



MAL.

Table Tennis DIGEST

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

EDITOR:

Jack Lambert,
4 Rhosemor Road,
Liverpool L32 7QU
Tel: 546-3081

**EDITORIAL
BOARD:**

A. Upton
J. McKim
D. Cameron
K. Arnsen

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EDITORIAL (With two hats on)

I am amazed to find that one of the most bizarre situations ever to occur in the league has only warranted comments from Ken Arnsen, it affected all the first division and could continue to do so and a few of the other divisions also. Just in case you are not familiar with the situation, the Maghull first team left the club en bloc and joined other clubs, the 'A' team was thrown out of the club through some obscure but not naughty official club technicalities which I am not clear about - both were division one teams. The Maghull 'A' team found sanctuary at English Electric, thinking, as I did that they could change the name during the season to English Electric. 'X' or 'Y' reserves or whatever and fall into the normal streams next season. This still left the FIRST team problem, so the 'A' team became the first team - this would ease the change-over. Maghull then had to find a FIRST division team from 3rd & 4th division players (are you with me and if you are do you believe it?) which they did. The Management Committee were asked to agree to the now, first team change of name to English Electric and the placing of the 'A' team in a suitable second,

third or fourth division. This they refused to do, quoting various rules and regulations.

How about the set up of the league and the interest of the players and how about Rule 30. Why cannot common sense prevail as it has done so many times in the Business Houses and Southport Leagues. Unless a club somewhere accept the Maghull side and as they are a jolly little stick-together crew, a first division side will have to re-enter the league under another name in Division 4. First division sides will still have to nip along to play Maghull for a laugh - which eventually turned into a farce - as they gave away three walkovers and all the joke games (first division sides v fourth division, The 'A' Team) became nonexistent.

Sorry Ken, I cannot agree with you the situation is quite ludicrous and needs strong if unorthodox decisions, particularly at the Maghull end, at the English Electric end they will sort out something if the league cannot see their way clear to do so.

1st DIVISION

KEN ARMSON

If there has been any surprise in the emergence of Electric Supply as Champions then it can only be related to just how easily it all was for them. We all knew they would be champions but few realised that they would cruise so easily to that eventual end. Teams who thought they had a chance against them were ruthlessly thrashed with the same nonchalant ease as the no-hopers. It was not until Week 19 that a team succeeded in taking more than two sets from them. This honour, if that is the right term, fell to Bootle Sports Club who reached these giddy heights with the help of a reserve from the third division who crowned his, and their night, with a victory over that very modest chap, Malcolm McEvoy. This was casually put aside by Malcolm as being due to lack of appetite brought on by lack of competition, but his remark give no credit to the victor, Keith Miller, for such a notable win which showed once again the flaw in Malcolm's make-up which has always denied him the successes his ability deserves. Three weeks later Cadwa went one better and took 4 sets from them. This time it was Mike (10 points) Mahoney, who starred, winning two sets which included yet another defeat for Malcolm.

But these were only hiccups in their march to the championship which they won by the massive margin of 64 points and which may well be a record. Undisputed champions which no-one will deny them, but they marred this achievement in the Final of the Readman Cup with a display of childish petulance which compelled our League Chairman to pass comment on the absence of any competitiveness in our Premier competition and the highlight of the season, which many had attended only to be disappointed. Many present agreed with him and worse was to come when two players wanted to indulge in a slanging match. The night as a spectacle was sadly marred with only Les Molyneux giving of his

best and winning for them the draw they did not deserve.

The backlash was evident in the replay when few were present at the start. Those who did come along at later intervals were treated to what should have taken place in the previous match. Both teams fought hard with Wavertree Labour gaining the set which had eluded them the first time, but Electric Supply never lost control of the match and emerged as worthy 6-3 winners to gain the victory which eluded them last season. If table tennis was the loser in the first tie it was certainly the winner in the replay with some tremendous rallies and games. To the victors rightly go the spoils, but the man of the match on both occasions was veteran Roy Smith who gave everything for his club winning his 3 singles and a doubles in the first tie and in the replay took two more with victories over Malcola and Wayne Percival. His set against Wayne enthralled all present with brilliant retrieving allied to superb counter attacking. But if Roy was the man of both matches the unsung Les Molyneux was the man of the moment for it was his victory over Bernie Wentworth which won Electric Supply the draw and it was his victory over Roy Smith in the replay which assured their eventual victory. Quite a tie, quite a victory.

Surprise runners-up were Wavertree Labour 'A' who sneaked it ahead of their 1st team by 7 points. Regrettably this victory was secured by three 10/0 walkovers given to them by Bootle Sports Club, Y.M. 'A', and Walton Hall. But after a patchy start they did give a good account of themselves and notched up some good victories. I doubt their first team would agree as they battered them in both their encounters, but if you want success you need a settled team and Wavertree Labour used too many reserves and paid the price with 19 sets dropped by the reserves, and had to settle for 3rd place. Even more surprising was the fourth place achieved by Bootle Sports Club. They were left with only one regular player when Phil Thomson had to pull out early in the season and that player, Lawrence Kenwright, almost won this position on his own. I have a feeling that he frequently never knew who his team mates would be but he continued to turn in a high standard and had a tremendous season. Another team who could with some justification also claim to have been possible runners-up were Cadwa. They finished in fifth place with 125 points having had 10 deducted under Rule 20 and lost a few more by wrong order offences. With Peter Flint being an ever non-present, Mike Mahoney, Neil Gravener and Ken Hartley got their heads down and turned in good performances almost every week which brought the prize of 4 sets from Electric Supply. The only team to achieve this feat and a fitting reward for a season of hard endeavour.

The same must be said of Maghull who finished sixth with 119 points and ahead of more fancied teams. Sadly these players could possibly be absent from this division next season. They worked hard and made their opponents work even harder. Treated every match as a cup tie and bitterly contested every point. Not for them the moods and sulks which marred the Readman cup final for they play to win and enjoy winning against the odds. The more difficult the match the greater their competitiveness, and that will to triumph brought them a richly deserved sixth place. The other great attribute they have is a respect for their opponent, something sadly lacking today.

