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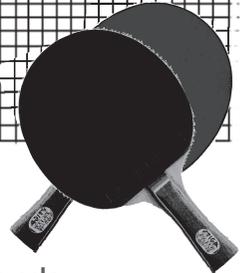


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# EDITORIAL

Welcome to another season

This season has started with the new 14 team, 4 Division format to overcome the continuing shortage we had of teams in the 5<sup>th</sup> Division, I'm sure most players will look forward to the extra games, especially those players from the old 5<sup>th</sup> Div. who, while paying the same fees as everyone else, were getting far fewer games, but up to now there appears to be more instances of players dropping out, and having to be replaced for matches. Last season, consensus of opinion seemed to be that the standard in each division was fairly close, bar for the obvious gap between the top and bottom teams, this season due to the mass promotions to form 14 team divisions, the gap between some teams may feel a bit wider and it may take a couple of seasons to get the balance right again. But a reminder that the 4 Division change was made out of an urgent necessity, and as expected, the extra promotions were accepted by all, would the reverse to 5 divisions be accepted so readily.

With now having lost the 5<sup>th</sup> division, I thought that we would automatically lose the services of Doug Baker as the 5<sup>th</sup> div. reporter, and retaining Stan Clarke for the 4<sup>th</sup> and Steve Kee for the 3<sup>rd</sup>, but didn't I drop a clanger, not realising till to late that Stan was now playing in the 3<sup>rd</sup>. and Steve in the 1<sup>st</sup>, but rather than rock the boat both agreed to carry on, but to be fair to all, Doug has agreed to take up the 4<sup>th</sup> div. and Stan the 3<sup>rd</sup>. where they play, and Steve to step down from the 3<sup>rd</sup>. div., I'm not sure if Steve's disappointed or relieved, but thanks for those excellent reports Steve.

My thanks also to Paul Gittens, who has also put down the pen, after many years of reporting for the 1<sup>st</sup> Div., I had first thought that finding another writer would prove difficult, but in has stepped Ian McElwee to take up the pen, so I'm sure it won't be long before Ian has his own style for the readers to enjoy, thanks Ian.

Our own Liverpool Closed Tournament will take place on SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY. It is so difficult to get a date that suits everyone, so with availability of a venue being the biggest factor, the cancellation of the Liverpool Junior 4 Star tournament gave Ken A. an early date, but because this Digest would be too late, entry forms were sent to all Club Secretaries early November, so hopefully everyone knows. **Forms must be in by January 7<sup>th</sup>.** Even though the Finals Night is an excellent night of top class T.T. for spectators as well as players, the



Sunday is intended as more of a social get together, to see the different standards throughout the league, play someone from your own division, or enter the open, and play someone from a higher division, it's all about enjoying the day, so give it a try! It's your tournament.

## Cup regulations

Once again some clubs are suffering from the Cup Regulation 5, playing three league games or more for a higher team and being cup tied, I'm sure this rule was implemented to hold back clubs who ranked better players at the lower end of their ranking list, giving them free movement throughout all the teams, but it now seems to be having more effect on clubs who are ranking in order of ability, but are being caught out by the need to play up to help maintain full match numbers in teams suffering from players dropping out, so at the moment, the choice is either play a league match short and get a fine, or bring players up who may be cup tied from playing for their own team. This problem arose same time last year, two clubs caught out by the rule, both clubs appealing against the rule, and yet, surprisingly, there were no requests put forward for a change in this rule at the AGM. Will this season be different as we are playing more matches before Cup Rounds? (any proposals must be in by last Saturday in February!)

England Cadets team of Paul Drinkhall, Darius Knight and Gavin Evans won Gold at the recent World Cadet Championships held in the Dominican Republic, also Paul gaining a silver in the singles and the doubles, partnered by Darius, does the future look good for English T.T.!

The Disability Sport Event National Table Tennis Championships took place in September with Greenbank's Mark Palmer and Lynne Riding doing pretty well, Mark won the two singles classes he entered for, and also received overall Male wheelchair winner of the Championships. Lynne also won her class and overall Female wheelchair winner, then Mark and Lynne combined to win the doubles, all this helped the North West to win the Regional Team Prize.

Greenbank are again busy organising The 2006 City of Liverpool Table Tennis International Wheelchair Championships to be held at Greenbank 17<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> March 2006, an enormous amount of prep. work, Mark Palmer recons there will be about 140 competitors from 20 countries, make a note!!

**EDITOR**  
Roly Wright

I had an interesting letter from Ken Hyde, (page 17) who was a leading light of Liverpool table tennis in the 1930's, along with Peter Rumjahn. In 1937 Ken played No.1 for England in the Swatthling Cup, (the Davis Cup equivalent of Table Tennis), the present 3<sup>rd</sup> Div. K.O. cup was presented by his father. Tony Harris's history of the Liverpool League has many interesting photo's and info of Ken's time in Liverpool. Thanks to Ken for taking the trouble to write, it's always a pleasure to hear from ex Liverpool players.

There are quite a few new names appearing on match cards this season, a lot of new top rate players appearing in the top divisions, but just as important, new players appearing in the lower divisions, some who had never played league before, a very big welcome to them, but a special welcome to the youngsters who have joined from the coaching classes at schools, it's not easy finding clubs who have the space to take them in, but in the case of Aigburth, these youngsters have come at the right time, I gather from Eric Wood that they are settling in well, thanks must go also to the parents who ferry them about, I'm sure they won't regret it. There are a few other Clubs finding space for young new players, keep it up, cos we do need them!

Another long established club name has now gone, Liverpool YMCA will now be called Liverpool Cricket Club in recognition of their new playing venue. L/YMCA first appears, in the records I have, in 1954-55 when their 'B' team won the 3<sup>rd</sup>. division K.O. cup, since then they have enjoyed a very colourful 50 year history of top class table tennis at their Mount Pleasant venue, and as they have managed to maintain the present players, we wish them well in their new home. In 1961-62 Liverpool Cricket Club won the Rumjahn Cup, so an old name resurrected.

Sadly, more well known characters of Liverpool & District League table tennis passed away recently, Jimmy Clewett of Liverpool YMCA and Harry Holmes of Aigburth, and also the passing of Norman Heavyside, the long serving President of the Liverpool Business Houses League ( Obituary page 16). Don Davies has kindly put together a more detailed appreciation of Jack Lambert (page 4) who passed away as the last Digest was going to print.

Fixture Secretary Trevor, is again keeping us up to date with league tables and match results, usually on the web site by the Tuesday / Wednesday following the week of the matches, (thanks to webmaster John Langton), as an added bonus player averages, watch them change. The disappointing fact though is the level of fines, as I pointed out last season Trevor's only applying the rules as they stand, he would prefer that no team played short, or out of order, didn't give walk

overs and posted the match card the day after the match, oh for an easy life!

Another "new" for the web site is 'Don's Notes', Don Davies has for years had his match notes of the Liverpool Table Tennis scene regularly published in the Liverpool Echo, more often than not pointing out that they had been "chopped a bit", now Don is sending his full weekly notes to John Langton who's putting them on the web site, so when checking the league tables, check "Don's Notes"

Good to see Dr. Naresh Tagore is back playing for Maghull again, Dr.Tagore answered the call for experienced medical personnel to help in the aftermath of that catastrophic Tsunami in Asia last Christmas, quite an ordeal for the Doctor, I would think.

What is it they put in those new knees that some players are getting, Alan Biggs of Manweb, came back at the end of last season to find his feet again, this season he's started to settle down with a few good wins. Dave Roberts of Wav. Labour also had his knees (both) 'renewed' last season, and has just started the road back playing with the 'A' team in the 3<sup>rd</sup>. div. and up to now has a 100% record, and with his determination, I wouldn't be surprised to see his team in the 2<sup>nd</sup>. next season.. Les Highham of BYM has had hips and knees done, he hasn't started back yet, but fingers crossed.

We are again lucky to have the same sponsor for the Digest this season, who again requests to remain anonymous, our thanks to him for his generous help.

Another one of our local Umpires has made the grade to 'International Umpire', Tom Purcell of M/Side Police Club has been booked in for the World Youth Championships next year to take place in Portugal, well done and good umpiring Tom.

Having earlier in this Editorial brought to your attention the remarkable achievements of youngsters Paul Drinkhall and Darius Knight, in the World Youth Championships, it has just been announced that Paul has been short listed in the final 10 for BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year award. Paul will be hoping his run of exceptional form will gain him a place in this year's final of the BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year. The decision now rests on a select panel of judges who will nominate the final 3 from the 10 short listed; their decision will be announced as part of the Xchange programme on Monday 5 December CBBC, just what table tennis as a sport can do with.

In the last Digest I asked for your comments on the style of the Digest, was it too long at 24 pages, I had minimal (two) reactions; what's that about getting 'blood out of a stone'!

# Jack Lambert *a Tribute*

Just how does one start to do justice in a potted fashion to Jack? But here goes.

Born 4th June 1917 in Rupert Hill, Liverpool, which was off Eastbourne Street, Liverpool 6, and christened, John Alexander Lambert.

Until the outbreak of war in 1939, Jack trained to become an accountant, when he volunteered for the army, joining the King's Regiment, Liverpool. He began active service in the UK, before stints in Egypt, Gibraltar and Italy. It was whilst in Italy, he was injured by shrapnel in the battle for Monte Cassino in 1944. On his return to the UK, he was hospitalised for a lengthy spell, cared for by a nurse named, Minna. Just like in the movies, they married in 1950 and after a short spell in Balmoral Road, they moved to Kirkby where they lived with son David.

The post war years saw Jack employed at English Electric (later GEC), retiring from the East Lancashire Road company in 1982. I seem to recall Jack saying he played for St. Simon's and St. Jude's, but he definitely played for Nelta. They won the North Region division in 1935/36, gaining promotion to division 2. I have a League Certificate of Registration, confirming his eligibility for the club's second team (A team) as from 28th September 1936. They (the A team) finished next to bottom in 35/36 but remained in that division, where I presume he kicked off.

