

HARRY COPY

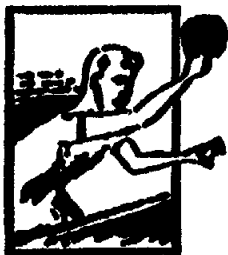


Table Tennis

DIGEST

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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

EDITORIAL BOARD:
A. Upton
J. McKim
K. Armson
W. Salter

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NO. 2

EDITORIAL

From time to time and quoted many times, Jimmy Grieves reckons football is a funny old game. May I suggest that he comes and has a look at Table Tennis – not the game but the set up.

Ken Armson brings up my favourite – a good player plays in certain or top crunch games and misses others. This happens so often.

Jimmy Geddes looks forward to a new season and finds he is short of his top team (I know the feeling). However, 10 out of 10 to Roly, Jim, Les, Eddie and the rest of the stalwarts for soldiering on. It affects the whole Club.

There are a lot of Jim Geddes in the League who make it all happen. He deserves his new room at Bootle Y.M. for resurrecting the Club from the old Brenka Club. Dave Cohen, founder member and backbone of the Liverpool Jewish (H. H.) Club. Ken Armson took over from Ron McEvoy and kept the Club at the top of the class. Alex Gould survived and kept the Bath Street flag flying (despite Billy Clayton).

George Smith, Paula French and Stan Harvey all came back or took over, but all have one object in mind, the furtherance and survival of Table Tennis. The same applies to Bill Leeming, Ken Nelson, Bill Proffit, who are all long serving and dedicated. In the admin. seats, but not for so long, the Graham "Twins", Mike Power, Mal McEvoy, Rod Bulmer, Arthur Garnett, Viv Smallwood and B. Leverington. All those mentioned take the stick when things go wrong, but without them we would be lost. Did I miss one? Oh yes! that elderly gent from Linacre, Jack Davidson, who with Alex together with his small Club have represented all the best in Table Tennis for over forty years.

I don't feel very strongly about the latest controversy. The flat hand throw it up rule was introduced to stop the then trend of imparting vicious finger spin. Now more spin is imparted by fancy rubbers. Most players serve as the ball arrives in their hand - palm, fingers, hand and throw it up - so?

Eureka! a letter from an irate 'fan' non other than Fred Pheysey's 'Minder' and our worthy Editor to boot. This must surely be akin to winning a Pulitzer Prize. Perhaps I should remind Fred's 'Minder' of his own editorial in that same issue. "What are we going to do about 'walkovers' etc. I rest my case.

Back to the division. At present Y.M. and Wav Lab. are neck and neck in the title race and this looked likely to be the situation right up to the last match. A wrist injury to Dave Roberts now looks certain to affect Wav. Lab's bid to retain their title in the face of the strongest opposition for some years. With 4th squad member, Steve Green, not regularly available they now have to show they have the will to ride out this set back and maintain a strong challenge. Dave is due back in action first week in February but will be out of practice. Coincidentally, Y.M. suffered an identical set back last season when an arm injury to Mike Mahony ended their bid for honours. I feel this may also happen to Wav. Lab. for Dave is such a great asset to the team that his absence will be noticeable in their results. It goes almost without saying that I hope they prove me wrong.

For Y.M. the pace has not slackened and they recently recorded a 10.0 against Bath St. which was no mean achievement and a clear sign of championship form and effort. Obviously wins against them become more notable and Andy Clark made his mark in a 7-3 defeat for his team by winning his three singles. This loss being Y.M.'s only serious one the others being the odd set, or sometimes two. Kevin Dolder also hit the headlines with a lone 2 straight win over Peter Lee. Alan Chase doing like-wise for Eng. Elec. but in 3. For Elec. 'A' Natasha Williams followed up her debut wins by taking two sets off Y.M. beating Peter Lee and Mike. They also have had their share of luck which always accompanies great effort when Cadwa turned out a 1st team of reserves to give a further fillip to their title bid.

Colonsay have improved their turn-out and their results and climbed into 3rd place. They took 4 sets off Wav. Lab's. strongest team with two for Chris Ford and two for Stuart Richards. They disposed of GPT 7-3 with Paul Hutchings doing his usual taking the three. Against Wav. Lab. 'A' they lost 4 sets with Gary Watson recording another good win against Stuart Richards and taking another off Rob Lowe. It would be nice to believe they have continued to turn out a full strength team regularly, but the indications are that they continue to fall by the wayside. If they had, they would have been in with a strong chance of overtaking Wav. Lab. if the expected fall in their results occurs.

