



KEN.

Table Tennis DIGEST

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE.

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No.3

EDITORIAL

The letter from Frank Lacy is so true it hurts; however, the problem is far deeper. In the old days the only way to improve your game was to practise at your club on free nights. I suppose this is still so to a certain extent, but there is a better way of improving your game if you are sufficiently interested - you sign on for two, three or four leagues with Wirral, Wigan, Warrington, Liverpool, Business Houses, Southport, Chester, Preston easy for access this is quite simple. You state your first choice to your league and secretary. Speaking personally and looking around generally, most multis give Liverpool number one - great. Until we come to cancelled matches and crunch games. The boys have their diaries made out all neat and tidy and see the secretary to try and change a couple of games round as they are playing in Liverpool - again great. Then comes along Mr Cancel the game bogey man. So instead of his diary being nice and tidy it suddenly becomes chaotic and the female section of the combo doesn't fancy three to four nights out - so we find our outside neighbours getting first preference and the Liverpool gang fielding weak and sometimes no teams.

Nothin' to do with us the hierarchy could say, but it has, because it very often affects relegation and promotion. It could also be said from the top that our interest is in Liverpool - agreed - but we secretaries have to cope with this multi-league situation. There is no doubt cancelled games are a menace - just a few - a team gained promotion - a team avoided relegation - a team won a division - a team lost promotion - these are facts without reference to Eddie Cameron or Ken Armson who no doubt could quote many more.

I don't think it is "I couldn't care less, Frank" - it is the multi games - a crunch game turns up so number one cries off, his team beats a relegation team 6-4 and hammers fellow relegationers 10-0 with a full team out, this happened all last season in the First Division.

Both ends of the table came together on the last official night with three of the five teams involved playing. The title was really a formality for as hard as Maghull had pushed Electricity Supply, even overtaking them at one stage, the eventual outcome was never in doubt and they had won the title before their last two matches against the relegation rivals. They slammed a strong Labour 'B' team 10/0 and ensured their relegation and dropped 4 to Bath Street which helped them stay up. Quite a finish, but their bubble did burst in the Cup Final replay when they were humiliated 6-1 by Bootle, and had they been under the same pressure from an earlier stage of the season they might just as easily have blown the league. They didn't, and so its congratulations to Electric Supply on their first ever 1st Division title and commiserations to Maghull who kept the pressure on. In the end it was the greater consistency of Keith and Malcolm in the first half which gave them the title, for after the halfway stage they could not always be said to be the better team. Had Maghull's players all been imbued with the same desire and effort to win as Neil Royden then they could well have made it.

The relegation issue put me on a winning forecast with Liverpool Jewish and Labour 'B' being relegated. Labour 'B' could lay claim to being unlucky, for in their penultimate match, Bath Street were given 7 walkovers by Rafter's to add to the 3 given them by the Labour 1st team, and this left the 'B' team with a mountain to climb in their last match. They thought they had climbed it when they defeated Bootle 6-4, taking two sets off a lethargic Paul Hutchings who lost to Neil James and Paul Griffiths, and on that night he looked a very unlikely Men's Singles Champion. They were not to know until later that Bath Street had also finished with a flourish by taking four sets off champions Electricity Supply to keep them up by a narrow margin of 3 points, their sets being a real team effort of 3 off Les Molyneux and a doubles. Great stuff. Looking back on it there were occasions when each had their share of luck and times when that same luck deserted them, but for me, and possibly others also, the right team stayed up. They never stopped trying and fought like tigers, and in Ken Jackson they had a player having his best ever season. But above all this was their gesture to table tennis involving Vernon Sangster's 'A'. At some time after 8 pm they had not arrived and the temptation to claim a walkover must have been almost overwhelming. Lesser players than Peter, Ken and Ian, and also better, would have grabbed the chance without hesitation, not so these three. They contacted Paula French and Vernon Sangsters arrived around 9 pm. Not for Bath Street were any words of recrimination. Instead they bought them a drink. In the match which followed they lost 7-3 and the spectre of relegation loomed as large as ever, but there were no losers that night only winners. Their example is one we should all try to follow, and I include myself in that remark. They proved what we all know, but often choose to ignore, that it is all about playing table tennis and not just winning sets. When we look back on the harangue involving Electricity Supply and the Management Committee should we not ask ourselves how lucky we are having these three players in our league for they have shown us that the game is greater than club or individual. They also proved again that great effort often brings a slice of luck with it as a reward for that effort.

Liverpool Y.M.C.A. got 3rd place but not without a few hiccups, which culminated in their conceding a walkover to Labour 'A' in the final match and helped put Labour 'A' into 4th. Y.M.C.A. are a good team with good reserves and yet were never in it. They beat all the teams they should have beat comfortably and Peter Lee, Martin Tate and Peter Taylor regularly turned in good performances, but they could not match Electric Supply or Maghull as the gap of 46 and 27 points shows. The Labour 'A' trio, Roy Smith, Mike Tierney and Paul Kinsey achieved a notable success in not only finishing above their

'A' team, but also by being the only team in the league to field the same team in every match. A feat which I cannot recall being achieved by a 1st Division team. After an in and out season Bootle came back to win the Cup and achieve a modest 5th place. Seems strange that a team can win the Premier Cup by beating the champions 6-1; have to make use of numerous reserves and even concede a walkover because they could not raise a team. Knocked out of their stride by the early season illness of John Rankin, they soon lost their way and their ambitions.

The impact of Wavertree First Team on the Championship was akin to a damp squib at a Firework Display and their only claim to success was that of giving their 'B' team a helping hand into the 2nd Division by conceding 3 sets to Bath Street and then losing 3 more. Who needs friends when you have a 1st team to help you get relegated! Dave Roberts had a poor season by his standards and registered his first blank night against their 'A' team. Finishing in 7th place, Rafters once again succeeded in making their all too familiar mark on the championship and relegation issues. Their last season, we are told, after a long and illustrious history, and it is sad to have to record that few will be sorry to see them go after the way they have messed this division about.

Cadwa again held their own with some good performances from Mike Mahoney, and had no real worries. The same applies to English Electric, with Phil Thompson having a very good season ably backed up by old warhorse Fred Pheysey, the only player still stamping his foot when he serves (you do, Fred). Vernon Sangsters just pipped their 'A' team, and one is left wondering how they would have fared had their strongest trio been grouped together. Peter Flint carried the team almost on his own with Paul Gittins playing a frequent supporting role. They played a notable match against Electricity Supply when Keith Williams failed to turn up. Incredible, but true, and Paula French made it a night to remember when she battered Mal McEvoy two straight. Mal, incidentally, can now lay claim to broken toes in addition to broken bats as a painful reminder of his 'cool' approach to the game.

Sangster's 'A' were never in danger, with Chris Ford and Steve Gittins showing steadily improving performances and giving good support to Paul. Steve had a good night against the Y.M.C.A. when he won his three. Jewish were doomed from the start for they lacked the strength to survive in this division, but they kept trying just in case someone slipped up.

Has 3-a-side been successful? I think it has, and Peter Lee reckons this has been his most enjoyable season ever and puts this down to the new system. Others seem to share his view, and that alone makes it a success. It is certainly easier reserve-wise, but it did not really cut down on playing short and walkovers.

