



Table Tennis

DIGEST

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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EDITORIAL

I quoted our old friend Jimmy Grieves in the last issue - 'It's a funny old game'-Sometimes it becomes hysterically funny. A relegation side plays their first team and win 8-2. A team drawn away in the cup semi-final ask to play away again as they don't like their own table! Then chaos and darkness!? A funny old game maybe, but lets face it a bit naughty as well. Could our old friend - playing in multi leagues - have crept in here? It's just a thought.

I trust our Committee will have a post mortem on the low entry for the closed. I have a possible theory and a few facts. The losers and they are the ones that didn't enter (all the winners were there) by the losers I mean the weekly player who enjoys his social fun and competitive exercise. Well these blokes and blokesses finish their last match - there is no match next week so, on the bottom shelf of the wardrobe goes the bat until he is shocked by his Hon. Sec. in September to say there is a match next week. He has by this time forgotten where his bat is! The point is (which I have nearly missed) that there is no way Joe loser is going to dig his bat out again just over a month after his season has finished. To get hammered in a competition - mind you he might play in say November or January what do you think? Now I quote 'There was no need to be there at 9 o'clock with all those tables' - T was called on minutes after nine and didn't get a doubles game until three' - 'I played at 9.10 and was walking out of the door at 3.30 having given up hope when my doubles game was called' - I went back and played. These and a couple more will not enter again unless the sequence is changed. I later asked a couple more who had not entered and they gave the same reason for not entering - waiting. Just another thought, couldn't the first round doubles be played after the first batch singles.

Further quotes -I played two games and was in two finals - why don't we have Divisional Championships the same as the rest of the local leagues.

Another season over with some memorable moments for us all, whether it be a good win, a narrow defeat, or that moment when 'Lady Luck' let you down. For me, the memory will be the first ever Play-off in this division which involved Eng. Elec. and Cadwa "A". Their "A"s team down and their "B" team safe, thanks to the efforts of Lawrence Kenwright who was brought in to do just that, they could quite legitimately have used Lawrence in the Play-off. Instead they chose to play it straight and put their trust in themselves. They duly won and stay up, Cadwa being hampered by player availability. If everyone played fair and straight we would all be winners. Well done, Alan Chase, Ted Birch, Mike Corcoran and Mike Allen, and congratulations on your well earned survival. It is commiserations to Cadwa "A" who go down after only one season and take with them the experience gained. They all made their mark at one time or another and eventually the penalty for not putting out a regular team firmly committed to survival. Ian Miller performed well winning almost a third of their total sets, taking his 3 on four occasions. Ken Hartley only came on the scene in the second half and won 14 sets. An earlier appearance might have kept them up. The question which has to be put is why did they not give Phil Musgove and Kevin Dolder regular places in the "A" team? Such a move would have given them maximum experience and would definitely have kept them up. Having flirted so often with relegation the end finally came for Elec. "A" and they go down with Cadwa "A". The introduction of Natasha Williams failing to keep them up although she certainly made her mark in this division. Will this relegation also mean that this will have been Fred Pheysey's last season at this level after many years of service with Eng. Elec.?

Wav. Labour finally emerged as champions after a closely fought season in which they always had the edge and kept the pressure on runners-up Liv. Y.M. They were disappointed at only being runners-up and dissent on the outcome was clearly present. The word 'cheats' was mentioned at one stage because in their view Wav. Lab "A" had deliberately fielded a weak team in their second encounter with their 1st team. As they only took two sets with their full team out in the first match the relevance escapes me. This dissent was presumably responsible for Liv. Y.M. marring our Senior Cup Comp. by claiming a very dubious w/over in their semi-final replay against Lab. "A". That there was fault on Lab. "A"'s part is unquestionable, but this was compounded by Y.M. Whatever the rights or wrongs, and both sides feel they were in the right, the loser was the League. I expect Lab. "A" may well have been secretly pleased to avoid the battering which was Y.M.'s reward for their semi-final w/over.

The real facts lie in their final results when they dropped too many vital sets. Bootle J.C taking three which included an Alan Clarke win against Keith Williams, 21/13 in the 3rd. Another three were dropped against Elec. "B" when Lawrence (Save the "B" team) Kenwright beat Mike Mahoney and Peter Lee, and Ricky Brown took a set from Mike Mahoney to make it a miserable night for Mike who only just scraped home against Ritchie Cragg 24/26 in the 3rd. Lab "A" adding insult to injury by taking five sets off them but if you aspire to be champions then you have to beat the best as well as the rest and in this Y.M. failed for Wav. Lab. twice beat them 6-4 to prove themselves worthy champions. During the final stages Wav. Lab. obviously decided to change from a four team grouping to a five team group with Roy Smith becoming a noticeable absentee. But they won the title on consistency and the ability to rise to the occasion when the pressure increased. Against a Colonsay team lacking Stuart Richards, but including Chris Ford and Rob Lowe, they recorded an excellent 10-0 win with only one set going to three. Against

Cadwa in their final match they won 8-2. Neil Gravener recording wins over Dave Roberts and Roy Smith. They were a trifle lucky when meeting Bootle J.C. second time round to encounter a much weakened team which brought them a 9-1 win. Lone winner being Alan Clarke in a hard fought 3 setter against Gary Watson.

So congratulations to Wav. Lab., who inspite of Y.M.'s views were worthy winners. Colonsay just clinched 3rd place with Bootle J.C. 5 points adrift and CRT. 6. Their turnout did improve tremendously but they never looked possible challengers and the loss of Stuart Richards in the New Year left them struggling. Chris Ford and Rob Lowe both performed well and their regular haul of sets brought them a worthy 3rd place. Bootle J.C. again gave their all and although a constant threat to every team they still lack the consistency at 2 & 3 which is needed for them to become challengers. Alan Clarke had a tremendous season with Cadwa being the only team to record a treble from him. No-one can afford to take him lightly and like many left handed players he is an excellent forehand player (so am I, but mine come back, his often don't). G.P.T. owe their 4th place to Paul Hutchings who dropped only two sets, one to Keith Williams and one to Alan Clarke. The arrangement to play either Paul or Marcus Dick faded and they commenced turning out together and it was the introduction of this combination which pushed them into 5th place and it could have been 4th. Paul, so I hear, has decided not to play competitively next season and Marcus, our Singles Champion, will have returned home. Just hope he remembers to send back our cup.