Bootle J.C. have also improved on their results after a hesitant start and moved up to 4th position and should hold this comfortably. They achieved a draw against Wav Lab. and a 9-1 win against Eng. Elec. Nick Miller being a lone loser to Ted Birch. They also got a draw against GPT for whom Paul Hutchings recorded his usual 3. I hear G.P.T. have signed a German player of a very high standard who is alternating with Paul to ensure at least one of them plays each week. I commend their attention to this important aspect which ensures no advantage is given to any one team. Pity other clubs do not do likewise for there is no doubt that the important championship and relegation issues are all too often affected by easy wins or heavy defeats arising from teams not honouring their full commitment to the division. Perhaps I should substitute 'players' for 'teams' as it is they, and not the team, which are at fault.

The biggest offender, Cadwa, continue to be unsure just who plays for which team and I doubt they know themselves just what their correct teams are. Surprisingly, with a fairly

strong team, they dropped four sets to Elec. 'A' with Ken Hartley losing his three and Neil Gravener probably wishing he had given the night his usual miss when 15yr. old Natasha Williams disposed of him in 2 straight 20 & 9. Yes, nine. I spoke to Natasha about this excellent win and she commented that having watched Neil she was a little apprehensive about playing him, but found he posed her no problems. Obviously not one of Neil's better performances and one he will be wanting to forget.

The position at the bottom has now resolved itself and it now looks certain that Eng. Elec. and Elec. 'B' will stay up with Cadwa 'A' and Elec. 'A' going down. GPT are hanging around the danger zone but the regular 3 games a match from Paul or his relief will be sufficient to keep them well clear, and that is without the sets being gained by their teammates.

Elec. 'B' have continued to demonstrate their right to their hard won promotion with draws v their own 1st team and a very noteworthy one against Bootle. J.C. Against their 1st team Ricky Brown and Frank Brady got two each and against Bootle J.C. Frank got two more with Ricky and Keith Miller getting one each. On each occasion they took the doubles for a draw. Against Lab. 'A' they got 3 more and Frank achieved a great win over Gary Watons who has been in great form and has victories over Keith Williams and Stuart Richards to show for his efforts and wins against Dave Roberts and Alan Timewell making his mark in the title battle. These wins making Frank's all the more noteworthy.

Cadwa 'A' have tried to maintain a settled team and although finding the going hard and having to accept that their time in this division will be restricted to one season, they have recorded some good individual wins. Ian Miller won his 3 against Eng. Elec. with a 2 straight over Alan (quicksilver) Chase and a 2 straight over Ted (never say die) Birch. Against Bath St. he was a lone winner taking a set off Mike Keane and in a recent match v Wav. Lab. he got his double against Alan Timewell when beating him for the second time this season with another lone effort.

Elec. 'A' are doomed, but might have avoided their inevitable fate had Natasha Williams been with them from the outset. Her successes may have given Fred and Harry the necessary lift to fight just that little bit harder for Fred, whatever little digs I may make, is a fighter. They both took a set off Ken Hartley in the 6-4 defeat by Cadwa to supplement Natasha's two. In another 6-4 defeat, Natasha got three and Harry chipped in with No. 4. In a recent match against Lab. 'A' they got a great fillip when a complete reserve team arrived and they got a 9-1 win, Bob Owen being a lone winner for Wav. Lab. 'C' playing under the banner of Lab 'A'.

On the cup front, Lab 'A' disposed of Elec 'A' 6-1 to move into the semi's and Y.M. recorded a 6-0 win against title rivals Wav. Lab. to take their place in the semi's. In what should have been the match of the Round Wav. Lab. struggled to field a team due to injury and sickness and when their 1st call, Steve Green v Peter Lee went down - Steve being 15-7 up in the 3rd only to lose -16 - Y.M. responded to this and achieved a tremendous win which will give a great fillip to their League and Cup challenge and possibly push Wav. Lab. right out of the frame. A comment on Dave Robert's injury, this was the result of playing Tennis, yes, tennis, in winter. What, I asked myself, was a table tennis player who won't play table tennis during the tennis season, doing playing tennis during the table tennis season? The mind boggles. Phil Luxon reckons he fell off his wallet. He did offer another possible reason which is unprintable.

On the service Law and the comments made by Stan Clarke in his divisional notes. As our top players you should be setting an example to the rest of the League, but I see many dubious serves and many which are clearly based on a Law of the player and bear little

relation to the official version. If you expect points won in accordance with the Laws of the game to be awarded to you, then you should also serve in accordance with those same Laws and not your own particular version of them. A protest as to the legality of your opponent's service being pointless unless your own are above reproach. Think about it, it makes sense and avoids the embarrassment of being called.

DIVISION 2

STAN CLARKE

Congratulations; out of the latest batch of cards to reach me not a single walk-over conceded, I only hope the trend will continue until the end of the season.

