



Table Tennis **DIGEST**

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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EDITORIAL

What a superb end to the season. Bill Fawley started it all off by sponsoring the Closed Champions. Seeing Bill and his wife presenting the trophies put the icing on the cake.

Congratulations to the Liverpool Men's First Team for winning the Lancashire and Cheshire Division 1. Paul Hutching, Keith Williams and Laurence Kenwright in great form. Not to be outdone along came the 'A' team and won their division thanks to Dave Roberts, Peter Lee and Chris Ford, another great performance.

Another triumph for Brian Leeson and the committee - the mini league for round one the Men's and Ladies Singles - an outstanding success - despite the slight hiccup of the Ladies. The second year of the finals night at the Police Club was another highlight. It was a pity the finals didn't reach the heights considering the large crowd present, but there were good solid performances.

The cup finals had to be seen to be believed, at every level the games reached the heights of performance and tension, a five all (plus a no comment), a five all and 6-4 a 6-3 a 6-4 and a 5-2. Not an early night in sight. I am going to be unfair and single out the Read-man Cup Final as a classic in its own right, if you weren't there you missed a gem.

None of these events JUST HAPPEN, behind each one work and planning takes place. Don Davies, Brian Leeson and Sylvia Graham are the brain boxes but only with the support of Arthur Upton, John McKim and the committee just have a look in your handbook and note the names. Let us hope that the good things continue. Whilst appreciating the Cup Winners we must acknowledge and congratulate the league champions who have to keep the impetus going all season Wavertree Labour, the Police, Fords 'A', Bootle Job Centre 'A', Plessey 'B' and Jewish 'C'.

A tremendous season with a tight finish, hotly contested cup matches and new players strengthening teams sadly saw untimely death of Frank Murphy. A grand character who will be missed by us all and by table tennis in particular. His attitude and approach was perfectly summed up by Jack Lambert in his obituary notice in referring to him as a tenacious player.

The final week saw the championship and Cup settled in two tense matches and brought a memorable season to a close. The Cup Final was a tense thrilling match with some great sets and rallies, and played in a competitive and sportsmanlike manner. The odds were always in Fernhill's favour but Cadwa played their hearts out keeping themselves in with a chance almost to the end, and Fernhill at full stretch. But effort, no matter how great, was no match for the superior skill and strength of the Fernhill team. It is safe to say that had this line-up been available to them throughout the season then the championship would also have gone to them. Lawrence goes on improving and Andy Wright has shown tremendous improvement in his game, and with Paul with them they would have proved an unbeatable combination. To his great credit Paul tried to ensure that he played an equal number of matches against the front runners.

Lawrence almost made it a dream season for him by winning the Singles title. Had he done so it would have ranked alongside Paul's win in the popularity stakes. I understand Fernhill may have to move premises for next season and could create a new record by winning this Cup three times, each time under a different name. Like they say, what's in a name. Congratulations to Fernhill, and commiserations to Cadwa whose great effort deserved a better fate and against any other team would have seen them home as winners.

For Cadwa it was to be a week of disappointment, for having fought a draw in their final match v Electric Supply, who had strengthened their team by including out of favour Les Molyneux. This left Wavertree Labour needing 9 sets in their final match v Y.M. 'A'. Nothing less would have done for had it gone to a play-off Cadwa would have been hot favourites. Looking back to see where it all went wrong for Cadwa we need look no further than their own administration. They appeared to have at least three secretaries whose forte appeared to be indulging in attempting to achieve success by making suicidal decisions. Against Labour 'A' they made a decision to replay a fixture without their full team and dropped 5 sets. They decided to play Fernhill when Keith was playing for Liverpool as were Lawrence and Paul, Cadwa held the view that all the advantages lay with them and went ahead with the match. Such ideas are best left to writers of fairy stories, as they soon found out. Rumour had it that no-one wanted to shoulder the burden of replacing Keith and it was left to Rob Davies to fill in, Fernhill had Andy Wright, Keith Miller and Frank Brady. For Frank, in his one and only 1st division match this season it was a night to remember - not that Cadwa will forget it - for he won his three sets. With two from Andy and one from Keith, the hoped for easy victory became a 6-4 defeat. Without doubt the performance of the season from Frank, who can also reflect on the fact that he may also have had a hand in the resting place of the championship. I hear rumours of 'bottles' going wholesale in the match. Cadwa's other glaring mistake was in allowing Electric Supply to pick and choose a replay date with the match eventually being played on a Sunday afternoon.

Congratulations on the title go to Wavertree Labour who came from behind as the least fancied of the possibles, a role they proved was fully justified by losing to ail the other

contenders. They won this title by sheer graft and showed themselves capable of producing good results under great pressure. Having lost to the others they had to win the winnable ones by big margins, and this they did. They were virtually down and out after Cadwa destroyed them 9-1 and this was followed by defeats at the hands of Fernhill and Electric Supply. To their great credit they battled on and their persistence paid off. They showed their class in their final two matches when under great pressure they beat Electric 'A' 10-0 and under even greater pressure they beat Y.M. 'A' 9-1. The loss of an early set in the Y.M. 'A' match increased the pressure. It was this pressure which lost them the set, when Dave Roberts completely lost his 'bottle'. His opponent, Harry Johnston, just plodded on to victory. This has been the closest finish under this scoring system but with the improving strength of several teams we may soon see a play-off for a 1st division title.

Electric Supply nosed into 3rd place convinced that they were always in with a chance of the title. As with Cadwa they discovered that reality is far removed from fiction and their undoing must be related to their decision not to give Les Molyneux a regular 1st team place and then not to use him even as a reserve. Had they done so, and used Ian Campbell to cover the enforced absences of Rob Bevan, they could have pulled it off. The saying of 'too many cooks' is as true today as when it was first coined, and for me it has to be applied to Cadwa and Electric Supply. Rumour had it that Les may be moving on and it is certain that the Head Cook will bring him a strong placement.

Colonsay just made it into 4th place, a position which was made possible by the infusion of Stuart Richards. His arrival took a lot of the weight off Chris Ford. They lost ground due to the use of too many reserves, but if they can strengthen the No.3. position then they will be in the running next season. Fernhill followed them home and considering their team problems they did really well. Bath Street maintained their unproved form which I predicted the arrival of Paul Dilger would bring. He only played in just over 50% of their matches, but won 25% of their total sets. The question that has to be asked is why, knowing his standard, did they use him twice in the 2nd division was it just coincidence that one of these happened to be a cup-tie?

Surprisingly, Labour 'B' improved their position with a late run and managed a very creditable 7th place. In doing so they proved my forecast of possible relegation wrong. This was mainly due to the regular form of Justin Evans and the unproved results of Paul Griffiths in the 2nd half. Weak at No.3. their problems are only deferred for I see relegation being their constant companion next season. For Liverpool Y.M. it was a season they will want to forget for it was their worst season for more years than they will want to remember. Peter Lee assures me they will be back as a major force soon and we can only hope he will be right. The role of just being another team is one they won't enjoy. A good result which was overlooked came from Peter Taylor who was the first to defeat Keith Williams this season and he did so in two straight. The fact that Keith normally has no troubles against defensive players made his victory all the more noteworthy. It must be galling to be a top player for the only time you are really news is when you lose. Did you know that for many years I was a regular first team player for Wavertree Labour, and was a member of their first cup final team. We lost. I am also the only survivor of the original players. Don't suppose you are remotely interested, just thought I would mention it.

Labour 'A' and English Electric finished just one of the relegation zone with Electric owing much of this to Andrew Eden. Without him they might have gone down. Graham Black never really produced the results he is capable of seeming to put enjoyment before

results. Weak at No3. as with Labour 'E' and Colonsay, George Lennon having a terrible season. Labour 'A's only claim to fame has been a couple of outstanding personal wins and toe in their 1st teams' success when they stole a draw with Cadwa. Both these teams could be even lower next season unless they get then¹ act together.