Once again Cadwa proved themselves to be undecided as to what their aims and intentions were to be. Neil Gravener took me to task about their turnout, but the facts speak for themselves. In 21 out of their 22 matches they used at least one reserve. Ironically when Graham, Neil and Alex played as a team in Match 1 they met Liv. Y.M. starting off their championship bid in fine form by winning 9-1. They had to be content with a 6th position when they could possibly have attained 4th or even 3rd.

Lab. "A" could also have improved on their final position had they had a more consistent turnout as they proved on a number of occasions. Gary Watson led them in excellent style and produced some outstanding wins and a number of narrow defeats. Mark Newns continued to improve after a hesitant start and his later results came from the improvement to his game from playing regularly at this level. He recorded only three 'O's. with Gary not having any. Mike Tierney was in his usual in and out form with his yearly disappearance to the States. For Bath St. Mr. Reliable, Ken Jackson turned in his usual high performance at his usual high speed and Jason Killip justified his decision to opt for continued 1st. div. play with some good performances. Mike Keane was anchor man and his usual steady and reliable self. Life in this div. is sweet for them for they never expect success or relegation and were able to enjoy themselves. Always a threat to any team, but never a danger to themselves.

Plenty of good wins in many of the closing matches an outstanding one being Ricky Brown's win against Marcus Dick 17 in the 3rd. Ian Miller got his double, against Alan Timewell to record two lone wins in two 9-1 defeats against Wav. Lab. Chris Ford also recorded a good 2 straight win against Marcus Dick to conclude a very successful season for him. Marcus got two against Y.M. when he beat Keith and Mike Mahoney with Peter Lee recording a treble for Y.M. beating Marcus 18 in the 3rd. Natasha Williams had a lone win for Elec. "A" beating Mike 16 in the 3rd and losing to Keith 19 in the 3rd and Peter 13 in the 3rd. Five sets going to three and Elec. only won one of them. Finally, the standard of scorecards still leaves a lot to be desired with one team in this Div. never seeming to know just what team they were or who they were playing. Still too much

latitude in the postponing of matches which is generally due to the prevailing attitude of wanting to play in good matches etc. A sort of spirit of Bon Accord which has no place in our Rules. No-one will agree with me on this, but if they had to administer instead of just play then they just might see it differently.

One final piece of news to add cheer to your summer. Having written these notes for more years than I care to remember I am giving serious consideration to handing over to new blood should the offer come along.

DIVISION 2

STAN CLARKE

It hardly seems 5 minutes since I was sitting down to write the first set of notes for this season, but here we are the season over and only four months before the start of a new season.

It didn't require a genius to predict which teams would be in contention for promotion this season, Electric Supply and Liverpool Y.M.C.A. "A" have proved far too strong for the rest of the division all season. Electric Supply finished as champions but with the surprisingly small margin of 8 points in hand. Surprising because with such a strong squad they should never have been in any danger of surrendering first spot. I predict that if they retain their full squad for next season they will run away with the first division. The only problem seems to be turning out a full squad each week, they will not find it so easy to get results from their reserves as they have this season. Just to finish off the season on a high note Supply broke all the records by winning the Rumjahn Cup (6/1 against Bootle Job Centre "A", with only Rob Bevan of the first team squad available) then they destroyed 1st division runners-up Liverpool Y.M.C.A. again by 6/1, the first time a 2nd division side has achieved this feat.

Liverpool Y.M.C.A. "A" finished up in second spot, in a more normal season they would have been strong enough to finish as champions but they can console themselves with a premier division place next year. They may well have taken Supply even closer had they not lost the services of Ahmed Thabet for a couple of months towards the end of the season, mind you with reserves like George Smith and Jeff Huntingdon they did have good cover.

Proof of the strength of the top two is that 3rd place Bootle J.C. "A" a full 20 points adrift of Y.M.C.A. "A". G.P.T. "A" finished in 4th spot with 115 points, well clear of the following bunch, in fact only 3 points separated the next 4 teams, Police with 87, Bath St. "A" and Colonsay "B" on 86 and Colonsay "A" on 84 all very tight. English Electric "C" finished in 9th spot with 77 points.

You may recall in my last notes that I suggested that the only way I could see Harold House escaping relegation might involve their crafty secretary indulging in one of his famous last minute signings, well he excelled himself this season by persuading Wayne Percival to use his skills to help out his ailing team. The ploy worked beyond his wildest dreams with Harold House finishing up 6 points clear of the luckless Bootle Y.M.C.A., who will spend next season in division 3 in an attempt to regroup. A strange story concerning the match between Electric Supply and Bootle J.C. "A" has been growing, rumour has it that two J.C. players turned up at Supply on a foggy night explaining that Dave Graham would be late, but then decided that because the night was foggy they would not play their games and left. Along comes Dave to play his games to find he is the only J.C. player in the room. Dave, to his credit, played his games but was unable to stop a 10-0 win by Supply. I wonder what effect this result had in deciding the championship.

