



Table Tennis DIGEST

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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EDITORIAL

No doubt we will all be mulling over the past season and possibly thinking we could have done better. Instead of such thoughts, should we not be reflecting on the steady and unacceptable in-roads being made into our game of foul language and subtle intimidation. Both are illegal and in officially umpired matches heavily stamped on. Not so in league and cup matches umpired by players who are involved in such matches and reluctant to come down heavily on team-mates or opponents because of lack of rule knowledge and inability to administer what they do know. Sad to say, this problem is at its worst in the higher divisions and generally accompanied by the view, "what does it matter? We all know each other". No consideration for anyone other than themselves and expecting others to accept their behaviour.

I have heard of a number of matches at Lincs. & Ches. level where such behaviour has openly taken place and been condoned by those present. You condone something if you take no action or raise no objections. It has become acceptable to use bad or uncouth language to such an extent that the unacceptable has now become acceptable. I do realise that under pressure a player may swear but this does not make it any less an offence. Should an un-intentional lapse occur, the offender will apologise for this and it will be recognised as being un-intentional. It is time we started to clean up our game at local level by positive action. I do know of one player who has made such a stand and the very threat of invoking point penalties had the desired effect.

Intimidation takes many forms, most of them subtle with the most frequent being that of, "next two" or "next one" when a player is trailing or in danger of losing. This is clearly aimed at putting pressure on an opponent by the implication that he or she will lose if these points are secured. Many may not agree with my point of view but I see more matches than most and I know this subtle intimidation can bring its reward. Some will see it as being self encouragement, if so, why is it necessary to make such self encouragement heard by others. There are other instances and I have at times caught the bug myself, for such habits are catching. Such as a winning hit when you are behind accompanied by a shout of, "Yes". Intimidation, exultation or something else? I leave you to decide.

But by far the greatest threat is that of language. If we all let those who use it in any way, be it mild or foul, know of our displeasure, we can stamp it out before it ruins our game. If we continue to accept it then we will be as guilty as those who use it. The League Management Committee will support anyone who complains or takes action within the rules. Better wrong action within the rules than no action at all. Am I just being an old 'fuddy duddy' or do others agree with me? It would be nice to hear your views.

Ken Armson

MATCH SECRETARY'S ROUND UP by Don Davies



Not many leagues manage to capture both the Men's and Ladies first division titles in the same season, but the Liverpool League has completed the 'Double' for the second time in eight years. Although the Men won all eight fixtures, to take the title for only the third time in history, it was arguably the Ladies who deserve the plaudits. They also recorded eight victories after drawing with Wirral in the first match to chalk up their 10th success.

Brenda Buoey, Justine Thomas and Paula French played in all but two fixtures, Kathy Hayden stepping in on each occasion. A year ago we finished second to Manchester, when we were unable to call on Natasha Williams. The Welsh connection was restored when Justine made a welcome return after a spell out of action after retiring from International play when she was number one. This is Brenda's eight championship medal, won 22 years after gaining her first, which was memorable start for me in my first year as League Match Secretary. Paula has seven but of course she wasn't playing when Brenda won in 1974.

A remarkable encounter ensued when we met Manchester, 22 timed division one champions. The Mancunians hadn't won the League for 16 years before signing England number one veteran Doreen Schofield, who helped them to the 1993 title. They relinquished it to Liverpool the following year before it returned along the M62, once again the stonewaller, Doreen, in the ranks. This latest clash though, was a disaster for the ace stodger, who failed to win a single rubber, for the first time in a Lancashire & Cheshire match, Liverpool romping home 8 - 2.

The Men were also unbeatable, and not many team achieve a 100% record in this division. Kevin Dolder and Keith Williams played in every match, Dave Roberts playing in place of Stuart Richards who was unavailable for the pr-arranged final match. In bizarre fashion, we repeated the 9 - 1 drubbing we handed out last year, when they became champions. Dave beat Mickey Malcolm and Ray Ashley, not a bad start for a 45 year old first team debutante!

Notable performances included an 8 - 2 victory over Stockport, a 6 - 4 win against Warrington, after trailing 3 - 0, Kevin beating Mal McEvoy in the last set. A 9 - 1 demolition of newly promoted Wigan, Paul Hutchings failing to notch a singles win. Our first Lancashire & Cheshire League triumph came in 1988 and the title was retained a year later. It took seven years to regain, but what a way to achieve it. Tremendous, well done lads.

In addition to our two title triumphs I have to report another success via the Veterans 'A' team, who, for the third year in row, have gained promotion. Three years ago, Alan Chase, Ted Birch and Mick Allen clinched the sixth division title before finishing as runners-up to Preston 'A' in division four the following season.

The Waterloo trio have again done the League proud, finishing as runners-up, again to runaway champions, Preston 'A'. What a great bunch of lads they are. Aply led by Alan Chase, they have posed not one problem over the three years and I believe that they have just the right mixture of playing to win, but in a sporting manner, which befits the League and all it stands for.

The Veterans first team have found the going tough this season in the top division, their status being secured in the last match of the season via a 7 - 3 victory over relegated Rochdale. A defeat would have condemned them to the second division but a 6 - 4 victory in the opening match against the other relegated side, Macclesfield, proved enough to fight another day.

Dave Roberts, as usual, was the mainstay of the team, he was supported by Michael Tierney and Alan Timewell who suffered through injury during the later part of the season.

LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE RESULTS

MEN

Stockport	H	Won	8 - 2
Bolton	A	Won	9 - 1
Warrington	A	Won	6 - 4
Preston	A	Won	9 - 1
Manchester	H	Won	7 - 3
Wirral	A	Won	7 - 3
Wigan	H	Won	9 - 1
Bury	H	Won	7 - 3

SECRETARY'S COLUMN



For those of you who don't know 1996 is the 70th anniversary of the Liverpool & District Table Tennis League. On 19th November, 1926, the very first league match took place between North Liverpool Y.M.C.A and Halton, won by the latter by 211 points. There have been many changes since then with the League's fortunes and table tennis as a whole fluctuating, from the heydays of the 1930's and 50's to the relative doldrums of the 1980's and early 90's.

So where does our league and the sport of table tennis stand in 1996. Well, our League remains one of the largest in the North West of England, and the successes of our representative teams and players speaks for itself. Table tennis has undeniably moved out of the trough of the 1980's and with more and more juniors taking up the sport the next ten years is likely to see another golden period, hopefully one that will remain.

Your Committee are determined that Liverpool will not to be left behind and are involved in a number of exciting schemes to develop the game locally.

Thanks to the efforts of Stan Clarke, Ken Armson and their team of helpers, junior table tennis has at last returned to the City. The junior coaching sessions at the Picton Sports Centre have been well attended and we have recently started a Woolwich Junior League. This is all good news for table tennis in Liverpool and with the opportunity of introducing the sport into our schools as part of the National Junior Sports programme it all looks well for the future.

