



Table Tennis **DIGEST**

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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EDITORIAL

The 44th World T.T. Championships, which took place recently, are now just a pleasant memory for the many members of this League who attended as spectators. For them it was a feast of top class T.T. but the reality of it all may well be viewed in a different light by others. The ETTA will not be picking up any accolades but Manchester City Council will be picking up a hefty bill in the region of £2m, possibly more, having agreed to underwrite the Championships.

Too many organisational matters went wrong and whilst these may have gone unnoticed by spectators they did not go unnoticed by the participating countries, their officials and players. One major problem which was forcibly brought to the notice of spectators were the seating arrangements for Finals Day. To say these were disastrous would possibly, in the eyes of some, be an understatement. Not that the Saturday and Sunday were much better. With the current trend of 'who can I sue today' approach, it will be no surprise if some would be spectators deprived of their booked seat, sue the City Council. A factor the Championships did bring home was the lack of a suitable national venue to stage such an event, for it was the unsuitability of the G-Mex which gave rise to many problems. To the best of my knowledge, no showers or adequate changing facilities were available for the players. Neither was their adequate accommodation available to meet the many requirements of an event of that size. No doubt many discussions will take place to identify just where and how it all went wrong. One contributory factor being the number of countries involved and the facilities and cash flow required to cater for them. Instead of seeking to apportion blame the ITTF would be better occupied looking at the format of the Championships with the aim of introducing Continental qualification as is done in other sports. This will reduce the huge financial outlay and ensure that only the very best teams are involved in the final knock-out stage.

The W.C. themselves appear to have, as the main attraction, two weeks all expenses paid, semi working holiday for many of the participants and fringe personnel. For delegates to the ITTF biennial meeting, which takes place for just one day during each W.C. it appeared to be just that, a paid holiday. Not all delegates arrived for the full period but most were there for at least a week. Just how much this cost the ITTF is a question well worth asking for whatever their share of the cost, the money they so freely spend comes from the affiliation fees of ordinary players world-wide, which includes you and I. The good news about our own Closed Championships is that you are all more than happy with the format etc. of these as indicated by no letters having been received on the subject. Likewise, the service aspect, no letters indicating everyone is happy to have players ignore the service rule and use their own version. That has got to be good news for those of you with a dodgy service.



Norman Cook Memorial Trophy Winners, Keith Williams, Brenda Buoey; Non playing captain, Don Davies, Stuart Richards and Kevin Dolder

The Liverpool & District League is the best in Lancashire and Cheshire. Who says so? The Men's and Ladies teams of course since they have retained their respective division one titles in champion style.

The Men again won every match and along with the help of a Lady, annexed the Norman Cook Memorial Trophy for a record fifth time. In doing so, the League surpassed Fleetwood's four in a row in the early 1980's, but more of that later.

After winning all eight matches in 1995/96, repeating the feat seemed to be a tall order. But in fact that is what was required for with just two matches to play, we faced last season's runners up, Wirral at CADWA. At that stage both teams had 12 points, Wirral having shared the spoils on two occasions. They required both points and when leading 3-1, the writing was on the wall for the champions, when up stepped captain marvel, Keith Williams to beat Rob Bevan, having already accounted for CADWA team mate, Ian Eaton. He then joined forces with Kevin Dolder to pip the Bevan/Wentworth combination to level at 3-3. That seemed to deflate Wirral and the champions moved into a 5-3 lead before Eaton got the better of Dolder to keep his side in with a chance of a draw. Williams, though, just one year short of becoming a veteran, notched his fourth victory of the match, his 2 games to 1 victory over Wentworth sealing the points and the.

This side can and should put in another strong challenge next season, but beware of your cross river rivals! Well done, you deserve it

Co-incidentally, Wirral Ladies were the only side to push Liverpool to the limit, forcing a draw against the champions for the second year in succession. Whilst the Wirral Men can have little complaint about their runners up spot, their counterpart female team must count themselves a shade unlucky to finish with an almost identical record to Liverpool's. Both Leagues won seven, lost non with one drawn

The champions retained their title by virtue of a better sets aggregate of 65-15 to 63-17, both leagues having 15 points. In fact Wirral had completed their fixtures on 15 points while Liverpool had to take maximum points from their last three matches. A 6-4 win at home to last season's runners up, Oldham was quickly followed by a 10-0 victory over Macclesfield. If Southport took three sets off Liverpool, then a unique play off would be required to decide the destiny of the title. A Mabel Neary victory though over Denise Conroy was all the Sandgrounders could muster and the trophy was retained, our eleventh overall triumph and on the 50th anniversary of the first championship won by Liverpool in 1947.

In the knock out competitions, Liverpool won the Norman Cook Memorial trophy for a fifth time, this year beating Wirral by 5 sets to 0. Following 5-1 victories over Liverpool Business Houses and Barrow, we faced Burnley at home and emerged with a 5-3 success. By now, Brenda Buoey, making her first outings in the competition for many years, replaced the injured Paula French. She didnt lose a set in her matches against Barrow and Bumley and when the crunch came in the final against Wirral she faced her Bath St. team-mate, Claire Newns. Brenda, who was on the losing side in 1988, played superbly to beat the England number 31, to help the side to a tremendous 5-0 victory.

Don Davies

SECRETARY'S COLUMN



Exciting news, 'hot off the press', is the awarding of a 4.6 million pound grant from the National Lottery to the Liverpool University consortium, for the building of a 3,000 seater, Sports and Events Centre, in Grove Street, Toxteth.

Your Committee have been involved with this project from an early stage and the efforts of everyone involved have been rewarded, as the centre will include a table tennis room, capable of holding 6 tables, which will be available for table tennis for 40 hours a week.

Obviously a lot of hard work is required between now and 1997 when the Centre is due to open so if you are interested in being a part of this exciting project, please contact me.

The ETTA Grand Prix Tournament, planned to take place at the Wavertree Tennis Club on Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st August, 1997, will now take on the famous title of the 'Merseyside Open'. This is more good news for TT in Liverpool and we must take full advantage of the opportunity to further promote our sport. Again, if you can provide any help, please contact Stan Clarke or any member of the Committee.

Further good news is the continued success of our City teams, ensuring that we remain as the top League in the North West. Congratulations to both the Men's and Ladies teams on retaining their respective division one titles, and to the mixed team for picking up a fifth Norman Cook Memorial trophy. Tremendous!!

Table tennis has been in the doldrums in Liverpool for far too long when compared with other parts of the country. The hard work of your Committee members over the last couple of years is now coming to fruition and I am confident of a thriving table tennis scene in the City, in the not too distant future.

Although you are all probably looking forward to a well earned rest, the next few months is one of the busiest times for certain members of your Committee, as teams, divisions, fixtures and the handbook etc all have to be sorted out. With this in mind would all Club Secretaries please try and get the necessary forms completed and returned in plenty of time, so we can have a smooth transition

into the 1997/98 season.

Enjoy your break and I hope to see you all next season.

Tony Harris

Tony Harris

100 Club Report by Ken Armson

It has not been a very good season membership wise and I have yet to find a volunteer to take over from me. It can be hard work chasing up members for their £12, now you know why those paying by D.D. or in advance by cheque are so popular. I can't help wondering if we would receive better and more willing support if the 100 Club profit was used for something more positive and beneficial to our League than just going into the General Fund, such as purchasing equipment for coaching and League use. If you have a view on this aspect why not drop a line to our Secretary or myself.

