



Table Tennis DIGEST

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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EDITORIAL

Firstly, our apologies for the extreme lateness of our final issue of last season, publication being delayed due to our internal probktns. This having been produced on a trial and error basis as setting it out was new to me. Apologies, also, for how it may look. Our League has passed through what must have been its biggest ever crisis due to the sudden resignation of Chairman and Secretary only weeks before our AGM. Come the hour, come the **man**. Don Davies being the right peisen, in the right place, at the right time. Fie got your M.C. together and a reconciliation was attempted. Unfortunately it never got off the ground. As other efforts faded, Don got us through our AGM. arranged elections to fill these vacant posts, called, and Chaired, a SGM. We now have a new Chairman, Don, and a new secretary, Mike Power. Both having accepted these: positions with great reluctance. We may now have a reluctant Chairman, an even more reluctant Secretary, but we are in good bands, for both are extremely capable. No other person in the history of our League has ever found themselves in the position Don was left in. We owe him a tremendous vote of thanks for having safely steered us through such turbulence and ensured our continuance as a League. **WELL DONE, DON.**

In this issue you will find a resume of these events from our new Secretary, also a letter from Stan Clarke and one from from Tony Harris. Distressing though these events may have been, the League is bigger than all its members and must now be everyone's first priority. At our AGM changes to the Rule governing a player who has played six or more matches for a higher team were agreed, the onus for action has now moved to club secretaries with penalties for failure to comply. This, along with the need for teams to ensure they play in 'ranked' order should be addressed by all clubs. Every player has a responsibility when playing for a team other than their own to ensure that team captain is aware of their 'ranked' position. They should also ensure their club secretary is informed when they play up. If in doubt, your secretary should always be contacted. Most breaches of League Rules stem from ignorance, costly mistakes being avoided by seeking advice. A telephone call is less costly than missed promotion etc due to avoidable point deduction. Try it. it really does makes sense.

SECRETARY'S DESK

MIKE POWER

COMMITTEE UPHEAVAL: Unless you are either blind or deaf you must be aware that your Committee has suffered some problems of late. I will try in this brief statement to put you all in the picture. I will also try not to do anyone an injustice. The situation arose due to either a disagreement or a clash of personalities between our Secretary and Chairman. I would add at this point that both have been real cogs in the wheels of our league for the past few years, in the Chairman's case, some 30 years. We know it is not possible for people to get on with everyone all the time and that we all have our own way of doing things. At the close of a M.C. meeting in April our Secretary, Tony I lams, left the meeting, saying to me it would be his last meeting. There had been a disagreement at the meeting between himself and our Chairman. Stan seems of the view that it was not that senous and that Tony mis-interpreted the situation. A few days later we all received Minutes of that meeting along with an additional letter declaring Tony's resignation. It stated that in the present climate he felt he could no longer work with our Chairman. He also felt there were cliques developing within the M.C. which were to the detriment of our League. On receipt of his copy Stan wrote to Tony asking him to reconsider his resignation, explaining he was surprised as to Tony's comments. He added it was his intention to also resign with immediate effect. He then advised our President and Vice Chairman of his resignation.

At first we all thought it would blow over and things return to normal, but it was not to be. Both Tony and Stan WCTC adamant their positions were irreversible. A M.C. meeting was called to discuss this, it being decided to try and get both parties together to talk over their differences. This proved to be impossible. We were left with no alternative but to get on as best we could. You know the rest of the story.

Don Davies was elected Chairman, I, as a reluctant Secretary. I can only add how sad it was to see two very respected members, who I also consider my friends, fall out with each other over a game of table tennis. Things do get to us from time to time and there are times when we all need a break. I would ask you to remember your M.C. perform their tasks for the love of our sport and your enjoyment. I have derived no pleasure from the events which took place and only hope things settle down and we get back on an even keel. I also hope, most sincerely, that Tony and Stan sort out their differences, not just for the good of the game, but for themselves. Life is too short, made up of giving and getting, forgiving and forgetting **LETTER RECEIVED FROM TONY HARRIS:** Dear Ken. Having resigned as Organising Secretary in May, I would like to thank everyone for the support I received over the last five years.

I am aware of ruinour and inuendo about what happened, but can assure everyone that it was just time for me to move on. A change in my personal and work circumstances meant I was very busy and unable to give the time and effort required of a League Secretary. My health and family life were suffering, hence the 'suddenness' of my departure. I had no idea the Chairman would also resign. Stan Clarke has dedicated over 25 years service to table tennis in Liverpool and has always acted in the League's best interest. Although differences of opinion are common on all Committees, Stan's personal intergrity has never been in doubt. He deserves our thanks for the effort and dedication he has put into the League during those 25 years.

We now have new Officials, who along with the Management Committee, are more than capable of running our League. I wish them well. The League is in good hands and I am confident it will continue to prosper

Yours

Tony Harris

LETTER FROM STAN CLARKE:

Dear Ken,

I wish to place on record the events which led to my resignation as League Chairman, as members are not aware of why I resigned. I joined the M.C. some 25 years back and some years ago was persuaded to allow myself to be nominated as Vice Chair. In 1998 I achieved a long held ambition when elected as Chairman. Throughout those 25 years I treated all matters discussed in a manner which I felt was to the benefit of this league. At no time did I attempt to use my position for the benefit of the club I was currently playing for.

During last season an obvious error was noted on a scorecard which I processed, the team concerned being from my own club. I advised the F.S. of this, the matter being raised at the next M.C. meeting. To ensure the office of Chairman be seen as totally impartial I left the meeting whilst this matter was discussed. After a decision had been reached I rejoined the meeting and was advised of their decision, one that I had no argument with, or held any view on. However, on receiving my copy of the Minutes I was extremely concerned as too the reasons quoted in support of this decision, reasons which in my view were not supported by our Rules. I voiced my concern and my opinion that if any appeal was lodged the decision of the M.C. would almost certainly be overturned by an Appeals Board.

The club concerned did appeal and this matter rumbled on for some months as it was not possible to assemble an Appeals Board. At each meeting at which discussion on it took place, I withdrew from the meeting, the V.C. taking the chair. The M.C. took more decisions on this against which the club concerned also appealed. I wrote to the M.C. expressing my concerns and outlining the breaches of rule their decisions involved. I requested my letter be read to the meeting and withdrew whilst this took place. On rejoining the meeting, I was advised only the Secretary had read letter and as in his opinion the contents were sub judice it was agreed my letter would not be read out. To the best of my knowledge no other M.C. member has seen its content.

My copy of the Minutes of that meeting was accompanied by a letter of resignation from the Secretary. In view of its contents I had no option but to resign. I advised the President and V.C. in writing, also the secretary, at the same time urgently requesting he reconsider. I also offered to meet him to talk through any problems. To date I have not received a reply to any of my letters.

The M.C. decided to mediate by setting up a meeting between the President, V.C. Tony and myself. I rejected this, but offered to meet him alone if this could be arranged. I heard nothing more. At no time did any M.C. member contact me to ask me to reconsider. So much for any alleged cliques. Faced with similar circumstances, no one with any pride or honour would change their decision.

In conclusion, I totally refute the views expressed and consider my many years of service to be an expression of my commitment to the League. I wish the Clubs and members well and thank them for the support, friendship and trust shown me over the years.

Yours

Stan Clarke

EDITOR: We need to go forward, those concerned having now explained their side of these unfortunate happenings, this issue is now closed so far as I, as Editor, am concerned.

