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Table Tennis DIGEST

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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EDITORIAL

A bad season in that we have only produced one magazine during the actual season with this the second and final issue only reaching you at the start of season 2001/2002. As Editor I do apologise for these omissions and have to accept the blame but must also add that without material I cannot produce your magazine. I fulfil my commitments to our League to the best of my ability and had others done likewise I would not now be having to apologise to you for failing to comply with our rules.

The efforts of your Management Committee to develop table tennis in our city are beginning to bear fruit and windows of opportunity are opening up which we must grasp if we want to encourage younger players to join us and so expand our league and ensure its survival. To take advantage of these opportunities will require more input from players by way of assisting young players to develop their game and moving to new venues that can provide modern facilities. Two schools that have now obtained Sports College status and one also bidding for that status and with a recently completed sports hall have offered the league free use of facilities for practice and match play in return for our assisting in the development of table tennis as part of their sports curriculum. The only stumbling block being that matches would need to be played on two tables to ensure a finishing time of 10:00pm and possibly a slightly earlier start time of 7.00pm. The advantages are many the disadvantages very few, but it will require a culture change and more importantly involvement of league members in participating in development work. Leagues in other towns have got involved in this way and are beginning to reap the benefit of playing in first class conditions, seeing their league expand and their running costs reduced. To date we have not been able to accept any of these offers as we cannot assure the schools concerned that we can provide the practical input they require of us to get table tennis up and running in their school.

The dream of a Liverpool Centre may not be fulfillable but by taking full advantage of the opportunities these three schools offer and others who will follow their example development becomes possible and with it will come an expansion of our league, greater competition and many more young players. All that is needed is the commitment of members to make it work.

**ALL PLAYERS SHOULD READ THIS,
IT IS IMPORTANT**

I hope you are all recovered from last season and looking forward to the new. I'm looking forward to it apart from the fact that Committee meetings seem to finish about 11pm after a 7pm start. This is longer than the average TT match. After a meeting there is always plenty to do, and in my case, little time to do it. To type up the Minutes takes anything up to 4 hours and can be extremely laborious. After this are letters to be prepared and sent out to organisations, club secretaries, ETTA and so on. Why am I bothering to tell you all this? Answer - because you can help. For those of you who don't go to the League AGM or Handbook Meetings have never heard me harp on about Clubs, captains and players learning our Rules. I don't mean the Rules of the game, even though the higher echelons keep trying to change the bloody things, I mean the Rules of our League. These have been changed and improved over the years by you, not by the Management Committee. The problem is, it appears most of you have never read our League Rules, and if you have, you have only remembered those parts that you feel are applicable to yourself. This applies to my own club, too, who this season played an ineligible player in a match that almost cost the team promotion. After playing hard all season this would be a bitter pill to swallow, made even worse by the fact that had the Rules been read and paid attention to, the situation would never have arisen. If everyone knew the Rules and abided by them the League would run more efficiently and the Management Committee wouldn't spend time deciding on an issue that had arisen between Clubs. We would then be able to leave Committee meetings at a more reasonable hour or spend more time on other more important issues.

At the AGM held last May everyone present was advised that we intend to apply the Rules

very strictly from now on. This isn't because we wish to act like 'Sergeant Majors', it is because 'rules is rules'. If we don't apply the rules someone somewhere will benefit from that fact and someone somewhere will lose out. If you are that someone who loses out, I believe you would not be very happy, or for that matter, very impressed, with the Committee. We are here to help you enjoy your TT, not get in the way of it, but this can only be done under the framework of Rules and Regulations, **be careful out there.**

Whilst on about Rules, all Clubs have the right to propose rule amendments. If there is something you are not happy with or feel something could be improved, why not submit your proposals to me and they will be put to the vote at the following League AGM. If you don't know how to word your proposal or are not sure if your amendment would contradict another Rule then why not phone either myself or Ken Armson for guidance. We are keen to help.

Did you know that by the deadline of 30 June only one Club had registered with the League? At the time of writing this article, early August, I am still waiting for six Clubs to send in their registration form. In order for the Handbook to be prepared in time it is essential that all Clubs send in their registration form on time. I have had no alternative this year but to phone secretaries for the information I require. If therefore, there are any flaws in the Handbook, not that I expect there to be any, but if there is, this could be because of you, not me! In addition to this, if Clubs make requests such as, "can we enter a new team in Div.3. please? Or "can we drop a team out of the 1st div"? We may not be able to accommodate these requests if your registration form has not been submitted within the required timescale. Sorry to be such a pain, but I feel I have got to get the message across and this is one of the few ways I can do so.

On a more pleasant note, did you know that the

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YOUR RULES - OUR BIBLE

There are still quite a few members around who can recall the times when AGM's were boisterous, contentious and vociferous affairs that often went on till midnight. The reason being hotly disputed rule changes with those proposed by the MC being treated with suspicion. Some were passed, others fell and were often brought up again next time round.

Over the past few years AGM's have become quiet leisurely affairs accompanied in the main by non contentious rule changes put forward by the MC. Such changes generally aimed at improving the running of our league by closing loopholes or in some cases just tidying up exercises.

Issues such as the sudden resignation of League Chairman Stan Clarke and Secretary Tony Harris just before an AGM would have created a tidal wave 30 years earlier yet barely raised a ripple in 1999 even though we had lost two first class officers.

This year the sleeping giant blearily opened one eye and a question was asked concerning how P&R would be dealt with in view of the 1st div. only having eleven teams. The resultant answer that it would be as per rule provoking a mini storm. Mini bearing in mind that the club representative had asked the question because of self interest and those not affected were not interested. Nevertheless there was much discussion on an issue that could only have been resolved by a rule change.

The question raised was an important issue worthy of a possible rule change and I have been asked why the MC had not submitted such an amendment in view of the discussion that has surrounded this issue all season. The answer being that the duty of the MC is only to amend those rules that govern the running of our league to the benefit of all clubs equally and ensure the league prospers.

The MC through its Rules Committee carry out this important duty diligently and correctly and only submit amendments that are in the best interests of the League and its members. The work of the Rules Committee is to examine in detail rules that have been called in to question by the MC and if considered necessary submit an appropriate amendment. The wording and

intention of any amendment submitted by them to the MC must be correct.

No rule is perfect and if you or your club consider a rule requires changing then you should set about it properly. Actions speak louder than words. You may not succeed in changing a rule for a number of reasons, the most frequent being incorrect wording closely followed by not doing your homework.

AGMs tend to comprise those who have already made a decision, those who have a view but can be swayed and those with an open mind. Votes of the latter two can be won on the day but you may still be outvoted by those with a mandate from their club for any rule change requires a two thirds majority to be carried.

The best way for a club to deal with a rule amendment they have put forward is to circulate all clubs outlining their reasons and the benefits adopting such a change will bring about. If you just submit an amendment and then sit back and wait until the AGM to air your reasons it will more than likely fall as Cadwa's did this time round. There's a forward looking amendment to take us a step further along the road we have already opted to travel but fell because of too much change and too little pre-meeting preparation.