Predictably, Bootle Y.M. finished last and go down with unexpected company in Electric 'A'. A sad finish to a sad season for them and we may not see them back in this company again. Time has taken its toll of both teams and they needed improved strength to survive. Bootle Y.M. relied to heavily on Mike Keane for sets and their relegation was inevitable. Theirs is not an unfamiliar problem, being present throughout the league. You need look no further than Wavertree Labour for proof of this for they have two vets and one near vet. We badly need to see more young players making the grade in this League as most of the good and promising players come to us from other leagues. We have had new players this season hi Stuart, Andrew and Paul and having joined other than the top teams they have led to a considerable improvement in the spread of strength which can only be good for it makes for closer matches.

Y.M. 'A' survived by a mere six points but never really looked hi any danger. Harry Johnston rejoined Y.M. in mid season after his spell with Jewish and they promptly dumped promising Alan Noor to accommodate Harry. Alan, just as promptly, showed his form by inflicting a first season defeat on John Rankin.

How did you perform as a division? Your standard was high. Tremendous sportsmanship, and many exciting matches. You completed your matches within the agreed period. That is where it ends. Yours scorecards were deplorable and even more abysmal in their standard than ever before. So much so, the Fixture Secretary wrote on one card that it must almost have been too much trouble to play. This card had no match number, no player numbers, no team fixture numbers, no date, no division, no playing record and to cap it all no home captain signature. Very few teams, maybe two can even attempt to congratulate themselves on not being included in this criticism.

For our premier division the standard was appalling. 1st division teams are expected to set high standards all round, yours are amongst the lowest, if not the lowest, in the Liverpool league. One captain sent 3 months cards in one batch. If you find the menial task of filling in a scorecard correctly and making sure it reaches the Fixture Secretary on time then you should not be a captain. Other players in the team are not exempt as every player has a responsibility in respect of the scorecard. If next season you apply to this task the same high standards already referred to then you will make life a lot easier for a lot of people. It is not really all that difficult and is not too much to ask.

The season has also shown the new service rules to be a shambles. Totally ignored by everyone with few willing to face the abuse which generally follows any attempt to enforce them. Few serve correctly, or even almost correctly and younger players are amongst the worst offenders. One would expect Coaches to ensure that this requirement would be high on their coaching list, but is would appear to be totally absent. Worse still is to hear them actually defend players. Someone, somewhere, has got to get it right and to do so it will need the full co-operation of players, not only when playing, but also when umpiring. If you are pulled up for a suspected foul serve you should accept this in the correct man ner. Just in case you may be wondering what this is, it is the manner which you would expect a player to use should you have cause to call a player when you are the umpire. Why not give it a try? It might take a couple of points off your game but it will add greatly to your stature.

The final event of the season took place recently when Wavertree Labour took the new

Veterans cup defeating English Electric 5-2. The cup was presented by team-mates of the late Frank Murphy to perpetuate the memory of this popular player. Both teams did him proud in a match which produced everything that is good in table tennis and sent those present home wondering why a mention of 'veteran*' immediately conjures up thoughts of dull plodding matches. The match was anything but plodding. A word of commiseration to Ted Birch, he never won a set in this match, but gave everything he had for his team and deserved to be a winner, not a loser. Some of his returns were almost unbelievable. I think everyone present, including the Wavertree Labour team, wanted Electric to be the first winners of this trophy but in the end reality had to take precedence over sentiment. But not before we had been brilliantly entertained by the player.

See you next season when I will have re-sharpened by pen to prove that it is mightier than the sword.

DIVISION TWO

A CAMERON

As expected Police were comfortable champions. For most of the season they kept the same four players and even when they played with reserves they still did well expect when they met the Y.M. team away losing 6-4. Tom Purcell replaced Paul Gittins but could not get on the score sheet, whereas all the Y.M. players won sets. Most notable was Alan Noor's 21/19 in the third win over John Rankin.

Colonsay 'A' finished runners-up despite some pressure from the chasing bunch from time to time. Their strength was in the ability to bring in good reserves when either Paula or Dave were missing, Colin Rourke is a very good No.4 and Bill Harris is capable of making anyone work for their win. Cadwa 'A' thought they were in with a chance at one stage when they brought in Ken Hartley who strengthened them at the top, as far as I know he only lost to Eddie Klein and John Rankin. They probably lost their chance when they failed to beat the Police team who were without John Rankin, but Ken Hartley didn't play either. All credit to Len Dyson in this match when he beat Trevor Hughes, George Higham as well as winning his doubles with David Crispin.

Plessey had a good second half to the season only losing two matches, to Police and Cadwa 'A', Bob Edwards and Trevor Owens were the mainstays of the team with Ray Lavin and Ted Gilmour maintaining a good average of wins. It is difficult to place Jewish in a league position because they never put down their sets record. They appear to have had a good second half to the season without challenging for promotion. Eddie Klein, Roy Bradbury, Bob Hudson and John Henshaw is a good side and all of them had consistent wins. Eddie was in especially good form against Fords 'A' when he played superb defence to beat myself and Ken Bennett in three games when he showed such good sportsmanship which is not supposed to be his strong point judging by Frank Brady conceding to him in the first game of their set. The final score in this match was 5-5 with Fernhill 'A' a good double here by Ricky Brown. In fact Fernhill might have been a promotion side if they had a settled number 4 to assist the undoubted potential of Messrs. Brown Brady and Miller

who all won a great number of sets.

English Electric 'B' were another team who had a good start but were unable to maintain it. Perhaps their rhythm was upset by losing Brian Crolley for a spell and later in the season Nigel Conquest buzzing off to Edinburgh. The arrival of Paul Dilger at Bath Street possibly would have given their 'A' team an outside chance but he was very quickly moved into the first division and Peter Ross joined the 'A' team. Potentially they were still a good team but they again struggled for a consistent winner at No.4. My own team Fords struggled for most of the season playing with reserves, the only good spell we had was when we played with a full side. We all played consistently and from time to time had good wins. Any challenge we might have made ended when a Paul Dilger inspired Bath Street 'A' beat us 8-2 and Cadwa 'A' beat us 10-0.

Bootle Job Centre were one of the other teams to struggle, they also seemed to play with a different team every week. Andrew Clark played extremely well for them at No 1., Dave Ashby, Steve Neild and Sylvia Graham all chipped in with useful sets.

The relegation issue was between Y.M. 'B', Vagabonds and Colonsay 'B'. I always fancied Y.M. 'B' to escape the drop and when they theoretically strengthened their side with Alan Noor and Wing Lau they seemed to have succeeded. It was always a struggle for the other two teams with only Bobby Owen and Colin Rourke whining anything consistently.

As usual there were plenty of close matches and close sets in those matches. Jimmy Clewett beat John Henshaw 16 in the 3rd., Alan Walton beat Eddie Klein 18 in the third after expedite, Jewish whining the match 6-4; Colonsay 'B' very sportingly played Jewish in a game they previously claimed 10-0 to lose to them 8-2 for the second time in less than a week, Colin Rourke beat Roy Bradbury 21/18; 22/20; Fernhill drew with Police despite having to concede a set, Dave Crispin won both of his sets; Mark Whittaker saved the whitewash against Jewish beating Eddie Klein 18 in the third; Colonsay 'B' did well against Fernhill losing 6-4, Colin beating Frank Brady and Keith Miller both deuce in the third; Frank McCann beat Steve Gittins 21/23; 21/19; 21/19 in their 6-4 win over Colonsay 'A' Ian Miller beat Eddie Klein 29/27 in the third, he also won two against Colonsay 'A' beating Gittins and Evans in their 6-4 win: Vagabonds drew with Electric 'B'; Mark beat Frank McCann and Brian Crolley, he also won his doubles with Dave Rowney, Bobby also won the two singles; Plessey drew with Colonsay 'A'; Bob Edwards Steve Gitten and Paula French; he also won his double with Ted Gilmour; Ted Mandaluf saved his side from a whitewash when he beat Bob Edwards in three; *in* Cadwa's draw with Fernhill Ken Hartley won the two and Ian Miller beat Ricky Brown 19 in the third.

