



COPY

Table Tennis

DIGEST

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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NO 1

EDITORIAL

Happy New Year, and our first edition, the reason being that we are now only having two magazines per season. A bit of a difference from our original five issues, finance of course is the problem. The question was brought up at the A.G.M. and to say that the meeting was supportive of the Digest was putting it mildly. Led by Dave Cohen and Trevor Owens and many others. The meeting discussed ways and means of keeping it going, including increased subs. However, any general meeting has the backbone of table tennis in attendance – mainly the secretaries and committee. How do the rank and file feel?

As our Chariman reports elsewhere we have sadly lost one of our table tennis friends and top administrators Don Cameron. Table tennis was well represented in the crowded congregation at his funeral led by Life Member Jack McCaig, Chairman Arthur Upton, Vice Chairman Stan Clarke and Secretary John McKim. How fortunate we were to have had the opportunity to show Don in the only ways we can in table tennis of our appreciation for the work he has put in and the help he has given for so many years.

Perhaps I am out of order in saying this but I feel it should be said we have other members who have put in long and sterling service to Liverpool table tennis – think about it! Do we have to wait?

DIVISION 1

KEN ARMSON

The division has been depleted by the non-registering of a number of players and the reluctance of others to play regularly. This has resulted in Champions, Eng. Elec. having lost their entire 1st team after only one season and expected challengers Colonsay unable to be certain of just who is willing to play each week. This change of fortune finds Wav. Lab. comfortably out in front with the only apparent challenge coming from their own 'A' team. Of the other possibles, Liv. Y.M. and Cadwa, Y.M. have temporarily lost the services of Peter Lee due to business commitments and replaced him with the capable Dave Tagg. With Peter having been the real driving force behind the team any possible challenge has not materialised. Cadwa have the strength but like Colonsay seem to have difficulty putting out their strongest team every week.

Wav. Lab. have comfortably beaten off the possible challengers and strengthened by the return of Rob Bevan have virtually made it a one horse race. Their only reversal, ironically, being a 6-3 cup defeat at the hands of their own 'A' team whom they had previously beaten 8-2. Unfortunately for them it was one of Rob Bevan's 'can't be bothered trying' nights and this, allied to the determination of the 'A' team to win, was their downfall.

Lab 'A' have a much matured Bernie Wentworth back and playing better than ever. He is receiving strong support from Gary Watson and Mick Tierney. They have now been joined by another wanderer back on Merseyside, Steve Green. Having beaten a weakened Colonsay team 6-4; drawn twice with Cadwa, drawn with Y.M. and also knocked them out of the cup and beaten Bootle J.C. they are full of confidence and feel certain their name is already on the cup. The Draw, however, has paired them with Cadwa who have the strength in depth to win. It is rumoured they have lost the services of newcomer Peter Lander due to his having been deported to Australia. This may be a setback for them and is certainly a loss to the division. In his first few matches he quickly showed his ability with a string of wins. However, they also have Alec Bryce back after a lengthy absence and his results indicate he is in great form. Their match against Colonsay saw the unusual sight of Stuart Richards losing his three to Peter Lander, Graham Parr and Neil Gravener. Two weeks later they cannily played the return fixtures and this found Stuart in better form beating Graham and Alec, but losing again to Neil. The result was another win for Cadwa, this time 7-3 but nine sets went to three.

For newly promoted Bootle J.C. it looks like being a good first season having given notice of their intentions last season when they inflicted a cup defeat on Wav. Lab. in the Readman Cup. They showed their form in early season with a 6-4 win against a fairly strong Cadwa team and followed this with a draw against Y.M. Andy Clark inflicting a rare 2 straight defeat on Keith Williams.

There are not many in the division who can claim this distinction and certainly not from a newly promoted team. If this team stays together then we may well see them making a strong challenge for honours in a future season.

We all have our problems but Colonsay probably feel theirs are the worst for after losing out in the championship race last season they now find that the chance to make good this season has been blighted by the non-availability of their best players some of whom appear to have been infected by the 'only available when it suits me' bug. This has resulted in strong teams, weak ones and on some occasions incomplete teams. The end result being mixed fortunes and no chance of anything. Their best result has been a 9-1 win against Bootle J.C. which only serves to indicate what they could have achieved. To make matters worse they have been eliminated from the cup due to having played ineligible players, or so the Liverpool Echo tells us.

