

A season which produced quality table tennis allied to high competitive endeavour and always looking likely to be a close run title battle, sadly collapsed to exit in an undignified and farcical manner. It also highlighted, yet again, the need to replay postponed fixtures within the laid down time scale. Also highlighted very forcefully were the problems Representative matches can cause in this division. Some would say, unfair problems, in that it is restricted to matches involving those members representing our League.

As Week 20 approached the stage was set for a nail biting finish which faded into nothing when at the peak of the final run-in Liv. Y.M. failed to turn up against Wav. Lab. in a Week 21 match postponed because of a representative fixture. The reason for their failure still not being known to me. Personal views infiltrated an immediate replay, the absence of which could possibly have made Wav. Lab. champions by default. Cadwa, then the only other contenders, still had to play Liv. Y.M. in yet another postponed fixture. They needed 7 sets for a play-off with Wav. Lab., 8 for outright victory, having only played the Week 7 match against Y.M. three weeks earlier and winning 7-3. In this fixture they received a virtual 10.0 w/over in that Y.M. were without Keith Williams and Peter Lee. Natasha Williams taking the important eighth set against Dave Tagg 21/14; this after having been 14/9 down and winning the set taking the next 12 points, quite a feat against a tenacious player like Dave.

During this period my own efforts, hampered by being absent at Euro '94; finally sorted out a replay only to find Y.M. not wanting to replay this match. It is fortunate, indeed, that in spite of what can only be described as a final match shambles, we can clearly acclaim Cadwa as worthy champions. The youngest team of players to take this title and the most promising. That overcome many set-backs, some times looked like losing out, demonstrated endeavour and effort of the highest calibre and proved wrong a number of players who felt they would not be equal to the pressure. Congratulations to Kevin, Phil and Natasha (playing order) and reserve Mickey Malcolm on a well earned and thoroughly deserved 1st division title success.

The ripples of those two matches involving Liv. Y.M. spread much further than just eventually deciding the title and its ending. Y.M. themselves slipping to a final 6th place, from a possible 4th; and Manweb being able to claim with some justification that the w/over given to W. Lab. cost them at the least a play-off for 2nd place, possibly outright victory. A number of teams can point to matches with Cadwa which could have affected the outcome, their final fixture match against their 'A' team being one, the 'A' team taking three vital sets. Ten days later they played Colonsay in yet another p.p. match, losing 6-4; a defeat which must have given them the title shakes. Paul Hutchings being Colonsay's top man yet again, winning his three. Runners-up Wav. Lab. had their share of hiccups and one vital match which certainly affected

their bid to retain their title was also against their own 'A' team who took four sets. They lost to Cadwa 6-4 and Manweb 6-4; results which lost them the title, but which earned them a worthy 2nd place. Never really fancied to retain the championship they kept going inspite of many setbacks and almost pulled it off. Not the way they have wanted it to end but I am certain they all learnt from these unfortunate events. So, well done, Dave, Bernie and Gary.

The confident hopes Manweb had of a League and Cup Double faded away inspite of their attempt to regain lost ground. They finished up with nothing having seen the Cup snatched from them by Colonsay. The Cup Final also being a somewhat unsavoury affair of late arrivals by an apparently disinterested Manweb team. Only Terry Turner had a justifiable reason for being late, having been involved in a road incident and arriving still bearing the visible results. I don't know the full facts about this, our premier Cup Final, but it appeared to have blighted the night. Other factors may have had a bearing, I don't know, what I do know is that Colonsay were comfortable and worthy winners and I congratulate them not only as winners of the Cup but also as winners in the behaviour stakes. Add the events of the Cup Final to the events of the title battle and you have first class shambles in our premier division for which fortunately no blame can be laid at the door of the two winners. In the title race Manweb can point to having had to meet W. Lab., Cadwa and Y.M. in the closing stages, matches which took the sting out of their challenge, for at that stage a big win was a must and would have done a double job. Instead they could only manage two draws and a 6-4 win.

Helped into 4th place by Y.M.'s hari kari decision, Colonsay remained to the end a team of unpredictable turn-outs and results. The return of Stuart Richards gave them the strength in depth they needed and their improved results helped propel them into 4th place. A little more effort and earlier consistency and they could have gained a comfortable 3rd place to add to their Cup win. Had they had the services of Stuart throughout we would have seen a more reliable turn-out of others and, I am certain, they and not Cadwa would have been champions.

In a repeat of other season our 'happiest' team, Bath St. again finished in the middle. Too good to fear relegation, not good enough to be championship material, but good enough to trouble every other team, theirs was yet another uncomplicated season. But they are not getting any younger and ~~life~~ in this division will not always be so cosy, or treat them so kindly without an injection of younger blood. After a disastrous start and some equally disastrous results, Lab. 'A'; ably captained by Roy Smith, steered themselves to safety by what seems a comfortable margin. However, the poor results of Mike Tierney and clown prince, Phil Luxon, will not give them much confidence for next season. They were virtually a 2 man team and survived on the results of Roy and Alan.

Bootle J.C. had an even more disastrous start escaping by only thirteen sets. Their escape being made possible by a 21 sets haul in the final 3 matches. They had to play

G.P.T.; Cadwa 'A' and Y.M. 'A' and after a season of mediocre, and at times, lack lustre performances, they came good at the right time beating G.P.T. and Y.M. 'A' 8-2 and drawing with Cadwa 'A'. Lucky, perhaps, to find themselves with such a run-in. They put much of their lack of form down to too much table tennis. But if that was the cause then it must apply to quite a few other players and could account for some unexpected results.

Cadwa 'A' survived by only six points and must be well pleased at having done so. Hampered by early season team problems, they declared their intention to survive. That they did so was due in the main to the consistency of Ken Hartley who won a third of their sets, and the odd appearances of Neil Gravener who in his four matches won 9 sets. For Y.M. 'A' and G.P.T. it will be 2nd div. play next season, and whilst G.P.T. never really looked like escaping relegation narrowly avoided last season they fought up to the end and had their moments. But this time there was no Paul Hutchings to snatch survival from the jaws of relegation, for just one player capable of regular wins might have turned the tide in their favour. Cadwa 'A' brought Neil Gravener in against them in the closing stages and Bob Edwards spoilt his night by beating him 2 straight. Although losing very narrowly to other relegation possibles they never won a match and it was this inability to turn draws and 6-4 defeats into 6-4 wins which eventually put them down. Y.M. 'A's fate was probably sealed in their first matches when they had to face Cadwa, Liv. Y.M., Manweb and Wav. Lab. This hard start only brought them five sets and they had a second bad spell which brought only 12 sets. Only Peter Taylor maintained any consistency, Jeff Huntington started well and the hitting a bad patch. Ironically they achieved their best result in their final match beating Bath St. 6-4; three of their sets being taken from Ken Jackson and Mike Keane. I wish them well in the 2nd Div. and feel certain they won't stay there long. Might even be back in one season.

Finally, I have said it before, and will say it again. I have been writing the 1st Div. notes since the late Jim Green, one of our great characters, passed away. Some 20 odd years, some will say, 20 years too many. I don't mind the criticisms and comments - pity they are never to the Editor - but I truly would like to stand down. I feel I have done my bit for the League and our magazine these last 20 years. I seem to have plenty of critics, every player in the division, or it appears that way to me. So would one of those vociferous players like to use a pen instead of mouth and give me a well earned rest? A cry, I assure you, from my heart. Yes, I have got one, I think.