Our representative teams confirmed we were the top League in the region by winning an unprecedented haul of four major trophies. In a nutshell, the Men's and Ladies teams retained their respective titles, adding the Norman Cook Memorial Trophy for a record 6th time in ten years. After losing in the inaugural "Dennis Smith Memorial Trophy" final a year ago, the Veterans team, conceding four points in every game, overcame Salford and Farnworth in the final. Whilst we are proud of these achievements we have to endeavour to continue these standards, past glories should not be dwelt upon. However, for the time being we can enjoy the fruits of our players efforts. Well done, everyone concerned.

MEN: The Men's team made hard work of retaining their title after a shock draw with the then, bottom placed, Mid-Cheshire. This left us needing to gain maximum points in the remaining fixtures, including a victory over Wirral, who, at the halfway stage, boasted a 100% record. In the penultimate match, Wirral were the visitors, and needed to avoid defeat to win the title for the first time. The original fixture having been postponed at just 48 hours notice, when they were unable to field any of their first string. Bernie Wentworth, Rob Bevan and Chris Dunne never expecting that when it was played, they would be on the receiving end of a 9-1 drubbing. But that is what Adam Robertson, Keith Williams and John Rankin handed out. With a superior sets aggregate we only needed to avoid defeat against Salford and Farnworth in the last match for the title. In what was a disappointing finale, the 1998 Division 1 runners-up conceded this match. They had turned down six dates, the reason being that the team did not want to play us! The title remaining in our possession for the fourth season in a row. The season also marked the return of John Rankin after a lapse of twelve years. He collected his first city honours, helping secure the Norman Cooke Memorial Trophy and the Division One title. Adam Robertson completing his 3rd season in the Men's team, the 15 year old maintaining his 100% record for Liverpool. Ranked in the top 10 Men in England and the No.1 Junior, you should make an effort to see him in action if he plays for us again this season.

LADIES: Having won this title for the past three years, Brenda Buocoy, Paula French and Delyth Davies, faced a couple of difficult matches if they were to retain their title. With Paula unavailable for the away fixture to Wirral, former three times Liverpool Closed Champion and former Colonsay player, Sue Burgess, was selected. She duly won her 4 sets in a 9-1 victory. However, as she subsequently did not play six Liverpool League matches by end of 1998, her L&C registration was cancelled and the result amended to 5-5. This left the girls having to beat title favourites, Oldham, to hold on to the crown. Oldham having a 100% record and a sets aggregate of 46 - 4 when the two teams met. But with the pressure on, Brenda, Paula and Delyth produced a magnificent 8-2 victory to claim the title for a fourth year in a row, and the tenth since 1987. Once again, well done, ladies.

DIVISION ONE

PAUL GITTINS

Walking through Gt. Homer St market, I couldn't believe my eyes, YM's Pat Mc standing at a stall selling boxes of 'Monica Lewensky Stain Devil2' which, Pat gleefully explained, fell from the back of a 'Sunshine bus' erratically driven by a mad cockney. Ok, Ok, I accept that Mystic Megs job is safe for the time being, but at least I predicted the eventual champions, well....., almost. What do you want, blood? Where were you critics when the paper was blank?

Enough of humble pie, time to congratulate WSM's Adam, Bernie, Rob and Dave, for retaining the title and proving me 'not quite right'. I have previously mentioned Adam's contribution, and rightly so, but let's not forget this is a 'team' event and the lads all played their part in retaining the title. Bernie and Dave have been consistent all season, whilst Rob found his form at the right time - his performance in the 'Closed' being an example.

I suppose the writing was on the wall after WSM beat 2nd placed YM 8-2. Chris Ford btg Bernie, Chris Dunne pinching the other from Rob. From that point on YM did themselves no favours in failing to turn out their strongest team. 6-4 wins agst H.H. and YM 'A' and only a draw agst B. St. 'A' not being title challenging results. When you consider that only 14 pts separated them from WSM, who knows what could have happened. Certainly not me, that's for sure. Never mind, lads, you gave them a run for their money. Just glad I didn't bet on you. Cadwa were always destined to be 3rd and achieved it with comfort. Keith and Kevin (alias 'swiss watch' cos he's self winding) - actually Kevin could do with a decent watch, particularly for town matches - must share the same bat as they are unable to play in the same match together. Until this is rectified they will never seriously challenge for the title. However, even without Kevin, they took 4 sets from WSM. Keith comfortably winning his 3 agst Bernie, Dave and Rob.

Hope the celebrations of WSM 'A' for finishing just below the big boys in 4th place stretch to a new box of balls. Gary, Roy, Mick and Phil will be delighted with their performance and it's a sign of a solid team when one finds it difficult to differentiate between players. Gary took his 3 agst H.H., as did Phil agst B. St. 'A'. Roy took 2 agst Bath St. (one off Ken) with Mick taking 2 agst W'loo. all these matches ending 7-3 in WSM's favour. Well done, chaps .Sammy Davis Jr, when asked what his golf handicap was, answered, "I'm a coloured, one eyed, Jew". Which hilariously reminds me of my handicap in TT, this being in the form of John Rankin. Can you imagine the trauma of watching someone enjoy playing brilliant TT every week, but who also gets pleasure from concealing banana skins in your bag, to be discovered 3 weeks later. Johns' improved form, coupled with the arrival of Paul, was always going to increase our pts tally. This winning atmosphere had a knock-on effect for my brother, Steve, resulting in 9-1 wins agst Bath St and M'hull. Having said that, we didn't have our own way agst YM when we could only manage a 6-4 win. Mainly due to the heroics of Pat who had a tremendous 2 st win agst Paul.

H.H. have established themselves as a good middle table team who cannot be taken lightly. Bath St. will vouch for that, a 9-1 defeat (unusual sight of Ken losing 3). I believe this was Rays' first ever win agst Ken. YM 'A' also came unstuck going down 8-2; Phil Musgrove taking his 3 and Pat having a bad night, losing his 3. Their best win, a 6-4 agst Cadwa, saw Alex Bryce bt Mike and Peter, as did Jonathon Ash (a name to watch for).

in the league. This is not a criticism of the team for I'm sure they are aware improvements are needed. What happened to the ground floor hall, that was perfect?

Before I comment on the achievements of Bath St 'A' I would personally congratulate Alex Johns on being voted 'National Traffic Warden of the Year' a very prestigious award and highly competitive. Well done, Alex. Other team members emulated his success by performing on the table, metaphorically speaking, and a once fancied relegation team shot up the table. Alex's 3 agst H.H. including a notable win over Phil; who also lost to Ian, resulting in a draw. Brenda also held her own, metaphorically speaking, agst Roy Smith and took her 3 agst Police - Steve, Justine and myself being her victims. Ian had good wins agst YM's Dave Tagg and Ahmed Thabet.

I'm sure Bath St. were the first to congratulate their 'A' team for finishing above them, albeit by only one point. You always have to work hard when you play Ken, Mike and Fred. Have a great win agst Ken and then be taken apart by Mike or Fred. This happened to Roy Smith when he beat Ken only to fall to Mike. Mike doing the same again agst Pat Mc in a 6-4 win. Fred also recording a win over Ahmed. Ken took his teams' only 2 points agst WSM btg Rob and Dave, both in 2 straight.