At the bottom it is going to be return ticket to the 2nd div. for Bootle Y.M. They may be feeling slightly out of their depth but are certainly not overawed. They drew with Eng. Elec. and lost narrowly to Bootle J.C. 6-4 and Elec 'A' 6-4. Jason Killip winning his three against Elec. 'A'

and a lone winner in their 9-1 defeat by Wav. Lab. 'A'. Who will be their companion in relegation? Well right now it is looking possible that it could be Eng. Elec. That could be one for the record book. Champions last season and relegated this season. It is some way from being settled and those looking over their shoulders, who include Y.M. 'A'; Bath St. and possibly G.P.T. will be feeling the draught for some time. They may escape this season, but what about next.

Some good lone wins around, Trevor Owen beat Rob Bevan 17 in the 3rd for a lone win. Jason Killip beat Alan Timewell in two straight. Peter Taylor also beat Rob Bevan going one better by doing it in two straight. Other good wins include a double for Ken Jackson against Cadwa when in addition to beating Ken Hartley also beat Peter Lander. Mike Corcoran recorded an exceptional win against on form Bernie Wentworth, 17 in the 3rd. Amhed Thabit double for Y.M. 'A' included a 19 in the 3rd win against Alec Bryce for a very notable and deserved victory. As always Fred Pheysey has pushed himself into the frame with a 2 straight win against Mike Mahoney. Just won't lie down. Team mate Harry Harrison, back in the League after a long absence, also took a set off Mike. Not a night Mike will want to remember, but he is hampered at the moment with an arm injury and has been playing with it in plaster. Hopefully he is now recovered from his injury.

The cup has been flawed by the apparent failure of some teams to comply with the Cup Regulations. This has resulted, I believe, in Bootle J.C. being awarded a walkover into the Final. The decision to bring the 1/4 final Round forward is one that should be questioned and one wonders just why the Cup Committee made such an unsustainable decision. They obviously failed to consider the implications of their decision. However, the Round was clearly identified and the victims have only themselves to blame. They should have done as Cadwa and Colonsay did, bring forward a match to get the necessary qualifying total for the players they wanted to play. However, if having done this you still play ineligible players then you deserve to be eliminated. Surprisingly enough, there are a lot of players who are unaware of this particular Rule. But at the end of the day it is the club secretary's job to ensure such Rules are correctly complied with. Ignorance of the Law is not an acceptable excuse for breaking it.

DIVISION 2

PAULA FRENCH

Whilst it would be totally accurate to say our scribe had been press-ganged into writing these notes, it has to be said our editor had his henchman in peculiar places. In this case your unsuspecting correspondent was half way to Cleveland when the above mentioned henchman produced a stack of Liverpool League cards and announced the new writer of the notes for Division 2 was myself. Oh, and by the way, they are needed immediatly if not before! So I sat there totally gob smaked, no experience in these matters, without a single thought in my head, but ever eager to rise to a challenge, so here goes. With half the season gone the probable promotion and relegation places are beginning to sort themselves out. At the top of the division with a sets average of 7.72 are English Electric 'C' closely followed by Electric Supply with a set average of 7.3 with Cadwa 'A' in third place with an average of 6.2. The promotion places must surely come from these three, but keep an eye on Colonsay 'B' currently mid-table but three games behind the top three and with a sets average of 6.3, they could well have a say in the promotion battle.

At the other end of the table Rodney Youth seem doomed to the drop, with Jewish, MCYA, and Fords set to battle out the remains of the season to avoid joining Rodney in the third next season. Only .1 of a set separates these three clubs. For the remainder, the rest of the season seems to be a case of enjoy your table tennis and better luck next season.

The division seems to be largely composed of regular div. 2 players, the old stalwarts who have been there for years, which makes it surprising to find a player of the calibre of Malcolm

McEnvoy appearing for Electric Supply. Denise must have used all her powers of persuasion for him to leave the lofty reaches of Div. 1. Nice to see Peter Coyle back in harness for Colonsay. Those who have seen him practise must feel exhausted at his work rate, it's not easy to come back after such a long period away from the game, but Peter is working hard to overcome the handicap, as Trevor Hughes and Frank McCann have found out to their cost. Also nice to see one of our up and coming cadets making the occasional appearance in the division as reserve for Colonsay. Gary Thornton-Allen is no doubt finding things very hard but the experience will stand him in good stead, and he already has the scalp of yours truly to his credit. Also nice to see John Greene playing again, this time for Police. John had a promising start to the game as a junior, but drifted away to other things. On a more sombre note, it is disturbing to find teams at this level conceding walk-overs, and playing short. It would be a shame if promotion and relegation were decided as a result of walk-overs. Five players have so far managed to save their sides from a whitewash :- Bob Hughes (Fords) over Paul Price (GPT 'A'), Barbara Kirkman (Colonsay) over Denise Conroy (Elec. Supply), Billy Proffitt (Fords) over Paul Jennings (Elec. Supply), Eddie Clein (Jewish or is it Harold House?) over Gareth Jones (Police), and Joe Williams (Rodney Youth) over Neil Pasher (Fords).