Your Committee continues to be involved in a number of projects aimed at securing funding from the National Lottery for a dedicated table tennis centre in Liverpool. Unfortunately I have no news on these projects at the moment but our efforts are continuing and we are keeping our fingers crossed.

Following concerns expressed at last years A.G.M. your Committee have made changes with a view to safeguarding the finances of the League and ensuring that you receive value for money for your subscription fee. Our involvement, by invitation in

(the Police / Business Houses end of season social was a huge success, both socially and as a fund raiser, with a profit of approximately £800.00 made on the night.

We have introduced a new format for the 'Digest' magazine, which is now being produced at half the cost of previous seasons, and we have upgraded the quality of medals and trophies for both the Closed Tournament and for League and Cup competitions.

Overall, it's been a pretty hectic season for me personally and I'd like to thank my fellow committee members for their hard work, advice and support. I also wish to say a big thank you to all club secretaries and officials, without whose enthusiasm and commitment we wouldn't have a league in the first place. **THANK YOU.** **Tony Harris**

LANCS & CHESHIRE RESULTS (Cont)

VETERANS

Macclesfield	H	Won 6 - 4
Burnley	A	Lost 4 - 6
Preston	H	Lost 2 - 8
Stockport	A	Lost 0 - 10
Manchester	A	Lost 2 - 8
Rochdale	H	Won 7 - 3

VETERANS 'A'

Nelson	H	Won 9 - 1
Wirral	A	Won 9 - 1
Halton 'A'	A	Won 6 - 4
Trafford 'A'	H	W/O 10 - 0
Hyndburn	A	Won 9 - 1
Salford/Farnworth	H	Won 9 - 1
Preston 'A'	H	Lost 1 - 9
Bolton	A	Won 9 - 1

LADIES

Wirral	H	Draw 5 - 5
Glossop	A	Won 8 - 2
Southport 'A'	A	Won 10 - 0
Preston	H	Won 6 - 4
Blackpool	H	Won 9 - 1
Oldham	A	Won 6 - 4
Southport	A	Won 8 - 2
Manchester	H	Won 8 - 2
Macclesfield	H	Won 8 - 2

LIVERPOOL CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

1996

by Brian Leeson

Everton Park Sports Centre was again the venue for the Closed Championships on Sunday 18th February, scheduled to start at 9am. but delayed until 9.30 a.m. while a microphone fault was attended to. The day before, during Saturday afternoon, the tables and surround were put into position and I am very grateful to the following nine volunteers who gave up their time to help: Ken Armson, Stan Clarke, Paula French, Martin Hunter, Chris Ford, Keith Williams, Tony Harris, Tom Purcell and Bill Salter.

The Divisional events were completed during the morning, except for the finals, which were played after the lunch break. Mr Dick Johnson, from the Liverpool Leisure Services Directorate, through whom the venue had been arranged, presented the finalists with their awards.

The Men's Singles produced some interesting results and at least one new face at our finals. James Bartolo of Colonsay, having defeated Peter Lee easily, then put paid to Kevin Dolder's chances of retaining the title by winning in three very hard fought sets, 21-13, 12-21, 22-20 in the quarters. Then, facing Bernie Wentworth in the first semi-final, another upset looked possible until Bernie claimed his Final place with a 14-21, 21-16, 21-17 win. Bernie had earlier defeated Chris Ford, two straight and Stuart Richards, two straight in the quarters, setting up a promising final against Keith Williams.

Keith's route to the Final included wins over Roy Smith, Andy Clark and then in the semi a three sets win over Paul Hutchings, 14-21, 21-9, 21-16. Paul had previously won his matches against Paul Jennings and Rob Bevan.

The Final certainly lived up to all expectations. Bernie lost the first game 17-21 but his keen determination won him the second at 22-20. His 'keen determination' however had the effect of making Keith raise his game a gear and he claimed the Men's Title, winning 21-17, now the Liverpool Champion for the seventh time, his first success as long ago as 1977.

Keith, with his partner, Kevin Dolder, also claimed the Doubles Title, defeating Stuart Richards and Paul Hutchings 22-20, 21-23, 21-14 in the Final.

Keith and Kevin had earlier put out Chris Ford and James Bartolo in the semi-final, while Stuart and Paul had knocked out Rob Bevan and Bernie Wentworth.

A new event was introduced this year, this being for Veterans Over 55. The Final, between Peter Taylor and Ted Birch, turned out to be a true test of stamina and fitness, as the scores will indicate, 22-20, 11-21, 21-18 in favour of Ted.

The Veterans Over 40 Event produced a Final that was a repeat of last year's two straight win for Peter Lee, except that this time it took him three games to defeat Roy Smith, 21-19, 15-21, 21-15.

Likewise, the Junior Final was a repeat of last years, Lee Farley again defeating Jay French in two straight games, 21-16, 21-12.

The Women's Event consisted of a round-robin between the three ladies who had entered, namely Mabel Neary, Claire Newns and Paula French. This eliminated Mabel who then umpired the Final between Clare and Paula, being the first time a women has umpired a Women's Final at the Closed. Unless you know differently! However, after a long battle, littered with mistakes by both players, Clare emerged as the new Champion, winning 13-21, 22-20, 25-23. Clare had also become the 2nd Division Champion when she beat Martin Hunter 21-15, 21-14, played during the Sunday events.

The 3rd Division Final saw John Langton defeat Rob Davies 21-19, 21-18, the 4th Division Final gave Neil Jennings a comfortable win over Eddie Preston 21-10, 21-9, while the 5th Division event produced an all Waterloo Final between Austin Hayden and Ken Nelson, Austin eventually winning 21-18, 18-21, 21-17.

Mr and Mrs L. Crone and Mr D. Fawley, representing our main sponsor, the Bill Fawley Construction Company Limited, presented the various awards to the finalist during the Finals Evening at the Police Club on Tuesday 27th February.

Finally, my thanks yet again to the many people who have contributed in so many different ways to the success of our annual Tournament. In particular I must mention Ken Armson, Deputy Referee, who contributes so much time and effort to the organisation of the occasion, and also Don Davies,

who, with Ken, manages to produce such an excellent Finals' Programme, containing interesting pen-portraits of the finalists and other information. My thanks to all.

DIVISION ONE by Paul Gittins

Congratulations to Colonsay. The squad of Paul Hutchings, Stuart Richards, Chris Ford and James Bartolo had the strength in depth to succeed in becoming worthy 1st Division Champions.

Wav. Lab. and Cadwa 1st teams must also be applauded for sustaining the race for the title. They will both perhaps rememise as to what might have been if they had constantly fielded their stronger team. When the three teams met for the return matches they couldn't have been closer. Colonsay's 6-4 win over Wav. Lab. and a draw with Cadwa certainly put them in pole position for the title. Paul Hutchings was influential by taking this three against Wav. Lab. Rob Bevan did well to beat Stuart Richards in three and Bernie Wentworth emulated this by beating Stuart in two straight. Paul was not as successful against Cadwa, losing to Kevin Dolder, 16 in the 3rd and 21-23 in the 3rd to Keith Williams. Keith also managed to beat Stuart deuce in the 3rd. James Bartolo had obviously retained his 'Closed' form by beating Keith in two straight. The Cadwa v Wav. Lab game went 6-4 for Cadwa. No real shocks, although Bernie got his revenge from the 'Closed' by beating Keith.

