themselves in any danger. Jewish and Bath St., having just come up, they will be prepared to fight hard to hang on to their hard-won honour, but of the two, it is Bath St. who look most likely to succeed, for their lineup has plenty of first Division experience. This leaves Jewish and Wavertree Labour 'B' to receive my nomination as the teams who will find themselves playing in the 2nd Division next season.

I forecast this for Wavertree Labour 'B' last season, and they managed to drag themselves clear, which Phil Luxon never ceases reminding me about, but this could be 3rd time unlucky for them. They have introduced three more players from Wrexham to team up with Haydon Young and Ray Jackson, but are still having problems in turning out any 3 of these five. Ray Jackson summed it up when he told me that they know they have it all to do, but the potential is there. Certainly the Wrexham newcomers, Neil James, Justin Evans and Paul Griffiths show promise, but they have yet to bridge the gap between the Wrexham and Liverpool Divisions.

If any other team captain or player have any comments on their team or any other team they want aired, all they have to do is let me know of them. I am not adverse to airing my views, and that goes also for the views of others even though they may differ from mine. The name of the game is table tennis allied to freedom of speech. Try it, you might even get to like it.

On the Cup front, the main interest is likely to centre around who will figure in the final if Electric Supply and Bootle get drawn together. Should this happen the field could be wide open with Maghull and Wavertree Labour having abruptly lost any further interest, and the draw possibly disposing of other fancied teams. We could see an unfancied team in the Final.

I will cover all the teams in the next issue when things have become a bit clearer.

One New Year wish I would like to see fulfilled is for Electric Supply to put last season behind them and make the intention of a non-fiddling 1st Division a reality. Harboursing a grudge, imagined or otherwise, can eventually blind commonsense and we all become losers. History is littered with martyrs and I can't recall one that made any sense or served any useful purpose.

DIVISION 2

LES FRENCH

With so many Teams of equal strength at the top, a crystal ball is needed to spot both promotion teams this season.

Maghull 'A' look a good bet with Alan Chase capable of taking care of the best of the opponents. As usual backed up by Ted Birch and Frank Murphy with their solid defensive play and Mick Allen with his powerful, if erratic, hitting.

This team has a very special team spirit, a match against them is in pleasure.

Bath Street 'A' will be hard to deny, led by that classic stylist Dave Butterworth, formidable when he really wants to win but at times he doesn't seem to care. Having witnessed a closed set against Gordon Birch years ago, I know just how good Dave can be.

Alan Walton is a formidable No.2 backed up by likeable Fred Bainbridge and the wily Billy Clayton who can mesmerise opponents with his unusual style or voice.

Plessey too have the advantage of a superb No.1 - Trevor Owens, a useful No.2 - Bob Edwards, and Ray Lavin and Peter Wess for good measure.

English Electric 'A' have strength in depth, Rod McPherson, Graeme Black and Richie Cragg fronting for George Lennon, who is useful No.4. Vernon Sangster 'B' are also a good side at maximum strength with John Greene, Dave Tagg, Neil Montague, Ian Wensley, and Bill Harris available if needed.

Bootle 'A' have had some bad results already and seem out of it despite challenging last season. Y.M.C.A. 'A', despite the inclusion of Ted Mandaluff at No.2, are lacking the overall strength and will find it hard to 'get a result' against the other main challengers. Wing Lau, Francis Lay and Dominic Tai make up a new side. Ted, one of the greatest 'after match talkers' in the

it), will need to learn Chinese. Thanks for your recent letter Ted - it was very nice of you and very much appreciated.

Who's going to win it?

Take your pick from English Electric 'A', Maghull 'A' and Bath Street 'A' with Vernon Sangster 'B' and Plessey in hot pursuit.

At the bottom things are a little clearer with Jewish 'A' making a poor start despite the signing of Harry Johnstone.

John Henshaw and Richard Stevenson should do well in Division 2, but Roger Bennon will find the going tough. Linacre look set to continue their yo-yo career between Divisions 2 and 3 and much depends on how Ford's react to their sternest test since climbing the lower divisions, with 4 going down I can expect all three above will be doomed. In the case of Jewish A who ought to have gone down last season. The fact that they didn't reflects poorly on all concerned. A clear explanation of the facts is called for from the Committee about the Appeals Board finding and the Committee's handling thereafter. It appears that justice was not done.

Colonsay look much safer this year after flirting with disaster last season. Its nice to see Harry Nelson back in Division 2 but where is Mr O' Sullivan?

