



Table Tennis DIGEST

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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NO 2

EDITORIAL

We seem to be doing a very popular line in 10-0 walk-overs these days - not a very good sign - and not very good for the game.

A team does not turn up - so a 10-0 card in the post is so simple is'nt it? who had dropped one? the Secretary the Captain, one of the team? It is very rarely a team gets together and says to hell with it. Never in my experience has it happened. So the alteration has not been noted by Secretary or Captain or a more popular one - by one of the lads and he turns round after looking at his book and says see you Monday chaps and they all merrily agree! AND THEY ARE WRONG.

The feeling of their opponents is anger and worse still frustration. From about the age of 13 until a couple of years ago I always had that little tingle with the anticipation of a game - and when nothing happens anger and frustration set in and the reaction is something between murder and a 10-0 walkover, over the years a good knock and a drink cools the bitterness and a rearranged game is agreed. This has been my policy with the teams I have been in and have been pretty successful in carrying out the policy in our club.

The reason is simple, I have always loved playing table tennis and surely that is the reason we have all joined clubs and signed forms for - to play.

What of teams who have only one night a week - difficult - but we overcame it at my other club - but it is a difficult one, and the other offshoots - a 10-0 for you - but how about the team in the relegation zone or in the promotion race - when they find their rivals have a buckshee 10 and they only scrambled a 5-5 draw - it could make a farce of promotion and relegation and has done. In the division I write for there is no relegation and the championship is a joke, but what if we had two new young teams fighting for the championship and they lost out through the 10-0 syndrome - what a let down for them. Over the years for various reasons some of our teams have asked for rearrangements through extenuating circumstances, in the main this has carried on. The situation between two clubs has become a personal vendetta and should be sorted out but not with a series of 10-0 walk-overs. I mention this as knowing the situation I feel that it is one in which management are not involved.

There will be 10-0 walk-overs owing to the match rule but let's not look for them.

FIRST DIVISION

KEN ARMSON

The position at the top has sorted itself out so far as the front runners are concerned and we now know for certain the non-contenders. Champions, Wavertree Labour fall into this category for after a run of below average results they have lost any chance of staying in reach of the leaders, being some 20 points adrift. After losing to Electric Supply 7 - 3 they partly pulled themselves together by holding Liverpool Y.M. to a draw in a match which found Roy Smith in great form and inflicting a rare defeat on Keith Williams, 19 in the 3rd. Roy is having a great season at all levels and keeps pinching himself to see if it really is Roy Smith who is turning in these results. Any hopes Wavertree may have held of a revival were sunk without trace when they came up against their 'bogey' team, Cadwa, and duly lost 7-3. They followed this with a creditable 6-4 defeat by Colonsay with Roy Smith and Dave Roberts exploiting the weakness at 2 & 3 by winning two each. Unfortunately the team lacks that extra spark which every team bidding for honours need.

Liverpool Y.M. are still in there hanging on and hoping for a chance to get in on the act, but in spite of some good wins, such as a 10-0 against Police, I can't see them overtaking Colonsay or Electric Supply. Keith Williams is doing his stuff regularly but any team is only as strong as its weakest player, Y.M. have one and sometimes it is one and a half. They are getting 9-1's when 10'0's are needed. Certainly they are giving their all in their efforts, but as with Wavertree Labour something more than effort is needed and they lack that little extra.

Colonsay are also putting everything into their efforts to take the title and the difference between them showed in their 8-2 victory against Liverpool Y.M. This was the match which firmly set Y.M. aside as contenders. Much depended on the sets involving the No. 2's and 3's and it was Colonsay who came out on top winning all six. Only Keith Williams got amongst the sets by duly winning two, but again failing to get the better of Stuart Richards. Y.M. will fail for the simple reason that their hopes lie in staying up close and hoping Colonsay and Electric Supply will both slip up. Colonsay and Electric Supply on the other hand, are giving their all in their effort to be on top. That is the difference between them. Two are striving to win on ability and results, the third contender is relying on ability and the hoped for failings of the leaders.

Bath Street English Electric 'A' and Cadwa are all holding their own with Police, as expected, finding their return to this level hard going. John Rankin showed a glimpse of his old form against Mal McEvoy with a sets win, but I strongly suspect that this was one set he was determined not to lose and this determination helped to raise his game on the night. He showed there is still a long way to go by losing to Brenda Buoe, 17 in the 3rd. Some strange results at this level with Police beating Labour 'A' 7-3; losing to Colonsay 'A' 6-4; who in turn were defeated by Labour 'A' 10-0. One match involving English Electric which may eventually determine the championship was that with Electric Supply when with Andrew Eden in their team they lost 9-1; with both Mal and Les Molyneux beating Andrew, who in turn recorded English Electrics only set by beating Rob Bevan. Against Colonsay 'A' Rob was again a lone loser and making Colin Rourke a lone winner, a win which undoubtedly pleased his fellow clubmates in their 1st team.