English Electric TTC was formed in 1947 and their only team finished fifth in the North Region, the records however, show them in the East Region in the following season, when Jack took over as Club Secretary. During his time as Secretary, which he held until it folded, he saw the club record many notable achievements. He had to wait though until 1970 for the first major honour, when they won the first of five successive division one titles. In that period of course, they attracted many top players, with Peter D'Arcy, Gordon Birch, Wally Allanson, Eddie Clein and Eric Youd, together with my all time Liverpool League player, Tony Clayton. Oddly enough, that fifth title proved to be the last. The first four title winning years, Electric did the League and Cup double, but, with Tony Clayton leaving university and the city and Gordon retiring, that was the end of major honours. In that period, Electric reached the last four of the National Clubs' Championships, losing a memorable encounter at home to an Ormesby side that included, Nicky Jarvis, Denis Neale and Alan Ransome.

I attended many matches both home and away, just to umpire and see top players in action, who at the same time, represented the League in the Lancashire and Cheshire League and nationally. Jack was present on

every occasion and I believe he attended almost every Electric League fixture at the club as well as important away matches. Of course, he also played for the club and in the 1949/50 season, he finished top of the Electric club averages in East Region Division one, playing at number one, he won 22 from 36 sets, 61.11%.

Jack took on the onerous task of Editor of the famous Table Tennis Digest, which was voted nationally, as the best of its type in the country. His first edition (volume 26) was in December 1972, when he took over from Ken Armson. Jack hosted dozens of City matches and League cup finals, laying on refreshments, not only for the teams, but for officials and spectators and who could forget, those Tuc biscuits/crackers? He organised the annual English Electric Club tournament, which was a prestigious and fiercely fought event, which former League Chairman Arthur Upton, loved to attend, to present the awards. I remember Jack telling me of a telephone call he received from Tony Clayton, apologising that he was unable to turn up for his match the following night, since he had just been called up to play for England in the Commonwealth and World Championships, in Singapore and Japan! It impressed Jack, for Tony to go to the trouble of advising him. The League honoured Jack him by installing him as a Life Member, and there could not have been a more deserving person.

As well as table tennis, Jack was heavily involved in amateur football, managing teams in the Liverpool Business Houses League.

Of course, arguably, apart from his family, his most passionate love was Everton Football Club. It was so fitting, that following his funeral, in the shadow of Goodison Park, we made our way to the ground where fans, both blue and red, reflected on his life.

Apart from chatting with him about table tennis, we spoke for hours about football. He was at times, a fierce critic of the regime at Goodison and I think he attended AGM's where he said his piece. He recalled many moments from the hundreds of matches he attended over the years and was a 'dyed in the wool' blue. That said, although a very fair minded and intelligent football fan, I'm sure his son David would agree, that he was jealous of Liverpool's success, but, at least with me, never let it affect our friendly conversation.

Of course, I only knew him from the late 60's through table tennis, but, many I have spoken to, also have their own fond thoughts of him and I agree with the closing comment from David under the heading Jack's Life on his funeral service acknowledgment, 'We will always remember him'. Nil Satis Nisi Optimum

Don Davies League Chairman

# City Match Secretary

*Don Davies*

The Liverpool men's team, spearheaded by Kevin Dolder and Chris Ford, remained unbeaten in the first four Lancashire and Cheshire League Premier Division matches.

The current champions, without Keith Williams and John Rankin through injury, were also affected by the late withdrawal of England number 24 Michael Marsden, the new addition to the Police team, was to make his Liverpool debut, but pulled out with a recurrence of an old injury. With the 'A' team also on duty in division one, six players travelled to the new £6m Blackpool Palatine complex, but again, we were unlucky that Omid Khaiyat, having returned from Cyprus, had to work on Friday, Saturday and Sunday night, although he did offer to play if a replacement couldn't be found.

England number 28 junior Tom Bray was invited to play, but he was involved in the Cardiff Grand Prix, while others turned down the chance to play. Ahmed Thabet, always keen to play for the League, joined Keith Bird, Mikael Bellec and Steve Kee, with one moving into the first team when needed.

Liverpool, the premier division champions, first team opened with a 4-2 win over Preston and duplicated the feat against Ellesmere Port, while at the same time, main rivals Bolton, were drawing with Bury, after a 4-2 win over Blackpool. In our third and final fixture of the day, we dropped a point to Bolton, while Manchester were being held to a draw by Blackpool. Our last match should have pitted us against Oldham, but the East Lancashire League



failed to appear, Bolton taking advantage by walloping Ellesmere Port 5-1.

In the second round in February, we play Manchester, Blackpool and Bury, while Bolton face Manchester and Preston, Manchester completing their fixtures against Ellesmere Port.

The A team experienced mixed fortunes, after losing their opening matches 5-1 to Halton and 4-2 to Trafford, but picked up in the next two trips to the table, inflicting 4-2 defeats on Mid Cheshire and Oldham A.

The Liverpool veteran team, the Lancashire and Cheshire League, premier division champions four times in the past five years, faced Wirral in their first match of the campaign, without Keith Williams, John Rankin and Chris Ford. To compound matters, a player withdrew just a couple of hours before the match, as did the selected reserve, which meant a first appearance for non playing captain Graham Rollinson, who only expected to be called to the Umpire's table. Ahmed Thabet, turned a match winning show, steering Liverpool through, with victories over Dave Harse, Phil Luxon and Michael Tierney. He also helped secure a doubles success, and although Rollinson left without a singles win, Liverpool, remarkably, triumphed by 6 sets to 4.

PS. I have been requested not to mention the third player in the Liverpool v Wirral match, who in fact, recorded two singles wins!

## Some of the players appearing in the latest shortened National Ranking lists who have signed / playing in the L&DTTL

Senior Men		Nat. Rank	Senior Women		Nat. Rank	Veteran Women		Nat. Rank
Adam Bleakley	10		Clare Peers	16	Brenda Buoeuy	10		
Michael Marsden	24		Alice Howard	22	Sue Burgess	19		
Kevin Dolder	25		Gemma Lloyd	29	Sylvia Graham	26		
Sean Marples	35		Brenda Buoeuy	40	Stephanie Howard	48		
Louis Rosenthal	38		Cherith Graham	42				
John Rankin	77		Terri-Anne Nolan	62				
Chris Ford	91				Veteran Men		Rank	
Tom Page	117		Junior Boys		Rank	Keith Williams	7	
Keith Bird	133		Tom Bray	28	Chris Ford	9		
Mal. McEvoy	143		Mark Roscaleer	75	John Rankin	26		
					Wayne Percival	37		

Sitting down to write these notes I am left wondering what I have let myself in for! Anyway, here I am with a blank sheet of paper, a pile of score cards and not the faintest idea of where to start. I therefore apologise in advance for any omission of team or individual performances worthy of comment but not included in the following rambles.



Cards to date show quite an influx of players new to this division including Mark Roscaleer (Harold House), Jon Taylor (Police), Michael Marsden (Police), Andrew Mudie (Bootle JC) and Andrew Davies (Fords). The league also welcomes back old foes Phil Thomson and Andy Clark (Maghull) and Dave Roberts (Wavertree Labour). Dave has recovered well from his recent operations and finding his feet in the 3<sup>rd</sup> division. He marked his return to 1<sup>st</sup> division action, proving his rehabilitation is well under way, when coming in as a reserve he beat Tim Wearden (Fords).

The newcomers are all relatively young and along with those younger players who had their first taste of playing at this level last season it bodes well for the future.

The extension of the divisions to 14 teams coupled with the spread of new talent has created what looks to be a competitive division with no obvious favourites for winning the League Championship and a fairly even spread of capabilities between most teams. Previous stalwarts Keith Williams and John Rankin missed the beginning of the season because of injury whilst Kevin Dolder also missed the first few games as he adjusts to fatherhood. All three players guarantee strengthening their respective teams significantly and it appears to me that the eventual league winners will be a club that consistently fields their strongest squad.

Although past notes have normally started outlining the feats of the teams who are top of the league I am breaking away from this routine. By reporting alphabetically it gives me the opportunity to report on the progress of the Bath St teams at the top of the list as when I revert to the traditional reporting methods later in the season it is doubtful that these teams will be up there with the high flyers.

The first team have been beset with injuries and have yet to field a full strength team. Even reserve Ricky Brown had to retire injured after only one game against YMCA "B", who recorded a fine 8 – 2 win. Mikael Belec proved to be the man of the match via his revised style and effective use of a long pimped rubber. I also played

as a reserve and managed to save face by beating John Lau and Ahmed Thabet. Their best result to date was undoubtedly a 7 – 3 win over Maghull when Ken Jackson and Eddie Crowley combined brilliantly to each beat Phil Thomson, Matt Wilson and Tony Kendall and going on to win their doubles. Well done Boys!

In the absence of Kenny they surprisingly lost 10 – 0 to the club A team. However, 15 year old Jamie Hewitt made his 1<sup>st</sup> division debut and performed brilliantly before losing 12/10 in the 5<sup>th</sup> to Clare. I

am certain that we will be hearing more of Jamie in forthcoming seasons.

Bath St "A" have had a much more solid start with Clare Peers, Ian Campbell and "young" Eddie Crowley. Clare has had a particularly good start to the season in winning her 3 against a strong Cricket Club team of Keith Bird, Ohmid Khaiyat and Peter Lee, Ian Campbell won the battle of the defenders managing to pip Ohmid 11/7 in the 5<sup>th</sup>. It cannot be often that Ohmid loses 2 in a night but this did not prevent Cricket Club running out 6 – 4 winners. Week 4 brought about their best result to date with a comprehensive 9 – 1 win over Cricket Club B, strangely enough, Bath St A won all the singles but lost out in the doubles. Clare is having her best ever season and is the proud holder of a 100% record at week 8. I doubt that a female player has ever managed such an achievement during the history of the league. Clare has now matured in her play, being prepared to compromise when her hard hitting style is not carrying her to victory, as a result she is now winning matches that may have previously slipped away, she is certainly a credit to the ladies game.