YM 'A' have probably not realised I used reverse psychology that directly contributed to their remaining in this div. They were so determined to prove me wrong they played out of their skins and avoided relegation. All thanks to me, kind of guy I am. Seriously, I didn't expect Pat to return and play as he did. 3 agst WSM 'A'; 2 agst Cadwa, Bath St and YM. Brilliant Deli and Ahmed must also take credit for the great escape. All three taking pts from Dave Tagg and Phil Luxon resulting in a 4-6 and 6-4. A 7-3 agst relegation contenders W'loo, also helping. All I can say is, you must be Everton supporters

The only other record to equal Pats' effort was the transformation of Alan Chase. He was absolutely possessed, or perhaps, if we're realistic, absolutely stoned. Whatever it was, the scalps were lined up. Phil Musgrove, Gary Watson, Roy Smith, Mike Tierney - the list gets better, Rob Bevan, Dave Roberts, who also lost to Ted. I must admit I have a soft spot for W'loo, stems from the days of Frank Murphy. He was 16-nil down to Peter Flint when, without warning, Alan threw a white towel on the table and begged for mercy. Crazy!

Commiserations to GPT and M'hull who have had to settle for a spell in the 2nd. I say that because I'm sure one, if not both, will bounce straight back. Steve Woods will be taking some good wins away with him, namely 3 agst Cadwa - Mike, Peter and Bill Hargreaves. Fred Pheysey had good wins over Ray Jackson and Dave Roberts. GPT's Eddie Crowley recording wins agst myself, Mike Keane and Alan Chase. Best of luck in the 2nd.

It's time for me to select my 'Player of the Season'. I was going to go for John Rankin, who has a see-through buttie box so he knows whether he should be going to work or going home. I've decided, instead, to go for a player who has quietly, and without fuss, chalked up the results, and who for years has been difficult to play against. This is H.H.'s Ray Jackson, who will, I'm sure, have a percentage that will reflect my choice. Well done, Ray.

Time to close and probably time for you to get a shave after ploughing through this lot. I'll finish with another true story relating to a man who inserted an ad in the 'Classifieds' that read "Wife wanted". Next day he received hundreds of letters all saying the same thing; "You can have mine". See you soon.

DIVISION TWO

MIKE POWER

Cadwa 'A' Champs. Here we go, Yo-Yo again!

GPT 'A' were worthy runners-up, however, I expect the same players to continue in this div due to their 1st team being relegated from the 1st. The top two were decided early in the season. Any team with Ken Hartley and Bill Hargreaves will always be favourites for promotion. The same could be said for players like Ian Wensley, Peter(Heinz Beans)Wass and Frank McCann. When the two teams met the scores ended up 7-3 and 6-4 to Cadwa. It's worth a mention that Ken lost only 4 games all season, two of them to Ian. As I beat Ian twice, both deuce in the 3rd. I'm feeling pretty pleased with myself. Ian got his revenge when he beat me in the Rumjahn Cup semi final, again deuce in the 3rd.

The main battles and the talking points were at the other end of the div. Everybody scrapping for points and falling over each other. Apart from J.C. 'A' who finished 3rd, the battle to stay up started at B. St 'B' who finished 4th with 98 pts. This being just 12 pts above relegated Cadwa 'B'. 12 may seem a lot, but over the full season is only half a point a match. It may also have been a different story had they not re-ranked Ian McElwee into the team. I'm not certain how many times he played, but I know he only lost one, that being to Ken Hartley.

J.C. 'A' quietly got on with their game whilst all around was panic. When Alan Walton disappeared to see the world they calmly brought in the experienced Brian Crolley to replace him. On the cards I have seen, he won 14 out of 18, not bad. Included were trebles agst Fords, M'web and B St 'B'. Some of those he beat being Ian Wensley, Frank Watson, Trevor Barraclough, Alf Perry and yours truly. Quite an inspired signing

W'loo 'A' were well clear of relegation in 5th place, a whole 6 pts divided them from the doom and gloom. Their only win in the last 7 matches being agst WSM 'B' 6-4. Mark Miles won his 3 and took the doubles with Paul Faulkner. Roy Adams unusually lost his 3, albeit two of them were deuce in the 3rd. Peter Holmes played exceptionally well beating Roy 17 & 16. W'loo managed draws agst J.C. and B St 'B', lost to Cadwa 'B' 6-4, Ray Parkinson winning his 3, and lost 7-3 to M'web, GPT 'B' and Fords.

Cadwa 'B' will be a bit aggrieved that Ian Wensley had to attend a school meeting on the night he was due to play agst his own 'B' team. No reserve being available the 'A' played short gifting 3 pts to their 'B' team who then finished just 2 pts above Cadwa 'B'. Ray Lavin bt Frank McCann, Trevor scraping through agst Peter Wass. They also took the doubles deuce in the 3rd to make it 6-4 for the 'B' team. They also beat WSM 'B' 6-4, Trevor getting a hat-trick; B. St 'B', J.C. and W'loo 'A' 7-3. Achieved draws agst M'web and JC 'A' and lost to Cadwa 'B' when without Trevor. After winning only one match in the 1st half they finished with 7 wins all told. Quite a turn around.

WSM 'B' should have finished higher up the table and I'm a bit surprised they didn't. They suffered heavy defeats agst Cadwa 'A' 9-1; B St. 'B' 8-2 and lost 6-4 to GPT 'B'. W'loo and GPT 'A' (Steve Jones having an excellent win, 19 & 15 agst Ian). They bt Cadwa 'B' and M'web 6-4 and conceded a 10/0 w/over to JC 'A'. For most of the season Mark Miles was the mainstay of the team and should finish high in the averages with Roy Adams not far behind. Fords saved their season in their final match btg a full strength M'web team 8-2. It was noticeable that Tim Wearden made a sustained effort to help the team towards the end of the season, turning out in 5 of their last 6 matches, winning 12 of his 15. I feel sure they

would have been relegated without Tim's contribution along with Job centre.

M'web finished level on points with Fords and were also lucky to escape the drop. John Hardy, arguably their best player, only managed to play in 3 of their last 7 matches. He didn't play agst GPT 'A' and they lost 10-0; one of only 2 whitewashes in this div all season. The match could easily have finished 7-3 to GPT 'A' as three games ended 23/21 in the 3rd. Unfortunately there are no points for being close.

Some statistics; 75% of matches ended 7-3, 6-4 or 5-5. 22% ended 9-1 or 8-2. 2% ended 10-0 and just 1% as a w/over

Facesavers: Trevor bt Bill Hargreaves 21 -16 17. Mike Moran bt Peter Wass -17 17 19. Mark Miles bt Bill Hargreaves 14 -22 13.

I apologise for these notes being so short this time round, unfortunately due to recent changes in the Management Committee my attention has been elsewhere.

DIVISION THREE

ARTHUR GARNETT

For what 's done is done, and what's won is won
And what's lost is lost and gone forever

As expected Police 'A' ran away with the C'ship. I don't know what the record points haul is for div 3, but they must have come close. 185 pts from 22 matches is outstanding form, especially when their best four did not play every match. The team was strengthened towards the end by the inclusion of Steve Gittins, a touch of overkill, or what? They finished 39 pts clear and capped a brilliant season by also winning the Hyde Cup.

M'web 'A' finished 2nd and I apologise to them for suggesting earlier that they appeared to have settled for a mid table spot. No more prophesies from me. The determination of the team to succeed was typified in their draw with Police 'A', with Alan Biggs btg Paula 19 in the 3rd, and Jon Dyson. Congratulations to them, I wish them all the luck in the 2nd div.