It is worth noting that in contentious or wide ranging issues that are not detrimental to the running of our League members of the MC generally have a free vote so you also need to win them over.

There is a procedure to follow for rule changes and resolutions and it is laid down in Rule 9(a). This same rule covers the procedure for amendments to rule changes and resolutions contained within the Preliminary Agenda. This procedure was put forward by the MC to make it easier for Clubs to submit rule changes and resolutions and was carried. If you submit a rule change after the closing date it will not go on the agenda and it is worth bearing in mind that you can submit your proposals as early as you wish so don't wait until the last minute.

Rule books are supplied to clubs on the basis of one per team plus one for the secretary and we operate on the basis that ignorance of the rules is not an acceptable reason for breaking them and neither is it an acceptable reason for late rule change proposals. So make sure that be you a club member or officer you are familiar with the requirements of our rules and propose changes you consider may be necessary. You may not be successful but you will have the satisfaction of knowing you tried.

DIVISION ONE

I can only apologise for the absence of the division One notes, these did not arrive and I have received no explanation but am aware that Paul has had to cope with a family illness.

DIVISION TWO SYLVIA GRAHAM

Before we have a look at how the season's gone I really must tell you about my mum. My mum always used to say that she would rather have a thief than a liar on the premise that you can get to the bottom of a liar! well....that is until they're caught out!!... and I must say that one amongst us has definitely been a little off-white. F'rinstance let's take a match this season in which this certain person finished playing a certain other person who beat him. The aforesaid player then accidentally(?) took the front of his shirt in both hands and proceeded to rip it in two(one might consider it a show of brute force akin to ripping a telephone directory with one's bare hand!). Well to cut a long story short, the player took home this apology for a table tennis shirt and hid it in the washing which his beloved wife dutifully washed. When his wife emptied the machine she was aghast at the damage. Her beloved husband in a fit of mock rage, blamed the washing machine and demanded she replace the shirt. Fortunately the incident was innocently mentioned to the player's son who seized the opportunity and immediately explained what had happened at home. duty bound to put right a wrong I have decided to use the power of the pen to shame him. Yes, Mr Robert Wylie our divisional champion, this was your shame. I urge you to forego your wicked ways, repent of your sins and own up.

Anyway, let's have a look at the trials and tribulations of the division now the season has come to an end. As I predicted at the start of the season Waterloo were always going to return to the 1st and I'm sure we would all like to wish the baldy drunk, the 'bitch' and the fox all the best for next season... don't ask where the nicknames came from 'cos someone out there has definitely got a red face and E.C. knows him personally. I'll miss Al for all the cryptic comments on the cards, the diminutive scribbles that I had to buy a magnifying glass to decipher and the compliments he gave to all the other teams.

He's such a sensitive man behind that awesome exterior, often misjudged, easily upset and when hurt relies on time to heal all.

The race for second was a much more exciting affair. Most of the way I thought Bath St 'B' were the favourites but then Marconi brought in Trevor Owen and I thought that the balance was swinging in their favour (that little bit of glue on the forehand works wonders - doesn't it Trev?) then suddenly it's all over and Fords have come racing up on the outside into 2nd place and by eight points. All three are very good sides and hopefully an extra team could be promoted from the 2nd the 1st being a team short. That would still leave Bath St in the 2nd but we don't want them to leave us, do we? 'cos they're such nice lads... Bitch! did I hear someone say??

The race down t'other end was equally enthralling. Bootle JC scraped their way out of the relegation zone by sheer determination. The pressure told in the form of a 7-3 defeat by M'web 'A' after JC's pictures were displayed on the internet and their fame spread... I always thought gruesome and obscene pictures were banned from the Internet (...still it would have been worse had a certain other team won). W'loo 'A' was always down for relegation and then suddenly big Nige appeared and with his support big Pete and Ritchie ended up clear of relegation and potentially one of the better teams in the division. Then at the very bottom were Manweb and Marconi 'A'. Marconi I do believe warranted relegation because they often turned up short and sometimes the players just forgot to turn up. Once Trevor moved up into the 1st team the last nail was well and truly in the coffin. The comment on the 10-nil defeat inflicted on them by Wav Labour 'we wuz robbed' just about sums up their season. Saying that, in other seasons they would not have gone down. Manweb is another team who seem strong enough for the 2nd and yet suddenly they're near the bottom of the division and then eventually they are relegated. It's a funny ol' game!

All the other teams were winning and losing matches. Wav Labour, I thought, were in with a shout at one stage but it never really materialised. L'pool YM 'B' along with the other promoted side from last season, Bootle JC 'A', settled into the division well. Steve Kee and Paul O'Donnell are winning doubles galore including the 'old' men from Waterloo, the father and son from Manweb and the youngsters(?) from Fords. Steve says it's all down to my coaching!! Billy Cheung had a great win over Ricky Brown,

especially as it was just after his chippie was burnt down. P'raps Ted's advice on the insurance may have spurred him on to greater heights.

James Eaton was undoubtedly the man of the match when Fords inflicted Waterloo's only defeat. Apparently the match was enjoyed by all and the table tennis was good. Ted didn't play his best but fought for every point, baldy was sober all night which contributed to the result and the fox let a 19-16 lead against Tim Wearden slip to lose 20-22 in the 3rd. In the doubles Waterloo were leading 14-5 in the first only to lost it 20-22 and then won 21-9, 21-8. Well done, Fords!

On that exciting note I shall leave you for this season. All that remains are the results. You all know the league positions, but here are a few results that I feel are worth mentioning. Bye for now!!

Faceness:- Pete Holmes beat Ricky Brown in their derby match 17 & 11. Trevor Owen (M'coni A) beat Ritchie Cragg 17 -19, 18. Peter Wass(M'coni A) beat Bill Harris (Boo JC A) -11, 19, 13 and then against W'loo A he beat Pete Holmes 20,-14, 17. Steve Kee (L'pool YM B) beat Ian Wensley(M'coni B) 16, -14, 17 and Roger Neal(Boo JC) 19 & 14. Sylvia Graham(Boo JC A) beat Bob Hughes(Fords) 19 & 20. Roy Adams (Wav Lab B) beat Alan Chase(W'loo) 17 & 18. Andy Lloyd(M'web A) beat Trevor Owen(M'coni) 20 & 19. Paul Evans(M'web) beat Tim Wearden(Fords) 20 & 17. Pete Holmes(W'loo A) beat Graeme Black(W'loo) 12, -11, 20.

Close Wins:- Billy Cheung(Liv YM B) beat Mike Moran(Boo JC) 20 & 20. Roger Neal(Boo JC) beat Tim Wearden(Fords) 20 & 20. Ian Grant(Bath St B) beat Paul Evans(M'web) -21, 20, 21. Nigel Stopher(W'loo A) beat Ken Strahan(Boo JC A) 17, -20, 23.