Sixth position downward is a good time to pause and ask what has happened to teams who we have become accustomed to recognising as major forces in this division and always competing for honours. Liverpool Y.M., in a low seventh position, Peter Lee and Peter Taylor still doing their stuff and Malcolm Pu still not doing his, dropping in and out as the mood takes him. The team is in the doldrums and don't have anyone to plug the gap. English Electric struggling along and playing second fiddle to their 'A' and managing only a third from bottom place. Liverpool Y.M. 'A', another strong team in the past, also struggling to survive. Walton Hall Park along with their 'A' team in the bottom two places. Only a couple of seasons back they were fighting for the championship and only just missed it. Bath Street who just avoided relegation last season are the only team who can claim to have improved themselves by finishing fourth from bottom. They lost a bit of their edge with Ken Jackson in particular having, for him, a poor season.

Walton Hall deserve further comment for many teams have wondered just which Walton Hall team they were playing as the players flitted about from team to team. It became hard to figure out just what their plan was and opinions varied from trying to keep them all, first and second divisions, up, to trying to get them all relegated. The demands made on their players appeared high but Paula French never asked anyone to do what she was not prepared to do herself and in company with Brenda Bucey, Chris Ford and Steve Gittins they appeared in two starring roles. Was it all worth the effort? I don't know, best ask Paula.

What of Maghull 'A'? Not in contention, but contentious, they crowned a season of silly events by making an even sillier decision that the 'A' team would concede 3 walkovers and thus be expelled under the revised rule. This was to ensure they would not have to field a team in Division Two. next season, but would still leave them with a team in this division. Also nullified were all the journeys made to play them and the efforts of their players to win sets. What a state we have reached when a team deliberately sets out to be expelled, not for the benefit of the division which they are in, but for the benefit of a division they are not in. Mind boggling does not even begin to describe their decision. They will say they were forced into such a decision, maybe they were, maybe they weren't but the end will never justify such means. The question must be asked, who failed who?

On now to scorecards, more mind boggling. Playing standards have dropped and so too has captaincy. The number of incomplete scorecards is unacceptably high and most captains appear to think that having made their team call they have completed their job. This is not so for the most important part of a captain's job is to ensure the scorecard is fully and correctly completed and bears the signature of both captains to confirm this. Many put their signature to uncompleted cards and then complain bitterly if their points total is incorrect. I give you one unbiased example. When Roy Smith plays his team scorecard is of a high standard. When he does not play it is of an unacceptably low standard.

As always there have been some sterling performances from individual players throughout the season and it is always difficult to select them. Invariably a player will complain about not seeing his name in print and I tend to avoid such items, however, to finish off these

notes I have picked a few out and all named will be allowed to buy me a drink when they next see me. This same privilege will also be extended to anyone who is not mentioned in accordance with equal opportunity.

Starting with Chris Ford who has had a great season for whichever Walton Hall team he is supposed to be in. He was involved in one of these double acts when he turned out for Walton Hall Avenue 'A' against Wavertree Labour 'A' and lost his three sets. Next night he turned out for the first team against Wavertree Labour 1st. on his own and won his three sets beating Mick Tierney, Alan Timewell and Roy Smith. Against Electric Supply playing for the 1st team he was a lone winner beating Rob Bevan in 2 straight and playing for the 'A' team against Electric 1st. he lost to Fred Pheysey and Ritchie Cragg and defeated Andy Taylor in 2 straight. Walton Hall have had their moneys worth from Chris and he in turn has had value for his money from the league. Returning to the 1st division with English Electric 'A' Graeme Black seems to have come to terms with himself and has shown the ability that was always there but which he never appeared interested in using to its full. This season he has shown his early flair and turned in some good results and I hope we see more of this from his next season. Another young player with a very likeable personality and a lot of ability who has found success eluding him is Dave Evans, but he had two good wins against English Electric beating Richie Cragg and Fred Pheysey. Hopefully we will see Dave come good next season and really make his mark. A notable end of season result came for Maghull and although losing to Electric Supply in the final match they took three sets from them with a notable double for evergreen Ted Birch and a notable victory for Alan Chase. Ted beat Les Molyneux in two straight and defeated Champion Wayne Percival 13 in the 3rd. Alan beat Mal McEvoy 2 straight and to date I have not yet received Mal's excuse for this one. Quite a night for what may have been their last appearance as a team in this division. In the halfway match Alan was there lone winner his victim on that occasion being Rob Bevan.

Peter Flint found himself in an unusual position when making one of his rare appearances from Cadwa for he was the only regular 1st team member playing. What happened to the rest of them on that night? One player making his mark this season, and an unexpected one at that, has been Stuart Fay (Maghull 'A'). He added Peter Ross, Bath Street to his list of victories and against Walton Hall 'A' he had a great win against Paula French. He made this a double in the doubles when teamed up with Bill (we want to be expelled) Salter they defeated Paula and Bill Harris 21/19; 20/22; 21/19. No-one allowed Dave Lenden to break his duck and he possibly became the first regular team player to go through a season in this division without winning a set. He did come very near to causing the upset of the season when he lost to Mal McEvoy 19/21; 21/19; 19/21. Obviously Malcolm was in one of his "it is not worth the effort" moods, but it only needs a lucky edge or net and you make the headlines wrong way up.

There have been lots more good performances but regrettably no space to include them. Have a good rest and all come back determined to hit the headlines and if you happen to be made team captain try and remember to fill in the scorecard correctly and get it off in time. You may never hit the headlines in this magazine but you will be a top liner with our Fixture Secretary and his wife.

Congratulations to runaway leaders Wavertree Labour 'B' who coasted home. Bootle Y.M.C.A. just moved ahead of Plessey for the second place. The best of luck to a nice group who fight like Hell on the table but are so sociable afterwards. Maghull deserve credit for playing all the games with understrength teams but commiserations to Jewish 'A' and Electric Supply 'A' who accompany them to the 3rd division.