In 3rd place came my team, Police 'B'. I don't like to say too much about my own team, but we were considerably strengthened for the run-in by the inclusion of Jon Dyson and Dave Crispin. The importance of this to the team is shown by only 6 pts between us and 4th place. M'hull 'A' were 4th having battled hard throughout the season, but a "contested" 10/0 w/over agst us cost them dear. They also conceded a w/over to Police 'A' in their cup semi final. These being the only 2 w/overs conceded. They had a strong line-up and should really have been contesting seriously with M'web 'A'. When they did play Police 'B' it was 6-4 to Police with Tony Harris winning two, Police taking both doubles. I must admit that considering what had happened between the teams, the match was keenly contested and played in a friendly atmosphere.

Boo YM finished 5th, ten behind Police 'B'. a good team who, with a littl more luck, could easily have been contesting for promotion. At this point I would like to apologise to John Higham for an incident which occurred at our club. I was scoring a game between John and Tony and early in the game called a "let serve" which John did not hear. It was only later that he realised he was a couple of points down instead of, as he thought, the other way round. When Tony won this game, John walked away looking very angry. It was only later when enquiring of his team that I realised he was hard of hearing. I would now say, "SORRY, JOHN".

W'loo 'B' finished joint 6th and are my nomination for "hosts of the season." I will miss playing against this team. They started slowly before turning up the heat. Perhaps this

time they might start from match 1 and give everyone a shock. They could easily have taken M'web 'A's position, but maybe that was all part of their plan.

With them in 6th place were Cadwa 'C', a not toally unexpected result for them. They have used a total of 9 players which must have affected their consistency. They did show their pedigree by reaching the Hyde cup final having easily defeated my team in the semi. If they can acquire a settled four this time they should climb the table, who knows how high they might get.

Bath St 'C' finished 8th and, depending on who has been promoted, could find themselves battling agst relegation. I feel they may need to strengthen the team for this new season. It was noticed when they played agst us tha' there was some anger between them over a game selection by the captain. I used this knowledge when we played them again and this again seemed to invoke tension. Maybe they need to talk to each other and get it sorted out.

WSM 'E' have done the first job of a promoted team, to consolidate into the higher div. It is, in the main, the same team which won promotion. so they have done well. They could have done better had Bob Owen been available more often. When a teams' No.1 doesn't play it puts more pressure on the others, all playing up one position.

Their 'D' team finished just above them and should really have done a lot better. They have not been able to play their strongest team regularly and at times the team is un-recognisable from that expected. It is not for me to advise any club on team selection, but WSM could have put out a team to challenge for honours from their players in this div. It is sad to see three teams from one club occupying 3 of the bottom 4 places in the division.

Which brings me to WSM 'C', relegated with 63 points. This team is one which could expect to challenge strongly in div 4, but some unsolicited advice from me, you will have to start well and continue for the full season to win promotion back to this div. I believe they can do it, but am not convinced that they will want to.

W'loo 'C' finished bottom with 32 pts. No wins and only one draw agst WSM 'C' sum up a dismal season, one which they will probably never want to repeat. Div 4 this time, and if they don't add to their squad, for some seasons to come. At least they should enjoy the game more in div 4.

The end of a season affects different people in differing ways. A lot has to do with how their team fared throughout the season. To some, a feeling of achievement, having added "silverware to their trophy cabinet (No, I haven't got one. Don't you need trophies to put in them?). Of being champions or cupwinners. The feeling of disappointment and even new hope to those relegated to a lower div. For the majority, maybe a feeling of anti climax with the season over. Although the "team" may have been quite safe. we can reflect on personal victories and defeats. A first ever victory agst a particular opponent is worth remembering, even when losing for the first time to an opponent after a hard game. Those are just a few of the things which bring us back to the game year after year. Unfortunately, I won't be back, I'm taking a year out. A certain amount of bitterness seemed to creep into our division and my team appeared to be involved. I don't feel good about the game at the moment, so perhaps a break will do the trick. The Editor needing a new writer for these notes.

EDITOR: Many thanks, Arthur, for your excellent contributions, you will be missed, so don't be away too long.

Any would scribe interested in carrying on Arthur's good work? If so, give me a call.

DIVISION FOUR

DOUG BAKER

Congratulations to M'hull 'B' our champions, along with a Cup, trophies and a tin of brasso. The top team of Tom Downing, George Frost, Harry McGanity and Bill Salter finally coasting home as their overall performance indicated they would. In their final 3 matches they dropped a mere 5 points. A characteristic comeback after a run of bad results which saw them lose 16 pts from 30. A draw agst rivals B St 'D' with 6 sets going to 3, Dave Cunningham btg Bill and George. The MOTM award going to Tom for his determined win over John McCann 19 -18 24. Without the services of Tom they had a narrow 6-4 win agst a Linacre team fighting to stay up. Reserve Alan Jones won his two, as did Harry Reeve for Linacre. A heavy 7-3 defeat by late challengers YM 'B'. Strong performances from Tim Ternent btg their 1&2 and Russell the 3&4.

Becoming champions isn't just about winning, it's equally about taking apart the opposition! As witnessed by the statistic that M'hull, Bath St and YM all tied in that they each only lost twice. But M'hull had fewest draws and most wins. Yep, M'hull 'B' are definitely a team with the right attitude for a higher div.

Runners-up YM 'B' developed their attitude much later on and Bath St 'D' looked favourites for 2nd place. However, YM 'B' had the best run-in of the contenders, finishing with an amazing 39 points from 40. Their 14th match, a draw, saw Harry and Bill on top form for Linacre. Then six straight wins. Accelerating from two 7-3's (Linacre and Bath St 'E') through a 9-1 agst Aigburth and into a nose bleeding three 10-nils (Boo YM 'A', Cadwa 'D', M'web 'B'). Captain Russell infusing his team with confidence and correctly predicting promotion and cup success. All from a season which could have gone flat, but bubbled over, even to winning plonk galore at the Presentation Night. Tim, Steve, and Jimmy were always up to the job of Task Master Thornton and ended the season putting all comers to the blade to finish 4 behind M'hull and 12 ahead of Bath St.

I think Bath St. 'D' were the most feared team, Captain Alex Gould having a team with no discernible weaknesses. Well. I don't know how to beat John, Reg or Dave, and as for last man Les Gee, LBH Div.1. champion - forget it. They, too, had a dip near the end, a draw with M'hull 'B', 6-4 agst Boo YM and a 6-4 defeat by Cadwa 'D' before a return to form dropping only 6 pts from their last three matches.

PETER TAYLOR

(CADWA TT CLUB)

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Alex showed true Captain Courageous spirit by playing the Cadwa match, after a nasty fall earlier that day had left him bruised and in pain. His decision to retire gifting Cadwa two points which turned the result. George Crowley playing in the 8-2 win agst M'web. A 7-3 win agst A'burth, a 9-1 agst M'hull 'C' as they tried to also assist their stable mates cause. I think the boys of A'burth, Graham, Ray, Dave and Derek, saw the writing on the wall way back. Their match agst M'web provided an opportunity to turn things round, but the 3-7 result included 5 sets going to 3, M'web winning 4. An 8-2 defeat away to Cadwa followed and the dye was cast. Heavy defeats agst title contenders not balanced by pts from fellow strugglers. Agst H.H. they lost 10-0, Ray Jones possibly feeling more peeved at losing 19 in the 3rd to Mike Poole, than Dave Evans, who lost to Dave Cohen after taking the 2nd 23/21. The main question at the lower end has been who will go down with them. My own team, Cadwa 'D', had fits and starts, never quite able to get enough of a run to get out of the quagmire, but then again, never a pushover. There's always a danger that a div. writer will criticise himself and his team more than other teams, but I think it is true to say we can look back on a season of missed opportunities and failure to live up to expectations, than highlights. Perhaps with peppy Jack Power at the helm we'd have been urged on to better things. A special mention for Trevor Dolder, who was just about back to his old self and with less tendency to blow good leads or succumb to pressure. Perhaps his secret lies in his disgusting tendency for Milkshakes, Coke and chewy. So, a pat on the back - well below the shoulder blades - to Trevor, as recovery isn't just a stroll in the park.

