

Copy



Table Tennis DIGEST

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

EDITOR: Ken Armson, M.B.E.
21 Armscot Road,
Liverpool L25 0NX
Tel: 0151-486-3073

VOL 52

MAY 1998

NO. 3

EDITORIAL

As we reach the end of another season there is a need for everyone to examine closely what they put into our sport apart from turning out for league matches. For most of you, regrettably, the answer will easily be arrived at in that it will be NIL. As a league we are still suffering from shortage of Management Committee members, indeed, so serious is the problem that existing members are touting around seeking others to join us. Not only is there no need to hold elections, we don't even have enough nominations to fill all positions. Our 'Closed' tournament is run for the benefit of members but is poorly supported. Ironically, the numbers attending Finals Night almost exceeds the total number of entries for our 'Closed'. A number of clubs not being represented with some having only one member entering. Again, amongst those attending Finals Night are many who do not bother to enter the tournament. It is really good to see so many at Finals Nights but how much better the full event might have been had they also entered.

We have only three promising juniors, two of whom are products of the Wirral league Coaching programme. Pop into a Wirral coaching session and you will find a large squad of adult players assisting, some of whom will be from Liverpool. Pop into our coaching sessions and you will find four or five. They serve who only stand and wait, could be a good maxim for you in that all we ask of you is to stand at the other end of the table and play the ball back to those being coached. It is rewarding and the youngsters really appreciate such assistance.

Our league Presentation Evening took place recently, a joint venture between Liverpool Business Houses, the Police and ourselves. Profits are split 3 ways to the benefit of members of the organising bodies. My estimate of numbers present this year was 150 and I am possibly being generous. Winners of our 1st, 2nd and 5th Divisions could not be bothered putting in an appearance. The 3rd Div winners and runners up being represented by one player as were the 1st and 5th. I believe only Police. Div. 4 winners had a full team present to collect their medals. Those who attended to support the league and applaud the various medal recipients enjoyed a pleasant social evening with other T.T. colleagues.

We put out a call for volunteers to help form a Tournament Committee and got the usual lack of response. Planned events will go ahead and the usual few will run themselves into the ground because of total dis-interest and lack of support from the remainder.

Those of you who won a trophy of any kind will pat yourselves on the back and throw your bat to

(continued on page 2)

MATCH SECRETARY'S
ROUND UP by Don Davies



Adam Robertson, Don Davies and Kevin Dolder who along with Keith Williams were Champions of Lancashire & Cheshire

For the third season in succession, the League captured the two main trophies, a feat only achieved previously by Manchester in the middle 50's.

The Ladies team has claimed the div. one title nine times in the last twelve years and although we have come to expect them to collect a trophy, it is nevertheless a great achievement and we should be proud of the girls. Brenda Buocoy and Paula French have been regulars throughout those triumphs, Denise McEvoy joining forces over the last few years. This trio was boosted by the addition of Delyth Davies, who attends Hope L.I.H.E. . She played for Wales in the Manchester World Championships and stepped into the Liverpool team when required which helped secure the title.

In winning the division one title for the third year in a row, the men emulated Preston, who were the last to notch a hat-trick in 1981, 82 and 83, Bolton having claimed the treble fourteen years earlier. It was a closely run affair and not until the last match of the season was the Championship assured when we met Wirral. The fixture was due to be staged in January but was postponed when Bernie Wentworth was ill. Before that though, we had beaten Bolton, Salford and Farnworth and Stockport but then came the first reversal in 18 matches when we lost 6-4 at Burnley. This meant

we had to win all our remaining matches if the title was to be retained. Maximum points were taken from Mid Cheshire, Wigan and Blackpool and then came, as Jack Lambert would call it, a 'crunch match'. The peninsular league required both points to capture the title for the first time while a draw would have been sufficient for the champions to retain the trophy.

The match was switched from Wirral to the Police Club, the first time that a senior Lancashire & Cheshire League match has been staged there. Bernie Wentworth's victory over Kevin Dolder robbed the CADWA player of his 100% record in the league before an Adam Robertson success over Chris Dunne levelled matters. Although we took the lead when Keith Williams beat Rob Bevan, Wirral then forged a 3-2 lead. Liverpool hit back taking the next two only for Dunne to beat Williams to leave the match in the balance. Kevin, having earlier lost to Dunne, made amends in the penultimate set, with a straight games victory over Bevan to effectively clinch the title. Although the crown had evaded Wirral, they could still finish as runners-up if Wentworth could beat his Wavertree team-mate Adam. But a two straight victory by the 14 year old prodigy confined Wirral to third place in what was a fantastic finale to the season.

Stuart Richards missed just one match and now has four division one winners medals while Keith has five to his credit and Kevin, three in a row. What other teenager can boast that feat? Well done lads, a tremendous achievement.

Our third success came in the Veterans division 3, Ted Birch, Alan Chase and Ricky brown winning seven and drawing the other to finish two points ahead of Rochdale to earn another crack in division two next term.

The Veterans first team languished near the foot of the table for most of the season but finished in third spot, it must be said though, due to a walkover, conceded by Burnley, who gave the match away. Dave Roberts, Kenny Jackson and Peter Lee, beat only the bottom two sides, although it should be noted that we were without Dave in the early matches. Stockport collected the title for the tenth time and remain the only name on the trophy since its inception in 1988.

SECRETARY'S COLUMN

I hope you all enjoyed your table tennis during the 1997/98 season and I look forward to seeing you back, with batteries recharged, for the new season in late September.



Although you may be having a well earned rest, this is one of the busiest times of the year for your Committee as divisions, fixtures, diary of events etc. have to be sorted out in order to get the handbook printed in time. So can I appeal to all Club Secretary's to complete and return the necessary registration forms in plenty of time, thus saving me having to chase you up.

The Merseyside Open Tournament will again take place this year on the weekend of 29th and 30th August at the Wavertree Tennis Centre. Last year's tournament was a huge success and we will be aiming to emulate that success this year. The only disappointment last time was the relatively low number of entrants from Liverpool players. Remember, you don't have to be a star to enter. The competition is banded so you have the opportunity to play against others of similar standard, and you will be guaranteed plenty of T.T. So please support the 'Open' whether it be as a competitor or spectator. Let's make it another roaring success!

We are running low on the number of elected Committee members at the moment and we really do need people to step forward and help out. Even if you can only spare a couple of hours a month you will be made more than welcome. Several exciting initiatives are in the pipeline for Table Tennis in Liverpool and anyone getting involved will really enjoy themselves. As you know, volunteers are the life blood of any organisation, and we are no exception. If you can help out contact any Committee member.

In conjunction with the Police TTC and the Liverpool Business Houses league, the Social/Presentation Night took place on 8th May at the Police Club. Those members who attended had an excellent evening's entertainment amongst other TT friends, and the night resulted in a profit of approximately £250.00 each to all three parties. This money will be put towards aiding the development of table tennis in the city, so it is

money well spent. Thanks are due to Mike Power and Ken Arnson, who along with our colleagues from the Police and Business Houses ensured another successful fund-raiser.

Finally, I'd like to finish by mentioning the two long serving Committee members who are retiring this season. Brian Leeson has refereed the Closed for an amazing 37 years and his expertise will be sorely missed. I have always found Brian to be a perfect gentleman, with a good deal of knowledge and common sense. A tribute to Arthur Upton's work is printed elsewhere in this Digest, but I'd like to thank Arthur personally for the advice he has given to me in my short term as Secretary. Arthur's knowledge is second to none and as he will be continuing as President, I hope that knowledge won't be lost. Thank you, Brian and Arthur!

Tony Harris

EDITORIAL (continued)

one side until next September. When you do, ask yourself what you have done to help and strengthen table tennis in Liverpool. At the same time ask yourself would it still have been possible for you to be able to play organised table tennis in Liverpool if such as Arthur Upton, Chairman for 40 years and now stepping down, or Brian Leeson, Tournament Referee for 30 odd years and also stepping down, had adopted the same head stance taken by so many members. We shall not see their like again and many leagues will envy such stalwart service. Some leagues change their Officers every season. Quite a few have no tournament as no one will run it. Some stagger along without a governing body. Not so in our league where a small and dedicated body run themselves ragged so that you can enjoy membership of a tightly run organisation.