That's it for another season, have a good rest, see you next season if you haven't gone up or down.

DIVISION 3

COLIN PRATT

I said in a previous Digest that Ford's had decided to win this division and that their main tactic was simply to play a settled side whenever possible. Ford's finished up 3 points ahead of Electric Supply 'A' who brought in the unbeatable Les Molyneux in an attempt to win

Relegation was a very close run affair with Rodney Youth and Electric Supply being the unlucky pair. Linacre with an amazing slide down the table, just escaped relegation by one point after some very big defeats, they averaged over 5 from their first 10 matches but only 2.78 from the next 14. The reason for this was the loss of Harry Reeve who is a wonderful banker at Nol.

Rodney Youth conceded a 10-0 walkover to Linacre and must now be kicking themselves. The Merseyside Chinese Youth Association (M.C Y.A.) had a very good season finishing in third place within average of 6=125. After conceding 10-0 to Fords and losing 10-0 to Electric Supply, they beat most of the other teams usually 6-4 or 7-3. M.C.Y A. they have a very evenly balanced side which is important in a close match. Their best performance was to beat league leaders Fords 6-4, David Ng beating top Fords player Dave Southall in a very tight game. Dave winning his other game against the rapidly improving Ming Liu. Kar Lee beat Alf Southall 19 in the third in a game in which Alf tried to hit out with his combination bat, only to find Kar had the answer and made very few errors. John Lau won both his games at No4 against Bill Proffitt and Dave Garbe. Congratulations to Ming Liu who won the restricted singles in the recent; "closed" Tournament. His serve and third ball attack were tactics which worked well all day and nobody really got to grips with his middle game. What a night for the Williams brothers when Rodney played M.C.Y.A., Joey beat David Ng and Kar Lee, both *in* two straight combined with Justin Quinn to win their doubles, them Jimmy beat Kar Lee 12 and 16 - well done.

Wavertree Labour were doing well with Val Franco playing every week, but then signed Neil Roberts on the most talented juniors ever seen on Merseyside, Neil was making a comeback after several years lay-off and he certainly made his presence felt. Neil walloped (yes - that's the right word) most of the top players with his quick hits from seemingly impossible balls. His win over Neil Jennings was a cracker. Top doubles this season just pushing Alf and Dave Southall into 2nd. place are Val Franco and Peter Jones. Val and Peter both, unorthodox but playing very well together with their ability to retrieve and defend, but both capable of hitting when necessary. Everyone must now try to beat Val and Peter next season for a write-up if you succeed.

Bath Street did well after seeing themselves at the bottom in the first Digest, in came Barbara Smallwood at No;1 and with Bill Clayton, John Letch, Colin Owens and Rob Peat, they became a force to be reckoned with. Colins' wins over Alan Biggs, Ritchie Craggs, Peter Holmes, Rob Davies, Julie Prince, Frank Lacey and Ro Craddock were well deserved.

Bill Claytons win over Steve Graham was a cracker, Steve's left handed loop against Bills dead bat block and deuce in every game - very exciting.

Jack Letch won a great game against Olive Roberts in a battle of two great forehands, Clive's classic loop and Jack's flat hit in three close games. Maghull had a fair

season with a very consistent team, Chris Roberts had a very good night in a 3-7 defeat by Fords beating Alf Southall and Billy Proffitt both in two straights, Stuart Fay also beating Alf Southall also in two straight - terrific play against two very good players.

Rod Bulmer was involved in a great game with Tony Leary of English Electric just losing 21-19; 23-25; 21-23. Tony Leary has just crowned a good season by becoming Junior Champion of Merseyside - well done Tony!

English Electric, with two years in this division had a good season. The 'D' finished above the 'C' team (get the drinks in 'C' team) by some 18 points.

Richie Cragg failed to find the form of seasons past and struggled all season, which affected the team performances.

In the Electric derby match there were some very close games, Ian Lunt finding that Wally Sill could get his serves back, turned to his 2nd and 3rd strong points, his backhand hit and his improved forehand loop to win 24-22 in the third. The game of the night was Julie Prince avenging her defeat early season by Norman Chaliner. Julie showed patience we didn't know she had, as well as looping and smashing of the highest order. Norman is difficult to beat and the score of 19, 19, 17, doesn't really show how finely balanced the game was.

Electric captain Ro Craddock played as well as he can to beat Neil Jennings of Electric Supply -18, 15, 14, I think Ro's best game is to defend and hit the loose balls and most of his wins this season against the top players have been successful with this tactic.

The Jewish team which started the season so well suffered from re-ranking and lost Bob Hudson and John Henshaw. Steve Graham and Kathy Haydon (nee Baxendale) stepped in but could not prevent the team from dropping down the league table to finish 4th from bottom. Steve Graham had a fine battle with Mal Cray in a 6-4 win at Lincacre, Steve's left handed loop winning out over Mal's dogged defence -19, 22, 18.

Close third games include Dave Southall 27-25 over Bill Clayton, Bill Proffitt 27-25 over Ro Craddock, Colin Pratt 26-24 over David Ng and 24-22 over John Lau, Colin Owens 22-20 over Pete Holmes and Chris Roberts 23-21 over Joey Williams.

Match with most 3rd games was Lincacre beating Bath Street 6-4. Seven of the sets went to 3 games and the game of the night was Colin Owens beating Frank Lacey -19, 25, 18.

This has been one of the closest 3rd divisions for many years with only 92 points between the top team and the bottom team. The relegation pair scored over 80 points and had some very good performances. What did surprise me was the loss of points by Jewish and Electric Supply for playing in the wrong order, an unforgiveable error.

Keep up the practice in the summer and we'll see you back next September, all ready for another fine season.

The end of another season has resulted in Bootle J.C.'A' and Plessey 'A' gaining promotion and Maghull 'B' being relegated. I don't know whether it's me getting older or it is the seasons that fly by much quicker. This season appeared to be over almost before it began. Perhaps it was because my team Bootle J.C. 'A' had the division from the 'off and I did not want it to end enough of this rubbish - lets get down to real facts.

We had hoped to go through the season undefeated but we came a cropper when Waterloo paid us a visit. After winning 7-3 at Waterloo earlier in the season (I wasn't playing in that match) we thought we could do it again but when we were 4/5 down, who do you think lost the vital match? Yes you've guessed it, it was me going down in straight sets to Ken Nelson 11 and 16.

Undoubtedly Bootle J.C. 'A's hardest match was against Plessey 'A' which ended 5-5, Paul Morgan had a double success beating Mark Jagger 17-21; 22-20; 21-10 and Lee Pilkington 14-21; 21-19; 21-19. I was pleased to beat Ian Burrows 18 in the third and later lost to John Southworth 19 in the decider.

Police 'A' challenge waned when Tom Purcell was not always available. A bad result against Brownmoor Park in the middle of February when they lost 7-3 was virtually the end of their promotion hopes. It was good to see 'old' stalward Don Chalkley's name on a scorecard. He won all his games in the Police's 10-0 win over Liverpool Jewish 'B', winning all his games in straight sets.

Brownmoor Park had a good second half to the season losing only to the two promoted sides and drawing with Waterloo. Alan Williams and John Forrest being their most consistent players. Wavertree Labour 'D' had a mediocre season by their standards. Most of their results being 6-4 for 5-5 and 6-4 against. The two exceptions being a 10-0 defeat by Plessey 'A' and a 10-0 win against Mahgull 'B'.

Tom Killip proved to be the backbone of Bootle Y. M. 'A' success, with Roly Wright not far behind. Tom gamed two good wins against Plessey 'A' beating Paul Morgan 21-19; 23-21; and Peter Wass 13-21; 21-11; 21-16. English Electric's form varied from week to week apart from Tony Leary. As March came in they lost 6-4 to Wavertree Labour 'D' having been beaten

the week before by Maghull 'A' 10-0. They then lost 7-3 to Bootle J.C. 'A' then beat Police 'A' 6-4, drew with Jewish 'B' and the following week lost to Jewish 'B' in a re-arranged match 8-2.