Wavertree Labour 'B' have continued serenely on their losing ways and are firmly anchored at the bottom with 5 points and look likely to establish an unwanted record of the lowest sets total ever and yet not be relegated. Captain, Bill Stanley, holds some strong views as to the standard in this division which he feels is slightly over-rated and points to the many sets narrowly lost by his team of no-hoppers. Cadwa have reason to be grateful to Bill Stanley and his team when failing to turn up at their own club for a re-arranged match. Unlike the increasing number of 'claim a walkover' teams, Wavertree 'B' did their best to contact their opponents. Failing to do so, they offered a replay and duly lost it 10-0. I can think of a few teams who would do well to follow their example, but it is probably asking too much of such,

easy win merchants, to expect them to realise that players register to play in matches, win or lose. Is it any wonder we are losing members in ever increasing numbers when 'sportsmanship' has become a dirty word.

Still on that subject, when, if ever, is Mal McEvoy going to grow up and match himself to his ability. If the 'Echo' is to be believed his behaviour for the Liverpool professional team was so bad that Captain, Chris Ford, actually offered the set to their opponents. I heard that the visitors wanted to go home and concede the match. Amazingly the team condoned his behaviour by continuing to select him, thus encouraging his all too often unacceptable outbursts. Off the table he is affable and good company. On it, he is all too often unacceptable in his attitude. In the Electric Supply v Y.M. cup tie, I heard that tempers came near to breaking point following yet another display of bad sportsmanship allied to dubious gamesmanship and culminating in the usual breaking of bat routine. That a breaking point will eventually be reached appears inevitable and all who have condoned his behaviour by playing with him, or selecting him, will have to bear some of the responsibility for fudging the issue. Grow up, Malcolm, table tennis is a sport, not a battle. Let your bat do your talking for you.

On a lighter note, Ken Jackson has finally established himself in the Hall of Fame. Having his usual good season and the backbone yet again of his team, he became the first established 1st division player to lose a set to Wavertree Labour 'B' when he lost to Glynn Tierney (adopted son, or so the 'Echo' says, of Mike Tierney). Well done, Glynn, hope more such victories lie ahead for you and your team-mates. Mind you, if Bill Stanley pulls one off I will have to give up playing. If Y.M. win the league I might even give up forecasting.

Finally, have seen a recent scorecard for Liverpool Y.M. 'A' showing Dave Tagg back in action after his recent illness and back to his winning ways. Glad to see you back, Dave, hope you are fully recovered.

DIVISION 2

SYLVIA GRAHAM

Well I'm still here scribbling away, checking through the cards and trying to fit in the bits that you 'orrible lot have missed out. Come on captains fill in the cards properly and highlight anything worth mentioning and then perhaps you'll get your hearts' desire - a mention in the divisional notes.

On now to the more serious business of how the division is progressing. Never one to change horses in mid-stream I am in sticking with my earlier predictions of Plessey and Bootle J.C. as promotion candidates, but I must say that English Electric 'A' have made my heart flutter once or twice and are sure to be up there at the finish, although I think they will just miss out. At the other end of the division, as predicted, Liverpool Y.M.C.A. 'B' and Electric Supply 'A' have started picking up the points, whereas Bath Street 'A' now seemed to have joined the relegation zone. The rest of the division seem to be winning some and losing some and though not fighting for promotion are certainly not at the moment, near relegation. As expected my 'hit list' has gone down really well - but how did you all know who to beat when the cards I'm looking over are up to Christmas and my 'hit list' didn't appear until the New Year. The anticipation of some of you second division players is totally astounding, off the table as well as on. The first to fall was John Lau (M.C.Y.A.) who lost to Nick Miller of English Electric 'B' 21/15; 23/25; 16/21: in his sides 6-4 win. However, Electric conceded three games by turning up with three players. Jeff Huntington almost caused the second upset in a great match against Chris Spedding. He won the first 21-18, but lost the next two 21-23; 19-21. It was a shame either had to lose. Quick to follow was the Plessey v English Electric 'A' match when heads fell quickly. Bob Edwards beat Alan Chase, then went on to lose to Ted Birch sixteen in the third. Trevor Owens lost to Alan Chase and beat Mick Allen, whilst

Ray Lavin picked up his two. The match ended a creditable draw. Two more 'hit list' hit the dust when M.C.Y.A. met English Electric 'A'. Seven of the ten sets went to 21-18 or close in the third. Ming Liu beat Alan Chase 16/21; 21/15; 27/25; and John Lau lost to Mike Corcoran 21/18; 19/21; 21/18: after beating Ted Birch 22/20 in the third.

Dave Southall, Fords, seems to be continuing his demise of the elite with a close win over Bob Edwards of Plessey. He also beat Ted Gilmour to score his teams only two points for that match Bob was again on the losing end when he met Ian Miller and Justine Thomas of Cadwa. Justine went on to beat Ray Lavin in the same match. You don't often see Bob losing at all but the fact that Plessey went on to win the match 7 sets to three is an indication of the strength of the Plessey side.

The last match I'll mention is Eddie Cleins' win over Trevor Owens, but what happened in the doubles? Eddie teamed up with Bob Hudson to play the two Bobs' of Plessey. They lost the first 18/21, won the next 21/18 and then conceded the third as a walk-over. What happened? I'm sure everyone would like to know! Any suggestions from readers (that are printable!!!) will qualify for a can of lager - so send them to me c/o the editor.