It's a shame that the cup competition this year has virtually become a non-event, not only in this division but in the league as a whole. Unfortunately bringing the quarter finals of the cup forward to November has caught a lot of teams out. With most divisions being reduced to 12 or less teams, a couple of cancelled matches and your players have problems, in fulfilling the qualification requirement. I fail to see the benefit of bringing the cup week forward in this way. I also fail to see why the management committee did not take a more lenient view of the problems faced by clubs in ensuring qualification was obtainable after all the purpose of the rule was an honest and necessary device to stop the more unscrupulous clubs from importing strong players specifically for the cup, and not intended as an instrument by which to completely destroy the cup competitions by over zealous application. I wonder if any consideration was given to the fact that when the rule was introduced the quarter final stage of the cup competitions was not reached until the second half of the season. Oh well, I've had a moan, let's hope something is sorted out for next season.

Now for some close games:- Peter Coyle (Colonsay) beat Frank McCann (Eng. Elec. 'B') 21-19; 19-21; 21-18. Mark Whittaker (G.P.T. 'A') beat Len Dyson (Police) 21-14; 21-23; 23-21: Alf Southall (Fords) beat Frank McCann (Eng. Elec. 'B') 19-21; 21-17; 21-19. Ted Gilmour (G.P.T. 'A') beat John Kenwright (Harold House) 21-18; 20-22: 21-19: Len Dyson (Police) beat John Evans (Eng. Elec. 'B') 17-21; 21-19; 22-20: Mal McEvoy (Elec. Supply) beat Ken Hartley (Cadwa 'A') 21-17; 26-28; 21-19: John Greene (Police) beat Frank Brady (Eng. Elec. 'C') 17-21; 21-17; 23-21: Steve Gittins (Colonsay) beat Ken Hartley (Cadwa 'A') 13-21; 22-20; 21-17: (Happy now Steve?) and finally:- Ken Hartley (Cadwa 'A') beat Paul Gittins (Police) 21-17; 18-21; 23-21: I know there's not much room on the score cards, but any comments about games or matches worth a mention would be very welcome. Enjoy your table tennis, see you around.

DIVISION 3

COLIN PRATT

Quite a few changes to teams and players this season with several clubs having a re-ranking as well as promotion and relegation changes.

First match of the season I played against the new GPT team, Mark Whittaker, Ian Wensley, Paul Morgan and Fred Price. This is the team to win the division I said, but then I saw Bootle J.C. - Dave Graham, Steve Nield, Roger Neal and Ken Strachan and changed my mind.

Several weeks later I saw Bath Streets team - Fred Bainbridge, Pete Ross, Norman Challoner

and John Watson and again changed my mind.

I do think the winner will be the team which fields the strongest four players throughout the season. The leaders will be chased by teams like Maghull, English Electric, Waterloo and Y.M.C.A., any one of whom can beat the top teams.

Straight into asterisk games, games highlighted by the team captains as outstanding on the night. This fellow gets asterisks almost every match, George Higham picked up the 2 points when Cadwa went down 2-8 to leaders Bath St. when he beat Norman Challoner and John Watson both in three after surviving 3 deuce games.

Norman was involved in another epic game with Ted Gilmore when Bath St. and G.P.T. played out a 5-5 draw. The points were long and the game was crucial to both sides, Ted finally winning 21/19.

An asterisk for a different reason, Colonsay jumped clear of relegation when two teams failed to turn up and gifted Colonsay 20 points. Did I hear a boo?

The usual 5-5 draw of the two Electrics went wrong this season, the D team won 9-1 with Richie Cragg picking up the one with a win over Julie Prince.

A big welcome back to Joan Connor after her happy event, Joan stepped in against Waterloo and beat Bill Spencer 21-9-17. Husband Tony losing 10-21 in the third against Bill, mind you it's Tony who has to get up in the night.

Excellent performance by Electric Supply to hold Bath St. to a 4-6 in a very good game. Rob Conley beat Fred Bainbridge and John Watson, both in two straight. Rob who now plays with 2mm Mk V on each side has reproduced his form of 6/8 years ago, and his old enthusiasm. Well done Rob.

Another Cadwa asterisk (thanks Don) highlighted the game between Peter Lau and Phil Musgrove, the scores were 22-20, 20-22, 24-22 in Peters favour, the game was all action, with Phil a very unlucky loser. The match score was 6-4 for Cadwa with Don, Rob, Phil and Kevin winning one each and both doubles. For Y.M.C.A. John Henshaw, Jimmy Clewitt and two for Peter Lau.