Good Wins:- Trevor Owen(M'coni A) had a tremendous night against Liv YM 'B' and had a hand in all his teams' points. He won his three singles and then combined with John McCann to win the doubles. Mike Moran(Boo JC) beat James Eaton(Fords) 12 & 17. Steve Kee(Liv YM B) beat Tim Wearden(Fords) -16, 19, 20. Bill Stanley(WavLabB) beat Frank McCann (M'coni) 14 & 24.

DIVISION THREE

PETER ROSS

Without doubt we have just seen probably the most competitive season for many years in Division 3. Fortunately it was also the most friendly and sporting. Perhaps the main promotion and relegation issues were pre-determined at the start with a strong Police 'B' team favourites for the top spot and a much changed Wav Labour 'D' team destined for the drop. The Police had swept all before them in the previous season in division 4 and developed into a fearsome foursome. Their strength lying in a good balance of ability and style allied with a strong will to win in all four positions. They are deservedly champions and I wish them well in the higher sphere. Congratulations to Gareth, John, Len and PCDC.

Unfortunately Wav Labour lost players from the outset with Bobby Owen retiring from division 3 (only temporary, I hope), John Gratton having work commitments away from home and most sadly of all, losing a dear friend in Mabel, a loss to us all. Their new premises have turned out to be pretty good, but unfortunately Ken Roberts and his team found the going to be too tough. Nevertheless Ken and his teammates plus John Gratton on his return fulfilled every fixture in great spirit and will be missed next season.

Proof of how tough a division it has been is shown in the league table where the teams finishing next to top and next to bottom were separated by only 25 points with the latter team, Cadwa 'B' averaging 4.5 points per game. Bath St 'C' crept through at the end to clinch the runner-up spot, probably deservedly so for their consistency throughout plus the bonus of being able to call up reserves from the 'D' team when required. A new bat worked well for Rob Peat who had a good season with the highlight being a win over Colin Rourke who, I think, was one of the two best players in the division. Robbie was well supported by John Langton, Dave Stodder and Karen Gibson.

I thought the most sociable team with the best refreshments was Cadwa 'C'. Perhaps they are also the unluckiest as they were docked 10 points for playing an ineligible player in what was nothing more or less than a cock-up with no sinister undertones whatsoever. Ironically the player involved lost all three in the relevant match which I suspect did not happen very often during the season. The lost points cost them second place, however, I suspect that three teams will probably go up to the 2nd division next

season, in which case justice will be done. Top man was Colin in his first full season back after a number of years and for what it is worth I think he has matured into a better player. He was ably supported by Steve Graham, Rob Davies, Sue Burgess and George Higham (don't lose your grip, George). Perhaps the strongest team at the top of the order has been W'loo 'B' with the welcome return of another class player in Graeme Black, the other half of the aforesaid pair. Allied with sister Julie at No.2. they took some beating. Personally, in my view, both Graeme and Colin belong in the 1st division. Bath St 'D' had a season of what might have been. We lost Les Gee for the larger part of the first half of the season and then missed Mark Paterson very badly through illness over the closing weeks. Unfortunately unlike our higher team we did not have the same reserve strength, nevertheless we had some good battles and an enjoyable season, and I think we probably made the best cup of tea. Both Mark and Bill Clayton had a great season.

Another team of 'might have beens' was Police 'C' who relied heavily on whether Paula was available. They also suffered the same problem as ourselves in not having the reserve strength to call upon. However, after a poor start a middle of the table position and a good cup run was probably a good season.

Irrepressible, or should it be 'irrePRESTONibly' Eddie and Rod Bulmer kept Maghulls' season together when work commitments and first team duties took Chris Roberts and Alan Jones respectively away for many games. a great improvement in the conditions at Maghull, despite the carpet, but still a long walk to the bar.

Wav Labour 'C' had a predictably solid team which is not surprising with Ian Black, Ritchie Jones, Bill Stanley and Peter Howden a tough outfit at any time. I think Ian Black has a great all round game and I hope he changes his mind about not playing next season.

I, personally, hope that the league retains it's four-a-side policy for the future and I think particularly of teams like Bootle YM where John Higham, Roly Wright, Danny Every and Tom Killip have become an institution and are probably my favourite opposition. Even after they scuppered our chances at the end of the season with three reserves and Danny playing out of his skin. It appears that result helped steer them away from relegation so it will be back to normal next season.

Last but not least, or should I say, next to last? I do not believe that a team with Alan Davies, Rob Peverill, Ian Burrows, Sue Burgess and Peter Roberts (thankfully back to full health) could finish next to bottom. that is an indication of the strength of the division if any were needed. With Marconi dropping out at the beginning, hopefully no more than one team will go down, so we should see them again next season and we can all resume battle.

DIVISION 4

DOUG BAKER

IT'S MANWEB 'B'! The team with more punch than Prescott kept their chins up throughout the season and were floored only once in 22 outings. The Paul Jennings Jabs, Alan Cameron Haymakers, Rob Barker Righthooks and Alan Biggs Bish Bash, left many an opponent feeling woozy and starry eyed. A clear lead at the top despite the challenge of their own clubmates in the 'C' team! In the local derby the 'C' team led 4-2 before an exciting evenings table tennis finished 5-5. That night Neil Jennings played for the 'C' team but ironically it was he who stepped up on Presentation Night with the biggest smile and hugged his trophy like it was a long lost pet. At home against Wav Lab 'E' the doubles were shared and Mike Ashton had a memorable victory over Rob, but the rest of the evening W.L. would rather forget going down 8-2. when 6 sets go to three and you lose 'em all, you know it's not your night. Paula and Al C needed 3 games to beat Tony Connor, Neil beat Colin Fyles and Dave Williams and teamed up with Al C for a 19 in the 3rd doubles win. Things were just as close in the following match away to MCA 'B' were 7 of the 10 went to a 3rd game, 4-3 in favour of MCA 'B', hence the final result was a more representative draw. Alan C had an unblemished record beating Tom Downing and George Frost in 3. George, however, beat Rob Barker 19 in the 3rd, who in turn found Bill Salter on form as usual; Bill winning all 3 matches he was involved in. Rob Barker's finest individual moment probably came in the last game of the season when he nearly beat Eddie Clein in two (19/21 in 2nd), as it was he won in 3! Well done and good luck in the 3rd next season, chaps. Somewhere along the line there'll be a net deuce that went against M'hull 'B' that cost them a point, that in turn cost them 2nd place, only one point separating 2nd and 3rd places. So, it's Tony's Cronies

(Connor not Blair) who get some silverware. Tony and Mike Ashton seemed over the moon on Presentation Night, but even then they were gallant enough to commiserate with their rivals. Tony's team also lost only one match all season, albeit that 8-2 from M'web 'B'. Knowing MCA 'B' had finished on 152 points they went into their last match requiring at least a 7-3 win and they clinched runner-up spot in dramatic style. They also knew that their mid-table opposition would be no dis-interested part as it was non other than M'hull 'C'! Brian Gregory made that immediately clear beating Dave Williams over 3 in the first match. Captain Connor then called himself on against the oppositions' No.1. Phil Christie, a brave move that paid off. Colin Fyles then beat Wilf Gibson but Phil levelled it by beating Mike. Dave was then called on to play Steve McGanity who he duly beat. After the break the singles went WL. 'E's way till only the doubles remained with the score 6-2. M'hull called 2nd doubles, Wilf and Brian despatching Colin & Dave. Mike and Tony probably wished there was another game left to call, but on they went against Phil & Steve. First game to WL 'E' 17, 2nd to M'hull 16. So, gentlemen, if ?Tony & Mike wanted glory and not abject disappointment as their reward for a seasons effort all they had to do was win the final game. No pressure, no problem, no doubt they don't remember much about that game, all they'll remember is the final point that game them a 21/17 victory and promotion. Good luck in the 3rd, you lucky but cool headed chaps.