Hopefully the injury situation will improve for the Bath St first team as Kenny (net and edge) Jackson will always prove difficult to beat and, if ably supported by his team mates, the team should end up in a respectable mid table position. The A team have the capabilities to finish higher. Eddie might be the surprise package, now playing with 'glued up' pimples on both sides and making life very difficult for his opponents.

Bootle JC found life difficult last year but the beginning of the season indicates that Tom Bray and Cherith Graham are improving, Tom is not going to be available every week but the squad has been strengthened by the signing of Andrew Mudie who has recently come to the City. They opened with a draw against an experienced Waterloo side. Tom won his 3 in convincing style and Alan Chase noted on the card that Tom has vastly improved from last season. Rob Wylie came in as

a reserve against YMCA 'B' and surpassed all expectations with a magnificent treble. John Lau played well on the night to beat Cherith and Dave Evans, but could not stop Bootle JC running out 7 – 3 winners. Andrew Mudie made a winning debut in a 6 – 4 win over Bath St and was ably assisted by Dave Evans who beat both Fred Bainbridge and Eddie Crowley. When playing Cadwa, Tom, Cherith and Andrew combined in a 6 – 4 victory, amazingly, Cherith was the oldest of this trio and their combined ages were still 10 years short of one of their opponents, Peter Taylor. This must be one of the youngest teams to have played in the 1<sup>st</sup> division for at least 20 years – long may it continue.

Cadwa are strong if they manage to field their best side on a regular basis, however, they seem to have a problem in doing so with the contrast in their initial results showing how much they miss their top players. When Chris Ford, Peter Kirby and Peter Taylor played together against Harold House both Chris and Peter Kirby achieved a treble, Peter Taylor weighed in with a 5<sup>th</sup> set win over Mark Roscaleer to help them run out 8 – 2 winners. However, in the absence of Chris and Peter they have lost 9 – 1 to both Cricket Club 'A' and Maghull, Peter saved the day against Maghull beating Tony Kendall whilst the doubles was the only point picked up against Cricket Club 'A'. Recent weeks have brought about the loss of Peter Kirby and the club have re-ranked to bring Alan Davies into the first team squad but the team continues to alter from week to week. Dave Nelson and James Eaton joined Peter in a fine 7 – 3 win against Police.

Fords must be one of the favourites to win the league with a very strong squad including Kevin Dolder, Malcolm McEvoy, Terry Turner, Tim Wearden and Andrew Davies. They recorded emphatic wins against Maghull (8 – 2) and Bath St A (9 – 1), Malcolm was pushed all the way by Matt Wilson of Maghull, in an epic match Matt was 2/1 up before Malcolm took the 4<sup>th</sup> set 16/14 and the 5<sup>th</sup> 12/10. Possibly their first 'crunch' match of the season, came against Wavertree Labour, Wavertree took a 4 – 0 lead before Terry Turner beat Dave Roberts in a close fought game to start an excellent comeback. The match finished all square at 5 – 5 with the highlight of the evening being Aaron Beech beating Malcolm 11/7 in the 5<sup>th</sup>. Kevin finally played his first game of the season in week 7, duly winning his matches against Waterloo. Wayne Percival played well to beat both Malcolm and Tim in straight sets but could not prevent Fords recording a fine 7 – 3 victory, against last seasons champions.

Harold House have not found life easy during the early games but played well to beat Bath St 6 – 4 via Ken Connor and Mark Roscaleer each recording 2 wins, Alex Bryce getting the better of Fred Bainbridge and a

comfortable win in the doubles. Mark beat Ken Jackson in the 5<sup>th</sup> indicating what a fine prospect he is. This was followed by a couple of 8 – 2 defeats including a loss to YMCA 'A' with Ken Connor saving face with two fine wins against Tony Whelan and Ahmed Thabat. Mark again played very well in defeating Neil Powell and Paul Evans before losing a close encounter to the 'pocket midget' Les Molyneux, Steve Whalley and Alex both took a game but could not prevent Manweb winning 6 – 4. With no obvious weak links in the squad I am sure they will believe they are capable of better results and before long I would expect them to start climbing from the lower reaches of the league table.

Liverpool Cricket Club, formerly Liverpool YMCA, have 3 teams in the division, quite an achievement for a relatively small club. Certainly the 1<sup>st</sup> and A teams will continue to hold their own but, perhaps not unexpectedly, the B team are finding it difficult after being promoted to this division. The 1<sup>st</sup> team of Keith Bird, Ohmid Khaiyat and Peter Lee have started the season well, only losing 1 of the first 7 matches, however, that defeat was surprisingly by 8 – 2 to Wavertree Labour with Ohmid beating Alice Howard and a hard fought 12 – 10 win in the 5<sup>th</sup> of the doubles proving to be their only success on the night. Other matches have regularly been going their way including a fine 7 – 3 win against Police for whom Michael Marsden was undefeated. Peter pushed Michael all the way before losing narrowly in the 5<sup>th</sup> but proved his fitness and competitive spirit in beating Steve Gittins 17 – 15 in the 5<sup>th</sup> and contributing in a 13/11 5<sup>th</sup> set win in the doubles.

The LCC. 'A' team are perhaps the surprise package of the season and after 8 matches lie in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the division. Tony Whelan, Ahmed Thabat and Mikael Belec have gelled well as a team and are all contributing. This was emphasised with a 9 – 1 win over Cadwa, they also came out 9 – 1 winners against a depleted Bath St A team with Eddie Crowley saving face by beating Mikael. In losing 6 – 4 to Wavertree Labour in week 8 Ahmed played brilliantly in inflicting Gary Watson's first defeat of the season but, unfortunately for Cricket Club, Aaron Beech had a fantastic evening winning his 3 singles and contributing to a doubles victory.

As I have said the LCC. B team are finding it hard after being promoted, they started well enough with a good draw against Harold House, John Lau and Billy Cheung each winning 2 and ably assisted by Dave Tagg in beating G.Cleary. In their following match Billy again won 2 against Maghull with wins over Tony Kendall and Fred Pheysey whilst John and Steve Kee picked up one each in this 6 – 4 defeat. Each member of the squad have continued to show their worth in subsequent matches with John and Dave both beating Mikael

when they faced the club A team. I have no doubt that each of the squad are capable of playing in the 1<sup>st</sup> division, but making the adjustment to the higher speed and consistency of this level is never easy, no doubt the team will continue to battle for every point and hope to turn narrow losses in individual games into wins and thus climb up the table.

Maghull are in a similar situation to Liverpool Cricket Club B team after being promoted. On paper they have strengthened their squad with Phil Thomson and Andy Clark joining Matt Wilson and Tony Kendall, however, Phil and Andy have not always been available and reserves have been used in a number of matches. On the one occasion Phil and Andy were both available they each won their 3 against Cadwa and with Tony Kendall winning 2, ran out 9 – 1 winners. Their only other win to date was against Cricket Club's B team in a close 6 – 4 victory, Matt Wilson was his usual dependable self in beating John Lau and Billy Cheung, with Tony again winning 2, and Fred Pheysey, belying his age, beating Steve Kee 13/11 in the 5<sup>th</sup>. However, all other games have resulted in defeat and it would appear likely that they will continue to struggle unless they field their strongest team on a regular basis.

Manweb had a traumatic season last year, after promotion, but seem to have made the transition and become a consistent team capable of taking points on a regular basis, results have been mixed with 3 wins against Cadwa ( 9 – 1 ) Maghull ( 9 – 1 ) and Harold House ( 6 – 4 ). Although losing their remaining 5 games to date, 3 of these have been 6 – 4, whilst going down 7 – 3 on the other 2 occasions. Neil Powell (is his wig better than Ken Jackson's?) and Les Molyneux, are both a match for most players in the division whilst Paul Evans continues to improve his standard and results. Les may have shrunk, lost a bit of hair and put on a few pounds since last playing in the first. He might even have a few 'dodgy' serves but he still seems to move as well as ever, has a wide range of shots/tactics and I believe he is playing his best ever TT. His amazing personality always shines through with his easy smile, charm and wit continuously evident and his leadership qualities displayed in the superb way in which he inspires his team mates (is this enough Les? finally getting a detailed write up after 3 years of being ignored, hope I remembered everything you wanted to be included!)

Police are another team struggling to put out their strongest team, having to make extensive use of reserves, however, the signing of Mike Marsden will no doubt prove crucial to them as he has a 100% record to date, if Mike plays regularly, and John Rankin recovers from injury, they will become a formidable force in the league. In their first match of the season Paul Gittins did well to beat Aaron Beech whilst Steve beat Alice

Howard, however, John Rankin retired injured without completing his games and Wavertree Labour won 8 – 2. With Jon Taylor and Terry Anne Nolan supporting Steve they came away from Manweb with a 6 – 4 win with Jon playing very well to win his 3, they have also beaten Cricket Club B ( 7 – 3 ) but other results have been disappointing with the team changing on a regular basis. However, Mike, Paul and Steve played together against Fords only to lose 6 – 4 with Mike winning 3 and Paul getting the better of Tim.

Waterloo have missed the availability of the injured Keith Williams during the early weeks of the season, any team would miss a player of Keith's ability, but matters have been made worse by Wayne Percival being unavailable until recently. Alan Chase, Ted Birch and Mick Allen opened with a creditable draw against Bootle JC before going down to 8 – 2 and 10 – 0 defeats at the hands of Bath St A and Wavertree Labour respectively. Wayne returned against Cricket Club 1<sup>st</sup> to beat Peter. Ted defended brilliantly to beat Keith and Peter whilst Alan chipped in with another win against Peter. Keith and Wayne both played against Manweb winning their 7 between them as Waterloo ran out 7 – 3 winners. Now that Keith and Wayne are playing I am sure that Waterloo will rapidly climb the table as the season progresses.

