



# Table Tennis

## DIGEST

### LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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### DEAR EDITOR

I was delighted to receive my copy of the digest and was intrigued by Ken's apparent dilemma over the formation of the divisions. My final act as fixture secretary was to produce last years divisions with all the promotions and relegations carried out, because of this I was invited to be an observer at the meeting which finalised the job. John McKim advised that there were several new teams, enough to make all divisions but one into twelve team divisions. It was then considered that the obvious place to leave the single vacancy would be the bottom division. The only item to be discussed was therefore how to fill the vacancies. Looking at Division 1 which required one additional promotion, Liverpool Y.M. 'A' had not fallen far short of retaining its Division 1 status whilst Bootle J.C. 'B', the third in the old division 2 were not so near promotion. I noted that the decision was given in favour of Liverpool Y.M. 'A'. When I received the Digest I noticed that the Y.M. were just about holding on to their status, but what of the other contender Bootle J.C. 'B'?, they are next to bottom of Division 2. Having set the pattern the other Divisions were treated alike, looking at the new Division 2 which required four teams to be promoted, the top three teams from the old division 3 were promoted together with the relegated Bath Street 'A' who were selected in favour of fourth placed Wavertree Lab 'B', Bath Street 'A' are now mid table in Division 2, Wavertree Labour 'B' are flirting with relegation in Division 3. Had the original relegated teams not been considered at all the fifth placed teams in the old Divisions 4 and 5 would have been promoted.

Waterloo advised the league mid way through last season that it was not compatible with the rules of their club to host a visiting club and asked if a vacancy occurred by virtue of English Electric resigning and if Waterloo could guarantee to absorb their players and offer to fill the vacancy with a team strong enough to justify its place would their application to do so be considered. The Committee in its wisdom decided it would allocate such a vacancy to Waterloo if the proposed conditions were met.

As an observer I did not think the decisions made were any different to those made previously, vacancies were always filled at the discretion of the sub committee, whilst the sub committee were always bound by decisions of the main committee.

Ken had to fill in a lot of space in the digest and I think he did a good job. He has achieved one objective in getting additional material to the next issue of the Digest, at least this letter. I hope he does not put my name back in the hat when doing the next hundred club draw!

Whilst not involved I support what happened. It was good to see common sense prevailing. We have too many black and whites.

Eddie Cameron

## DIVISION 1

## KEN ARMSON

Firstly, to confirm that which we all know. Whatever the current positions Colonsay have got this division all wrapped up and will win the Readman Cup. How the Labour Club must be kicking themselves for ranking Gary Watson as a reserve to the 'A' team, his expected night school commitment not having materialised and he has not missed a match. Worse still he is playing well and has taken 4 sets off Labour 1st. Dave Tagg would possibly dispute the 'playing well' part as he recently beat Gary 19 and 22; and went on to make it his best performance of the season by beating Roy 16 in the 3rd. Gary and Roy confirming that he was in brilliant form on the night. Well done, Dave. Quite a change of fortune, here, in that having escaped relegation last season courtesy of our Planners, they are comfortably placed and in no danger of the drop. Y.M. 'A' could well be wondering why for they have not had all that brilliant a season with Dave having struggled for some time but Peter and Geoff picking up some good wins. Lab. 'A' have also benefitted from their good fortune in having Gary on a regular basis and are still on course for their best placing for some seasons. However, 4th now looks very unlikely.

Manweb continue to stagger from crisis to crisis and now find the continued non-availability of their 'stars' has resulted in Alan Biggs having lost his eligibility to play for any lower team. With almost as many results missing as they have players their actual placing is unclear. What is clear is that newcomer Andy Taylor is their only reliable team member and that without his winning consistency they could well be fighting for survival.

However, alongside Cadwa they actually look good for Cadwa have used twelve players to date, Natasha Williams and Jonathan Allen listed as missing. Not exactly what we expect from our Champions. This, as with Manweb, being reflected in their results, or lack of them. Looking at scorecards one could be forgiven for wondering if this is our Premier Division; the absence of many regular players and increasing use of reserves, playing short and walkovers rapidly becoming a regular feature. This is having a knock-on effect on placings and relegation. The problem, as we all know, is commitment to too many Leagues by players bringing inevitable clashes of priorities. Something has to give and everyone suffers. This problem will only be resolved when players commit themselves sensibly.

Back to events. Interesting mid division/relegation situation when Bath Street and Cadwa 'A' met twice in 4 days. Cadwa 'A' gaining a very creditable draw at Bath Street with a great treble from Ken Hartley, all in 2 straight. 3 days later they crashed at home 2-8 with Ken and Mike beating Ken Hartley. On this occasion Billy Hargreaves lost to Fred Bainbridge but beat Mike. Cadwa 'A' will avoid relegation and some will point to there having been two weaker teams to save them. I would disagree for Cadwa 'A' started the season determined to stay up and it is that determination converted into points which has kept them out of the drop zone allied to Ken's regular sets haul. They will be able to make use of the experience gained to do the same next season.

This leads me to Ken Jackson and his results who, always a difficult opponent, is having an inspired season and reaching new heights, two wins against Stuart Richards

being proof of his ability to cause major upsets. Could this improved form be a pointer to a successful bid for the Vets title at our 'Closed', this being a title which has eluded him. No relegation worries for Bath Street and with Ken to inspire them never likely to be.

For Colonsay everything continues to go smoothly with only the minor hiccup of lack of reserve strength losing them sets. No chance of this losing them the title race and to this they will add the Readman Cup. The draw on this occasion having produced a Colonsay – Wavertree Labour Final as I expect both to cruise into the Final.

Bootle J.C. 'A' and Waterloo are still on course for relegation and the other possibles will now have relaxed. J.C. 'A' have been plagued with team problems and appear incapable of playing the same team twice. They are competing with Cadwa for most players used but they have had their moments. They drew with Waterloo and Stuart Fay got a treble. Drew with Cadwa 'A'; a treble this time for Pat McLoughlin, and, wait for it, battered Cadwa 1st 8-2. An interesting point here in that Cadwa 'A' have expressed concern as to 10/ walkovers helping relegation opponents, yet in an important match their own 1st team played one short and used two reserves, one of whom was a 4th division player. Ironically he won Cadwa's only set beating a Bootle J.C. reserve. Is this the 1st Division; or just a would-be 1st Division? It would be 1st Division if every ranked player played regularly!!

Waterloo will again be leaving us with Alan Chase's view being that they will keep bouncing back. I doubt this and feel this will be their last appearance in this division for all four Musketeers. However, if Mike Allen could regularly produce the form he demonstrated against Mike Tierney which brought him his first win of the season it may have brought a different end to their season. He played brilliantly and hit many winning shots past a dazed M.T. His team-mates were over the moon with his first win which had been a convincing one and their exuberance almost reached footballing proportions. A great example of real team spirit.

In spite of some isolated hiccups Y.M. have confirmed their all round ability by pushing themselves up into 3rd place and look likely to finish in that position. Nothing much I can say about them but would point to consistency in playing as a team. They have been hampered by a loss of form for Mike Mahoney related to injury, I think. Team marker for this season has to be Manweb, if you have not beaten them, or at worst got a draw, then you must be having a bad season.

Bootle J.C. perhaps having received inspiration from the problems of their 2nd team are having a much better season and could possibly push themselves into the top half. The question has to be asked as to why Pat McLoughlin has not been made more use of in his first season with them. Used regularly in their 2nd team he may well have provided the chance for them to have stayed up.

Should we also ask why Cadwa 1st have used so many players? Why the single appearance by Lawrence Kenwright for Y.M.? Why the Cadwa v Cadwa 'A' match was not played when listed? Why have Bootle J.C. 'A' not put out a regular team? Why the absence of Manweb's 1st teamers? Why the continued absence of Natasha Williams and Jonathon Allen. Should we have a Rule to cover such regular non-appearances which enable Clubs to keep players ranked lower than they should be. It

would bring more fairness to the relegation issue in that it is Clubs who do not have a wealth of talent to prop up their ranking list who suffer most. To close, a few good wins – Tony Whelan, Y.M. 'A' against Roy Smith; a Roy Smith 2 straight against Ken (Whirlwind) Jackson, obviously not overawed by Ken's record. A treble for J.C. 'A' by Pat McLoughlin including a 17 in the 3rd over Ken Hartley; a 2 straight for Peter Taylor against Dave Roberts who also lost for the 2nd time to Ken Hartley. To end, a double for Alan Chase with wins against Peter Taylor and Jeff Huntington, quite a feat taking into account the severe back problems which are presently troubling Alan.

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## DIVISION 2

## SYLVIA GRAHAM

It's only January yet the division seems well and truly sewn up already. I hope everyone did have a Happy Christmas ... and from the recent results there must have been a lot of Heineken drunk over New Year!

Before I start the notes it has been brought to my attention that a certain member the the division has been upset because he never gets a mention. Always one to right wrong I've decided each issue to give a profile on an individual player. As the lottery phrase goes "It could be youooooooo!". However this issue it's not ... it's ... Steve Gittins!

Well, hello Steve. A male caucasian about five feet eight inches he players or has played in a variety of leagues including Liverpool, Southport, Wirral (?) and Liverpool Business Houses. He is an accomplished table tennis player with a friendly disposition (so's my dog you might say ... but Steve does not have a wet nose or a bushy tail). This season he is playing with increased vigour and has made the transition to the Constabulary with ease (perhaps the feet helped?) He has had triple wins against Ford, Waterloo 'A', Bath Street 'A', Maghull and Manweb 'A' and has never lost three singles in any one match. Invariably he wins the doubles with brother Paul. Blood is thicker than water ... scientific fact. Tight matches seem to be a particular forte at the moment and he is developing a reputation for (as Cilla would say) "a lorra bottle" which he will no doubt need in the first division ... for which I am sure he is destined. His loop and forehand/backhand kill approach is exciting to watch but not delightful to receive, as many in the division can verify. A good all-round performer.

Well that's this issues profile, if any reader would like to nominate a friend or foe for the next just contact me with a few juicy titbits ... else it could be you.

Anyway on with the show. Rumour has it that glue is on its way back and that Tee Sports has made an urgent order to get some in stock. The new stuff is supposed to be 'less harmful' but has anyone really missed it? I believe the 24 hour rules goes out of the window with it ... but don't take my word as it could be just another Chinese whisper.

As nobody has come forward on the three-a-side debate I suppose there is, as usual, not much feeling on the subject one way or another. There goes another effort at trying to get some divisional participation in these notes! If anybody wants a forum for their thoughts (on table tennis!) ... contact me and I will incorporate their comments into the next issue.

I feel the division is, as already mentioned, sewn up with Police and G.P.T being the

obvious two promotees. At the halfway stage both had played eleven matches, won ten and drawn one and there was a one point difference the teams are evenly matched, the only difference is that GPT are playing the same regular three players while Police need a settled number three. If Police do manage to settle down, which is difficult with shift work, they would be my choice as champions otherwise I'll opt for G.P.T. I was never one to hedge my bets.

After these two there seems to be private battles throughout the division. G.P.T. 'A' are sitting pretty in third place. Then there's Colonsay 'A', Waterloo 'A' and Harold House fighting it out for 4th, 5th and 6th places. Colonsay have strengthened by signing Clare News from Cheshire. Where do they get all these females from? Is it Stan or John's sex appeal that has the ladies flocking to the club? I call for a Public Enquiry!

All the other teams, apart from Manweb 'A' who I feel are doomed to the third division next season, are contesting 7th position and trying to avoid the 11th position/other relegation place. What a situation to be in, but isn't it exciting? Amongst these latter five teams the matches are usually close but Bath Street 'A' had a brainstorm before Christmas and ended the year with two 9-1 wins over Maghull and Cadwa 'B'. These results are the exception rather than the rule, the norm being more like the 6-4 wins of Cadwa 'B' over Fords and Waterloo 'A' over Bootle J.C. 'B' with the occasional 7-3 thrown in for good measure. I refuse to make a prediction on that eleventh position but what will decide it is having the ability to field the strongest team each week, team spirit and the doubles.

Yet again the comments boxes were little used, though they are useful for checking whether your pens working before the match. Thanks Paula for your comments on Colonsay 'A' v Waterloo 'A'. Alan Reid had an excellent performance winning his three convincingly and teaming up with Ricky to take the doubles. It was a good evening with plenty of spirit ... I always thought Alan was a beer man myself! Another player who deserves a mention is Martin Hunter (Colonsay 'A') in a superb performance against Cadwa 'B'. Winning three singles is no mean feat against Messrs. Power, Henshaw and Davies. Jay French made his debut in this match and I am told he enjoyed the experience as did Alan French against Maghull. Not a problem for the experienced players at the moment, but in a few years ... who knows? We might see a completely French team in the future ... after all we are in the EEC ... but what will the order be?

Now the roles of honour:-

Good wins:- Rob Davies (Cadwa 'B') beat Eric Youd (Harold House) 18, 18. Graeme Reid (Fords) beat Ted Gilmour (G.P.T. 'A') 24, 16 and John Henshaw (Cadwa 'B') 17, 8. Alan Reid (Waterloo 'A') did the triple at Colonsay beating Brenda Buoeu 13, 13, Paula French 12, 18 and Martin Hunter 16, 14. Steve Woods (Maghull) beat Ricky Brown (Waterloo 'A') 12, -15, 19. John Henshaw (Harold House) beat Ted Gilmour (G.P.T. 'A') 11,19. Colin Owens (Bath Street 'A') had triple wins against Maghull beating Julie Prince 19, -11,20, Chris Roberts 18, -13, 18 and Steve Woods -14, 14, 20. Ricky Brown (Waterloo 'A') beat Frank McCann (G.P.T. 'A') 14, 15. Paul Price (G.P.T.) beat John Watson (Bath Street 'A') 13, -21, 17 – it must have been some match because there's an asterisk and that doesn't happen very often.

