

JACK

Table Tennis DIGEST



LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

EDITOR

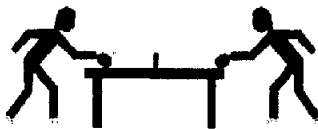
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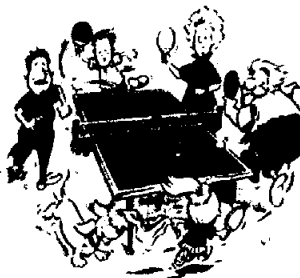
Editorial

December 2001



Hello to all you TT. Players out there, I'm using a little of the front page to introduce myself as your new Digest Editor, (that's me on the right). When I heard that Ken was giving up the editorship of the Digest, understandably due to the amount of other work he's involved in for Table Tennis, I tentatively put my name forward, not expecting to get the job because of the long list of other applicants I expected for such a high profile job, but I must have been mistaken about something, because here I am with the job. So with continuing help from the divisional writers, committee, and any players out there who would put pen to paper as a letter, or E-mail to me, I'm sure we can keep up the high standard which Ken and all the Editors before him have set.

Hopefully every one who received the last Digest (No. 2) will have read Kens' Editorial about the game of Table Tennis in Liverpool, I don't think there's anyone out there hasn't realised that the game is shrinking for various reasons, one, through the loss of a lot of venues / clubs, but also, I think the main reason is the lack of new young players starting off, the few young players playing and staying at present, having had a fair bit of coaching by other dedicated players, have attained a terrific standard in our own local league, and in national leagues, so success breeds interest. Table Tennis must be one of the few sports where you can take a very active part from 10 to 90 (there may be older), it's not that long ago that the 'Vets' was 40 and over. Now it's over 40, over 50, over 60, and over 70, there are so many brilliant 'silver' players, now that with their help, the offer from the local schools which Ken was writing about should be grabbed with both hands. When I started playing, it was at my local Boys Club, in those days, the Boys Clubs and Youth Clubs were everywhere, as well as the dedicated Table



Tennis Clubs, how times have changed. By the time this Digest comes out at Christmas a lot of water will have passed under the bridge and hopefully some kind of encouragement given to the schools. The committee will keep you informed, but at the end of the day it's still down to you players. to get involved in some small way.

For more information read the items from Dave Oaks (Police) and Ken Armson (Wavertree Labour) on pages 14 & 15 , and my light hearted coaching column, also page 15

Secretary's Column

Another era has come to an end and a new one beginning. I refer to the fact that Ken Armson has decided, as far as being the editor of the Digest is concerned, to hang up his boots. I am sure you are all pleased that he is not retiring from playing the game because you would all miss that bat, wouldn't you!! Seriously though, I would like to extend my own personal thanks, and the thanks of the League to Ken for all his years of sturdy work in respect of the Digest. It is not an easy task and you should all appreciate the amount of energy and time that Ken was prepared to put into it. I hope you will all join with me and congratulate, and thank Ken, when you next see him.

Who is the lamb to the slaughter then? The courageous Roly Wright from Bootle YMCA. You may have already seen some of Roly's work on our web site. If you haven't then I would suggest that you take a look. You might be surprised and find you are staring at yourself. Roly was out and about last season, and I assume this season too, snapping people with his Kodak and placing their mug shots on the Web. If I see him coming with his instamatic tucked under his arm, I'm off for the hills. Anyway, in addition to this Roly has decided to have a crack at the digest and if you are reading this article then I assume his first edition is resting in your hands. In volunteering for this job Roly will be putting his faith in all those people who are asked, or have in fact volunteered, to contribute to the Digest, in particular the divisional note writers. I would ask those concerned to make Roly's job an easier one and provide him with your articles on time, as it's impossible to do this job without your cooperation. I'm sure Roly would also appreciate any letters or comments anyone would care to make, providing it's about TT of course, for possible inclusion in future editions.

How many of you have booked your tickets for the Commonwealth Games next year? The TT events are schedule to start on 26/7/2002 and end on 4/8/2002 but unless you have already booked your tickets you may not be able to get the ones you want. If you have booked, where ticket applications for an event have been oversubscribed, applicants will be entered into a lot-

ery to

determine ticket allocations. This ensures everybody has a fair and equal chance of getting tickets to the events of their choice. Any remaining tickets for all events will now be sold on a first come first served basis.

If any one requires any more Handbooks, please let me know as I have a small supply left and they are only going to waste.

Finally, the sad death of Bootle JC player Mike Moran was reported in the final Digest of last season. I would simply like to add my own condolences, and those of the Management Committee, to all Mike's family and friends.

Mike Power

Editor

I, and I'm sure, everyone who has played with or against Mike over many years will endorse our

.....

Editor.

Commonwealth Games Table Tennis

If you miss out on the tickets for what will be some fantastic TT. Volunteers are still required, F.o.c. I would think.

Volunteers are still required for; operators outside the court of electronic scoreboard (easy to use), to act as runners, to be in the print room, act as players escorts to the courts, ball patrol (pick balls up and return them show courts), event control technology results, support for operators in IT, and a few places for nomination for photographic liaison duties. Volunteers are expected to be present on one of two shifts per day. They need to fill in an application form to be returned to Karen Tonge, 1 Malpas Rd. Runcorn WA7 4 AD (not to the M2002 office). References are asked for and volunteers will be interviewed and receive training prior to the Games starting on 25th July please contact Karen either by e-mail at karen@virgin.net, or leave a message at 01928 563640

Match Secretary's Report

A great start to the season in which we have five titles to defend. The men kicked off with a comfortable victory over Blackpool but their next match against Manchester was postponed when Kevin and John traveled south on Friday for a Lancashire County match the following day. Four days prior to meeting Bolton, a player rang to say that they were unable to raise a team and gave three dates for a re-arranged match.

The Ladies notched wins against Manchester and Halton before facing an early season title decider at home to Wirral. Our girls beat them 6-4 last season on the way to collecting the title, but this time the Peninsular league side had Claire News back in the fold after a few years away at college. An Alice Howard treble though, which also included wins over Terri-Ann Nolan and Gemma Lloyd helped forge another 6-4 victory which kept them at the top of the division.

The Veteran 'B' team has had to endure a fragmented start with two fixtures being postponed due to deaths in the ranks of the opposition. The latest departure was Brian Doxey (Salford & Farnworth) who should have been in their side on the last Saturday in November, but passed away a few days before the match.

Another recent casualty was John O'Sullivan (CADWA) who on Friday 29th November, suffered a heart attack whilst at home. Fortunately, he lives just a few hundred yards from Broadgreen's Cardio Thoracic Centre. Once there, John said that he could not fault the NHS system and that he owes his life to their swift and professional actions. Amazingly, two days later, he was sitting up in bed and looking nothing like a person who could have passed away. Coaching has for now, been put on the back burner and players must get on with it without his expertise. Hopefully, John, you will make a full recovery and return to the CADWA team. A great number of the fairer sex have already visited him, much to the surprise of the Doctors and Nurses.

Alex. Gould is still in Fazackerly Hospital, our best wishes go to him with sincere wishes that he will continue to show improvement.

Men.

Blackpool	Away	Won 9-1
	K. Dolder , P. Hutchings, J. Rankin	
Manchester	Home	
	K. Dolder, P. Hutchings, M. Mahoney	

Woman

Wirral	Home	Won 6-4
	Brenda Buocy, A. Howard S. Burgess,	
Manchester	Away	Won 9-1
	B. Buocy, A. Howard, S. Burgess	
Halton	Away	Won 7-3

Veteran 1st.

Manchester	Home	Won 7-3
	K. Williams, J. Rankin, M. Mahoney	
Preston	Away	Draw 5-5
	K. Williams, M. Mahoney, K. Jackson	

Veteran 'A'

Thameside	Home	w/o 10-0
Trafford	Away	Won 10-0
L.B.Houses	Home	Won 8-2
	K. Jackson, P. Lee, P. Taylor	

Veteran 'B'

Oldham 'B'	Away	4-1, match abandoned, Oldham refused to continue
Sal./Farnworth	Home	
	B. Buocy, A. Thabet, R. Brown	



This could be an advertisers
Space (or space to suit)

Anyone interested contact

Arthur Garnett, Treasurer
0151 449 1766

Fixture Secretaries Report

Hi Folks,

Well what can I say, with 8 weeks of the season over there have been very few postponements, which as you can see from the league tables gives us a better idea of who is in contention for promotion and relegation. This also makes my job a lot easier. However, (yes it's moan time!) some of you are still sending cards to my old address, which causes delays in the matches being recorded, please contact your secretaries as mailing labels were distributed at the handbook meeting.

