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Table Tennis

DIGEST

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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NO. 2

EDITORIAL

After all the blarney in the last issue, here we go again with another Editorial. A few folks thought I may have had a hidden message – not so. Simple facts, I am no longer at the centre of things and don't feel justified in shooting my mouth off.

While watching a T.V. programme of interest – the 'phone rings – it is the family or something of reasonable consequence. You still say 'oh flipping heck' or words to that effect! Imagine the same scenario and a bloke mainly, sometimes a blokes. Ed can you tell me how Bath St. Z got on the other night? Ten minutes later – Ed if we beat Electric next week, will they be above us? – and on, and on, and on.

What can you say about a bloke who has put up with it for 39 years without the flicker of an eyelid. I could go on for a few pages, however, our President says in his notes more will be written in the next magazine.

I am sorry about the last Digest being a little late, apart from our couple of 'late on parades' which we are used to and can generally overcome. We had to overcome three further hiccups – when we received a bombshell of another one. Thanks to Stan Clarke who, despite his many T.T. commitments managed to save the day.

Eddie's retirement coming up reminds me of a little aside I threw in to a previous Digest. I wondered how many years Arthur Upton, John McKim and Eddie Cameron had served our cause in their present capacities and the total is 110 years give or take 24 hours – not bad eh? They all, of course, played and were involved well before 110 years ago!!? That figure shows how long they have been directly serving thee and me.

Firstly a warm welcome to Stuart Richards on his return to our League and congratulations to Paul Hutchings on his fine win in the Men's Singles Cl.2. event in the Cleveland Open. Paul had to overcome strong opposition to take this event. Stuart's return has coincided with, or led to, greater stability in Colonsay's line-up, not before time is probably the majority opinion.

The pace has hotted up in the Championship battle with M.M. abandoning all pretence of being a 3rd Div. player when he saw his dream of a championship win this season slipping from his grasp. Most of his 'Pool' have been just as rapidly cast adrift to make way for his regular inclusion. Certainly the change has had the desired result for at present they are out in front, not that actual placings count at this stage, with 116 from 15. Mal has already advised me that his team will take the Double by a comfortable margin and any would-be contenders will have to settle for also-rans. Will they? Well, they have gone from 68 for 10 to 116 for 15; have got the smell of success in their nostrils and carrying all before them.

Wavertree are still hanging on but have helped Manweb by drawn matches against Cadwa and Y.M. Their match with Y.M. being yet another hard fought match, a draw being a good result for Y.M. have been a bogey team for them for many years. Unfortunately it was a better result from M.M's point of view. Dave Roberts had a bad night losing his three and having his usual titanic struggle against Peter Lee. If these two get to the Final of the Vets in our 'Closed' we can expect a match which will equal the Men's Singles Final. Keith was again anchor man for Y.M. taking his three. He has that rare quality of being a very competitive player and also a very sporting one. Wavertree also fell victim to Ken Hartley who took two sets beating Dave and Gary. Playing Colonsay 2nd time round they came up against Paul, Stuart and Chris but brought off an excellent 6-4 win. Paul winning his three. Once again the real winner being Manweb.

Cadwa are still in the running with 107 from 13 but there is a growing feeling amongst the top players that they may crack under the pressure of needing to win matches by big margins for every set dropped reduces their chances of staying in the title race. In seven matches they dropped 13 sets recording only two 10.0's. Not championship form when compared with Manweb's results and clearly the cracks are starting to appear. They had the benefit of the Colonsay 'hiccups' when Peter Coyle and Steve Gittins played which gave them six sets but they failed to overcome Paul Hutchings who won his three. Their own 'A' team sneaked a set, Ken Hartley beating Mike Malcolm. It never does to under estimate Ken who is a real grafter. They also came up against in-form Roy Smith (Mr. Consistency) who took two sets beating Natasha and Kevin, losing to Phil 20/22 in the 3rd. Five sets went to 3 and the Gods smiled on Cadwa in each one. They stumbled again against Bath St. with Natasha losing to Ken and Mike. The match between Ken and Natasha being decided 32/30 in

the 3rd. Must have been quite a set to watch knowing Ken's whirlwind style and Natasha's open game.