Another peculiar game was in English Electric 'A's 10-0 win over Bath Street 'A' Ted Birch playing Fred Bainbridge won the first 32/30, a marathon indeed, lost the second 9/21 and then did a complete turn around to win the third 21/8. Two weeks later Ted went to expedite against Eddie Clein of Jewish. Take note, you'll always get a mention if you do something different.

Only two face-savers this time. John Lau M.C.Y.A. beat M. Cole, Liverpool Jewish 21/15; 22/20; and John Higham, Bootle Y.M.C.A. beat Nick Miller Electric 'B' 21/19; 13/21; 21/11. There were not many close matches this time so if you want a mention in the next Digest I'm concentrating on them. Have a heart and give me something to write about. The 'hit list' has been abolished because you did too well so everyone on it can start playing again without the kiss of death I gave them. Good luck in your remaining matches but most of all enjoy your game and I'll see you in the next issue.

DIVISION 3

COLIN PRATT

Over half the season gone and two teams have established a lead in this division. Colonsay, a combination of Vernon Sangster and Colonsay, and English Electric 'D', once the Bootle team, have opened up a gap at the top. Both teams are averaging over 7 points per game, good enough to win any division

Colonsay appear to be very slightly stronger in depth than the Electric team who never seem to play their best 4 players together, John McLoughlin and Frank Brady seem to alternate each week. The battle when they meet will sort it out.

Safe in 3rd place are Plessey with an average of 6. Guess who their star player is this season? no it's not Ted Gilmour nor Trevor Playing at No. 4. It's Peter Wass playing his best table tennis for many a year. He's top of their averages with only 4 losses to date (incidentally all to English Electric players) and with his backhand block working better than ever coupled with the effort that he puts in, it goes to prove that the captaincy does bring out that little extra.

Teams in danger, averaging only 3 points per match are Cadwa, Bath Street, Wavertree and Linacre any one of whom may be relegated. A couple of good results by one or two of them would work wonders especially if it was against a fellow relegation candidate.

Safe in mid-table averaging 5 are Electric 'C' and Bootle 'JC' followed closely by Maghull and Police averaging 4. Maghull are having their best season for many years and this is with the same team. The main reason being the fine form of Stuart Fay and Chris Roberts, both

are now starting to beat the top players in the division, Stuart with his all-round style and Chris with his great defence.

A super game in the Linacre-Electric match was Harry Reeves win over Keith Miller 19 in the third. The tactical battle for supremacy in the rallies was the key here between Keith's point winning loop and Harry's conventional forehand drive. In the same match Ken Ainsworth went to three with John McLoughlin and Tom Downing but just lost out in the end.

Joan Connor and Mabel Neary won their sides three points in the game with the Police, Joan using her experience to beat Alan Woods 16 in 3rd, while Mabel beat George Wright and Len Dyson both in two straight. Len Dyson is having one of his best ever seasons, he recently beat Stu Fay of Maghull in 2 straight and also beat 'mega-star' Clayton of Bath Street in a very dour battle.

Bootle J.C. had a good 9 - 1 win over Bath Street recently, Dave Graham stepping into the team at No. 1 and winning all three, beating Colin Owens and Phil Wilkinson in the singles and combining with John Pilkington to beat Phil and Rob Peat.

John Pilkington's forehand had a field day in this match, flat hitting against John Letch and top spin hitting to beat Rob Peat. Sylvia won her usual two in this game, playing better than ever these days, her ability to create point winning angles coupled with her half volley block and surprisingly powerful kill win her many matches against highly rated players.

Sylvia's win over Plessey's Mark Whittaker 17 & 10 when Bootle lost 4-6 was proof of this. Well done Sylvia and thanks for the 100 club raffle prize.

John Watson picked up Bath Streets only single in the game with Colonsay but he beat Ian Wensley to do it 19, -16, 16, and not many people have done that this season, John plays with plain wood on one side of his bat and is extremely effective with it. Wait until you play him, you'll get the shock of your life.

Wavertree won 6-4 in the relegation tussle with Cadwa, Joan, Mabel and Denise won all 6 between them, although Peter Jones had to carry Mabel in the doubles. Joan Connors defence was superb in her singles win over Clive Roberts, Clives power loop was the factor in either winning or losing most of the points.

Julie Prince was the Mainstay for Electric 'C' in the win over Police 7-3, beating Tom Purcell and Len Dyson in singles and assisting Captain Craddock in the doubles. Wally Sill had a good win over Alan Woods using his anti-loop to good effect, setting the ball up for his tackiness hit. Colin Fyles stepped out of semi-retirement for Electric against Bath Street only to find that Reg Edwards had remembered how to play him, Colin going down 13, 16, 17.

Only two draws in this batch of cards, Harry Reeve and Jack Davidson winning two each for Linacre against Cadwa. Frank Lacey losing out in a thriller to George Higham 20, 20, 19, Frank having to attack and look for winners against pen-holder George, who gets everything back from all over the room.