Next season, sooner even, why not make a start on putting something back into the sport from which you derive enjoyment and help ensure its smooth running and also its future. You just might find it as enjoyable and fulfilling as winning your games. One thing you can be certain of, you will be warmly welcomed.

K. Arnson

DIVISION ONE

by Paul Gittins

'Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?' Possibly one of the great mysteries in life. Not, however, as mysterious as to why only 60 L.D.T.T.L. members attended the 'social', recently held at the Police Club. Perhaps this is indicative as to the enthusiasm within the league which, coincidentally, was perhaps also reflected in the poor attendance at the 'Closed'. Please support your league in all aspects. Take it from me, the social was a good night and if you were absent, you missed a good comedian, an absolute brilliant display of synchronised dancing from Mr and Mrs Barry Meyer and you also missed WSM's collecting the Champions Trophy - but come to think of it, we all missed that one.

Congratulations to the WSM team of Adam, Bernie, Rob and Dave, who all contributed in ensuring, at the end of the day, a decisive victory. Colonsay's inconsistency, when it matters, eventually thwarted their chances of retaining the title whilst CADWA 1st, for various reasons, could only provide lip service in challenging for the league.

YMCA 1st have, for me, been the surprise package this season and not particularly for taking fourth spot, but for the manner in which they achieved it. Peter Lee and Pat McLaughlin have had an excellent season. Peter's hat-trick against WSM 'A' and Pat's unbeaten display against YMCA 'A', which consisted of Chris Dunne, are only samples of solid performances. The icing on the cake for Peter must have been his fantastic victory over Paul Hutchings during the last month of the season. I'm led to believe that Peter, upon winning the final point, provided a repertoire of every victory ritual in the book - Brazilian Samba, Mexican Wave, hands on hips combined with groin thrusts - I'm sure you've got the picture. Well done Pete. I bet you couldn't believe it - come to think of it, neither could I.

I can vouch that the Police team is very happy finishing leaders amongst the mid table pack. 8-2 wins over WSM 'A' and GPT certainly did us no harm but the overriding factor is without doubt the improvement of John Rankin. A recent defeat of Bernie Wentworth confirms this. Incidentally, I've been inundated with numerous complaints about my derogatory comments concerning John's intellect. I, however, must defend my corner with

this example. When I had asked John what he thought of the Renault 5 he replied, 'They are all innocent'. I'm sorry but the truth often hurts.

WSM 'A' have had mixed fortunes throughout the season which at times coincides with the availability of Gary Watson, who, when playing, has really been the anchor man of the team. Gary's 3 against GPT and Waterloo contributed to 8-2 and 7-3 wins respectively. His defeat by Chris Dunne and Dave Tagg (good win!) resulted in both teams sharing the spoils.

Sociable Bath St are as consistent as their team selection. Honest, open and competitive table tennis is their motto, which for years, has served them well and are qualities which are applied regardless of the opposition. A whitewash by WSM 1st still saw Fred Bainbridge taking Bernie and Rob to three and Kenny and Mick repeated the scare in the doubles. I noted that Mick had a good night against Harold House going home undefeated. No mean feat when one considers the notable wins notched up H.H.'s Alex Bryce and Ray Jackson.

GPT foot the mid table reams and will possibly reflect upon a below average season. That's not to say they haven't had some good results, namely an 8-2 win over YMCA 'A' with Bob taking all three. Paul Price and John Coysh both had the beating of Stuart Richards with the match ending all square. Nevertheless, I feel that the Closed season is a welcomed relief for them.

The relegation battle has been one which is equal to that of the premiership and YMCA 'A' have emulated Everton's recent lucky escape. Everton's new sponsors, 'Gone to One' will unfortunately have to be put on hold until next season.

Only 8 points separated the relegation zone but realistically, Harold House were never in danger and will probably look forward to improving their position next season.

The loss of Chris Dunne through injury and other commitments took its toll on YMCA 'A' and I bet Ahmed cursed in several languages when he saw that the Police had fielded a team of reserves against CADWA 'A', which resulted in a 9-1 win for CADWA (John Dyson beat Mike Power to earn the only point - well done John). This made for a nervous time for all concerned, however, YMCA

'A' scraped through, as did Everton.

So we say a sad farewell to CADWA 'A' and Waterloo. Both teams, as you would expect, fought to the end. CADWA's 8-2 win over YM 'A' followed by a 7-3 against Waterloo put the pressure on the other teams but alas, was to no avail. The Waterloo club will now face a dilemma of who should play in their newly promoted 'A' team. We wait in anticipation

Well, time to close. Sorry this article is somewhat short but space within this particular Digest has been prioritised for other features. Take care and see you next season.

DIVISION TWO by Mike Power

Congratulations go to Waterloo 'A' who, as predicted, became 2nd division champions. They managed this feat with a 100% record, 22 wins out of 22. Well done to Nick Miller, Frank Brady, Ricky Brown and Fred Pheysey. Only Bath St 'A' gave them a run for their money, losing out by 10 points. Maghull and GPT 'A' fought hard for third place with Maghull winning out by just one point.

Commiseration's go to Police 'A' and Waterloo 'B' who must face life in the third division next season. The rest of you can heave a sigh of relief. Only 15 points separated 6th place Manweb from relegation, thus proving how close and difficult this division is.

At the midway point the player of the season looked likely to be Nick Miller, who at the time had a 100% record. He did, however, let this slip, losing three games in the second half to Ian McElwee, Mike Moran and John Watson, the most impressive being Mike, 21/19, 21/10. Ian McElwee ended up taking my 'player of the season' award losing just twice, once to Nick Miller in the opening game of the season and a close fought battle with Steve Woods 21/12, 12/21, 21/19.

Fords had a much better season winning 11 games compared with only 4 last season. Their most consistent players were Bob Hughes and Tim Weardon both averaging about 65%. Bob made his tally against Police 'A' six out of six in week 16 when he beat Gareth Jones, Lenny (can you see me up here) Dyson and his equally high son, John, all of the games going to three. On the same night

Lenny had an excellent win over Tim 21/16, 22/24, 21/18. Tim had a good night at Waterloo defeating both Ricky Brown and Alan Reid but lost out to Fred Pheysey.

Congratulations also to Bath St 'B' who escaped relegation by just 3 points. I always thought they would stay up but Rob Peat told me he wasn't so sure. The crunch came when they met Waterloo 'B' and fought out a draw. John Watson and John Langton won two each and John and Rob won the doubles. They also defeated Police 7-3 but the best three points they achieved all season were those gained in a 7-3 defeat by Maghull when John Watson and Rob both beat Rob Heeney and Rob also beat Steve Woods 21/19, 21/18, a very good win. John Langton was unlucky against Steve losing deuce in the third.

After all I wrote about Bootle JC in the previous Digest, namely not knowing what their ranking order should be, they chose to confuse the issue even more by managing to finish the season identically :- Won 7, Lost 12, Drew 3, Points for 94, Against 126. Who could have predicted this. Half way through the season the 'A' team led the first team by 11 points with a game in hand. Obviously I got the story wrong and Dave Graham must know more about the situation than I do.

Both Manweb and Colonsay 'B' shared sixth place on 98 points but when the two met in February, Manweb beat Colonsay's three reserves 9-1. When Colonsay field their strongest three players, namely, Paula 'Kangaroo' French, Bill Harris and Martin Hunter, they are a difficult team to beat as both Maghull and GPT 'A' found out when both games played on Colonsay's table ended in draws. Both Maghull and GPT 'A' had full strength teams .

Manweb's main three of Alan Evans, Trevor Barraclough and Neil Jennings have achieved a creditable table position. This has been mainly due to the consistent performance of Alan who has, according to the cards in my possession, achieved an average of about 70%. His wins include a fine treble against Fords in a 7-3 defeat, further trebles against Bath St 'B', Bootle JC

'A' and Police 'A'. He also defeated Brenda Buoev 21/19, 21/19 but lost out to the unflappable Ian McElwee in the same match 21/13, 21/15.

