

LINACRE



Table Tennis DIGEST

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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EDITORIAL

Don Davies has written an interesting little piece on our disappearing players, some of the names are interesting and nostalgic. Many of them have left the area unfortunately - so there is no answer to folks finding jobs or improving their position.

We on the Merseyside area or should I say Liverpool have never cracked any plates for producing young players - Preston, Farnworth, Burnley Bolton etc., have always been way ahead of us. However, a few years ago Vernon Sangster, Bath St., English Electric, Kirby, Liverpool Y.M. all had coaching schemes and were introducing youngsters to the game. While Action and Rodney Youth, are more than welcome, with their influx of players - now the only flow lines seem to be Liverpool Jewish and Bootle Y.M.C.A.

Another point is that we have so few actual clubs with full T.T. facilities. The few clubs who have, don't seem to have the senior players interested in putting in the extra time to encourage youngsters.

In my own club we have seven days a week availability. A few years ago we had a minimum of five seniors putting in Sunday mornings and a couple of nights a week - now not a senior or junior in sight.

All the players Don Davies mentions and many others have had so much enjoyment playing the game from a physical and a competitive point of view, add sociability (in the main) and you have a great economical game. Sports Centres have done us no favours, opening up the availability of many other sports and putting us down the list.

Maybe the dedicated seniors are getting too old and the younger seniors are not quite so dedicated - I don't know - does anyone?.

The good news is that Bill Fawley of William Fawley Construction is sponsoring the Liverpool Closed Championship at Kirkby Stadium.

DIVISION ONE

KEN ARMSON

Although the division has now settled down there is still no clear leader and it is still anyone's title. Cadwa and Wav. Lab. have drawn slightly ahead of Elec. Supp. and Fernhill but both are still in striking distance. With all the top four dropping sets regularly nothing is settled. Elec. Supp. problem is fielding a regular team and this is reflected in several of their results. They also appear to have lost the services of Les Molyneux for reasons unknown. Fernhill need the regular services of Paul Hutchings if they are to make a sustained and positive challenge. The fortunes of all four have swayed and in their clashes luck has played its part. Against Cadwa, Fernhill arrived on the wrong night minus Paul Hutchings. They went back on the right night plus Paul and won 6-4. Paul winning his three. Against Wav. Lab., Fernhill were minus Paul and Lawrence and lost 9-1.

In their clash with Elec. Supp., the Labour club showed a failing of past seasons of struggling in the big matches and lost 7-3. They put this behind them with a string of 9-1's and 10.0's and got their nose in front. They were full of confidence when they met Cadwa for the second time with the knowledge that their first half encounter had ended in a draw. Once again past failings, allied to the lack of a really class player and a brilliant performance by the Cadwa team, brought them down to earth with a resounding crash. In what must surely rank as the team win of the season Cadwa battered their own 9-1 with Roy Smith saving the whitewash by narrowly defeating Neil Gravener. The real magnitude of this win was really made apparent in Cadwa's next match when they met Lab 'B' and were themselves brought to earth as they struggled to 6-4 victory. It should have been a Draw and could easily have been a 6-4 defeat.

This battle should continue to the end of the season and we could see a tight finish as a result of fluctuating results and fortunes. This has been made possible by the improving strength of team brought about by newcomers who have joined middle table teams. In addition to Andrew Eden, Eng. Elec., Paul Dilger, Bath St. we now have Stuart Richard joining Colonsay from the Midlands. As with the first two he has quickly made his mark.

In addition to having produced the team win of the season, Cadwa have also been involved in the player win of the season with Paul Kinsey's two straight defeat of Keith Williams heading the table. Keith has been in tremendous form after his season lay-off which makes Pauls' win all the more noteworthy. Not that such victories are new to Paul for he generally takes at least one notable scalp per season. He demonstrated this knack by also beating Rob Bevan. Another noteworthy win was that of Alan Noor (Y.M. 'A') who defeated Mike Mahoney, 16 in the 3rd. Alan struggled at the start of his debut in this division but has been showing steady improvement and the hint of a lot of ability to come.

This must be a tonic for Liv. Y.M. for the main talking point has to be the demise of Y.M. as a force in this div. they have stumbled from one disaster to another and are still below their 'A' team and, ridiculous as it may sound, are even possible relegation candidates. I am sure they won't be, but they easily could be. This seems to be affecting their players who are not producing the results they are capable of and they badly need a shot in the arm. Is Alan Noor to be that future shot? Back to good wins. Andrew Eden, who has been carrying all before him, was also involved in one when he came up against Mick Tierney. Mick, whose best years are behind him, gave Andrew, whose best years are still ahead

of him, a taste of the old Mick Tierney winning 16 in the 3rd. Andrew appeared to be distracted by concern for the welfare of his towel judging by the number of times he went to inspect it.

Unconcerned by these frequent interruptions to play Mick continued in casual style to record an outstanding win. Will we eventually see a young player with the will to win allied to an acceptable approach? All too often they have the will to win and have picked up many of the unacceptable habits of the, so called, stars. It may be that I could be considered old fashioned in believing that respect for one's opponent and playing as a team are just as important as winning. Win by all means, for that is the intention of anything competitive, but not at any cost.