Close matches this time:- John Henshaw (Harold House) beat Steve Gittins (Police) 23, 19. Roger Neal (Bootle J.C. 'B') beat Tony Kendall (Bath Street 'A') -17, 20, 18. Paul Gittins (Police) beat Bob Edwards (G.P.T.) -20, 15, 20 and in that same match Steve Gittins beat Bob 18, -19, 20. Unusual for Bob to lose one never mind two!! Peter Cunningham (Fords) beat Brenda Buoey (Colonsay 'A') 20, -19, 18. Alan Reid (Waterloo 'A') beat John Kenwright (Harold House) -18, 20, 19. Martin Roberts (Manweb 'A') beat Colin Owens (Bath Street 'A') -26, 16, 21. Bill Proffitt (Fords) beat Ted Gilmour (G.P.T. 'A') -7, 20, 21. Ray Lavin (G.P.T. 'A') beat Alf Perry (Fords) -21, 22, 18. Clare Newns (Colonsay 'A') beat Paul Price (G.P.T.) 21, 20 and in the same match beat Trevor Owens (G.P.T.) -15, 18, 21. John Kenwright (Harold House) beat John Henshaw (Cadwa 'B') -18, 20, 24. Martin Hunter (Colonsay 'A') beat Ro Craddock (Maghull) 21, 19.

Facesavers:- Not many again ... apologies to those who are mentioned more than once in defeat!!

Harry Johnston (Fords) beat Steve Woods (Maghull) -10, 16, 18. John Watson (Bath Street 'A') beat Trevor Owens (G.P.T.) 19, -14, 15. Alan Biggs (Manweb 'A') beat Eric Youd (Harold House) 18, 22. Julie Prince (Maghull) beat John Watson (Bath Street 'A') 11, -7, 13. Chris Roberts (Maghull) beat Trevor Owens (G.P.T.) 20, 16. Mike Power (Cadwa 'B') beat John Watson (Bath Street 'A') -12, 19, 12.

P.S. Steve, if you want to know who nominated you, ask the Fixture Secretary, 'cos I'm sure she has some ideas!!!

P.P.S Dear Editor please publish this after Police play Bootle J.C. 'B'

P.P.P.S. I can assure you that there have been many comments against the 3 aside division 2. A big one is how can a hand full of secretaries at a moments notice change the structure of the league without reference to their members. - Editor.

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## DIVISION 3

## JACK LAMBERT

Well there I go opening my big mouth, after a few relevant comments in the comments column, only a couple this time and one a bit of a Luv note from Billy Clayton to Paula!!

Things are sorting themselves out a little with Bootle Y.M. and Waterloo 'B' fighting a neck and neck battle and Barbara Smallwood and her University boys doing an incredible job by practically catching up on their matches - more than a lot of naughty teams have played throughout the league, but not a lorra points.

A couple of local derbies brought wins for the senior teams, Wavertree 'B' 6 a nice Roy Adams double Labour 'C' 4 Steve Jones battling for two good wins both going to three. Karen Gibson and Billy Clayton scored doubles in the Bath Street 'B' 8 'C' team 2 game, Dave Aimson winning the 'C' teams singles.

Maghull 'A' and Manweb 'B' drew with 5 games going to three. George Frost and Neil Jennings a double each. Barbara Smallwood and K. Lau led University to a 6-4 win in the relegation battle against Bath Street 'C' (John Langton 2).

At the time of writing Bootle Y.M. top the charts with the old guard John, Tom, Rolly and Danny doing very nicely. G.P.T. 'B' put a spoke in their wheels with a top class

win, Alan Cameron and Mark Whittaker winning five of their six sets. Waterloo are also having a smooth run. The only cards I have show big wins. So looking back into the archives I see a close 6-4 win against G.P.T., Mark on top form again and a Ray Hibbs double and how about a crafty 6-4 win by Bath Street 'B'. John McCann and Billy Clayton doing the damage and I thought they were good friends of mine!

The Dyson 'twins' won their sides three when Police 'A' lost 7-3 to Bootle Y.M. John Higham and Danny both winning two. Also against Bootle Tony Whelan won the only two for Liverpool Y.M. 'B'. As Tony also beat Roy Smith in division 1. Maybe Y.M. will not be too disappointed, maybe annoyed if they lose the division by one or two points.

A couple of superb cards from Wavertree Labour they won both games against Police 'A' and Bath Street 'B', the latter wins card of the season prize. Out of the chaos and darkness I see John Letch beat Joan Connor 21-13, 18-21, 25-23 John must have still been standing at the end as he won – amazing.