The Waterloo 'B' boys must be kicking themselves, relegated by just three points. Well, somebody has to go down. They had many good results such as a draw against Maghull with Alan Reid beating Steve Woods 23/21 in the third. They picked up four points from their own 'A' team, three points from Bath St 'A' and another four from GPT 'A'. All these opponents had full strength teams. So what went wrong? The answer has to lie in lack of consistency, proven when they lost to Police 'A' 7-3 in week 12. Gareth Jones was again on form beating both Alan Reid and Peter Holmes but Richie Cragg pipped him 23/21, 18/21, 22/20. Lenny Dyson did exactly the same, he won two and lost to Richie. Reserve and League Secretary, Tony Harris, however, beat Richie and Peter but lost to Alan. It's a funny old game! Facesavers Alan Reid bt Roger Neal 24/22, 25/23. Ken Strahan bt Peter Holmes 21/11, 21/12. John Langton bt Brenda Buoev 21/19, 16/21, 23/21. Peter Cunningham (Fords) bt Ian Wensley 23/21, 9/21, 21/15. Harry Nelson bt Neil Jennings 21/17, 21/18. John Watson bt Nick Miller 21/19, 21/18. Martin Hunter bt Ricky brown 17/21, 26/24, 21/19.

Well, next season beckons. We will lose one Waterloo team, gain two CADWA teams and one Wavertree team. I wonder if we will find someone to write the notes?

DIVISION THREE by Ken Armson

The see-saw at the top continued right to the final match, March seeing GPT 'B' going strong, CADWA 'B' and WSM 'B' faltering. WSM had a bad spell, scraping home against Bath St 'C' and their own 'C' team 6-4. Their 'C' team actually only winning one set with the other three being due to the 'B' team playing short. Quite an eventful night one way or another. The reserve for the 'C' being Tony Connor who merely heaped coals on the fire by beating 'B' team captain, Paul Faulkner. CADWA did not fare much better with drawn matches v Bath St and Bootle YMCA and dropping three sets to WSM 'C'.

On 1st April GPT 'B' beat WSM 'B' 6-4 to repeat

their cup win. Their tails were up, WSM's heads were down and it looked to be GPT's title with the runner up being either WSM or CADWA, the odds leaning towards CADWA. WSM went into their match v GPT with the memory of their fairly recent cup defeat still in their minds and they failed to rise to the occasion. The sudden swing towards WSM and CADWA came with the departure on holiday of Ray Lavin whose consistency they could ill afford to lose and this proved to be the case. They had not really succeed in replacing John Coysh and the problems of replacing yet another player at that stage was to prove their undoing. The moving up of players leading to the inevitable dropping of vital points.

Points, it is often said, are worth more than matches in hand. WSM had a cushion of matches in hand and set out to prove they could be converted into promotion. Paul Faulkner read them the riot act, they dusted themselves down and set about the business of promotion as champions. Captain Paul Faulkner being determined to prove his faith in his teams ability was justified. They drew with CADWA, a match which CADWA needed to win and therein lies the reason they finished runners up - too many drawn matches (5) when a win was needed. WSM saw the gap open up and charged through rounding off their season and making the championship a virtual reality with two consecutive 8-2 wins over Manweb 'B'.

They then had to await the outcome of the CADWA 'B' v GPT match but with CADWA needing to win 7-3 just to equal WSM's points total and only a draw to be second they had little to fear. GPT needed a 6-4 to be runners up, anything less meaning they would have to be content with third place and another season in this division. With so much at stake and so much to do for both teams, a 10-0 was never on. GPT brought in Ted Gilmour and CADWA trumped their ace by bringing in Billy Hargreaves for his only appearance in this team. He did that which was required of him by winning his two singles and a double and CADWA were 7-3 winners. Not enough to take the title but enough to secure them second place.

So it is congratulations to WSM 'B' who started off as odds on favourite, slumped almost to outsiders and came back off the ropes to snatch the championship from CADWA and GPT.

Congratulations, also, to CADWA who never gave up trying, having set out their stall from match one. What probably helped clinch this was the re-ranking of Paul Robinson to play at No. 1 which moved others down and improved their overall results. It is always difficult to understand why teams sometimes play their best player down the order when that same player would be just as successful at No. 1 or 2.

Commiseration's to GPT who had to settle for a convincing Hyde Cup victory, a success I feel certain they would willingly have surrendered in favour of promotion. It was not to be, but all three teams can look back on a hard fought season during which they all had a chance to take the championship. If it is tough at the top, it is even tougher in division 2 and I shall be very surprised if either of them survive more than one season in the second, unless, of course new signings come along.

Bootle YMCA have a Cup Finalist's medal to show for their endeavours and will be happy with 4th place. As so often has been the case these past seasons, they lacked the commitment and strength to mount a sustained promotion challenge. They lost twice to WSM 'B' 9-1 and that tells its own story.

CADWA 'C' fell foul of our rules and had 10 points deducted for playing an ineligible player. This cost them 4th place. Looking back at the changing team line-ups as teams contested the final weeks prompts me to suggest that it must surely be time for club secretaries to be provided with copies of ranking lists and to be advised of any subsequent changes. All too often there are queries as to the eligibility of a player or their ranking. It would also enable clubs to see for themselves what passes for rankings in some clubs and just might encourage them to help the Management Committee put our house in order.

Bath St 'C' finished 5th and as I forecast were a hard nut to crack. No team could expect an easy ride from them and sets won against them had to be earned. A draw against CADWA and two 4-6 defeats against WSM 'B' and GPT point to a strong team capable of holding their own in this division. Quite a few matches would swing in their favour if Dave Stoddern could produce the same

consistency as that shown by Billy Clayton. I taught Bill everything he knows and now he beats me. Ain't life a pain. Dave, on his night, can be unplayable, and if he can turn such nights into a regular feature then Bath St will be going upwards.

WSM 'C' and 'D' had their own title battle and the 'D' team sneaked it by the same margin as their 'B' team, 3 points. Can I, I wonder, claim to be part of all this? I played for the 'D' team against CADWA 'B' and won my three sets. Does this make me a double champion? I guess not. Bad news for WSM 'C' comes in the form of Delyth Davies having decided to throw her bat in the cupboard and get down to serious studying and she won't be available to them next season.

Manweb had yet another sorry season of player problems culminating in secretary Alan Biggs also becoming a victim. Alan must be the most 'cheesed off' secretary in our league, having watched his teams founder because of team problems in yet another season. Mixed fortunes in the end with the 'B' being relegated and the 'A' pulling clear. With two Police teams coming in they will need to improve if they want to stay in this division. Waterloo will also have breathed a sigh of relief having narrowly avoided the drop. They lost Andy Armstrong due to injury and had no-one capable of replacing him in that their 'D' team were also having problems in the 4th. Nineteen reserves were used, some in 2's and that tells its own story. It was mainly thanks to Julie Prince (76%) that they avoided the drop. Few teams can boast a player of such consistency and Julie has done a great job for Waterloo since joining them.

For Liverpool YM, their revival came too late and they dropped into the 4th. The return of Louis Arnold, a great ambassador for French TT coupled with the injection of John Henshaw brought about a mini revival, mini in that they brought in the points but got no real support from team-mates. Manweb never really stood any chance of survival. They lost Alan Cameron to their 'A' team and Peter Carney due to health problems and had no strength at any level to help improve their results. It also does not help if you are also propping up the team above you

and at the same time trying to avoid the drop yourselves. On only three occasions did a player in the team succeed in winning two singles in a match, a real recipe for relegation. Again, while the 'A' team could call on them for support, they had no-one to call on who would be likely to win sets. I expect to see both these teams bounce back as it is not as tough in the 4th.