G.P.T. have excelled themselves by finishing in fourth position. As I've previously mentioned, all three players are capable of getting good results. Bob Edward's three wins against Bath St. and Mike Mahoney's three against YMCA together with Paul Price's wins over Nick Miller, Kenny Jackson and Chris Ford are good examples.

B.J.C.'s team consists of three players with very different styles but equally as talented and although Andy Clark will be pleased winning his three against Rob Bevan, Andy Taylor and Dave Roberts, as a whole, the teams fortune tends to fluctuate. Justine Thomas's two straight win over Nick Miller, who days earlier, had played brilliantly to win the 'Southport Close' sowed the seed for an 8-2 Police win. B.J.C. then entertained YMCA 'A' and annihilated them 9-1, strange but true!

A 6-4 win by YMCA over Bath St contributed to

them finishing 3 points above Bath St. I was particularly interested in the doubles clash between Kenny Jackson / Mick Keane and Peter Lee and Taylor, both partnerships as difficult and shrewd as each other. The YMCA pair came out winner, 19 in the third. It would seem that Kenny Jackson was in danger of losing his No. 1 spot to 'whirlwind' Fred Bainbridge after Fred's tremendous win over Keith Williams and equally impressive win against BJC's Andy Clark. This must certainly be one of Fred's better seasons.

The Police and YMCA 'A' share the next positions with Wav. Lab. 'A' just 2 points below. The Police's 8-2 win over BJC was our turning point and with making the most of a weakened Cadwa 1st team, again winning 8-2, it was enough to avoid the drop. YMCA 'A' also dug their heels in and pulled out the results when required. Pat McLoughlin, Deli Olyumbo and Ming Liu won two a-piece against GPT for a 7-3 win which eased their worries. The match comments praised Deli's lethal forehand loop, a stroke I'm sure he put to good use when beating Keith Williams in two straight, several weeks later. The final position of Wav. Lab. 'A' has really surprised me as I would have expected them to be pushing mid table. Again, I suspect an inconsistent team has taken its toll.

Commiserations to Cadwa 'A' and GPT 'A' who depart to grace the 2nd division next season. I'm certain that one, if not both of them, will bounce back. Both teams competed well and took a few scalps. GPT's Ian Wensley put me, Stephen and John Rankin (remember him?) in our place by stuffing us with a display of brilliant defending. Have you ever noticed that before Ian serves, he gives you a sort of 'Hannibal Lector' smile. Frightening! Worth 5 points a game.

Well, I've thoroughly enjoyed my return to this division, seeing familiar faces and personalities. However, there is one player who has disappointed me, a player who I had previously considered to be a stalwart of the league. A player, come rain or shine, you could rely on, as - for one thing in particular - his 'headband'. Mick Tierney is NOT Mick Tierney without that headband. Can you imagine what would happen if other teams and players discarded their peculiarities? Imagine Bath St. ordering three diet cokes or Jimmy Clewitt serving legally, or even more disastrous, Mike Mahoney wearing 'Y' fronts.

Granted, the headband was not the most hygienic piece of clothing but for that matter neither are Mike Mahoney's boxer shorts. So Mick, please dig it up and wear it with pride.

I've always considered this division to be a high standard and when you consider the English rankings of Paul Hutchings, Bernie Wentworth, Keith Williams and Kevin Dolder, notwithstanding the English ranked Veterans, it would be hard for anyone to disagree as to the quality of the League. It is because of this that I personally feel that some recognition, perhaps in the form of a trophy, should be presented to the player with the highest percentage. This could also be adopted for each division. What do you think?

Whilst on the subject of awards, if we had a player of the season award, then my vote would go to Bob Edwards. Bob's had a great season and apart from being a nice fella, on and off the table, he has improved tremendously over the years. He has developed such a solid game, with a competitive streak, that you know to beat him, you have to be playing well. He also wears a headband - take note Mick.

Anyway, another season over. Time to make false promises about practising through the closed season. Thanks for the comments on the cards, all three of them. See you in September.

DIVISION TWO by Sylvia Graham

It always seems sad to get to the end of the season and to be in the throws of concocting my last set of notes. Another season finished another year over and another year older (Gulp!!!)

Anyway, off we jolly well go! As I predicted at the beginning, the divisional champions were Waterloo. They've really had a good season ... the Man Utd of the division. With the settled side of Alan 'Cole' Chase, Ted 'Schmiekle' Birch and OO! AH!! Mick 'Cantona' Allen, they went from strength to strength. However, like my predictions, they nearly came unstuck when Bath St. had their usual after Christmas purple patch with 58 points from 6 games. I don't know what Father Christmas brings them each year but I'm sure it refreshes the parts others can't reach. Like Newcastle, Colin 'Batty' Owens, Tony 'Beardsley' Kendal and Ian 'Espria' McElwee lost it in the last few games but as runners up they still make it into Europe - well, the 1st

Division anyway.

Condolences to Bootle YM and GPT 'B'. It is a tough division and I'm sure a rest in the third will have you back and fighting fit the season after next. Once you get into a rut in this division it's very difficult to get out again and although the final results didn't show it, there were lots of good sets which always seemed to go the other way.

The two teams I really think deserve a mention are Maghull and Colonsay 'A'. Both teams have strength down the rankings and both seemed to have settled sides. Their last match ended a draw with Claire Newns winning her three. If they both stick to the same sides next year then they both could be up for promotion. My tip for the most improved player is Martin Hunter. He's always had the shots but never quite managed to play them consistently. This year he has paced the game far better and although he lost to both Ricky Brown and Fred Pheysey, it was deuce in the third for both. The rest of the Colonsay squad are females - Brenda, Paula and Clare. As a feminist, all I can say is that they always deserve their wins and rarely deserve their losses!! Now Maghull are another matter. Who is this Trevor? Investigations reveal that he was imported from Newcastle on a free transfer and was immediately sent on an 'English as a foreign language' course so he could communicate with other teams. I have yet to meet him but I am told he is a good player to play against. Matty and Steve I do know but they still continue to surprise me with some of their wins.

Fords have had a low profile this season as have Bootle JC teams. Congratulations to both Julian and Katherine and Stuart and Karen who are about to contribute to JC's youth policy in a big way!

The other two Waterloo teams have had their ups and downs all season. For a while I thought that Waterloo 'A' might be in contention for promotion with the 'B' team at the other end of the scale. It must be very difficult for the club to support three teams in such a difficult division but in the end everything turned out OK for them and I am especially pleased for the 'B' team who fought back valiantly when losing a valued member of their team so suddenly.

