



Table Tennis

DIGEST

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

EDITOR: Jack Lambert
4, Rhosemor Road
Liverpool L32 7QU
Tel: 546-3081

CO-ORDINATOR: K. Armson

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JOHN McKIM - A TRIBUTE

The 1995 Annual General Meeting will be the second successive year that the League will have lost the valued services of an esteemed and long serving Officer, consequent upon the decision of John McKim to retire from the Office of the League's Hon. Organising Secretary.

Having previously served for a couple of years as a co-opted member of the Tournaments Committee in the capacity of Deputy Referee, followed by a full year as an Elected Member of the Management Committee, John's administrative expertise was put to its greatest test at the commencement of the 1957 Season. This arose due to the sudden death of Bill Stamp who had for so many years guided the fortunes of the League. We were then confronted with the task of filling an Office with someone who was both willing and able to devote the time and enthusiasm necessary to ensure that the League's affairs continued to be efficiently administered. Undaunted by the knowledge that his predecessor had set such a high standard, John undertook the task and with the pleasant and obliging manner which over the years became so characteristic of him, the affairs of the League continued to be conducted with the competence which has earned him the respect of players and officials. He has performed his many tasks assiduously and his selfless endeavour during periods of indifferent health have been particularly appreciated by those of us whose pleasure it has been to be associated with him.

During his playing career with the League which dates back to 1938, John played for several Clubs and he will be remembered as a sporting competitor, friendly to his opponent either win or lose.

The League felt privileged to acknowledge John's dedicated commitment as long ago as 1960 when he was awarded the Stamp Award of Merit. Further recognition of his sterling service was accorded to him in 1991 when the League's highest accolade of Life Member was bestowed upon him.

Although this tribute is initially intended to recognise John's longevity of service to the Liverpool & District Table Tennis League, his service to table tennis has extended far and beyond our boundary. He joined the Executive Committee of the Lancashire County

T.T.A. in 1959 and in 1968 was elected to the Office of Hon. Secretary of the Association, a position which he continues to fulfil to the present time. In those early days the Lancashire and the Cheshire County Associations, and the Lancashire & Cheshire Table Tennis League met as a combined body. For a period of approximately four years from 1968, in addition to his Secretarial duties for the Lancashire County Association he also fulfilled the role of Secretary to the other two Organisations, and in fact represented Cheshire on the E.T.T.A. National Council for a period of two years. He continues to be an Elected Member of the Lancashire & Cheshire Table Tennis League Executive Committee.

He has been a member of the E.T.T.A. Tournaments Committee, also Rules Committee, and continues to serve as a member of the E.T.T.A. Board of Appeal. His contribution to sport at all levels, including national was recognised in 1983 when he was elected a Vice-President of the E.T.T.A.

This tribute to John's longevity service which has deservedly earned him a place in the history of the League, is primarily written to place on record the gratitude of the members of the League's Management Committee and the general membership. I would, however, wish to conclude on a personal note. It has been my special privilege to have been associated with John as a fellow Officer of the League since 1958 (in fact it was due to him prevailing upon me to allow my name to stand for the Vice Chairman post, that I subsequently assumed the responsibilities of the Chair following the untimely death of Jack Hughes in that year), as indeed it has been my pleasure to have worked with him as a colleague on a number of the table tennis bodies mentioned earlier in this tribute. I have had reason to be grateful not only for the happy working relationship I have been fortunate to enjoy during a period covering almost four decades, but additionally for his caring attitude and valued friendship.

Arthur E. Upton – President/Chairman

DIVISION 1

KEN ARMSON

I have to start with an apology to all my avid readers arising from comments in Issue 2, re my failure to fully dedicate myself to your Notes and hoping I will rectify this now that I have been put out to grass. I checked this out and find that whilst Divisions 2 & 4 notched up 103 and 105 lines, mine amounted to a miserable 95. I have erred grievously and apologise for my lack of effort. I would like to say, humbly, but doubt you would believe me.

Turning to my Notes, table tennis is not noted for surprises so my forecast that Colonsay would romp home Champions was never in doubt. They carried all before them with only Bath St. preventing their recording 22 wins. They went on to take the Readman Cup in the same cavalier style. They only used reserves on 7 occasions, one of these allowing Bath St. to get the draw and Ken to inflict a defeat on Stuart. Congratulations to Paul, Stuart and Chris for a tremendous season and given the current strength of the teams I cannot see anyone stopping them next season. A little story about a true gentleman player, Stuart. I actually heard him curse very loudly during a match – not a Liverpool one – but nevertheless quite a surprise. Nice to know we are all human when things go amiss. Sorry, Stuart, wouldn't be myself if I omitted that little gem.

Wavertree Lab tried hard to keep in touch but lacked that all round strength to enable them to put Colonsay under any pressure. They missed Gary Watson and I am certain that Dave Roberts, still a 100% player, will be first to agree that at this level age is a formidable barrier to overcome when faced with younger players of great ability. A factory applicable to a number of our 1st Div. teams as more players reach the 40 year mark. Bernie Wentworth, their best player, had a tremendous season dropping only 5 sets and recording a great treble against Colonsay in their final match and joining Keith Williams as the only other player to defeat the fearsome trio in one match.

Liverpool YM slipped comfortably into 3rd place and although their efforts were affected by an injury to Mike Mahoney they were not really in with any chance of denying Wavertree 2nd place. Both Keith and Peter having good seasons. When did Keith ever have a bad one? They will be looking back on 7 matches lost, the age factor possibly playing a part in some of these adverse results. Against a very weakened Cadwa 1st team – so what's new – only Keith turned up, won his three, and left them with yet another unnecessary defeat. What went wrong?