New signing Brian Jennings has made a good start as has Colin Rourke especially against rivals Linacre and Fords. Kristine Cox did well to overcome the mysteries of Frank Lacey's game. Ex-Closed champion Barbara Kirkman completes the side but as most of the other teams in the division seem to be relatively strong, Colonsay might still have a relegation struggle to avoid fourth from bottom place. Bootle 'B' are out.

Some early results to think about all in sequence: Maghull 'A' 8-2 Bootle 'A'; Maghull 'A' 5-5 Vernon Sangster; Bath Street 'A' 4-6 Bootle 'A'; Bath Street 4-6 Y.M.'A'; English Electric 'A' 5-5 Y.M.'A'; Colonsay 7-3 Fords; Colonsay 8-2 Linacre. A strong contender for the best individual performance of the season must be 15 year old Kristina Cox by beating John Greene of Vernon Sangster 'B' who rarely touches his bat these days. Ahmed Thabet beat Frank Murphy but found Alan Chase too good in Y.M.'s 8-2 defeat by Maghull. Ahmed can also boast a win over Alan Walton, Karen Gibson beat Dave Wilson who made amends by beating Billy Clayton 9,7 the same night.

Richie Cragg beat Ted Mandaluff, it's an especially great honour to beat Ted. I managed it once after many thrashings, but you don't mind losing to Ted, he's such a nice fellow and it's hardly a disgrace because he's so good in the old fashioned way - proper strokes not just crazy spins.

I would like to see Ted play Billy Clayton a match with no spin on the ball. I would appreciate knowing the time and the place if this set is 'on'. In this season of 'fixed' orders, Ted - 2, Billy - 4, at least we can't expect to see this set, what a pity, the thought intrigues me. Somebody should arrange it at the closed finals. So many of the audience would appreciate it.

Maghull 'As' characters deserve special mention. Now that Tarzan has been to South America I suppose Ted Birch will be buying a chimpanzee as a guide to get back to us more quickly from Peru. It looks like Frank Murphy has got his Grecian 2000 mixed up with the Silverkrin, along with Alan Chase's new head polish you need sunglasses against Maghull 'A'.

Congratulations to Ian and Joyce Wensley on the birth of their son Robert. Ian's looking around for a little bat, I wonder if Mike Truman's little green

bat still exists.

Ted Mandaluff beat Val Francos, it's strange to see these two in Division 2 as opponents after their YM first division championship days some years ago. I'll bet they had a lot to talk about after the match.

DIVISION 3A

JACK LAMBERT

Ken Armson and I are having a go at notes outside our own divisions as we are a little short of volunteers.

Not many teams have failed to number their players as requested by our Fixture Secretary Eddie Cameron. There is no rule about this, just a request from Eddie to help him in his additional chore of checking ranking lists.

What do you think of ranking, and have a think about three aside at the same time?

I felt I should start writing on the strength of Electric Supply 'A', but the first card shows Roy Tagg, John Armstrong and Rod Bulmers winning all their games in a 7-3 win against Supply. Nevertheless, having Brian Davey and Les Molyneux should make them a formidable side, but the Maghull side are no slouches. It will be interesting to see how both sides fare.

We have many comings and goings. A Plessey side with John and David Southworth. Alan Nisted from Rafters at Electric Supply. Ron Stevenson, Brownmoor Park, an old and worthy campaigner being replaced by Steve Junior from Warwick Bolam. I wish more juniors were coming along like you. But one team who stick together with no small success, and a cup final last year - Brian Leeson, Dave Piper, Dennis Goodwin and Harry Nelson; they had a good 8-2 win over Bath Street who also have names that are nearly as well established, Karen Gibson, Eugene Berger, Fraser Farquarson and John Letch. I remember when John used to corner me in the sideplace at the old Bath Street room (in the nicest way of course).

Losing Julie Prince did not do the English Electric a lot of good; she will have more important things to do during the next few months - but she will see you again next season.

Despite losing stalwarts Doug Ridgeway and Ted Barnes; Tom Johnstone and Bob Owen with Dave and Mark could be a hot cup tip; they have started with three good wins.

Colin Pratt was a pretty cool reserve for English Electric, winning two of his sides three against Bootle J.C. (Ashby and Green trebles). Two of the game's stalwarts, as players and administrators, had a right battle with Alan Wood (Police) beating Norman Challoner 21-17; 15-21; 21-19; for his side's only set. Albie Baker did the same against Electric Supply. (Lone winner).