An early forecast for next season being two CADWA teams as front runners all season if they stay together. My selection, if I had to make one, for 'player of the season' would be Peter Wass. A good captain who can lead from the front, always pleasant on or off the table and a consistent sets winner. For all round team effort and consistency it has to be CADWA 'C'. Biggest hiccup of the season was Mr Consistency. Billy Clayton, dropping both his singles in week 18 against CADWA 'C' and week 20 against WSM 'D'. Well done. Bill Stanley, who beat Bill, 17 in the third for what must be his best win of the season. No victory can be won easily against B.C. so well done, again, B.S. Why is it I can beat B.S. but can never beat B.C.?

DIVISION FOUR by Arthur Garnett

I can't remember a season such as this, where so many teams were in contention for the top two promotion places. Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'A', Bath Street 'D', Maghull 'A', Wavertree St Mary's 'E', and my team Police 'B', have battled it out allseason. After a few weeks Bath Street became outsiders, but still in with a fighting chance. It wasn't until well after Christmas that Bootle YMCA began to fade a little from the running, which left three teams, Maghull, WSM and Police playing for every last point. The Divisional Championship was decided in the last week of the season.

Congratulations go to Police 'B' - Tony Harris, Tom Purcell, Richie Winckle and Arthur Garnett - Division Four Champions 1997/8 with 166 points, having won 18, drawn 2, and lost 2 in the season. The two defeats were at the hands of Bootle YM in week 3, and Maghull 'A' in week 7. In fact, Maghull 'A' were the only team not to lose to the Police, earning a draw in the second match.

In second place, following a terrific final series of

results were Wavertree St Mary's 'E' just 7 points behind on 159. They defeated Magull 'A' 9 - 1 at Maghull, and then needed to take 32 points from the last 40 to guarantee at least 2nd position. Included in these fixtures was a trip to Bootle YMCA which they won 7 - 3. In their final match against CADWA, which they needed to win 8 - 2, they found themselves 2 - 1 down, before coming back to win the necessary points. So congratulation go to Bob Owen, Mabel Neary, Tony Connor, Ken Armson, with support from Ken Ray, promoted from second position.

Maghull 'A' had battled it out with Police 'B' all season for the top spot, only to fade at the post and drift down into 3rd place. The team of Eddie Preston, Tom Downing, George Frost and Harry McGannity ended 3 points short on 156, having lost only one match in the season, but, a 1 - 9 defeat at the hands of your closest challenger, late in the season, is a bitter pill to swallow.

In fourth place on 139 points were Bootle YMCA 'A'. Chris McGuire, Bert Rivers, Kathy Hayden and Mike Hughes, have been good competitors all season, but, apart from their early season success against Police, did not do well enough against the other top teams. I feel sure they will not be happy with their overall season, and will be disappointed to have finished one place lower than last season. The determination to win is there for all to see, so perhaps they need to strengthen the side for next time.

Bath Street 'D' were in fifth on 131 points. Val Franco, Reg Edwards, John McCann, Alan Willis and Alec Gould, started the season well, but, I believe they suffered through the loss of Reg Edwards early on. John McCann has been an able replacement, and I can see them doing better next time, but they must field their strongest side every time.

In sixth and seventh were the two Maghull teams 'C' and 'B'. Maghull 'C' on 119 points and Maghull 'B' on 90 points. The 'C' team were strengthened mid season by the inclusion of Chris Roberts, who was promptly re-ranked to the No 1 slot. So, with Chris Roberts at No 1 and Rod Bulmer at No 2, they became a fairly formidable outfit. The 'B' team of Bill Salter, Brian Gregory, Wilf Gibson and Jeff Banks should do better than this, having been in the

3rd place play-off last season, but, I think we should take a look at the Maghull club's team policy. Now, I don't know what they decided upon pre season, but, with three teams in Division Four, their first team in Division two, and the remaining team in Division five, I would have thought that their priority would have been to ensure that one Maghull team was promoted this time. If we take the 'A' team out of the equation and look at the best four players in the 'B' and 'C' teams, I believe that they would have given any team in this division a 'run for their money', and, Maghull could have been a good each way bet for having two teams promoted. They seem to have settled for what they ended with - two teams in mid table obscurity. No offence is meant by this so I hope none is taken, but if they look more closely at their team selection I feel sure that everyone at the club would feel happier about it.

CADWA 'D', promoted from Division five last time have done well to finish in eighth on 86 points, never once flirting with the relegation zone. Steve Critchley, Jack Highton, Trevor Dolder, Jack Power and Doug Baker have consolidated the move into the division and can look to improve next year. I'm sure they will find a little more consistency in their results.

And so to the dog fight at the bottom. In ninth on 79 points, Harold House 'A'. The inclusion of Eddie Clein in the first third of the season has just done enough to keep them clear. John Hodges, Mike Poole, Dave Cohen, Dave Money and a few others seeing them clear. I've heard a lot said about Eddie Clein playing in Division four, at the same time as playing in Division One, but, it is within the rules of the League, and they can only be changed by YOU.

Aigburth finished in the same position as last year, tenth on 78 points, only 1 point behind Harold House. Last year they beat the drop by one point, but this time, Graham Rollinson, Peter Williams, Dave Evans and Ray Jones were a comfortable 13 points clear. A good improvement on last time, in fact, Graham and Peter, with some notable 'scalps' between them, are improving year on year, so I expect them to move up the table next time.

Which brings me to the dreaded eleventh (relegation) position. Wavertree St Mary's 'F', Andy Bird, Steven Kee, Steve Perry, Reg Mirdamdi and a few others go back to Division five having won 65 points. I don't know if they have enjoyed this season, but, I think that we should look at the policy of promoting 3rd placed teams, when a team from Division 1 drops out. This team were 14 points away from promotion in Division five last year and so, were destined to struggle. To win only 2 matches all season is a terrible way to spend a winter. But think about it, if it happens again this year, Division five could end up with only 18 matches in the season. The League rules state that the bottom two teams shall be relegated, but is this fair on the third placed team which is promoted without earning it. Again, rules can only be changed by YOU.

Bottom placed were Waterloo 'D'. 52 points all season. Ken Nelson, Eddie Rowbottom, Bill Spencer and Alan Platt are much better team than this. I know they lost Ian Lunt this year, but I am at a loss to explain the poor results of this team. I know that Division five had better watch out next season because, when this team put it together they will take a lot of beating.

GOOD WINS

Doug Baker (CADWA) beating Tom Downing (Maghull 'A') 21/14 in the 3rd. Steve Critchley (CADWA) defeating Tom Purcell (Police) 21/13 in the 3rd. Andy Bird (WSM'F') beating Chris McGuire (Bootle YM) 21/19 21/15. Tom Purcell (Police) beating Bob Owen (WSM 'E') 21/19 in 3rd. Bill Salter (Maghull 'B') over Chris McGuire (Bootle YM) 21/16 in 3rd. Brian Gregory (Maghull 'B') beating Tom Purcell (Police) 21/17 in 3rd. Dave Evans (APH) over Reg Edwards (Bath St. 'D') 21/19 in 3rd.

At this point I would normally give a list of close results, but, with the championship having been so close, I think there may be quite a few players who would not wish to be reminded of games they could have won. I do intend however, to mention one very close result, which, in my view was the set of the season. Congratulations go to Police 'B' for their win in the Forrest Cup Final. Although the result looks comfortable at 6-1 over Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'A', it was, in fact, a

lot closer, where most of the games could have gone either way. In the game between Tony Harris (Police) and Bert Rivers (Bootle YM), Bert won the first set 21/18. He was 20 - 18 up in the 2nd set, but Tony forced a deuce 20 - 20. At 34 -33 to Tony, he literally dived forward to reach a Bert River's drop shot, ending up sprawled on the floor, winning the point to take the set 35 - 33.

Well, that's it from me. Next season I'll be in Div.3 so you'll probably have a new columnist. Have a nice summer, don't hurt yourself falling off your surfboards, and come back refreshed and ready for the new season.

DIVISION FIVE by Barry Meyer

Congratulations to Bath St 'E' on winning the division although the rest were catching up somewhat in the latter end of the season and they drew five matches and were 5-2 down at Aigburth before staging a good comeback to earn another draw. They also drew with Hope, a match which included probably the score of the season with Martin Hopwood defeating Peter Ross 21/13, 21/14. In another draw versus Linacre, Ron Georgeson lost 20/22 in the third to Jack Davidson and 26/28, 20/22 to Ken Ainsworth. Eight sets went to three in this match.