Maghull went down 4-6 to G.P.T., Stuart Fay beat Ted Gilmour and Ian Wensley and asterisk man Harry McGanity beat Paul Morgan and Fred Price in 6 exciting games. Harry, after years in lower divisions is now playing very well, he has settled on a combination bat with one side anti-loop and the other side a secret. He hits winners when they are there to hit and he stops the opponent from playing their game. Harry will beat many good players this season, that should put the curse on you Harry!

Waterloo beat Bath St. 'B' 6-4 with a good all round display, Alan Reid, Ray Hibbs and Ken Nelson winning one each and Alan Walton picking up two. Mega-star Bill Clayton beating Barna bat star Alan Reid 18 and 19. Bill also beat top team No 1 Mark Whittaker 21-19, 22-20 when Bath St. B lost 3-7 to G.P.T.

In this match Alex Gould played a cracker of a game against Fred Price finally winning 24-22 in the third. The team at the bottom appears to the Wavertree Labour who have a very large squad but struggle to win games.

In their 1-9 defeat against Electric it was Mabel Neary who picked up the one by beating Tom Downing. Of the 5 games going to three Electric won them all, Tony Connor did everything right against Julie in a game full of incident only to lose out in the third.

Joan Connor was also unlucky to lose to Ro Craddock 21-23 in the third in a very good game of push and hit.

Another Don Davies asterisk when Cadwa held Bootle J.C. to 4-6 at Huyton. The game between Phil Musgrove and Richard Beattie was a highlight of the evening with Phil just winning in the third.

The other game of note was Phil against Roger Neal, this game went in spurts – Phil lead 9-1, Roger levelled, Phil won 22-20. In the second Phil lead 14-6 and lost 19-21. In the decider Phil took the lead and kept it to win 21-11.

Sandy Sanderson made a rare appearance for Wavertree against Electric Supply and picked up his sides only singles win by beating I. Turner in three, Sandy with his “combi” is hard to beat once he decides to give it a go. Sandy picked up two more when beating Ted Mandaluff and Francis Lay when Y.M.C.A. ran out 7-3 winners. Man of this match and many others this season was Jimmy Clewitt, he was involved in two great games against Bill Stanley and Mike Ashton. The game with Mike was good to watch – Mike decided to out speed Jim with a display of blocking, counter hitting, and top spin and was unlucky to lose out 26-24 in the third.

Wavertree again – a good display from Tony Connor in beating Don Davies 21-13 in the third. Colonsay 1 – Maghull 9. The one was Brian Jennings winning the battle of the “Combi” bats over Chris Roberts.

George Wright having one of his best seasons beat Fred Bainbridge and Pete Ross on the same night and that doesn't happen often, Bath St. running out 7-3 winners. George now seems to have adapted his unusual style to be effective against the top players and his results this season are proof of this.

English Electric ‘E’ had a poor start to the season but I'm sure that Richie will pull them together and produce some winning form before long. In their 3-7 loss to GPT Pete Holmes showed just how good he can be against the better players when he beat Mark Whitaker and Paul Morgan. Pete loves opponents to come at him with top spin so that he can block to the angles and counter-hit when possible. Once he is ahead he plays his left-handed loop with confidence and is difficult to catch.

Alex Gould had a good night when Elec D beat Bath St. B 6-4. He got his serve and hit working to perfection against Ro Craddock and Tom Downing, this coupled with his body swerve forehand kill left very few chances for Ro and Tom to get into the game.

Julie Prince showed just how to hit against a good defender when playing Reg Edwards in the same match. The first game was tight and Julie only just won it, but then she opened up with her loop and with Reg defending very well Julie showed how to out hit a defender. Where we would chicken out of the third or fourth hit, Julie simply looped harder and finished with a classic forehand kill. Both players played great but most points went Julie's way and she won the second 21-11. Sorry Reg – but it really was a good game to watch.

DIVISION 4

SYLVIA GRAHAM

Surprise! Surprise! - have I been demoted or have you been promoted?? I think that challenging Ken's position as first division scribe has made him realise my true ambition and to emphasise his position he's put me down for the 4th Division. It could be that playing here has something to do with it too !!!!

It's nice seeing all the 'old' faces again - but not so nice being beaten by all those 'old' bats (again!!). Still not everyone can have a 100% at the end of the season.

One thing I must say straight away is congratulations to Bootle YMCA 'A' on winning the 4th Division. I don't usually make predictions this early but this time I'll make an exception. I think since the first few matches they have been certain of promotion and deservedly so. If you look at their pedigree on paper then it speaks for itself. John Higham made no mean

contribution to YM's first team promotion to the first last season; Tom Killip helped too and both have excellent averages to date. The other two members of the team, Roly Wright and Danny Every are suitably encouraged by the results because they are playing their hearts out as the team continues with it's average of 9 sets to 1 each match.