Bootle Y.M.C.A. pulled off a surprise 6-4 win over Bath St. "A", a double over Fred Bainbridge and John Watson by John Higham, who then combined with Tom Killip to beat the same pairing in the doubles was well backed up with one win each by Tom Killip, Danny Every and Roly Wright making it a miserable night for the Bath St. lads, Peter Ross winning his two and a doubles with Billy Clayton to save an even greater upset John Higham again proved his value with solitary wins over Dave Tagg, Liverpool YM.C.A. "A", and Ray Lavin of G.P.T. "A", saving his team from a whitewash as did Brenda Buoeoy of Colonsay "B" over Peter Wass G.P.T. "A", Brian Crolley Eng. Elec. "C" over Peter Scarisbrick Bootle J.C. "A", Fred Bainbridge of Bath St. "A" over Dave Tagg Liverpool Y.M. "A", and finally Frank McCann and Brian Crolley Eng. Elec. combined to beat Peter Flint and Ken Connor of Elec. Supply 28-26,13-21,21-18. Well played all of you. Final talking point of the season, do we really want Table Tennis to continue as a competitive sport in this city? Hopefully you will all be screaming YES at the top of your voices, but is that enough, the answer to that is a resounding NO. Look around you, the league is slowly dying from lack of support especially where young players and lady players are concerned. It is a terrible condemnation of our position when we were unable to field a team of juniors to represent the league this season, and there appears little prospect of any improvement in that department in the foreseeable future. We need an injection of new blood to the sport in general, and Liverpool league in particular. If every player currently registered with the league was able to introduce just one new player we would have doubled the membership in one season. I would personally be delighted to see an increase of 20/30 new players per season over the next ten seasons especially if the bulk of those were juniors. Pie in the sky? Maybe, but unless we stop the rot quickly it may be too late. Our fate is in our own hands.

Don't forget that next season the rules require you to play with a bat with red rubber on one side and black on the other, any other combination will be illegal.

DIVISION 3

ROD BULMER

Well folks that's another season under our belts, didn't it go quickly, we must have enjoyed it. Lets have a look at how our predictions turned out; Top where GPT with Fords 13 points adrift of them in second place, no surprise there. At the bottom the division had already lost Colonsay C and they are joined in the 4th by Bootle YMCA who had little chance of avoiding the drop from the start of the season.

Position 8, 9 and 10 where taken by Police, Maghull and Linacre respectively well clear of Bootle but doing little else. Police who had 66 points from 13 games, only managed another 14 points from the last 7 games and failed to mount any sort of challenge.

Back to the top of the division English Elec E put in a good effort to finish in 3rd place only 6 points behind Fords, with Waterloo a further 6 points back in 4th place. The next three teams Electric Supply, English Elec D and Cadwa where only separated by 4 points.

My impressions of the season where that apart from GPT and Fords at the top and Bootle at the bottom the difference in teams is not very great. Do we need to make the division more interesting? What about 3 a side or no ranking order of play, if you have an opinion make sure it is expressed, through your own club AGM, to the league AGM.

Now for those teams who haven't had much coverage in previous notes. Electric Supply A finished in 5th place with 107 points. Though they had a number of team changes the normal team appeared to be John Moore, Rob Conley, Ian Turner and Alan Biggs a good

mix of styles and attitudes. In their home match with Linacre they had a good 9/1 win with only the doubles pair of John and Ian losing but in the reverse fixture they lost 6/4. Again they beat Maghull 7/3 at home but lost the away fixture 7/3 maybe they don't travel well. One good point this season the floor at Electric Supply no longer resembles a skating ring.

What happened to Police A, 66 points from 13 games then only 14 from the last 7. I believe George Wright was injured, this must have cost them a number of points, as with his awkward style and determination George can beat most people on his day. Tom Purcell appears to have only played a couple of matches all season looking through the match cards they rarely had the same 4 playing in consecutive matches. I realise that with shift patterns and other demands of their profession a regular 4 is difficult but it does demonstrate what a difference the team spirit generated by a regular squad makes. Good win by George over Alan Cameron 21/13 in the 3rd saved a whitewash against GPT away whilst Tony Harris beat Mark Whittaker 21/19 in the 3rd to again prevent a whitewash in the home fixture a great feeling this after the match.

This season was the first time I had played a Bootle YMCA team. Though I am sure that they expected relegation the team didn't play like it with the team being drawn from this squad each week, Eddie Preston, Bert Rivers, Mike Hughes, Tommy Wong, Chris McGuire and Jim Geddes. It is very easy to lose players during the season if you are not winning. Some good wins worth recording Eddie Preston over Alan Reid of Waterloo, Steve Woods of Maghull, Rob Davies of Cadwa, George Wright of Police and Jack Davidson of Linacre. Bert Rivers took the scalp of Ken Ainsworth of Linacre, Jim beat Alf Southall of Fords and both Mike and Tommy beat Tom Downing of English Elec D (sorry Tom). Of the 35 points that Bootle did collect 11 came from the doubles sets, a great effort from a team with a good sense of humour.

Well that's it, still in the 3rd "just", thank you to all team captains for score cards, one request could you please remember to show ranking positions as it helps me to discover if you are playing your expected pre-season team.

Plans for the summer; lose half a stone and practice each week not just the week before the season starts.

Hope to see you all next season

DIVISION 4

SYLVIA GRAHAM

Well the season's finished ... yet it really doesn't seem long since we were taking the Christmas tree down and trying to think of a way of getting rid of it!!!! Still we've had some fun this season but what ever you do don't ask Kenny Roberts (Wavertree Labour) about bananas because it could be embarrassing.

Well onto how we've all performed with some of the smiles and some of the tears. The division was won rather comfortably, in the end, by Bootle JC 'B' and I think the whole team deserved to win because of its exceptional team spirit and balanced combination of skills. Mike Moran must receive special mention because he preserved his 100% throughout both the cup and league matches which is no mean feat. The runner up position was a much more exciting affair and although I did get the right three teams at the finish I had named them in the wrong order. Bath St 'C' came second followed so closely by Wavertree Labour 'B' and 'C' that there was only a couple of