Rumours of club changes by players are numerous, and if only half are true, few teams will be unchanged and several may find themselves very weak with the pendulum of success and failure changing directions. Paul Hutching leaves us to play in France and departs as probably one of the most popular winners of the Men's Title. Keith Williams is having a 12 month layoff for domestic reasons, and some other familiar faces may be missing. Much to everyone's regret, I shall still be here.

In general it is true to say that the gap between the top two and the rest was not really as great as the varying results make it appear as it owed more to the inability of clubs to get their best teams out regularly. This is something we are seeing more of and will have to live with, being due to the heavy commitments many players take on in various leagues. Most clubs now

accept this as a natural progression from the days when it was unusual to play in more than one league.

To clarify one cloudy issue, Labour 'B' will be relegated even though Rafter's will not be with us next season, as the Rules on this are not affected by such matters.

Division 2

LES FRENCH

Congratulations to Maghull 'A', who not only ended up well deserved champions, but also won the Rumjahn Cup for good measure by beating Vernon Sangster 'B' comfortably in the final after Sangster had eliminated dangerous rivals, English Electric 'A' in the semi's.

English Electric 'A' dropped out of the promotion reckoning after looking good bets all season. Y.M.C.A. 'A' sneaked in the back door to join Maghull 'A' in Division 1 next season. Y.M.C.A. 'A', after re-ranking, Malcolm Pu at No:1 and Eric Hardman turning out occasionally at No:4, both top class players, not to mention everybody's favourite player, Ted Mandaluff, with Ahmed Thabet, Dominic Thai or Wing Lau making up the side.

In 'natural order' they are good enough to have been champions. Plessey ended up just behind the leaders, but Vernon Sangster 'B' were well down due to conceding sets and in some cases walkovers; sincere apologies to players missing games.

An apology is due to Fords for my earlier comments. Their final high position is due to a lot more anxiety than just a few walkovers received earlier in the season. My apologies to Fords and also to Dave Butterworth. Earlier, I suggested that his determination was open to question, but the fact is that his vision has been impaired.

Bootle Y.M. did well to end up sixth, considering the 'bleeding' of Jason Kelly in Division 2. Mike Keane and Tom Killip have been pillars of strength. At the other end there was much drama as Jewish 'A' escaped again, this time by fair means. Their team at their best is much too good to be relegated - Paula and I and Ian Wensley helped to get this team from Division 3 to Division 2 about ten years ago. They ended up a very creditable 7th.

With Bootle 'B' dropping out and Linacre having a bad time all season, not even Harry Reeve could save them. Even Bootle 'A' struggled, proving their 'B' team would have gone down anyway. Bath Street 'A' escaped, sending Colonsay down to Division 3 for the first time since reaching Division 1 in the sixties. This saddens me, as I spent 14 happy years at Colonsay.

Picking the best team performance has been very difficult. The obvious choice is Maghull 'A' for their 'double' (or treble as they would also have won the cup for being the nicest team and most enjoyable to play against). What about this score line? - English Electric 'A' 7; Maghull 'A' 3 - hence my comment about Vernon Sangster 'B' removing English Electric 'A' in the Cup Semi-Final. Y.M.C.A. 'B' beat English Electric 'A' 8-2 in their return match, giving Y.M.C.A. an excellent chance of promotion. The best individual performance is also hard to choose. Contenders are: Caroline Hemmings, wins (for Fords) over Graeme Black and Rod McPherson when English Electric 'A' beat Fords 6-5; Dominic Tai beat Trevor Owens in a vital 6-4 win by Y.M.C.A. over Plessey.

For Jewish, John McGee's win over Jimmy Clewett, as fit, cheerful, and enthusiastic as ever, always a formidable opponent and a pleasure to play against, win or lose, and in my case, lose or lose. You can't guess Jimmy's age from his fitness and attitude. One second division player's performance should be recorded in the closed Frank Murphy's win over Eric Hardman, a top first division player in the men's singles and also reaching the final of the veterans.

One of the problems with 3-a-side in Division 1 will only be felt by Maghull next year. Do they play the strongest three every week or take turns and invite relegation problems? Good luck lads, we'll miss you.

A special welcome, a bit late, to the children of some of our regulars, Jason Killip (Tom); Christina Cox (Muriel); Steve Crolley (Brian); John McCann (Frank). In future we can expect to see Gary Jennings (Brian and Jean, nee MacKenzie), and if you'll excuse it, Jay and Ken French (what a pedigree they have). I should mention Adam Bennion (Roger), who's deserted us at the moment for the Wirral League. Jason, in the unaccustomed role of No:1, did well to take both Jim McMillan and Bob Hudson to three. Graeme Black has been most successful, playing a No:1 for English Electric 'A'. Alan Chase and Mike Keane ran him very close but Trevor Owens was less successful than usual. In my opinion, Trevor is the best, technically, in the division, with superb control over all shots except the hard hits down his forehand, which is a weakness for just about everybody. Trevor's backhand is something special. In years gone by, I recall many enthralling matches watching Trevor play Bill Harris and showing every shot in the book including the much neglected drop-shot. What a pity that this shot is virtually missing from the game nowadays - it's all power and speed without the finesse.

I consider myself lucky to have lived through an era where I could watch Arthur Taylor and Mike Truman with their superb defence and Alan Reid's Barna attack. If everybody played with Barnas' it would be more enjoyable and a lot cheaper to play - if we could convince people to play with them, especially juniors, go to Bootle S.C. on June 7th and watch the hard bat tournament, but be careful not to judge too hastily as these are 'sponge' players using strange bats not practised hard-bat players.

Division 3A

JACK LAMBERT

Worthy champions and Cup winners Electric Supply 'A', congratulations, well done. A tough one against Vagabonds in the Cup and a singles defeat by Maghull 'B' (Steve and Mark 2 each) in the league - (Alan Kelly 3) were the only real hiccups. John Moore was number one man and I make him joint number 2 in the division. He was closely followed by the brains behind the club, Alan Biggs, who has brought it over the last couple of years to a top class outfit.

Maghull 'B' took the second spot, a 9-1 win over Vagabonds certainly helped; Ray Tagg, the division's joint number two was the top scorer but Steve Royden and John Armstrong were not far behind, all having a great season. Mark Royden came in for crunch games. What do I say about our number 3 side?. A clear eight points over my joint tip for second place Vagabonds, a close knit side with nothing separating Alan Kelly and Tommy Lynch with a few less sets doing the same for Alan Nisted and D. Hawley; a 6-4 against Maghull and a five all against their 'A' team, not bad at all and only missing about three games between them.

Vagabonds slipped to number 4 spot, but went one better in the 'close knit' stakes by not missing a game all season. What gems teams like these are to a secretary - reliable and dedicated. How often a secretary picks up a phone and is expected to pick a reserve off the nearest tree and invariably the same bloke will never turn out if required. Bob Owen of course was the team's and the division's top scorer, with Tom Johnstone not far behind - Dave Rooney and Mark Whittaker forming an excellent quartet.