Maybe things will sort themselves out by the next season, but I can see Electric Supply 'A' going back to Division 2; and I am afraid Bill Spencer despite all your work, Brownmoor Park is for the drop. And of course, if we have a

budding journalist on the inside of things - the number is 546-3081.

Trinity 'A' are out.

DIVISION 3B

JACK LAMBERT

Unfortunately no notes have been received for your division - so as directed by the Management Committee, the magazine goes in without. With three correspondents short and a missing set of notes, one has to ponder on the enthusiasm or lack of it for the Digest.

One factual item is that Trinity are out. Another fact is that we have a pretty strong division. If the notes arrive before printing I will see that they are in, if they are not, I will give you an extra line and a half in the next magazine!

DIVISION 4A

KEN ARMSON

League newcomers last season, M.Y.C.A. are obviously going to be the dominant team in this division as they were in the 5th division last season, but the rest can take heart from the fact that the 2nd spot is wide open. Several teams come immediately into the reckoning with a few more hovering on the fringe. Of these I fancy Warwick Bolam and Courtaulds will be in with a very good chance. Nothing is really clear at this stage due to fluctuating results involving quite a few lost sets all round. Cadwa 'C', Wav. Lab 'E', Rafters 'B' and Vags 'A' are all making their presence felt and letting would-be promotion contenders know they are not going to have it easy. First good win of the season fell to Jerry O'Keeffe who came up against Alan Guy when playing Colonsay. Alan acts as a sort of floating reserve for Colonsay and as a result he often strengthens a team and picks up useful sets. Against Jerry they came unstuck, for he had a 2 straight win over Alan.

Courtaulds could be a good bet for they have a nice easy team atmosphere allied to quite a bit of ability, not to mention quite a bit of craft and guile. Warwick Bolam also play a regular team, and what they lack in the craft and guile department they make up for in enthusiasm and a modern style. I expect to see these two emerge from the pack by the halfway stage with the scales tipped slightly in favour of Warwick Bolam.

Although these are early days, it is the early wins that can put a team in the promotion frame of mind and help encourage a regular team turnout, for this is the real key to success. Knowing you will playing with the same players every week builds up the team spirit necessary for success. Players become more aware of the reliance placed on them and respond to the challenge. I don't suppose everyone will agree with that, but I have always found that a team of regular players prepared to work for the team and each other often does better than a constantly changing team of greater ability.

One team who could upset my predictions are Maghull 'E'. With a likely looking lineup they have the ability and are capable of pushing the others to one side if they can get the team out each week. I will not be surprised to see them pull it off but feel there is a question mark against the same team playing regularly.

There will be little to choose in the middle of the table with Cadwa 'C.', Wav. Lab 'E.', Rafters 'B.', and Vags 'A.', figuring prominently and possibly having a little mid-table battle between them. All have steady experienced players but lack the strength in depth to present any real challenge. My own team, Lab 'E' are a good example, with Mabel Neary at No.1., having plenty of ability and experience and able to hold her own with the other No.1's, whilst the rest of us can only be described as average 4th division players, and possibly the term average is more than we deserve. We don't expect to win any rave notices, but in this very friendly division with quite a few familiar faces, we expect to have an enjoyable season and finish in the top half. As this means finishing no lower than sixth, we will have quite a battle on our hands.

Liverpool Jewish have kindly given us Dave Cohen to bring a bit of colour to the division. If you play him make sure you wear your sunglasses for his playing kit is quite colourful and in keeping with his character. I wonder how many times during his playing career he has struck his thigh with his bat when he misses a shot? On paper the Jewish team looks good, but as Jewish teams invariably bear little resemblance to their playing list, they never really reach their correct level.

In Colonsay 'B' we have the other extreme, with a very young team controlled by Muriel Cox or Jean Jennings. The most disconcerting thing about this team is their habit of putting the youngsters' ages on each score card. It is bad enough having to try to beat them without also having to know just how young the opponent who is giving you the run-around is. You also have the unwelcome knowledge that the next time you play them they won't be much older, but will in all probability, be playing even better. It is all psychological stuff, and Muriel and Jean have got it down to a fine art.

The most unusual event this season, so far as we are concerned, will surely be the withdrawal of English Elec. 'F'. Not even Jack Lambert was fully aware of what was happening, and it was Week 4 before the invisible team was officially withdrawn. Very unusual for Jack and his club.