I'm sorry if I haven't mentioned everyone but the timescales for these notes were rather tight and I

still have the comments on the cards. Please believe me when I say they are actual comments and the pure unabridged versions too! Quite a plentiful selection.

In the Colonsay v Maghull match, Maghull were 4-1 down and then 5-4 up. Clare's form in the tournament followed her through to win the last set. Trevor did not wear his shorts! (the last comment was from Paula!) In the Bootle YM v Colonsay match, Martin Hunter played well to beat John Higham -12, 12 and 17. When Bootle YM played Bath St. the first match, the doubles, was a real cliff-hanger. Roly and Danny pipped Ian and Colin 24-22 in the first and were 20-14 up in the second but lost it 24-26. The third game was closer than it suggested but they lost it at 16. An omen for the rest of the night. Bath St. won 10-0, although Danny v Tony could have gone either way. In their match v Fords they had a nice win for a change. When you're at the bottom of the table three gamers usually go against you, but not this time. Fords played well but had their usual problems of shifts and an abundance of players to accommodate - 10 used this season - is that a record? When Cherith Graham made her league debut at Colonsay she performed brilliantly and very soon she will be winning many games (not my comment... honestly!!!). At the Fords v Harold House match Graeme Reid had the pleasure of umpiring the expedite of Arthur Pierce and Eddie Clein (and he wasn't even playing in the match!). Bootle YM... yet again. Danny Every admits to being a member of the John Higham fan club but in the match against Bootle JC 'A' he had every reason to scream. After rewinding John's springs he came out fighting, even looping (I never knew Danny had fantasies!) to win his three singles.

On 27/3/96 Waterloo met Bootle YM and the division was won on the 4th set of the night when, 'the old fart' and Mr T' overcame the ageing stars, Hoard and Rosewall in the doubles. Hoard later had a truly great win when he overcame Mr T, handicapped by 'mad cows disease', to record Bootle's only wing of the night (these are not my words - please see disclaimer at front of section).

Now the roles of honour :-

Not many close matches but a record I think for expedites. Three recorded in the League and two in the Cup Final. The players, as you might guess,

were Eddie Clein, Ted Birch, Ricky Brown, John Kenwright and Arthur Pierce. Ted featured in four, Eddie in three and Ricky in two, with John and Arthur recording one each. What a season for the umpires!!

Good wins :-

John Higham (Bootle YM) bt Alan Chase (Waterloo) 16, -22, 18. John Kenwright (H.House) bt Mike Corcoran (Waterloo) 17, -20, 17. Andy Armstrong (Waterloo 'B') bt Ted Gilmour (GPT 'B') -15, 16, 18. Roger Neal (Bootle JC 'B') bt Ricky Brown (waterloo 'A') -17, 20, 17. Mike Moran (Bootle JC 'B') bt Trevor Jones (Maghull) 22, -15, 17.

Facesavers :-

Mark Whittaker (GPT 'B') bt Steve Woods (Maghull) 18, -15, 19. Eddie Crowley (GPT 'B') bt Derek Sullivan (Bootle JC 'A') -17, 16, 19 and Martin Hunter (Colonsay 'A') -17, 13, 8. Sylvia Graham (Bootle JC 'B') bt Mick Allen (Waterloo) 18, -12, 17. John Higham (Bootle YM) bt Alan Chase (Waterloo) 19, -22, 18. Pete Holmes (Waterloo 'B') bt Trevor Jones (Maghull) -19, 17, 15. Ray Hibbs and Pete Holmes (Waterloo 'B') bt Ricky Brown and Fred Pheysey (Waterloo 'A') -19, 20, 17.

DIVISION THREE by Mike Power

As predicted, Lab. 'B' clinched the League and Cup 'Double' in style finishing 21 points ahead of Cadwa 'B' in the League and defeated Bath St. 'C' 6-2 in the Hyde Cup Final. The outstanding player of the season must be Steve Jones, losing only three games, two to fellow team player, Roy Adams, whilst playing for the 'C' team before being re-ranked, and once in the final game of the season to Alan Evans, Manweb, 21-8, 21-16. In the same match John Moore narrowly lost to him, 21-23 21-14, 19-21. I believe Steve's main game is tennis, a well deserved season in Div.2 may change his thinking. Congratulations must also go to Roy Adams, Ritchie Jones, Mabel Neary and earlier on in the season, Joan Connor, who all contributed to winning the title.

My own team Cadwa 'B' struggled like everyone else to stay close to Lab. 'B' and realised with 6 games to go that we were playing for second place. The aim at this stage of the season is to at least draw with your nearest rivals and hope they do the same when they meet each other, and, have good

wins against lower teams. This we just about managed to so, drawing with Lab. 'B' and Police 'A'. lost 4-6 to Bath St. 'B', defeated Manweb and Lpool YMCA 9-1, but what clinched it was a 7-3 win away to Bath St. 'C'. We did have a couple of hiccups, drawing with both Harold House and Cadwa 'C', who have the most improved player in the division, namely Peter Roberts, who not only beat myself and George Higham, two straight, but in the final game of the season recorded a tremendous win over Bobby Owens, 20-22, 21-17, 21-17.

Police 'A' fell away towards the end with bad results, losing 8-2 to Lab 'B' and only picked up 11 points from a possible 20 against the Manweb teams, without Trevor Barraclough taking part for Manweb. They did finish the season on a winning note, claiming 19 points from their final two games both against Lpool YMCA. Gareth Jones had a fine season but maybe too much pressure was put on him knowing he needed to win two every week to keep them in the hunt.

At the other end of the table I'm afraid it's bye bye to both Lpool YMCA and Maghull 'A'. YMCA must have known very early in the season that their days were numbered even with the introduction of Geoff Huntington and George Smith, which came a little too late, with neither of them playing against the top three teams. The Bath St. teams, who finished 4th and 5th will not be pleased because Geoff played against them both and as far as I can tell finished the season with 100%.

The Maghull team lost the struggle for survival in the final week. Both they and Cadwa 'C' had to play Lab 'C' with Maghull ahead by just 1 point. Cadwa went into their match knowing Lab. had beaten Maghull 7-3, a draw would be enough. The whole team played brilliantly to win 7-3 with Peter Roberts and Ray Parkinson claiming 2 wins each. They live to fight another day!

Mid-table we find Lab 'C' and both Manweb teams. Lab. 'C' had the services of Roy Adams until the end of January, without whom they may have finished 4th from bottom. They lost four of their last 5 matches without him, including an 8-2 drubbing by Manweb 'A', when Alan Biggs collected the scalp of Bobby Owens, 21-14, 21-16, but Bobby beat Trevor Barraclough 17-21, 19-21. John Gratton also beat John Ashley, 20-22, 18-21, all 10 games were decided in two straight games.