My view that Bath St. would reach a new high was fully justified – if only my Lottery forecasts could be as accurate – and they gained a well earned 4th slot and their best placing for many seasons. A just reward for an all round hard-working performance. As with YM and Keith, Ken Jackson is their anchor man, but they called on only one reserve and Mike Keane and Fred Bainbridge played their hearts out and had a hand in a number of their wins. Worth noting that Wavertree Lab defeated them 10-0, a feat beyond even Colonsay and the only occasion K.J. lost 3 in a match. A special well done to Bernie, Dave and Alan for the outstanding win of the season by any team in any division. Can Bath St. improve on 4th place next season? I doubt it, but know that it won't be for want of trying. For me, K.J. has to be Player of the Season. O.K. his results were not as good as a number of others, but he has again caused more outstanding upsets and is possibly the most respected opponent in this League and certainly one of our most sporting and popular players. Many comments are passed about his bat: a Woollies blade; got magic proportions; has his rubber hypnotised; found his rubbers on a Council Tip! I don't know which of these is true, but he certainly seems to be able to hypnotise his opponents! Well done, Ken, another great season under your belt. What a pity you could not enter our 'Closed'

Ably let by Roy Smith and benefitting from the generosity of their Club in giving them Gary Watson, Lab 'A' had a good season finishing marginally ahead of Cadwa. Comfortable against any team other than Colonsay and turning in many good results they marred their efforts by conceding a 10/0 walkover to Colonsay.

Cadwa, a name to conjure with and reflect on. Pity they could not have done likewise and conjured up their players. Champions last season, Champion Divvys this season. Their early promise soon vanished, almost as quickly as their players with even Liverpool Closed Champion, Kevin Dolder, being an absentee on many occasions. They used reserves on 30-odd occasions, turned out a full team of reserves far too often, postponed a number of early matches, playing them much later with weakened teams. It is not possible to assess what effect, if any, their approach had on relegation issues, but we should be concerned over this aspect. They fell from 1st to 6th and

brought no credit to their Club or this Division.

Liverpool YM 'A' dispelled early on any relegation clouds with some good results and continued to work hard and play as a team. Their reward for a season of hard endeavour being an upward move from next to bottom to a healthy 7th place with nine wins and 95pts to prove their endeavour. Bootle JC were close on their heels, also improving on last season. Quite an enigma are Bootle JC, rarely requiring reserves and at times appearing to stagger from one crisis to another. They generally managed to get it right in the end but do tend to flirt dangerously with relegation and at times appear to have scant regard for the agreed Fixture List. Not that I expect them to agree with such views.

Cadwa 'A' survived last season by effort and determination and vowed a repeat this season. Their final position and points gained bearing testimony to their efforts and team spirit. The reverse of their 1st team for whom they stood in for far too often. They only used four reserves, lost Jonathan Allen after four weeks, but anchor man Ken Hartley, ably assisted by Billy Hargreaves and Ahmed Thabet overcame any problems and in the final run-in won four in a row defeating Waterloo, Bootle JC, Lab 'A' and Bootle JC 'A' to pull them well clear and ensure their 1st Div. place next season. Ken's only defeat in those four matches being to Chris Spedding. Quite an effort and one in sharp contrast to their first team.

On to Manweb and yet another dismal story of vanished players, lack of concern for the Division and use of a steady stream of reserves culminating in lower ranked players becoming ineligible to play for their own team. Only the regular turning out of Andy Taylor and his equally regular haul of wins averted the ultimate disaster of relegation. Again the question has to be posed: What effect, if any, did use of regular reserves, on some occasions all reserves, have on relegation. Certainly their own was avoided but others may have suffered. To have one top team turn rogue is bad, two in one season in our premier division is unacceptable and over the top. Once again, as with Cadwa, the club must accept responsibility for a poor overall performance directly related to the non-turning out of registered players of known ability. There is a good need to ensure that whoever you register is going to give a commitment which will enable the Club to properly fulfil its own commitment to the League.

Waterloo and Bootle JC 'A' leave us with Waterloo's parting comment being they will return yet again. I know that like McArthur they have done so previously, but he never ever promised he would keep on returning. They will be much missed next season as they were on the previous occasion for their all round sportsmanship, dedication and social outlook, but face the age barrier I have referred to. To their credit they never stopped trying and used the same four player format throughout and were hampered by Alan's back problem. I know the feeling, Alan, I suffer myself. I hope they do prove me wrong and bounce straight back but hope they use strong elastic as it will probably be another brief visit. For JC 'A' relegation was an ever present threat due to their club not having the strength in depth to maintain two teams at this level. The players didn't appear to lose heart and I am certain the experience has improved all their games. 10/0's were a regular feature of their match results but they all made their mark at various times and have been a credit to themselves and their club. We just might see

them and not Waterloo having the stronger elastic.