M'hull 'B' pushed Wavertree all the way and had a better record in the last five matches, making up 5 points. Even WL 'E's clubmates, team 'F' could provide no real opposition going down 10-0, as did W'loo 'C'. The last match was against Bath St 'E' 8-2 in their favour. If only Dave Cunningham hadn't beaten Harry McGanity. If only Tom Downing had had a bit of luck in the 2nd game after winning the 1st, when at deuce he lost 23/25 to Reg Edwards who went on to win the decider. Perhaps one could go back further and look at the away draw against Cadwa 'D'. A strange night indeed, Steve Critchley and John O'Sullivan had nothing to show for their efforts, Trevor and myself undefeated! Yes, Tom and George both beat Steve, opening up and then extending gaps and

George rattled John. But together they couldn't stop Steve and Trev winning a doubles 20 in the 3rd (that could be 'the point'). Over the course of their season there will have been many such points and no doubt M'hull 'B' will be analysing their results and rueing such points. That's how it is when two very strong and equally capable teams vie for position. Only a hairs breadth will separate them and that's how it should be. But that's not the full story here. The M'hull 'B' team should right now be recanting "if onlys". If only I hadn't missed that sitter, if only that net had not gone against me, if only we hadn't been one short, if only we'd been able to field our strongest team. But, I fear they will be thinking an "if only they" with reference to Match 18, Wav Lab 'E' v H. House 'A' when Wavertree were 'fortunate' to play host to a Harold House team severely limited in its team selection. Dave Cohen at No.2. and no No.1. the easiest 10-0 they'll ever get. Tom, George and Harry have done well up front, but even they would doff their caps to Bill Salter, who has had an excellent season, including overcoming the odd accident to record the best average in the division. Well done, Bill, and hard luck chaps, but the same commitment next time should pay off (well there'll be no Harold House to be concerned about).

At the bottom of the table there was more controversy when W'loo 'C' and Aigburth tied on same number of points at the close for the 2nd relegation spot. Same number of wins, but with Aigburth having two more losses, you would think that would swing things W'loo's way. Or perhaps looking at the two matches between the two teams would be the best way of providing a "ruuner-down". They had last met on April 3rd at Aigburth, who had won it 6-4, mainly due to Waterloo being one short. Eric Wood had been outstanding beating Harry Nelson 21 in the 3rd and Graham Oates 18 in the 3rd with Graham Oates having a good win against Carl Anderson. So perhaps that, in the circumstances, was not the best indicator. If Waterloo had had a full teams maybe they'd have nicked that all important differentiating point. No, the far more exciting prospect of a Play-off was the decision of the League and this was scheduled for Tuesday 15th May at a neutral venue. However, before I tell you what happened lets recap a bit...

Waterloo played their last game in accordance with the fixture list at home to Manweb 'C'. Without Austin Hayden they achieved a very creditable draw,

Harry Nelson leading the way. A week later the way of resolving matters, as it had been no fault of Austin back in the fold they played out a draw in a re-arranged game against Wav 'F'. Ken Armson was on form beating both Harry and Austin, Ken Nelson and Graham Oates bagging a brace for the visitors. However, Austin had to retire in his last game against Ken Ray - would he have gone on to win which would have been enough to make a play-off unnecessary?

As things stood after that match on 18th April; Waterloo had finished on 84 points, Aigburth were on 76 and even Wav Lab 'F' were not safe on 74, Aigburth still had two matches to play, Wav Lab on. Wav Lab 'F's' remaining match was against Manweb 'C' who were unable to raise a team and so conceded a 10-0 walkover and this virtually ensured Wav Lab 'F' would stay up.

Aigburth then played Cadwa 'D', a match that had been re-arranged from its original date of Good Friday. Steve Critchley (2) and Trevor Dolder (1) were Cadwa's only singles successes but they took both doubles on deuce. Another hard fought draw for aigburth who could thank Ray Jones and Carl Anderson for 4 of their 5 points. Thus Aigburth went to Harold House on 1ST MAY with 81 points on the board knowing they needed 4-6 or better to be certain of 4th division play next season. A strong team of Clein, Roberts, Poole and Cohen meant things would be difficult. especially as they were without top man Graham Rollinson, and Dave Traynor was making a rare guest appearance. Eddie and Martin gave no quarter, however a chink opened up in Mike Poole's armour and Ray stepped in to secure a vital point. Mr Cohen won his opening game against Mr Traynor but then lost out 1-2. Again, versus Mr Anderson, he won the first, narrowly lost the 2nd 21/23 before losing the final game. Yet another candidate for 'Turning Point!' Aigburth had achieved their first objective and got the 3 points needed to force a tie. Their best possibility for achieving objective two - to get the 4th point that would have meant they stayed up on merit was on the doubles, but Eddie and Mike were too strong for Ray and Carl and Martin and dave had a blinder against Eric and Dave. Thus on 1st May aigburth also finished on 84 points.

So, back to the decider. Well there was no battle royale! As I understand it (and it is understandable) Waterloo thought it unreasonable to be asked back to a play-off four weeks after the end of season. The Committee reasoned that this was the fairest

way of resolving matters, as it had been no fault of Aigburth's that they were left with two away fixtures outstanding (their last home game having been 3rd April, 6 weeks before the proposed play-off date). I can't help but feel sorry for Waterloo and uncomfortably culpable in what happened to them... As mentioned, we, Cadwa, rearranged a game near the end of the season for Aigburth, yet at the start of the season Waterloo conceded a 10-0 to us when they couldn't field a full team; no mention of re-scheduling the fixture. When we played the away fixture one of our number was unable to get there in time and we conceded 3 points to Waterloo!

How many turning points can you see in the above paragraphs that would have affected relegation and promotion? It is obviously unfortunate to have such issues affected by concessions or fielding a weakened team, but also rearranging matches is not the cure as it creates a backlog of fixtures and has knock on effects.

Of the other teams, I have no fear of contradiction from my team mates in saying Cadwa 'D' are genuinely shocked and humbled at having finished 4th. Okay, there was a 40 point gap between us and 3rd, but we won't be thinking of what might have been but what will be next season (with thanks to Alex Ferguson's book on man management for that inspirational epithaph). Next season third (which means we qualify for Europe.

What's the expression? You could "throw a handkerchief over Cadwa 'D', Bath St 'E', Maghull 'C' Bootle YM 'A' and Wav Lab 'F' in terms of ability and potential. Although these teams haven't been in contention at either end of the table they have had their share of ups and downs to cope with. There's enough quality around to ensure that each pre-season Club commits brief to stay up has been achieved, no matter what the internal (eg. player sickness) and external (club orders e.g. re-ranking) pressures that are our lot. sometimes taking part and just surviving is reward enough. Well that'll be the theme of my Captain's report to the club committee this year as ever.

If any of the above emerge from the rat pack, it'll be due to good organisation, a regular availability of capable players and a commitment from their respective club to push them forward to achieve this. Wav Lab 'F' certainly showed what they can be capable of when in the divisional cup they narrowly beat M'hull 'B' to win the Forrest Cup. Everything came down to the wire where, in the final set,

Ken Ray had a quite remarkable victory over Bill Salter. Well done chaps, I didn't see that one coming! In the league Ken Armson came off the back of 6 straight defeats with a tremendous win over Eddie Clein 15 & 19. As the comment on the card said "beware the King is back, no, not Elvis, but Ken (the bat) Armson." The ups and downs of the table has been akin to a game of snakes and ladders and like a snake the head has kept still and fixed whilst the tail has twisted and turned. Dave Cohen must be looking at the hole in his shoe and wondering how it got there. Ten points wiped off their share price overnight by League SFO for insider dealing turned a tidy profit into bankruptcy. What would have been 3 points in the black above the relegation zone became 7 points adrift in the red drop zone. Last seasons rough ride was even tougher this season. Frequently players have played out of position and up for another team. Resorting to last minute substitutes and calling people out of retirement is not a solution that will work in this division. Obviously only having Eddie Clein available for half a dozen matches contributed greatly to the downfall, but did this lack of matches and pressure to perform in weakened teams upset Eddie's game? On paper they can support Eddie with Paul Morgan, Martin Roberts and Mike Poole, which was the case when they beat M'hull 'C' 8-2, only good wins for Phil Christie over Paul and Brian Gregory over Mike preventing a whitewash. Fielding just three out of those four regularly would have paid handsome dividends. Others have observed that a lack of consistent player availability has lead to their downfall and alas a consequence of this has been the affect on other teams promotion and relegation. Harold House's problems led to their landing bottom spot, just rewards some might say, but did M'hull 'B' and Waterloo deserve their respective fates? They've had to suffer at the hands of a third party after spending months committed to the cause and making sacrifices. Alack. Alas. Adieu.

Well that's my story of the end of the season in the 4th division. There were 60 scorecards to digest and there were plenty of other great individual triumphant moments to tell but space limits prevent this.

Enjoy the long hot summer!!

P.S. If the editor has enough space I'd just like to draw your attention to:-

Bath St 'E' 5 Wav Lab 'F' 5. Match abandoned due to light failure when score was 2-3! Captains agreed the outcome would most likely have been a draw.

Wav Lab 'E' 5 Boo YM 'A' 5. Tony lost to Bert and Arthur who also beat Colin. Mike Hughes bt Mike Ashton and Dave Williams both in the 3rd,

H. House 'A' 4 Cadwa 'D' 6. 3 points to Cadwa as the injured Paul Morgan didn't show, thus Steve and Trevor only got one game each.

Boo YM 'A' 6 Bath St 'E' 4. Eddie Williams deputising and winning in straight sets over Mike Hughes and Jim Geddes.

Alan Biggs v Harry Nelson 21/18, 26/24.

M'hull 'B' 6 M'hull 'A' 4. Tom Downing winning out over Phil 20 in the 3rd and Wilf 18 in the 3rd.

Boo YM's Jim Geddes beat Aigburth's Ray Jones 23/21, 18/21, 21/19.

Wav Lab 'F' (without an ill Ken Armson) 1 Wav Lab 'E' 9.

Good away win for Aigburth 7-3 at Bath St. 'E'.

M'web 'C' 9 M'hull 'C' (without Phil Christie) 1.

W'loo 4 Harold House 'A' 6, Dave Cohen beating Eddie Rowbottom who in turn surprised Martin Roberts.

Good night for Reg in Bath St 'E's 7-3 win over M'hull 'C'.

Wav Lab 'E' 5 M'web 'C' 5. Peter Carney beat Tony & Mike as did John Ashley. Only 2 sets did not go to 3!

W'loo 'C' 1 Wav Lab 'E' 9. 5 sets going to 3 and all won by Wav Lab. Eddie Rowbottom beating Colin Fyles and Ken Nelson making Tony Connor sweat.

Wav Lab 'E' 7 Cadwa 'D' 3. Steve Critchley beat Tony but was in turn beaten by Mike Ashton.

Aigburth 6 Wav Lab 'F' 4. Wav Lab without Ken and Paul Banks. Dave Foulis brought in at 3 won both his singles, however, the doubles and Ray Jones turned the match into an Aigburth victory.

Bath St 'E' 3 M'web 'B' 7. Reg Edwards won a classic encounter over Alan Cameron 19 in the 3rd as Chris Blackburn bt Neil Jennings in 2. Dave Cunningham and Rob Barker had a close one, 2 points separating them in each game - 20/22, 21/19, 21/23.

Division 5 ended on a sad note, the season closing with only nine teams finishing the course - just like the Grand National! The division started out with only eleven teams anyway, which seems par for this division as this was the figure for 99/00 and 98/99. Harold House 'C' were the first to go, but in fairness to them they would have completed the season but for the tragic loss of club stalwart Gerry O'Keeffe. They had no reserves to bring in. Greenbank were the other unfortunates, but this was self inflicted to a large degree. This was their first season in the league and they were making an impact with some good players capable of taking points off all teams, their No.1. Tony Edge being very hard to beat. Sadly what they appeared to lack was a good General with experience to organise them and a knowledge of League Rules. We at Bath St were looking forward to playing them on our own table, Bath St. being the only venue able to accommodate wheelchairs, when I received a phone call on the Sunday evening to say they would not be coming on the following Monday due to a birthday celebration of one of the team members! Prior to this I had even arranged for Steve Latham to visit Bath St to check the wheelchair facilities were satisfactory. I hope they learn from this and make a return next season a wiser team for this division needs them.

Is there a future for a 5th division with so few teams? Players in this division are not getting value for their club's £58 entrance fee! a maximum of 16 matches per season as opposed to a 12 team division playing 22 matches for a lower entrance fee.

By the time the Fixture Secretary deducted all the points from the two expunged teams, the division winners 19 points ahead of Wav. Lab. 'G' were L'pool YM 'C'. They were also presented with the Stamp Cup, defeating Linacre at the Police club by a straight 5-0. No set went to three and the match lasted less than one hour and a half. But to be fair to Linacre YM had strengthened their team by the inclusion of one, Mikael Bellec, who gained his eligibility for cup selection by hastily playing up to obtain the required number of games and this was only his second match in this division. Oddly enough, it was Francis Lay who came forward to collect a cup medal and he was not on the team sheet. Stranger still, YM No.1. Tony Wong, never

had to take his bat from his case to claim a winners medal "reserve" Mikael Bellec being YM's preferred call.