Labour 'B' with Paul Griffiths, Neil Jones, Justin Evans and Hayden Young were worthy winners. I was interested to see that Alan Timewell played (1) against Police instead of Paul Griffiths. Alan beat John Rankin in 2 and lost to Paul Grittins in (2) with Ray Jackson, Alan lost to Rankin and Gittins, Paul Gittins completed a hat-trick by beating Hadyn Young in 3 in a 3/7 defeat. For Electric Supply 'A' Neil Jennings beat Paul Griffiths 25/23 in 3 and Peter Carney beat R. Jackson in 2 in a 2/8 defeat. Labour did not help promotion candidates Plessey by thrashing them 10/0 !!. How about Cadwa 'A' 8 - Labour 'B' 2 only Paul Griffiths of the normal squad played and he won his 2 games. A week later Mr. Consistency himself, Neil James had a dreadful night for him, he lost to Roy Bradbury, John McGee and with Hadyn Young lost to McGee and Hodges all in 2. Labour 'B' won 7/3. Neil must have burnt himself out travelling from North Wales and too many matches!!!!. Bootle Y.M. squad of Mike Keane, John Higham. Jonathan Killip, Tom Killip and Derek Sullivan will have to decide how they will operate in a 3 man 1st Division. In a win over Fords' 'A'!

Pierce beat M. Keane in 3, K. beat J. Higham, A. Cameron beat D. Sullivan and Pierce and Cameron beat Higham and Sullivan. Against fellow contenders Plessey at Bootle the match finished all square. Trevor Owen had a hat trick, he beat Mick Keane 21/19 in 3 and Tom Killip in 2 and with Peter Wass beat John Higham and Tom Killip, Bob Edwards beat John Higham and Peter Wass beat Tom Killip. For Bootle Mick Keane beat Bob Edwards in 2. John Higham beat Ted Gilmour and Jonathan Killip beat Ted Gilmour and Peter Wass in 3. Another stutter in January was a 4/6 defeat at home to Bath Street 'A' with Alan Walton beating Mick Keane and Tom Kelly, Dave Butterworth beat John Higham and Fred Bainbridge beat Derek Sullivan. Another 4/6 defeat to Jewish at home was of no assistance. Mick Keane was the only player to win 2 straight, beating Harry Johnson and Paul Morgan. Cadwa 'A' and Police both drew at Bootle and it was not until March a 9/1 win over Electric Supply restored confidence in the side again 6/4 over English Electric. and 7/3 over Walton Hall 'B'. I notice that Plessey RERANKED as follows:- Trevor Owen, Rob Edwards, Ted Gilmour, Ray Lavin and Peter Wass. After not making any headway against Labour 'B' and Bootle Y.M.C.A. there were better days to come; Wins:- 8/2 away at Electric Supply 'A' with Trevor Owen beating Neil Jennings and Peter Carney, Ted Gilmour beating Peter and John Moore 8/2 at home to Walton Hall 'B'; Bill Harris beating Ray Lavin 21/19 in 3 and Bill and Ian Newley beating Bob Edwards and Ted Gilmour 6/4 at Fords with Bob Edwards beating Ken Bennett and Arthur Pierce 9/1 away to Bath Street. A with Dave Butterworth beating Bob Edwards 10/0 at home to Maghull 'B' 6/4 away at Liverpool Jewish; Trevor Owen beat M. Johnston and J. Henshaw 9/1 at home to Cadwa 'A' 6/4 away at Liverpool Jewish 'A'.

I note that Plessey went to Fairfield on April Fools Day and lost 6/4 to the Police. John Rankin beat Trevor & Bob and Paul Gittin beat Trevor & Ted. Gareth Jones beat Peter Wass 23/21 in 3. Paul and Tom Purcell beat Bob and Ted in 3. For Plessey Bob beat Gareth, Ted and Peter beat Tom and Trevor and Peter beat John and Gareth. I gather that last month was the "crunch", Plesseys needed 7 or 8 for promotion. Cadwa 'A' surprised me by sharing 4th place with English Electric 'B' but Ian Miller, Billy Hargreaves, Trevor Hughes and Mike Power all showed their ability when it mattered. Well done to a good set of lads.

English Electric 'B' with Rod McPherson, Brian Crolley, Frank McCann and Nigel Conquest provided stubborn resistance each match with a 10/0 win over Fords and excellent result also a 9/1 away at Bath Street and 10/0 away at Jewish 'A'. A 6/4 defeat to Y.M.C.A., a draw with Plesseys and a 4/6 loss at home to Cadwa 'A' did not help their promotion prospects. Jewish with Harry Johnson, Eddie Clein, Paul Morgan and John Henshaw were strong enough to give the best a game. After last year's controversy I noticed that Jewish 'A' played Jewish on 29/1/87 with the 1st. team giving no favours in a 8/2 win. Rob Hodson beat Eddie Clein in 2 and Richard Stevenson did the same. Walton Hall 'B' re-ranked and played Paula French, Brenda Bucey, Bill Morris and Ian Wensley, with this team there was no way they were going to be relegated and some good results were achieved. In a 6/4 win over Police, Brenda beat John Rankin in 2 and Bill only just lost 22/20 to Paula in 3, Paula insists that Bill let him win to keep his confidence and to reward him for his past loyalty!! Bill would have none of it!! For the Police, John Rankin and Paul Gittins showed their true class when they had played a few matches and without doubt kept Police up. Gareth Jones fought well but was disappointed with his season. Tom Purcell had one of his worst seasons for some time but he will bounce back. With the 'A' team strolling the 4th division and Dave Crispin undefeated.

After Fords meteoric rise, the team of K. Bennett, Caroline Henning, Arthur Pearce and Alan Cameron have apparently found their own level and will hold their own easily.

Bath Street 'A' with Dave Butterworth, Alan Walton, John Letch, Eric Ferguson, Fred Bainbridge were the last to escape the drop.

Have a nice break everyone and can we please have a volunteer to write next seasons division 2 column. Please contact Jack or Ken.