The relegation issue is slightly clearer with Lab 'B' having pulled clear and looking safe. Justin Evans can take most of the credit for this. He is playing well and has a string of good wins to his credit. Bath St. are improving their results following the introduction of Paul Dilger, with Eng. Elec. 'A' - the dynamic trio - and Lab 'A' also doing what is necessary to keep clear of the relegation area. Y.M. 'A' are also just managing to keep ahead of their 1st. team but have a lot to do if they are to survive. Yet another big name in dire straits are E. Elec. At present next to bottom and not showing any realisation of their position means they are in real danger. With Andrew Eden not being available regularly and the poor form of George Lennon the pressure is on Graham Black to produce the results we know he is capable of. What a reversal of fortune from some years ago. Then we regularly saw Y.M. and E. Elec. competing against each other for the title. Now we see them at the other end of the division fighting for the right to stay up. They are also opposites, for whereas Y.M. are still having to rely on those players who have served them well for some years, E. Elec. have a young team with plenty of ability and promise.

The age factor is our League's greatest problem with few young players coming in, and even fewer making the grade. This means that players who have given their clubs many years of good service and should now be moving down the ranking list continue to find themselves being used as frontline troops. To their probable amazement they also find themselves doing well. An example of this is Wav. Lab. challenging for the title with a combined team age of 120 odd with Dave Roberts the youngest at 37. Hopefully the trickle of good newcomers will increase and will continue to be spread amongst clubs to ensure a continuing improvement in standards and competitiveness. No team should be able to say after a few matches that the title is theirs.

Shorter notes than usual, which should please all the other divisions. The Editor gave me a hint and being of a known generous, kind and co-operative disposition, I have taken this to heart. Most of my acquaintances - I have no friends - say I sometimes twist the truth. Finally, as I hinted, Wayne Percival is back. He has again signed for E. Supp. after being alleged to have said he would never play in this League again. Will E. Supp. throw him into the fight to strengthen their Cup and Title challenge, or has he registered for tournament purposes only? We can only wait and see.

DIVISION 2

I regret no notes have been received for this Division and in accordance with management instructions have had to omit your details.

Jack Lambert

DIVISION 3

COLIN PRATT

Fords' have decided to win this division and are trying to play their best team every week, their average 7.8 pts. could do it. In second place with 6.5 is Electric Supply 'A' when the two met, it was Fords who won 6-4. Close behind are Y.M.C.A. Wavertree Labour, Jewish and English Electric 'D' all averaging over 5 pts. per match. At the bottom it is starting to look ominous for Rodney Youth and Electric Supply 'B'

Val Franco, lost to John Letch in the 9-1 win over Bath St. As I have said before - if the style suits, John can beat anyone. When Fords beat Wavertree 9-1 Val beat top player Dave Southall by using Guile and a few special serves. A 9-1 win by Wavertree over Electric Supply 'B', Arthur Harrison had a remarkable win over Sandy Sanderson, Sandy led 20-10 in the 3rd, only for Arthur to fight back to win 22-20. M.Y.C.A. are a better team at home on their super fast table and their biggest defeats have been away on slower tables. They suffered the biggest "defeat" when they could'nt find the Cronton club and arrived late. The full Fords' team were present, but stating that the atmosphere was lost, Fords claim ed the game 10-0. Top player Dave Southall was not available for this game. A different approach by English Electric Captain Ro Craddock who delayed until 9.00 P.M. when Bath St. made an error over the match venue. The full 10 games were played, finishing towards midnight with Electric winning 6-4. Colin Owens (ex Warwick Bolam) playing better than ever and winning well against Julie Prince and Ro Craddock.

when 'C' played 'D'. Pete Holmes and Norman Challoner were the stars for the 'C' team winning two each in the 5-5 draw. The 'D' team won both doubles and have promised to win the return game!.

English Electric 'C' had a top class 9-1 win over Electric Supply 'A' with Richie Craggs back to top form with wins over Jennings and Alan Biggs. Richie is at his best against top class players. Maghull soon picked themselves up beating Jewish and Fords' both by 6

games to 4. Stuart Fay was the mainstay winning three singles and 2 doubles assisted by Chris Roberts who beat John McGhee and Dave Garbe both in 2 straight. George Frost almost did the impossible by taking Zerrick Woolfson to 17 in the third. George who was an all action hitter is now playing an all round game and used his tactics to beat Jack Wilson of Fords' 13 in the third. When Cadwa beat Wavertree 6-4, seven of the games went against the call. Everything went wrong from the moment Don backed himself to beat Mabel, he lost 18 and 14. The star was George Higham who is playing better than ever this year, he beat Peter Woods and Mike Ashton and combined with Rob Davies to beat Peter Jones and Peter Woods in the doubles. Perhaps we should award the eleventh point for the correct filling in of the match card, the worst cards are from Electric Supply, Jewish and Rodney Youth while the best are those filled in by Cadwa and Wavertree. From their cards I am informed of the games sequence and several of them playing details which may be of interest. Thank you Sandy, Mabel, Val and Don. When Y.M.C.A. beat Rodney Youth 7-3 it was Justin Quinn who was Rodney's star, he beat David Ng and John Lau both in three to add to Joey Williams great win over Kar Lee in a game dominated by forehand hitting. ~~The Rodney lads are all playing well but just lack the little extra which is needed~~

a very good time against Jewish in Bath St.'s 2-8 defeat, just losing to John Henshaw 20/22; 21/23; John is having a good season for Jewish. He loves to play against high-spin rubbers because the opponent usually causes his own downfall by applying spin which comes back at him reversed. English Electric 'D' beat Maghull 7-3 in a very competitive match. Julie Prince played well to beat Stuart Fay and one of her bogey players Chris Roberts. Chris beat captain Ro Craddock by twiddling very effectively but in partnership with Rod Bulmer just lost out in a cracking doubles game to Julie and Ro. The cup quarter-final between M.C.Y.A. and English Electric 'D' was quite a spectacle at the Pagoda. The Chinese players were very much at home in the conditions and took a 4-0 lead with some devastating penhold hitting. David Ng beat Colin Pratt 28-26 in the second and from 8-12 down in the third. Electric fought back with a terrific wins by Julie Prince over David Ng and Kar Lee, the rallies were breathtaking on the ultra fast table it was Julie's loop which proved the most reliable in the end. Julie chose to contain the Chinese hitting by blocking whereas