Last but by no means least, Wavertree Labour, the team of Gary Watson, Alice Howard and Aaron Beech are setting a very hot pace and after 8 matches, are 8 points clear at the top of the table, having dropped only 18 points. Needless to say they are all playing very well with Gary's use of his combination bat making him a very difficult man to beat, Aaron continues to improve, and certainly when he gets in with his backhand the ball does not come back too often. Alice is also playing more consistently than in previous seasons, winning a high proportion of her matches. Probably their most impressive result to date was in beating a full strength Cricket Club 1<sup>st</sup> team 8 – 2, Gary was absent when they drew with Fords but as previously reported, Dave Roberts returned to contribute on the night. In week 8 they beat 2<sup>nd</sup> place Cricket Club A 6 - 4 with Aaron the star of the night. Based on this early season form they must be favourites to win the title but with only a third of the season completed there is plenty of time for other 'fancied' teams to put the pressure on and put themselves in contention.

Ian was recommended for his flare with the pencil, I'm sure we can agree, but he's not much good with the typewriter, and had put his faith in daughter, but this clashed with daughters social life, and guess which was deemed most important, so in stepped wife Chris, to interpret scribble, and get to me on time for straight insertion to Digest, many thanks Chris.  
Editor

At last after several years of smaller divisions we are back to 14 teams per division. Some people believe that this is a bad move because we are all getting older but I think it's good to have the extra matches although it must be giving Trevor a nightmare trying to make sure all fixtures are fulfilled.

To date the Marconi first team are top of the division...and deservedly so. I always think of them as a bit of a yo-yo team much the same as Linacre use to go between divisions 3 and 4, Marconi go between divisions 1 and 2. They are definitely the best team in the division and Trevor is having one of his best seasons ever. He is controlling the game superbly and his backhand is at its killer best. Their top of the table position was helped by a walkover from Police 'A' but I don't think this will have any effect on the final league table. I wish I could say the same about the other walkover conceded by Police 'A'. Marconi 'A' most certainly benefited from this early Christmas present as they went from 13th to eighth in the table and it certainly did not do the Police 'B' team any favours. It also means that the 'A' team cannot afford to give another walkover. It's a shame really as I think that they are potentially the best team in the division and they have the talent for the first division but gaining promotion is about fielding your strongest players consistently and the Police 'A' team has not been able to it.

The fight this season will be for the other promotion place and unlike last season there are several prospective candidates and there's nothing between them. If I had to put my neck out I'd go for Cadwa 'A' followed closely by Bath St. 'B'. (Note: Ian McElwee still has his 100% so there's the gauntlet thrown down for someone to pick up!!!). Cadwa can field any three from Graeme Black, Alan Timewell, Alan Davies, Mike Power and George Lennon so it's a strong team throughout. I think that they should field Graeme Black in every match as he is almost guaranteed to pick up three each week. I'm not going to make any more predictions because now I'm looking at the cards I can see that Fords, Manweb 'A' and Manweb 'B' are all still in with a shout. Manweb 'A' have signed Roy Adams (last seen playing for Wavertree Labour in the last century...gosh!!! Is he really that old!!!). Fords, captained by Graeme Reid and Manweb 'B; have yet to play Marconi and Cadwa 'A'.

For relegation I can see Bootle YMCA and Cadwa 'B' being the likely contenders, both came into the 2nd division from the reorganisation of the divisions but neither team will go out without a fight. Roly



Wright, Bootle YMCA and Rob Davies, Cadwa 'B' are both playing extremely positively and are notching up some very good wins. The rest of the teams should be reasonably safe. Greenbank have got the best player in the division with Michael Rogala, so they will always pick up three whenever he plays...and that is a dead cert. For those who haven't seen him play...he's just a pleasure to watch and I don't think he has been tested to date. If he gets in a losing position he just steps up a level and takes control back.

There have been several notes on the cards this session and I must thank all those that have put pen to paper...and as I have always promised to include whatever you write here goes!!!

Bootle YMCA say that having finished 4th in the 3rd division last season they were unexpectedly thrown into the 2nd this season and have developed a new team motto of 'Let's give it a go'. Their initiation match was against Police 'A' and the first call saw Ritchie Winkle's alien game beat Jon Taylor 3-1. (could Trevor please check whether aliens are allowed to sign on in the league??). John Higham then beat Gemma and YMCA were 2 nil up ... and so ended YMCA's Austerlitz. Once Police had got over the shock they took the remaining sets to win 8:2 but YM took great satisfaction from the fact that only one of these was won three straight. Police 'A's next match was against Bath St 'B' and a very competitive match it was. Bath St won 8:2 but the score did not reflect the match as 6 sets went to the 5th game with Police winning just 1. On another night the score might have been reversed and some might say that a draw would have been a fair result. Ricky Brown came back from 2 down against both Jon Dyson and Gavin Lloyd to win 3:2 and also beat Gemma Lloyd 8 in the fifth. When Cadwa 'A' played Police 'B' Mike Power said that he thoroughly enjoyed the night (did winning 2 have anything to do with it Mike??). He said that everyone enjoyed it, no moaning, no swearing, plenty of laughs and just one great night. He said that the result was almost immaterial...but Cadwa won 7:3. Fords Scored their first win of the season over Bootle YMCA and Graeme Reid said that it was lucky for them that it was John Higham's turn to drop out. Once again Ford's double team is suspect and does not expect to reach double (!) figures this season. (Sorry!! About that one I just couldn't resist).

Bootle YMCA got their first draw of the season when playing at Greenbank. Roly says that Mark Palmer had a bit of an off night and that John Appleton

*continued on page 15*

Welcome to the new, extended season everyone! Looking at the league table, we can see already that the top two teams have made a run for it, both Wav Lab 'A' and Maghull 'A' have opened up a seven point lead over the chasing pack. A glance at these teams' respective line-ups and you can easily see why. Wav Lab 'A' have a squad of Dave Roberts, Peter Howden, John Rowan, Paul Banks and Tom Crevey; and if you think that's strong, then check out the Maghull 'A' squad of Fred Pheysey, Steve Woods, Alan Jones, Peter Holmes, Mark Ambrose, etc. Here, Alan Jones has been true to his word, he did say last season that they were going to assemble a 3rd division 'galacticos' team to win promotion this season, and whichever team can keep its squad together best will surely be polishing silverware come the seasons' end.



Week one saw newcomers Bootle YM 'A' earn a fine 7-3 win away to HH 'A'. Len Dyson and Peter Williams winning both their singles, and Arthur Garnett pipping Martin Roberts 11-9 in the 5th; and although Paul Morgan won his two, the Bootlemen took both doubles, Arthur and Jim Geddes doing particularly well to oust Rod McPherson and Martin 11-9 in the decider.

In the 2-8 defeat to their compatriots, Graham Oates (Bath St 'E') bt Bill Clayton (Bath St 'D') - 8,10,10,6; and his team mate Chris

Foley bt Les Gee 6,8,-5,10. Cadwa C's Ian Lunt (11-8 in the 5th ) and John Ashley (3 straight) both inflicting defeats on Maghull 'A's Mark Ambrose, a match which saw Steve Woods celebrate his return to the game after a 3 year break by clinching an 11-9 5th set nail-biter against George Higham.

Both teams are scheduled to meet this very evening as I write these notes, so winning a 'double-pointer' could kick start one team to open up a gap at the top, mind you, it's still early days, and this season is now a bit of a marathon.

So what do you think of these extra fixtures? weren't you somehow philosophical that when your team got knocked out of the cup, it was a sort of relief that you had the next cup week free? (that was just our excuse!). one thing, it will surely put extra strain on the player resources each club has. Perhaps in view of this we might consider whether we should add a game before a player is automatically re ranked to a higher team, it would certainly help us at the LCC (what? I hear you say, yes, we've been assimilated, we now play in whites and call the match a draw if it rains).

But where's my manners? I'd like to offer a warm welcome to this division for the promoted teams from the fourth div, namely Bootle YM 'A' and Marconi 'B', and the three additional teams who, unexpectedly, also received the present of promotion, Bath St 'E', Wav Lab 'C' and Wav Lab 'D'. Having so many new teams to the division gives each a chance to 'acclimatize' by taking points off one another at least. So far, only Bath St 'E' seem to be finding the going tough, but then again the opening fixture schedule could have been kinder to them. At the moment our 'C' team is the Sunderland of the division, but with a large and mainly inexperienced squad this comes as no surprise, and it may take them a season in the 4th before things turn around.

Anyway, let's see who's been making the headlines so far.

In what must have been a fascinating derby, Wav Lab 'A' edged their 'C' team 6 sets to 4, a match featuring an epic confrontation of the big hitters John Rowan and 'knockout man' Stan Clarke, John finding that crucial uppercut to take the match between two tiring #1s 15-13 in the 5th. Star of the evening though, was reserved for master pianist Stephanie Howard, who dispatched Tom Crevey and Eric Spencer both allegrissimo in 3 straight, and for an encore teamed up with Dave Goulden to clinch the doubles 11-9 in the 5th. Stephanie carried on this good form when she registered her teams' only points in a 2-8 reverse to Maghull 'B', beating Phil Christie -15,9,6,7, and Tom Downing 11-4 in the 5th. Yes, she truly had them on the Rach with her Chop-in (wince).

In another Wavertree derby, Gordon Langshaw ('D') picked up a double against their 'C' team, including an 11-5 fourth set defeat of Mario Giove, his only defeat in the six games he's played.

Ted Cramsie (Bath St 'E') showed what he is capable of by winning three of his teams' four points against Manweb 'C', defeating Rob Barker in 4 and Alan Cameron 3 straight, before combining with Graham Oates to take the doubles against the same two players.