DIVISION 3A

SYLVIA GRAHAM

The end of season is probably the easiest time to write the notes. No predictions to make about promotion and relegation battles because it's all there in black and white. Congratulations to Bootle Sports Club 'A' who completed the League and Cup double and also provided us with

restricted singles champion in the closed tournament. Their line-up of Frank Brady, Keith Miller, John McLaughlin and Tommy Downing would have given most second division sides a run for their money. Jackie Cumiskey (nee Wilson) stepped in, in an 8-2 victory against Plessey 'A' and won both her singles, and her dad Dave picked up both his at Kirkby and Colonsay. The hassle for second place was much more exciting and was a hard fought contest.

Only five points separated M.C.Y.A., Vagabonds and Bootle Job Centre at Christmas and all matches between the three had resulted in draws. All three teams were pretty strong throughout but I would have tipped Vagabonds as slight favourites. Vagabonds have always been up there in the promotion stakes and the return of Ted Barnes in the number four position after three years in retirement, was certainly a shock. Nice to see you back Ted - you certainly haven't lost your touch! However, the newcomers to the division - M.C.Y.A. had walked their way through the lower divisions and obviously wanted to carry on through the third and my own team Bootle Job Centre was always in with a fighting chance. In the end the matches between the three sorted out the eventual final positions - Bootle Job Centre beat Vagabonds and

P. Woods at side. They managed a draw against M.C.Y.A. without their number one. Two teams which did disappoint me with their final position are Kirkby and Maghull 'D'. Both are better teams than their results showed. I know Kirkby had problems fielding a reserve when one of their players was rushed into hospital but with the experience of Norman Chaloner and the talent of Tony Leary and Peter Lee I would have expected better results. Hope you're out of hospital by now Phil. In the Maghull team, Dave Ferguson moving up to one has certainly strengthened the side. Chris Roberts has had some excellent results and young Kevin Lewis has improved considerably since the start of the season. Barry McGannity is always hard to beat.

Brownmoor Park are another team which gives nothing away. Alan Williams at one, is capable of beating most players in the division as his results show. Bill Spencer and A. Rowland offer good support and nothing gets past John Forrest at four. All in all a team which gives 100% effort. I'm always amazed at the position of Plessey 'A' in the

division, but looking through the cards and seeing the number of players named they obviously rotate their squad of players. Peter Wass at one has beaten most of the top players with remarkable double wins against Bootle Sports Club 'A' (Brady and Miller) Vagabonds (Whittaker and Owen) and English Electric 'C' (Prince and Holmes). A good team performance inflicted the first defeat Vagabonds suffered after they had finished the first half of the season as the only team not to have lost a match. Last but definitely not least are the two relegation sides of Bath Street 'C' and Colonsay 'A'.

For Bath Street Peter Mercer and Karen Gibson have regularly picked up points but it was never a settled side which is shown by the number of different players used and hence the results. Colonsay 'A' however, must have fielded the same side, average age under sixteen, for the majority of matches and I must congratulate them on their final tally of points which they certainly earned. This seasons Division 3A has been the hardest that I can remember and although Colonsay were easily beaten in the first part of the season, by the end they were certainly handing out a few shocks. If they improve at the rate they've already shown it won't be more than a couple of seasons before they are back

Footnote I believe that Bootle Sports Club 'A's reserve female player when playing for the first team beat a well known English Electric player who in that match beat Lawrence Kenwright. Sorry Fred!!!

DIVISION 3B

COLIN PRATT

Firstly the Hyde Cup won by Bootle Sports Centre in a wonderful final against Fords from this division. The match went to the tenth game before Bootle won 6 games to 4, Keith Miller and Frank Brady were unbeatable. Alf Southall just lost out in a 3 set crunch game against

Keith. The league was also a close run affair with Y.M.C.A. just pipping Colonsay by 5 points to win the title. Wing Law having only lost one game in the first half of the season, lost at least six in the second half to finish with 82% average in 2nd. place, to Colin Rourke who lost five in the first half and only one afterwards to finish on 84%. Mind you Wing, you do get taken to 3 games rather too often.

Y.M.C.A. had to restructure their team when they lost No:2 Steve Graham, Francis Lay moved to No:2 and in came a new star Peter Lau to win most of his games at No:4. Ted Mandaluff finished on 82% in one of his best recent seasons, well done Y.M.C.A.

Colonsay in the 2nd. place were catching Y.M. but the season was not long enough. Colin Rourke at No:1 who did not play in all the games, well supported by Brian Jennings, Barbara Kirkman, Dave Piper and John O'Sullivan. The fight for 3rd. place was always between four teams with English Electric just edging out Fords, Cadwa and Bath St. in that order. Bath St. 'D' dropped out during the season which left one more team to be relegated. Jewish thought they were safe only to lose points in two games by playing in the wrong order, and Warwick Bolam after thinking they were doomed beat English Electric 6-4 in the last match. Jewish and Warwick both finished with 65 points.. The committee will now have to decide who goes where.

Fords who had a very large squad to choose from with Bill Proffitt as the regular player, had a good win over the strong Cadwa team 7-3. This was one set better than the first game when Fords had a very good father and son duo Alf and Dave Southall. Louis Rosenbloom played at 1 for Jewish in several games and won some very good games, one of which was the 21-15 in the third win over Wing Law of Y.M.C.A.

Here's one for you! who is the player who runs on the spot while waiting for the server to serve? or haven't you noticed - answer at end.

George Frost had a very good win 14 and 16 over Barbara Kirkman, Rod Bulmer won the only other against Brian Jennings in the 2-8 defeat against Colonsay, although Rod only lost to Colin Rourke 20-22 in the third.

Bill Clayton won two of his teams 3 in losing 3-7 to Colonsay, beating Brian Jennings and Harry Nelson. Brian and Barbara beating Reg Edwards both in 3. Reg has not been as effective this season just losing out in the 3rd. many times. Mind you I've only seen him lose once in the past four seasons.

Sad to see Eric Ferguson leave us to live in Yorkshire, Eric one of the top pen hold players on Merseyside for years and years, always sporting in victory and defeat and ready to pass on hints and tips to the youngsters. Best wishes Eric for the future and your table tennis.

Have you played against Allan Langfield yet?, he never (well hardly ever) hits an attacking shot, he doesn't chop very hard, in fact he'll let you play whatever game you wish, but he wins lots of games in the end and that's what it is all about. Well done Allan.