A big thank you to Eddie Cameron, one of our DD. members who won a prize this season and in return sent a cheque for £50 to the League as a donation to assist us in obtaining equipment for our coaching sessions for youngsters.

Winners to date this season are : Harry Reeve, Alan Chase, Harry Nelson, Police, Arthur Upton, Jack McCaig, Faith Moore, Jack Power, Eddie Cameron, Jim Cannon, Rod Bulmer, Brenda Buoe, John McKim, Ken Ray, Kay Rumjahn, Rez Mirdamadi, Ken Ainsworth and Peter Taylor.

My thanks to all 100 Club members for their support and I hope we can rely on your continued support for next season. Send your cheque to me anytime (£12) or if you are interested in going over to Direct Debit ask me for our bank details.

JUNIOR COACHING SESSIONS

As from Friday 23rd May, 1997, the weekly Junior Coaching sessions will be taking place at the Wavertree Tennis Centre, between the hours of 5 pm and 7 pm on a Friday evening.

It is hoped that the later start time will allow more of you to come along and help out. You don't have to be a coach. We particularly need 'feeders', who can stand at the other end of the table and return the ball to the youngsters.

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS SCHEME!!

For further details contact Ken Armson or just come along between 5-7 pm on any Friday.

DIVISION ONE by Paul Gittins

Forget about United and Liverpool or Middlesbrough and Coventry. If you want tense, end of season sporting action, look no further than the L.D.T.T.L.

Okay, I accept that the opening was somewhat dramatic but nevertheless, true! Congratulations to Colonsay on retaining the 1st Division Championship. Only 3 points separated them from second placed CADWA and 8 points was the difference from Wavertree St Marys (WSM's) who finished 3rd. Although I did predict that Colonsay would succeed as champions I did not anticipate for one minute the end of season surge from CADWA and Wavertree. The return clashes of the top three actually went against Colonsay whilst WSM's were victors on each occasion.

Colonsay v CADWA ended 7-3 in CADWA's favour but Paul Hutchings must have been pleased with his night's work, beating Keith Williams and Kevin Dolder, whilst Chris Ford went on to repeat his 'Business Houses' Championship defeat of Keith. Stuart Richards, uncharacteristically, failed to pick up a set and although disappointed, he can at least commiserate with the knowledge that not even Chris or Paul could prevent Phil Musgrove, who played brilliantly, from taking his 3.

CADWA's encounter with WSM's or 'New Labour' to be politically correct, saw Wav. edge the match 6-4. Keith beat Bernie Wentworth but lost to Dave Roberts and Gary Watson. Kevin Dolder beat Bernie and Gary but lost to Dave and Phil Musgrove could only manage the one point against Gary. WSM's continued their good run by taking Colonsay 6-4. Bernie had a tremendous game against Paul, eventually winning 22-20 in the 3rd and then went on to win his remaining games against Chris and Stuart. Adam Robertson, who now has a World Championship tournament under his belt, also won his 3 with considerable ease. To summarise, it would appear that Colonsay dug their heels in and managed to hang on to their early season results which obviously paid dividend. YMCA 1st team must be delighted with their final position of 4th place. Peter Lee, Pat McLoughlin and Peter Taylor all had a steady season with neither players having too many surprise defeats. Peter Taylor in particular had a good season and this was echoed when he took his 3 against the Police team

for an overall 7-3 win. Pat also gained a hat-trick against the Bath St 1st team, again winning 7-3..

WSM's 'A' also improved on last season's position by leading the middle of the table. Roy Smith played with his usual consistency, which we all love to watch but detest to play. Alan Timewell also managed to make a nuisance of himself against the top teams, namely by beating Stuart Richards and Chris Ford on the same night to take 2 well earned points. He also took his teams solitary point against CADWA by defeating Phil Musgrove. The Wav. derby produced a superb win by Mike Tierney over Bernie Wentworth. Needless to say, Bernie has not slept since! Gary Watson and Alan Timewell both succeeded against Dave Roberts resulting in a 7-3 victory for the 1st team. The Bath St team of Kenny, Mike and Fred have again settled for a middle table placing and will no doubt continue next season with their no fuss, direct and honest T.T. Kenny in particular still has the knack of being a thorn in the sides of the top players, demonstrated when he convincingly bt CADWA's Ian Eaton and Phil Musgrove in 2 straight. I'm afraid that Geof Huntingdon's predictions of finishing in the top 6 and above his 1st team had an element of fiction rather than fact. The healthy rivalry between the teams did however produce a fine game with the 2nd team's Dele Olyumbo collecting all 3 sets against Peter Lee, Peter Taylor and Pat McLoughlin. Dave Tagg also recorded a good win against Peter Taylor, the final score being 6-4 in favour of the 1st team.

The Police team consisting of myself, Ste and John Rankin are more than happy with our final position but we will endeavour, next season, to try and accumulate 100 points. This is not I stress, a prediction, just a goal, and with John improving every match, achieving 3 wins at GPT and 2 at Colonsay by beating Chris Ford and James Bartolo, then it may be a realistic goal.

GPT managed to transform their disastrous season by a late accumulation of some good results. Their relegation clash with Waterloo saw Bob Edwards and Paul Price take all their sets for a 7-3 victory. A draw against YMCA 'A' included a Trevor Owens win against the talented Ming Liu and their fixture against YM's 1st team resulted in a credible Bob Edwards win over Peter Lee. Trevor continued to 'stop the rot' by notching up 2 great results against

WSM's Rob Bevan and Alan Timewell.

If GPT's salvation oozed a sigh of relief amongst the team then I would imagine that Waterloo's survival prompted screams of joy from Ted, Alan and the 2 Micks, for they avoided relegation by a mere point. Ted Birch's continued his good form throughout the season and his defeat of Dave Roberts is a fine example. The team had an excellent 7-3 win against YMCA 'A', Alan Chase taking 3 and Ted succeeding against Geof Huntingdon.

The match between Waterloo and Police saw all participants standing outside observing the 'Hale Bop' comet. I did jest that its return in 75 years time would probably coincide with Mick Allen's next win but I was quickly reminded that he has recently put together a string of impressive wins, including Mick Tierney and the in form Peter Taylor.

Commiserations must go to Bath St 'A's Ian McElwee, Brenda Buoe, Colin Owens and Claire News who were narrowly relegated. Each will look at the 1 point deficit and reminisce to the games that perhaps should've gone their way and may have been the difference to them remaining in this div. They certainly made their mark, however, GPT can vouch for that, suffering a 9-1 defeat, and 4 good points collected at Waterloo may've lifted their expectations, but it wasn't to be. Their penultimate game was against their 1st team and the two teams must be applauded for playing the match in an honest fashion, as I'm sure that other clubs would have been tempted to manipulate the result to avoid the drop. The result, a 7-3 win in favour of the 1st team with all 3 2nd team players, fittingly taking a set each.

I've given some thought to my player of the season and after a long debate (with myself) I feel that 'Father Ted' has just managed to pinch it. The manner in which he plays has not altered, he's simply playing much better as the seasons go on. Well done Ted! Get fit quickly for next season.