DIVISION 2

ROD BULMER

NO NOTES FOR THIS DIVISION

APOLOGIES (J.L.)

Well, I told you so, Cadwa 'B' and Waterloo for promotion, Manweb 'A' Third. G.P.T. 'C' and Bath St. 'C' for relegation. It sounds like it was a foregone conclusion when you read it quickly, but now have a look at the league table.

The was in fact only one foregone conclusion and that, unfortunately was the demise of G.P.T. 'C'. They lost all their games bar one, a draw against Bath St. 'B', I am sure they will feel more at home in the 4th division.

Bath St. 'C' put up an 'end of season' spirited fight, four of their last five games ended in 6-4 defeats against Labour 'C', Manweb 'A', Bath St. 'B' and Cadwa 'B'. Their final game against Maghull 'A' gave them a 7-3 victory and they also managed a 6-4 win over Bootle Y.M.C.A. Had their early season form been as good they would not now be heading for the 4th division.

Apart from the top three teams, there was not a lot to choose between the remaining seven. Manweb 'B' finished third from bottom but were only 21 points behind fourth placed team Labour 'B' (I must ask Mr. Statistics Don Davies if this is a record). Their end of season form improved, as I had expected, but was partly due to the inclusion of Alan Evans for the final two games winning three singles and a doubles, the most notable being a 3 set win against Bobby Owen which ended 18/21, 21/19, 21/23.

Maghull 'A' slipped up towards the end of the season taking just 20 points from their final seven games. Included in those seven games were the top four teams who were each battling for every point, but I still think the Maghull players didn't do themselves justice in the end. having said that, Harry McGannity had an excellent win over Tony Kendall 21/16, 17/21, 21/18 and Steve Woods achieved another remarkable result beating Ricky Brown 21/17, 21/16.

Tony Randall made all the difference to Bath St. 'B's season. On his day he's an exceptional player and I would put him on my list of the Top Ten Players in Division Three. He never loses any silly games and remained consistent throughout. Bath Street's main problem was not being able to field a settled side. In their last eight games they used eight players and fifteen players all season. It must have been a nightmare for Karen Gibson. let someone else be Captain next season Karen, and you can put your feet up. The next time you go into a game needing only a draw, you better hope your not playing Labour 'C'. They have now gone two season without registering a draw. Bobby Owen has lead the team with only five defeats all season and enters my Top Ten list at number five. Fellow players John Gratton, Ken Roberts and Ken Ray make up a very sociable team and with Ken Ray's side-comments such as "BARLEY" whenever he clips the edge or gets a net, takes me back to my school days. According to Ken Roberts he has many more.

Getting near to the top, we have both Bootle Y.M.C.A. and Labour 'B'. I must admit I did forecast Y.M.C.A. for fourth place and had it not been for my own team, Cadwa 'B', would have done so. Our last two games were against both these sides and, unfortunately for Bootle Y.M.C.A., Ian Miller came home for what was scheduled as our final game. With Ian and Billy Hargreaves in the side along with myself and on this occasion Rob Davies, I would have put money on us beating any team in the division. Well, we ran out 10-0 winners and I must take my hat off to Rob for beating Danny Every and Roly Wright who had both beaten him earlier in the season. Ian and I also retained our 100% doubles record beating John Higham and Tom Killip 15/21, 21/16, 21/15. Four days later, in a rearranged game, we played Labour 'B', without Ian Miller, and knowing we only needed 2 points to win the division, and lost 6-4 with Billy Hargreaves getting a table.

It's a good job that neither Labour 'B' or Bootle Y.M. were playing either a promotion or relegation issue or I wouldn't be able to show my face for a couple of years. The result between Bootle Y.M. and Labour 'B' during the second half of the season was an 8-2 victory for Bootle which makes you realise what an impact Cadwa had on the situation.

I've now come up to the top three teams and I can assure you, because I was personally involved, that it was an enthralling scrap right to the end. It was the evening of the 8th March, Waterloo were at home to Labour 'B' and Manweb 'A' were away to G.P.T. 'C', both playing their final game. Waterloo needed 9 points to be sure of promotion and 8 points to be sure of at least a play-off. With respect G.P.T. 'C' it was expected that Manweb would get 10 points and they were hoping Labour 'B' would do them a favour. I thought, for the benefit of my reader, (and also to spy on Labour 'B' who we were playing two days later) I would go and watch.

I arrived shortly after 9.00 p.m. to find Waterloo leading 6-0 and also to find Alan Reid with his head in his arms - bottle gone. The game on the table was a doubles, Ricky Brown and Ray Hibbs against Bill Stanley and John Reynolds and no sooner had I got there and Ricky and Ray were losing 20/17 in the third. They ended up saving seven game points and eventually ran out winners 28/26, 7-0. Next game Peter Frazer against Bill Stanley and once again losing 20/17 in the third. Peter then saves another three game points and wins 22/20, 8-0. One more needed for promotion. All's looking good for Waterloo. Next game's on, Ray Hibbs versus Roy Adams not so easy, Roy's a much improved player, Roy wins 21/19, 21/19. 8-1. Final game Alan Reid versus John Henshaw. Half way through the first game the telephone rings, it's 10.45 p.m., who else could it be but Trevor Hughes "Hello son, what's the score?" he enquires. "Tell his 9-1 someone shouts", "Tell him it's deuce in the third" someone else shouts "Go away, don't you know what time it is?" another voice crops up. Finally Trevor is told it's 8-1 and to go away. John is in superb form hitting both forehand and backhand with drop shots thrown in. The watching Ricky Brown, Peter

Frazer, Ray Hibbs and Ken Nelson wince as John wins 14/21, 10/21. Final score 8-2. Alan looks stunned. John looks apologetic. We gather round and wonder whether the boys from G.P.T. have been able to take a point off Manweb. We didn't have long to wait, the phone rings again, Ken Nelson says "Give that to me", he thinks it's Ian Turner on the other end, "How did you get on?" say the voice, "you first" says Ken, "OK, we won 10-0" say the voice, "Blast" replies Ken "We only managed 8-2, see you in the playoff." There are cheers from the other end and the line goes dead. Both teams are on 131 points and know that Cadwa only need two points from their final game to become Champions. I must say that through all the excitement Ken Nelson is the perfect host and although he never had any cider on draught he supplied me with free (yes, I said FREE) lager to calm my nerves.

Who would be in Manweb team? They could choose from seven or eight players, maybe even Trevor would be asked to play a part.

Two nights later Labour 'B' turned up at Cadwa and, as previously reported, we obtained the required two points to clinch the title and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ian Miller, Billy Hargreaves, George Higham and Rob Davies for not only helping me win a medal but for also being excellent team mates and great 'Butty Makers'. Back to the play-off, played at Bath St. Again for the benefit of you readers (and for any free cider that was on offer) I went to watch. The game finished before the bar closed, but only just. Denise Conroy (or should I now say McEvoy - Congratulations) picked a team which on paper looked very strong, but I can name two players who may have thought otherwise. John Moore and Ian Turner turned up having played more games for this team than anyone only to find themselves sidelined. At the end of the day Paul Kinsey and Steve Rowe took their places, but neither had the tenacity to beat Man of the match, Ricky Brown. He won this three in superb style. Peter Frazer also had a brilliant game against Alan Biggs winning 23/25, 22/20, 21/16 and he also partnered Alan Reid in the doubles to dispose of Paul and Denise 17/21, 21/19, 25/23. Both these games could have gone either way and reversed the scoreline but eventually Waterloo deservedly won 6-3 and clinched promotion.