Mike Griffiths is another who has moved away to live and he signed off with a bang playing brilliantly against Bath Street 'B' in Waterloo's 6-4 win. Mike beat Bill Clayton (mega-star) and Alex Gould (vet star), well done Mike and best wishes Ray Hibbs also won two in this match against Alex and Norman Cooke. Ray is playing well and his game includes all the abilities to loop, hit, push or chop. After losing the first 16-21 Don Davies changed his tactics to win 5 and 8 over Bill Clayton in Bath Street's 7-3 win over Cadwa. Clive Roberts winning 24-22 in a great game with Alex Gould and George Higham winning the battle of the pen holders against Eric Ferguson.

I think I said in the last issue to watch out for Rodney Youth, well they've started with some good wins from all the team, Alan Noor has beaten most top players and Justin Quinn, Joe Williams, Paul Keating and John Dyson (son of Police star Len Dyson) have all played well in several good wins. Justin has beaten Bill Clayton and Ron Jones, Joe beat Alan Davies in 2, Paul beat the very steady Bill Stanley and Peter Lau, and John beat T.Cramsie of Jewish. Warwick Bolams' last game win over English Electric 6-4 was achieved with a great treble from Carl Ledson over Colin Fyles and Margaret Collins both 3 sets. Carl beat Colin 22-20 in a very tense third game. Colin Owens, Phil Wilkinson and Dave Davies all winning one each. Answer to the runner on the spot is Bill Clayton, you watch him next time. A super game to watch was Richard Hardaker of English Electric against Dave Graham of Bootle Job Centre. The forehand hits, the blocking and the counter hitting were breathtaking, it's a pity there has to be a loser and fortunately for us, it was Dave. Richard also beat John Pilkington but only just, mind you he had to keep it on Johns' backhand to do it. How does John hit those forehands on?. Who are the best double pair?, I don't know!, perhaps next season you can tell me then I can publicise it and everyone can try to beat you. If rumours are true about splitting the 3rd division next season, I won't see half of you for a while, but keep on enjoying your table tennis.

DIVISION 4

MABEL NEARY

This division has been a one horse race - but congratulations to Police 'A' just the same. Three or four teams could have finished second but Bootle Y.M. 'A' managed the runners-up position, also as losing cup-finalists. C.A.D.W.A. 'C' nipped into third position with the help of a 10-0 walkover vs. University, but they nicked 2 sets off Police 'A' - Arthur Garnett losing both to Jack Power and Les Griffin, Plessey 'B' finished level on points with Vagabonds 'A' (who beat Plessey 6-4 in the second half). Maybe it is the speculation of any new formation of the divisions that spurred the players on to try and win an extra few points, that altered (slightly) my final estimates.

Wavertree Labour 'E' finished off with a 10-0 win over Liverpool Jewish 'C' and an 8-2 win over their own 'F' team, which took them over the 100

mark, to finish midway. I think university on paper could have done better - if they had so wished, running Bootle Y.M. 'A' to 4-6. M.C.Y.A. 'A' certainly could not emulate their first team, but these players will improve with time. Unfortunately, for them through playing an ineligible player had the 3 points (he) won deducted, which went to the opposition and the team was penalised a further 10 points.

Wavertree Labour 'F' suffered a misfortune of players - from the brilliant (!) to the learners (!). Most clubs should know by now even their lowest team has to be covered by adequate reserves. Liverpool Jewish 'C' whilst having the experience, did not have the strength - but still gave you a good cup of tea and biscuits. Cadwa 'D' were well out of it, a mixed team - with Pauline Lawrenson winning a fair share of their 47 points. More single winners for their team:- John Lui (MCYA) beat Alan Wood (Police) 21/14; 21/18; Pauline Lawrenson (Cadwa) beat Robin Sissons (University) 21/15; 18;21; 21/19; Joan Conner (Wavertree Labour) beat Alan Wood (Police) 21/14; 19/21; 21/14; John Sung (MCYA) beat Jim Geddes (Bootle Y.M.) 21/18; 18/21; 21/18; Ken Armon (Wavertree Labour) beat Bobby Bell (Plessey) 21/19; 16/21; 21/14; Gordon Langshaw (Vagabonds) beat Alan Wood (Police) 22/20; 12/21; 21/18; Wah Wai Wan (MCYA) beat Gordon Langshaw (Vagabonds) 21/18; 25/23; Pauline Lawrenson (Cadwa) beat Alan Wood (Police) 23/21; 21/13; Conclusion: Alan Wood wins the prize for the most single losses (Sorry Alan). Maureen King (Wavertree Labour) won her second set of the season also against M.C.Y.A., but this time the victim was John Sung, 21/19; 21/17.

An unusual draw - Liverpool Jewish 'C' against Vagabonds 'A', each set alternating and all in 2 straight. In another drawn match, Vagabonds Mike Gallagher achieved a good hard fought double against Cadwa's Ian Fletcher 17/21; 21/18; 23/21; and Jack Power 21/19; 21/19; plus the doubles 24/22; 21/17. A rare double was achieved by Les Griffin (Cadwa) over Mr and Mrs Connor playing for Wavertree Labour 'E' 16/21; 21/11; 21/15 and 20/22; 22/20; 21/17; respectively. In the same match Tony Moon gave Mabel Neary a good run around losing 21/17; 20/22; 24/26. Ian Fletcher getting the better of her - using the bat of the future (?) at 17/21; 21/18; 21/17; and Cadwa winning a repeat score line at 7-3.

Ian Andrews (Liverpool Jewish) also picked a double up against Plessey, beating Ted Green and Bobby Bell (I keep going to write Bobby Ball). I haven't a clue about anybody's average - but am not aware of Dave Crispin (Police 'A') losing any.

These will be attended to as usual (hopefully) and hopefully will be available at the Handbook Meeting (as usual). As we all won't be meeting again next season, good luck wherever you will be playing - but keep on playing.

Question:- Who's got the best mugs in the division? (and possibly the league?) Wrong!!! Answer: Plessey's. A pleasure to drink from, a good idea and money well spent.

P.S. In case we don't get our next seasons first Digest out in time - A Merry Christmas as well.