L'pool YM were the best team in the division and deservedly won the title with some solid performances. 9-1 against Aigburth 'A', the much improved Paul Grugel beating Jim Clewett 14 in the 3rd, six other sets going to three. They also saw off Bath St 'G' 10-0 only Dave Batty going to three with Jim Clewett. Greenbank took 3 sets off them all three coming from John Sherratt. M'hull 'D' could only manage 2 sets against them, Denise Chorley beating Jimmy 19 in the 3rd and teaming up with Andy McCourt in the doubles to gain a 2nd point beating Jimmy and Tony Wong. Harold House 'B' couldn't make any dent in them losing both matches by 10-0.

Their nearest rivals, Wav Lab 'G', nearly got the draw against them, Steve Perry floating everything back to beat Tony Wong 2 straight and Dave Foulis winning his two against Jimmy, 14 & 16 and Francis in 3. Strangely Tony Mitchell lost both that night but he has had some good results during the season. Wav Lab 'G' needed a good result against Bath St 'F' but only managed a 6-4 win. New club member for Bath St. Eddie Williams from Arriva winning his two. Reserve Lil Randles being the victim of Dave Foulis and Eric Spencer.

Against M'hull 'C' who finished in 4th place Wav Lab won 7-3, Steve starring at No.1. again winning against Narash Tagore and Denise. Both Andy McCourt and Keith Whittaker defeating reserve Vyvian Howard. However, the greater depth of players at L'pool YM saw them through in the end. Linacre finished in 3rd spot on 107 points and may escape from this division again if more than two teams are promoted. They were only two points behind Wav Lab and star man as always was Harry Reeve who, I believe, "carried his bat" in league matches. No problems in despatching Police 9-1 and nearly upsetting YM, just going down 6-4. Mikael Bellec for YM being the difference at No.4! Good win for Jack Davidson over Tony Wong 15 & 20. Also losing the first match to YM did not do Linacre's chances any good.

Linacre lacked strength in depth and utilised the same half dozen players. Harry at No.1. is too good for this division and relishes playing in Div 4. Frank Lacey has had some excellent wins well supported by Ken Ainsworth who against Aigburth's Billy Holmes won the first 31/29 and rushed over the line

game 5 in the second. Ken is an unorthodox player - no classic style, but that is his strength, very adept at playing it wide to your backhand. His shot repertoire is a bit like one of my early school reports which went something like "doesn't know much, but what he knows he knows well. Well done, Ken - a good club man. In 4th place came Maghull 'C' who had able reserves to call on in the shape of Jeff Banks and Alan Smethurst, but regulars in Narash Tagore, Denise Chorley and Andy McCourt provided the backbone all season. Much improved Janette Hutchings getting two against Bath St 'F' in a 9-1 win and beating "dead bat" Eric Young at Aigburth 19 & 18. This was M'hulls second year in succession finishing in 4th spot! Aigburth secured 5th spot 16 points adrift of Maghull, regular team of Paul Grugel, Billy Holmes, Jim O'Grady and Eric Young were supplemented by appearances from John Mitchell, Lee Proffitt and Derek Traynor. Home to Linacre they won 6-4, Derek beating Jack Davidson 7 & 12 and Lee Proffitt also winning against Ken Ainsworth. Against Bath St 'G' they lost by the same score, Paul to Dave Batty 11 & 21 and reserve John Mitchell losing to Dave and Eugene Berger in 3. They also lost to Police with Paul Grugel losing his two, this time to Alan French 17 & 18 and Bob Rawlinson 11 & 12. A friendly club, Aigburth, with Billy Holmes as hard to beat as ever.

Both Bath St teams were of a similar strength and finished with two points separating them, the 'G' team in 6th spot and the 'F' in 7th. Dave Batty was the anchor man for the 'G' well supported by Alex and Eugene. Eddie Williams came into the team for the latter part of the season and his input enabled them to finish on a higher note. Alex had a fine win over Andy McCourt, Maghull, in a 6-4 victory 25/23 in the 3rd. Both 'F' & 'G' were well supported by reserves from the Ladies team in the LBH, Barbara Allcock, Beryl Matchett, Lil Randles and Myra Lovelady. Harold Hse 'B' occupied 8th spot and turned in some solid performances. Not many cards for them, but they took 3 sets off Linacre in March with Richard Beilin much improved and beating Frank Lacey in 3, Garry Abrams winning against Ken Ainsworth also in 3. They drew with Aigburth, Garry Abrams again winning, this time his two against John Mitchell and Jim O'Grady.

Richard Blackburn winning his two in a 6-4 win over Bath St 'F', Richard Woodley in 3 and Scott Mummery in 2.

Harold Hse 'C' did not win any matches on the cards I have but they stuck to their task despite having to re-jig their players mid season, Lewis Rosenbloom, Julian Green, Stephen Daniels and Martin Jacobs being the mainstays all through.

Police suffered again from their long standing problem of not being able to field a side due to the shift pattern of players - bottom they finished and giving matches away, but what a friendly lot they are. Captain Steve Riley sets the example and is always upbeat no matter the result. He won his two against Greenbank beating Gerry Kinsella and Steve Latham. But they did have a good 6-4 win at Aigburth, Alan French improving steadily winning his two at No.1. taking Paul Grugel in two and Billy Holmes 26/24 in the 3rd. Bob Rawlinson with his awkward service style also getting two beating Paul Grugel and Jim O'Grady both in 2. Gentleman Neil Thomas chipping in against Eric Young game 11 in the 3rd. Neil was also one of the 4 set winners in a narrow 6-4 defeat at Maghull beating Janette Hutchings 19 in the 3rd. Bob Rawlinson won his two against "Stonewall" Jeff Banks and Keith Whittaker.

So, there we end it for another season - who knows, we may be playing 11 up next season! Certainly it is on its way sooner or later. We got used to the larger ball in no time and now hardly notice it!

One final note, I officiated at some of the Cup Finals and found the most exciting to be the "Frank Murphy" Cup. Under the new handicapping system players and spectators know exactly what they have to do as each match comes up. Going into the final match of this final between Wav Lab and Job Centre only five points separated the teams with the final outcome being a win for Job centre by a mere 3 points. A triumph for the handicapping committee at last.

See you all next season.

APPEAL BOARD HEARING

An Appeal Board was convened on Tuesday 13th August to hear an appeal by Liverpool YMCA in respect of the decision of the League Management Committee to relegate the two teams finishing bottom and next to bottom in Division One and to promote three teams from the 2nd Division to bring the division up to 12 teams.

The Appeal Board for this hearing comprising of Brian Leeson, Jack Lambert and John O'Sullivan and sat at the Police club. Jack Lambert was elected by the Board members to act as Chairman for this Appeal Board.

After a lengthy discussion on procedure the hearing took place, Peter Lee, Secretary, Liverpool YMCA representing his Club and Ken Armson, MBE represented the League Management Committee.