As well as promotion, Waterloo should also be congratulated for lifting the Hyde Cup beating Bootle Y.M.C.A. in the final. Y.M. again failed to win a doubles and ended up with an average of only 33.33%. This, I'm afraid, was their downfall.

On now to all those close games you like to read about:-

| | | | | | |
|---------------|---|--------------|-------|-------|-------|
| George Frost | v | John Gratton | 11/21 | 21/11 | 20/22 |
| Roy Adams | v | Steve Woods | 21/19 | 16/21 | 22/20 |
| Chris McGuire | v | Ken Roberts | 19/21 | 21/17 | 21/23 |
| Karen Gibson | v | Ricky Brown | 22/20 | 14/21 | 18/21 |
| John Langton | v | Rob Davies | 18/21 | 21/10 | 22/24 |

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|--------------|---|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Dave Aimson | v | Rob Davies | 21/14 | 20/22 | 22/20 |
| Reg Edwards | v | Roly Wright | 19/21 | 23/21 | 22/20 |
| Danny Every | v | John Ashley | 21/16 | 17/21 | 23/21 |
| Peter Frazer | v | Alan Biggs | 15/21 | 21/13 | 23/21 |
| Brain Aldred | v | George Higham | 10/21 | 24/22 | 18/21 |
| George Frost | v | Karen Gibson | 17/21 | 21/15 | 21/23 |
| Ian Turner | v | John Reynolds | 21/5 | 18/21 | 22/20 |
| Ken Roberts | v | Alan Reid | 12/21 | 21/16 | 23/25 |
| Danny Every | v | Tony Conner | 21/12 | 14/21 | 23/21 |
| Rob Davies | v | Peter James | 24/22 | 20/22 | 17/21 |
| Alan Biggs | v | Billy Clayton | 18/21 | 21/15 | 26/24 |
| Alan Reid | v | Devise McEvoy | 22/24 | 21/16 | 21/18 |
| John Ashley | v | Steve Woods | 22/20 | 17/21 | 21/19 |

Finally, I would list in order of ability the Top Ten Players in my opinion in the division, so here goes:- Something Different

1. Mal McEvoy (since departed)
2. Ian Miller
3. Ricky Brown
4. Billy Hargreaves
5. Bobby Owen
6. Paul Kinsey
7. John Henshaw
8. Tony Kendall
9. Steve Rowe
10. John Higham

You either agree or disagree, who cares, I don't. I'll be in the second division next year and won't have to listen to your arguments. But maybe this is a trend that the next writer of the third division notes could adopt. Oh! Ken Armson will be telephoning one of you lucky people at the start of next season to take over where I have left off. But don't worry about it, it's a piece of cake, you even get to go to bed occasionally and, on top of that, Ken will give you £50, at least that's what he told me, which reminds me, HAS ANYONE SEEN KEN?

EDITORS NOTE: I think your ranking list could be a good trend for any division – interesting and controversial.

While appreciating your funny at the end Mike, the fact is that correspondents are generally given a couple of weeks for a write up which with cards at their side takes say a couple of hours.

So ends yet another season with its mixed bag of triumphs and traumas, not least with Maghull 'B' finishing second from the bottom and actually avoiding relegation, due to G.P.T.'s withdrawal. And by a mere 3 points. The unfortunate loser in this situation, so tantalisingly close to safety, is Wavertree Labour, determinedly led by Captain, Reza Murdumadi. But there is a large gulf between 4th and 5th divisions, so back down they slip.

A sigh of relief from runners up Liverpool Y.M.C.A. who held off a late challenge from Police, but undoubtedly the team of the season is University who finished 9 points clear as champions.

CONGRATULATIONS! Yes, with 5 matches to go, University looked down and out averaging just five points a match between mid and three-quarter season. They were turning up players short, and fielding weakened teams, but just in time they decided they wanted the championship badly enough and gained 41 points over the final 5 matches. University benefited, too, from an about turn on a previously claimed game, by Linacre. Nice one Jack. It finished 8-2 though Frank Lacey did record a fine win over University's Paul Thomas.

Sadly, several of University's fine team move on this Summer, but the squad is large-ish and would hope to hold it's own in a division not that much stronger than our own. University stars are Pat McCloughan, Andrew Johnson, Duncan Preston and John Jacom ably complemented by Oliver Daly and C. Campbell.

In finishing second, Y.M.C.A. too had stars, none brighter than Tony Whelan and Ming Liu. It's a toss up between Pat (University) Tony and Ming for the divisional best player, and I would put money on those three challenging for that honour even in the second division. Seven stars mentioned and I'll add number ones, Dave Crispin and Peter Holmes. Now for some fun with our very own version of STAR FLAWS. Yes, those delightful moments when the mighty fall.

| | | | |
|---|---|----------------|-------------|
| Paul Morgan (Harold House) | v | Duncan Preston | -18, 13, 18 |
| (No surprise really, Paul's amongst the best) | | | |
| L. Gee (Bath St.) | v | Andrew Johnson | 13, -16, 21 |
| Reg Edwards (Bath St.) | v | Duncan | 14, 19 |
| Frank Lacey (Linacre) | v | John Jacom | -19, 14, 19 |
| Jack Davidson (Linacre) | v | Dave Crispin | 17, -12, 15 |
| Reg Edwards | v | Dave Crispin | 17, -12, 15 |
| Mabel Neary (Labour 'E') | v | Peter Holmes | 16, 17 |
| Mike Ashton (Labour 'D') | v | Peter Holmes | 16, 23 |
| Andy Armstrong (Waterloo) | v | Dave Crispin | 20, 14 |

Police are unlucky. They struggled again through shiftwork etc. to field consistently strong team, yet still pushed hard to the end, only 5 points adrift of promotion. Tony

Harris with his controlled attack and Ritchie Winkle were models of consistency and deserve promotion. High points for this pair include a 19, 21 win (Tony) over Reg Edwards and a 16, 18 rout (Ritchie) against Dave Aimson in a super 8-2 end of season clash against a strong Bath St. side, which really emphasised Police's determination for promotion.

Alas, it wasn't to be for Police, but next season shouldn't be so tough in this unusually strong division. Waterloo, led by Peter Holmes and the exciting attack of Andy Armstrong flirted with promotion but fell away to finish 4th. Still, a fine achievement, with Bill Spencer, Fraser Farquarson and Austin Hayden all weighing in with no small measure of success.

Fraser played an ex-colleague (at Labour) Ken Armson twice in seven days, and it finished honours even in two close three setters. The crucial tactical point here was who could get in first with their strong forehand game. Let's hope that John Forrest's injury problems are over and that he is raring to go for September.

Linacre, too, flirted with promotion for much of the season and were just 17 points behind Police with a game in hand at the three-quarter stage. But one win and five defeats in their last six matches condemned them to seventh position. Never-the-less, Jack Davidson and Frank Lacy had commendable seasons. Jack never seems to be beaten easily, and his scalps include Bath Street's Reg Edwards, whilst Frank too shaded Reg and 'out penholded' Y.M.C.A.'s attacking John Lace. But really, Linacre missed Harry Reeves who didn't feature after Christmas.

Alex Gould too, enjoyed a successful season in helping Bath Street to mid-table after promotion. Against Frank, Alex just came through 20 in the third in the battle of the evergreen pen-holders. G. Lee, Dave Aimson, Reg and Dave Batty too contributed well to Bath Street's cause.