Just to introduce some controversy, I thought I would repeat an exercise I did a few years ago, in a previous set of notes and list my top 10 players of the season. Here goes :-

1. Steve Jones
2. Geoff Huntington
3. Billy Hargreaves
4. Bobby Owens
5. Roy Adams
6. Rob Peat
7. Trevor Barraclough
8. Alan Evans
9. Gareth Jones
10. John Watson

All letters of complaint to the Editor. Finally, I have been told by a Lab. 'C' member that as hard as he looked in the February Digest he just couldn't find his name mentioned anywhere, so just for you, here it is :- **KEN ROBERTS. Happy Now?**

DIVISION FOUR by Arthur Garnett

So we have come to the end of another fine season. Congratulations to the winners, Waterloo 'C', promoted as Champions, and Maghull 'B' also promoted as runners-up. Heartfelt sympathies to Maghull 'C' relegated from 11th position and Linacre relegated from 10th.

Although the Maghull team only collected a total of 23 points all season, I think they were a credit to their club. I played against them towards the end of the season when their position was hopeless, and yet, they played with determination and resolve that I'm sure will stand them in good stead next season, and help them to return to Div. 4 as quickly as possible. To lose Linacre, however, is a grave blow to our division. They have a problem when Harry Reeve cannot play for them. To consistently lose a player ranked at number 3 or 4 hurts but it is not necessarily fatal, but to lose the player ranked at number 1, for as many weeks as Linacre have, has proved disastrous. It is possible that, with already lost a team - University - from our division, Linacre may avoid the drop. I HOPE SO.

Linacre ended the season with 76 points. In 9th position were GPT 'C' with 90 points and between them and Wav. Lab. 'D' in 3rd position on 114 points, was a spread of just 24 points, that is, just over 1 point per match. I think that shows just how competitive our division was this season. No

easy matches. No easy points. Perfect!

Manweb 'B' showed their calibre in the second half of the season ending in 4th position on 107 points. Neil Jennings, nominated 'best player in the division' by Bert Rivers of Bootle YMCA 'A'. Wav. Lab. 'E', with 104 points in 5th spot, are a much stronger team than the one promoted from Div. 5 just 12 months ago. The inclusion in the team of Paul Faulkner and Mark Miles (nominated 'best player in the division' by me) has strengthened them to the point were they could be challenging next time around.

In 6th place on 103 points were Bootle YMCA 'A'. A strong team which faded slightly in the latter stages of the season. I probably put the boot in when I tipped them for 3rd spot in the last Digest. I'm sure the school head would write..."a good result but should do better".

Bath St. 'D', 7th with 96 points are a good mid-table team, who turn in their better results when they have Val Franco playing at number 1, although they did beat Bootle YM 6-4 without him. In 8th spot were my team, Police 'B' on 93 points. We expected better, especially with Tom Purcell at number 1, but I don't think that Tom realised he was playing for a team with a handicap. George Wright's bad back for one, my age for another, and Bob Rawlinson taking a brick laying course at night school on a Wednesday night. "Hang on Bob, that's our home night"...."Aw, sorry lads, I didn't realise" GPT 'C' in 9th came bottom of the mid-table battle with 90 points and have some solid results to their credit. 6-4 against Bath St. 9-1 against Police. 6-4 against Manweb. "Ah, what might have been".

Close calls, all in the third :-

Tom Downing beat Reg Edwards 23-25

Norm Applebeat Ted Barnes 26-24

Mark Miles beat Bobby Bell 25-23

Bert Rivers beat Frank Lacey 20-22

For the last five years I have been able to watch various sporting events, at home, on my television, via the Astra satellite. This does of course cost me money. Living in a country which appears dedicated to 'market forces' and the power of free enterprise, I don't expect anything for nothing. I do find it somewhat amazing when I hear Members of Parliament and other such persons complaining about Sky Sports Channel 'poaching' all the good

sporting occasions away from terrestrial channels. I think that NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT! Surely a positive approach from the ETTA to the BBC or ITV, or even Channel 4, would bring table tennis regularly to our screens. I believe that it is only through the power of television that youngsters will be brought into our game in large enough numbers to make a real difference. If it means that the ETTA should kow tow to the television moguls then so be it. Our game is tailor made for television. It is fast, exciting, and easily converts to the small screen. Perhaps the TV people want something we are not yet producing. I can't see that. I watch the game week in and week out and rarely do I see a game that I don't think is good. Even at Division 4 standard. If we don't act soon it will be too late. Have a good summer. Don't forget your sunscreen, and don't drink too much sangria. It'll only make you want to pee in the Med.

DIVISION FIVE by James Power

Firstly, congratulations to Waterloo 'D' for a fine performance this season, winning the Division 5 crown. They finished the season as strongly as they started. Since the last report, written at the end of January, they haven't lost a match. Their results have been impressive with 10-0 wins at home to Bootle YM and Harold House, and, 0-10 wins away at Colonsay 'B', Maghull 'D' Harold House 'B' and LHE, who didn't field a team. In those 6 matches, only 4 sets went to 3 games, all in favour of Waterloo. Waterloo 'D' finished the season with 177 points.

In second place on 139 points lie Aigburth, who have been floating around 4th place most of the season. They have also been very impressive over the second half of the season, winning all their matches except against Waterloo 'D'. They have climbed steadily with lots of big 9-1 wins to boost their points total.

Harold House 'B' finished 3rd with 130 points. March was a bad month for H. House, they lost away to Wav. Lab. 'F', 6-4, and Bath St. 'E' 7-3, and a t home to Waterloo 'D', 0-10. They could well have been a lot closer to the top spot if these results were reversed. Bath St 'E' started the March rot by beating H. House 'B' without Les Mulholland and Dave Cohen, but with a fine replacement in Jonathon Kyle. Before this match H. House had

only lost one match, that statistic being increased to four in just over a fortnight.

Bath St 'E' have been near the top of the table all season and eventually settled in 4th place. They may have had Waterloo worried at 2-2 in their home tie, but the Champions ran out eventual winners, 7-3, in an entertaining and skilful match. Alan Willis and George Crowley combined well to win their doubles against Ken Nelson and Austin Hayden, 21-14, 21-13, Alan also scored a fine result beating Ken Nelson in the singles, 22020, 21-17.

Wav. Lab. 'F' finished 5 points behind Bath St, slipping slightly to 5th position, after being pushed hard in the second half of the season. Only 1 point behind Lab. lie Maghull 'D' in 6th place, with 10 wins, 9 losses and one draw, at home against Wav. Lab. 'F'.

Aigburth 'A', Colonsay 'B', Bootle YM and Harold House 'C' fill the places between 7th and 10th place with 97, 85, 68 and 48 points consecutively. None of these teams really caught fire this season but there were some notable performances from many individuals over the season. Colonsay have some promising youngsters with Alan King making good progress (Alan played well at the 'Closed' to beat Allan Willis and James Power in his Group in Div. 5).

LIHE finished bottom on 38 points. They have had to concede games 10-0 on a few occasions when no team could be fielded. They could have had a much better season if they had only held onto the very impressive Franz Kaiser, who, I'm sure, would have turned out to be one of the best players in the division, judging by the match I witnessed him play against Wav. Lab. 'F'.