The Board listened to the comprehensive views put forward by both parties and whilst accepting that Rule 21, para 2 had not always been adhered to for various reasons and that this could be viewed as a precedent the Board agreed that the League Management Committee had acted on this occasion in accordance with the Rule and found in favour of the Management Committee. Their unanimous decision being that the Rules of the League must be adhered to.

Jack Lambert
Appeal Board Chairman

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tony Harris
195 Clipsley Lane
Haydock
WA11 0JG

Dear Editor

League History

Many members will be aware that during my time as League Secretary I researched and wrote a history of table tennis in Liverpool, obviously with a heavy emphasis on this League (after its formation in 1926). The project has been on hold for two seasons but it is now up and running again. Although the League Management Committee have now decided that they will provide support in marketing and selling this book, they feel that they cannot provide any financial support to get the book into print. Basically that means that for the book to be printed I would have to finance it out of my own money and then try and sell the book to get my money back.

I never intended making money on this project, but neither do I personally want to lose more money on it. I therefore need the support of League members. I did this about 2 years ago and received 60 orders. The idea is that people who order the book before it goes into print will have their name and two clubs they wish to be associated with included in a 'Role of Honour'. This would be a tremendous keepsake on this, the League's 75th Birthday. There are approximately 150 photos in the book (some in better condition than others) of local and international players from 1902 to the present day.

I haven't researched in any detail, yet, the cost of printing the book (it depends on how many pre orders I get) but I intend to keep it as cheap as possible (under £10).

If you would like to order a copy of the book please see your Club Secretary who has a form to complete or contact me. I can also be contacted by email at 'tonyharris@publicanline.co.uk'

Yours sincerely
Tony Harris

Editor: I have read Tony's book and can recommend it to members as I would like to see it in print. A lot of work has gone into its preparation and it would be nice to see this come to fruition.

NETS AND EDGES

The new Editor for our magazine is to be Roly Wright, Bootle YM, who volunteered to take over from Ken Armson.

* * * *

Roly photographed all visiting teams last season and produced a multi photo with a full club player photo on the reverse so he is well qualified for his new role.

* * * *

John Rankin and Chris Ford have joined the ranks of 'Veteran' players and competed in our GP Veteran event.

* * * *

The revised service rule will be introduced from 1st September 2002 and if you find it difficult to understand what 'throw the ball' up means then try making sense of this excerpt.

2.6.5 When the ball is struck, no part of the body or clothing of the server or his doubles partner shall be within or above the triangular area formed by the net and imaginary lines between the ball and the top of the net posts, at a height where it could hide the ball from the receiver.

* * * *

Alex Gould is in Fazakerley hospital following a severe stroke and although information is patchy as to his actual condition it seems we may not see this stalwart of our League and the Vets playing again. He is receiving regular visits from club members and other TT colleagues.

* * * *

Changes to the Regulations for the Frank Murphy Cup have been made by the Management Committee and those playing in this event should note that an order of play has now been agreed.

* * * *

No date has yet been fixed for our 2001/02 Closed Tournament due to the Tennis Centre not being available on the date selected.

* * * *

After a number of years without the need to convene an Appeal Board Hearing we have now had two in the past 3 seasons.

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The change to 11 up best of five games takes effect from 1st September, an opt out agreement having been passed at the ETTA AGM that gives

local Leagues the option of adopting the ITTF Rule or remaining with 21 up best of 3 or 5. Our League have opted to remain with 21 up but the Wirral League have voted for 11 up best of 5. If you take part in any 'ranking' event you will have to play to the new scoring system.

* * * *

OBITUARY

As we were preparing to go to print with this issue we learned with profound regret of the sudden and unexpected death of Mike Moran, Bootle JC, over the Bank Holiday weekend following his admission to hospital.

Mike was a popular player and a dedicated member of his club and had been with our League for many years.

We extend to his family and Club colleagues our deepest sympathy in the sad loss they have sustained and know also that he will be sadly missed by members of our League.

2001 CITY OF LIVERPOOL GRAND PRIX MAJOR

With financial support from the City Council our league were successful in taking over the running of the Merseyside GP and obtaining for it Major status this season. A change of name to recognise the support of the City Council was also agreed and the event took place over the August Bank Holiday weekend this being another change requested by the City Council, it being easier to book the Tennis Centre at this time and the view held by both the League and the Council representatives that this early date guaranteed strong support. Achieving Major status was a feather in our cap in that ours is the first league to be granted the right to control its own GP and run it as a Major. A very small number of leagues do control their own GP but none have previously been successful in obtaining Major status.

We did get off to a very sticky start when printing and distribution of the entry form was delayed and did not commence until 25th July, this with a closing date of 7th August. Five days prior to the closing date we had only received 70 entries and disaster was staring us in the face. I took a decision to extend the closing date to the 14th August, and then to work to a very tight timetable in order to ensure material for the programme in respect of Group and draw information reached the printer in time for this to be printed and returned to us via the ETTA. It was a worrying period but our confidence in the date was proved correct when we reached a final entry figure of 240. Amongst that number were quite a large contingent of local players. These being Kevin Dolder, Keith Williams, Paul Hutchings, John Rankin, Phil Luxon, Peter Taylor, Ahmed Thabet, Steve Gittins, Peter Lee, Steve Kee, Ian McElwee, Ian Grant, Dave Roberts and Brenda Buoy. Hopefully I have not missed anyone out. Play started on Saturday with the Banded events of which there are six Men's, three Women's, the even Bands being played in the morning to a conclusion and the odd numbered Bands in the afternoon also to a conclusion. The bottom two Bands being well suited for anyone who plays in our 1st or 2nd div and our players entered those Bands and performed very well. Most got through their Groups into the Knockout with Kevin Dolder reaching the final of the top Band. A notable achievement.

Sunday play consists of U21 event, Veterans, Doubles and then the two main events Men and Women's singles. a really strong entry was received for both main events and again our players performed extremely well with Paul Hutchings taking full advantage of the withdrawal of No.2. seed Alan Cooke to reach the quarter final stage of the Men's Singles and so qualify for prize money.

A smaller audience than last January were present for the semi finals and finals of these two main events and they were treated to some excellent table tennis with Gareth Herbert the England No.2. taking the Men's title and Nicola Deaton the England No.1. the Women's. But not before both of them were given a fright and almost let victory slip away.

The players are the important aspect so far as finance and entries are concerned but for the League it is the help they receive from members in getting the area ready for play, running the event over the two days and then stripping it all down that is the important aspect and that is where you can play your part. Many members may not be aware that we receive a lot of support from the city Sports Development Section and that we are moving nearer to fruition in our search for a permanent League Centre. Much of this is due to the prestige we have brought to the City in successful staging Grand Prix events and our Junior Open. There are many jobs to be done and you don't need to have any previous tournament experience and those now involved will confirm that being part of a successful event is a big plus and can open up new opportunities for those who get involved. Keith Williams is now a qualified tournament Organiser and has worked in this capacity at similar events elsewhere and enjoys being part of the tournament scene. Our Umpire Controller, Stan Clarke who is also an International Umpire has officiated in numerous tournaments at every level. Ron Georgeson our Captain of Umpires now travels to other tournaments as do Tom Purcell and Steve Perry. George Smith now takes charge of marking up wall charts and this important area of any tournament is excellently carried out by George. He first took on this role as understudy to Don Davies but soon took it over and I can say without fear of contradiction that our Wall Charts are possibly the best run of any Grand Prix and this is appreciated by competitors and spectators. Errors can occur and sometimes it is George who first spots an error or one is spotted by a competitor only because our charts are always up to date.