Could I also remind you all to fill in your score cards correctly. Most of you are, but some of you still don't know which team you are playing for, which division its in, or your fixture key No's! Please, please, take a few seconds filling in the score-card correctly, it'll save me a lot of time.

Thanks in anticipation.

Finally, if any of the club secretaries have an E-Mail address, please forward it to me and I'll put you in my address book.

My E-Mail address:

paula.french@virgin.co.uk

Well, here's wishing you all a fantastic festive season, and much luck for the rest of the playing season (unless you play me of course!)

Regards

Paula.

Editor

Top of score card

Home Team

'A' or 'etc'

Away Team

'A' or 'etc'

.....(5).....(8)

3rd.

.....Division

Your own team "KEY No's" are found on pages 10 and 11 in your handbook. Filling the Division in seems obvious to us, but when Paula gets over 50 cards a week, if the division is not filled in, it can mean a lot of extra work looking through the handbook.

Division 1 Paul Gittins (Police)

This space was for our top division report, with as much space as required.



I need to take the finished Digest for printing tomorrow in order to get it

out to everyone for the Christmas break, Paul's notes haven't arrived as yet , if they do arrive after printing, they will be in the next Digest.

Having spoke to all the Div. Writers when I agreed to take on the Digest, everyone agreed to carry on as before, (spoke to Paul twice), I can only think that Paul has run into unforeseen difficulties and is unable to complete the notes, hopefully Paul can carry on, I've read Paul's notes in the past, and were always entertaining, but if not, then how about another volunteer from the Division.

Editor.

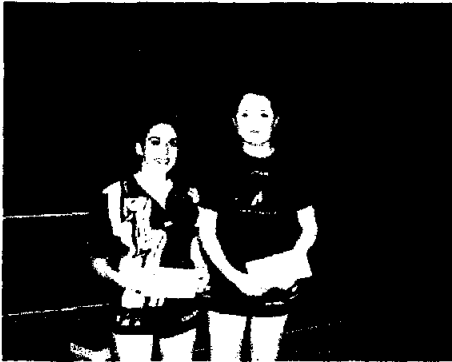
Now I've got a lot of space to fill !!

Editor.
I'm using this space to thank all who have sent in their reports of the goings on in the league, in time to get it printed for the Christmas break, hopefully next issue won't have so many blank spaces (filled up by advertisers to help offset the printing costs). Hope you don't get fed up reading it, it's been a bit of a challenge for me , but I have enjoyed it.

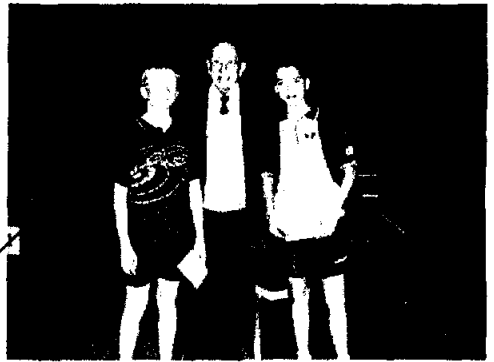
The 4th. City of Liverpool 3 Star Table Tennis Championships At the Greenbank Academy Aigburth

"On behalf of the City Of Liverpool it gives me great pleasure to again welcome Table Tennis players, coaches, officials and spectators to the city for the 4th. Liverpool Junior Tournament. Table Tennis has been identified ' as a **priority sport** ' for development in Liverpool City Council's Sports and Recreation Strategy documents " On The Right Track " and so our support for events such as this one, as well as establishing junior development programmes, is vitally important in raising the profile of Table Tennis within the city's schools, sports centers and youth clubs. I would like to thank the Liverpool & District Table Tennis League and the organizers for their hard work in getting this event off the ground. I would also like to take this opportunity in wishing all the participants an enjoyable and rewarding tournament. I hope you enjoy your stay in Liverpool "

That was the opening welcome on the front of the Liverpool 3 star programme from Councillor Frank Doran, Executive Member for Leisure & Culture on the Liverpool Council. This gives some indication of need to encourage schools to take up the coaching that can be offered, but it needs more help from rank and file players.



Junior Girls final, winner Tanya Waller, (on left) from Yorkshire and Runner up Claire Wilson from Durham



Arthur Upton, the L&DTT League President, After congratulating the winner, Stephen Denny, (Yorkshire) on the right, and runner-up, Bradley Evans, (Bucks.), after the final of The Junior Boys singles.

And what a match it was, attack from the first serve, with some terrific rallies, with the match going to the final game, the two young players look quite relaxed on the photo, but they must have been shattered after the game, they put so much effort in.

Playing 11 up, the match seemed to be over too soon.

Editor



How about this for a table tennis family, the Evans family from Buckinghamshire, on the left, Myles (10 yrs.) ranked 13; center Bradley (12 yrs.) ranked 2, right Gavin (8 yrs.) ranked 9; and little Scott in front, he's not ranked yet cos he's only 2 yrs. Probably when he can see over the table he'll get ranked,

Division 2 Sylvia Graham (Bootle J.

Hello folks!
The new season is well underway and everyone's back in the groove and raring to go. or so the results indicate. First of all though, I would like to welcome our new Editor, Roly Wright, who seems to have the enthusiasm and commitment to continue what Jack Lambert and Ken Armson, MBE have nurtured for many, many years. The photos on the Liverpool website show just how many matches he has attended ...and that's in 3 months!!!! more than most of us attend in 3 years (apart from our own that is!!). Now what about our division. Isn't it strong this year?...I know I say that every year but just as I believe it can't possibly get any stronger... it does. This is good for the teams that get promotion because it means they can make the transition into the first division more easily without worrying about being quickly demoted the next season.



It's also nice to see so many new faces this year. It's a long time since any of the Liverpool YMCA 'A' team have played in the second division and I must cordially welcome Monsieurs Thabet, Tagg and Henshaw to our humble playing abodes though I feel the stay may be short and sweet. Then we have the continental flavour of spin attack with Mikael Bellec whom I believe will be leaving the YMCA 'B' team and joining the YMCA 'A' team in a straight swop for John Henshaw. "I leave the 'A' team on good terms with all the other players and management, I just need a change" was the comment from Mr Henshaw when interviewed by our roving reporter. And I must say that Nigel Stopher hasn't been at Waterloo overly long before importing one of his teammates from the Southport League, Paul Bramham. Paul is the current Southport Junior champion, he was a member of the Southport Junior side which twice won the Lancashire and Cheshire Junior Premier division and he has represented Lancashire Juniors on numerous occasions ...so beware and do not be fooled by his laid backstyle 'cos as some of you have

already realised he's here to win!. Manweb had to go further afield for their new player, Dave Harse from Oxfordshire. Dave together with Ray Parkinson and Andy Lloyd provides Manweb with quite a formidable side. Dave is currently number 154 on the ETTA ranking list for Veteran Men and he is very difficult to beat as he plays some quite unique shots ...the spin seems to be the reverse of what you expect....I'm told that it's all in the wrist.

Another good thing, though some might not agree, is that it's nice to have so many women in the division. We've got Clare Newnes and Sue Burgess at Bath Street, Terri-Anne Nolan and Gemma Lloyd at Merseyside Police and Cherith Graham and myself at Bootle JC. What's also interesting is they cover all the age groups of Junior, Senior and Veteran women and they all play/ have played for their respective counties ... I'm such a mind of useless information! Before I forget .. another member of the division has brought us fame and fortune. John Langton of Bath St. 'C' got to the final of the 'Plate' competition at the recent Veteran's tournament in Grimsby. I'm sure everyone in the division is pleased for you John and would like to congratulate you on your success.

Now that I've welcomed everyone and given out all the gossip p'raps we should see how the season is progressing. As I've already said the division is tight but there are three teams who do seem to be aiming for the first division and I think the two promotion spots will come from the three of Liverpool YMCA 'A', Manweb and Maghull. I wouldn't like to choose which of the three won't make it but I think it will be very interesting for us all to watch how things will develop. I know that Manweb beat Maghull 6:4 and I'm told that the set between Andy Lloyd and Mattie Wilson should go down as the game of the season - a first division game in the second division which Mattie won 20,-20, 21. Maghull went on to beat YMCA'A' but I'm not sure what happened between Manweb and YMCA.