Summing up, it is now looking like a title win for Manweb as they forge ahead with big wins whilst their challengers continue to drop vital sets. Knowing this factor can only help encourage them. The new-look Colonsay are too far behind to pose any real threat but they may possibly push Y.M. for 4th place. They have gone from 39 from 7 to 82 from 13 and will probably improve even more. The unknown quantity in everyone's result being the unacceptable failure of Bootle J.C. to send in match cards. This is having an adverse effect on both ends, probably more so at the bottom end. Teams do need to know how other teams are doing and what they need to do. The absence of this vital information could have a bearing on the final outcome. The information I have gleaned from Roy Smith puts them at 37 from 12 and this pushes G.P.T. firmly to the bottom with 33 from 15; but with only one point separating them from Y.M. 'A' - 34 from 15 - and Cadwa 'A' with 34 from 14. In a crunch match Bootle J.C. bt G.P.T. 7-3. G.P.T.'s best result being a 6-4 defeat to Lab 'A'; reserve Mike Feerick beating Phil Luxon 2 straight.

Y.M. 'A' are battling just as hard and picking up the odd sets against top teams which may yet keep them up. Dave Tagg got a vital lone set against their 1st team beating Peter Lee and against Bath St. Peter Taylor and Jeff Huntington both beating Ian McElwee. In the vital clash against Cadwa 'A' they lost 6-4 the result benefiting both teams. Jonathan Allen won his three and Ken Hartley got 2. A team result from Y.M. with 2 from Peter and one each from Jeff and Dave. They fought hard against a full strength Colonsay team, four sets going to 3 with none going their way. Once again Peter was the star of the night beating Stuart 24/22 in the 3rd. He lost the first game 5; sneaked the 2nd 21/18; was 18/17 down in the 3rd, Stuart serving who then went 20/18 up. It looked all over for Stuart who was playing a relaxed game against Peter's pimples, but he relaxed too much and Peter sneaked back to 20 All and then took the set 20/22. A great set attacker v defender with Peter benefiting from Stuart's slip in thinking it was all over.

Who will stay up? Hard to say at this stage. Clearly Bootle J.C. are pulling clear after a bad start and are too strong all round to be in any real danger. Speaking to them about their earlier poor form they were of the opinion that it was due to playing too much table tennis. This is more common than most players realise and is due to many players turning out in too many Leagues. You don't find top players in any sport playing competitively every day, yet this is what Table Tennis players do in this area. Some are motivated by the glory of being a big fish in a little pool. Any views on this aspect?

Dedication and effort is going to be the key to survival and Cadwa 'A' seem to have a good supply of this but with their own 1st to play in their final match much may depend on what they also need to do. They also meet Bootle J.C. and Lab 'A' in the run-in who will also be striving for points. Bootle J.C. also meet G.P.T. and Y.M. 'A'

with G.P.T. meeting also Lab 'A' and Y.M. 'A'. A very interesting finish and we may have to wait until the final matches are played for the relegation issue to be settled. I see this issue as more important than the title for it is about surviving to play in this Division and not about fleeting glory. No Cup or medals at stake but a great deal of personal satisfaction for more than just one team.

A late piece of news just reached me in the title race. Wavertree Lab. coming a real cropper against their 'A' team, dropping 4 sets. Alan Timewell, who had played the previous night for the 1st team as a reserve dropped a set to Jeff Huntington in a 9-1 defeat for Y.M. 'A'; but a precious point gained. This time Alan was in top form beating Bernie and Dave and taking the doubles with Phil. Roy Smith added the 4th beating Dave comfortably to add to his 19 in the 3rd win against M.M. the previous week. Star for Wavertree being Gary Watson who won his three. Any chance of their retaining the title must now be extinct and it has become a two team battle. A little surprising to find they have cracked before Cadwa but perhaps not so surprising if you consider that they have had to fight hard for the past three seasons and it is inevitable that the strain can sometimes become too much without this factor being realised.

DIVISION 2

ROD BULMER

It is always difficult to know how to start divisional notes. Should I list the current league tables? but these are printed on the back page. Then I have to consider what do the readers want? If you watch people when they receive their copy of the digest, most just look to see if their name is there, therefore maybe I should just list all the players in the division. Your views would be appreciated.

