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EDITORIAL



Yes, it's 80 years since the L&DTTL started, table tennis in Liverpool has gone through the start up years, through the glory days of popularity, and now into the slowly declining years of popularity, but only if we allow it, as we know it, table tennis is an easy to play sport, effort matches age and experience, not many active sports have so many players drawing their pen-

sions and still playing a fast competitive game, and that's probably the problem, not enough young'uns playing; so how do we get more young'uns into the game!!, it's a long, oft told moan, I won't go on.

But as a recognition of 80 seasons, over the next 3 Digests I'm including a few items from Tony Harris's history of the L&DTTL, (with his permission) first one on page

What a difficult job it is being club secretaries, especially when you lose your premises and have to find new ones at short notice, and the added requirement of accommodating 8 teams, Bath St. have just gone through this problem, with a lot of to'ing and fro'ing by their committee to the members, finally settled on a leisure centre, four matches in one night in the one hall, the way table tennis looks like being played in the future to keep it alive, all modernised clubs are going this way, and this format is used all over Europe, the Bath St. organisers even came to an agreement with the leisure centre, that the centre staff would set up the hall each match night and remove the equipment the next day, so back to the old days of just turning up to play, but then a realistic cost had to be paid. Last season I commented on Tom Purcell's time playing in London, his annual fee was £150, speaking to Tony Harris, ex M/Police, who plays in Aberdeen, his annual fee is £150, with a 120 mile round trip each match on top, no more comment!

But then a white Knight in the shape of local football club Marine AFC threw out an invite to use part of their under-used snooker room, but the modifications required would probably have made the move doubtful, but when you have an experienced builder who loves his game, anything is possible, and so with Ken Jackson

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sorting out the major work, and the many hours put in by many of the members, the room has been transformed and will be open for business from Monday 27th November, well done Bath Street, can't wait to play there. But I still make the point that T.T. will be played in Sports type venues sometime in the future.

Another Club struggling with venues has been Liverpool Cricket Club / Liverpool YMCA, who have moved again, this time to Score Lane, the good result seems to be them attracting more members, old ones coming back and a few new names, but they could have done without the added problem of their secretary Steve Kee "retiring from playing" (temporary we hope), with Peter Lee holding the reins and then John Lau taking on the task officially, so well done to all for keeping together.

The first ETTA tournament of the new season, The City of Liverpool Butterfly Grand Prix was played at the Wavertree Tennis Centre, 19/20 August 2006, with quite a few local league players taking part, one in particular ruffling a few national feathers, read Don's report on page 5.

The next open Tournament in Liverpool will be the 7th Stiga City of Liverpool Junior 4 Star Open to be held at the Greenbank Centre week end of 13th & 14th January 2007, well worth a visit to see some of the young stars.

This season's Liverpool League 'Closed' has been booked for Sunday 11th. March 2007 at the Wavertree Tennis Centre, there was a bit of an outcry last season when the only available date fell on an important National Vets. week-end, and resulted in most of our top Vets. not appearing in the Closed, this season Ken A. has managed to get a date which doesn't clash with any National Competitions, so hopefully a better response will be forthcoming, it was felt that this Digest was a bit early for the entry forms to be added, but they will be made available to your Club Secretaries in January, and will also be available for downloading from the L&DTTL web site, so book that weekend in your diary – March 11th, remember the closed is geared for all levels of divisional players, not just the top flight. So have a go!

I'm sure most would have seen the article in the Liverpool Echo, with coverage shown on TV as well, early in October, about Eddie Cameron, for many, many years the Leagues Fixture Secretary, I don't think it's down to us to pass comment on the situation, other than to wish for a happy outcome in the interests of Eddie and all concerned, but from a Table Tennis point of view, Ken Armon has added a few comments in his "Nets" column (on page 21), on the part Eddie and first wife Wynn played in the running of the L&DTTL.

Ken has himself had a few problems for quite a while now, culminating in a visit in hospital for surgery, successfully completed, a happy outcome after

many months of worry, hopefully he'll be back to normal soon, but not before Nurse Faith gives the OK.

Paul Drinkhall, 16, Current Ranking: England Senior No.1, has been announced in the final 10 short-listed for BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year award for the second year in succession. Paul will be hoping his run of exceptional form will gain him a place in this year's final. The decision now rests with a select panel of judges who will nominate the final 3 from the 10 shortlisted; their decision will be announced on the 5th December, good luck to Paul, it would be good for our young players to have a national sports icon in the media. The OCS Young Sports Person Awards were held at the Brit Oval and Paul Drinkhall was awarded the national title, receiving a total £12,500; £2,500 of which will go to his school. The event was a great success and it is hoped that it will encourage more table tennis players to apply next year

I found an article from ETTA Chairman, Alex Murdoch, on another Leagues web site, (sent out June 2005) explaining why we, as players, pay a fee to the ETTA, and what happens to it, I have printed it on page 22 for you to read and 'Digest'.

The new format ETTA magazine, TTNews, has settled down and is producing some excellent articles, the layout is very professional, not a lot about local leagues, but then, what Sports magazine does, there is a good article on the relationship between professional footballers and table tennis, Man. U's Rio Ferdinand is referred to as the "Desmond Douglas of camp England" he must be pretty good, but it must have been the money which concentrated him on kicking the ball rather than batting it, but a good magazine and worth a read.

In Stan Clarke's Division 3 notes, he has brought attention to the use of a rubber "cleaner" called SpinMax, marketed as a cleaner, possibly saving it from being on the "dodgy" list, but whereas all the cleaners I have seen are usually aerosols, SpinMax comes with an 'applicator kit', as a respected International Umpire, Stan will probably come against this sooner than us, read Stan's comments on page 13.

A small request to team captains when filling in the match cards, please take the time to fill in the order of play as the match progresses, it's an enormous help to your divisional reporters as they try to make their Digest reports more interesting for your reading, seeing that not many captains can be bothered to add any 'match comments' to the card!

Touching on the fact that 3 of our 4 teams entered into the Lancashire and Cheshire League have had to be withdrawn due to non availability of players of a high enough standard, makes me wonder if it has anything to do with the new playing format of the competitions being played over the week-ends in larger venues rather than the one match venues through the week. But this week-end format is here to stay, going by the increasing number of National leagues which are in

operation; for those players who wish to progress and are prepared to travel, there's an amazing amount of Table Tennis going on.

For this new season I'm pleased to say that 3 of our established Divisional writers are still with us, Ian, Stan and Doug, Sylvia tendered her last report in the last Digest, and many thanks to Sylvia for her many seasons of reporting, but we have a capable replacement for Div. 2. who has offered to step in, an ideal player having just won promotion from Div. 3 to Div. 2. and looking as if he and his team will be staying there for some time, (or maybe continuing to climb) namely Paul Banks from Wavertree Labour 'A', I know how busy Paul is with his TT and his work, so welcome to our happy band of divisional reporters.

Wish we could get more input from the rank and file players though, once again we have our extremely generous supporter willing to advance the cost of printing the Digest for the season, and I feel obliged to turn out a 24 page Digest each issue, but as I'm not a "proper" editor, it becomes a bit tough to find enough to fill it with, I could make the type much bigger, but that might be thought of as cheating, much better to have to put your glasses on, this pre Christmas issue is the awkward one, trying to get 8 weeks to report on, but printed and delivered in time before the break, having to put a bit of pressure on the reporters for a fast turnaround, which once again they have done, so there's plenty of reading for you, so have a good rest, and **Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all**

Thanks to printer Ian Lunt of CADWA who also gives us a fast turnaround



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7. STATION ROAD. PRESCOT

BIRTH OF THE LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

In 1925 a young man named Leslie Emberry Forrest arrived in Liverpool from South Wales and his tremendous enthusiasm for table tennis coupled with his organising ability was to bring about the birth of the Liverpool and District Table Tennis League.

No stranger to work of this kind Mr. Leslie Forrest, had left behind him in Barry, a thriving League which he had played a big part in starting and it was not long before he began searching for similar opportunities in the city of Liverpool.

At the North Liverpool Y.M.C.A. in Foley Street, where his father was Secretary, a table tennis table was unearthed in the cellar. It was soon cleaned up and put to good use, the table taking up residence in the corner of a large billiard room. At that time, billiard matches against Birkenhead Y.M.C.A. were regular events and table tennis matches were soon introduced into the evening's programme.

Les Forrest searched Liverpool and surrounding areas looking for clubs or locations where table tennis was played. He discovered a side called Hatton, known as 'The Tramwaymen' who had been in existence for quite a while and they too began to play the North Liverpool Y.M.C.A. in friendly matches. When Chester Y.M.C.A. made approaches and promised 6 teams the time had come for organised competition.

Aided by W. Miller of the Hatton Club, Les Forrest got things on a working basis and on November 19th, 1926, the very first league match took place between North Liverpool Y.M.C.A. and Hatton, won by the latter by 211 points.

Matches were 5 a-side affairs, with every player meeting each of the five opponents in one game of 21 up. At the end of the match the total points scored were totalled up, the winner, being the side with the most points were awarded two league points.

The final constitution of the League was one division of eight teams, two being 'A' teams. The founder clubs were :

Birkenhead Y.M.C.A., Florence Institute, Hatton, North Liverpool Y.M.C.A., Lisgard Congregational, and Thingwall Tennis Club.

Chester Y.M.C.A. and its six teams dropped out at the last moment and another famous name, the Gordon Institute, also defaulted, losing their claim to be one of the founder clubs.

It soon became obvious that the Hatton Club were out on their own and they finished as Champions winning all of their fourteen games, followed by Birkenhead Y.M.C.A. and North Liverpool Y.M.C.A. with ten wins each.

The Hatton side were described as having, 'unique grips and playing with wooden bats', and such was their dominance that they proved too strong for a Rest of the League team, beating them by 65 points. Hatton's dominance of the early years was to continue as they remained champions for the first four seasons.

THE FIRST LIVERPOOL 'CLOSED'

At the end of the season the first 'Closed' Tournament was held at the Y.M.C.A. Foley Street. There was just one event, the Men's Singles that attracted just 31 entrants. The first champion was J.R. Bather of Hatton, who defeated his club mate H. Turner in the final.

Photographs show how different was the concept of the game as an energetic sport. It seemed common practice to keep your coat on, to wear collar and tie and to wear your normal walking shoes. To round the picture off the wearing of spats seemed definitely the thing to do.

Bather belonged to the wooden bat brigade and was attired in typical manner with spats and ordinary shoes, and except for really difficult matches he played with his coat on. He was described as 'a steady player who played a game much more closely allied to ping pong than the 'modern game', one who kept the ball low and whose great speciality was angled shots which won him countless points'.

Thanks to Tony Harris for permission to use parts of his book '75 Not Out'; I think there are still a few copies to be had, contact Arthur Garnett for info.



The City of Liverpool Butterfly Open Grand Prix men's singles title again went out of the country, Scotland's Gavin Rungay turning in a fine display to win the event for the first time. Seeded at four, Rungay faced England number six senior

Darius Knight (Surrey) in the last 32, winning 11-7 in the fourth after dropping the second game 11-9. His next victim was Lancashire's Darren Howarth who was eased out in straight games setting up a tough semi final encounter with England number 3 Paul Drinkhall, who had to recover from 2-1 down against Danny Reed in the last eight. In the other half of the draw Liverpool's top player Kevin Dolder took on title holder Colum Slevin (Ireland) in the last 16 but after losing 11-9 11-5, Kevin extended the contest winning the third 11-8. In a nip and tuck encounter, Slevin squeezed home 13-11. He then faced Alexander Echavarria (Middlesex) in the quarter finals but after taking the first game, the title slipped away from the Irishman who lost the next three, 9, 8 and 10.

Liverpool league player Gary Watson qualified for the main draw as the group 2 winner and was effectively, now the second seed, a position held at the start of the event by Darius Knight. In gaining that elevated status, Gary recorded what must rank as one of the most amazing results ever registered by a local league player in a Grand Prix event, the Labour man having beaten England international Knight, thereby pushing him into the other half of the draw. Gary took the first game against Dorset's Mathew Ware aged 15, who later won the under 21 event, but he overcame the tricky style of the Labour man, winning 5, 8 and 9.