A close fight for the wooden spoon with Police 'A' 'winning' by a point from Brownmoor Park; both teams called on a fistful of players. Brownmoor, now with a nice little club had their moments, 6-4 against Police and English Electric, Forrest two for Park, but even better a 4-6 against Vagabonds a 21-19 in the third win - superb stuff by Norman Cooke over Tom Johnstone; Bill Spencer another stalwart secretary being the backbone of the team. A George Wright win, 16 in the third against Dave Rooney was a loner against Vagabonds. Alan Wood and Albie Baker were the other main sufferers in the Police side. I told you Bath Street 'A' could do better, a win and a couple of draws lifting them off the bottom with John Letch, their top scorer, and Karen Gibson, Frank Farquarson and Eugene Berger only missing a few games despite their reverses. English Electric never recovered from losing Julie, Peter Holmes taking over and leading Captain and Wag Ro Craddock and Rob Peverall. Middle of the table, Colonsay 'A', with Harry Nelson not only leading the scoring but being the first man to beat Bob Owens, which helped his side to a creditable 4-6 against Vagabonds, well supported by hard hitting Dave Piper. One of our rare draws was Plessey's 'A' (Hawthorne 2) and Bootle J.C. (Clarke & Longfield 2). Alan Gillespie and Neil Hawthorne were top scorers for Plesseys supported by Stan Harvey and John Southworth.

With Peter Green and Dave Ashby top of the pops for the Job Centre. Considering their difficulties, Kirkby had a good season with Tony Leary improving all the time and leading scorer. His 21-19 defeat of Alan Kelly in the third a gem, but the other young players, Peter Lee, Steve Rowe and 'Norman Challoner' had fair seasons, particularly Peter. Ron Jones was Wavertree Labours' best, with Peter Jones, Peter Woods and Bill Stanley who had a battle royal with John Armstrong of Maghull, losing 21-19; 18-21; 20-22.

A Karen Gibson double gave Bath Street a five all against Colonsay (Nelson 2) Sylvie Graham was the sole winner against English Electric - a good win for Electric, Eugene Berger against Maghull, Bill Stanley against Bootle J.C. saved their sides from a whitewash.

We had a pretty strong division which gives extra credit to all our teams, particularly the top three or four, but tough on the bottom one. However, 'drop outs' could mean quite a shake up. I don't know if the ranking system had anything to do with it but some queer looking reserves came in at three or four - in all divisions!

Division 3B

COLIN PRATT

Congratulations to Cadwa 'A' on their convincing winning of this division. A team with strength in depth from Trevor Hughes at one, Ian Miller and Billy Hargreaves to Mike Power at four. Their averages were all high and the team average of 7.7 points. Cadwa will do well in the second division. Second place for promotion was a season's long fight between Police and Sangster. After 17 games Police led Sangster by 12 points, and we all thought it was

settled. Police beat Sangster 6-4 and then faltered, after averaging 7.5 points per game they only averaged 5 points from the last 9 games. Sangster, superbly marshalled by Bill Harris, were only averaging 6.8 points per game, but for the last 9 games they averaged 7.1 points and beat Police by 6 points. Sangster brought in reserves of the calibre of Ian Barrett and Jim Madigan, but the main work load of wins was carried by Bill, Robert Lowe and Mark Reed, plus their very effective secret weapon, Les Linforth, playing superbly. Seven teams expressed their concern to me over relegation, and I told them all, "You won't go down, you're far too good". Rafter's had lost Clive Chislett to Bath Street 'D'; their chances of survival were decreased. Don Davies, Clive Roberts and George Higham all played well.

The problem for Bath Street 'D' was that they could seldom put out their best team and must have used 9 or 10 different players. Clive Chislett, John Pilkington and Pete Mercer were the most regular players and collected most of the points. Pete Mercer can look back at his win over Ted Mandaluff (in 3rd) with great satisfaction. Ted will be looking for you next season Pete!. Five teams in the relegation battle at one time or another were - Cadwa 'B', Maghull, Wavertree, Bootle J.C., and Jewish. All these teams contained players who could beat the best on their night. For Cadwa - Neil Hodson played high class table tennis all season, and beat many opposing No's 1 and 2. Maghull's Wilf Gibson stepped in as reserve and beat Ian Miller and Rob Davies of Cadwa 'A'. Well done Wilf. I've always rated Wilf after watching him play an "epic" against Colin Fyles a few seasons ago. Joan Monaghan of Wavertree won her 2 against Sangster, beating Mark Reed and Jim Madigan. I can see how she beat Jim because it was Joan who coached 'Young Jim' when he first played Liverpool league for Wavertree. Joan's win over the highly rated Mark was a triumph for experience, and Joan's great tactical ability; she simply stopped Mark from hitting - easier said than done. Sylvia Graham of Bootle J.C. beat Trevor Hughes and Reg Edwards in a very eventful season. Husband Dave also beat Reg 19 and 8 to complete a double loss for Reg, and that doesn't happen very often.

I haven't got access to all the results but Andy Clarke, playing at 3 and 4 for Bootle J.C. is unbeaten, 12 from 12 on the cards in my possession. Andy has beaten players of the calibre of George Higham 7 in 3rd, Iony Moon 21 and 16, Mike Power 15 and 17 and wait for it - Billy Hargreaves 22-20 in the 3rd. Well done Andy. What can I say about Jewish, a good 3rd Division team; they use bats made of wood (only) no sponge, pimples out, and they play rallies which can last for minutes on end. They swallowed a severe setback when Steve Graham went to Y.M.C.A. John Hodges finished the season playing very well and was well supported by Dave, Warren and Mike. Jewish are very good at doubles and have picked up valuable points. Bath Street 'B' and English Electric have finished just behind the leaders for the past couple of seasons and usually manage a 5-5 draw when they play each other. Bath Street 'B', with their Southport commitments have used 8 or 9 players, but with Reg Edwards, Eric Ferguson and Alec Gould as regular players and Val France and Fraser Farquharson when available, this is a team which will always be near the top of the 3rd Division.

Y.M.C.A. - Ted (ever cautious) Mandaluff was always watching the relegation issue but once they signed Steve Graham, and in the later matches they played George Smith and J. Clewett, added to Francis Lay and the improving Belinda Lau, this team was never in danger. Y.M.C.A. averaged over 7 points per game for the last 9 games to leap into 4th with Bath Street 'B'. English Electric finished 6th after holding 4th and 5th for most of the season; the 2 Colins' and Ian Lunt were the three regulars and the signing of Brian Aldred ex Aigburth, Maghull and Bath Street at No:4. One performance I must mention was Colin Fyles against Ian Miller, Mike Power and Trevor and Mike in the doubles. Colin lost the 2 singles 21/23; 26/24; 15/21; and 24/26; 20/22; and

won the doubles 22/24; 24/22; 21/18; 15 times that night he heard the umpire call deuce.

Results worth mentioning - Len Dyson's fine victory over Steve Graham - 6 - 21 - 18, after Steve had beaten Gareth Jones 15 in the 3rd. Brian Aldred's win over Mabel Neary 14 and 8. Mike Poole of Jewish only losing to the improved Steve Graham 19 in the 3rd, to prevent a Y.M.C.A. whitewash. Pete Mercer, in a fine tactical game against evergreen Stan Clarke, Pete winning 22-30 in the 3rd. Miracle man Ken Foulkes with two fine wins against Tom Purcell 2 straight, and John Pilkington 21 - 12 - 18. Clive Roberts' win against Billy Hargreaves to prevent a whitewash for Rafter's - Dave Cohen's Barna against Reg Edwards long grass came out on top 19 in the 3rd. Jack Power stepped up a division and won a close game with pen-holder George Higham of Rafter's 23/21; 23/21.