The new ranking system seems to have settled down well and the benefits in this division are already noticeable. It is early days yet, but I am certain that by the end of the season everyone will be asking why we have taken so long to introduce it. This season has also seen us take another step forward and introduced 3-a-side for the 1st Div. only. I think they are both here to stay and that 3-a-side will have to be gradually extended to the other divisions. Whatever the views of those who administer the league, it is the views of you, the players, which count most. If you hold any views on these two major changes, or suggestions to improve them, drop a line to the Editor. I have always felt that Divisional Notes should only be a small part of our of our magazine with letters from players being the major contribution, for only in this way can we find out what you think of our setup. Don't be one of those tiresome clubroom lawyers, let us all hear your views, good or bad, for it is certain that many of you hold views from which the league can benefit.

I have avoided any wild or rash predictions as I am hopeful that a player from this division will realise that they deserve better than this and contact the Editor with a takeover bid. I am covering this issue only because no-one has so far offered their services. My present function is to bring sweetness and light into the 1st division with my friendly, racy style. They love me, and

obviously won't want to share me with you. Stepping in after the halfway stage will give someone a chance to make predictions knowing they are halfway to being correct, and that someone could be you. Jack is putting a twenty four hour cover on his telephone to make sure he doesn't miss any of the flood of requests to take over my role.

Don't let him down.

DIVISION 4B

MIKE GRIFFITHS

Three teams have made an immediate impact on Division 4B, Rodney Youth Club, Fords and Waterloo L.T.C. As predicted in Division 3 notes last season, Waterloo have made new signings in the form of John Simm and yours truly from Trinity. At the time of writing we find ourselves unbeaten after 7 games, but Fords too are unbeaten and Rodney have lost 1 to Waterloo. The score was 6-4 and Waterloo had Andy Armstrong and Mike Nelson to thank winning 5 of the 6. Fords have been helped by a 10-0 walk-over, from, of all people, Maghull, but have won the rest of their matches convincingly. Even at this early stage I would expect 2 of these 3 teams to fill the promotion places.

Seven sets went to the third game when Aigburth and English Electric 'E' drew. Bill Leeming and Henry Holmes won all five for Aigburth. Bill playing as well as ever, had close victories over Wally. Bill (18 in the third) and Ken Black (19 in the third); Margaret Collins was the Electric star with wins over Billy Holmes and Jim Conroy. So long as they don't give any more walk-overs away I would expect Maghull to be on the heels of the leaders. They beat Aigburth 7-3, Brownmoor Park 8-2 and Courtaulds 6-4. Jeff Banks starred against Courtaulds beating Mike Hughes and the unorthodox Lee Travis. The Aigburth Derby ended with a 7-3 win for the first team, and Jim Conroy was star man beating Barry Meyer and Eric Wood.

These are a few close scorelines in the limited number of cards available and to platers saving a whitewash or winning a good double stand out. Here is a selection:- V. Smallwood (Bath Street) beat Mark Piercy (Fords); Keith Wright of English Electric beat Griffiths and Mike Nelson; Richard Blackburn of Liverpool Jewish beat Simon Gillean of Aigburth and also his side's only points against Bath Street where he beat Dennis Hudson and Brian Cunningham. And some other notable wins:- Eric Wood beat Mike Nelson; John Dyson (V.S.) beat Les Travis and in the same match Dave Cunningham beat B. Stevens; Arthur Brindle (Kirby) beat John Simm.

The Editor's deadlines become tougher every year, so I must apologise for these brief notes, however, next time I'll have more time and scorecards.

Most fifth divisioners gasped with dismay when they opened their Handbooks to find that we had only nine clubs instead of fourteen. Ten of the twenty six weeks would be spent sitting it out, and as the fifth division contains the bottom teams, the number of club reserves in many cases exceeded the four nominated in the grouping lists, what chance would they have of getting a game at all? Several players have spoken to me about the problem, here are two suggestions put forward: first, form the divisions from the number of clubs entered by creating an even number of teams per division including the first. Six divisions would require a total of eighty four teams, if the fifth division had nine teams leaving five short, then five teams vacancies would be spread amongst five divisions (fixtures secretaries note:- good intentions could be ruined by dropouts at, and after, the handbook meeting, for instance, six teams dropped out this season in this manner). The second suggestion was to limit entries to those required to make up the number of divisions which could be filled, and to use the other entries as reserves in the case of 'drop outs'. The difficulty would, of course, be in deciding who should have preference. Easy, I was advised, leave out any late entries, or if none, the bottom teams of the clubs with most teams. (Fixture secretaries note:- I wonder if clubs would enter an extra 'sacrifice' team in anticipation?). Perhaps clubs generally could think about this problem and write to the Digest with their ideas.