The other promotion place is still open but I think the favourites must be Bath St. 'C' and Linacre. Both teams are playing well and I don't see much between them in results so the deciding factor may well be the return match in the second half of the season which I await with relish, Bath St running out the 8:2 winners when they first met. I must say that Mal Cray and Jack Davidson are playing exceptionally well for Linacre but the Bath St side are strong all the way down. I suppose it's a matter of horses for courses and as Linacre invariably have to play the same players it will be up to Bath St to decide which of their squad they will turn out. GPT 'C' are still in with a shout but I think that with the division having two empty places they will find it hard to make up the deficit.

There are lots of teams in the middle of the table which are having their own battles to finish top of the bunch and I have no idea what the outcome will be. It should be an interesting second half to the season. My own team, Bootle J.C. aborted their own chances by playing short on two occasions which is annoying when opposing teams show up with a full squad to find that someone only gets one game/none at all. Both Maghull teams will be in the middle and I must say that Bill Salter must have shares in Phylosan (or Heineken?) because he certainly has had his parts refreshed from somewhere. I've never seen him hitting quite so well.

The league table is held up at the moment by Aigburth and Waterloo. I cannot believe it really. Aigburth are every young players nightmare - a whole team of Barnas!!!! I wouldn't mind but they are all good barna players and I cannot understand why the wins seem to elude them so consistently. Waterloo are another team which are losing yet I think they are a good team too. A bad start to the season when players were unavailable for early matches would appear to be too much of a handicap to overcome at this stage in the season and many of this divisions teams could hold their own in the third which shows the strength of the division.

Now I'll give you the role of honour with a brainteaser to finish.

Good wins:

Bill Spencer (Waterloo 'A') beat Richie Winkle (Police) -12, 16 and 16, then lost to Bob Rawlinson in that same match -9 and -26. Ken Strachan (Bootle J.C.) beat Eddie Preston (YMCA 'B') 13, -19 and 14 which doesn't really give credit to the match because it was a cracker!

Close matches to date include:

Dave Aimson(Bath St) beat Frank Lacey (Linacre) -21, 19 and 23, it must have been a great match! Bill Leeming (Aigburth) won 21 and 20 against Ken Strachan (Bootle JC). Eddie Preston (YMCA 'B') lost 23/25 in the third to John Higham (YMCA 'A') which is the nearest John has come to defeat so far and I think that' a gauntlet someone should take up. The last couple of points are always the hardest to get as Eddie will testify. Brian Gregory (Maghull 'A') beat Tony Moon (GPT 'C') -17, 18 and 21 and lost to Ray Parry (Bootle JC) -21 and -20. Wilf Gibson (Maghull 'A') beat Rob Peat (Bath St) -18, 17 and 20. Jack Davidson (Linacre) beat Andy Howarth (Maghull 'B') 18,-20 and 19 and Andy then went on to beat Stan Harvey (GPT 'C') 13, -5 and 25. Ken Ainsworth (Linacre) beat Tony Harris (Police) 17, -20 and 20. Ken Ray (Wavertree Labour) beat Mike Hughes (YMCA 'B') 9, -20 and 20. Jim Geddes (YMCA 'B') beat Jeff Banks (Maghull 'A') 23 and 20. Well that's all for this edition.

DIVISION 5

JACK LAMBERT

How nice to start off by giving a sincere welcome to our two new clubs with three teams. L.I.H.E. led by B. Levrington and TAG and TAG 'A' led by Viv Smallwood and Alan Prist. I would suggest that when new teams arrive on our scene that they have at least one friendly be arranged so that they are fully conversant with the complete routine of our system from match cards to rules official and unofficial and make them feel at home with all the details.

When I received your cards I thought "oh dear", poor old Division 5 suffering again only a handful of teams, but when I received the league tables I find we are a healthy (for Div.5) ten team division but it doesn't alter the fact that I only have seven match cards.

Myles Joel and T. Dollah tried desperately to avoid the white wash against G.P.T. 'E' losing 22-20; 15-21; 24-26: to Gerry Richardson and Keith Robinson, the only 10-0 a good sign. Bath St. 'D' on the losing side of a couple of 6-4's. The first in a game full of well known names. Peter Roberts having two good wins over John Letch and Fraser Farcquarson, who in turn won both their other singles against Emma Fletcher and Jack Power. Jack in turn beat Ron Georgeson who followed with a win over Dave Power. The next 4-6 was against G.P.T. 'D' Bobbt Bell and Mike Opono both did well with double wins. Les Griffin losing to John Letch 19 in the third. Dave Cunningham and Fraser winning the other two singles - see what I mean about names.