I personally hope that the 3 man team system won't work its way down to the 3rd Division; I like it just the way it is, with all 8 players playing doubles and enjoying it.

Finally, praise from me for Ken Armson's remarks in the last issue about behaviour and bad language - well done Ken - I agree 100%.

Division 4A

BILL SALTER

- - - - Hello, goodbye! Nice seeing you! No white rabbits here. So that's what a proper loop looks like. "Penholders have good serves but no backhand. Keep the ball short and move them around." Good advice maybe - but somebody forgot to tell the M.C.Y.A. lads from the Pagoda that their game is hopelessly outdated, having no chance against the modern "shake-hands" western style. We (Maghull 'F') lost 9-1 to them in the first half, and guess who got the '1' - another penholder, Stuart Fay! Come to think of it, isn't the World No.1 a penholder? Anyway, Peter, Dave, John and Kar did us proud in the 4th Division, Forrest Cup beating Fords 6-3, thereby proving beyond all possible doubt what we already know - that 4'A' is vastly superior to 4'B'!!

Second and third, Maghull 'E' and Warwick Bolam, more or less as I would expect. Harry McGinity, Captain of 'E', runs a tight ship. Give him a fair team and he will turn in a good result. Dave Davies for Warwick has always been an enigma to me. Perhaps it is a question of still waters running deep - every time I play him I drown!

I am surprised at C.A.D.W.A. coming 8th - Ian Douglas, Ian Fletcher, Jack Power and Rob Davies seem to me to be a pretty useful 4th Division team - good enough to beat Maghull 'F' 6-4. A possible diagnosis would be "Jewishitis", for which there seems to be no cure. I am referring of course to clubs which regularly turn out teams of vastly different strengths, presumably at random. They seem to think that there is more to life than just Table-Tennis. Such ideas must not be allowed to spread!

On a more serious note, I feel I must respond to Eddie Cameron's comments in the February 1986 Digest regarding the plight of Division 5. Unquestionably, our team mates in Division 5 have had a rough deal this season with so few matches and this situation must not be allowed to continue. Eddie's idea of having an alliance has been greeted with mixed feelings in Maghull. If I played for our 'F' and 'G' teams and the 'G' team were promoted, I might have to play myself! Wot with my footwork!?

The next subject is Girls. There obviously are not enough of them. Why? My theory is that our only hope of increasing the female population of the league is to actively discriminate in favour of the ones that we do have, so here goes:-

I would nominate Beryl Metzger (University) as the undisputed "Belle of 4A" - our own dusky maiden. I have actually seen a card with "BRYAN METZGER" on it!! Home side - C.A.D.W.A., Captain, Jack Power. I know Jack is looking a little less sprightly these days, but For classy play, obviously Mabel Neary takes the medals - she must be near the top of the averages. Not surprisingly - she is this year's Southport League Ladies Closed Champion. Mabel proved her speed when visiting us at Maghull - she was so fast that even the beer from a spilt pint couldn't catch her! I have not got the results of the Mabel v Peter Choi/David Ng sets, but I imagine the sparks flying!

Unfortunately, it seems we are likely to lose Pauline Lawrenson, Jean Reynolds AND Muriel Cox, the former due to Rafters folding, and the latter, I hear, to the Cox family moving South. We all wish them "Good Luck" and hope to see them again sometime.

Maghull 'F' had a nice surprise when visiting Wavertree Labour recently. After the match, we were invited to share in a spread celebrating Ken Armson's birthday. I was so impressed that I am not going to reveal how many candles were on the cake!

Next, the name-dropping paragraph of notable matches. Get ready to squirm or stick your chest out (no offence, ladies):-

1. Alan Guy (Colonsay) exacted due penance from Jerry O'Keefe (Rafters) for a win in their first half encounter. Alan won, 7 and 6.
2. Michael Power (Colonsay) beat Jack Power (C.A.D.W.A.) - 12, 10, 17.
3. Keith Whittaker beat Harry McGarity (Maghull F & E Derby) 21,-16,19.
4. Young Kevin Lewis (Maghull) lost to Gary Jennings and then beat Michael Power (Colonsay), all in his stocking feet! (Coaches note: You must not expect your charges to remember minor incidentals like footwear, etc. You should obviously go through a comprehensive check list before setting out!).
5. Bill Salter (Maghull 'F') beat Dave Palmer (University) in 3 games with 3 different bats!
6. Ken Dutch (Liverpool Jewish) beat Peter Brownlee (Maghull 'F') 19, -14, 19.
7. The cards supplied for these notes reveal eight heroes who saved their teams from whitewashes. They are as follows:-
 - a. Les Higham (Bootle Y.M.C.A.) beat John Lau (M.C.Y.A.) 15, 19.
 - b. Dave Palmer (University) beat Dave Berry (Maghull E)-16,18,11.
 - c. Rob Davies (C.A.D.W.A.) beat Phil Wilkinson (Warwick Bolam) -25, 16, 13.
 - d. Roger Taylor (Colonsay) beat Dave Berry (Maghull E) 18,-19,15.

- e. Ian Andrews (Rafters) beat Jim Geddes (Bootle Y.M.C.A.) 10, -8, 17.
- f. Ken Dutch (Liverpool Jewish) beat Phil Wilkinson (Warwick Bolam) 11, -19, 19
- g. Harry McGanity (Maghull E) beat Kar Lee (M.C.Y.A.) 14, -13, 10.
- h. Dave Batty (Vagabonds) beat Dave Berry (Maghull E) 16, 19.

I am trying to get support to amend the grossly unfair Rule 20 whereby if a CLUB concedes more than two walkovers during the season, a team from that club has to be expelled. This rule may be okay for a ONE TEAM CLUB, but you can see how UNFAIR it becomes when applied to a 6 - 8 TEAM CLUB. If this Digest reaches you before your Club's A.G.M., please give your Committee authority to support a suitable amendment at the League A.G.M.

Finally, in order to ensure that 4A is not only better, but also more trendy than 4B, included in the first sentence of these notes is a Blankety-Blank quiz. I shall send 4 x 12p stamps to the first 4A Captain who gives me the missing phrase.

13th April, 1986.

MONTY

With the recent death of Mr Albert Montgomery (Monty or Mont to his many friends) the league has lost one of its best known and respected personalities. His association with the Liverpool league went back to pre-war days when he played in the old South Region. Although never a top ranking player, Monty was always a keen one, and a model of sportsmanship both on and off the table. He was also good company.

Monty served on the League Management Committee for over twenty years, being elected originally in 1946. During his years on the Committee he held the position of Vice Chairman and was subsequently elected a Life Member in 1964. Monty was a qualified county umpire, served on the Board of Appeal, and also edited the Digest for some years. He will also be remembered as a founder member of Rafters Table Tennis Club just after the end of the last war.

In recent years Monty had not enjoyed the best of health, and indeed had been very poorly in recent months. He did, however, remain mentally alert to the end, recalling with pleasure many memorable occasions of the past. We mourn Monty not only as a friend and companion but also as a gentleman. He will be missed by many.

