

Official Magazine
Of the

Vol. 60

No.3

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT



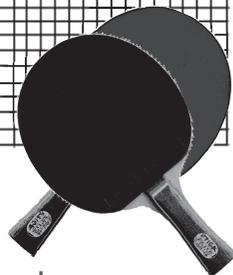
END OF SEASON

August 2006

TENNIS

SEASON 2005-2006

TABLE
DIGEST
TENNIS



Web Site. <http://www.ldttl.co.uk>

Editorial



Welcome to the start of a new season, as this is the last Digest of the last season, it's mainly full of the divisional reports, (there must be some aching wrists out there) just to get your minds back onto the table. Congratulations to Wavertree Labour who became Champions of the league, with a fair margin over second placed (for the second season running) L'Pool C.C., being able to field the same strong team most weeks was a major factor for Wav. Lab.; and to Cadwa 'A', Wav. Labour 'A' (the double), and Harold House 'B' who won their respective divisions, not forgetting the second placed teams who will also be making the move up, Marconi, Maghull 'A' and Marconi 'C'. As for the relegated teams, it's always a case of "finding your own level" and maybe get back next season. Big disappointment for Police 'B' who would have finished third from bottom, fell foul of an unfortunate set of circumstances, last game of the season, Club sec. Tom helps out his 'A' team to save playing short on the Monday night away, then playing for his own 'B' team at home the next night, thus taking him past the playing up rule. If the matches had have been played the other way round, it wouldn't have mattered, credit to Police, no appeals, the mistake was accepted as a genuine slip up, and the rules have to be applied, but this is what can happen when players drop out and have to be replaced from below.

Having thought we had a settled group of writers, on opening Sylvia's 2nd. Div. report, she starts by handing in her notice, so this one will be her last. Going back through the old Digests I have, I think that Sylvia's first report was for the 2nd Div. in 1989, taking over from Alan Cameron, who in his first report said he'd 'fancied' writing a report for 20 years but had never been asked, but only lasted one season, Sylvia taking up the 2nd Div. pen, in 92 she did Div. 4, while in 93 Rod Bulmer did Div.2., but Sylvia made a come back to Div. 2 in 94, and she's been doing it since, so thanks to her for all those excellent reports in her own special style, "she says what she thinks", in fact I fell foul to Sylvia in one of my very early Digests, in my naivety, I made a comment to a letter I had received, much to Sylvia's displeasure, her reply made me think that publishing just wasn't my scene and I would be better without this type of hassle, some Editors get £50k a year for taking hassle, we do it ex gratis,

but I'm still here, so thanks to Sylvia, for keeping me waiting many times, but always doing a good job. I think I may have an interested party in the wings for Div.2. A short while ago we lost another long standing reporter, Paul Gittins for Div.1., but in stepped Ian McElwee to carry the pen, even though he isn't playing in Div.1.his knowledge of all the players has allowed him to produce some very topical and interesting reports, same goes for Stan and Doug who will both still be playing in their respective divisions next season. With 14 teams per Div. and 8 end of season matches, the writers have given you plenty to read about, 2500+ words, Ian 2580, Stan 2660, and Doug giving Div. 4 a massive 4990, I'm afraid there won't always be space for this amount, and will probably have to be "chopped" for future editions, but for this one, read on, they're about 'you'.

Sylvia's report brought to my attention the serious predicament that Bath St. find themselves in, they knew that they were having to vacate their premises in the near future, but expecting some forewarning to give them time to re locate, but apparently the main club has ran into problems, putting Bath St. TT. Club out on a limb, and the committee frantically looking for alternative premises, at the time of finalising this Digest, they have some suggestions which will be put to all Club members at an EGM, hopefully agreement can be reached for the sake of Club and League.

Liverpool Cricket Club have also decided to leave their venue at Aigburth, because of the cost I would imagine, but another blow to them has been the loss of Club Secretary Steve Kee, rumour tells me that he won't be playing next season, hopefully the rumour is wrong or he is only taking a "gap year" and will be back soon.

At the recent AGM, Ken Armson MBE. of Wavertree Labour, was made a Life Member of the L&DTTL, in recognition of his many years of invaluable service to table tennis, not just local, Ken said it was unexpected, it shouldn't have been, it's well deserved, well done Ken. (read Kens' Nets & Edges on page 22).

This season it has been decided to leave the league format the same as last season, ie, 4 x 14 teams, but an alternative format of 7 divs. of 8 teams (as played by some other leagues) was discussed by the ManCom. it was felt that the 8 teams in each Div. would have closer capabilities, and as an added incentive, could have 2nd. place play offs (between divisions) for promotion and relegation at the end of the season. The ManCom felt it

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was to late for this season, and was such a radical change, that it required more discussion, so copies of this format will be given to all Club Secretaries for discussion by all members for early comments.

Those ETTA Individual Registration forms are out again, and are being given out to club secs., because of funding from sports bodies, the ETTA has to produce concrete evidence of numbers of table tennis players. I have just filled in mine, personally, I can't see any problems in giving the information it asks for, I haven't given any phone No.'s, or e-mail address, as I don't see the requirement for these, but they are easy to find anyway from many existing sources, I have ticked all the boxes to say I '*don't*' want any unsolicited mail, and I'm sure it wouldn't be in the ETTA's interest if I started to receive some, a certain sign of 'loss of credibility', and anyway it's fun sending the pre paid envelopes back without completing the forms. as I say, just my thoughts on this controversial subject.

Don Davies mentions the fact that at the recent World Vets tournament held in Bremen, Bootle YMCA's Alan Chase & Ted Birch got through to the final of the O/60's doubles consolation cup, losing a close encounter with a pair from Poland, well done for the extra effort.

At the recent AGM, there were 15 Rule amendments carried, 7 new pages have been printed for insertion into the filofax type Rule books which all Club Secretaries and team captains were given, these new pages will be passed to all Club Secs. at the handbook meeting, Captains please ensure you receive same and change relevant pages asap.

At a later Mancom meeting it was decided to increase the fines by £1 for playing short and for conceding W/O's, as much as the Mancom appreciates that these situations don't happen on purpose, it was felt that some method needs to be found to persuade players / teams to try that little bit harder to turn out and honour their commitments.

For all those who have access to the internet and our web sites, you may or may not have noticed that I have started to upload old Digests which I have been loaned by various players / clubs, the scanning, sorting out the text, and in many cases photo type adverts are very time consuming, sometimes become a bit of a jumble, but I am making a bit of headway. The first four I have done are on the web site now, (visit through the L&DTTL web site) and I'm sure most players will find both entertaining and amusing, as old memories often do. One thing I soon realised in the early Digests was the fact that more people seemed to take an interest via letters, complaints and praise, most divisions had their own reporters (not all) but reports were short, to save space,

the layout was more professional than now, but I think you now get about double the reading as then (good or bad?). Within the last couple of days I received a few more off Trevor Owens, taking me back to Vol. 12 (1962), and noticed that Ken Armson was actually doing a stint as the Editor in 1969, recall my bit earlier in this Editorial about falling foul to Sylvia's letter, well in Vol 19 No.5. Ken also fell foul to a letter from lady player Barbara Cain of L'Pool Y.M. for his comments, but being the true thick skinned professional that he is, he carried on!. Anyway, remember that page I started to do a couple of Digests ago, "10 Years Ago", I think it's more appropriate with all these old Digests at my disposal, to pick out little part items and use them to fill up empty space in the current Digests, and maybe encourage you to reading the full article when they get onto the web sites, I wonder!, but after all my requests last season on how you wanted your Digest to look, I never got one reply!!!, maybe that speaks for itself.

Due to reasons requiring me to complete and get this Digest printed a couple of weeks early, I will miss reporting the Liverpool Butterfly Grand Prix at the L'Pool Tennis Centre Aug. 19/20, but our League organisers are tongue in cheek that support for setting up and dismantling all the equipment will be forthcoming from more L'Pool league members and not just the few regulars, tournament organiser Arthur Garnett, has sent out reminders to as many as possible, we await the results of this appeal.

A little bit of surprising info I found on the ETTA web site.

By Jim Beckley

Table tennis was the fifth most viewed sport of all at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games. More viewers turned on their TVs to watch table tennis than popular favourites like swimming, badminton basketball, football and cycling. According to BBC figures just released 5.9m viewers tuned in to watch table tennis, only the opening and closing ceremonies, athletics, boxing, hockey and gymnastics registered larger audiences, all this despite not having any representatives from the UK. The BBC goes on to indicate that sports with a British interest were among the most watched. During the fortnight of the Games athletics was the top sport watched by 12.8m with Boxing (7.9m) Hockey (6.3m) and Gymnastics (6.2m) followed by table tennis.

"These figures show that table tennis is far more popular than is led to believe, even without British players, viewers still tuned in, in their millions," said ETTA chairman Alex Murdoch.

So to the new season, hope you enjoy it, enjoy the wins, look at the losses as your opponent played a bit better, and maybe had a bit more luck, but most of all, look forward to the next match, hope to see you around.

Although the League collected three pieces of silverware and finished as runners-up in three other competitions, it was a disappointing season. The veteran 1st team suffered relegation for the first time since the division was formed in 1988. This was due to the unavailability of certain leading players for key matches. This trend was also in evidence in the Wilmott Cup, which meant the team having to pull out just prior to the event. As holders of the national veteran team cup, we had a tremendous chance to retain the trophy but, again, we had to withdraw when a couple of players dropped out at short notice. The Ladies, winners of the J.M. Rose Bowl for the first time in League history in 2003 and runners-up the following year were not expected to lift the trophy this term. After qualifying for the four teams final group stage, played a week last Sunday in Loughborough, they joined Hastings, North Herts and Nottingham. The midlands league finished top of the group in February ahead of our girls on sets count-back, having beaten us 5-3. But, this time, Alice Howard, Sylvia and Cherith Graham, reversed the score, pipping Hastings by the odd set in nine, Sylvia scoring the winner. North Herts were also dismissed



by the same score, Alice losing just once in nine trips to the table, with Cherith dropping two and Sylvia winning two vital sets from seven outings. This could be the last time that this trophy is played for, since, on the grape vine, I've heard it, along with the Wilmott Cup and others, are to be discontinued.

Wavertree Labour won the Liverpool League division one title for the first time in 1968 and although waiting ten years to notch another success, recorded a hat-trick by winning the next two. Further trebles followed at the end of the seventies and again at the beginning of the nineties. This term though, Gary Watson, Aaron Beech and Alice Howard, chalked up 21 victories from 26 outings to take the title for the twelfth time, twenty points ahead of runners-up Liverpool Cricket Club

Lancashire & Cheshire League Results

Open Premier Div. Men.	Champions
Dennis Smith Memorial Trophy.	
Veterans	Champions
Ladies Premier Division	Runners - Up
Mable Neary Cup. Ladies	Runners - Up
Norman Cook Memorial Trophy.	
Veterans	Runners - Up
National Leagues' Championships.	
J.M.Rosebowl. Ladies	Champions



Ted and Alan

At the World Veteran championships in Bremen, Ted Birch and Alan Chase, departed from the over 60's doubles competition at the first hurdle, losing 14-12 in the fifth in their second

match, after having won their first encounter. Still keen to continue playing at this level, the Waterloo pair entered the consolation event, and in doing so, became the first from the city to reach a world championships final. That was where it all ended though, for after ousting the Swiss pair of Imhoff and Aidor in the semi's, Poland's Dulkowski and Gorecki won 11-6, 12-10, 11-9 to take the title.

Current England number one senior Alan Cooke from Derbyshire, playing in his first world veteran competition, took the gold medal in the over 40's event.