Linacre came from behind to finish second in the division, despite winning only 50% of their matches. In fact, only Bath St 'E' and Harold House 'B' won more than half but Harold House plummeted to fifth place towards the end of the season, mainly caused, I believe, by Ted Cramsie failing to turn up on more than one occasion. This would affect the team spirit of any team, knowing you are three sets down before you start.

I have never known a season when it was so difficult to predict results but the good news for those who like their matches close is that 48 out of 200 games ended drawn, with bottom team Harold House 'C' the experts with seven out of twenty. Incredible, if they won all those matches 6-4 they would have moved up one place, having won more games than Aigburth, who finished fourth.

The young (with one exception) Colonsay team finally seem to be coming good and finished third, only five points behind the similarly aged (for

dyslexics like me 81 = 18) Linacre team. Surprisingly, Colonsay lost 6-4 to Hope, despite an excellent win 18/21, 21/17, 22/20 for Stan Clarke over Richard Eden. Colonsay, however, weren't helped by the absence of Lee Farley in their first match. Colonsay won 9-1 (Hope - 3 players - Darren Morgan beat Alan French 21/11, 23/21).

Colonsay's draw with Linacre included Lee Farley v Jack Davidson 21/19, 21/23, 21/19. This card was missing the match number, Group numbers and the home team record, although it did have the date on it. This trait seems to be followed regularly by Hope (less) and Police (A Cop out?)

Result of the season was Police 'C' 8 - Harold House 'B' 2. The Police team that night was Brian Burrows, Rob Rawlinson, John Jeffrey and Wally Miller. If they had been able to field that quartet regularly, I'm sure they would have finished nearer the top than the bottom.

For the first time ever, I've a scorecard with a score I thought was impossible, i.e. Stephen Simpson and Gary Abrams from bottom team, Harold House 'C' beat Lisa Mortimore and Paul Jones of Hope 21/10, 21/10, yet Gary had only beaten Lisa 22/20 in the third in the singles.

Some of the face savers could also appear in the Phew! category :- Andy McCourt (Maghull 'D') defeated Ron Georgeson (Bath St 'E') 19/21, 21/19, 22/20. Gary Abram beat Jim Cannon 22/20 in the third. Richard Eden (Hope) overcame John Jeffrey 19 in the third and Barrys Meyer (APH) v Ken Armson finished 15/21, 21/19, 21/18. Brian Burrows (Police) won their only two games against Aigburth, beating Derek Traynor and Eric Wood (Get better soon, Derek, we need you!)

Other close sets (3rd game only unless stated). Ken Ainsworth v Lee Farley, 25/27. Jim Geddes v Rob Rawlinson, 23/25. Jim Geddes 22/20 against Les Mulholland. Norman Lindsay 23/21 over Jerry O'Keefe. Ron Georgeson 18/21, 21/18, 21/19 and Dave Batty 15/21, 21/19, 22/20, both against Brian Burrows, and finally Neil Thomas (Police) beat Frank Lacey 24/22, 17/21, 25/23.

Last but not least, congratulations to Bath St 'F' in beating their own 'E' team in the cup final replay. I have no details but I believe the 'F' team were a player short (!) - an interesting one for the rule book if the lower team had a full turnout.

Have a nice close season and summer holiday.

MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT (cont'd)

The Junior team fared better than expected, winning four, losing four, plus being awarded a 10-0 walkover off Barrow. We lose Lee Farley and Jay French next season and unless new players emerge, I cannot see us having a Junior team.

In Knock out cup competitions we didn't fare as well as expected although a number of good results were recorded. Huddersfield, the 1996 Wilmott Cup winners were beaten, as were Bradford and Blackpool, the competition being staged on a group basis in Blackpool. However, when the quarter finals were brought forward to a date in march we were unable to raise a suitable team. Keith and Kevin were both working and Stuart was visiting his sick father in the Midlands. Paul Hutchings, who had played in Blackpool, was on duty for Lancashire and Adam Robertson was in Belgium, while others who were eligible to play such as Bernie Wentworth and Rob Bevan, were playing for Cheshire. After much discussion it was decided to scratch, as did Harrogate, which left hosts Leicester beating West Wiltshire for a place in the national semi-finals! Enough said.

Another disappointing departure came at Lytham St Annes, when we lost by 5 sets to 4. The home side enjoyed a five point start in every game but I smelled a rat when we walked into the hall at Blackpool when I saw Oldham's Lancashire County team player, Mandy Winskill. She is a formidable player from scratch but with 5 start she beat Brenda in straight games and helped add the mixed doubles. The home side have lady players in the local league but chose to ignore them in favour of a stronger player from another league. They tried Alice Howard from Wirral and others before settling for Mandy. They made another effort for Sylvia Graham for their semi-final tie with Wirral and plumped for Katy Parker when they beat Mid Cheshire in the final.

LANCS & CHESHIRE RESULTS

Men

Bolton	A	W	8-2
Salford & F'worth	A	W	9-1
Mid Cheshire	H	W	9-1
Blackpool	H	W	8-2
Stockport	H	W	7-3
Burnley	A	L	4-6
Wigan	H	W	10-0
Wirral	A	W	6-4

Ladies

Wirral	H	D	5-5
Blackpool	A	W	9-1
Macclesfield	H	W	10-0
Burnley	A	W	9-1
Manchester	H	W	8-2
Oldham	A	W	10-0 (W/O)

Vets

Oldham	A	W	6-4
Stockport	H	L	2-8
Blackburn	A	L	4-6
Halton	A	W	7-3
Manchester	H	L	4-6
Burnley	H		10-0 (W/O)

Vets 'A'

Tameside	H	W	9-1
Bolton	A	W	9-1
Lancs/Morecambe	A	W	7-3
Rochdale	A	D	5-5
Barrow	H	W	10-0
Oldham 'B'	H	W	9-1
Salford & F'worth	A	W	7-3
Trafford 'A'	H	W	6-4

Juniors

Wirral 'A'	H	L	1-9
Salford & F'worth	A	L	3-7
Halton	A	L	1-9
Oldham	H	L	2-8
Barrow 'A'	H		10-0 (W/O)
Chester	A	W	7-3
Lytham St Annes	H	W	10-0
Macclesfield	H	W	8-2
Hyndburn	A	W	7-3

Wilmott Cup (Men - group matches)

Blackpool	N	W	5-0
Huddersfield	N	W	5-1
Bradford	N	W	5-2

AN APPRECIATION OF THE WORK OF ARTHUR UPTON by Stan Clarke



Born in Litherland in 1919 Arthur's love of Table Tennis began when he joined his school's Old Boys Association in 1935 and one year later he won the individual table tennis championship.

In 1939 with the outbreak of World War 2 Arthur volunteered for the armed forces and served in the Royal Engineers where he represented the army in inter service Table Tennis matches on several occasions. Invalided out of the army he joined the Civil Service Defence Corps and later became Chairman of the Bootle Civil Defence Social Club where he promoted the game of table tennis whenever time permitted. In the late 1940's he entered a mixed team in the Liverpool & District Table Tennis league and John McKim joined the club and so began a friendship that lasts to this day.

When the Civil defence Club lost its premises Arthur, his wife Lil and several others joined the Oakhill Club in Deane Road, Arthur acting as Club Secretary. When an opportunity arose to play nearer home Arthur and Lil moved to the Orrell Wardens Club in Harris Drive, Bootle where Arthur became Club Chairman. The Orrell club boasted teams in both the mens and womens divisions of the LD TTL and both Arthur and Lil played on a regular basis until Arthur suffered a heart attack in 1969 which brought a stop to his playing days in the sport. However, by this time he was deeply involved in the administrative side of the sport holding the positions of Chairman of the LD TTL, Chairman of the Lancashire County Executive Committee and of the Lancashire and Cheshire league.