NOW for the sermon - the new service rule which states that the ball must be thrown upwards six inches and that the bat must stay above the table in full view. Lots of players are not conforming to this rule and as Brian Leeson stated in the last Digest - you are not playing table tennis. Have a look at your serves and if they are not legal, change them! Do not blame an umpire if in a crucial game, you are faulted for an incorrect serve it will be your fault, not his.

Finally a match with 9 games going to three, English Electric 'C' 5 Maghull 5. Stuart Fay winning 3 for Maghull and Brian Thomas winning 2 singles for Electric. This was a good result for Maghull who had reserves Will Gibson and Henry McGanity playing.

DIVISION 4

JOHN PILKINGTON

By now we are well into the second half of the season and I hope that you have all got rid of the excess weight you put on at Christmas.

Unfortunately I am still carrying my half stone I put on.

Our division is very tight at the top with no one breaking away from the pack. Bootle J.C. 'A' drew their very first match with Police 'A' and have won every league game since. They fell to Wav. Lab. 'D' in the cup.

There have been one or two occasions when they kept their record intact when the result went in their favour when it shouldn't have done. Lucky you might say. At this moment, Bootle J.C.'A' Plessey 'A', Police 'A' are currently in third spot with Waterloo and Wavertree Lab. 'D' are all title contenders, although they are not with the leaders at the moment keep an eye on English Electric 'E'. They hammered the Police 8-2, beat Plessey 'A' 6-4, went down 6-4 to Wavertree Lab. 'D'. Surprisingly lost 6-4 to Maghull 'A' and beat Bootle Y.M.C.A. 6-4 in their last match before Christmas. Bootle Y.M.C.A. look settled in mid-table also but have played two games more than E.E. although they look certain to be relegated, Maghull 'B' were ecstatic at having doubled their points tally when they beat Action Youth 6-4. and are 21 points behind Action. Brownmoor Park and Jewish 'B' should escape the drop with Maghull 'A'. I don't think we can boast anyone still having an unbeaten record amongst the players but no doubt somebody will prove me wrong.

Mark Jagger the Bootle J.C. 'A' number one lost his first game to Peter Wass Plessey 'A' and Peter lost his to Andy Armstrong of Waterloo. Whenever Peter Woods turns out for Wavertree Lab. 'D'. they seem to do well but he came down to earth against Len Dyson, Police 'A' in his last match before Christmas. Len Dyson is in good form this season so I'm told and so is Lawrence Rosenbloom Jewish 'B' Peter Lee Eng. Elec 'E' lost to Peter Wass back in October but won two close games against the Police, beating Tom Purcell 19 in the third and Len Dyson 22/20 in the deciding set. I thought Tom Killip, Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'A' would be hard to beat in this division but he has lost more than I expected so far. He went down to Mark Jagger, Bootle J.C. 'A', Peter Wass, Plessey 'A' and Tony Leary, Eng. Elec. 'E'.

There has been quite a number of close games Dave Graham, Bootle J.C.'A' beat Peter Wass Plessey 'A' 22/20; 19/21; 22/20; John Southworth Plessey 'A' beat Brian Marsh, Action Youth 18/21; 22/20; 22/20; Wilf Gibson Maghull 'A' beat Tom Purcell Police 'A' 15/21; 21/19; 23/21; Kathy Hadyn L'pool Jewish 'B' beat Bill Stanley, Wavertree Lab. 'D' 22/20; 22/20; Les Higham, Bootle Y.M.C.A 'A' beat Phil Marcroft Eng. Elec. 'E' 21/17; 19/21; 22/20; and Tony Leary Eng. Elec. 'E' beat Roly Wright 22/20 in the third in the same match. Peter Ellison Maghull 'B' beat Kevin Cailes, Action Youth 15/21; 21/19; 23/21; and in the same match Harry McGamity, Maghull beat Carl Anderson 21/23; 21/16; 21/19; - Wilf Gib-

son Maghull 'A' beat Peter Lee Eng. Elec. 'E' 25/23; 23/21: and Bill Salter beat Tony Leary 22/20 in the third in the same match. Peter Lee also had a ball against Police 'A'. He beat Tom Purcell 19 in the third and Len Dyson 25/23; 17/21; 22/20. After losing the first set 8-21 Andy Armstrong, Waterloo came back to take the next two against Peter Wass 22/20; 21/19; In the same match Mike Nelson beat Paul Morgan 22/20 in the third.