Finally, I was humoured to read that a Swedish couple made the most of a vacant T.T. table and an empty hall to become rather intimate. An encounter which I'm sure did not go to expedite. I immediately deliberated the morals of this scenario and soon reminisced to my teenage days when a confessional disclosure to a wise old catholic priest brought about the following advice, '*Sex is evil. Evil is sin. Sins are forgiven, so get stuck in!*' A proverb worthy of any Digest. Take care and see you all next season!

LIVERPOOL CLOSED by Brian Lccson

The annual Closed Championships were held once again at the Everton Park Sports Centre on Sunday 16th February with the main finals at the Police Club on Tuesday 25th February.

Preparation for the Sunday events was carried out on Saturday evening and I must thank the four people who helped me, namely, Ken Armson, Tony Harris, Arthur Garnett and Chris Ford.

Kevin Dolder, Men's Champion in 1994 and 1995, achieved his third success when he defeated last year's champion, Keith Williams, in two straight games. Kevin had only just scraped through against Paul Hutchings in the semi-final, 27-25 in the third. Earlier he had come through against Mike Mahoney and Chris Ford. Keith, on the other hand, had eliminated Peter Taylor, Mike Tierney and, in the semi-final, Stuart Richards.

The Doubles Final produced a win for the new pairing of Keith Williams and Mike Mahoney, who defeated last year's runners up, Paul Hutchings and Stuart Richards, in three games.

The finalists in the over 55 Veteran's event were the same two as last year, producing the same result, except that this year, Ted Birch beat Peter Taylor in two straight games.

The over 40 Veteran's, always a popular event, brought about a final victory for Roy Smith. Having been the runner up for the last 2 years, Roy was obviously very determined not to achieve a hat trick of runners up medals and Dave Roberts could only win seven points in the third game of their final. Peter Lee, winner for the last two years, was put out in his first round by Frank McCann, who then lost to Phil Luxon, who lost in the semis to Roy. The Junior Final was again a repeat of the previous two year's but Jay French is gradually getting closer to Lee Farley, only losing to Lee 19-21 in the third on this occasion.

The Women's Singles produced the same finalists as last year and with the same result, Claire News beating Paula French in three games. Finally, I must record my thanks to all the people who have yet again contributed to the success of the Tournament, including our main sponsor, Bill Fawley Construction Co. Ltd, Dick Johnson of the Liverpool Leisure Services Directorate, and so many others, too many to list here.

CUP FINAL REPORTS

STAMP CUP

CADWA.'D' 6 - 2 MERSEYSIDE POLICE'C'
Police won the toss and selected George Wright to play Trevor Dolder, won by George 21/10 15/21 21/19, a very close game assisted by George's iron lung. Steve Critchley then bt John Jeffrey 21/14 21/18, score now 1-1. Doug Baker bt Ollie Solaru 21/19 19/21 21/16. Jack Power then bt Wally Miller 14/21 21/18 21/11, score 3-1 to CADWA. Doubles next, both won by CADWA, Steve and Trevor btg George and Ollie 21/14 21/16, followed by Jack and Doug overcoming John and Wally 21/13 21/14. CADWA now 5-1 up. Police then call John against Jack, John winning 21/15 21/18, 5-2. Final game Steve bt George 21/7 17/21 21/11 to win the cup for CADWA 6-2 and also to retain his personal 100% average for the season. Played at Wavertree St' Mary's, the official in charge being Ken Armson who along with his good lady Faith provided the refreshments. The trophies were presented by Mr Arthur Upton.

FORREST CUP FINAL

LPOOL YMCA 'B' 4 - 6 WAV ST' MARY'S 'E'
WSM's won the toss and promptly put the experienced Mabel Neary on against the comparatively inexperienced Tim Tement but things don't always go the way you expect with Tim recording a tremendous win 21/12 21/14. YM then took a 2-0 lead when their No. 1 Joey Williams bt Paul Faulkner 21/8 21/9. WSM's pulled one back with Mark Myles defeating Jimmy Clewett 21/19 21/8. The scoreline became 2-2 when Ken Armson made a miraculous recovery against Tim 9/21 23/21 21/18, Tim at one stage lead the second game 20/16. Next on, Russell Thornton bt Paul Faulkner in another close game 22/20 14/21 21/18 followed by Russell and Tim btg Mabel and Ken 11/21 21/18 21/5, 4-2 to YM. The fightback was about to commence. Mark and Paul bt Joey and Jim 15/21 21/19 21/15. Ken bt Russell 15/21 21/16 21/9. Mark bt Joey in the match of the night 21/12 20/22 21/18. Mabel clinched the victory btg Jim 21/16 21/18, 6-4 to WSM's.

Played at GPT with the kind permission of Trevor Owens who also provided the refreshments. The official in charge was Frank Lacey and the trophies were presented by Mr Arthur Upton.

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DIVISION TWO by Sylvia Graham

What a way to finish the season - it really was exciting. Until the very end I was still sticking to my original forecast of CADWA 'A' and Maghull but I was not sure which way round they would be! Looking at the sides I thought that CADWA 'A' were favourites over Maghull but CADWA themselves started to lose confidence and then lost the services of Billy Hargeaves whereas Maghull's confidence increased as the season progressed. Both inflicted several whitewashes and we all know how hard that it is to do that in this division. Then suddenly the cat was amongst the pigeons and out of the chaos, Harold House appeared.

They were always serious contenders for promotion if they fielded any three from Alec Bryce, Ray Jackson, Eddie Clein and John Kenwright, but Harold House in previous years had missed out and secretly I'd wondered if they had really wanted that promotion place. This season's side had a 7-3 win over Colonsay 'A'with just two players! - as Paula said, 'It's just as well John didn't play', referring to John Kenwright I suspect and not John O'Sullivan. Still the pressure was on. CADWA 'A' were promoted and Maghull and Harold House battled on. Then Eddie Clein was not available on the H.H. bench and suddenly two new names appeared on the H.H. match cards!! One apparently was signed on from the start of the season, but to my knowledge, had never played and the other was signed on the night of 12th March to play that night and was then stopped from playing by the Management Committee. Firstly, should any club be allowed to sign on a player that late in the season when they have several other teams in the League and a wealth of players to choose from? Secondly should a player be allowed to play at a crucial time of the season if he has not played at all during the season? If I were in the Maghull side I would be quite peeved about this as the two players accrued 7 points between them and the points difference between them and Harold House was just 5 in Harold House's favour. Saying that the Maghull side did themselves no favours by playing a reserve against Wavertree St Marys in their last match which they lost 7-3.

The other end of the division was not so clear cut. CADWA 'B' struggled but enjoyed the challenge and all along I expected them to be accompanied by

one from WSM's 'B', Waterloo 'B' or Bootle JC 'A'. All three were steady sides and all were certainly strong enough for the division but unfortunately someone had to go and that turned out to be WSM's 'B'. I blame this on the bad start to the season and the fact that they played short on a couple of occasions and so gave away silly points. They had a tremendous spurt at the end but unfortunately it was a little late and JC 'A' and Waterloo 'B' were left to breathe again.

Waterloo 'A' were a very settled side with Ricky always insisting that Frank should be number 1 and not him. If we all had a vote on it I'm sure it would be pretty even - two equally good players but with two completely different styles - besides which Ken Nelson only decided the ranking on the toss of his tennis racquet. Were you rough or smooth Rick?