Arthur was elected Chairman of the Liverpool

League in 1958 and this, his final year in Office, will see him complete forty unbroken years in post, an astounding feat and one I am sure that is unlikely to be equalled. In 1962 Arthur was elected to the Lancashire County Executive Committee and was elected Chairman of that Committee in 1964. In 1968 he was elected Lancashire representative on the National Council, a position he still holds. The same year he was appointed Chairman of the newly formed Disciplinary Committee of the ETTA and he still holds that position today, the only person ever to have held the Office. He also served for some years on the ETTA Rules Committee and in the 1970's served for five years on the ETTA Management Committee. His service to the ETTA nationally has been acknowledged by his appointment as a Vice President of the Association and in 1981 he was granted Life Membership of the ETTA for, as the official citation reads, 'his exceptional service to the sport of Table Tennis, especially his integrity, tact and courage as Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee'.

Within the closer confines of the Liverpool league Arthur holds the positions of President and Chairman and has been awarded the Stamp Award of Merit and Life Membership of the league, both honours rarely bestowed and only to a person who has made an exceptional contribution to the league over many years. He is also a Vice President of the Bolton League and the English Veterans Association.

Outside of Table Tennis Arthur is Chairman of the University of Liverpool Pensioners Club and a Committee member of the University Amateur Gardening Society. In the summer months, when health and other commitments permit, he enjoys crown green bowling and is a member of the Waterloo Pensioners Bowling Club.

I am sure that each and every one of you will have some fond memory of Arthur, whether it be his impromptu speeches, made apparently at 'the drop of a hat', or of his outstanding ability as Chairman. The Liverpool league had indeed been fortunate to have the services of such a gifted and committed Chairman for the past forty years, his successor will have a hard act to follow.

On a personal note I first met Arthur in the year I and others formed the Maghull club. Prior to our first season in the league we organised a friendly

match with the Orrell Club in which both Arthur and Lil played. Some say that it was the shock of losing to me that brought on Arthur's first heart attack. Since that time I have had the opportunity to work with Arthur on the Liverpool League Management Committee and on the Lancashire Committee and attend meetings of the National Council where Arthur's knowledge and integrity is held in the highest regard. On my travels to Table Tennis events around the country I am frequently asked to send regards to Arthur from people who have come into contact with him over the years and I can say with hand on heart that I have never heard anybody speak of him with other than respect and admiration.

Arthur's resignation from the post of Chairman of the league does not, I am pleased to say, mean the loss of his presence from the sport. He will remain as Chairman of Lancashire and retain his other posts within the game and will remain as President of the Liverpool League. Long may he continue to do so!

FIFTY NOT OUT! by Ted Birch

On Friday 24 th April, at Waterloo, a 'select' Waterloo team comprising Ted Birch, Alan Chase, Mike Allen, Ken Nelson, Alan Reid and Austin Hayden took on the full might of the Linacre squad, comprising, Harry Reeve, Jack Davidson, Ken Ainsworth, Frank Lacey, Alex Davidson and Norman Appleby, to a challenge match to celebrate Linacre's 50th Anniversary.

All the Waterloo team (apart from Mr Reid) arrived in good time only to find Jack Davidson, Frank Lacey and Harry Reeve hard at practise. One up to Linacre!

The next setback to Waterloo's hopes was the sudden incapacity of Alan Chase, who had to go for a lie down, when he overheard Frank Lacey tell Jack Davidson that 'young Ainsworth' had just arrived.

Waterloo then played a master card by announcing that there was a free bar only to be trumped by Linacre, who promptly ordered 6 pints of shandy, which resulted in Alan Chase, who by then had only just recovered from his first shock, having to be taken away again for the second time.

The match then proceeded uneventfully until half time when Ted announced that there would be an old fashioned half hour break for refreshments and chat. Ted then tentatively enquired whether the Linacre lads required tea or alcohol. As Ted went off to make six cups of tea, Alan Chase was for the third time laid down in a darkened room. The tea interval was filled with many wonderful reminiscences and much general bonhomie.

The first half of the evening, comprising six singles matches had been hard and sportingly contended but the mood changed in the second half, which comprised three doubles. Each doubles pairing comprised one Waterloo player and one Linacre player. The mixing of the teams in this way produced much agitation and aggression amongst the players and had it not been for a virtuoso umpiring performance from Ken Ainsworth, red cards would certainly have been shown.

The match ended in a victory for Waterloo select by 7 matches to 2 or so they thought! However, the wily Linacre side proudly announced that not only had they drunk the bay dry of shandy, but they had actually won the match by 250 to Waterloo's 207. No dear reader, not the combined ages, but quite unbelievably the combined number of seasons played in the Liverpool League by the Linacre team.

At this point, both teams engaged in much mutual congratulations and Jack told young Ken it was time for bed and Alan finally had to be taken away and may never be seen or heard of again.



Can you put names to the faces of these youngster? **Answers on foot of page 18**

THE 68TH LIVERPOOL CLOSED TOURNAMENT by Brian Leeson (Organiser & Referee)

The 68th Liverpool Closed Championships were held once again at the Everton Park Sports Centre on Sunday 8th March with the main finals held two days later at the Police Club, on Tuesday 10th March.

The necessary preparation for Sunday was carried out by Alec Gould, Ken Armson, Tony Harris, Mike Power, Paula French, Keith Williams and myself, who all gave up their Saturday afternoon to set up twelve tables and surrounds, ready for a prompt start the following morning.

The Divisional Championship events were played during the morning with the finals staged at 2.00 p.m. The finalists were presented with their awards by Mr Dick Johnson of the Liverpool Leisure Services Directorate, through whom the venue had been arranged. The individual Champions and Runners up were as follows :- (2nd Div) Martin Hunter, run. up Paula French. (3rd Div.) John Higham, run. up John Ashley. (4th Div.) Mabel Neary, run. up Ken Armson. (5th Div.) Brian Burrows, run. up Richard Eden.

The over - 55 Veterans event was played in four groups during the mid-day break with the Final decided later in the afternoon. This resulted in Peter Taylor beating John Higham 21/11, 21/12.

Kevin Dolder, Champion in '94, '95 and '97 achieved his fourth success when he defeated Paul Hutchings 21/19, 21/19 in the Final at the Police Club at the Tuesday's Finals evening. Kevin had overcome Bernie Wentworth 21/15, 21/16 in the semi-final, while Paul had reached the Final with a 20/22, 21/19, 21/13 win over Rob Bevan. Rob had seemed to have taken the semi in two straight at one stage but Paul managed to get back, point by point, achieving a very good win.

The Doubles Final produced an easy victory for Paul Hutchings and John Rankin who defeated a disappointing Keith Williams and Kevin Dolder 21/16, 21/8. The earlier defeated semi finalists were Fred Bainbridge/Kenny Jackson and Bernie Wentworth/Rob Bevan.

The well supported Veterans event saw Peter Lee

regaining the title he had won twice before, beating last year's winner, Roy Smith, 24/22, 21/13. Defeated semi-finalists in this event were Dave Roberts and Peter Taylor.

Two names new to our Finals events contested the Junior Final when John Coysh beat Paul Robinson 21/15, 21/10, while in the Women's Singles, Paula French just managed to defeat Mabel Neary 23/21, 21/19, winning the title for the third time.

I must take this opportunity to express my thanks to the many people, committee members, players and others, including staff from Everton park Sports centre, who contributed in no small way to the success of the this year's Tournament. Having set up the playing area on Saturday, now mainly the same members contributed to the dismantling operation, including Ken, Tony, Mike, Don, Keith and others.

Thanks to Ken Armson for his work as Captain of Umpires on Sunday, as well as organising the draw on Sunday and then again on Tuesday. Thanks to Don Davies for keeping the wall charts up to date during Sundays events and also for producing an excellent Finals programme for Tuesday. Thanks to our Chairman, Arthur Upton, for helping at the Control Desk on Sunday, seeing to all the requirements of the control staff and thereby being on his feet all day. Also thanks to Alec Gould, who helped for most of the day at the control table.

I must record my personal thanks to Ray Hebson, who has helped at the control table nearly every year since I took over from him as Referee in the early 60's. Any success I have achieved can be attributed to his advice and expertise, which he passed on to me.

