



Table Tennis **DIGEST**

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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

EDITORIAL A. Upton
BOARD: J. McKim
D. Cameron
K. Armson

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As Jack Lambert had been involved in a motor accident, this issue was edited and printed as an A4 Newsletter by Ken Armson.

I have scanned and modified that Newsletter and changed to the standard shape Digest to maintain the pattern of all scanned Digests.

Roly Wright
20 / 06 / 2008

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE
LEAGUE SYNOPSIS

Due to a number of unrelated circumstances it would not have been possible to publish and distribute a second issue of our magazine before Week 24. Because of this a decision was reluctantly taken not to proceed with publication.

The next and final issue will have an increase in pages to enable Divisional Writers to cover the events of the 2nd half of the season in greater detail to help- compensate for the missing issue. Hopefully they will take advantage of this and give a detailed account of events in their particular division.

As some of you may be aware, our Editor, Jack Lambert, was involved in a car accident recently and is at present hor de combat suffering from a fractured Sternum and some other less serious injuries. Latest progress report is that he is making good progress and hoping to be out and about again before our season ends. I am sure his many friends throughout the League would want us to express best wishes for a speedy recovery. Jack, incidentally, is the League's longest serving secretary.

Some brief comments from around the divisions.

DIVISION ONE; The battle at the top for our premier title is as tight as ever with Colonsay and Eng, Elec. "breathing in turn down each others neck. This "battle" has temporarily ceased following the Colonsay v Y.M. 'A' match which they won 8-2. The resultant scorecard indicated that Colonsay had played out of order and their 8-2 win "became a 9-1 defeat. A second card arrived at the home of the Fixture Sec. which showed a correct playing order

"but different scores. The whole affair is now being investigated and the outcome may well decide the final destination of the title. Any hopes Liv, Y.M. may-have entertained were destroyed when they lost 7-3 to Eng. Elec. Keith Williams was in defiant form and won his three.

At the "bottom the position is "becoming clearer and Elec. Supply will definitely go down and accompanying them will probably be G.P.T. as Police have two matches in hand and Paul Gittins is still pulling in the sets for them.

DIVISION TWO The battle here is in respect of the runner-up position for Boo. J.C. have the title sewn up. The team to accompany them to the giddy heights of the 1st Division will be Boo. Y.M. or Eng. Elec. 'B'. With a game in hand Boo. YM could clinch it but the matter may well be settled when they meet on 28th February. An interesting position for both teams have something other than promotion to aim for. For Boot Y.M. it will mean a return to the 1st. division and an unexpected one; for last season they languished near the bottom. For Elec. 'B' it will mean repeating the feat of their 'A' team last season in addition to a return to the 1st. albeit with a different team.

The relegation zone finds Wav. Lab. 'B' striving to avoid yet another drop following their relegation from Div. One of last season. Hope for fellow contenders lies in the fact that the team has little fight left in them having struggled all season for players. Captain Bill Stanley is resigned to leading his team on a second successive journey to a lower division. An important element when in such a position is the will to survive, and they appear to have lost it. Their partner looks likely to be Elec. Supp. 'A' who will Share with

their 1st team an unwanted double. However, the chance to stay up is still there if they have the will to survive. Surprisingly, the other team involved is Liv. Jewish, but I feel that they will probably be the team to survive this battle. Much may depend on the outcome of their meeting on 27th February.

DIVISION THREE; G.P.T. 'A' have got this one all sewn and will join their 1st team in Div. 2. as champions. Not the kind of divisional meeting they would want, or one they are likely to enjoy. Maghull look favourites to accompany them and their forthcoming match with rivals Waterloo may well put the issue beyond doubt. Is this the start of a revival of Maghulls' fortune following their rapid descent of recent seasons? Eng. Elec. 'D' are also in with an outside chance and may decide that they will be the team to accompany G.P.T. 'A' into the 2nd division. A close finish looks on the cards but Maghull have an ace up their sleeve in the form of an outstanding match with Wav. Lab. 'C' which should net them at least eight sets.