As for Jewish 'B' you never know what is going to happen when you meet Dave Cohen. Dave gained a good win in his side's 9-1 defeat by Plessey 'A' beating Ian Burrows 15 in the deciding set, and earlier in the season beat Bootle J.C. 'A's Dave Graham in straight sets 22-20; 21-13. Lawrence Rosenbloom and John Hodge had a fair season. Maghull 'B' did only enough to avoid relegation, but they did gain a surprise win over English Electric 'E' 10-0. The lads certainly enjoy their games even though their 'refreshments' do not seem to reach the parts that other liquids claim to do.

Action Youth gained two good wins in early March beating Waterloo 7-3 and Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'A' 8-2. Tony Dixon being their most successful player with Alan Finnan having a reasonable season.

What a hard tune of it Maghull 'B' had being 46 points behind Action Youth,

but Harry McGanity and Brian Gregory picked up some useful points. Well if you are not bored yet here are a few close games:- Bill Saiter (Maghull 'A') beat John Southworth (Plessey 'A') 21-17; 21-23; 23-21: In the same match Stan Harvey (Plessey 'A') beat Wilf Gibson 19-21; 21-19; 21-18; John Ashley (Wavertree Labour 'D') beat Alan Finnan (Action Youth) 24-22; in the third and Alan beat Tom Purcell (Police 'A') 16-21; 21-19; 21-19. Alan Laagfield (Bootle J.C. 'A') beat Carl Macauley (Action Youth) 26-24; 18-21; 21-19. Arthur Birch (Wavertree Labour 'D') beat Les Hignam (Bootle Y.M. 'A') 21-18; 19-21; 21-19; Kathy Haydon (Jewish 'B') beat John Southworth (Plessey 'A') 19 in the third. Alan Wood (Police 'A') beat Mike Poole (Jewish 'B') 22-20; 22-24; 21-18. Lawrence Rosenbloom (Jewish 'B') beat Lee Filkington (Bootle J.C. 'A') 18-21; 22-20; 21-19; and in the same match lost to John Pilkington 19 in the third. Geo Wright (Police 'A') beat Wilf Gibson (Maghull 'A') 22-20; 24-22 and Geo Wright again beat John Southworth (Plessey 'A') 23-21 in the third. Alan Williams (Brownmoor Park) beat Bill Stanley (Wavertree Labour 'D') 22-20 in the third and in the same match Arthur Birch (Wavertree) beat Bill Spencer 22-20 in the decider. John Ashley ~ (Wavertree Labour 'D') beat Dave Graham (Bootle J.C. 'A') 22-20 in the third and in the same match Joan Connor beat Alan Langfield 14-21; 21-18; 21-19: and finally Kathy Haydon (Jewish 'B') beat Brian Thomas (English Electric '£') 17-21; 21-18; 21-29: and in the same match Tony Leary (English Electric 'E') beat John Hodge 27-25; 19-21; 21-18.

Finally if another award were to be given, I would give it to Plessey 'A' for their neatness on the score cards. I am sure Eddie Cameron or Wyn has the utmost difficulty decypher-ing some of the results.

Enjoy your summer break and be ready for action again soon

DIVISION 5

BARRY MEYER

Well, what a season that was! What a finish! Excitement! Tragedy! Pathos! Who wrote it?? - Shakespeare? No! Geoffrey Archer? No! It's a true story, the Liverpool and District Table Tennis League Division 5, If I could have written the script beforehand I'd have been given a regular slot in 'Boys Own'.

Anyway, congratulations to Plessey's, worthy champions in as much as they beat all their closest rivals during the season and a great bunch to boot - at least I felt like booting them when they hammered us!

But the real stories of the season lie in the lower placings. Bath Street 'D' finished only five points adrift of Plessey with one match less played. This was also points' match against their own 'C' team which should have been played in January and wasn't played within fourteen days as per M. R. 10, As this rule was brought in after perhaps the biggest hullabaloo the league has ever had, I am afraid I can't find any sympathy for them, even though if the match had been played on the prescribed date, or within a fortnight we may

well have been saluting different champions, I do however, have great sympathy for Cadwa, who by sheer accident have lost their rightful promotion position by playing two players in reverse ranking order for part of the season. Even worse, they lost their chance in the cup for the same reason. Mind you it serves them right for not backing my rule change at the last A.G.M. to abolish this stupid order of Merit rule.

Well, I managed to forecast correctly (issue one) four positions, slightly more than the number of draws I got most weeks, but not as good as last season. Once again Bootle Y. M. let me down; I said they'd win the league but they only finished third. Even my own team made fools of me, finishing tenth instead of twelfth - I tried my best by losing 75% of my games!

Other 'uppers' were Bath Street 'D', Plessey and Wavertree Labour whilst the 'downers' were Bath Street 'C', Cadwa, Electric Supply and Colonsay. I have a note on the card of the Bootle Y. M. vs. Aigburth match that Mike Hughes thinks he deserves a mention for beating Bill Leeming 21-19; 21-19 so I am doing - see it pays to advertise! and I promised not to say that he then proceeded, in his excitement to lose to Alan Grist!

University provide a big percentage of the 'face savers' for this issue with pride of place going to Roy Paru for wins over Les Higham (Bootle Y.M.) Gordon Langshaw (Vagabonds) and Ted Green (Plessey) Stephen Waring stepped in with a double against Wavertree Labour, defeating Tony Connor and Maureen King and Brian Pickett overcame Harry Holmes (Aigburth) 10 & 11. Alan Hunter (Colonsay) saved his team from a whitewash against Sue Anderson (Police) and Bobby Bell (Plessey) an amazing 21-14; 21-8. The other two glory seekers (and phew - type games) were Dave Batty (Vagabonds) defeat of Dave Armson (Bath Street 'C') 21-18; 17-21; 25-23 and one Barry Meyer against Jim Geddes (Bootle Y. M.) 25-23; 20-22; 21-19: More close ones include :- Karen Gibson (Bath Street 'D') v Tony Moon (Cadwa) 21-16; 22-24; 22-20, Bob Rawlinson (Police) v Jerry Richardson (Plessey) 24-26; 21-17; 21-19: Bob Bell against Eric Wood (Aigburth 'A') 26-24 in the third. John Langton (Bath Street 'C') lost to Fred Price and Jerry Richardson in the same match both 19 in the third, Bob Rawlinson beat Mike Ashton (Wavertree Labour) 21-19; 19-21; 24-22; Mike Hughes (University) defeated Martin Hunter (Colonsay) 25-23 in the third, Norman Cooke (Bath Street 'C') overcame Peter Highton (Electric Supply) 19-21; 22-20; 21-19, Les Griffin (Cadwa) vs. Jurgen Turtel (University) finished 21-19; 19-21; 22-20; and Ian Fletcher (Cadwa) lost to Alan Hunter 21-19; 16-21; 21-23. But the closest game for the whole season was Stephen Waring against John Simm (Bootle) which ended - wait for it - 16-21; 22-20; 34-32.

Personal thoughts on the season as a whole - most enjoyable matches - Cadwa and Police (away), cos' they have Higsons, most enjoyable games against Jack Power (the first time) and Jim Geddes, mainly because they were close and I won. Personal thoughts for the future:- Will I ever win two games in one match? Will I ever beat Sue Anderson? Will I ever win a singles in the Liverpool Closed? And will I ever see two players from the same team serving correctly?

Well, time to put away the pen till next season. Have a good break and don't practice too hard before I see you again in the Autumn.

DIVISION 6

JACK LAMBERT

It was particularly nice to have a Liverpool Jewish team win the championship without the Jewish Club our division would have been a bit weak to say the least. So congratulations to Liverpool Jewish 'C' our league champions, a great team effort, as I have said elsewhere the impetus and performance of champions has to be kept going all season. Jerry O'Keefe who I reckon was their top man followed closely by Eric Young, Ted Crumsie and Richard Blackburn they called on anchor man Ian Andrews quite a few tunes and he rarely let them down - they just had that little bit extra - the next three places only had four points between them.