Results of World Vets Bremen (Germany) 15th – 20th May 2006 Mens Events

Event	Winners	Runners-Up	Score
Mens O40s Singles	A. Cooke (ENG)	P. Aranyosi (Hun)	4, -9, 11, -7, 8
Mens O40s Doubles	Z. Kalic (SCG) / T. Miller (SUI)	G. Kahara (JPN) / M. Tokai (JPN)	8, 9, 7
Mens O40s Con. Singles	B. Lehmann (GER)	E. Erkan (TUR)	-4,8,10,-10,11
Mens O40s Con. Doubles	C. Carthy (ENG)/ P. Hagglund (Per)	R. Johansson (SWE)/ G. Zetterstrom (SWE)	5, -5, 10, 8
Mens O50s Singles	Y. Li ((USA)	S. Fraczyk	-9, -9, 7, 8, 8
Mens O50s Doubles	R. Lindmae (EST)/ L. Segal ((UKR)	J. Hrcka (CZE) / J. Schwan (CZE)	8, 4, 6
Mens O50s Con. Singles	Chris Brewer (ENG)	A. Ostgren (SWE)	-10, 6, 7, 9
Mens O50s Con. Doubles	H. Jacobsen (DEN)/ F. Jensen (DEN)	J. Hellgren (SWE)/ G. Silberbach (SWE)	-7, -9, 8, 4, 9
Mens O60s Singles	J. Reuland (GER)	D. Surbek (HRV)	13, -10, 8, -5, 8
Mens O60s Doubles	D. Surbek (HRV) / A. Amelin (RUS)	J. Kuaz (GER) / H. Neubauer (SUI)	9, 9, -7, 4
Mens O60s Con. Singles	J. Versang (SUI)	J. Jansen((GER)	4, 8, 7
Mens O60s Con. Doubles	F. Dulkowski (POL) / E. Gorecki (POL)	Ted Birch (ENG) / Alan Chase (ENG)	6, 10, 9

The latter weeks of the season failed to create any major surprises at the top of the division, with Wavertree Labour maintaining their lead over nearest rivals Liverpool CC and Bootle YMCA. They eventually amassed a total of 193 points leaving them 20 points clear of second place Liverpool CC, with Bootle YMCA a further 2 points off the pace.



The Wavertree team of Gary Watson, Aaron Beech and Alice Howard possibly exceeded their own expectations in winning the Division so convincingly. However they proved the benefit of having three good players who all turn out regularly, only needing to use reserves Dave Roberts and Mick Tierney in five matches throughout the season.

The final weeks of the season produced 8-2 wins against Bath Street and Maghull; 7-3 victories against Harold House, Bath Street A, and Manweb; and a draw with CADWA. Gary's only loss during this run was 11-5 in the deciding set with CADWA's Chris Ford, although Peter Taylor played exceptionally well before falling in the fifth to Gary. Aaron also finished the season in fine style with his only losses during this period being to Chris and Alec Bryce who pipped him in the fifth. Aaron has impressed me with his pleasing personality and his quiet determination allied by his undoubted ability particularly on his back hand wing, saw him come through in some close fought victories. At Bath Street A, he hung on to beat Ian Campbell 11-9 in the fifth, with his 15-13 fifth set win against Eddie Crowley producing an even bigger cliff hanger. In this match Eddie had a good victory over Dave Roberts before having another close encounter with Alice, losing in four with two of the sets going to Alice 12-14 and 14-16.

Alice kept things ticking along nicely, constantly winning her share of matches. She played particularly well in beating Ken Connor (HH), 3 straight and Neil Powell (Manweb). I was also reliably informed by a certain Mr Bainbridge, that his 11-9 fifth set win against her produced table tennis of the highest calibre with both players matching a level rarely seen on Merseyside. Another scalp on the mantelpiece for the old timer! Congratulations to Wavertree for such a fine season.

Liverpool CC team lost the services of Ohmid Khaiyat early in the season and promoted

John Lau to play alongside Keith Bird and Peter Lee. John not only proved his ability to play at this level but also proved to be the most used player in the division, playing a total of 88 matches throughout the season. This comfortably surpasses the appearances of all the other players in the division and he achieved a commendable 45 victories. The only players to pick

up more points than John during the season were Keith Bird (57), Keith Williams (56), Les Molyneux (49), Gary Watson (48), Clare Peers (47), and Aaron Beech (46). Win or lose John remains sporting and unassuming and is the perfect club man who plays at every opportunity. These statistics indicate to me that he is one of the most valued players in the league. His team mates Keith and Peter have both had excellent seasons ensuring they were a formidable team.

Team captain, Peter has been playing first division for more years than he cares to remember but is a great motivator and tactician. He leads from the front demanding 100% from his team mates and he certainly has not been let down this season. During the run in they had 9-1 victories against Fords, LCC 'B', CADWA and LCC 'A'; 8-2 versus Maghull; and 7-3 at Bath Street. All three played to the top of their form in the CADWA match with both Keith and Peter beating Chris Ford, and John going down in the fifth to Chris. After beating Peter for the first time earlier in the season, Ahmed Thabet did particularly well in beating Keith in the club derby match.

Bootle YMCA squad of Keith Williams, Wayne Percival, Alan Chase and Ted Birch possibly would have been pushing for the title if Keith had not missed the early weeks of the season due to injury, and Wayne had been available more often. Keith's remarkable consistency gives them an advantage over most sides as he invariably wins his three and it is a rare event for him to miss a match. He remained undefeated in 10-0 Vs Manweb; 9-1 wins against LCC A&B teams; 8-2 Vs CADWA; 7-3 Vs Bath Street and 6-4 Vs Maghull and Harold House. Ted seems to have a second coming winning his three against LCC 'B'; 2 against Maghull; and a brilliant 11-9 fifth set victory against Alec Bryce (HH). Alan was at his best in winning his three at Manweb having a brilliant 10-2 fifth set victory over Neil Powell. The team's only reverse over the closing weeks was 6-4 at the hands of Fords when Kevin

Dolder was the key man, winning his three in fine style.

If they fielded their strongest team Fords were a match for anyone, but Kevin was only available on six occasions throughout the season with Mal McEvoy, Terry Turner and Tim Wearden their main players. This team was strong enough to beat most of the opposition but the margin of victory was not always wide enough to keep up with the front runner. Their season seemed to phase out in the last few weeks when reserves often made up the team.

Crosby High (formally Bootle JC) must have been more than happy with their fifth place. New recruit Andrew Mudie, ably assisted by Tom Bray, Cherith Graham and Dave Evans achieved fine results throughout the season. If you take Dave out of the equation, this is by far the youngest team in the division and as they continue to mature they will be capable of being there or thereabouts in future years. The three youngsters excelled themselves in beating a full strength Manweb side 8-2, with Tom and Andrew remaining unbeaten in their singles and then combining to win the doubles. In their 7-3 victory over LCC 'A' they each beat Tony Whelan and Michael Belec, but Ahmed came to the rescue of the Cricket Club remaining unbeaten on his three visits to the table.

Before moving on I must mention, that one of the leagues older statesmen who has always been a fine ambassador for the sport, Mr Bill Harris played once again at this level against Bath Street A. Although Bath Street A went on to win 7-3, Bill was far from disgraced in taking a game off Ian Campbell before narrowly losing 11-8 in the deciding set to Eddie Crowley.

The Bath Street A team finished on 144 points, 3 behind Crosby High. Clare Peers had a brilliant season, proving to be a match for most as confirmed by her excellent statistical record. Ian Campbell sometimes defies the laws of gravity by the way he moves around the table when defending before coming in for the big hit. Eddie Crowley continues to surprise opponents with his quick hands and that audacious forehand hit. (Eddie must be the only player in table tennis who can hit forehand winners when completely off balance, both eyes shut and virtually sitting on the floor!) He continues to improve his skill and has had his best ever season. When they visited Harold House, Clare was again in top form winning her three; Ian beat Steve Whalley and Alec Bryce with Alec's night becoming even more miserable when he also lost to Eddie. Ken

Connor played well in securing comfortable three set wins against both Ian and Eddie. They also had a fine 10-0 win over LCC 'A' and in the final week beat the Police team 9-1 although they were helped by the Police being a player short, and the unfortunate Steve Gittins only managing to play two of his singles before having to retire injured.

The Police team (132 points) maintained a respectable mid-table position throughout the season. Paul and Steve Gittins were the mainstays of the team and Steve did well to continue throughout the season as he battled throughout the pain barrier to play despite an ongoing injury (hopefully this will be sorted out during the summer months). John Rankin returned from injury to play four matches towards the end of the season and there is little doubt that if he had been available earlier they would have finished with a much higher placing. Paul, Steve and John combined to achieve a close fought 6-4 win over Bath Street with Ken Jackson taking full advantage over John's lack of match play on the way to winning his three. In the latter part of the season, the team changed every week to the extent that a total of ten separate players played throughout the season. Jon Taylor and John Dyson joined Steve in a good 10-0 victory against a depleted Maghull side, with Jon Taylor, Gavin Lloyd and Terri-Anne Nolan turning out to beat LCC 'A' who failed to field any of their regular players.

Manweb (127 points) also settled well to achieve a respectable mid-table result. As indicated earlier, Les Molyneux had a great season but he was out gunned by Clare when they met Bath Street 'A'. Neil Powell played to the top of his form in defeating both Clare and Ian in a match where both teams shared the spoils. Another great old timer, Alan Biggs came in for Paul Evans in their 6-4 victory over Fords when Les and Neil both got the better of Mal McEvoy before combining in the doubles to clinch the match.

After a fine first half to the season, LCC 'A' (115 points) fell away towards the end of the season with Tony Whelan and Michael Belec not being available. Ahmed, however, was there every week playing a total of 79 games and winning 44. Without Ahmed's efforts they could have ended up down in the relegation dog fight as their season went pear-shaped. The final eight matches of the season brought about seven defeats, one draw against their 'B' team and only 14 points. The only occasion they

had their three regular players available still resulted in a 7-3 loss to Crosby High.

Next in line were Harold House (113 points) with a regular team of Ken Connor, Steve Whalley and Alec Bryce, supported by young prospect Mark Roscaleer. They had a few hiccups during the season but with all four players consistently picking up points they always steered clear of the big drop without threatening to climb the division. Ken, Mark (2) and Alec all got on the score card in a 6-4 defeat by Bootle YMCA, whilst Ken, Steve and Alec all played well in inflicting a rare three losses over Ohmid Khaiyat when visiting LCC 'A' and in the final weeks of the season they achieved a well deserved draw at Fords despite Kevin turning out and winning his three.

Bath Street (103 points) came with a late burst after being threatened by relegation for a large part of the season. Brenda Buoeu was unable to play at this level due to injury but her eventual replacement, 15 year old Jamie Hewitt, settled to this higher standard in the latter weeks of this season to achieve some good results. The season was finished off with three consecutive victories 8-2 to LCC 'B' and CADWA; and 6-4 at Manweb. Ken Jackson was in fine fettle during this period remaining unbeaten, whilst Jamie won his three against CADWA and two in each of the other matches including an excellent victory over Neil Powell. Fred Bainbridge beat Billy Cheung and Ben Chan in a match against LCC 'B'; Alan Davies Vs CADWA; and Paul Evans Vs Manweb. Jamie and Fred finally provided the results and support and Ken's high level of commitment and skill deserved to confirm that success can only be achieved at this level with all team members providing winning contributions.

CADWA (91 points) had one of those seasons where they seemed to have continuous problems in fielding a recognised team. This was despite or possibly because of the fact that ten different players turned out over the season. This occurred even though Peter Taylor and Alan Davies were there most weeks giving 100% commitment to their club. When Chris Ford was available they usually achieved a result but without him they struggled. This was emphasised by their results in weeks 20 and 21, after gaining a commendable draw against champions Wavertree with Chris in the team. They went down 9-1 to the Police when one of the leagues finest ambassadors George Smith turned out in place of Chris.