points between all three at the end. Bath St. must be congratulated for sticking at it and to the Labour teams I can only say better luck next year. I'm not sure what the deciding factor was but the derby match between the Labour teams must have had some affect. The 'B' team won 7 sets to 3. Possibly my 'kiss of death' in the last issue could have been another factor affecting the 'C' team. NB. I can be bribed not to tip teams in the 92/93 season. All in all my predictions on final positions were pretty good. What I'd like to know is why I can't do it every Thursday night when I'm filling in my pools - if anyone can give me an answer please contact me in time for the Australian pools. The GPT and Maghull teams were always going to be safe but I felt that the Harold House team performed dissappointingly when early in the season they showed such potential. Police have now dropped out which leaves one relegation place going to Bootle YMCA. This team should not be disheartened because as a team they've probably improved more than any other during the season. An example of this is YMCA's match against Harold House. Although it was a ten nil defeat, five of the games went to three, and three of those were very close. David Cohen could easily have lost both his singles to Paul Sonne and Nick Ryan and they teamed up against him and Ted Cramsie to almost take the doubles. A match which I am assured had a 'cracking opening set' was Bath St 'C' against Maghull 'A'. Pete Mercer played Brian Gregory and overcame his attacking style to take the set 14, -16 and 16. This set the scene for the whole match which went to the Bath St side 10 sets to nil. The last match I am going to mention is GPT 'C' against Wavertree Labour 'B' and looking on it now it could be the reason for the Labour team not getting promotion. GPT having already strengthened its team by having Alan Cameron at 1, it also played Mike Feerick at 2. With these two picking up four singles it gave the GPT team a draw which if I were the Labour team I would be a little peeved about losing out to Bath St by such a narrow margin.

Anyway did you know that there was an award for the best completed card? No? Well it was kept a dark secret just so the eventual winner would be an authentic card completer and not a one-off award grabber. However, the winner I am delighted to say came from our very own division. It was the card from the match between Wavertree Labour 'C' and Bath St 'B'. I must say it was a pleasure to behold such a perfectly complete card - a lesson to us all. The clarity was beyond reproach, everything was completed (even the rankings !!) so I can just imagine Eddie Camerons ecstasy at receiving it. I'm not sure what the award is so perhaps one member of the team could contact Eddie who will give him the low down on this new award.

Lastly one thing I must express concern about, is teams playing players not registered for the club. The teams in question are Harold House who played someone called CRAMSTY and Maghull 'A' who played a GIBBON. Either this is a very serious offence or someone has been monkeying around. Luckily the match was a draw so I do not think points will be deducted. Now the roles of honour: -Good wins:

Roger Neal (Bootle JC) beat Alan Cameron (GPT 'C') 11 and 16. Bill Stanley (Labour 'B') beat John Gratton (Labour 'C') 18 and 20. Bill Salter (Maghull 'B') beat Brian Gregory (Maghull 'A') 10 and 12. Rob Peat (Bath St 'C') beat Harry McGanity (Maghull '*B') -12, 19 and 21. John Hodges (Harold House) beat Mike Feerick (GPT 'C') 11 and 15. Ray Parry (Bootle JC) beat H. Sanderson (Labour 'B') 17 and 12. Close matches this time: Ken Roberts (Labour 'C') beat Bill Stanley (Labour 'B') 20, -17 and 19. Ken Strahan (Bootle) beat John Langton (Bath St) -16, 19 and 21. Bill Salter (Maghull) beat Rob Peat

(Bath St) -18 and 21). Harry McGanity (Maghull) beat George Frost (Maghull) 13, -20 and 20. Brian Jelley (Police) beat N. Ryan Langton (Bootle YMCA) -19, 21 and 18. Fred Price (GPT) beat Dave Graham (Bootle JC) -16, 18 and 23. Ted Green (GPT) beat Mike Poole (Harold House) -19, 19 and 20. Alan Wood (Police) beat Gordon Langshaw (Wavertree Labour) 17, -19 and 19. P Sonne and N Ryan (Bootle YMCA) beat Sue Anderson and Yan Bolsover (Police) 19 and 23. Tony Moon and Ted Green (GPT) beat Paul Morgan and Dave Cohen (Harold House) 19, -18 and 22.

Facesavers:

Brian Gregory (Maghull 'A') beat Ray Parry (Bootle JC) -19, 16 and 17. Bill Salter (Maghull) beat Karen Gibson (Bath St) 7 and 26. Bobby Bell and Stan Harvey (GPT 'D') beat Fred Price (GPT 'C') -11, 18 and 21.

PS. I did promise that there would be a mention for one Monsieur B. Bell who said that the best win of his career to date was that against Monsieur D Graham in the first half of the season. I have kept my promise but at what cost I ask myself!!!!!!!

DIVISION 5

TONY CONNOR

ERIC WINS THE DAY. Yes folks, it finally happened when Aigburth's Eric Wood inflicted a 2 straight defeat on Supply's Peter Carney. A marvellous performance against Peter, who was otherwise unbeaten this season.

So the roll of honour goes to Supply's Alan Biggs whom, to my knowledge, remained undefeated. But wasn't he made to struggle against Labour E's Ken Armson and Ken Ray, only winning 18 and 19 in the 3rd respectively. But this Supply team was strong overall with Ian Turner, Arthur Harrison and R. Conley winning a majority of their games. So, congratulations to Supply on their runaway championship success, which had an increasingly inevitable feel about it. More exciting was the battle immediately below, with Labour "D" clinching the runners-up spot and claiming automatic promotion. This was nip and tuck until the last few weeks of the season, but Waterloo dramatically fell away, losing 3 of their final 5 matches. Clearly not the finish needed for promotion, but Waterloo can feel pleased that these were the only defeats in an otherwise solid season. John Forrest was beaten once before Christmas, but fell afterwards to both Jack Letch (Bath Street) and Peter Roberts (Cadwa), both 17 in the 3rd. Titanic struggles, I fancy, but Jerry O'Keefe's (Harold House B) demolition job 18 +18, against John, really caught my eye. Bill Spencer is incredibly hard to beat, as he adapts his game very well to suit the occasion. But how did he manage to wup Peter Roberts 6 and 13? I can only guess he did some serious psychological damage in their 1st match which Bill shaded 19 in the 3rd. Or perhaps Peter was knackered after his bruising win - mentioned above - against John Forrest in the same match.