The GPT Derby saw the 'D' beating the 'E' 8-2, Les Griffin won his three games in straight sets, the rest all going to three, with Gerry Richardson and Mal Spencer winning the 'E' teams two sets. Stan Harvey won a singles and his doubles, Stan must now be laying claim to longest serving player since Eddie Cameron has regrettably retired. A brave show by T.A.G. against a Liverpool Jewish side who had John Hodges, Dave Cohen and Richard Blackburn winning a couple each, with Kerry Draper adding a singles to a doubles win; T.A.G. went one better against G.P.T. 'E' Ray Sefia winning both his singles and the doubles with Andrew Sefia. Andrew Owens won his three for G.P.T. Stan Harvey and Tom Banton had double victories against Jewish 'A' with Jerry O'Keefe winning a singles and doubles with Eric Young back in the frame.

Congratulations to whichever T.A.G. team that wins through to the final of the Stamp Cup.

My apologies to the University and L.I.H.E. as I have no details but it is pleasing to see you have both found winning ways. Best wishes to you both and T.A.G. for an enjoyable season. If anyone fancies themselves as Press Agents for Division 5 let Ken Armson know.

TABLE EDGES

Peter Lee and Paul Tsang hit our scene with their dedication to the game with Liverpool Y.M., I won't say how long ago as Peter is still so young and handsome. Paul returned to Hong Kong and now Peter has left us for Leeds. His sportsmanship, interest, apart from playing and his many honours and love of the game could not be bettered - a sad loss to Liverpool Table Tennis - good luck Pete.

For the older ones (and there are plenty of us) yet another sad item. Bluey May (Casselman) recently passed away whilst living in Canada. Clint - her husband - and Bluey left Rafters and Liverpool for Canada some time ago. Bluey with Pinky (Twins) reached the final of the Ladies Rose Bowl and by coincidence met the Rowe twins who were current English Internationals.

Stan Clarke on top of his many coaching commitments takes over as Vice Chairman from Jack McCaig.

It was bad news to hear of Sylvia Graham's retirement - she has worked so hard since Bootle J.C. came on the scene. Not only in putting the Job Centre on the map, but working so hard for

you and I on committee. More important she was one of our bright young starlets on the admin side.

This is official – Keith Williams is still Mr. K. Williams. He won the Mixed Doubles with Paula French **not the Ladies Doubles.**

Just for the record GPT 'A' beat Bootle J.C. 'A'. Alter your handbook for future reference – in both cases.

In the Glasgow International Sports tournament our young players did us proud Emma Fletcher, Gary Thornton-Allen, Kevin Dolder and Phil Musgrove were foremost in gaining a victory for the multi-sports Liverpool team against eleven other cities. They have now been invited to the town hall to meet the Lord Mayor and a further presentation.

The long and happy table tennis career of one of our most pleasant and competitive lady players Pauline Lawrenson has been given a set-back. As she is now in hospital and we hope things improve for her. Keep smiling Pauline, our thoughts and best wishes are with you.

In the veterans World Championships Mabel Neary won a bronze medal in the ladies Doubles – that's the good news. The bad news is that husband Billy is in hospital. Now off our circuit (T.T.) Billy was a popular figure during his Eng. Elec and Wavertree Labour days (always a better footballer than T.T. player) from all his friends get better soon – you owe me a Scotch.

Yet another of our players is having a rough time. Francis Lay is in Walton Hospital for a pretty nasty operation. Keep smiling Fran we are all rooting for you. Very best wishes and we hope that you will be back with us soon.

Did you see the France vs England game on T.V.? magnificent table tennis from Lois Lomas and Mathew Syed. The reason – we had attack and defence – just the thing to attract non-believers – which I'm afraid the modern game doesn't.

With regard to three topical and relevant items – for which there has been the usual avalanche of mail.

Cup bans – the rules have to be adhered to, but a slip up with the dates somewhere.

Veterans Handicap – at least a start has been made – but I feel age and table tennis ability don't equate – Fred Pheysey (Div. 1) 5 Ro Craddock (Div. 3) 0!? How about handicap by divisions?

Two issues of the Digest has knocked the heart out of it.

READMAN CUP

Colonsay 2

English Electric 6

Peter Flint beat Stuart Richards 16 & 12; Paul Hutchings beat Phil Thomson 18 & 16; Chris Ford playing well, beat Mal McEvoy 17 & 16; Mal and Pual lost to Chris and Stuart 18 & 20, the game finely poised at two all: Chris against Paul continued his purple patch and was on top more than the 21 & 19 score line suggests, he continued to dominate in the second, but Paul pulled out the stops for a 19 win and won the third 12. This was an outstanding game probably to be ranked as the best ever. Peter beat Phil 12-21; 21-15; 21-12: another cracking game saw Mal beat Stuart 16-21; 21-15; 21-15: To clinch the match, a personal triumph, Peter beat Chris 14 & 14: Our chairman Arthur Upton presented the trophies and medals.

Played at the Liverpool Y.M.C.A. with Keith Williams in charge and was followed by a nice little party in Peter Lee's Bonaparte Wine Bar in Clarence Street.

A.G.M.

Just a few items discussed, Stan Clarke became Vice Chairman adding this to his many coaching activities and non-playing captain of the ladies team.

Bats in the Liverpool league were discussed and it was pointed out that umpires and players could examine bats for colour and thickness of rubber yet a player in Liverpool could play with a wooden bat but never a word said.

The Digest was discussed in full and the hard core of secretaries and others interested were very much in favour even to the extent of an increase in fees to keep it going. Eventually a slight increase was agreed this would also cover the cost of the issue of league tables.

How about more local news in the Echo? Don Davies submits copy covering all aspects – but the Echo sort out what THEY think is news worthy.

The Closed Championships allowing ladies in Mens Singles vetoed. Mens' Semi-finals on finals night was very popular – even at the expense of less games or a longer Finals night.

A proposal to enter a Liverpool League in the National League was dismissed. The present Liverpool team is the brain-child of Chris Ford of Colonsay.

The disaster of the lack of youngsters was discussed AGAIN. Is there an answer? Nevertheless, Stan Clarke again (he has had a couple of tries) and Pual Hutchings are willing to help in any way and a meeting was arranged!!

Eddie Cameron told us a romantic and unbelievable story of a couple of score cards for one match. Bill Salter told us we made a couple of bob.

The Frank Murphy Veterans Trophy was discussed in full, the feeling was that it was just becoming another trophy of the best players instead of a semi-fun trophy for not so good older players with the spirit of young Murphy, coming through.

This was the last table tennis appearance of our friend and associate Don Cameron.

Letters to the Editor ...

10, Hawksworth Drive,
Formby

Dear Jack,

Just a short note to thank everyone who kindly donated to the collection for leukemia and kidney research, following the sad death of my Dad last February. Those who knew my father will appreciate just how much time he spent transporting me around to play table tennis and what a nice man he was, he will be sadly missed. Special thanks must go to Chris Ford and his wife Julia for organising the collection, myself and my family greatly appreciate your generosity. Thanks again to everyone.

Rob Lowe (Colonsay)

The Late Mr. S. D. Cameron A Tribute from the Chairman

It is with profound regret that we record the death on the 8th December of Mr. S. D. Cameron, and on behalf of all associated with the Liverpool & District Table Tennis League we extend our deepest sympathy to his widow Jean, also to his brother Eddie in the sad loss which they have sustained.

“Don” as he was affectionately known by his wide circle of friends gave conscientious service as the League Treasurer during a 31 year period from 1957 until the latter part of 1988, when

due to health reasons he found it necessary to resign. Throughout his lengthy tenure of this Office the League benefitted from the expertise of his profession as an Accountant, this being reflected not only in the manner in which its financial affairs were managed, but of equal importance to the members, the clarity of the presentation of his annual accounts.

Additionally, Don had rendered invaluable service in horizons beyond those of the Liverpool League, as from 1969 until the date of his death he served continuously as Honorary Auditor to the Lancashire & Cheshire Table Tennis League. He had also accepted a similar appointment with the Liverpool League following his resignation as Treasurer.

Acknowledgment of his service to the game of table tennis was made in 1985 when it was my pleasure to present to him on behalf of the National Association, the E.T.T.A. Award of Merit. This pleasure was enhanced at the League's Annual General Meeting in 1989 when, on behalf of the Management Committee and members, I was privileged to confer upon him the honour of Life Membership, together with the Stamp Award of Merit in recognition of outstanding service to the League.

Arthur E. Upton (Chairman)

Vin Logan

The game between Bootle Y.M.C.A. and Aigburth had finished. During the evening Bill Leeming had asked Vin to sign his official form for Aigburth Peoples Hall, a normal game, a normal table tennis night, game over and everybody ready for home - Vin suddenly collapsed, an ambulance was called - on arrival at the hospital the worst had happened.

