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Table Tennis

DIGEST

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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NO. 1

EDITORIAL

I am afraid things are a bit tough on the Digest front. The cost is taking too much money out of the Leagues coppers – so possibly a new format is in the pipeline. On a personal note the lady who took over the typing from my wife Minna – Betty Reynolds is now pretty ill – so no typist. Despite the lack of copy, as required Alan Smethurst and his gang, Stan and Iain, are still supporting us as they have done not only financially but in every possible way.

This is short and sweet as it shouldn't be. The departure of Eddie Cameron as Fixture Secretary an institution of the highest order in our table tennis set up – thanks Eddie a terrific job magnificently done.

The heroine Paula French who has been brave enough to take over from Eddie not only because of the workload she has taken on, but he is such a class act to follow.

John McKim to retire – time marches on so it had to happen. When it eventually does it will be a sad day for us all.

Short and not so sweet all being well a lot more later.

I'm back, they are back, and Manweb are almost on their backs. Does one player make a team? I don't know, but certainly the enforced absence of M.M. has torn the heart out of Manweb's 'out of town' brigade. Only Terry Turner is still doing his stuff, however, he is now experiencing transport problems which may severely restrict his appearances with Manweb. What price loyalty, one may ask, both to Club and players?

Who are back, none other than our 'Old' Eng. Electric colleagues, but this time as Waterloo. I won't embarrass anyone by asking how Waterloo managed to do a table tennis 'Houdini' and jump their teams from lower divisions. Still with us, and unable to believe their luck, are Liv. Y.M. 'A'. They should clearly have been relegated, but weren't, and G.P.T. must be wondering why they, too, were not spared. These sudden changes of direction by our League Planners have played havoc with relegation and is clearly open to question in that they seem unable to decide just how many teams constitute a Division. Whatever their reasons, which we have to suffer, the rule in respect of relegation should be clearly defined and adhered to, bottom two, down, top two up. If it is necessary to make up numbers, no matter the reason, do it by further promotions unless decided otherwise by the Ruling Body of this League. Let us also decide on a size of our divisions and stick to it. Anything different will clearly destroy the efforts of a season and ensure a team can be secure without even trying. What are your views on this vexed subject? Let our Editor know, he will be pleased to print any comments.

A warm welcome to Bootle J.C. 'A' whose time with us may well be of the one season variety in that they have already been made aware that it is tough at the top and will in all probability be playing in Div. 2 next season. An equally warm welcome to E.E. 'Old' Boys, good to see you back, after all, what's in a name. Welcome, also, to any other new players, of which there are a few.

A lot is happening which makes the mind boggle. Manweb out of the Readman Cup for playing an ineligible player. Cadwa conceding a w/over in the Quarters due to non availability of players. A strange affair in a Wav. Lab. v Liv. Y.M. match with a row between Mike Mahony and Peter Lee which culminated in Peter conceding one of his sets. But when all the dust has settled we will, even at this early stage, know who the champions are to be. Barring unexpected hiccups, for my money it will be Colonsay. With the same three players who had a storming finish last season they are setting a pace which has left only Wav. Lab. with any real hope of catching them, and that is a slim possibility. They disposed of Cadwa 9-1 with Kevin notching up a lone win against Chris to avoid the whitewash, and beat Wav. Lab. 6-4; Wavertree's 4th coming via a w/over for Dave against Stuart due to lack of time. Bath St. gave them a bit of trouble with

Ken Jackson in great form beating Stuart and Chris, Mike Keane chipping in with a win against Chris. Another hiccup came against Cadwa 'A' when Paula, playing as a reserve duly lost her three. Obviously they will encounter similar problems in the event of non-availability of Paul, Stuart or Chris, as they have no reserve player capable of winning at this level, but even this should present no real problems as those below them are suffering hiccups far more frequently. Wav. Lab. have transposed Alan Timewell for Gary Watson due to Gary's night school commitment, and have three committed players, problem here being that all their opponents are also committed to winning their sets. This makes life difficult for Wavertree and eases the pressure on Colonsay. They kicked off against Y.M. 'A' with a kick in the teeth from in-form Jeff Huntington who beat Alan and Bernie. Ted Birch, making his umpteenth debut in this Division, took a set off Mick Tierney, acting as a reserve, and their 'A' team, which included Mick, took four more with two for Roy and one each for Mick and Gary. They will keep up the pressure to the end, but an inevitable loss of sets to lower teams will prevent their overtaking Colonsay.