Editors Note:- Since being directed on dates of issue by the Management Committee a few years ago, every Digest has been issued as directed. This has only been done through the hard work of my wife and the co-operation of Sefton Itec. Rumour has it that the A.G.M. is on May 21st. - on April 30th. I had received Don Chalkleys' notes!. Think about it.

DIVISION 4B

BARRY MEYER

Well my reputation (?) as an expert tipster is fairly intact from issue one: I correctly forecast the first four and the bottom three with minor variations in mid-division, the only team to really ruin things was Bootle Y.M. who jumped from their allotted eighth place to fifth. Well done Albert and Co., and apologies for my lack of confidence!! Anyway now to the people who really have something to brag about - champions English Electric, 24 games, 24 wins despite losing two of their original quartet at various stages, the replacement of Keith Wright, and Ken Black by Brian Aldred and Ian Lunt showing the strength in depth at the club. Although they have been hammering most of the opposition, I've thoroughly enjoyed both matches against them as much as I've always liked playing all English Electric teams over the years. Possibly even greats congratulations are due to Action Youth for coming second in their first season with only two defeats.

Our friendly neighbourhood policemen (and lady) managed to cop third place ahead of Aigburth (Dad's Army) who were helped by two extremely lucky 6-4 wins over their vastly superior 'A' team: Actually we are just waiting till they reach their nineties - next season - then we'll stop taking pity on them!. Down at the bottom, Jewish 'E' pulled level with University 'A', mainly as a result of their penultimate match in which they played superbly to completely reverse a 9-1 first half defeat by Aigburth 'A', Peter Knight saving a whitewash in a cracking game against Julian Dutch.

Previously University had started a mini-revival in the second-half with a marvellous 7-3 defeat of the strong Electric Supply team with Brian Pickett having an amazing 21/3; 24/22 win against Peter Highton. Electric Supply faded somewhat toward the end of the season, mainly through Peter Highton catching German measles and Brian Murphy missing several matches while his wife was expecting - some women just can't time anything right!!!. Brian by my reckoning remains the only 100 per center in our division. He won Supply's only two sets against Action. Other face savers in this period:- Ken Dutch beat Tony Dixon 21/8; 22/20; James Aldis (University) beat Brian Gregory (Maghull) 15/21; 22/20; 23/21; Bryan Pickett (University) vs Peter Shackleton (Bootle Y.M.) 13-15, 13. Ken Miller (B/Moor) over Ron Georgeson B/S 18 and 10; Eric Young (Jewish) an excellent 18, 16, 16 against Margaret Collins (English Electric) Bert Rivers (Bootle) defeated Paul Howard (Action) 21/7; 21/17; James Aldis (again) beat Ian Lunt (English

Electric) 15 and 19, and finally Neil Bascombe (Electric Supply) with wins over M. Collins, 17 and 16 and Barry Stevens (Bootle Y.M.) 22/20; 21/15: Strangest game recently was Eric Youngs (Jewish) defeat by Mike Hughes (Bootle Y.M.) 11/21; 21/6; 22/24: Closest of the season Ken Dutch vs John Moore (Police) 22/20; 22/24; 21/23: in the same match Richie Winkle beat Ken 21/19; 23/21;. Other close encounters - Simon Killeen (Aigburth 'A') beat Alan Turner (Action) 22/20; 20/22; 21/19: Bert Rivers beat John Moore 21/17; 23/25; 21/19: Myra Lovelady (B/Moor) defeated Steve Woods (Maghull) 16/21; 27/23; 21/19: and in the same match Myra and Ken Miller won the double against Steve and Brian Gregory 21/16; 15/21; 23/21: Poor Steve suffered again losing 25/23 in the third to me. Don Gibson (Bath St.) lost to Monica O'Donnell (E.S.) 21/17; 9/21; 21/23: Richie Winkle vs Tony Dixon finished 21/15; 18/21; 22/20: Russ Thornton suffered twice against the Meyer's losing 21/19 to Peter and 24/22 to Barry both in the third. Joe Lovelady lost to Bob Rawlinson (Police) 13/21; 21/19; 21/23. Neil Bascombe defeated Peter Meyer 21/12; 20/22; 21/19: and Peter beat Ron Georgeson (B/St.) 9/21; 21/16; 21/19: I am struggling to complete these notes to meet the Editor's deadline so just a few comments on the season generally:- I've found this one of the most competitive seasons we've had for many years, with not a lot between the vast majority of the teams and we have had some marvellous close games in very friendly atmosphere and I hope we can all stay together (except for the promoted teams) next season and that other club secretaries don't confirm their vote for straight divisions next year, otherwise the other five or so teams that will join us in Division 6 will not have much fun next year; by the time we come to play our rare matches, we'll have forgotten how to hold our bats!! If you don't believe me, look at last year's fifth division.

My favourite matches this season were two cracking ones against Bath St. especially the drawn game at North Yard. I understand their Keith Goodburn will not be playing in our league next season, good luck in your new job in the South, Keith.

My best moment of the season was a magic game with Margaret Collins, my first win over her in about 10 meetings, all of them very enjoyable.

Finally, good luck to English Electric and Action in the 3rd or 4th. - or is it the fifth next season and hope to see as many old faces as possible in the 4th., 5th., or 6th., - Oh this is stupid, I think I'll join the Zimbabwe league!!

LIVERPOOL CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS 1987

Wayne Percival, seeded at number one in the Championships, became Liverpool Closed Champion for the third time when he defeated Peter Flint in the Final at the Police Club. Peter, in fact, was the only player to take a game off Wayne, who had previously accounted for five opponents, namely Peter Holmes, Steve Nields, Bernie Wentworth, Eric

Hardman and Andy Wright, without losing a game. Wayne had won the title twice before, in 1979 and in 1982, while last year he lost at the last hurdle to Paul Hutchings, who was unable to attend on this occasion.

Peter Flint's route to the last stage included wins over Steve Gittins, Kar Lee, Neil James, Phil Luxon and then a most exciting, nail-biting semi-final with Malcolm McEvoy.