Now to look at some of the teams who failed to make Issue 1. The Police always present an interesting match as you are not too sure who will be in the team. Looking at their rankings the preferred line up would seem to be Gittings, Jones, Dyson and Purcell and with this line up each week could have hopes of promotion, as it is they occupy a safe mid table position, no promotion, no relegation. Paul Gittings has lost only once to Julian Quirk of Bootle JC 'A'. In their match with Maghull a good win by Tom Purcell over Julie Prince 25/27 in the third. Only a Tony Harris loss to Andrew Owens of GPT 'B' stopped them recording a 10-0. In their match with Fords, which they won 6-4, a fine double by Gareth Jones over Johnson and Proffit. Looks like an interesting game between Gareth and Ted Birch of English Electric the expedite rule was invoked and Ted eventually won 16-21 in the third, another late night chaps. The Police seem to favour the 6-4 score line beating Bath Street 'A', GPT 'A'; Fords and losing to English Electric, Bootle JC 'B' by it. Tom Purcell seems to be having a good season recording a double over Ian Wensley and Mark Whittaker in the GPT 'A' match.

Now on to Colonsay, they obviously suffered some disruption losing their playing area, and consequently have a number of games to catch up on, a series of good

results from these could see them near the top of the division. Once again a team who seem unable to field a regular 4. A 5-5 result in the match with GPT 'B' with the 3 and 4 Nelson and Pierreport only producing 1 point, Harry Nelson beating Mike Feerick 21-15 in the 3rd. Fine win by Brenda Buoeay in the drawn game with Bootle JC 'B', 21-12 in the 3rd against "never say die" Alan Walton, Paula French weighed in with a double over Mike Moran and Ken Strahan. In their match with Fords once again Harry Nelson did his bit beating Alf Southall though Fords won 7-3. I would have like to have seen the match with English Electric as Steve Gittins beat both Ted Birch and Alan Chase, good effort. In their away match with Maghull their only losers were Steve and Brenda against Julie Prince.

The next team to talk about is Bath Street 'A'. Bath Street are a team who always seem to manage to play all their matches on the due dates by using the playing resources of the club if the preferred players are not available, it's a pity all clubs do not adopt the same attitude. Good wins to note are the very deceiving Bob Hawkins over Mick Corcoran 21-16 in the 3rd, Colin Owens 2 straight over Ken Strahan, both doubles against Harold House, Karen Gibson against yours truly, John Watson over Dave Graham, John McCann 21-12 in the 3rd against Martin Hunter, John Watson 2 straight over Alf Southall, Colin Owens 21-19 in the 3rd against Len Dyson, excellent double by John Watson over Gareth Jones and Tom Purcell, John McCann 2 straight over Mark Whittaker. Well guy's I think I have mentioned you all so no complaints.

Harold House are a difficult team to write about as they have played so few matches, I have 6 score cards of which 2 purely record that they conceded a walk over. They have on paper the ability to field a strong side with players of quality such as Eddie Clein, Frank James, John Kenwright, Bob Hudson, Ian Burrows, Eric Youd more than able to hold their own in the division. A game of note was Eddie Clein against Alan Walton, the expedite started when the score was 10-12, the comment on the score card reads "shame there had to be a loser" but there was, sorry Alan.

One of the problems of having so many outstanding games is that they will be played out in non normal circumstances and could have a profound effect on the promotion relegation issues.

Now what about my own team of Maghull. Our first season in Divison 2, our aim at the start was to ensure we did not go straight back to the 3rd, whether we achieve this will not be clear until teams like Colonsay and Harold House play their outstanding games. We have a stable set of 4, Julie Prince, Chris Roberts, Ro Craddock and myself, this definitely helps to maintain team spirit and makes the matches more a social night. I could of course report on each and everyone of our matches, but fear not just some of the more interesting games.

Julie beat Fred Bainbridge, I beat Bob Hawkins and Ro beat both Colin Owens and Karen Gibson in our Bath Street 'A' match. Julie's win over Roger Neal saved us from a whitewash against Bootle JC 'B'. Couple of double headers against GPT 'B', Chris over Alan Cameron, Andrew Owens and Ro over Mike Feerick and Andrew Owens. Chris's refusal to be beaten gave him a fine win over Gareth Jones and

combined with wins for Ro over Tom Purcell and reserve Harry McGanity over Len Dyson were our only points that night. I could carry on but I reckon everyone has had a mention.

What conclusions can we arrive at?

English Electric will be playing 1st Division table tennis next year but because of unplayed games any other predictions are impossible to make. One positive point to come out of this situation is that it maintains the excitement right to the end of the season.

Good luck to all for the rest of the season and I hope to see you next season.