Liv. Y.M. are still in there but may well find Lab. 'A' threatening to push them down the Division. They are doing the business, but dropping too many sets to pose any threat. Lab. 'A'; pushing for a higher final placing held them to a draw with even newly promoted Bootle J.C. 'A' taking a set from them, Julian Quirk beating Mike Mahony. Ken Jackson improving on his early season form beating Keith in 3.

Both Cadwa and Manweb are well out of the running and showing signs of stress, particularly Manweb, whose problems clearly revolve around lack of a settled team. They perm any three from an apparent large number and the side effects are very evident. Their first outing was against Waterloo who made their mark with Alan Chase taking two and Ted Birch a 3rd. Match 2 brought Rob Bevan in place of new-comer Andy Taylor, and a 7-3 defeat by Bootle J.C. Terry Turner doing his usual high profile performance and getting their Three sets. I hear we may be losing Rob Bevan as there is talk of his moving to, I believe, Fleetwood. He is also feeling the effects of an injury. Match 3 saw yet another line-up and yet another defeat, this time at the hands of Lab. 'A' who also beat them 7-3. Match 4 yet another line-up change, but this time for an 8-2 win against Cadwa 'A'. Reserve Alan Biggs, marked his appearance with an excellent win against Jonathan Allen, but losing to Ken Hartley and Ahmed Thabet. Still a night to savour for Alan as Jonathan's is a good scalp for a 1st div. player and much more so for a 3rd div. player. Y.M. disposed of them 8-2, but with another revised line-up they fared much better against Wav. Lab. losing only 6-4. Big question now being, if this slide accelerates will we see them dropping into the relegation zone? Could happen, but probably won't, as those below them are having their own problems.

Cadwa, team of the season in 93/94 and current League Champions, have had their crown knocked slightly askew and clearly will not retain it. Too many sets dropped, and team problems, have left them with too much ground to make up. Best they can hope for will be 3rd place, even that may not prove possible.

Liv. Y.M. are also out of the running and have an ebullient Lab. 'A' and an equally aggressive Bath St. pushing hard with possible hopes of reaching a new high this season with a possible 4th place, certainly they will be looking towards 5th place.

Lab. 'A'; led by this Div's. most able and experienced captain, Roy Smith, have got their sights firmly set on a high placing and if Gary Watson can be with them frequently this could be possible. Unfortunately his night school commitment might be their downfall for replacement Phil Luxon's ability is not quite as good as his joking comments. I have a feeling his Report probably read something like "tries hard, but lacks concentration, would make a good comedian." Certainly, they are getting the results, a draw against Y.M. – they couldn't quite get past Keith 7-3 wins against Manweb and Cadwa 'A'; four sets from their 1st team, beat Waterloo 6-4. On the minus side they crashed to a 10-0 against all conquering Colonsay and 9-1 against Cadwa. For Bath St., Ken Jackson is in sparkling form having already accounted for Keith Williams, Dave Roberts, Alan Timewell, Bernie Wentworth, Stuart Richards, Chris Ford, Peter Taylor, Jeff Huntington and quite a few of the lesser players. Always a hiccup, no matter your ability or form and playing against J.C. 'A' Ken lost to Julian Quirk 8 and 15. Nothing wrong with that until you study the match card, for reserve Tony Kendall beat Julian 15 and 4. Like I've said, some mind boggling stuff. Has Ken, I wonder, got his sights set on the Vet's Title at our 'Closed'. If he were to take that title, I think it would be one of the most popular wins ever, for Ken is highly respected by his opponents.

Down at the bottom is where it is all happening with a battle going on for survival which is quite extensive and you could easily perm any two from J.C. 'A'; Cadwa 'A'; Waterloo; Bootle J.C.; Y.M. 'A' and, dare I say it, Manweb. J.C. 'A' are finding the going really tough but Julian Quirk has already made his mark winning sets against Cadwa, Bath St. and Y.M. Derek Sullivan also broke his duck early with a win against Bath St. but it would take a braver and more kindly person than myself to say they might survive, I also note signs of availability problems. Relegation battling is like promotion, you need the backing of a regular team playing for the team and each other.

Bootle J.C. continue to be an enigma with their results never matching their known ability. W'loo, well, we all know how experienced they are in snatching hold of the safety rope, I don't expect this season to be any different from their previous ones. My advice to those at the bottom is not to underestimate them. I feel Y.M

'A' will be safe with the form Jeff Huntington is showing backed up by Peter and Dave.