Jack McCaig

TUESDAY 15TH APRIL AT M

HON REFEREE

F I N A L E

1. Semi-Finals - Men's Singles (a) KEITH WILLIAMS (Elec. Sup
(b) PETER FLINT (Vernon Sangster)

2. Junior Final ANDREW WRIGHT (Wav. Labour)

3. Veterans' Singles Final ALAN TIMEWELL (Rafters)

4. Restricted Singles Final ANDREW CLARKE (Bootle J.C.)

5. Women's Doubles Final PAULA FRENCH (Vernon Sangster)
and
SYLVIA GRAHAM (Bootle J.C.)

6. Men's Doubles Final MALCOLM McEVOY (Elec. Supply)
and
ROB BEVAN (Wav. L

7. Women's Singles Final PAULA FRENCH (Vernon Sangster)

8. Men's Singles Final (a) WAYNE PERCIVAL

RSEYSIDE POLICE CLUB

MR. B.A. LEESON

V E N T S

<u>WAYNE PERCIVAL</u>	(Maghull)	17/21	14/21	/
<u>PAUL HUTCHINGS</u>	(Bootle S.C.)	12/21	15/21	/
<u>SIMON JONES</u>	(Maghull)	19/21	23/21	16/21
<u>FRANK MURPHY</u>	(Maghull)	21/12	21/13	/
<u>IAN BARRATT</u>	(Vernon Sangster)	22/20	21/19	/
<u>BARBARA KIRKMAN</u>	(Colonsay)			
and		21/17	20/22	16/21
<u>CAROLINE HEMMINGS</u>	(Fords)			
<u>KEITH WILLIAMS</u>	(Elec. Supply)			
and		23/21	17/21	11/21
<u>LAWRENCE KENWRIGHT</u>	(Bootle S.C.)			
<u>CAROLINE HEMMINGS</u>	(Fords)	21/15	14/21	14/21
(b) <u>PAUL HUTCHINGS</u>		12/21	16/21	/

Fords are our champions this year and deservedly so. In the end they had a comfortable 23 point advantage over nearest rivals Waterloo, with Rodney Youth Club a few points behind them. A fixture slip up by Waterloo ended their chances of catching Fords, and this was confirmed the week after when Fords reversed the precious result between the two clubs and won 6-4. This was achieved without Benny Stringer who was injured. Barry had a marvellous season and was unbeaten throughout.

Waterloo's challenge began to falter when they lost their 100% record in early January, drawing with the youngsters from Rodney Youth. Alan Hamid was their star winning 2 singles, but Michael Murphy's win over Ken Nelson was equally important.

As I predicted, it's not often I can say that English Electric and Maghull occupied the next positions. A classic draw between the two teams saw 7 sets go to three games. Wilf Gibson inflicted a rare defeat on Keith Wright, but Wally Sill got 3 for Electric.

Maghull had some differing results and did not seem able to reproduce their best form against lower teams. A draw against Rodney Youth Club was a fine result, with Jimmy Gill man of the match with wins over Michael Murphy and Roy Cook-Hannah. Similar results against Vernon Sangster and Bath Street were perhaps surprising.

The 'over 60's' team of Aigburth finished a creditable sixth and certainly gave the top teams plenty to think about. Waterloo had a hard struggle to earn a 7-3 win, 7 sets went to 3, with Billy Holmes completing a personal double over Andy Armstrong and Harry Holmes beating Ken Nelson 20-22; 23-21; 2-19, in a super attack/defence match. Bill Leeming showed how to play the attacking game of Rodney Youth with wins over Hamid and Quinn in a 6-4 defeat. The two Bills also won 1 each against Fords.

Bootle Y.M.C.A. improved on their poor start and finished in the mid-table position. Probably their best win was against Maghull 6-4, Les Travis and Roy Williams won 5 of the 6, Ken Davies picking up the other.

Kirkby and Vernon Sangster were lucky to survive the season in view of the walkovers they conceded. Phil Marcroft and Arthur Brindle were the only players to win regularly for Kirkby, while at Vernon Sangster, John Dyson and Steve Dennison were the most consistent.

Aigburth 'A' had a settled squad of Pete Knight, Simon Killen, Eric Wood and the Meyer brothers, Barry and Peter. They finished only a point above Vernon Sangster but comfortably beat them 7-3, Eric Woods 3 wins.

Bath Street were an 'in and out' sort of team with some useful results, a 5-5 draw against Maghull being amongst the best. Brian Cunningham beat Wilf Gibson 21/18; 13/21; 26/24, and Val Smallwood beat Steve Banks and Jimmy Gill for her best performance of the season. Brian Cunningham was most consistent and proved this by beating me as he does consistently!!!

Down at the bottom, Liverpool Jewish and Brownmoor Park occupied the bottom position despite a 7-3 win over Jewish, Kenny Miller winning 3. Liverpool Jewish's rather blatant abuse of the ranking system ensured that they picked up sufficient points to avoid the bottom position.

In summary, a good all round season, but too many walkovers and teams playing short this year. Top player in the division was Barry Stringer as already

mentioned. Although I don't have account figures, I would expect, Mike Nelson, Alan Hamid, Bill Leeming, Keith Wright and Dave Garbe to be around the top of the averages. I'm off to the third division next year, I hope! so a new writer will have to be found. Barry Meyer, you won't get away with it this time!!!!

Division 5

E. CAMERON.

The Police had a busy few weeks at the end of the season catching up on their outstanding matches. Why it was necessary to have so many outstanding in a division which had ten free weeks for each club I will never understand. As it happened, the Police gave a walkover to Warwick Bolam, a match for which they had twenty three weeks to rearrange. All was well in the end as they finished champions with a three point lead over Plessey, the runners-up.

At the bottom of the league, Aigburth 'B' broke their sequence of losses with a draw against Liverpool Jewish 'F'. I do not think they will know about it however until they see the final league tables or read these notes. The Jewish thought they had won 6-4 but played two players out of order, which meant that the games won by these players were forfeited, making the result 5-5. Again I find it difficult to understand why teams and players do not know their grouping number; if the numbers were always included on the card as requested it would be almost impossible for such errors to occur.

The Stamp Cup Final provided an enjoyable if predictable evening. The Police won 6-3. For me, the highlight of the match was the Ted Green/John Moore encounter. I trust Ted will forgive me if I say that he does not look or play like the modern athletic coached youngster; he plays for fun but he plays to win. John, on the other hand, does everything one would expect with considerable skill. Imagine my surprise when I saw John scurrying frantically at the far side of the table trying to reach Ted's carefully angled shots. Jerry Richardson is well known for his defending skill and provided an outstanding exhibition of this, making dozens of spectacular returns. Richie Winkle uses spin, attempting to build up for a 'kill' by the subtle use of short balls over the net, but could not overcome Jerry's tactics in the first game which he lost 21-8. The second game saw Richie recover to sneak in at 22-20 in the third. His winner was accompanied by a yell which distracted from the quality of the shot. Plessey could have fielded a team to win the Cup. They decided to stick by the team that have played most of the matches together. Tom Banton, their Captain, was disappointed. It was his first Cup Final; he has played four years. It took me thirty years to reach my first Cup Final.