Action 'A' pipped the Jewish 'D' team by three points Paul Howard and Lee Bennett were their top duo, with Darren and Mark Johnson and Kevin Hughes to sort out the runners - up medals - something I fought for for years and lost but justice is now being done. Close still the next two Jewish 'D's and Cadwa 'D' - one point! Pauline Lawrenson still going strong and enthusiastic as ever, hardly missing a game and topping Bob Jude and Les White as set winners. Jewish 'D' are what I call a secretary's delight less than a handful of games missed between Ken and Julian Dutch, (Julian catching up quickly Ken) Len Miller and Russell Thornton.

Electric Supply 'D' cracked in the end despite Roy Lusse/s wins and the efforts of Les French. I nominate Ray Lussey as Ladies team manager - his many visits to their matches certainly turns them on! Jewish 'E' battled on to the bitter end with a win and draw. Unfortunately no record of your moment of glory but a five all against Bootle Y.M.C.A. (Stevens 2) a fine performance with Charles Lander, Stevers Lappin and Russell Thornton the glory boys. Bootle Y. M. in turn had a good draw against Rodney Youth - Mike Hughe and Peter Shackleton won a couple each as did Willy Lunt for Rodney. Another interesting draw University and Bath Street, all good draws for the coupons Steve Waring and Mike Gregory hitting the jackpot by winning all five with a Eugene Berger double for Bath Street.

Jewish had a few hiccups on the way to the championship a rare defeat against Rodney Youth (Keating and Barton trebles) Eric Young winning two. But result of the season must go to University 'A' drawing with the champs thanks mainly to a William Poon treble and Richard Blackburn winning a couple.

Gautum Mitra (University) and Russell Thornton really slogged it out 24-22; 19-21; 23-21: quite a game. Don Davis stirred up a hornet's nest with his article on 'Ghosts'. We have a fair bit of service and dedication knocking round in our division, Eugene Berger and Ron Georgeson (Bath Street) Gloria Burns, Pauline Lawrenson (Cadwa) Ken Dutch and Gerry O'Keefe (Jewish) and John McKim, Jack Power, Brian Cunningham sneaking in now and again.

But it is teams like Jewish 'E' University 'A', Bootle Y.M.C.A., Rodney Youth and Action to bring new life and names to our game. So start campaign to bring youngsters into the game. Jewish 'E' were saved from a whitewash by Kevin Bracey and Charles Lander who beat Nigel Canin and Howard Newton (University) 21-18; 19-21; 21-17; good game. Mike Hughes (Bootle Y.M.) beat Richard Blackburn and Ken Dutch the only two wins against Jewish 'C', Steve Waring (University) and Russell Thornton (Jewish) were loners on a number of occasions.

Despite the efforts of John McKim and Eddie Cameron to make equi-leagues, stealing a team of all the other divisions - we still finished with nine teams - which is the

reason why we must encourage young players (and old ones if they are new).

All the teams in this division are to be congratulated on keeping the division going. Lets hope we are all on parade next season.

TABLE EDGES

A great fight for the Premier title, how many times during the season must Cadwa regret dropping that one set, but Wavertree had the one that counted.

Our secretary John McKim retires from the treadmill during the close season. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

I hope that the whispers I heard at the Closed about Vagabonds being on the way out are wrong!

Veterans are in the news this year with so many competitions locally and nationally.

On the local scene the Linacre Club celebrated their forty years of existence by presenting a trophy for the Closed Veterans Championship, Three of the original members of the team are still around - Alec and Jack Davidson and Frank Lacy.

The new Veterans Team Competition also has a trophy presented by Alan Chase, Ted Birch, Mick Allen and together with Marjorie think it's appropriate that the Frank Murphy Trophy should go to the winners.

Andrew Eden (English Electric) was ranked five as Young Sports Personality of Merseyside at the Liverpool Echo Sports Personality celebration and was with John Barnes.

You win some and you lose some! Neil Gravener fits the bill losing 15-21 in the third to Paul Hutchings in the Readman and winning 19 in the third in the deciding game in the Isle of Man team trophy. Both vital and superb games

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Locals in the England ranking lists Andrew Eden number 10 Junior - over 40's Alan Timewell 19. Two ex's Wally Allanson 15, Ralph Gunnion 4, Over 60's Alec Gould 5, Womens' over 40 Mabel Neary 11, over 50 Pauline Lawrenson 21, Gloria Burns 23 (Thanks to M.N

As Nigel Conquest (English Electric) becomes a 'Jock' we wish him and Joanne every happiness and best wishes for their wedding on May 27th.

Every credit to the Jewish 'A' side in the semi-final of the Veterans Cup against English Electric John Henshaw, Zerrick Woifson and John McGhee fought for their every point in their 5-2 defeat -11.30 p.m. finish!

The Isle of Man Veterans tournament will be held Saturday, Sunday, September 10th and 11th. Events, Ladies and Gents for over 40-50-60 and 70. Tournament Secretary David Phillips, 0624 843226. Accommodation 0624 74323.

CUP FINALS

FORREST Bath Street 'D' 5 Cadwa 'C' 5

Viv Smallwood lost to Tony Moon 14 and 15. Reg Edwards beat Ian Fletcher 18-21; 21-12; 21-16. Alex Gould lost to Les Griffin 19 and 20: These are bare facts but tension was in the air, Karen Gibson beat Jack Power 17 and 12. Reg lost to Les 12-21; 21-16; 15-21 Les on top form. Alex loses to Tony 12-21; 23-21; 11-21 Tony looking pretty good as well.

A crunch game coming up with Viv beating Jack 20 and 19, Viv in control at the death. Score 3-4. Karen beats Ian with some spectacular hitting 20 and 17. All on the doubles Smallwood and Edwards lose to Moon and Power 17 and 17 and Gibson and Gould beat Griffin and Fletcher 19 and 17. The large crowd enjoyed every moment of a tense action packed final.

Played at the English Electric Club with Stan Clarke the official in charge, we all arranged to meet again next Monday - but it was not to be - a slight 'complication' in the Cadwa side means that at this moment Bath Street are Forrest Cup Holders.

HYDE Electric Supply 'A' 5 - M.C.Y.A. 5

Alan Radcliffe lost to Ming Liu 19 and 16, Neil and Paul Jennings beat Kar Lee and Ming Liu 12-21; 21-14; 21-18. Alan Biggs and Radcliffe lost to David Ng and John Lau 14 and 19. Neil beat Kar 15 and 21: Alan Biggs lost to John Lau 12 and 9. Paul lost to Ming 10 and 16 (2-4 the score line). Radcliffe lost to Lau 21-10; 8-21; 19-21. Neil beat David 21-

14; 12-21 (and the Chinese boys are 5-2 up) 21-16; (3-5) Biggs beat Lee 16-21; 21-15; 21-16; (4-5!!?) and so it's Paul Jennings and David Ng for the crunch and a comfy first game 11 for David but the second and 15 for Paul plus an 18 which made it game set and draw for Supply after 5-2 down. And this time we WILL see each other next Tuesday.

Played at the Police Club with Alan Wood the official in charge.

REPLAY Merseyside Chinese 4 - Electric Supply 'A' 6

The Chinese start the game with four sets in their favour - if we have another draw. Same again when Kar and Ming lost to Neil and Paul 15-21; 21-14; 16-21: David and John beat the Alan combo 13 and 13: Kar lost to Neil again 14 and 14: John Lau LOST to Alan Biggs 12 and 20: is that the breakthrough? Ming beat Paul 19 and 8: David lost to Neil 16 and 6: John Lau loses to Alan Radcliffe 12-21; 21-15; 19-21: another reversal from last week and now Supply 5-2 up. Radcliffe on again and loses to Ming 17 and 15: Kar Liu beats Alan Biggs 17-21; 21-15; 21-17: One back for the Pagoda boys and all on the last game again with Paul Jennings beating David Ng 15 and 17. Many tense moments in both matches with the Chinese losing their way at 5-2 in the first, but Supply's experience won out.