England number 18 Dale Barham quietly cruised through to the last eight where he put an end to Ware's run, winning 3-1, before qualifying for the final via a 3-1 last four success against Echavarria, 11-7, 7-11, 12-10, 11-8. Rungay, who lost to Ryan Jenkins in the last four a year ago, became involved in a tremen-

dous encounter with Drinkhall, the match swinging one way then the other. The Scot took a 2-1 lead but the Cleveland man, despite not looking comfortable throughout the set, levelled matters winning the fourth 11-7. Rungay, though, hampered for the past couple of months with a back injury, showing tremendous sportsmanship and composure, overcame his agitated opponent to take the decider 11-8.

In the final, Barham won the opening game 14-12 and this set the pattern for a thrilling clash. Rungay though, wasn't going to let this opportunity pass by and with a clever combination of speed and change of pace, looked comfortable despite his injury, taking the next three games 5, 9 and 7 to deservedly take the title for the first time.

The ladies singles although not containing any of the top seven ranked players, nevertheless, turned into a highly competitive event. Local interest centred on current Liverpool champion Alice Howard and former champion Cherith Graham. Had they progressed to the second round in the main draw after qualifying from their respective groups, the pair would have met in the quarter finals. Cherith, ranked at 43 in England, took a 2-1 lead over Michele Cohen in round one and although turning in an impressive display, lost the next two 11-8, 11-8. Alice was unfortunate to face Renata Fulop at the first hurdle, the Hungarian having won both the Band one and Band two events on the previous day. The Wavertree Labour player, who won the women's singles gold medal in the recent World Corporate Games in Hungary, was undaunted and took a 2-1 lead before the Budapest born woman rallied to win 11-7, 11-3. Top seed Naomi Owen (Wales) had to recover from 2-1 down against Lancashire's England number 8 Lindsey Thornton Reynolds but took the next two 11- 5, 11-7, before notching straight games successes over veteran Judy Morley and Naomi Wilson.

In the final Egley Edomelyte (Middlesex) the semi-final conqueror of Miss Fulop, provided a tremendous opponent, but miss Owen, the under 21 Liverpool open champion in 2003, became the first player from Wales since Betty Grey in 1952 to win the ladies singles title, winning the next three games 11-9, 11-8, 11-8.



Gary Watson Wavertree. Labour.

Teams giving walkovers, playing short, and the not so modern problem of services, it seems has been going on for years, will it ever change, below is a letter sent in by ex England and Liverpool League player Don Foulis and printed in the Vol 23 No.5 Digest May 1970,
 Don played during the start up years and into the 30's,

Dear Sir,

I think it was the late Jimmy Green who put me on your mailing list and someone continues to send me a copy of each issue. For this I tender my thanks and enclose a cheque to help League funds.

The subjects discussed in 1970 appear to be much the same as those written about in the early days of the "Digest," it's only the names which change. Teams arrive late, don't turn up, or are short. The service rule still causes controversy (I go back to the good old days of finger-spin!)—it probably always will.

In those early days teams consisted of 5 players, but each played each (no fiddles!) a single game.

But surely a 40% reduction from 5 to 3 is a bit drastic. What's the matter with 4? It's still a one car load, matches would finish at a reasonable time, always provided that the starting times didn't slip even further than they do now. But surely, in any system, outside of "each plays each" you need an order of merit?

Yours sincerely,
 DON FOULIS.

The above letter was one of two full 'pages' of letters to the Editor in that Digest, players seemed to take more of an interest in what was going on Table Tennis wise, now we've got the telly, who want's to be bothered writing letters!

To get back to the issue of teams giving walkovers etc., the penalties / fines were increased slightly before this season started, hoping to concentrate the minds on playing, but sadly that seems to have failed going by the number of fines already given out, below are the state of the fines for last season and those up to weeks 7-8 of this season, at the rate we are going, last season's total should be easily passed!!

Fines Season 2005-06

	No	%	Fine	Total
Player Short	65	52%	£2	£134
Walk Over League	14	11%	£5	£70
Walk Over Cup	9	7%	£5	£45
Played Out of Order	6	5%	£3	£19.5
Late Score Card	32	25%	£3	£96
Total	126			£364.50

<i>Up to 22/11/06</i>	No	%	Fine	Total
Players Short	14	42%	£3	£54
Walk Over League	8	37%	£6	£48
Walk Over Cup	1	5%	£6	£6
Played Out of Order	3	7%	£3	£9
Late Score Card	4	9%	£3	£12
Total	30			£129.00

The updated tables can be found every week on the L&DTTL web site along with the current League Tables updated by Fixture Secretary Trevor Owens

Well, that proves it. Table tennis players are the brainiest sports people around. Who says so? None other than Dr Daniel Amen in his new book Making a Good Brain Great. There are chapters about exercising your body, eating well, getting enough sleep, etc., but he finishes off by giving our sport the thumbs up. According to the doctor table tennis is the best brain sport around... it improves hand-eye coordination, it's aerobic, uses both upper and lower body and causes you to use different areas of the brain. As we get older the old grey matter tends to desert us. The cells lose their branch like connections called synapses and the older we get the more cells we lose. Table tennis stalls that process. So there you are. We can pound the street, pump iron and walk for miles but when it comes to brain power table tennis is king. Well, we all knew that anyway, didn't we? From TTNews issue 320 So there you go..... Keep playing!

Division 1.

Ian McElwee



date, are averaging over 7points per match and, if this form continues, it seems that one of them will eventually emerge as champions.

A gap is also emerging between the likely relegation candidates and mid table safety. CADWA and CADWA 'A' prop up the division with Marconi, Bath St 'A' and Police not far ahead. I would hazard a guess that the relegation issue will be decided between these teams unless one of the mid table teams go into freefall later in the season.

Liverpool C.C have virtually sprinted out of the blocks to set the pace, having a 100% record to date. The only team to have taken them close has been Wavertree Labour with C.C. edging a close encounter 6-4. Gary Watson displayed his fighting qualities in defeating Keith Bird 12/10 and John Lau 11/9 in the deciding sets. Roy Smith used all his defensive wiles before losing narrowly to Keith (11/8 in 5) and reserve Ming Liu (11/9) in 5. In their match at Marconi, Manchester based Mark Ramsbottom saved face for Marconi in beating John Lau and Ming Liu, but the cricket club stormed to a fine 8-2 victory.

Bootle YMCA started the season in fine fettle with a hard fought 7-3 victory over Wavertree. Keith Williams and Wayne Percival both remained unbeaten on the night and combined to win the doubles. Alan Chase chipped in with a 5 set defeat for Roy. In week 2 matters did not get any easier when they faced Fords. Keith was once again unbeaten although Mal McEvoy had a fantastic match with him before Keith took the decider 11/9. In another display of top class T.T. Mal edged out Wayne 11-9 in the deciding set. An honourable draw was probably the right result on the night. Surprisingly, Manweb also forced a draw with new signing, Tomas Rzeszotka beating Wayne and combining with Paul Evans to take the doubles.

Champions Wavertree Labour is not going to give up their crown lightly despite their narrow losses to Liverpool C.C. and Bootle YMCA. In other matches they have ruthlessly defeated Crosby High, Bath St. 'A' and Marconi by a margin of 9/1 and secured a 7/3 victory over Police. In this match Paul Gittins was on top form, losing close to Gary whilst getting the better of Aaron Beech and Roy.

Fords are also undefeated at this stage winning most of their matches emphatically. Mal & Terry Turner, remain from last season with Phil Luxon and Andy Taylor joining them after exiles from the league. Their form has been impressive with Mal and Terry losing only the occasional game. However at week 6 the police team caused more than a few problems before going down 6-4 after 7 of the matches were decided in the 5th set. These include victory for Steve Gittins over Mal (11/6) and John Taylor over Terry (11/6) with Mal beating John 12/10 and Phil gaining 11/9 final set victory over John Dyson, before Mal & Terry took the fifth set 11/9 to win the doubles and secure victory. Sounds like a great match.

Bath Street team of Ken Jackson, Eddie Crowley, and Jamie Hewitt are having a steady season with 3 victories, 3 defeats and 2 draws (43 points). When defeating CADWA A 10/0 Mike Power provided me with the first notes of the season, quote 'thrashed, Ken brought his own net again'. Having discussed this aspect of his game at length with Ken he assures me that there is no luck involved. He actually has developed the ability to place the ball consistently onto the top of the net and indeed is disappointed when he has an off night and wins most of his points with a straight forward smash that touches neither the net or edge – I kid you not. This must be borne out by his results; his only losses to date being to Keith Williams and Andrew Muddy of Crosby High during a 6/4 defeat. Ken beat Tom Bray and Cherith Graham with Eddie and Jamie both beating Cherith.

Harold House (38 from 7) have not yet played a settled team with a total of different players representing. Not surprisingly their results have been mixed, highlighted by a 9/1 victory over CADWA. They also put a strong team out at the police in securing an excellent 8/2 victory. In this match the Gittins' brothers each took a point with Paul victorious over Ken Connor and Steve Gittins getting the better of Steve Whalley. Harold House reversed these scores when comprehensively beaten 9/1 by LCC, with Alec Bryce saving face in beating Ahmed Thabet, and also lost 8/2 against Fords, where Ken and Alec saved the day in beating Phil Luxon.

Crosby High (37 from 7) have new signing Gemma Lloyd joining the youngsters Andrew, Tom and Cherith to form their squad. After a slow start, losing their first 3 matches, a marked improvement in results has materialised with 4 consecutive victories. These wins have included an excellent 8/2 results against LCC A and CADWA and 7/3 Vs CADWA A. Tom Bray has been in impressive form during this period winning his 3 in each of these matches, whilst Andrew only lost to Gavin Lloyd (a great win for Gavin) and Graham Black.

LCC A (34 from 8) retained a healthy mid table position and have consistently picked up points throughout the season. A 10/0 win when playing a weakened CADWA side has helped their cause but generally they have proved difficult to beat as emphasised by 3 draws when facing Bath Street, Manweb and CADWA A. Ahmed Thabet and Dave Tagg are the main stays of the team with Tony Whelan missing most of the early part of the season after recently becoming a father. However, with reserves of the calibre of Paul O'Donnell and Ming Liu (both returning to the league after a few years out) they have handled the loss of Tony without any undue problems.

Manweb (32 from 8) have new signing Thomaz Rzeszotko doing well and he is ably backed up by Paul Evans and John Henshaw. They are missing Les Molineux, who will not be available until after Christmas and Neil Powell, who is only playing occasionally. However, they are keeping clear of the relegation places and when Les starts playing regularly they should move up the Division. Most of their matches have been tight affairs with 6/4 victories over both CADWA A and Marconi and 3 draws when facing police, Bootle YMCA, and LCC A. Even at this early stage of the season, Thomas has proved to be a major signing generally winning his 3 with only the odd reverse. John Henshaw played particularly well when they went down 7/3 to CADWA in beating both Gavin Lloyd and Graeme Black whilst Paul has also recorded some good wins including beating Gavin Lloyd and Tony Whelan.

Merseyside Police (30 from 8) are struggling somewhat after the loss of Michael Marsden and the non-appearance of John Rankin to date. Their only victory so far was in beating a weakened Marconi side 7/3 when Paul Gittins won his 3. Steve beat Peter Wass and Trevor Owens and John Dyson got the better of Trevor. Jonathon Taylor has come in for a couple of matches including the narrow 6/4 loss to Fords. Jonathon also excelled against Bath Street in beating both Eddie Crowley and Fred Bainbridge before matching Ken shot for shot only to lose narrowly in the fifth.

Bath Street A (29 from 8) are next in line. What can I say about my team? First of all we were fully expecting to be playing second division this year but due to a loss of players as a result of various factors, including our loss of premises, we have found ourselves up with the big boys once again. Our squad of Fred Bainbridge, myself, Ricky Brown and Mick Keane can only be described as a cross between 'dads army' and 'last of the summer wine'! Generally the only thing we remember is the way to the bar after the match. However, we continue to be competitive, no more so than Ricky, are determined to enjoy ourselves, and if we go down it will not be as a result of lack of effort. If we forget about the 10/0 hammerings against LCC A and Fords and the 9/1 at Wavertree Labour we have done OK. We have managed to win a couple of matches (Marconi and CADWA) and picked up points in our other matches. Our 8/2 victory against the depleted Marconi side was and possibly will be our best result of the season. Fred and I each won 3 with Mick taking 1 singles. We also bettered CADWA 8/2 but were helped when Peter Taylor turned up on his own and won 2! Ricky has been our player of the season to date turning back the clock to win his 3 against CADWA A and almost repeating the act against LCC A. After beating Dave Tagg and Robin Ashleigh he fought his way to the brink of victory when faced by Ahmed getting 10/4 up in the fifth set, before Ahmed made a remarkable recovery to pinch it 12/10.