Cadwa 'A' also look a good bet to again stay up and able to build on the experience of last season. They also have quite a powerful line-up to choose from, I note, with interest that Alex Bryce has made a return and Neil Gravener has also paid us a visit. With that kind of strength to call on, if regularly available, I just cannot see them having any worries. Not good news for their opponents in distress. I hear they may have lost the services of Jonathan Allen to their 1st team. Next issue, I will deal with the relegation aspect in greater detail as it will be somewhat clearer by then. Bound to be plenty of room for interesting comment. Watch this space!!

DIVISION 2

SYLVIA GRAHAM

Well Ken wrote to me enclosing the cards and I must say that from the numerous applications for this prestigious post he chose mine! I'm still not convinced that the selection panel was unbiased!!... or the pay that good!

Anyway welcome to the new style division 2. I keep asking myself if the change has benefited the league and most of all – it's members. Have more teams entered or has it meant clubs have had to refuse players because they haven't the standard of team available to accommodate them? Does playing on a rota system within a team mean a loss of team spirit? Think about it and let me know the pluses and minuses so I can report back our thoughts in the next issue.

Come what may the division has changed and you may be forgiven for thinking you are in the first when you look at some of the players ... those faces which I looked up to in awe from the lowly reaches of the fifth division ... drooling over every veritable shot, I now see on the other side of the table ready to pounce. I still look up to them, but there again I look up to most people!

Well onto how we've all performed but first of all congratulations to David Cohen for completely re-writing Jewish's fixtures and issuing that really thick white paper which had us all coming and going. Jewish haven't come yet so I assume they must be going ... but how long and how many readings does it take before a white paper becomes law? ... a prize for the correct answer.

Anyway I'm going to stick my neck out this season and tip Police and G.P.T. for promotion (I wish the Lottery was as easy!) They met the second match of the season and the result was an inevitable draw. It seemed a fair result with Paul Gittins winning his three singles, two straight (all at 13 in the second – unlucky for some!) and Steve having two sets with a deuce second game. He went on to win one and lose the other. The doubles went to the Police and Tom Purcell lost closely to Trevor Owens 19, 22. October saw the return of John Rankin in Police

v Colonsay. Hi John! I've passed on your regards to Don baby (Don Davies) and Ken chuckles (Ken Armson). Give my love to Debbie and the kids. The match went to Police 10-0. The doubles were a mystery with any two from three of the Police beating any two from three of Colonsay 21-13, 21-11.

The rest of the division are winning some and losing some. G.P.T. 'A' seem to be a settled side, Waterloo have plenty to choose from and Maghull have made a very good start. Julie, Chris and Steve are all playing well, but why have I got two cards from your match against Colonsay? Both are signed by the team captains and luckily (phew!) all the scores are the same. Was it such a good match? The result was a draw with five games going to 17 or better in the third. Steve Woods would appear to be 'the person' of the match winning all his singles and the doubles with Julie. Bath St. are not playing their best at the moment losing sets close in the third game and Manweb are struggling a little. Bootle J.C. have not regained last season's form but they were always slow starters and Fords with fourteen signed on should never have trouble fielding a side. Happy Christmas Graham! (... yet another Christmas card saved!)

Weil that's all for this issue, a bumper one next time 'cos I'm starting straight away. Please write some comments on the cards, share your experiences and give us all a laugh. Have a lovely Christmas but most of all have fun!

Now the roles of honour:-

Good Wins – Chris Roberts (Maghull) beat Alan Walton (Bootle J.C.) -21, 20, 9 with the final game played under expedite. Harry Johnson (Fords) beat Ian Wensley (G.P.T. 'A') 10, -17, 17. Eric Youd (Harold House) beat Martin Hunter (Colonsay) 16, -13, 19. Brenda Bouey (Colonsay) beat Eddie Clein (Harold House) -19, 20, 14 and in the same match he lost to Paula French -19, 15, -19. Patience is a virtue! John Henshaw (Cadwa) beat Justine Thomas (Manweb) 11, 13. Alan Walton (Bootle J.C.) beat Denise McEvoy (Manweb) 12, 9. Gareth Jones (Police) beat P. Kinsley (Manweb) -20, 15, 18.

Close Matches – George Higham (Cadwa) beat Steve Woods (Maghull) 22, -25, 23 (see also Facesavers but deserves a second mention!). Ken Strahan (Bootle J.C.) beat Fred Pheysey (Waterloo) 19 and 20 on a net and an edge. I didn't know Fred could speak French quite so well! Mike Moran and Sylvia Graham (Bootle J.C.) beat Brenda Bouey and Paula French (Colonsay) -16, 19, 20. Steve Rowe (Manweb) beat Harry Johnson (Fords) 20, 19. Ricky Brown (Waterloo) beat Tony Kendall (Bath St.) 19, 22. Fred Pheysey (Waterloo) beat Rob Davies (Cadwa) -25, 20, 18.