I've judged my own teams' matches agst M'web and H.H. as a yardstick to how good we were. Both had the potential to field strong teams and had fluctuations in team selection which resulted in a satisfactory mid table standing. John Ashley's near upset of Tim Ternent, 19 in the 3rd, exemplified M'web's spirit. They will do even better next season if they can blend the services of Barker & Barker into the squad.

H.H. are looking less and less a one man team, even if Eddie Clein's results put him head and shoulders above the rest of us, as witnessed by the 'never-say-die' attitude of Mike Poole. What a force they will be if they can get Jonathon Ash to play every week.

Boo YM started the season strongly but lost Chris McQuire for a spell and are probably content with 4th place. They share the distinction of most draws (6). The highlight of the last part of the season was their 8-2 defeat of M'hull 'C' when Bert and Kathy were undefeated. Kathy, no doubt, gracious after close wins agst Steve McGanity and Brian Gregory (27/25 in 3rd). They were on the wrong end of an 8-2 when despite the return of Chris they came up agst H.H. with Jonathon Ash in top form.

The fight at the bottom end was just as exciting as that at the top so I've saved it til last..... Linacre managed to pull out of a 1st half downward spiral, not only because of the impressive efforts of Harry Reeve and Billy(I've heard good things about you)Clayton, but also because of Jack, Ken, Frank and Norman poaching points wherever they could. Their main cause for celebration has been the landmark 50th anniversary of the club. I trust they all enjoyed their evening of alcohol fogged reminiscence. Long may they continue in one guise or another, but isn't it time they bought new bats?

Sadly for the Bath St club, the 'D' teams' wins over relegation strugglers was not enough to prevent their 'E' falling into the relegation zone. Whereas M'hull 'B's last game of the season, an 8-2 win agst Bath St 'E', was a double blow as it ensured them the c'ship whilst

at the same time assisting their 'C' team. Peter, Alan, Norman and Ron went down fighting by finishing with a win agst A'burth and a draw with Boo YM to finish on 79 points.

The following night M'hull 'C' on 73 pts, met Linacre - already safe on 83 points - in their final match. M'hull needing at least 6 points to stay up having won more matches than Bath St 'E'. Linacre were without Harry and M'hull must have felt they were in with a chance, and so it proved. Only Bill finishing on a high for Linacre with two wins, including an 18 in the 3rd over Phil Christie, who in turn proved too strong for Jack Davidson. However, Brian Gregory, Steve McGanity and Wilf Gibson didn't give a thing away, M'hull taking both doubles to secure a narrow escape with an 8-2 win and a final 81 points. Two ahead of Bath St 'E' which must have pleased the club just as much as their 'B' team's' success.

The one thing I've enjoyed about this div is that we've been the only one without a pesky Wavertree team, yet now we will have three. There's also a warm welcome awaiting the long lost sons of W'loo 'C'.

Oh well, come what may, I'm sure some mug will be around to take over these notes. I hope I've managed to give a flavour of the events and major players. I've tried to mention as many of you as is possible (strictly non commission basis). If anyone else does fancy wetting their nib, volunteer to Ken Armson, please.

Hope you enjoyed the summer break, see you soon.

LEAGUE 100 CLUB

A changeover has taken place from July, Ron Georgeson having taken over as 100 Club Organiser. Membership dropped during 98/99, the main cause being no one to take over and the ever present problem of chasing up existing members. Ron's target being to get back to the full membership we enjoyed in the past and so assist the running of our league.

He will be pleased to hear from previous, existing and new members, preferably with their cheque for £12. His address: 28 Field Lane, L21 9NP. Tel 0151 928 4963.

Difficulties in making contact with members to obtain their subscription severely restricts the ability of the Organiser to operate the monthly draw. The easiest way to renew your membership is by way of a cheque to the address above. Even easier is that of Direct Debit. You can pay monthly (£1); quarterly (£3); half yearly (£6); yearly (£12). Using this simple method ensures your continued membership and enables this Fund to run smoothly to the benefit of its members, its Organiser and our League. Full membership of 100 enables a minimum of three cash prizes monthly giving you a good chance of a win, not bad for £12. The lower the membership, the lower the available prize money.

If you read this, but are no longer a league member, but still look back with pleasure on your playing days with the League, why not dig out your cheque book and send off a cheque to Ron. Make it payable to LDTTL 100 Club. He will complete a membership form on your behalf and ensure your number goes in the next monthly draw.

Outstanding monthly Draws for 98/99 will take place at our League Handbook Meeting on Tuesday 7th September. Winners being notified by post.

HELP THE LEAGUE TO HELP YOU - JOIN OUR 100 CLUB

You will already have put the lawnmower away and replaced it with your bat. Doesn't time fly? So how did you fare last season? We may be the lowest div - to some, unimportant, but the fight for promotion was as intense as that of higher div's. Not finally settled until WSM 'F' forced their 'G' team into a playoff. Their 'G' team thought it was all over, 'F' team capt Stan Clarke, not being in agreement. He led his team from the front in a mad scramble for points, 28 being needed from their final 3 matches. They won 27, it could so easily have been the magic 28. To be fair to our opponents, especially M'hull 'D', it could just as easily have been only 24 or 25, or less, as we were just as lucky agst A'burth. Just to add spice, a points technicality was involved, M'hull being the unwitting party. Depending on your point of view the issue was settled honourably by way of a playoff, but Stan remains convinced - not without good cause - that it should not have been necessary. The 'G' team maintained their unbeaten record, inflicting a 3rd defeat on their 'F' team. The same mid team weakness which had plagued them all season again leading to their downfall. So WSM 'G' became Champions, deservedly so, for they remained unbeaten and consistent. Congratulations, then, to Steve (we will win the double) Perry, Paul Reed-Clayton, Andy Bird and Ian Douglas. Their 'F' team being runners-up and Cup winners.

Not to be outdone, Bath St 'F' added their share of drama when it appeared their captain, John Letch, would be ruled out of the cup final and remaining matches because he had played six matches up. His Club were advised, it then came to light that having not turned up for an early season match their team captain and the opposing captain had agreed to indicate he had played by putting scores agst his name - very naughty. John was re-instated and helped ensure his team finished 3rd. No help to them in the cup as they lost 5-2. Paul Banks, playing in his first cup final won his two, clinching victory for his team when he decisively bt Graham Oates. Only the previous week he lost to Graham in the 3rd, after winning the 1st and leading 18 in the 2nd. Had he also clinched victory on that occasion he would have won both Cup and League for his team. A great star for a newcomer who showed rapid improvement and played a big part in his team's achievements.