Anyway, it's a funny ol game, but not so funny for Waterloo having to miss the Crash-Bang Wallop expertise of Fraser Faquarson for a crucial month during January/February. Austin Hayden valiantly stood in, but with players now moving up the order, it was difficult for them. Perhaps Austin's 9, 21 triumph over Cadwa's Steve Perry was his best, but he took Labour "D"'s Mike Ashton frighteningly close, in a tense encounter. The season looked so promising at Christmas when walk-overs were as rare as orthodox bats in Sandie's kit-bag and Fraser's backspins, then Harold House "C" and both TAG teams regularly found themselves unable to muster up teams, and each ended up with records expunged after conceding three walk-overs each. This situation is beginning to look an inevitable feature of bottom division life (2 withdrawals last year) yet is especially frustrating for the division die-hards who, with regular teams, compete year in, year out.

Teams such as Cadwa and Harold House "B" immediately spring to mind. *Both* deserve promotion for being the backbone of this division, and are talented enough to achieve this, except for clubs with more fluid squads, like Supply, having to accommodate higher division players in the 5th division. Anyway, I'll be cheering if either or both of you made it next year. Back to this year's promotion, Labour "D" made it with 3/4 of the team that attained the same runners up position 2 years ago. This time we recorded a double with a 6-1 triumph over Aigburth in the Stamp Cup Final. John Reynolds at number 1 got better as the season progressed and especially excelled in reversing an earlier Jack Letch defeat 8 and 13. Sandie Sanderson's form dipped, still managing a healthy average in the 70's, whilst Mike Ashton lost a mere handful as our most consistent performer.

LIHE, finishing bottom on goal difference, boasted an international, as well as the divisions most improved player and one of the best double combinations, Edmund and Vivien. So how on earth did they finish so low? Edmund Hung, at number 1 avenged many early season defeats by managing to adapt his naturally aggressive pen-hold style to a more cautious approach when the need arose. He recorded a 2 straight double over Fraser and Bill Spencer (Waterloo), as well as routing Supply's Arthur Harrison, to finish with a very respectable average. Vivien Smallwood, at 2, was also strong with her deuce victory in the 3rd against Labour's Mike Ashton, particularly taking the eye. Unfortunately, below these two, there was insufficient strength to gather the necessary points, though Donna Donnerley, Debbie Lockwood, Abdul Akanni and Ben Swain tried hard and will improve. I understand that Donna is taking over club secretarial duties next season, as Vivien is not finishing her final year, and Vivien ears great credit for her management in pulling all the strings together for this Term-Time only team with ever changing players.

Yes, the International! That's Eric Chu who recently represented his native Hong Kong in the Asian games, at volleyball! Both Eric and Edmund are returning home in June, and our best wishes go with them.

Behind the three promotion runners, Harold House "B" Cadwa and Aigburth jostled between themselves adrift of the top and comfortably clear of the bottom 3. Harold House against Aigburth finished a win each over two matches, with a surprising swing in fortunes. A 6-4 win for Aigburth in December became a 2-8 rout in the away return. Jerry O'Keefe (Harold House) beat Charlie Gallantry 2 straight, with Ted Cransie also shading Charlie 18 in the 3rd in the same match. Eric Young (Harold House) continued his good form and out-lasting our hero Eric Woods 14 in the 3rd, though Eric took revenge in the return with a close 2 straighter.

Aigburth 5-5 draw with Cadwa reflected their close league positions, with Bill Leeming and Charlie Gallantry both recording doubles. Jack Power for Cadwa did likewise with wins in the 3rd against Billy Holmes (15) and Barry Meyer (17). Other close sets in matches between there 3 middling teams include:- Ted Cransie 21, 18, 17 over Peter Roberts. Eric Young -19, 10, 11 and -14, 8, 13 over Russell Thornton and Jack Power respectively. Jack Power 11, -18, 17 over Barry Meyer. Bill Learning -22, 13, 19 over Ken Miller. Billy Holmes -21,15,19 over Ritchie Blackburn. Dave Cohen 21, -16, 18 over Billy Holmes.

Labour "E" and Bath Street struggled, just avoiding the bottom position. Yet their players, like LIHE had to adjust their sights from mid-table respectability, before the 3 drop-outs, to suddenly sweating on avoiding the wooden spoon.

Labour "E" relied heavily on Ken Armson for a large chunk of their points, as the scalps rolled on. 17, 14, 11 over Jack Letch, 10, -16, 14 over Eric Wood. Ken Ray recorded a 15

in the 3rd win over Fraser, and a 2 straighter against Gerry O'Keefe. Both impressive triumphs, whilst Reza Mirdamadi beat Austin Hayden (Waterloo) and Aigburth's Barry Meyer.

Bath Street were thankful to Jack Letch for his consistent points haul, and he did well beating Supply's Ian Turner 18 in the 3rd. Fred Perry look-alike G. Crowley defeated Labour "E"'s Reza, whilst Ritchie Woodley's tightest victory was a -16, 20, 20 defeat of Waterloo's Eugene Berger. Ron Georgeson (Bath Street) was nearly as tightly pressed, winning 18 in the 3rd against Eric Wood. Yes Eric, we started so we'll finish with you.

LIVERPOOL CLOSED TOURNAMENT 1992

Marcus Dick, a student-teacher from Germany, playing this year for G.P.T., took the Liverpool Closed Championships by storm when he secured not only the Men's Singles Title, unseeded, but also the Men's Doubles Title with his G.P.T. colleague, Paul Hutchings. The day before his appearance at Kirkby, Marcus had reached the final of the Lancashire Closed Tournament at Preston, where he lost to the England number eight, Sean Gibson. His successes at Kirkby included winning his men's group before disposing of the Veterans Champion-to-be, Dave Roberts, then the current holder of the Singles Title, Keith Williams, before beating Chris Ford in the semi-final.

At the Police Club on Tuesday 14th April, Finals Night, he overcame Malcolm McEvoy in three games to take the title, a cheque for sixty pounds (sorry, no Deutschmarks available!) and the Champion's Trophy.

