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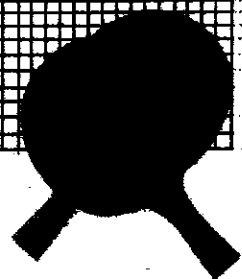
LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS

End of Season



SEASON 2004-2005

TABLE  
DIGEST  
TENNIS



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# EDITORIAL

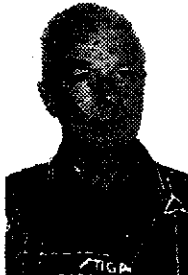
Congrats. to Waterloo for having won the 1<sup>st</sup> division title, they spent most of the 2003-04 season sandwiched between the two L/YMCA teams. This season, regularly playing their strongest team, have led more or less from start to finish, L/YMCA having to make do with 2<sup>nd</sup>. spot. As the L/YMCA 'B' have now won the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Div., Club L/YMCA will now have 3 teams in the 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Mancom insisted that 2 matches were played at the end of last season, even though they were outside the normal end of season, as both had bearings on relegation issues. Bootle Job Centre needed a 10 - 0 win against Police to stay up, (or W/O) but could only manage a 7 - 3 win, the other match, in Div. 2, Police 'A' needed 4 sets from the game against 2<sup>nd</sup> from top Maghull, after a much strengthened Police 'A' team went 4-1 up, Maghull *conceded* the others, so sending Marconi 'A' down. The issue of Police 'B' in the top half and Police 'A' fighting off relegation brings to mind Tony Harris's 'letter to the Editor' of last season, regards the unfairness of some Club ranking, where the 'B' team can help out the 'A' team when the going gets tough, I still maintain my comments about young players though. I believe Tony has departed Liverpool for more of the "Good Life" so will miss the flak! maybe new Police Club secretary Tom Purcell, will get it, good luck Tom.

Fixture secretary Trevor Owens has excelled again with his up to date league tables, (updated every week on the L&DTTL web site via web master John Langton), Trevor also sent in the player averages for the first half and, the end of season. As surfing the internet is more accessible now, I'm sure most clubs have some players who are 'internet savvy' so can keep up to date and print out info for other members.

I received a "letter to the Editor" (page 22) on 19/4/05 from ETTA chairman, Alex Murdoch, commenting on Ken's many "questioning" references to ETTA policy via his "nets and edges" pages in the Digest, Alex is offering to take part in a Q.& A. session in Liverpool to discuss any 'queries' if so desired. Since that letter Ken has received the award of Vice President of the ETTA at the recent ETTA AGM 2/7/05 (photo page 7). I'm sure the two events aren't related! as we know, Ken does a tremendous amount of work for T.T. in general, and deserves the recognition.

There weren't any requests for Rule Amendments at the AGM, which



can only mean everyone is happy with the rules as they stand!!

The Bath Street Club have donated a new Cup In Memory of their founder member Alex Gould, to be known as The Senior Singles Trophy, and be contested at the annual Liverpool Closed Tournament for O/55's, the first name on is Ken Jackson of Bath St. winner of this season's O/55's competition, very appropriate.

Rules concerning the 'Free Arm' and 'Disabled service law have been included on page 5, please make a point of reading these rule changes.

The City of Liverpool Butterfly Grand Prix open tournament is due to take place shortly at the Tennis Centre, too late for this Digest but next Digest will have a full report.

Just before this Digest was being finalised for the printers, I was made aware of the passing away of Jack Lambert, known mainly as the Secretary of the English Electric Club from 1948 to the club's closure in 1994. I remember Jack from my "grass roots Mr. nobody days" whenever we played at the East Lincs. Road club, Jack was usually there to see that everything was ok. But it was his commitment as Editor of the Table Tennis Digest that I must comment on, he Edited for 24 years with the help of his late wife Minna, who typed every page, (no desktop publishing in those days). A short obituary has been included on page 17, a more detailed memory will be included in the next Digest.

The main change for next season is the loss of the 5 Division format to be replaced with 4 divisions of 14 teams, on the opposite page, League Secretary Mike Power explains the problems the ManCom had and the reasons for the change. The change may be welcomed by most clubs, as it only involves promotion, but inevitably increases the length of the season by 4 weeks, which may present the problem. Mike concludes with a "what if" question which certainly needs a lot of discussion before the event happens.

On page 17, I ask the question on what kind of a Digest do you want, but whatever your thoughts are, more input by you to the Editor would make the Digest more interesting to you, the readers.

So, enjoy the new match packed season.

## EDITOR

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Whilst most of you have been enjoying a relaxing summer break, your committee has been extremely busy preparing for next season. At the Annual General Meeting held in May 2005 one issue was raised as a major concern, that being the state of the 5<sup>th</sup> division. This division started last season with just 8 teams so the Management Committee took the decision to make all teams play each other 3 times thus providing them with a full calendar. An extra page was squeezed into the Handbook in order to accommodate the extra fixtures. Trevor Owens performed miraculously in order to arrange the extra fixtures and his efforts in this respect should not go unnoticed. Unfortunately during the course of the season two teams withdrew and another team expunged and the division finished with only 5 teams. Not a very satisfactory conclusion and extremely hard, *or should I say unfair*, on those players expected to play under these circumstances. I raised the subject at the AGM and quite a lengthy discussion ensued during which many comments were made. Some members made it clear they would not be prepared to take part in the 5<sup>th</sup> division this coming season if the same format was adopted. So what do we do? It was strongly suggested from the floor that the MC look at the possibility of running just 4 divisions of either 13 or 14 teams. This would of course be dependent upon how many teams entered and would also extend the season by 4 weeks. The floor was asked for their opinion by way of a show of hands and they all went up in favour of the suggestion.



Then what happened? Wouldn't you know it, 57 teams entered! For anyone who hasn't got a maths degree, (or like me, a wife who can work it out), this was one too many to form 4 divisions of 14 teams, so we made the only decision possible and that was to run 4 divisions of 12 teams plus a 5<sup>th</sup> division of 9. Again Trevor looked at the possibility of each team playing each other 3 times. Following many telephone conversations with club secretaries it soon became clear that some clubs may (and probably would) withdraw their team, or teams, from the 5<sup>th</sup> division at the Handbook Meeting, if not before. This was an impossible position.

Had we proceeded with 5 divisions and prepared the Handbook accordingly, with 9 teams in division 5 and then had a team, or teams, withdraw from the 5<sup>th</sup> at the Handbook meeting it would have been disastrous. A cascade effect would have taken place as more and more teams withdrew and the division destroyed. We would have then been left with the only decision available and that would be to reformat the divisions and

come up with 4 divisions of 14 teams, with the exclusion of the first team that had withdrawn. (I hope you are all following this). What would this mean? It would mean that the 'key fixtures' printed in the handbook for all of the divisions would be useless. New ones would have to be prepared, printed and issued to all members within a week. As I said, impossible!

Not only that, but the revised 'key fixtures' would be issued as a handout and would not form part of the 'already printed' handbook thus making the handbook redundant. The advertisers in that book, of which I am one, would not be happy with this scenario and could not be expected to pay for their page.

So what happened next? Basically one club put pen to paper and advised me they would not be prepared to place a team in the 5<sup>th</sup> division given the fact the division did not have a full compliment and they would play each other 3 times. They did however wish their team to form part of a larger 4<sup>th</sup> division. At that point however there were 5 divisions and as far as the MC were concerned their team had effectively been withdrawn. This left us with 56 teams. The divisions were re-formatted into 4 division of 14. Now the team that withdrew may feel a bit aggrieved about this but there was no other decision the MC could take.

It was also the MC's decision that each team that had been relegated the previous season would be selected to fill the vacancies that occurred due to the increase in size of each division this coming season. It has the effect therefore that no team has been relegated.

Due to the increase in teams per division the season has been extended by 4 weeks. The season will commence on 5<sup>th</sup> September and conclude week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> April 2006 with the cup finals being held at the beginning of May.

It is possible that we have stored up a problem for the future. What happens in a future season when we receive an entry of 60 teams? We may want to revert back to 5 divisions of 12 teams. The only way this can be done is to either relegate more than 2 teams or not to promote teams as per the rules. When and if that time comes, the MC must be allowed to format the divisions in the interest of the sport and not in the interest of any individual or club. One step forward will inevitably see all divisions becoming 3-a-side.

Anyway I hope you all enjoy your extra games this season and don't forget, although I personally agree with the decision to increase the size of the divisions to 14, the recommendation came from you, the clubs. We have only followed your wishes.

Mike Power.

Five Liverpool representative teams rounded off the season with mixed fortunes, in the last week of competition, three emerging as champions, while the other two, had to settle for runners-up medals.

The men regained the Open Premier division title, their ninth success in the past ten years. Kevin Dolder, Keith Williams and John Rankin, returned a 100% record for the loss of just three sets, each suffering one reversal.

Also finishing as champions was the A team in division 2. Again, we had a number of different players forming the team over the three weekends, with Dave Evans, Miguel Bellec, Alice Howard, Keith Bird and Omid Khaiyat, doing the business

With Keith Williams and Chris Ford unavailable for the Norman Cook Memorial Trophy final, John Rankin was joined by Omid Khaiyat and Keith Bird for the round robin group matches at the Hilton Centre in Horwich. A 5-3 victory over an Oldham trio who enjoyed a healthy handicap start, earned a final meeting with Halton, in a repeat of last season's final. Holders Liverpool, crushed the 2003 winners 5-0, to lift the trophy for a record eleventh time since their first in 1989

The ladies' team faced Manchester in the final of the Mabel Neary cup, but with four registered players' unavailable, Cherith and Sylvia Graham were joined by Maghull's Denise Chorley, (nee Cox) making her Liverpool debut. The Mancunians made good use of their handicap in all but a couple of sets, to win 5-2, our second successive defeat having lost to Wirral in the inaugural final a year ago.

Keith, John and Chris Ford, won the National veteran title, but could only finish in fourth place in the same event in the Lancashire and Cheshire League. These matches are played either at home or away in mid



week and for the opening match at home to Halton, only Chris Ford was available and although we won 7-3. The following day (Saturday) we couldn't raise a team to travel for an afternoon match at Oldham, who claimed the match 10-0. This set the pattern for the remaining matches and not until the last match, were we able to raise the strongest team, when we

beat Preston 9-1, which left us in fourth place, having won the title for the past four years. The veterans' A team languished at the foot of the table, and with only one victory all season, and suffered relegation, with only Tameside below us, after having their playing record expunged

The ladies' have won the premier division title twelve times since 1987 but again had to settle for the runners-up spot for the third time in a row, Wirral completing a hat trick following an 8-2 victory over our girls

With the Lancashire and Cheshire League Premier Division title in the bag, John Rankin was joined by Keith Williams and Chris Ford, plus three other teams for the finals of the Men's veteran competition, the Alec Brook Memorial Trophy in the National Team Championships. We opened our account with a Rolls Royce performance at the car maker's sport centre in Derby, notching a 5-0 win over West Wiltshire. They included Eddie

Roofe and Wale's number one veteran Steve Hall, but two each from Keith and Chris, plus one from John over Hall, doing the trick.