The other draw, Maghull 5 Electric 'D' 5 with singles for Stu Fay, Chris Roberts, Rod Bulmer and George Frost. Chris and Rod also beating Ricky Brown and Tom Downing in the doubles. This was a good performance by Maghull. For Electric Ricky won his usual two at a canter, he makes the game look so simple just popping the ball back over to his opponents side.

The Police versus Plessey game was remarkable in that all 10 games went to 3 sets with Plessey winning 7 of them. Only Dave Crispin and George Wright picking up singles over Ted Gilmour and Tony Moon. Tony has stepped in a couple of times as reserve and picked up good wins over Alan Wood in the Police game and over Electric's Wally Sill. Wavertree lost the services of Val Franco and Neil Roberts which upset the ranking and considerably

weakened the team. It will now depend how often they can field their best team if they are to avoid the drop into division 4.

Top players in this division are Frank Brady and Colin Rourke both playing at No. 1, Frank has lost just one to Ian Wensley and Colin just one to Chris Roberts. Well done Ian and Chris, you've done what no one else has done this season.

Playing at No. 2 or 3 Ricky Brown has 100% and Ian Wensley has 90% only losing to Ricky and to John Watson of Bath Street. Playing further down the order Bill Harris has lost only one to Pete Wass, and John McLoughlin has only lost two. You now see why Colonsay and Electric 'D' are dominating things.

Results that I think are worth a mention.

Rob Davies Cadwa beating John McLoughlin 22/20 in the third. Sue Anderson outlasting Wally Sill in a cracker 15, -23, 18. Julie Prince beating Tom Purcell and Len Dyson (Police) with all that forehand hitting. Joan Connor absorbing Rod Bulmers two handed hitting to win 19, -19, 17. Joan and Mabel in the same match winning a doubles against the very good partnership of Stu' Fay and George Frost. Reserve Tony Connor and improving pen-holder only losing to Alan Wood 17 in the third.

Jack Davidson playing very thoughtfully to beat the craft of Chris Roberts 14, 15, 15. Mabel Neary's win over Mark Jagger, Mark is high in the averages and is the mainstay of the Bootle J.C. team who are doing so well this season. Sylvia's win over Trevor Hughes 20,19.

DIVISION 4

KEN ARMSON

Firstly, a minor correction to my previous notes. I overlooked the fact that this division, like the 1st, is a 14 team division with only twelve teams. Which poses the same question, will there be relegation to convert this to a twelve team division, or will it remain as a 14 team division with no resultant relegation, thus easing the pressure down at the bottom.

I did get it right when I named the four teams having their own battle for supremacy at the bottom. Since then Maghull 'A' and Wavertree Labour 'D' have got their noses in front and pulled away and Maghull 'A' also showing Wavertree 'D' the way they feel about it with a convincing defeat. This has left Bootle Y.M. 'A' and Liverpool Jewish to battle for the wooden spoon with their match ending in a honourable draw. Bootle Y.M. 'A' have also had a hand in the promotion stakes taking 2 sets from Waterloo, with Danny Every and Jim Geddes taking two sets off Ken Nelson.

English Electric 'E' have justified everything I said about them and more, and have pushed themselves into 4th place and seem likely to overtake Electric Supply 'B' and nose into 3rd place. Their clash resulted in a 6-4 win for Electric 'E' with old-timer Norman Chaloner winning his two at No. 1. and Alan Evans winning his two at No. 4. for Electric Supply.

At the top it is still Rodney Youth and Waterloo with the odds swinging strongly in favour of Rodney who have strength in depth and are producing the big wins needed to secure championships. They have opened up the gap between them and have a lot to thank Wavertree Labour 'D' for, for they failed to turn up at Wavertree having got the matchnight wrong. Their opponents took the trouble to enquire as to why they had not turned up and on learning the reason immediately offered a new date. Needless to say they got walloped 10-0 for their generosity. I note with concern that Rodney have claimed a walk-over against Jewish 'B' but not knowing the reason I hope it is justified. All too often today walk-overs are claimed as a first resort when they should be a last resort. Their top of the table clash with Waterloo resulted in a 6-4 win for Rodney and a starring role for Alan Walton, (Bath Street), who disposed easily of Alan Noor and Justin Quinn and also won his doubles. His No. 2., Alan Reid being a

double loser, losing to Alan Noor and Della Oluymbo in two close fought sets 20/22; 20/22 and 19/21; 19/21. Waterloo's weakness lower down the order was again in evidence when they won only one of the bottom four singles. Unusually for such a clash only one set, a doubles, went to three. It is this weakness at 3 & 4 by Waterloo which has cost them dear and virtually assured that the title will go to Rodney and with it a richly deserved speedy return to the 3rd division. Only a really inspired effort by English Electric 'E' or Electric Supply 'B' will prevent Waterloo from gaining the consolation prize of runners-up and promotion with Rodney.