Mal McEvoy, in reaching this year's final, had beaten Mike Mahoney, Andrew Clark and then the second seed, Paul Hutchings, in the semi-final. Paul had earlier beaten Peter Taylor and Lawrence Kenwright. Steve Green, the fourth seeded player, went out in the first round to Kenny Jackson, who then lost to Chris Ford in a quarter-final.

The Men's Doubles Title was won by Marcus Dick and Paul Hutchings, seeded four, with victories over Julian Quirk and Jason Killip, Mike Tierney and Roy Smith, and then Steve Green and Dave Roberts, the second seeds. In the Final, Marcus and Paul defeated the third seeded pair, Peter Lee and Chris Ford, who had earlier knocked out Alan Time well and Lawrence Kenwright. Alan and Lawrence had reached this stage by eliminating the top seeds, Keith Williams and Mike Mahoney, in an earlier round.

Dave Roberts, in his first year as a veteran, took the Vets Title and the Linacre Cup win a win in the Final over Roy Smith. Dave's earlier victims included Dave Garbe, Peter Taylor and Ted Birch.

The top seed, Alan Timewell, the holder, was knocked out by Kenny Jackson, who followed this excellent result by losing to Roy Smith. Roy had beaten Alan Cameron and Alan Chase in previous rounds.

The total number of entries for this year's Tournament was dissappointingly low. For example, the Women's Singles event was contested by only five women, while the Junior event had only three boys and the Mixed Doubles contained four pairs.

In the Women's Singles, Paula French managed to beat Karen Gibson and Julie Black to reach the Final, although her win over Julie was remarkable in that Julie appeared to have an unassailable lead in the third game but Paula crept back, point by point, to win. However, in the Final, Paula had to face last year's runner-up, Denise Conroy, who had beaten Vivienne Smallwood in her group and in an exciting three game encounter, Denise took the Title very narrowly, 22-20 in the third.

The three boys in the Junior Singles event played in a round-robin group at Kirkby on the Sunday to eliminate one player in order to provide a Final on the Tuesday for the Junior Title. As it turned out, Gary Thornton-Allen lost to both Mark Newns and Kevin Dolder, thereby providing a Junior Final between Mark and Kevin, Mark winning an exciting match to become the new Liverpool Closed Junior Champion. Kevin, incidentally, had won the Lancashire Closed Junior Title at Preston on the Saturday before.

Kevin achieved some consolation for losing this Junior Final by taking the Restricted Singles Title most convincingly in two straight games from Alan Cameron. This was the only final to be decided in two straight and the result was never really in doubt. Alan, having won his group, had victories over Trevor Hughes and Arthur Pierce to reach the last stage, while Kevin, after winning his group, beat E. Hung and then Mike Moran in the semi-final.

LIVERPOOL CLOSED TOURNAMENT 1992

Sponsored by **BILL FAWLEY**

CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED

Tuesday, 14th April, 1992 at
Merseyside Police Club

Hon Referee: Brian Leeson

FINAL EVENTS

1. Junior Singles Final

Mark Newns (Wav. Lab.) beat Kevin Dolder (Cadwa) 24/22 15/21 21/15

2. Veterans Singles Final

Dave Roberts (Wav. Lab.) beat Roy Smith (Wav. Lab.) 21/23 21/17 21/13

3. Restricted Singles Final

Kevin Dolder (Cadwa) beat Alan Cameron (G.P.T.) 21/12 21/9

4. Mixed Doubles Final

Mal McEvoy (Elec. Sup.) and Denise Conroy (Elec. Sup.) beat
Keith Williams (Y.M.C. A.) and Paula French (Colonsay) 20/22 21/11 21/15

5. Men's Doubles Final

Paul Hutchings (G.P.T.) and Marcus Dick (G.P.T.) beat
Peter Lee (Y.M.C.A.) and Chris Ford (Colonsay) 21/12 15/21 21/14

6. Women's Singles Final

Denise Conroy (Elec. Sup.) beat Paula French (Colonsay) 12/21 21/18 22/20

7. Men's Singles Final

Marcus Dick (G.P.T.) beat Mal McEvoy (Elec. Sup.) 17/21 21/15 21/12

CUP FINALS

STAMP

Wavertree Labour "D" 6 Aigburth 1

Tony Connor set the tone of the game by beating Eric Wood 21-14: 21-19. Mike Ashton beat Barry Meyer 14 and 15. Sandie Sanderson lost to Bill Leeming in the game of the night 12-21: 26-24: 16-21. John Reynolds beat Billy Holmes 21-16: 23-21. Mike and Tony beat the two Billy's 15 and 18. John and Sandie beat Barry and Eric 12 and 16. Who better than Bill Leeming to save the game, but it was not to be - John winning 18 and 17 and the Cup. Played at Bootle J.C. with Dave Graham Club Official and Stan Clarke League Official. Arthur Upton thanked and congratulated all concerned with Stan Clarke presenting the trophies.

FORREST

Bootle J.C. "B" 6 G.P.T. "C" 0

We start with a cracker Sylvia Graham beating Les Griffen 14-21: 21-18: 21-15; with Les in the lead quite a lot Mick Moran beat Tony Moon 13 and 14. Roger Neal and Ken Strahan beat Tony and Bob Bell 7 and 13. Up to Sylvia to provide the tension again 19-21: 21-11: 21-14 against Bob. Mick Moran completing a competent Bootle performance beating Fred Price 13 and 5. It just wasn't GPT's night Played at the Police Club, with Arthur Garnett and Tony Harris - Club Officials. Brian Leason League Official, with Vice President Jack Lambert presenting the Trophies.

FRANK MURPHY

Bath Street 3 Liverpool Y.M. 5

Mike Keane (S) lost to Peter Turtle (6) 10 and 16, Kenny Jackson (S) beat George Smith (6) 16 and 16, Mike (S) beat John Henshaw (6) 22-20: 21-18 quite a game. Ian McElwee (S) lost to George (S) 18-21: 21-8: 9-21. Two all and a good game developing. Kenny (S) lost to Pete (6) 15-21: 8-21 - Ian (S) beat John (S) 21-12: 12-21: 21-11 three all. But then two good wins for Y.M. Mike losing to George 16 and 12 and then a cracker to finish off Kenny (S) losing to John (6) 17 and 18. A very good final helped by the handicap which could go up a bit? played at GPT.