If dogged determination was enough, Labour 'E' would have avoided relegation, especially as Maghull underwent a late crisis in morale as their Better players couldn't turn out as regularly as Captain, Phil Christie, would have liked. Never-the-less, their best quartet of Phil, Bill Salter, Brian Gregory and Jimmy Gill turned out just enough times to accrue enough points and are thankful that only one team is relegated. This foursome was good enough to larrup Labour 'D' 6-4 and 8-2 in February and March, and so we at 'D' did our 'E' team compatriots no favours at all.

However, there were good performances in the Labour 'E' camp. Mark Miles at one consistently troubled the divisions best players and his scalps include doubles over Labour 'D's John Reynolds and Maghull's Phil Christie. Mark and Paul Faulkner combined brilliantly to shade University's Pat McCloughan and Andrew Johnson in the doubles, whilst Paul also impressed in his two straight victory over long pimples exponent Ken Ainsworth of Linacre. Steve Perry scored a fine 18, 21 win over Frank Lacey in the same match, which went 6-4 to Labour 'E' at a time when they were fighting for their 4th division lives.

No such excitement for Labour 'D' who reverted from being amongst the pre-season promotion favourites to actually worrying about relegation towards the end, finishing 4th from bottom. Mike Ashton was probably the pick of us though Sandie has been dogged by injury and will hope for a cleaner bill of health come September. John too will improve next time out and my money is on him to re-establish himself amongst the best players in the division.

One such player is Paul Morgan, yet Harold House still finished 3rd from bottom. Dave Cohen, Ian Burrows, Mike Poole and Graham Williams all appeared fairly regularly (or better). Pretty puzzling why Harold House struggled so much with this squad, but they did concede at least one walk-over and, as usual, had to rely on a pretty generous squad system.

Jack Highton is enjoying a fine spell for Cadwa whilst Peter Roberts too had his moments, especially in beating Jimmy Clewitt 18 and 16. Cadwa finished mid-table with Steve Graham, Jack Power and Trevor Dolder regularly featuring. Jack, less than usual though, Steve excelled at times, especially when shading both Phil Christie and Dave Aimson.

So, all in all an exciting and competitive season with promotion and relegation issues not being sorted 'til the very end.

Bye for now, so you next season.

DIVISION 5

STAN CLARKE

Congratulations Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'A' champions of the division by a large margin, there can be little doubt that they have thoroughly deserved their success having led the division all season. Just to put the icing on the cake they also beat Merseybus in the final of the Stamp Cup. Their winning margin would have been greater had their dispute with Harold House not resulted in Harold House claiming a walkover.

Runners up are Aigburth who came with a late run to finish just 4 points clear of Maghull 'C', it is a great shame that Bill Leeming will not be with us to help out his team next season. I am sure that many of you will have fond memories of Bill, one of the nicest men in the game, always cheerful and I cannot recall him ever speaking badly of another player. Bill will be sadly missed not only by the members of Aigburth but by his many friends throughout the league.

As I mentioned earlier Maghull 'C' finished in third spot, there is little doubt that the influx of players from English Electric and Police into the club has resulted in stronger players appearing in this division.

In fourth place were Harold House 'B', for so long the only team to pressurise Bootle Y.M.C.A., they would have finished in runners up spot except that they had 30 points deducted for playing ineligible players, it's a shame for the regular players in the team

but it is an easy trap to fall into when players ranked in lower teams regularly turn out for teams in higher divisions, having said that I am surprised that Harold House should be in this position given that they fell foul of the same rule last season.

Bath Street 'E' and Merseybus finished level on 130 points well above the next batch of teams led by Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'B' with 96 points there was very little to choose between Aigburth 'A', Police 'B' and Waterloo 'B', only 12 points separating the three. The final two places in the division were taken by Colonsay 'B' sixteen points clear of bottom team Harold House 'C'. The youngsters of Colonsay have successfully negotiated their first season and hopefully will improve their results next season when they have more experience of 'funny bats' and unusual tactics.

Having complimented you all on the fact that hardly any walkovers had been conceded I now find now less than six cards claiming walkovers in the batch in my possession, four of which concern the Harold House club, unbelievably the Stamp Cup semi final was claimed as a walkover by Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'A' against Harold House 'B' who than claimed a walkover against Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'A' in the league. I understand that clubs do on occasion have difficulty in raising teams but surely we are in the sport to play matches not to claim walkovers. I can honestly say that in my twenty odd years as a club secretary with up to eight teams in the league, I cannot recall having to claim more than a handful of matches, so come on folks, lets play matches whenever humanly possible, rather than take the easy option and claim walkovers.

Finally on a happier note yet another list of players who have saved their teams form a whitewash: D. Traynor, Aigburth 'A' beat Mal Clark, Waterloo 'B' 17 & 16; Stephen Simpson, Harold House 'C' beat S. Weldon, Waterloo 'B' 16, -2, 19; Austin Haydon, Waterloo 'B' beat Bill Leeming, Aigburth 8, -21, 14; Jim Geddes, Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'B' beat Sue Anderson, Maghull 'C' 19 & 16; Joe Harrison, Merseybus beat Eric Young, Harold House 'B' 17 & 15; Stan Clarke, Colonsay 'B' beat Jim Geddes, Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'B' -15, 16, 17; S. Simpson, Harold House 'C' beat Fraser Farquharson, Waterloo 'B' 12 & 12; Eric Wood, Aigburth 'A' beat John Letch, Bath Street 'E', 15, -16, 18 and finally Lee Farley, Colonsay 'B' beat Billy Holmes, Aigburth 20 - 17.

It only remains for me to wish you all well over the closed season and hope that you will all return fighting fit ready for next season and to hope that during the summer months at least a few more youngsters and dare I mention it some new lady players, might appear on your squad list.

21 Armscot Close,
Liverpool L25 0NX.
19th April 1994

Dear Colleagues,

Re: Final Issue - 1993/94

Please find enclosed all the cards I have. I would ask you to ensure that these and other cards sent to you must be returned to me. When finalising the League Averages

I often find that some cards have only been half entered and need the cards to check back etc.

Our Editor was not very pleased with the delay in some notes reaching him and this resulted in the issue being late from the printers and late in distribution. There is no in-built flexibility in the dates I give and I would ask that you adhere to the date given. This issue needing to be out on time in order that it can be passed to club secretaries at our A.G.M.

The final date for receipt by the Editor of our notes is Saturday 7th May. This gives you in excess of two weeks to produce and submit your notes. Please make life easier for our Editor and our Printer by adhering to this date.

If you anticipate being in your present division for next season I would appreciate confirmation that you are prepared to continue as Divisional Correspondent. If expecting to move to a higher or lower division I would also appreciate advice as to your continuing if required in your new division.

We cannot discriminate in this, and the hundreds after these lucrative positions will also be given consideration, but we will take into account seniority and experience.

Hope you have an enjoyable summer and return refreshed and eager to once more impart to our members exciting reports of their actions and successes. I am certain you will be wishing summer was over so that you can once more take up your pen. You lucky people.

Yours sincerely,

KEN ARMSON

TABLE EDGES

What can you say about the ladies - Natasha, Brenda and Paula - semi-final of the Rose Bowl, beating Leeds with three English ranked players in their side - great stuff.

If Stan Clarke requires a demo of a perfect serve, see Kathy Haydon, Bootle Y.M.