S. Nordin of University tried valiantly to save his side from the ultimate losing 22-20 in the third to Roly Wright, nice one for Graham Edwards beating Peter Holmes (Waterloo) 19 in the third. A Jim Clewett double for Liverpool Y.M. also against Waterloo. McGanity and Salter Maghull beat the Jones boys R and S Wavertree 'B' 23-25; 22-20; 21-19. Barbara Smallwood beat Mark Whittaker 22-20 in the third Alan Evans (Manweb) beat Gareth Jones, Police 13 in the third. All these are face savers. I see Mark and Alan did it again against Bath Street 'B' – five out of six and Val Franco two for Bath Street – Val who? I'll tell Gordon Birch.

There it is lots of good games by the looks of things. It doesn't have to be the captain any comment would be welcome on the card by any team member.

I know I am going back to the beginning of the season but how about Bootle Y.M. 10 Bath Street 'B' 0, Bootle Y.M. 5 Bath Street 'C' 5!!

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## DIVISION 4

## TONY CONNOR

Its **18th December** and Cadwa and unbeaten Labour 'D' top the table with 75 and 74 points from eleven matches. Come **19th December** Cadwa trounce Labour 'D' to go seven clear, and by **end of January** Cadwa are eleven clear after seventeen each played.

So Cadwa are firm title favourites, but most peoples favourites to finish second are Harold House 'A', currently in seventh place. Much depends on their ability to transfer games in hand into points on the board, and to avoid walk-overs against them such as the Maghull 'B' (apparent) claim after an early season non-arrival of Harold House 'A'.

Only Bath Street of the rest have a realistic promotion chance, lying third (4 points adrift) behind Labour 'D', but lets take a closer look at Cadwas credentials.

George Higham, excelling at one with his highly unusual pen-holder style, actually grips the handle between the first and second fingers. Try that if you dare! But the effect is that the blade is naturally angled for back-hand hitting of a standard quite rare in penhold playing. So Eddie Preston (Bootle Y.M.) is delighted with his 19, 16 win over George, and I believe Joe Dunne (Labour 'E') managed the same feat.

Steve Graham doesn't believe in rallies, so its as well his third ball kill game is the strongest of its type in the division, behind a serve which nearly always comes back just where Steve wants it. But such a style, with small margins of error; gives opponents a chance sometimes, and four of Steve's more eye-catching games (2 wins - 2 losses) include:- -7, 17, 16 and 15, 14 wins over Wilf Gibson and John Hodges:- -17, -17 and 17, -18, -12 losses to Jack Davidson and Tony Sales.

Peter Roberts, a bit more controlled yet less hard hitting than Steve, did well against Y.M.'s Bert Rivers (13 in the third) and Mike Hughes (15 + 15), but struggled (-13, -13) against Harold House 'B's Les Mulholland. Also high in the percentages in Jack Highton who took up the game late (40's) but in the epitome of consistency and control. A very hard player to beat, so Jimmy Gill (Maghull 'A') is delighted with a 13, 12 win over Jack, whilst Jack has recorded several doubles including 8, 19 and 10, 12 against G.P.T.'s Tom Banton and Ted Green. Jack Power views his strongest quartet as those mentioned above, but there's been ample opportunity for Jack whose closest set (Jacks famed for these) was 5, -15, -20 against Jimmy Gill.

Harold House 'A' seem set to break all team records by fielding only eight so far. But, better still, a consistent core of four can be recognised comprising Ian Burrows, Paul Morgan, Bob Hudson and Mike Poole. In forty sets played by this quartet in October to December matches, 33 were won and 7 were lost.

The losers were:- Ian Burrows (nil) Paul Morgan to Ray Lavin (G.P.T.) -9, 15, -17, Bob Hudson to Ray Lavin, Charlie Gallantry (Aigburth) Matthew Wilson (Maghull 'C'), Mike Poole to Matthew Wilson, Dave Evans, Billy Holmes (both Aigburth). Sorry boys, but such is the price of high standards, and to rub it in, Kathy Hayden (Bootle Y.M.) out-hit Paul in their fierce January clash.

Bath Street (with Labour 'D') hang onto Harold House 'A's coat tails despite 8-2 losses to both these teams and a further 6-4 defeat to Labour 'D'. But Val Franco at one is making all the difference, ably assisted by, amongst others Reg Edwards, Dave Aimson and Dave Batty from what is a very large squad used so far (9). You know when Val is finding it tough against you. He pays you the compliment of his could be chop/could be top extravagant action serve, so difficult to read. Wilf Gibson and Phil Christie (Maghull 'B') couldn't manage to (or if they could, they still lost!) but Tony Sales (Maghull 'C') could in a close three-setter.