Facesavers – Not many ... perhaps some faces just couldn't be saved! Justine Thomas (Manweb) beat Frank McCann (G.P.T. 'A') -8, 22, 15. John Watson (Bath St.) beat Bill Harris (Colonsay) 17, 18. George Higham (Cadwa) beat Steve Woods (Maghull) 22, -25, 23.

DIVISION 3

JACK LAMBERT

Here I am wearing a divisional notes hat again – two consolations – there is no change in the pay and I don't have to dash round to Jimmy Greens at 10.30 to make sure my notes are in. However if any of you really insist the job is yours for the taking.

From where I stand the championship appears to be wide open with nearly half the division in the running. So no tips for the top from me.

My old pal Colin Pratt used to note on his cards any outstanding games or players. This idea has been taken up by a few captains thanks to the match comments heading. So ten out of ten to Roly Wright, John Gratton, Tony Harris, Alan Biggs and John Langton – brilliant.

Police 'A' are a good bet for the treble chance starting off on a bad note only Len Dyson surviving the Manweb 'B' avalanche and then a 6-4 v Wav. Lab. 'C' (John Gratton 3) and Maghull 'A' (Rod Bulmer 3) then the 3 draws Bath St. 'C' (Clive Chislett 3) Wav. Lab. 'B' and G.P.T. 'B' (Mark Whittaker 3). Gareth Jones winning 8 of his 9 singles. In the Peat-Purcell game Tom was leading 20-15 and lost 22-20 and 21-15 to Rob.

A 10-0 for Bootle Y.M. over Bath St. 'B' but a couple of corking games Karen Gibson losing 18 in the third to Tom Killip and Bill Clayton 22-20 in the third to Roly Wright. A couple of walk overs as Billy was not too well. A great five all by Bath St. 'C' (John Langton 2) against the strong Bootle Y.M. side (Roly Wright 2) and then devastation against Wav. Lab. 'C'. A real duel in the sun between Bootle Y.M. 3 (John Higham 2) and Manweb 'B' 7 (Rob Conley 3) seven games to 3 Manweb winning both doubles 22-24 and 21-23 in the third.

Bath St. Derby 'C' 3 and 'B' 7 the Johns, Langton and Watson a couple each, again six games to three. There are so many tight games I don't know where to start. One of the outstanding games of the season Bob Owen (Labour 'C') and Alan Cameron both real stalwarts 19-21, 21-9, 24-26 to Alan, aided by a treble from Eddie Crowley a 7-3 for G.P.T. Eddie also lost 22-20 in the third to Roy Adams which gave Labour 'B' a five all.

Despite their strong set up all Waterloo's games are tight 6-4 against Liverpool Y.M. (Francis Lay 3) with an Andy Armstrong double. Alan Cameron G.P.T. 'B' scored his sides only 3 in the opening game against Bootle Y.M. Wav. Lab. 'B' 6 (Richie Jones and Joan Connor 2) against Liverpool Y.M. 'B' (Tony Whelan 2) Tony also won his sides only 2 against Maghull 'A' (Bill Salter and Kevin Lewis trebles).

There was a young lady from Nod who thought all good things came from God... I better not finish it (ring 3081) but I think you may get the message as to what Alan Biggs called Tony Moon after he lost 22-20 in the third (Manweb 'B' 7) Alan Evans and Ian Turner trebles. Knowing Alan it was in the nicest possible

way of course, anyway he bought me a drink in Dublin (what's that got to do with it you may well ask!)

These are the first notes I have ever written when I have not had to sort out lone winners or tough luck in 10-0's which brings me to my opening gambit – It's tough at the top and the bottom, ask University, not a lot of games and not a lot of points. Where have all the flowers gone Barbara?

Bob Owens and Rob Langshaw doubles in Wav. Lab. 'C' won 6-4 against Maghull 'A' (Bill Salter 2) a couple of early nights Maghull 'A' 8 Liverpool Y.M. 'B' 2 and Police 'A' 6, Maghull 'A' 4 not a third game in sight. Karen Gibson v Bill Stanley 20-22; 21-18; 27-25 wot stamina. Roly Wright v Billy Clayton 22-24; 21-18; 22-20. Karen a two 18's and 20 in this match. Rob Peat v ? 22-20; 20-22; 21-19. John McCann won 2 against Waterloo 'B' Frank made me put that in Billy and Derek won two as well!