Although Rodney are carrying all before them with Waterloo falling behind because they are not doing likewise, there is not a great deal between the rest of this division. This is resulting in quite a few close matches with quite a few 6-4's. Bath Street 'C' could only manage a 6-4 win against bottom of the table Jewish 'B' who took two singles and both doubles for a very creditable result. Bath Street themselves losing 6-4 to Plessey 'B' who the previous week had lost 7-3 to Brownmoor Park with Bill Spencer having two good wins against Trevor Hughes and Les Griffin and adding his treble in the doubles.

It is always tough at the top but in this division it is also tough going at any position with close results which sometimes belie a teams position and only Rodney can claim to be outstanding.

DIVISION 5

BARRY MEYER

As we enter the second half of the season it is beginning to look like a one horse race with Bath Street surging away from the pack having disposed of most of their closest rivals with consummate ease. I would have expected either Plessey or Maghull to have given them a tough game but both matches finished 8-2 although the Plessey match had five three setters and included a Peter Mercer win 21/16; 15/21; 25/23 against Tony Moon - a rare defeat this for Tony.

Close on the heels of the leading pack came Vagabonds and Police both of whom are capable of excellent individual performances but are lacking the consistency to make a realistic challenge for promotion, I'm glad to say, as these are two of my favourite opponents. At the other end of the table Aigburth 'A' defeated Electric Supply 7-2!! Only three games played, the rest were walk-overs. Whilst on paper Electric Supply look favourites for the wooden spoon, I believe they have recently strengthened their team and the return match may well prove crucial. Bootle Y.M. may not yet be completely out of the wood. We beat them 7-3 in the cup in a really tremendous match full of exciting rallies only to lose in the semi-final to our first team in another cracker (I'm finding it difficult to write these notes whilst hanging from a rope!). Aigburth go through to meet either Bath Street or Vagabonds in the final and will have their work cut out against either of them.

Although entrenched in mid-table, Jewish, Cadwa and Aigurth 1st. are capable of turning it on in odd matches but also struggling against the lesser lights. One of the best matches this period was the draw between Jewish and Bootle Y.M., the tightness of this match being typified by Peter Shackletons two games. He overcame Ted Cramsie 25/23; 12/21; 22/20 but lost to Eric Young 21/14; 15/21; 19/21. It was 'nt Ted's night as he also lost narrowly to Eddie Preston 21/19; 24/26; 15/21. Eddie has got to be the most inconsistent player I've seen, capable of some brilliant play one minute then going to pieces for a dozen or more points. In this match he lost to Terry O'Keefe 21/18; 9/21; 21/9. As I'm writing these notes from a total of only thirteen cards there are 'nt many face savers but pride of place (He'll like that) goes to Charlie Gallantry for a 16 and 11 win over Bob Rawlinson. However Bob accompanied by George Wright got total revenge in the doubles defeating Charlie and Harry Holmes 9 and 6 (he won't like that). The only other sole winner was George Higham (Cadwa) with very close

wins over Rob Peat and Pete Mercer (Bath Street) 19/21; 22/20; 23/21; and 21/19; 21/19 respectively. However, Mike Hughes and Barry Stevens (Bootle Y.M.) overcame Sue Anderson and Chris Foley (Police) 21/13; 15/21; 21/14 for their sides only win.

Close ones not previously mentioned include Dave Batty (Vagabonds) v Eric Young 21/19; 18/21; 21/19. Dave again against Keith Whittaker (Maghull) 17/21; 23/21; 23/21. The remainder are doubles Bob Bell and Dave Southworth (Plessey) beat Jack Highton and - guess who? Dave Batty 18/21; 21/14; 22/20 and Peter Knight and Eric Wood (Aigburth 'A') overcame George Wright and Bob Rawlinson 8/21; 25/23; 21/18 - great come back after a disastrous first game.

Finally, I must give mention to our oldest player, and still one of the most enthusiastic, 70 years young Jim Lightburn, still playing his heart out between cigarettes and winning the occasional game, including a good win against over Honourable Match Secretary Eddie Cameron 16/21; 21/14; 21/16 well done Jim and inspiration to all us youngsters in our forties and fifties who may think we are reaching the end of our careers.

TABLE EDGES

It is with regret that I have to report the passing in his sleep of Mike Gallagher of Vagabonds. In his own sphere Mike was always a hard man to beat, and the type of sociable bloke that we will miss very much. To his wife and family we offer our deepest sympathy.

Kevin Parker ex English Electric and an emigrant to Leicester is now playing for Leicester 'A'.

It is worth noting I think, that Leicester with nothing like the population of the Liverpool district have fourteen divisions.

Peter Lee has once again ran a successful table tennis dinner, this time at the Albert Dock. Well done Pete - but put it around a bit earlier next year.

Andrew Eden (English Electric) is now ranked No. 3 Junior in England, he is hoping for a visit to Yugoslavia for the European Chamionships. England v Italy and China at Stalybridge; England v Belgium at Leeds, also a galaxy of international stars at the excellent Preston Guild Hall venue - pretty good eh'. Not only is Stan Clarke (Colonsay) our coaching secretary, he is also Chairman of the North West region. Liverpool closed dates should read all day Sunday April 16th at Kirkby Sports Centre. Finals at the Police Club on Tuesday evening April 18th. The latter has become as much a social event as a Finals night. So enter on Sunday and get along there on Tuesday.