Bath St. 'F' have also been promoted, and rightly so, for Jack, Dave, George and Graham were a match for most teams until they lost George - that 6 match ruling rearing its head again. In Dave Batty they had the LIVERPOOL LEAGUE Player of the Season. In the space of two days he twice defeated Delyth Davies (Hope). The only player to record what must rank as the most notable double of the season for any player in Liverpool. Delyth's only other defeat being to a similar style player, Les Higham. Well done, Dave.

This div. has the friendliest of atmospheres and i, for one, enjoyed that. It is difficult to say which team is No.1 in the friendly stakes, but Bath St. and M'hull must be strong contenders. By my reckoning 4 teams should have been promoted from this div due to vacancies existing in Div 2 & 4. YM 'C' should have gone up, but haven't. It seems they lost out because promoted teams in a higher div didn't want some players to lose out because of that promotion. This resulted in at least one vacancy being filled by way of leapfrog promotion at the expense of YM. They had a storming finish and fought their way back into the reckoning with a string of victories. Bounmy Syrykhane - now returned to France - was the backbone of the team with Paul O'Donnell being the emerging star. He showed rapid improvement and

has the scalps to prove that. They shot themselves in the foot by not changing their ranking order. Had they done so, I feel certain they could have been in 1st or 2nd place. They were winning easily at the bottom, only to lose just as easily at the top. Adjusting their order would have given them strength in depth. They should have gone up, but knowing, and happening, are sometimes poles apart.

Eric Wood and his Merry Men will no doubt have breathed a sigh of relief at successfully having managed not to go up. As they now have the company of their own 1st team, this should add spice to their matches. Eric made his mark on more than one occasion and was the backbone of his team. Few overcame him and his fearsome backhand. His forehand was not so dusty as many can confirm. Well supported by Billy (blocker) Holmes, Jim, Eric, Paul and John, they were a sound competitive squad, who now have to do it all over again.

The improving H.H. 'B' finished well clear of the bottom but should have done better. On paper they had a good line-up but never seemed to produce the results. Steve Simpson at No.1. continued to improve and had some good wins, but lacked support from such as Jerry and Richard. At least they completed their fixtures which is more than can be said for those who finished below them, the exception being M'hull 'D' who found themselves in the basement because of a 10 point deduction plus other match points. They still feel it was unfair, I agree with them. Police 'C' gave a w/over to H.H. and Hope, and got one from Hope in return. Considering we were already short on fixtures due to vacancies, the conceding of w/overs was unacceptable. Hope slipping yet again and failing to fulfil all their fixtures. We know at times they experience problems, but problems, or no, they have a responsibility to fulfil their fixtures. This was a regular problem when University had a team with us and Hope in the past have not been much better, but Delyth vastly improved their image. Same must also go for Police. great team, friendly etc. but too many w/overs. Had John Jeffrey and George Wright played regularly they would have provided a few upsets, but their appearances were too few. Would have helped if they got their ranking order right. No use having a player in the middle order winning sets, who would be just as productive higher up the order, if those above are clearly weaker players and losing. My sympathies lie with Gentleman Neil Thomas who had the difficult job of getting a match team together. They had 20 points deducted for twice playing an alleged 'ineligible' player. Pretty rough when at the bottom and getting battered every week to have hard won points whipped away without warning or a full explanation. Clubs and teams would possibly accept these punishments more readily if a full explanation of the offence is given to them and they have a chance to respond before any action is implemented.

Of the four bottom teams, M'hull 'D' were the most out of place in that they had the ability, but were either out of favour with Lady Luck, met opponents on the wrong nights, or could just not get it all together when it was needed. But I found Jeff, Alan, Andy and Keith to be great competitors and great hosts. Still haven't worked out how we got away with a 10-0, but it was a really enjoyable and sporting night with plenty of laughs and great beer.

For Hope, only Delyth was a consistent winner, as was to be expected, winning 21 from 24. Only the rare appearances from Darren Morgan with 6 from 12 giving her positive support. Whatever happened to Ian Purvis, a likely sets winner, he played in Wk 1. and there he was, gone?

READMAN CUP FINAL - WSM'S 5 L'POOL Y.M. 3

A bright opening from Dave Roberts & Chris Ford in a very tight set won by Chris 19 & 16 to give YM the early lead. WSM's called Bernie on next agst Chris and he duly levelled the score winning 16 & 12. YM called Dave back to face Peter Lee who took the first 18. Dave came back in the 2nd with some brilliant backhand attacking play to take it game 7. In the 3rd Peter took an early 7-3 lead only to see Dave take the next 10 points and a 13/7 lead. In a close finish Peter fought back only to lose 21/19. Dave's victory giving WSM a 2-1 lead. Sensing an early finish WSM called Peter back to face Rob Bevan only for Rob to lose the 1st. Rob stormed back to take the 2nd 21/16 and at 18/15 in the 3rd looked to be heading for victory. Peter had other ideas, putting on a captain's finish to level the scores at 2-2. Dave was called back yet again, this time to face Chris Dunne who, after giving YM a fright by losing the first 21/17, got his act together and took the next two 17 & 15 to put YM back in the lead 3-2. Looking decidedly worried at this stage WSM called on their MOTM, Bernie, to get them back on course and he had a comfortable 2 st victory, 17 & 10 agst Peter to level the score at 3-3. At that stage it was either team's match as neither had any cert calls left. WSM threw Rob back into the fray only to see Chris dominate the game and win 21/17. Rob fought back to take the second 21/19. He was clearly not at his best but kept his cool to take the 3rd 21/19 and put his team ahead 4-3. Chris was a trifle unlucky not to have won such a vital set, both players being nervous and Lady Luck choosing to ride on Rob's shoulder. The next set was a real cliff hanger with some great rallies, Bernie taking the first 19. Chris took the 2nd 18 and was leading 18/17 in the 3rd with his serves to come only to see it slip from his grasp with a series of errors and present Bernie with a 21/18 win and victory for his team 5-3. League Chairman, Stan Clarke made the presentations, the match official being Don Davies. Played at Cadwa with the usual quality refreshments courtesy of Liz Power. The match being a credit to both teams and a great advert for our 1st division.

RUMJAHN CUP FINAL - CADWA 'A' 5 WATERLOO 'A' 1

The first game of the night set off at a cracking pace, Peter Holmes btg Mike Power 21/16. He led 20/18 in the 2nd only to see Mike dig in and take the next 4 pts to win 22/20 and go on to take the 3rd 21/17 and the lead for his team. Billy Hargreaves put Cadwa 2 up beating the never-say-die Ritchie Cragg 17 & 15. The third set brought the two captains to the table with Mike Power taking the first 19, Mike Corcoran the 2nd 18, and in a nail biting finish took the third 22/20 to level the match with what was to be their only success. Ken Hartley then taking on Peter, his forehand proving too hot to handle and he took it 8 & 7 for a 3-1 lead. Mike Power increasing this to 4-1 beating Ritchie 12 & 14 and giving Cadwa one hand on the cup. Billy completed their cup victory beating Mike 15 & 14 with some brilliant returns from Mike's attacking play. The trophies being presented by Ted Rumjahn, official in charge, Frank Lacey. Played at L'pool YM, Peter Lee providing 6 packets of biscuits and two packets of fairy cakes as refreshments!