As was probably expected Maghull (79 points) and LCC 'B' (70 points) ended up being

relegated. Both teams had been promoted but found the higher standard of play difficult to match. That is not to say they went down without a fight or that they failed to enjoy the challenge of competing regularly at this level. Maghull were unfortunate in having only two regular players, Matt Wilson and Tony Kendall. I know that they were hopeful of having a settled team when Nick Miller flew in from Saudi after Christmas. Nick did play in ten matches but failed to do himself justice after his break from the game. Matt and Tony never lost hope as was apparent from Tony's weekly comments on the match cards. Indeed they both played well and had some good individual results. One of their best wins was over Crosby High (6-4) when Matt, Tony and Nick all beat Tom Bray and Cherith Graham only to find Andy Mudie too strong for them. The last few weeks of the season found Matt in top form, beating Clare Peers and Ian Campbell Vs Bath Street; Peter Lee and Billy Cheung Vs LCC plus Alan Chase and Ted Bird Vs Bootle YMCA. Tony had a good night at Bath Street 'A' in beating Eddie Crowley and John Langton when losing 6-4 and also beat Alice Howard when they faced Wavertree Labour.

LCC 'B' suffered the knock on effects of players being re-ranked as their first and 'A' teams lost players during the season indicating how difficult it must be to keep three teams in this Division. Billy Cheung had a respectable 24 wins during the season and served the team well. I don't think Steve Kee will mind me saying that he found the going tough but I do know from talking to him how much he has enjoyed the experience gained. Billy, Steve and Robin Ashleigh all won two each in an excellent 6-4 victory at CADWA and the final week of the season saw them earn a well deserved draw when faced by the clubs 'A' team. In this match, Billy secured a fine 12-10 deciding set victory over Tony Whelan and combined with Steve to beat Tony and Ahmed in the doubles.

Finally having mentioned a few old timers who helped out their teams this season, I have to mention that Billy Clayton joined these great club servants by turning out in two matches for Bath Street whilst Fred Pheysey put himself on the line in four matches. The attitude and commitment of such players is fantastic and sets a great example for those youngsters progressing in the sport. Well done 'boys'!

Good luck to all for the forthcoming season.

Ian McElwee



The season's finished and it has been quite a special season really for me as I've decided it's my last one as your divisional note writer. I have always enjoyed the challenge of putting pen to paper, (or keyboard to word document!) but I feel that someone else will do the division more justice... so the job's up for grabs and anyone interested should contact Roly Wright, editor extraordinaire and note writer recruitment specialist. For anyone thinking of taking it over it has lots of benefits!!!! It's a great way of getting back at all those people who've cheesed you off over the years (Hi, to Tony Harris if you're out there!) it's also a great way of airing your point of view but best of all you don't have to mention yourself getting beaten. The most valuable assets a note writer can have are to be truthful (up to a point!), be controversial (within reason!) and to come up with some useful snippets of information (occasionally and not necessarily to do with table tennis!). Well if that hasn't sold it to you then nothing will.

Now it's back to the season just finished...and what a long season it was. I'd forgotten how difficult it was to fit in 26 matches and I think with hindsight the fixture list should be reformatted. If you look at last years fixture list the first half of the season didn't finish until the second week in January and the second round of the divisional cups was in middle of November with the semi-finals nearly 4 months later in March. I have always advocated that the first half of the season should finish at Christmas so there is a definite break before the second half of the season and that gives everyone time to take stock and plan for the second half. I'm sure the vets cup round 2 could be changed to immediately after the New Year which would allow fixture week 12 to be moved forward and the same could be done with the divisional cup round 2. Other minor amendments would allow the same number of free / cup / rearranged match weeks.

So how did the season end up???? Well the division champions were always going to come from one of three teams, Marconi, CADWA 'A' or Bath St. 'B'. I always saw Bath St. 'B' as the outsiders and thought of Marconi as the favourites as I have often been told that CADWA 'A' were happy in the second and did not want promotion so I was pleasantly surprised to find that CADWA 'A' won the division

by 7 points from Marconi and a 10 nil win in their final match left Bath St 'B' still that single point short for second place. It must be noted that CADWA 'A' had a walkover against Crosby High 'A' and Marconi had a walkover against Police 'A' and as neither of these matches would have been whitewashes my mathematical genius calculates that Bath St 'B' should have been somewhere amongst the promotees. I would be quite peeved if I were a member of

the Bath St. team but at the moment I think the Bath St. teams have more important things on their minds. Rumour has turned into fact and the Bath St. club will be yet another club looking for premises. I believe they have one or two options to investigate but if nothing turns up how can the league afford to lose 9 teams in one season????? Isn't it time to think SERIOUSLY about a central venue? If you look at the wealth of expertise we have in the league we should be able to see a project through from start to finish. There are those amongst us with legal training, administration experience, financial expertise, building and technical prowess. All we need is for all these people to offer some time and for a team to harness all the individual tasks into a project plan. What's the point of having money in the bank if there's no league to benefit it???? and we can call on the services of the ETTA North West Development Officer, Andrea Holt, to point us in the right direction for grants and to help us with the application forms.

After my little digression I'd better get back to the results. Cadwa 'B' should consider itself lucky not to have been relegated as it ended up avoiding the relegation zone at the expense of Police 'B'. Question? How can you lose a match 20 nil? Ask Police 'B'. In the last match on the **28th April** against Bath St 'B' (that they lost 10: 0) they played an ineligible player and so had another 10 points deducted thereby getting them relegated The ineligible player was a normal member of the 'B' team squad who in the last week of the season had had to play up on **27th April** for the 'A' team to prevent them playing short. If the match dates had been the other way round the player would **not** have been ineligible and Police 'B' would **not** have been relegated. It's a hard world!! The other team to be relegated was Bootle YMCA who I am sure have gained experience and enjoyed their brief stay. I must say that I was impressed with the way the whole team stuck at it with their never say die attitude and they just got on

with it. If you look at the results in the last few matches I am sure you will agree that the whole team have found the year beneficial. John Higham has been the stalwart of the team throughout the season but Roly Wright has had wins over Paula Adamson-French, Colin Rourke, and John Langton whilst Danny Every has seen off Bob Edwards and Mike Power to name a few.

Of all the other teams, the players that I feel stand out are Andy Lloyd (Manweb 'A'), Dave Holland (Fords 'A'), Rob Peat (Bath St 'C'), Rob Wylie (Crosby High) and in particular Rob Davies (CADWA 'B'). I have always had good matches against Rob Davies but this season I just couldn't get near him – I believe that's the result of 6 hours a day training on the robot and four hours in the gym. What did impress me was his consistency and that I am sure is down to the rote practice.

Special mention must go to Peter Wass (Marconi 'A') when he took his three against CADWA 'A' to get his team a well-earned draw. Especially noteworthy as his first two wins were CADWA's first two calls. Rob Goldson was awarded man of the match when Fords played Bath St. 'B' with a hat trick of wins in a 6 sets to 4 defeat, that

include a win over Ian McElwee and that is no mean feat.

Oh, yes! And I haven't forgotten the divisional awards for this season. Y'know the important ones ...but before I award them I'd just like to thank everyone who has bothered to put comments on the card about the match as it does make everything a lot easier. This last one has been more difficult as it seem ages since the season finished although I know that it wasn't until the middle of May. The way table tennis is going there won't be much of a closed season left...but now onto the divisional awards

DIVISION 2 AWARDS FOR 2005-2006 SEASON

OUTSTANDING PLAYERS -

M. Rogala (No one in this division could get near him or probably from the 1st div either!)
T-A Nolan 'cos she has had one of her best ever seasons and she said that no one has noticed!!

MOST SPORTING TEAM

Greenbank (just a nice bunch of lads)

MOST MISSED PLAYER

Ian Grant (Eddie is pining still!!!)

BEST CORRESPONDENT

Roly Wright (but he's a professional!!!)

Division 3

What did you think about the longer season? Twenty six matches and a later than usual finish to the season, just like old times and look on the bright side it only cost you the same as a twenty two match season for league fees. But now it is all done and dusted and the battles for promotion and relegation complete for this year. The champions are Wavertree Labour A, led by captain fantastic Paul Banks with a squad comprising Dave Roberts, Mick Tierney, Peter Howden John Rowan, Paul Banks and Tom Creevy fully deserved their top spot, having won 25 matches with one draw, with an average of 8.27 sets per match. Remarkably Maghull A, who finished in second spot were only thirteen points adrift of the champions, despite losing two and drawing four, with a sets average of 7.7 per match. It was nip and tuck between these two teams all season and at one stage Maghull were ahead



Stan Clarke

for quite a long period, only to be caught and passed in the final few weeks of the season. The individual averages for the year show that the four most successful players came from the Wavertree Club, top player of the year was Peter Mortier with a 100% record, closely followed by

Dave Roberts, with 97.73% and Paul Banks with 97.37% and Mick Tierney with 93.75 %. Just to balance things out and to prove that I am totally unbiased I must point out that Wavertree also provided four players in the lowest seven in the averages, with yours truly very grateful to Brenda Owen for keeping me off bottom place.

Third place in the division was taken by Bath St. D, who drew one and lost three but finished 18 points behind Maghull. The relegation places were taken by Cadwa C and Liverpool Cricket Club, but

don't be surprised to see them back up again very soon, especially Cricket Club who have some very exciting young players who, if handled properly will soon be challenging the more experienced players at the club. Also at the bottom end of the table the other three Wavertree teams finished in alphabetical order, the B team with 119 points, C team with 105 points and the D team with 99, seems the club got it's selections just about right. Mind you it would have been a different story if the C team had not secured the services of Peter Mortier for the final ten weeks of the season. The young Belgian student was a revelation, after playing one week at number 4 he was immediately promoted to the number one spot and remained unbeaten in every match he played, his contribution of 16 singles and 7 doubles were responsible for keeping the C team afloat at a time when they looked certain relegation candidates, but relax Peter has completed his studies and returned to Belgium so will not be playing next season, despite Ken and Stan offering massive bribes and incentives.

So to the final eight weeks of the season.

WEEK 19.

Wavertree Lab. D suffered at the hands of Bath St D, only Tony Mitchell successful against Les Gee in a 9/1 mauling. In the derby match between Wav.Lab A and B there was little friendship shown as the A team romped home 10/0, only one set going to five games when Colin Fyles and Bill Stanley made Peter Howden and John Rowan fight all the way. Bath St. E went down 8/2 on their visit to Maghull A but two great three game wins for Karen Gibson against Fred Pheysey and Bill Clayton against Peter Holmes. Maghull B also won beating Marconi B 7/3, with two each for Mark Ambrose and George Frost, only singles success for Marconi came when Andrew Owens beat Rod Bulmer and Bobby Bell beat Bill Salter.

Bootle Y.M.C.A. inflicted an 8/2 defeat on Cadwa C, good win for George Higham over Len Dyson in what looks to have been a marathon set, George winning 14/12 in the fifth, a much easier win for George when he combined with Ian Lunt to beat Peter Williams and Bert Rivers in their doubles. Harold House were generous toward Manweb C, conceding three sets when they arrived with only three players, but still managed to win 6/4. Wav. Lab. C hammered Cricket Club 9/1, with Ben Chan beating Eric Spencer to avoid the whitewash.

WEEK 20.

Wav.Lab. B and D fought out a draw, with reserve Sam Owuso-Ansah coming good for the D

team with wins over Colin Fyles and Bill Stanley. Bath St. E and Harold House also fought out a draw with Bill Clayton beating Rod McPherson and Dave Cohen, Keith Wright beating Dave and Karen Gibson beating Mike Poole. Manweb found the might of Wav. Lab A to hot to handle going down 9/1, John Hardy avoiding the whitewash when he beat Mick Tierney. Bath St. D thumped Wav. Lab. C 8/2, only Peter Mortier proving an obstacle when he defeated Mark Paterson and Neil Pritchett. Cadwa C shot themselves in the foot when Ian Lunt failed to appear for their home match against Maghull B, Cadwa fought hard, as George Higham beat Phil Christie and Peter Roberts beat Rod Bulmer and George Frost but that was it and they lost 3/7. Cricket Club also lost 3/7 when they entertained Bootle Y.M.C.A. but not before Robert Wong beat Peter Williams and Arthur Garnett and Michael Kwan beat Bert Rivers. Marconi entertained Maghull A and despite the efforts of Andrew Owens, who beat Fred Pheysey and Alan Jones, lost 2/8

WEEK 21.

The derby match between Wav. Lab. C and Wav Lab B was a disaster for the home team as they crashed 2/8, only Peter Mortier beating Tony Connor and Mike Ashton to show for their endeavours. Wav.Lab.A soundly spanked Bath St. E 10/0 with only two sets needing more than three games. Bootle Y.M.C.A. lost 2/8 against Bath St. D, Bert Rivers beating Les Gee and Arthur Garnett beating Peter Ross their only successes. 8/2 seemed to be a popular score this week Harold House beat Marconi by this score, Tony Mullaly over Martin Roberts and Russell Thornton over Rob Midgely the only wins for Marconi. Wav.Lab D and Manweb C had a much closer match, with the score 5/4 to Manweb Rob Barker took the final set of the night against Gordon Langshaw. Maghull B gave their A team a hard match losing 3/7 but not before Mark Ambrose beat Fred Pheysey and Phil Christie beat Fred and Peter Holmes. Cadwa C beat Cricket Club 6/4, hero for the Cricket Club was Michael Kwan who beat John Ashley and Andy McNab, Robert Wong made it a miserable night for John when he won 11/7 in the fifth.

WEEK 22.

Maghull A thumped Harold House 8/2 Fred Pheysey losing to Eddie Clie but then Eddie lost to Alan Jones, the only other win for Harold House coming in the doubles when Eddie combined with Rod McPherson to beat Peter Holmes and Kevin Lewis. Wav. Lab. C held Manweb to a draw, Peter Mortier was again undefeated, winning both singles

against Paul and Neil Jennings then partnering Ken Armson to victory in the doubles against Paul and Neil, Ken beat Alan Biggs in the battle of the funny bats and Arthur Harrison could not get to grips with Stephanie Howard's funny rubber. Bath St. D beat Cadwa 7/3 six sets needing all five games with Bath St. winning four of them, however great wins for Ian Lunt over Mark Paterson, Andy McNab over Les Gee and John Ashley over Peter Ross. Bath St E trounced Wav. Lab. D 8/2 with Dave Foulis beating Karen Gibson and Graham Oates the only success for W.L. Cricket Club lost heavily to Maghull B, but notable wins for Alvin Tso over Rod Bulmer Andy Chung over George Frost and Michael Kwan over Tom Downing in a 3/7 defeat.

Wav.Lab. A continued their remorseless drive to the top as they thrashed Marconi 10/0 and Wav. Lab B lost to Bootle Y.M.C.A. 4/6 with Tony Connor beating Bert Rivers and Mike Ashton beating Peter Williams and Mike Hughes and combining with Tony to win a doubles against Bert and Shakil Malik.

WEEK 23.

Cricket Club lost 2/8 to Bath St. D with wins over reserve Dave Cunningham by Ben Chan and Michael Kwan. Wav. Lab. D were massacred 1/9 in their home match against Marconi, winning just one doubles set when Tony Mitchell and Steve Perry beat Bobby Bell and Ray Hibbs. In the second battle of the giants Wav. Lab. A used their home advantage to show that the drawn match on the carpeted slope at Maghull was due to those very reasons, despite losing the first set of the match, when Steve Woods beat John Rowan Labour piled on the pressure, Dave Roberts beat Fred Pheysey in three, Paul Banks beat Peter Holmes in five Alan Jones pulled one back when he beat Peter Howden in four, Maghull then had the temerity to take the lead when they won the doubles between Fred and Steve against Peter Howden and John, in five games. But that was it as Dave and Paul won their doubles against Peter Holmes and Alan Jones in four games, Peter Howden beat Fred, Paul beat Alan in three, John beat Peter Holmes in five and Dave Roberts rounded off the match with a stunning three straight win over Steve. The note on the card said "An excellent night of table tennis" but that was written by Paul who may have been slightly drunk in the euphoria of the win. Maghull B and Harold House fought out a draw, and Bootle Y.M.C.A. beat Manweb 7/3, Len Dyson beating Neil Jennings and Rob.Barker and Mike Hughes beating Allan Biggs and Arthur Harrison winning their singles for Bootle. Wav. Lab. C proved how much they

had come to rely on Peter Mortier as in his absence, on holiday in Belgium, they crashed and burned against Bath St. E., their only successes coming when Ken Armson and Stephanie Howard beat Keith Wright, and Steph. combined with Dave Goulden to beat Ted Cramsie and Keith in their doubles. It seems that Steph. has found another playmate in Keith, though she won the set in straight games, it took 25 minutes of playing time, just pray that if you are an umpire you never get to control a group comprised of Steph, Keith and Steve Perry.

Cadwa and Wav. Lab. B. fought out a draw, with John Ashley the only player to win both singles on the night, beating Mike Ashton and Bill Stanley.

WEEK 24.

Bath St. D beat Maghull B 7/3 but not before Mark Ambrose showed why he is valued by the Maghull club as he beat both Mark Paterson and Neil Pritchett in singles then combined with Phil Christie in the doubles to beat Mark and Peter Ross. Bath St. E drubbed Bootle Y.M.C.A. 7/3 with two wins each in the singles for Ted Cramsie. Karen Gibson and Bill Clayton, Graham Gates was the unfortunate member of the team losing to Mike Hughes and Shakil Malik, but he did win his doubles alongside Ted Cramsie, albeit 11/8 in the fifth. Cricket Club had another dismal result going down 3/7 away to Wav. Lab B, their wins came from Michael Kwan, who beat Colin Fyles and Dave Williams and Ben Chan who also beat Dave. The note on the card, yes I do look at them, congratulates the youngsters of the Cricket Club for their enthusiastic support and their readiness to applaud good shots from both sides. Cadwa lost narrowly to Manweb without number one George Higham, but in his absence Ian Lunt beat Rob Barker and John Ashley and Andy McNab beat Arthur Harrison. Maghull A had an easy task when Wav.Lab D committed the cardinal sin of turning up with only three players; the result was inevitable, 10/0 to Maghull. Wav. Lab. C without the services of Peter Mortier and Ken Armson visited Marconi and came away with close run defeat 4/6, wins for Steph Howard, Dave Goulden and reserve Bill Lowe plus one doubles the sum of their success. Harold House entertained Wav. Lab. A, Eddie Clein undefeated on the night but no Dave Roberts or Mick Tierney for Wav.Lab, Tom Creevy winning all three for the champions elect.

WEEK 25

Wav. Lab. A back to full strength visited Maghull B and returned with all of the points in a

comfortable 10/0 victory. Wav. Lab. C. played Maghull A with Peter Mortier and Ken back in harness and Stan Clarke deservedly dropped, Peter beat Fred Pheysey and Alan Jones and Ken worked the magic with his funny rubber to beat Alan and Phil Christie, with Peter and Dave Goulden combining to win their doubles. Cadwa and Bath St. B also fought out a draw, George Higham for Cadwa and Bill Clayton the only players to win both of their singles. In a week of drawn matches Bootle Y.M.C.A. and Marconi finished level in a match in which Len Dyson was the only player to win both singles, he also won his doubles.

Bath St. D soundly thrashed Wav. Lab. B the only singles success for Wavertree coming when Colin Fyles beat Peter Ross. Cricket Club had little success against Manweb going down 2/8 but Michael Kwan continued his successful season by beating Alan Biggs and Arthur Harrison. Wav. Lab. D bounced back to winning ways when they beat Harold House 6/4, no Eddie for Harold House but Rod McPherson acting number one beat Andy Bird and Tony Mitchell, the visitors winning both doubles.

WEEK 26.

Nearly there, who said hooray?

Manweb C lost 3/7 to Bath St. D despite Peter Ross retiring hurt after winning his doubles the only

win for Manweb was Neil Jennings beating Mark Patterson. Marconi did a job on Cadwa, the only wins for the visitors were Peter Roberts over Bobby Bell in the singles, and Peter and John Ashley

over Bobby and Ray Hibbs in the doubles.

Maghull 'A' rounded off their season in good style beating Bootle Y.M.C.A. 9/1, Len Dyson with an excellent win against Steve Woods saving the whitewash. Wav. Lab. B fell away against Maghull B having won the first two sets when Colin Fyles beat Mark Ambrose and Bill Stanley, who has had the worst season of his life, beat Tom Downing, they could only find two more wins one in the doubles and a Colin Fyles victory over George Frost.

Harold House and Wavertree Labour C fought out a draw, Peter Mortier beating Eddie Clein and Rod McPherson, Dave Goulden beating Martin Roberts, both doubles to Wavertree. Wav. Lab. A were not to be outdone by their nearest rivals and dutifully spanked the D team 9/1, Andy Bird and Dave Foulis beating Peter Howden and John Rowan in their doubles to save the whitewash. Bath St. E had little mercy to show to Cricket Club waltzing home 8/2 victors, but not before Robert Wong had beaten Karen Gibson and Michael Kwan defeated Graham Oates.

The only other match to comment on was a re-arranged match between Wav. Lab. B and Harold House, originally claimed as a walkover by Wav. Lab. In week 18, the match was played after the end of season and resulted in a draw.

That's it folks, I hope that by the time you get to read this you will have enjoyed your break from the sport and return refreshed and raring to go and please, if I get a playing spot next year, go easy on me.

Division 4

Harold House 'B' Champions

Paul Morgan and the chaps go up as champions after suffering only 1 defeat all season. Near-est rivals **Marconi 'C'** gave them a good run for most of the season but couldn't keep the pressure on at the end, as the gap twixt Champions and Runners up widened to 19 points at close of play.

Going into week 19 on 27th February Harold House 'B' had established a comfortable, but not complacent 17 point lead over Marconi 'C'. HH 'B' had played 17 matches and Marconi 'C' 16. Thus the simple maths of a comeback strategy for Marconi was to win their game in hand 10-0, and average



Doug Baker

better than HH'B' by 1 point per game. Things weren't fairing too badly for Marconi at the end of March; 37 points in 4 matches, whereas HH'B' had 35/40.

But it was the next 3 games in April that took the spring out of Marconi's step. Their narrow 6-4 win over MCA'C' when HH'B' where beating Cadwa 'D' 8-2, was a serious slip. Things got worse the next week when they suffered their 2nd defeat of the season, to Aigburth 1st, 3-7. Next up Cadwa 'D', they'd improved from the HH'B' match but still went down 6-4. For Marconi 3 games, 15 points for and 15 against tells it's own story (- oh sports cliché!).

It all came to a close in week 24, commencing 10th. Aigburth 'A' had to bring forward their week 26 match with HH'B' to Tuesday 11th, and as HH'B' were down to play the withdrawn team in week 25, their match at MCA'E' on Wednesday 12th, was going to be their last. By securing their 2nd 10-0 win over Aigburth 'A', they amassed 187 points with 1 game left to play, compared to Marconi 'C' on 160 with 3 games left to play. So still technically possible for Marconi to catch up, if they won all their 10-0 and HH'B' slipped up and lost their last match 7-3 or worse. On the Wednesday, HH'B' might not have known that 4 points from MCA'E' was all that was required to make the Marconi 'C' results irrelevant and secure them the Championship. However, no such miracle for Marconi as it was they who slipped up losing 3-7 at Aigburth 1st, just as HH'B' turned in another immaculate 10-0 over MCA'E'.