Now let us have a look at our depleted division, we begin by welcoming three new teams, M.C.Y.A. 'A', Plessey 'B' and Aigburth 'B', all are additions to existing clubs and it is refreshing to find that some clubs are expanding despite a general drop in numbers.

Looking at the league tables we cannot form a sensible appraisal, the number of matches played varies from six to two, no doubt some cards are missing but with the postal strike many more have not found their way through. Top of the league and my favourites to win the title are Plessey 'B', they have played five won four, losing four sets in total in the process but have lost a match to Liverpool Jewish 'E' 4-6. Plessey have ten players to chose from, R. Austin, G. Richardson, D. Evans, E. Green, T. Banton, P. Overend, J. Moore, J. Southworth, D. Southworth and Stan Harvey, some of these will be concentrating playing in the higher divisions, but there is little doubt that the squad is good enough to finish on top.

M.C.Y.A. 'A' entered a team of youngsters who are already showing the determination of their seniors who won all before them in their first year in the league last season. Their team S. Sung, J. Sung, S. Sin and W. Wan must have looked a little inexperienced, and they all moved down one in the grouping list to accommodate a new signing in S. Dickens. They have won three of their four matches and as their experience grows we can expect their second half of the season's performance to improve on their start up.

Liverpool Jewish 'E' is the better of the two Jewish Teams this season, their grouping is E. Young, N. Zalud, P. Ferguson and E. Hillman, but they are more likely to be calling on their reserve talent which includes K. Dutch, J. Dutch and I. Cohen. At the time of writing, this team has only played two but has won both, and if they were to play their strongest available, they will be in contention for the top two. Liverpool Jewish 'F' are likely to find strong contenders for their bottom spot in Aigburth 'B'. Aigburth are mainly a group of youngsters who are starting up, Mark Trevorrton, James Cananagh, Neil Delaney and John Bee have played in all their matches to date, they have not won a set so far, but they will keep trying, and are enjoying themselves. This is the only team I know who travel to away matches by public transport,

it is hoped that some one in Aigburth will help them to get to Maghull and Warwick Bolam. Mark Trevorrton has an impish sense of humour, he signed the card for our match under protest firmly believing that the tea has been spiked in the interval. I promised to ensure a league official would be present at the return match although I cannot promise he will be unbiased.

Police 'B' have won all of their three league matches played to date. In John Moore and Ritchie Winkle they have two strong experienced players who are keeping their eye in by filling in as reserves for the higher teams, Keith Wilkinson and Bob Rawlinson complete their strongest four with quality reserves such as Sue Anderson and Norman Morrissey standing by for the inevitable replacement calls in case duty problems arise. The Police will be challenging for the top spot if they can field their best team in all the vital matches.

If you have any news or comments please let me know in time for the next issue.

APPEAL BOARD HEARING

The League Appeal Board consisting of Ken Jones, Peter Rumjahn and Basil Townsend were called into action after the close of last season to hear an appeal from Electric Supply in respect of a decision of the League Management Committee to only note a letter from Electric Supply concerning an end of season rearranged match between Liverpool Jewish 1st and Liverpool Jewish 'A' teams. The Management Committee had noted the contents of the letter as no evidence of any breach of the League Rules was apparent. In doing so, they sympathized with the views expressed by Electric Supply.

On giving consideration to the appeal by Electric Supply, the Appeal Board found that Liverpool Jewish Club had failed to comply with a part of Match Regulation 10. Their recommendation was that this match, won by Liverpool Jewish 'A' 7-3, should be declared null and void, and they suggested that Rule 30 be used for this purpose. This recommendation being in favour of Electric Supply.

The Appeal Board's recommendation with its in-built punishment was considered by the Management Committee whose job it is to impose penalties in the case of any confirmed breach of Rules. Their decision was that had this breach of M.R.10 been brought to their attention in respect of any Club, then a Fine would have been levied. They accordingly amended the Appeal Board's recommendation to a Fine of £2 for the failure by Liverpool Jewish to conform with M.R.10 in its entirety.

Electric Supply were not happy with this decision and exercised their right of appeal to the County Association.

The appeal was heard by the Lancashire County Management Committee who also act as the County Appeal Board, who found in favour of the Liverpool League Management Committee.