Week 3 saw a hotly contested match in which Bath St 'D' snatched a 6-4 away win at Maghull 'A' (and we all know how hard it is to play well at 'Axminster carpets utd'). Both Mark Patterson (3 straight) and Neil Pritchett (11-9 in the 5th) getting the better of Fred Pheysey, and although Steve Woods and Alan Jones won their singles, Bill Clayton and Peter

Ross both beat Rod Bulmer, and Bath St took both doubles to register a fine away win.

alking of strong squads, Harold House 'A' decided to leave nothing to chance against our 'C' team, fielding a team of Alec Bryce, S. Creevy, Eddie Clein (at #3!), and Rod Mcpherson (fortunately, myself and Billy fooled them by signing on for our 'B' team instead). You don't really need to know the match score, do you?

In a hard fought battle, Bert Rivers (Bootle YM 'A') lost -14,-12,-8 to Mario Giove (Wav Lab 'C'), but apparently YM are celebrating their return to 3rd div action by providing tremendous refreshments, and Arthur Garnett's catering skills are gaining him fame far and wide.

In their 3-7 reverse against the powerful Wav Lab 'A' team, LCC 'C' can thank Robin Ashleigh's 18-16 4th set win over John Rowan, and good wins by Robert Wong and Francis Lay over Tom Creevy, who was unfortunate to lose 11-6 in the 5th set in both, nonetheless, Wav Lab 'A's players are responding to the security of having a #1 who is a force to be reckoned with, as shown by Peter Howden and Paul Banks' good form in their fine 8-2 defeat of a strong Bath St 'D' team.

Andy Bird (Wav Lab 'D') enjoyed wins over George Higham and Ian Lunt, but this couldn't prevent his team from going down 3-7 at Cadwa 'C'.

Mark Ambrose starred in Maghull B's 7-3 win at Bath St 'E', winning a close battle of the No.1's against Ted Cramsie 11-9 in the 5th, and defeating Karen Gibson, who won the final match of the night, defeating an in-form George Frost 10,9,-11,12. there were four 5th setters on the night, all going Maghulls way.

Why not form a syndicate for the lottery, guys?

In Manweb 'C's home draw against Harold House 'A', John Hardy lost a thriller against Alec Bryce 12-10 in the 5th, but he had previously produced a tremendous performance to beat Eddie Clein 14-11, 11-4, 11-2. Eddie's much sought after scalp was claimed again by Ted Cramsie (Bath St 'E') 11-8 in the 5th, who also beat Rod Mcpherson for good measure. This didn't prevent his team from going down 7-3 to HH, yet 3 five setters went against Bath St, and Karen Gibson can count herself particularly unfortunate to lose out in this way to both Eddie and Paul Morgan.

Yet another Wavertree derby saw the 'B' team emerge as 6-4 winners over the 'D', Mike Ashton suffering on the night, losing out to both Andy Bird and Steve Perry, and Bill Stanley likewise finding it tough against Dave Foulis and Gordon Langshaw, who pipped his old team mate 11-9 in the 5th. the rest of the sets belonged to the 'B' team however, both Tony Connor and Colin Fyles and the doubles proving to be too strong.

An exciting derby took place at Maghull, where the 'A' and the 'B' teams shared the spoils at 5-5. Young Mark Ambrose took home the match ball, brilliantly defeating both Fred Phesey 9,-8,5,5, (a confident yet

brave first call!) and Steve Woods 6,-2,9,9, and Alan Jones struggled over 4 sets against both Rod Bulmer and Tom Downing, at one stage the 'A' team trailed the 'B' 5-3 in sets, but Peter Holmes completed his singles wins for the 'A' team, with the doubles being shared.

Our LCC 'C' team finally earned their first draw at home to Cadwa 'C', the main man being Alvin Tso, winning his two against George Higham and Ian Lunt, both players also suffering at the hands of Andy Cheung and Robert Wong, but John Ashley and John O'Sullivan struck back for Cadwa, and the doubles were shared.

Finally, the obligatory face-savers:

Steve Graham (Cadwa 'C') edged out Peter Howden (Wav Lab 'A') 14-12 in the 5<sup>th</sup>, a match which saw the return after two years of Dave Roberts, now rejuvenated, I'm told, and able to hit backhand winners fully from his forehand side, just as the coaching manual advises. The notes praised his namesake Peter Roberts, who played brilliantly but unfortunately lost his two (yes, been there, still am there).

Tony Connor (Wav Lab 'B') showed more than just his twiddling skills to overcome Maghull 'A's #1 Fred Phesey 11-6, 11-8, 11-8 in a fine performance, but which couldn't quite lift his team mates to emulate his example.

Neil Jennings (Manweb 'C') bt Steve Woods 3 straight away at Maghull, as well as combining with Paul to take the doubles (not quite a face-saver but close!).

The Bath St 'E' doubles of Karen Gibson and Chris Foley winning in 4 sets against Maghull 'A's Alan Jones and Peter Holmes.

Cadwa 'C's George Higham overcoming Maghull 'B's Phil Christie in 4 sets.

The 'face-saver that never was' occurred in Maghull 'A's home match against Marconi 'B' in which John McCann's fine victory over Peter Holmes was 'disallowed' due to John and Andrew Owens being played out of order (doesn't sound like your captaincy here, Russ?)

Our 'C' team trying to earn its first result reminds me of my team, the 'B', rooted at the bottom of the 1st div and gasping for air, and it's there that my attention really belongs. So it's at this point, my fellow players, that sadly we shall have to part company, yes, there will be a new kid on the block to take over these divisional notes, and just in case you're curious as to the persons' identity, I believe I've mentioned his name already, I'm sure he'll be **'knockout'!**

I'd like to wish everyone a warm and merry Christmas, best wishes for the New Year, and I hope you see you in the closed!

First of all my apologies that you have an outsider from Div.3 writing your notes, it came as a surprise to me as well, in fact I had started writing the notes for division 3, slagging off the many and varied foul services I had come across before I looked at the score sheets and found that I had been allocated division 4 by the editor. The only real problem is that there are a number of new players in this division that I have never met and a number of team captains do not use Christian names on the score sheets, so if I refer to you by your surname only, that is the reason.



Bath St. 'F' were ensured an easy start to the season when only five sets were played! as Aigburth 'A' turned up with only two players able to play, Ray Jones crying off with illness and Peter Rafferty failed to turn up, Paul Grugel beating Dave Batty and Ron Georgeson in a 8/2 defeat.

Greenbank 'A' also lost 8/2 against Marconi 'C' and in the only close match of the first week Maghull 'E' held their 'D' team to a draw, and Cadwa 'D', with George Smith at number one and John O'Sullivan at

two, beat Linacre 6/4, can't be often that Harry Reeve is beaten in his first two sets of a season.

### Week 2.

What do you feel about the new divisional format? It seems to me that the management committee have got it almost right on this score. Those of you that have suffered in the old division 5 for the past few years must be delighted to be getting regular matches this season and it is only fair that you should do so, after all you were paying the same "Subs" as the other divisions for much less table tennis. The only problem I have come across is the very early start to the season, playing the first round of matches in the week starting 5<sup>th</sup> September is, in my opinion much too early, and judging by the number of teams that played reserves, or worse still, played short in the first couple of weeks it would seem that many clubs were caught out with players still on holiday. Speaking from a personal point of view I would rather have started at the end of September and extended the finish date by two weeks.

### Week 1.

In the first match of the season, played on 5<sup>th</sup> September, a revamped Aigburth team thrashed Harold House C 10/0, the decision to rank Lee Proffitt and Ian Laird at 1 and 2, ahead of Graham Rollinson is commendable and seems to be the right one. Eric Young, who has transferred his allegiance from Aigburth to Harold House, must have had second thoughts after this result. Maghull 'C' were another team to take maximum points in the first week when they demolished Bootle Y.M.C.A. B 10/0. their line up of Bill Salter, Harry McGanity, Brian Gregory and Wilf Gibson is strong and I would expect them to be pushing for promotion by the end of the season.

Harold House 'B' are also very strong if they can turn out this team every week !!! Rod McPherson, John Hughes, Paul Morgan and Rob Midgley would cause problems in the higher divisions, they were certainly too strong for Bath St. 'F' winning 9/1 although four sets needed all five games to produce a winner

Harold House 'C' continued their dismal start to the season as they crashed 9/1 against Cadwa 'D' who had Andy McNabb playing at one, mind you H.H. did not help their cause when two sets were conceded by Garry Abrams, nothing on the card to indicate an injury so I can only assume he was late arriving because he did play Doug Baker in the 6<sup>th</sup> set. Aigburth 'A' were again in generous mood as they conceded three sets against Marconi 'C' and were thrashed 10/0 for their pains. Harold House 'B' also conceded three sets against Bath ST. 'G', when Steve Simpson failed to turn up but they still managed to win all seven sets that were played to win 7/3

Maghull 'E' lost 10/0 against Linacre and they were also a player short. Aigburth built on their good start as they beat Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'B' 9/1, only Mike "Curlin" Hughes stopping the white wash as he beat Lee Proffitt in five games.

Maghull 'D' lost 7/3 to Greenbank 'A', but two good wins for Janette Hutchings over Ian Littlewood and Andy Moran, and finally Bath St. 'F' and Maghull 'C' fought out a 5/5 draw, all sets played and some close games.

### Week 3.

HOORAY, no walk-over sets, all teams complete.

Harold House 'B' beat Marconi 'C' 6/4 in the battle of the high-flyers, Aigburth continued their winning ways with a 6/4 victory over Maghull 'C', good double for Ian Laird over Bill Salter and Brian Gregory.

Greenbank 'A' came to grief 9/1 against Linacre, with only Dave Finn successful for the home side.

Maghull 'E' beat Harold House 'C' 6/4, Alan Smethurst making his debut for the season beating Dave and "G" Cohen in the process. In the Bath St. derby battle 'F' hammered 'G' by 8 sets to 2, Dave Batty and Ron Georgeson the sole success for the 'G'

team. Cadwa 'D' battered Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'B' 8/2, Mike Hughes the only singles success when he beat John O'Sullivan, and in the last match of the week Aigburth 'A' and Maghull 'D' fought out a draw.