The two people in the division I would like to put a bounty on are Colin Rourke, Cadwa 'B' and Gemma Lloyd, Merseyside Police 'B'. Both seem to be having a really good season and the first meeting of the two resulted in Gemma being the victor 18, -15, 19. I believe Colin is determined to exact revenge and the return

match is scheduled for mid-January. Whoever can take a set from either of these will guarantee a mention in the next issue as will wins over anyone that doesn't send me a Christmas card.... Aha! so you all want a mention in the next issue.

Police 'B' seems to be fielding a regular side, as are Cadwa 'B' and this seems to keep them safe in mid-table positions. Waterloo 'A' look pretty safe but Bootle JC is missing the services of Mike Moran and is using a variety of reserves from the second team to fill in. Hopefully both teams will manage to remain in the division. Liverpool YMCA 'B' are in much the same boat as the Bootle teams but to add insult to injury the 'A' team pinched one of the 'B' team's players for the derby match and that player won two out of his three matches. Lastly there is Wavertree Labour 'A' who seem destined for relegation unless they can regroup and dig in... though it may be a bit late in the day to catch up. The only thing left to do is wish everyone a Happy Christmas and Merry New Year and give details of some wins and losses.

Only one whitewash where Wavertree Labour 'A' were beaten by Liverpool YMCA 'A' and just four facesavers to date:- Richy Jones (Wavertree Labour 'A') beat George Higham (Cadwa 'B') 18, -10, 9. Tony Wong (Liverpool YMCA 'B') beat Mikael Belloc (Liverpool YMCA 'A') 15, 14. Ken Strahan (Bootle JC 'A') beat R Parkinson (Manweb) 17, -15, 17. Jon Dyson (Police 'B') beat Mikael Belloc (Liverpool YMCA 'A') -10, 11, 22)
Close Wins: Mattie Wilson (Maghull) beat Andy Lloyd (Manweb) 20, -20, 21. Mark Miles (Wavertree Labour 'A') beat Ian Grant (Bath St. 'B') -12, 19, 22. John Langton (Bath St. 'C') beat Ken Strahan (Bootle JC) 22, 20.

Good Wins: John Langton (Bath St 'C') beat Nigel Stopher (Waterloo 'A') -17, 18, 21. Dave Graham (Bootle JC 'A') beat Brian Crolley (Bootle JC) 19, 20. Sue Burgess (Bath St 'C') beat Nigel Stopher (Waterloo 'A') 15, 14. Ken Strahan (Bootle JC 'A') beat Ray Parkinson (Manweb) 17, -15, 17. Steve Key (Liverpool YMCA 'B') beat Nigel Stopher (Waterloo 'A') 16, -17, 11. Mark Miles (Wavertree Labour 'A') beat Mattie Wilson (Maghull) 14, 16. Clare Newsn (Bath St 'C') beat Nigel Stopher (Waterloo 'A') -18, 16, 24. Steve Graham (Cadwa 'B') beat Jon Dyson (Police 'B') 17, -17, 18.

Division 3 Peter Ross (Bath St.)

At the time of writing, we are approximately one third of the way through the programme and already ominous signs have appeared to suggest the likely candidates for promotion and relegation.



The other note of significance, regards the standard of play which I thought last season was impressively high for a third division. I would suggest that on the evidence so far, that it is even higher this time around with several new players arriving and the return of one or two stars from the past. The decision by the Management Committee to give direct entry to Fords appears to have been justified with a rapid rise to the top with a current unblemished record. They are a side full of able and experienced players, with at least half a dozen seasoned campaigners to call upon. I was pleased to see Graham Reid again after a few years (we go back a long way) and he seems to be sharing the top spots with Frank James and Rob Goldson, and with Bill Proffitt and Alf Perry anchoring the side, they are giving very little away and they will take some stopping. Fortunately they are also a pleasure to against and are a welcome presence in the division, albeit it may be a short visit.

I think the team most likely to push Fords will be Manweb 'B' and they have been helped enormously by the return of an old face in Les Molyneux after more than 10 years absence from the game. He seems to have lost very little from his game and certainly has retained the same pleasant personality and enthusiasm. Apart from a rare double defeat at Marconi at the hands of Ian Wensley and Peter Wass, Les should not lose too many at this level. Also back moving like a young gazelle is Neil Jennings after a successful operation for a new hip. Neil at number four is a solid bet, and with father and son pair from the Wirral, Rob and Mike Parker, they are currently holding onto second place.

The teams most likely to push these two seem to be Marconi, Bootle YMCA and Po-

lice. Marconi have a good squad with Ian and Peter joined by Frank and John McCann and Bobby Bell, although their biggest problem may be ensuring getting their strongest side out at the right times. Incidentally at the time of writing, Peter remains unbeaten.

Police may be another team unsure of their top four, having used nine players to date, however with Gareth, Paula, Tony Harris, Richie Winkle and PCDC, they have a formidable squad. Plus Lenny Dyson has returned this very week after recovering from a broken arm. Ask him how he managed that !

Bootle YMCA. Have the welcome addition of Matt Poerschke from Germany in their squad together with the usual three of John Higham, Roly Wright and Danny Every. Matt already has a win over Graham Black to his name and is obviously a major acquisition to the team in view of the prolonged absence of Tom Killip. The team opened up the season with a great 8-2 victory over Waterloo, and considering that they have played against the higher teams in the division, they should not repeat their anxiety of last season when one point kept them from relegation. Incidentally, another team with a good social reputation.

Waterloo obviously have not let that early reverse bother them as they have followed up with sound wins over Bath St. and Marconi, and are particularly strong at the top of their order with Graeme and Julie. The team looks set for a solid season in their renovated premises. I hope everyone likes bright paintwork.

A significant gap appears over the next 6 teams which suggests that these will be fighting to avoid relegation. These consist of the two Maghull teams, the two Wavertree Labour teams, Bath St. and somewhat surprisingly, Manweb 'A'. I suspect that this is a false position because the team consists of Alun and Paul Evans, Paul Jennings and Alan Cameron. Additionally they have the benefits of being able to call in members of their 'B' team when needed, and I am sure they will finish very respectably. Incidentally Paul Jennings has the distinction of the hardest fought win of the season to date at 21 / 15, 25 / 27, 24 / 22. I mention it mainly because it was against me. (nice one Peter ' Editor').

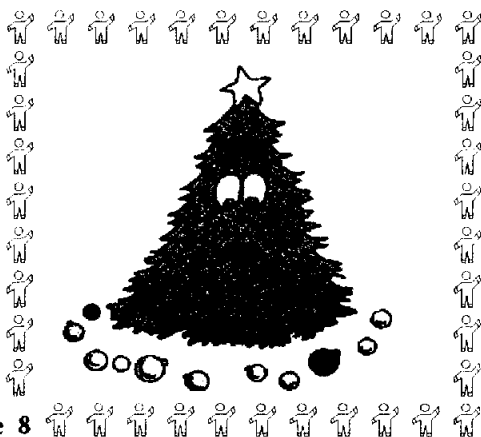
Both Maghull teams seem to have a battle on their hands and looking at the few

cards that I have, there are quite a few familiar names missing. Whilst the 'A' team have picked up the bulk of their points against the two bottom teams, with Eddie Preston driving them on, I think they will stay up. Maybe not so fortunate will be Maghull 'B', who despite a good 5-5 against a weakened Police team, are firmly entrenched at the bottom and they have a major battle on their hands.

Similarly so, are the two Wavertree Labour teams, and I have some sympathy for Ken Roberts, Gordon Langshaw and John Gratton who battled away last season only to finish at the foot of the table. Instead of some sanctuary in the fourth division they find themselves back in the higher sphere and I hope that they have better luck this time around. Wavertree 'C' are fairing a little better and have started with a couple of good wins under their belts, including a 7-3 against Bath St.. Tony Connor, Mike Ashton (with a new bat ?), Colin Fyles and Dave Williams should keep the side up.

Last but not least is the struggling Bath St., who despite having Billy Clayton in good form, we have made an inauspicious start, but hopefully Eddie Williams in his first season is gaining confidence and along with Les Gee and new acquisition, Neil Prichett, I think things may get better.