I have mentioned a couple of sad personal losses in the Editorial. Another loss that I hope may be felt by others as well as me, English Electric T.T.C. Finished officially on Friday April 8th. Maybe more in a later issue.

Warrington won the Lancashire and Cheshire men's title.

Liverpool players dominated the Business House Championships, Keith Williams (4th time) beat Kenny Jackson. Doubles win for Pete Lee and Mike Mahoney beat Pete Price and Trevor Owens. Vets Pete Lee beat Ken Jackson.

Liverpool lost 5-2 in the Wilmott Cup to Northumbria. Keith won the two beating number 70 Benny Robertson and number one junior Andrew Wilkinson.

I see ex English Electric number one Andrew Eden was in the England European squad.

Natasha Williams is off to University, let's hope we don't lose touch with her. Some great wins - Malcolm - Stuart - Dave - Chris both Petes - lovely girl - great opponent. Our number one lady player of all time I would say.

I think this should have been the number one item - Congratulations to Cadwa on their first 1st division championship with Kevin Dolder - Natasha Williams - Phil Musgrove - a good year for them to pick, as the CADWA Sports and Social Club celebrates their 50th Year.

Fifty years of CADWA brings back memories of Rennie and Ivy Crafter table tennis and Sports and Social Stalwarts - followed of course by Judy and Billy. Happy days for us all.

A tight game for Liverpool in The Norman Cook semi-final against Wigan (4 points up) took a 3-2 lead. Paul Hutchings, Stuart Richards - Kevin and Natasha came out winners 5-4.

Interesting play off for the 3rd division 2nd place promotion place, Waterloo beat MANWEB 6-3. Justice was done as, although no rules were broken, MANWEB didn't exactly put their regular team out.

The same Norman Cook side beat Bury (3 up) in a not very good final 5-1.

Natasha (again) retained her three titles in the Wrexham closed, she now defends her Welsh Closed titles in Cardiff.

I reckon Ken Armson and Stan Clarke can now be called - travelling people - the tournaments they are covering - these International referees!

I found it quite frightening to receive two letters in one digest. I hope you noticed!!!

Crunch time and Wavertree claim a 10-0 over Liverpool Y.M. when the latter didn't turn up; semi-final Bootle Y.M. claim w/o Harold House, Final 5-5 and University can't raise a team for the replay so a w/o final for Liverpool Y.M. 'B'.

It happens at top level too Leeds reached the semi-final of the Wilmott because Hull didn't arrive!

Liverpool community sports development section are running an under 12 and 14 Championships for Liverpool boys and girls. Semi-finalists to be coached and could represent Liverpool.

Details from Phil Browne, Toxteth Library, Windsor Street. 709 9050. Liverpool Residents Only.

Big write up for Alex Gould in the local paper extolling his varied career in and out of table tennis since 1938 English number 7 Vet. over 70's.

The elderly gentlemen from English Electric, Alan Chase, Ted Birch and Mick Allen (Mick Who!) kicked English Elec. out of the league with a bang. Winning their division of the Lancs. & Ches. Vets without losing a game and conceding only 3 sets, and winning Div. 2 with the assistance of young, handsome Mike Corcoran.

LIVERPOOL CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS 1994

The 1994 Closed Championships, played at Kirkby Sports Centre on Sunday, 6th February and the major finals at the Police Club on Tuesday, 15th February, produced some very exciting and entertaining matches, with some unexpected but, on the day, deserved results.

The player of the Tournament must surely be Kevin Dolder, who not only claimed the Junior title easily once again, but also finished off the Finals evening by taking the Senior Title with almost equal ease. During all the matches he played, only one player was able to take a game off him and that was Kenny Jackson in the first round of the knock-out section. Previously Kevin had beaten S. Fay and F. Lay in his group matches and then, after his struggle against Kenny, he overcame Ming Liu, Paul Hutchings and Peter Flint, last year's winner, in the Semi-Final before his two straight win in the Final over Malcolm McEvoy.

Kevin's progress in the Doubles was equally impressive. Partnered with Keith Williams and seeded number one, the pair won their group before beating Peter Lee and Mike Mahoney in a quarter-final but then losing narrowly in the semi-final to the eventual winners, Dave Roberts and Bernie Wentworth.

Dave Roberts, in fact, was very close to being named the player of the Championships, if Kevin Dolder had not produced such outstanding results. Dave managed to take the Doubles Title with his partner, Bernie Wentworth, recording fine wins over S. and P. Gittins, C. Ford and P. Hutchings, Kevin Dolder and Keith Williams, before disposing of Peter Flint and Ken Connor in the Final. However, Dave's progress in the Veterans' event was perhaps more testing. In retaining his title, he defeated J. Ashley, Bill Leeming and Ted Birch before facing Kenny Jackson in the semi-final. Kenny, remember, had earlier come very close to knocking out the eventual winner of the Singles and here he came within two points of defeating the Vets Title holder. In one of the most exciting encounters of the Championships, Dave managed to win 21/19 in the third.

It was very disappointing to have to cancel the Women's event this year, but with only three entries it was decided that for this year the event was a non-starter. Hopefully, this will not happen next year.

However, it was encouraging to have an increased number of entries for the Divisional Championships. In particular, the fourth and fifth Divisions supported their events much better than last year and indeed produced some very keen and hard fought matches.

Although the Finals evening was marred by an unpleasant unnecessary incident at the finish, I am very pleased with the way the Championships were completed. My thanks must be recorded to everyone who helped to make our annual Tournament yet another success.

Brian Leeson, Hon. Organiser and Referee

POSTSCRIPT ON BEHALF OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Following the conclusion of the Men's Singles Final at the League's Closed Championships held on 15th February, 1994, the conduct of Mr. Malcolm McEvoy resulted in interior structural damage being caused to the Merseyside Police Sports and Social Association's premises at Fairfield. The League was advised that the Association was seeking recompense to the value of £50 in respect of the damage and that Mr. McEvoy was banned for life from these premises.

As a subsequent Disciplinary Hearing the League Management Committee found that Mr. McEvoy was in breach of Rule 18 (misconduct likely to bring the League or the game of Table Tennis into disrepute) and decided:-

(a) That Mr. McEvoy be required to repay the £50 claim for the damage.
and

(b) That he should be suspended from membership of the Liverpool and District Table Tennis League for the period from 14th March, 1994 until 31st August, 1996, both dates inclusive.

An appeal by Mr. McEvoy to the Lancashire County Table Tennis Association in respect of the length of the suspension was not upheld.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE ANNUAL CLOSED TOURNAMENT

Sponsored by BILL FAWLEY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LTD.