On to the final issue, that of postponements of early matches played late on in the season and walkovers. In this Division postponements are often granted too easily and the re-arranged fixture lost in the heavy commitment of players. All too often when the fixture is played weaker teams are tuned out or, as has happened, a walkover is given. Lab A' got into such a situation and conceded a walkover to Colonsay. Manweb have conceded walkovers and at one stage appeared in danger of expulsion. Played in March were matches from Weeks 5, 7, 8, 14, with a Week 21 match played in April. How would teams have coped if we still has a 26 match fixture list. Clearly the Division is suffering from the commitment of players to other leagues with priority being given to the league where the best chance of a medal exists, etc. We should not be at the whim of players unable to give us a full commitment or, as is all too frequently the case, juggling our fixture list to fit their commitments. I can only highlight such factors. It is for you: Clubs, teams and players to put our house back in order. Playing short, use of reserves and walkovers should only be the result of an unavoidable situation such as late sickness, forgetfulness, etc, when playing at this level. Asking for a postponement should be a last resort, not the first. I leave it with you, along with the thought that I have retired, don't play in this Division, have been writing your Notes for too many years and it is time I was put out to graze as I obviously fall short of someone's aspirations by not writing at sufficient length.

Have a good summer and return refreshed and determined to stamp out the disease which threatens the stability of this Division, and do yourselves, you Club and this League a good turn.

DIVISION 2

SYLVIA GRAHAM

Another season over and what an interesting time it's been. After slogging away for the last seven months, we eventually have both the winners and losers in the division . . . though some would say that there are no losers because we've all been playing the game we love best!

Before we go any further, I must say how pleased I am at the response to the 'profile'. So pleased am I, that I have decided to continue, having received numerous nominations for playmate of the issue. Well Alan, it must be nice to be so popular? Yes! Alan Reid you have been nominated the ultimate playmate for the 94-95 season.

What can I say . . . a truly genial giant, Alan is well over six feet tall and a veritable pleasure to watch. His classic attacking hard bat style is characterised by the simple way he attacks, hard with his bat. But what a smashing forehand and backhand. His clubmates say he is obviously an ABBA fan but stress that where food is concerned he is not a gourmet, preferring a simple 'meat and two veg'. He is, however a little absentminded, but having once played you he may forget the name but he never forgets the face and has often been heard to comment during a match . . . 'I've seen that face before! It's doubly true when he plays Fords because his identical twin brother, Grahame, plays in opposition (in disguise!!!). So far it's been a mixed season for Alan, he plays in both the Liverpool and Southport Leagues and represents Southport as a

veteran, where he has been playing extremely well. In Liverpool he has had some particularly good results with wins over Paul Price, John Kenwright and Eric Youd. I could go on to the 'bitter' end and write lots more 'mild' comments about Al but that wouldn't be in the 'spirit' of the notes, so I'm told it's best to keep it 'short' . . . So, I'll finish with one or two of Al's favourite words . . . 'the drinks are on me!'

Nominations for next season's profiles can be sent to me, via the editor . . . if I'm allowed to continue.

Anyway, on with the show. The season's over and I can feel quite pleased with myself having predicted the two promotees months ago.

Both teams lost only one match: GPT to Police and Police to Harold House, and both were really the only teams who deserved promotion, being just a little too strong for the rest of us. Congratulations to you both and good luck in the First.

But what about Harold House? Finishing fourth really does not show the breadth of their team. Twice they turned out with only two players and still they managed to get nine points from the two matches. Is this a subtle way of suggesting two-a-side to the Management Committee? If you think about it, it would mean shorter matches, more revenue for the League and two matches could be played on one night. Stranger things have been said in jest!

GPT second team, GPT 'A', finished in the third position they had occupied for most of the season. A case of always the bridesmaid but never the bride! . . . that's something to think about – Frank, Ian and Ted in frilly dresses with posies! Personally, I think they deserve to be in that position – (I mean third . . . not bridesmaids) – because any other year they may well have been promoted. But what the heck, there's always next year. If they have the same side but without the pressure of their first team in the same division, they'll be a team to be reckoned with.

All the remaining teams were banded together at the end and really only seemed interest in avoiding relegation. Once the magic four sets a match was achieved, teams seemed to go to sleep. Manweb 'A' had problems all year and I suspect that they knew that they were going down, but even so they went down fighting and notched up a few close matches on the way – Steve Rowe having three very good wins against the GPT 'A' team. Cadwa 'B' were the team that really surprised me. After playing Neil Gravenor against GPT 'A' which forced a draw, I sensed a determined effort to stay in the second. However, the decision to award Fords ten points when they played/didn't play Cadwa virtually guaranteed Cadwa the other relegation spot. I find it strange that so late in the season a team would jeopardise it's chance to stay in the higher division by virtually giving the points away. I would imagine they'll come straight back up next season so enjoy the rest.

Only a handful of points separated the other six teams. Of these six, the team that surprised me was Maghull. To tell you the truth I would almost have tipped them as relegation candidates at the start of the season, but every one of them played really well every match. Chris Roberts and Steve Woods just appeared to amass the points giving some interesting results along the way. Colonsay, I thought,

would be fairly safe this year because I knew that three-a-side would suit them. The use of reserves (mainly because of injuries) meant the loss of a settled team and hence a loss of points. Colonsay are another team that should do well if they stick to three from Brenda, Paula, Martin and supersub Bill.