GPT 'A' will always be in the top half of the division. They invariably play the same three players and will win some and lose some each season. They never seem to lose silly matches and they are always capable of taking points off the stronger sides.

Bootle JC 'B', Fords and Colonsay 'A' are three more sides who have found their level in this division and unless very strong sides come up they will not fear relegation. As on most school reports Bootle JC 'A' could do better! But saying that they always try and they just seem, overall, to have had a bad season. Waterloo 'B' are the same and Uncles Alan, Pete and Ritchie have promised to do better next season.

Not much more to say except that every card tells a story and so let's see what ours have come up with. CADWA 'B'; appear to be the gourmets of the division and as they themselves commented after their match with Maghull - lovely sandwiches - poor result, and again when they lost to their 'A' team they admitted there was a class gap between the two teams. They've learnt a lot this season and intend to go down with dignity and honour or so the 'sober' George Woolstenhulme Higham declares. We'll miss you and the butties. At this point I must mention Steve's win. Apparently when CADWA 'B' played WSM's the two Steves had a tremendous match which Steve Graham won ... I promised him a mention and commiserations to Ritchie Jones because it's hard seeing your son

beaten at times, but that's the problem with playing in the same team.

Congratulations to CADWA and Harold house on promotion!

Good Wins: F. McCann (GPT 'A') bt A. Bryce (H.H.) 19, -11, 17 and in that same match P. Wass (GPT'A' bt R. Jackson (H.H.) 14, -15,17. S.Woods (Maghull) bt B. Hargreaves (CADWA 'A') 14, 22. T. Jones (Maghull) bt P.Musgrove (CADWA 'A') 21, -13, 18. P.French (Colonsay) bt K. Hartley (CADWA 'A') 19, -10, 15. S. Graham (CADWA 'B') bt H.Johnson (Fords) 11, 15. H.Johnson (Fords) bt R.Brown (W'loo 'A') 14, -9,16. K. Strahan (Bootle JC 'A') bt T.Wearon (Fords) 18, 19. S. Graham (CADWA 'B') bt S. Jones (WSM's 'B') -20, 19, 17. S. Jones (WSM's 'B') bt B.Hargreaves (CADWA 'A') 18, 11. R. Neal (Bootle JC 'B') bt T.Jones (Maghull) -19, 21, 10. G.Reid (Fords) bt K.Hartley"(CADWA 'A') -13, 16, 16.

Close matches : not many but perhaps the scores on the cards do not reflect the points.

D.Sullivan (Bootle JC 'A') bt B.Proffitt (Fords) 19, -18, 20. A.Reid (Waterloo 'B') bt K. Strahan (Bootle JC 'A') 20, -15, 21. B. Proffirt (Fords) bt R.Jones (WSM's 'B') -18,19,22. K.Strahan (Bootle JC 'A') bt T.Jones (Maghull) -18, 18,20. M.Moran (Bootle JC 'B') bt A.Perry (Fords) 20, 20. D. McEvoy (Colonsay 'A') bt A.Walton (Bootle JC 'B') 20, -9, 20.

Facesavers : 9-1's and 8-2's were the same player wins the 2 for the losing team I.Wensley (GPT 'A') bt M.Power (CADWA 'A') -14, 18, 16. M.Miles (WSM's 'B') bt R.Brown (W'loo 'A') -14, 18, 18. and F. Pheysey (W'loo 'A') 18, 19. M.Hunter (Colonsay 'A') bt S.Woods (Maghull) 16,18. R.Cragg (W'loo 'B') bt M.Power (CADWA 'A') 20, 19. S.Fay (Bootle JC 'A') bt P.Wass (GPT 'A') 16, -17, 13. S.Jones (WSM's 'B') bt R.Neal (Bootle JC 'B') 14, 14. S.Graham (Bootle JC 'B')btE.Ciein(H.H.) 18.-17,18. S.Jones (WSM's 'B') bt I.Wensley (GPT 'A') -12, 14, 21 and F.McCann (GPT 'A') 21, -9, 15. G.Higham (CADWA 'B') bt F. McCann (GPT'A') 17, 17 and D.Sullivan (Bootle JC 'A') 18, 22. A.Reid (W'loo 'B') bt M.Power (CADWA 'A') 16, 16. R.Davies (CADWA 'B') bt R.Jackson (H.H.) -8, 15, 17. B.Harris (Colonsay 'A') bt R.Jackson (H.H.) 11. -17,17.

DIVISION THREE **by Tony Harris**

Congratulations to the Manweb team of Mike Mahoney, Alan Evans, Neil Jennings and Alan Radcliffe on achieving a magnificent League and Cup double although it wasn't as plain sailing as expected and captain Neil must have been biting his fingernails for the last few weeks of the season.

Champions by just 4 points from Police, who had a tremendous run in, Manweb can look on No 1 Mike Mahoney's 100% record in the League as the obvious difference between the teams. Mike's influence on the team was highlighted when Manweb travelled to Bath St 'B' without him, where they were trounced 9-1, Alan Evans gaining the only point with a straight sets win over John Watson.

But one swallow doesn't make a summer and over the season as a whole, the best team finished top and deserve their chance to grace the second division next year.

Police 'A' take runners up spot courtesy of dropping only 9 points in their final 6 matches, the only blip being a lucky 6-4 win at Cadwa 'C' where Peter Roberts and Ray Parkinson both gave yours truly a sound drubbing.

Bath St 'B' with more appearances by Billy Clayton at No 4, also rallied in the latter half of the season, averaging seven and a half points per match in the last seven outings. A convincing 10-0 victory over their 'C' team and 9-1 wins over Waterloo and Harold House kept the pressure on the top two, but they just couldn't close the gap, and the 6-4 defeat at home to Police, takes on more significance.

The other two challengers for promotion, Manweb 'A' and Bootle YMCA slipped away in the run in and must regroup to try again next season. When the two sides met at Bootle YM it was the home side who were victorious gaining a hard fought 6-4 win, courtesy of an excellent double by Tom Killip, who defeated Alan Biggs and A. Harrison, both in the 3rd. Reserve, Geof Myles starred for Manweb at No 4 with wins over Danny Every and Chris Maguire.

Harold House 'A' will be glad that a long hard season is over and will no doubt find it more enjoyable in the 4th Division next season.

The unfortunate team following them is Maghull 'A' who despite some battling performances slipped from 11th to 7th spot in the space of 2 months.

In an 8-2 victory over Waterloo 'C' Tom Downing had an excellent win over Julie Prince 21/15 in the 3rd and followed this up with a 2 straight win over Ro Craddock. Harry McGannity, standing in as a late reserve, promptly picked up 2 points for Maghull with wins over Ro and Eddie Rowbottom. Promotion chasers Bath St 'B' met Maghull at their best, with Wilf Gibson and Kevin Lewis both in top form. Wilf recorded excellent wins over John Watson and John Langton, both in the 3rd and Kevin beat John Langton and then pipped Billy Clayton 21/19 in the 3rd. A doubles win courtesy of Tom Downing and Kevin over John Watson and Rob Peat secured a tremendous draw for Maghull but even this battling display wasn't enough to keep them up.