I repeat my earlier comment about the level of play which I think has been of an excellent standard up to now, but more important has been the friendly and sporting manner that is prevalent, and long may this continue. I hope everyone has a happy Christmas, and let us all look forward to a good 2002.



Division 4 Doug Baker (Cadwa)

Let me start by saying that in this edition I will be concentrating on the fortunes of the new comers to the division. I know it'll upset the regulars, but at least you'll get a bit of insight into the unknown forces.



Due to a number of factors CADWA C are with us this year. It'll be a one year only visa, as they are determined & skilful enough to make it a short sojourn. They called upon the services of George 'lefty' Higham in their first game of the season when their regular number 4 Ian Burrows couldn't make it for the "away" game v CADWA 'D'. A 9-1 statement of intent was made to a team that were looking to finish better than last years 4th, but only Jack Highton proved himself up to the challenge. I'm sure there's many a No. 1 in this division who won't relish the prospect of playing the whippet like Alan Davies. And which No. 1 thinks they'll be saying, a tongue in cheek, "well played" to Bob 'Toes' Peverall! The other member of their team, Pete Roberts, is going to be finishing well up the averages. Thus far Alan & Rob have undented records. All in all a nicer bunch of young guns you couldn't wish to meet. But don't be lulled by their sparkling wit or sugary words, it's only a game but they mean business. Last time I saw their book Ian Burrows was lying 4th in their averages with 75%!

On paper, at last season's close, the end results for Wavertree Labour surrounding this division should have seen, the 'D' team coming down, 'E' replacing them, 'F' staying put and 'G' coming up. Hence a net of 3 teams here for the new season. However, the folding of their first division 'A' team of last year due to conceding 3 walkovers, has caused a reshuffle, which may have led to the last team being pulled. The make up of the 'D' & 'E' teams is becoming clear. I think the Kensington committee would have decided to raise a serious challenge to CADWA 'C' and bolstered the teams accordingly. Certainly their top

rated player in this division Paul Banks is making a name for himself. He won his two in the 6-4 win over (what will I think will prove to be) fellow promotion hopefuls Manweb 'C'. Ken (fear the bat) Armson had a fine win over Rob Conley, as indeed did Peter Carney over Ken. Arthur Harrison enjoyed a creditable win over Stan Clark.

Steve Perry is in charge of the 'E' team stable mates. At Liverpool YMCA 'C' Steve lost by the narrowest of margins to Johnny Tsang, 22/20, 19/21, 21/19. That's 60 to 62 overall; you won't get such value for money when we go 11 up. Anthony Mitchell had a better night beating Jimmy Clewett and Francis Lay in 2. Dave Foulis & Stephanie Howard also do more than make up the numbers, as testified by their undefeated singles v Bath St 'E', and Stephanie even took the shine off CADWA C's win by humbling Peter & Ian. In that match Anthony was very unlucky against Peter, comfortably taking the 1st then 20-15 up in the 2nd to lose, allowing Peter to regroup in the 3rd.

Linacre are back and determined to put down stakes. They have been in this division often and long enough to know that although every point counts, a whitewash from a title contender can be shrugged off, whereas a narrow defeat from a rival hurts all the more. They will already know where the big games will be, and it is crucial for them to win those games. Despite these stresses they are always most welcoming and play open table tennis where the gauntlet is thrown down in the manner of "I'll show you what I can do", although I've heard poor opinions on the venue and table. Harry Reeve is the mainstay of the team putting in great performances, but they all pulled together to salvage a draw against Maghull 'C'. As Bill Slater beat Harry, then Jack Davidson beat Bill. You get things like that in table tennis. Their season opener had them playing host to a Wav Lab 'D' without Ken Armson. The most surprising thing that night was that Harry lost his two and Linacre still won!! Harry succumbed to Paul & Stan, whilst Jack Davidson beat Paul & Rez, Ken Ainsworth & Frank Lacey win one a piece, and placed alongside both doubles, they clocked up a 6-4. Since then WL 'D' haven't

lost a game and Linacre haven't won.

Liverpool YMCA 'C' stormed the 5th last year, a 19 point cushion twist them and 2nd place, and not a game lost. When we played them I didn't know who'd come through the door, some new hot shots? But no it was Jimmy Clewett, Russell Thornton, Francis Lay and Alvin Tso. They proved they were not retreats but rejuvenalised. They've already found this division tougher. In two matches alone 14 games have been decided in the third set. Home advantage told in each case. Home against Manweb 'C', they won the 3 gamers 5-2, leading to a 5 all draw. More round robin connections saw Rob Conley beating Jimmy Clewett, but losing to Alvin, who in turn lost to Peter Carney. Away to CADWA 'D' the score was a not very representative 8-2 CADWA D. The match was all the more remarkable as CADWAs loses were Steve Critchley to Jimmy and Trevor Dolder to Russell;- games I would have bet money on Steve & Trevor winning. Such is the resolve in the LYM camp. But determination was not quite enough in the other games. Despite often winning the first game, they couldn't close it down in the 2nd, and suffered a turn round in the 3rd. Perhaps, this is what they will find the biggest difference between the 4th and 5th divisions. Players, especially on home territory able to accept a 1st game defeat, and resolute enough to change ends, tactics and styles, to affect the result. I don't see CADWA having such a good result at the return fixture. LYM C will find the away games to new opponents and new venues the hardest aspect. Russell's boys don't look like a team that will be worrying about a return to the 5th come the end of season.

Bath Street 'E' have had a few tough openers, 0-10 v CADWA C. Dave Stodden 19/21 in 3rd v Pete Roberts the nearest thing to a point, although Dave Cunningham at 23/21, 21/23, 17/21 v Ian Burrows was the closest match on the night. New leader in the highest score stakes of 61-65. And the closest match of the season - thus far, 126 points, but watch this space! The two Dave's seem to be the double star centres in a very changeable solar system. In the first 4 games of the season Bath Street have used 9 planets/players. Chris Blackburn enjoyed running rings around CADWA D, blazing a trail by holding his own in a 4-6

black hole, although Jack Highton and I thanked our lucky stars in close games with Dave Batty and Dave Cunningham respectively. They've also walked away from Manweb 'C' with a victory, in part due to a concession in the doubles at the end of the evening.

Manweb 'C', are another club with strength in depth. No.3, Peter Carney has overcome neigh all opponents thus far. Including memorable victories over No.2's; Ken Armson (21/18 in 3rd), Jack Davidson, Alvin Tso and Dave Cunningham. Only Bootle YM's Mike Hughes has blotted the copy book, each game closer than the last till Mike snatched it 24/22. There have been personal scores of note for the rest of the team. Rob Conley beating Jimmy Clewett, Arthur Harrison surprising Stan Clarke (at Sheil Rd), Alan Radcliffe btg Ken Ainsworth, and John Ashley btg both Bert Rivers & Mike Hughes (after losing the 1st game in each). It's also very good to see Alan Biggs back, turning out and contributing points with wins over Johnny Tsang and BYMs Jim Cannon.

Emotions ran high at Bootle YM, when Peter Williams made a welcome return to TT after a long layoff, in the match v CADWA 'D'. The old skill hadn't deserted him and he helped his mates gain a draw, as Arthur Garnett led the way. I can't help but think Bert Rivers had too much guile when he came from behind to beat yours truly 23/21 in the 3rd.

Aigburths Graham Rollinson & Carl Anderson will swear the same. BYM's first victory of the season came at home against Maghull 'C', with Bert & Arthur keeping clean sheets, My best piece of advice when playing at Bootle YM, is to make sure the sets end in 2 straight. That way you'll have more time in the bar after the match to replay the evening's events.