Very sincere thanks must be recorded to our main sponsor, the Bill Fawley Construction Company Ltd. for their continued financial help and also to the Liverpool City Council Leisure Services Directorate for their support.

As this was my last Tournament as Organiser and Referee, I hope that I can now look forward to attending future events simply as an interested spectator, out of the limelight, but with many happy memories.

**9th WORLD VETERANS TABLE
TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS
MANCHESTER**

Table Tennis
with the guile and dexterity only
years of experience can provide

The 1st World Veterans Table Tennis Championships
took place in Gothenburg (Sweden) in 1982

Over 2,500 competitors are expected in Manchester for the
1998 championships which will be held from the 22nd-27th June
1998 at the G-Mex, venue for the 44th World
Championships held last year. In the week before, from the
17th-21st June, 1998, a new innovations 'Club World' Team
Event will be held at the same venue.

Why not join us in Manchester for the
9th World veterans Table Tennis Championships

For further information contact:

Mike Watts, Championship Director, World Veterans Table
Tennis Championships,
Manchester City Council, The Town Hall, Albert Square,
Manchester M60 2LA
Tel. 0161 831 9135

**CONFUSED BY THE MOBILE
PHONE MAZE**

We can offer you :

A choice of the two best networks : Vodaphone
or Cellnet

Exclusive tariffs offering exceptional value
12 months no quibble warranty on all products

A comprehensive fully tested product range
An industry led after sales service from Martin
Dawes Telecommunications

We will visit your home or workplace and tailor
the networks, tariff and phone that meet your
personal needs.

**FOR DETAILS OF MANY EXCLUSIVE
MONEY SAVING OFFERS**

Contact Tony or Pat Harris
Tel. 0151 228 1065

**PETER TAYLOR
CADWA TT CLUB**

**ELECTRICAL
CONTRACTORS
N.I.C.E.I.C. APPROVED**

**DOMESTIC &
COMMERCIAL
INSTALLATIONS**

*3 Victoria Avenue,
Broadgreen,
Liverpool,
L14 3LR*

Tel. 0151 228 8894

**EDITOR'S AWARD FOR
BEST DIVISIONAL
NOTEWRITER, 1997/98**

GOES TO

PAUL GITTINS

WELL DONE PAUL!

MAIL BOX

Dear Editor,

Help Wanted ! I have
acquired, by fair means,
a small trophy for the

'H'cap Tournament
Winner, 1976 - 77 - Rafter's T.T.C.'

Could anyone enlighten me as to who
this was?

Mabel Neary
(Wav St Marys)



MORE FACES FROM THE PAST



Taken in 1934, this famous Welsh International, Liverpool league player (on the right) is being presented with the Montague Burton Challenge Cup by League President, Mr C.E. Bartholomew. His play was characterised by his stolid defence and his 'poker' faced countenance and he was known to his friends as 'Pusher'. 'Pusher' had just defeated Liverpool's first International (centre) in the Liverpool Closed Mens Singles final, but who are they?

Answers on foot of Page 18.

COMING SOON
THE LIVERPOOL
JUNIOR 3 STAR
TOURNAMENT

AT THE WAVERTREE
TENNIS CENTRE

5TH/6TH DECEMBER,
1998

WANTED!

YOUR OLD RUBBERS
AND BLADES

TO ASSIST THE JUNIOR
COACHING SESSIONS
HELD AT WAVERTREE
TENNIS CENTRE

EVERY FRIDAY
5 P.M. - 7 P.M.

If You can help, contact

KEN ARMSON
Tel. 0151 486 3073



No doubt most of you will recognise Keith Williams in this photo but who is the player with him. To give you a clue, the photo was taken in the 1980's, but this player came to prominence in the mid 70's, as Liverpool's number one ranked Junior.

Answer foot of page 18

CUP FINAL REPORTS



Readman Cup Final

Wavertree St. Marys 6 - Merseyside Police 1



Readman Cup Winners : Wav St Marys - Bernie Wentworth, Rob Bevan and Gary Watson

Police won the toss and elected to be the away team and duly called Gary Watson to the table to play Paul Gittins. Gary took the game 19/21, 21/13, 21/12. The second game put Paul's lookalike twin, Steve on against Bernie Wentworth. After a brave fight by Steve, who led the first 14/17, Bernie used all his experience to win 21/18, 21/13. Police then called Paul and John Rankin in the doubles against Bernie and Rob Bevan and managed to pull a game back with an impressive two straight win, 21/16, 21/14. The fourth game saw Rob take on Steve and he increased Wavertree's lead to 3-1 by winning 21/19, 21/12. In the fifth game John met Gary in what turned out to be the closest game of the night. With grit and determination Gary took the game 18/21, 21/17, 21/17. Bernie then played Paul and made it 5-1 winning 21/9, 21/10. Wavertree St Marys clinched the Readman Cup when Rob beat John 21/13, 15/21, 21/15.

Our Chairman and President, Arthur Upton, presented the trophies. The official in charge was Alex Gould and the match was played at CADWA who were represented by Jack Power. The refreshments were prepared by Liz Power.

Rumjahn Cup Final

G.P.T. 'A' 1 - Bath Street 'A' 6

Bath Street called the first game and put Ian McElwee on against Ian Wensley and gave themselves a good start with Ian Mc winning 21/13, 21/19. The second game saw Frank McCann

take on Brenda Buocy in what can only be described as an amazing game. Frank won the first 21/15 and Brenda didn't seem to have an answer. The second saw a complete turn around with Brenda hitting everything in sight and she won 21/11. The third went the same way until Brenda led 19/14 and Frank started to claw his way back. Frank reached match point at 21/20 only to see Brenda win three on the trot to take the game 23/21. Ian McElwee then went on again against Eddie Crowley and in his usual calm manner, turning defence into attack, and vice versa, made it 3-0 to Bath Street winning 21/10, 21/12. GPT made it 3-1 when Frank defeated Colin Owens 21/10, 21/12. The fifth game threw Brenda on against Eddie and again she fought back from 15/20 down to win the first 24/22. She then won the second 21/17. Colin then met Ian Wensley and ran out victorious 21/16, 22/24, 21/15 to put one hand on the cup at 5-1. The final game saw Ian McElwee complete a fine personal treble beating Frank 21/15, 21/18.

The trophies were presented by Ted Rumjahn who was accompanied by his wife, Kay, together with Janet Rumjahn. Our President and Chairman, Arthur Upton was in attendance. The official in charge was Stan Clarke. The match was played at Liverpool YMCA and the refreshments were prepared by Liz Power.

Forrest Cup Final

Merseyside Police 'B' 6 - Bootle YMCA 'A' 1

First blood went to the Police when Richie Winckle and Arthur Garnett came from behind in the doubles to beat Albert Rivers and Kathy Hayden 20/22, 21/17, 21/14. They increased their lead when Tom Purcell beat Kathy 21/17, 21/19. Bootle hit back when Chris Maguire and Mike Hughes beat Tony Harris and Tom Purcell 21/15, 16/21, 11/21. The next match between Tony Harris and Albert Rivers was an absolute cracker! Albert won the first 21/13 but the second game was a real cliff hanger when Tony saved about 11 match points at deuce to finally win 35/33 and then won the final game 21/14 to give Police a 3-1 lead. They never looked back from that point and went on to win 6-1. Arthur

Garnett beat Mike Hughes 21/15, 21/16, Tony Harris beat Chris Maguire 21/17, 21/11 and Tom Purcell also beat Chris 21/15, 21/19.