Tuesday, 15th February, 1994 at Merseyside Police Club

Hon. Referee: Mr. B. A. Leeson

FINAL EVENTS

1. Semi-Final's of the Open Singles

| | | | | |
|----------------------|---|-------------------------|-------|-------|
| Rob Bevan (Manweb) | v | Malcolm McEvoy (Manweb) | 19/21 | 19/21 |
| Peter Flint (Manweb) | v | Kevin Dolder (Cadwa) | 17/21 | 18/21 |

2. Veteran's Singles Final

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Dave Roberts (Wav. Lab.) | v | Peter Lee (Liv. Y.M.) | 21/15 | 18/21 | 21/13 |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|

3. Junior Singles Final

Kevin Dolder (Cadwa) v Stuart Toole (Cadwa) 21/10 21/14

4. Open Doubles Final

Dave Roberts & Bernie Wentworth (Wav. Lab.) v Peter Flint (Manweb) & Ken Connor (Fords) 21/18 21/18

5. Men's Open Singles Final

Malcolm McEvoy (Manweb) v Kevin Dolder (Cadwa) 15/21 21/23

Results already decided at Kirkby Sports Centre – Sunday, 6th February

2nd Division Championship Final

Paul Gittins (Police) beat Ken Connor (Fords) 21/14 19/21 21/17

3rd Division Championship Final

John Moore (Manweb) beat Rob Davies (Cadwa) 21/11 21/11

4th Division Championship Final

Pat McLoughan (Varsity) beat Ming Liu (Liverpool Y.M.) 21/15 21/11

5th Division Championship Final

Chris McGuire (Bootle Y.M.) beat Eddie Preston (Bootle Y.M.) 21/11 14/21 21/19

LIVERPOOL CLOSED SINGLES WINNERS

| | Men's Winner | Runner Up | Ladies Winner | Runner Up |
|------|--------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| 1945 | R. Rumjahn | | No Competition | |
| 1946 | R. Rumjahn | | E. Mansell | |
| 1947 | R. Rumjahn | | E. Mansell | |
| 1948 | E. Rumjahn | | K. May | |
| 1949 | R. Rumjahn | | O Dickenson | |
| 1950 | R. Rumjahn | | E. Mansell | |
| 1951 | E. Rumjahn | | A. Jones | |
| 1952 | R. Rumjahn | | A. Jones | |
| 1953 | B. Hand | | E. Mansell | |
| 1954 | R. Rumjahn | | E. Mansell | |
| 1955 | L. Davies | | E. Mansell | |
| 1956 | A. Taylor | | E. Waterson | |
| 1957 | E. Rumjahn | | K. Casselman | |
| 1958 | A. Taylor | | M. Jones | |
| 1959 | A. Taylor | | R. Royle | |

| | Men's Winner | Runner Up | Ladies Winner | Runner Up |
|------|--------------|----------------|---------------|------------|
| 1960 | A. Taylor | | M. Jones | |
| 1961 | R. Gunnion | | M. Jones | |
| 1962 | R. Gunnion | A. Taylor | J. Crafter | |
| 1963 | W. Allanson | R. Smith | R. Royle | |
| 1964 | R. Gunnion | W. Allanson | J. Crafter | |
| 1965 | K. Roberts | B. Cain | B. Cain | |
| 1966 | R. Jones | P. D'Arcy | J. Crafter | |
| 1967 | G. Birch | D. Butterworth | J. Crafter | |
| 1968 | G. Birch | A. Rigby | B. Cain | |
| 1969 | P. D'Arcy | G. Smith | B. Cain | |
| 1970 | B. Parkinson | E. Mandaluff | M. Francis | |
| 1971 | D. Cotterell | P. D'Arcy | S. Manning | |
| 1972 | M. Johns | W. Allanson | B. Williams | |
| 1973 | W. Allanson | I. Johns | B. Williams | |
| 1974 | J. McNee | W. Allanson | B. Williams | |
| 1975 | J. McNee | A. Boasman | B. Kirkman | |
| 1976 | P. Tsang | D. Roberts | B. Kirkman | |
| 1977 | K. Williams | R. Smith | S. Alexander | |
| 1978 | M. Thomas | C. Strettle | S. Alexander | |
| 1979 | W. Percival | K. Williams | L. Fennah | P. French |
| 1980 | K. Williams | J. Fennah | H. Stirrup | A. Carline |
| 1981 | K. Williams | D. Roberts | L. Fennah | J. Le Page |
| 1982 | W. Percival | P. Hutchings | J. Prince | B. Kirkman |
| 1983 | T. Manning | K. Williams | B. Buoey | M. Neary |
| 1984 | D. Roberts | J. Rankin | J. Prince | S. Manning |
| 1985 | K. Williams | P. Hutchings | P. French | B. Kirkman |
| 1986 | P. Hutchings | W. Percival | C. Hemming | P. French |
| 1987 | W. Percival | P. Flint | M. Neary | B. Buoey |
| 1988 | S. Richards | L. Kenwright | J. Thomas | B. Buoey |
| 1989 | A. Eden | S. Richards | J. Thomas | B. Buoey |
| 1990 | K. Williams | M. McEvoy | B. Kirkman | J. Prince |
| 1991 | K. Williams | S. Green | J. Thomas | D. Conroy |
| 1992 | M. Dick | M. McEvoy | D. Conroy | J. Prince |
| 1993 | P. Flint | C. Ford | N. Williams | P. French |

CUP FINALS

STAMP

MERSEYBUS - 3 BOOTLE Y.M. 'A' - 6

Tony Foster lost to Eddie Preston 16 and 20: Joe Harrison beat Mike Hughes 19 and 15: Eddie Crowley and Joe lost to Eddie P and Mike 15-21: 21-14: 14-21 Eddie C beat Chris 14 and 21. Two all looks good. Tony and Peter Williams lost to Chris and Kathy Haydon 13 and 7. Peter beat Mike 5 and 15. Joe lost Chris 12 and 16. Tony lost to Kathy 12 and 19. Eddie C lost 16 and 20 to Eddie Preston 16 and 20.

League Official, Stan Clarke and Club Official, Dave Graham. Trophies presented by League President Athur Upton. Played at Bootle J.C.

FORREST

LIVERPOOL Y.M. - 5 UNIVERSITY - 5

Liverpool Y.M. W.O. Cup Winners

University were unable to field a team for the replay. I could not attend the game and have had difficulty in obtaining details which I believe were a little hazy.

League Official, Ken Armson, Club Official, Dave Graham. Played at Bootle J.C.

HYDE

BOOTLE Y.M.C.A. - 4 WATERLOO PARK - 6

Roly Wright lost to Alan Reid 11 and 17: Tom Killip lost to Peter Fraser 18 and 11: John Higham and Tom lost to Alan and Peter 13-21: 21-15: 14-21: John beat Alan 21-23: 21-11: 21-11. Tom lost to Rick Brown 20 and 15, Danny Every beat Ken Nelson 21-15: 17-21: 21-15. John lost to Ricky 6 and 7 (score 5-2 for Waterloo) Roly beat Ken 15 and 14. Danny beat Peter 16-21: 21-17: 21-17 (5-4 Gasp). Roly and Danny lost to Ricky and Ken 10-21: 21-17 (Gasp Gasp) 15-21.

League Official, Jack Lambert, Club Official, Stan Harvey. Trophies presented by Vice President Jack Lambert. Played at G.P.T.

RUMJAHN

COLONSAY 'A' - 7 BOOTLE J.C. 'A' - 3

Paula French lost to Steve Fay 10 and 17: Steve Gittens beat Steve Fay 16 and 19: Brenda Williams lost to Julian Quirk 24-22: 10-21: 21-23: Martin Hunter beat Dave Graham 16 and 17 (A Crunch One): Martin lost to Derek Sullivan 20 and 17: Brenda lost to Derek 12 and 15: Paula and Martin beat Steve and Dave 14-21: 21-14: 22-20: Paula beat Dave 18 and 15. Steve and Brenda beat Julian and Derek 24-22: 11-21: 21-18. Game, set and match - Lorra double calls. Steve beat Julian 9 and 13.

For probably the first time a Rumjahn was absent owing to communication difficulties.