Despite losing 6-4 to Maghull 'A', where Maghull's Rod Bulmer recorded a double over Val Franco and Karen Gibson, Bath St 'C' did enough to escape relegation by 7 points. A 7-3 victory over GPT, with two wins a-piece for Karen Gibson over Bobby Bell and Ted Green, and Chris Foley, over Stan Harvey and Ted Green, plus a battling 4-6 defeat to Champions, Manweb, where Les Gee starred, beating Alan Radcliffe and Paul Jennings, was just enough to secure their 3rd division status.

As expected, Waterloo, led by Julie Prince at No 1, climbed clear of the relegation zone but crucial wins by all players seemed to make the difference. They earned an excellent draw at home to Bootle YM with Ken Nelson picking up 2 vital points with wins over John Higham and Danny Every, both in 2 straight. In another hard fought draw with Wav. St Marys, Julie Prince defeated John Gratton, and Bobby Owen, 21/16 in the 3rd. In a 7-3 defeat to Manweb 'A' Ro Craddock picked up another crucial point with a fine win over Neil Jennings, this being all the more impressive as Neil was obviously in top form as he defeated Julie Prince 21/17 in the 3rd.

From my own observations, Cadwa 'C', with their strongest side, are better than their lowly position suggests, and they picked up points against most teams. Paul Morgan picked up two points in a 7-3

defeat at Bath St 'B', with wins over Rob Peat, and in what looked like a tremendous game against Billy Clayton, Paul winning 22/20 in the 3rd. Peter Roberts started in a 4-6 defeat at Wav. St Marys with a fine win over John Gratton, 21/10 in the 3rd, also defeating Gordon Langshaw in 2 straight.

GPT 'B' won the bottom of the table clash with Cadwa, 7-3 with John Coysh picking up useful scalps, with wins over Paul Morgan, and Ray Parkinson, 21/18 in the 3rd. A good win also by Bobby Bell over Paul Morgan in this match. Alan Cameron hasn't played many for GPT but he turned out at Manweb 'A' and duly thrashed Trevor Barraclough 21/19,21/11 and Alan Biggs 21/8,21/11.

Wav. St Marys remained in mid table security and missed Bobby Owen who doesn't lose many at No 1. Mike Ashton, subbing at No 4, saved the whitewash for Wav. at Manweb with an impressive win over Alan Biggs, 21/19 in the 3rd, while John Gratton did likewise at Police, with an equally impressive win over Gareth Jones. In a 7-3 victory over GPT, Ken Armson stepped in as reserve at short notice and playing at No 1 had an excellent win over Robin Gammons, 21/13 in the 3rd, while Ken Roberts picked up a double with wins over Bobby Bell and Ted Green.

Well, that's it for another season. Congratulations to everyone who played in Division 3 this season, it's certainly been very competitive. Have a good break and come back fighting in September.

DIVISION FOUR by Arthur Garnett

"Beat that Ken Armson, if you can".

If I was any good as a forecaster I would have won the pools years ago. Way back in November of last year, I thought I was being very brave in suggesting that Wavertree St. Mary's "E" would finish in second place in, and thus gain promotion from, Division 4. I suggested that Liverpool Y.M.C.A. "B" would be Champions. I then compounded this in February by keeping that forecast, using the above challenge to Ken Armson .

Well !!! CONGRATULATIONS to Ken Armson and his Wavertree St. Mary's "E" team on becoming champions of Division 4 in 1997. In the end they have won the title by a clear 11 points.

The "Y.M." must feel gobsmacked, having led the division for so long. Perhaps it all started to go wrong when the two top teams met on 26th February at Wavertree. The "home" team gaining victory by 6 points to 4. The difference between the teams being a "double" from Mable Neary, taking the points from Jimmy "throw the ball up" Clewitt in three, and a fine win in straight sets over the young (for this division) Tim Temant. This was match number 16 for the ex "Labour" team and their record after this match read.

P. 16 W 14 D. 1 Points 123. The record for the "Y.M." after 16 matches ? P 16
W 13 D 2 Points 119.

That is how important that particular match was. A 6 - 4 result the other way would have tied both teams at the top. It all went to Wavertree St. Mary's "E" from then onwards. So Wavertree St. Mary's "E" are worthy champions, with Liverpool Y.M.C.A. "B" being promoted from 2nd place after a fine season. I don't expect either team to be back again in 12 months time, but then, my skills in forecasting count for nothing.

At the opposite end of the table, commiserations go to Bath St. "E", at the bottom with 47 points, and Linacre, relegated in 11th place with 57 points. I did indicate in the last Digest that Linacre could possibly overhaul Aigburth Peoples Hall in a very tense finale. A.P.H. ended the season in 10th place, safe from relegation by a mere 1 point, and, if I had to pick 1 point from the "run in", it would be Peter Williams beating Jimmy Clewitt in straight sets, 21/14 21/5. But then, I could have chosen three or four gallant Aigburth solo wins from the final weeks. They did exceptionally well to survive and showed tremendous fighting spirit against a strong run from Linacre. "Well lads - You've got it all to do again next season".

Three teams shared 3rd place on 133 points, Bootle YMCA "A", Manweb "B", and Maghull "B", all finished showing their pedigree, 31 points short of the 2nd placed team, Bootle YMCA coming through after a particularly (for them) bad start. I think they have not done themselves justice this time out. They appear to have taken too long a time to settle into the season, by which point their task was doubly difficult. If a team wants to win promotion from this Division, it must start strongly

and then continue right to the very end. I'm sure the players at Bootle know this already and will not make the same mistake again.

Manweb and Maghull have had a strong season and, if this was an end of term school report, I'm sure the "Head" would write "should do better". I feel that one, or both of these teams will make a strong challenge next time around, though, if Manweb could field its best team each time, the Division would probably be theirs for the taking.

In 6th position a further 16 points back came my team, Police "B". No excuses for this, we did rather well after missing Richie Winckle for almost half of the season, and then, the team captain (me) for the final quarter. Well O.K., they're excuses, but that's all. Every match we lost, we deserved to lose, and no complaints.

In 7th spot were Wavertree St. Mary's "D" left in the wake of their more successful "E" team. I don't know why, but, they seem to be finding it harder going as time progresses since their relegation from Division 3. They will have to "toughen up" if they are not to slip back further.

In 8th place were Waterloo "D". This is a poor result for such a strong team. Checking their records it would seem that they are a different team when Ken Nelson is playing. In all the matches Ken has played, the team have only lost once. In the matches lost when Ken didn't play, they lost heavily. Only 107 points, but I believe they will improve next season.

Which leaves Bath St. "D", on 88 points, comfortably ahead of the relegation struggle, but they shouldn't be complacent. I believe that the teams being promoted from Division 5 this time are strong teams, so Bath ST. "D" could be in trouble. If they don't start next season well, they could find it a long and disappointing one.

So the Summer is upon us. Have a good holiday and don't moan about the foreigners - they can't help it.

If all goes to plan the Digest should be with you at the A.G.M. Any complaints to the Editor please, I may be fat, but I'm not very thick skinned.