DIVISION 3

MIKE POWER

I thought after having written the notes once it may have excited someone else into volunteering this time, well I'm afraid it hasn't, so your stuck with me. Maybe you were so unimpressed last time you thought, 'go on, give him another chance', well here goes.

Two months ago I predicted Manweb 'A' would be clear winners, well I'm about to change my mind. Having lost the talents of Malcolm to the first division they have started to slip up. They went down 7-3 to Bobby Owen's Labour 'C' team with John Gratton beating Denise 22/20 in the third (more about this match later). My own team Cadwa 'B' sorted them out by the same score with Rob Davies beating Alan Biggs 15/21, 21/19, 22/20 (an excellent win for Rob) and then partnered George Higham to beat John Moore and Ian Turner 22/20 in the third. I now understand although I don't have a score to prove it, that Ken Nelson's lot at Waterloo have beaten them 9-1. Manweb are still top (at the time of writing) but both Cadwa and Waterloo are close with games in hand. I now predict the championship race will end up between these two sides with Manweb 'A' and Bootle YMCA taking 3rd and 4th places.

Ken Nelson at Waterloo assures me he's not bothered about winning the third division as long as they get promotion, who's he trying to kid, does he think I was born yesterday. He's a fierce competitor, so fierce he promised me a lift to Cadwa's game against Waterloo and then as much cider as I could consume, as long as it was before I played a game, what an evil mind. I wonder how many other opposing players have been threatened in this way.

Bootle YMCA are having some mixed results, they lost 9-1 to Manweb 'A' with Malcolm still in the side, 7-3 to Cadwa, one of the few games where I could play both Ian Miller and Billy Hargreaves, Billy like Ian won't lose many at this level, then they beat Maghull 10-0, but Steve Woods didn't play, one of only 4 whitewashes in the 3rd division so far, and also pipped Waterloo 6-4. Since then I understand they came unstuck at Bath Street 'C' and Manweb 'B' 4-6 and 3-7 respectively. These last

two results must surely close the door to any promotion prospects. Of the top 4 teams I would say Bootle YMCA have the hardest run-in to the end of the season, they still have to play both Manweb 'A' and Cadwa 'B' but also have to meet the rejuvenated Bath Street 'B' twice. Bath Street's new line up sees the return of Tony Kendall and Brian Aldred (it's nice to see you both back) who team up with Karen Gibson and the England ranked Billy Clayton. If this team stays together they will make life awkward for any opponent.

Bath Street 'C' still likely to join them and I'm afraid I must apologise to Rob Peat and Dave Stodden for disclosing their 100% doubles record in the last digest as their next three games all ended in defeat. Reg Edwards has only turned out twice this season for them and both times it was against Waterloo. Bath Street lost both games 8-2 and Reg picked up 3 of the 4 points. The latest score card shows Reg beating Peter Frazer 21/16, 18/21, 22/20 and Ray Hibbs 20/22, 21/13, 22/20. Maybe, if Reg had played more games, Bath Street 'C' wouldn't now be fighting against the drop.

Manweb 'B' are still closest to Bath Street 'C' but have an easier run-in and I expect them to remain in the 3rd spot although it will be close. Their 7-3 defeat by Waterloo turned out to be an eventful night for Alan Biggs, he took the excellent scalp of Ricky Brown 21/15, 19/21, 20/22, only Ricky's second defeat (I'm sorry Nicky, but when you're a good player, you only ever get mentioned when you lose), he followed this up by beating Peter Frazer in two and then partnered Trevor Hughes to defeat Alan Reid and Peter Frazer 20/22, 21/13, 20/22, and another 100% doubles record down the drain, any two to go.

The middle of the table is a bit of a muddle, both Labour teams, Maghull and Bath Street 'B' are battling it out, it's very close. I don't think I've seen so many score cards reading 6-4 or 5-5. Of all the results to date 42% have been this close (another useless fact).

Maghull had an excellent draw away to Waterloo with each of their players chipping in with a win, but it was Ricky Brown and Ken Nelson who spoil the season for George Frost and Wilf Gibson by taking their 100% doubles record from them, only one left now. Maghull also thwarted Wavertree Labour 'B' 7-3, but the night belonged to Peter Jones. Peter, who never makes a drama out of crises, took two singles against Harry McGanity and George Frost and partnered John Henshaw in the doubles to win his three games, all two straight. Labour 'B' followed this up with a draw at home to Waterloo, Roy Adams winning his three and a new player by the name of Mr. K. Armson (never heard of him) beat Tennis Elbow Nelson. Labour 'B' also narrowly beat Manweb 'B' 6-4 with 6 of the games going to three sets, John Henshaw won his two against Trevor Hughes and Alan Biggs. Labour 'C' led by Bobby Owen continue to get good results, the best so far against Manweb 'A', 7-3, Bobby, John Gratton and John Reynolds won all their singles with John pipping Denise Conroy 19/21, 21/17, 22/20. Bobby and John then combined in the doubles

against Denise and Martin Roberts 19/21, 21/10, 21/18, to achieve an excellent result.

Well I suppose I'll have to live or die by my predictions, it's up to all of you to prove me wrong. Maybe in the next digest I might have to eat my words, we'll have to wait and see. As in the previous digest here is another list of close games.

John Ashley v Ken Roberts 22/24, 21/12, 23/21

John McCann v Mark Miles 21/6, 18/21, 21/23

Graham Anderson v Rob Davies 21/17, 15/21, 22/20

Tom Killop v Myself 20/22, 21/18, 21/19

Bobby Bell v Dave Aimson 21/18, 12/21, 21/19

John Moore v John Langton 20/22, 21/10, 19/21

The following three where all in the same match:

Steve Woods v Trevor Hughes 21/10, 18/21, 19/21

Steve Woods v Arthur Harrison 21/10, 18/21, 21/19

Wilf Gibson v Arthur Harrison 24/22, 21/23, 21/18.

Finally, away from the 3rd Division for a moment, have you heard the idea put forward to play instead of three games to 21 points, five games to 11 points. The idea being the game would have more crucial points and make it a better spectator sport. Has anyone other ideas? How about:-

- (1) A sixteen foot table so you can't miss.
- (2) Why play with a net, it only gets in the way.
- (3) What about triples instead of doubles.
- (4) Why not have dancing girls – I suppose that's a bit sexist.

Anyway, If anyone has more useful ideas, sent them to the ETTA, not me, I like the game the way it is.

Back to the 3rd Division for a moment. To my knowledge there is now only one 100% doubles pair left with 10 wins and, as Ian Miller has left for pastures new, I suppose it will stay that way.

Best of luck for the rest of the season.

DIVISION 4

TONY CONNOR

Y.M.C.A. go top with four games to go. At last they've got their act together to install themselves as championship favourites, whilst University (6 games left) and Police (5 left) now struggle and trail the Y.M. boys 9 and 11 points respectively. Waterloo, coming fast on the rails, emerge as promotion possibles, whilst Linacre, as rank outsiders complete the top five.

So, how have Y.M.C.A. advanced from a pre-Christmas 50% average to top of the

table in just 2 months? Three reasons really. This division is tight and their current 64% average is abnormally low for top position. Secondly, they have recruited a gem over Xmas in Tony Whelan who hails from Manchester, studies at John Moore Uni., coaches table tennis and happens to be rather good. Well, can you beat Roy Smith!! as Tony managed in the Closed. Lastly, Y.M.C.A., under the captaincy of Russell Thornton, now field their strongest line-up for most games as Tony, Ming Liu, John Lau and Francis Lay combine.

Francis, with a newly imported (from Japan) superfast one-ply penholder bat is beginning to play really well, as demonstrated recently in his victory over Waterloo's Andy Armstong. John Lau, ex of defunct M.Y.C.A. (remember the Pagoda!) lists University's Andrew Johnson amongst his victims, whilst Ming, virtually unbeaten, was exceptional in his double over Waterloo's Peter Holmes and (again!) Andy.

You might have sussed out from names mentioned so far that this is an incredibly strong 4th division. (incidentally, Andy is unbeaten in the Southport league). Let me add the names of Dave Crispin (Police) Jimmy Clewitt (Y.M.C.A.), Harry Reeve (Linacre) etc. to further drive this point home, and also Pat McCloughan, University, the divisions best player and so far unbeaten.

Back to promotion issues, Police have managed just 26 points over their last 5 matches, and must be worried about their deteriorating promotion aspirations. Relegated last year due to an inability to consistently field their strongest side, this particular bogey has returned to haunt them. Their promotion chances depend on the consistent availability of Ritchie Winkle, Dave Crispin, Tony Harris and Arthur Garnett and if they have to draft in 'reserves' they need to be of the calibre of Don Chalkey, Alan Wood or George Wright.