We beat our next opponents Nottingham, in an earlier qualifying round, and again won 5-0 which set up a final encounter with Bromley, the Kent side boasted England number 3 Joey Kennedy, who kept them in the match, scoring wins over Keith and John in the opening four sets. We won this competition in 2003 and didn't look in danger on this occasion, forging a match winning lead when Chris, who lost to former Wavertree Labour player Chris Brewer earlier in the



Bath St. Ladies team, Brenda Sue and Clare, winners of the National Ladies Club Team Championship 2005

season, gained revenge on him while in addition beating Kennedy for the third time this season, to help seal a tremendous 5-2 victory and the trophy. On the same day, also in Derby, the Ladies' team took the silver medal after finishing as runners-up in the final of the veteran women's Pat Archdale cup. Sue Burgess, Sylvia Graham and Brenda Buoey, lost 5-2 in their opening match against North Herts', but then beat 17 times champions Wolverhampton 5-2, who in turn, overcame Herts' 5-3. This left Liverpool one short on sets countback, North Herts' taking the gold medal.

Although the League doesn't have a women's division, Bath Street entered Clare Peers, Sue

Lancashire & Cheshire Table Tennis League 2004/2005													
Final placings													
Mens Premier Division						Vets Premier Division							
Pos.	Team	P	W	D	L	Pts	Pos.	Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Liverpool	7	7	0	0	14	4	Liverpool	6	3	0	3	28
Ladies Division						Mens Division Two							
Pos.	Team	P	W	D	L	Pts	Pos.	Team	P	W	D	L	Pts
2	Liverpool	4	3	0	1	30	1	Liverpool "A"	11	9	2	0	20

Burgess and Brenda Buoey, in the Gainsford cup for National Ladies Club teams, and reached the four teams' round robin final. Their main rivals Darlington, included Cherith Graham, but Cherith was beaten by Clare and Sue, en-route to Bath St. winning the competition, the first time ever by a Liverpool club.

### RULE CHANGES APPLICABLE FOR SEASON 2005 -06

The controversial requirement in the service law to move the entire free arm from the area between the body and the net has now been done away with. Although to date the ITTF has not released the agreed revised wording the new requirement is only to move the hand from between the ball and the net. The free arm can be anywhere so long as it is not between the ball and the net with the ball being visible to the receiver from the moment it is projected into the air until the server strikes it. For those of you not familiar with exactly what is required of you when projecting the ball into the air, and there are quite a few, it means the ball must rise up from the palm of your hand a clear 16 cms. It does not mean your hand has to move up 16 cms with the ball remaining on your palm, it means a gap of at least 16 cms between the ball and the palm of your hand.

One important major change not yet formally included in the ETTA Laws of Table Tennis is the decision by the ITTF to incorporate the Disabled service law into the service law for able-bodied players. This change has been long overdue and although we have always made clear to league members the requirement to serve down the table when your opponent is a wheelchair player this has sometimes been ignored, but not always with intent. This season if competing against a wheelchair player in a singles match you are required to serve the ball straight down the table and to be a legal service it must have the momentum to roll off the end of the table if not obstructed, if not, it is a let. If its angle is such that it would leave the table by the sideline then it is also a let. If on touching your opponent's side it spins back towards the net it is again a let.

In a doubles match there are no service restrictions but if playing against a wheelchair pair either of the wheelchair players can strike the ball, they are not required to strike it alternately. If a pairing consists of a standing player and a wheelchair player the normal rules will apply.

I have tried to keep the wording basic to avoid any misunderstanding but if in doubt consult your wheelchair opponent, as they will not be interested in gaining any unfair advantage and will explain clearly to you what is required. The aim in any sport must always be to win fairly, not win at all cost.

Ken Armson

League Referee

We are off again but with one major change the 5<sup>th</sup> division has gone and we are back with divisions of 14 teams. Not ideal and this may not be too popular as clubs opted some time back for smaller divisions with a mid September start and an earlier finish. Now we will start 5<sup>th</sup> September and finish late April. Divisions will be weaker, particularly the 3<sup>rd</sup> as this will comprise the bottom 8 from last season plus the top 6 from D4.

We will start the season without Mr Reliable, Keith Williams, who has broken his right wrist and may be out for some time and his absence will affect his team's chance of retaining their title. Now recovered from his operation to replace both knee joints, Dave Roberts returns after a 2 year enforced absence. He entered our recent Grand Prix and is looking forward to a full return to form and beating players who were able to beat him only due to his inability to move.



I note with some surprise and interest that my comments on the ETTA intended to give members some idea of how the ETTA operate and who pulls some of the strings has attracted the attention of no less a person than the ETTA Chairman. However, I don't think my comments really upset him or that he wants to censor criticism, more a case of his wanting to give the other side of the story. At least he can rely on a fair hearing and that is more than one person I know of received.

The ETTA AGM was a blow for democracy and an even bigger blow for the right of leagues to have an equitable vote on ETTA affairs when a rule change designed to fulfil the promise made by the ETTA Chairman to put this right at the previous AGM was defeated. To his great credit after announcing the result the Chairman, Alex Murdoch, expressed his concern as to this rule change having been overturned by the combined vote of some National Councillors. Would you believe it was implied that the leagues that provide the funds were not considered knowledgeable enough or stable enough to be given greater voting strength than National councillors whose main role, apart from nit picking by some, is to help spend our money and enjoy a few freebies. The proposed rule change would have reduced the National Councillors power base at AGM's and given leagues greater voting strength. Expecting National Councillors to vote for such a change is probably akin to expecting MP's to vote themselves less money.

At the following National council meeting the Chairman again raised this issue and not unexpectedly certain National Councillors challenged him on this at the same time conveniently hiding behind alleged instructions from their County as to how they should vote, presumably not being bothered as to how leagues in their county felt about this. What did emerge from all this is that we have a Chairman not afraid to stand up and be counted and who believes leagues are important and have an entitlement to equal voting rights and that has to be an improvement on what we have had in the past. I should add that our National Councillor, Stan Clarke, does try to consult with leagues and cast his votes in accordance with their views and on this occasion voted in favour of the proposed rule change.

A new season always means changes and this season is no exception with Bootle JC moving their venue from Bootle YM to a school in Crosby (wonder what time they have to be out), Waterloo moving to Bootle YM (a move possibly involving a merger of clubs when the season is under way). A move up market for Liverpool YM who having been ejected from their home of many years last season moved into an industrial building allegedly rent free courtesy of Lawrence Kenwright. Having refurbished this to a reasonable standard they have had to move again but this time to more palatial quarters i.e. Liverpool Cricket club. Its members now have to bite a harder bullet in the form of increased venue costs having had to take out LCC membership and this does not come cheap.

This brings me to my old hobbyhorse, our own centre. This is still a long way from ever becoming a reality because no one shows any interest and as a result our league continues to decline. We have no young players joining us or waiting in the wings because members are not interested in this important area of recruitment. What young members we do have mainly come from outside our league. With so many sporting opportunities

open to them and with football holding such a strong sway in this city youngsters are not going to come looking for us so we need to go looking for them. The place to find them is in the schools, preferably the junior ones, as Youth clubs, once a source of recruitment, no longer see table tennis as a competitive sport but as a purely internal leisure activity.

I need point only to St Helens, no league but with a core of people willing to give time and effort to the running of a junior club. They now have a thriving ETTA Premier Junior Club that has achieved a Sport England Clubmark award and now have a Community coach funded by PESSCL. Still no league but we have a long way to go to catch them up.

Every season has its share of problems accompanied at times by a justifiable moan but rarely do clubs get round to putting pen to paper. This season has seen teams disqualified for breaching Cup Regulations, a team refusing to play sets against a player whose bat in their opinion was clearly in breach of the ETTA Laws of table tennis, a team confusing their fixture against Greenbank resulting in a walkover being claimed against them, an unusual first when a Cup final was postponed due to an issue involving player eligibility and a decimated D5 resulting in teams getting very few matches with long intervals between matches

Issues can sometimes be resolved by either a rule amendment or a request from a club to ensure a particular situation could not arise in the future. Obviously a rule amendment can fail to be carried and a request can be discussed and declined. The important factor being that the problem will have been aired and possible changes made but if clubs do not take action then they have only themselves to blame. Needless to say no club has raised any of these issues for discussion at our AGM or requested the Rules Committee to give consideration to rule changes

This season saw the welcome return to Police of Tom Purcell now a qualified international umpire but they have now lost Tony Harris who has re-located to Scotland to expand as a market gardener. The Police will miss him for his ability and more importantly for his reliability. Tom has also taken over from Steve Riley as Police secretary



Ken Armson MBE, receiving the award of Vice President of the ETTA from Chairman Alex Murdoch at the recent ETTA AGM

### **Club / League Welfare Officers**

In November 2004 the ETTA began the process of asking Clubs and /or Leagues to appoint welfare officers. These volunteers will be the local point of contact for any child protection issues, although they will have, other than in an emergency situation, a reporting role ensuring that the ETTA's Child Protection Officer is kept informed of any reported suspicions relating to child abuse. These officers will never be put in the position of deciding whether or not abuse is taking place. In addition they will provide a local network for the dissemination of information to our members. A requirement of the local post would be attendance at tournaments run by the L&DTTL.

The Club/League Welfare Officer is **NOT** expected to make judgements on whether child abuse has or has not taken place but to ensure that either the appropriate authorities or the ETTA's National Equity and Child Protection Officer are informed of any suspicions as soon as possible. The Club/League Welfare Officer will be expected to advise the ETTA's National Equity and Child Protection Officer of any such reports and any local action taken

This position has now been accepted by Tom Purcell, Secretary of Merseyside Police Table Tennis Club. Tom's contact details are in the new handbook.

# DIVISION 1 Paul Gittins

This report from Paul was intended for the last Digest in March, but arrived a little late, so rather than waste it, and not having another writer for Div. 1. I'm using it now. I'm sure he would have started by congratulating Waterloo (in his own way) for winning the title, and Liverpool YMCA for giving Waterloo a fight, and commiserations for the bottom teams, his report came in at 3650 words which I've had to trim down to around 2000 words (due to space), so carry on

Having thrown down the gauntlet to the rest of the division, the **Waterloo** team of Keith Williams, Wayne Percival, Alan Chase and Ted Birch are still on course in their quest for the Championship. **YM** have responded to the challenge and are still within striking distance of the leaders but



barring **Waterloo** suffering a disastrous result. I cannot see the trophy going anywhere other than Ted's mantelpiece. That's not to say that the Methodist team have not had to work for it, far from it. Their 6-4 defeat over **Bath St 'A'** saw Wayne losing in the fourth to Claire Peers and being taken to the fourth set by Ian McElwee and Eddie Crowley. The night however belonged to Claire who, incidentally, having just beaten Wayne shouted "I'm hot - Let's get on with it." Alan Chase nearly (but not quite) spilt his pint and poor Ted had to be resuscitated three times. Neither Ted or Alan recovered and were beaten, although happily, in three straight sets. Perhaps Claire could pass on some motivational tips to poor Delia Smith whose favourite recipe at the moment is 'Humble Canary Pie' which I'm told, like Norwich, goes down very well.

**Waterloo** found the going less stressful against **Bath St** 1st team with a solid 9-1 win. Brenda Buoeu saved the whitewash with a fine win over Alan 15/13 in the decider. Alan made amends with an equally good win over Kenny Jackson who must feel somewhat aggrieved having lost in the fifth, as did Fred Bainbridge, to Wayne Percival. The spoils were shared when **Waterloo** faced **Wavertree's** Alice Howard, Gary

Watson and Mick Tierney. The fifth set victory once again beckoned for Wayne when playing Alice and Gary who both then went on to beat Alan Chase. Mick Tierney's defeat at the hands of Alan did not deter him from notching a good win over Alice

I'm told that Keith's defeat at the hands of **Ford's** Kevin Dolder was a show piece. Kevin told me that Keith's backhand was absolutely awesome but was not enough to stop Kevin from taking the game in the fifth. The match went 7-3 in **Waterloo's** favour, the night being somewhat spoilt by **Fords** turning out with a player short. This situation unfortunately raised its head again when they faced a two man **Cadwa** team. Ten nil was always on the cards in that game and although **YM'A'** suffered the same scoreline, John Lau made a fight of it losing in the fifth to Keith whilst team mate Billy Cheung showed equal determination when losing out to Alan Chase in the final set.

After years of waiting to report on the matter, it's finally happened. No I'm not talking about Tony Whelan's great win over Kevin Dolder. I'm talking about a real marvellous event. Alan Chase actually had a cup of tea in a premises which housed four bars. Granted, Alan never stopped moaning, and believed that Article two (getting sloshed) of his Human Rights had been seriously infringed. This was all in response to our (**Police**) efforts as a team to provide decent refreshments and perhaps rekindle some old habits and values. A cup of tea and a chocolate biscuit takes the edge off a cold December night but unfortunately some teams are now in the habit of offering no refreshments.

**Fords** have boasted that they provide the best refreshments in the league. I wonder if other teams could take up that challenge! Returning to the match itself, the cup of tea had obviously not agreed with Alan who was unable to impact on their 6-4 win over the **Police** team. Keith won all his three but John Rankin played superbly to beat Wayne in straight sets.

The **YM** team of Omid Khaiyat, Keith Bird and Tony Whelan are keen to keep the title race interesting and are still within the shadow of the leaders. A 7-3 win over **Manwed** saw Keith Bird take a brace of wins against Les Molyneux, Paul Evans and John Henshaw. The on-form Les Molyneux had good wins over Omid and Tony, and then partnered Paul in yet another fine display of doubles against the **YM** pair

The talking point for this digest must be the defeat of **Ford's** Kevin Dolder to **YM's** Tony Whelan. This is Kevin's first divisional loss in five years which not only emphasizes Kevin's remarkable talent but equally puts into perspective Tony's achievement in bring this incredible run to an end. The first game went 11/3 in Kevin's favour and from that point alternative games were won by each player, taking the game to the final set which went 11/9 to Tony. I bet team mates Peter Lee and Ahmed Thabet brought the house down

**Fords** have really gone out to recuperate the pending loss of twenty points by signing on a host of new players. I can't recall a time when I've ever seen Kevin Dolder marked as the number two with Adam Bleakley taking up the number one spot against the unfortunate **Harold House**. Alex Bryce did however take Adam to the final set and Ray Jackson saved the whitewash with a good win over Terry Turner. I'm told that Malcom McEvoy has made a return



to the league for **Fords** after a long absence. Malcom's ability, sportsmanship and antics make him a divisional writers dream. I just hope that he never gets circumsised because Malcom wouldn't be the same if he wasn't a complete "XXXXX"

**Wavertrec** and the **Police** are fighting for that european fourth spot. A 9-1 thrashing of **BJC** did **Wav** no harm with the sole point going to Tom Bray's win over Alice. **Wav's** Mick Howard, Gary Watson and Mick Tierney proved too strong for **Bath St 'A's** Ian McElwee and Eddie Crowley but neither **Wav** player could impact of Claire Peers who was the sole contributor for her sides three points. Alice and Gary continued the good work with solid performances against Terry Turner and Tim Weardon in their 6-4 defeat at **Fords**.

Although Ray Jackson was man of the match in **Harold Houses** 7-3 win over **Wav** winning all three, it was Roy Smith who had his monies worth having gone to the fifth set during each game and only being successful against Steve Whalley who in turn also lost to Alice Howard. **Wav's** Gary Watson led the way in their 8-2 success over **Bath St**, winning all three in a match which saw Ian Campbell replace the unavailable Kenny Jackson. Ian had a good win over Roy Smith and Aaron Beech, a feat that neither Fred Bainbridge or Brenda Buoeuy could achieve

The **Police** team have steadily progressed up the table and thankfully away from the relegation woes. Some may say that our team were never relegation contenders but having previously sampled a relegation battle, it's very difficult to relax and not constantly check the Web Site for the results and weekly positions. Our 8-2 defeat of **YM'A'** eased are concerns with both John Rankin and Tom Page comfortably disposing of Peter Lee, Tony Whelan and Ahmed Thabet. Steve Gittins was less successful, having to be satisfied with a win over Ahmed

**Bath St** 1st team and **YM'A'** are virtually on level terms making the fight for the 3rd and 4th spots very interesting. A draw was I suppose the inevitable result when both teams met. Kenny Jackson was as reliable as ever as evidenced with his three wins over Peter Lee, Ahmed Thabet and Steve Kee. Peter and Ahmed then went on to both beat Fred and Ricky Brown.

Both teams braved the cold and put on a great night of table tennis when **Bath St** visited **BJC**. Kenny revenged a previous encounter when he defeated talented Cherith Graham and then took no prisoners against Tom Bray and previous team mate Dave Evans. Fred just lacked the edge when playing both Tom and Dave but his flat play was too much for young Cherith and the match went 6-4 in **Bath St's** favour

**YM'A'** would've been disappointed by their 7-3 defeat at the hands of relegation prospects **Harold House**. **YM** started well with Peter Lee and Ahmed both beating Ken Connor. Unfortunately Ray Jackson stepped in to save the day with a solid performance by winning all three albeit he was made to work for them. Three of the five games against Peter Lee went to deuce and Robin Ashleigh also produced a five setter. Alex Bryce would've been happy with his wins over Ahmed and Robin

Relegation tinkers **BJS** may just have saved their day with a fine 7-3 win over relegation rivals **Harold House**. Dave Evans must've played sharp to beat the consistent Ray Jackson and the left handed Steve Whalley but Dave just couldn't manage to compete with the loopy Ken Connor who proved too strong on the night. Cherith also struggled against Ken but made amends with a good win over Ray Jackson who then eased his wounds with a fine display against young Tom Bray.

**Harold House** fared no better when they faced **Bath St'A'**. Ian McElwee commented (yes - some people do write on the back of the score cards) that their 7-3 win was their best performance to date with

every player pulling their weight. Claire Peers beat Ken Connor and Ray Jackson but lost out to Alex Bryce whilst Eddie beat Ken and Alex but found Ray too consistent. Captain Ian McElwee had a good win over Ken and Alex but he too fell foul of Ray.

**Bath St's** best performance was soon a thing of the past when they faced the **Manweb** crew. Claire had an off night losing to Les and Neil Powell whilst Eddie managed to beat Paul Evans and Neil but failed to impact on Les Molyneux who went home with a brace of wins but more importantly a 6-4 win in their back pocket. Les would've been kicking himself as to why his good form failed to show up when they faced relegation rivals **Harold House**. Les uncharacteristically lost all three albeit 15/13 in the fifth to Ken Connor. John Henshaw was also unlucky losing once again in the fifth to Alex Bryce. The only point for **Manweb** on the night came from Les pairing up with Paul Evans to take the doubles against Ken and Alex.

Just before I depart I would like to make a personal request for any budding writer to take over the notes for at least the next season. I am really struggling at the moment with both family and work commitments to get the notes done, never mind get them done on time. I can't make my mind up if my wife Jeanette is planning to divorce me or training to be a weather girl. I answered the telephone the other day and a male voice immediately asked "is the coast clear?" On reflection it may be time to get the bin bags ready and pack the Batman suit

So in Delia Smith's words, "Let's be havin Ya." How a go at the notes. It's really good fun. My only advice to any prospective writer is to be prepared to accept that readers will no doubt misinterpret what you write, particularly if it's about them. The best example of this was a classical TV moment involving the queen of TV cooking Fanny Craddock.

Now this example is somewhat close to the bone but I'm trusting you to take it within the spirit that it meant and let's not forget that it actually happened on live TV. Her shows were watched by millions of views in the sixties and would always end with her husband Johnny closing the show with a final comment on the days' recipe. During this particular show Ms Craddock had displayed her skill at making ring doughnuts. Her husband Johnny looked straight into the camera and duly ended the show with his immortal line. " !!!"

Now if that gets past Roly, I'll cat Peter Kirby's bat.

'fraid it didn't Paul, I'll leave it to the readers!, but I believe that Dr Neubaur rubber tastes awful anyway.

Still my thanks to Paul who, after saying last season, that due to his work and family commitments he found it impossible to give the Digest his best and decided to 'give in', but continued doing the reports this season because we couldn't get another volunteer, Paul has now called it a day.

I'm sure his regular readers will acknowledge his own inimitable style and will say it's a hard style to follow, but I'm pleased to say 'we have a volunteer' who has said he will have a go, I won't name him yet to give him time to settle in, but I'm sure he will soon create his own style.

Editor

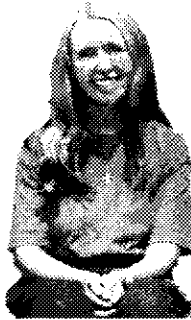
## DIVISION 2 Sylvia Graham

The season's finished and it really has been a two horse race for most of the time.

Next was a batch of four teams followed by a batch of three teams who fielded all veterans then a final batch of three, two of whom would be relegated.

Without a doubt the Liverpool YMCA 'B' were going to be the division champions and Maghull were always on course for runners-up. At the other end I always had Manweb 'B' and Marconi 'A' down for relegation although I must say that Police 'A' really did have me worried. It was a difficult season for Police 'A' and it was getting tougher each week though they were trying to hang in there ...but only just. They did come good in the end although five sets given to them by Maghull was lucky not to have had an effect on relegation. The big games for them were the straight fights with Manweb 'B' and Marconi 'A'.

Police 'B' were the surprise of the division and I think they could be the surprise promotion contenders for next season. The two youngsters in the side have shown they can hold their own already and they'll come out of the close season ready to im-



where!!!

When Police 'A' lost 6:4 to Cadwa 'A' man of the match was undoubtedly Graham Black - Mr. Consistency. He held his nerve at 9 all in the fourth game against Jon Dyson and then dominated the fifth game against Tony Harris which until then had been a very closely contended set. Mike Power had a convincing win over Teri-Anne and he continues to dazzle them all with that flash backhand (but if you look very closely he usually has his eyes shut!!!)

Fords drew with Marconi 'A' but were quite happy with the result as it maintained the gap in the relegation battle. The highlights of the match were apparently the lack of gluc (rare in the modern game!!) the abundance of blasphemies and self-criticism - all lovely stuff according to Graeme Reid. He really does want to mention

press and wanting wins under their belts. The thing about the youngsters is that they go for their shots and even in difficult situations they carry on doing so. A case of fools rush in where angels fear to tread but in the modern game you must try to win and not just try not to lose. I'm sure there's a moral in that some-

the Dave Holland/Peter Wass match where Peter won the first two games 6 and 8, lost the next two at love and deuce then finally pulled out all the stops to win 13:11 in the fifth.

Graeme Black at Cadwa has consistently won his three single sets all season and it's about time he moved up to the first division. That's been mentioned on more than one card and on more than one occasion so take note the Cadwa selection committee and give Mr Black a well-deserved place in the first (that is of course if he can bear to leave us). Graeme Reid said that he would now like to apologize for the lucky net he had in one of his games against Graeme as he thinks it would have been pointless otherwise. Bootle JC 'A' versus Cadwa 'A' was a match of two halves. Having lost Graeme Black to a calf injury the previous week Cadwa went into a five nil lead. JC kept their cool and fought back magnificently to gain draw when they clinched the doubles at 11:9 in the fifth. Great fight back and exciting stuff!!!

I'd also like to welcome back from the smoke our very own ...Tom Purcell. I'm told that he is much more dangerous now as he has developed a forehead. He's playing well and has become a far steadier player than when he left Liverpool for London. I'm sure we'll soon have him

back into his old erratic backhanded self if that's what the comments intimate he was before he left??? I don't think you were Tom!! The comments were on the Police derby match card so I'd change clubs if I were you...with friends like that ...who needs enemies!!!

Onto something that I think should concern all member of the league. The comments on the match cards from the Bath St 'B' / Bootle JC', match and the Police 'A' / Maghull match. The first comments are about a Bootle JC player, Julian Quirk, who apparently behaved in a very ungentlemanly manner at the match, spoil the evening and was an embarrassment to his team and club. I won't give any more details as I think it unfair to recount everything on the card without giving Julian the option of replying. The comments from the second match are claims that once Police went 4:1 up, Maghull conceded the remaining games, Mat Wilson didn't appear until 9.30 pm and then didn't wish to play and Police state that they didn't claim the games he conceded them

and then didn't sign the card. All in all Police say that it was not a very enjoyable evening and Maghull just did not want to be there. Gemma and Tony had good wins over Nick Miller.

When all is said and done we are out to have an evening's table tennis and whatever level you play at there is no need for bad conduct. Be competitive by all means, but aggressiveness towards an opponent is only another form of bullying and I for one think we should get rid of it from our sport.

And finally I have to tell you into a little secret. I must let you what really happened and surprised me at Bootle JC's final match of the season.

Turning up to play Marconi's first team we arrived a little early for the match and were surprised to find Trevor (our League Fixture Secretary!!) on his own in the room absolutely legless. I couldn't believe my eyes especially as he refused my help to get his legs back onto terra firma, although he quite happily accepted help from his own team. Once he found his legs and got them into place Trev was a demon leading his team to inflict Bootle JC's only thrashing of the season. Something definitely refreshed his parts that Heineken cannot reach!! but I cannot reveal what.

Oh, yes! I haven't forgotten the divisional awards for this season. Y'know the important ones ... here they are

**DIVISION 2 AWARDS FOR 2004-2005 SEASON**

- OUTSTANDING PLAYER** *Graeme Black*
- MOST SPORTING TEAM** *Liverpool YMCA 'B'*  
*(for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running)*
- MOST MISSED PLAYER** *Ian Grant*  
*(we still miss him don't we Eddie!!)*
- BEST CORRESPONDENT** *Graeme Reid / Jon Dyson*

**DIVISION 3 STEVE KEE**

Hello everyone, and how was your season? Did you get those good wins you were hoping for? You did! Well done, and never mind those losses when you'd just arrived after a hard day at work, in future you'll just have to take the game up full-time wont you (I'm sure your family will understand)? Just think how pleased your team mates will be!



I guess the season ran a pretty predictable course. The juggernauts of Bath St 'C' and Cadwa 'B' claimed those pole positions early on, and most of us just moved out of the way when the time came for us to be lapped. Well done to both teams for a deservedly successful promotion campaign, and congratulations to Cadwa who finished

champions. Given that Bath St were just six points behind Cadwa (who had 5 to play) and the former had two games in hand, I went and tipped Bath St to go on and take the top spot, but this just goes to show how bad a tipster I really am (you didn't back my tip for Liverpool to be 3 up at half-time against AC Milan as well did you? Aw...)

Yet, come the final week of the season, Cadwa held just a single point advantage. Bath St 'C' eagerly put the pressure on with an 8-2 home win over Manweb 'C', and waited with baited breath to see what their own 'D' team could do against Cadwa the following evening... In the corresponding fixture in the first half of the season Cadwa could only manage a

6-4 win. The same score line this time would have given the title to Bath St 'C', surely their kinsmen could do it for them! So what happened? Er, well, a bit of a cock-up on the kinsmen front I'm afraid, 10-0 to Cadwa, no match going to 5, and most finished in 3 straight! However, in their favour, Cadwa were at home, and the team they put out (Rourke/Lennon/Sladek/Graham) is definitely the strongest team in this division, and I guess they just weren't in the mood for taking any prisoners. So, respect to Cadwa 'B'!

Meanwhile Greenbank, close to the leaders for so long, looked like they had player availability problems towards the end and dropped their last three matches. Still, they had an excellent debut season in this division, and fully justified their inclusion here. The big question is

whether Michael Rogala is still stalling over that new contract?

In a similar way, the relegated teams (or are they? If the league is trimmed to four divisions would they get a reprieve?), namely Cadwa 'C' and Wav Lab 'B' placed their white flags early near the trapdoor to the 4th, and neither could summon up enough energy to find the cool shade of safety (what the hell am I on about?!).

Anyway, a lot of people have remarked at how the division seems to be getting stronger with every passing season. It certainly rings true to me, since the last time I was here a lot of the No.1&2 players seem to be found at 3&4 now, and the current No.1&2s generally play at what would have been a higher division standard. So, although some may lament the seemingly dwindling numbers who play nowadays it seems to be the consensus of opinion that the standards have risen. What do you think?

Some of the younger players have made their mark here, and this is surely a sign of progress. Turning up with a 'funny' bat perhaps used to be a good banker against a youngster, but this is no longer quite as straightforward. Both Jamie Hewitt (Bath St 'C') and Mark Ambrose (Maghull 'A') have shown this, and Tom Creevy and Ian Laird are also promising players.

Let's look at the nitty gritty of some matches in this last third of the season.

In Bootle Ym's 3-7 home defeat against Bath St 'C' there were still two notable wins, Richie Winckle edging Rob Peat 12-10 in the 5th and Roly Wright accounting for Ricky Brown 11-6 also in the 5th. By the way, Ricky reminded me that he took a game of Mr Rogala! How could I miss that? Yes, fair dos Ricky, taking a game off the England ranked No.9 is no mean feat, even if, as according to his winking team mates, he was blindfolded and holding the bat between his teeth at the time(!). Actually, I'm just peeved with Ricky cos he keeps

beating me. The man has stalked me in what seems like every division, chopping me down to size on each occasion.

And on the subject of bogeymen, my team mate Billy restored the club honour by doing the double over Ricky, whilst Mark Patterson has gone even further by remaining unbeaten in all his matches against his compatriots Bath St 'C', severely denting their title hopes! Paul Shaw (HH 'A') likewise accounting for Bath St's Jamie Hewitt twice.

In their return match between 'C' and HH 'A', when Ricky met Eddie (still more exciting than 'When Harry met Sally') the duel went to... wait for it... 3 straight to Ricky! Damn, just when we had all braced ourselves for the extended edition to be released on DVD.

Possibly the team performance of this period belongs to Greenbank, who defecated both the top sides in consecutive weeks. First it was Cadwa 'B' 6-4. Scott Robinson beating Yann Sladek 5,7,8 and losing 11-6 in the 5th against Colin Rourke after being 2 games to 1 ahead. Mark Palmer, likewise defeating Steve Graham 12-10 in the 4th and just losing out 6-11 in the 5th against Yann, Greenbank taking both the doubles. Next it was Bath St 'C's' turn, 7-3. Perhaps if Dave Stodder had been there it might have been different, at least (according to Ron Georgeson) they would have known who was the home side and call in the right order! again, Scott and Mark doing the damage in the singles, and taking both doubles. These fixtures were 2 from the 8 Michael Rogala appeared in, and although more appearances would have been nice and led to probable promotion, 8 in itself, is still a massive bonus considering his high level.

Another good team performance was Bath St 'D's' defeat of Bootle YM 7-3. Mark Patterson living life dangerously with two 5 setters, 11-9 in the 5th against John Higham (after being 2 down) and winning 14-12 against Richie Winckle. Peter Ross also chipped in with a brace against Roly and Danny both in the 4th set,

and Bill Clayton and Neil Pritchett both finding the x-factor by clinching their matches 11-7 in the 5th.

Maghull 'A' are already stocking up for a promotion push next season with the acquisition of Peter Holmes, and a little birdie (you don't mind me calling you that do you Alan?) tells me that they aren't finished in the transfer market yet. So that makes a squad of 42 players by my reckoning.

Let's look at some fine individual performances:

Dave Finn (Greenbank) bt Robin Barker (Manweb 'C') 11-4 in the 4th. Paul Banks (Wav Lab 'A') bt Rob Peat (Bath St 'C') 11-8 in 4th.

Mark Ambrose (Maghull 'A') bt Bootle YM's Ritchie Winckle and Danny Every 11-7 both in the 5th. Mark Patterson's (Bath St 'D') good form this season culminated in a fine win over Eddie Clein (HYH 'A') -7, 14,-3, 8, 9 and he combined with Peter Ross to bt Eddie/Rod in the doubles. Robin Barker (Manweb 'C') proved that it is still possible to chop and float in a sub-zero temperature by accounting for me, 3 straight at the YM.

Peter Roberts saved the whitewash in the Cadwa derby by beating Rob Davies 12-10 in the 4th. Yes, as John Ashley remarks, Cadwa's Yann Sladek is a joy to watch with his 'base-line play' (sure you weren't watching Wimbledon, John?) - sadly Yann is also returning to France permanently I hear.

Jim (aya!) Clewett (Liv YM) beat Dave Stodder (Bath St 'C') in 4. Tony Connor (Wav Lab 'B') beat George Lennon (Cadwa 'B') 12-10 in the 5th to save the whitewash, and he gets a special award for 'the best twiddled serve but with a guilty look on his face' - still doesn't stop you from returning it into the net though! Ian Lunt (Cadwa 'C') beat Danny Every (Bootle YM) in 3 to save the whitewash, a match which saw Cadwa's John Ashley, erm, 'fully appreciating' the vast amount of nets that went against him. I'm sure John felt a little better when he saved his teams whitewash by beating Dave

Foulis of Wav Lab 'A'. Colin Fyles (Wav Lab 'B') took his teams solitary point against Bath St 'C' by defeating Dave Stoddern.

Kevin Lewis (Maghull 'A') helped his team to an away draw against HH 'A' by claiming both his singles against Martin Roberts and Rod Mcpherson, in addition to combining with Peter Holmes to beat Eddie/Martin in the doubles, Rod/Tom taking the other doubles. In Manweb 'C's match at Bath St 'C', John Hardy defeating Ricky in 4, and

Rob Barker defeating Jamie Hewitt in 3 to earn both their teams points.