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DIVISION FIVE bvKenArmson

Maghull 'C' made it as Champions but not without an end of season set back which lost them their unbeaten League record and must have given CADWA 'D' thoughts of overtaking them. Their clash came in wk 20 and saw Maghull 'C' crash to an 8-2 defeat. At that stage CADWA still had 4 matches to play and maximum points allied to any serious slip by Maghull could have seen them home. Maghull did drop 4 sets to Police 'C' and 3 to Harold House 'B' but their final total of 173 was more than the maximum CADWA could achieve and it all became academic. As it turned out, they too dropped sets, five in total, to kill off any hopes they may have entertained of pipping Maghull to the title. Although knocked out of the Cup by CADWA and losing their only League match to them, Maghull 'C' are worthy champions for theirs was an all-round team effort. Overall they may not have been the strongest team but captain Brian Gregory led from the front and his team-mates Alan Smethurst, Jim Gill and Jeff Banks gave a 100% response. They set their sights on an immediate return to the 4th from the first match should it be five? Who cares, they certainly won't.

CADWA had to settle for a Stamp Cup victory and

second place but they have had a memorable season and never gave up trying to be champions. Steve Critchley at number one remained unbeaten in League and Cup, giving them a head start in every match. His backing was good and captain Jack Power belied his age to keep up with Trevor Dolder and Doug Baker. Their own set backs lost them hard won ground and they struggled to a 6-4 win against Aigburth 'A' and achieved yet another draw against Wav St Marys (WSM) 'F', the only team they failed to beat at least once in cup and league. Winning the championship is unfortunately all about 22 matches, not just good results, and it was this factor which enabled Maghull to ride the storm of their 8-2 defeat by CADWA and keep their championship winning lead. All credit to CADWA for pushing them all the way and for never giving up trying.

To the victor go the spoils and whilst WSM 'F' have not won the spoils and will possibly feel aggrieved about their unbeaten cup exit, they have achieved promotion, in that I expect at least three teams will be promoted from this division. A sterling effort by Steve (General) Perry and his squad, Steven Ree, Roy Silsby, Ian Douglas and Rez Mirdamadi, who all returned good results and were kept out of the top two due to not being able to consistently turn out their strongest four. Steve battled hard with his team-mates and chivvied them along as they strove to keep in touch with the leaders, a task they managed well, but it was always a case of so near yet so far for 'Steve's Storm Troopers'. Their cup exit was somewhat ironic in that they twice held a 5-4 lead in their two semis against CADWA and it was the CADWA club rep who spoke strongly at the AGM, against the proposal to reduce cup matches to the best of 9 sets and eliminate replays and elimination by games won. Did he know something we did not know?

Harold House 'B' got into 4th place which was not a bad reward for Eric Young and his merry men. They made a promising start and looked a good bet for the title only to lose no.1 John Hodges to a higher club team. Eric re-grouped and led a successful counter-attack to clinch 4th place ahead of Maghull 'D'. They lacked that little extra bite against the lower teams which found them struggling where those above them were gaining good wins. Although confirming their right to finish above Maghull 'D' by beating them 6-4, thanks to doubles form Eric and Jerry O'Keefe, they lost 6-4 to Colonsay 'D',

and dropped 4 sets to both Hope and Aigburth 'A', due to being one short. Their best player was Ted Cramsie with Eric not far behind.

Interesting point for those being promoted, which possibly emphasises the gulf between the 4th and 5th divs. Champions Maghull 'C' with 173 points obtained only 23 points in the 4th last season, using virtually the same players. 'It's tough at the top' will take on a new meaning for Maghull 'C', CADWA 'D' and WSM 'F' next season.

At the bottom, the improvement in the form of Bath St 'F' players forecast by Ron Georgeson never materialised and they finished bottom. Mostly newcomers and flung in by their club at short notice, they can look back on the season as a learning curve and use the experience gained to improve on their team and personal performances next season. It is not always about winning. Enjoyment and camaraderie also play an important part and I feel they had plenty of both.

Maghull 'D' led the middle table squad, overshadowed by their 'C' team, they posed real threat to others. They beat a weakened WSM 'F' team 7-3 with Steven Kee, 2, and Steve Perry saving the day. They took 4 sets off H.H. 'B', Phil Maitland getting a double over Ted Cramsie and Les Mulholland, and went on a spree against Police 'C' for a 10-0 victory, and they beat Bootle YM 'B' 6-4. Towards the end they started to run out of steam only managing to scrape a draw against improving Hope. They found Martin Hopgood and Darren Morgan in top form, both winning their two singles. Worse was to come with the match being a landmark of the wrong sort for Phil Maitland and Andy McCourt, when their unbeaten record in the doubles went kaput! They lost in 2 straight to no.1 Martin and no.4 Paul Jones. They are probably still bemused at this defeat, which was made all the more remarkable by the fact that Paul has only won two of his singles all season. Phil was their best player and Alan McCourt was not far behind and between them they laid the foundations for Doug Christie and Keith Whittaker to build on. They will, however, look back on that late doubles defeat as their worst moment of a very good season. Sorry lads! I was looking forward to writing about your unbeaten doubles pairing, forgetting that old adage, 'you can't win them all'.

The final efforts of a much improved Hope saw

them pull clear of bottom place to finish above H.H. 'C' and Bath St 'F'. A question mark hangs over their return next season as I understand that Helen Woods and Darren Morgan, who have been instrumental in organising and running the team, are in their last year at Hope, and unless someone else is prepared to take on the difficult task of running the team, they will not be with us in September. They kept their final surprise for their last match when against WSM 'F' they introduced Zoe Evans, whose only previous appearance had been against WSM in wk 2, as a Colonsay player. This was quite a surprise for our Fixture Secretary, who knew nothing of the change of clubs. Hope, in him, appeared to know nothing about such minor things as rules. This ignorance of the rules, or had Zoe not bothered to tell them that she had already played for another club, cost them 2 points and gave WSM's an unexpected 2 points bonus. My prediction for Colonsay 'B' also came good and they duly finished in mid table. This was down to a lot of in and out performances with only Lee Farley showing any sort of consistency. Only support came from the occasional appearances of Stan (Thunder Bolt) Clarke, whose ambitions appear to be to hit a ball clean through a table top. Give it up Stan, you will never succeed!

Aigburth 'A', Bootle YM 'B' and Police 'C' all had the same sort of season as Colonsay, never in danger of relegation, always likely to take sets off the top squad and doing damage to each other when they met. For Police it was the usual story of only firing on one cylinder and a variety of results ranging from good to bad, but they had a good cup run, reaching the final, and although the underdogs, they gave cup winners, CADWA, a run for their money in an entertaining final. Getting out their strongest team is always their main problem and it has it's effect on their results.

Aigburth and Bootle YM both had enjoyable seasons with no relegation problems and some good wins. Best player for Aigburth was captain, Eric Wood, one of a very small band who still uses a hard bat. Eric often talks of changing to sponge but never gets round to it, when his backhand is going well he can be difficult to beat. Likewise, Billy (Blocker) Holmes, who is still capable of breaking the heart of better players, and I hope that rumours of this being his last season are incorrect. His record at no.1 speaks for itself, so have second thoughts,,

Bill, about packing it in.

Bootle YM, led by Jim Geddes, never quite seem to get it together and this inconsistency kept them below the 100 points mark. Their final match was against Aigburth 'A' who were in good form winning 9-1. For YM, Captain, Jim Geddes, who has been their most consistent player, got their lone set to save the whitewash, a noteworthy win, his opponent being the tenacious, Billy Holmes. Any win against Billy is always worth a mention.