The relegation battle here sees another Wav. Lab. team fighting a desperate battle for survival. After having lived dangerously for two seasons it is now looking likely that their time has come to an end. With two matches in hand a great escape is possible, but highly unlikely. They have a hard final programme which includes matches v Bath St. 'E' and Colonsay 'C' their compatriots in trouble. With an outstanding match against Maghull who will not be disposed to give anything away it looks like being a peculiar double for captain Joan Connor of a baby and relegation. One wanted, the other definitely not wanted. It looks likely when the dust settles that we will see Wav. and Bath St.

'B' going down and Colonsay 'C' surviving.

DIVISION FOUR; Yet another close battle taking place with G.P.T. 'B' striving to take the place of their 'A' team in Div. 3. and Bath St.'C' looking likely to pass their 'B' team as they take their place in Div. 3. But the 'old guard' Linacre are also in with an outside chance of going up and we all know they are champion fighters and the yo-yo experts-of our League. They still have to meet GPT 'B' who may well cut the string on their yo-yo and consign them to another season in the 4th.

Struggling to avoid the drop to the 'Dark Zone' are Bath St. 'D' Aigburth and Police 'B' and it is a real lottery situation which may be settled by the outcome of the Bath St. v Police clash. This same clash could also save Aigburth from the drop. The good news for all of-them is that Elec. Supp.'B' have dropped out. Their good news is bad news for the League and is the direct result of the events of early season when they unexpectedly found themselves virtually deserted by several players.

DIVISION FIVE; Boo. J.C. 'B' seem to have the title sewn up as their nearest rivals, University, are running out of time to complete their fixtures and become the first Varsity team to win promotion for some years. It could well be that even if they do not complete their fixtures they will have amassed sufficient points to ensure their promotion, They are tremendously keen 'B' being the only team in D.5. to have used the same four players. With Wav. Lab.'D' and Colonsay 'D' hard on their heels nothing is yet certain and they have to play Lab.

'D' twice. I expect to see them clinch promotion and there is a possibility of them also emerging as champions. Labour captain, Tony Connor, will be striving to show his wife, Joan, what it is all about by achieving promotion for his team. A new baby and promotion having a much grander ring about it, not to mention proving superiority!

University 'A' are looking strong candidates to finish as bottom team in the League and almost unbelievably down there with them are Jewish 'A'. How can a club having their 'A' |" 'B'| and 'C' teams in the same Division make such a hash of their rankings that the team which should be the strongest finds itself struggling to avoid being the League's 'wooden spoonist's' whilst the expected weaker, their 'C', is the highest placed of the three. The mind boggles, sounds an Irish affair to me.

CUP NEWS Contesting the Readman Final will be Eng. Elec. and Colonsay. Elec. having put out Liv, YM 6-2 and Colonsay bursting the Boo. J.C. bubble after their surprise defeat of Wav. Lab. in the quarters's. Star of that match being Chris Spedding who won his three. There are not many who can claim that achievement.

Boo. J.C. did not encounter the same resistance in the Rumjahn Cup and will join battle with Eng. Elec, 'C' who defeated Fords' 6-2. On paper it looks an easy step to the Cup and League double for them. A point for the finalists to contemplate, the replay date for this Cup clashes with the Finals Fight of our 'Closed! You have been duly warned.

The Hyde Cup Final brings together champions elect, G.P.T. 'A' who comfortably disposed of Eng. Elec. 'E' and Boo. J.C. 'A' who defeated Liv. YM 'B' at the second attempt. The replay leaving Liv. Y.M.

somewhat bemused on finding their opponents had dropped their No.4. and brought in a new No.1. A change which gave the advantage to J.C. 'A' who won 6-3. Y.M. must be kicking them selves for having lost, a 5-0 lead in the first match which they should have sewn up and secured their place in the Final.