Dave Crispin beat Peter Holmes and lost to Andy Armstong in the disastrous Police result in January 2-8 against Waterloo. A result they may well rue come March.

University's season also flags with just 32 points gained over the last 6 games at an average of just over five per match. Again, this mainly due to the unavailability of their best players at times, and to players sometimes not turning up. Still, alongside Pat, University boasts Andrew Johnson, virtually unbeaten, Robert Watt, Duncan Preston, John Jacom and Oliver Daly. I must report Alex Goulds (Bath St.) 2 straight wins over Andrew, an excellent result, whilst in the same match Duncan Preston beat Dave Batty 14 and 18 whilst losing to Wham Bam Dave Aimson.

As University and Police falter, Waterloo are beginning to fancy their chances. Peter Holmes, playing 2nd Division last year, lost to University's Pat and Andrew, but has won most of the rest. In this game, Waterloo's only singles success was John Forrest's 13, 10 over Uni's John Jacom, but John Forrest is now out, injured, and replaced at number four by another Wham Bam Merchant Fraser Farquarson (with, I trust, his new rubber).

Linacre with Harry Reeve playing every week would likely win promotion, but without him for much of the season they are going to miss out. Never the less, Mal Cray, Jack Davidson, Ken Ainsworth and Frank Lacey average over 50% and in a division teeming with pen holders (at least 7 of us!) Franks style really holds my interest. With his heavy bat, and never moving from the end of the table, Frank angles and punches his blocks to great effect.

The relegation issues become clearer with Labour E and Maghull looking favourites. This further underlines the strength of this division as Bill Salter, Phil Christie, Jimmy Gill, and Brian Gregory shouldn't comprise a relegation team to the bottom division. Mark Miles of Labour E should also feel aggrieved at impending relegation, but besides Mark, no-one at Labour E has really managed to grasp the nettle of 4th division life, after promotion. There have been glimmer of light as shown, for instance, by bit-part players Mabel Neary and Joan Connor winning 3 between them in a 5-5 draw against a pretty strong University side, but no real cause for optimism here.

Things aren't much brighter for Labour D who feel relieved to be outside of the relegation positions. Sandy's game is out of sorts, and John Reynolds continues to acclimatise to his all-pimples-out bat. John has gained in extra control and variation, but has lost his loops and spins.

Cadwa also rest too near the bottom for complete comfort, but like Labour D should avoid relegation disaster. Above them, Harold House and Bath St. occupy mid-table positions, blissfully free of promotion or relegation worries.

So, I predict Y.M.C.A. will take the championship with Police as runners-up. Maghull and Labour E for the drop and Pat McCloughan to remain unbeaten.

I'll finish off with **my menu of memorable matches starters** (or some that didn't quite get started) – Peter Holmes beat Ritchie Winkle 16+4, Jimmy Clewitt beat Bill Salter 16+13, Mabel Neary beat Peter Roberts 13+18, Steve Graham beat Mark Miles 17+16, Jerry O'Keefe beat Jimmy Gill 15+17, Paul Morgan beat Mabel Neary 7+15, Sandie Sanderson beat Bill Spencer 17+11, Ted McGiveron beat Frank Lacey 14+19.

Main Course (very close games in the main) – Dave Aimson beat Paul Faulkner -11, 19, 20, Paul Faulkner beat Sandie 22, -18, 22, Stuart Toole beat Les Mulholland -9, 12, 21, Dave Cohen beat Steve Perry -16, 5 20, Bill Salter beat Peter Homes 20, -17, 18, Paul Morgan beat Peter Holmes 20, -23, 21.

Dessert (those that got their desserts after easily losing the first game) – Francis Lay beat Bill Spencer -14, 13, 21, Reg Edwards beat John Reynolds -11, 14, 18, Phil Christie beat Dave Cohen -13, 12, 15, Mike Poole beat Dave Batty -13, 9, 13, Austin Hayden beat Jack Power -10, 16, 18.

Enjoy the rest of the season.

Nice mention of penholders Tony, I had my best moments as a penholder – Editor

DIVISION 5

STAN CLARKE

I feel rather smug having compared my previous with the current situation at the top of the division, it now seems certain that the champions will be Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'A' who have a 19 point lead over second place Harold House 'B' who admittedly have a game in hand, but I think it will take a major disaster by the Bootle squad to let the title slip.