You can be part of this very satisfying scene and the League are more than willing to train any member in positions for which training is required. Several seasons back we had few members who knew anything about setting up for a large table tennis event but we now have a nucleus of members who can get on with such work without anyone needing to oversee them. The bottom line is that we cannot have too many volunteers for they are the life blood of our tournament, the more we have the lighter the workload for those who now assist us. Two new faces appeared this season when Fred Pheysey and Bert Rivers joined us in setting the area up and hopefully having had a taste they will be back for more. We need members willing to assist on the Control Table, on Umpire control, assist with general organisation and be able to relieve various positions. By helping run our tournaments you will be helping to raise the profile of our sport in Liverpool and so bring nearer the day when we will have our own centre supported by our city council. You will also enjoy much personal satisfaction from being part of a successful table tennis organisation.

If you are interested, and I hope some of you will be, you can find out more by contacting myself, Keith Williams, Ron Georgeson or any member of the Management Committee. You really don't know what you are missing out on by not being involved.

Secretary Report continued from Page 2.

Liverpool & District Table Tennis League is the first League ever to run a Grand Prix Major Tournament? All other GP's at this level are run by the ETTA albeit with the help of the local League, but we are the first to be in complete control. We owe a debt of thanks for this to both Ken Armson and Keith Williams for their persistent and diligent work and the small group of volunteers who assist them. The event took place over the August B.H. weekend preceded by a 'Come and Try' evening on the Friday. We could not have done this without the support of Dick Johnson the City Council Sports Development Manager who gives us 100% support. We also need your help as a Volunteer as helpers are always in short supply. Good luck for the coming season.

Mike Power, League Secretary.

Dear Editor,

Maybe all teams should have nicknames like rugby and soccer teams do? Doesn't the 'Wavertree Tigers' sound a lot more impressive than Wav Lab 'E'? Each club could take a theme. Animals for Wavertree, say (no, don't take it like that!). So along with the Tigers, the 'F' team could become 'Wavertree Whippets' on the grounds that they run rings round the opposition. CADWA could take the theme of soldiers. The 'D' team, which sounds like a poor IQ rating, could become the far more substantial 'Crusaders'. Although that might need changing as Steve Critchley and the Crusaders sounds like a 60's Motown Group. I will put the following proposal to the Cadwa AGM: "Cadwa teams to be renamed as follows: 1st team - 'VIKINGS' (note the royal symbolism), 'A' team - 'WARRIORS', 'B' - 'SUPERTROOPERS' (note the bad pun), 'C' - 'GRUNT', 'D' - 'CANONFODER'. No doubt I will be carried aloft from the meeting on the shoulders of club members exulted to the rafters, as they realise that this strategy has the prospect of more medals as the new naming strategy will inspire our teams and demoralise and intimidate any alphabetised opposition. Or will they just look skyward?

Doug Baker
Cadwa TTC

PS: I have been asked to point out that the views expressed are my own and in no way representative of, or shared, by the Cadwa TT section. If I want to make a fool of myself that's my business. However, if in the extremely unlikely event that this idea gains favour and takes off with shirt sponsorship deals etc then Cadwa TTS have management and control rights and hold intellectual copyright, so there!

Editor: This rush of blood to the head by Doug results from his team not having won promotion and finding themselves facing yet another season in the 4th division. ain't life a xxxx, as Ken Ray often says when he serves yet again off the table.

DIVISION 1	P	W	D	L	PTS
POLICE	19	17	1	1	154
CADWA	20	14	3	3	138
LIV YM	20	14	0	6	125
WAV LAB	20	11	3	6	100
BATH ST	20	8	3	9	96
POLICE 'A'	19	5	6	8	89
CADWA 'A'	20	6	2	12	86
H. HOUSE	20	8	1	11	83
BATH ST 'A'	20	4	5	11	79
LIV YM 'A'	20	5	1	14	74
MAGHULL	20	4	1	15	64

DIVISION 3	P	W	D	L	PTS
POLICE 'B'	20	16	3	1	142
BATH ST 'C'	20	11	4	5	115
CADWA 'C'	20	14	1	5	111*
W'LOO 'B'	20	7	5	8	110
BATH ST 'D'	20	9	3	8	107
POLICE 'C'	20	8	5	7	99
M'HULL 'A'	20	8	1	11	96
WAC LAB 'C'	20	9	3	8	92
BOOTLE YM	20	7	2	11	91
CADWA 'B'	20	6	3	11	90
WAV LAB 'D'	20	0	0	20	37

DIVISION 5	P	W	D	L	PTS
LIV YM 'C'	16	15	1	0	128
WAV LAB 'G'	16	11	3	2	109
LINACRE	16	11	1	4	107
M'HULL 'D'	16	8	2	6	85
A'BURTH 'A'	16	4	3	9	69
BATH ST 'G'	16	4	4	8	65
BATH ST 'F'	16	3	3	10	63
H. HOUSE 'B'	16	3	5	8	58
POLICE 'D'	16	2	0	14	36

DIVISION 2	P	W	D	L	PTS
WATERLOO	22	21	0	1	171
FORDS	22	16	2	4	148
MARCONI	22	14	3	5	140
BATH ST 'B'	22	11	5	6	126
WAV LAB 'B'	22	12	1	9	115
MANWEB 'A'	22	8	3	11	105
BOO JC 'A'	22	8	4	10	101
BOOTLE JC	22	6	5	11	98
LIV YM 'B'	22	6	6	10	96
W'LOO 'A'	22	5	2	15	90
MANWEB	22	7	1	14	86
MARCONI 'A'	22	1	2	19	44

DIVISION 4	P	W	D	L	PTS
M'WEB 'B'	22	16	5	1	161
WAV LAB 'E'	22	15	6	1	153
M'HULL 'B'	22	15	5	2	152
CADWA 'D'	22	7	7	8	112
BATH ST 'E'	22	7	4	11	105
M'HULL 'C'	22	8	3	11	100
BOO YM 'A'	22	7	4	11	99
M'WEB 'C'	22	5	7	10	94
WAV LAB 'F'	22	7	5	10	89
W'LOO 'C'	22	5	6	11	84
AIGBURTH	22	5	4	13	84
H. HOUSE 'A'	22	6	2	14	77*

DIV ONE: Police 'A' v Police Void Match
 DIV 3 & Div 4 ' * ' Denotes 10 pts deducted for playing ineligible player

DIV 1: Wavertree Labour 'A' withdrew and record expunged having conceded 3 w/overs

DIV 5: Harold House 'C' and Greenbank withdrew and record expunged having conceded 3 walkovers