The "I'm sorry I'm a bit late" award goes to, and I know he won't mind me saying this, nice bloke that he is, my team mate Alvin Tso. Alvin has successfully retained his title by ensuring that he never leaves his house until the sun has fully set, and he wins a much deserved alarm clock set for match nights. Alvin enjoyed perhaps his best win of the season when he beat Bootle YM's John Higham in 3 straight, see what happens when you get there early, Alvin!

Isn't table tennis a fickle sport? What other sport provokes such brilliant remarks as "I'm not glued up properly" or "I've glued up too well" or "it's so hot that the ball just keeps falling off my bat" or "it's so cold that the ball just keeps falling off my bat" or "it's too dark/bright to see the ball" amongst many more... and these are just a few of those I have used this last season! Will tell you the rest next time!

Meanwhile, enjoy your rest and see you soon.

## DIVISION 4 STAN CLARKE

Congratulations to Bootle Y.M.C.A."A" divisional champions with 150 points, 14 points ahead Marconi "B" who finished as runners-up, though tied on 136 points with Bath St."E", rule 21A being applied to decide the final positions of



the two, this rule states that in the event of a tie on points the relative positions will be decided on the results of the matches between the two teams and Marconi had the advantage. There were a number of teams who won more matches than teams that finished above them in the division, for instance Bath St."E" won 17 matches, more than Bootle Y.M.C.A. or Marconi who both finished above them. Linacre won only 5 matches, second lowest success rate in the division ahead of only Harold House, who won only 2 matches, in fact Aigburth, who finished in bottom place won one more match than Linacre but finished five places below them. Maghull "B" won four more matches than Linacre and Wavertree Labour "E" won two more yet both teams finished below Linacre. It just goes to show how important it is for the lower order to pick up points on a regular basis, it is not sufficient for the top two to win their matches if the three and four don't contribute on a regular

basis. The two Aigburth teams finished in the bottom two places, the "A" team embarrassing pushing their first choice team into bottom place. It is unlikely that either team will be relegated as it seems unlikely that there will be a fifth division next season.

WEEK 15. This week produced, what I believe to be, the only walk-over of the season when Aigburth claimed the away match against Wavertree Labour "E" who got their dates mixed up, a replay date was offered but Aigburth were not prepared to agree to a replay for reasons best known to themselves. Bath St. "E" battered Aigburth "A" 8/2, but Ian Laird avoided the white-wash when he beat Karen Gibson and Graham Oates. Wavertree Labour "D" and "C" fought out a draw when Tom Creevy beat Tony Mitchell in the final set to level the match. Marconi "B" beat Maghull "C" 7/3, Bobby Bell and Frank Proffitt undefeated in singles and pairing up to win their doubles, with Phil Christie beating John McCann and Tony Mulally and pairing up with Steve McGanity to win their doubles against John and Tony. Maghull "A" played out a draw against Harold House, who from being 5/3 down won the last two sets to bring

the match level and Bootle Y.M.C.A. beat Linacre 8/2, both of Linacre's points coming via the bat of Harry Reeve, who beat Lon Dyson and Bert Rivers.

WEEK 16. Marconi continued on their merry way with an 8/2 drubbing of Harold House, John Hughes beating Ted Gilmour and Paul Morgan beating Russell Thornton the only successes for H.H. Maghull "C" lost by the same score against Bootle Y.M.C.A. but didn't help their cause by being a player short, Aigburth registered a good 7/3 win against Wavertree Labour "D", Graham Rolinson undefeated on the night and Labour "E" held Linacre to a draw, Harry Reeve the only undefeated player on the night. Aigburth "A" lost against Maghull "B" by the narrowest margin, with Paul Grugel undefeated in his three sets. Wavertree "C" lost 6/4 against Bath St. the damage done by Ted Cramsie and Keith Wright who were both undefeated on the night.

WEEK 17. Aigburth were a little unlucky against Bath St. four sets going to five games and Bath St. won them all, final score 7/3 to Bath St. Harry Reeve suffered a rare defeat when he lost to 11/7 in the fifth against Andy Bird as Wavertree "D" beat Linacre 7/3. In the battle between the top two Marconi beat Bootle Y.M.C.A. 6/4, Tony Mulally beating Bert Rivers and Peter Wil-

Williams then paired with Bobby Bell to beat Arthur Garnett and Peter Williams in the doubles. Harold House thought they had beaten Aigburth "A" 7/3 but they played Mike Poole out of order and conceded two sets and the match was drawn. Wavertree "E" and Maghull "C" fought out a draw, Kevin O'Hanlon and John Rowan undefeated for Wavertree. Maghull "B" lost 6/4 to Wavertree "C" conceding three sets when Kevin Lewis failed to appear.

WEEK 18. Don't worry, not far to go now, Aigburth "A" caught the playing short bug when Derek Traynor failed to show up against Marconi, not a good idea when you are playing on of the strongest teams in the division, however Lee Proffitt beat Russell Thornton and Ian Laird had an excellent win against Ted Gilmour. Maghull "C" suffered a 9/1 hammering at the hands of Wavertree "D", their only success coming in the second set when Phil Christie beat Andy Bird.

Linacre suffered a battering at the hands of neighbours Bath St., Harry Reeve being their only winning player in a 8/2 defeat. Aigburth had a rare win against Maghull "B", Graham Rollinson beating Dave McMahon and Bill Salter and Ray Jones beating John Gillibrand and Janette Hutchings, a notable win for Janette against Eric Wood. Wavertree "C" restored winning ways with a 7/3 defeat of Harold House, Ken Armonson and Stan Clarke undefeated on the night.

Bootle Y.M.C.A. beat Wavertree "E" 7/3, John Rowan the hero for Wavertree beating Len Dyson and Bert Rivers, and pairing with Kevin O'Hanlon to win a doubles against Bert Rivers and Mike Hughes.

WEEK 19. Wavertree "D" lost 7/3 to Bootle Y.M.C.A. their only successes coming from John Rowan playing as a reserve at number 4, Maghull beat Linacre 6/4, another rare defeat for Harry Reeve, this time at the hands of Dave McMahon, Bath St. thrashed Maghull "C" Phil Christie beating Ted Cramsie to

avoid the white-wash, Marconi responded by thrashing Wavertree "E" by the same score, John Rowan beating Paul Loftus the only success for the Sheil Road outfit.

Wavertree "C" had a nightmare night against Aigburth "A" as Derek Traynor beat Bill Stanley and Tom Creevy and Ian Laird beat Ken Armonson and Stephanie Howard in a 6/4 victory for Aigburth "A". Harold House had a rare win when they defeated Aigburth 7/3, Paul Morgan and Rob Midgeley doing the damage.

WEEK 20. Marconi beat Wavertree "D" 8/2, only Tony Mitchell and Steve Perry successful for Wavertree. Wavertree "C" beat Aigburth 7/3 one short for Aigburth when Carl Anderson did not appear, Ken Armonson undefeated on the night. Maghull "B" succumbed to the might of Bootle Y.M.C.A. 2/8 only Phil Christie winning a singles, that against Len Dyson. Bath St. kept up the pressure on the top two with a 6/4 win against Wavertree "E", largely due to winning the two doubles sets. Harold House fought out a draw with Maghull "C" five sets needing all five games to decide the winner and Aigburth "A" beat Linacre 6/4 with Lee Proffitt and Ian Laird unbeaten in their singles games.

WEEK 21. Nearly there, Linacre and Wavertree "C" fought out a draw, with Linacre winning the top five sets and Wavertree the bottom five including both doubles, game of the night had to be Ken Ainsworth against Stan Clarke, Stan fresh from two weeks at the European championships struggling to find his timing, Ken won the first 11/9, Stan the second and third 11/2, 11/9, lost the fourth 7/11 and was 2/9 down in the fifth before fighting back to win nine consecutive points to win 11/9. Wavertree "D" were put to the sword by Bath St. losing 8/2, only Andy Bird who beat Karen Gibson and Tony Mitchell, who beat Dave Cunningham proving an obstacle. Surprisingly top team Bootle Y.M.C.A. were held to a draw in their home match against Harold House, in fact they were 2/5 down at one stage but battled back and forced

the draw when Len Dyson beat John Hughes in the final set. Maghull "C" and Aigburth "A" also fought out a draw, Derek Traynor and Ian Laird winning four singles between them. Wavertree "E" lost 4/6 against Maghull "B", but Marconi kept up the pressure with a 8/2 victory against Aigburth, success for Graham Rollinson who beat John McCann in five games and Eric Wood who beat Bobby Bell.

And so we finally come to the final week of the season, Week 22. Bootle Y.M.C.A. already confirmed as champions, the second place spot up for grabs, a good win for Marconi would surely see them home but in the event they could only draw with Wavertree "C" for whom the enigmatic Stephanie Howard was in top form, she beat Russell Thornton and Bobby Bell in the singles then teamed up with Ken Armonson to beat Russell and Bobby in the doubles. Aigburth lost to their second string "A" team 3/7, Derek Traynor, Lee Proffitt and Ian Laird all defeated in their singles, the only success for the first team coming from Eric Wood and Ray Jones who both beat John Mitchell and combined to beat Derek and John in their doubles. Wavertree "E" were humiliated by their "D" team when their only win in a 9/1 battering came when Kevin O'Hanlon beat Gordon Langshaw. So to the final match of the season between Bootle Y.M.C.A. and Bath St. "E", Bath St. knew that a 7/3 victory would put them one point ahead of Marconi and into second place, all looked well for the Crosby team as they shot into a 6/0 lead as Ted Cramsie beat Arthur Garnett, Karen Gibson and Chris Foley beat Bert Rivers and Peter Williams in the doubles, Dave Cunningham beat Mike Hughes, Ted and Dave beat Arthur and Mike in the second doubles, Karen beat Peter Williams and Ted beat Bert, but then Arthur beat Chris Foley, Peter Williams beat Dave Cunningham and Bert Rivers beat Karen Gibson to take the match score to 6/3 in favour of Bath St. The final and crucial set was Mike

Hughes against Chris Foley, Chris won the first two games 11/1, 11/7 Mike fought back to take the third and fourth games 13/11, 11/4 and kept his bottle to run out the fifth game 11/6.

All in all a splendid close fought season very competitive but for the most part very friendly and

sporting, special congratulations to the youngsters in the division, Lee Proffitt, Ian Laird, Tony Mitchell and Tom Croevy who all showed great promise for the future, lets hope they are soon joined by more young players, we certainly need them.

Just a final thought for you all to contemplate, if you are a player

short in a match you are fined £2, if you score card is a little late arriving you are fined £5, is this the right way round? Surely it is a bigger crime to ruin an opponents evening by depriving them of a game, or probably two, than to cause a minor inconvenience to the fixture secretary by sending the card later than the period allowed.

## DIVISION 5 DOUG BAKER

I'll start with a quick review of the games in the last 3<sup>rd</sup> of last season.

### Bath St 'F' 10 Maghull 'E' 0.

No real challenge from Mag'E'. Match of night Allan Willis btg Alan Chan 12/10, 11/8, 18/16.

**Maghull 'E' 0 CADWA 'D' 10.** CADWA 2 good. Andy McCourt rearranged this and on the night though it "not such a good idea now". Only 3 of the sets resolved in 3 straight though. Jack Highton se-sawed in his singles against Denise Chorley, then they met again in the doubles and had another 5 gamer sec-saw.

**Bath St 'F' 7 CADWA 'D' 3.** Andy McNabb getting things off to a good start for CADWA being called on to play Norman Lindsay and being completely unstoppable. Then the wheels came off the CADWA challenge as matches went the way of the home team, and it wasn't until Andy came back on in the 7<sup>th</sup> match against Dave Cunningham that CADWA won their next point. George Crowley again played magnificently showing why he is the top ranked no. 4 in this division on the averages. Alan was tenacious in his match with Jack but succumbed to temptation against the tantalising Mr O'Sullivan

**Bath St 'G' 8 Maghull 'E' 2.** Mag'E' did themselves no favours only having 3 who played. Big Ron won his two, but had to work for it,



teamed up with Keith Whittaker to win the only doubles. Interesting call this one, as it looks like BS'F' put Dave Batty & Dougie Marriott on to give them at least 2 matches.

### Maghull 'E' 6 Maghull 'D' 4

The battle of the Magull's was a much more hotly contested affair, and a slight overturn in club order as 'E' beat 'D'. Only 3 set were over in the minimum no of games. Maghull 'D' got each of their 4 points in the 5<sup>th</sup>. Jimmy Ambrose won his two. Firstly against Alan Chan he won the 3<sup>rd</sup> game from deuce, lost the 4<sup>th</sup> from deuce and won the decider 11/9. After a one game rest he was put on against Keith Whittaker and came from 2 down to square the match when Keith had opportunities to win in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> games. Jimmy teamed up with Ronnie Cockroft to win another cardiac arrest inducing encounter against Alan and son Ian, 11/9 in the 5<sup>th</sup>. Ian had had a good night up to then, winning both singles, including coming back from losing the first game to Denise Chorley. Denise and John struggled in their singles but put things right in their doubles, again overturning a 2-1 score-line by rallying to win the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>. Captain Andy McCourt losing out

coming from 2 in this instance, but enjoying success games down v Alan Smotherst. Alan singles encounters.

wasn't having a good night losing Undeclared success for Ian Little- not only to Ron 9/11 in the 5<sup>th</sup>, but also in the doubles the same manner to the closest match on the night with He had better fortune when he game 13-11, then the 2<sup>nd</sup> before pick- ing up momentum and winning 3 in a row.

### Magull 'D' 0 CADWA 'D' 10.

CADWA without their Numero Uno, had big Don Davies in at 2. No matches going to 5, but 7 completed in the 4<sup>th</sup> set show this was closer than the bottom line score line. Don was able to shake off his red back cobwebs in his 2 singles. John & Jack seemed to be taunting their op-ponents by letting them win a game before striking for home to win convincingly in the 4<sup>th</sup>. John Gillibrand came very close against John and Don but was unable to convert close games into games won.

### Greenbank 'A' 0 Bath St 'F' 10 - Walkover

GB'A' failed to show up for the "additional fixture" with BS'F' at the end of March. This despite a re-minder for Ron at their Cup final encounter a fortnight earlier. The club secretary was not aware of the match, and in fairness it's down to the team captain to rally the troops. Rules being rules, this was the final nail which burst their stay in the division 5; booted out in week 21. But at least they survived long enough to get runners up in the cup

**CADWA 'D' 8 Bath St 'G' 2,**  
15<sup>th</sup> April. The last possible date to play a match! The 2 points for BS'G' coming in the first 2 games. Jack Highton losing to an "up4it" Richard Woodley. Andy McNabb started well when called on to play Dave Batty, taking a 2-nil lead from deuce in the 2<sup>nd</sup>. He had a chance to win in the 3<sup>rd</sup> missing out 9-11. Dave then took charge and won the next two. Fate then turned back in CADWAs favour as I won the battle of the Dougs; Baker v Marriott, in 4, with the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 games played from deuce. John then beat Ron run to square the match. I was called on to play Dave and just managed to win in straight sets. After the break Jack restored personal pride against Dougie. The following doubles were both close affairs, each finishing 11-9 in the 5<sup>th</sup>. Andy stopped his slide after a bad first game v Ron, to win the next 3. Richard played bookends;- first and last singles. He frustrated John and the set could have gone either way as Richard could have won in the 4th, but John clinched it in the deciding

The match twist BS'F and CADWA'D' on the 24<sup>th</sup> February decided the only significant issue in this division;- who would be Champions and who would be runners-up. Thus on the 24<sup>th</sup> February the winners and runners up were known, and CADWA's remaining games over the following 5 weeks were just for enjoyment. Bath St 'F' were consistency personified and each had the right frame of mind to avoid slip ups becoming on going problems. I hope Dave Cunningham, Norman Whiteside, Alan Willis and George Crowley enjoy their well-deserved medals. They all remarkably averaged over 75% appearances and 75% singles wins and were well ahead of CADWA in the doubles stakes. CADWA 'D' as the averages also show had a praise-worthy season and well earned their Division 5 runners-up medals. But didn't quite have the pedal to the metal for the main medal (huh?).

It was pretty much a two horse race as can be seen by the fact these sides had more than double the points of the team in 3<sup>rd</sup>. It could have worked out as a very exciting Stamp Cup final between the two teams, but both were booted out due to infringements to the letter of the rules but not the spirit (as reported previously). Greenbank 'A' and Bath St 'G' became the beneficiaries, and Ron's boys were happy to be the ones to claim the cup for their club. Ron Georgeson's 'G' team were always comfortable in 3<sup>rd</sup>, so the cup was an unexpected bonus for them. Maghull favour the sociable aspect of the game, and hence no surprise that their two teams were only separated by two points, nor that the higher ranked team were behind the lower. If their last encounter had finished 5-5 instead of 6-4 they would have finished on the same number of points! Which I think only right, but Andy McCourt would no doubt differ with me on that one! Greenbank failed to finish the season, and pushed it as far as they could. I don't wish to stir the waters, so best just to say that with a bit more organisational effort and focus on the second team, they surely should be easily able to complete a full season. Certainly the taste of silverware from being Cup runners-up should be all the inducement they need. The Committee will (did) meet on the 28<sup>th</sup> June and may decide that the 5<sup>th</sup> division should be collapsed as allowed for by the AGM. It would be a shame to lose it as it is a more sociable division, which can also be the breeding ground for fresh talent without all the pressures of the higher divisions. However all that is certain is that this decimation of a division cannot be allowed to happen again. And before anyone thinks that expanding the 4 higher divisions to 13 teams is the panacea, I would point out that what happened here was due to teams dropping out. This could have worked as an 8 teams division with 3 matches per, but it never got the chance. No system can accommodate 3 teams dropping out of a division, especially 2 early on. It's easier and more fa-

vourable for a club in trouble to drop their lowest team than any other.

On an individual note, congratulations to John O'Sullivan on topping the averages. Dropping only 2 games all season (John'll dispute that and demand a recount), and more remarkably appearing in every one of CADWA 'D's matches. Joint runners-up to John were Andy McNabb and Alan Willis with identical records of 20 singles games, 17 victories, giving a very commendable 85% performance.

(If you scrutinise the averages tables you'll see that some people appearing on the higher divisions "less than 50% boards" have actually played more games than John! The explanation being that they have played 3 games in one night to John's 2. So you have the situation where someone playing less than 50% of the matches in division 1/2 plays more singles than someone who plays 100% of the matches in the 5<sup>th</sup> - bizarre!)

On a personal note, my only wish for next season is that Don Davies will not harp on about the fact that when he played for CADWA against BS'F' he won his 2 singles and the team had a glorious 8:2 win. Yet when he was unavailable for the next 2 matches (and was replaced by me) the team lost! Fat chance {{:-0 I hope the fact that this achievement is in print, is credit and commendation enough :-)

So there you have it nearly every match in the 5<sup>th</sup> division for season 2004 to 2005 reported upon. All salient points desalinated. I'll be moving on now. I won't be around to report on Division 5 next season. Mind you, it doesn't look like Division 5 will be around to be reported on next season either.

God bless us and save us, every one. Roll on the new season and may it bring fixtures galore.

Doug



## Jack Lambert



Sadly, one of our most popular personalities, Jack Lambert, passed away on 7th August at the age of 88. As secretary to English Electric Jack was a central figure in our league and led his club to many successes. The closure of English Electric as a company and the loss of his beloved club affected Jack and although he never lost interest and kept in touch the spark had gone. His was one of the golden periods of table tennis in Liverpool and Jack was Mr English Electric and built the club into a strong and powerful force backed up by members willing to do more for the club than just play, and players willing to give their all for the club. It is not possible to assess just what the loss of English Electric and the knock on loss of Jack as a central figure meant to our league but the league was never going to be the same again. Jack was a great credit to the league, his club and to table tennis and earned the respect of everyone who came into contact with him. For the last few years we enjoyed the benefit of his experience as a member of our Appeals Board and he served on several appeals.



Our thoughts go out to Jack's family at their sad loss

Ken Armson MBE.

## Digest Quantity / Quality

Recently it has been suggested that the Digest be reduced in size to save costs. As no one has approached me officially since to enlighten me on the problem, I feel able to use the Digest itself to obtain the feelings of the members of the League.

**Question - "Are you happy with the Digest now, or has it got "overblown at 24 A5 pages?"**

Even with the knowledge that we have a sponsor who has again said he will continue to cover next season's 3 issues, and has paid in advance, (ring fenced from any other costs of the league), in this context, I am unable to see the logic in this approach to reduce costs, but if the sponsor pulled out, or wished to reduce the size, so reducing the cost, the Digest would need to be looked at.

Maybe cost is a 'red herring' and 'style' is the problem, but then I'm so inexperienced at publishing that I don't have a 'style', I think I put the Digest together more as a player than an Editor taking up many, many hours of my time. Since I started doing the Digest ( my first attempt ever at a newsletter, let alone

a magazine ) I have thought to give the readers / players a little more coverage of table tennis in general, with bits from the Internet, The ETTA web site, the TTNews magazine, and any other TT-related items I come across, and photo's, trouble with photo's is that they take up space, but can be left out very easily, and sometimes my thoughts as an average player.

Having established divisional reporters who were prepared to spend a bit more time reporting on their divisions ( avg. 1500 to 2000 words, some over 3000 had to be trimmed a bit), I felt it a bit unfair to trim down too much to keep the Digest small for cost sake, as I'm sure, the players want to read about the players in their own league. Maybe the Digest requires a more professional approach which I can't supply.

So from my position, it is so easy to reduce: (our type of publication would need to reduce by 4 pages at a time), and would make life much easier for me.

I will base next season's Digests on your reaction to this question, indifference will allow me to reduce.