In third place at the time of writing are Aigburth but they are only one point ahead of Merseybus who have a game in hand, sorry Aigburth I can't see you holding on to third spot much longer. Bath St. 'E' are 15 points ahead of Maghull 'C' who are in 6th place but have only played 14 matches, having been on the wrong end of a drubbing by the Maghull boys recently I feel sure they are more than capable of finishing much higher in the division than their current position might suggest. As an ex-member of the Maghull club for many years I was delighted to see my old mates Alan Smethurst and Andy Howarth back in action.

Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'B' are fairly secure in 7th place and might well be higher placed if they had a more settled squad, Aigburth 'A' will perhaps feel that they are as well positioned as possible where as Police 'B' must feel that if they could manage to turn out four players on a regular basis they would be somewhat higher in the division.

Waterloo 'B', Colonsay 'B' and Harold House 'C' are proping up the division, of the three Colonsay must be the happier having blooded three youngsters new to the game along with two other youngsters and one near O.A.P. they will be looking for the youngsters to improve over the closed season.

I am pleased to report first ever wins for two players coincidentally in the same match, Pam Webber of Police beat Jay French of Colonsay but family honour was restored when Alan French beat Pam to open his account.

It was good to see the division well represented at the Closed Championships albeit from mainly two clubs Bootle Y.M. and Colonsay, eventual winner was Chris McGuire who overcame the challenge of club mate Eddie Preston. Unfortunately I have to report two walkovers in the group of cards in my possession, lets hope there will be no more.

Again players have performed well in saving their teams from a whitewash; S. Simpson, Harold House 'C' beat George Crowley, Bath St. 'E', Stan Clarke, Colonsay 'B' beat Brian Holden, Bath St. 'E' and Bill Leeming, Aigburth, Colin Hughes, Colonsay beat Father Mike Hughes, Bootle Y.M., R. Beilin, Harold House beat Phil Baines, Police, George Crowley, Bath Street beat Alan Smethurst, Maghull, Tony Sales, Maghull beat Eddie Preston, Bootle Y.M. and last but not least Austin Hayden Waterloo beat Mike Hughes Bootle Y.M.

It would be a great help if captains would use the christian names of their players on the scorecards, it is a little impersonal using initials in the notes but unfortunately I don't know the christian names of all the players in the division.

TABLE EDGES

Congratulations to Denise Conroy and Mal McEvoy on their coming Wedding, may the bells always ring merrily.

Noticeable how some entire clubs did not enter the closed?

Julie Princes son Neill has opted for the big ball and has signed for Liverpool – Oh dear, I bet Mike, Betty and Ken are on cloud 9.

This is your magazine – Why don't you use it? We print any item of news – non libellous.

Good to see Ray Hebson ex-Vice Chair pulling his weight at the closed.

Veterans are the dominant force in table tennis!!

40 years of age – A veteran!?!?

It's a bit late in the day but Linacre have a couple of nights available at their club.

It looks as though the Liverpool Echo are still speaking to us – after weeks of no notes – A short item on the closed.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Eddie Cameron, the League's Hon. Registrar and Fixture Secretary for the past 39 years has given formal notification to the Committee of his intention to stand down at the Annual General Meeting in May.

The purpose of this announcement at this time is to alert members to the impending vacancy and to advise that the Committee will be nominating Mrs. Paula French as Eddie's successor. It has to be emphasised, however, that this does not preclude nominations from Clubs in respect of any other member, providing the nomination is made in writing to the Organising Secretary not later than 1st April, 1994.

In the event of the nomination of Mrs. French ultimately being successful she will relinquish the Office of Cup Competition Secretary, which will then create a further vacancy to be filled.

An acknowledgement of the service given by Eddie will appear in the next issue.

**Arthur E. Upton,
President/Chairman**

LEAGUE 100 CLUB 1993/94

The commencement of this season found us with a few changes which made it necessary for me to do a little recruiting to bring us up to 100. Using what I like to refer to as my friendly persuasive and disarming charm – some call it by other names – I have got us back to 100.

My thanks again to all who paid up willing, or unwillingly. Special thanks to those long retired players, some no longer resident in Liverpool, who still retain pleasant memories of their time with us and who are happy to support our 100 Club. I have had some nice letters from them and they send us all their regards.