Dave Graham (Bootle J.C.) has a video on the 3 England v China games which were televised at Aylesbury - BRILLIANT.

Undoubtedly to me, one of the worst things in table tennis is going to a table tennis final with no spectators.

Think about the previous item when you see that we have reverted to playing finals in some instances on match nights, when we have all summer to play them.

Finals - Maxwell Fyffe Tuesday 14th March; Stamp - Thursday 16th March;

Forrest - Tuesday 28th March; Hyde - Wednesday 29th March; Rumjahn Thursday 30th March; Readman - 31st March; Frank Murphy 3rd April.

Two little whispers going the rounds - what about a handicap competition and there is a cup donor waiting in the wings, not a bad idea with so many blank nights around.

The second one comes from the ladies perhaps in the form of a question - Whatever happened to the mixed doubles?

It was a bit sad to hear 'Porky' Johnny Leach our ex world champion say he never touches a bat these days.

To Fixture Secretary and All Member Clubs of the Liverpool and District Table Tennis League:- Due to the recent take-over of Plessey Ltd., by G.E.C. we have been instructed by our parent Sports and Social Organisation that, the Plessey Table Tennis Club should be known as 'G.P.T.' Table Tennis Club. S. Harvey, Honourable Secretary, G.P.T. T.T.C. (dated February 4th 1989).

Please note that nominations for the management Committee and proposed amendments to the rules must be in Secretary John McKims' hands by April 1st. April 1st must be emphasised and not as generally thought May 1st

THE CHINESE CONNECTION (AGAIN)

Firstly, having mentioned the Liverpool Representative Team Captain (and opportunist) Don Davies and Manager (and sponsor) Philip Liu in the last issue. I failed to mention and thank the China teams manager Wang Yaguang and the team coach Ren Guoqian who co-operated in every way and helped as did so many in making the afternoon so pleasant. Our appreciation must also go to councillor John Brady, chairman of the Liverpool Council Social and Recreation Committee, who welcomed the Chinese team to the city and to the Peter Lloyd Leisure Centre for the game.

Owing to the short time they had to organise the game, secretly those on the inside wished they could have done a little better. However, reports from the Manchester game when in front of a handful of spectators there were no official umpires (the two unofficial ones came from Liverpool) and the first game at Aylesbury International that had about twice as many spectators as a city game! (there appears to be a reasonably full attendance at later games). So all in all ours was a pretty good show - well done 'yo all'.

How about the three Internationals on the television, they were undoubtedly the most brilliant televised games I have seen. I feel that the actual table tennis was no better. Was it because we (England) were in with a chance and that Alan Cooke and Carl Prean were in top form, Des Douglas was not quite so good, Alan Cooke was truly outstanding and after three 2-2 draws he had the job of playing Wang Zhenyi, for the play off Wang won 22-20; 21-18: on second thoughts it was the best table tennis I have seen.

Although it was not at a good viewing time - 12.30p.m. most of us were on holiday so it was not too bad and the table tennis was very good and Alan Cooke was a very nice man as a matter of fact he was a very, very nice man!

EXCERPTS FROM A MEMORANDUM SENT TO OUR SECRETARY AND ALL MID WEST LEAGUES

ENGLISH T.T. ASSEM
NORTH WEST REGION

The Secretary
Liverpool Table Tennis League

Dear Secretary

SUBJECT: WOMEN IN TABLE TENNIS

Your committee may be aware that the Sports Council, at all levels, has recently started a campaign to increase the number of women participating in sporting activities, and that as a result of this campaign the English Table Tennis Association has launched an initiative, under the heading "Women in Table Tennis". This initiative seeks to attract more women into our sport and to encourage more women to become more active not only in the playing side of the game, but also to become more involved in Coaching, Officiating and Administration.

As I am sure you will realise, the number of female players within Table Tennis has fallen alarmingly over the past years, especially within the age group 20/35 years. We, as a sport, no longer seem to cater for women players who do not relish playing in open divisions alongside male players, the almost total demise of women's divisions within most league structures has certainly resulted in many women leaving the sport, in many cases to take up other sports which cater for female players better than we do.

The purpose of this letter is to bring to the attention of your committee the current attempts being made to attract more women into Table Tennis. A steering committee, under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Josie Ransome, has been set up within the ETTA, and has already set about the task of trying to improve the status of female players. A women's National League has been formed and will soon start competitive play.

In some areas of the country, attempts are being made to attract new women players into the sport by staging "taster" days at selected central venues with the emphasis being placed on the benefits of playing a sport which can be both a positive benefit to health and a pleasant way of meeting new friends. Such an event would be difficult to stage on a region-wide basis, but could well be staged by two or more leagues within their own locality, and may well attract Sports Council funding to assist with costs.

The brief of the North West Regional Committee, of which I have the honour of being Chairman, is wide ranging but is primarily to develop table tennis within the region and to assist with the very necessary support services which will enable our sport to grow in popularity once again. With this in mind, I or other specialist members of my committee, would be only too pleased to attend one of your meetings to address you on any subject within our sphere of expertise.