Wayne, with his new doubles partner Lawrence Kenwright, also succeeded in picking up the Doubles Title, although both Wayne and Lawrence have won this title on previous occasions with other partners. Malcolm McEvoy and Rob Bevan, the defeated doubles finalists, were, unfortunately for them, also the losing finalists in last year's event.

The Women's Singles Title was claimed this year, dare I say sensationally, by Mabel Neary. Mabel, who is currently ranked number one veteran in Lancashire and a member of the County Veteran Team, overcame her younger opponent, Brenda Bucey, in two straight games. Brenda was appearing in her 5th Women's Singles Final, boasting a 100% record in previous years, 1972, 1973, 1974 and 1983, when her victim was Mabel. Brenda, a former England number 3 Junior, a former Lancashire Closed Champion and County player, a current member of the Championship winning Liverpool Ladies Team, must surely become a Liverpool Champion for the fifth time! Mabel, however, had other ideas and set about achieving her well deserved second win in seventeen years.

In the Veterans Event, Alan Chase, enjoying his first season as a veteran, took the title by defeating Arthur Pierce in the Final. Alan has this season gained a regular place in the Lancashire Veterans Team and on his way to the Vets Final in our Tournament, he succeeded in eliminating Alan Timewell, who has held this title for the past three years.

Frank Brady won the Restricted Singles Title by defeating in turn Ron Jones, John Forrest, Karen Gibson, Steve Nields, Peter Choi and then in an exciting final, Alan Moor. Alan's list of victims included the 1986 winner, Andy Clark, Mabel Neary and Harry Reeve.

Only twelve juniors took part in the Junior Singles, numerically very disappointing. However, an exciting and entertaining final saw Robert Lowe narrowly defeat Colin Rourke to take the Eric Caird Cup.

BRIAN LEESON

FOOTNOTE FOR LIVERPOOL CLOSED

Congratulations again to Brian and this time to his many henchmen. The Finals night is becoming a bit of a social occasion with many ex players to be seen. A big hand for Rodney Youth who turned out en masse to support Alan Moor.

CUP FINALS

FORREST CUP Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'A' 4 - Action Youth 6: Jim Geddes was involved in the first and last games and I have an idea that the first one was the crunch one of the match which he was so close to winning in the second game but lost to Alan Finan 21/14; 18/21; 15/21: Roly Wright evened things up with a 21/16; 14/21; 21/14: win over Paul Howard.

Danny Every lost to Tony Dixce 18/21; 23/25: Les Higham beat Marsh 22/20; 14/21; 24/22: A couple of close ones and the atmosphere electric. Roly and Jim lose to Tony and Alan 11 and 14 and then Danny Every and Les Higham lose to Paul Howard and Brian Marsh 14/21; 21/16; 18/21: Les opens up the game again by beating Paul 18 and 7. Another close one Danny loses to Tony 18/21; 23/25: Danny beats Alan 19 and 15 - score at 4-5 and all on the last game which Jim lost to Brian 9-21; 17-21 and the cup won by Action after a great match, Action were immaculately turned out in neat team kit and certainly looked the part. Tough on my old pals Jimmy Geddes & Co., but both teams have runners-up medals. Played at Liverpool Y.M.C.A. with Jack McCaig the official and presented the trophies.

HYDE CUP FORDS 'A' 4 BOOTLE Sports Club 'A' 6 : Bill Proffitt lost to Keith Miller 22/20; 18/21; 10/21: Dave Southall beat John McLaughlin 11/21; 21/12; 23/21: Alf Southall lost to Frank Brady 15 & 9 (Alf one of our old timers and son Dave) John Hughes beat Tommy Downing 11 & 12: Dave lost to Frank 21/14; 11/21; 8/21: a crunch one this I reckon; Bill beat Tommy 11 & 12, Alf lost to Keith 16 & 17. The Hughes John beat the McLaughlins John 18 & 12 (score four all). Nerves tingling Bill and John Hughes lost to Keith and Tommy 22/20; 15/21; 20/22: Tommy's superb return at 20 all in the third was the point that counted for game and match. Alf and Dave lost to Frank and John 19 & 9 and the cup to Bootle again, a tense and inspiring game with lots of excellent table tennis. Ken Anson was the official in charge at Plesseys Club with Stan Harvey our host. Vice President Jack Lambert presented the trophies.

RUMJAHN CUP PLESSEYS 6 WAVERTREE LABOUR 'A' 4 : Bob Edwards lost to Neil Young 21/17; 17/21; 16/21: Ted Gilmore beat Val France 22/20; 18/21; 21/15: Trevor Owens and Ray Lavin beat Neil James and Hadyn Young 21/5; 15/21; 21/7: Trevor beat Hadyn 7 & 15, Bob lost to Ray Jackson 14 & 13. Ted lost to Hadyn 13/21; 21/16; 17/21: Trevor lost to Neil 11 & 19: Ray beat Val 13 & 17 and carried on to beat Ray Jackson 19 & 15. All on the last game AGAIN Bob Edwards and Ted Gilmore took the game and the cup beating Ray Jackson and Val France 21/14; 19/21; 21/18: an excellent game concluding a brilliant match Wavertree suffered with multi-league players two having a crunch game in Wrexham. It's the team on the night that counts and Plesseys were worthy victors. Official in charge Jack Lambert at the English Electric Club. League Chairman Arthur Upton introduced English International Ted Rumjahn who traditionally presented the cup.

HEADMAN CUP WAVERTREE LABOUR 5 ELECTRIC SUPPLY 5 : Roy Smith beat Malcolm McEvoy 21/19; 19/21; 21/18: interesting. Bernie Wentworth lost to Les Molyneux 21/16; 16/21; 19/21: Mike Tierney lost to Wayne Percival 16 & 17. Roy beat Les 19 & 19. Wentworth and Smith (again) beat Percival and McEvoy 21/10; 7/21; 21/19: Roy Smith (and again) beat

Wayne Percival 11 & 18 a funny game this! Tierney lost to McEvoy 16 & 18, Mike also lost to Molyneux 14 & 14; Bernie beat Malcolm 23/21; 19/21: (Bernie was 18-13 up) 21-16 (Malcolm was 12-3 up). A peculiar game to say the least with an outstanding display from Roy Smith and a fighting show from Les Molyneux. With Malcolm and Wayne in a very unhappy frame of mind. Alex Gould was the official in charge at the Police Club with Arthur Upton commenting on the lack of urgency and competition. Alan Wood was our genial if not too happy host.