DIVISION 4

TONY CONNOR

Cadwa top the table as unexpected front runners, but promotion issues are as unclear now, a third way through the season, as they were at the start.

This division has levelled out, standard wise, after the ridiculous amount of talent around last year. That talent (at least four teams worth) has now been promoted out of it, leaving the rest of us largely at a similar standard. So predictions are difficult, but lets look at the evidence.

Cadwa, who were fortunately promoted form the 5th three years ago, have successfully consolidated, and now fancy their promotion chances. So, who is their new talent. Well, actually – no-one, as we all recognise familiar Steve Graham, Peter Roberts, Jack Highton and Jack Power, but the truth is that this is a very solid and consistent group. Cadwa (top) lost to Labour 'E' (10th), so see what I mean about levelling out in this division, with both teams at good strength too. Against Harold House 'B' (11th) Cadwa only won 6-4, the highlight being a 27-25 win in the third for Jack over Eric Young. What's this abut you becoming a 'curl man' Eric? Just unsubstantiated rumour ... I hope ... but no doubt you'll put me right when we meet, or hit me with it for blowing your new weapon. In the same match, Ted Cramsie was excellent for Harold House beating both reserve Mike Power (some reserve) and Peter Roberts 18 and 17, respectively, in the 3rd. Ta for the match comments Eric.

Thanks also Alex (Gould) and Bobby (Bell), though the Match Comments of the year so far belong to Eddie Preston of Bootle Y.M. And I agree, Eddie, Tony Sales of Maghull 'C' is much improved, with the sort of difference over two years normally associated with coached youngsters. However, Eddie just shaded Tony in the mid-table Bootle versus Maghull 'C' clash (18 in the third), with Tony beating Kathy Haydon 13 and 16. Oh, by the way (Tony) hate the bat!

Maghull 'B' and 'C' have split their strength and as a result are both mid-table. Another levelling factor in this division. The best four players between them of Wilf Gibson, Phil Christie, Ro Craddock and Tony Sales would clearly be divisional bests, and I for one am grateful to Maghull's Selection Committee. But Andy McCourt of Maghull 'C' is now acclimatising to this higher division, after promotion as evidence in his 19 and 15 victory over Bootle's Kathy Haydon. Kathy, in turn, has impressed with her fluent attack beating both Ted McGiveron and Mike Ashton (Labour 'D') in separate matches. The latter was a superb example of hit (Kathy) and retrieve (Mike) just shaded by the attacker, whilst Ted's scalp (17th October) came after he had only previously lost two games in a cracking start to his first full time season with Labour 'D'.

Bootle Y.M.C.A., easy winners of the 5th Division last year, lie 9th, but within striking distance, still, of promotion, like most others. Mike Hughes (like Tony Sales) combines long pimples backhand with forceful attacking forehand spin, so Alan Smethurst (Maghull) did well to take Mike to 18 in the 3rd. Alan found it harder against Bootle's Bert Rivers in the same match, as Bert was able to dominate with his strong forehand top-spin (and no pimples!).

Aigburth, also promoted last year, are finding things altogether tougher, and provide the only apparent certainty, so far, in this division. Just 19 points from 7 games and stranded at the bottom. Still there is hope and highpoints so far include Eric Woods 21-13 in the 3rd defeat of Linacre's Jack Davidson, thus preventing a whitewash. Charlie Gallantry's 9 and 14 rout of Harold House 'B's Jerry O'Keefe also takes the eye in the 5 all clash of the bottom two. Virtually as I write I hear that Aigburth have recorded their first win (7-3) against opponents unknown to take them nearer thirty than twenty points. And thanks Eric with the match re-arrangement, taking into account our (Labour 'D') difficulties here.

So Harold House 'B' struggle too, after promotion but Ted Cramsie, Les Mulholland and Eric Young combine most weeks and are still just in touch at the bottom. I believe Les is playing better than ever and had the audience in sheer disbelief at the quality of his attacking play against Bootle's Mike Hughes. It was a closer affair (18 in the third) against Aigburth's evergreen Billy Holmes. At the other end of the longevity scale (from Billy) is Harold House 'B's Vikas Desai, whom is as far as I know new to Liverpool League, keep the new blood coming. Aigburth, too, bring in new players, the latest being Neil McGarry.