Harry McGamity playing at four for Maghull 'A' beat Stan Harvey, Plessey 'A' 21/19; 17/21; 22/20 and in the same match Bill Salter beat John Southworth 21/19; 22/20. Alan Wood Police 'A' beat Stan Harvey 24/22; in the third but he went down 19/21; 21/17; 20/22 to Mike Nelson, Waterloo. In the same match Len Dyson scraped home 21/19; in the third against Andy Armstrong. N. Ryan Bootle Y.M.'A' beat Dave Cohen, Jewish 'B' 16/21; 21/18; 23/21; but went down to Mike Poole 23/25; in the second in the same match and Kathy Hadyn, Jewish 'B' dropped the first set 16 to Andy Rowland, Brownmoor Park then took the second 26/24 and the decider 21/19. I managed to beat Wilf Gibson Maghull 'A' 22/20 in the third with the help of a few nets and edges and there was a good win for Carl MacCauley Action Youth. He beat Mike Poole, Jewish 'B' 18/21; 21/18; 21/19: but he was on the receiving end against Phil Marcroft Eng. Elec. 'E' going down 19/21 in the third.

Harry Sanderson Wavertree Lab. 'D' started well in both his games against Police 'A'. He took the first set against Alan Wood 22/20, but dropped the next two 10 and 19. Against Len Dyson he took the first 23/21 but then went down 12 and 10. The doubles have been no exception for close games either. Pride of place goes to John Hodges and Lawrence Rosenbloom of Jewish 'B'. After losing the first set 18/21 to Brian Marsh and Carl MacCauley Action Youth, they won a marathon second 29/27 and finally took the third 21/19. Not far behind was Mike Nelson and Alan Reid's win for Waterloo against John Southworth and Stan Harvey of Plessey 'A'. Stan and John took the first 25-23 but then went down 19 and 18. Brian Thomas and Phil Marcroft Eng. Elec. 'E' beat Alan Wood and George Wright Police 'A' 22/20; 19/21; 21/19; Andy Armstrong and Ken Nelson, Waterloo beat Wilf Gibson and Bill Salter Maghull 'A', 22/20; 13/21; 22/20:

Les Higham, Bootle Y.M. 'A' was involved in three close games partnered by Roly Wright beat John Hodges and Lawrence Rosenbloom 22/20; 20/22; 21/14: He then partnered Danny Every and beat Harry McGavity and K. Whittaker 13/21; 21/19; 22/20 Les and Danny could not pull it off against Andy Rowland and John Forrest, Brownmoor Park. Although they took the second 22/20 they then went down 14 in the third.

Just a few quickies. John Hodges and Kathy Hadyn Jewish 'B' beat Dave Berry and Wilf Gibson, Maghull 'A' 23/21 in the third. Peter Lee and Tony Leary Eng. Elec. beat Tony Dixon and Alan Finnan, Action Youth 23/21 in the second. Also 23/21 in the second was Brian Thomas and Phil Marcroft's win against Brian Marsh and Carl MacCauley in the same match and finally John Hodges and Kathy Hadyn Jewish 'B' beat John Ashley and Arthur Birch, Wavertree Lab. 'D' 24/22 in the second.

Well I hope you are not bored with all these statistics, perhaps it will bring back a few memories when there is nothing to watch on telly.

DIVISION 5

BARRY MEYER

I give up! How can anyone make sense of some of the results to date:- Plessey 6 Cadwa 4; Plessey 4 Police 6; Cadwa 7 Police 3; Or - Aigburth 'A' 0 Plessey 10; Aigburth 'A' 7 Police 3; Police 6 Bootle Y.M. 4; Bootle Y.M. 9 Aigburth 'A' 1.

The outcome of these plus the more predictable closer matches leaves us with the most exciting championship chase for years between - latest average sets per match in Brackets - Cadwa C (7-2) Bath St. D (7-3) Plessey 'B' (6-3) and Bootle Y.M. (6-5). Bath St. I may also be in the list but I have so few of their cards - including only one at home - that I am wondering if they are still playing. Last issue I tipped Les Griffin to be our top player but he has since won about as many as I have so as my team are due to play Wav. Lab. and Bath St. 'C' shortly I'll now put the kiss of death on Joan Connor and Peter Mercer by making them my tips for the top. There have been some late finishes to matches recently with several having six three - setters and two matches with seven of them Cadwa's match v Bath St 'C' was typical by Brian Cunningham's defeat of Ian Fletcher 21/16; 16/21; 22/20: whilst in the Bootle Y.M. v Bath St. 'D' match Reg Edwards beat Mike Corcoran 22/20 in the third and Reg and Viv Smallwood beat Mike and John Simm 16/21; 21/17; 22/20. However in the same match Eugene Berger beat John in the third of course 21/5. Other close individual games recently Eric Wood (Aig.) vs Dave Foulis (Vags) 21/19; 22/24; 19/21; Charlie Gallantry (Aig) vs Tony Moon (Cadwa) 12/21; 21/19; 21/19: Peter Highton (E.S.) vs John O'Sullivan (Colonsay) 19/21; 22/20; 18/21:

Tony Connor (W.L.) beat Peter Knight Aigburth 'A' 21/19; 18/21; 21/20: and in the same match lost to B.Meyer 24/22; 17/21; 19/21. Jim Lightburn (Aig) lost to Viv Smallwood (B.SC) 25/27; 22/20; 18/21: Eugene Berger overcame Bobby Bell (Plessey) 23/21; in the third Peter Knight and Alan Crist did the same to Richie Winkle and Chris Foley respectively in the Aigburth 'A' vs Police match.