The Chairman of the County Appeal Board stated in his remarks that they also sympathized with the Electric Supply Club in that the result of this match appeared to have been engineered. However, penalties, financial or otherwise,

have to be based on fact and not assumption. In presenting their appeal, Electric Supply had not produced any facts to prove that the match in question had not been played in accordance with the Rules of the Liverpool League and, therefore, the decision of the League Management Committee was a correct one and fully in line with financial penalties normally imposed for breach of Rule offences, (such as that which had come to light in the initial Hearing). Proper account had also been taken of the fact that the Liverpool Jewish Club had complied with part of M.R.10 in that the League Fixture Secretary had been advised in writing of the postponement of the original fixture.

The Appeal Board also noted that the Management Committee of the Liverpool League had acted promptly following this incident by taking action to have the Rules amended to prevent such circumstances arising again, and the power to impose a suitable penalty was now available.

This statement has been issued by the Management Committee in accordance with Rule 3.

21, Wayville Close,
Liverpool.

Dear Jack,

Having been out of the competitive side of the game for some years, I have joined the 'old boys' at Aigburth, wiser in the head perhaps, but certainly less mobile in the legs and a win is a bonus.

I do however feel that I might have a chance of winning a little more often were it not for the blatant flouting of the 'service' rule. It was bad enough five years ago but the situation had deteriorated a great deal since then.

The variety of foul serves have to be seen to be believed. 'Straight off the hand', cupped fingers, under the table, over the table, outside the lines of the table, shielding the ball from the umpire, dropping the ball, ball sideways, ball backwards.

The composition of the surface areas of present day bats give the server a tremendous advantage and for this reason alone I think the service rule should be rigidly enforced. Umpires, who are often 'pressed volunteers' are in a difficult position and indeed some appear to be oblivious of the service rule, also, checking of players for incorrect serving often causes ill feeling.

Perhaps the league management committee could have observations made and also give advice to club coaches and secretaries. The service rule used to be published in the handbook. Why not now?

Despite the moans, I still enjoy my game. I trust you are keeping well.

Regards,

Jim Conroy.

5, Snow Hill,
Leicester.
LE4 0GX

Dear Jack,

I am writing to advise that during the close season I have moved to Leicester.

The move came at short notice and did not give me the opportunity to say goodbye to all my friends and acquaintances in the Liverpool League.

I would just like to thank everyone involved with the Liverpool League for fourteen years excellent competition and enjoyment, particularly you Jack and all my friends at Electric.

Whenever I am back in Liverpool I will make a point of visiting English Electric and, hopefully, see a few friends.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Parker,
(English Electric)

19, Cedar Grove,
Waterloo.

Dear Jack,

Woolton Hall buzzed with excitement on the evening of the 4th September, when members, past and present, together with their guests, attended a Dinner to celebrate the Fortieth Anniversary of the formation of the Rafter's Table Tennis Club. The organisation of the event was in the capable hands of the Club's Honary Secretary, Jan Davies, and the evening's proceedings were presided over by the Club's Chairman, Ted Rumjahn. Lil and myself were privileged to be present as guests of the Club, and the occasion, which following the meal, was spent in exchanging reminiscences, passed all too quickly.

Amongst those attending was Eric Caird (a Vice-Chairman of the League) who, together with his wife Audrey, had travelled up from their residence in the South of England especially for the occasion. Eric requested that I should convey his warmest good wishes to the League's members, and in particular, asked that his warmest regards should be passed on to yourself, also the members of the Linacre Club.

Whilst conveying these greetings I am provided with the opportunity of expressing on the League's behalf, heartiest congratulations to the Rafter's Club on having reached this milestone in their history, and to hope that the enthusiasm which has enabled them to be an integral part of the League over this period of time, will still be very much in evidence when they celebrate their Fiftieth Anniversary.

Yours sincerely,

Arthur E. Upton
Chairman.

HANDBOOK ALTERATIONS

Aigburth - Barry Meyers home number 709 3628: Division 5, add 'B' team Tuesday, well done Barry!

Bootle S.C. - Division 2. 'A' Team Tuesday: Division 2 'B' team out.

Brownmoor Park - Division 5 'B' team out.

Bootle J.C. - If you want to contact the charming Honary Secretary Sylvia, the number is 30 Leicester Rd. (And who doesn't?)

Cadwa - Jack Power Match Secretary 87 Twigg Lane, Huyton - 480 9449. Jack has been a good anchor man in this very good Cadwa setup for quite a few moons: Division 4B 'D' team out.