Only 13 points cover 2nd through to 10th position in this division, so no firm predictions on promotion can be drawn, but I'll try. Wav. Labour 'D' are back on song after last years disappointing time with Mike Ashton thoroughly justifying his promotion to number two. He beat last years second division player (topping his team's average there) Ro Craddock 15 in the 3rd, whilst John Reynolds is altogether more successful with his all pimped bat. (Some short, some medium) He is using the pimples positively and is now more geared to attach with them, as

shown in his close defeat of Maghull 'B's Phil Christie, which was a reversal of last season's contest. I believe Labour 'D' will finish in the top four, with every chance of runners-up or better.

Harold House 'A', currently 3rd, have every chance, too, calling regularly on Bob Hudson, Paul Morgan, Mike Pole and Dave Cohen. Their weakness, as always is inability to consistently field a settled side, relying over much on reserves, but they seem to be able to call on their strongest more frequently, this time out.

Bath St. with Dave Batty, Alex Gould and Reg Edwards playing regularly are three points off second place and I hear rumours of a rated newcomer to the side recently installed at number one. Bath St. are improving after a dodgy start and are always capable of adapting their playing resources if there is a sniff of promotion as the season progresses. I predict a top four place, but they may just fall short.

G.P.T., two points behind Bath Street, and 5 points off a promotion place are disappointed after their recent 1-9 reversal to Labour 'D', but overall, their season is so far very promising. Bobby Bell beat Tony Sales 22-20 in the third in perhaps his best win so far, in the match with Maghull 'B'. Tom Banton in the same match comfortably took care of Andy McCourt and Doug Christie. Ted Green will be pleased with the scalp of Labour 'E's Paul Faulkner, who himself recorded a fine double over Bootle's Mike Hughes and Bert Rivers. But the bigger talking point of this match was Mike's victory over the excellent Labour 'E's Mark Miles. Mark is now establishing himself in the top handful of players in this division, though Labour 'E' are a little too close to the bottom for comfort.

Joe Doyle has been imported from Wirral and this threesome (Mark, Paul and Joe) forms the core of Wirral Spartans who are challenging for promotion to the first (of 4) divisions in Wirral, thus indicating the strength of the Liverpool League.

Harry Reeve was able to kick-start Linacres season, remaining unbeaten, before going to sea. He'll be back in the second half, but in the meantime Linacre are coasting just adrift of the promotion action. It remains to be seen whether Harry's return will be enough to force a promotion place. I suspect they will close the gap, but might find a top two place just out of reach. Nevertheless, Jack Davidson, Ken Ainsworth and Frank Lacey combine well enough to make life difficult for most teams.

Anyway things will be clearer next time round. Meantime, Happy Christmas and see you soon.

DIVISION 5

ARTHUR GARNETT

The season is under way, the leaves have fallen from the trees, the clocks have been put back one hour and it's time for the digest report.

The early season results point to the Divisional Championship being a closely fought battle between:- Manweb 'C' (Turner, Carney, Ashley and Harrison) and

Waterloo 'C' (Nelson, Forrest, Spence and Lunt) with Wavertree Labour 'F' (Neary, Ray, Armson and Perry) and Police 'B' (Rawlinson, Wright, Chalkely and Jeffrey) providing sufficient competition to keep the leading two teams on their toes. Any slip by the top two, and either Labour or Police will step in. Manweb, though, are strong favourites and my tip for the title.

Bath Street 'E' (Letch, Georgeson, Crowley and Gibson), Merseybus (Rollinson, Foster, Harrison and Williams) and Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'B' (Wong, Geddes, Higham and Cannon) seem destined to occupy mid-table positions, but could still shock any of the top teams.

The battle to avoid the wooden spoon is between the remaining four teams:- Colonsay 'B' (Clarke, Farley, Hughes and French), Police 'C' (Garnett, Wahid, Miller and Thomas), Aigburth 'A' (Traynor, Meyer, Mitchell and Holmes) and Harold House 'C' (Simpson, Abrams, Beilin and Cole) these teams are playing with a number of inexperienced players.

The teams in this division are of two distinct types, either those with fully experienced players, battling for promotion and cups, or those with inexperienced players, learning the game, shots and tactics as they play, with tips and advice from coaches or more experienced players in the team. This leads to a wide spread of results, typified by two results from Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'B', given as an example and not a reflection on this team: - v Wavertree Labour 'F' lost 10-0 and v Police 'C' won 10-0.

In the results I have to hand there have been no drawn matches.

Only 5 matches have been resolved 6-4, with ten matches ending 10-0. I am sure that as the new league members gain experience, the percentage of 10-0 results will come down quite dramatically.