Also in the third John Grattan (Vags) lost 24/22 to Ken Davies (Bootle) Jerry Richardson (Plessey) beat Ken Roberts (Vags) 24/22 John Grattan beat Eddie Cameron (E.S.) also 24/22 and Brian Pickett (Univ.) defeated Tony Connor (Wav. Lab.) 23/21. But the golden pep pill award for this issue goes to Frank Sorrentino (W.L.) for four sets. Against Colonsay he lost 20/22; 23/21; 20/22; to Gary Thornton Allen and in the match at Plesseys he overcame Jerry Richardson 18/21; 21/19; 25/23; then lost to Bob Bell 16/21; 21/5; 20/22; and paired with Mike Ashton in the doubles, defeated Bob and Ted Green 19/21; 21/13; 26/24:

Not many face-savers recently with all the close matches mentioned but pride of place goes to Bill Holmes (Aig.) For both his sides sets against Vagabonds, beating the two Kens' - Ray and Roberts. Not to be outdone Harry Holmes saved the whitewash at Bath St. 'D' beating Viv Smallwood 21/13; 16/21; 21/19. Alan Hunter (Colonsay) had an excellent win over Jerry Richardson 19 in the third and Brian Pickett has 'done it' twice by beating Eddie Cameron and a certain Barry Someone from Aigburth.

It's nice to see University enjoying their games so much, although they are on a hiding to nothing most weeks. The one blot on their record was an excellent 5-5 against Aigburth; 1st. Although they have had to rely on Stan Clarke for most of their sets, I am expecting to see an improvement from Colonsay Youngsters as the season progresses, with the likes of John O'Sullivan and Paula French to help Stan with their coaching.

One old chestnut and my pet hate was brought to mind last week whilst watching the English Closed on television; FOUL SERVICES. The new rule has brought even more players into the category of 'not quite correct' - very few players in our division (myself included on occasions) throw the ball up six inches but after watching the English Closed final I just despair of the service rule ever being upheld as both players were foul serving; i.e., whilst the viewer could see the serves were correct, at one end of the table, both players were serving with their backs to the umpire (sides on to the table) which meant unless the umpire had X-Ray vision it was impossible for HIM to see that the services were being executed correctly. But were they called for it - were they heck!.

DIVISION 6

JACK LAMBERT

A great battle going on at the top with at least three teams involved - Jewish 'C' Cadwa 'D' and Rodney Youth 'A' involved with Action 'A' and Jewish 'D' ready to step in if there are any slips. If only it was always like this, As so often you can pick out the champs after a couple of games.

When our potential champs meet you get the results you expect Jewish 'C' 5 (Jerry O'Keefe 2) Cadwa 'D' 5 (Pauline Lawrenson 3) Rodney Youth 6 Paul Keating and Kevin Barton doubles Jewish 'C' 4 (Ian Andrews 3) Action 'A' 5 (Kevin Hughes 2) Cadwa 'D' 5 another Pauline treble.

I should imagine a bit of a 'Derby' touch with Action 'A' 5, Rodney Youth 'A' 5, Paul Keating does it again with another double. With the Howard Bennett doubles partnership clinching the draw beating Keating and Barton 20 & 18. A good mid table draw was Bath St. 'E' (Eugene Berger 3) and Bootle Y.M. 'C' with a double from Mike Hughes and a treble from Peter Shackleton. A good result for the Bath St. boys was a five all draw against Cadwa, mind you they had a fair old team out Brian Cunningham winning two at number four and Eugene two although he and Wayne Gould lost 22 in the third to Pauline and Gloria Burns.

University 'A' are catching up their games nicely a double from William Poon gave them a very creditable draw against Jewish 'C' (Richie Blackburn 2). This was followed by a good win at Bootle Y.M. (Mike Hughes 2) with a double from Gavtum Mitra. The Bath St. boys did it again against a top side going to Rodney Youth and getting a draw Ron Georgeson and Willy Lunt were the respective heroes for their side. A hard fought win for the Rodney Youth side against Jewish 'D' they won 7-3, Keating and Ian Steel won their three with nine games going to three Julian Dutch losing in the third 18 and 12 (after losing the second 23-21 to Ian) and 17 - a hard days' night!. Mike Hughes stopped the rot for

Bootle Y.M. against Jewish 'D' (Russell Thornton and Ken Miller trebles) by winning his sides two.

What about our gallant strugglers - Electric Supply 'D' and Jewish 'E' with a couple of walk-overs given away. Supply are living dangerously. Which is a pity as Les French who won his first game against Rodney Youth - as did his brother Maurice - is making a remarkable return to table tennis after a long period on the sick list - great to have one of our most dedicated enthusiasts back in the fold. Jewish 'E' who go from defeat to defeat I hope will survive and learn and improve from their defeats.

Keep going Norman Simmons, Steve Lapin, Charles Lander and Kevin Bracey. Roy Lussey Electric Supply won his sides only four games against Jewish 'D' and Action 'A'.

Other loners Mike Hughes 2 (Bootle Y.M.) against Jewish 'D' Russel Thornton (Jewish 'D' against Jewish 'C'. Stephen Waring (University) against Jewish 'D', Steve also against Rodney 'A'.

Apart from the Cinderellas at the bottom of the division - a good division with some interesting and exciting results and some 57 variety teams!. So no forecasts - who said I was chicken?.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

47 Fallowfield Rd

Sir,

This is my first year as a competitor in the Liverpool Table Tennis League. Until a very distressing incident during a cup match, a few weeks ago, it had so far, been very enjoyable and the keenness of competition had in no way been marred by unpalatable incidents. I sincerely hope that the matter mentioned above, which must necessarily remain "under wraps", being, as it were, "subjudice" will be speedily dealt with by the League Authorities, before the next meeting of the teams involved.