Colonsay - Division 4B 'C' team out: Barbara Kirkman is the Honary Secretary and they don't come any better - no Bar bra cracks please. See Handbook.

Courtaulds - Division 4B 'A' team Monday.

English Electric - Division 4A 'F' team out. Jack's postcode (again) L32 7QU, saves my mail touring Crosby first.

Kirkby - Division 5. 'B' team out.

Linacre - Jack Davidson having returned from the outback has taken over from Alex - Jack, 28 Grosvenor Ave., Crosby L23 05B - 928 1880.

Liverpool Jewish - Dave's home 'phone 722 3708, personal machine 722 8699.

Liverpool Y.M.C.A. - Dave Tai, 28 Faulkner St., Liverpool 8. - 709 5080 (Bus.)

Maghull C.A. - Bill Salter is the new Secretary, carrying on the tremendous job Stan Clarke has done in establishing the League's biggest club: Bill's Bus. No. 227 3916.

M.C.Y.A. - 1st. 4A: A - 5 Peter Choi C/O club, The Pagoda, Henry St., L15 BU: 263 1342: Club Div.5. 'A' team M/N Wednesday.

Merseyside Police - Alan's Bus. No. 709 6010 Ext. 2829.

Plesseys - Division 2. 1st. team Wednesday.

Rafters - East Wavertree and Childwall Association, 129A Dunbabin Rd., Ent: opposite Green Lane - 1st. M/N Wednesday, 'B' 4A Wednesday.

Trinity - Jim Geddes - phone 520 1436.

University - 'A' team out.

Wavertree Labour - 'B' team Wednesday.

<u>DIVISION ONE</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts
ELECTRIC SUPPLY	11	10	-	1	90
L'POOL YMCA	11	8	1	1	75
BOOTLE	10	8	1	1	74
WAV.LABOUR 'A'	11	6	3	2	63
WAVERTREE LABOUR	11	6	4	1	58
RAFTERS	10	5	3	2	54
V.SANGSTER 'A'	12	4	6	2	52
ENGLISH ELECTRIC	10	2	4	4	41
VERNON SANGSTER	10	1	9	-	33
CADWA	9	2	7	-	32
L'POOL JEWISH	11	1	9	1	29
BATH STREET	10	-	7	3	27
WAV.LABOUR 'B'	9	1	8	-	23

<u>DIVISION 3B</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts
CADWA 'A'	10	9	1	-	86
V.SANGSTER 'C'	11	10	1	-	76
POLICE	11	9	2	-	74
ENG.ELECTRIC 'D'	10	6	2	2	65
L'POOL JEWISH 'B'	8	3	2	3	40
BOOTLE J.C. 'A'	10	4	5	1	39
BATH STREET 'B'	7	3	3	1	37
CADWA 'B'	9	3	5	1	36
WAV.LABOUR 'C'	8	3	4	1	34
RAFTERS 'A'	9	1	6	2	34
MAGHULL 'A'	10	1	8	1	34
L'POOL YMCA 'B'	8	1	6	1	25
BATH STREET 'D'	9	-	8	1	20

<u>DIVISION 2</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts
FORDS	10	6	2	2	64
ENG. ELECTRIC 'A'	11	7	3	1	64
PLESSEY	9	7	2	-	58
V.SANGSTER 'B'	9	5	2	3	58
BOOTLE YMCA	10	5	5	-	56
MAGHULL 'A'	9	5	2	2	55
L'POOL YMCA 'A'	8	6	-	2	52
ENG.ELECTRIC 'B'	9	4	3	2	44
BATH STREET 'A'	10	3	6	1	41
BOOTLE 'A'	11	2	9	-	40
L'POOL JEWISH 'A'	10	2	6	2	35
COLONSAY	9	2	7	-	32
LINACRE	11	1	10	-	28

<u>DIVISION 4A</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts
M.C.Y.A.	8	8	-	-	68
WARWICK BOLAM	8	7	1	-	57
WAV.LABOUR 'E'	9	4	4	1	50
BOOTLE YMCA 'A'	7	5	2	-	47
VAGABONDS 'A'	9	6	3	-	47
MAGHULL 'F'	10	4	5	1	45
MAGHULL 'E'	7	5	2	-	43
CADWA 'C'	9	3	5	1	38
COLONSAY 'B'	9	2	6	1	33
L'POOL JEWISH 'C'	8	1	5	2	29
RAFTERS 'B'	8	1	7	-	23
UNIVERSITY	8	1	7	-	20