In spite of some improved personal results, HH 'C' only improved their final tally by one on last season and were fortunate to finish above Bath St 'F', their best performances coming from Steve Simpson at no.1. He reserved his best performance for the match against their 'B' team when he beat Les and Jerry in 2 straight Their match against Bath St 'F' emphasised the narrowness of the gap between the two teams when H.H. scraped home 6-4.

Whatever your final position, have a good summer and take up your bat again in September. It could just work out that next season will find your team in the hunt for honours.

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SCHILDROT - LION

HYDE CUP FINAL

MANWEB 5 - 5 MANWEB 'A'

The first game called was Peter Carney for the 'A' team against Jeff Myles, Jeff winning an unusual game 8/21 21/19 21/8. Next came the first doubles, Mike Mahoney and Alun Evans for the 1st team against Trevor Barraclough and Alan Biggs, Mike and Alun winning 21/17 21/11, 2-0 to the first team. The second doubles followed, Ian Turner and Jeff beating Peter and Rob Conley 21/11 10/21 21/8. Mike then bt Alan Biggs 19/21 21/10 21/11, 4-0 to the 1st team, (looks like an early night). Trevor pulled one back btg Alun 6/21 21/11 21/18. Rob then made it 4-2 defeating Ian 14/21 21/19 21/12. Alan Biggs then left on the warmed up Rob Conley against Jeff but his ploy didn't work, Jeff winning 22/20 21/10, 5-2 to the 1st team, (be home soon). The two no.1's followed, arguably the best game of the night, Trevor, mixing his game up between attack and defence, took away Mike's 100% record 21/17 11/21 21/19. This achievement is worth a medal on its own. Alan then bt Ian 21/18 21/14 to make the match score 5-4. The final game of the evening started at 11.00 o'clock and brought Alun Evans up against the legendary Peter Carney, both looking

for their first singles win of the night. Eventually Peter fought his way back from 10/4 down in the third to win 17/21 21/17 21/16. A fter more twists and turns than the Monaco Grand Prix the final score was 5-5. A credit to both teams. The game was played at Manweb, the official in charge was Alex Gould.

HYDE CUP FINAL REPLAY

MANWEB 'A' 1 - 6 MANWEB

Here we go again. Mike Mahoney for the first team called himself on against Allan Biggs and came through 21-13, 21-16. The 'A' team replied with Peter Carney avenging his defeat to Jeff Myles 21-12, 19-21, 21-11. Mike then partnered Neil Jennings, against Allan and Trevor Barraclough and rushed to the finishing line 21-10, 21-16. The 'A' team called on Rob Conley against Ian Turner hoping he would emulate his victory in the first game but Ian had other ideas and kept his head down to win 23-21, 21-16. 3-1 to the first team. Neil then met Peter in a titanic struggle and collected the point 21-19, 27-25. Next on Mike against Trevor with Mike going all out for revenge over his club mate. Mike returned to his '1st div' form to win the first 21-8 and the second 21-17. 5-1 to the first team. Jeff Myles, commonly known as the 'comeback kid' secured victory for the first team against Rob 21-15 19-21 21-15. Final score 6-1 to the first team. Again played at Manweb who also supplied the refreshments. The official in charge was Frank Lacy. The trophies were presented by Arthur Upton.

RUMJAHN CUP FINAL

WATERLOO 'A' 6 - 4 C.A.D.W.A. 'A'

CADWA won the toss and called on Ken Hartley to play Frank Brady. In an absorbing first game Ken won 21-16. In the second game Frank's attack saw him win 21-14 to set up an intriguing third game. In the final game Ken's immaculate defence coupled with an occasional counter attack saw him win 21-15. Truly a good opener. Waterloo's Fred Pheysey then played Steve Graham with Steve winning the first 21-12. Fred played exceptionally well to take the second game coming back from 10-15 down to win 21-17. In the 3rd game Fred again staged a comeback btg Steve 21-16. Score now 1-1. Looks like another late night. Mike Power took centre stage next against Frank whose attack was really booming and he won 21-12, 21-7 to give



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Waterloo a 2-1 lead. Ricky Brown was next on playing Steve Graham. Ricky's stonewall defence saw him wear down Steve to clinch the point, 21-18, 21-10 and put Waterloo 3-1 up. Ken played Fred next and a titanic first game saw Ken edge home 25-23, Ken then went up a gear and won the second 21-12. Waterloo 3, CADWA 2. Mike then met Ricky and although Mike won the first 21-15, Ricky took the next two, 21-18, 21-14.. Waterloo now 4-2 up. The next game saw Ken come back from 18-20 down to Ricky to win the first 22-20. Ricky broke back to take the second 21-18 to set up a thrilling final game. This was a cracker of a game with Ken just edging his way to victory 22-20. Best game of the night in an evening of very good table tennis. Still a cliff hanger with the score 4-3 to Waterloo. Frank then bt Steve 21-12, 21-17 to give Waterloo one hand on the trophy. The doubles followed with Frank and Ricky btg Ken and Mike 22-20 in the first CADWA struck back winning the second 21-13. In a nail biting finish Ken and Mike kept their nerve to win 22-20 to keep the match alive with the score 5-4 to Waterloo. The final game saw Mike take on Fred, winning the first 21-15 then Fred pipped Mike in the second 21-19 to set up a grandstand finish. Fred went on to win the final game 21-16 to give Waterloo fee

cup. The game was played at Liverpool Y.M.C.A. and the official in charge was Paula French. It was a pleasure to see Ted Rumjahn and his family as their support is always appreciated. The trophies were presented by Ted and as usual our own chairman, Mr Arthur Upton was in attendance. The refreshments were prepared by Liz Power.

READMAN CUP FINAL

COLONSAY 4 - 6 C.A.D.W.A.



CADWA -Readman Cup Winners First blood in the league's premier Cup Final went to Colonsay, Paul Hutchins btg Phil Musgrove two straight 21-14, 21-10 in the opening match. CADWA struck back immediately, Kevin Dolder btg Chris Ford 21-11, 23-21 with Chris making Kevin fight all the way in the second game. The doubles was next with Paul and Stuart Richards btg Kevin and Phil 21-16 in the third to make the score 2-1 to Colonsay. Keith Williams made his first appearance next against Stuart Keith won the first 21-16 but Stuart quickly levelled the score winning the second 21-17. Stuart got off to a flier in the third changing ends with the score 10-1 in his favour. Keith made a stirring comeback but Stuart kept his nerve to win 21-16. 3-1 to Colonsay. Chris Ford then bt Phil 21-12, 21-18 to give Colonsay a 4-1 lead at the halfway stage. In the sixth game of the evening Kevin was in top form btg Stuart 21-7,21-17 to peg Colonsay back to 4-2. Keith then bt Paul 21-19,21-19 to put CADWA back in contention at 4-3. CADWA called Keith back on again to play Chris and Kieth won 21 -10,21 -18 to level the match at 4-4. It's looking odds on for a replay !! In a nail biting penultimate game Phil btStuart21-9 but Stuart broke back to win the second 21-13. A tremendous last game saw Phil leading 8-2 but Stuart pegged it back to 15-15, then 19-19 before Phil clinched the game 21-19 to give CADWA a 5-4 lead. The last

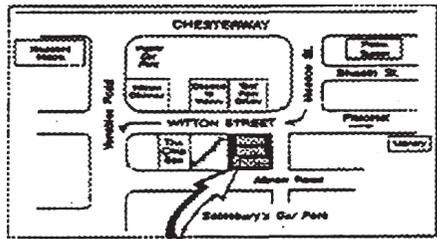


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CADWA a 5-4 lead. Last game of the evening saw Kevin bt Paul 21-18,21-15 to end a match of high quality and to ensure that CADWA retained the Readman Cup. Arthur Upton presented the trophies. The match official was Tony Harris of the host club Police and Tony also provided the refreshments.