HYDE CUP FINAL - POLICE 'A' 5 CADWA 'C' 2

Having won the toss Cadwa elected to be the away team calling Gareth Jones to face a confident Alan Davies. Gareth showed himself to be even more confident winning -12 16 & 15 to give Police the all important first set lead. Police called on Cadwa's Paul Morgan to face Paula and Paula duly made it 2-0 winning 19 & 17. A winner was needed if Cadwa were to stay in the match and Sue Burgess provided them with one beating Jon Dyson 18 & 13. Len Dyson called himself on against Rob Peverall taking the set 14 & 14 to put Police into a 3-1 lead. Cadwa, deciding a change of tactics was necessary, called on the doubles, Alan and Sue facing Gareth and Paula. Their gamble looked like paying off when the Cadwa pair took the first 21/11, Police taking the 2nd 21/14. In the 3rd the Police duo saved three match points before going on to win 22/20 for a commanding 4-1 lead. Rob gave his team hope of a comeback beating Gareth 12 & 19, but it was not to be, Len taking away Sue's 100% in her final match to win 17 & 19 and the match for his team. Official in charge was Mike Power who also presented the trophies. Played at GPT with refreshments being provided by Stan Harvey.

FORREST CUP FINAL - BATH ST 'B' 3 LIV YM 'B' 5

When Tim Terner disposed of Reg Edwards 6 & 12 to give YM an opening lead it appeared we were all in for an early bath. John Mc Cann, Bath St's M.O.M, had different views. His set agst Steve Kee being fiercely contested by both players. Steven took the first 13, but John came storming back to take the 2nd. Fortunes swayed in the 3rd with John edging home 21/19. YM quickly regained the lead, Russell btg Alex Gould 17 & 8. YM called Tim and John back only to see their banker go down in a thrilling set from which John emerged winner 17 in the 3rd to level the score. Waiting in the wings for YM was an unlikely star who was also destined to be their M.O.M. Jimmy Clewett, called on agst the evergreen Alex, huffed, puffed and grunted his way to a first game 23/21 defeat, but came back to take the next two 15&10 with a scintillating display of puffing and grunting. Back came Bath St's Dave Cunningham, turning in a tremendous old style performance of grit and endeavour to bt Steve Kee 12 & 15 to level the scores yet again. Four of the six sets having gone to 3 and the match looking likely to go all the way, Bath St. brought Dave back hoping for a repeat performance from him, only to see Steven Kee enjoy a comfortable 12&15 victory. With only Jimmy or the dbles left, YM opted for old P&G Jimmy v Reg. This looked a real winner for Bath St. when Reg took the first 21/13, barely raising a sweat. Jimmy had a long talk with his 'advisers', of which there were many, and returned to the table rejuvenated, well, almost. His forehand grunt and backhand puff were too strong and devastating for Reg to handle, Jimmy scraping home 21/19. Reg appeared demoralised in the 3rd as Jimmy, drawing on his vast P&G experience, launched an all out blitz. To the obvious surprise and delight of his team-mates, their unlikely hero, and even more unlikely winner, took the game 21/11 to secure the Forrest Cup for his team. A full blooded Cup Final, both teams giving of their best in the pursuit of victory, with plenty of up and downs and puffs and grunts. Presentations made by K.A. O.in C. K.A. Refreshments provided by K.A. (assisted by Faith), played at WSM's, venue prepared by K.A. who also thoroughly enjoyed a memorable Cup Final.

STAMP CUP FINAL - WSM 'F' 5 BATH ST 'F' 2

The first set was an intriguing battle between Rez Mirdamadi and Dave Batty. Rez taking the first 21/13, Dave fighting back to take the next two 13 & 16 to put his team one up. W'tree made it one apiece, Paul Banks beating Eugene Berger 8 & 7. John Letch called the opposing captain, Stan Clarke, also at No.1. and in an exciting set John came out on top 20 & 19 to give Bath St. back the lead. W'tree soon levelled the score when Ken Armson bt Graham Oates 10 & 17 in the battle of the left handers. They took the lead, Stan putting his team ahead with a 9 & 16 win over Dave. Rez put them further ahead, his attacking game overcoming Eugene's defence. The match was clinched when Paul beat Graham 15 & 16, a triumph of youth over experience. Both teams playing their part in a very sporting encounter, watched by a good crowd. League President, Arthur Upton, presented the trophies. Official in charge Frank Lacey, match played at Cadwa, Rob Davies providing excellent refreshments.

FRANK MURPHY VETERAN'S CUP FINAL - CADWA 1st 2 WSM 1st 5

This being a handicap Cup W'tree called first on Phil Luxon to play Ray Parkinson. Phil had made up his five point deficit by the halfway stage and took the set 31/26 and 31/25. Mike Mahoney took on Roy Smith in a fascinating attack v defence duel. Defence coming out on top and Roy winning 31/21 and 31/28 to make it 2-0. W'tree then called Ray back to play Mike Tierney. Luck was all on Mike's side and he twice got out of jail to finally win 32/30 and 31/28 and make the lead 3-0. Peter Taylor joined the fray and played a real captain's role to gain Cadwa their first set with a 32/30, 31/17 win over Phil. It was Ray's turn again, this time agst Roy, who put his team back on the fast track with a 31/24, 31/19 win for a 4-1 lead. Peter returned to the table and kept Cadwa's hopes alive beating Mike 31/23, 31/24 to make the score 4-2. Mike Mahoney went on to try to save the match, but to no avail. Phil clinching the trophy with a 31/27, 31/25 win. Trophies presented by the late Frank Murphy's widow, Marjorie Murphy who was ably assisted by his sister, Myra Lovelady. Official in charge was Ken Armson, match being played at Police club with refreshments provided by Tony Harris.

LONG-PIMPLED RUBBER

It was agreed at the ETТА Annual meeting that the ITTF changes to long pimped rubbers effective from 1st July 1999, will not apply to ETТА Approved Laws. As there has been no change in ITTF Laws under which "long pimples" are legal, they remain legal under ETТА Approved Laws. Play in Local Leagues' league competitions being governed by ETТА Approved Laws.

However, as a result of the 1998 ITTF Council decision, some types of racket covering material will no longer be authorised for play in competitions for which the use of authorised racket coverings is mandatory. These include, British League, County Championships and Open tournaments. Anyone playing in such competitions will need to ensure when doing so they use only ITTF authorised coverings as shown in ITTF List No.20 of Authorised Coverings.

If further changes are implemented after the 2000 Olympics, the ETТА will examine those with a view to amending ETТА Laws at that time, rather than piecemeal fashion now.

NETS AND EDGES

Harry Reeve (Linacre) has retired from life on the ocean waves and is looking forward to a full season's play. This being subject to any 'in house' job demands from his wife.

We now have three players, Dave Cohen (League Unofficial Fixture Compiler), Trevor Owens and Graham Rollinson, who have undergone major heart surgery and are back playing.

Keith Williams completed a unique double at our 98/99 Closed Final by becoming the first player ever to win both the Men's and Veteran titles in a season. This being a feat which may never be repeated.

Tony Harris and Don Davies produced a Flais programme with a full colour cover. This must be a unique first for any League and keeps us in the forefront.

Tony, and Pat, his wife, have for the past few seasons taken on the chore of putting together and stapling each issue of our magazine.

Our President, Arthur Upton was presented with the 'Stan Owens' Cup and inscribed salver at the 1999 City Sporting Awards ceremony. This is presented annually to an outstanding sports person for work or achievements in their chosen sport. The award recognising his work for our sport over many years, 40 of which were as Chairman of our League. A well deserved award, which will possibly never come to anyone in table tennis in any of our lifetimes.

Noteworthy wins are always news, so step forward Dave Batty (Bath St. 'F'). Dave defeated twice, over two days, a younger and more talented opponent, a Welsh International to boot, Delyth Davies (Hope). Could be that Delyth does not like 'hard' bats in that she also lost a set to an even older 'hard' bat opponent, Les Higham (Bootle YM 'B').