Marconi (28 from 8) are finding life in the first difficult after being promoted. This is a normal trend over the years because of the higher standard of play and the increased intensity of many of the matches. They have prepared for this by signing Mark Ramsbottom who will gain a good percentage of wins. Tim Ternant also returned to the fold towards the end of last season and with the experienced Bobby Edwards making up the team they should be capable of holding their own. To date these players have only played together once when they got the better of Crosby High 6-4. They achieved their only other win when Steve Rowe came in for Tim against Harold House and they again ran out 6-4 winners. Mark gave an indication of his abilities in only losing to Tom Bray in these matches and Bobby played well in defeating both Alec Bryce and Mark Roscaleer when they faced Harold House. The rest of the cards do not make such good reading with a series of defeats when reserves brought in have struggled to put many points on the board. CADWA 'A' (22 from 7) are also struggling after promotion with their one victory to date coming against the clubs first team by a 7-3 margin. Graeme Black played well in winning his three and Alan Timewell provided solid backup in beating Peter Taylor and George Smith before succumbing to Gavin 11-9 in the 5th. When they faced LCC 'A' and gained a draw the notes on the reverse of the card (Mike Power I think) summed up the night saying "Alan Timewell turned

back the years and in a masterly performance won his three”.

CADWA (22 from 8) prop up the division and seem to be really struggling for players. Peter Taylor has been joined by new signing Gavin Lloyd but they do not appear to have a regular third player. They hoped their problem was solved in the signing of Michael Marsden and the game he played corresponded with their only win – a 7-3 victory over Manweb. However, I hear that Michael has now left the area putting CADWA back to square one. As mentioned earlier things were so bad that Peter was the only player available when they played at Bath St. It says a great deal for

Peter’s commitment that he was prepared to travel across Liverpool and fulfil the fixture but he at least was able to play three matches on the night whilst our three players only got one each. A far from satisfactory situation for all of us on the night and a sad reflection of how things can go wrong.

All have a great Christmas and New Year and if all goes to plan I will see you at Bath Streets new premises situated at Marine FC in College Road, Crosby.

Division 2

Paul Banks



Well, what to say? How to say it?

My name is Paul and I play for the great club of Wavertree Labour, some of you may have met me!!

Now, I was asked if I would like to write the divisional notes this season, well, like any sane person I couldn’t dilly dally with my positive

response in case somebody else begged to be given the chance. Firstly I would like to thank Sylvia on behalf of the league for doing the job so well and for so long, her digest legacy is outstanding and therefore quite daunting for her successor! I have thought long and hard over which way to present the notes, do I review the teams one by one or go for the week by week approach? Well for the first digest and at the start of the season I thought I would review the teams one by one following a week by week approach. Public opinion may alter this for the next notes as at this early stage in my career I am quite impressionable, malleable and corruptible. So working from the bottom of the latest table upwards we find:

CADWA ‘B’

CADWA (Colin Rourke, Steve Graham and Rob Davies) find themselves propping up the division at this early stage. First match against Bath St C saw CADWA go down 8-2, which was a bit harsh on CADWA with all four five gamers going Bath Streets way. Match 2 saw CADWA without Colin Rourke and with John O’Sullivan for the visit of Manweb ‘A’. This was I am sure a night to forget for the CADWA team as they were thumped 10-0 by a very talented Manweb team. By week 5 and with Mr Rourke back in the hot seat, CADWA

proved that they have the ability with a respectable 4-6 against Crosby High, Colin winning his three and Rob coming through in five against Dave Evans which from the match card looks as though it was a real cracker. Week 6 and with Cadwa down to two players they faced the top of the table (Wav Lab ‘A’). Steve Graham taking the only point for the Chelwood side over Labour’s John Rowan. Week 7 and Steve does it again, odds stacked against them with only two players he pulls off a three straight against Tony Edge of Greenbank, unfortunately this is all they managed. Week 8 saw them fair no better against Manweb ‘B’ this time though with a full compliment of players. Colin Rourke with the only score for Cadwa against Sharon and this he had to fight for all the way, pipping steady Sharon 12-10 in the fifth.

MARCONI ‘A’

Marconi ‘A’ (Frank McCann, Peter Wass, Ian Wensley and Ted Gilmour)

First match of the season for Marconi was away to Crosby High who showed no ring rust by thumping them 8-2. Ian winning two for Marconi and was praised appropriately by Crosby on their match card. Week 2 and Marconi still to get into gear faced a very strong Wavertree team, only Ted Gilmour snatching a point from Labour with a 14-12 in the fifth over Mick Tierney. Next up for Marconi were Greenbank and they managed their best result so far with only a 6-4 loss. Ahh now this week (4) the tables have turned in favour of Marconi with an excellent result over Manweb ‘B’. Captain Frank taking his three singles with a game to spare each time. Peter and Ian bagging three points between them and taking the doubles meant a 7-3 win for Marconi. Week 5 and an interesting draw with Police ‘A’. A game that really was nip and tuck all the way but added interest due to the expedite game between Peter and Len Dyson which in the end went Len’s way. Now I can’t say too much here as I don’t really know too much about expedite and my

counting was never that good, Paula points out on the match card that it was a 'good match played in good spirits' which is always nice to hear and from my own perspective is more often than not the way it is with teams in Liverpool!! I suppose good spirits will have been but shallow comfort for Marconi on week 6 as they were roundly spanked by Maghull 9-1, only Ian able to take a point against young Mark Ambrose here. Next up Fords 'A' and another tough night for Marconi, Frank, Ted and Trevor only getting any joy from A.Perry therefore on the night losing 7-3. Week 8 and another tough match, this time against Cricket Club who would have taken all the points except for Trevor Owens taking two points off Dele Olyumbo and Billy Cheung. Match of the night must go to the five setter between Dele Olyumbo and Ian Wensley. Dele taking the first two, then Ian repeating the feat and Dele coming through 11-6 in the fifth.

MERSEYSIDE POLICE 'A'

Merseyside Police 'A' (Brenda Buoy, Terri-Ann Nolan, Paula Adamson-French, Tom Purcell, Len Dyson, Brian Burrows)

Week 1 and a tough first match against Greenbank. Brenda and Brian only able to take points off Mark Palmer here for an 8-2 loss. Next up were Bath Street 'C' and a 6-4 loss, with Paula, Tom and Len all winning one match each and the doubles. Week 3 and the first win for the Police, 6-4 against Manweb 'B'. Special mention here to Paula who took three wins home with what appears on the scorecard as comparative ease. One each for Tom and Len and the doubles on top sealed the deal. Next up an away fixture with Manweb 'A' and a 6-4 loss. The doubles, so often so important in overall terms, looked to be a real thriller with the Police just edging in the fifth 12-10. Week 5 and the draw with Marconi 'A'. Len Dyson stands out here for overcoming the extremely steady and secure Ian Wensley and for winning the expedited game with Peter Wass and then just as he is on a hat trick concedes his last game (probably through over-excitement) with Ted Gilmour. Next up was the visit of the top Maghull team and a big loss for the Police, 8-2. Brenda and Matt Wilson playing out a titanic tug of war, 11-9, 9-11, 11-13, 17-15 and 12-10, unbelievable and exciting in equal measure, sympathy though for the umpire of that one. Week 8 and an away trip to Maghull 'A' ended in a 6-4 loss. Two points each for Terri-Ann and Tom was all that was taken from the north that night.

MAGHULL 'A'

Maghull 'A' (Alan Jones, Peter Holmes, Fred Pheysey, Kevin Lewis)

Interestingly Maghull 'A's first game was a derby with Maghull and I am sure that it was one that they would prefer to forget, getting thumped by your big brother doesn't boost morale for the season. Alan Jones taking the only point in a five setter with Tony Kendall. Week two saw Maghull 'A' take on Fords 'A' and surprisingly enough they managed a draw. Man of the match for Maghull went to Kevin Lewis with two out of

three singles in the bag. Next up was the Cricket Club. Kevin Lewis again picked up two singles. Peter Holmes had a great win over D. Olyombe in five. Peter continued with his good form by taking Paul O'Donnell to 5 in what the match card describes as 'a really big hit game' with Peter unfortunately coming out on the wrong side of the winning line this time. Peter and Kevin combined to take the doubles to finish the night 6-4 losers. Week 5 and a 7-3 win against Bath Street 'C'. Kevin Lewis proving his worth by winning his three and Alan and Kevin taking the doubles. Next up and a respectable draw against Manweb 'A'. Alan, Peter and Fred all taking points off Roy Adams and Alan with a superb rolling over of Andy Lloyd in three, I don't think that there will be too many who repeat that feat this season. With the doubles in the bag, also in three, the night ended even. Week 8 and a big score against Cadwa. Peter Holmes having a marathon session with George Smith losing 11-9 in the fifth left the match score at 9-1.

GREENBANK

Greenbank (M. Rogala, John Appleton, Mark Palmer, Vincent Pigeat) are a little difficult to make out as they have only two match cards returned at the time of writing. Week 1 and the Police could only take two points off them with M. Rogala and John Appleton taking all their singles and the doubles, pretty impressive! Week 3 and with M.Rogala out and V. Pigeat as replacement they managed to take six singles off Marconi 'A'! A 6-4 performance here highlights their obvious strength. Week 5 and Greenbank played out a draw with Fords 'A' five singles taken for the Greenbank side but unable to convert this into a win with losing the doubles. Week 6 and Greenbank are starting to make a habit of this with a highly creditable draw against Cricket Club 'B'. M. Rogala winning his three singles and assisted by John to take the doubles. John had quite an evening of it with all of his games going to five sets but only narrowly beating Billy Cheung for the draw. Week 7 and Greenbank came up against the unfortunate Cadwa 'B'. Unfortunate because they were only able to field two players, therefore Greenbank were odds on for a good night. Steve Graham being the one thorn in the side for Greenbank by beating Tony Edge in three.

FORDS 'A'

FORDS (Rob Hughes, Frank James, Dave Holland, Rob Goldson) seem to be doing very well at not losing their matches. First match against Maghull 'A' Rob Hughes took home the match ball with his three singles wins. From there on it was nip and tuck and with Maghull taking the doubles it was an even night. They managed it again against Crosby High 'A', this time with Dave Holland being top man for Fords winning his three. Next up top of the table Wavertree Labour and another draw, Rob Hughes and Rob Goldson winning two each with some outstanding table tennis and then also taking the doubles it concluded a first rate night of table tennis. Week 5 and guess what? Another night of high drama this time against Greenbank. Rob Goldson was the man

of the match taking his three, Tony Edge the only Greenbank player to take a set off him. Dave Holland also chipped in with a win and with Fords taking the doubles it was another 5 points in the bank. Week 6 and at last a win, the unfortunate recipients being Manweb 'B'. Manweb must have thought that they would also keep Fords to a draw with Alan Evans in fine form taking his three, however Fords held their breath and with a five set doubles they came through with a win. Next up Marconi 'A' and by now Fords are beginning to change gear with Rob and Dave winning their three and taking the doubles they took 7 points home this time. Week 8 and fortunes have changed somewhat with an 8-2 loss to Maghull. Frank James taking a well earned point off Steve Woods and Rob Goldson similarly with Tony Kendall.