Bootle Y.M. won't go up or down, but they are more used now to 4th Division life. Eddie Preston is reversing earlier defeats, including a recent double over Labour 'D's John Reynolds and Mike Ashton. Bert Rivers is the most consistent playing at four with a near 70% average, and Mike Hughes best win in recent months was an 18 in the third over Maghull 'C's Ro Craddock. Jim Cannon, recently started in the game, recorded a notable victory. Could you please get in touch, Eddie, with details for me to report in next issue about that Chris McGuire, an important member of last years championship team (and divisional Champion) is now back from Germany and might well figure during February and March.

Another prodigal son is Linacres Harry Reeves whom, I presume is unbeaten since re-commencing his season in January. Linacre too are mid-table and Jack Davidson reversed an earlier Eric Wood defeat in the match against Aigburth. Jack also beat Charlie Gallantry, and Frank Lacey beat Charlie and Dave Evans in the same Aigburth match which finished a 10-0 rout. And this without Harry. A month before in



November Linacre were at the other end of a ten-nil hammering against Harold House 'A', and I understand that this is the very first time in Linacres long history that they have suffered a whitewash.

Thanks, David (Cohen) for that match comment, one of only five comments from thirty six cards. Eric Young wrote simply "HELP!" after their December white-wash at the hands of (yes you've guessed) Harold House 'A'. But perhaps they don't need as much help yet as Aigburth still bottom 16 points from safety behind Maghull 'C'. But I've already mentioned some good results and others include Dave Evans fine double over Bath Street's Alex Gould (-17, 16, 7) and Allan Willis (12, -20, 13) and Billy Holmes two-straighter over Dave Batty in the same match. And this after Dave (Batty) had shown his mettle in a 20, 17 victory over Eric Wood.

Harold House 'B' are second bottom, 14 points adrift of safety but with 2 games in hand over Maghull 'C'. They are out of reach of everyone else and unlikely to catch Maghull, yet they managed to comfortably dispose of Linacre 7-3 in November. Their average is approaching 4 per match and they should feel aggrieved that relegation beckons, but this is a very tight division.

In safer climes are G.P.T. averaging exactly five a match, but there is nothing average about Tom (never had a rally) Banton, as he blasts his way through every game, some going his way, some not. Tom shaded Aigbuth's Dave Evans whilst losing twice to Labour 'D's Ted McGiveron. All three were extremely close games. Ted Green has worked hard on his backhand and whilst this isn't a weak side, most opponents play there simply to avoid Ted's very powerful forehand. Ted lost closely to Paul Morgan (Harold House 'A') whilst Tom Downing and Bobby Bell recorded wins against George Higham and Jack Power, respectively, in G.P.T.'s 2-8 crash against champions elect Cadwa.

Maghull 'B' are tending toward the higher reaches of mid-table with little realistic promotion chances, but Wilf Gibson, Phil Christie, Brian Gregory and Jimmy Gill combine consistently enough. In the derby Wilf did well to shade Tony Sale 17 in the third, whilst losing in three to Ro Croddock. Phil won twice (Ro and Andy Howarth) whilst Brian and Jimmy beat Andy McCourt.

Maghull 'C', on the other hand are tending towards the lower reaches of mid-table with little realistic relegation chances. Andy McCourt recorded a fine win over Cadwa's Jack Power and Matthew Wilson has entered the fray after a 7 year lay off to beat Bob Hudson -16, 18, 16, what a good win.

Labour 'E' average nearly five a game, as one of many teams around that mark. Mark Miles this time lost to Eddie Preston (Y.M.C.A.) -15, 13, -15 but reversed a previous Mike Hughes defeat in the clash against Y.M.C.A. Paul Falkner also gained revenge by shading Mike Ashton 20 in the third in the Wavertree derby.

So, saving the best till last, I'll come to Labour 'D'. Well we must be best, mustn't we, as no-one has lost fewer than us. Actually we've drawn far too many, six out of eighteen, but we've still an outside chance of runners-up. We'll see. Steve Jones, unbeaten in his 10 sets for us, has been our most impressive player from October to January. Anyway, see you soon.

## DIVISION 5

## ARTHUR GARNETT

I hope that everybody had a most enjoyable festive season, and that their table tennis didn't suffer too much from the short break.

The season is now in full swing with the fixtures having passed the halfway point. The division table is much as expected with Waterloo 'C' and Manweb 'C' fighting it out for the championship berth. This one could quite easily go down to the 'wire', the teams playing each other in the last game of the season. The only real guide so far is their first meeting at Manweb which Waterloo 'C' won 6 - 4 with Ian Lunt gaining a double over Ashley and Barnes, both in straight sets. A close match this with Spencer of Waterloo winning against Barnes 23-25 in the third. Things could be different next time around.

Wavertree Labour 'F' and Police 'B' continue to battle it out for third place, though, being a little biased, I fancy Police 'B' to be the team to make it. Wavertree Labour 'F' have played with a weakened side on a few occasions and this could affect their cause.