A word of praise now to Aigburth and Liverpool Jewish 'F'; between them they won one match this season, disappointing from a playing sense, but someone is always at the bottom, and without the enthusiasm of such teams we would not have organised table tennis. Both teams enjoyed themselves; I was not able to get to Aigburth but enjoyed my evening at the Jewish club. This division regards the table tennis and a social evening as equal partners. It provides a spring board for beginners and a haven for old timers, a learning period for the young pretenders, solace for those 'over the hill', with a few tenderfoots to scalp. What a pity that this is likely to be the end of Division Five. Who knows however, maybe we will be able to infiltrate a Division Four and introduce our strange culture into their midst.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Colonsay T.T.C.

Dear Jack,

An SOS to Uncle Ken Armson's Problem Page

Help, help Uncle Ken. We at Colonsay are under severe attack from an NC (Nasty Correspondent) the Division 4A one, ugh!. Well, it seems that NC (ugh!) object to the attitude of one Colonsay member...only one?...who'll say "two"... do I hear "three"...O.K.,O.K., that's enough. According to NC, this unnamed person is "not interested" in putting playing table tennis before claiming useless points". You can see our plight, Uncle Ken. Here we were thinking all our members were jolly fine chaps (or MS chaps) and now we find we have been harbouring a bounder, a rotter, a cad, a..... words fail us.

It all arose, Uncle Ken, when NC couldn't field his team for their away match vs Colonsay 'B' and asked for a re-arrangement. Having only one match night, plus other outstanding matches to sort out, we couldn't provide this at the time. So, Uncle Ken, we sent in a provisional claim card but with a note that we would endeavour to replay this match if possible. NC seems to have ignored this.. but ... perhaps we do him an injustice. Maybe he was too dazzled from his reported encounters with Dave Cohen's shorts to see it.

As it happens, a provisional date has been pencilled in to replay this match during the week after the end-of-season. Provided no complications arise (quiet please NC!) it will be played then. But what would you have done Uncle Ken? Would you (1) not have played the match in view of NC's outburst? (2) have replayed it with four of our eligible senior players? (the normal team comprises mainly of juniors, but this way we'd have the best chance of getting "useless points" so as not to disillusion NC), (3) ask NC to reveal our mysterious Colonsay blackguard? (Would you recommend swift punishment, Uncle Ken?..... or perhaps some psycho-Ken therapy...have we said that right..... well you know what we mean). So there we are, Uncle Ken. We hope you can help us in our hour of need. We don't have problems very often, and you have no idea how reassuring it is to have someone like you, who has so many, to advise us. Keep up the good work, Uncle Ken. We at Colonsay all love your agony column, and think you're the next best thing in table tennis to Marjie Proops.

Best wishes, Alan Guy.

(A personal view on behalf of Colonsay T.T.C.)

16 Handfield Road.

Dear Sir,

I am perturbed at the increase over the last few seasons of teams playing short. At one time every club felt an obligation to fulfil every fixture, but alas, too often these days players use the slightest excuse to cry off and leave their teams and club secretaries in a fix. Four times this season my own club, Linacre, have been given sets due to the non appearance of players. The points gained do not make a ha'porth of difference to us in the league for we are facing relegation, but they could make a difference to other clubs in our division over promotion and relegation issues.

In the four matches involving us, in three of the games the home team were the culprits. One team, Vernon Sangster, wanted us to postpone their home match against us but as one of our players was travelling from Manchester to play, we turned down their request. They had previously in our home match

turned up with three men and requested permission for their No:1 to arrive at 9 p.m. We agreed on this, but when somebody else turned up at 9 45 p.m., we put our foot down and claimed the games. When we refused to cancel our away game with them, they played us with two men which was unfair on their two lads and definitely a wasted evening for us. In the corresponding fixture last year in the third division, they also turned up at home with two men so you can see why we are saying enough is enough. We were one of the clubs who supported three-a-side in the first division this year as we thought it could lead to a higher standard of play, but we were against it throughout the rest of the divisions for we feared it could lead to a reduction of playing members through the league. However, it appears as if some of our members couldn't care less as to whether they play their matches on the date specified in their handbook or play it when it suits themselves. It grieves me to see this happen and I don't know whether heavier fines will do much good. Let's see if everybody will make an effort to support their team and give their opponents a full evenings play and an enjoyable evening.

Frank Lacy. (LINACRE)

Colonsay T.T.C.

P.S. - As a postscript to my previous letter, and in fairness to Ken Armson, Colonsay T.T.C. have now received an apology for the remarks made in the Digest No:2 (Feb.1986) Division 4A notes. (Thanks, Uncle Ken, we knew you'd sort it out.)

Alan Guy, Colonsay T.T.C.

TABLE EDGES

What a magnificent job Sylvia Graham (Bootle J.C.) does on the E.T.I.A. Lincoln Draw - her efforts are shown clearly - to your benefit - on the Balance Sheet. On the same subject, it is amazing the number of people who cannot afford 25p for a book or even 5p for a ticket!??

Amongst the Liverpool folk drawing a horse were Alec Gould (Bath Street), Mrs Gallagher, Aughton, Mrs Johnston (Police), Southworth, Bootle.

Congratulations to Trevor Hughes (Cadwa) and his very brave girlfriend Debbie on their recent engagement.

It is quite untrue that Ian Wensley (Vernon Sangster) and Mick Allen (Maghull) have donated £5 to the English Electric NET restoration fund.

Although at the time of writing it has not physically happened, the end seems to be in sight for our oldest club, Rafters - what magic this name has held in the past.

Our Chairman, Mr. Arthur Upton, missed his first Rumjahn Cup Final ever this year.

Every Cup Final was well supported, a justification for Cup Final week - what a difference a good enthusiastic crowd makes. They talk about the game deteriorating - standards were high in all finals.

Phil Thomson (English Electric) still meanders over to France for the odd game, but Paul Hutchings (Maghull) will be over there next season; he will certainly be missed.

Remember Sue Hughes (English Electric and Maghull)? She won the Central London Ladies Singles.

Interest and enthusiasm for the game does not come any higher than that shown by Muriel Cox (Colonsay). She has graced our game for a long time. A great competitor and a lovely girl. Good luck to you and your family (all ex players) particularly Kristina who is a credit to your perseverance and care.

Is that right Keith Williams is also having a lay-off? My, my, that is sad. Good luck and every happiness for the future to Faith, a regular visitor at our games, and Ken Armson.

Congratulations to Sibohan who has presented Phil Thomson with a lovely baby girl.

310 not out! England in the West Indies, no chance. The Aigburth team, Bill Leeming, Harry and Billy Holmes, Jimmy Lightburn and new recruit ex-Police Jimmy Conroy, 310 years between them and still finished sixth in 4B. Pretty good lads.

One of the highlights of the season must be seeing Les French attending matches and meetings after his recent illness. Keep up the good work, Les.

CUP FINALS

JACK LAMBERT

STAMP - PLESSEY'S 'B' 3 POLICE 'B' 6

Tom Banton lost to Bob Rawlings 18 and 16, Tom again with Ted Green lost 11 and 13 to John Moore and Keith Wilkinson. Derek Evans and Jerry Richardson beat Richie Winkle and Bob 17 and 18, Ted Green beat Richie Winkle 15/21; 21/18; 21/19, in a tingling battle with Ricardo not too happy, but at 2-2 did I see Ted smile? Tom Banton lost to Keith Wilkinson 13 and 12, Jerry beat Bob 18 and 17 (3-3) very interesting. Ted lost to John in three - all 18's in possibly the top match of the night with Ted's unorthodox and penetrating shots just not quite equal to John's considerable skill - Derek Evans lost to Keith Wilkinson's sound defence 15 and 17. Another top class battle saw Jerry Richardson lose to Richie Winkle 21-8; 20-22; 16-21. Did Jerry relax when he had the game won in the second or did Richie turn it on? A brilliant shot and fearsome yell by Richie caused a little concern, but despite Jerry's defence this was a deserving Police victory and a very good final.