The Maghull club have had some major restructuring work, which has seen Bill Salter move up from his usual number 4 slot to numero uno in the 'C' team. Naresh Tagor, Denise Chorley and John Gillibrand have settled in behind. A draw away at Linacre has been the best result so far. Everyone contributed a singles win, with Bill's success over Harry Reeve the most noteworthy for Maghull. However Bill lost to Jack Davison 19/12 in 3rd, who was on

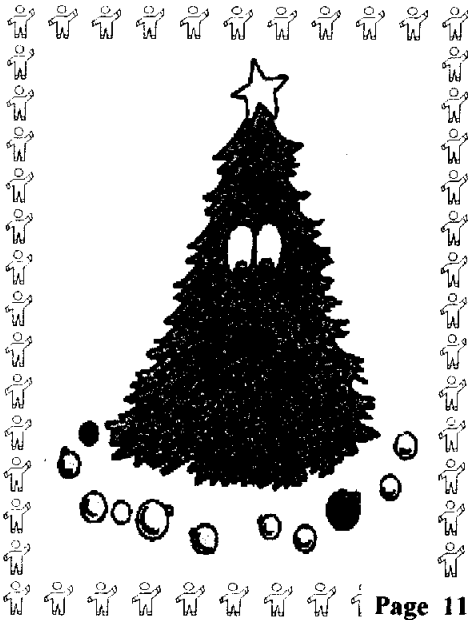
(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

fine form beating Denise Chorley as well. Denise has been playing well with a straight sets win over Mike at Bootle being the stand out so far.

Aigburth seemed to have tightened up, after having had a nasty scare last year. You'll still find Graham Rollinson at top spot, but Carl Anderson has deserved the No. 2 jersey. It's proving to be fortress APH, with the lads less keen to travel. Points have been liberally won at every position and as Eric Wood showed in their 7-3 conquering of Linacre. At 5 games played a piece it was those four points that separated the two old rivals. Ray Jones has the game to play through a good player, like Mike Hughes or Stephanie Howard. Ray beat Stephanie whilst she was deputising at No.4 for the Wav Lab D team. In what turned out to be a 6-4 defeat, Rolo beat Paul Banks but lost to Ken and Carl beat Stan.

The start of the season has seen a glut of 6-4s and 5 all draws, that means things will be pear shaped. There's a CADWA 'C' cherry on top, plenty round the middle and a flattened out bottom. In other words there's one name on everyone's lips for promotion, and an indecipherable mumble about the remaining promotion & relegation places.



Division 5 Ron Georgeson (Bath St.)

Normally within the first two or three weeks you can more or less forecast the likely Div. winner. We have also received 3 League tables inside the first 7 games ---- very informative.



There are four teams who can all win the Div. 5 title, and they appear in the following order, Waterloo ' C ', Harold House ' A ', Marconi ' B ', and Bath St. ' F '. This makes for an exciting season and heading the bunch is Waterloo, --- newly relegated from Div. 4. They are very solid with the two Nelsons, Harry and Ken, well supported by Ted Cramsie, Keith Wright and Graham Oates. In their first match, home to Aigburth, they won 9-1, Harry Nelson falling to the improved Lee Proffit. In their second match, away to Bath St. ' F ', they ran out winners 8-2, only yours truly and reserve Chris Blackburn getting on the scorecard the right way for Bath St.. They met sterner opposition at home to Marconi, -- the ' Arriva Boys ' !!, both Nelsons having their colours lowered by John Flynn, Ted Cramsie won his two, and Waterloo won both doubles for a 6-4. Waterloo head the table at the moment, but have yet to play their open date, and Harold House ' A '.

Harold House ' A ' started with a convincing 10-0 blitz of Police ' D ' and if they can field this four each week they will be formidable opponents. Eddie Clein at No.1 (also turns out for the 1st. team), Paul Morgan at No. 2, Mike Poole at 3, and professor Cohen bringing up the rear. They didn't have things all their own way at Greenbank and had to use reserves from their ' B ' side. Paul Morgan, pushed up to No.1, fell to the excellent John Sherratt in 3, but recovered to inflict the only defeat to date of Tony Edge-- 2 straight. By the way, give give yourselves at least 1/2 an hour to let your eyes get accustomed to the lights at Greenbank, but as always, they provide a nice supper!. Harold House have " imported " ex Aigburth player Barry Meyer, making a return to the game after a few years lay off. But Richard Beilin and Richie Blackburn took no prisoners

in the local derby between their 'A' and 'B' sides, both defeating Barry in 2 straight, but Eddie, Mike and Dave saw them through 7-3. Can I remind teams, it would be of enormous help if the "PLAYED" record on the bottom of the match card was filled in, notable offenders being both Harold House 'A' and 'B' and Greenbank. If you want up to-date League Tables, then make Paula's job easier as Fixture Sec.

I only have one home card for Marconi, but they swept the newly formed Ladies of Bath St. 'H' away 10-0, no game going to three!, Getting up early to get the buses out must suit them!. They also gave the same treatment to Bath St. 'G' (one of the three Bath St. Teams in this Division), only reserve Barbara Alcock from the Ladies team losing in 3 to Kevin O'Hanlon and Leigh Dunn, putting up resistance. They seem to have adequate reserves at Marconi and will be up there with the top teams come seasons end.

My own team Bath St. 'F' are pretty solid with Dave Batty in the vanguard and ably supported by Allan Willis who has returned this season from injury, which caused him to miss all last season, George Crowley brings up the rear, and has only lost once,-- to Albert Parker from our own 'H' team in a 9-1 defeat of the 'H' team in the opening game, Albert is a great reserve to have,-- a master of the half volley angle shot, the harder you hit it-- the better he uses your return to angle it passed you!. He turned out for our 'D' team in Div. 3 at Waterloo, and defeated Ro Craddock.

Greenbank were expunged from this Div. last season for giving 3 walkovers. They should have been at Bath St. to play our 'G' team on a Monday, I checked with the club to ensure they new they had to play away at Bath St., and although not speaking to the new secretary Tony McMullen direct, I did learn from a team member that " they thought they could play any away games on their own match night ", (Thursday) and not the home team match night!! The anchor men for Greenbank are Tony Edge again, and John Sherratt, but an 8-2 home win for them over Bath St. 'H' was turned into a 4-6 defeat for playing out of order after they failed to observe that Tony and John had been re-ranked, but still played in the original order order with John at 1, --

Tony at 2. They need that General I wrote of last season!.

Not many comments on the cards, but Maghull 'D' take the trouble to put some humorous notes - not least of which refer to as " Captain Mainwaring " (as in Dads' Army), please note Allan Smethurst, that's how you spell it, and you a printer!! Yes we did give you a bashing, but take heart; Ian Ambrose will improve rapidly as the season progresses. This time we managed to meet Jeff Banks on his first game this season, and as hard to beat as ever-- lost his two, both narrowly in 3, middle of the table for you Maghull !.

Only 3 cards for Airgburth (all away) and beaten in all 3, by - Waterloo 9-1 and Maghull 6-4, Eric Young beating Keith Whittaker in 3, Ian Ambrose and also the doubles, Derek Traynor chipping in with 3rd. game win over Allan Smethurst, 6 games going to 3 in this match.

Police are propping up the Division where they finished last season, but dispondence is not in their make up. They met a full strength Harold House 'A' team, who extracted the full 10, but were more evenly matched against our 'H' Ladies team, reserve Dave Oakes winning his 2, plus the doubles in a 6-4 defeat.

Well it's early days yet, and some very interesting matches lie ahead. In the League Cup the semi- finalists are, Maghull--Marconi --Bath St. 'F' and Harold House 'A'

The " Frank Murphy " Vets Handicap Tournament is producing some very good close matches. Now in its second year under the revised handicapping system and of course, playing " down the card " means no player has to play 2 matches in succession. The matches I have seen so far producing results separated by 15 to 20 points only. Spot of fine-tuning by the Handicapping Committee, and we will produce even more exciting Finals, take the one of last year.

Well that's it for the first Digest under its new Producer and Editor; it only remains to wish you all a " Very Happy Xmas "

Ron Georgeson , Bath St.

Comments by the Professionals about the 11up scoring

Jan-Ove Waldner (Sweden)

" Playing to 11 points makes the game more interesting, it's more intense and you always have a chance. Previously when a player had a big lead, 15-5 for instance, the game was over and not interesting. Now we play far fewer ' irrelevant points ' and it doesn't effect my game. Changing to a larger ball and altering the the service rule affects the way you play, playing to eleven doesn't affect your technique".

Editor

I suppose you could say that the majority of points between 6 and 18 are irrelevant points, but how many times do you see the control of the game change during these points, and a player having a big lead at 19, but losing it after a nail biter finish

Petra Lovas (HUN)

" It's terrible. I hate it. You have only two services before you change, before you had five services and you could change your tactics. The big points come very quickly, you must concentrate much harder

Jorgen Persson (SWE.)