Bath St. 'A', Bootle JC 'B' and Fords all finished outside the relegation zone. Of the three Bath St. fielded the most settled team and after a purple patch around Christmas were always safe. This team typify the second division, winning some and losing some but always fighting for every set. Colin Owens has matured in his play and is not a very difficult player to beat. Tony Kendall has a lovely game and still remembers his roots, quote: "(Ted Wane) would be annoyed at that shot". And what can you say about John Watson except . . . Duck! as the ball approaches at seventy miles an hour. Bootle JC never really settled down to three-a-side having a pool of at least five players. Roger Neal proved to be JC's stalwart player and Ken Strahan was sadly missed for his wit(?) and humour(?) . . . but rumour has it, he will be applying for team trials next season and is practising hard to impress the team captain (who can be bribed!). I think the team will perform better now it's settled down. Fords is one of my favourite teams . . . I don't know why . . . just that they're sweeties. That's bound to make Grahame puke! as does tequila, but that's another story. I think, like me, they feel that playing the game is more important than claiming points. They're a pretty settled team considering that they have a pool of seventeen players. They never get slaughtered and if they were a football team I'd always consider them for a draw.

Now the roles of honour: GOOD WINS: Ken Nelson (Colonsay 'A') beat Colin Owens (Bath St. 'A') 19, -18, 18. John Watson (Bath St. 'A') beat Eddie Clein (Harold House), 23, -11, 16. Eddie Clein (Harold House) beat Steve Gittins (Police), 11, 10. John Henshaw (Cadwa 'B') beat Paul Price (GPT) 18, 16. John Henshaw and Mike Power (Cadwa 'B') beat Paul Price and Bob Edwards (GPT) 9, 14, 19. Martin Hunter (Colonsay 'A') beat Steve Gittins (Police) 14, -16, 11.

CLOSE MATCHES: Ricky Brown (Waterloo 'A') beat Claire Newns (Colonsay 'A') 15, -22, 19. Mike Moran (Bootle JC 'B') beat Alf Perry (Fords) 5, -20, 19. Neil Gravenor (Cadwa 'B') and yes! I have checked it was our division . . . beat Ted Gilmour (GPT 'A') 18, 20. Matthew Wilson (Maghull) beat Rob Davies (Cadwa 'B') 19, -18, 19. Robbie Goldson (Fords) beat Tony Kendall (Bath St. 'A') -18, 19, 19 and was then beaten by John Watson (Bath St. 'A') 14, -20, 20. Steve Gittins (Police) beat Tony Kendall (Bath St. 'A') -22, 20, 21 . . . must have been a terrific match! Trevor Owens (GPT) beat Grahame Reid (Fords) 20, -19, 18. Steve Rowe (Manweb 'A') beat Frank McCann (GPT 'A') 20, 23. Colin Owens (Bath St. 'A') beat Eric Youd (Harold House), 22, 20. Eric Youd ((Harold House) beat Grahame Reid (Fords) -15, 20, 20.

FACE SAVERS: Not many again but not surprising when most players are giving their all! John Ashley (Manweb 'A') beat Colin Owens (Bath St. 'A') 19, -15, 19. John Moore (Manweb 'A') beat Trevor Owens (GPT) 19, 19. Alan Reid (Waterloo 'A') beat Paul Price (GPT) 20, 18. Bill Harris (Colonsay 'A') beat Sylvia Graham (Bootle JC 'B') 19, 12 . . . thank you Uncle Bill!

DIVISION 3

JACK LAMBERT

A battle to the end between Waterloo 'B' and Bootle YMCA with the Waterloo lads Peter Frazer, Andy Armstrong, Peter Holmes and Ray Biggs proving worthy champs. Congratulations, you have to give top players a mention as the only other time they get in the news is when they are chopped by a lower minnow. Congratulations also to Bootle YM, runners up in Cup and League. A crafty 7-3 win over Waterloo, Danny Every excellent, the rest of the team that finished runners up were the terrible twins John Higham and Tom Killip and Danny Every. But what happened in the final fellas 6-1 down to Andy & Co after that good win!

Barbara Smallwood led University to an excellent draw against Wavertree 'B' with two good wins and I feel it was thanks to her enthusiasm that the team finished a full season. By the same token Wavertree 5 (Rich Jones 2), Waterloo 5 (Andy A 2) – good draw!

Lots of good games and matches. Danny Every and Ray Hibbs 21-18, 18-21, 21-17. Joan Connor 10-1 down in the third to John Letch and wins 21-19. Bearing in mind John is 92 next birthday! Gareth Jones and David Rudd brilliant match 19-21, 21-19, 25-23. Police beat Liverpool YM 7-3 (Jimmy Clewett 2). Exciting game! Rob Peat and Peter Frazer 31-29, 21-19. Big hitting – pity the ball! In the Bootle YM 7, Wavertree Lab 'B' 3 game Tom Killip pulled a muscle and was unable to complete his games. John Higham and Roy Adams game of the night. What's this about John? Is it a red flag or a red card! A closer game than the result. Police 7 (Len Dyson and Dave Crispin doubles), Bath St. 'C' 3 (John Langton 2), John had a right battle with Richie Winkle 21-19, 16-21, 22-20. 6-1 down against Bootle, Bath St fought back to 6-4 winning both doubles.

Wavertree 'C' (Bob Owen and John Gratton trebles) beat Liverpool YM 8-2, but earlier in the season YM had beaten Wavertree 8-2. Hows about that! Police 'A' 4, Wavertree (Owens 2) 6. Great game! Tony Harris and Bobby Owen 24-22, 18-21, 19-21. I hear that this was a win for great experience against youth and innocence and was there a bottle lost somewhere?

Tough at the bottom with Bath St. 'C' just losing out. Only a few points between the bottom three, with Liverpool YM and Maghull struggling, the latter with a good win over Manweb 'B' (Trevor Hughes 2), with K. Lewis 3 for Maghull 'A' and I note my old mate Ted Barnes sneaking in with a double against Liverpool YM 'B' (Ming Liu 3) 6-4 Manweb.