And The Rest

Greenbank 'A' finished bottom due to expungement (is there such a word?) of records part way through the season. Harold House 'C' occasionally supported the 'B' team, but had to concentrate on problems of their own, duly finishing next to bottom, a long way behind the lads from Aigburth 'A'. So a shout out (in yooof speak) to the lads who although not winning a match, didn't finish bottom. Surely another year older next year, will mean then can build on this - look out Maghull 'E' & 'D'. Speaking of whom, nice to see Janette and the gang ascertaining the natural order of things by finishing ahead of Andy's team (on average better of by 2 points a game), when they didn't manage that in 04-05. BYMCA 'C' just failed to make a century, maybe due to a few poor individual results. I couldn't possibly comment. It's like blaming Trezeguet for France losing the World Cup Final. Whaddaya mean you've never head of Trezeguet? Where were you this summer?

Bath St 'G' did break the 100 barrier, with everyone chipping in. There was never going to be much between Linacre, Cadwa 'D' and Bath St 'F';- they each have an outstanding number one and a regular set of players in lower orders.

Aigburth 1st and Maghull 'C' were really playing for 3rd/4th place, and it wasn't a meaningless contest to them. Started by a 6-4 Aigburth home win in week 3, there followed a draw in the corresponding reverse fixture. (If rumours are true watch out for a surprise close season signing for the APH'ers which could make them strong contenders for 06-07;-)

Susan Hughes was the only person to get 100% average in this division, playing mostly at No. 4 for MCA'D' but also for the 'E' team, in 7 matches.

Coming in 2nd with 93%, Aigburth's Derek Traynor played in over twice as many games as Susan. A remarkable achievement with the handicap Derek has had, and I don't mean partnering Graham in the doubles! In 3rd, was the highest placed No.1/2;- BYM's Shakil Malik. Surprisingly someone managed to beat him on 3 occasions. Note the top 3 didn't come from the promoted clubs. But Harold House do have 3 out of the next 4, each playing 22 or more matches out of the maximum possible 24. Paul Morgan nipped in above John Hughes and Rob Midgeley their solid number 4. Paul and Rob along with Dave Cunningham having the distinction of playing all 24 fixtures for the teams (- holidays postponed chaps?). Marconi's Paul Loftus and Dave Bradley also excelled to be in the top 8, with 80% plus. A final mention to Harry Reeve and Andy McNabb completing the top 10 for this year.

There now follows a summary of events in the last 3rd of the season taken from the Home Teams perspective.

Harold House 'C'

Gary Abram, David Cohen, Erol Gailard, Eric Young (c), Guy Cohen, etc. Harold House 'C', now captained by Eric Young, had a season and a half, or half a season. 1 match conceded, 4 played 1 short and 3 played out of order. I hope they've got big pockets! HH'C's delayed match with Aigburth 1st from week 14 to week 19, was duly won by Aigburth 9-1. Well done to Lewis Rosenbloom working hard in the last singles of the night coming back to beat Lee Proffitt over 5.

Lewis and Dave Cohen both managed to get a game off 'B' team club mate Paul Morgan. Dave then popped up with a brace against BS'G's Craig Martin & Ron Georgeson. Playing only in the 2nd half of the night Dave could have secured a draw if he and Gary had combined better in the 2nd doubles, seesawing till 9/11 in't 5th. Young Guy also beat Craig. Richard Woodley enjoyed 2 clear sets, firstly beating Gary in match 1, then latterly Eric. Gary also lost to Big Ron as well in 4.

Without Mr Cohen for what should have been a close contest with MCA'D', it was the opposition who played the better TT and ran out 9-1 victors, Naresh getting things underway with a comeback victory over Gary. In a rush to go, Naresh then beat Lewis in 3 and teamed up to win the doubles. Denise & Janette followed his example, dropping games but not sets in their singles. Eric belied the years to take Jimmy Ambrose in 5 games, after losing to Janette 11/13 in't 3rd two matches before.

Erol nearly got a point off George Crowley by going to 5, but that was as good as it got (4 other singles went to 4) in their 10-0 drubbing by BS'F'.

The match with BYMCA'C' was put back to 2nd May, and they visited without Shakil, but still walked away 8-2 winners. Jim Geddes & Dave Oakes unbeaten. Dave Cohen took Steve Daniels in 4, and Captain Eric had enough puff left over after playing the 1st match to win the 3rd match, against John Taylor.

MCA'C'

Bill Salter, Harry © & Steve McGanity, Brian Gregory, Wilf Gibson.

The top of 3 Maghull teams in this division just missing out on escape to Division 3 by 10 points. They finished with a 70% record, i.e. averaging 7-3, which over the course of a season is a great result. And they were the only team to beat Harold House 'B'. It was their tenacity that got them to where they finished. (Now that should get me a whisky chaser with my bitter on my next visit to MCA!)

Pity Harry losing both his singles over 5 to MCA'E' club mates Steve Banks & Alan Chan. Brian Gregory could have gone the same way against Keith Whittaker but won out from deuce in the 5th. Against the 'D' team Harry fared better, including a great win over Naresh in 5, but he couldn't stop Janette winning in 4. Janette went on to be MCA's hero, getting the only points for the 'D' by beating Wilf 11/0 in't 5th. Unbeaten were Bill (although close with Denise 11/8 in't 5th) and Brian. Wilf also went to 5 with Jimmy but this time came from behind to win.

Without Harry, 10-0 over Aigburth 'A' hides Bill beating Eric Wood and Neil Croxton, both 11-8 in the final game. Woodsy also lost out in 5 later in the penultimate match to Steve McGanity. Brian then went on for a good straights win over Neil. Both Brian & Wilf too competent for the lower orders.

As is the case with a team of character(s?), after a tin hat defeat at HH'B' they bounced back with a fine 9-1 over a 3 man Bath St 'G', with only big Ron beating Brian to show for the visitors. Bill & Harry were just too good, even for Ciaran, both beating him in the 4th. No last match against HH'C' as a 10-0 walkover was claimed/conceded.

MCA'D'

The core MCA 'D' team; Naresh Tagore, Denise Chorley, Janette Hutchings © and Jimmy Ambrose, had the delight of finishing above the 'E' team this year.

Well done to Naresh & Janette getting a game off Frank Proffitt, but mostly to Naresh & Denise Chorley in the 1st doubles beating Loftus & Roberts for their only point at Marconi 'C'. Janette had a fine win over Richard Woodley in the 4-6 defeat by BS'F'.

Good draw with Linacre when both teams were without a regular. Jimmy beat Peter Barton, but was frustrated to lose to Harry Nelson 10/12 in't 5th. Denise lost to Harry Nelson despite slamming in a 11/4 3rd set to go 2-1 ahead, but got some consolation back in winning the doubles with Jimmy. Finally Janette beat Ken Ainsworth in 3 after a deuce 1st game, to level the match.

Top half of the card all BS'G's leading to their 6-4 win. A well balanced game between Janette and Richard Woodley, 8/, /8, 12/10, 9/, /8. Sue Hughes failing to drop a game in her 2 singles sets against George & Richard, but just missing out in her doubles with Janette, 9/11 in 5th v. unbeaten Dave & Norman.

In April MCA'D' played host to rivals BYMCA'C'. Shakil got his 2 as usual, but as all the home side won one lost one and got doubles a draw resulted. Naresh beat Steve D, who then had a hard fought victory over Janette, in 5 - 16/14 in the last. (Watch out Steve, Janette promises she'll be out for revenge next season.) She didn't slip up in another 5 game with Gary Williamson, who had enjoyed a 5 game win himself over Jack Wilson.

Aigburth 1st went away with 8 points, 1 kept by Naresh off Lee Proffitt in a hotly contested battle of the 1's, and another from Jimmy 12/10, 14/12, 12/10 over a v. unlucky Ray Jones.

MCA'E'

Steve & Jeff Banks, Andy McCourt, Keith Whittaker, Alan Chan, Sue Hughes, Jack Wilson.

1 short against Aigburth led to a 0-10 loss. Alan Chan let John Mitchell off the hook, and the only doubles also went against them.

I'll let Andy McCourt describe their nail biting week 24 match with HH'B';- "Congratulations to Paul, John, Rob and Mike. The champagne was very welcome – how did they know they would beat us 10-0? We nearly spoiled the party with two doubles wins (*ahead 2-1 in each*), but it was not to be! Another good night at the MCA. We won't mention the 11-0 Paul gave to Keith, John has given his team mate enough stick already."

The chaps then got a whiplash as Marconi'C' played their last match, 1-9. Steve outwitting Frank in 4 to save the whitewash. Again the doubles held out much hope, but after Steve & Andy won the 2nd game 16/14 over Frank & Dave Bradley

to go 2-0 up, they saw the pair reassert themselves, and it is was they who won out 11/9 in't 5th.

Whoos Soos?

Joining the season late and hence ranked down at No.35 for the club, Susan Hughes has had a great return and quite an impact! Week before her first game (might be wrong here, but journalistic licence 'n all), MCA'D' lose 9-1 at Marconi. MCA'E' can't put out a full four and lose 10-0 to Aigburth 1st. Week later Sue plays for both teams. MCA'D' & MCA'E' still lose, 3-7 and 4-6, but lose better! And it's Sue who banked 6 of those 7 points. In her opening week, and still rusty, Sue still managed to beat George Crowley & John O'Sullivan. Sue dropping only one game 10/12;- and that was in the doubles! Talk about laying your stall out. The following week Sue won all her singles at Linacre and again at BS'F, and this time taking Alan Willis' scalp too. Sue top of the averages, 100% in 14 sets, average position 3.9. (Okay, so not a lot of games, but it shows what she is capable of!) I predict a higher order team for Sue next year. If I was the 'C' team captain I'd want her in my squad to strengthen the push for promotion. (As I'm the CADWA Sec I would just like to say the 14 & 79 buses run close by and we are handy for the train station. Ah hem.)

Bath St 'F'

Dave "the can" Cunningham (it used to be Dave "the cat" but age catches up with us all), "blusterin" Norman Lindsay (it used to be "stormin" but age etc...), Alan (what part of Merseyside is that accent from) Willis & and George "Chewy" Crowley. My early tip was one to watch, probably gave them the kiss of death.

Good 7-3 win over CADWA'D' in March. Dave 3-2 victor over Don.D. I rate my own 3-2 win over Norman, as I hope George rates his 3-2 over me in match 10. Norman compensated with a great straight sets win over Mandy McNabb. Alan Willis bagging a stonking double against Don & Jack Highton. 1st doubles twixt Dave & Norman & Andy & Don was quite good too with the middle of 5 games going 17/19 to the CADWA pair, mind you the set went to Dave & Norm.

Another 7-3, inflicted on MCA'E'. Steve Banks surprised Norman, taking the 5th game comfortably. Dave was on good form beating the Banks' each in 3.

Consumate 10-0 over Aigburth 'A', but in the battle of the 1's, Dave had to "wake up" to come from behind to beat Neil in't 5th.

Bath St 'G'

Ciaran McAleese, Dave Batty, Ron Georgeson ©, Richard Woodley, Albert Parker, Barbara Alcock, Alan Barker.

Quite a struggle with Linacre; 3-7. Well done to Ciaran in beating the formidable Harry Reeve. And in kind well done to Harry Nelson in beating Ciaran! Dave Batty held his nerve to beat Jack Davidson. In match 10 Richard Woodley surprised Ken Ainsworth 12/10 in the last game, for their last point.