#### Week 4.

Aigburth continued their good start by beating Bath St. 'F' 9/1, Norman Lindsay saving the whitewash when he beat Graham Rollinson. Linacre had no problem disposing of Aigburth 'A' 10/0. Maghull 'C' and Cadwa 'D' fought out a draw as did Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'B' and Maghull 'E', Mike Hughes and Jim Geddes responsible for all five points for the Bootle outfit as they won their singles and combined to win a doubles. Marconi 'C' beat Bath St. 'G' 7/3. Harold House 'C' recorded their first win of the season when they overcame Greenbank 'A' 8/2, Dave Finn unbeaten for Greenbank, and finally Maghull 'D' lost 2/8 against Harold House 'B', Susan Hughes beating Paul Morgan and Rob. Midgley, is this the same Sue Hughes who played for Maghull many years ago before leaving for the Capital?

#### Week 5.

Here we go again, Greenbank were a player short as they were battered 9/1 by Bootle Y.M.C.A. and Bath St. 'G' were the grateful recipients of three walk over sets as they struggled to beat Magull 'D' 6/4, the Treasurer must really love this division, keep on this way and you could solve all of the financial difficulties of the league with your fines. Bath St 'F' were beaten 2/8 by Marconi 'C'. Cadwa 'D' stopped the run of wins by Aigburth as they fought out a tough draw, no Ian Laird for Aigburth in this match. Maghull 'E' were put to the sword by their 'C' team, losing 10/0, all as it should be according to the rankings, but nothing hurts quite so much as being battered by a club mate, I know from bitter experience. Aigburth 'A' were beaten 7/3 by Harold House 'C', and the match between Linacre and Harold House 'B' was postponed to a later date.

#### Week 6.

It gets worse, Keiran McAleese fails to turn up against Linacre, Alan Willis fails to show against Cadwa 'd' and Dave Cohen and Gary Abrams played out of order against their own 'B' team, no effect on the result as the 'B' team won 10/0 but more money for the treasurer.

Maghull 'D' were thrashed 9/1 by Marconi 'C', Janette Hutchings, who is having a good season, saving the whitewash when she beat D.Scotland in the fifth. Linacre beat Bath St. 'G' 8/2, helped by Bath St. being one player short, but a good win for Barbara Alcock who beat Ken Ainsworth 13/11 in the fifth.

Bootle Y.M. 'B' beat Aigburth 'A' 6/4, good start for Shakil Malik, making his debut for Bootle, when he won all three of his sets. Maghull 'C' were rather unexpectedly held to a draw by Greenbank 'A', Dave Finn and Ian Littlewood unbeaten in the singles. Aigburth resumed winning ways as they trounced Ma-

ghull 'E' 9/1, Andy McCourt the only success for Maghull when he beat John Mitchell, and finally Cadwa 'D' benefited from three walkovers from Bath St. 'F' to win 8/2.

#### Week 7.

And there's more, this time Lewis Rosenbloom Harold House 'C', failed to turn up against Bath St. 'G' helping the Crosby outfit to a maximum 10/0. Harold House 'B' thrashed Bootle Y.M. 9/1, Shakil Malik beating Mike Poole to save the whitewash. Bath St. 'F' beat Maghull 'D' 9/1, Jim Ambrose beating George Crowley their only success. There must have been something in the air this week, another 9/1 result, this time for Maghull 'C' away to Aigburth 'A', Eric Wood saving the whitewash when he beat Harry McGanity. Another 9/1 this for Cadwa 'D' away to Maghull 'E'. A much closer game this time as Greenbank 'A' went down 2/8 against Aigburth and finally a real nail biter as Marconi 'C' just scraped home 6/4 against Linacre, taking the last two sets after the match was tied at 4/4.

#### Week 8.

Two score cards missing from this week so I don't know if you have made any further contributions to the League finances.

Marconi 'C' dumped Harold House 'C' 9/1, Lewis Rosenbloom beating Ken Roberts to save the whitewash. Bootle Y.M. lost 4/6 to Bath St. 'G'.

Bath St 'F' continued their improvement when they hammered Maghull 'E' 10/0, but Aigburth continued to impress winning their home derby match against the 'A' team 8/2, Eric Wood beating both Lee Proffitt and Ian Laird, and finally Maghull 'B' inflicted the first defeat on Harold House 'B', a good team effort as each player for both sides won one single, but Maghull won both doubles in the fifth game, that's what I call a tight match..

Having reported on every match played so far it is time for me to make a fool of myself by predicting how the division will look at the end of the season, it seems fairly obvious that the promoted teams will come from the current top five, but there is a long way to go and form can come and go very quickly, as a coach I would like to see the youngsters from Aigburth continue their progress and if they can keep their "bottle" I think they can do it. My feeling for second place is Marconi but Harold House 'B' have a game in hand and I am sure they will be there, or thereabouts at the end.

Finally, yes really this time, I wish all of you, and your families a splendid Christmas and a happy and successful new year.





The death of Norman Heavyside Chairman of LBH lost Liverpool yet another table tennis stalwart and our colleagues in the Liverpool Business Houses League will be keenly feeling his loss. Our sympathies go out to his family and his fellow committee members. Norman's death highlights yet again the problem of getting younger members to take an active interest in the running of both leagues. Every league or club needs the experience of older members at the helm but they also need younger members who can benefit from working with experienced members and ensure continuity.

Many comments are made about grassroots and this got me thinking about changes to our sport that have not been to the liking of many at grassroots level such as the bigger ball and 11 up. Why is it that views on major changes that are often controversial and can result in a loss of players is never sought from grass roots players who then vote with their feet and leave the sport. Can you recall ever being asked about changing the ball size? Can you recall ever being asked your views on 11 up?

At some time or another all of us will have witnessed or been involved in undisciplined player reaction during a league match and know the embarrassment, sometimes animosity, this can create. The ETTA have a disciplinary scheme covering such actions during open tournaments and other national events and whilst no one can say with any confidence that this has led to a reduction in misbehaviour by players it is a positive attempt to deal with what was becoming an increasing problem. Similar problems occur in every local league and an easy to apply scheme is needed to help combat this. Most of us don't want hassle, we just want to enjoy a friendly and competitive match, win, lose or draw.

Some years ago we had a spell of player importation from all areas, some actually played others appearing only on paper. We are seeing a repeat this season and I have seen names on ranking lists that I feel certain will not be seen on any scorecard. Not a problem if these are grouped as additional players in a team commensurate with their ability but if shown as being a team member i.e. in a group of 3 or 4 dependent on the division, then this is a form of cheating as it enables any club concerned to rank another player lower and use them in that position for some time, as well as being able to use them in the higher team on at least four occasions.

My views on fines are well known and although for my sins I am now Acting Treasurer they have not changed. My concern now being that the change to divisions of 14 teams forced on the Management Committee by the natural reluctance of teams to be part of an incomplete division could lead to clubs finding it more difficult to meet the requirement of a season extended from the usual 22 weeks to one of 26 weeks and not being completed until 24 April 2006. My own club ranked all our teams in groups of 5 hoping to reduce the need to use reserves but on a number of occasions we have had to bring in reserves from lower teams.

Not everyone worries about fines but clearly Waterloo do as they showed when a player short, Keith, although injured, playing for them left handed and avoiding a fine for being a player short. If only I could have been one of his opponents and won, could have put this on my CV. mind you, Keith would probably have beaten me as comfortably left handed, as he would right handed.

It is always difficult to agree a date with the Tennis Centre for our Closed and last season we were pushed back to a date in May. Just as difficult is finding a date that does not clash with an event in the ETTA Calendar our members might be involved in. Having taken on board the many views of our members as to the best time I sought a more suitable date and managed to get a booking for Sunday 15 January. This does clash with one possible event, but there is only one Liverpool Closed and it will be for members to decide where their loyalties lie. They can go to similar events as the known one we will clash with but will not be able to play in another Liverpool Closed this season.

Having made many references to our lack of a table tennis centre I was green with envy when I visited Okehampton Table Tennis Centre. Other centres I have visited were not in the same league when compared with Okehampton. The playing area can take ten full size courts with halogen lighting and a wide centre aisle. There

is a practise room that will accommodate two courts, toilets, changing rooms, showers, cafeteria/lounge area with full cooking facilities, office space, car parking for 20 cars and CCTV. More importantly they own it and land it stands on lock stock and barrel. Is Okehampton a big town with hundreds of members? No, it is no bigger than some Liverpool suburbs and has only 60 members.

Are we about to see the Player Registration Scheme do a U turn? One of its original selling points was that those playing in multi leagues and paying an affiliation fee in each league would only pay one player registration fee that would cover them for local league play. Rumour has it that a change is being considered and players may well have to pay a registration fee for each league they play in. If this does happen some leagues may suffer a loss of players due to some not wanting to or not being prepared to pay more than once.

The proposal turned down at the ETTA AGM to give leagues more voting power has rebounded on those who voted this change out, one of the leagues involved having now threatened the ETTA with legal action over voting rights going back to when the ETTA became a limited company. This attack from a totally unexpected angle has resulted in the ETTA having to take legal advice and legal costs can easily spiral out of control. Just how the league concerned will be able to fund legal action is not known, but whatever the eventual cost of legal action it will be paid twice by members of the league concerned and once by other ETTA members with the eventual winners not being table tennis players.

Div. 2 continued from page 9

let a bit of bad luck get the better of him so a draw was a good result and if Michael hadn't played they fancied themselves for the win. YMCA picked up another 4 points against Cadwa 'B'. George Higham stood in for Rob Davies who would have been 'sitting in the stands' at Anfield, a quick whip round of the YMCA team didn't get enough to buy a second ticket for Colin (they were £2 short!). Roly said that Colin had them speechless ('n it takes a lot to do that!!). They say that he's a good player to play against and great player to watch 'cos he has all the shots, they also said that Steve Graham (good surname!) played well and deserved his two wins.