MANWEB 'A'

Manweb 'A' (Dave Harse, Andy Lloyd, Roy Adams, Joe Doyle)

First match, Cricket Club, and a bit of a drubbing. Andy Lloyd does what Roy and Joe can't and takes a point off this very talented team by beating Dele 11-8 in the fifth. The night ends up 9-1 to Cricket Club. Week two saw an instant reversal in fortune with a 10-0 win over Cadwa, Dave, Andy and Paul Jennings reigning supreme here. Week three, and another win, this time over Bath Street 'C'. Roy Adams hardly troubled taking his three singles, Dave and Andy sharing the other three points from their singles, 6-4 in the end here. Next up was the Police and another 6-4 win, Andy Lloyd was man of the match with his three singles gathered in over 14 games (phew). Roy and Joe sharing the other three singles. Week 6, and a draw against Maghull 'A', Dave Harse this week taking three, (I think they are taking it in turns, (TIIT)). Andy managed the other two with wins over Peter Holmes and Fred Phseyse. No three win hero this week (7) as Manweb 'A' met Crosby High and ended up the wrong end of a 6-4. Andy shone the brightest with two wins but all of this Manweb side found Rob Wylie a bit too strong. Week 8, and another 6-4 loss, this time to Wavertree Labour, Dave Harse showing his grit with a five set win over Mick Tierney, Wavertree were 5-4 up before the last match which was the doubles, and a chance here for Manweb to gain a draw against the current league leaders, unfortunately Andy and Roy never felt comfortable against Dave Roberts and Mick Tierney and therefore Manweb ended up 6-4 losers.

CROSBY HIGH 'A'

Crosby High 'A' (Dave Evans, Rob Wylie, Roger Neal, Sylvia Graham)

First up, Marconi 'A' and an 8-2 win. Dave and Sylvia taking two points each while man of the match Rob Wylie made fairly short work of the Marconi team, a feat that was given special mention on the match card highlighting Rob's 'very clean, precise shots'. Week 2 saw Crosby travel the short distance to Maghull and another win, this time a 6-4. Man of the match this week was Dave Evans (yes I am sure you all take it in turns, (TIIT)) taking his three against Tony Kendall, Steve

Woods and Mark Ambrose. Next up were the draw-meisters of Fords, Dave and Sylvia taking two points each here, Roger must have been a bit stiff and down-hearted after this match with playing thirteen sets and only managing one win against Frank James. Week four and the Cricket Club showed no mercy inflicting a 9-1 loss on the Crosby side, Gemma Lloyd taking the only point here over Billy Cheung. Next up were Cadwa and its back to winning ways, Rob and Roger winning two points each but all of the Crosby team finding Colin Rourke a bit of a handful, with the doubles going in Crosby's favour the night finished 6-4. Next match and a bit of a local derby against Bath Street 'C' Dave Evans ended up the king of Crosby with his clean sheet, Sylvia chipped in with a point over Dave Stoddern and Dave and Roger took the doubles in five to ensure no one had the bragging rights in Crosby in the first half of the season. Week 7, and a visit by Manweb 'A', Dave and Roger shared three points between them, Rob however made fairly easy work of Dave Harse and Andy Lloyd, Roy put up a bit of a fight but the Crosby man finally finished him off in the fifth 11-9, with the doubles in the bag Crosby finished up 6-4 winners.

BATH STREET 'C'

Bath Street 'C' (Rob Peat, John Langton, Dave Stoddern)

Week 1 and a home tie against Cadwa saw an impressive 8-2 win, two wins each for Rob and John, both of them however finding Colin Rourke a bit too much, not so Dave Stoddern who not only kept his whites white but also managed an amazing win over Mr Rourke winning 11-9 in the fifth. Next up were the Police and Bath Street keep up their winning ways with a 6-4 win, this night (TIIT's) belonged to Rob who won his three, although he did have a fight on his hands with Tom and Len taking him to five, special mention here to the great William Clayton stepping in at number three and taking a great point off Tom Purcell (in three) for his efforts. Week 3, and the first loss of the season, 6-4 to Manweb 'A', Rob, John and that man again, super-sub, W.Clayton, only managing a point each, Bill, with a breathtaking win over Andy in three sets, Rob and John combined to take the doubles in five sets to make it a bit tighter at the end. Next match was away to Maghull 'A' and a return to the standard set could not stop Maghull'A' running away 7-3 winners. John managed to take two points but Alan Jones and especially Kevin Lewis were the prickliest thorns here for Bath Street. Week 6 and the local derby with Crosby High saw Rob and John take two points each and with Dave chipping in with a win over Roger Neal it was honours even at the end of the night. Week 7 and an away tie at Wavertree ended with an 8-2 loss, the result could have been worse without John Langton making short shrift of Paul Banks and John Rowan.

MANWEB 'B'

Manweb 'B' (Alan Evans, Trevor Barraclough, Sharon Woolerton)

First match, and not a great start against the freshly promoted Wavertree Labour 'A', Wavertree taking all the singles but Alan and Sharon combining magnificently to take the doubles over Dave Roberts and Mick Tierney in four sets. Week three and a visit to the Police club ended up with a 6-4 loss. Alan and Sharon with two a piece but all of the Manweb side struggled in vain against Paula French. Next up, Marconi 'A' and a 7-3 loss, Trevor Barraclough being the star of the night for Manweb with two wins against Peter Wass and Ian Wensley, Rob Barker stood in to take a valuable point over Ian Wensley. First win was week 5 against a strong Maghull side where Manweb ran away 7-3 winners, due in no small part to man of the match (again) Trevor Barraclough, who took his three singles, Alan managed two points and Sharon managed one and with the doubles on top it finished highly satisfying for Manweb 'B'. Week 6 and a trip out to Cronton to play Fords ended with a 6-4 loss, Alan Evans being man of the match here (TIIT's) with his three in the bag, Sharon taking the only other point here over Alf Perry. Next up were Cricket Club and a disappointing 8-2 loss, Sharon shining here making short work of Paul O'Donnell and combining with Alan to take the doubles. Week 8 and a much better return for Manweb 'B's efforts running out 9-1 winners against Cadwa 'B', noteworthy for Trevor and Alan keeping clean sheets, not easy when you have to face Colin Rourke, poor Colin played 15 sets that night and only just pipped Sharon 12-10 in the fifth.

MAGHULL

Maghull (Matt Wilson, Tony Kendall, Steve Woods, Mark Ambrose).

First match was a Maghull derby with no side taken here, Maghull put their junior team firmly in their place with a 9-1 win, only Alan Jones ruining the night, taking a point off Tony Kendall. Week two brought Maghull back down to earth with a 4-6 defeat by Crosby High, the match card comments were that good from Tony K, that I will let him explain the evening, "a disappointing result for the home team after being 4-2 up, but fair play to Crosby High for coming back to win the match, Dave Evans played well to take his four events and we look forward to the return match when Sylvia brings the egg sandwiches", well that's something for us all to look forward to! Next up was a trip to fortress Wavertree and an 8-2 loss for the Maghull side, Matt, Tony and Mark could find no way round Dave Roberts or Mick Tierney, Matt and Tony did find some small relief at the hands of Peter Howden however. Week 5 saw Maghull go down 7-3 to Manweb 'B', Tony managed two singles wins over Alan Evans and Sharon Woolerton, Steve also managed to take a point off Sharon but further joy eluded Maghull here. Back to winning ways in a big way (9-1) on week 6 against Marconi 'A', Matt and Steve both three match heroes, Mark Ambrose unlucky not to join the club but Ian Wensley spoiled his night winning in four. Now we're on a roll and an 8-2 win against the Police on Week 7, Matt and Steve do it

again with three a piece and the doubles, as well as Mark chipping in with a win over Brian Burrows. Week 8 and another win, this time against Fords 'A', Matt is definitely on a roll winning his three fairly easily here, Tony and Steve help out by taking two each and Matt and Steve combine to take the doubles to end the night 8-2 winners.

LIVERPOOL CRICKET CLUB 'B'

Liverpool Cricket Club 'B' (Ming Liu, Billy Cheung, Dele Oluyombu, Paul O'Donnell)

First up, and a big win against Manweb 'A' 9-1, only a five set win for Andy Lloyd over Dele preventing the tin hat. Week two saw a 6-4 win over Maghull 'A' Kevin Lewis being the fly in the ointment here with wins over Dele and Paul, Billy Cheung being man of the match with his three in the bag. Next up were Crosby High and another 9-1 win for the Cricket Club, Gemma Lloyd this time spoiling the party with a four set win over Billy. Week 3 saw a top of the table clash with Wavertree Labour and a 6-4 loss for the Cricket Club, Dele doing what very few will be able to do this season, beating Dave Roberts and Mick Tierney on the same night, Dele came unstuck however against a smashing young player who literally had the edge and the net in the end, winning 12-10 in the fifth, Paul O'Donnell managed to beat Paul Banks 11-7 in the fifth and Billy Cheung managed to overcome Mick Tierney. Next up were Greenbank and a respectable draw, respectable as Greenbank had Michael Rogala turned out who took his three in three, the rest of the singles went Cricket Club's way except for Billy dropping a point to John Appleton and then Billy and Dele coming second place in the doubles. Week 7 and a trip to Manweb 'B' ended with an 8-2 win for Cricket Club. Ming and Dele again three match heroes, Paul losing out to Sharon in three and Ming and Dele losing out to the accomplished Manweb doubles pairing of Alan Evans and Sharon in the doubles. Week 8 saw the visit of Marconi 'A' and another 8-2 win, the night was pretty straight forward for Cricket club except for Trevor Owens taking points off Billy and Dele.

WAVERTREE LABOUR 'A'

Wavertree Labour 'A' (Dave Roberts, Mick Tierney, Paul Banks, John Rowan, Peter Howden)

First up, a visit by Manweb 'B', 9-1 Dave Mick and Paul all three match heroes here winning all their singles, Alan Evans and Sharon Woolerton preventing the Tin Hat by taking the double off Mick and Dave in four sets. Week 2 and another 9-1 for Wavertree, Dave and John three match heroes here, John Rowan being the man of the match, playing thirteen sets to end up unscathed, Mick Tierney losing out to Ted Gilmour in an absolutely thrilling match with no quarter taken, Ted winning 7-11, 12-10, 11-8, 10-12, 14-12. Next up was Maghull, and an 8-2 win this time, Dave and Mick untroubled and Peter Howden chipping in with a great win over Mark Ambrose 11-9 in the fifth. Week 4 was an away trip to Fords which finished up honours even, three match hero (TIIT's) this week was Paul who scraped

home untarnished through thirteen sets, Dave and John winning one each to make the draw. Next up for Wavertree was the top of the table clash with Cricket Club, no three match heroes here but a 6-4 win was obtained for Wavertree by Dave and Paul winning two each, Mick winning one, and Dave and Mick making short work of Billy and Paul in the doubles. Week 6 and a visit to a two man Cadwa ended with a 9-1 win for Wavertree, Dave and Mick successful in all their outings, Steve Graham being the party pooper beating John in the fifth set. Next up was Bath Street 'C' and another win, 8-2 this time, Dave Roberts was man of the match here winning his three, although John Langton gave him a good run for his money, John being in such fine form easily overcame John and Paul. Week 8 saw an away trip to Manweb 'A' end in a 6-4 win, every one worked hard for their points here with only three singles not going to five setters, Dave and Mick going all the way with Dave Harse and Andy Lloyd in their singles encounters, Dave Roberts being the man of the match coming through unscathed and teaming up with Mick to take the doubles.

SUMMARY

Well what a privilege this has been. Going through all these cards I really feel as though I have been at the matches with you, which may have been quicker in the long run. As this is my first season playing at such lofty heights I didn't and probably still don't know what to expect from it, playing the matches doesn't give you an overall picture of what is happening in the division, but, reading the cards has really brought it home to me how this division is not making any sense, players seem to 'take it in turns' (TIIT's) to turn on the style, number three's winning their three and number one's losing all their's etc, not giving anyone any gimme's or allowing an order or hierarchy to develop, and long may it last!! I have also enjoyed the Match comments and tried to include them wherever possible, but would very much appreciate more of them to try and get a better feel for the nights as an event rather than cold scores on a card. Best wishes for the next part of the season.

Division 3

Stan Clarke

A belated welcome to the new season to you all, belated because by the time you read this the season will be almost half over.