FRANK MURPHY CUP FINAL MANWEB

'B' 5 - 3 BATH STREET 'A'

Bath Street won the toss and elected to be the away team. Ken Jackson met Allan Biggs and started the game 2-14 down. Allan won the first 31-26. Ken the second 31-28. In the third Allan led 29-21, this game was all but over when Ken put his head down to win 10 points in a row to secure the game 31-29. Alan Evans then met Mike Keane and levelled the match score winning 30-32, 31-17, 31-18. The third game saw a very close match between Allan Biggs and Fred Bainbridge. Fred starting the match 6-14 down secured the point coming back in the first from 20-28 down to win 32-30, lost the second 23-31, but clinched victory in the third 31-29. Trevor Barraclough then made his first visit to the table against Ken but Ken's attack was too strong for Trevor's defence and Ken won 31-26, 31-29. The score now 3-1 to Bath Street. The fightback was about to begin. The fifth game again saw Allan Biggs take to the table, this time against Mike, once again it took three games to decide it but this time it was in Allan's favour winning 30-32, 31-24, 31-22. Fred then met Alan Evans but couldn't fight his way back and Alan won 31-19, 31-19 to level the match. Trevor then met Mike and won comfortably 31-27,31-7. The final game of the night saw Alan Evans in superb form staying ahead of Ken to win 31-22, 31-26. Final score 5-3 to Manweb. Our Chairman Arthur Upton introduced Frank Murphy's sister Moira Lovelady and her husband Joe and thanked them for once again attending the final and asked Moira to pass on the best wishes of the league to Frank's widow Marjorie who is in hospital undergoing surgery on the very day the final was being played. Moira then presented the trophies to the teams. The official in charge was Don Davies and the match was played at *CAD.W.A.* The club official was Mike Power. The refreshments were provided by Moira. As in every other Frank Murphy final the trio of Ted Birch, Alan Chase and Mike Allen where

TABLE EDGES, NETS & ECHOES OF THE FAST

Congratulations to the Men's and Ladies teams on retaining their respective Lancashire & Cheshire divisional titles, while also winning the Norman Cook Memorial Trophy for a record fifth time!!



Congratulations also to the Veterans 1st team of Dave Roberts, Phil Luxon and Michael Tieney who have another good season finishing 3rd in the Vets 1st division.

Unfortunately, the Vets 'A' team of Alan Chase, Ted Birch, Mick Allen and Alan Timewell found the going just too tough in the 2nd division and although they battled hard they finished second from bottom and will be gracing division 3 next term.

More success for Liverpool Men's team captain, Keith Williams, who after losing out in the Liverpool Closed Championships to Kevin Dolder, avenged his defeat taking the Men's Singles title, in the Lancashire Closed Competition.

Very exciting to see the Merseyside Open returning to Liverpool after an absence of many years. This tournament will take place on 30th and 31st August, 1997, at the Wavertree Tennis Club and will attract the country's top players. Dont miss it!!

The joint Social/ Presentation Evening with our friends in the Liverpool Business Houses League and the Police could have been better attended but it did raise over £500 in profit, to be split three ways. After negotiating the roadworks around the Police Club, those present were treated to an excellent evening of cabaret, comedy and dancing. Thanks go to those officials who went to a lot of trouble to arrange the evening and to everyone who supported it

News that Liverpool University have received a lottery grant of 4.6 million pounds towards the building of a major Sports and Events Centre is good news for table tennis in the City. It looks that Liverpool could now have a dedicated Table Tennis Centre, this coming 51 years after the proposals to buy our own League headquarters, were scrapped at the 1946 A.G.M.

DIVISION 1	P	W	L	D	PTS
COLONSAY	20	16	4	0	158
CADWA	20	17	1	2	155
WAV.STMARYS	20	19	0	1	150
LPOOL YMCA	20	9	9	2	101
WAV.STMARYS'A'	20	10	9	1	95
BATH STREET	20	8	9	3	94
LPOOL YMCA 'A'	20	6	8	5	89
POLICE	20	6	113		88
G.P.T.	20	3	152		62
WATERLOO	20	2	153		59
BATH ST. 'A'	20	3	170		58
BOOTLE J.C.	Record Expunged				

DIVISION 4	P	W	L	D	PTS
WAV. ST MARYS -E'	22	20	1	1	174
LPOOL YMCA B'	22	18	2	2	164
BOOTLE YMCA 'A'	22	15	6	1	133
MANWEB B'	22	14	6	2	133
MAGHULL B'	22	13	8	1	133
POLICE B'	22	11	9	2	117
WAV. STMARYS	22	8	12	2	109
WATERLOO	22	10	9	3	107
BATH ST.	22	6	13	3	88
AIGBURTH	22	2	18	2	58
LINACRE	22	3	18	1	57
BATH ST. -E'	22	1	19	2	47

DIVISION 2	P	W	L	D	PTS
CADWA 'A'	22	19	1	2	171
HAROLD HOUSE	22	20	1	1	160
MAOHULL	22	17	3	2	155
WATERLOO 'A'	22	15	6	1	142
G.P.T. 'A'	22	9	9	4	116
BOOTLE J.C. B'	22	8	11	3	95
FORDS	22	4	11	7	95
COLONSAY 'A'	22	6	12	3	94
WATERLOO B'	22	6	14	2	90
BOOTLE J.C. 'A'	22	5	14	3	86
WAV. STMARYS B'	22	6	13	3	82
CADWA B'	22	1	21	0	34

DIVISION 5	P	W	L	D	PTS
MAGHULL 'C'	22	18	1	3	173
CADWA D	22	19	1	2	166
WAV. ST MARY F	22	14	4	4	152
HAROLD HOUSE B'	22	15	6	1	131
MAGHULL D	22	11	8	3	128
COLONSAY B'	22	11	8	3	115
AIGBURTH 'A'	22	10	10	2	113
BOOTLE YMCA B'	22	6	13	3	94
POLICE 'C'	22	5	13	4	90
HOPE	22	4	16	2	66
HAROLD HOUSE 'C'	22	3	17	2	49
BATH ST. F	22	2	19	1	43

DIVISION 3	P	W	L	D	PTS
MANWEB	22	19	1	2	167
POLICE 'A'	22	18	3	3	163
BATH ST. B'	22	17	2	4	157
MANWEB 'A'	22	16	2	7	139
BOOTLE YMCA	22	13	7	2	132
WAV. STMARYS 'C'	22	8	9	5	95
WATERLOO 'C'	22	6	11	5	93
CADWA 'C'	22	4	16	2	85
G.P.T. B'	22	4	14	4	84
BATH ST. 'C'	22	4	15	3	83
MAGHULL 'A'	22	4	14	4	77
HAROLD HOUSE 'A'	22	1	20	1	49

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