GPT 'B' in third place must come in the top gang who are only mentioned when they are hammered. Alan Cameron 2 against Maghull 'A' (K. Lewis 2) 6-4. Tony Moon and Eddie Crowley who had quite a game against Harry Maganity and Lewis losing 18-21, 24-22, 18-21. Fourth GPT star Graham Edwards.

Trevor Hughes beat Ray Hibbs 25-23, 21-14 (1-9). Alan Biggs beat Tony Moon 21-19, 21-9 (1-9). University beat Manweb 6-4, John Gratton won two against Waterloo (2-8). Solomon Tesfaye beat Dave Soddern 21-14, 21-15 (1-9). Gareth Jones won two against GPT (2-8). N. Skipper beat Peter Frazer 21-19, 21-18 (1-9). G. Frost beat Solomon Tesfaye 21-19, 21-14. Good 8-2 win for University over Maghull 'A'. Bath

St. (Billy Clayton 2), 5, Manweb 'B' 5 (Trev Hughes 2). Peter Holmes and Andy Armstrong lost to Dave Crispin and Gareth Jones 30-28, 19-21, 18-21. Rod Bulmer and Frost two each against Police 'A' (Len Dyson 2) 6-4. Reg Edwards lone singles against Labour beating Mike Ashton (2-8). Les Gee double against Waterloo (3-7).

I have dashed about a bit and included a few card comments. I hope you can sort it out - see you at Wembley!

DIVISION 4

TONY CONNOR

NO NOTES RECEIVED FOR THIS DIVISION

DIVISION 5

ARTHUR GARNETT

And so we reach the end of yet another season of table tennis. What am I going to do to fill the light summer evenings? I suppose I could just sit in front of the television and slowly vegetate. Tony Harris (my club secretary) thinks that's all I do anyway. What's what Tony? Practice? Don't you swear at me!

In my first set of notes for the Digest I commented on the number of 10-0 wins in the division, and the scarcity of 5-5 draws. I suggested that this probably wouldn't last. Happily this has turned out to be the case, all the lower teams in the division improving and turning in some good results. My vote for the most improved team of the season goes to Colonsay 'B'. A very young team who can only get better and better, so, watch out next season.

The division champions were Waterloo 'C' who triumphed by six points over the runners up Manweb 'C'. Their encounter at Waterloo ending in a win for Manweb 6-4. All games being decided in two sets. As expected, the top two teams being challenged by Wavertree Labour 'F' and Police 'B', with the Labour team winning out for third place, Police having faded towards the end.

A creditable 5th place for Merseybus, occupying a place alone at the top of the mid table positions 27 points behind Police B and 25 points ahead of Bath St. in 6th, followed four points behind by Bootle YM.

Only 15 points separated the four bottom teams, Police 'C' five points ahead of Colonsay 'C', who were five points clear of Harold House 'C', with Aigburth 'A' rooted at the bottom a further five points adrift. Aigburth obviously affected by the injury to Derek Traynor.

I have found this season to be most enjoyable and hope it has so proved for everyone else. Apart from the top teams, no match has been a foregone conclusion with some results varying widely from expectations:

Wavertree Lab 5, Merseybus 5 (each player from Merseybus taking a point with the doubles shares). Aigburth 'A' 7, Bath St. 3, Derek Traynor winning two. Aigburth 'A' 1, Colonsay 9, John Mitchell saving a whitewash 22/20 in the third.

Bootle YM 3, Aigburth 7, a fine team result with a double for Derek Traynor, and John Mitchell again winning a point 22/20 in the third. Police 'C' 8, Colonsay 2, Jay French taking the point from Phil Baines 23/25 in the third. Every point counts, even those that save the team from a 10-0 defeat. Alan Willis for Bath St. taking a point from Bill Spencer of Waterloo 21/19 in the third. Dave Oakes for Police 'B' over Ian Lunt of Waterloo 16/21 in the third. Derek Traynor of Aigburth winning against Arthur Harrison of Manweb in two sets. Simpson for Harold House also against Arthur Harrison in two sets. Eugene Berger of Bath St. over Steve Perry of Wavertree Lab in two. Yours truly (Police 'C' over Ashley of Manweb 23/21 in the third. A couple of other results from the top . . . Manweb 7, Police 'B' 3. Singles for Rawlinson, Wright and Chalkley. Waterloo 6, Wavertree Lab 4 – a fine double from Geoff Myles.

Congratulations to all the winners, and a "see you next season" to all my fellow 'also rans'. I hope you, like me, have enjoyed this season. I found that every game was played in a highly competitive spirit, but with an abundance of sportsmanship and friendliness that is rarely found in competitive sport. I leave you with one thought to carry you through our British Summer looking forward to the Autumn . . . Waterloo and Manweb are promoted. You won't have to play against them next time. Have a good summer, be careful in the sun, and don't drink too much Sangria. See you in September!

STAMP CUP

MANWEB 'C'6 WAVERTREE LABOUR1

Arthur Harrison lost to evergreen Mabel Neary 17-21, 21-19, 8-21 and then a straight run through for the strong Manweb side. Jennings beat Perry 18 & 12. Ashley beat Ray 21 & 14. Carney & Jennings beat Neary & Perry 14 & 8. Harrison & Ashley beat Ray & Armson 9-21, 21-17, 21-11. Jennings beat Armson 20-22, 21-17, 21-14. Ken ran out of puff. Pete Carney beat Mabel to clinch the deal 21-9, 21-18.