Police 'A' had their first draw of the season against Fords 'A'. Jon Dyson said it was probably a fair result giving that he lost deuce in the fifth to Bob Hughes on a net. He's not bitter about it but rumour has it that Bob is no longer on his Christmas card list. Gavin Lloyd was back on top form winning his three and Tommy Lynch turning out as a reserve for the police was unlucky against Graeme Reid; I believe the old Reid psychology won through. In Police versus Cadwa 'A' Mike Power says that Jon Dyson's 'never say die' attitude helped his team to two valuable points including an excellent win over Graeme Black. Both Graeme and Mike had match points against him but he wouldn't lie down, Gavin was too good for Mike and George and if Police had had the third player who knows what the result would have been.

Anyway that's all for now folks...I'm tired and the pillow calls. All I can say is have a nice Christmas and I hope Father Christmas brings you everything you asked for on your Christmas lists.

And lastly the roles of honour:

**Facesavers:-** Paul Jennings (Manweb 'B') beat John Langton (Bath St. 'C') 6, 9, 6. Roly Wright and Danny Every (Bootle YMCA) beat Bob Hughes and Robbie Goldson (Fords) -5, 9, 8, 8. Brenda Buoeuy (Bath St 'B') beat Frank McCann (Marconi) -7, 9, 10, 10. Peter Wass (Marconi 'A') beat Kenny Bennett (fords 'A') 7, -10, 9, 7. Rob Wylie (Bootle JC 'A') beat Roy Adams (Manweb 'A') 8, 10, 8. Jamie Hewitt (Bath St. 'C') beat Dave Harse (Manweb 'A') -5, 10, 9, -5, 6

**Close Wins:-** Terri-Anne Nolan (Police 'A') beat Roy Adams (Manweb 'A') 9, 10, -10, 9. Graeme Black (Cadwa 'A') beat Dave Holland (Fords 'A') 10, -8, 14, -10, 13. Rob Wylie (Bootle JC 'A') beat Robbie Goldson (Fords 'A') -8, 10, 9, -12, 8. Roly Wright (Bootle YMCA) beat Ted Gilmour (Marconi 'A') -10, -11, 8, 4, 12. Colin Rourke (Cadwa 'B') beat Bob Edwards (Marconi) 9, 10, -9, -9, 11. John Langton (Bath St. 'C') beat John Appleton (Greenbank) 11, -9, 11, 12. John Appleton (Greenbank) beat Alf Perry (Fords 'A') -9, 9, 12, -9, 9.

**Good Wins:** John Appleton (Greenbank) beat Bob Edwards (Marconi) 9, -7, -5, 5 9 and Trevor Owens (Marconi) -9, 7, -8, 8, 6. John Higham (Bootle YMCA) beat Gemma Lloyd (Police 'A') 9, 7, -3, 2, Ritchie Winkle (Bootle YMCA) beat Jon Taylor (Police 'A') -6, 3, 8, 6. Dave Harse (Manweb 'A') beat Colin Rourke (Cadwa 'B') 5, -7, 10, -9, 16. Rob Davies (Cadwa 'B') beat Andy Lloyd (Manweb 'A') 8, 11, -4, -10, 9. Alan Davis & Alan Timewell (Cadwa 'A') beat Michael Rogala & John Appleton (Greenbank) 6, 10, 8. Rob Wylie & Sylvia Graham (Bootle JC 'A') beat Bob Edwards & Trevor Owens (Marconi) -9, 9, 8, 10.

# OBITUARY



## James Anthony Clewett

James Anthony !!! I thought his name was Jimmy, but then I only new him for about 44 years. As a young man, Jimmy played Tennis, Football for Tranmere Reserves, and Table Tennis. After getting married and bringing up two daughters, he gave up tennis and football and concentrated upon his first love, Table Tennis. I first met Jimmy in 1961 when he joined Liverpool YMCA after the Birkenhead YMCA Table Tennis Club folded up. Over the following 40 or more years he played for the following clubs - : Lever Brothers and Civic - Wirral League  
L/Pool YMCA - Liverpool League

Nat. Health - L/Pool Business Houses.

And still managed to keep a very keen interest despite having both knees replaced with metal ones.

One final thought, if sometime in the future I meet Jimmy again, I will remind him that the ball must be thrown up at least six inches. R.I.P.

George Smith



## Harry Holmes

Harry passed away recently, leaving memories of table tennis spread over many years. Harry worked for Liverpool University for many years, playing table tennis for them, he also played for Beauclair, Linnets and Aigburth Peoples Hall, together with brother Billy, Billy Leaming, Jim Lightburn, Charlie Gallantry, Eddie Neal, myself and many others. Harry stopped playing table tennis and took up sequence dancing, until he had a stroke which left him in a wheelchair, you would often see him in his electric wheelchair around Sefton Park, and was a regular visitor to the Greenbank Academy.

A sad loss to Table Tennis

Eric Wood Aigburth (APH.) T.T.Club



## Norman Heavyside,

long serving Chairman of the Liverpool Business Houses Table Tennis League, who sadly passed away aged 80 on November 10<sup>th</sup> 2005 after a short illness.

The LBHTTL. was established in 1948, consisting, in those days, of at least 8 divisions [men] and 2 divisions [ladies].

Norman commenced his league Table Tennis career at about this time, playing for a team called "Anchor Line", achieving considerable success.

Norman had always displayed a keen sense and flair for organisation and administration and in 1961 he was nominated and elected to serve on the Management Committee of The Liverpool Business Houses Table Tennis League.

Norman served, with distinction, in various managerial capacities continuously from 1961 until his sad death in November 2005 at which time he held the position of League Chairman, a post which he had currently held for the past 15 years, during which time he was a prominent figure in the move to cement closer relationships between The City's two Leagues.

It was not the number of trophies won that Norman will be remembered for, but his unwavering dedication to the sport, his experience and his positive attitude, particularly evident, in our ongoing battle to save the remnants of a once large empire from sliding into oblivion

He also served on the Management Committee of the Liverpool Business Houses Sports Association, and was recognised at County and National level, receiving in recognition of his contribution to the sport the English Table Tennis Association Merit award.

Norman liked all sport, and was involved from schoolboy days in Hockey as a player and umpire, as well as football, and was a fanatic supporter of Liverpool Football Club. Above all however, Norman's primary sporting allegiance was to the LBHTTL and was proud to be awarded the Leagues highest honour for services rendered, Life Membership. He will of course be sadly missed by all.

**Arthur. C. Knowlson** General Secretary LBHTTL.

# LETTERS

7 October 2005

Dear Roly,

Many thanks indeed for the copy of the Table Tennis Digest which you kindly sent to me. It is good to know that the League is so active after all these years - this brings back many happy memories of my time in Liverpool. I also note that the Hyde Cup, donated by my father, is still being played for.

Another item of special interest is the reference in the article by Ken Armson to St. Helens and the fact of no League but the running of a Junior Club. Not many of your readers will know a very important historical fact relating to St. Helens. The first League in the world began in St. Helens in 1912 - actually it was then called Ping Pong the forerunner of Table Tennis. My father was Captain of the St. Helens YMCA Team which won this League in 1912. He had an actual photograph of the presentation to him of the winners Cup. This photograph travelled, via the ETTA to many Table Tennis countries of the World during the period 1930 to 1938 but was unfortunately mislaid and never recovered. Your St. Helens contacts may be very proud to know that they have this unique honour.

Obviously the interest in Table Tennis for my brothers and myself was hereditary and I still recall the hours spent playing on the extended Dining Room Table - what a good training my father gave me.

Again many thanks for the Digest. Perhaps you can keep me up to date with events. I still have fond memories of my Liverpool days even after some 65 years since I played there.

With all good wishes to yourself and to your colleagues who keep the League going so strongly.

*Ken Hyde*



**Sunday  
15th. January  
2006 The  
Liverpool League  
Closed Tournament**

**at the  
Wavertree Tennis  
Centre**

**Entry forms from -:  
any Club secretary or**

**Ken Armson MBE & Arthur Garnett**

**Or download a form from the L&DTTL**

**Web site <http://www.ldttl.co.uk>**

**Forms must be returned by Sat. 7th. January 2006**

*It's the players tournament, play your own division, try someone from a higher division in the open, there's the Vets, the doubles, in fact, something for everyone, and in between playing, have a chat, have a watch, be there!!*



# Fees for playing Table Tennis

At the last AGM, it was again recommended by the (outgoing) Treasurer that team fees be increased by an amount to compensate for the continuing loss of Expenditure over Income of the League Fund, this is the day to day running of the League ( Fund ), and not to be confused with the 'Tournament Fund'. For the third year running, this request has been thrown out at the AGM, when the members realised that the figures mentioned, when changed to a percentage increase, were found to be far in excess of the then government "rate of inflation" figures; at the last two season's AGM, the Treasurer's requests to realistically increase the team fees were also knocked back, and the increase was only agreed on the then "rate of inflation" figures, i.e. 3%.