The position at the bottom of the table appears in a state of flux with all the teams picking up good points from some quite unexpected quarters. There have been far fewer 10-0 matches, and an increasing number of 5-5 draws. As the season reaches its conclusion I would expect even more closer matches, with the bottom teams closing the gap on those in mid-table.

Some results of note:- Merseybus taking 4 points from full strength Wavertree Labour 'F'. Two fine wins by Graham Rollinson over Mabel Neary and Ken Ray. Joe Harrison picking up a point beating Ken Ray 21/11, 21/11 for a fine victory over a well established player. Merseybus' other point coming from the doubles pairing of Foster/Williams who are unbeaten in doubles to date.

Harold House 'C' taking 3 points from league leaders Waterloo 'C'. A remarkable double by Richard Blackburne, beating Austin Hayden 8/21 in the third, and a straight sets victory over Bill Spencer. Graham Williams taking their third point by beating John Forrest 24/26 in the third set.

Police 'B' 4 Waterloo 'C' 6. "Waterloo are by far the best team we have played." said Police Captain George Wright. A double by Ken Nelson being the difference between the teams.

Police 'C' winning at last against Bath Street 'E', 6-4 with double wins by Chris Foley and Arthur Garnett, with Nadeen Wahid and Phil Baines picking up the other points.

Jay French and Colin Hughes picking up two wins apiece in a Colonsay 'B' victory also against Bath Street 'E' though this time 7-3.

Aigburth 'A' losing narrowly to Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'B' 4-6. Tommy Wong weighing in with two wins against Barry Meyer and John Mitchell both in straight sets. John Mitchell winning a valuable point against Jim Cannon 21/12 in the third.

Some five all draws:- Colonsay 'B' v Police 'C', Stan Clarke (Colonsay) winning two. Bath Street 'E' v Harold House, Alan Willis (Bath Street) winning two. Harold House v Wavertree Labour, Richard Blackburne also two. Bath Street 'E' v Merseybus, Brian Holden (Bath Street) two.

To date there have been very few 'walkovers' which is very pleasing to note. If one player doesn't attend, it could quite easily mean that one member of the opposing side would only play one game, and I know that, for most of us, playing the game is more important than picking up a cheap point.

One to mention for the older players ... Alan Wood is back from Australia and is playing again. He has been playing regularly in Aussie and is still as keen as mustard. Ask him why he's back and he'll tell you a story about an expiring visa. I think its just that he couldn't take the stick being meted out by the Antipodean convicts over an England team which is currently attempting to play cricket down there. Anyway, its nice to have him back, even if its only until the end of the season.

That's all for this time ... Have a happy and prosperous New Year with lashings of good luck for the rest of the season.

## PETE D'ARCY

(English Electric & Bohemians)

In the passing of Peter D'arcy table tennis has lost an outstanding personality. He was one of our leading players for many years, represented the City and the County numerous times, won many titles at many venues including our Liverpool Championship. A great doubles player, Captain of the English Electric Cup and Championship sides, who also reached the Semi-finals of the English Club Championships twice under his guidance. Add his personal achievements to his knowledge and dedication to the game and you have a great bloke to have as a club member and friend – a secretary's dream!

On behalf of the Liverpool gang with whom he had many hours of friendship, competition and enjoyment we send to Karen our sincere condolences

**Jack Lambert**

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The digest is becoming more than a burden to the League finances. So we must have thoughts on it's future. If you have any practical and workable ideas please. I think it's days are numbered in its present form, despite the consideration and help from S & A Print Services. This issue is limited, short and cheaper!!

A note from Dunbabbinn Road (not Dave) that the name is Harold House.

Dear Editor now that Ken Armson has retired do you think he might find time to write more than just a few lines for his divisional notes. – B.M.

Congratulations to Ken Armson on his retirement may it be a long and happy one.

To Arthur Upton – no more knocking yourself about – keep getting better.

| DIVISION 1          | P  | W  | L  | D | PTS |
|---------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|
| WAVERTREE LABOUR    | 17 | 16 | 1  | 0 | 131 |
| COLONSAY            | 13 | 12 | 0  | 1 | 110 |
| LIVERPOOL Y.M.C.A.  | 12 | 8  | 3  | 1 | 81  |
| BATH STREET         | 14 | 7  | 5  | 2 | 77  |
| CADWA               | 13 | 9  | 4  | 0 | 76  |
| WAVERTREE LAB 'A'   | 12 | 7  | 4  | 1 | 60  |
| L'POOL Y.M.C.A. 'A' | 15 | 5  | 9  | 1 | 60  |
| BOOTLE J.C.         | 14 | 4  | 9  | 1 | 56  |
| MANWEB              | 11 | 4  | 7  | 0 | 51  |
| CADWA 'A'           | 16 | 2  | 12 | 2 | 50  |
| WATERLOO            | 13 | 0  | 13 | 0 | 27  |
| BOOTLE J.C. 'A'     | 11 | 1  | 8  | 2 | 26  |