Close Calls – Williams (Merseybus) last to Ashley (Manweb) 24-26 in 3rd, Farley (Colonsay) lost to Solaru (Police 'B') 20-22, 21-23, Lunt (Waterloo) defeated Higham (Bootle Y.M.) 23-21, 18-21, 22-20, Georgeson (Bath Street) defeated Wahid (Police 'C') 21-19, 22-24, 22-20.

Just a thought or so – Ian Turner (Manweb) playing in Division 5?

Ken Armson (Wav. Labour) is undefeated with his new bat. It's a cracker, mention it to him and he'll tell you that it's legal ... so will I. He is learning to play with it, so we must learn to play against it.

Special thought for Barry Meyer (Aigburth). He played in a match just two and a half hours after being discharged from hospital following an operation. Such dedication to the game – I must tell my wife.

Match comments – Team captains, please remember to put first names on the scorecards. I am now in my thirtieth season in the league and my memory, though Home Office trained, is not what it was.

The "Match Comments" on the reverse side of the scorecards help me to prepare

my notes for the digest – for example, Alan Holmes (Aigburth) 2-1 win against Peter Williams (Merseybus) described as “brilliant” – I wish I’d been there to see it.

Mention of a penalty point being given against a server for “deliberately stamping his foot on service (ungentlemanly conduct)”. I trust that this was done in a friendly manner and followed a warning.

George Wright (Police ‘B’) completing his latest novel about the match Police ‘B’ v Manweb ‘C’.

Ron Georgeson (Bath St.) comments on the good wins by Alan French (Colonsay) against, his own team mate, Don Gibson in three. A nice sporting touch Ron.

Ken Morris (Colonsay) winning 2 on only his second outing. An auspicious start.

And finally – an anonymous wish, that Jim Green (2) was as good as Jim Green (1). Could that have been written by Jim Green (2)?

In conclusion – That’s it for now, except one comment made to me about a referee supporting his own player and SHOUTING encouragement between points. Please lets keep the division as sporting and friendly as it has been for most of us so far this season. And a final wish to carry you into the New Year – “Let every table edge and net be yours” Unless your playing against me.

ANNOUNCEMENT

John McKim, the League’s Hon. Organising Secretary for the past 39 years has given formal notification to the Management Committee of his intention not to seek re-election at the Annual General Meeting to be held in May, 1995.

The purpose of the announcement at this time is to alert members to the impending vacancy and whilst the possibility exists that a nomination may be forthcoming from the Management Committee, this does not in any way preclude nominations from Clubs in respect of any member. Any such nomination must be submitted in writing to the Hon. Organising Secretary and received by him not later than 1st April, 1995.

An acknowledgment of the service given by John will be published in the Season’s final issue.

Arthur E. Upton, President/Chairman

FIXTURE SECRETARY'S GUIDE TO FILLING IN A MATCH CARD

1
2
3
4
5

MATCH No HOME TEAM GROUP No's: AWAY
LIVERPOOL and DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

16 () v () Date 6

..... DIVISION GAMES SETS
 HOME TEAM VISITING TEAM 1 2 3 H A

1		1		/	/	/		
1		2		/	/	/		
1		3		/	/	/		
2		1		/	/	/		
2		2		/	/	/		
2		3		/	/	/		
3		1		/	/	/		
3		2		/	/	/		
3		3		/	/	/		
No.	& No.	No.	& No.	/	/	/		

15 7

..... 8

RESULT T.T.C. WON BY SETS TO 9
 MATCH DRAWN FIVE SETS EACH

(Signed) Home Capt. Visiting Capt. 10

14 RECORD—P..... W..... L..... D..... F..... A..... Pts.

13 12 11

← CORRECT HEIGHT OF TABLE TENNIS NET BUNCHES →

1. WEEK NO.--- AS PER FIXTURE LIST ON PAGE EIGHT IN YOUR HANDBOOK
2. FIXTURE KEY NO.---AS ON PAGE NINE IN YOUR HANDBOOK
3. AWAY TEAM---E.G COLONSAY 'A', MANWEB 'B'
4. HOME TEAM PLAYERS RANKING NUMBERS.
5. AWAY TEAM PLAYERS RANKING NUMBERS.
6. DATE THE MATCH IS PLAYED
7. THE DIVISION IN WHICH THE TEAMS ARE PLAYING
8. VISITING TEAM PLAYERS NAMES.
9. MATCH RESULT.
10. TO BE CIRCLED IF MATCH DRAWN.
11. VISITING CAPTAINS SIGNATURE, CONFIRMING SCORE CARD AS CORRECT.
12. HOME TEAMS RECORD TO DATE.
13. HOME CAPTAINS SIGNATURE, CONFIRMING SCORE CARD AS CORRECT.
14. NAME OF THE WINNING TEAM AND THE SCORE.
15. HOME TEAM PLAYERS NAMES.
16. HOME TEAM---E.G. COLONSAY 'A', MANWEB 'B'