Editor

### Division 1. The READMAN CUP

For a change, this seasons Finalists weren't in the top two league positions, both teams fielding more or less their regular squad. FORDS were Kevin Dolder, Terry Turner and Tim Wearden (Captain) M/SIDE POLICE were John Rankin, Paul Gittins (Captain) and Steve Gittins. Fords won the toss and opted for the away team. After 6 sets it was 3 - 3 and FORDS called the make of break call, Kevin v John, John not being able to settle down losing 3-1 to Kevin's more attacking game. Then Police called Steve to play Tim, Steve with a heavily strapped ankle due to being told by his GP that he must have played all season with a broken bone in his foot, still making Tim work hard, but in the end, losing 3-2, so the title to FORDS by 5 - 3



### Division 2. The RUMJAHN CUP

M/SIDE POLICE 'B' were Gavin Lloyd, Tony Harris (Captain) and Brian Burrows. MARCONI were Bob Edwards, Trevor Owens (Captain) and Steve Rowe. Marconi won the toss and opted for away team, sending Steve on to play Gavin, Gavin won in 4, Trevor pulling next back against Tony, but the Police went into a 4-1 lead. Turn around was Bob beating Gavin in 5, Then Trevor beat Tony leaving Brian to play his last two, Trevor winning comfortably in 3, and Steve having to fight a bit harder to win in 4, so a tremendous turnaround, Marconi winning 5 - 4.



### Division 3. The HYDE CUP

This Final had the top 2 teams in the division, CADWA 'B': Colin Rourke, George Lennon Steve Graham and Rob Davies (Captain), Bath St. 'C' -: Ricky Brown, Rob Peat, Jamie Hewitt and Dave Stodderm (Captain) CADWA won the toss and went 'away' putting George on against young Jamie who couldn't settle so soon into the match, George winning in 3, after that it was level pegging to 3-3, the two one's came to the table next, what turned out to be the decider, Colin winning in 3, then Steve beat Dave to clinch it 5 - 3



## Division 4. L.E.FORREST CUP

WAV.LABOUR 'C' -: Tom Creevy, Ken Armon (Captain), Stan Clarke and Stephanie Howard

MARCONI 'B' John McCann (Captain) Ted Gilmour, Tony Mullaly and Russel Thornton,

Marconi played away and went into a 2 - 0 lead, but Wav. pulled back to 2 - 2, then took the lead when Steph beat Russel in 3, then Ken called his trump card, him and Stan in the doubles, but it didn't work, going down in 4, but they took the lead again when Stan beat Ted, the two ones next, John beating Tom in 4 to level again, so the last set, Ken v Tony, a 5 gamer, Ken winning the third 18 - 16, must have took its toll, Tony winning the next 2 games, to clinch the match 5 - 4



## Division 5. W.STAMP CUP

Out of necessity played at Greenbank Academy with the agreement of Bath St. 'G'.

The two teams were.

### Greenbank 'A'

Clair Harris (Captain), Lynne Riding, Anthony McMullen, Mark Mogan.

### Bath Street 'G'

Ron Georgeson (Captain), Dave Batty, Richard Woodley, Dougie Marriott.

This turned out to be a bit one sided, only one set going to 4 games, maybe Greenbank weren't in the right mind set, or maybe a few home supporters would have helped, congratulations for Bath St. winning 5 - 0, and to Greenbank for putting on one of their excellent 'spreads'



## The FRANK MURPHY MEMORIAL TROPHY

Waterloo -: Keith Williams, Alan Chase (Captain) and Mike Mahoney

Bath St. 1 -: Eddie Crowley (Captain), Ricky Brown and Les Gee

Bath St. started with a 91 point advantage, Eddie started the match off by increasing that advantage, beating Alan 42-39, but that was it, Waterloo winning every game after that, the last set Waterloo are in front by 26, Eddie taking 35 points from Keith, with the match finishing Waterloo - 337 to Bath St.1-304



## Closed Championships 2004 - 05 Ken Armson MBE

An enforced late change pushed our championships back to 8 May with concern as to the level of entries but this proved unfounded, as entries at 60 were higher than last season.

This year with 16 entries the O55 event reverted to groups as this is becoming a popular event and I always try to give players as many matches in any event as is possible to encourage participation.

Entries for the Divisional Singles remained fairly static with D2 - 12, D3 - 15 and D4/5 11. The VS was again well supported with 31 entries and a very strong event and one worthy of 1<sup>st</sup> round group status if time could be found for this. The doubles attracted 24 pairings and was again run in groups to ensure every pairing had a minimum of two matches.

Many league closed championships have fell by the wayside in recent years as a result of members deserting their own event to support outside tournaments and if members don't want ours to become a victim then we need support by way of increased entries. We are fortunate in having regular sponsorship from Fawley Construction and this season we gave cash and/or sports vouchers in place of prizes in kind with an overall prize fund in excess of £300 and now need to assess if this change was welcomed not only by those who achieved success but also by all competitors.

The aim of the league has always been and will continue to be, to provide an event our members will support and enjoy and we continue to strive to achieve this by ensuring acceptable rewards for those who are successful and plenty of match play for those who aren't. Only a few competitors can be successful and for this reason we try to ensure all competitors enjoy ample match play, as without the support of unsuccessful competitors we would not have an event. Prizes in kind have always presented problems and it will be interesting to find out how the change in prizes has been received.

It starts with decisions by the Management committee, the production of the entry form and its distribution and then the physical input involving moving the equipment to the Tennis centre and setting up for the event. This has to be followed on the Sunday evening by dismantling of the equipment and moving it back into storage and preparing for Finals Night. The same small band of helpers with the addition of a few additional volunteers always carries out this work and this season was no exception.

On the Saturday the group consisted of Arthur Garnett, Roly Wright, Grahame Reid, Paul Banks, Rob Davies, Dave Oakes. In addition Graham Rollinson and Tom Creevy assisted at the Tennis Centre. Sunday evening we had Dave, Arthur, Roly, John Higham, Don



Davies and Mike Power. Not really enough for the work involved and we need more help from members as many hands make for light work and none of us are getting any younger.

Assistance on the day of the tournament is also vital and being unable to play due to a shoulder injury John Langton volunteered to assist on the Control table and although not having done this previously he did an excellent job as my assistant and hopefully enjoyed his role and will want to work on the table again. We are extremely fortunate in having available a member, George Smith,

who is not only happy to keep the wall charts up to date but who also does an excellent job and as always he did not need asking and phoned to confirm his availability. George fills this important and demanding post for our Grand Prix and our Junior 4 star and ensures our wall charts are always up to date. Arthur Garnett is responsible for all aspects of organisation and Dave Oakes not for the first time acted as our driver and loader. Everyone has got to know Faith and her input is massive and invaluable and again she has a big input into our Grand Prix and Junior 4 Star. One of our best finds has been Roly Wright, who since joining the Management committee has revealed his talents in desktop publishing and we enjoy one of the fruits of his expertise by way of a quality Finals Night programme. There must be other 'Roly Wrights' out there who just need a gentle push to get them involved, so if you are one why not give it a try and like Roly you won't regret having taken the plunge. We need new blood so that old has-beens long past their sell by date such as myself can sink back into obscurity.

As a rule we try to avoid mentioning names in case someone is accidentally omitted but I feel the input of these members should be pointed out for without their invaluable and unstinting input we would not be able to hold our Closed championships. There are no medals for them and very little in the way of thanks their reward coming from having done something for the league and its members. The best rewards you can give are by recognising how much goes into our Closed and playing your part by entering and so help to make it all worthwhile. There will be times when because of a clash with another event you will have to make a decision on where your loyalty lies and that decision should always be to support your own league. Other events will be able to continue without you, your League Closed Championships cannot. We try to run our Closed in as professional a manner as is possible and having seen other closed events I can say our ranks with the best. I doubt there is another Closed within the ETTA with a prize fund to equal ours this season.

We do the same on Finals Night with a professional approach followed by an excellent buffet. Our Sponsors always attend to show their support in a positive way and we are able to call on a squad of qualified umpires. All this is of no avail if we do not have the support of members by way of an entry so if you do not normally enter why not give it a try next season, you just might find it to be enjoyable and rewarding. The best way to maximise your enjoyment is to enter every event open to you.

Club roll call of players who took part  
Aigburth-3, Bath St-7, Bootle JC-1,  
Bootle YM-4, Cadwa-9, Fords-3,  
Greenbank-0, H. House-2, Linacre-1,  
Liv YM-11, Manweb-4, Marconi-2,  
Maghull-1, Police-2, Waterloo-3,  
Wav Lab-7

The four Semi Finalists of the Men's Singles at The Finals night of The Closed Championships after receiving their cheques from League President, Bill Fawley,

winner, Kevin Dolder, reclaimed the trophy he won 3 seasons ago.



Keith Bird, Omid Khaiyat, Kevin Dolder & Keith Williams

*I was a bit reluctant to leave Ken's "pat on my back" in his message, but I thought his message for more 'helpers' needs stressing again, I just happened to be the one that got the 'finger' pointed at.* Editor

## Results of the 2004-05 Closed Championships -- Sunday & Finals Night

### Division 2 singles

#### semi-finals

M. Bellec bt. J. Lau  
8-11, 11-6, 11-2, 11-6  
Ga. Lloyd bt. A. Dav-  
ies 11-3, 11-8, 12-10

#### Final

Bellec bt. Lloyd  
11-6, 12-14, 11-9, 11-8

### Division 3 singles

#### semi-finals

C. Campbell bt. P. Banks  
11-9, 11-8, 11-7  
G. Lennon bt. P. Ross  
11-13, 12-10, 11-3, 11-4

#### Final

Campbell bt. Lennon  
12-10, 11-5, 11-3

### Division 4/5 singles

#### semi-finals

A. Rivers bt. H. Reeve  
8-11, 11-8, 9-11, 11-7, 11-9  
T. Creevy bt. I. Laird  
11-7, 11-7, 11-7

#### Final

Rivers. bt. Creevy  
15-13, 8-11, 11-2, 11-9

### Ladies' singles Round

#### Robin

C. Peers bt. S. Howard, &  
C. Graham  
A. Howard bt. S. Howard,  
& C. Peers  
C. Graham bt. S. Howard,  
& A. Howard  
Steph Howard lost to all  
three

A. Howard & C. Peers  
qualify for final on sets  
count back

#### Senior Singles

*(Over 55's semi-finals)*

A. Chase bt. E. Birch  
11-5, 11-5, 11-6  
K. Jackson bt. D. Harse  
11-2, 11-8, 11-8

#### Veteran singles semi-finals

K. Williams bt. G.  
Watson  
9-11, 11-6, 11-8, 10-12,  
11-5

J. Rankin bt. K. Jackson  
11-3, 11-3, 11-9

### Open doubles semi-finals

K. Dolder / T. Wearden

Bt.

K. Bird / T. Whelan  
11-6, 8-11, 11-5, 15-13  
K. Williams / J. Rankin

Bt.

O. Khaiyat / P. Lee  
score sheet not available

### Men's singles quarter-fi- nals

K. Dolder bt. P. Lee w/o  
retired injured  
K. Williams bt. R. Jackson  
11-13, 11-4, 11-4

O. Khaiyat bt. P. Kirby  
11-5, 11-6, 8-11, 11-9  
K. Bird bt. T. Whelan  
11-8, 11-7, 11-9

### Junior Singles

Ian Laird bt. Tom Creevy  
3 - 2

### FINALS NIGHT

#### Men's singles semi-finals

K. Dolder bt. O. Khaiyat  
11-7, 11-7, 11-1.  
K. Williams bt. K. Bird  
11-6, 11-7, 6-11, 11-6

#### Senior Singles Trophy

*(Over 55's final)*

K. Jackson bt. A. Chase  
11-6, 8-11, 11-4, 11-3.

#### Veteran Singles Final

K. Williams bt. J. Rankin  
11-5, 11-7, 11-7.

#### Open Doubles Final

K. Dolder / T. Wearden  
bt.

K. Williams / J. Rankin  
11-6, 11-9, 9-11, 12-10.

#### Women's Singles final

C. Peers bt. A. Howard  
11-9, 8-11, 12-10, 21-23,  
11-7

#### Men's Singles Final

K. Dolder bt. K. Williams  
11-7/11-4/ 6-11/5-11/12-10.

## LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I note in your Magazine under "Nets and Edges" over the last few months many references have been made to the ETTA New Management team, strategies and programmes.