Listed below for the benefit of new members are their numbers. Also listed are winners from June to December, 1993.

NEW MEMBERS:- 3 – J. Quirk, 9 – G. Frost, 14 – M. Ashton
42 – Waterloo, 54 – S. Richards 59 – H. Nelson
60 – S. Sanderson 62 – R. Mirdamadi 68 – J. Ashley
84 – R. Wright 94 – P. Hutchings

WINNERS:-
June: A. Upton, R. Edward, P. French.
July: G. Langshaw, S. Fay, A. Clarke.
August: S. Graham, V. Killip, P. Taylor.
September: C. Graham, G.P.T. Club, L. Upton.
October: E. Caird, G. Graham, W. Stanley.

Consolations Prizes: A. Clarke, Liv. Y.M., I. Davies, L. Armson, J. McCaig.

DIVISION 1	P	W	L	D	PTS
MANWEB	17	13	2	2	130
WAVERTREE LABOUR	16	13	0	3	125
CADWA	14	11	0	3	112
L'POOL Y.M.C.A.	13	10	1	2	97
COLONSAY	14	9	3	2	90
BATH STREET	16	6	9	1	68
WAVERTREE LAB 'A'	18	4	12	2	60
CADWA 'A'	17	3	13	1	50
G.P.T.	17	0	13	4	42
L'POOL Y.M.C.A. 'A'	16	2	11	3	41
BOOTLE I.C.	10	1	8	1	25

DIVISION 2	P	W	L	D	PTS
ENGLISH ELECTRIC	16	15	0	1	131
BOOTLE I.C. 'B'	16	10	4	2	99
BOOTLE I.C. 'A'	15	12	2	1	94
FORDS	16	10	6	0	88
G.P.T. 'A'	14	6	6	2	77
POLICE	13	6	6	1	67
MAGHULL	17	6	10	1	63
COLONSAY 'A'	13	3	7	3	58
BATH ST. 'A'	17	3	13	1	56
G.P.T. 'B'	17	2	14	1	54
HAROLD HOUSE	12	3	8	1	43

DIVISION 3	P	W	L	D	PTS
WATERLOO	17	11	3	3	108
CADWA 'B'	16	11	2	3	107
MANWEB 'A'	17	11	4	2	107
BOOTLE Y.M.C.A.	16	9	5	2	94
WAVERTREE LAB. 'B'	17	7	5	5	93
WAVERTREE LAB. 'C'	17	8	9	0	85
MAGHULL 'A'	16	8	5	3	80
BATH ST. 'B'	16	5	7	4	75
MANWEB 'B'	16	5	10	1	69
BATH ST. 'C'	17	3	12	2	62
G.P.T. 'C'	17	0	16	1	30

DIVISION 4	P	W	L	D	PTS
L'POOL Y.M.C.A. 'B'	16	9	3	4	102
UNIVERSITY	15	10	2	3	96
POLICE 'A'	15	9	3	3	93
WATERLOO 'A'	16	11	4	1	93
BATH ST. 'D'	16	4	5	7	79
LINACRE	14	6	6	2	76
CADWA 'C'	15	5	8	2	67
WAVERTREE LAB. 'D'	13	4	8	1	58
HAROLD HOUSE 'A'	14	3	8	3	57
WAVERTREE LAB. 'E'	14	3	10	1	46
MAGHULL 'B'	14	2	9	3	43

DIVISION 5	P	W	L	D	PTS
BOOTLE Y.M.C.A. 'A'	17	17	0	0	144
HAROLD HOUSE 'B'	17	15	1	1	132
MERSEYBUS	17	10	4	3	109
AIGBURTH	17	9	4	4	102
BATH STREET 'E'	18	9	7	2	100
BOOTLE Y.M.C.A. 'B'	18	6	8	4	89
MAGHULL 'C'	15	9	4	2	88
POLICE 'B'	19	3	11	5	72
AIGBURTH 'A'	17	2	12	3	60
WATERLOO 'B'	16	4	10	2	52
COLONSAY 'B'	17	3	12	2	48
HAROLD HOUSE 'C'	16	1	15	0	24

FIXTURE SECRETARY'S NOTES

1. Please post missing cards, your club is fined for each late card.

2. The last week for playing matches is week commencing March 14th, 1994. Matches not complete by this date will automatically be awarded 0-10 to the away teams. Three walk-overs results in automatic expulsion of teams.