League Official Club Official

Trophies presented by President Arthur Upton.

FRANK MURPHY

WAVERTREE LABOUR – 5 CADWA – 2

Mike Tierney (5) beat Ken Hartley (4) 31-24: 26-31: 37-35 (My goodness). Alan Timewell (5) beat Peter Roberts (18) 31-24: 31-23. Roy Smith (5) lost to John Power (23) 8-31: 23-31. Mike beat Peter 31-22: 25-31: 31-28. Alan lost to John 18 and 24. Roy fought back to beat Ken 31-28: 23-31; 32-30: Mike beat John 31-25: 32-30 (Mike was 30-14 down in that game!!)

Superb Cadwa support.

League Official, Alex Gould – Arthur Upton introduced Joe and Myra Lovelady, Frank's sister Myra present the Trophies.

FRANK MURPHY HANDICAP CUP

With the second season of the re-vamped Vets Cup now over, it is time to reflect on how the handicaps worked out. To give greater flexibility we increased games to 31 up. Scratch players did find this hard going, especially when playing another scratch player, but it did give us the opportunity to take more account of a number of factors. We must have got it right somewhere in that the Final was contested by a team with handicaps and one composed of 1st Division players. Unfortunately we have not received any views about handicaps to assist us next season.

Also disappointing were the number of walkover conceded. Some, I feel certain having been because the team conceding felt they could not win. If this were the case it was the wrong kind of defeatism as it needs more than just a good handicap to win a game, as I found out when playing Ken Hartley who, in spite of my only needing to get 10 points a game, beat me comfortably. In the same match he lost to Bill Stanley after having pulled back the handicap and taken the lead.

Nine matches ended 5-4 with several 5-3. Some 30 individual games went to 30 All and there were a large number finishing with a score of 28 or 29. Of the four teams getting to the semi-final stage only one, Bath St. 'B'; did not figure a 1st Div. player. They lost this semi 5-3 to the eventual Cup winners. In the other semi Cadwa, who had deposed of one Wav. Lab. team 5-2; were the winners in a hard fought match against Wav. Lab. 'B' winning 5-4. A real nail biting match and my discussions about other matches revealed that many were of the same nature.

The Final was contested by Cadwa and Wav. Lab; and Cup Holders, Wav. had a hard fight to retain the trophy against the well handicapped Peter Roberts and Jack Power assisted by Ken Hartley, always a difficult player to beat off 4. They found Wav. Lab. in a determined mood and having overcome the difficult challenge of the Bath St. 'B' team probably better equipped for another difficult match in that they knew what they have to do to overcome the handicaps they faced. One player who had a poor season in League matches but responded in the handicap games being Mick Tierney, for in the Cadwa match he was 14-30 down and yet won the game 30/32. Quite a feat

against any calibre of opponent. In another tense and very entertaining match for players and spectators Wav. Lab. retained the Frank Murphy Cup by 5 sets to 3.

On paper it looks as if the handicaps were fairly levelling, but without the views of those involved we cannot be certain. We will be studying all the results and hope to learn something from them, but we would still like some views of those who took part. Why not put pen to paper and let us hear your view.

I would remind all clubs entering teams next season to submit playing groups as early as possible, and in no case later than 30th September.

READMAN

COLONSAY - 6 MANWEB - 2

Paul Hutchings beat Rob Bevan 22-20: 21-10: Chris Ford beat Peter Flint 15-21: 21-19: 21-14: Stuart Richards lost to Rob 23-21: 19-21: 14-21. Paul and Chris lost to Rob and Peter 14 and 16. Stuart beat Terry Turner 12 and 10. Paul beat Peter 10 and 15. Paul stayed on and beat Terry 20 and 19. Chris beat Peter 15-21: 21-19: 21-14. Not one of our great finals.

Match Official, Alex Gould. Trophies presented by President Arthur Upton. Played at Liverpool Y.M.C.A.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONGRATULATIONS

Notwithstanding his numerous other table tennis commitments including those of Member of League Management Committee, League '100 Club' Secretary, Co-ordinator of 'Digest', National Umpire, Secretary and player of the Wavertree Labour Club, Ken Armson has recently found time to take the International Umpire Examination.

It is a matter of joy to report that Ken's quest for success was fulfilled and the announcement came in time to enable him to participate with his new title at the recent European Championships staged in Birmingham.

Ken's achievement, together with earlier successes of Brian Leeson and Stan Clarke means the League can now boast to having three International Umpires.

Congratulations,

Arthur E. Upton, President/Chairman

THE 'NO WIN' SITUATION

End of season. First Division. CADWA v CADWA 'A'. First team vying for the Championship. Second team hoping to escape relegation. Final score 7-3. Not so good for the first team, but excellent for the second. Ken Hartley, boasting the best season of his career, pips the Liverpool Champion 28/26 in the third, he also beats Mickey Malcolm 21/19 in the third.

Phil Musgrove played brilliantly against Ken and after a dour struggle wins 21-16 in the third. The score is 7-2 and Phil has to play Ahmed Thabet, he's already won two and a doubles and expects to make it a fourth but Ahmed has other ideas and to Phil's surprise Ahmed, with his unusual and awkward style makes life very difficult and before Phil knows it he's in trouble. He fights hard and starts to claw his way back but its too late, Ahmed has too much of a lead and wins a memorable game two straight. Phil is sick.

Now, CADWA's competitors for the title will be please to see that CADWA played an honest game with every player fighting to win no matter what harm it did to our chances of becoming champions as did Wavertree Labour when they met their 'A' team (final score 6-4).

CADWA's competitors at the other end of the table will not be so pleased and may wonder how Ahmed could possibly beat Phil in such an important game. Well we all know that surprises such as this do occur, we can all look through our score books and find examples of such happenings. Let me assure anyone who's interested that this match was played like any other, in a fierce and competitive manner with every player trying to win.

I do hope that no-one is suggesting the final score was determined before a game was played. Both Ahmed and Phil would be extremely upset if anyone where to infer this.

The final score makes the 'A' teams chances of escaping relegation very likely (but it's not yet certain) and is just reward after a hard fought season, but at the same time it jeopardises the First teams chances of glory (at the time of writing they still have three games to play).

The funny thing is, if the score had been 10-0 I may still have had to write this letter.

Mike Power, Secretary (Cadwa)

A TRIBUTE TO A STALWART

This year's Annual General Meeting will be remembered as an occasion of particular significance for it records the relinquishment by Eddie Cameron of the Office of the League's Hon. Registrar and Fixture Secretary, a post he has filled with distinction for the past 39 years.

During this exceptionally lengthy period of dedicated service and commitment to the League's members he has been responsible for the preparation of Team Fixtures, Players Registrations, compilation of League Tables, and as far as circumstances have permitted, ensuring conformity with the League's Rules and Regulations. His tact and dexterity were often called upon in achieving this aim. This has been no menial task for whilst there have been fluctuations in membership over this long period of time, peaking at 12 Divisions of 12 Teams with approximately 900 players, to the present day statistics of lesser numbers, it remains a time consuming exercise. He has performed these onerous duties in a quiet and cheerful manner and this has deservedly earned him the respect of countless people, whether they were Committee colleagues,

Club Secretaries, or rank and file members who have had occasion to seek his wise counsel. In addition to his formal duties as Hon. Registrar and Fixture Secretary he has made a valued contribution as a member of the Rules Committee. Annual General Meetings have also been enhanced by the humour he has been able to introduce during the course of his Annual Reports, which have been presented with an eloquence we have come to associate with him.