In my unprofessional mind, the use of something like the wide ranging "rate of inflation" figures to run a local table tennis league is bound to run into problems as we are seeing now, this season's AGM did see some sort of agreement that something had to be done, and it was agreed to increase the team fees by around 6.5% , thus increasing a 3 man team to £61 (an increase of £1.33p per player) and a 4 man team to £71 ( an increase of £1 per player). The outgoing Treasurer had suggested an increase to £75 for a 3 man team, (31.5% increase) and £85 for a 4 man team, (27% increase), but these percentage increases horrified the assembly, and they were reduced to the 6.5%, that asked for 31.5% would have equated to an extra £6 per player, (23p per match), for 3 man team, and 27%, £4.50, per player (17p per match) for the 4 man team, (these are increases over the 2004-05 season)

One Club who did discuss this problem with their members, returned a very informative and honest letter to the ManCom. they pointed out that a certain number of their members would not be happy with a 30 to 50% increase in team fees and some would most likely leave, rather than pay it; (would they feel the same way over an extra 23p per match!). They suggest the gap in realistic fees be reduced over a 5 year period, using the Tournament Fund to subsidise the League Fund in the meantime, which may have been okay if we were talking large figures, but we aren't, forget percentages, just look at straight £'s. The tournament Fund has been subsidising the League Fund for the last two seasons, this fund is in profit due to the massive input of time and effort of a few, and I mean a few, dedicated members, who organise these tournaments in the name of the L&DTTL, this fund, hopefully one day, will be used as a basis for our own centre, either via an interested benefactor who has just won the lottery!!, or as basis of an outside grant, one dreams, but I find it disappointing to suggest it be used to fund the member-

ships reluctance to pay a going rate, *the membership can themselves help matters by showing more interest in our own Closed Tournament each year ( this season's in January 06), any profit from this will go directly into the League Fund.*

Thanks to that Club who took the time to discuss this problem, and write in, hopefully more clubs will discuss this problem in depth, but I do feel that the use of straight percentages is a bit misleading, and suggest we look around at what other things cost, (2 hours at Goodison or Anfield £28, a new rubber £20). My figures above are based on 3 players in a 3 man team, and 4 in a 4 man team, most clubs will have more than the minimum players, so actual per player figures will be somewhat less, I accept that team fees are only part of playing table tennis, venue fees are usually the big unknown for most clubs, and as I'm sure you are aware, no person who helps in running the League benefits money wise, all their time is free.

Just to emphasise my dislike of using percentages, another dislike I have is the use of 'average national wage' this is stated as £23,000 a year!!!, an extra £6 per season wouldn't make much of a dent in that

Our Acting Treasurer Ken Armson MBE, will be looking at cost cutting in detail, but as the Club who wrote in was rightly against any short term fixes, realism seems to be order of the day!

No doubt you will have read Ken Armson's Nets & Edges item (page 14) on Okehampton, what I would class as a country village on the edge of Dartmoor, what an eye opener, besides the first class facilities, the fact that they own the lot, and with only 60 members!, how did they achieve this, 'suggestions', continuous dedication of all members; paying in a lot more than necessary to just play; fund raising, with possible community grants; or a fairy godmother who likes table tennis, the running costs must be fairly high for premises of this size, but I wouldn't be surprised if it was used / hired by the community, with profits to the T.T.Club. Compare this with our Liverpool League, with over 300 members, having to look at cost cutting to close the gap, what did I say about realism.

The Editor  
My thoughts only, what are the player's thoughts?



## Player averages Season 2005-06

From score cards received up to & including 4th December 2005

Due to limited space, only the top 10 individuals and top 5 doubles from each division are shown here.

The full lists are available on the L&DTTL web site,

I have referred to Liverpool YMCA in their new name of Liverpool Cricket Club (L/pool C.C.)

Division 1					
	Name	Club	P	W	Ave
1	PEERS Clare	Bath St 'A'	16	16	100%
2	MARSDEN Mike	M/Side Police	15	15	100%
3	WATSON Gary	Wav.Lab.	21	20	95%
4	McEVOY Malcom	Fords	18	15	83%
5	PERCIVAL Wayne	Waterloo	15	12	80%
6	BEECH Aaron	Wav.Lab.	24	19	79%
7	WHELAN Tony	L/pool C.C. 'A'	18	14	78%
8	WILLIAMS Keith	Waterloo	17	13	76%
9	MOLYNEUX Les	Manweb	24	18	75%
10	TURNER Terry	Fords	24	18	75%

Division 2					
	Name	Club	P	W	Ave
1	McELWEE Ian	Bath St 'B'	18	18	100%
2	ROGALA Michael	Greenbank	15	15	100%
3	ROURKE Colin	Cadwa 'B'	24	21	88%
4	GOLDSON Robbie	Fords 'A'	24	20	83%
5	BLACK Graeme	Cadwa 'A'	23	19	83%
6	EDWARDS Bob	Marconi	27	21	78%
7	OWENS Trevor	Marconi	27	21	78%
8	HARSE Dave	Manweb 'A'	24	17	71%
9	LENNON George	Cadwa 'A'	20	14	70%
10	NORMAN Sharon	Manweb 'B'	30	20	67%

Division 3					
	Name	Club	P	W	Ave
1	BANKS Paul	Wav.Lab.'A'	14	14	100%
2	ROBERTS Dave	Wav.Lab.'A'	14	14	100%
3	HOLMES Peter	Maghull 'A'	11	11	100%
4	WOODS Seve	Maghull 'A'	18	16	89%
5	JONES Alan	Maghull 'A'	17	15	88%
6	ROSS Peter	Bath St 'D'	16	14	88%
7	WILLIAMS Peter	Bootle YMCA 'A'	16	14	88%
8	DOWNING Tom	Maghull 'B'	20	17	85%
9	ROWAN John	Wav.Lab. 'A'	16	13	81%
10	CLIEN Eddie	Har.House 'A'	14	11	79%

Division 4					
	Name	Club	P	W	Ave
1	TRAYNOR Derek	Aigburth	12	12	100%
2	HUGHES John	H.House 'B'	14	13	93%
3	BRADLEY Dave	Marconi 'C'	11	10	91%
4	McNABB Andy	Cadwa 'D'	11	10	91%
5	MORGAN Paul	H.House 'B'	16	14	88%
6	LOFTUS Paul	Marconi 'C'	14	12	86%
7	NELSON Harry	Linacre	17	14	82%
8	REEVES Harry	Linacre	17	14	82%
9	MIDGLEY Rob	H.House 'B'	16	13	81%
10	ROLLINSON G.	Aigburth	16	13	81%

Doubles Div.1				Doubles Div.2			
Team	P	W	Ave	Team	P	W	Ave
1 L/pool C.C.	8	8	100%	1 Cadwa 'A'	9	7	78%
2 Wav. Labour	9	7	78%	2 Marconi	9	7	78%
3 Bootle JC	8	6	75%	3 Bootle JC 'A'	7	5	71%
4 Fords	9	6	67%	4 Manweb 'A'	10	7	70%
5 L/pool C.C. 'A'	9	5	56%	5 Bath St 'B'	9	4	44%

Doubles Div.3				Doubles Div.4			
Team	P	W	Avg.	Team	P	W	Avg
1 Maghull 'B'	20	16	80%	1 Aigburth	16	15	94%
2 Bath St 'D'	18	14	78%	2 Marconi 'C'	17	14	82%
3 Wav.Labour 'A'	18	14	78%	3 Har.House 'B'	15	12	80%
4 Maghull 'A'	17	11	65%	4 Maghull 'C'	18	14	78%
5 Bootle YMCA 'A'	19	11	58%	5 Linacre	16	12	75%

I'm sure all readers will agree that the Div. Reporters are doing a good job, but if you didn't get a mention, it's probably because team captain didn't put a comment on the back of the match card, it only takes a couple of minutes, and helps the reporters make their reports more interesting.

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Advertisers who subscribe to the *League Hand-book and Digest*, put much needed monies into the League coffers, *please use them where possible*

## League Tables to 30/11/05

### *Division 1*

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Wavertree Labour	9	8	1	0	69
Liverpool YMCA 'A'	9	6	0	3	58
Bath St 'A'	9	6	0	3	58
Fords	9	6	2	1	56
Bootle JC	8	6	1	1	51
Liverpool YMCA	8	5	1	2	45
Waterloo	9	3	2	4	44
Manweb	8	3	0	5	41
Merseyside Police	9	3	1	5	38
Cadwa	9	3	0	6	33
Bath St	8	2	0	6	29
Harold House	8	1	1	6	28
Maghull	8	2	0	6	25
Liverpool YMCA 'B'	9	1	1	7	25

### *Division 2*

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Marconi	10	9	0	1	74
Bath St 'B'	9	6	1	2	53
Fords 'A'	9	3	3	3	51
Cadwa 'A'	8	7	1	0	50
Manweb 'B'	9	5	2	2	50
Manweb 'A'	8	5	1	2	49
Bath St 'C'	9	5	0	4	42
Marconi 'A'	8	4	0	4	40
Greenbank	9	1	3	5	38
Merseyside Police 'A'	9	2	1	6	34
Cadwa 'B'	9	2	0	7	33
Bootle JC 'A'	7	3	1	3	32
Bootle YMCA	9	0	1	8	28
Merseyside Police 'B'	7	1	0	6	26

### *Division 3*

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Maghull 'A'	9	7	1	1	71
Wavertree Labour 'A'	9	9	0	0	69
Maghull 'B'	9	7	1	1	64
Bath St 'D'	9	8	0	1	63
Bootle YMCA 'A'	9	5	2	2	54
Manweb 'C'	9	4	2	3	43
Wavertree Labour 'D'	10	2	1	7	42
Marconi 'B'	10	4	0	6	41
Wavertree Labour 'C'	9	3	1	5	39
Harold House 'A'	8	3	1	4	37
Cadwa 'C'	9	2	1	6	35
Wavertree Labour 'B'	8	3	1	4	31
Bath St 'E'	9	0	0	9	23
Liverpool YMCA 'C'	9	0	1	8	18

### *Division 4*

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Marconi 'C'	9	8	0	1	69
Aigburth	8	7	1	0	64
Harold House 'B'	8	7	0	1	63
Maghull 'C'	9	5	3	1	63
Linacre	8	5	1	2	57
Cadwa 'D'	8	5	3	0	55
Bath St 'F'	9	3	2	4	43
Bath St 'G'	9	4	0	5	41
Maghull 'D'	9	1	2	6	31
Bootle YMCA 'B'	9	2	1	6	30
Greenbank 'A'	9	1	3	5	30
Harold House 'C'	9	2	0	7	24
Maghull 'E'	9	1	3	5	23
Aigburth 'A'	9	0	1	8	17

Wishing you all,

*Best Wishes for Christmas*

*And a happy New Year*

See you at the Closed Sunday 15th January