League official: Mike Power. Club official: Rob Davies. Trophies presented by Mike. Played at CADWA.

FORREST CUP

CADWA 'C'5 BATH ST. 'D'5

Steve Graham lost to Val Franco 19-21, 23-21, 15-21. Good game, good start! Steve & Peter Roberts beat Dave Aimson & Reg Edwards 17 & 9. Jack Highton lost to Reg 8-21, 21-18, 10-21. Peter beat Alex Gould 13 & 17. George Higham lost to Dave 19-21, 21-17, 19-21. Quite a battle going on. Steve beat Reg 15 & 18. Higham & Highton beat Franco & Gould 18 & 11. Highton beat Gould 21-15, 18-21, 21-18 (phew!). Cadwa 5-3 up! Higham lost to Franco 16 & 16. So its all up to Peter & Dave. Dave the hero 17-21, 21-10, 15-21.

Played at GPT. League official: Chris Ford. Club official: Trevor Owen.

FORREST CUP - REPLAY

BATH ST. 'D'2 CADWA 'C'6

Edwards & Gould lost to Graham & Roberts 13 & 13 (unlucky for some!). Franco & Gould beat Higham & Highton 17 & 14. Edwards lost to Graham 15 & 22. Franco beat Higham 15 & 13 (2-2). Gould lost to Roberts 12 & 10. Aimson lost to Higham 9 & 19. Gould lost to Highton 19 & 18. Franco lost to Graham 14-21, 21-17, 13-21. Good fight!

Played at the Bootle J.C. League official: Mike Power. Club official: Dave Graham. Trophies presented by our president: Arthur Upton.

HYDE CUP

WATERLOO. 'B'6 BOOTLE YMCA1

Andy Armstrong beat Danny Every 15 & 12. Peter Holmes beat John Higham 21-16, 18-21, 21-16. Peter Frazer lost to Tom Killip 22 & 18. Frazer beat Higham 21-19, 19-21, 21-18. Quite a battle! Ray Hibbs beat Roly Wright 13 & 21. Armstrong beat Killip 16 & 13. Holmes clinched the game with a convincing win over Wright 10 & 10.

Played at the Police with Tony Harris the League and Club official and presented the trophies.

RUMJAHN CUP

GPT6 WATERLOO 'B'0

Dave Price & Bob Edwards beat Ricky Brown & Alan Reid 11 & 17. Ian Wensley beat Andy Armstrong 16-21, 21-18, 21-18 with Andy having a good lead in both the latter games. Price beat Brown 12 & 15. Edwards beat Reid 16 & 12. Price beat Armstrong 8 & 14. Wensley beat Brown 21-14, 14-21, 21-10. Short and sweet! No supporters, just officials. League: Stan Clarke. Club: Alan Biggs and Arthur Upton introducing Helen & Janet Rumjahn who presented the trophies.

FRANK MURPHY TROPHY

MANWEB.....5 WAVERTREE LABOUR3

Trevor Hughes (16) beat Mike Tierney (5) 31-28, 24-31, 31-22. Alun Evans (15) lost to Roy Smith (5) 25 & 22. Alan Biggs (14) beat Alan Timewell (5) 25-31, 31-26, 31-19. Evans lost to Tierney 27 & 27. Biggs beat Smith 21-13, 31-27, 31-23. Hughes lost to Timewell 26 & 29. Score three all. A cracking game! Alan on again losing to Evans 31-24, 28-31, 31-21. Hughes & Smith with everything to play for. Trevor won 16 & 29 with power, particularly his backhand. He had the large crowd and Roy shattered.

League official: Ken Armson. Club official: Mike Power. Arthur Upton introduced Moira Lovelady who presented the trophies and kindly provided refreshments. (I think Joe buttered the bread). Frank's ex-English Electric team mates who were instrumental in the idea of this memorial trophy - Mike, Ted and Allen - were on parade. They never miss!

READMAN CUP

Stuart Richards beat Gary Watson 14 & 12. Chris Ford lost to Bernie Wentworth 13 & 9. Paul Hutchings beat Dave Roberts 10 & 10. Richards lost to Wentworth 21-19, 12-21, 14-21. Hutchings beat Watson 10 & 11. Hutchings & Richards beat Wentworth & Roberts 17 & 13. Ford lost to Roberts 13 & 15 but man of the match Hutchings beat Wentworth 15-21, 23-21 (Oh dear, from behind, close!), 21-14.

Great game! Superb crowd! Robbo goes on for ever. I remember seeing him beat Gordon Birch in a final about 1932. League official: Keith Williams. Club official: Mike Power. Arthur Upton presented the trophies.

TABLE EDGES

Cancellations – have you heard of them? What a menace to our game!

Titanic Norman Cook semi-final giving Wirral 3. Kevin Dolder clinching the game 5-4.

With three of the local leagues in the semi-finals, the Norman Cook Trophy was quite a Merseyside affair. Liverpool beating Business Houses who received four points each game 5-1. Kenny Jackson being the lone winner.

The triumphant Liverpool team was Paula French, Kevin Dolder, Stuart Richards and the man who never fails: Keith Williams.

Natasha Williams won the Welsh Top Ten Tournament at Cardiff and is now set for the Commonwealth and World Championships in Singapore and China respectively. What a great experience! Brings back memories of Tony Clayton.

Incidentally Chester Barnes, who made way for Tony in his really great experience is now a Mr Big in the horse racing world.