Now to a subject which affects a wider group of participants. I refer to the SERVICE. There have been many weird and wonderful varieties of service in the past and, from time to time the service rule is changed, either to ban, or to facilitate. I began playing when finger spin was all the rage, and it was not uncommon to find a service which would, on going over the net, return to the servers side without being hit. It was banned, and a good thing too. Amongst the services that have been ruled as legal, from time to time were, the ball must be thrown up clear of the hand; The ball must be thrown up perpendicular; The hand holding the ball must be absolutely flat when the ball is thrown up; The hand may be taken away from beneath the ball; and the latest, which is that the ball must be thrown up to reach a perpendicular distance from the serving hand of at least 16 centimetres.

I suggest that the only principle behind all these changes is the requirement that the ball must be put into play in the fairest possible way and that any spin must be applied to a "rotor" ball by the bat only. This also implies that the complete service must be visible in

it's entirety to the umpire, and, I would suggest, (in the interest of fair play) to the opponent also. To ensure the ball is put into play fairly, service over the table is illegal as is service beginning below the table level. The implications are obvious.

Recently I participated in a match where a player had what I consider a most unfair service. The description as follows: The ball was thrown up into the lights and whilst it was coming down, the player stepped forward, allowing his serving hand to hang in front of the path of the ball. He then struck the ball, which, by this time, was somewhere in the region of his rear hip thus, as he was turned almost completely sideways, made the umpire unsighted for one game, unless he changed sides each game. (He didn't) Because of the hanging serving arm, the ball was not visible to the opponent until it came out from behind that shield, fractionally before hitting the table. Neither the angle of bounce, nor the direction of the service could be seen without a fatal delay. A very good service, and one which many games could be won. But is it fair? Is it legal? Should it be legal? Does it aid the game? Does it make for a more competitive spirit, or add to an enjoyable evenings sport? I was informed that it had the approval of the World's No.1 player as were the rest of the team, but afterwards, on thinking about it, detected an ambiguity in the explanation.

I think that the League Association should rule on service in a definite way, emphasising intent, and asking all competitors to enforce the rule fully. It can only add to the quality content.

To our No.1 umpire Brian Leeson have you any further comments to make on this and other items on the service rule

Yours sincerely

ZERRICK WOOLFSON

Dear Sir

In reply to your correspondent Ken Armson the name has a familiar ring, perhaps I have come across him at Goodison Park.

Lets be fair he thinks I should'nt wear two hats - I could have worn three - my opinions as Editor representing opinions of all Division one, the Maghull and Kirkby clubs and many others, as secretary representing the opinions and disgust of my club and as an individual player. So I could have written three identical letters, but I feel many may have objected including the "Hon. Ed".

Your letter will not be taken as an official Management Quote - but I can assure you that Management MEMBERS thought something should have been done.

Where I disagree with you - you ask protecting the majority from the minority? I have already quoted a number who were against it. I add to those the fact that not one person I spoke to outside the management was happy with the situation. I also differ on the interpretation of rules (not laws). Some people apply them to the dot and T. You are for applying the majority rule over the minority. I believe that certain rules are for guidance and the benefit of members. I don't think anyone would expect a factual rule written to cover

- Four blokes (or nine including Kirkby) have been chucked out of their club through no fault of their own and had nowhere to play etc. I would have thought that Rule 30 would have been invoked and my proposals which were echoed by the players and clubs concerned and all first division players spoken to and many many others.

We agree on one point however, if people felt so strongly about it why not a few letters to OUR magazine.

Jack Lambert -

As a Table Tennis enthusiast.

TABLE EDGES

The actual amount of the Leeds Permanent Building Society Sponsorship is £500,000.

The Leeds will award special incentive money prizes to the best English performances for the Leeds English Open at Brighton. At Crawley on February 27 and 28th. Prize money is to be doubled to £5000 at the Leeds National Championships.

Northerners may note that both championships are held as far south as possible. Table Tennis had a North - South divide before certain other people ever thought of it!

Welcome back to City play - firstly Keith Williams - who kept his promise of a season off - and in his first city game on his return won his two singles and his doubles - and that was the start of his sixteenth season representing Liverpool.

Peter Taylor (L'Pool Y.M.) also returned to Inter-City games. Last game was against Preston in 1971 when he replaced Tony Clayton (Eng. Elec.) who was on his way to Tokyo for the World Championships: Wally Allanson Pete D'Arcy (Both Eng. Elec.) were the other two Liverpool Players.

Donald Parker was in the Preston side, he is now England Coach and Manager.

The third player to return to Inter-City play and the League is Kathy Haydn (nee Baxendale) of Liverpool Jewish originally of Colonsay. Her last City game was in 1971 with Val Blore and Jean McKenzie (Now Jennings - wife of Brian and mum of Gary).

Mal McEvoy (Elec. Supply) although back playing is still not 100% fit after his recent car accident.

Bill Leeming (Aigburth) is missed on the Management Committee but more so by his Aigburth team mates who are having difficulty in finding anyone of "96" who plays so well. He has had a spell in hospital but is recovering nicely!

This should have been my number one item in large capitals. Welcome back Les Franch now playing at Electric Supply with his brother. More than glad to see you back Les. I quote "It will be some years before I play again - if ever."