Vin was a comparative newcomer to our ranks but a very enthusiastic one, played Business Houses and for Aigburth. He was a regular visitor at Liverpool Y.M.C.A. and took advice from George Smith and Keith Williams. For his team mates, friends and relatives who filled St. Hughes church a sad loss, but of course more so to his family with whom he was so close, his youngsters bought him his first bat. To Joyce and his family we offer our deepest and sincere sympathy. He will be sadly missed by all of us who knew him.

100 CLUB WINNERS

September	1st P. M. Carney	2nd P. U. Rumjahn
October	1st A. E. Gould	2nd Mrs. D. Rumjahn
November	1st A. E. Gould	2nd Mrs. V. E. Killip
December	1st J. K. Hyde	2nd M. Neary
January	1st Cadwa	2nd Don Davis

First Prize is £16

Second Prize is £11

The reduced prize money is due to the reduced membership, currently 45. Sylvia Graham has resigned from running the 100 Club, due to heavy commitments at work and clearly her charm and powers of persuasion are already sorely missed!

Anyone wishing to join the 100 Club should contact Bill Salter on 526-6495 at 6 p.m. weekdays.

DIVISION 1	P	W	L	D	PTS
WAVERTREE LAB.	14	13	-	1	115
CADWA	16	10	2	4	102
WAVERTREE LAB. 'A'	15	10	1	4	98
LIVERPOOL YMCA	13	5	3	5	76
COLONSAY	14	8	6	2	75
ENGLISH ELEC. 'A'	14	5	7	2	64
G.P.T.	13	5	7	1	61
BOOTLE J.C.	12	5	5	2	54
BATH STREET	13	3	10	-	49
LIVERPOOL YMCA 'A'	13	1	9	3	41
ENGLISH ELEC.	9	-	6	3	28
BOOTLE YMCA	12	1	10	1	27

DIVISION 2	P	W	L	D	PTS
CADWA 'A'	13	9	2	2	87
ENGLISH ELEC. 'C'	11	10	-	1	85
ELECTRIC SUPPLY	12	9	3	-	84
ENGLISH ELEC. 'B'	14	7	5	2	74
G.P.T. 'A'	12	5	6	1	63
COLONSAY 'B'	9	7	2	-	60
POLICE	12	4	4	4	60
COLONSAY 'A'	12	4	6	2	51
L'POOL JEWISH	12	3	7	2	46
FORDS	13	2	9	2	44
M.Y.C.A.	11	1	8	2	32
RODNEY YOUTH	9	-	9	-	14

DIVISION 3	P	W	L	D	PTS
BATH ST. 'A'	16	12	-	4	115
G.P.T. 'B'	15	12	1	2	107
MAGHULL	16	10	3	3	101
BOOTLE J.C. 'A'	14	10	1	3	89
ENGLISH ELEC. 'D'	15	8	4	3	86
CADWA 'B'	16	6	6	4	77
WATERLOO	14	7	4	3	76
COLONSAY 'C'	15	5	10	-	66
LIVERPOOL YMCA 'B'	15	6	9	-	65
ELECTRIC SUPPLY 'A'	15	4	10	1	63
POLICE 'A'	15	5	9	1	59
ENGLISH ELEC. 'E'	15	3	9	3	56
BATH STREET 'B'	15	3	11	1	55
WAVERTREE LAB. 'B'	14	-	14	-	33

DIVISION 4	P	W	L	D	PTS
BOOTLE YMCA 'A'	15	14	-	1	126
BATH ST. 'C'	13	11	2	-	91
LINACRE	13	9	2	2	87
G.P.T. 'C'	14	7	6	1	76
BOOTLE J.C. 'B'	14	8	5	1	71
MAGHULL 'B'	14	6	7	1	71
BOOTLE YMCA 'B'	13	5	6	2	66
WAVERTREE LAB. 'C'	13	4	8	1	52
POLICE 'B'	14	4	9	1	49
MAGHULL 'A'	11	3	6	2	47
WATERLOO 'A'	15	2	12	1	42
AIGBURTH	13	-	10	3	32

DIVISION 5	P	W	L	D	PTS
G.P.T. 'D'	10	9	-	1	74
BATH ST. 'D'	11	5	4	2	69
CADWA 'C'	9	8	1	-	62
G.P.T. 'E'	10	3	6	1	44
L'POOL JEWISH 'A'	8	3	4	1	43
UNIVERSITY	7	4	3	-	38
L'POOL JEWISH 'B'	7	4	2	1	37
T.A.G. 'A'	8	3	5	-	35
L.I.H.E.	11	2	9	-	33
T.A.G.	10	1	9	-	18

FIXTURE SECRETARY'S NOTES

Please check your records, it is obvious that many cards have not been posted.

Read match regulation 10.

Re-arranged dates need to be provided and must be played within timescales if walk-overs are to be avoided