Eddie Cameron was the official in charge and presented the cup and trophies. He was accompanied by our charming Vice President, Mrs Wynne Cameron. Played at the Liverpool Y.M.C.A. with Francis Lay and Ahmed Thabit making a nice cuppa.

Kar Lee beat Kevin Cook 18-21; 21-16; 19-21, was this a foretaste of goodies to come - a splendid first game. Peter Choi beat Daid Garbe 18 and 15. Lee again against Jack Wilson 13-21; 21-16; 14-21. David Ng beat Cook 12-21; 21-19; 21-16, Kevin lost a good lead in the second - I felt this was a key game, John Lau beat Wilson 18 and 14: 3-2 for Peter Choi's boys who is an excellent captain and he proved it by beating the hard hitting Barry Stringer 12-20. Barry, despite a damaged leg, stayed on and beat Ng 16 and 18, a good win. Lau beat Garbe 10-21; 24-22, pretty close Dave, 21-15: Peter and Dave fought Barry and Dave for the decider. The Peter combo won an exciting battle, 18 and 20.

A perfect final - two comparatively new clubs who are a credit to the league; a friendly final which must rank amongst the best fourth division finals ever. Held at the English Electric club with Jack Lambert the official in charge, who was ably assisted by Ken Armson who introduced Jack to present the cup and trophies.

HYDE CUP - ELECTRIC SUPPLY 'A' 6 VAGABONDS 4

Trevor Barraclough beat Mark Whittaker 14 and 12; Brian Davey lost to Bob Owen 22/20; 18/21; 20/22, a classic!. John Moore beat Tom Johnston 22/20; 18/21; 21/18 - a lot hinged on this tight game as we soon found out. The next game was also close, Alan Biggs beating Dave Rooney 12/21; 21/13; 21/19: Brian and John lost to Mark and Bob 16 and 18; John Moore stayed on and lost Rooney 14 and 17. At three all the excitement mounts. Biggs loses to the brilliant Owen 11 and 18: Barraclough beat Johnstone 18 and 12, Davey beat Whittaker 18 and 12: Trevor and Alan beat Tom and Dave easily in the first, 21/9, but all four kept the assembly on their toes until 26/24 sealed the game, set and cup to Electric Supply 'A'.

Despite the clinches which abounded, this was another top class game and as tense as the score suggests. Played at the Police Club, with Stan Clarke the excellent official in charge and Chairman, Mr. Arthur Upton, presenting the cup and trophies. Hosts do not come any better than Alan Woods.

RUMJAHN CUP - MAGHULL 'A' 6 VERNON SANGSTER 'B' 3

Ted Birch, straight from Barbados, beat Dave Tagg 19/21; 23/21; 21/13; I cannot stand much more of this - I must crack soon - more super stuff. Frank Murphy beat Robert Lowe 11 and 14, Mick Allen, one of our great characters, lost to Ian Wensley in controversial style 18/21; 21/14; 22/24. At 19-20 in the third THE BALL STUCK IN THE NET - pandemonium then reigned. The whole room became an umpire. However, after five minutes of chaos the barman was called up and he sorted it all out!!! Alan Chase beat Tagg 20 and 23 - see what I mean. Murphy, on top form, beat John Greene 15 and 18: Alan and Mick lost to Dave and Ian 21 and 12: Alan lost to Lowe 21-19; 10-21; 13-21: Birch beat Wensley 19 and 19 with expedite being called at 16 in the first. Sangster, and in particular John Green and Robert Lowe, were unfortunate that they met Birch and Murphy at their very best and lost 16 and 18, and the cup was worthily Maghulls at about 12.20.

Again some great table tennis but lots of - I nearly said hanky panky but that has changed its meaning recently; bats and feet must be worn out with shuffling and wiping and cleaning; long chats between games and sets!!! Played at the English Electric Club with Roger Bennion the official in charge and Ted Rumjahn presenting the cup and trophies after a series of mishaps with his car, heroically arriving and staying until the bitter end.

Les Molyneux lost to Paul Hutchings 13 and 18: Keith Williams beat John Rankin 17/21; 21/15; 21/12: Keith and Mal McEvoy beat Paul and John 18/21; 21/17; 21/19: McEvoy lost to Laurence Kenwright 21/19; 13/21; 12/21. Could this be the key game? Molyneux lost to Rankin, 18 and 13. Williams beat Kenwright, 16 and 19. Match score 3-3 - table tennis top class. McEvoy lost to Hutchings, 12 and 18: Mal stayed on to beat Rankin, 23 and 18 (4-4): Molyneux lost to Kenwright, 15 and 16. So we have the league's two top men to fight it out for the decider - in a game of outstanding table tennis, Keith Williams beat Paul Hutchings 19/21; 21/10; 21/13.

REPLAY - ELECTRIC SUPPLY 1

BOOTLE S.C. 6

It sounds easy, but look at the scores, with six of the seven going to three it was quite a match. Hutchings and Rankin beat Williams and McEvoy (with a limp) 21/16; 19/21; 23/21. How's that for a starter? Hutchings beat Molyneux 15 and 10. Rankin beat Williams 16/21; 21/14; 21/16, my goodness! Kenwright lost to Molyneux 24/22; 19/21; 16/21, another my goodness! Rankin beat McEvoy 13/21; 21/14; 21/17: Hutchings beat Williams 16/21; 23/21; 21/18: my Guinness! Kenwright beat McEvoy 21/23; 21/17; 21/15: and the cup finishes up with Bootle after two games of the highest standard.

Both games at the Y.M.C.A. with Alec Gould an excellent official and Mr. Arthur Upton presenting the cups and trophies - thanks again to Peter Lee and his Wine Bar - Ahmed and Frances.

I cannot speak too highly of the Readman finals - but the rest were also top class at their levels, with defensive players thrown in here and there we had some of the most spectacular games seen at the finals for years - a credit to all concerned.

THE CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIP

The Closed Championship was another triumph for Brian Leeson both at Kirkby Sports Centre accompanied by the Kirkby marathon with cars and runners as far as the eye could see and at the Police Athletic Club - the latter is undoubtedly an all time triumph for the committee. How many of Brian's lieutenants can I think of - Arthur, John, Bill, Stan, Jack, and to all I have missed - I say well done - particularly perhaps at the Police Club where the thanks also go to Alan Woods as usual, but nice to see assistants, Tom, Don and Len.

To add the perfect finishing touch, June Woods and Beryl Chalkley worked wonders on their refreshments; they were excellent and very much appreciated girls.

Paul Hutchings of Bootle Sports Centre became Liverpool's Mens Singles Champion for the first time when he convincingly defeated Wayne Percival (Maghull) in two straight games in the Final. Paul had earlier knocked out his doubles partner, John Rankin, in the Quarters before he secured his Final place by overcoming Peter Flint of Vernon Sangster in the Semi. Paul, who will be playing his table tennis in France next year, achieved the distinction of defeating all his opponents in the singles in two straight and was certainly a popular, worthy winner.