Man of the Match - Tony Harris



Forrest Cup Winners : Police 'B' - Tom Purcell, Arthur Garnett, Tony Harris and Richie Winckle

Stamp Cup Final

After a draw

Bath Street 'F' 6 - Bath Street 'E' 0

The Stamp Cup replay saw Bath Street 'F' team get off to a flying start when Dave Cunningham beat George Crowley 19/21, 21/14, 21/12. They quickly increased this to 2-0 when Richard Woodley beat Eugene Berger 21/19, 21/12. The next game was a crucial one for both sides but John Letch beat Ron Georgeson 21/14, 16/21, 21/13 to put a bit of space between the two teams. The 'F' team turned the heat up on their 'E' team when Oates/Woodley beat Crowley/Berger 16/21, 21/10, 21/14 to lead 4-0. Four games played and every set gone to three but up to now all in favour of the 'F' team. In a match of high quality Dave Cunningham beat Dave Batty 21/12, 21/18 to put the 'F' team within touching distance of the cup. Graham Oates made sure the opportunity wasn't wasted when he beat Ron Georgeson 21/14, 21/16 to win the cup for the 'F' team but the final score belies how close the match was. A very sporting and closely fought encounter with both teams a credit to the Bath Street Club.

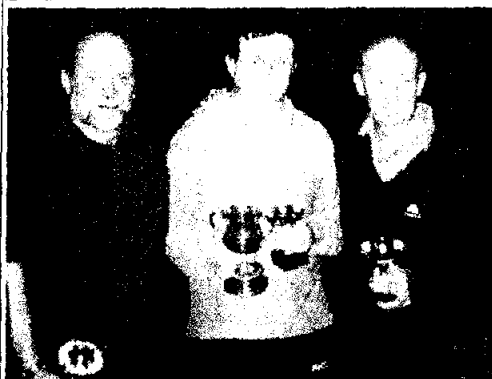
Frank Murphy Cup Final

Wavertree St Marys 1 - Waterloo 5

Wavertree went into an early lead when Alan Timewell beat Alan Chase in the third game. Alan Timewell made a quick return to the table to face

Ted Birch but Ted dug in to put the 'three musketeers' back in the match with a hard victory. 1-1. Mike Allen then put Waterloo in front by beating Mick Tierney and Ted Birch put Waterloo 3-1 up by beating Phil (the entertainer) Luxon in a match of contrasting styles. Mick Tierney and Alan Chase had a battle royal with Alan emerging the winner to put Waterloo 4-1 up. Alan Timewell then went on to put Wavertree back in the hunt but Mike Allen had other ideas and took full advantage of his teams handicap to beat Alan two straight and ensure that Waterloo were victorious.

Man of the Match - Ted Birch



Frank Murphy Cup Winners : Waterloo - Alan Chase, Mike Allen and Ted Birch

Hyde Cup Final

(Sorry, no match report)

GPT 'B' 6 - Bootle YMCA 1

Thanks are due to all League and Club Officials, everyone who provided refreshments, spectators and, of course, the players, for ensuring a successful conclusion to all cup competitions.

Also thank you to Frank Lacey and Mike Power who wrote the above match reports for inclusion in this Digest.

TABLE EDGES, NETS & ECHOES OF THE PAST



Congratulations to the Liverpool men's team of Keith, Kevin, Stuart and Adam in winning the division one Lancashire and Cheshire League title for the third year in succession.

The same accolade also goes to the Ladies team, who also performed the feat, while capturing the title for the ninth time in twelve years. A remarkable achievement.

Yet another piece of silverware to come our way is the veterans third division title. Well done to Ted Birch, Alan Chase and Ricky brown, plus those who helped out from time to time.

Adam Robertson, aged 14, continues to impress all who are fortunate to play him. I cannot recall another player in the last 25 years with so much ability, even at 18. After playing for Wales in the Manchester Worlds, he last month represented his country in the European Championships in Holland. he has been ranked at 60 in the England senior list while he stands at 4 in the Junior list, although it must be said, that he recently recorded victories over the top four in the list! Well done, not only to Adam but also to Barry and Gaynor. Thank you for allowing him to play in our league.

Did you hear the one about the 95 year old lady who has entered the World veterans Championships? Yes, it's true. Not only that, but her doubles partner is 83! Amazing.

Fourteen hundred players have entered although the organisers were hoping for 2000. The story is that the high value of the pound put many off. £55 entry fee plus expensive hotels appears to be the stumbling block.

Don't forget the Merseyside Open on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th August at the Wavertree Tennis Centre.

We will be looking for Veterans, Ladies and Juniors for next season to represent the League in the Lancashire and Cheshire league. Names to Don Davies as soon as possible please.

Sad to see the passing of my old doubles partner, John Dancaster, who passed away while playing in a match in North wales. The gentleman will be missed by all who knew or played against him.

Congratulations (or is it commiserations) to Don Davies on volunteering to become the new Honorary Secretary of the Lancashire and Cheshire League. Well done Don!

Identities Revealed

1. Linacre Old Boys - Frank Lacey, D. McGonigal, Alec Davidson, Harry Recve and Jack Davidson
2. Welsh International Fred Bamford and English International Don Foulis
3. Tony O'Conner

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	D	PTS
WAV ST MARYS	22	21	0	1	176
COLONSAY	22	15	3	4	153
CADWA	22	14	4	4	137
LPOOL YMCA	22	13	5	4	129
POLICE	22	8	11	3	109
WAV ST MARYS 'A'	22	8	11	3	106
BATH ST.	22	10	7	5	105
GPT	22	5	12	5	90
HAROLD HOUSE	22	4	13	5	88
LPOOL YMCA 'A'	22	4	14	4	83
CADWA 'A'	22	8	12	2	80
WATERLOO	22	1	18	3	63

DIVISION 4

	P	W	L	D	PTS
POLICE 'B'	22	18	2	2	166
WAV ST MARYS 'E'	22	17	3	2	159
MAGHULL 'A'	22	17	1	4	156
BOOTLE YMCA 'A'	22	15	5	2	131
BATH STREET 'D'	22	13	7	2	131
MAGHULL 'C'	22	11	6	5	119
MAGHULL 'B'	22	5	13	4	90
CADWA 'D'	22	5	14	3	86
HAROLD HOUSE 'A'	22	5	13	4	79
AIGBURTH	22	2	13	7	78
WAV ST MARYS 'F'	22	2	16	4	65
WATERLOO 'D'	22	2	18	2	52

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	D	PTS
WATERLOO 'A'	22	22	0	0	175
BATH ST. 'A'	22	18	3	1	165
MAGHULL	22	13	6	3	123
GPT 'A'	22	12	9	1	122
FORDS	22	11	10	1	105
MANWEB	22	7	11	4	98
COLONSAY 'A'	22	7	12	3	98
BOOTLE JC	22	7	12	3	94
BOOTLE JC 'A'	22	7	12	3	94
BATH STREET 'B'	22	7	12	3	87
WATERLOO 'B'	22	3	15	4	84
POLICE 'A'	22	4	16	2	74

DIVISION 5

	P	W	L	D	PTS
BATH STREET 'E'	20	15	0	5	146
LINACRE	20	10	4	6	127
COLONSAY 'B'	20	10	5	5	122
AIGBURTH 'A'	20	8	7	5	109
HAROLD HOUSE 'B'	20	11	7	2	105
BATH STREET 'F'	20	7	8	5	98
BOOTLE YMCA 'B'	20	8	10	2	90
HOPE	20	7	9	4	84
MAGHULL 'D'	20	4	13	3	78
POLICE 'C'	20	5	11	4	72
HAROLD HOUSE 'C'	20	2	11	7	69

DIVISION 3

	P	W	L	D	PTS
WAV ST MARYS 'B'	22	16	3	3	151
CADWA 'B'	22	17	1	5	148
GPT 'B'	22	15	5	2	143
BOOTLE YMCA	22	10	6	6	123
CADWA 'C'	22	2	8	2	119*
BATH STREET 'C'	22	9	10	3	112
WAV ST MARYS 'D'	22	8	11	3	106
WAV ST MARYS 'C'	22	8	9	5	103
MANWEB 'A'	22	7	10	5	97
WATERLOO 'C'	22	6	14	2	93
LPOOL. Y.M.C.A. 'B'	22	5	16	1	78
MANWEB 'B'	22	0	21	1	36

* 10 points deducted for playing an illegible player

DON'T MISS IT!!

**Part of the ETTA Grand Prix
Series**

**THE MERSEYSIDE OPEN
TOURNAMENT**

**will take place on 29th/30th
August**

at The Wavertree Tennis Centre

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED!