



# Table Tennis DIGEST

## LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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### EDITORIAL

As our 99/00 season opened we seemed on the verge of finally realising our ambition of a dedicated TT Centre serving our League. Hopes were high when we viewed premises offered by the City Leisure Services and at one time only a formal decision appeared necessary. It was only when your Management Committee had an opportunity to more fully explore details of the proposed site and other options that problems foreseen by those present emerged. The vote that followed was positive and we had to convey to the Leisure Services our decision to decline the site on offer.

This was possibly the most difficult decision ever taken by any Liverpool League M.C. and until we receive the offer of another possible site all concerned will surely be asking themselves if they made the right decision. I do not believe any of them need reproach themselves for the discussions were exhaustive and no avenue was left unexplored. The main areas were fully addressed leaving no doubt in any ones mind that we were unable to take up this offer, generous though it may have been. The City Council representatives were extremely disappointed as to our decision and considered we had missed an opportunity to secure our future by not taking up the proposed venue. A venue that they felt could have been enlarged and improved as funding became available. Whatever the rights or wrongs it was necessary for your M.C. to deal in the practicalities of what was possible today and the problems they foresaw left them in no doubt that on this occasion we had to reluctantly turn down their offer. The search will go on and we are building bridges to ensure that one day this City will have a dedicated TT Centre.

With that very fact in mind, and being aware that funding lies at the heart of plans for our own Centre the M.C. have taken a decision to disband the League 100 Club and to replace it with a new fund aimed at raising monies through you, the members, in readiness for the time when a suitable site for a dedicated Centre becomes available. This will ensure that instead of just being swallowed up in our Management Fund we will have a Special Fund that will be used only when the time is right. Every Centre already in existence owes its existence to similar funds built up over the years by ensuring they earn the greatest revenue and are protected from inroads. Hopefully as many as possible will join and so ensure a steady flow of funds to help prepare for the future.

## L&C LEAGUE REPORT    DON DAVIES

The two top honours are still within our grasp but hopes of retaining the Ladies title have taken a nose dive due to some major issues. The Men and Ladies started the season with four successive titles behind them, but that does not entitle a team to continue in victorious vein, matches still have to be won. The Men kicked off with a 10-0 drubbing of newly promoted Bury and followed up in similar fashion against Manchester. Paul Hutchings has returned after a few years absence from L&C league action, but was unable to play against Mid Cheshire due to an important school commitment. His replacement, 15 year old, Adam Robertson, has again signed for WSM and plays for his club whenever he is free from his extensive list of national and international commitments. He does not play in any other league, not even in Wrexham, and I have not heard of anyone who begrudges him a place in the team. He retained his 3 year 100% singles record for the Men with three comfortable victories. Keith Williams and John Rankin chipping in with two each, the latter boasting a win against Brian Johns, in a 7-3 success.

The Ladies won their opening match, but when I omitted to notify our next opponents, Wirral, of our home match, I received a phone call from Pat Newns who showed empathy for my error and declined to claim the points. I only received 10 days notice instead of the 21 required of our next fixture, away to Oldham, being advised also that it would commence at 2pm. Paula French was working until 13.30 and Delyth Davies had a long standing engagement in Wales. Unable to raise a side, team captain Alex Johns contacted Oldham to explain our predicament and I advised them in writing that we would not be travelling. With Wirral having already beaten them, they need both points from us to maintain their slight chance of regaining the title. Their players, though, would not agree to a new date and it looks like we are at deadlock.

Two victories, the first against last season's div. 1 champions Halton, set the Veterans up nicely when they travelled to Blackburn. I was disappointed to hear we had lost 6-4, but amazed and annoyed to discover more than two weeks later that the floor had been completely carpeted, which greatly af-

fects the bounce of the ball. This is not acceptable in what is supposed to be the top standard in the NW. We were due to meet Halton in the QF's of the Dennis Smith Memorial Trophy, but they conceded the tie and we now travel to Lancaster & Morecambe looking for a place in the final for the 3rd successive year.

The Veterans 'A' team also opened up with a couple of victories, but have a more difficult programme over the next two months. Alan Chase, Ted Birch, Dave Evans and Ricky Brown have done the trick to date, the latter called up only 45 minutes before the team left for Oldham.

We entered an additional Veteran team and they have dropped just two sets in 3 matches. Alex Johns, Brenda Buoeoy and Ahmed Thabet seem certain to take the Div.4. South title.

Keith Williams, John Rankin and Paul Hutchings travelled to Blackpool for a Q.F. tie in the Norman Cook Memorial Trophy. They did not take Brenda as the home side had notified me that they would not have a female player! Just three sets were required to qualify for another semi-final appearance and within the hour the team were back on the road, victors by 5 sets to 0.

MEN: bt Bury, 10-0; bt Manchester, 9-1; bt Mid Cheshire, 7-3.

Ladies: bt Halton, 10-0.

Veteran 1st: bt Halton, 9-1; Bt LBH, 8-2; lost to Blackburn, 4-6.

Veteran 'A': bt Mid Cheshire, 10-0; bt Oldham 'A', 7-3.

Veteran 'B': bt LBH, 8-2; bt Wigan 'A', 10-0; bt Warrington 'A', 10-0

Dennis Smith Memorial Trophy;

Liverpool bt Halton 9-0

Norman Cook Memorial Trophy;

Liverpool bt Blackpool 5-0.

Your unwanted rubbers and blades are still needed for coaching sessions. We are now involved in School 'Taster' days which require our needing 20/30 bats to ensure everyone taking part has a reasonable bat. Please pass any you have to Ken Armson. They will be made up and put to good use.

## OBITUARY

It is with profound regret that I have to report the sudden and totally unexpected death of John McKim on 2nd October 1999, bringing to an end an involvement in the sport of table tennis covering a period of 60 years.

Having previously served for a couple of years as a co-opted member of the LDTTL E.C. in the capacity of Deputy Referee, followed by a full year as an elected member, John's administrative expertise was put to its greatest test at the commencement of the 1957 season. This arose when due to the sudden death of Bill Stamp, who for many years had guided the fortunes of the League as its General Secretary, it became necessary to find someone who was both willing and able to devote the time and enthusiasm to ensure that the League's affairs continued to be efficiently administered. Undaunted by the knowledge that his predecessor had set a high standard, John undertook the task with the pleasant and obliging manner that over the years became so characteristic of him. The affairs of the League continued to be conducted with a level of diligence and competence that earned him the respect of players and officials. He performed his many tasks assiduously, his selfless endeavour during periods of indifferent health being appreciated by all who had the pleasure to be associated with him.

During his playing career with the League that dated back to 1938, John played for several Clubs and he will be remembered as a sporting competitor, friendly to his opponent, win or lose. The League acknowledged John's dedicated commitment in 1960 when he was awarded the Stamp Award of Merit. Further recognition of his sterling service being accorded to him in 1991 when the League's highest honour, that of Life Member, was bestowed upon him. John stood down as G.S. in 1995 but has continued to make a valued contribution as a member of the League's Board of Appeal.

In addition to his longevity of service to the LDTTL John's abilities extended more widely. He joined the E.C. of the LTTA in 1959, and in 1968 was elected Hon. G.S. A post he continued to fulfil with distinction up to the time of his death. In those early years the Lancashire and Cheshire County Associations and the Lancs. and Ches. T.T.L. met as a combined Body and for some four years from 1968, in addition to his duties for the LTTA he was also Secretary to the other two Organisations. He also represented Cheshire for two years on the National Council of the ETТА. He remained an elected member of the L&C T.T.L. E.C. up to his death.

John had also served as a member of the ETТА Tournament and Rules Committees and continued to be a member of the ETТА Board of Appeal. His contribution to our sport at all levels being acknowledged in 1983 when he was elected a Vice President of the ETТА. He will be remembered by the wide circle of friends that he deservedly earned for himself, in particular for his wise counsel, his quiet efficiency and for the courtesy that was one of his natural attributes.

This has been a most sad occasion for his widow, Maureen, who has herself been experiencing poor health for some time, his daughter Janice and her family. They have lost a loving husband, father and Grandad. We extend our deepest sympathy to them in the sad loss they have sustained.

I, personally, was privileged to have known John as a result of our mutual interest in the sport of table tennis spanning a period of half a century. We enjoyed a close and happy working relationship as administrators covering four decades. I shall miss his caring disposition and his valued friendship. I, like the countless others who were enriched by the privilege of knowing him, will feel the poorer for his passing.

Arthur E. Upton  
President

## OBITUARY

It is with profound regret we have to report the passing away of our most popular and well known Vice President, Wyn Cameron, who passed away in September 1999.

Never a player herself, Wyn, gave a level of service to our League that few could lay claim too. A service recognised by our League when she was elected a Vice President, an honour rarely bestowed on a non-player. Wyn was known to many league members, but few would recognise her, for much of her contact with members was by phone. So much so, that she was known by her nickname of "Mrs Fixture Secretary". She was everybodys friend, her bubbly personality always making it a pleasure to ask the usual questions, "where are we in Div. X," "how did Wavertree Labour's 3rd div team fare this week" etc.

Fixture Secretary Eddie, was often away on business but the cards kept tumbling in so Wyn took on the task of entering cards, keeping league tables up to date and noting discrepancies. But her greatest attribute was handling the innumerable telephone queries. She was not interested in the Laws of the game, had only a passing knowledge of our Rules, but she handled queries with the aplomb of an expert. She recognised that the role of a F.S. is to speedily resolve problems and get matches played and rarely failed to achieve that aim. She was also very sympathetic to the needs of players in knowing how they and others were doing when promotion or relegation was at stake.

Secretaries, captains and players enjoyed chatting with her and she was on first name terms with many whose faces were unknown to her. No matter the inconvenience of the time, her warmth of response was always the same, as was her diligent attention to the query. Nothing was ever too much trouble. Bubbly, chatty, sometimes unorthodox, but no caller rang off without an answer. What she did not know she ad-libbed on and resolved the issue. The greatest tribute we can pay her is to say that she was the F.S. and Eddie's role was that of Mr. F.S. The League had never before known such a partnership of an elected and un-elected F.S. but reaped the benefits stemming from Wyn's dedication for many years. Whereas Officials are frequently seen in a poor light, Wyn, an un-elected Official, was viewed by many as a sunbeam and a person they could relate to and rely on.

Life was there to be lived to the full, Wyn and Eddie believed that. They travelled the world but their first priority was their love for each other.

In the latter months prior to her death Wyn suffered increasing ill-health. Eddie was with her for her last moments. For Eddie, however, Wyn will always be there.

A sad occasion for Eddie, son Ian, daughter Sue and grandchildren. We extend to them our deepest sympathies knowing that we, too, have lost a friend.

### **PETER TAYLOR**

(CADWA TT CLUB)

### **ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS**

N.I.C.E.I.C. APPROVED

### **DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL INSTALLATIONS**

3 Victoria Avenue, Liverpool, L14 3LR

**TEL. 0151 228 8894**

Last date for submission of Rule Amendments is Saturday 26th February 2000.

Closed Championships will take place on Sunday 16th April, at L'pool Tennis Centre. Finals will be Tuesday 18th April at Police Club.

Revised date of Forrest Cup Final:  
Thursday 27th April

## SECRETARY'S DESK MIKE POWER

There are a few things I would like to cover in this report, but must firstly speak of the sad loss of two former stalwarts of our League.

The first occurring in September last when Wyn Cameron, wife of our former Fixture Secretary, known to all of us as Mrs Fixture Secretary, passed away suddenly.

Hardly had we come to terms with her sudden passing when yet another stalwart, our former General Secretary and current Chairman of our Board of Appeal passed away suddenly.

We were represented at both these funerals and extended to both families sympathies on behalf of this League and its members. You will find their Obituaries elsewhere in this issue.

I would start off by thanking both Stan Clarke and Tony Harris for the work they have done on behalf of the League over many years. Stan had been a member of the Management Committee for a long time and it goes without saying that without people such as Stan, we would all be playing in alternative leagues, as our League would not exist. For many years he was the Vice Chairman to Arthur Upton, when Arthur decided to call it a day, he was elected unopposed as Chairman. Tony was elected to the Management Committee on the same day as myself and was soon to become League Secretary. A very difficult post, as I have now found out. Both Stan and Tony will be, and have been missed at Committee and everyone should thank them for their sterling work.

Whilst mentioning Arthur Upton, I would like to wish him a speedy recovery following his recent heart attack. I look forward to seeing him back at our meetings.

The most recent event in the Liverpool TT Calendar was the Liverpool Junior Open, held at the beginning of December at Wavertree Tennis Centre. It was again a huge success with entries coming from all over the country. I would like to thank all those Committee members and non-committee members for all their input, without which the tournament could not have taken place. Special thanks should go to Keith Williams as Organiser, Karen Tonge as Referee and Ken Arnson as Deputy Referee.

Thanks, also, to all the umpires who came from

far and wide.

I would also report that as a League we have been trying to find our own headquarters with the help of Dick Johnson, City Leisure Services Directorate. Many Leagues already have their own playing centre, which can be used for coaching, tournaments etc. we are a bit behind the times in this respect. The Council recently offering us the use of premises at a school in Netherley. About ten Committee members turned up to view the room. The room turned out to be a fairly large gym and looked to be excellent, everyone being very up beat about it. However, we had to sit down in the cold light of day and decide many issues. Too many to list here, the main one being, was it affordable? It was decided after lengthy discussion, that it was not affordable and we had to regretfully turn down the offer. An offer, I must say, that was more than fair. We are still looking for premises with the help of Dick Johnson, but I would be interested in any feedback from members regarding this issue. the questions I would put to you are, would you be prepared to use League premises and equipment by way of a small fee? How often would you make use of them? Do you feel we need our own premises? I look forward to being inundated with your views.

Finally, I would advise you of an item currently under consideration by your Management committee. We have some Clubs who register many players, but only enter a modest number of teams. Whilst this is not against our rules, we feel it needs looking into for the good of the League and in fairness to the members. To give an example. If you have a Club with twenty members and only one team, their fees would be the same as a club with six members entering one team. This cannot be right, for prior to our change to a team fee, every player paid their own individual registration fee. Our current system being more open to abuse. Obviously any changes have to be done at an AGM, but it is something for you to think about in case any amendments are proposed.

Well, I wish you all a brilliant 2000 and beyond, and may the force be with you.

Mike Power

P.S. Support your 'Closed' Tournament on 16th April, at Wavertree Tennis Centre.

Too much beer, singing, dancing, late nights....oh my head... now I know what they meant by the 'Millenium Bug.' I've had the added headache of trying to introduce a 'Nativity' theme to the Digest. It was bad enough trying to pick three Wise Men from the Committee, but you try and select a Virgin Mary from the ladies. My only safe bet was for Ken Armson to play the Inn Keeper. I even had his one line sorted out. "You should've bloody booked."

Anyway, what's been happening in good old div one whilst I've been away? Seems that Police, unfortunately, are walking away with the championship. I say, unfortunately, simply because the theory of introducing Paul and Chris was to create an additional title challenging team to compete against the likes of WSM and Cadwa, but it would appear these teams have either lost or are unable to field their influential players and that has consequently watered down the competition. For example, Polices' worst result so far was an 8-2 victory over YM with Pat McLoughan having a great win over Chris Ford and teaming up with Peter Lee to take Paul and John in the doubles.

I very much doubt the millenium will kick start a decent challenge from the likes of Cadwa or WSM. Both teams share a common problem of being unable to field a team strong enough to challenge for the title. Cadwa having had this problem for the past few seasons and seemingly content to plod on. Peter Taylor won't be happy losing his 3 against YM, but the night was saved when Kevin Dolder got his hat-trick and Mike Mahoney bt Peter 24/22 in the 3rd to give Cadwa a 6-4 win. The loss of Bernie Wentworth and Rob Bevan, coupled with the irregular availability of Adam Robertson, ended WSM's challenge for the title even before the season started. I can only suppose that this loss resulted in the signing on of another class player, Wayne Percival, and a regular team place for Alice Howard. Can you believe that Ken Armson - a man who's as popular as Graham Rix at a B-Witched concert - also featured in the drawn match v Cadwa 'A'. Well, at least it saved them from a fine (just joking, Ken). The team of Dave Roberts, Wayne and Alice will undoubtedly hold their own, but will not be able to churn out championship results. Their 6-4 win over YM 'A' is perhaps an example of this, but I may be doing

YM a dis-service when you consider how well Dele Olyumbo is playing this season. More about Dele later.

WSM 'A' haven't been affected too much by their 1st teams' demise and still manage to turn out their regular squad of Roy Smith, Mike Tierney and Phil Luxon, with the odd appearance by Gary Watson and Ian Campbell. The derby game produced a 7-3 win for the 1st team, Ian Campbell having a good win over Alice. Ian's good form was repeated against Kenny Jackson's Bath St which contributed to a fine 6-4 win for the WSM team. Another momentous win was in the form of Mike Tierney btg YM's Peter Lee 25/23 in the 3rd and helped ease the disappointment of a 7-3 defeat.

H. House are, in my book, going to have their best season to date. The return to form of Ian Eaton (3 agst Bath St) is now complimenting the consistency of Ray Jackson and Alex Bryce. Ray managed his 3 agst W'loo whilst Alex had a great win over Dave Roberts helping H.H. to take 4 from the WSM team. However, their best result must be their 8-2 win over Cadwa. Granted neither Keith or Kevin were playing, but the points on the card is what counts. Bath St 'A' find themselves deservedly in the middle of the table, although I would imagine they will have moved up come end of season. The squad of Alex Johns, Brenda Bouey, Ian McElwee and Dave Evans have over the past few season settled will into 1st div life. A team that was once a relegation banker now well equipped to take advantage of the plight of top teams. they showed no mercy to WSM with a 9-1 thrashing. Dave Roberts, having lost earlier to Alex and Brenda, saving the whitewash by btg Ian. Bath St 'A's 7-3 victory agst YM 'A' saw Ian and Dave collecting hat-tricks beating Dele, Ahmed and Dave Tagg. Alex had a bad night losing all three.

The consistency of Bath St has been dented slightly during the first half of the season. They lose 9-1 to YM 1st, Kenny taking the single point from Jeff Huntington. Two weeks later they thrash YM 'A' 9-1, albeit 4 games went to deuce in the 3rd. Ahmed Thabet doing the honours agst Fred Bainbridge to take the single point.

YM 'A's 9-1 defeat to Bath St certainly doesn't reflect the season Dele's having so far. Dave Roberts, Wayne Percival, Alex Johns and Peter Taylor, to name just a few. the team itself hasn't got the relegation worries of last season.

("what worries?" I can hear Pat McLoughan shout) and a mid table position is looking likely.

The same could probably be said for the YM 1st team who are still looking for last season's form. Having said that, both Peter and Pat are playing well. Peters' win over Kenny Jackson and Pats' over Chris Ford are good examples. I can only imagine that when Jeff Huntington gets his eye in the team will move rapidly up the ladder. Remember that ladder, Pete? I think I'm footing it at the moment.

The next three teams will not thank me for reminding them that they form part of the relegation zone. Cadwa 'A', with the help of Ken Hartley, are in the better position. Kens' wins over Paul Gittins (that's me), Alex Bryce and Ray Jackson prove that he's worthy of div 1 status, but only time will tell whether it's enough to keep the team up. The battle appears, at the moment, to be between W'loo and Marconi.

Just to go back to the 'Nativity' theme; if Jesus were to play table tennis, I guess he would be best suited playing for W'loo. Not because W'loo are after miracles to survive. Simply that the W'loo team would welcome with open arms anyone who could turn water into 3 pints of bitter. They wouldn't care which div they played in. Alan Chase, however, is still relying on good old fashion ping pong. Peter Taylor, Brenda Bouey and Jeff Huntington can all vouch for that and when a Alan teams up with Ted, they make a formidable doubles.

Marconi are holding up the div at the moment and would probably welcome some divine intervention. Their precarious position hasn't affected Bob Edwards who is showing the form of Christmas past. His three agst W'loo contributed to both teams sharing the points, and his individual wins against the likes of Kenny Jackson show that he can still hold his own.

Well, time to close for this century. I wonder what the new millenium will bring? Possibly the end of the D.F.S. sale if we're lucky. I hope you got what you wanted over the Christmas period. I was hoping Ken Arnson would be visited by three spirits urging him to get new balls. Let's wait and see. Anyway, I do like to leave you with a true story, one of which was brought to mind when I was watching the 'Herbert' hairdresser "soapdoc" on the

telly. As a spotty teenager, I went to a City Centre Salon, I was asked by the pretty girl as to what I would like. I, rather flirtingly, pointed to one of the male model photo's pinned on the wall, and asked her to make me look like him. The girl, in her broad scouse accent, replied, "it's a comb, not a frigging wand."

Happy New Year.

## **DIVISION TWO**

## **MIKE POWER**

I may be premature but I think you can already determine the teams that are going to fill the top two spots. Newly promoted Police 'A' have increased the strength of their team with the inclusion of twins, Paul and Steve. After six matches, Paul is still boasting a 100% record that he is capable of maintaining throughout the season. Only two players have taken a game off him, Frank McCann losing narrowly 17 in the 3rd, and our past (sorely missed, especially by me) League Secretary, Tony Harris.

Steve's record is nearly as good, losing only twice to date. They are backed up by Gemma Lloyd or Terrin-Ann Nolan. Gemma having lost 2 from 9, Terri-Ann, 2 from 6. Team record is an impressive played 6, won 6, points 49. I understand that after 9 matches they have accumulated 66 points.

The only team I feel are capable of competing with them are Maghull. Relegated from the 1st div last season and determined to go back. After 8 matches they are 13 points behind with a match in hand. If shift work prevents Paul from playing every week, we could have a cliff-hanger end to the season. Steve Woods and Fred (You can't keep me down) Pheysey have both made a good start to their season. Steve having won 14 from 18, Fred 12 from 18. They are ably supported by Alan Jones with 7 from 15. His best moment coming when he defeated Mark Miles 19 in the 3rd.

Below the top two, it's anybody's guess how the order will end up. With the exception of Marconi 'B', any of the remaining teams are capable of finishing 3rd. Marconi 'B' have lost 7 from 8, managing to draw one. This was with the assistance of Peter Wass, who, I feel sure, will be re-ranked to the 'A' team, his services being lost for future matches. It looks like 3rd div for them next season. I will stick my neck out and go for Marconi 'A' to finish 3rd (their usual position). After 7 matches their position possibly doesn't look too healthy, but they have already played the top two, losing 8-2 to Police and 6-4 to Maghull. With the trio of Ian Wensley, Frank McCann and Peter Wass at the helm

they have enough experience and skill to rise up the table.

Fords claim to fame is strength in depth, with 15 players registered and only one team you never know who you are going to be up against. One point I am aware the League is looking at is that of Clubs with only one team, but many players. The problem relating to such clubs only paying one team fee when other clubs with an equivalent number of registered players and more than one team pay a lot more. How can this be right?

Fords No.1. Tim Wearden has played only twice in their first six matches, losing only once, this to Andy Lloyd, M'web 'A', who had a tremendous night collecting all three for his team in a 7-3 defeat. Andy also claiming the scalps of Bob Hughes and Harry Johnston, all 2 straight. Fords best result so far came against W'loo 'A' winning 8-2. Ricky Brown won the two for W'loo beating Bob Hughes and Alf Perry and losing to James Eaton who won his three. Peter Holmes and Ritchie Cragg both failing to register a win. Peter, however, did register against WSM 'B' (It has Wav. Lab. on the card! Who are they?) He won his 3 beating Mark, Roy and the up and coming Tim Tement. Ricky being narrowly beaten by Roy.

WSM 'B' are there, or thereabouts, with 42 from 8 matches. If they are going to compete for a high position they will need to ensure they keep their big guns playing, namely Mark and Roy. I have seen in the past, too many times, teams who could have done better if only they had been able to have their top players out regularly. I know it is not always possible, but WSM lost to M'hull and W'loo 6-4 when both Mark and Roy were playing, thus proving what a challenging div this is.

Both M'Web teams are stuck in the pack. When they met it was the 1st team that edged home 6-4. John Hardy won his 3 with only Andy Lloyd taking him to 3. Ray Parkinson picked up two for the 'A' team beating Trevor Barraclough and Rob Barker, who was playing as a reserve. The 1st team earned a draw away to Marconi who had Bobby Bell filling in at No.3. they beat Bath St. 'B' 7-3 before losing to both Bootle JC and Police 'B' 7-3. It was Trevor who won his 3 against Police, John not playing. John winning his 3 against Bootle JC when Trevor didn't play. What was I saying about big guns in the previous paragraph? M'Web 'A' are no pushovers having Ray Parkinson

and Andy Lloyd in the team, however, they don't appear to have a regular No.3, it having been Mike Barker who has filled in for the early part of the season. This team managing a 6-4 win over a full strength Marconi 'A'. Andy won his 3, Ray won 2 with Mike chipping in with a win over Frank McCann. The week before they had dealt with Marconi 'B' winning 7-3. Had it not been for Trevor Owens it would have been a 10-0. Trevor won his three at a canter, all 2 straight. Bath St. 'B' then stood in their way and here M'web came a cropper, losing 7-3. Peter Joiner, at No.3. for Bath St., won his three, but it must have come as a surprise to the M'Web lads to see the name of Ian McElwee at No.1. for Bath St. this being match 6 and Ian hadn't figured in any of their previous matches. Ray didn't mind though, after he had beaten him, then Ian Grant and assisted Andy to win the doubles. This was Bath St's only victory in their first seven matches. Having lost the others, I suppose they are second favourites for relegation. I believe Ian McElwee is no longer available having played too many matches for a higher team. that leaves Ian Grant, John Watson and Peter Joiner, who would argue that I should keep my pen in my top pocket, which would stop my writing such rubbish. If I used a pen, I would, but my keyboard won't fit. To be fair, I have to say that they have played both the top teams, Police and M'hull, where they picked up 4 points from 20. Their matches against Marconi 'A' and W'loo 'A' both ending in narrow 6-4 defeats. They also lost 7-3 to M'Web, but Ian had to retire early due to injury whilst playing Alan Biggs. So their story could be a lot different by end of the season, by which time my keyboard will be under lock and key.

If anyone doesn't know who 'Dodger' is, ask Dave Graham. Dave has a nickname for everyone and fortunately this is one we can print! Roger 'Dodger' Neal, no relation to Dennis, has played in this div for 89 years, or it seems that way. A nicer man you couldn't meet and a handful on the table (according to his wife), which he proved when he played against M'hull. The final score of a match that must have finished around 2a.m. was 5-5-. Eight games going to three, Dodger being the only player on show to win his three. He dealt with Steve Woods, 19 in the 3rd, beat Fred 21 & 19 and rounded his singles off by beating Alan 19 in the 3rd. If that wasn't enough, he then combined with Mike Moran in the



doubles to beat Steve and Fred, again in the 3rd, 21/13. What a star, a very tired star, at that. Well done, the performance of the season so far. Bootle JC are one of three teams having 40 points from 8 matches, won 4, drawn 2 and lost 2. Their defeats being at the hands of Police 'A' and Marconi 'A', no disgrace, there.

Police 'B' are just behind mid-table with a couple of games in hand. Like many others, their only defeats early on came at the hands of their 'A' team, 8-2, M'hull, 6-4. Paula French is always a hand-ful, proving this with wins over Fred Pheysey, Alan Jones, Peter Wass and Trevor Owens. The improving John Dyson and Tony Harris are holding their own (so they say), and I would guess that if they can keep their regular team out, should, like every-one else, finish mid table.

Apart from wishing everyone all the very best for 2000 and beyond, I must tell you that I went to my doctor's the other day with a sore throat. He asked me to open my mouth and say aah. I asked, why. His reply being, " my dog died last week"!

### **DIVISION 3 SYLVIA GRAHAM**

Hello! As your friendly divisional scribe I'd like to set out a few rules. Any notes on the back of cards are guaranteed a mention, any scandal may/may not be censored and juicy, funny or embarrassing bits are welcome. Well, now that's out of the way, I hope everyone has had a great Christmas break and is all set for the new century!! Don't forget to check all your tables, bats, balls and services and ensure they are Y2K compliant because we don't want any of those nasty millenium bugs invading our sport do we?

Firstly, I'd like to welcome two junior players, Paul O'Donnell of Liv YM and Cherith Graham of Boo. JC, into the division. Both have started the season with a flourish and the quality of their play should be commended. It would do some senior players good to watch these youngsters serving and to note that services can be effective whilst still complying with the service rule. Equally pleasing is the number of ladies and Over 60's men playing in this division..... which demonstrates what a truly amazing sport table tennis is and what a potentially popular sport it could be with the right publicity.

The first portion of the season (not half 'cos we've

still two games to go!!) has really got me thinking about our division. At first, I picked out my two promotion prospects, but since I've seen the cards I'm not so sure. There are several teams, YM 'B', Cadwa 'B', Bootle YM, Bootle JC 'A' and the two Bath St. teams all capable of getting promotion and deservedly so. However, the Bath St. and Cadwa club both have two teams in this div. and the 'derby' matches are contested so rigourously that valuable promotion points can easily be lost to players within the same club. Saying that, they can also do their club a favour by taking points off other contenders. Julie Prince, W'loo, and Sue Burgess, Cadwa, both playing at No.1. are holding their own at the top. They both seem to be enjoying their table tennis and are due to meet in week 10. It should be a good match and I definitely would not like to predict the outcome, could even depend on who had the best/worse New Year!! It would be interesting to look back at a 'Digest' of, say 20 years ago, to see who came off best in their original meetings. If anyone knows the results, let me know and I'll publish them in the next notes.

Looking past the players in the division, I'd like to mention one club that seems to be having an unbelievable revival. Bath St. is going from strength to strength. It's been going for over fifty years, and ever since I can remember has been skippered by Alex Gould. I'm sure we'd all like to wish Alex a belated "Happy 80th Birthday." Under his able direction their room has been completely refurbished and there has been an influx of new members, which is one way of identifying a successful club - how do you do it, Alex? It was nice to see Mark Patterson (ex Bootle SC) there, after many years absence, managing to make quite a 'mark' on the div... Sorry, couldn't resist the pun. Perhaps we should all look at our Clubs and think what we could do to attract new members to the Club, or new players to the sport!! I'll leave you to think about it.

We'll finish this issue with what the captains have wanted to say via the cards.

The comments were highly enlightening. It appears that the scalp we should all be collecting is that of Lionel Arnould. Apparently Monsieur Arnould has been tipped as the No.1 seed for the div singles. Any win or close result is guaranteed a mention, so good hunting!! Appalling conditions at M'hull, I am told, did not affect the table tennis between M'hull and Bath St. 'C'. Both teams settled down

and played some excellent sets, the match finishing 8-2 in Bath St's favour. Another good match being the draw between Bootle YM and Bath St 'C'. The sets went 1-1, 2-2, 3-3 right to the end, John Higham, Bootle YM, and Mark Patterson, Bath St, both winning two singles and their respective doubles. Bootle JC say Bill Clayton should remember the match between them and Bath St 'D' for reasons other than table tennis. He dropped his tracksuit bottoms forgetting he had left his shorts on the radiator to warm. Needless to say he was OK because he felt hot and bothered all night.

The last two cards are both about Bootle JC players. The first describes Bill Harris's skills and footwork as a pleasure to watch. I heartily agree. How lucky we are to have someone like Bill in our team, our Club and our div. The second, from Liv YM, remarks that a Bootle player continually broke wind, to his advantage, whilst playing. The player concerned apologises, claiming a medical problem. He promises to sell his shares in Heinz and refrain from eating its products for three days prior to each match.

Not much more to say, there has only been one whitewash to date, Bath St 'D' v WSM 'D'. Two facesavers, both involving M'hull 'B' Harry McGanity beating John McCann, 18 & 16 and against Cadwa 'B' he teamed up with Bill Salter to beat Mike Power and Steve Graham -15, 17, 19.

#### DIVISION 4

#### DOUG BAKER

Hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year/Millennium. So, seeing as Nostradamus has been proved wrong again, I'll give you some predications to pur your mortgage on. One, Police 'C' champions. Two, WSM 'E' runners up. Three, Relegated - no one, as the Committee decide to re-dress the recent imbalances by promoting the bottom team to div.2 (hey, stranger things have happened).

How can I make such outlandish predictions? Well, I have consulted the cards covering the first six matches, they never lie(?).

Police 'C' have appeared from nowhere (in the rear view mirror) with one of the strongest teams seen in the 4th div this century. They are the only undefeated team, inflicting whitewashes on Bath t 'E and M'hull 'C' and scoring an impressive 9-

1 on last seasons' contenders, Boo YM 'A' who were without their closed season transferee, Arthur Garnett, and grateful to Jim Cannon for preventing the tin hat.

They also overturned WSM 'E' who were playing in div 3 last season, 6-4 away from home. They threw us, Cadwa 'D', out of the door marked "Cup Exit" with a 5-0 romp. They have strength in depth, from Gareth Jones, who seems to have had his share of luck when beating Bert Rivers 23/21 in the 3rd, but then, he has just begun what looks to be a long winning streak, to the ubiquitous sub John Jeffreys, who stepped up from the 5th div to win 3 out of 4 singles in his first two games and his two doubles. They also don't have the distraction of having stable mates in the same division as WSM do.

So with three teams in this div how will WSM fare? An even spread of talent could see all three stay up, that would be a remarkable achievement. However, Clubs have greedy committees, and WSM will aim high, pushing the 'E' team towards promotion, with 'F' and 'G' supporting the challenge, hoping to be carried high up the table in the slip stream of confidence.

As we witnessed last year in this div with M'hull; a win by the club's higher team against another club can assist the lower team. However, the downside happens when the Club's teams meet. On paper it should be a 10-0 for the higher team, but TT is never predictable or clear cut. Hence WSM internal matches of EvG and EvF notched up 8-2 and 7-3 victories for 'E'. Bobby Owen and John Gratton were undefeated, Gordon Langshaw and Ken Roberts evens. Nice to see old chums Kenny and Steve Perry meeting as adversaries, Steve having the firmer handshake at the end of the game winning 19 in the 3rd. Strangely, Ken had had the same scores, but in his favour, earlier in the evening when playing Ian Douglas. Stan Clarke regularly appears at No.1. for WSM 'F' but popped up at No.4 for the 'E' in their 9-1 crushing of W'loo 'C'. Ken Nelson saving the whitewash beating "ITMA" Ken Roberts. M'web 'B' will make a strong challenge with the redoubtable Jennings, Evans, Ashley and Harrison mopping up the lower orders, exemplified in their 7-3 wins over Bootle YM 'A', Cadwa 'D', Bath St 'E' and Linacre. However, WSM have proved tougher opposition, the 'E' winning 6-4, the 'G' tying 5-All.

Linacre will struggle, mainly due to the sudden surprise return of Bill Clayton to his previous Club. Their recent win over fellow strugglers W'loo 'C' with Jack and Harry undefeated shows there is cause for optimism yet.

M'hull 'C' will have Phil Christie leading from the front allowing Brian, Wilf and Steve to gather points whilst they may. A strong 7-3 away victory against WSM 'G' being a warning for the rest of us. I foresee more wins than losses for the Northern outposts.

Bootle YM always look a cohesive unit under the captaincy of Mike Hughes, but their season has yet to get started. A tough opening set of fixtures and an away defeat to W'loo has left them with few points in the bag.

H. House 'A' will play less variations and fix on Eddie Clein, John Henshaw and Mike Poole as the caucus of the team. Back to back 9-1 wins over W'loo and WSM 'F' have only been slightly undone by a below par 4-6 defeat at the hands of M'hull 'C'.

New boys, W'loo 'C', H & K Nelson, Austin Hayden, Bill Spencer, Eddie Rowbottom and Alan Platt, will value all points and live to rue any close sets lost in the 3rd, especially in the 1st half of the season, when every opponent is an unknown quantity. Exhibit No.1. 9-1 defeat at the hands of WSM 'F', five games going to three, but nothing for W'loo with similar treatment from the 'E' team. Bath St 'E' always travel mob handed, so if numerical advantage is any indicator they will be residing mid table again this year. Thier highlight so far was the 8-2 win over the three amigos of WSM 'G' and a more demanding 7-3 over the Linacre four.

Mine own Cadwa 'D', with the Moon in Uranus, will have mixed fortunes. Boosted from last year's stalwarts by the services of the Davies duo, Rob and Don, and new 'old boy' John 'coach' O'Sullivan, the squad now has an embarrassment of riches, surprise being our weapon. Having been coaching for many a year, John is just getting used to the competitive side of TT, and is no longer 'knocking the ball back' - all you 3&4's have been warned.

Some interesting wins taking place. Jack Highton taking a set from Police 'C'. Harry Reeve winning both against M'web. Paul Reed-Clayton beating Dave Cunningham in the 3rd. Austin Hayden do-

ing his stuff for W'loo in beating Stan Clarke and also taking Brian Gregory and Steve McGanity in the 3rd. Steve McGanity also doing his stuff in beating Rez Mirdamadi and Ken Ray. Bill Spencer putting one in the eye of H. House 'A's war horse, Dave Cohen. Paul Banks a winner at deuce in the 3rd against Mike Poole. John O'Sullivan taking his two against the two Kens, Roberts and Ray.

Finally, Arthur Garnett stood steadfast to beat Neil Jennings 22 in the 3rd and Arthur Harrison 16 in the 3rd.

Good to see Arthur hasn't zipped up his bat and is still gracing our division with his TT tenacity, where his talents will be a welcome boost to Bootle YM. Everyone wants to know the details about the nuclear fallout precipitating his move from the Police, however, I'd like to find out if Arthur is considering a return to his seat on the 4th division Newsdesk.

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## DIVISION 5

## KEN ARMSON

Not the best of starts, but a familiar one for this div. Reduced to ten teams when Bootle YM failed to get to the start line leaving teams with four blank fixtures. Just as everyone starts flexing their muscles and preparing to battle it out for the two promotion spots, M'webs new team threw a spanner in the works by stamping their name on the title, winning five and drawing one, with only ten sets dropped in six matches. One of those being a draw because they were one short.

However, it's an ill wind that blows no good, as the saying goes. The 'good' being the welcome return of Peter Carney after an enforced absence due to ill-health. Good to see you back, Peter, hope your return is a lengthy one.

To be fair to M'web they did try for one of the vacant 4th division slots. However, not being able to lay claim to having players from the record breaking Div.3. champions of last season in their squad their application was consigned to the shredder. It follows that whilst wins against them may be few and far between, they do have their weaknesses, those same wins possibly being vital ones to other teams. They made an iffy start with a draw against YM 'C' mainly due to being one short. But this must not distract from the two hard earned sets won by YM, Johnny Tsang beating Peter 12 in the 3rd and A.Wong (don't know his christian name, YM are keeping them secret), taking Arthur Harrison in two straight.

They then got into their stride with a wipeout against A'burth 'A', only Derek (Sunbird) Traynor managing a 3 game defeat. A brief hiccup against H.House 'B' lost them two sets in an 8-2 win, Steve Simpson picking up where he left off last season with a comfortable win over Peter who clearly is struggling due to his long lay-off. Garry Abrams recording a good win over Ron Houghton. Again, only one set went to 3. A 9-1 against Bath St. 'F' who would have been one of the main contenders for the title. Dave Batty beating Ron Houghton to save face for his team. At present it is not possible to ascertain just which players form the M'web team as some of their players move round the divisions and keep winning. Alan Cameron, for example, played at No.3. in Week 6 and then popped in at No.2. for their 4th division team in Week 10. Could be they have re-ranked since the season started. Clearly they are the team to beat and if I was a betting man, which I am not, I would be looking for a Bookie ready to take my bet that they will remain unbeaten and concede no further drawn matches. Don't suppose I could find one daft enough to take a bet that they will be easy winners of the double.

At present the contenders for that precious No.2. spot are A'burth and Bath St 'F', the A'burth lads having the edge at the moment. Six points ahead and a match in hand. Early season wins being important at this stage as A'burth showed when they shrugged off Bath St's challenge with a decisive 8-2 win over them in week 1. Once more it was into the fray for Dave Batty to save face for his team-mates by winning his two against Ray Jones and Eric Wood. Two real battles of the Oldies. A'burth have strength in depth and an 'A' team capable of taking sets from would be contenders. Not that it was apparent when they met Bath St. 'F' who disposed of them as casually as you would swot a fly. A 10-0 win in ten two straight matches, even the redoubtable Billy (straight bat) Holmes being taken out by Norman Lindsay and Ron Geogeson. Bath St. 'F' letting A'burth know that it would not be wise to count their chickens yet. And they, too, have a set taking weapon in the shape of their 'G' team. This team of Jack Letch, Graham Oates, George Crowley and Richard Woodley being strong enough to make

their own bid for promotion. It is early days with all the contenders firing warning shots across each others bow.

Never being afraid of sticking my neck out, I reckon any team that boasts of a player who has Delyth Davies scalp hanging from his bat must be favourites to travel through time back to the 4th. So I am putting my mythical cash on Aigburth making a bungy jump back to the 4th.

Graham Rollinson got his name in the record book beating Delyth 16 in the 3rd in his team's 8-2 win. In addition to disposing of Bath St. 'F' and Hope, M'hull got the same treatment. Five sets went to three, fortune favouring the brave with A'burth getting 4, Maghull only one. Dave Evans finally disposing of hard to beat Jeff Banks -21, 20 & 13. Jeff is the player we all hate to play because he consistently returns our winning shots and turns them into his winning shots. For good measure A'burth, without Graham, disposed of H.House 9-1.

Can Bath St 'F' recover from that week 1 result, for that is what separates the two teams? They got off to a good start, if that is the right description, with a 10-0 w/over against Police. No details yet available as to why Police D.N.T.U. Whilst arrogantly disposing of A'burth 'A', M'hull put them on the rack and gave them a real mauling. They must have been relieved to escape with a 6-4 win. Once again Jeff was his team's front runner disposing of Alex and Ron to win his two. Andy McCourt also beating Alex.

For the rest, apart from possibly Hope, H. House and Police it looks like a safe season with a mixture of defeats, wins and the odd close match.

It is not possible to assess the Hope team due to their starting late, but it is safe to say they are unlikely to pose any threats due to their ever present problem of regularly turning out their better players.

Police 'D' are the poor relations of the Police Club for whilst their other specially formed promotion assault teams go about the business of glory seeking, poor old Police 'D' are left to struggle on and have yet to win a match. Jay French got his season off to a good start winning his two in a 6-4 defeat against A'burth 'A' with brother Alan and Neil (Gentleman) Thomas chipping in with one each.

Against Hope, both teams were short of a No.3. the match going 6-3 in Hope's favour. A deserved win in that they won four of the five matches possible. Quite a division for problem matches, YM playing

an ineligible player against H. House. Almost unbelievably, as their No.3. had not turned up they replaced him with a player from their 3rd division team. This moment of madness costing them three points, reducing a 9-1 win to a 6-4, a fine and a 10 penalty point deduction. Can't see them doing anything as daft as that again, but who knows what will happen when a team clearly do not know the League Rules. I would suggest you all start reading them just in case you, too, have a rush of blood to the head.

I don't expect the current table placings to remain as they are for it is early days and much can happen over the next twelve weeks. No doubt you will all be vying to give me something to write about. I should be so lucky. Card comments being a good place to start. If you bother to turn a scorecard over you will see there is a place for match comments on the reverse side. Anyone out there interested in taking over these notes need only give me a call. The job is unpaid and as you will gather from the Division One notes, I am reckoned to be a terrible person. I call it dedication.

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## NETS AND EDGES

A nice start to the season for Ahmed Thabet, after many years with the League he was asked to represent us in the Veteran 'B' team and was delighted to be selected.

Wirral Men played just once, losing 7-3 at Bury, before dropping out of the L&C League. Bernie Wentworth and Rob Bevan not playing regularly this season, a fact that has taken WSM out of the championship race.

Hopefully, you will have noticed our advertising support in the Handbook. Quality table tennis suppliers, Rosebank, Tees Sport, Thorntons, Ken Jackson, general building work, Peter Taylor, electrical work, Dave Cohen will arrange your holiday requirements or flights and Mike Power will provide financial services. They support us, so please support them whenever you can.

Ken Armson, Bill Proffitt, George Smith and Alan Biggs are assisting with School Sport Taster days. They recently handled 48 children all under 12

Although they had never handled a TT bat several showed great aptitude for our sport. There is a wealth of talent amongst youngsters that we should be tapping to ensure our sport in this City expands and has a future. Too many of you are happy to sit back and leave this work to a few dedicated people, you should be putting something back into a sport that has given you, and continues to give you, much pleasure. Think about it, if you can spare two hours on a Friday - 1700 to 1900 - get in touch with Ken Armson or just go along to the Tennis Centre. Your assistance will be welcomed.

For this season's 'Closed' tournament your Management Committee have agreed to adopt a recommendation from our Tournament Referee that competitors may only enter one of the two Veteran events. This will be on a trial basis and should improve the timing and running of our 'Closed' by enabling these two events, Over 40s and Over 55s to be played simultaneously.

In addition to the 14 donic tables at present owned by our League, ten Tightstore tables with 22mm tops have been purchased to assist with our coaching activity. These being easier and quicker to erect and store away than the free standing tables. they will also be available for our own tournament should we experience a deluge of entries instead of the usual trickle.

If you read the Divisional Notes carefully you will pick up discrepancies in several Club rankings. This being due to a number of Clubs submitting Ranking Lists that do not conform to our ranking rules. Will the Management Committee ever get round to tackling this blatant abuse of our rules?

A recent Liverpool match commenced at 19.05, and by 20.20, six sets had been concluded. this left plenty of time to play the remaining six sets, take refreshments and finish at a sensible hour. All by starting 25 minutes early and no messing about with next call. The players had two minutes knock between sets and were quite happy on a number of occasions with less. Perhaps we should give this a try for all league matches.

Our President, Arthur Upton, is making a steady recovery following his recent hear attack. We hope he will soon be back with us.

## LEAGUE 100 CLUB

The Management Committee have had to look again at this fund due to Ron Georgeson not now being in a position to take over its running.

We have been struggling for some time to find a member willing to take on the arduous task of collecting subscriptions and organising the monthly draw. No draw having taken place for some time it has been decided to wind the 100 club up by having a draw for the remaining prize money in place of other monthly draws.

The 100 club has been officially closed from 31st August 1999, no further subscriptions having been taken. If you have paid your £12 for the current season, or are paying by direct debit, you will be re-imbursed.