| DIVISION 4          | P  | W  | L  | D | PTS |
|---------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|
| CADWA 'C'           | 16 | 14 | 2  | 0 | 108 |
| WAVERTREE LAB. 'D'  | 15 | 8  | 1  | 6 | 91  |
| BATH STREET 'D'     | 15 | 10 | 4  | 1 | 87  |
| MAGHULL 'B'         | 15 | 7  | 5  | 3 | 81  |
| LINACRE             | 18 | 5  | 11 | 2 | 81  |
| G.P.T. 'C'          | 16 | 4  | 8  | 4 | 78  |
| HAROLD HOUSE 'A'    | 11 | 9  | 1  | 1 | 76  |
| BOOTLE Y.M.C.A. 'A' | 15 | 5  | 5  | 5 | 73  |
| WAVERTREE LAB. 'E'  | 15 | 5  | 6  | 4 | 70  |
| MAGHULL 'C'         | 16 | 4  | 10 | 2 | 65  |
| HAROLD HOUSE 'B'    | 14 | 2  | 8  | 4 | 51  |
| AIGBURTH            | 16 | 1  | 13 | 2 | 49  |

| DIVISION 2      | P  | W  | L  | D | PTS |
|-----------------|----|----|----|---|-----|
| G.P.T.          | 16 | 14 | 1  | 1 | 121 |
| G.P.T. 'A'      | 17 | 13 | 4  | 0 | 111 |
| POLICE          | 15 | 13 | 1  | 1 | 110 |
| MAGHULL         | 17 | 7  | 9  | 1 | 81  |
| WATERLOO 'A'    | 14 | 8  | 4  | 2 | 71  |
| COLONSAY 'A'    | 17 | 5  | 10 | 2 | 71  |
| HAROLD HOUSE    | 12 | 7  | 3  | 2 | 68  |
| FORDS           | 16 | 4  | 11 | 1 | 68  |
| BATH STREET 'A' | 16 | 4  | 10 | 2 | 67  |
| CADWA 'B'       | 16 | 4  | 10 | 2 | 59  |
| BOOTLE J.C. 'B' | 11 | 4  | 7  | 0 | 42  |
| MANWEB 'A'      | 15 | 0  | 13 | 2 | 41  |

| DIVISION 5          | P  | W  | L  | D | PTS |
|---------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|
| MANWEB 'C'          | 14 | 12 | 1  | 1 | 116 |
| POLICE 'B'          | 16 | 11 | 5  | 0 | 114 |
| WAVERTREE LAB 'F'   | 16 | 11 | 2  | 3 | 112 |
| WATERLOO 'C'        | 13 | 13 | 0  | 0 | 109 |
| MERSEYBUS           | 15 | 6  | 6  | 3 | 80  |
| BOOTLE Y.M.C.A. 'B' | 16 | 6  | 8  | 2 | 66  |
| BATH STREET 'E'     | 16 | 4  | 10 | 2 | 62  |
| COLONSAY 'B'        | 16 | 4  | 10 | 2 | 52  |
| HAROLD HOUSE 'C'    | 13 | 1  | 10 | 2 | 37  |
| AIGBURTH 'A'        | 15 | 3  | 12 | 0 | 32  |
| POLICE 'C'          | 12 | 1  | 8  | 3 | 30  |

| DIVISION 3          | P  | W  | L  | D | PTS |
|---------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|
| BOOTLE Y.M.C.A.     | 17 | 13 | 2  | 2 | 115 |
| WATERLOO 'B'        | 16 | 13 | 2  | 1 | 109 |
| WAVERTREE LAB. 'B'  | 18 | 11 | 4  | 3 | 103 |
| G.P.T. 'B'          | 17 | 9  | 6  | 2 | 91  |
| BATH STREET 'B'     | 17 | 8  | 7  | 2 | 85  |
| POLICE 'A'          | 17 | 7  | 7  | 3 | 85  |
| MANWEB 'B'          | 15 | 7  | 6  | 2 | 82  |
| WAVERTREE LAB. 'C'  | 17 | 7  | 9  | 1 | 82  |
| MAGHULL 'A'         | 17 | 6  | 10 | 1 | 74  |
| L'POOL Y.M.C.A. 'B' | 17 | 4  | 13 | 0 | 68  |
| BATH STREET 'C'     | 17 | 3  | 12 | 2 | 65  |
| UNIVERSITY          | 16 | 3  | 12 | 1 | 47  |