PLEASE HELP ME BY COMPLETING YOUR SCORE CARD CORRECTLY,

THANKS

PAULA

DIVISION 1	P	W	L	D	F	A	PTS
WAV. LAB.	11	10	1	0	82	28	82
COLONSAY	9	9	0	0	79	11	79
L'POOL Y.M.C.A.	8	6	1	1	58	22	58
C.A.D.W.A.	9	6	3	0	52	38	52
BATH STREET	9	5	3	1	48	42	48
BOOTLE J.C.	8	3	4	1	37	43	37
WAV. LAB. 'A'	8	4	3	1	37	43	37
MANWEB	7	3	4	0	36	34	36
C.A.D.W.A. 'A'	11	1	9	1	33	77	33
L'POOL Y.M.C.A. 'A'	9	2	6	1	30	60	30
WATERLOO	10	0	10	0	22	78	22
BOOTLE J.C. 'A'	5	0	5	0	6	44	6

DIVISION 2	P	W	L	D	F	A	PTS
G.P.T.	11	10	0	1	85	25	85
G.P.T. 'A'	11	8	3	0	72	38	72
POLICE	9	8	0	1	70	20	70
COLONSAY 'A'	12	5	5	2	62	58	62
WATERLOO 'A'	11	8	2	1	61	49	61
MAGHULL	12	4	7	1	51	69	51
BATH STREET 'A'	11	2	7	2	39	71	39
FORDS	10	1	8	1	39	61	39
HAROLD HOUSE	7	3	2	2	35	35	35
CADWA 'B'	10	2	7	1	34	66	34
BOOTLE J.C. 'B'	8	3	5	0	32	48	32
MANWEB 'A'	10	0	8	2	30	70	30

DIVISION 3	P	W	L	D	F	A	PTS
WATERLOO 'B'	12	10	1	1	81	39	81
MANWEB 'B'	11	7	3	1	71	39	71
BATH STREET 'B'	12	7	4	1	65	55	65
G.P.T. 'B'	11	5	4	2	60	50	60
POLICE 'A'	12	5	4	3	59	61	59
BOOTLE Y.M.C.A.	10	7	1	2	53	37	53
MAGHULL 'A'	11	4	6	1	50	60	50
L'POOL Y.M.C.A.	11	4	7	0	48	62	48
WAV. LAB. 'C'	10	3	6	1	46	54	46
WAV. LAB. 'B'	8	3	3	2	40	40	40
BATH STREET 'C'	11	1	8	2	37	73	37
UNIVERSITY	11	1	10	0	26	84	26

DIVISION 4	P	W	L	D	F	A	PTS
C.A.D.W.A. 'C'	9	8	1	0	60	30	60
WAV. LAB. 'D'	9	6	0	3	60	30	60
MAGHULL 'B'	11	5	3	3	60	50	60
BATH STREET 'D'	10	7	3	0	57	43	57
HAROLD HOUSE 'A'	7	6	0	1	51	19	51
WAV. LAB. 'E'	10	3	4	3	48	52	48
G.P.T. 'C'	10	2	5	3	46	54	46
LINACRE	11	3	7	1	46	64	46
BOOTLE Y.M.C.A. 'A'	10	3	4	3	45	55	45
HAROLD HOUSE 'B'	8	2	4	2	36	44	36
MAGHULL 'C'	10	2	8	0	36	64	36
AIGBURTH	11	1	9	1	35	75	35

DIVISION 5	P	W	L	D	F	A	PTS
WATERLOO 'C'	10	10	0	0	84	16	84
MANWEB 'C'	10	8	1	1	82	18	82
WAV. LAB. 'F'	10	7	1	2	72	28	72
POLICE 'B'	10	7	3	0	71	29	71
MERSEYBUS	11	4	6	1	51	59	51
BOOTLE Y.M.C.A. 'B'	10	5	4	1	47	53	47
BATH STREET 'E'	10	2	6	2	40	60	40
COLONSAY 'B'	11	2	7	2	32	78	32
HAROLD HOUSE 'C'	10	1	7	2	31	69	31
AIGBURTH 'A'	10	2	8	0	24	76	24
POLICE 'C'	8	1	6	1	16	64	16