Yours sincerely,

Stan Clarke

Chairman

North West Region Committee

DIVISION 6

JACK LAMBERT

My goodness, my Guinness! gadzooks! nudge nudge, elbow elbow! I say you cads this is not cricket! or any other exclamation of horror or amazement you may think of, the facts are that out of about 30 cards I have 5 10-0 walk-overs. Three from Bootle Job Centre 'B' and two from Colonsay 'D' maybe there are good reasons for the walk-overs. The effect of 10-0 walk-overs are so extensive, that I reckon the reasons have to be pretty good, to say the least - particularly in this division where games are short anyway, and aren't we the division who are supposed to be welcoming and encouraging new members, old and young - welcome to our league folks we've claimed a 10-0 and won't be playing you - and there's more in the Editorial.

Pride of place for this issue must go to Rodney Youth a draw against Colonsay 'C' an amazing result. Brilliant wins for Joe Williams 21/11; 21/13 over Paula French and Paul Keating beating Barbara Kirkman 13/21; 21/13; 21/18: - superb stuff boys. Stan Clarke saved the day for Colonsay with two wins. You might say what about University's 10-0 against Colonsay - sorry but the team was a bit different, Stan was at No. 1 instead of 4, and University have taken on a new lease of life thanks to Craig Wilson.

Despite these reverses and the varying strength of their teams Colonsay must be firm favourites for our championship, although University have to fit in games at odd times owing to studies, I fancy them for the runner-up spot, while Bootle J.C. 'A' are running neck and neck at the time of writing, their record must include their three ten nils. The University by contrast have on a technical hitch (players in wrong order) have had a 10-0 win changed to 6-4, hard luck fellas'..

Craig Wilson proved my previous remarks by beating Brian Jennings 18/21; 24/22; 21/19, good game and Dave Piper 16 and 18 for University! only two sets against Colonsay, for Rodney Youth 'B' John McCradie was the loaner against Jewish 'D' (Julian Dutch 3). Dave Cohen had a good win against Colonsay, the teams only one: W. Gould Jewish 'E' was the hero against University as was G. Nelson Jewish 'F'.

Two nice friendly (I hope) draws Colonsay 'D' and Jewish 'D' Dave Cohen and Stan Clarke doubles and Bootle J.C. 'B' and University Craig again. Yau Chuen Wong scored a nice double against Jewish 'F' (G.Nelson 3) Eugene Berger was on form against Colonsay 'D' with two wins with Gary Jenning completing an excellent treble. Eugene must have been on a high with another double against University Gautam Mitra winning three of his teams seven.

Rodney Youth 'B' and Jewish 'E' seem to be battling it out for the wooden spoon with Jewish 'E' slight favourites, why not a play off for ye olde wooden spoon - think about it. Nevertheless a nice first win over Bath Street 'B' (Ron Georgeson 2) for the Jewish 'E' team with a treble for G. Nelson. Rodney also have a first win but no card to hand. But keep going John Garbe and Charles Lander - things can only get better. Quite a few exciting 6-4 results:- University 6 (Yau Chuen Wong 3) Jewish 'D' 4 (Ken Dutch 3) I nearly said the Dutch team - sorry Russell. Bath Street 'E' 6 (Dave Aimson and Ron Georgeson 2) Jewish 'D' 4 (Russell Thornton 2) Jewish 'F' 6 (D. Dorman 3) Jewish 'E' 4 (Charles Lamder and Les Walsh a singles and doubles).

Teams are so varied, and so many players are being used that it is difficult to sort out our top players - obviously the third and second division players of Colonsay are outstanding, I have already mentioned the fine form of Craig Wilson of University, Ken Dutch of Jewish 'D' is still a regular winner, others having a good season in number one spots are Paul Keating Rodney 'A'; Dave Aimson Bath Street 'E'; Alan Langfield Bootle J.C. 'B' and Sajion Siddiq University 'A'. They could be in order of merit - then again.

Enjoy your table tennis (if you play!!).

100 CLUB NEWS

We've now caught up with the monthly draws, delayed by last years postal strike, by having the extra draw in December. The extra Christmas drinks draw for fifteen bottles, seemed to go down well ask those that won, and hopefully there will be something similar at Easter. Winning in the 'drinks draws' will not debar you from the end of the year, nonwinner draws if you have'nt won one of the monthly prizes and there will be ten, £10 prizes this year!!!

The monthly draw winners were:-

October draw

1 £25 - Mabel Neary

Drawn November)

2 £15 - Eric Young

3 £12 - Cadwa Club

November Draw

1 £25 - Linacre Club

(Drawn Mid December

2 £15 - Doug Ridgeway

3 £12 - G. Graham

December Draw

1 £25 - John Pilkington

2 £15 - Peter Rumjahn

3 £12 - John McKim

Anyone who still does'nt know about the "100 Club" and wants details contact me, the names in the book.

Sylvia Graham

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SEFTON I-TEC LIMITED

TABLE TENNIS DIGEST

On behalf of Sefton I-Tec Limited may I apologise for the delay in producing this issue.