Ciaran went on to win his singles in the 5-5 draw with "Boo YM'B" (as the card had it). Well done to Ron in beating Dave Oakes in a titanic battle (13/ in't 5th). But by his match 10 game with Gary Wilkinson, being asked to play 5 games again, was just to much (9/ in 5th), leaving Gary as the only unbowed visitor.

Their last match against Aigburth 1st was postponed till May. Richard took a tumble in his 2nd game against Graham. Cruel fate robbing him of a certain comeback victory and gifting the visitors 3 points. They earned 5 to stumble out 2-8 winners, Ian Laird enjoying a 5 setter with Dave. Which is the same way the only doubles went to BS'G'. Guesting Chris Blackburn beat Alan Staniland, but not Derek Traynor who also beat Ron. Shoe was on the other foot when MCA'E' came calling. Dave, Ron & Albert all enjoying comfortable wins over the MCA lads.

Linacre

Mainly Harry Reeve, Harry Nelson, Cap'n Jack Davidson (not Sparrow, unless you refer to his legs!), Ken Ainsworth.

Without Harry Nelson, they were humbled by Marconi 'C' 0-10. Adrian Bramham troubled more by Jack than Harry Reeve. Paul Loftus wasn't firing on all cylinders needing 5 games to beat both Harry & Ken. Even Paul's doubles went to 5.

They missed Cap'n Jack on a few occasions. E.g. against BS'F', Mr Reeve did his usual business over Dave & Alan and Harry Nelson took George in 3, but nothing came from the lower orders, hence the 4-6 result. The match scribe elaborates it "Harry Nelson with badly swollen foot played exceptionally well, only losing to Dave Cunningham. Dave played well to win and also was unlucky to lose to Harry Reeve in 4 closely contested games. Peter Barton v George Crowley was a fiercely contested battle with George emerging as victor."

Following week with Jack back, they ran in 10-0 winners over HH'C' (again playing a la 1st/2nd division, i.e. with a 3 man team).

Even when they are not performing well, a visit to Linacre is never an easy prospect and so it proved for MCA' C'. Harry Reeve beat Bill Salter & Harry McGanity. The other Harry, Nelson also beat Bill, enforcing a surprising pointless evening on Bill. The bottom of the card singles was MCA's though (incl. Wilf Gibson taking Jack & Ken) to ensure a 4-6 win.

Aigburth 1st –

A mixture of the young (Ian Laird & Lee Proffitt) and the not so (Graham Rollinson ©, Derek Traynor & John Mitchell).

Without Lee & Graham for the match with HH'B' things were always gonna be tough. Derek played on either side of the break, losing match 5 to John Hughes, but then loosened up in match 6, beating Mike Poole 13/11 in the 3rd; - the first home point. It was then him and Ian in 2nd doubles beating Paul & Rob that got the 2nd and last point. Not that Neil didn't try hard in the next game against Mike, but Mike bounced back from 2-0 down to win the set. Neither did Ian in the last match on against John. He went one better than his 1 game off Paul, by taking the 1st 2 games from deuce, before John tried a change of tack. It could have been Ian's set, but at 10-all in the 4th, John's bottle held.

Next home game saw a fantastic 7-3 win over Marconi 'C' really hurting the visitors championship prospects. At one stage there were even coasting 7-1 up. Paul Loftus beat Ian & Lee, and Frank Proffitt chipped in with a win over Graham. But everyone contributed on the home team; Ian beat Frank, Lee took Dave Bradley in straights, Graham had Ken Roberts in 4, and Derek couldn't be beaten, at least not by Dave or Ken. Ken looked as if he had over turned Derek, going 2-1 up after losing the first, but he couldn't get a foot hold in the 4th and 5th. Derek thus securing his 2nd win, in the 2nd game of the night, after beating Dave Bradley in 3 games in the 1st match on. Splitting the youngsters was the tactic that worked in the doubles.

Aigburth 1st finished with a very honourable draw with Linacre who were without Harry Nelson. Reserve Peter Barton still managed to contribute a point from John Mitchell. But it was John who made the draw by beating Ken Ainsworth in 3 in the last match on. This after Ken had taken Graham all the way in his other singles. Lee couldn't match Harry, but did outplay Jack D. And Derek outplayed both Jack and Peter.

Aigburth 'A'

Eric Wood leading Neil & Paul Croxton and Alan Staniland.

Good stuff from Neil beating BYM 'C's John Taylor eventually, coming from 2 down, in the 2-8 defeat. In the battle of the No.1s, it was Shakil Malik in 4 over Eric, who in turn out played Steve Daniels. Gary Williamson struggled with, but overcame Paul Croxton in 5. Both doubles close but Paul & Alan narrowly beat Steve & John.

In the 1-9 defeat by their first team, they did hold the lead after the first match. Eric Wood establishing bragging rights at the bar by beating rival Captain Graham, in what reads on the card as a right old ding-dong 5 gamer. Neil almost had another point on the board, when 2-1 up against Ian in game 9. And Paul did even better in the last match, going 2-0 up thanks to holding sway in 2 deuce games over John Mitchell. Consequentially, a big well done to John in not losing his head after such a double b*mmmer, and coming back to win the next 3. As Woodsy will tell you the result does not matter - just the fact he beat Rollo!

A much changed side struggled 4-6 with MCA'E' in what Derek called a Crocks Match; backs, legs, arms, fingers and knees, all playing major parts. Neil beat the Banks' then Steve had to retire from his singles against Alan. Sean Denny gave Keith a scare taking 2 games off him.

Playing the runaway Champions in your last match just makes things doubly difficult. 0-10, but at least no 11/0's, although a few 11/2's and 11/1's.

CADWA 'D'

Andy McNabb, John O'Sullivan, Don Davies, Paul Lunan, Jack Highton and I.

7-3 over MCA'E', who pretty much had surprise package Sue Hughes to thank for the points; a clear winner over John O'Sullivan & Jack Highton. I won my 2, as did Andy firstly beating Andy McCourt & Keith Whittaker in singles and then in doubles (with Jack Highton) 11/8 in 5th.

Without Andy, Eric Wood made hay (platted into a bat) beating John & Don. 2-1 down v John, he took the 4th 12/10 and didn't look back. 8-2 the score, but I had to dig deep to crop Neil in 5.

Against BS'G', John & I won our 2, both including wins over Richard. Paul listened to good advice to comeback in the 1st match with Dave Batty, but latterly found Albert Parker too strong. As did Jack, making more of a fist of it, but still losing 9/11 in't 5th. A tremendous doubles win for Dave & Richard over John & Paul was the visitor's highlight in their 7-3 defeat.

Embarrassment on both sides in CADWA'D's end of season match with MCA'D', as both teams fielded only 3. 2 void and 2 walkover

matches resulted. At least John enjoyed a close match with old chum Denise, 11/9 in't 5th. The other 5 matches all going CADWA's way, in what became a 7-1 official result.

Bootle YMCA 'C'

Shakil Malik, Jim Geddes©, Dave Oakes, Steve Daniels, John Taylor, Gary Williamson, (who sometimes have an identity crisis and call themselves Bootle YMCA 'B'. Delusions of grandeur? A terrible thing.)

The chaps here have played a rota system for the good of the squad/club.

Lost 3-7 to HH'B'. Shakil winning his singles, but not able to prevent with Dave, a 5 game victory for John Hughes & Mike Poole in the doubles. Jim Geddes supplying the other home point in the last match /9 in't 5th with Mike. Shakil has been outstanding for the team; witnessed by straight sets wins over top players John Hughes, Paul Morgan, Frank Proffitt, and in 4 over Derek Scotland's rock-ets. Steve Daniels had a game of the season against Marconi that night, going 2 up over Frank, then going down by the narrowest of margins; 8/11, 10/12, 9/11. John Taylor can also be proud of taking a game off Derek, a task few have accomplished this season. Jim Geddes is still a wily character, as he showed beating HH'C's Mike Poole from 2-1 down.

They showed what they can do with a full strength team when they humbled Linacre 8-2. Yes, Shakil beat the Harrys, Jim beat Jack D in 5, as did Dave Oakes to Harry Nelson. Jack's win over Steve was the other point for Linacre. Things back fired big time in their last match versus BS'F'. Yes, Shakil won his 2, this time in 4 over Norman and coming from 2-1 down against Dave. However, that was all. Jim equalised with Alan only to lose 11/5 in't 5th. Steve took a game off George. But all in all, not enough to prevent going down 2-8.

Harold House 'B'

Andy Woodyatt, John Hughes, Paul Morgan, Mike Poole and Rob Midgley, Jeff Mehan, Rod McPherson, Martin Roberts.

So many great individual performances over the year, hence impossible to document them all. Perhaps the 10-0 thumping over 3rd placed MCA'C' was the high water mark for the team though? John & Paul beat Bill Slater. Indeed I'll nominate Paul v Bill as match of the night, going to Paul 7/, 16/14, 6/, /9, /6. Mike beat Harry McGanity in 3, then 2 games later beat Brian Gregory in 4. Rob won the 1st match against Brian and the last (in 4) over Steve McGanity.

8-2 over CADWA'D' belies a much closer game. Andy McNabb was the star for CADWA beating Andy and John in straight sets. Andy W was

too strong for John O, but all other games were hotly contested. Don narrowly won the 2nd game 14/12 off John Hughes to tie at 1-1, then narrowly lost the next 13/15. Paul Morgan won out over 5 against both John & Jack. Up 2-0 against both, they each climbed back to 2-2. Paul beating Jack 13/11 and then John 11/9 in the deciders.

Marconi 'C'

Paul Loftus, Frank Proffitt, Derek Scotland, Dave Bradley and Ken Roberts.

I hope the guys don't mind me for saying this but, on paper I thought there were stronger teams around. But they proved me wrong. And I think that's because as a whole they played above themselves. Hence as a team the sum was greater than the parts. E.g. Frank playing at No.1, came from 2-1 down against HH'C' No.1 Lewis Rosenbloom. In the last singles, he took the 4th 12/10 and 5th 13/11, as part of the 10-0 win.

6-4 over near rivals MCA'C' (without their No.1) sorted out the pecking order but didn't gain much ground on HH'B'. Paul was the only home player to win his singles, and but for the double performance things could have been worse. Frank lost to Brian Gregory and a close one with Harry McGanity, 11/13 in't 5th. Derek suffered a similar fate to young McGanity; 2-1 up then Steve finished the set off with two 11/7 games. Brian sealed a great personal performance by also beating Ken in straights. Both Derek and Kenny struggled to beat Wilf.

Last home game against CADWA'D' was almost an after the show affair. Paul Lunan was the star that night, beating both Paul Loftus (1st game on, in 3) and same formula dealt out to Derek. Paul also showed mettle in the doubles with myself, seeing a 2-0 lead slip to 2-2 and deuce in the 5th, yet constant to win out 12/10. John beat Frank for CADWA'S final point. Paul, Frank and Derek won their other games, and Ken made sure it was a disappointing night for Jack & I.

End Games

I don't know what the reason was that caused Harold House 'C' to concede their final week's game and 10 points to MCA'C' giving them a boost into 3rd place. Did they even bother to consider if the game counted for anything? It's not right for the bottom team in a club with many members signed on, not to field a team. Don't blame the Management Committee though, as they proposed a rule change at this year's AGM which would have tightened up on this. Okay, so it could be claimed that this was an end of season match with little relevance. (I'd hate to think what would have been the consequence if it

hadn't been!) Even so, it did affect 3rd place, and 3rd is like fingers crossed for promotion if you're lucky. E.g. in recent years 3rd placed teams have gone up due to divisional restructuring. No doubt Aigburth 1st who came 4th to MCA 'C' (who failed to beat them btw) by 5 points, will be asking for an explanation when they meet HH next season. They should, as Aigburth 1st record with HH'C' reads; played 20 games, won 19, lost 1, whereas by comparison MCA'C' record with HH'C' reads incredulously; played 7 games, won 7, lost 0, conceded-to 13!! Beggar Mu. Imagine if Aigburth 1st had conceded 13 points to Marconi 'C' whilst fielding a full strength team in matches with HH'B'. Can we not have reasons for cancellation made know, e.g. published on the web site?