Another good crowd, that's three.

Played at the Police Club again with Alan Wood in charge and Chairman Arthur Upton presenting the trophies.

RUMJAHN Merseyside Police 6 - Colonsay 'A' 3

A courageous call saw Gareth Jones lose to Colonsays least experienced player Colin Rourke 25-27; 17-21: John Rankin beat Paula French 7 and 16: Dave Crispin lost to Colin Rourke 21-16; 17-21; 11-21: (Least experienced huh?) Paul Gittens beat Ian Wensley 20 and 12. Paul then lost to brother Steve 18 and 17. Two on the trot for Paul, two great games. John and Dave beat Paula and Tan 6 and 10. I invariably refer to the crunch game and I felt that Dave's win over Ian 15 and 16 was the crunch here. John beat Steve 16 and 10 and Gareth beat Paula to give Alan Woods and the Police boys the cup. Another good final and crowd.

Played at the Liverpool Y.M.C.A. with Alex Gould the official. Arthur Upton introduced ex International Ted Rumjahn who together with Janet kept the Rumjahn tradition going and Ted presenting the Rumjahn Trophy

READMAN Cadwa 4 Fernhill S. C, 6

Mike Mahoney lost to Lawrence Kenwright 11 and 1. Keith Williams beat Andy Wright 17 and 17: Neil Gravener lost to Paul Hutchings 18-21; 21-19; 15-21: Games don't come; any better than this one. Neil again with Keith beat Lawrence and Paul 21-17; 10-21; 21-. 18: What a match this was. Mike lost to Paul (Three on the trot) 8 and 12. Keith beat Lawrence 21-18; 17-21; 21-14: Dare I say it, this is the crunch. Mike lost to Andy 18-21; 21-19; 13-21: Neil beat Andy 15 and 20: Clash of the giants both Liverpool champions, Keith losing to Paul 17 and 16 - O.K. so we have two crunch games or have we got ten? The score 4-5 and Neil and Lawrence have to sort it out and it's Lawrence the winner for Fernhill 15-12. This was our game at it's highest level, top class performances, a terrific atmosphere and a full house throughout, with a social and sporting evening to finish. Jack McCaig was the official in charge at the English Electric Club and Arthur Upton presented the trophies

FRANK MURPHY Our new Veterans Cup.

Wavertree Labour 5 - English Electric 2

Val Franco lost to Alan Chase 17-21; 21-16; 19; 21 a close one. Alan Timewell beat Ted Birch 21-17; 22-24; 21-19: The scores tell the story of an outstanding game - Franco lost to Brian Crolley 21 and 20: Roy Smith beat Alan Chase 16 and 16. Two all and it's turned half past nine! Franco beat Birch 16-21; 21-16; 21-18: Ken Armson picked this as the crunch game, I agreed. Timewell beat Crolley 16 and 16: Alan again - against Alan to win or save the day, the Electric Alan looked set to make it 4-3 with a 21-10: but Wavertree Alan came back with 11 and 9 wins and the first ever win of the Murphy Cup for Wavertree Alan Timewell was superb throughout. Rarely does a player put so much into games as Ted Birch did - for now! It was nice to see Moira and Frank Lovelady representing the Murphy family.

We are fortunate in having Arthur Upton who had to make a sensitive speech regarding the game and the cup, he introduced Moira who presented the cup to (a nice gesture) Faith Moore who made a charming little speech on behalf of the Wavertree team. Mick Allen acting Captain led the Electric side for their trophies.

Yet another epic final in keeping with the rest. Don Davies official in charge at the Plessey's Club with the co-operation of Stan Harvey

ISLE OF MAN FESTIVAL OF SPORT OPEN TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT

MEN'S FINAL

Malcom McEvoy (Electric Supply) lost 12 and 6 to Graham Clark (Blackburn).

LADIES FINAL

Mabel Neary (Wavertree Labour) beat Sue Crooks (Preston) 21-13; 22-20.

OVER 50'S FINAL

George Smith (Liverpool Y. M.) beat J. Radcliffe 21-19; 12-21; 21-18: Losing to the same J. Radcliffe 21-19, 12-21, 21-18. losing to the same J. Radcliffe in the Quarter Final of the over 40's.

Gloria Burns lost 19 in the third with Sue Crooks in the Ladies Semi-Final

Neil Gravener (Cadwa) Mick Tierney (Wavertree Labour) and Mal McEvoy won the team event 5-4 after a very competitive game against the Isle Of Man top trio - Gary Proctor - Chris and Max Holland. Paul Kinsey and Ray Jackson also impressed. Conditions, organisation and officials superb.

The Lady Mayoress presented the prizes.

I am **sure** that everyone is looking forward to the next Isle of Man tournament - I am.

Mabel Neary.

THE LIVERPOOL CLOSED TOURNAMENT 1988

The annual Closed Tournament was held once again at Kirkby Sports Centre on Sunday 10th April, with the Finals being staged two days later at the Merseyside Police Club in front of a most appreciative audience. An extra incentive for the players this year was the introduction of group play. For this occasion, it applied to the Men's and Women's Singles events only and it ensured that all competitors enjoyed more than one match. From the comments I have listened to since, it seems that the new system pleased everyone and must be continued in future tournaments.

Before commenting on the actual play, I must refer to the preparation of the Sports Hall by some of our members. The tables and all the surrounds were set in position late on the Saturday evening by Keith Williams, Mike Mahoney, Dave Garbe, Stan Clarke, Bill Leeming and myself. I record my sincere thanks to all these willing volunteers, who gave up their Saturday evening to ensure a prompt start on Sunday morning.

I would also like to record my thanks to all those players who included a voluntary donation with their entry fees. Your kindness is very much appreciated.

The big surprise of the Tournament was undoubtedly the success of Colonsay's new player, Stuart Richards, who this season arrived from Exeter University. Stuart, after winning his group, then defeated Ming Liu, the eventual winner of the Restricted Singles, Paul Hutchings (Seeded number one), Neil Gravener, Malcom McEvoy (seeded four) and then, take the title, Lawrence Kenwright (seeded three), who had previously ousted the second seed, Keith Williams, in the semi-final.

Only nine competitors entered the Women's Singles and they were put into two groups, one of four

and one of five. When the group play was completed, Paula French had to face her doubles partner, Brenda Boey, in one semi-final, while another doubles pairing, Joan Connor and Justine Thomas, contested the other semi-final. The eventual finalists emerged as Brenda and Justine, but in the Final, Brenda, recently ranked number 51 in

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the National Ranking list, lost to the Welsh number one junior. Justine had, in fact, represented her country a week before in the senior team at the European Championships in Paris. It was indeed rather surprising that she managed to lose in the semi-final of the Junior singles to Paul Keating, but all credit must be given to Paul for his win. Having beaten a new international player, Paul taea loses the final to Tony Leary, but I am sure both boys were very nervous at their first appearance in a staged final.

Roy Smith proved to be a worthy winner of the Veterans singles with wins over Jimmy Clewett, John Higham, Alan Biggs, Mike Keane and finally Keaay Jackson, while in the restricted singles, Ming Liu recorded victories over Colin Pratt, Tony Conner, Julie Prince, Richie Cragg and Alan Davses. Alan's successes over Peter Holmes, Billy Prof-fstt, Mal Cray, Karen Gibson and John Lau must have given him great satisfaction.

We were all pleased to learn that our Tournament was being sponsored this year by Bill Fawley Construction Company Ltd. We were all further delighted to meet Mr. Bill Fawley and his wife, with Mr. Leo Crone and his wife, at our Finals on Tuesday 12th April at the Police Club. Our special guests presented the awards and afterwards said how much they had enjoyed the various events.

There was one event which had a brand new cup to be presented to the winner. This was the Linacre Cup, given by the Linacre Club, to be presented annually to the winner of the Veterans event. It was appropriate, therefore, that the presentation of this Cup was made by the Chairman of the Linacre Club, Mr. Frank Lacey.