Wayne Percival's path to the Final was rather more difficult. Very close wins over Rob Bevan, Phil Thomson and Mal McEvoy preceded a surprisingly straightforward win over the previous holder of the Single's title, Keith Williams of Electric Supply. Keith, in fact, had won this championship on four previous occasions, while Wayne had taken the title twice before. This year, however, we were to welcome a new Champion.

One player, whose performance in the Tournament caused more than a ripple of excitement, was Frank Murphy (Maghull). In the singles, he recorded excellent wins over P. Kinsey, D. Ng, Alan Biggs and the seeded Eric Hardman, before going out in the Quarters to Peter Flint. To follow these results, he reached the Final of the Veteran's event by defeating Jimmy Clewett, Peter Taylor and Roy Smith. His opponent in the Final, however, Alan Timewell (Rafters), proved to be too strong and retained his Veterans Title without any really worrying moments. Alan had accounted for Arthur Pierce, Alan Biggs and Dave Wilson on his way to this Final. It was sad to record, incidentally, that this would be the last time a Rafters player would be seen at a League event. The Rafters Club is now no more.

The Men's Doubles event saw the new partnership of Keith Williams and Lawrence Kenwright successful in the Final, having eliminated the previous regular holders, Paul Hutchings and John Rankin, in the Semi-Final. Malcolm McEvoy and Rob Bevan performed with credit in the Final, but could not stop Keith and Lawrence.

The Women's events attracted only eight entries. Very disappointing when you consider that the Liverpool League used to have a full Women's Division. However, Paula French and Caroline Hemmings gave a very good account of themselves in the Singles Final, with Caroline emerging as the new Champion. Caroline had earlier defeated the second seed, Barbara Kirkman, in the Semi-Final, and she teamed up with Barbara to claim the Doubles title with a two games to one win over Paula French and Sylvia Graham.

The Junior Cup was won by Simon Jones (Maghull), who narrowly beat Andrew Wright (Wavertree Labour) in their Final, while the restricted Singles Trophy was claimed by Andrew Clarke of Bootle Job Centre who also narrowly defeated Ian Barratt of Vernon Sangster in the Final.

BRIAN LEESON

<u>DIVISION ONE</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts
ELECTRIC SUPPLY	26	23	1	2	205
MAGHULL	26	21	2	3	186
L'POOL YMCA	26	16	8	2	159
WAV.LABOUR 'A'	26	17	7	2	155
BOOTLE	26	16	8	2	154
RAFTERS	26	15	10	1	138
CADWA	26	11	11	4	132
ENGLISH ELECTRIC	26	11	14	1	121
VERNON SANGSTER	26	9	12	5	120
VERNON SANG. 'A'	26	7	17	2	104
VERNON SANGSTER	26	8	16	2	103
BATH STREET	26	3	19	4	87
WAV.LABOUR 'B'	26	5	18	3	86
L'POOL JEWISH	26	2	21	3	70

<u>DIVISION 2</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts
MAGHULL 'A'	24	18	3	3	164
L'POOL YMCA 'A'	24	19	3	2	161
ENG. ELECTRIC 'A'	24	17	4	3	152
PLESSEY	24	13	8	3	140
FORDS	24	11	9	4	133
BOOTLE Y.M.C.A.	24	13	9	2	132
L'POOL JEWISH 'A'	24	12	8	4	121
VERNON SANG. 'B'	24	8	9	7	116
ENG. ELECTRIC 'B'	24	8	10	6	112
BATH STREET 'A'	24	7	13	4	106
COLONSAY	24	4	18	2	89
BOOTLE 'A'	24	4	20	-	72
LINACRE	24	1	21	2	60

<u>DIVISION 3A</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts
ELEC.SUPPLY 'A'	24	20	1	3	196
MAGHULL 'B'	24	21	3	-	180
ELEC.SUPPLY 'B'	24	19	4	1	169
VAGABONDS	24	18	2	4	161
KIRKBY	24	12	11	1	132
BOOTLE J.C.	24	12	9	3	130
COLONSAY 'A'	24	7	12	5	111
WAV.LABOUR 'D'	24	10	12	2	109
ENG. ELEC. 'C'	24	9	13	2	104
PLESSEY 'A'	24	7	13	4	99
BATH STREET 'C'	24	1	21	2	60
BROWNMOOR PARK	24	3	19	2	55
POLICE 'A'	24	2	21	1	54

<u>DIVISION 3B</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts
CADWA 'A'	24	23	1	-	200
VERNON SANG. 'C'	24	21	3	-	180
POLICE	24	20	4	-	174
BATH STREET 'B'	24	13	9	2	131
L'POOL Y.M. 'B'	24	12	11	1	131
ENG. ELEC. 'D'	24	11	11	2	122
WAV. LABOUR 'C'	24	9	12	3	108
BOOTLE J.C. 'A'	24	8	14	2	93
CADWA 'B'	24	7	14	3	91
MAGHULL 'C'	24	5	15	4	89
L'POOL JEWISH 'B'	24	4	14	6	84
BATH STREET 'D'	24	4	15	5	79
RAFTERS 'A'	24	2	16	6	78

<u>DIVISION 4A</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts
M.C.Y.A.	22	21	-	1	188
MAGHULL 'E'	22	17	3	2	150
BOOTLE YMCA 'A'	22	16	5	1	136
WARWICK BOLAM	22	12	9	1	127
VAGABONDS 'A'	22	13	8	1	114
WAV. LABOUR 'E'	22	9	11	2	112
MAGHULL 'F'	22	9	10	3	106
CADWA 'C'	22	9	12	1	99
L'POOL JEWISH 'C'	22	4	13	5	81
COLONSAY 'B'	22	5	14	3	76
RAFTERS 'B'	22	2	18	2	66
UNIVERSITY	22	3	17	2	65

<u>DIVISION 4B</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts
FORDS 'A'	24	15	1	-	140
WATERLOO	24	14	-	1	121
ROONEY YOUTH	24	10	2	2	104
ENG. ELECTRIC 'E'	24	9	6	2	97
MAGHULL 'D'	24	8	3	2	83
AIGBURTH	24	7	6	3	82
BOOTLE Y.M. 'B'	24	6	10	1	65
AIGBURTH 'A'	24	3	10	2	55
VERNON SANG. 'D'	24	4	9	2	54
BATH STREET 'E'	24	2	12	1	46
KIRKBY 'A'	24	4	6	1	45
L'POOL JEWISH 'D'	24	2	11	1	43
BROWNMOOR PARK 'A'	24	1	10	2	32

<u>DIVISION 5</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts
PLESSEY 'B'	16	15	1	-	124
PLESSEY 'B'	16	13	3	-	121
ELEC. SUPPLY 'C'	16	10	5	1	102
M.C.Y.A. 'A'	16	7	6	3	91
WARWICK BOLAM 'A'	16	9	7	-	86
MAGHULL 'C'	16	7	8	1	84
L'POOL JEWISH 'E'	16	6	9	1	72
L'POOL JEWISH 'F'	16	1	14	1	28
AIGBURTH 'B'	16	-	15	1	12