After the first few weeks of the season I felt that the division was not as strong as last year, how wrong can you be, we were just lucky that the first few weeks paired us against some of the weaker teams in the division, since then we have met some of the stronger teams and now realise that there are some very strong teams out there. At the time of writing Harold House A and Bootle Y.M.C.A, A 5 are tied in top place with 56 points from eight matches and both teams are strong enough to maintain their positions, it remains to be seen if Harold House can continue to turn out their strongest team on a regular basis, if they slip up then Bath St. D and even Maghull B could well step up into the top two. At the other end of the division Maghull C and Harold House B currently occupy the relegation places, but it is still early and neither team is too far from the others to throw in the towel just yet.

Have you come across players playing with "Spin Max" on their rubber? It is called a rubber cleaner and so it is, if used properly. The idea is that you apply the cleaner to the rubber, then 'wipe it off' with a damp cloth, no problem. The problem occurs when the cleaner is applied but 'not wiped off', this leaves a very sticky surface on the face of the rubber, completely altering the usual characteristics of the rubber, not to mention that in some cases it leaves ridges on the rubber. The result is that the rubber becomes much more "Spinny" than you

would expect. Spin Max is not illegal, the I.T.T.F. technical committee refused to ban the substance as it is marketed as a rubber cleaner and should have little effect on performance if used as recommended, the problems arise if it is not used as recommended.



WEEK 1.

Harold House B started the season in good style beating Wav. Lab. B 6/4 and a very strong team they turned out, with Paul Morgan playing at No. 4, Tony Connor with wins over Paul Shaw and Andy Woodyatt the only singles successes for the Wavertree team. Harold House A absolutely thumped Bath St. D 9/1, no Eddie Clein this week, but Alex Bryce is a more than adequate stand in, only Neil Pritchett saving the white-wash when he beat Rod McPherson. Wavertree Labour D and Bath St.E fought out a draw. Maghull C beat Marconi C 6/4. Bootle Y.M.C.A. b beat Wav. Lab. C 6/4, Wavertree introducing their new signing Dong Xia for his first match in Liverpool. Marconi B found Maghull B much too strong and went down 3/7, Bobby Bell the hero with wins against George Frost and Tom Downing. And Manweb C without Paul Jennings found that Bootle Y.M.C.A. A are in no mood to stay in this division for

long, their only singles success coming when Neil Jennings beat Ritchie Winkle.

WEEK 2.

Bath St. D and Manweb C fought out a draw, both doubles going to the home side, the same result for Wav.Lab.B against Marconi B who were missing their top two players. Marconi C lost 4/6 against Wav. Lab D, while Wav.Lab C beat Maghull C 7/3, the McGanity,s causing the problems as father Harry beat Dave Goulden and son Steve beat Stan Clarke, their other success coming when Brian Gregory also beat Dave. Maghull B were beaten 7/3 by visitors Bootle Y.M.C.A. B, perhaps a strange result as Maghull were at full strength. An under strength Bath St. E made Harold House A fight hard for a 6/4 win. Harold House B did themselves no favours when they turned up to play Bootle Y.M.C.A. A with only three players, then to find that Bootle had taken advantage of their ranking list to turn out Alan Chase at No.1, needless to say they suffered the first whitewash of the season. Any guesses as to how long it is since Alan Chase played in the third division? The match between Bath St. D and Manweb C was postponed until 18th October when the teams fought a draw, brothers Paul and Neil Jennings largely responsible for Manweb's points.

WEEK 3.

The derby game between Maghull C and Maghull B produced a drubbing for the C team by 9 sets to 1, Harry McGanity saving the whitewash when he beat George Frost.

Wav. Lab D were unlucky against Wav.Lab C, with the match poised at 4/4 the C team won the final two matches to triumph 6/4. Harold House A, again without Eddie Clein, but with Alec Bryce, bombed out Marconi C 8/2, Dave Bradley the only singles success for Marconi when he beat Martin Roberts. Bootle Y.M.C.A.A beat Wav. Lab.B 6/4 and Harold House B lost by the same score against Manweb C, Alan Biggs and Neil Jennings responsible for 5 of the Manweb points. In a week of Derby matches Bath St D just beat their E team by 6sets to 4, and in the final match of the week Marconi B, who had Trevor Owens at No.1 lost out 4/6 against Bootle Y.M.C.A. A.

WEEK 4.

Wav. Lab.B thought they had hit the jackpot when they beat Maghull C 9/1, only to find that they had played a player out of order and the score was revised to 6/4. Bootle Y.M.C.A. beat their B team 6/4, Bert Rivers with two good singles wins over Ritchie Winkle and Roly Wright. Harold House B were stuffed 2/8 by Bath St. D, a good singles win for Paul Morgan over Neil Pritchett.

Wav. Lab C lost 3/7 against Harold House A, Dong Xia recording a win over Eddie Clein when Eddie retired in the fifth game when he disagreed with the

umpires score. Maghull B beat Wav.Lab D 6/4, Steve Perry, making his first appearance of the season, beating Tom Downing and Steve McGanity. Manweb C and Marconi B played out a draw, with Bobby Bell beating Arthur Harrison in the final set. Marconi C faced Bath St. E and found their opponents just too strong, going down 3/7

WEEK 5.

Bath St. D beat Marconi C 9/1, Dave McMahon beating Neil Pritchett for their solitary point, Bath St. E hosted Wav.Lab.C, two singles wins each for Dave Goulden and Stan Clarke, remarkably Stan was 10/2 down in the second game against Graham Oates but recovered to win 12/10. Marconi B, with a very strong team beat Harold House B, who had a very much weakened team, 9/1. Bootle Y.M.C.A.B took advantage of an under strength Manweb winning 8/2

Maghull C found there is nowhere to hide against a rampaging Bootle Y.M.C.A.A. team going down 9/1, but a good win for Steve McGanity over Danny Every. Wav. Lab. D found that their B team was not in a generous mood as they fell 8/2, mind you they were a little unlucky when Mike Ashton beat Andy Bird 11/8 in the fifth and Bill Stanley beat Eric Spencer 11/6 in the fifth. Harold House beat Maghull B 7/3, Bill Salter, playing as a reserve, beating Rob Midgley.

WEEK 6.

Most decisive result of the week was the 9/1 thrashing of Marconi B by visitors Bath St. D,

John McCann winning the only point for the home team, next best result came from a severely weakened Manweb team who put Maghull C to the sword 8/2. Harold House A beat Wav.Lab.B 7/3. Wav. Lab. C beat Marconi C 6/4, but Wav.Lab.D can be proud of running Bootle Y.M.C.A.A to a close finish before losing 6/4, there is no doubt that the return of Ian Black to the club has strengthened the team considerably. Maghull B, who are fast becoming the draw specialists, drew with Bath St. E. One score sheet missing from this week.

WEEK7.

Two drawn matches this week, draw specialists Maghull B held Marconi C, but only by winning the final set of doubles 14/12 in the fifth, the second draw featured Wav.Lab.D and Manweb C, yet another old boy returning to the Wavertree ranks, this time John Gratton returning from several years pilgrimage in Sheffield. Bootle Y.M.C.A. B lost 4/6 to Marconi B, Maghull C lost 4/6 to Harold House B, only the second win of the season for H.H.B. Bath St. E collapsed to a 8/2 defeat by Wav. Lab.B, but defeat of the week was reserved for Wav.Lab.C who were thrashed 10/0 by Bath St. D.

WEEK 8.

Three teams won their matches 8/2 this week, Bath St. D cruised to their win with only Bert Rivers offering any resistance when beating Peter Ross and Neil Pritchett, Marconi B produced the same result against Maghull C, who also had an "Old " face making an appearance in Eddie Preston, but he could do nothing to stop Marconi emerging easy winners,. The final one of the three 8/2 winners was Bootle Y.M.C.A.A. who beat Bath St. E 8/2, for whom only Bill Clayton produced a singles win. Wav.Lab.B played two reserves against Marconi C and paid the penalty, going down 3/7. Harold House B continued their run of defeats with a 4/6 loss against Wav.Lab.D, Paul Morgan playing at 4 won his two singles but I wonder if that tactic is backfiring on the team. Maghull B continued their run of drawn

matches against Wav. Lab. C, Dong Xia and Dave Goulden heroes for W.L with two singles each, there is little doubt that W.L.C. are missing their talisman this year as Ken Armson has been unavailable due to ill health, but bad news for you, he should be back, funny bat and all after the Christmas break. Manweb C did well to hold Harold House A to a draw, Eddie losing both matches to the Jennings brothers, that can't have happened very often

That's it for this time, just time to tell you that Neil Pritchett has been reported to S.P C.T.T.T.B., I'll leave you to work out what that is.

Division 4

Doug Baker



Nights are getting shorter and seasons getting longer 'ey. It's caught a few clubs unawares. Players still on holiday around the globe, not able to get back for the first few matches.

So, what's happened since the end of last season? Yes we have a couple of teams dropping in", some old ones gone (where for art thou Bath St?) and a few new ones.

The main changes you will notice are in personnel. There's been frantic activity on the transfer market. I t can now be revealed that me ex CADWA club mate, Alan Davies has indeed gone to Aigburth, were he heads up a first team with Ian Laird, Graham Rollinson and Lee Proffitt. Expect big things from them. I'm sure the bookies would have closed the book on them getting promoted. Other ex's joining Aigburth are Cunningham & Lindsay, who fit in between stalwarts Traynor & Wood to make up another strong team. Their "B" team aren't just making up the numbers either, Arthur Pierce and Neil Croxton were quick out of the blocks.

Aigburth, only go down the Alphabet as far as 'B', LYMCA's and CADWA's lexicography go further. LYMCA 'C' didn't get a win in the 3rd division last year, but this year in this division, with a few Mourinho like changes, I see the boot on the other foot for them this year. Good to see my old buddy Francis back in command with undiminished enthusiasm. CADWA 'C' also fell out of the 3rd, and they will be determined to bounce

straight back up. Certainly they will hope their D team will be able to do some damage to their rivals. And they were given an assist in their 1st outing (not match!) of the season, which was against their D team. With only 7 players available, the D team went one short and gave the C team a player (Don) and 3 points. However the 'D' held on to Andy McNabb (on this occasion) who beat opposing number 1 George Higham, 11/9 in't 5th. The played games went 4-3 in the D's favour, mainly thanks to a polished performance by John O. For the 'C', Peter Roberts won his two, including a good straight sets win over Andy. Other clubs have been even more generous to CADWA 'C'. Harold House unable to field a team in week 1, and ditto Greenbank in week 3. Didn't I finish last season's reports moaning about unfilled fixtures affecting promotion? Seems early, but only right, to say it's gonna happen again!

Bath St submitted 2 teams for this division, but had to pull them as players left rather than go to Kirby. It's unfortunate the 2 teams had consecutive key fixture numbers as it means that teams (including my own) will have 2 consecutive weeks free.

So in effect we've lost 2 Bath St teams and gained an Aigburth, in a division that was one short to start with. I know I and other club secretary's have hunted round to find players to make up additional teams. Overall though I think it would be better if we could just have a place on the website where people could register an interest, and then once we get 5/6 they could form a team playing for a club with the night available.

First match for Maghull 'D' was a derby, and they proved the natural order by beating their 'E' team colleagues, 7:3. Naresh, Denise, Janette have been joined by youngster Loon Wai Yu, whereas 'E' keep to

the old contemptables, Banks, Chan, Whittaker and McCourt, but have lost Alan Smethurst.

Speaking of contemptables, no change at Linacre either. Both Harrys were unbeaten in their 1st match, a strong win over a depleted CADWA 'D'. John O'Sullivan had a bad night, but at least Ian Lunt & Don got a win each.

BYMC 'C' know what to do, when you're short. Jim Geddes was unavailable for the 1st match against Aigburth 'A', so Arthur Garnett stepped in at No. 1. He beat Eric Wood in the 4th 12/10, and had a short rest before losing to Dave Cunningham 10/12 in the 5th. Other than that, BYMCA 'C' are unchanged, but much improved. e.g. Steve Daniels went to 5 against big Dave as well, before securing the team's 2nd point of the evening in the last match on v Ray Jones. Arthur & Gary Williamson tussled with Eric & Ray in 1st doubles, see-sawing games up until the last 12/14.