"It's good , it makes matches exciting. I'm in favour of the shorter game, but I would have liked to hav e kept the concept of 21 points. Perhaps by starting at 10-10 as we did in training. You have to concentrate from the first point and you cannot afford to make unforced errors.

Nicola Deaton (ENG.)

I'm a traditionalist but we have to move forward, and playing to 11 points is exciting for the spectators and we must consider what is best for the future of the sport.

Olga Nemes (GER.)

For the spectators it's fine but for me it's difficult; now you have no time to adjust, it's tough mentally. Playing to 11 is a different game.

Promotions and Relegations

Did you read the report of the " Appeal Board Hearing " in the last Digest (Vol 55 No.2), which referred to the issue of how many teams go down, after one of the teams in a division has dropped out after the start of the season, leaving that division one team short.

RULE 21 is quite clear on this, Paragraph 1 says " The bottom 2 teams of the division shall be relegated, and the top 2 teams of the lower division shall be promoted to the higher division, (para. 2 deals with teams finishing with equal points)

Paragraph 3 goes on to say that " **The Committee shall have at their discretion, the power to promote a team, should a vacancy occur in a higher Division** ". there's more to this paragraph, but in this case I don't need to repeat it.

So I think in this case, the Appeal Boards decision to uphold the Committees decision last season (2 down, 3 up) was a right one, This problem arose in the 1st/ 2nd. Div. and the 3rd/ 4th. Div., mind you the situation in the 3rd/ 4th. Div. was slightly different, in as much that Fords wanted to enter a new team into the league, and as the strength of the new team was well known, the Committee decided to put this new team into the 3rd. div. to fill the vacancy of the team who dropped out last season, (a decision vindicated by Fords 'A' now sitting on top of div.3), but has it weakened their 1st. team, because they are now sitting at the bottom of the 1st. div.

Anyway, a clear precedent has now been set, the bottom 2 clubs in that Division, who finish the season, go down.

With Merseyside Police 'A' dropping out of Div.1, and Wavertree Labour 'F' not getting started in Div. 4, we could have a repeat of the situation at the end of this season, so follow those League Tables closely.

DO YOU WANT NEW YOUNG BLOOD?

Ken Armson, **Coaching Secretary**

I have repeatedly made reference to the need for players to get involved on the coaching and recruitment of young players to ensure a regular influx of younger players and the continued future of our league and at the risk of boring you I am saying it again. All too often previous requests have been ignored but at last we are beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel. What we need now is for that light to become bigger and shine more brightly and that is why we need YOU to take an interest in coaching. We are light years behind Wirral who have a thriving coaching scene and have successfully integrated with a number of schools for it is in schools that the future table tennis players are waiting to be discovered.

In our city all most schools are interested in, and most other people for that matter, is football. Most sporting comment in the Liverpool Echo is about football and if you buy it to read about other sports you won't find much to read. In every school there are many youngsters not interested in football who may be interested in taking up another sport and some schools are at last beginning to realise that there is more to a sporting life than football. We have to capitalise on this and get them focussed on table tennis as league members in other towns and cities are doing.

We have made a good start in that Stan Clarke is now coaching in Archbishop Beck. Arthur Garnett and Dave Oakes are working within Childwall Comprehensive and waiting to go on a coaching course. They also managed to rustle up some tables to get the school started until they can obtain their own. I am also talking with an interested teacher at Gateacre Comprehensive who is introducing table tennis into the school curriculum. Bath St also run coaching sessions and Dave and Sylvia Graham work within the Formby area. Their club having two teams of promising youngster playing in the National Junior League, Liverpool have none.

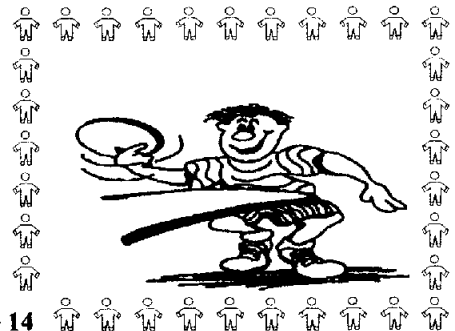
Since the Tennis Centre ejected us we have been without a venue for our league coaching ses-

sion but now have a new venue, Lee Manor Sports Centre. We are slowly building up attendance and expect to be functioning fully by the New Year. Our new venue is more suitable as we have our own Gym and are not dependent on any other party. The same team are now coaching at Lee Manor, Bill Proffitt, Alan Biggs, George Smith and Graham Rollinson and we welcome further assistance.

Your league is willing to assist any member interested in qualifying as a Coach and attending the required Course. These are held over several weekends, generally of three or four day's duration the qualifying test being taken on the final day. You don't have to be a qualified coach to assist in this important area but it obviously makes sense to become qualified if you intend to get involved in recruitment and retention of interested youngsters.

Many of you have taken a lot out of table tennis over the years and coaching is one way of putting something back into our sport and by doing so you will help ensure our continued existence and expansion and in return you gain personal satisfaction from watching someone you started off going on to become a dedicated table tennis player. Champions don't grow on trees and neither are they born as such, someone has to get them started and that person just could be you. Desmond Douglas became a table tennis player more by accident than intention and went on to become one of England's greatest ever players. There are many possible youngsters like him out there but they will not come looking for us we will have to go looking for them.

I am happy to provide anyone interested with information on the coaching scene and you all know my telephone number.



**INTO SCHOOLS WITH THE
LIVERPOOL LEAGUE**

Coaching page

Dave Oakes - Merseyside Police TTC.

A word in the right place at the right time led to an 'in', hopefully, with 'Sport England' at the old HOLT HIGH SCHOOL, (now Childwall Comprehensive School.)

Dave, with the help of Arthur Garnett (Bootle YMCA.) have managed to obtain 4 old TT tables (courtesy of the Bootle YM. and Police clubs) and these are now to be made ready for the school use during lunch times. In addition the school has a £1000, initially to spend on tables and other equipment for the start-up.

This centrally located school appears ideal, situated on Queens Drive between The Rocket and Childwall Fiveways.

The next step is to provide some sort of coaching after school, 3.30 p.m.- 5.30.p.m. on Thursdays. THIS SHOULD BE BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Everything depends on our players / clubs supporting the venture with a bit of coaching, any old bats, balls (even under size will do for now), nets and best of all, any old tables you have tucked away in club rooms.

To date we have three 'old' male players willing to coach a bit. As it is a mixed school are there any Ladies willing to help ???

If this succeeds the school can go for sports status, receiving extra funding, including coaching, they have to prove demand first, and that's what it's all about.

Let's see if we can support this venture as a league, and maybe other clubs can get into schools in North Liverpool as well. In South Liverpool Shorefields Comprehensive are also interested, they have their own 5 tables ready to go. Anyone interested, particularly in donating old equipment, and more importantly, coaching, should contact -:

**Dave Oakes (426 6730) or
Arthur Garnett (449 1766).**

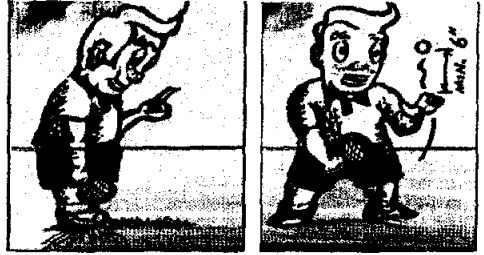
In return you may get new, younger, players for the future .

Editor

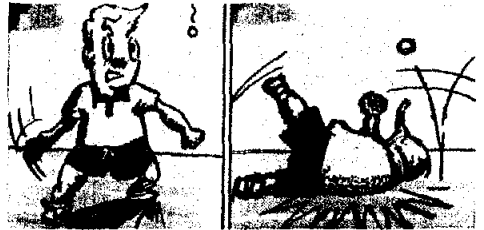
At time of printing, this scheme has now got off the ground, with lots of interest from the pupils and teachers, early days yet !!

Forehand top spin

For those of us who would like to,— but get the timing wrong



1. Read the instructions, 2. throw the ball up



3. Keep eye on the ball, 4. play across top of ball,

**THE PROPER WAY
Forehand Top Spin**

- ◆ A stroke played with spin not power
- ◆ Weight transfers to right foot at start of stroke
- ◆ Elbow bends as stroke is played
- ◆ Good use of body at waist
- ◆ Good use of non-playing arm for balance

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ORIGINS OF TABLE TENNIS

Table tennis burst explosively onto the sports scene towards the end of the nineteenth century and is commonly believed to be a miniature version of lawn tennis. Formerly known as Flim-Flam and Whif-Whaf, its origins however are shrouded in mystery. Theories that the game was first played by the Syrians, Japanese, French and North American Red Indians seem unlikely and the hard evidence points to the English as the inventors of the game.