I would be very happy to attend a meeting of the Liverpool League with the players and clubs whether or not these criticisms and innuendo's represent the views of Liverpool and District TTL.

Val and I have taken part in your well run Grand Prix for some years, during these events I have been approached by many people and discussed TT with them.

I could go through and respond to many of the points but consider this would be counterproductive.

Regards

Alex Murdoch.

ETTA Chairman

19/4/05

### 48th. European Youth Championships July 05

England's young table tennis players are celebrating after a successful campaign in Prague, Paul Drinkhall, Darius Knight and Gavin Evans shone in a tournament that is recognised as one of the toughest battle fields in the world of table tennis.

With a large entry and tradition over forty nations competed for the prestige of topping Europe.

The trio stormed to victory winning the European team title for the first time in 19 years. Paul Drinkhall aged 15 from Saltburn, Cleveland and Darius Knight from Battersea, London, beat the Czech Republic 3-0 in the final claiming the prestigious title and confirming their place in the ITTF World Youth Tournament later this year. Gavin Evans, still only 12 and from Buckinghamshire, was also part of the team and although didn't play in the final made a significant contribution during the early rounds.

The singles event proved to be just as fruitful for England's top two Knight and Drinkhall who fought through to play each other in the final, an astonishing achievement which compounded their positions as number one and two cadet boys in Europe and serious World contenders.

Paul & Darius both entertained at the recent Junior 4 star tournament at the Greenbank Centre in January, Paul walking off with the Cadet and Junior titles

### INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATIONS

The following paragraph was taken from the June 05 "Message" from the ETTA Chairman

"A further proposal is being put forward regarding the principle of Individual Registrations.

Despite some of the comments made via the media and other sources there is no proposal to change or implement affiliation fee changes at this years AGM. A recent article in the Telegraph stated that this AGM was going to consider the doubling of our fees. To be frank this is balderdash, the fees for the 2005/6 season have already been determined and are based upon the rules of the ETTA which allow an inflationary increase only. This will mean an increase per player per season of £0.17 taking the payment to the ETTA from each player to just over £5.00.

I need the support of the table tennis fraternity in respect of this Individual Registration proposal to implement a Database of our registered players which will without doubt, assist you and the whole of table tennis. Furthermore, it will satisfy one of the key requirements of our major benefactor, Sport England, without whose financial input our development would be severely hindered".

Ken Armson has often brought up the issue of the proposed 'Individual Player Registrations', not against the idea in principal, but the uncertainty of how much it's going to cost the individual player

So having picked out this reference by ETTA Chairman Alex Murdoch in his June message, (printed above), I thought I would spend a bit of time finding out how our affiliation fees are arrived at, sorry I did!

I started with the relevant ETTA rules for Affiliation Fees, Para 14, believe it or not, there are 27 sub para's on what determines 'Affiliation Fees', but simplified, (if that's possible), for each League, it's the number of teams in a division multiplied by one more than the lowest number of players required by the rules to constitute a full team, add together the totals for all divisions so arrived at, and multiply by the "Affiliation Unit"

which for 2004-05 was £3.88 (vat. to be added) set by the ETTA but I would think there are other charges to account for, as last seasons fees plus inflation don't add up to "just over £5" (see above).

Where does the £3.88 come from!, well that's the accountant's paradise, I couldn't attempt to explain that.

So from 'my point of view', if we have to go down this road as a requirement of a major benefactor, so be it, the base line now seems to be at around £5 per player per annum, the annual increase is set at cost of inflation, and I'm sure any changes to this fee scale would have to get past National Council first.

To the players who may say "what do I get out of the ETTA", I would say "what does the grass roots footballer get out of the F.A."

Editor (my thoughts only)

Colonsay topped the league with a 21 point advantage over second placed Wav. Labour.

Ken Armson was writing the 1st Div. notes, still unable to get a volunteer, as was Editor Jack Lambert writing for the 3rd Div. for the same reason. Ken had harsh words for Cadwa 1st. team who played reserves on '30 odd occasions', postponed too many matches and their top players absent on too many occasions. Having pointed out Bootle JC's improvement on last season, tempered it with "quite an enigma, Bootle JC, rarely requiring reserves, and at times appear to stagger from one crises to another, but generally managed to get it right in the end"

In Div.2 Sylvia's player profile was well received by her readers, Alan Reid was her profile in this Digest, his classic attacking hard bat style so difficult to beat, a very competitive, but very social player. (I'm sure everyone who new Alan would endorse Sylvia's profile.

Editor Jack Lambert had to do the 3rd Div. amongst the "good matches" Jack picked out were; Joan Connor 10-1 down in the third, but wins 21-19 against John Letch, bearing in mind John is 92 next birthday! (was he?). In the game against Wav.Lab.'B', Tom Killip pulled a muscle unable to complete his games, (Tom's Achilles went a couple of seasons later, with Tom deciding to bring his playing career to an end) Jack finished his notes with "see you at Wembley!" (remember the 1995 F.A. Cup final?, EVERTON 1-MAN. UTD. 0.) Jack was a great Evertonian

Nothing from the 4th. Div, and Arthur Garnett still flying the flag for the 5th Div. Arthur was part of the

Police 'B' team (currently in div.2) which started its move up the league table, (they finished 4th from top of the 5th this season, but appeared in the 4th. div. next season, I can't find out why, maybe Arthur remembers!)

A few points on the make up of the divisions, 4 divs. of 12, one of 11, (but 3 of the 'clubs' no longer with us, Colonsay, University and Merseybus). Police 'C' team dropped out of the 5th. div (3 walkovers) and Aigburth finished bottom of the 4th. Div. and their 'A' team bottom of the 5th.

As I only started this "10 years ago" as a space filler, this will probably be the last, so I can safely say that the following season Aigburth 1st came 2nd and bounced back to the 4th. with their 'A' team finishing half way up the 5th., Waterloo came top of the 2nd making a quick return to the 1st.

The Closed Tournament was held at Everton Park Sports Centre for the first time, Kevin Dolder being men's singles champion.

Vol 49 No.3 had a tribute by Arthur Upton to John McKim, John retired as League Hon. Organising Secretary after about 38 years.

The following season had an influx of divisional reporters, all divisions covered by players from their own div. For div. 1.- Paul Gittins; 2.- Sylvia Graham; 3 - Mike Power; 4 - Arthur Garnett; 5 - James Power.

The thing about reading these old Digests and all the names is "where are they now?"  
Editor

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Just a finishing reminder, please read the rules, particularly when having to play up, it effects cup matches as well as league matches, try not to postpone matches, it only stores up later problems, and steer clear of Trevor's fines, he prefers a hassle free season, but as there were no requested rule changes at the last AGM, he's only carrying out the Rules for everyone's benefit!

*Have a good season*

**FINAL LEAGUE TABLES SEASON 2004-05**

<i>Division 1</i>	P	W	D	L	Pts
Waterloo	22	18	3	1	154
L/Pool YMCA	22	16	2	4	143
Wav. Labour	22	12	3	7	121
Fords	22	13	3	6	112
M/Side Police	22	9	2	11	105
Cadwa	22	9	2	11	102
Bath St 'A'	22	6	4	12	98
L/Pool YMCA 'A'	22	8	5	9	95
Harold House	22	6	2	14	94
Manweb	22	6	3	13	93
Bath St	22	6	7	9	92
Bootle JC	22	4	2	16	91

<i>Division 3</i>	P	W	D	L	Pts
Cadwa 'B'	22	17	1	4	158
Bath St 'C'	22	17	3	2	155
Greenbank	22	11	5	6	130
Bootle YMCA	22	12	2	8	125
Wav. Labour 'A'	22	11	1	10	123
Bath St 'D'	22	14	2	6	122
Harold House 'A'	22	11	4	7	118
Maghull 'A'	22	8	3	11	97
L/Pool YMCA 'C'	22	7	3	12	98
Manweb 'C'	22	6	1	15	77
Wav. Labour 'B'	22	2	4	16	66
Cadwa 'C'	22	1	1	20	53

<i>Division 5</i>	P	W	D	L	Pts
Bath St 'F'	12	11	0	1	100
Cadwa 'D'	12	10	0	2	95
Bath St 'G'	12	5	0	7	45
Maghull 'E'	12	3	1	8	31
Maghull 'D'	12	0	1	11	29
Greenbank 'A'	Withdrawn Records				
Wavertree Labour 'F'	Withdrawn Records				
Merseyside Police	Withdrawn Records				

<i>Division 2</i>	P	W	D	L	Pts
L/Pool YMCA 'B'	22	17	2	3	156
Maghull	22	14	2	6	133
Cadwa 'A'	22	11	5	6	119
M/Side Police 'B'	22	10	5	7	116
Manweb 'A'	22	11	3	8	116
Marconi	22	11	1	10	113
Bath St 'B'	22	8	5	9	108
Bootle JC 'A'	22	9	3	10	107
Fords 'A'	22	7	4	11	100
M/Side Police 'A'	22	6	3	13	93
Marconi 'A'	22	5	4	13	86
Manweb 'B'	22	3	3	16	73

<i>Division 4</i>	P	W	D	L	Pts
Bootle YMCA 'A'	22	16	2	4	150
Marconi 'B'	22	16	1	5	136
Bath St 'E'	22	17	2	3	136
Wav. Labour 'C'	22	12	4	6	124
Wav. Labour 'D'	22	10	4	8	116
Maghull 'C'	22	7	6	9	103
Linacre	22	5	4	13	103
Maghull 'B'	22	9	2	11	100
Wav. Labour 'E'	22	7	4	11	96
Harold House 'B'	22	2	8	12	87
Algburth 'A'	22	5	2	15	86
Algburth	22	6	1	15	83

Some League anomalies through the season :-  
 Div. 1. match 7. between CADWA and M/Side Police result reversed in favour of CADWA after an appeal.  
 Div. 1. 20 points deducted from FORDS for playing an ineligible player twice, (and still managed to come 4<sup>th</sup>. from top)  
 Div. 4. Marconi 'B' and Bath Street 'E' level on points, Rule 21A applied giving Marconi 'B' promotion to Div. 3.  
 ManCom. insisted on two cancelled league fixtures be played (after the season had finished) as both had a bearing on relegation issues.  
 Too many teams playing short, mainly it seems, in the higher divisions !  
 And 3 teams dropping out of the fifth Div. to leave only 5 teams.  
 A quick early look through the Rule book would save some teams future disappointment

I had planned to include the top ten player averages from each Division in this end of season Digest, but instead, they have been included in the next season Handbook,