Greenbank 'A', had "jitters" at the start of the season. one short in their first match, failed to appear in the 2nd & 3rd. This leaves them precariously drinking in the "1 more and your out" last chance saloon. Lynne Riding is still at the helm, leading by example. However Greenbank were literally out of order against BYMCA 'C', but not because numbers 1, 2 and 4 didn't show. Lynne made sure she at least turned up to ensure they didn't incur the fatal 3rd w/o, but then wrote herself as No. 3 behind Claire Robinson, who is actually ranked below her! Whoops. So Lynne's narrow win over Steve Daniels (12/10 in 1st, 11/9 in't 5th) was expunged. I assume even John Taylor's 3 straight win (14/12 in't 1st) is also down the toilet. Jim & Garry were also in attendance, but all that travel to be given a 10-0. "At least you got to play 2 games" Linacre will say to BYM.

Harold House also started badly; failed to get a team together in week 1, then pulled people off the street in other games, all of which puts pressure on the Captain. A few movements in the transfer market may have righted the sinking ship. None of this had much truck with Maghull 'D' who bagged a 9-1 booty. Only Eric Young can claim glory (and on the back of the card he did) beating Naresh in 3 straight. (Oh, if you ever wonder what ever happened to what's is face, who used to play years ago. Chances are they have been signed on by HH and just don't know it yet.)

Keith Whittaker "retired hurt" from his singles matches against Aigburth 'B', which evaporated Maghull 'E's chances of a win, 4-6 the score. New boy Mark Fong had a great match against Neil Croxton, with 4 out of 5 games going to deuce, but the set point was Neil's.

Cunningham. Lindsay. Those names ring a bell? But they look out of place sandwiched between Traynor and Wood in Aigburth's 'A' team! Week 2 and another derby, this time at Aigburth – there'll be a few Aigburth Derbys this season. 'A's Dave Cunningham had a fantastic fight with Alan Davies, which the Aigburth 1st team man won 11/9 in the 5th. Dave had already narrowly lost out to Ian Laird 12/14 in't 4th. But it was Norman & Eric who put points on the board, mastering Lee and Rollo respectively. Graham was looking good, after winning the 2nd against Eric, 13/15 to go 2 up. But Eric then rallied like the tenacious bulldog he is, to win the next 3. A similar story for Eric and Dave in 2nd doubles against Lee & Graham. They won the 1st 11/9, narrowly lost the next 2 games 13/15 and 12/14, before winning 12/10, 12/10. It doesn't get much closer. I wonder who the impartial APH WAGs were rooting for?

The following week and Alan Davies met his match in old salt Harry Reeve. Harry got the better of the 1st two games, each 12/10. Alan then looked pulled up his socks and his game taking the next two 4 & 7. But the redoubtable Harry had kept something in reserve to storm through the decider 11/5. This after Harry had already lost his first singles to Ian in 4. Jack Davidson seemed to fare better taking Ian to 5. After playing against them the week previous, Derek was now drafted in at No 4 a position he clearly showed he was much too strong for. Linacre duly lost 2:8, the other point coming from the 1st match on, 1st doubles, where Reeve & Davies faced each other across the table for the 1st time as the God(s) looked down, cast the dice and someone here lost something Dear;- 2 out of 3.

CADWA 'D' were at full strength for their visit to Maghull 'D'. 10-0 doesn't reveal that Andy Mc had to work hard to overcome Naresh & Denise in 5. Naresh also fought out a 5 gamer with John O.

Harold House 'C' grabbed 2 points at Aigburth 'B'. Barry Meyer losing out in 4 to Gary Abrams and Dave Cohen. Dave just missed a double losing out to John Mitchell 9/11 in't 5th.

LCC'C' had a good 10-0 win over Maghull 'E'. 5 games finished in 3 and 5 finished in 4. Robert Wong v Mark Fong, was possibly the best tussle, 11/9, 10/12, 12/10, 11/7. Ben Chan met Alan Chan, and it was Ben who was the main Chan man. BC bt AC in 4; see?

In week 3: LCC'C' delivered the same result at HH'C'. But Richard Woodley and Lewis Rosenbloom made Ben work for his 2 singles. Some wag (not wife or girlfriend this time) wrote on the back "Dave Cohen played a blinder – he didn't lose a single point!". A tad generous/unfair as Dave wasn't actually playing that night. Dave would no doubt claim that as a 100% success.

Maghull 'E' shared the points with Bootle YM 'C'. The evening had started badly for Mag'E' as both

doubles went down. Jeff Banks showed the way carding a 2 w/o loss for the home team. His young lad, Steve stopped Jim Geddes claiming victory in the last match, by winning narrowly 15/13 in the 4th.

Neil Croxton showed what a rapidly improving player he is by not only beating myself, but also Andy, both in 5, having to come from 2-1 down each time.

Greenbank 'A' fielded 2 players against Maghull 'D', as both Ian Littlewood & Lynne Riding, ahem, "failed to show". Acting No.3 Vincent Pigeat won his 2, beating Janette over 5 and then Loon Wai Yu. Doubles nearly went their way, going to 5. All of which must have been very interesting to Denise, who could only watch, as being No.1, she had no-one to play. A long trip from Magull to Sefton Park just to offer encouragement! Greenbank 'A's record was then left to read, 4 matches, 40 sets possible, 28 sets conceded.

Big match at Aigburth, as their 1st team took on CADWA 'C'. Without Peter Roberts, Andy McNabb was guesting. Alan Davies won his singles v Higham & Ashley in double quick time. (Thank god he doesn't go for all that strictly unnecessary spangly spandex.) Lee Proffitt started the night off by beating Andy, coming from 2-1 down. 3 sets later and Ian Laird also surprised Andy, 3-Nil. Ian got a comeuppance from lefty Higham. Graham also won his two singles, from Ashley and Lunt. Lunt had played well 2 sets earlier to dent Lee's intentions. John combined with Andy in the last match, 2nd doubles, to win the visitors 3rd point. 7-3 to Aigburth, against their nearest rivals too!

Linacre were still trying to conjure up their 1st win of the season when playing Aigburth 'A' in week 4. Things were set nicely at 4-4 after the singles were played out. Harry R, had beaten Dave & Derek in straights. Mr. Nelson had contributed a good 3-1 win over Eric, and Jack had put into the pot a good 3-Nil over Ray Jones. But try as they might they just couldn't win a doubles, each lost in't 5th. 5 of the 10 doubles games being won from deuce, is a stat that shows how closely fought it was.

Providence was not kind, as it placed them at CADWA 'C' the following week, where they could only take one point. This as usual from the hands of Harry. Unusually from Harry Nelson that is! Mr. Nelson beating Mr. Higham at some point in the proceedings (- I can't tell where as Mr. H, forgot to transcribe the order of play!). George redeemed himself with a "tremendous" win over Mr. Reeve, and No.2 Mr. Roberts did likewise (11/9 in't 5th). John Ashley also found form taking Mr. Nelson in 4. And if I read the card correctly a 2nd game 11-nil over Mr. Ainsworth, was bizarrely followed by a 3rd game 12/10! Ian Lunt continued the good season he's having beating Jack & Ken without losing a game. The decision to pair him with George for 1st doubles was surprising but proved to be

the right thing to do. Cadwa C's Captain comments: "Nice to play a game against 4 gentlemen who are an example to us younger players". Cheeky blighter!

Magull 'D' were swamped by Aigburth 1st. Loon did well to take a game off Lee. Janette went 2-1 up against Graham. And Naresh almost saved face, 9-11 in't 5th with Ian.

Aigburth 'B' had the novelty of playing 10 sets at Greenbank 'A'. In the 1st half of the evening Mark Mogan beat Alan Staniland after previously teaming up with A. Mullaly to win a doubles. In the 2nd half Vincent, now playing at No.1 (presumably because Ian & Lynne knew they couldn't make it and had reserves) still won both his singles, beating Barry and John, who managed to win their other singles. I wonder if Ian and /or Lynne played for the 1st team that night? There is a rule that a player can't play for more than one team in the same night. Hmm. And that's part of their problem, having both teams play on the same night, means that things can get stretched if they are short. I've never known anything like this before, but Greenbank should know that their own players not turning up for games isn't their only problem. Players are now refusing to play at Greenbank. I've known players refuse to play another team because they have personal issues with a member of the other team. But I've never heard of such discontent towards a club. They are generating a lot of antipathy across players in this division. And when you're in trouble, you need all the friends you can get.

Week 5 saw LCC'C' finally lose some points. CADWA 'D' took 2! John & Jack both beating Jason A.O. Michael Kwan had a great battle of wits with John, coming from behind; 9/11, 11/7, 9/11, 11/9, 11/8. The night was notable also for seeing Francis Lay putting in an appearance and an impressive one too, as the retiree showed he is gainfully employed teaching the youngsters how to play with grace and good manners. I was there, but couldn't stay for the break. I hope there was more cider like what Michael and Robert were drinking. It seemed to work for them better than Red Bull.

Still without figure head Dave Cohen, Harold House C' wavered at BYMCA 'C' - 1:9. Jim Geddes led from the front with his wins over Dave Batty and Richard Woodley. Whereas Dave B found solace in his close but straight 3-0 win over Steve Daniels, Richard went home empty handed losing to Gary Williamson in 5. They didn't quite gel as a doubles partnership either, narrowly winning the 3rd game 12/10 to go 2-1 up, but struggling in the last 2 sets to Steve & Gary. John Taylor also bagged a brace for the home team, taking the scalps of Guy Cohen and Michelle Beaver.

Well done to HR & JD for beating Naresh in Linacre's 6-4 win. That woman Sue Hughes creeps into the frame again, playing at 4 and winning her 2. The doubles helped save Maghull 'E' from a worse score line.

Peter Roberts was re-ranked to CADWA 'C's number 1, and showed why, with a good 2 over Aig 'A's Cunningham and Lindsay, key moments that gave C victory. John Ashley was left kicking himself after losing in 5 to Norman. Woodsy beat Ian Lunt in 5 too, but Ian had the satisfaction of securing the win in the last match, coming from 2-1 down to Ray Jones. Mr Higham was inspired to write an odd ode: "Aigburth, keep drinkin the ale, and you'll never fail! Cadwa C the TTotals." Master of puns!

In the same week Aigburth colleagues in 1 and B met. First game on saw a surprise as Graham lost to Arthur Pierce. Things were still balanced after 4 games thanks to a fantastic win for Neil Croxton over Lee Proffitt, going down to the wire. After that Alan & Eric steadied things and 8-2 was the result.

CADWA 'D', used new "boy" Paul Webb v BYMCA 'C', as Arthur again subbed for Jim. It was the old star John O'Sullivan who shone for the home team winning his 2 singles, including big Arthur, which is no mean feat as Don will tell you. Things turned for Don in his 3rd set v Gary Williamson, 12/10, to give him the position to win the set. Jack beat John Taylor after losing to Steve. The visitors each managed a single win, and triumphed in both doubles to win 6-4.

The biggest clash of titans so far, ended in a stalemate. Alan Davies beat Michael & Jason at LCC 'C' in 1st and last singles. Francis was again "not out" for the ex Cricket team in 2 singles innings. He was in control over Lee, but Ian seemed to have him sussed, 2-0 up and deuce in the 3rd; - a couple of points and Francis was out! However, he won 12/10, which deflated Ian as he only chalked 2 points in the next game. Ian picked himself up and made a stab of it in the final game, 9/11 to Francis.

Well done for Aigburth's Ray Jones, resisiting the challenge of Mag'E's Keith Whittaker over 5 games. 10-0 to Eggy A, a result that rocketed them to 3rd spot.

Meanwhile Eggy 'B' held their own v Linacre. Arthur Pierce did a proper No.1's job by beating both Harrys. Neil found Harry Reeve was a force he wasn't used to, but faired better with Jack Davidson. John Mitchell enjoyed a close match with Ken, who in turn had just enough energy left to best Barry Meyer in 5; barely 2 points difference per game. Doubles was the meat between the singles bread, and both fought over the crumbs. Reeve & Davidson, just stopped the rot in time, 15/13 in the 4th, in order to win the 5th 11/9 against Arthur & Neil. John & Barry, made sure they didn't go the same way as they won their turning point, the 2nd game 14/12, and came from behind to snatch the last 2 games versus Nelson & Ainsworth.