George Smith (L'Pool Y.M.) won the Butlins' Holiday Camp Championships and £300 not bad - probably more than if he had won half a dozen open championships.

Reg. Edwards is the Bath St. secretary, Alec Gould is the match secretary. Alec now lives at 2 Hyde Road not 7: 'E' Team M/N Monday.

The Ladies Team Paula French, Brenda and Julie (Brenda's forehand and Julie's backhand would beat the world) had an excellent win over Stockport.

The Closed Championships sponsored by William Fawley will take place at the Kirkby Sports Centre on Sunday April 10th. The Finals night will be held at the Police Club, Fairfield on Tuesday April 12th.

An interesting innovation is a mini league of three or four players for round one of the Mens Singles ONLY with the winners going into round two.

Alterations to rules and nominations for the management committee must be in the Secretary's hands by the 1st of May.

100 CLUB

NOVEMBER - Drawn by Brenda Buocy at Wavertree Labour

1st. H.Graham (Bootle J.C.)	£25
2nd. Mrs. J. Cameron.	£12
3rd. Alex Gould	£10

DECEMBER - Drawn by Arthur Upton at Crawfords.

This was a special Xmas draw:-

1st. Fred Pheysey	£25
2nd. M'Side Police Club	£25
3rd. Mrs. V.McCaig	£15
4th. Alan Smethurst	£12
5th. Ted Birch	£10

Don't forget we are still looking for members - only £1 per month - and at the end of the season there will be five special prizes of £10 each for those who have not won during the year.

FRANK MURPHY

It is with regret that I have to report the passing of Frank Murphy in a tragic car accident. Amongst a crowded congregation was a strong table tennis contingent headed by Chairman Arthur Upton, Vice Chairman Jack McCaig and Vice Presidents' Eddie and Peter Rumjahn. The clubs he played for Rafter's, Beauclair, Maghull and English Electric were represented with many other clubs.

Frank, Alan and Ted were due to represent Liverpool as a unique trio, as friends and fellow club members the following night - but shatteringly it was not to be.

Many of us could write a book on the great character Frank Murphy, sufficient to say at the moment that we have lost a tenacious player, playing at his best - and to many of us a friend.

Marie and Suzanne have lost a lot more and to them we offer our deepest sympathy.

THE GHOSTS

Where have all the players gone? It's a question which requires looking at. There are now fewer than 400 players registered with the league and only 75 teams. Just look at this season 1st. Division and you will notice missing the current Liverpool Champion Wayne Percival plus Bernie Wentworth, Andrew Taylor, Alex Sill and that's only a start. Go back a little further and the drop out rate is even more remarkable. Trevor Manning, another former champion together with Mark and Neil Royden, Ian Smith, Steve Green, Phil Thomson, Martin Tate, George Watson, Paul Ashcroft, Mike Mercer, Graham Parr, Rod McPherson plus John Rankin albeit to division two. Even from that division you find missing Brian Davey, Alec Bryce, Dominic Tai, Sue Manning, Ray Tagg, Kevin Parker and four of my former team mates, Dave Ferguson, Ronnie Rumjahn, Duncan Sayle and Bill Crafter all for one reason or another not playing in the Liverpool League.

Many players from division three have also departed including Mark Pearson Allan Kelly, Tommy Lynch, Alan Nisted, Mark Reed, John Cowley, Mark Paterson, Bill Truman, Tony Kendall, Roger Bennion, Mike Griffiths, Peter Brownlee, Neil Hodson, Eric Ferguson, Derek Goodwin, Colin Fyles, Peter David. If one goes back to the turn of the 70's just look at the quality players missing from the game. My all time Number 1 Tony Clayton leads the list, show me a better player or nicer man to have played in the league, while also from English Electric. Another favourite Wally Allanson, five times a Men's Singles Closed Finalist winning in 1963 and 1973 and team mates Gordon Birch winner in 1967 and 1968 plus Peter D'Arcy three times a finalist and winner in 1969. What a line-up of talent, I bet the Editor is drooling just thinking about them. Another great singles champion Arthur Taylor gave up when still a fine player as did John McNea the former Scottish No:2. His team mate John Marshall I consider the best player over the past 20 years not to have won the 'closed' along with Tony O'Connor, John O'Sullivan's best yet. The list goes on, 1976 Champion Paul Tsang, Clive Strettle, John Fennah - both finalists and the 1978 champ. Mark Thomas who swept the board that year, also taking the Juniors and Mens' Doubles with fellow Welshman Greg Powell.

Of course we do have a lot of stalwarts from the 1960's Liverpool teams still playing in the league. Those which instantly come to mind include George and Roy Smith, Ted Manadaluff, Dave Butterworth all Mens' Singles finalists plus Peter Taylor, Brian Crolley, Eddie Clein, Fred Pheysey, Dave Crispin, Trevor Owens, Ray Lavin and Ian Burrows and while from the Ladies teams come Mabel Neary, Pauline Lawrenson and Margaret Collins. Of the 1970's survivors Keith Williams has the best pedigree with four Mens' titles to his credit. Also from that era, Brenda (Williams) Buoeu once ranked No:3 junior in England, Barbara Kirkman, Julie Prince, Paula French, Peter Lee and Graeme Black, all fine players and all most reliable. What about this bunch of over 60's of Bill and Harry Holmes, Bill Leeming, Jim Lightburn, our Editor who puts in an occasional appearance for Eng.Elec. Alex Gould has been around since the late 30's while Stan Harvey, Bill Spencer and Bill Clayton have put in a fair number of seasons' play.