Official notification will shortly be sent to all existing 100 club members, but those paying by direct debit are advised to have these payments cancelled by their bank.

We would ask members to be patient and give our Treasurer time to get everything sorted out. Winners of the prize draws will be notified and paid by cheque.

As a direct result of our not being able to take up the offer of premises for a yearly subsidised rent made by the City Council we are hoping to start up a new fund aimed at building up funds in readiness for the time when we can operate our own headquarters.

The details have not yet been finalised but it will hopefully take the form of an annual subscription and possibly an annual draw for one or two prizes. All income will go into as high an interest earning account as can be found, to be used only for the sole purpose of assisting us in having our own premises.

Having been without such a fund was partly responsible for our having to reluctantly turn down the offer of the premises referred to in the Secretary's column. In hindsight, it being a wonderful thing, we should have had such a fund operating for many years and we would have been in a position to branch out on our own much sooner.

It will only be a success if a large number of members are prepared to put their faith in the League's future by joining.

It has been the existence of similar funds built up over the years by other Leagues smaller than our

own that has enabled dedicated table tennis centres to become a reality.

Many years ago the opportunity of our own premises was turned down by members because it would have cost them a few pence extra. Again, in hindsight, the short sightedness of that decision is clear to us all.

But had they, at the time of making their decision, looked forward instead of inward and started the fund being proposed, ample funds would now be available to enable us to have our own headquarters.

It is probably true to say that it would have been possible much sooner and with the increase in land and property values the League could have been financially sound and we would have had a central venue available to all members at any time.

a pipe dream? Maybe, but smaller Leagues than ours, in smaller conurbations, now own their own dedicated table tennis centre.

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## MORE NETS AND EDGES

Our League now has its own Website. This can be found under: [www.liverpooltt.freecserve.co.uk](http://www.liverpooltt.freecserve.co.uk). Our Email address being:

[ldttl@liverpooltt.freecserve.co.uk](mailto:ldttl@liverpooltt.freecserve.co.uk).

Due to our Finals Night clashing with the date for the Forrest Cup Final, this Cup Final has now been put back to Thursday 27th April. Forrest Cup finalists should note this change.

With the League successfully running two major Open tournaments, you could be forgiven for thinking we no longer require helpers. This is far from the truth. Any interested person wishing to become involved in any League activity, should contact Mike Power, or any Management Committee member. All offers of help will be gratefully accepted.

Faith Moore, Maisie Biggs and Barbara Worswick, were awarded 'The Maurice Goldstein Merit Award' by the ETTA Awards Committee for their sterling work during the world Veteran Championships held in Manchester in 1998.

Ken Armson sat at the Tournament Control Table for two full days at the recent Junior Open assisting referee Karen Tonge, who also put in a marathon stint. Faith Moore again gave her time for the same period and was, with Ken, the last to leave the centre.

Keith Williams emerged from his second stint as League Tournament Organiser and is rapidly gaining in experience. Well done to Keith, and all who assisted over the three days.

The atmosphere over the weekend was tremendous, not to mention the standard of play, which was fantastic. City Council members who dropped in were all impressed. Deputy Lord Mayor Eddie Clein, stood in for the Lord Mayor and presented a number of prizes.

May 1999, will see us with a Lord Mayor as a member when Eddie Clein, current Deputy Lord Mayor, takes over as Lord Mayor. Congratulations, Eddie.

Your magazine has again been produced on a trial and error basis as the Editor gets to grips with the Pagemaker programme. Many hours of midnight oil having been burnt, but we are getting there.

Its lateness - it should have been produced two weeks earlier - being due to the failure of many contributors to meet the publication deadline. This, again, involving much extra hassle for your poor old Editor. So don't shoot the Editor, he is doing his best. Try pointing your Divisional Correspondent in the right direction.

The Officers and Management Committee extend to all members their best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous Year 2000. Hopefully everyone will have a good season and rush to put their names down for membership of our new Building Fund.

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DIVISION 1	P	W	D	L	PTS
CADWA	8	7	0	1	57
POLICE	6	6	0	0	56
WSM	9	6	1	2	49
WSM 'A'	9	5	0	4	43
BATH ST 'A'	7	5	0	2	42
H. HOUSE	7	4	0	2	42
BATH ST	9	4	0	5	41
LIY YM 'A'	9	3	0	6	37
LIV YM	6	3	0	3	33
CADWA 'A'	8	1	2	5	30
WATERLOO	8	0	1	7	21
MARCONI	9	0	1	8	21

DIVISION 4	P	W	D	L	PTS
POLICE 'C'	8	8	0	0	70
WSM 'E'	9	7	1	1	64
M'WEB 'B'	10	5	0	4	53
WSM 'F'	10	6	1	3	53
H.HOUSE'A'	7	4	1	2	47
M'HULL 'C'	8	5	0	3	41
BATH ST 'E'	9	3	2	4	39
BOO YM 'A'	9	2	3	5	39
WSM 'G'	9	1	2	6	32
W'LOO 'C'	9	3	0	6	28
LINACRE	9	1	0	8	27
CADWA 'D'	7	1	1	5	27

DIVISION 2	P	W	D	L	PTS
POLICE 'A'	9	8	0	1	66
MAGHULL	9	7	2	0	58
FORDS	9	5	1	3	51
W'LOO 'A'	10	3	3	4	50
MANWEB	10	4	2	4	48
WSM 'B'	9	4	0	5	46
M'WEB 'A'	9	3	0	6	41
BOOTLE JC	8	4	2	2	40
MARCONI 'A'	8	3	1	4	39
BATH ST. 'B'	8	2	0	6	32
POLICE 'B'	6	2	2	2	29
MARCONI 'B'	9	0	1	8	22

DIVISION 5	P	W	D	L	PTS
M'WEB 'C'	8	7	1	0	70
AIGBURTH	7	6	0	1	48
BATH ST 'F'	8	4	1	3	42
LIV YM 'C'	6	3	2	1	33
A'BRTH 'A'	8	3	2	3	33
BATH ST 'G'	7	1	1	5	26
M'HULL 'D'	6	1	1	5	25
HOPE	4	2	1	1	21
H,HOUSE 'B'	5	1	1	3	18
POLICE 'D'	8	0	0	8	16

DIVISION 3	P	W	D	L	PTS
LIV YM 'B'	9	8	1	0	65
BOO JC 'A'	9	6	2	1	59
BATH ST 'D'	8	6	2	0	53
BATH ST 'C'	9	5	1	3	51
BOOTLE YM	9	5	1	3	48
CADWA 'B'	8	4	2	2	45
W'LOO 'B'	9	2	2	6	44
WSM 'C'	9	3	1	5	39
CADWA 'C'	9	1	3	5	38
M'HULL 'A'	9	2	1	6	30
WSM 'D'	9	1	2	6	30
M'HULL 'B'	9	1	0	8	28