Finally, I must thank all those members, players and officials who assisted in any way to ensure that the Tournament ran smoothly on Sunday at Kirkby and on Tuesday at the Police Club. Thanks to everyone.

Brian Leeson.

THE ANNUAL CLOSED TOURNAMENT

FINAL EVENTS

MEN'S SINGLES SEMI-FINALS

Stuart Richards (Colonsay) beat Malcolm McEvoy (Elec Sup)	21/17	21/13
Lawrence Kenwright (Fernhill) beat Keith Williams (Cadwa)	21/14	24/22

JUNIOR SINGLES FINAL

Tony Leary (Eng Elec) beat Paul Keating (Rodney Youth) 21/19 21/12

VETERANS' SINGLES FINAL

Roy Smith (Wavertree Labour) beat Kenny Jackson (Bath St) 21/12 21/15

RESTRICTED SINGLES FINAL

Ming Liu (M.C.YA.) beat Alan Davies (Wavertree Lab) 21/16 21/17

WOMEN'S DOUBLES FINAL

Joan Connor (Wavertree Lab) and Justine Thomas (Wav. Lab)
beat

Paula French (Colonsay) and Brenda Buoeu (Colonsay) 21/18 21/14

MEN'S DOUBLES FINAL

Keith Williams (Cadwa) and Lawrence Kenwright (Fernhill)

beat

PaulHutchings (Fernhill) and Andy Wright (Fernhill) 21/16 13/21 22/20

WOMEN'S SINGLES FINAL

Justine Thomas (Wavertree Lab) beat Brenda Buoeu (Colonsay) 14/21 21/19 21/16

MEN'S SINGLES FINAL

Stuart Richards (Colonsay) beat Lawrence Kenwright (Fernhill) 21/17 21/12

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Jack,

In reply to the 'Ghosts' article by Don Davies, through my last 6 years visits to the Isle Of Man Easter Tournament I can tell him that one of his former team mates Duncan Sayle was living and playing there, that is until he broke his ankle during last years event. Other ex Liverpool players still living in the Isle of Man - namely Harold and Maureen Wilcock, Malcolm Looker (there's one for you Don) Gordon Baker and the youngest ones at the moment - the terrible twins of Kirkby - Paul Brown and mark Monaghan.

Maureen and Harold (both ex Cadwa and Liverpool Business Houses) would like to be remembered to all those that can remember them - and they are still playing and organising Table Tennis over there after 22 years of 'emigration'. Finally, Wally Allanson whilst he may be missing from Liverpool Table Tennis is certainly not missing from the game - as depicted in the current England Ranking Lists! Wally still the immaculate style and dress as ever (tho' with a little less hair). Bill Grafter - now playing Wirral - for Neston, to finish - during my early years of playing - the nice old men of table tennis, to me were Andy Byrne and Alf Siddall,

Mabel Neary

Don certainly put the cat among the pigeons when he put pen to paper he didn' t MISS anyone, he just wrote as he thought - the names came up, the next time a completely different set would. come up. It should be mentioned that Ro Craddock, Alan Woods. Wally Sill and Barry Meyer do have handles to their names.

Editor

Dear Sir

In your February editorial you made reference to the clubs who in the past have produced junior players through coaching schemes, and how you regret their demise, You also mentioned the lack of interest shown by senior players in helping the progress of the juniors, I think it is only fair that I point out that some of the best players in the area, not only put in time with the youngsters but show a great interest in doing so.

At least once, sometimes twice a week you will find players such as, Keith Williams, Mal McEvoy, Stuart Richards, Paul Hutchings, Chris Ford, Steve Gittins, Brenda Buoeay, Paula Fench, and others whose names may not be so familiar, but give a good deal of their time to the juniors, all their help is equally appreciated. Whenever I have approached any of these players for help, they have only been too willing and have volunteered both their help and expertise. In fact, in most cases they are pleased to have been asked..

Special mention must be made of Chris Ford, who over the past year has given much of his time to helping players who have only just started playing table tennis, for which I am very thankful. At Colonsay we are very fortunate, the senior players not only help in the training of the juniors, but willingly make way for them to play in the higher teams and thus give them the opportunity to improve.

Because these things are not widely known, it is not wise to assume they don't happen, Colonsay has been running coaching schemes for many years, producing some of the best juniors in the city, I was quite surprised to see they did not even make your list.

Yours sincerely John O'Sullivan.

Your coaching sessions are renowned John, I should know as so many of our players have benefited from them. It is the Chris Ford paragraph that I find relevant as the point I was trying to make and cover was NEW players coming into the league.

Editor ,

Dear Jack,

In the previous edition of Table Tennis Digest, there were two criticisms of service which need to be explained. Barry Meyer, in his Division 5 notes, seems to believe that a player cannot serve with his back to the umpire. He witnessed this happening in the Final of the English Closed on T.V. What Barry failed to notice, however, was that an Assistant Umpire was sitting opposite the Umpire especially to observe that services were correct. In all major events nowadays an Assistant Umpire is appointed for this purpose and either the Umpire or the Assistant can call 'fault'. When an Assistant Umpire is appointed in a match, it should be remembered that no warning can be given at all for a doubtful service. A 'fault' must be called by either of the two officials.

The second complaint was contained in the letter from Zerrick Woolfson. May I quote exactly the wording of the new rule: "The server shall project the ball, by hand

only and without imparting spin, so that it rises at least 16cm after leaving the palm of the free hand. Nowhere do you find the word 'perpendicularly'. Mr. Woolfson describes a service he observed were a player "struck the ball somewhere in the region of his hip" etc. Again I quote the rule which must be applied by the umpire in this case: "When the ball is struck in service, it shall be behind the end line of the server's court or an imaginary extension thereof, but no further back than the part of the server's body, other than his arm, head or leg which is farthest from the net." It is the umpire's difficult job to decide whether this rule has been broken and I know that most senior umpires find this rule almost impossible to implement. However, the rule is there and umpires must make decisions accordingly. Incidentally, I must mention that nowhere in the rules does it say that the opponent must see that the service is correct, but "it is the responsibility of the player to serve so that the umpire or assistant umpire can see that he complies with the requirements for a good service."

Many of the problems of umpiring in local league matches stem from the reluctance of players to fault their own team members or their opponents for fear of creating a bad feeling or even upsetting a whole evening's enjoyment. This means that they are simply scorers not umpires. I often wonder if we had a band of people interested only in performing umpiring duties and individuals were appointed to league matches to officiate, whether an improvement could be achieved. For information, the English umpires organisation is supervised by the National Umpires and Referees Committee (NURC), a sub-committee of the National Council. The NURC is responsible for defining the qualifying standards for County Umpires (CUs) and National Umpires (NUs), and for advising the National Council and County Associations on all aspects of umpiring. To qualify as a County Umpire, a candidate is required to pass a written test on the laws of table tennis and to demonstrate his ability to officiate at staged events of County matches or equivalent level. The written test paper is completed in the candidate's own time, using any reference books, but practical tests are conducted by experienced officials.

There are a number of members of our league who are already qualified County Umpires and if any other members are interested in obtaining this qualification, I will be pleased to give them all the necessary information.

Umpiring is not easy and may sometimes seem thankless, but it has its rewards. There is the satisfaction of attaining a recognised standard of technical knowledge and using it to control matches for the benefit of both players and spectators, and of making a valuable contribution to table tennis without necessarily having the ability to be a star player.

I look forward to hearing from your readers on any of these matters or any other umpiring problems.

Yours sincerely
Brian Leeson,
(National Referee, International Umpire),

JAMES FRANCIS MURPHY

There must have been a time when I did not play table tennis with Frank Murphy, but I can rarely remember it.