The Forrest Final brings together Bath St. 'C' and Maghull 'E'. Bath St. having defeated Linacre 6-1 in the semis which must have put quite a strain on their yo-yo string. The all Maghull semi saw their 'B' defeat their 'A'

6-4 much, I am sure, to the chagrin of the higher ranked team*

In the Stamp Cup Final it will be Boo. J.C.'B' and Cadwa 'C and this will make a second double for the Bootle J.C. club, it needing a brave forecast-er, or a fool to plump for a Cadwa victory. In the semis Cadwa defeated Jewish 'B' after, or so I hear, having claimed a w/over against Varsity who were presumably still absent on their Christmas vacation when the 4's were played. The other semi saw Boo. J.C. narrowly defeat Lab. 'D' in a match which went the full ten sets. It could easily have been a draw, and just as easily seen Lab. 'D' emerge as victors. It was a great cup match and played in a friendly and highly competitive atmosphere and would have made an outstanding final.

Looking at the promotion and relegation candidates and the Cup hopefuls, it is interesting to note the connected thread of the clubs involved and the manner of their involvement. The see-saw effect being clearly apparent.

OTHER NEWS

Our 'CLOSED' Championships take place at Kirkby Sports Centre on Sunday 8th April, with Finals

Night taking place at the Police Club, Tuesday 10th April, commencing at 7p.m. If you want an enjoyable night's Table Tennis then Finals Fight is the place for you to be.

Entry Forms for the 'Closed' have been distributed to club secretaries and we are looking for an increased entry this year so make sure you get a Form from your secretary. Closing date for entries is Friday 23rd March.

The League A.G.M. will be held at the Police Club on Wednesday 23rd May. and clubs are reminded that proposed Rule changes and items for the Agenda must reach the League secretary by 1st April 1990-

Jack Lambert is seeking your views and ideas on the magazine format and would like to hear from you if you have any serious suggestions. All suggestions received will receive serious consideration. It is, after all, your magazine and many of you must hold views on its presentation and format.

The decline in Table Tennis membership and the lack of junior involvement is the cause of considerable concern within our League and needs our attention. With this in mind the League is looking to set-up a Coaching Scheme. Volunteers are needed to assist with this and anyone interested is asked to contact Olive Hunter on 051-428-8079. You don't have to be a qualified Coach or a star player. What is needed is willingness to help others develop their game and their interest in our sport. One spin-off being that it may also help to improve your own game.

This is your chance to put something back into the sport which over the years of your involvement has brought you much enjoyment.

Information required is name, address, telephone number, if any, available periods and mobility status.

Why not give it a try, you may well find it enjoyable and rewarding. You will also be ensuring increased membership of our League.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN, ARTHUR UPTON.

Members will be concerned to learn that Jack Lambert, one of the League's esteemed Vice-Presidents and the Editor of the "Digest" has been the innocent victim of a recent road traffic accident resulting in him suffering injuries including a fractured Sternum. I feel certain that members would want to be associated with me in an expression of warmest good wishes to Jack.

The members of the Management Committee are fully conversant with the fact that Jack's wife, Minnah, makes a valuable contribution by the preparation of submitted material in readiness for presentation to the Printers. In this particular instance of Jack's incapacity her efforts have been especially appreciated, and on the Committee's behalf I extend to her our grateful thanks.

Due to a combination of circumstances, however, including pressure upon the Printer's current commitments which would have entailed a delay in the production of the Season's second issue, a decision has been taken not to proceed with its publication. To compensate for this it is anticipated that the next issue will be an enlarged version.

In an effort to obviate disappointment and as an interim measure, Ken Armson, whose normal responsibility is that of distribution, has kindly agreed to produce this "Newsletter", and thanks are accorded to him for having undertaken this task.

Arthur E. Upton. Chairman.

Finally, before closing I would take this opportunity of extending the thanks of Wavertree Labour for the many offers of help in completing our fixtures following the Liquidation of our Club. This has been staved off until 21st March, and we are confident of being able to complete our Home fixtures. Whether we will still be using the same venue, or still in existence as a club, next season, is still in the balance.

I would stress that the views and comments in this "Newsletter" are my own and I don't necessarily expect everyone to agree with them.

K.A.ARMSON