Club and League official Stan Harvey and Arthur Upton did the honours and introduced Ted Birch one of the co-donors of the Cup to present the trophies.

HYDE

GPT 'B' 6 English Electric 'E' 3

Alan Cameron lost to Ritchie Cragg 15 and 14. Mark Whittaker beat Peter Holmes 17-21: 21-19: 22-20 a good tough one. Mike Feerick beat Trevor Hughes 20-22: 21-14: 21-17. Mark lost to John McLoughlin 21-16: 21-23: 9-21. Neutrals suggested Electric should have been four up, but they weren't and Alan turned the screw and beat Trevor 22-20: 21-8 and put his side 3-2 up. Ted Gilmour pulled out all the stops and beat Ritchie 19-21: 21-14: 21-7. Mike and Peter had a cracker 23-25: 21-18: 9-21. Ted and Mark beat John and Ritchie 14-21: 21-8: 21-15 and in a glorious finish Alan and Mike beat Peter and Trevor 19-21: 21-17: 21-12 and the Cup to GPT. With seven games to three - a very good final. Played at Liverpool Y.M.C.A. - League Official Keith Williams with Loraine doing the honours very nicely with the goodies - Arthur Upton, our President, presenting the Trophies.

RUMJAHN

Electric Supply 'A' 6 Bootle J.C. 'A' 1

John Moore and Alan Biggs lost to Julian Quirk and Dave Graham 15 and 17. Paul Kinsey beat Derek Sullivan in the top game 16-21: 21-8: 22-20. John beat Steve Fay 21-9: 15-21: 21-12. Rob Bevan beat Julian 12 and 17: Alan beat Dave 19 and 16: Rob and Paul beat Steve and Derek 20-22: 21-11: 21-7. Paul beat Julian in the crunch one 15 and 16 - plenty of good stuff.

It's a good Job there was a bevy of Rumjahns and Vice Presidents there as spectators were few and far between. Played at the Police Club with Alex Gould in charge and Arthur Upton introducing Ted Rumjahn, who presented the Trophies. The Rumjahn Dynasty was also represented by Peter and Janet Rumjahn and Arthur Garnett, Club Official again.

READMAN

Liverpool Y.M.C.A. 1 Electric Supply 6

Mike Mahoney lost to Rob Bevan 10-21: 21-15: 19-21 - a good start Table Tennis wise. A better one to follow Keith Williams losing to Mal McEvoy 21-13: 19-21: 19-21. Mike lost to Peter Flint 8 and 18: Keith and Mike lost to Mal and Peter 15 and 19. A bit of craft from Peter Lee saw him beat Rob 12 and 19. Then perhaps a bit of a turn up Keith lost to Rob 15-21: 21-9: 17-21: Malcolm in confident and flamboyant mood, clinched our senior cup with a 15 and 17 win over Mike. Played at CADWA with Stan Clarke, League Official assisted in umpiring by Don Davies - presented by Arthur Upton with Rob Davies, Club Official.

With runaway wins most games lost that little bit of tension, plus in the main, lack of support which helps to make or break a Final. Plenty of good Table Tennis and some topsy turvy scores.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir

Stan Clarke raises the age old subject of 'foul serving' or to give it another name - 'cheating'. Unfortunately, many of the offenders are mature players who umpire games so what else can we expect.

The 'League' could take a hand by appointing official umpires for each match, but this would involve far too many people.

A more practical solution might be to form a panel of observers with a view to silent observation being kept during matches. A report could then be furnished to each captain.

The whole objective of the exercise would be to eliminate foul serving by explaining the laws and giving friendly advice. After a trial period the situation could be assessed and then sterner measures taken if necessary.

Yours sincerely

JIM CONROY (AIGBURTH)

Dear Jack,

I feel I must respond to the letter from Barry Meyer in the last edition of the digest concerning my remarks over foul serving. Barry is wrong in his conclusions and in his interpretation of the services laws. It is not a foul to shield the ball from your opponent during the service action and never has been to my knowledge. He is also wrong to suggest that I would agree that a player is or was 'TECHNICALLY' foul serving, a service is either foul or it is not.

Barry also missed the point (no pun intended) over my comments in the notes, I was not asking umpires to stamp down on foul services, rather I was suggesting that players should examine the errors in their service action and attempt to put them right. The vast majority of the Table Tennis players are extremely honest with every other aspect of the game and I am constantly surprised as an umpire at the way players will give edges etc. against themselves which have not been seen by the umpire or even the opponent. It is this honesty which highlights the unlawful service where even the most honest players see nothing wrong in bending the rules to suit themselves. I would also suggest that the reason the majority of players do not call foul services is twofold, one that they do not understand the rules and two, that their own services do not stand up to close inspection. To coin a phrase Barry, people who live in glass houses should not throw stones.

regards STAN CLARKE

100 CLUB REPORT

We eventually finished with 97 members and I failed to reach my avowed target of 100 members by December. My biggest problem has been deciding and adjusting prize monies. Our final Draw for 1991/92, which will be made at the Handbook Meeting in August, will include a number of consolation prizes to be drawn from those members not having won a prize in any of the 12 monthly draws. Total prize winners will be around 45 which almost represents a 50-50 chance of recording a win.

I would take this opportunity of thanking all who have taken out membership, especially those who are no longer active members of our League but with whom we still retain contact.

We can save quite a bit on postage and forms if existing members intending to renew their membership from September 1992, and I hope this will be all of you, send me a post-dated cheque for 1st September 1992, or any date in September, made out to the L.D.T.T.L. 100 Club. On receipt of same I will allocate you your present 100 Club membership number. Your co-operation will be greatly appreciated and it will also avoid the necessity of my having to go round again with my begging bowl. I look forward to receiving your cheques.