I've also seen some card graffiti that expresses concern over the MC: "HH Champs by kind permission of the league management committee". Now there seems to be rumours floating around, which tarnish HH'B's achievement. Would anyone from the Management Committee like to elaborate and explain further? All I know is some kinda disciplinary hearing took place and a re-ranking resulted. But all this seems to happen behind closed doors leaving gossip to fill-in the gaps of knowledge. Probably too late now anyway, as the players rumour mill works on the principle of "no smoke without fire". But fires spread quickly and get out of control if they are not attended to.

Can't wait to see what sparks fly next season!

A few of those 'bits' from old Digests

Vol 30. No. 4 May 1977
Div. 5A by Jack Lambert

In the battle for the wooden spoon Trinity 'H' were "Victors" but one can only have the greatest admiration for Gill Harris, Finnegan and S. & P. Gittens who only won a handful of games between them and very rarely missed one. Eng. Elec. 'H' played an enthusiastic squad with father and son Dave and Brian Thomas coming out as top set winners.

(Steve and Paul have certainly improved their game since then!)

Vol 30 No.4 May 1977
Div. 5B by Ken Armson

It's always nice to have an unexpected reversal and University provided one when they decisively defeated Elec. Supp. 'A' in the Cup Final. It has not been possible to assess their strength as they have never turned out their best players together in league matches. **Their No. 1 in the Final, J. Simpson, for example has only played in one league match.** Congratulations on their win and for showing they really were interested in winning.

(Now that's what I call 'ringers', I wonder if the rule was changed the next season!, Ken went on to slate University for lack of commitment to the league in general)

Vol 12 No. 5 Apr.1962

From the Secretary's Desk
28th MAY, 1962

At the Annual General Meeting, which will be held at the Liverpool Y.M.C.A. on Monday, May 28th, the Management Committee will be putting before the Meeting certain suggestions for rule alterations. Most of these suggestions are designed to tidy up the existing rules, and, if possible, remove the 'double meaning which at present exists in certain of our rules.

However, at least two of our suggestions will meet with opposition, and, we hope, with some support. We are, for instance, proposing an increase in the maximum fine from £1 to £5. This is designed to cover the instances where a fine of £1 is inadequate, but the other penalties at our disposal (suspension or expulsion) appear to be too severe.

The other rule amendments' we propose are designed to cover the introduction of a three-a-side League. This is a scheme for which, judging by the last A.G.M. there is support. We have given the matter some thought and believe that our scheme is workable. A brief outline of our suggestion is as follows:

(a 'max' fine of £5, that must have been some deterrent, 40 years ago I can remember tradesmens' wages as around only £17 per week, and we are still trying to find a satisfactory way to encourage players not to miss games and so save fines.)

Divisional Cup Finals

The four Divisional and the Frank Murphy Trophy were played at the end of last season, the two weeks after the last scheduled league match, some say too late, but this was mainly due to the extended 26 league match season, this coming season the 4 Divisional Cup Finals have been scheduled to be played all in the same week, 2nd. Of April, 5 weeks from the end of the season, the Frank Murphy Trophy, the following week, so just in case, keep that week free.

The following photo's are last seasons Cup finalists, full reports were sent to all Club secretaries, and also on the L&DTTL web site, so the photo's only have the participating players

Div. 1

The Readman Cup.

Fords played Liverpool Cricket Club 'A' in this Final. Fords regular team of Tim Wearden (C), Mal McEvoy and Terry Turner, LCC 'A' had regulars Tony Whelan, Ahmed Thabet (C) and Dave Tagg (playing for the 'A' team in the absence of Miguel Bellec). The match ended with victory to Fords 5 - 1.

Played at Bootle YMCA, match official Roly Wright



Ahmed, Dave, and Tony of LCC 'A' Tim, Mal, and Terry of Fords



Gemma, Gavin, Mike, Jon, Alan, Cadwa 'A' squad player George Lennon and Graeme

Div. 2.

The Dr. J. Rumjahn Cup.

Division champions Cadwa 'A' Graeme Black, Alan Timewell and Mike Power (C) took on mid table M/Side Police 'A' with a full strength team of Gavin Lloyd, Gemma Lloyd and Jon Dyson (C), the match finished 5 - 3 to Police 'A' with some fantastic attacking and defending table tennis.

Played at Wavertree Labour.

Match Official, Ken Armson MBE.

Trophies once again presented by Peter Rumjahn and Jan Davies

Div. 3.

The G.B. Hyde Cup.

Div. Champions Wav. Lab. 'A' Dave Roberts, Peter Howden, John Rowan and Paul Banks (C) played 3rd. Placed Bath St. 'D' Mark Paterson, Neil Pritchett, Les Gee and Peter Ross (C). The match finished 5 - 1 to Wav. Lab. 'A', Bath St. Unable to gain any control of the match.

Played at the M/Side Police Club Match official, - Roly Wright



Dave, John, Peter H., Paul, Neil, Mark, Peter R. And Les



Harry N., Jack, Ken, Harry R. Peter Barton, (Linacre squad) Graham (M.O.) Frank, Paul, Derek, Dave Bradley (Marconi squad) and Ken

Div. 4
L.E. Forrest Cup,
 2nd placed Marconi 'C's
 team of Paul Loftus,
 Frank Proffitt, Derek
 Scotland and Ken Roberts
 and mid table Linacre's
 Harry Reeves, Harry Nel-
 son, Jack Davidson and
 Ken Ainsworth, played
 out a classic Cup Final
 with the outcome in doubt
 right to the end.
 Played at Bootle YMCA
 Match official. - Graham
 Rollinson

**The Frank Murphy
 Memorial Trophy**

This Vets Handicap
 Final between first
 time entered Maghull
 Fred Pheysey (C),
 peter Holmes and Rod
 Bulmer, played
 Aigburth's Graham
 Rollinson (C),
 Derek Traynor and
 Eric Woods, this
 match had everything,
 good competitive
 table tennis, ten-
 sion right to the
 end, and a great atmo-
 sphere, and a score to
 go with the atmo-
 sphere, Aigburth 460 -
 Maghull 461



John Mitchell (Aigburth squad) Graham, Derek, Eric, Peter, Fred, Fred's G/son Adam, Rod

The Trophies were once again presented by Marjorie Murphy and family

**Liverpool Closed Tournament
 2006 -07**

Last season our own closed tournament was
 played on what was thought to be the best
 available date, (which are not easy to get),
 but coincided with an ever popular national
 Vets Tournament, with the result that many of
 the regular entrants to our closed didn't enter,
 this coming season Ken has managed to get a
 date which doesn't clash with any National
 Tournaments, and it's not a Premier League
 week-end, so put it in your Diary.

SUNDAY 11th MARCH 2007

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7. STATION ROAD, PRESCOT

Liverpool & District Table Tennis League

Averages Season 2005-06 qualification 5 Matches = 15 Sets

Trevor has again completed the final averages and they can be seen on the L&DTTL web site in the full format. Pos. 1 to 10 in each division have been printed in the new handbooks, below are a further 25 pos. in each division.

Div. 1

Pos.	Name	Club	P	W	Ave
11	BIRD Keith	Liverpool CC	74	57	77%
12	BEECH Aaron	Wavertree Labour	61	46	75%
13	TURNER Terry	Fords	48	35	73%
14	JACKSON Ken	Bath St	63	45	71%
15	LEE Peter	Liverpool CC	64	44	69%
16	MOLYNEUX Les	Manweb	72	49	68%
17	BRAY Tom	Crosby High	49	33	67%
18	CAMPBELL Ian	Bath St 'A'	68	43	63%
19	WHELAN Tony	Liverpool CC 'A'	36	22	61%
20	GITTINS Paul	M/Side Police	45	27	60%
21	CONNER Ken	Harold House	56	33	59%
22	THABET Ahmed	Liverpool CC 'A'	79	44	56%
23	POWELL Neil	Manweb	69	38	55%
24	ROSCALEER Mark	Harold House	33	18	55%
25	NELSON Dave	Cadwa	15	8	53%
26	LAU John	Liverpool CC	88	45	51%
27	DAVIES Andrew	Fords	30	15	50%
28	CROWLEY Eddie	Bath St 'A'	71	35	49%
29	BIRCH Ted	Bootle YMCA	51	25	49%
30	BELLEK Mikael	Liverpool CC 'A'	58	28	48%
31	HOWARD Alice	Wavertree Labour	54	25	46%
32	BRYCE Alec	Harold House	58	26	45%
33	CHASE Alan	Bootle YMCA	57	25	44%
34	WILSON Matt	Maghull	52	22	42%
35	EVANS Dave	Crosby High	29	12	41%

Div 3

11	CLAYTON Bill	Bath St 'D'	66	51	77%
12	ROSS Peter	Bath St 'D'	44	34	77%
13	PATERSON Mark	Bath St 'D'	51	38	75%
14	HOWDEN Peter	Wav Labour 'A'	30	22	73%
15	AMBROSE Mark	Maghull 'B'	44	31	70%
16	OWENS Andrew	Marconi 'B'	26	18	69%
17	HARDY John	Manweb 'C'	16	11	69%
18	DYSON Len	Bootle YMCA 'B'	43	29	67%
19	McCANN John	Marconi 'B'	33	22	67%
20	GEE Les	Bath St 'D'	42	27	64%
21	WILLIAMS Peter	Bootle YMCA 'B'	38	24	63%
22	PRITCHETT Neil	Bath St 'D'	43	27	63%
23	CREEVY Tom	Wav Labour 'A'	26	16	62%
24	CONNER Tony	Wav Labour 'B'	46	27	59%
25	McPHERSON Rod	Harold House 'A'	50	29	58%
26	BARKER Rob	Manweb 'C'	38	22	58%
27	JENNING Paul	Manweb 'C'	28	16	57%
28	FYLES Colin	Wav Labour 'B'	44	25	57%
29	GARNETT Arthur	Bootle YMCA 'B'	34	19	56%
30	ROBERTS Martin	Harold House 'A'	18	10	56%
31	BULMER Rod	Maghull 'B'	47	26	55%
32	PHEYSEY Fred	Maghull 'A'	49	27	55%
33	ARMSON Ken	Wav Labour 'C'	38	20	53%
34	FROST George	Maghull 'B'	38	20	53%
35	DOWNING Tom	Maghull 'B'	40	21	53%

Div. 2

Pos.	Name	Club	P	W	Ave
11	TIMEWELL Alan	Cadwa 'A'	33	23	70%
12	LENNON George	Cadwa 'A'	53	36	68%
13	TERNENT Tim	Marconi	23	15	65%
14	PEAT Rob	Bath St 'C'	61	39	64%
15	NORMAN Sharon	Manweb 'B'	72	46	64%
16	WYLIE Rob	Crosby High 'A'	60	38	63%
17	NOLAN Terri-Ann	M/Side Police 'B'	57	36	63%
18	BARRACLOUGH T	Manweb 'B'	63	37	59%
19	DYSON Jon	M/Side Police 'A'	59	34	58%
20	OWENS Trevor	Marconi	67	38	57%
21	LLOYD Andy	Manweb 'A'	74	41	55%
22	BROWN Ricky	Bath St 'B'	69	38	55%
23	WASS Peter	Manweb 'A'	64	35	55%
24	HEWITT Jamie	Bath St 'C'	24	13	54%
25	LLOYD Gemma	M/Side Police 'A'	30	16	53%
26	HUGHES Bob	Fords 'A'	36	19	53%
27	HIGHAM John	Bootle YMCA 'A'	57	29	51%
28	LANGTON John	Bath St 'C'	76	38	50%
29	WENSLEY Ian	Marconi 'A'	64	32	50%
30	McCANN Frank	Marconi A	73	36	49%
31	ADAMS Roy	Manweb 'A'	57	28	49%
32	APPLETON John	Greenbank	53	26	49%
33	REID Graham	Fords 'A'	42	19	45%
34	GRAHAM Sylvia	Crosby High 'A'	62	28	45%
35	HENSHAW John	Manweb 'A'	20	9	45%