This was due mainly to a key member of our staff being off with the 'flu bug' in the two weeks immediately prior to our Christmast holiday. Our holiday started on 16th December and we returned on the 4th January 1989. The Digest was available on Monday 16th January which is eight working days.

Next year we must advise you in advance of our holiday commitment and arrange for the copy to be submitted at a mutually agreed date.

Would you be good enough to advise your Chairman of our regrets regarding this issue.

Yours sincerely,

J. Richmond (Mrs)

I-Tec Manager

DIVISION 1	P	W	L	D	PTS	DIVISION 4	P	W	L	D	PTS
LIVERPOOL YMCA	17	13	3	1	131	RODNEY YOUTH	16	15	-	1	140
ELECTRIC SUPPLY	16	14	1	1	127	WATERLOO	19	15	2	2	134
COLONSAY	15	14	1	-	123	ELEC.SUPPLY B	16	10	5	1	101
WAVERTREE LABOUR	16	10	4	2	107	BATH STREET C	18	8	8	2	90
BATH STREET	17	7	6	4	89	ENGLISH ELEC E	14	11	3	-	86
CADWA	15	8	5	2	86	GPT B	16	8	6	2	82
ENGLISH ELECTRIC	14	8	6	-	72	MAGHULL A	17	4	11	2	65
L'POOL YMCA A	18	4	11	3	60	BROWNMOOR PARK	14	6	6	2	61
POLICE	15	3	11	1	56	ACTION YOUTH	12	5	7	-	54
WAVERTREE LAB A	15	10	4	1	56	BOOTLE YMCA A	16	1	14	1	49
COLONSAY A	16	2	13	1	36	L'POOL JEWISH B	16	1	11	4	47
WAVERTREE LAB. B	17	-	17	-	7	WAVERTREE LAB D	15	2	12	1	45
DIVISION 2						DIVISION 5					
ENGLISH ELEC A	18	11	2	5	122	BATH STREET D	16	13	1	2	119
GPT	17	13	3	1	118	VAGABONDS	17	12	4	1	110
MCYA	18	12	6	-1	99	GPT C	15	13	2	-	101
ENGLISH ELEC A	18	9	7	2	95	MAGHULL B	15	13	2	-	97
FORD A	19	9	9	1	90	POLICE B	15	7	6	2	80
BOOTLE JC	12	9	2	1	81	L'POOL JEWISH C	16	5	9	2	70
CADWA A	15	5	5	5	76	CADWA C	15	3	11	1	64
LIVERPOOL JEWISH	17	7	7	3	76	AIGBURTH	14	4	6	4	63
BOOTLE YMCA	18	3	11	4	67	BOOTLE YMCA B	15	5	8	2	61
ELECTRIC SUPPLY A	17	1	12	4	61	AIGBURTH A	17	4	12	1	56
LIVERPOOL YMCA B	17	2	14	1	60	ELECTRIC SUPPLY C	18	-	16	2	43
BATH STREET A	16	4	11	1	56						
DIVISION 3						DIVISION 6					
ENGLISH ELEC D	15	13	-	2	118	COLONSAY C	15	14	-	1	140
COLONSAY B	14	12	1	1	111	BOOTLE JC B	15	11	2	2	116
BOOTLE JC A	17	9	7	1	90	UNIVERSITY	15	9	4	2	104
BATH STREET B	17	6	9	2	77	RODNEY YOUTH A	16	10	4	2	92
MAGHULL	16	7	8	1	77	L'POOL JEWISH F	15	8	5	2	75
GPT A	13	9	3	1	75	COLONSAY D	12	8	3	1	74
ENGLISH ELEC C	14	8	6	-	69	L'POOL JEWISH D	16	4	9	3	68
POLICE A	15	5	10	-	64	UNIVERSITY A	17	4	12	1	55
CADWA B	16	3	11	2	56	L'POOL JEWISH E	16	3	11	2	44
LINACRE	15	2	10	3	50	BATH STREET E	14	3	10	1	39
WAVERTREE LAB. B	14	1	12	1	39	RODNEY YOUTH B	17	1	15	1	33

KNOW YOUR SCORE CARD No 2

MATCH No..... ON TOP LEFT OF SCORE CARD - INSERT WEEK NUMBER AS SHOWN ON PAGES 8 OR 9 OF THE HANDBOOK. (REPEATED IN THE HOPE YOU WILL FILL IN CORRECTLY).

HOME TEAM GROUP NUMBERS ON THE TOP OF THE SCORE CARD - INSERT THE GROUP NUMBER OF YOUR PLAYERS WHICH SHOULD BE AS SHOWN ON YOUR CLUB RANKING LIST.

(NOTE: WE APOLOGISE THAT THIS SPACE IS DIVIDED INTO THREE, IT SHOULD BE FOUR BUT YOU CAN STILL WRITE IN YOUR FOUR NUMBERS)

WORD OF THANKS TO THE 30 PERCENT OF YOU WHO TAKE THE TROUBLE TO ENTER THE CORRECT NUMBERS IN THESE SPACES - FIXTURE SECRETARY.