Finally, I would like to thank Ken Armson, Steve Perry and Paula French for their help in writing these notes over the past 7 months. Thanks also to the one or two people who used the *Match Comments* part of the score card!! If you have time after a match, please try and use it, it can only improve your write up!

Well, I don't know about you, but I can't wait for next season. Have a relaxing summer and good luck for next season.

100 CLUB REPORT

Not a report to be proud of as we are down on membership with the inevitable result of less money available for prizes and less funds for our League. It only costs £12 for a season and this money will be vital if we are to expand coaching and run a successful Woolwich Junior League. If you are interested in taking out membership for September '96 get in touch with me. If already a member and intend to renew your membership again in September it will greatly assist if you let me have your cheque or cash without my needing to chase you up.

Having taken on additional duties for the League as Editor of the Digest and also assisting in, and administering, the Coaching, and taken on the role of Organiser for the Woolwich Junior League, I will be looking to hand over the 100 Club to another member. I would take this opportunity of thanking all those who have supported the 100 Club, past and present, for putting up with my chasing you for money. My thanks, also, to those who have donated without coercion.

Prizes to date, from memory, due to the books being at the Auditors, and not in any particular order:

Ted Birch, Rez Mirdamadi, Faith Moore, Alan Chase, Mary Kennedy, Doris Runjahn, Police, Manweb, Harold House, Eric Young, Harry Nelson, Paul Gittins, and, I think, Maghull.

Volunteers Wanted

Are you interested in taking a coaching course? How about an umpiring certificate? Or would you like to be a referee?

The League is desperately short of coaches and umpires who are willing to give their time to promote our sport.

If either of the above appeals to you, and you would like to put something back into table tennis, please contact Stan Clarke, Ken Armson or Brian Leeson.

Your Help is Needed Now!!

A LITTLE MORE OF THE BILL STAMP YEARS

by Eddie Cameron

Victoria Park entered the League in 1937, their Secretary was Eddie Cameron. The club voted against the 2/- a month fee for the proposed headquarters on the grounds that they were unlikely to use it and that the users should pay.

Our club closed down during the war years as most of our members served in the forces but in 1946 we rejoined. In those days the League Fixture Secretary was Frank Moore from Oakhill. Oakhill was a club with a taut wire fixed just below the outside edge of the table which was used to decide if the edge shot was true or false.

Bill Stamp was a great organiser. We had the greats, Barna, Szabados and Bellak (hope they are spelt correctly) giving exhibitions at the old stadium and the Philharmonic Hall. Almost every player bought a 'Barna' bat for 7/6. I had a 'Ken Hyde' which was cheaper but eventually progressed to a 'Barna' which would last about ten years without a change of rubbers.

Amongst the functions organised by Bill Stamp was a trip on the Mersey ferry, tickets were sold and the big day arrived. On the gangway were a couple of officials from the League checking tickets. Frank Moore arrived, announcing himself as the Fixture Secretary and claiming a free outing. He was not allowed on board. At the next meeting many harsh words were passed and tempers were frayed. I interjected and suggested that rather than have all this hassle why not give the Fixture Secretary a free ticket. Bill Stamp scowled in disapproval. Within a week or two a round robin was circulating from the Fixture Secretary suggesting that Bill Stamp was not a suitable person to be Secretary/Treasurer. There appeared to be two camps forming. I received a copy, presumably because of my comments at the meeting. In my naivety I sent my copy to Bill Stamp asking for his comments, apparently there was a possibility of irregularities in the circular, and the result was the resignation of Frank Moore.

George Williams was then appointed Fixture Secretary, he lasted six months, his job taking him out of Liverpool. I was then asked to take over, apparently Bill Stamp thought an outspoken person was better in the Committee than in the body of the meeting. We held our first Committee meeting

following my appointment in the splendour of the board rooms at the Liverpool Gas Co. I was told to sit on the right hand side of Mr Stamp, a position I was assured was always mine. Don Foulis of the Gas Board moved on and we never held another meeting there.

MAILBOX



Dear Editor,

I am writing on behalf of the members of Linacre TTC to say how sorry we were to hear that Jack Lambert had resigned as Editor of our magazine. We have known Jack since the early days of the North Region when he was a doughty opponent in the English Electric team of that era. A difficult opponent to beat but generous in victory or defeat.

He carried on the same honest approach when he took over as Editor of the 'Digest' and his articles have entertained and educated us for more years than I care to remember. If anyone was out of order, player or official, Jack let them know it in no uncertain manner. His views on the Liverpool Table Tennis scene will be sadly missed.

Thank you, Jack, for all your work in keeping the flag flying at club and league level for all those years.

Yours Sincerely
Frank Lacey, Linacre

ANOTHER TITLE FOR KEN!

Having previously qualified both as an International Umpire and Tournament Referee, Ken Armson recently added to his collection of titles when he successfully passed the stringent examination for Match Referee. Ken can feel justifiably proud of this further achievement and on behalf of the League's members I am pleased to take this opportunity of congratulating him.

Arthur E. Upton
President / Chairman

LANCASHIRE CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS**1996**

by Stan Clarke

The above Championships, held at Blackburn on Sunday 12th May, attracted a larger than usual entry from across the County, the Liverpool League being especially well represented. Our players proved strong enough to dominate all of the Senior events, especially Keith Williams and Paula French who both appeared in all of the Senior Finals, results as follows :

Men's Singles

Keith Williams beat Cadwa team-mate Kevin Dolder

Men's Doubles

Paul Hutchings and Stuart Richards beat Keith Williams and Kevin Dolder

Women's Singles

Paula French beat Colonsay team-mate Brenda Buocy

Women's Doubles

Paula French and Brenda Buocy beat Kirsten Williams and Andrea Harrison of Blackpool

Mixed Doubles

Paul Hutchings and Brenda Buocy beat Keith Williams and Paula French

Veteran Women

Mabel Neary beat Christine Crumblehulme of Bolton

Veteran Men

Derek Watmough of Bolton beat Peter Lee in a closely fought final

Band 2 Men's Singles

Wayne Renton beat Fred Bainbridge

The only area in which a Liverpool player failed to make an impression was in the Junior Events. Let us hope that we can improve that situation in the near future.

CUP FINAL RESULTS 1995/96**READMAN CUP**

CADWA	6	L'pool YM	3
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RUMJAHN CUP

Waterloo (after a replay)	6	Waterloo 'A'	4
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HYDE CUP

Wav. Lab. 'B'	6	Bath St. 'C'	2
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FORREST CUP

Waterloo 'C'	6	Wav. Lab. 'E'	2
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STAMP CUP

Waterloo 'D'	5	Aigburth	0
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FRANK MURPHY CUP

Wav. Lab. 'B'	5	Aigburth 'A'	3
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LEAGUE WINNERS**Division 1**

Winners	Colonsay
Runners - Up	Wav. Labour

Division 2

Winners	Waterloo
Runners - Up	Bath St. 'A'

Division 3

Winners	Wav. Lab. 'B'
Runners - Up	Cadwa 'B'

Division 4

Winners	Waterloo 'C'
Runners - Up	Maghull 'B'

Division 5

Winners	Waterloo 'D'
Runners - Up	Aigburth

READMAN CUP

Played at the Police Club with Cadwa and Lpool YM in contention, the eventual outcome never really being in doubt. With Cadwa not having a third qualified team member a reserve, Ahmed Thabet, played. This gave YM an outstanding chance of a possible draw first time round. As expected, YM, having won the toss, called Ahmed with each call but on calling the doubles, lost this and with it any chance of a draw. All nine sets were decided in two and Keith, in fine form, was clearly player of the match. A long awaited cup win (6-3) for Cadwa and an entertaining night of good table tennis from both teams. Don Davies produced an excellent and informative programme which almost eclipsed Keith's efforts at the table.

RUMJAIN CUP

With both finalists being from the same club, Waterloo, it was agreed that the neutral venue be Waterloo. The only Final to go to a replay, the first match not being settled until after midnight. Two hard fought matches with no prisoners taken and no frills. Having already clinched their 'Yo Yo' return to the 1st Division the 'Terrible Trio' encountered fierce opposition to their 'Double' bid, Ricky Brown, Fred Pheysey and Alan Reid giving of their best.

The re-play see-sawed to 3-All and at that stage the pressure began to tell on the underdogs. They managed drag themselves back into the fight at 4-4 but Alan Chase went on and killed off their hopes of a second draw and countdown, producing some tremendous table tennis against Ricky Brown, to clinch the 'Double' for the 'TT'. Having a drink after the match and having partaken of yet another excellent buffet, the 'TT' rubbed it in as to my forecast - not really a forecast - in 1995 when I said I doubted they would return. Well, never one to hold back, I forecast that while their return will enrich and enhance next seasons 1st Div. matches, they, to mis-quote Mac Arthur, shall return whence they came. Two great matches, a sportingly contested Final and a 'Double' clinched for the winners. What more could you ask for as a spectator?

Played at Police with Bath St. 'C' and Wav. Lab 'B' the finalists. A little bit of history here in that Roy Adams, having been a member of a losing team in a earlier round, now found himself in the Final as a member of another team. Bath St. having won the toss called on Mabel Neary v Bill Clayton in the expectation that, having beaten Mabel easily in a League match, Bill would get their challenge off to a good start. Alas for such expectations, Mabel having other views. She took the first comfortably, lost her way in the second and then burst back into life in the third to overwhelm her opponent and set her team on course to victory and a League and Cup 'Double'. Bath St. put up spirited opposition and in doing so, kept themselves in the hunt by taking a doubles set which should have gone Labours way. But the final issue was never in doubt and the match ended a 6-2 victory for Lab 'B'.

FORREST CUP

I played in this, well, I stood at one end of the table and can say with confidence we were only there for the grub. Played at Bottle YM, who had gone to great lengths to ensure adequate seating was available and that the refreshments matched the occasion, with Waterloo 'C' and Wav. Lab 'E', the finalists. Having lost 10-0 and 9-1 in the League it was all a formality for Wav. Lab., only Mark Miles providing Waterloo with any opposition. He won a singles and a doubles, partnered by Paul Faulkner. An easy 6-2 victory and the clinching of a League and Cup 'Double' for a strong and sporting Waterloo team. Mind you, there were great sacrifices made by the Labour team in that Ken Ray passed up a Liverpool home match - can't recall their opponents, but it was a big match - and I gave up the chance of umpiring at the English Open which was the first of the newly formed Pro-Tour events. Not to be outdone, Ritchie Cragg also made a sacrifice in that drink cannot be taken from the bar up to the T.T. room so he had to wait until the match was over. Having had a pre-view of the 2nd Div. notes, I wonder what name Sylvia will bestow on Ritchie when he gets, as he eventually will, back to that division. It was an enjoyable Final and Jim Geddes and Roly Wright ensured the venue and the refreshments were a credit to their club.

STAMP CUP

Played at Manweb with Waterloo 'D' and Aigburth the finalists this was to be another foregone conclusion and the recording of another League and Cup 'Double' for the victors, Waterloo 'D', who overwhelmed their opponents 5-0. No real info on this match due to my playing as a reserve that night and only arriving at the venue as Ken Nelson was departing with the cup.

FRANK MURPHY CUP

This was the Final which provided atmosphere, tension etc., the two contestants, the highly handicapped Aigburth 'A', the other, middish range, Wav. Lab. 'B'. Aigburth 'A' were on for a unique hat-trick having disposed in earlier rounds, of Lab. 'A' and 'C'. They had also humbled the 'Terrible Trio' 5-0 in their semi-final and looked clear favourites, not to mention their handicaps of one 22 and two 24's. Lab. 'B' had disposed of Aigburth 'B' in a close 4-5 1/4 final and also beaten a favoured handicapped team, Bath St. 'C' in the semis. The match see-sawed 1-1, 2-2, the Aigburth made the same fatal mistake as Bath St. 'C' in the Hyde Cup Final in underestimating Mabel by calling her back on after she had put her team into a 3-2 lead. She had to face Jim O'Grady off 24 to her 17 and emerged a winner after a tremendous tussle 29, - 26, 29, which had the spectators enthralled. This gave Wav. Lab. a 2 set lead and needing only one more for victory. Aigburth came back fighting in the next set when Derek Traynor, who was unwell, easily defeated Mabel's Hyde Cup team-mate 28, 24. Aigburth had to choose the next game and called Ritchie back on, no doubt feeling that having lost to Derek, who was off 22 to his 14, he would not relish facing Jim O'Grady off 24, who had only narrowly lost to Mabel, thus getting them back to 4-4. This was, although they did not realise it at the time, was to be their undoing, for Ritchie was all fired up and eager to make amends for his previous defeat, and he is nothing, if not, a fighter. What followed was handicap table tennis at its best as Ritchie battled to claw back the 14-24 handicap and Jim battled to get his team back into the match and make full use of his handicap. Ritchie won in two straight, 32-30, 33-31 but not without some heart stopping moments as Jim so very narrowly failed to level the scores. A set which could have gone either way went Labours way

because of Ritchies tenacity and unwillingness to accept defeat, even when it was staring him in the face. A win for Wav. Lab. 'C' 3-5, an even greater victory for the Handicap Event.

We have not yet got the handicaps completely right, these were, but with yet another memorable Frank Murphy Memorial Cup Final, who cares. I am not one for remembering past events but this season we have had three League and Cup Doubles, all involving the same club, with three Final's teams there only because of a rule mis-judgement by opponents. Is this a record? Congratulations to winners and losers for having made every Final a sporting occasion. Our special thanks to the Officials, host clubs and secretaries for arranging or providing refreshments.

SNIPPETS

The 44th World Championships will be here in just eleven months, in Manchester, from April 24th to May 5th, 1997.