Peter Roberts must like Aigburth, as he again won his two, versus the 'B' team's Arthur & Neil. Ian Burrows was in at 4 for CADWA 'C' and seemed to have

drifted off against big John, but he took the 4th narrowly then won the 5th by a country mile. Arthur saved his best till last (match on), beating George Higham after losing the 4th game 10/12, he won the 5th by the same margin! Which was the first point of the night for the visitors; 9-1 to CADWA 'C'. George was ribbed by his team mates for losing the only game, and at such a late stage.

And that my friends took us into November. CADWA 'C' 2nd on 44 points from 6 games, to Aigburth 1st, 50 points from 6. But LCC 'C' looked dangerous; 28 points out of 3 games!

Maghull 'D' v CADWAC 1-9. Naresh & Denise got the point from 1st doubles v Higham & Lunt. All singles to the visitors, John Ashley smooth in his 2. Only 1 set went to 5, which suited George who needed them to beat Naresh.

CADWA C v Aig B; 9-1 again. Roberts in 5 over Pierce, but Pierce in 5 over Higham (4th 12/10, 5th 10/12). Neil C took a game off Peter, but couldn't stand up to John Ashley after a close 1st set. John again not dropping a game. Burrows bounced back against John Mitchell after losing a close 2nd set 10/12 to go 2 down, he won 3 in a row.

HH 'C' took 5 outings to win their first match of the season, at the expense of Mag 'E'. And what a win, 8-2! Dave Batty was made to work against Steve Banks & Alan Chan. Steve had previously beaten Richard Woodley, who in turn ousted Jeff Banks taking 4th & 5th games to do so. Last year's No.1, Lewis Rosenbloom was poaching down at 3, but was kind enough to give his opponents one game each. Gary Abrams (also onetime No. 1) coasted at 4 against Jeff, but only just managed to beat opposite number M Fong 11/9 in 5.

Maghull 'D' had faired worse with a visit from Aigburth's 2nd string, 0-10, although admittedly without No.1 Naresh, Janette had their best moment, going to 5 with Woodsy.

Without his namesake Harry Nelson, Harry Reeve ploughed a lonely opening wicket against LCC 'C's youngsters, stumping Jason Ao and Francis Lay. Wickets tumbled for Linacre elsewhere down the order, but at least Harry & Jack caught out Francis and Alvin Tso in the doubles.

Aigburth's 1st string thoroughbreds bashed BYM'C'10-Nada. Jim Geddes & John Taylor just couldn't get across the line to win in 4 as the game went 15/17 against them.

My prediction with things being so tight at the top, is that things might be decided by a mistake due to the pressure of keeping the campaign going for so long. Here endeth the trip down memory lane. The mists, like the nights, are drawing in.

Play well and play fair.

K.O. CUPS

DIVISIONAL

2nd Round Results

Played week commencing Mon. 13th November

Division 1. Readman Cup

M/SIDE POLICE	5	v	0	L/POOL C.C. 'A'
BOOTLE YMCA	5	v	0	CADWA
BATH STREET	3	v	5	FORDS
BATH STEET. 'A'	0	v	5	L/POOL C.C.

Division 2. Rumjahn Cup

CADWA 'B'	5	v	3	MANWEB 'B'
L/POOL C.C. 'B'	5	v	0	GREENBANK
M/SIDE POLICE 'A'	1	v	5	WAV. LAB. 'A'
MAGHULL	1	v	5	CROSBY HIGH 'A'

Division 3. Hyde Cup

WAV. LAB. 'D'	1	v	5	HAROLD H. 'A'
BATH ST. 'D'	5	v	3	MAGHULL 'C'
MARCONI 'B'	5	v	4	BOOTLE YM. 'A'
MANWEB 'C'	5	v	0	WAV. LAB. 'C'

Division 4. Forrest Cup

BOOTLE YM. 'C'	0	v	5	AIGBURTH
CADWA 'D'	5	v	0	MAGHULL 'E'
LINACRE	5	v	0	GREENBANK 'A'
L/POOL C.C. 'C'	0	v	5	CADWA 'C'

Not quite the Cup round we would expect, the final results probably hide some close matches, but the match cards showed we had 8, 5-0 scores; 3, 5-1's; 1. 5-2, this score was reversed when it was found that the winning team had played 3 players out of order by mistake; 3, 5-3's; and only one real Cup tie result of 5-4, this being the Hyde Cup match between Marconi 'B' and Bootle YM. 'A' which went level pegging right to the final doubles match won by Marconi 'B' 17-15 in the 5th, a real Cup tie, The 1st. Div. match between Bootle YM. and Cadwa was awarded to BYM as Cadwa couldn't raise a team, Cadwa having knocked their 'A' team out in the first round!, and in the 2nd Div. Greenbank without their No.1, (only had 2 players) went down 5-0 to Merseyside Police,

Frank Murphy Memorial Handicap Trophy

1st. Round Results

529	MAGHULL 2	v	BOOTLE YM. 3	509
345	BOOTLE YM. 4	v	BOOTLE YM. 1	349
532	MARCONI 2	v	MAGHULL 3	517
426	MANWEB 1	v	AIGBURTH 2	413
458	BATH ST. 2	v	BATH ST. 3	422
386	CROSBY HIGH	v	MARCONI 1	347
326	FORDS	v	BATH ST. 1	359
501	CADWA 2	v	CADWA 3	493
	MAGHULL 1		BYE	
	M/SIDE POLICE		BYE	
	MANWEB 3		BYE	
	CADWA 1		BYE	
	BOOTLE YM. 2		BYE	
	LINACRE		BYE	
	AIGBURTH 1		BYE	
	MANWEB 2		BYE	

2nd. Round Draw

To be played week commencing
Monday 11th. December

MAGHULL 1	v	CADWA 2
BATH ST. 2	v	M/SIDE POLICE
BOOTLE YM. 2	v	LINACRE
MANWEB 2	v	MAGHULL 2
MANWEB 1	v	MARCONI 2
CADWA 1	v	BOOTLE YM. 1
BATH St. 1	v	CROSBY HIGH
AIGBURTH 1	v	MANWEB 3

Details of all the Veteran Cup Regulations can be found on Page 24 and 25 of the rule book

Home teams to give opponents a minimum of Seven days notice of date of match.

Nets and Edges

Ken Armson MBE



Possible alternatives to our current divisional format were put forward at our Handbook meeting for representatives to take back to their respective clubs. 6, 7 or 8 team divisions were suggested with divisions of 6 involving a promotion/relegation at the halfway stage and making for a more competitive season. The 8 or 7 possibly involving playing teams 3 times. Any of these will make for a slightly shorter season but give us more competitive divisions. Hopefully this will result in a new format being agreed at our 2006 AGM. Other leagues have recognised the need to change and have moved forward, we have consistently voted against change and are stagnating. Change could possibly involve giving up our 4-a-side format but this would be a small price to pay if we can inject new life into our league by way of stronger and more competitive divisions. It really is becoming a case of change or the league will slowly fade away. I recall the comments when we went to 4-a-side: 4 in a car is just right, being one of those, but how many teams actually travel to matches in one car? Change is never easy but we must be prepared to accept change if our league is to survive.

The annual loss of players will not go away and some clubs who could enter more teams for various reasons are reluctant to do so, one possible reason being the cost factor of fines. This reluctance serves only to worsen our situation and highlights more strongly the need for change. We have to grasp the nettle and move forward now if we are to retain existing players and attract new blood. Only a new vibrant and competitive format will achieve this, 4-a-side is still possible but our divisional structure must change. The claim trotted out every time 3-a-side is proposed that clubs need 4-a-side to ensure players get regular match play is a myth, you need only look at the number of registered players as opposed to teams to realise this. Any club can do as my own does and group players who want to stay together in groups of 4 or 5 and everyone will still get a reasonable amount of match play. This is at least legal and preferable to the method adopted by some clubs of deliberately ranking a player/s lower than the team they actually intend them to play in until they have used them as often as possible in a lower team. So much for wanting to keep players together when clubs are happy to use one in a lower team.

What is happening in the Lancashire and Cheshire league or to be more accurate what has happened to our teams in the L&C league? There was a time when playing for your league in the L&C was an honour and players were eager to be selected and Liverpool teams have frequently been champions and cup winners. Not so this season, as it would appear that out of four teams registered only one has survived. The other three, Ladies, Men's 1st and Vets having apparently been withdrawn at short notice because we could not find enough players willing to represent their league. Once would be bad enough, three is a disaster and may also be a financial disaster as the fines being levied are crippling and make ours look like pin money.

Having lost their home venue this season news is that Bath St have found for themselves a new permanent home with a social club at Marine FC. Waterloo, and after lots of hard work will be playing there before you read this Digest. I feel sure they will be hoping to get back players lost during this transitional period to bring the club back to its former strength.

I am currently taking entries for an ETTA GP and faced with the usual crop of badly written email addresses. No one seems to realise that whilst their writing is perfectly plain to them others may find it difficult to read. Email addresses, in fact the entire form should always be printed to enable them to be readable, but I doubt this message will ever sink in. We also have to cope with the new ETTA GP form, another nightmare, printed on an A4 sheet the entry box is smaller than the norm with white print on a coloured background that downloads in a different background colour making it difficult to read. Other aspects of the form leave a lot to be desired and needless to say additional space is available as a section of one side is left blank.

On the subject of tournaments, faced as I am every season with complaints and excuses re entry to our Closed I have booked us a date this season, Sunday 11 March, that must surely meet with almost universal approval. I now await with anticipation a flood of entries. If an entry form does not come your way one will be available for downloading on our website or by post if you contact me or Arthur Garnett.

Our league members win their spurs in a host of pursuits one of these being Tony Mitchell (Wav Lab) who represented Great Britain in the European Amputee Football Championships played in Russia, his team reached the final losing to host nation Russia, well done, Tony; it seems that our F.A. will be sponsoring the event next time. Congratulations also go to Tom Purcell who in another area of our sport whilst in St Petersburg to officiate at the Russian Open took his Blue Badge Examination and passed. He then had two successful match assessments that have taken him halfway to winning his Blue Badge qualification; the pass number required being four. Tom is an excellent umpire but there are a lot more 'Tom Purcell's' out there, so if why not give some thought to taking up what is very rewarding work and learn to become a qualified umpire. Help is available for anyone interested and once you get your foot on the first rung lots of doors will open. See top players in action from close quarters, have the best view at big events at no cost, make many new friends and enjoy table tennis from another very rewarding perspective. If you don't believe any of this just ask Stan Clarke, Tom Purcell, Steve Perry, Graham Rollinson, or if you can catch up with him, Tom Creevy who appears to have gone walk about. The 2012 Olympics will enable a host of English umpires to add Olympic umpiring to their achievements and there is still time for any new umpire to gain the necessary qualification for what is often a once in a lifetime achievement. Even without this umpiring is rewarding and satisfying and gives players the opportunity to put something back into their sport.

Complaints are again being received in respect of Greenbank, teams arriving to play a match sometimes finding no opponents or, as in one case, only one opponent. As this would sometimes have been their own home fixture they have not been best pleased at having had a wasted journey. Clearly Greenbank need to get their act together and in the event of their not being able to put out a team need to ensure their opponents are informed of this in sufficient time to avoid making the journey. Being allowed to play most of your matches at home is a concession that should not be abused and whilst every team should ensure their opponents are given early advice of a walkover being given, this is especially so if the team being given a walkover are travelling to what should have been their home fixture.

Like many members I was shocked and saddened to learn our retired Fixture Secretary, Eddie Cameron, was very ill. Eddie was our Mr Table Tennis for many years and the lynchpin of our league. He was a gentleman both on and off the table and played with an energetic style of his own, he was also a diplomat extraordinaire. Over the years he defused many explosive situations, resolved disputes quietly and without fuss and his expertise ensured our league always ran smoothly. His first wife, Wynn, did most of the clerical work and was always happy to answer the numerous telephone and doorstep requests for information on team progress. Everyone knew the phone number or the way to 44 Wavertree Green and no one ever made a wasted call or had a wasted journey. No internet then, Eddie and Wynn were to us then what the internet is to us today. If the Management Committee had a dispute or problem to deal with Eddie's would always be the voice of reason and he could be relied on to come up with an acceptable solution. There will have been, and still are, many Eddie Cameron's in all walks of life, but I believe that Eddie was No. 1 in his field. Our Closed used to take place at or near season end and Eddie would be there with his list seeking out club secretaries and team captains to obtain missing scorecards or arrange for the playing of postponed fixtures. The post Eddie held has been filled efficiently and very competently by others since but for me he was No 1. I am certain I speak for everyone in extending to Eddie, his wife and his family our very best wishes at this difficult time.