*At best I can recall, we played our first game together with Beauclair in the late 1960's and our last game in January of this year against Liverpool Y. M. Frank's early days were spent at the Rafter's School and apart from a brief spell which he spent 'cleaning up' in the Walsall Vlth Division, Frank and I played continuously together first for Beauclair, then Maghutt and finally English Electric. In the early days our team mates were John Wren, Harry Harrison and Dave Berry and them some 13 years ago, when we introduced our youth policy, Mike Allen joined us, and finally Alan Chase, It is remarkable that in all the years so few people have formed the nucleus of our team and of course this was due to the larger than life presence of JFM. Once you experienced playing in a team with JFM you never really wanted to play for anybody else. Life was never dull with Frank around. To those who say *Where are all the great characters in sport today?*', the complete answer was to come and see Frank play table tennis. Every match was filled with drama, banter, effort, sweat, noise (lots of noise), but most of all laughter.*

As Frank grew older his game steadily improved and he took great pleasure in handing out to me regular thrashings on a Sunday morning and he took great pride in his selection for Liverpool Veterans First Team and reaching the Final of the Veterans Event in the Liverpool Closed in 1986.

Frank's other great sporting love was horse racing and his infectious enthusiasm for the Sport of Kings has produced a current Table Tennis Team which is certainly not the best in Liverpool, but must know more about racing form than any other three table tennis players in the World, Over the years a number of traditions developed in the Team and perhaps the best of which was the weekly match report, always written, produced and directed by JFM. Frank's match reports were beautifully written, invariably highly controversial and a great source of amusement to the rest of the Team, and indeed, our opponents, who could frequently be found on match nights quietly sitting in a corner checking over past reports.

It falls to me to write the final match report on the life of Frank Murphy, which I do immediately following the completion of our last league match of the season against Wavertree Labour. Whilst we do not wish to wear our hearts on our sleeve, it must be said that Alan, Mike and I would have found it impossible to complete our fixtures without the friendship and championship of James Francis Murphy had it not been for the expressions of sympathy and consideration which our opponents have extended to us. Frank's match reports invariably nominated a man of the match and it was by no means beyond his capabilities when he thought it appropriate to nominate himself. It is therefore with great pride that I and my fellow team mates nominate Frank in this final match report as the man who over very many years transformed the weekly table tennis match into the social highlight of our week, with a beginning, a middle and an end and enlivened throughout by his bubbling infectious enthusiasm. I do not think that we will see his like again.

T.B.

100 CLUB

JANUARY

Drawn at Bootle Sports

- | | |
|--------------------|-----|
| 1. J.McKim | £25 |
| 2. University Club | £12 |
| 3. P&S Sealeaf | £10 |

FEBRUARY

Drawn at Liverpool Jewish by Geoff Banks:-

- | | |
|-------------------|-----|
| 1. Alan Langfield | £25 |
| 2. Harry Reeve | £12 |
| 3. Mike Truman | £10 |

MARCH

Drawn at Crawfords by A. E. Upton:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1. Jack McCaig | £25 |
| 2. Richard Blackburn | £12 |
| 3. Julian Dutch | £10 |

APRIL

Drawn by David Cohen:-

- | | |
|----------------|-----|
| 1. RoCraddock | £25 |
| 2. Tom Killip | £12 |
| 3. Jack McCaig | £10 |

At the Handbook Meeting there will be 5 extra prizes of £10 each for those who have not won anything in the year. We are now looking forward to our next season hoping to reach the 100. This has been an extremely successful year with our membership reaching 90 and producing a profit for the League of almost £400. We could do with collector's and anybody else who can help - it does keep your fees down

An Extra Table Edge:-

We regret to announce the death of Marcus Goldstein, President of the English Table Tennis Association since 1973.

He will be sadly missed at National level.

FINAL TABLES FOR SEASON 1987-- 1988

DIVISION 1	P	W	L	D	PTS
WAVERTREE LABOUR	24	18	4	0	122
CADWA	24	17	2	5	178
ELECTRIC SUPPLY	24	16	3	5	162
COLONSAY	24	14	5	5	141
FERNHILL S.C.	24	15	5	4	140
BATH STREET	24	11	11	2	120
WAVERTREE LAB.'B' ¹	24	5	8	11	109
LIVERPOOL YMCA	24	8	12	4	105
WAVERTREE LAB.'A'	24	7	12	5	98
ENGLISH ELECTRIC	24	7	15	2	92
L'POOL YMCA 'A'	24	3	15	6	86
ENGLISH ELEC'A'	24	4	15	5	79
BOOTLE YMCA	24	2	20	2	71

DIVISION 2	P	W	L	D	PTS
POLICE	24	18	2	4	178
C01.0NSAY 'A'	24	16	5	0	154
CADWA 'A' ¹	24	16	5	3	146
PLESSEY	24	13	8	3	141
LIVERPOOL JEWISH	24	14	6	4	134
ENGLISH ELEC 'B'	24	13	7	4	130
FERNHILL SPTS 'A'	24	12	8	4	128
BATH STREET 'A'	24	10	11	3	120
FORDS	24	10	13	1	113
BOOTLE .IC	24	8	14	2	104
LIVERPOOL YMCA 'B'	24	5	17	2	78
VAGABONDS	24	2	21	1	69
COLONSAY 'B'	24	2	22	0	65

DIVISION 3	P	W	L	D	PTS
FORDS 'A'	24	20	3	1	172
ELEC.SUPPLY 'A'	24	19	4	1	169
MCYA	24	19	4	1	147
ENGLISH ELEC. 'D'	24	13	8	3	136
WAVERTREE LAB. 'C'	24	11	7	6	133
ENGLISH ELEC'C	24	9	11	4	118
MAGHULL	24	10	9	5	117
BATH ST 'B'	24	9	13	2	106
CADWA 'B'	24	5	15	4	103
L'POOL JEWISH 'A'	24	9	13	2	100
LINACRE	24	5	15	4	90
RODNEY YOUTH	24	3	17	4	89
ELEC. SUPPLY 'B'	24	5	18	1	80

DIVISION 4	P	W	L	D	PTS
BOOTLE J.C.' A'	22	19	1	2	160
PLESSEY 'A'	22	16	4	2	151
POLICE 'A'	22	12	8	2	130
WATERLOO	22	12	5	5	129
WAVERTREE LAB.'D'	22	12	8	2	115
BROWNMOOR PARK	22	10	7	5	113
ENGLISH ELEC 'E'	22	10	10	2	105
BOOTLE YMCA 'A'	22	5	14	3	100
L'POOL JEWISH 'B'	22	6	11	5	98
MAGHULL 'A'	22	8	12	2	97
ACTION YOUTH	22	0	15	4	0.84
MAGHULL 'B'	22	2	20	0	38

DIVISION 5	P	W	L	D	PTS
PLESSEY 'B'	24	18	4	2	164
BATH STREET 'D'	23	16	2	1	159
BOOTLE YMCA 'B'	24	13	6	5	149
BATH STREET 'C'	23	16	6	1	147
CADWA 'C'	24	15	8	1	142
POLICE 'B'	24	11	9	4	131
VAGABONDS 'A'	24	11	10	3	130
WAVERTREE LAB 'E'	24	13	9	2	128
AIGBURTH	24	9	10	5	120
AIGBURTH'A'	24	4	15	5	84
ELECTRIC SUPPLY'C	24	3	20	1	75
COLONSAY 'C'	24	3	9	2	65
UNIVERSITY	24	2	20	2	56

DIVISION 6	P	W	L	D	PTS
L'POOL JEWISH 'C'	16	11	3	2	110
ACTION 'A'	16	10	2	4	102
L'POOL JEWISH 'D'	16	10	4	2	99
CADWA TV	16	9	4	3	98
RODNEY YOUTH 'A'	16	9	4	3	93
BATH STREET 'E'	16	5	7	4	79
BOOTLE YMCA 'C'	16	1	11	4	61
UNIVERSITY 'A'	16	3	10	3	56
L'POOL JEWISH 'E'	16	1	14	1	22

NOTE: DIVISION 5

BATH STREET 'C' v BATH STREET 'D'
MATCH VOID