Div.4

11	LAIRD Ian	Aigburth	40	31	78%
12	ROLLINSON Graham	Aigburth	44	33	75%
13	GIBSON Wilf	Maghull 'C'	34	25	74%
14	POOLE Mike	Harold House 'B'	30	22	73%
15	McGANIFY Steve	Maghull 'C'	30	21	70%
16	PARKER Albie	Bath St 'G'	12	7	70%
17	ROBERTS Ken	Marconi 'C'	35	24	69%
18	NELSON Harry	Linacre	41	28	68%
19	SCOTLAND Derek	Marconi 'C'	40	27	68%
20	LUNAN Paul	Cadwa 'D'	18	12	67%
21	CROWLEY George	Bath St 'F'	44	29	66%
22	O'SULLIVAN John	Cadwa 'D'	41	27	66%
23	SALTER Bill	Maghull 'C'	38	25	66%
24	McGANIFY Harry	Maghull 'C'	40	26	65%
25	BAKER Doug	Cadwa 'D'	34	22	65%
26	PROFFITT Frank	Marconi 'C'	38	24	63%
27	GREGORY Brian	Maghull 'C'	38	24	63%
28	OAKES Dave	Bootle YMCA 'C'	16	10	63%
29	WILLIS Alan	Bath St 'F'	42	25	60%
30	LINDSAY Norman	Bath St 'F'	44	26	59%
31	WOOD Eric	Aigburth 'A'	40	23	58%
32	CUNNINGHAM Dave	Bath St 'F'	48	26	54%
33	MCALEESE Keiron	Bath St 'G'	25	13	52%
34	PROFFITT Lee	Aigburth	36	18	50%
35	DAVIES Don	Cadwa 'D'	22	11	50%

It may be old news now but as late as the ETTA AGM the poor performance of the England team in the Commonwealth Games and the omission from the squad of Alex Perry were still the subject of much concern, the Chairman having to field a few more bumpers.

If you have never been to an ETTA AGM you may feel you have not missed much and you could possibly be right but the item that falls under the heading of not to be missed has to be the Management Report. Armour piercing questions, comments and criticisms are launched at the Chairman who for this item vacates the Chair to enable him to respond on behalf of his Management Committee. The winner is always the Chairman who parries every thrust with a sometimes placating reply, sometimes takes away the sting of a thrust by agreeing and in general manages to satisfy everyone even though in real terms he will not have given any ground or agreed to any material change. I call it the nit picking session and sit back and enjoy the show.



Interestingly the AGM took place this year in Harrow the venue clearly having an adverse effect not only on attendance but on voting. Manchester again put up their rule amendment for a change in league voting rights and whereas last time this attracted over 100,000 votes and only fell because it narrowly failed to attain the required majority on this occasion it only received 20,000 plus votes. One could ask if democracy received a fair crack of the whip as leagues who normally attend presumably did not send a representative because of travel costs or not being able to find anyone willing to travel to London. England playing their disastrous World Cup quarter final that afternoon probably didn't help Manchester's cause. Should we be worried, I think we should as local leagues have no real voting power within the ETTA as this is held by National Councillors.

I had the opportunity to officiate at the Vets Nationals and now more readily understand why Vets tournaments receive such allegiance from their members and attract large entries. But one aspect was little different from any other player umpire events and that was competitors avoiding umpiring after losing. For some doubles matches the players umpired themselves I knew many of the competitors even remembered quite a few names, putting a name to a face being one of my weak points, but I noted that some I knew never did show up to do their required umpire stint.

Two noteworthy individual results for Liverpool players, Kevin Dolder getting the Player of the season award in his division of the British League, Alice Howard winning the Ladies singles in the Corporate Games and then going on to win the Women's Singles in the World corporate Games held in Budapest in July. For good measure she also won the Mixed doubles title partnered by Guang Shi. Our Women's team of Sylvia, Alice and Cherith also did us proud in the National Team competition snatching victory from the jaws of defeat to win the coveted Rose Bowl.

Kevin is making this season his gap season and concentrating on coaching with St Helens so the door is open for a possible new Men's Champion in our Closed tournament. I was privileged, or should I say amazed recently to see Kevin actually moving equipment and dismantling after an event and I have noted this unique sighting for my memoirs.

Venue loss continues to plague us, the axe hanging over Bath St having fallen sooner than was expected and at the time of writing Liv YM are still looking for a new venue. Venue loss is becoming a serious problem and we urgently need our own league venue to ensure a future for our sport in Liverpool. Linacre, Waterloo, Bootle JC, Marconi, Wavertree Labour twice, Liv YM and now Bath Street have all had to find new venues of recent years and these are becoming increasingly more difficult to find. The list of clubs no longer with us is even greater.

We need to consider teaming up with a school building a Sports Centre using funding that requires public access out of school hours. Blackpool has successfully done this and their 12 table venue is also used for national events. They have guaranteed access time at agreed rates and their league is benefiting from this partnership. Not as good as having a venue of our own but we cannot afford to be choosy and time is not on our side.

With no additional teams we again have divisions of 14 teams and a 21 week season, not everyone's cup of tea but falling numbers leave us with no other option. We are paying the penalty for years of neglect in not having members willing to go into schools to coach and encourage youngsters to take up our sport. The only really active members we appear have are Dave Graham and John Langton but we need a lot more Dave Graham's willing to give some time to coaching. You don't have to be a world class coach, the main requirement being the desire to bring new blood into table tennis. The fall out rate can be high but if every member, retired or otherwise, successfully recruited just one new player we could double our league membership and ensure a future for our league. Optimistic, may be, but if it encourages just one member to take up the challenge then others will hopefully follow. We all owe it to the sport that has given us so much enjoyment to put something back in for what we have taken out.

Did you know only six clubs are represented on the Management Committee, an area lacking member input with those who do put in time and effort invariably coming in for unfair criticism, especially at our AGM. Clubs conveniently overlook the fact that Management Committee members make decisions that will also affect their own club and do so because they have to remain impartial and act in the best interests of the league and its members. Unfair criticism deters interested members from putting their name forward and the clubs are the losers. We need committee members willing to give 100% and we don't have many of those. What is conveniently overlooked is that the league does not incur any cost by way of meetings and general league work as members don't claim expenses. The only cost incurred is operating expenses related to the work of the Organising Secretary, Fixture Secretary, Cup Secretary and Match Secretary. If you can put up with being continually sniped at, running round at your own expense, doing numerous unpaid tasks etc and accept that you will always be wrong then put your name forward and join us in the firing line. Won't do a thing for your self esteem but the clubs will enjoy a new target.

How do I know this? Because I was 175 miles from Liverpool minding my own business and suddenly found myself under verbal attack on something I had nothing to do with but which was apparently my fault. Criticism does not bother me as I know from experience that brickbats will always be the order of the day and the harder you work the greater the volume of brickbats. Unfortunately most people are not prepared to put up with this and so don't put their name forward even if interested.

The ball licence scheme having been reluctantly dropped by ITTF means we can use any ITTF approved ball but one could hazard a guess that manufacturers passed the licence cost on to us. As they will no longer be paying this can we expect greater competition amongst ball manufacturers linked to a price reduction as they fight it out for our business?

The biggest problem we face and the most contentious one is that of walkovers. It is not just the possible effect on promotion and relegation it is also about the loss of a competitive match as this is the main reason most of us play. Fines are at best only a stopgap and the league has to find a penalty system that will make teams think twice before casually giving their opponents a walkover. No system can eradicate misunderstandings over a match night but most walkovers are related to the 'we can't get a team out' lament. What they really mean is a regular strong team is not available so they can't be bothered putting out a weaker team.. If you have any thoughts or views on a possible punitive system why not let Trevor Owens or Mike Power know and the Management Committee can then consider these and put something to our next AGM.

To conclude on a happier note, at our AGM I was greatly honoured and also very surprised to be awarded the highest honour the league can bestow that of Life membership. This is a very high honour and one I did not really feel I was worthy of but clearly others felt differently.

Final League Tables Season 2005 - 2006

<i>Division One</i>	P	W	D	L	Pts
Wavertree Labour	26	21	2	3	193
Liverpool CC	26	20	2	4	173
Bootle YMCA	26	19	2	5	171
Fords	26	17	4	5	153
Crosby High	26	14	4	8	147
Bath St 'A'	26	13	2	11	144
Merseyside Police	26	12	3	11	138
Manweb	26	9	4	13	127
Liverpool CC 'A'	26	7	6	13	115
Harold House	26	7	6	13	113
Bath St	26	7	1	18	103
Cadwa	26	6	4	16	91
Maghull	26	5	0	21	79
Liverpool CC 'B'	26	3	3	20	70

3 Sets void

<i>Division Two</i>	P	W	D	L	Pts
Cadwa 'A'	26	21	3	2	177
Marconi	26	19	4	3	170
Bath St 'B'	26	19	4	3	169
Manweb 'A'	26	16	5	5	153
Manweb 'B'	26	12	4	10	138
Fords 'A'	26	10	5	11	137
Marconi 'A'	26	11	2	13	125
Merseyside Police 'A'	26	11	3	12	125
Bath St 'C'	26	11	3	12	124
Greenbank	26	8	3	15	118
Crosby High 'A'	26	11	2	13	115
Cadwa 'B'	26	4	1	21	89
Merseyside Police 'B'	26	5	2	19	86
Bootle YMCA 'A'	26	2	3	21	84

M/Side Police 'B' 10 Pts Deducted Ineligible Player

<i>Division Three</i>	P	W	D	L	Pts
Wavertree Labour 'A'	26	25	1	0	215
Maghull 'A'	26	20	4	2	202
Bath St 'D'	26	22	1	3	184
Maghull 'B'	26	15	3	8	147
Bootle YMCA 'B'	26	13	5	8	137
Marconi 'B'	26	13	2	11	126
Manweb 'C'	26	12	3	11	123
Harold House 'A'	26	7	8	11	122
Wavertree Labour 'B'	26	9	5	12	119
Wavertree Labour 'C'	26	6	5	15	105
Bath St 'E'	26	7	2	17	100
Wavertree Labour 'D'	26	6	3	17	99
Cadwa 'C'	26	3	5	18	92
Liverpool CC 'C'	26	0	1	25	49

<i>Division Four</i>	P	W	D	L	Pts
Harold House 'B'	24	22	1	1	197
Marconi 'C'	24	21	1	2	178
Maghull 'C'	24	16	3	5	168
Aigburth	24	17	3	4	163
Bath St 'F'	24	15	2	7	143
Cadwa 'D'	24	14	2	8	141
Linacre	24	10	3	11	137
Bath St 'G'	24	9	1	14	104
Bootle YMCA 'C'	24	7	3	14	98
Maghull 'D'	24	5	4	15	89
Maghull 'E'	24	5	2	17	65
Aigburth 'A'	24	0	1	23	38
Harold House 'C'	24	2	0	22	37
Greenbank 'A'	Records Expunged				

2 Sets Void

<i>Fines Season 2006-07</i>	No
Player Short	65
Walk Over League	14
Walk Over Cup	9
Played Out of Order	6
Late Score Card	32
Total	126

*The next Liverpool Closed
Sunday March 11th. 2007*