Ron Georgeson has taken over as Organiser of our 100 Club. Ron will be getting to as many matches as possible seeking out existing and new members. Have your cheque book or cash ready if he calls in at one of your matches.

At the Norman Cooke Trophy Final involving two of the premier L&C League teams, namely our own and LBH, six of the eight players were veterans!

After 30 years at Elledge House Linacre had to find a new venue, the building having been put up for sale. They are now settled in at a nearby Methodist Church hall. For another thirty years, they hope. Same match night, Friday.

Two clubs, Bath St. and Linacre, have celebrated their 50th year as a T.T. Club.

Keith Williams recently gained more laurels in his role as a Veteran, winning a Banded Event and the Mixed Doubles at the popular York Veteran Tournament held recently. A good start to his season.

Our 'Closed' moved from Everton S.C. to the L'pool Tennis Centre enabling us to make use of our own equipment with a considerable financial saving. We also had a new hand at the helm, namely myself, following the standing down of Brian Leeson after many years as League Referee. The order of play was amended to commence with the VS. and follow this with the Over 55s to try and eliminate inevitable hold ups when players are involved in two events being played at the same time. We still experienced delay, there being a knock on effect to the Divisional Singles event. This problem, as I explained to the Management Committee, relates to competitors being able to enter both the Over 40 and Over 55 events. As in past years it was not possible to run these two events side by side, or to run any other event alongside either of them with the exception of a Jnr event. The entry figures were Vets - 38, O55 - 18 Even with 100% support from competitors an entry of 38 would require a minimum of 2 hrs to complete. Add a further 90-min to play off the O55 and introduce Div. Singles groups takes us up to 12.30. You can then add another 2 hours for that event with the possible introduction of the Men's Singles at 14.30. This is exactly what happened and we started most MS groups some 90-min later than scheduled. We did pick up some time during the afternoon and were able to start introducing Doubles matches around 5pm. Play was concluded by 7.30pm, and would have finished earlier had it not been for a series of protracted matches in the closing stages. The area was cleared and everyone away by 8pm. It is important to note that two players went through to the knockout from all Group play.

There are two possible answers to the scheduling and finishing time. Allow competitors entry to only one of the two Veteran events, or accept a later finishing time. Option one would enable an acceptable finishing time of around 18.00hrs. Option two would eliminate clashes by extending the playing schedule and giving a finishing time of around 8pm. Competitors do take exception to going straight back on, especially at an early stage of play, but our present practice of permitting entry to both Veteran events makes this unavoidable unless we accept a much later finishing time. I have no problem with either solution. When I go to a tournament, I do so with the expectation of being there until it is concluded. Most, if notjall, competitors want to get away a.s.a.p. when they have been eliminated. What no tournament ever gets is the 100% committed support of competitors and many delays can be traced back to individuals. A decision is needed that will give maximum possible play and the preparation of a schedule.that can be adhered to. Let's have your views. I believe the format was right and my decision-to give maximum match play was also correct. The stumbling block was attempting an earlier finish than was realistically possible. This put pressure on competitors and officials. Not that the pressure bothered me. We had a mostly new team all round and I would thank Stan Clarke, Steve Perry, Frank Lacey, Alex Gould, Arthur Upton and George Smith for their considerable input and workload. Our thanks, also to Arthur Gamett for the loan of his PA. equipment. Without their help we could not have run what I believe was an excellent tournament. . I enjoyed the long awaited fulfilment of a personal ambition. Final Night saw an evening of first class play from the finalists and a new record set by Keith Williams when he won both the Men's and Veteran titles. A great final set by Keith and Kevin Dolder in the MS final made it a night to remember for everyone, especially Keith. Other winners were: WS- Paula French, R/U Alice Howard; O55 - Ted Birch, R/U Peter Taylor; Dbl. - Paul Hutchings/John Rankin, R/U's Rob Bevan/Bernie Wentworth; JBS - Paul O'Donnell, R/U Robert Aldridge; Div 2 - Bill Harris, R/U Ray Parkinson; Div 3 - Tony Harris, R/U Alan Biggs; Div 4 - John McCann, R/U Bert Rivers; Div 5 - Paul O'Donnell, R/U Bounmy Syrykhane. MS Losing Semi finalists being Rob Bevan and Chris Ford. My thanks to all competitors for their support and co-operation.

DIVISION 1	P	W	D	L	PTS
W.S.M.	22	20	1	1	167
LIVYM	22	17	2	3	153
CADWA	22	12	3	7	132
W.S.M. 'A'	22	12	3	7	125
POLICE	22	13	2	7	116
H. HOUSE	22	10	3	9	114
BATH ST 'A'	22	5	6	11	102
BATHST	22	8	2	12	101
LIV YM 'A'	22	6	2	14	83
WATERLOO	22	5	2	15	80
G.PT.	22	6	0	16	73
MAGHULL	22	3	4	15	72

DIVISION 2	P	W	D	L	PTS
CADWA 'A'	20	18	2	0	150
GPT 'A'	20	14	1	5	128
BOOJC 'A'	20	9	5	6	111
BATH ST 'B'	20	8	4	8	98
W'LOO 'A'	20	6	4	10	92
MANWEB	20	7	4	9	90
FORDS	20	6	2	12	90
W.S.M. 'B'	20	7	3	10	88
GPT 'B'	20	7	4	9	86
CADWA 'B'	20	7	2	11	80
BOOTLE JC	20	4	3	13	79

DIVISION 3	P	W	D	L	PTS
POLICE 'A'	22	20	2	0	185
M'WEB 'A'	22	15	5	2	146
POLICE 'B'	22	14	4	4	OS
M'HULL 'A'	22	14	2	6	!?!
BOOTLE YM	22	11	5	6	i2V
W'LOO 'B'	22	9	2	11	116
CADWA 'C'	22	10	2	10	116
BATH ST 'C'	22	9	1	12	93
W.S.M. 'D'	22	9	2	11	92
W.S.M. 'E'	22	4	4	14	87
W.S.M. 'C'	22	2	2	18	03
W'LOO 'C'	22	0	1	21	32

DIVISION 4	P	W	D	L	PTS
MAGHULL 'B'	20	17	1	2	143
LIV YM 'B'	20	12	6	2	139
BATH ST 'D'	20	13	5	2	127
BOO YM 'A'	20	8	6	6	105
H.HOUSE 'A'	20	7	4	9	97
M'WEB 'B'	20	8	3	9	96
CADWA 'D'	20	8	2	10	90
LINACRE	20	5	5	10	85
M'HULL 'C'	20	6	2	12	81
BATH ST 'E'	20	4	3	13	79
AIGBURTH	20	3	2	15	68

DIVISION 5	P	W	D	L	PTS
W.S.M. 'G'	16	15	1	0	123
W.S.M. 'F'	16	13	0	3	123
BATHST 'F'	16	9	3	4	94
LIV YM 'C'	16	8	1	7	91
A'BURTH 'A'	16	8	3	5	87
H.HOUSE 'B'	16	4	2	10	58
M'HULL 'D'	16	7	0	9	51*
HOPE	16	0	0	16	38
POLICE 'C'	16	2	0	14	26*
BOOYM 'B'	RECORD EXPUNGED				

♦ M'HULL 'D' - 10 points Deducted I
 POLICE C* - 20 "