At the time of writing Liverpool Y.M.C.A. "A" are sitting proudly at the top of the division with a 4 point lead over Electric Supply, both teams having played 12 matches. The first half match between the two resulted in a draw with Y.M.C.A. at full strength but Supply turning out only Mal McEvoy from their strongest line up. What's the betting that in the return fixture Supply turn out their strongest possible team? I venture to suggest that the inclusion of Peter Flint, Rob Bevan and Ken Connor may well produce a somewhat different result. I don't know about the rest of you but I find it a little unfair that a club should turn out an extremely strong team against one team but not do so consistently, from the records available to me I can only find one occasion where Supply have turned out their strongest team and that was against Colonsay "B", no sour grapes on my part I assure you.

Currently in 3rd place are Bootle J.C. "A" with 71 points from 12 matches ahead of G.P.T. "A" who have 63 points from 11 matches, it will be interesting to watch the outcome of that particular battle, if pushed I would plump for G.P.T. to finish up in 3rd spot not because I don't rate the lads from Bootle J.C. but because G.P.T. are such an awkward combination, very difficult to beat with widely differing styles of play from the attacking flair of Trevor Owens to the formidable defensive skills of Ian Wensley. Job Centre by comparison are a little more straight forward, top spin players they allow their opponents to play a more open type of game and it is mainly a question of whether you have the ability to take them on at their own game.

Colonsay "B" are in fifth place with 53 points from 13 matches and can expect to drop a couple of places when teams below them catch up on outstanding matches. Both Colonsay teams have suffered from having to concede sets which have not been completed before 11pm when they must vacate their premises, particularly frustrating if the reason is a late start because opponents failed to turn up at the correct starting time.

Bootle Y.M.C.A. have dropped two places since my last notes but like Colonsay I feel sure they will be pleased to survive the season outside the relegation zone considering the players they have lost. In my opinion they have done very well considering so many of their players have been thrown in at the deep end and are playing at a level they are unaccustomed to.

English Electric "C" obviously took my remark in the last Digest to heart and appear to have ensured they will not take part in the relegation battle with 52 points from 12 matches.

Bath Street "A" continue to confound me having played 11 matches to date but only collected 48 points, I feel they are capable of much better. Police have 48 points from 12 and are still not safe from the relegation battle, they need to turn out their strongest team at every opportunity to ensure their safety.

Colonsay "A" have 45 points from 12 matches and are currently next to bottom, they do have a squad which should see them comfortably in mid table with Colin Rourke, Bill Harris, Davé Ferguson the improving Martin Hunter and Harry Nelson. They have the ability to do better, but like other teams they have difficulty turning out their strongest team consistently.

Last but not least come Harold House with 36 points from 12 matches, they really do have a battle on their hands to avoid the drop. It's a pity that their home venue does not really suit some of their players, it's not easy to defend in such a small room as I am sure Eddie Clein and John Kenwright would confirm. One wonders if their canny secretary Dave Cohen can produce one of his famous timely signings to help the situation.

I have 5 cards with scores of 9/1 the following players saving their respective teams from a whitewash: Dave Ferguson Colonsay "A" beat John Henshaw L'Pool Y.M.C.A. "A", Roly Wright Bootle Y.M.C.A. beat Alan Evans Electric Supply. Tom Purcell Police beat John Moore Electric Supply, John Kenwright Harold House beat Peter Scarisbrick Bootle J.C. "A" and finally Frank McCann and Brian Crolley Eng Elec. "C" beat Dave Tagg and Peter Taylor L'Pool Y.M.C.A.

Talking point for this issue is should we now be considering making all divisions 3 a side in line with the super stars of the 1st division? Many of the original objections no longer apply, membership of the league has fallen to an all time low, many clubs are struggling to turn out 4 players for each match as witnessed by the number of walkovers conceded each season. Very few clubs have large numbers of teams, the notable exception being English Electric and they are regrettably about to loose their premises, so the problem of match nights is not the problem it once was. So what are the advantages? The 3 man team ensures each player of at least 3 sets per match with a doubles for the two more energetic members, hopefully the extra players can form extra teams ensuring full divisions and the possibility of a 6th division. Surely if it's good enough for the super stars it's good enough for the rest of us. Your comments would be welcome.

DIVISION 3

ROD BULMER

The Division seems to be sorting it's self out into three distinct groups. At the top are GPT "B" with 85 points from 12 games followed by Fords with 76 from 12 games.

There then follows a group of 7 teams with only 13 points separating them; leading this group are Police A 66 from 13, Cadwa 65 from 12, Waterloo 62 from 11, English Electric E 60 from 11, Electric Supply A 58 from 11, English Electric D 55 from 10 and Linacre 53 from 13.

The bottom two places are occupied by Maghull 35 from 11 and Bootle YMCA 19 from 11.

What conclusions can we draw from this :-

- (i) GPT are going to be very hard to catch especially now they seem to have a settled side.
- (ii) If Fords had a settled side maybe they could mount a promotion push.
- (iii) For 7 teams their season is over, to far behind to catch the leaders and to far ahead to be caught by those teams in the relegation zone.
- (iv) The loss of Stuart Fay has really affected Maghull.
- (v) Bootle are the victims of their club losing a team.

The Cadwa side are somewhat of an enigma, with the ability to put out an extremely talented team but not doing it often enough. Ian Miller has a 100% record and in Kevin

Dolder, Phil Musgrove and Emma Fletcher they possess talented young players, lets hope they continue to hold onto them. Looking at the available score cards I see that George Higham is again picking up good wins taking Dave Crispin and George Wright of Police, John Moore of Electric Supply and Alan Cameron of GPT but to name four. Interestingly George has played in all positions bar Number 1 (that's table tennis I'm referring to). Of Cadwa's juniors I have only seen Kevin play, this season, and he looked a very good modern style player able to play the awkward Number 3 and 4 in the Division as well as the more orthodox players. Wins over Wilf Gibson, Arthur Harrison, Alf Southall, Peter Holmes and Trevor Hughes in the small number of matches played.

One good aspect of being the writer of the Divisional notes is that you can feature your own team without much fear of being either edited or sacked. The loss of Stuart Fay changed the team from promotion hopefuls to relegation fighters. The hoped for replacement didn't materialise and the use of reserves each week is not conducive to team spirit. One good aspect of having so few points is that it makes easier to feature the wins. Good start to the season beating GPT 6-4, though they did get their revenge in the return winning 10-0. A hard fought draw against English Electric "D" saw Chris Roberts beat Julie Prince 21/17, 30/28 in a tremendous battle with Chris's "never say die" attitude winning the day. Yours truly has recorded a double over Ritchie Craggs a first after more years than I care to remember. Pleasing to see the way Andy McCourt has accepted his position in the team and is using the season as a learning experience. We are waiting for the talented Steve Woods to get his game together, I am sure that when he does not many will get the better of him. Good wins by all our reserves Harry McGanity over Rob Conley, Wilf Gibson beating Ken Nelson and Rob Davies during the season.

It is nice to see that we have been joined by our old friends Linacre, who have been described as the YO-YO's of the division, but I think this season will see them stay with us a little longer. The return of Harry Reeve will improve their position and keep them away from the relegation zone.

Some other good wins to report; Bert Rivers 14/21 21/16 21/18 against Ken Ainsworth, Frank Lacey 17/21 21/18 24/22 against Ray Hibbs, Tommy Downing 21/11 20/22 21/17 against Mal Cray, John Moore 21/19 21/17 against Bill Proffitt, Jim Gedes 21/13 22/20 against Alf Southall, George Wright 15/21 21/10 21/13 against Alan Cameron and finally Eddie Preston 11/21 21/10 21/13 against Alan Reid.

To finish on I would like to express my support for a change to the strict order of ranking system for teams and a return to the days of the team captain being able to change his order. This I feel will bring some variation back into this division as at the moment you can play the same players each season for quite a number of years. Your views on the subject would be appreciated.

DIVISION 4

SYLVIA GRAHAM

Happy New Year for 1992!!! I hope Father Christmas brought you everything you wanted, with lots of new table tennis bats, funny rubbers and balls. Now that you're all relaxed and enthusiastic and raring to go ... on with the season.

One item which, yet again, vexes me is the 3rd and 4th Divisions playing their Cup quarter finals before Christmas. Why is it that these two divisions are constantly treated in a different way from the other divisions? Consequently they have two weeks less, and hence two league matches less in which to get their players qualified for the six match eligibility rule? The knock-on effect means that the same happens for the semi-finals too.

I know we live in an ever changing world and good management practice means constant review and change but please can't we go back to everyone playing cup rounds in the same week because:-

1. it stops secretaries getting confused
2. it stops the Cup Secretary having to have more than one meeting for the cup draws
3. it could save excess expenditure on postage.

Another little moan and I'll stop nagging (Ken says that that's impossible!) until next issue. I was really excited going through my new delivery of match cards. I found three with comments on them! Perhaps they do care after all ... perhaps I'm not talking to a brick wall ... but no, true to form the first was from John Langton (Bath St) saying the other team didn't know their ranking numbers. The second was a comment to KA asking him whether it was his 'B' or 'C' team taking part in that particular match and the third was from me. As I don't get about as much as I should the cards are my only inspiration. Is it no wonder that at the moment I feel brain dead. You could change it all for the next issue.

Before we get onto the serious stuff I'd like to give a hearty welcome to Mabel Neary. Someone with her dedication and character can only be good for our division and besides that I like her and she's another woman. I wonder too if Ken Armson is mellowing in his old age(?). He didn't take the bait from the last issue or perhaps he doesn't get down to the lower divisional notes. Either way I now feel it's safe to go out after dark and no longer feel the need to look over my shoulder for the expected retaliation.

Next I feel an apology is necessary. Sorry Bob, I seem to have given you the kiss of death in the last issue but congratulations to Harry McGanity (Maghull 'B') who must have played well to take your 100%. His 20 and 19 win over Bob gave his team a creditable draw against Wavertree Labour 'C'. Harry seems to be having one of his best seasons to date.

So now Mike Moran is the lone target with his 100% still in tact. He's still on form and would deserve to keep it for the whole season as he is constantly beating the divisions' top players. Other players seemingly having a great season are John Hodges, Roger Neal, Ted Green, Rob Peat, John Langton, George Frost, Brian Gregory and Ted Cramsie.

One great match which I did see was that between Wavertree Labour 'C' and Bootle JC 'B'. Labour should have been the winners when they went into a 5 sets to two lead with doubles from Bobby Owen and Ken Ray but Ken Strahan had an excellent win over John Gratton and then Bootle took both doubles to gain an unexpected draw. Once again the importance of the doubles is emphasised in match play.

Now I am almost certain that Bootle JC 'B' will be the divisional champions as they are about twenty points clear but I feel that the runners-up should be Wavertree Labour 'C'. Saying that Wavertree Labour 'B' and Bath St 'C' are all within a couple of points so it should be an interesting finish. Lets all do our part by playing equally strong teams against them so none gains an unfair advantage in the final stages. Bath St 'B' are now a few points adrift and I imagine they will have to settle for fifth place or possibly sixth if GPT 'C' can keep up their challenge.

Police I fear must by now be resigned to seeing the '92 season from a different vantage point as I cannot see them making up the necessary twenty points to overtake GPT 'D'. Bootle YMCA are also propping up the table and sheer determination has gained them valuable points. It is always harder playing in a struggling team but their heads haven't gone down and there's a good team spirit.

Once again there are lots of close matches. In fact I think this division has had more draws than any other and also we are a division which turns up for matches so there are no walkovers. Well done!!!!

Before I go onto the rolls of honour I must mention one particular set which was a pleasure to watch. It was one between Karen Gibson and Ken Strahan. I've never seen Karen play quite so consistently, aggressively and with such flair. Her pushing is always steady but in these particular games she 'killed' the ball to every part of the table and retrieved and 'killed' again. Each point was fought for by both players and the rallies were tremendous. Well played both!!

Now the roles of honour:-

Good wins: Sue Anderson (Police) beat Mabel Neary (Wavertree Labour) -15, 15 and 13. Joan Connor (Wavertree) beat Les Griffin (GPT) 15 and 18. Alan Wood (Police) beat Bobby Bell (GPT) 10 and 15. David Cohen (Harold House) beat Dave Aimson (Bath St) 19 and 10. Peter Overend (GPT) beat Brian Gregory (Maghull) 19 and 17. Alan Woods (Police) beat John Hodges (Harold House) 18, -20 and 14. George Frost (Maghull) beat Fred Price (GPT) 11 and 19. Brian Gregory (Maghull) beat Billy Clayton (Bath St) 10, -18 and 11.

Close matches this time:

Alan Wood (Police) beat Bill Stanley (Wavertree Labour) 17, -20 and 18. Wilf Gibson (Maghull) beat Mike Ashton (Wavertree Labour) 19 and 22. Ray Parry (Bootle JC) beat Dave Stoddern (Bath St) -20, 19 and 19. Paul Sonne (Bootle YMCA) beat Doug Christie (Maghull) 20, -17 and 17. Bobby Bell (GPT) beat John Langton (Bath St) -19, 16 and 23. Doug Christie (Maghull) beat Ken Ray (Wavertree Labour) 18, -19 and 17. Les Higham (Bootle YMCA) beat Karen Gibson (Bath St) 19, -19 and 18. Dave Stoddern (Bath St) beat Roy Lussey (Harold House) -15, 20 and 19. George Frost (Maghull) beat Bobby Bell (GPT) 20 and 20 and Andrew Owens (GPT) 16, -26 and 18. Bill Stanley (Wavertree) beat Jim Geddes (Bootle YMCA) 9, -20 and 22. Stan Harvey (GPT) beat Mike Poole (Harold House) -15, 19 and 19.

Facesavers:

Not many this session - in fact there were only four but Reg Edwards (Bath St 'C') beat Dave Stoddern (Bath St 'C') 14 and 18. John Moore (Police 'B') beat Norman Cooke (Bootle JC) 10 and 9. Harry McGanity (Maghull 'A') beat Ray Parry (Bootle JC) 20, -18 and 10. Paul Sonne and Chris McGuire (Bootle YMCA) beat Tony Moon and Ted Green (GPT 'C') -17,19 and 17.

DIVISION 5

TONY CONNOR

No takers so far for the guaranteed print-space for any victories over Alan Biggs or Peter Carney. So, I'll 'up the anti' with a guaranteed capital letter first line entry in the end of season notes. So far, Mike Ashton (Labour D) has come closest, only losing deuce in the 3rd against Peter, whilst Andrew Sefia (TAG A) lost 15 in the 3rd against the same player. Of course, I'm talking about Electric Supply who now call upon the talents of Ian Turner and R Conley, with Neil Jennings apparently not able to get a place. Only joking.

So, why are Wavertree Labour D and Waterloo still on the coat tails of such exulted company, especially after Labour have lost 2-8 and 1-9 to them? The answer can be traced to a bonfire night fixture between Supply and Waterloo, when the former were lighting the blue touch-paper elsewhere, so conceding a 10-nil walkover" Supply are still favourites for the championship, Labour and Waterloo have a glimmer of hope.

But Labour D cannot afford any more slip ups like the recent 6-4 win over middling Harold House B. In this game, John Reynolds was unbeaten for Labour, continuing his run of good form., but Ted Cramsie, Gerry O'Keefe, Ken Miller and Eric Young took 4 of the remaining singles.

Eric is playing very well, blocking his way to numerous victories, including a 13 in the 3rd against myself, and a 21 in the 3rd against fast improving, hard hitting, Reza Mirdamadi of Labour E. And with Ted now playing very consistently, it's not surprising that Harold House B are steadily climbing. But Ted's recent victories over Fraser Farquarson (Waterloo) and Sandie Sanderson (Labour D) and Jerry O'Keefe's notable double over Bill Spencer and Eugene Berger (Waterloo) emphasise that this team is a tough nut to crack. But it's a battle for runners-up between Labour D and Waterloo. Mike Ashton is probably playing the best table-tennis of his life, for Labour. Notable games for Mike include a perilously close 24-22 victory in the 3rd against TAG A's Andrew Sefia, and a 2 straight defeat to the net-hugging, no margin for error, flat hitting of Ken Miller (Harold House B). John Reynolds recent 2 straight double over Aigburth's Bill Leeming and Billy Holmes showed that his confidence and concentration is currently high, playing at No. 1. Although Sandie's form has slightly dipped.

But, Waterloo continue their run of victories, their only recent hiccup being a 5-5 draw against Aigburth. Their best team of Fraser, Bill, Eugene and John Forest is fairly formidable with John clearly taking the honours with only one defeat so far. Bill is difficult to beat and shaded Aigburth's Bill Leeming 18 in the 3rd, whilst Fraser at number 1 has performed extremely well at times, especially in routing Vivien Smallwood, of LIHE, in 2 straight, and just shading Ted Cramsie in the 3rd. A. Hayden makes up the quintet, and recorded a 2 straight win over Aigburth's Jim Conroy, before falling 15 and 15 to Eric Woods of the hard-bat-brigade in the 5-5 draw mentioned above.

Aigburth are shaping to finish 4th, sometimes fielding an all hard bat team of the 2 Bills, Eric and Charlie Gallantry. I suspect this is unique in the league. Not surprisingly, this team is hard to beat and the following results bear this out. Eric's 2 close defeats, 17 and 22 both in the 3rd against Supply's R. Conley and Neil Jennings. This is easily the closest Neil has been taken, whilst Bill Leeming recorded an excellent victory over John Forest, inflicting John's only loss so far, and a close run 17 in the 3rd triumph over Bath Street's Dave Aimson. Charlie outfoxed the cunning Jack Letch in the same match and only just lost out to Labour D's Sandie 19 in the 3rd whilst Billy Holmes is as unorthodox as you can get, recording a 3rd game victory against the flamboyant Edmund Hung of LIHE. However, Billy did lose out narrowly to Labour E's Captain, Ken Armson, who is building an impressive array of scalps. His 19 in the 3rd triumph over Gerry O'Keefe was a first time ever for Ken.

Despite Ken's victories, Labour E are struggling in their efforts to achieve mid-table respectability. But Reza is learning how to win in this, his first, season and perhaps his 17-18 route of Ritchie Blackburn was his best to date. Ken Ray, at Number 1, knows all about winning, though just ask John Reynolds and Vivien Smallwood!

Behind Aigburth, I expect TAG A will be fighting with CADWA for 5th position, the last top half place. There is clear daylight between these teams and the rest of the division below. Peter Roberts for CADWA, is recording his usual win quota, with a 19 in the 3rd win against Ken Ray being about his closest. Russell Thornton had an excellent 2 straight win over Jack Letch who has been impressive for much of the season, for Bath Street. Jack Power, Dave Power and Steve Perry continue to play and score regularly for CADWA, with Dave's 12 and 16 triumph over TAG's 12 and 16 triumph over TAG's

David Rudd, particularly taking the eye.

TAG A finished 2nd from bottom last season, and whilst they aren't yet threatening to emulate Rodney Youth's and MYCA's recent achievements (sadly both now defunct), they are clearly much improved and ambitious newcomers. Ray and Andrew Sefia, combine with Myles Joel and Eddie Mosheshe to play most games, with Ray, particularly, impressive in forcing a 2 straight victory double against Aigburth's Bill Leeming and Eric Wood. In the 8-2 derby victory over TAG, Eddie triumphed over David Rudd 12-14 and Andrew Bird 9-19, whilst Andrew Sefia fell to both the determined Jamie McCafferty and the sometimes erratic hard hitting of David Rudd. Against Harold House B, Myles shaded Ritchie Blackburn - 24, 8, 15 in a game of swinging fortunes.

Harold House C will finish bottom, not helped by at least one walk-over conceded. But keep going lads, it'll get better. Ask TAG and TAG A. TAG continue to improve from last season's bottom position. Above them, Harold House B, LIHE, Labour E and Bath Street, will be battling to secure mid-table berths. LIHE are strong at Number 1 and 2, with Edmund and Vivien winning most of their games. Edmund narrowly phased both Fraser and Bill in LIHE's 2-8 reversal to Waterloo, whilst against Aigburth, Vivien easily defeated Billy Holmes who then outblasted Edmund in 3. Eric Chum penholder, plays regularly for LIHE and has chipped in with some useful victories, notably a 14 in the 3rd triumph over Labour E's Reza. Bath Street too are fairly strong at 1 and 2 with Jack Letch recording a fine double over Labour D's John Gratton and Sandie. R. Georgerson, Richard Wooley and Don Gibson play regularly.

Anyway, so to bed again. Remember the challenge 'US LOT' against Supply's Pete, Alan and Neil, if he plays. Good luck!

TABLE EDGES

Any suggested alterations to rules and nominations for the Management Committee must be in Secretary - John McKim's hands by April 1st.

Barbara Kirkman has parted from our scene regretfully she still keeps fit in more strenuous ways - mainly Tennis. An outstanding player and charming personality - we will miss you Barbara. Barbara, together with Sue Manning and Brenda, came within a very dubious umpiring decision to winning the girls championship some years ago. Three girls from the same Club, the same school and, of course, the same city, played a South East select gathered in one Club and lost on a phoney point. I know I repeat this periodically but it still wrangles me.

Three blokes from the same school - Bootle Grammar - Stan Clarke (Colonsay) Official, Ralph Gunnion (Bootle YM) and Wally Allanson (Bootle YM and Eng. Elec) players - all were involved in the English Championships at Birmingham.

Tony Clayton (Eng. Elec.) beat John Hilton in the Vets final. He lost in the final of the English Closed to Dennis Neale when playing for Eng. Elec.

Bad news for Wavertree Labour Moreso for Dave Roberts with a broken wrist that will probably put him out for the season. Another parting of the ways Stuart Richards (Colonsay) first team City player has moved on to Middlesborough, after a short and eventful stay with us.

Surely the reserves for each team are the ones in the team below. To have to register an

extra reserve for each team is a bit much. You don't anyway - you just pay extra registration fees. And, as Jimmy Green once put it, sign on the Club cat to make up the numbers.

Colonsay have an eleven o'clock deadline - so play the game you cads and get there on time.

M.R.9. does say 7.30 start and 8 o'clock deadline so instead of losing sets Bill, Paula, Stan you should get the whip out.

New tables are available from the E.T.T.A. in the £260 region - worth knowing.

Minna Lambert kindly typed our magazine for just under 20 years. We are now pleased to welcome another volunteer, Betty Reynolds: we are very fortunate.

Bootle Y.M.C.A.'s M/N is Wednesday

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I have just received my copy of the first Digest. Please excuse my shaky writing as, having read the Division 2 notes, I can't stop laughing. I refer to Stan Clarke's comments about foul services, suggesting umpires should stamp down on them.

I'm glad that he has finally come round to my way of thinking, or perhaps he has forgotten an incident at the Liverpool Closed three years ago. I was umpiring a game between two well-known first division players, one of whom was consistently shielding the ball as he served. After I had called him for the third time, he stopped playing and went to complain to the Hon. Referee, who sent Stan to investigate. Stan agreed with me that the player was 'TECHNICALLY' foul serving, but suggested as it was only a 'TECHNICAL' error and his opponent wasn't complaining, I should not call the foul service.

I refused, so Stan took over the umpiring from me. Whether he gave the player the point when he 'TECHNICALLY' put the ball into the net or off the edge of the table, I didn't stop to find out.

Yours in Sport
BARRY MEYOR

DES LOUGHREY

Many old timers amongst us remember Des Loughrey who died recently. A man of intellect and enthusiasm he was joint editor of this magazine with the late Jack Patterson in its earliest years from 1950/1 to 1956/7, he was an elected member of the Committee from 1953/4 to 1955/6 and Match Secretary during 1956/7. He was an anaesthetist by profession rising to be President of the Liverpool Society, Perhaps his strangest activity was his devotion to Huddersfield Town Football Club, He followed them both home and away but as this passion started before the arrival of Bill Shankley on Merseyside I suppose we can forgive him. My own close friendship with Des was when he decided to keep table tennis records, he or his wife, who incidentally played for Rafter's Table Tennis club, collected the cards, it was a time when I was making my way in business and although there was no connection in our respective spheres of activity I found his knowledge and worldliness stimulating.

EDDIE CAMERON

DIVISION 1	P	W	L	D	PTS
WAVERTREE LABOUR	14	13	-	1	113
LIVERPOOL Y.M.C.A.	14	13	1	-	112
BOOTLE J.C.	15	7	3	5	87
COLONSAY	13	9	4	-	85
CADWA	15	9	5	1	81
WAVERTREE LAB. 'A'	15	6	7	2	74
ENGLISH ELEC.	16	4	9	3	61
BATH STREET	15	4	8	3	60
G.P.T.	13	4	7	2	57
CADWA 'A'	15	4	10	1	54
ENGLISH ELEC. 'B'	14	2	8	4	50
ENGLISH ELEC 'A'	15	1	14	-	36

DIVISION 2	P	W	L	D	PTS
LIVERPOOL Y.M.C.A. 'A'	13	12	-	1	102
ELECTRIC SUPPLY	13	11	1	1	98
BOOTLE J.C. 'A'	14	9	4	1	85
G.P.T. 'A'	14	7	4	3	81
BATH ST. 'A'	14	2	8	4	62
COLONSAY 'B'	14	6	7	1	62
BOOTLE Y.M.C.A.	16	4	10	2	58
ENGLISH ELEC. 'C'	13	3	6	4	57
COLONSAY 'A'	13	3	7	3	51
POLICE	12	5	7	-	48
HAROLD HOUSE	12	1	9	2	36

DIVISION 3	P	W	L	D	PTS
G.P.T. 'B'	15	11	3	1	108
FORDS	16	10	4	2	103
ENGLISH ELEC. 'E'	14	9	4	1	83
WATERLOO	13	7	3	3	78
CADWA 'B'	13	7	3	3	70
POLICE 'A'	15	6	7	2	68
ELECTRIC SUPPLY 'A'	13	5	8	-	65
ELECTRIC SUPPLY 'D'	12	4	4	4	60
LINACRE	15	4	11	-	56
MAGHULL	14	4	9	1	50
BOOTLE Y.M.C.A. 'A'	14	1	12	1	29

DIVISION 4	P	W	L	D	PTS
BATH ST. 'C'	16	11	4	1	108
BOOTLE J.C. 'B'	13	12	-	1	107
WAVERTREE LAB. 'C'	17	10	3	4	105
WAVERTREE LAB. 'B'	15	10	3	2	102
G.P.T. 'C'	14	7	4	3	85
BATH ST. 'B'	14	7	2	5	78
MAGHULL 'B'	15	5	7	3	67
G.P.T. 'D'	16	3	11	2	60
MAGHULL 'A'	15	3	8	4	58
HAROLD HOUSE 'A'	11	2	6	3	45
BOOTLE Y.M.C.A. 'B'	16	3	12	1	38
POLICE 'B'	14	-	13	1	27

DIVISION 5	P	W	L	D	PTS
WATERLOO 'A'	17	15	-	2	132
ELECTRIC SUPPLY 'B'	15	14	1	-	126
WAVERTREE LAB. 'D'	15	12	2	1	115
CADWA 'C'	16	8	7	1	81
AIGBURTH	14	6	5	3	66
HAROLD HOUSE 'B'	12	4	7	1	57
T.A.G. 'A'	12	6	6	-	55
BATH ST. 'D'	14	4	10	-	54
ST. KATHRINE	11	4	6	1	48
WAVERTREE LAB. 'E'	11	1	7	3	38
T.A.G.	13	1	12	-	26
HAROLD HOUSE 'C'	12	-	12	-	12

FIXTURE SECRETARY'S NOTES

1. Please check your records and let me know if you disagree. Last week for playing matches is March 9th. Home teams will automatically lose outstanding matches 0-10.

2. The brackets on the scoreboard are intended for your teams fixture key, please make sure you fill in correctly.

'100' CLUB WINNERS

DECEMBER

N. Miller
C. Ford
E. Cameron
M. Ellis

JANUARY

D. Rumjahn
Wav. Lab.
K. Armson

FEBRUARY

P. Taylor
P. Hutchings
Bootle J.C.