Ladies and gents teams both runners up in Division 1 Lancashire & Cheshire League Vets. Third in Division 1 Vets A runners-up in Division 4.

To John McKim a happy retirement. He has served us well and truly, but Arthur has said it all. He had better get a bit of advice off Eddie on how to react in NOT having the phone ringing at all hours.

To the players of last year's Third Division and this year's Fourth Division I offer my sincere apologies for the lack of notes. Both correspondents were given nearly a month to produce them. I am thoroughly disgusted that they have let their friends and fellow players down so badly for not sparing a little time to give a resume of the season after offering to do the job.

EDITOR

MY TRIBUTE TO PETER D'ARCY

If anyone were to ask me – how did I start playing Table Tennis? – well it was through Peter D'Arcy.

I started work in January 1956 at the Union Marine & Phoenix Insurance Office in Liverpool. Peter started later, June or July, in the same statistical department. He had played table tennis in the RAF and was playing at the Liverpool YMCA.

During the next couple of years he got together a few of the other lads who were also playing table tennis in the office. Don Tarr, Victoria Park, Liverpool League; Geoff

Riley, Thingwall, Wirral League; and Jim Massam, Formby, Holy Trinity, Southport League, and got the company to do up a spare attic room and provide a table, and started a team off in the Liverpool Business Houses League. As they practiced during the lunch hour, one day Peter said to me why didn't I go upstairs and have a go at playing table tennis – as some of the girls were now starting to do – so I did and got hooked. I 'played' nearly every lunch time and actually got used as a reserve for the 2nd team that had been formed, towards the end of season 1957-58. I became a regular team member - season 1958-59.

Then near the start of season 1959-60 Peter said to me that he thought I should play for a Club in the Liverpool League, promptly produced a handbook, asked where I lived and gave me the address of the Club nearest to me, which was Oakhill TTC, Deane Road, Liverpool 7, only about half-a-mile away, gave me the phone number of the secretary, told me to ring up and 'make enquiries' which I did. And so my involvement with table tennis really began.

I can truly say, that it is only because of Peter D'Arcy that I am playing table tennis at all.

Thanks, Peter.

MABS (as Mabel Francis)

LIVERPOOL CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS 1995

The new venue for this year's Championships was the Everton Park Sports Centre, Great Homer Street and on Sunday 5th March, commencing soon after 9am, the Divisional Individual Events got underway. The finals of these events took place early in the afternoon, when the finalists were presented with their awards by Mr Norman Wilkinson and Mr Dick Johnson, senior officials of the Liverpool Leisure Services Directorate, through whom this new venue had been arranged.

The Divisional events and the Men's Singles event were as usual played initially in groups, as was the Open Doubles later in the afternoon, while others were arranged as a straight knock-out.

The holder of the Men's Singles Title, Kevin Dolder, was hoping not to be able to attend this year's event as he was playing in the English Closed on the Saturday and if he was successful then, he would be required to continue further on Sunday. However, he was eliminated on Saturday, so he came and defended his title on Sunday, reaching the semi-final.

The two Men's semis were held at the Police Club on Tuesday 14th March, and Kevin opened the evening's events with a two straight win over this year's top seed, Paul Hutchings, following this up with an exciting final event of the evening, defeating Keith Williams in three sets to secure his Men's Champion Title again and still a junior. Keith, seeded number two, came through a very close match in his semi against the third seed, Bernie Wentworth.

Bernie, however, had some consolation in the Doubles, when with his partner, Dave Roberts, the Wavertree Labour pair recorded a win over their Wavertree Labour colleagues, Michael Tierney and Gary Watson, in the Final, to retain their Title, but how close it was!

The Veterans' Cup, the Linacre Cup, was won by Peter Lee, who had to overcome a very determined Roy Smith in the Final. Peter had defeated Kenny Jackson in the semi, while Roy had a tremendous battle against Dave Roberts in the other semi before claiming his place in the Final.

Only four entries in the junior event was extremely disappointing, as was the Women's entry, only three in the end, with Mabel Neary getting a bye into the Final. Lee Farley beat Jay French in the Junior Final and although both boys were obviously nervous playing in front of a large audience, not doubt the experience will be of benefit to them for future success.

The Women's Final produced an easy win for Paula French, who had won this event ten years ago in 1985. Mabel, incidentally, won the Women's title way back in 1970 and again in 1987.

The various trophies were presented to the finalists during the Finals evening at the Police Club by Mr and Mrs W. Fawley and Mr and Mrs L. Crone, representing our main sponsor, the Bill Fawley Construction Company Limited, to whom we owe a sincere vote of thanks for their continued support and genuine interest in our affairs.

Most of the players and officials I have spoken to were pleased with the conditions for Tournament play at the Everton Park venue and, although comparisons with Kirkby Sports Centre will, of course, continue to be made, I myself felt satisfied that this new venue was certainly more than adequate and was able to fulfil all our requirements. Whether we return there next year is not yet decided. Negotiations have to take place.

I must finish by recording again my thanks to all members, players, officials, Everton Park staff and others, who contributed to the success of this year's Championships, the 63rd I am told. I first took charge of these Liverpool and Merseyside events in 1962, so it is recorded and although I believe I can continue for another year or two (perhaps even three or four!) I was wondering if there are any young prospective trainee referees out there anxious and waiting to take over. If so, don't be shy, let me know that you are interested and I will explain how you can become qualified.

BRIAN LEESON

THE BILL FAWLEY LIVERPOOL CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

Sponsored by Bill Fawley Construction Co. Ltd.