We joined forces with the Police and L'pool Business Houses to enjoy our first end of season Presentation & Social Evening for some years and it was a great success. The League also benefited financially from a share of the profits. Support from the clubs was good, from some abysmal. Star club being Maghull who sensibly organised a mini bus. Mark the next one in your diaries when the date is announced and get along and enjoy a friendly social evening with all your club mates and opponents.

This season, new and improved awards were introduced for Cups and Leagues and the Management Committee would like to know your views on these. This is always a difficult area and contrary to views expressed, much thought goes into this important aspect. As always, cost is a factor, but not necessarily the most important. There are plenty of avenues for expressing your views, via your club, the League Secretary, your magazine or by attending the League AGM or handbook meeting.

Apparently wrong information was given out in the last issue regarding Linaere's 50th anniversary, which is not 1996 but a couple of years later. The info was taken from an article in an old Digest.

TABLE EDGES, NETS & ECHOES OF THE PAST

A past stalwart of our League, Len Davies, passed away in January, aged 74 after many years of ill health. Len was secretary of L'pool C.C. renamed Pirates when they moved to the Yacht Hotel, Duke St. Len was quite a character as were some of his players. One, Maureen King, is now making a name for herself as a writer of gay plays and short stories and has also made a video on Liverpool. Len had an unusual send off in that his ashes were sent sailing down the Mersey on a wreath in the shape of a boat, launched from Otterspool Prom.



Cups ! What has happened to our Divisional cups ? It would seem that most have vanished, leaving us with only medals to award at the Presentation Evening.

Congratulations to Keith Williams who rounded off his best season ever and produced possibly his best performance of the season when he took the Men's Singles title at the Lancashire Closed. A worthy champion who has brought much credit to our League over the years and whose behaviour at the table is an example to us all.

Paula French made up for her Liverpool Closed Final defeat by beating Brenda Bucey, 23 - 21 in the third after saving match point.

Had Brenda taken that point it would have been her second success, 24 years after winning the Preston Guild Lancashire Closed title in 1972. What an amazing player she still is.

Junior coaching, supported by City Leisure Services is still taking place at Picton Sports Centre every Monday between 4 - 6 pm and more assistance is needed. If you can help out, just go along, you will be more than welcome. No qualifications necessary, just a willingness to help out.

We have also started a Woolwich Junior League on Thursdays 4 - 6 pm at the same venue with 12 teams. We will be looking to improve on this next season with more input from schools. Ken Armsom is the organiser.

Many thanks to Jim Cannon (Bootle YM) who has carried out essential repairs to tables used for coaching, which had been damaged due to mishandling in the S.C. Without his in-valuable assistance most tables would now be unusable. Well Done, Jim!

Congratulations to Mabel Neary and Tom Purcell, soon to be fully fledged County Umpires, having now taken their final practical test at the Blackpool 3 star. Steve Perry has passed the written test and is awaiting his practical and others are in the pipeline. Hopefully this renewed interest will enable us to introduce official umpires at Cup Finals.

Outstanding personality of 1995 / 96 season in a non playing capacity has got to be Tony Harris. He has taken to his role of League Secretary like a duck to water and proved yet again the truth in the saying, no one is irreplaceable. Well Done, Tony!!

Congratulations to both Mens and Ladies teams on winning their respective divisions in the Lancashire and Cheshire League. We are without doubt the strongest League in the North West and the Lancashire Closed bears testimony to that claim.

Allen Chase, Ted Birch, and Mick Allen are off to Lillehammer in Norway in June for the World Veteran's Championships. They played in Dublin so I suppose they are getting used to the world stage. I'm sure they will enjoy themselves.

DIVISION 1	P	W	L	D	PTS
COLONSAY	22	20	2	0	178
WAV. LABOUR	22	18	3	1	161
CADWA	22	19	2	1	158
G.P.T.	22	11	9	2	117
BOOTLE J.C.	22	12	10	0	116
LPOOL. Y.M.C.A.	22	11	8	3	106
BATH ST.	22	10	11	1	103
POLICE	22	6	14	2	90
LPOOL. Y.M.C.A.'A'	22	5	14	3	90
WAV. LABOUR 'A'	22	6	11	5	88
CADWA 'A'	22	4	16	2	73
G.P.T. 'A'	22	1	21	0	40

DIVISION 4	P	W	L	D	PTS
WATERLOO 'C'	20	20	0	0	162
MAGHULL 'B'	20	14	5	1	132
WAV. LABOUR 'D'	20	8	7	5	114
MANWEB 'B'	20	11	7	2	107
WAV. LABOUR 'E'	20	11	8	1	104
BOOTLE Y.M.C.A. 'A'	20	9	8	3	103
BATH ST. 'D'	20	7	11	2	96
POLICE 'B'	20	8	11	1	93
G.P.T. 'C'	20	6	11	3	90
LINACRE	20	5	12	3	76
MAGHULL 'C'	20	0	19	1	23

DIVISION 2	P	W	L	D	PTS
WATERLOO	22	17	2	3	158
BATH ST. 'A'	22	16	4	2	151
WATERLOO 'A'	22	15	3	4	143
MAGHULL	22	8	9	5	123
HAROLD HOUSE	22	11	9	2	118
COLONSAY 'A'	22	11	9	2	111
BOOTLE J.C. 'A'	22	7	11	4	106
BOOTLE J.C. 'B'	22	10	11	1	102
FORDS	22	8	11	3	97
WATERLOO 'B'	22	3	17	2	74
BOOTLE Y.M.C.A.	22	4	14	4	74
G.P.T. 'B'	22	5	15	2	63

DIVISION 5	P	W	L	D	PTS
WATERLOO 'D'	20	20	0	0	177
AIGBURTH	20	14	3	3	139
HAROLD HOUSE 'B'	20	15	5	0	130
BATH ST. 'E'	20	9	8	3	109
WAV. LABOUR 'F'	20	8	8	4	104
MAGHULL 'D'	20	10	9	1	103
AIGBURTH 'A'	20	9	9	2	97
COLONSAY 'B'	20	7	11	2	85
BOOTLE YMCA 'B'	20	4	14	1	68
L.I.H.E.	20	0	18	2	38
POLICE 'C'	Record Expunged				

DIVISION 3	P	W	L	D	PTS
WAV. LABOUR 'B'	22	18	0	4	162
CADWA 'B'	22	14	3	5	141
POLICE 'A'	22	12	3	7	134
BATH ST. 'C'	22	13	5	4	127
BATH ST. 'B'	22	11	9	2	118
WAV. LABOUR 'C'	22	9	9	4	112
MANWEB 'A'	22	7	11	4	105
MANWEB	22	8	10	4	102
HAROLD HOUSE 'A'	22	6	13	3	89
CADWA 'C'	22	4	16	2	87
MAGHULL 'A'	22	4	14	4	84
LPOOL. Y.M.C.A. 'B'	22	3	16	3	59