Arthur Parker, author of 'Ping Pong and How to Play it', 1902, refers to rumours that the game was played as early as 1881 with cigar box lids for bats, champagne corks for balls and a row of books for a net, but this has not been authenticated.

The first catalogue which advertised the game as 'Miniature Indoor Lawn Tennis' was published by F.H. Ayres in 1884 and in 1889, Mr Charles Barter of Gloucestershire patented the game as played with cork balls, clamp posts and rectangular wooden bats covered with bookbinders' cloth to give a 'twist to the ball'.

The first celluloid ball was introduced about 1890 when a Mr James Gibb returned from a business trip to the United States with a supply of toy balls he had spotted there.

Mr. Gibb is also credited with coining the name 'Ping Pong' which he used mockingly when watching a couple of 'stonewallers' at play, and repeated the sound the ball made on the bat and table. He persuaded his neighbour, sports manufacturer, John Jaques to register the game, which he did in 1891, using the title 'Ping Pong or Gossima'.

Further confirmation of the English theory is the well documented story of Mr Goode who lived in Putney.

In 1902 Mr Goode was a contestant in the Great Ping Pong tournament in what was then the Royal Aquarium at Westminster.

On the Saturday before the tournament he left his office with a nasty headache and called into the local chemist. At the counter his eyes fixed on the chemist's rubber cash mat and he went home with the cash mat as part of his purchase. Then he cut down the uneven rubber spikes and pasted the rubber mat onto his bat, and he practised over the weekend until he had developed a capable back hand flick stroke.

His subsequent top spin progress through the tournament was amazing as none of the record 300 competitors could match him. In the final Mr Goode thrashed the then English Ping Pong champion, Mr A. C. Parker by 50 points to 3.

Until the very end of the nineteenth century, table tennis was very much a parlour game, played in the home on large dining tables. The equipment in those days was very primitive, with the balls being made of cork or India rubber and the bats being little more than stiff cardboard.

Ping Pong enjoyed a period of spectacular popularity in the early years of the twentieth century. At this time a cheap version of the game, placed on the market under the trade name, 'Ping Pong' made its way into virtually every home, and became the craze of the day.

Ping Pong leagues were formed at local level and in the season 1901/1902 frequent tournaments were played all over Great Britain, attracting up to 300 competitors, with regular prizes of up to £100.00 available.

One of the main manufacturers of table tennis equipment at the time, the Table Tennis Supply Association were forced to move to larger premises, due to the demand for equipment and were honoured with an order from HRH Princess Victoria.

Many Ping Pong Halls were established and even set up in public houses, hotels and working men's clubs, leading a reporter in the Sussex Daily Post to write,

'It seems extraordinary that grown up persons should forsake the billiard table, as many have, and devote their attentions to what seems to me to be the effeminate game of ping pong. The game is simplicity itself and almost savours juvenility'.

PING PONG V TABLE TENNIS

There were two groups of players at the time, the Ping Pong players and the Table Tennis players.

A weekly journal for table tennis and ping pong players, 'The Table Tennis and Pastimes Pioneer', was in existence at the time and contained articles on the merits of ping pong as opposed to table tennis.

Such was the rivalry between the 'Ping Pongists' and the Table Tennis players that two independent associations were formed. The Table Tennis Association was set up on 12th December, 1901, and the Ping Pong Association just four days later, the latter adopting a double bounce service, the former allowing players to serve over the net without a bounce.

There were many pleas for unity, with many of the view that it was a great mistake in allowing two associations to be formed to govern two games that were so similar.

Although there was a fanatical following of the new sport, there were many who opposed it, and anti ping pong groups were formed. The 'Pioneer', of Saturday 18th January, 1902, contains a rather prophetic article from the Daily Mail.

'For the sake of the unenthusiastic and the people with nerves, let us have some rest or ping pong will follow its victims into an early grave'.

SEVENTY FIVE NOT OUT!



THE HISTORY OF THE LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

1926 - 2001

Written by A.J. Harris

The above passage and Front cover have been reproduced from Tony Harris's book with his kind permission

EDITORS COMMENT

In 1902 a Mr. Goode won The Great Ping Pong Tournament using a rubber cash mat with rubber spikes off a chemist shop counter, most probably the forerunner of todays TSP Curl rubbers !!!!!

Did you know that there are over 22 million registered table tennis players world wide, second only to soccer as a played sport ,but 20 million of those players are in China, where it is recognised as their National sport, most cities have dedicated schools for the coaching of table tennis during the normal course of education, **another reason for us to get involved with our local schools.**

Back to Tony's book,

This is the leagues 75th. Year, and would have been the ideal time for publication, but Tony still needs more confirmation orders to keep the book price under £10, and as well as interesting reading, every purchaser will get a mention in ' The Roll of Honour ' section.

So for an order form,

Tony can be contacted via E-mail address of :-

tony@harris316.fsnet.co.uk

or

Tony Harris

195, Clipsley Lane

Haydock WA11 0JG

Tel. 01744 730644

Rubbers -: legal or not legal

Editor

I always read Don Davies's reports in the Liverpool Echo, and his report on the Veterans match between Liverpool 'B' and Oldham 'B' in the Lancashire & Cheshire League which 'came to controversial end', when the Liverpool non playing captain questioned the legality of an Oldham players bat, (the player concerned admitted the bat was illegal), even so the rest of the Oldham team refused to continue. I'm probably a bit naïve at what goes on at this level, but I'd have thought the player concerned would have accepted that he'd been rumbled and got another bat out of his bag and carried on with the match, mine may be a rather simplistic view, but is the desire to win heading in the wrong direction.

Anyway I was a bit intrigued by this situation and decided to have a look at the ETTA. (our governing body) web site to see what was mentioned about rubbers, or as they describe them, Authorised Racket Coverings, it was list 22 for 2001 to 2002, I was amazed to find that there were 805 legal rubbers listed, and a total of 87 manufacturers, mind you these are world wide, so it's just as well that our local distributors cut these lists down dramatically, otherwise, I for one, would never be able to decide on a rubber, it's bad enough now. It certainly isn't in a manufacturers interest to produce rubbers which aren't going to be accepted by T.T.governing bodies (I may stand corrected on that one).

At the start of the list is a paragraph which I think needs a mention in full—:

“Dark sponge(black, blue, brown, green, purple, red) should not be used under translucent (letting light pass through, but not transparent, (my inclusion)) red coverings, (most red coverings are translucent). It is the **PLAYERS** responsibility to use a racket covering which appears **BRIGHT RED**, and the use of a dark sponge under a translucent top sheet is likely to make the rubber illegal. Even if racket coverings appear in this List without reference to sponge, the law 2.4.3. Governs the use of sponge”

Rule 2.4.3. Governs the maximum thickness of the covering i.e. ordinary rubber to a max. of 2mm thick, and sandwich rubber to a max. of 4 mm. thick (both including the adhesive), don't pile the glue on.

Having read all this, I thought, where's the relevance here, the sponge is already on the rubber , and I've only seen a light colour used, but then the Barna type rubbers came to mind, could these be built up as “questionable rubbers “ by the use of thin rubber sheet as a sandwich rubber, rules 2.4.3.1 describes the outer covering as 'non cellular ' and the sponge as 'cellular '.

Hmmmm. Got it you chemistry buffs ?.

This tale brings to mind the story of Mr. Goode who won the Great Ping Pong Tournament in 1902 (Tony Harris's History Of Table Tennis excerpt on pages 12 & 13) by the first use of pimples, before everyone else got it and rules were made.

The ETTA. Site can be found as a link in the Liverpool TT. Web site at -:
www.Liverpooltt.Freeserve.co.uk

Below is a bit of a Divisional cross check table I have tried, just to fill up a bit of space.

Home teams in the left column

Away teams in the top column.

small numbers are the match nights as per handbook, and the results of the games played in the bolder numbers , (as 6-4.)
home team score first

Do you think it is informative enough to use, to warrant the extra work, or just stick to the league tables, which are coming out more often.

I would appreciate any feedback.