A long serving player is fixture secretary Eddie Cameron joined the league in 1937 spending many years with Victoria Park. John McKim, Dave Cohen, Sill, Craddock, Woods and Meyer have been around a long time, but the team which intrigues me most is Linacre. Maybe it's because they remind me of my last club Rafters. Their unique squad of players takes some beating for reliability and longevity. Regulars Jack Davidson, Frank Lacey, Ken Ainsworth and new boy Mal Cray are supported by Harry Reeve when home, Alec Davidson, plus Alan Horwood and Norman Appleby who sign on as reserves, I think this is their 40th. season, congratulations lads.

1966 Men's Singles semi-finalists Val Franco and Tom Killip are still going strongly as is Bobby Owen a good match player and still a fine coach. I'm sure I have missed many good players but if you wish to add to the list drop a line to the Editor. But don't forget we must stop this player drain or the sport will just fold up in a few years so be warned it's your game so don't let it go.

DON DAVIES

DIVISION 1	P	W	L	D	PTS	DIVISION 3	P	W	L	D	PTS
WAVERTREE LABOUR	17	12	3	2	123	BOOTLE J.C.'A'	15	14	-	1	110
CADWA	16	13	1	2	120	POLICE 'A'	17	11	4	2	107
ELECTRIC SUPPLY	17	11	2	4	111	PLESSEY 'A'	15	11	3	1	102
COLONSAY	19	10	5	2	107	WATERLOO	16	7	4	5	92
FERNHILL S.C.	16	11	3	2	101	WAVERTREE LAB'D'	16	10	5	1	91
BATH STREET	17	7	9	1	75	BOOTLE YMCA 'A'	17	4	11	2	77
WAVERTREE LAB'A'	16	6	7	3	75	ENGLISH ELEC.'E'	13	8	4	1	75
WAVERTREE LAB'B'	17	3	7	7	72	MAGHULL 'A'	15	7	7	1	71
ENGLISH ELECTRIC	17	5	10	2	70	BROWNMOOR PARK	16	5	7	4	69
LIVERPOOL YMCA	18	4	10	4	68	L'POOL JEWISH'B'	16	3	10	3	63
L'POOL YMCA 'A'	17	3	11	3	62	ACTION YOUTH	16	1	12	3	61
ENGLISH ELEC.'A'	16	3	10	3	56	MAGHULL 'B'	18	2	16	-	32
BOOTLE YMCA	16	2	13	1	52						

DIVISION 2

POLICE	17	14	-	3	133
COLONSAY 'A'	18	12	4	2	117
CADWA 'A'	18	12	4	2	110
PLESSEY	17	10	6	1	106
ENGLISH ELEC.'B'	19	10	6	3	104
FERNHILL S.C.'A'	15	9	5	1	85
FORDS	17	8	9	-	83
BATH STREET 'A'	15	7	6	2	76
BOOTLE J.C.	17	5	12	-	68
LIVERPOOL JEWISH	14	7	5	2	63
L'POOL YMCA 'B'	18	2	14	2	51
VAGABONDS	19	1	17	1	51
COLONSAY 'B'	15	3	12	-	48

DIVISION 3

FORDS 'A'	18	16	2	-	133
ELEC. SUPPLY 'A'	18	14	3	1	121
MCYA	17	13	3	1	104
WAVERTREE LAB'C'	16	9	5	2	96
MAGHULL	18	7	6	5	87
ENGLISH ELEC.'C'	17	7	7	3	86
ENGLISH ELEC.'D'	15	7	5	3	77
LINACRE	17	4	9	4	77
BATH STREET 'B'	18	6	10	2	77
L'POOL JEWISH 'A'	17	8	9	-	75
CADWA 'B'	17	4	11	2	72
ELEC. SUPPLY 'B'	14	2	11	1	44

DIVISION 5

CADWA 'C'	16	12	4	-	107
BOOTLE YMCA 'B'	16	9	4	3	103
WAVERTREE LAB'E'	19	10	8	1	100
PLESSEY 'B'	15	10	3	2	99
BATH STREET 'D'	14	12	2	-	96
VAGABONDS 'A'	16	8	6	2	86
BATH STREET 'C'	14	10	4	-	83
AIGBURTH	17	6	8	3	83
POLICE 'B'	16	7	7	2	81
AIGBURTH 'A'	19	4	12	3	68
COLONSAY 'C'	15	3	11	1	45
ELEC. SUPPLY 'C'	14	1	13	-	38
UNIVERSITY	13	1	11	1	32

DIVISION 6

L'POOL JEWISH C	11	7	2	2	77
ACTION 'A'	11	6	2	3	67
RODNEY YOUTH 'A'	10	7	1	2	65
CADWA 'D'	10	6	1	3	64
L'POOL JEWISH D	10	6	3	1	59
BATH STREET 'E'	11	3	5	3	49
BOOTLE YMCA 'C'	12	1	8	3	48
UNIVERSITY 'A'	10	1	7	2	33
L'POOL JEWISH E	8	-	8	-	10

NOTE: ELECTRICAL SUPPLY 'D' RECORD RODNEY

NOTE: ALL MATCHES UP TO AND INCLUDING WEEK 13 MUST BE PLAYED BY FRIDAY 25 TH. MARCH. ALL OTHERS BY FRIDAY 1ST APRIL 1988. FAILURE WILL RESULT IN 0-10 WALK OVERS TO AWAY TEAMS.