<u>DIVISION 3A</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts
ELEC.SUPPLY 'A'	11	10	-	1	89
MAGHULL 'B'	10	8	2	-	66
VAGABONDS	10	6	1	3	65
ELEC.SUPPLY 'B'	9	7	2	-	63
BOOTLE J.C.	10	5	3	2	58
COLONSAY 'A'	10	5	3	2	58
WAV.LABOUR 'D'	10	5	5	-	49
KIRKBY	9	4	4	1	48
ENGLISH ELEC 'C'	9	4	5	-	41
PLESSEY 'A'	10	3	6	1	41
POLICE 'A'	10	2	8	-	29
BATH STREET 'C'	9	-	9	-	18
BROWNMOOR PARK	11	-	11	-	15

<u>DIVISION 4B</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts
FORDS 'A'	10	9	1	-	85
WATERLOO	10	10	-	-	82
RODNEY YOUTH	9	7	2	-	66
MAGHULL 'D'	11	7	3	1	66
ENG.ELECTRIC 'E'	9	6	2	1	61
AIGBURTH 'A'	11	5	6	-	48
AIGBURTH	10	5	4	1	47
V.SANGSTER 'D'	9	1	7	1	32
BATH STREET 'E'	8	2	6	-	28
KIRKBY 'A'	10	1	9	-	27
BOOTLE YM 'B'	7	2	5	-	25
BROWNMOOR PARK 'A'	7	1	6	-	12
L'POOL JEWISH 'D'	6	-	6	-	10

<u>DIVISION 5</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts
PLESSEY 'B'	7	5	2	-	50
M.C.Y.A. 'A'	7	4	2	1	45
MAGHULL 'G'	7	4	3	-	42
POLICE 'B'	5	5	-	-	40
ELEC.SUPPLY 'C'	7	4	3	-	38
L'POOL JEWISH 'E'	6	2	3	1	28
WARWICK BOLAM 'A'	5	2	3	-	22
L'POOL JEWISH 'F'	7	1	6	-	12
AIGBURTH 'B'	6	-	6	-	4

PLEASE ENSURE ALL CARDS HELD
DURING POSTAL STRIKE ARE NOW
POSTED.

FIXTURE SECRETARIES NOTES

Do not forget revised grouping lists are only effective after you have received approval from the Fixture Secretary.

Many thanks to all who endorse their grouping numbers on the card. This small ask, to you, saves us extra work.

This also applies to match numbers which are those quoted in the handbook, and also the 'A', 'B', etc., following your team if applicable.

How about your rearranged games? Have you advised the Fixture Secretary of the new dates?.

Trinity and Courtaulds have amalgamated under the name of Bootle YMCA.

TABLE EDGES

The First Division players are having a get-together dinner at Bonapartes, Clarence Street on 23rd December. Basically a First Division 'do' but all First and others welcome, ring Peter Lee on 220-2075.

We are short of correspondents for Division 1, Division 3A and 3B I think and 4A.

Try and help Warwick Bolam out with a seven o'clock start if possible. Peter Lee is the brain behind Bonapartes, the recently opened Wine Bar and Restaurant in Clarence Street.

In the Lancashire County Trials, Paul Hutchings finished in the first place only losing to Laurence Kenwright who came seventh. Paula French and Kristina Cox came two and three respectively in the Ladies, with Colin Rourke number two in the Boys.

If you wish to have the pleasure and enchantment of Dave Cohen's voice and personality you must ring 722-3708. The other home number, 722-8699, is on an answering machine.

The Liverpool Team have returned 'home' to the English Electric Club after a few years absence. I was pleasantly surprised to see twenty or thirty spectators against Warrington, but a few less against Bury. What excellent matches they were and our boys Keith Williams, Paul Hutchings and Laurence Kenwright were superb.

It seems to me that John Rankin will do anything to get his name in the Digest. He is now, I am pleased to say, back playing again, although not 100% after an appendicitis operation.

So Trinity are down to one team. Tome Killip, John Higham, old faithfuls, still survive with Mike Corcoram and Keams of a famous, no very famous old name, Bootle Y.M.C.A.????????????!!!!

Tony Clayton, our only International of recent years, is now playing in Bath and the National League.

THE EDITORIAL STAFF AND CONTRIBUTORS OF THE MAGAZINE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE AND THEIR FAMILIES.