Key No's	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Division 3	Wav.Lab.'B'	Police 'C'	Marconi 'A'	Bath St.'D'	Bootee YM.	Manweb 'A'	Wav.Lab.'C'	Waterloo 'B'	Manweb 'B'	Meghull 'B'	Meghull 'A'	Fords 'A'
Wav.Lab.'B'		11	21	9	19	7	17	5	15	5-5	13	1-9
Police 'C'	22		9	19	8-2	17	8-2	15	3-7	13	8-2	10
Marconi 'A'	10	20		7	17	5	15	3-7	13	8-2	22	8
Bath St.'D'	20	8	18		5-5	15	3-7	13	3-7	22	10	6
Bootee YM.	6-4	18	10-4	16		2-8	13	8-2	22	10	20	3-7
Manweb 'A'	18	6	16	6-4	14		7-3	22	10	20	8	13
Wav.Lab.'C'	6	16	4	14	3-7	12		10	20	8	18	22
Waterloo 'B'	16	4-8	14	7-3	12	11	21		8	18	6	20
Manweb 'B'	8-2	14	5-5	12	11	21	9	19		18	16	18
Meghull 'B'	14	5-5	12	11	21	9	19	7	17		1-9	16
Meghull 'A'	7-3	12	11	21	9	19	7	17	2-8	15		14
Fords 'A'	12	21	19	17	15	7-3	11	9	7	5	10-4	

Bath St. founder member and match secretary, Alex Gould, has been in Fazakerly Hospital since suffering a stroke in August last. I am pleased to report that he is now making a marked improvement and is still very interested in all aspects of TT., and particular, his own club. He wishes to be remembered to all his associates in the Liverpool League.

This is a Heterocera—Lepidoptera (a moth to you and me) a fragile frivolous creature.



What, you might say has this got to do with table tennis. Well it has just come to my attention that one of our number actually tackled one of these creatures single handed, a man who refused to turn his back on the problem, being a TT. player, nimble of foot, an eye for fast moving objects , and fast co-ordination of eye and swatt, but sadly he came off second best, fell off a stool and broke his arm, this feat doesn't warrant an OBE, but certainly deserves a passing mention, and who is that man, our very own Len Dyson of the Police TTC. (I invoke the freedom of the press, article 29). Anyway , the good news is that Len is back at the table, and as hard as ever to get past.

The moral of the story, (as we can't afford to lose players in this manner), is leave it to the experts , the wife or the RSPCI.

But if Lenny has any tips which can be passed on to members of the LTT League to prevent similar occurrences, they will be printed in the next Digest, but that won't be printed until approx. March. so take care.

After listening to this tale, I thought it rather insensitive to ask " what happened to the moth "

Cont'd. John O'Sullivan

end. He has nothing but praise for the staff who've looked after him, although he thinks the recovery program a little too lax for a man of his capabilities.

He has had lots of visitors, telephone callers and get well cards. In his own words he has been humbled by the concern shown to him by one and all.

Could you please pass this message on to anyone you think knows the old boy.

Also, if it's not too late could you enter a piece in the digest. Certainly we all at CADWA wish our stalwart team mate a speedy yet restful, full recovery.

From Doug Baker, also see Match Secs. Report.

Bootle YMCA's Tom Killip is still out of action, following his Achilles accident last February, Tom also suffered a torn calf muscle a few years ago, also in the February, latest is that the ankle is still painful, and not sure when he may be able to return to the table, soon we hope.

Les Higham, also Bootle YM, has just returned home after a couple of months in Ormskirk Hospital, following a fall at home resulting in various fractures of the arm and shoulder, while recovering had a cardiac arrest, and in intensive care for a week. Hopefully that's all behind now, Les is now waiting for his 3rd. hip replacement.

Jim Geddes, also Bootle YM. (seems all Bootle YM), is back playing after missing the first part of the season due to his son being involved in a serious motor bike accident, Jim and wife Barbara spent most of their time in Yorkshire during a very worrying period, thankfully his son is now on the slow road to recovery, and Jim can get back into the game.

I don't know if you heard but John O'Sullivan is in hospital at the moment.

He had a heart attack on Friday afternoon. He was able to phone for an ambulance. It arrived within minutes and rushed him to Broadgreen where Doctors were waiting to take him into intensive care. I saw him on Saturday when he had been moved to the Cardiac Care unit. He was on a drip and monitors, but other than that looked remarkably well in the circumstances.

He chatted away the whole time I was there. Since then he has confounded the Doctors with his fitness and speed of recovery. I saw him tonight on one of the main wards where he will stay till he is allowed home, which should be by the week

DIVISION ONE	P	W	D	L	PTS
MERSEYSIDE POLICE	7	4	2	1	44
C.A.D.W.A	5	4	1	0	42
HAROLD HOUSE	6	5	0	1	40
WAVERTREE LABOUR	6	4	1	1	36
BATH STREET	6	4	1	1	34
WATERLOO	8	2	1	5	32
L'POOL Y.M.C.A.	5	4	0	1	31
MARCONI	8	1	1	6	28
BATH STREET 'A'	7	2	1	4	27
C.A.D.W.A 'A'	6	0	2	4	20
FORDE	6	0	0	6	16

Merseyside Police 'A'....Record expunged

DIVISION THREE	P	W	D	L	PTS
FORDS 'A'	8	7	0	1	61
MANWEB 'B'	8	7	1	0	56
MERSEYSIDE POLICE 'C'	8	6	1	1	51
WATERLOO 'B'	8	5	0	3	46
BOOTLE Y.M.C.A.	8	4	1	3	43
MARCONI 'A'	8	4	1	3	43
MANWEB 'A'	7	4	1	2	39
WAVERTREE LABOUR 'C'	7	3	0	4	30
BATH STREET 'D'	8	0	1	7	27
MAGHULL 'A'	8	2	0	6	26
WAVERTREE LABOUR 'B'	7	0	1	6	20
MAGHULL 'B'	7	0	2	5	17

DIVISION FIVE	P	W	D	L	PTS
WATERLOO 'C'	8	7	0	1	62
HAROLD HOUSE 'A'	7	7	0	0	56
BATH STREET 'F'	6	5	0	1	45
MARCONI 'B'	6	2	1	3	37
MAGHULL 'D'	7	3	1	3	32
BATH STREET 'H'	8	3	1	4	29
BATH STREET 'G'	7	3	1	4	27
AIGBURTH 'A'	6	3	0	4	26
GREENBANK	6	3	0	4	23
HAROLD HOUSE 'B'	5	3	0	4	16
MERSEYSIDE POLICE 'D'	6	3	0	6	7

LIVERPOOL CLOSED COMPETITION

The latest we have is that Ken Armson is in discussion with the City Council over a date and venue, a date in early February has been proposed, but nothing has been agreed

DIVISION TWO	P	W	D	L	PTS
L'POOL Y.M.C.A 'A'	8	7	0	1	57
MAGHULL	8	6	0	2	55
MANWEB	8	6	1	1	53
WATERLOO 'A'	8	4	1	3	43
BATH STREET 'B'	7	4	1	2	39
BATH STREET 'C'	7	3	1	3	36
C.A.D.W.A 'B'	8	1	2	5	36
L'POOL Y.M.C.A 'B'	8	2	1	5	33
MERSEYSIDE POLICE 'B'	7	3	1	3	32
BOOTLE J.C.	8	1	4	3	31
BOOTLE J.C 'A'	7	2	1	4	27
WAVERTREE LABOUR 'A'	7	0	0	7	13

DIVISION FOUR	P	W	D	L	PTS
C.A.D.W.A 'C'	6	6	0	0	51
WAVERTREE LABOUR 'D'	8	5	0	3	44
MANWEB 'C'	7	3	2	2	41
AIGBURTH	7	4	0	3	36
C.A.D.W.A 'D'	7	3	2	2	35
BATH STREET 'E'	7	4	0	3	34
WAVERTREE LABOUR 'E'	7	3	0	4	29
BOOTLE Y.M.C.A 'A'	7	1	2	4	29
LINACRE	6	1	2	3	26
L'POOL Y.M.C.A 'C'	6	2	1	3	25
MAGHULL 'C'	6	0	1	5	20

These are the latest up to date tables from the cards sent in to date, so that you can get the Digest before the Christmas break.

So from all of The Management Committee, and The Digest,

**Best Wishes
for Christmas and a
Happy New Year**

And see you in January 02