READMAN REPLAY

We start with a turn up for the book our hero of the last game Roy Smith beaten 20 & 14 by Les Molyneux, McEvoy and Percival beat Smith and Wentworth 11 & 20: Malcolm lost to Roy 18/21; 21/19; 22/20: they don't come much closer, Molyneux beat Mike Tierney 10 & 16. Wayne Percival beat Bernie Wentworth 16 and 16, Wayne lost to Roy 23/21; 9/21; 16/21: what a game - superb, closer than the scores, Malcolm beat Mike 12 & 9 and Bernie 13 & 17 to win a superb match 6-3. Ray wins over Malcolm and Wayne were of the highest quality made so by the positive brilliance of Roy, Malcolm and Wayne.

Alex Gould was the official in charge at English Electric with Arthur Upton presenting the trophies.

Crowds were average not good but certainly not bad - Table Tennis at all levels superb. I make no apologies for mentioning Action Youth again, a neat, sporting turnout. I wonder if we all turned out like this would it improve our image.

TABLE EDGES

I periodically make the plea that if mums and wives in particular come across any old table tennis 'junk' PLEASE do not throw it away, please contact me or any table tennis official, we will be willing to accept it.

Hands up everyone who has a complete or near complete set of Digests - I would like a little chat sometimes please.

Warren Davies (Liverpool Jewish) and Fred Pheysey (English Electric) were involved in a nasty car accident a little while ago, we are pleased to repeat that they are both recovering nicely.

What a brilliant performance by our ladies teams winning their divisions of the Lancashire and Cheshire League - Paula French, Brenda Buocoy and Barbara Kirkman all had brilliant purple patches during the season but overall they were top class - superb.

Our oldest club English Electric Club will be 40 years of age this year.

Arthur Upton, our chairman had a spell in hospital and an operation. He is now recovering nicely.

EPITAPH TO A GENTLEMAN

It is with deep sorrow that I report the recent death of Tony Goodwin of Electric Supply. Tony had not been able to play in recent years, but still maintained his love of the game and followed with great interest the table tennis fraternity. Tony played in the Business Houses League for the top M.O.A. team in the 60's and also for Wavertree Labour, for those who did battle with him, will remember him as a fierce but sporting competitor, but for those who knew him personally, will remember him above all, as I will - a perfect gentleman.

Allan Biggs.

FINAL TABLES

<u>DIVISION ONE</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts
ELECTRIC SUPPLY	24	24	-	-	209
WAVERTREE LAB A	24	13	7	4	145
WAVERTREE LAB	24	12	6	6	138
BOOTLE SPORTS	24	12	6	6	132
CADWA	24	12	5	7	125*
MAGHULL	24	10	5	6	119
LIVERPOOL YMCA	24	8	12	4	117
ENGLISH ELEC A	24	8	11	5	109
LIVERPOOL YMCA A	24	8	14	2	105
BATH STREET	24	6	14	4	95
ENGLISH ELECTRIC	24	7	13	4	92
WALTON HALL PARK	24	4	15	5	88
WALTON HALL PK.A	24	4	17	3	75

Note: Maghull A record expunged

DIVISION 2

WAVERTREE LAB.B	24	22	2	-	190
BOOTLE YMCA	24	16	5	3	154
PLESSEY	24	16	4	4	151
CADWA A	24	14	5	5	145
ENGLISH ELEC.B	24	12	8	4	145
LIVERPOOL JEWISH	24	11	11	2	125
WALTON HALL PK.B	24	12	12	-	123
POLICE	24	8	11	5	119
FORDS	24	9	10	5	112
BATH STREET A	24	7	13	4	108
ELECTRIC SUPPLY A	24	6	17	1	90
L'POOL JEWISH A	24	5	18	1	84
MAGHULL B	24	1	23	-	14

<u>DIVISION 3B</u>	P	W	L	D	Pts
LIVERPOOL YMCA B	24	21	2	1	175
COLONSAY	24	18	4	2	170
ENGLISH ELEC.D	24	13	5	6	139
FORDS A	24	14	8	2	135
CADWA B	24	13	9	2	134
BATH STREET B	24	12	8	4	133
RODNEY YOUTH	24	12	8	4	126
WAVERTREE LAB B	24	10	11	3	118
BOOTLE J C A	24	8	12	4	108
WATERLOO	24	6	15	3	99
MAGHULL C	24	5	16	3	93
L'POOL JEWISH B	24	3	19	2	65
WARWICK BOLAH	24	1	19	4	65

Note: Liverpool Jewish B Won play-off
7-3

DIVISION 4A

POLICE A	20	20	-	-	172
BOOTLE YMCA A	20	15	2	3	136
CADWA C	20	11	6	3	125
PLESSEY B	20	12	6	2	116
VAGABONDS A	20	11	5	4	116
WAVERTREE LAB.E	20	9	8	3	105
UNIVERSITY	20	9	10	1	96
WAVERTREE LAB.F	20	3	15	2	64
L'POOL JEWISH C	20	3	14	3	62
M.C.Y.A. A	20	4	15	1	51*
CADWA D	20	1	17	2	47

DIVISION 4B

ENGLISH ELEC E	24	24	-	-	204
ACTION	24	22	2	-	194
POLICE B	24	17	5	2	157
AIGBURTH	24	17	6	1	148
BOOTLE YMCA B	24	14	9	1	135
ELECTRIC SUPPLY C	24	14	9	1	132
MAGHULL E	24	8	12	4	115
AIGBURTH A	24	9	13	2	108
L'POOL JEWISH D	24	7	16	1	88
BATH STREET E	24	5	16	3	85
BROWNHOOR PARK A	24	4	20	-	70
UNIVERSITY A	24	2	18	4	62
L'POOL JEWISH E	24	3	20	1	* 62

BLE PLAYER