It has also to be borne in mind that for many years prior to undertaking the formidable role of Hon. Registrar and Fixture Secretary, and during the majority of the time that he has held the Office, Eddie was a playing member of a number of Clubs within the League and enjoyed particular successes at the Victoria Park and Crawfords Club.

The League was delighted to acknowledge Eddie's sterling service as long ago as 1964 when he was awarded the Stamp Award of Merit, and further recognition was accorded to him in 1985 when he was the recipient of the E.T.T.A. Merit Award. The League's highest accolade of Life Member was bestowed upon him in 1991.

These words of appreciation would of course be incomplete without mention of the generous help given to Eddie, and indeed to the League by his Wife, Wyn, who earned for herself the title "Mrs. Fixture Secretary" and whose valued assistance was acknowledged some years ago by having the status of Vice-President conferred upon her.

The end of an historical era has now been reached and although this expression of gratitude is written primarily on behalf of the Management Committee and general membership of the League to place on record warm appreciation of the valued and unstinting longevity of service which Eddie has given, I would wish to conclude on a personal note. I have been associated with Eddie as a fellow Officer of the League since 1958 and during this lengthy passage of time I have had reason to be grateful to him, not only for his diligence and resourcefulness in dealing with matters of particular importance to the League in general, but especially for the happy working relationship which I have been privileged to enjoy whilst serving with him.

Thank you Eddie for a task well done.

Arthur E. Upton, President/Chairman

100 CLUB

Winners for November to February are listed below. We will be making the Draw for March, April and May at League A.G.M.

Time to remind members of the need to renew subscriptions for next season. Please send cheques at your convenience and retain your present number. All cheques will be gratefully received, more the merrier as it makes for less chasing round of members. Many thanks to all members for your support and I hope you will stay with us.

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| NOVEMBER: | MANWEB; M. ALLEN; J. DAVIES. |
| DECEMBER: | H. REEVE; J. ASHLEY; H. NELSON. |
| JANUARY: | F. LACEY; WAV. LAB.; CADWA. |
| FEBRUARY: | P. LEE; S. FAY; W. LEEMING. |

| DIVISION 1 | P | W | L | D | PTS |
|---------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|
| CADWA | 20 | 16 | 1 | 3 | 154 |
| WAVERTREE LABOUR | 20 | 15 | 2 | 3 | 151 |
| MANWEB | 20 | 14 | 3 | 3 | 144 |
| COLONSAY | 20 | 15 | 3 | 2 | 131 |
| L'POOL Y.M.C.A. | 20 | 12 | 5 | 3 | 121 |
| BATH STREET | 20 | 7 | 12 | 1 | 87 |
| WAVERTREE LAB. 'A' | 20 | 5 | 12 | 3 | 73 |
| BOOTLE J.C. | 20 | 5 | 14 | 1 | 70 |
| CADWA 'A' | 20 | 4 | 15 | 1 | 63 |
| L'POOL Y.M.C.A. 'A' | 20 | 3 | 13 | 4 | 57 |
| G.P.T. | 20 | 0 | 16 | 4 | 49 |

| DIVISION 2 | P | W | L | D | PTS |
|------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|
| ENGLISH ELECTRIC | 20 | 19 | 0 | 1 | 165 |
| BOOTLE J.C. 'A' | 20 | 17 | 2 | 1 | 137 |
| BOOTLE J.C. 'B' | 20 | 12 | 5 | 3 | 120 |
| G.P.T. 'A' | 20 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 111 |
| FORDS | 20 | 11 | 9 | 0 | 98 |
| POLICE | 20 | 8 | 10 | 2 | 94 |
| COLONSAY 'A' | 20 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 91 |
| HAROLD HOUSE | 20 | 6 | 12 | 2 | 82 |
| MAGHULL | 20 | 6 | 13 | 1 | 70 |
| BATH STREET 'A' | 20 | 3 | 15 | 2 | 68 |
| G.P.T. 'B' | 20 | 2 | 17 | 1 | 64 |

| DIVISION 3 | P | W | L | D | PTS |
|--------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|
| CADWA 'B' | 20 | 14 | 3 | 3 | 134 |
| WATERLOO | 20 | 14 | 3 | 3 | 131 |
| MANWEB 'A' | 20 | 14 | 4 | 2 | 131 |
| WAVERTREE LAB. 'B' | 20 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 109 |
| BOOTLE Y.M.C.A. | 20 | 9 | 9 | 2 | 105 |
| WAVERTREE LAB 'C' | 20 | 9 | 11 | 0 | 102 |
| BATH STREET 'B' | 20 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 96 |
| MAGHULL 'A' | 20 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 93 |
| MANWEB 'B' | 20 | 7 | 12 | 1 | 88 |
| BATH STREET 'C' | 20 | 4 | 14 | 2 | 78 |
| G.P.T. 'C' | 20 | 0 | 19 | 1 | 33 |

Note:- Waterloo beat Manweb 'A' 6-3 in play off for promotion.

| DIVISION 4 | P | W | L | D | PTS |
|---------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|
| UNIVERSITY | 20 | 15 | 1 | 4 | 145 |
| LIVERPOOL Y.M. 'B' | 20 | 13 | 3 | 4 | 134 |
| POLICE 'A' | 20 | 13 | 4 | 3 | 129 |
| WATERLOO 'A' | 20 | 13 | 6 | 1 | 110 |
| BATH STREET 'D' | 20 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 101 |
| CADWA 'C' | 20 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 93 |
| LINACRE | 20 | 6 | 12 | 2 | 92 |
| WAVERTREE LAB. 'D' | 20 | 5 | 14 | 1 | 83 |
| HAROLD HOUSE 'A' | 20 | 5 | 12 | 3 | 78 |
| MAGHULL 'B' | 20 | 5 | 12 | 3 | 69 |
| WAVERTREE LAB. 'E' | 20 | 5 | 14 | 1 | 66 |
| G.P.T. 'D' Resigned | | | | | |

| DIVISION 5 | P | W | L | D | PTS |
|---------------------|----|----|----|---|------|
| BOOTLE Y.M.C.A. 'A' | 22 | 21 | 1 | 0 | 180 |
| AIGBURTH | 22 | 14 | 4 | 4 | 142 |
| MAGHULL 'C' | 22 | 14 | 6 | 2 | 138 |
| HAROLD HOUSE 'B' | 22 | 19 | 2 | 1 | *137 |
| BATH STREET 'E' | 22 | 13 | 7 | 2 | 130 |
| MERSEYBUS | 22 | 12 | 7 | 3 | 130 |
| BOOTLE Y.M.C.A. 'B' | 22 | 6 | 12 | 4 | 96 |
| AIGBURTH 'A' | 22 | 4 | 15 | 3 | 87 |
| POLICE 'B' | 22 | 3 | 14 | 5 | 79 |
| WATERLOO 'B' | 22 | 6 | 14 | 2 | 75 |
| COLONSAY 'B' | 22 | 3 | 16 | 3 | 56 |
| HAROLD HOUSE 'C' | 22 | 2 | 19 | 1 | 40 |

Note:- * Harold House 'B' 30 points deducted, ineligible player in 3 matches

FIXTURE SECRETARY'S NOTE

To all members:-

GEE, WILL I MISS YOU GUYS & GIRLS!

Ed Cameron

Eddies last official function having been a contributor since the beginning.