Winners for March and April were:

P. Luxon - P. Rumjahn - P. Carney V.McCaig
- Police TTC - M.Corcoran

K. ARMSON, 100 Club
Organiser

TABLE EDGES

Mabel Neary is in the wars again and endeavouring to be fit for the worlds veterans Championships in Dublin. There is a fair sized contingent going over from Merseyside.

English Electric are still battling for existence with the distinct hope at the moment that they will be playing 'next door'.

Fathers and sons have played together quite often - but both together in the veteran team? Jack and Dave Power did for CADWA.

What a good job Paula French did as Cup Secretary - at every game to see that everything was present and correct.

I have given my reasons why I think entries were down in the closed - so why were they down? You were the ones that didn't enter!

Whatever happened to Justine Thomas?

No doubt coaching will be brought up at the A.G.M. Stan Clarke is our coaching Secretary amongst many other commitments and will help and advise as necessary.

Talking about coaching, John O'Sullivan tells many good stories about his coaching experience, but there is no truth in the rumour he is writing a book. He hasn't got time - he coaches five nights a week plus many weekends.

In the relegation play for Division 2, English Electric Ted Birch 3, Alan Chase 2 and Mike Corcoran a crunch win over Phil Musgrove - beat CADWA "A", Phil Musgrove and Bill Hargreaves one apiece and Mike Power. Tony Moon G.P.T did all the honours.

The closed semi-finals were table tennis gems Mal McEvoy v Paul Hutchings and Marcus Dick v Chris Ford. I thought Chris had cracked but now reckon the longer Mark plays the better he gets. What a pity more people didn't see things great adverts for the game.

The World's 1 and 2 are Swedes Jorgen Persson and Jan-Ove Waldner, Englands Xinhua Chem 15, Carl Pream 22, Alan Cooke 43.

Three a side will come up again at the AGM perfection from a pure Table Tennis point of view, from a club and administrative quite a problem.

The personality and charm of Ken Armson have done wonders for the 100 club, but he wants to see it bigger and better next year - so have a go Joe!

The English Electric end of the season social held special significance this year as it was also the end of an era. The players presented Jack Lambert with a complete whisky set and scotch. Presentations were also made to Arthur Upton, Wally Sill and Moira and Roland Craddock. Each player received a momento - a sad but wonderful evening.

Thanks to Alan and the Staff at S & A Print, for printing our digests on time, despite the late arrival of some of the copy. So if you need any printing give them a call.

DIVISION 1	P	W	L	D	PTS
WAVERTREE LABOUR	22	21	-	1	184
LIVERPOOL Y.M.C.A.	22	19	2	1	173
COLONSAY	22	12	8	2	122
BOOTLE J.C.	22	9	8	5	117
G.P.T.	22	12	8	2	116
CADWA	22	12	8	2	111
WAVERTREE LAB. 'A'	22	7	11	4	100
BATH STREET	22	8	11	3	98
ENGLISH ELEC. 'B'	22	6	12	4	87
ENGLISH ELEC	22	4	14	4	77
CADWA 'A'	22	5	15	2	77
ENGLISH ELEC 'A'	22	2	20	-	58

DIVISION 2	P	W	L	D	PTS
ELECTRIC SUPPLY	20	17	1	2	155
LIVERPOOL Y.M.C.A. 'A'	20	16	1	3	147
BOOTLE J.C. 'A'	20	13	4	3	127
G.P.T. 'A'	20	9	6	5	115
POLICE	20	8	10	2	87
BATH STREET 'A'	20	4	12	4	86
COLONSAY 'B'	20	7	9	4	86
COLONSAY 'A'	20	7	10	3	84
ENGLISH ELEC. 'C'	20	4	12	4	77
HAROLD HOUSE	20	4	14	2	70
BOOTLE Y.M.C.A.	20	4	14	2	64

M.C.Y.A. record expunged: 2 sets void

DIVISION 3	P	W	L	D	PTS
G.P.T. 'B'	20	15	4	1	146
FORDS	20	13	4	3	133
ENGLISH ELEC. 'E'	20	14	4	2	127
WATERLOO	20	9	5	6	119
ENGLISH ELEC. 'A'	20	9	10	1	107
ENGLISH ELEC. 'D'	20	8	7	5	103
CADWA 'B'	20	10	6	4	103
POLICE 'A'	20	6	11	3	80
MAGHULL	20	7	12	1	77
LINACRE	20	4	16	-	66
BOOTLE Y.M.C.A. 'A'	20	1	17	2	38

COLONSAY 'C' record expunged: 1 set void

DIVISION 4	P	W	L	D	PTS
BOOTLE J.C. 'B'	20	19	-	1	167
BATH STREET 'C'	20	12	5	3	126
WAVERTREE LAB. 'B'	20	11	6	3	123
WAVERTREE LAB. 'C'	20	12	4	4	122
G.P.T. 'C'	20	10	6	4	118
BATH ST. 'B'	20	11	3	6	115
MAGHULL 'A'	20	4	12	4	76
MAGHULL 'B'	20	4	12	4	76
HAROLD HOUSE 'A'	20	3	13	4	75
G.P.T. 'D'	20	4	14	2	70
BOOTLE Y.M.C.A. 'B'	20	2	17	1	37

POLICE 'B' record expunged

DIVISION 5	P	W	L	D	PTS
ELECTRIC SUPPLY 'B'	16	15	1	-	135
WAVERTREE LAB. 'D'	16	12	2	2	114
WATERLOO 'A'	16	11	3	2	96
HAROLD HOUSE 'B'	16	7	8	1	76
CADWA 'C'	16	6	7	3	72
AIGBURTH	16	5	6	5	68
WAVERTREE LAB. 'E'	16	2	9	5	55
BATH ST. 'D'	16	2	13	1	52
ST. KATHRINES	16	1	12	3	52

TAG, TAG 'A' and HAROLD HOUSE 'C' records expunged.

NOTES

Play off for relegation Division 1 results:

English Electric - 6

Cadwa 'A' - 2