Supported by Liverpool Leisure Services Directorate

1. Mens' Singles: Semi-Finals:		1st	2nd	3rd
Paul Hutchings	v Kevin Dolder	17/21	11/21	-
Keith Williams	v Bernie Wentworth	21/18	19/21	21/15
2. Junior Final				
Jay French	v Lee Farley	10/21	7/21	-
3. Veterans' Final				
Roy Smith	v Peter Lee	13/21	22/24	-

4. Open Doubles Final

Bernie Wentworth v Michael Tierney 21/10 23/21 21/19
and Dave Roberts and Gary Watson

5. Ladies Final

Paula French v Mabel Neary 21/10 21/10 -

6. Mens' Final

Kevin Dolder v Keith Williams 10/21 21/15 21/18

FINALS STAGED AT EVERTON PARK on SUNDAY 5th MARCH 1995

2nd DIVISION FINAL

P. Gittins v S. Gittins 12/21 21/12 21/16

3rd DIVISION FINAL

Ming Liu v J. Clewett 18/21 21/17 21/13

4th DIVISION FINAL

H. Reeve v S. Graham 17/21 21/10 21/4

5th DIVISION FINAL

Mrs M. Neary v B. Holden 17/21 21/17 21/18

ROUTE TO THE FINAL

MEN'S SINGLES

P. Hutchings	10 17		
P. McLoughan	HUTCHINGS	16 16	
A. Clark	24 27	HUTCHINGS	
D. Roberts	CLARK		17 11
C. Ford	15 20		DOLDER
G. Watson	FORD	12 13	
E. Preston	13 15	DOLDER	-10 15 18
K. Dolder	DOLDER		DOLDER
B. Wentworth	13 13		
J. Huntington	WENTWORTH	15 9	
P. Lee	-19 18 17	WENTWORTH	
C. Spedding	SPEDDING		18 -19 15
K. Jackson	15 16		WILLIAMS
A. Taylor	JACKSON	13 4	
S. Gittins	14 16	WILLIAMS	
K. Williams	WILLIAMS		

DIVISION 1	P	W	L	D	PTS
COLONSAY	22	21	0	1	187
WAVERTREE LABOUR	22	19	3	0	166
LIVERPOOL Y.M.C.A.	22	14	7	1	137
BATH STREET	22	11	7	4	126
WAVERTREE LAB 'A'	22	13	8	1	116
CADWA	22	12	9	1	116
L'POOL Y.M.C.A. 'A'	22	9	12	1	98
BOOTLE J.C.	22	9	12	1	94
CADWA 'A'	22	7	13	2	88
MANWEB	22	5	16	1	72
WATERLOO	22	2	19	1	62
BOOTLE J.C. 'A'	22	2	18	2	58

DIVISION 4	P	W	L	D	PTS
CADWA 'C'	22	19	3	0	149
HAROLD HOUSE 'A'	22	17	3	2	149
BATH STREET 'D'	22	16	5	1	140
WAVERTREE LAB. 'D'	22	11	4	7	127
WAVERTREE LAB. 'E'	22	10	7	5	111
G.P.T. 'C'	22	5	12	5	104
MAGHULL 'B'	22	9	9	4	103
LINACRE	22	6	13	3	101
BOOTLE Y.M.C.A. 'A'	22	7	10	5	98
MAGHULL 'C'	22	7	13	2	97
HAROLD HOUSE 'B'	22	3	13	6	77
AIGBURTH	22	1	19	2	62

DIVISION 2	P	W	L	D	PTS
G.P.T.	22	19	1	2	174
POLICE	22	20	1	1	167
G.P.T. 'A'	22	14	6	2	131
HAROLD HOUSE	22	11	7	4	114
WATERLOO 'A'	22	11	7	4	108
COLONSAY 'A'	22	8	11	3	101
MAGHULL	22	9	12	1	100
BATH STREET 'A'	22	6	11	5	100
BOOTLE J.C. 'B'	22	8	11	3	97
FORDS	22	5	14	3	93
CADWA 'B'	22	4	14	4	82
MANWEB 'A'	22	0	20	2	53

DIVISION 5	P	W	L	D	PTS
WATERLOO 'C'	20	19	1	0	167
MANWEB 'C'	20	17	2	1	161
WAVERTREE LAB 'F'	20	15	2	3	149
POLICE 'B'	20	13	7	0	130
MERSEYBUS	20	8	8	4	107
BATH STREET 'E'	20	6	11	3	82
BOOTLE Y.M.C.A. 'B'	20	6	11	3	78
POLICE 'C'	20	4	12	4	64
COLONSAY 'B'	20	4	13	3	59
HAROLD HOUSE 'C'	20	2	16	2	54
AIGBURTH 'A'	20	4	15	1	49

DIVISION 3	P	W	L	D	PTS
WATERLOO 'B'	22	17	3	2	153
BOOTLE Y.M.C.A.	22	18	2	2	148
G.P.T. 'B'	22	13	6	3	126
WAVERTREE LAB. 'B'	22	11	5	6	121
BATH STREET 'B'	22	10	7	5	116
MANWEB 'B'	22	9	9	3	108
POLICE 'A'	22	8	10	4	104
WAVERTREE LAB. 'C'	22	8	12	2	104
MAGHULL 'A'	22	7	12	3	95
L'POOL Y.M.C.A. 'B'	22	5	16	1	93
BATH STREET 'C'	22	5	14	3	90
UNIVERSITY	22	3	17	2	58