I have recently been slightly indisposed and have been overwhelmed by the number of get well cards I have received and the numerous telephone calls seeking information as to my progress. To say this amazed me would probably be an understatement as I did not think so many would be concerned enough about me to send me cards or phone. Faith has been mores strict than any Matron and would not let me back into my office until she was satisfied I was sufficiently recovered, even then it was only for short spells. I extend to everyone who took the trouble to send a card or phone my sincere thanks. I will now have to revise my funeral arrangements as I had only budgeted for my family plus the odd half a dozen or so wanting to be sure I have gone.

ETTA, Hastings, East Sussex, TN341HF

Dear Table Tennis Player,

in an attempt to give you a little background information on the English Table Tennis Association Limited, (ETTA) its workings, benefits to you and how by communications we can work together as a team for the sport we all love.

The ETTA is the National Governing Body for the sport in England. Its responsibilities are just like those of the Football Association, Badminton Association, etc.

All players who pay a fee to the ETTA are part of the ETTA and can be involved in any policies and direction of the sport via an appointed League Representative Company Member who is entitled to vote on your behalf at Annual General Meetings (AGM). A County Representative Company Member not only votes at an AGM but is involved with the operation of the sport at four meetings per year as part of the National Council and receives regular communications of all minutes of the various ETTA committees responsible for the day to day operation of the sport.

The ETTA has a Management Committee consisting of Departmental Vice-Chairmen and the Officers of the ETTA who are all volunteers plus the Chief Executive who is a member of staff. The Management Committee has 11 members and works with the staff and your representatives on the National Council.

The ETTA now has 30 full or part time staff covering all aspects of support for the existing players and potential new players. This includes Administration, Competitions, Finance, Selection, Marketing, Coaching, Communications and Development. The Development Department has 9 Regional Development Officers, Volunteer Manager, Child Protection and Equity Officer, Facilities Officer and a School Club Link Officer.

All of the staff are responsible for supporting and helping you and your local volunteers in expanding the participation of our sport by creating opportunities for people to play at all levels while at the same time supporting you at local league and club level within the areas defined above.

Not everyone wants or needs support; it is very important that you understand what is available to you and is in place for your benefit and for the creation of more players and administrators at all levels. As part of our service to member leagues we would very much welcome an invitation from your local league for your ETTA Regional Development Officer to visit you. The aim is to provide information and support to help table tennis grow at the local level. This would include areas of discussion including volunteer support, club, coach and facility development funding opportunities, school club links, and table tennis for disabled people as well

as updates on topical issues, such as child protection within our sport.

It is not only the responsibility of Management Committee and National Council to make the decisions about table tennis, how it functions, what the membership needs and the benefits of being part of the biggest table tennis club in England, namely your ETTA, but yours as well.

Much debate has taken place regarding the way players pay fees to the ETTA and this will continue to be discussed. No changes can take place without the approval via the democratic procedures laid down for our sport. You can and should be involved in the process.

On my travels some people raise the question why do I have to pay a fee to the ETTA and what do I get out of it. Firstly you should be aware that the ETTA receives from each local league player under £5 per annum. For this your ETTA has to provide the services for its members from each of the Departments mentioned previously. You may not want any or only some of these services, that is your decision. The National Governing Body has to be responsible for all areas of table tennis and at all levels. I do not consider £5 per annum from players to help in the running of the sport in England unreasonable. I also believe that we have to modify our affiliation structure to ensure that all people who are supported by the ETTA pay a fee on an individual basis via their local leagues. Those who play more should pay more!

I am still a local league player and a volunteer administrator and consider that we have to increase our real support and help to the grass roots while at the same time ensure that these grass roots are kept aware of what is going on via better communications.

Table Tennis, like most sports, is dependant upon its band of dedicated and hard working volunteers including those who work for their local league. More volunteers are required and I hope that you will put your name forward to assist in some way in the running of the sport. No one is asking for a 40-hour week. A contribution from more people will reduce the workload of those already working hard on your behalf.

Please come forward and help our great sport, which you love to play.

I have always been prepared to visit any local league meeting to discuss any aspects of our sport. This is where I can listen and learn and at the same time answer your questions about table tennis.

I am attempting to update my personal email address book and if you wish to be included in it please contact me alex@harwoodltd.co.uk. It would be fantastic if I could get one contact at every local league team in England.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Regards,
Alex Murdoch ETTA
Chairman

Divisional averages to 15 / 11 / 06 top 25 only (full list on web site)

Division 1

	Name	Club	P	W	Ave
1	WILLIAMS Keith	Bootle YMCA	20	20	100%
2	MARSDEN Mike	Cadwa	5	5	100%
3	JACKSON Ken	Bath St	24	22	92%
4	BIRD Keith	Liverpool CC	21	19	90%
5	WATSON Gary	Wavertree Labour	20	18	90%
6	McEVOY Mal	Fords	21	18	86%
7	LAU John	Liverpool CC	18	15	83%
8	RZESZOTKO T	Manweb	18	15	83%
9	TURNER Terry	Fords	18	15	83%
10	LEE Peter	Liverpool CC	12	10	83%
11	MUDIE Andrew	Crosby High	15	12	80%
12	BEECH Aaron	Wavertree Labour	20	15	75%
13	PERCIVAL Wayne	Bootle YMCA	12	9	75%
14	CONNER Ken	Harold House	15	11	73%
15	RAMSBOTTOM Mark	Marconi	15	11	73%
16	BRAY Tom	Crosby High	18	12	67%
17	GITTINS Paul	M/Side Police	12	8	67%
18	TAYLOR Jonathon	M/Side Police	12	8	67%
19	LIU Ming	Liverpool CC 'A'	9	6	67%
20	BIRCH Ted	Bootle YMCA	6	4	67%
21	ROSCALEER Mark	Harold House	6	4	67%
22	McELWEE Ian	Bath St 'A'	13	8	62%
23	BRYCE Alec	Harold House	18	11	61%
24	CHASE Alan	Bootle YMCA	17	10	59%
25	HEWITT Jamie	Bath St	12	7	58%

Division 3

	Name	Club	P	W	Ave
1	JENNINGS Paul	Manweb 'C'	8	8	100%
2	BRYCE Alec	Harold House 'A'	4	4	100%
3	HIGHAM John	Bootle YMCA 'A'	16	15	94%
4	HUGHES John	Harold House 'A'	16	15	94%
5	CONNER Tony	Wavertree Lab 'B'	14	13	93%
6	WRIGHT Roly	Bootle YMCA 'A'	13	12	92%
7	BLACK Ian	Wav Labour 'D'	12	11	92%
8	RIVERS Bert	Bootle YMCA 'B'	12	11	92%
9	PATERSON Mark	Bath St 'D'	12	10	83%
10	GIOVE Mario	Wav Labour 'C'	6	5	83%
11	ROSS Peter	Bath St 'D'	14	11	79%
12	BULMER Rod	Maghull 'B'	16	12	75%
13	GEE Les	Bath St 'D'	12	9	75%
14	OWENS Andrew	Marconi 'B'	4	3	75%
15	OWENS Trevor	Marconi 'B'	4	3	75%
16	JENNINGS Neil	Manweb 'C'	14	10	71%
17	ROBERTS Martin	Harold House 'A'	10	7	70%
18	CLEIN Eddie	Harold House 'A'	12	8	67%
19	BIGGS Alan	Manweb 'C'	6	4	67%
20	MULLALLY Tony	Marconi 'B'	6	4	67%
21	LOFTUS Paul	Marconi 'C'	14	9	64%
22	BELL Bobby	Marconi 'B'	16	10	63%
23	CLAYTON Bill	Bath St 'E'	16	10	63%
24	FYLES Colin	Wavertree Lab 'B'	8	5	63%
25	WILLIAMS Peter	Bootle YMCA 'B'	8	5	63%

Division 2

1	LIU Ming	Liverpool CC 'B'	12	12	100%
2	ROGALA Michael	Greenbank	6	6	100%
3	ROBERTS Dave	Wavertree Lab 'A'	23	20	87%
4	WILSON Matty	Maghull	15	13	87%
5	BANKS Paul	Wavertree Lab 'A'	12	10	83%
6	WYLIE Rob	Crosby High 'A'	12	10	83%
7	HUGHES Bob	Fords 'A'	6	5	83%
8	APPLETON John	Greenbank	14	11	79%
9	LEWIS Kevin	Maghull 'A'	9	7	78%
10	TIERNEY Mick	Wavertree Lab 'A'	17	13	76%
11	HARSE Dave	Manweb 'A'	15	11	73%
12	WOODS Steve	Maghull	18	13	72%
13	OLUYOMBO Dele	Liverpool CC 'B'	21	15	71%
14	CHEUNG Billy	Liverpool CC 'B'	18	12	67%
15	EVANS Dave	Crosby High 'A'	18	12	67%
16	GOLDSON Robbie	Fords 'A'	18	12	67%
17	PALMER Mark	Greenbank	9	6	67%
18	ROURKE Colin	Cadwa 'B'	9	6	67%
19	LLOYD Andy	Manweb 'A'	21	13	62%
20	LANGTON John	Bath St 'C'	18	11	61%
21	KENDALL Tony	Maghull	15	9	60%
22	O'DONNELL Paul	Liverpool CC 'B'	12	7	58%
23	HOLLAND Dave	Fords 'A'	18	10	56%
24	PEAT Rob	Bath St 'C'	18	9	50%
25	ROWAN John	Wavertree Lab 'A'	14	7	50%

Division 4

	Name	Club	P	W	Ave
	ROBERTS Peter	Cadwa 'C'	10	10	100%
	CHEN Ben	Liverpool CC 'C'	4	4	100%
	PIGEAT Vincent	Greenbank 'A'	4	4	100%
	DAVIES Alan	Aigburth	16	15	94%
	WONG Robert	Liverpool CC 'C'	10	9	90%
	KWAN Michael	Liverpool CC 'C'	6	5	83%
	LAY Francis	Liverpool CC 'C'	6	5	83%
	PIERCE Arthur	Aigburth 'A'	11	9	82%
	LAIRD Ian	Aigburth	14	11	79%
	ROLLINSON Graham	Aigburth	13	10	77%
	O'SULLIVAN John	Cadwa 'D'	12	9	75%
	LINDSAY Norman	Aigburth 'A'	8	6	75%
	BATTY Dave	Harold House 'C'	4	3	75%
	PROFFITT Lee	Aigburth	14	10	71%
	REEVES Harry	Linacre	14	10	71%
	WOOD Eric	Aigburth 'A'	14	10	71%
	ASHLEY John	Cadwa 'C'	10	7	70%
	CROXTON Neil	Aigburth 'A'	13	9	69%
	CUNNINGHAM Dave	Aigburth 'A'	12	8	67%
	HIGHTON Jack	Cadwa 'D'	6	4	67%
	LUNT Ian	Cadwa 'C'	11	7	64%
	JONES Ray	Aigburth 'A'	10	6	60%
	TRAYNOR Derek	Aigburth 'A'	7	4	57%
	HIGHAM George	Cadwa 'C'	12	6	50%
	AO Jason	Liverpool CC 'C'	10	5	50%

League Tables up to 22 / 11 / 06

<i>Division One</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>Pts</i>	<i>Division Two</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>Pts</i>
Liverpool CC	7	7	0	0	58	Wav. Lab. 'A'	8	7	1	0	60
Bootle YMCA	8	6	2	0	58	L/Pool C.C. 'B'	7	5	1	1	49
Wav.Lab.	8	6	0	2	57	Maghull	7	4	0	3	43
Fords	7	6	1	0	50	Manweb 'B'	8	3	0	5	40
Crosby High	9	5	0	4	46	Bath St 'C'	7	3	1	3	38
Bath St	8	3	2	3	43	Crosby High 'A'	7	4	2	1	37
Harold House	8	3	1	4	42	Maghull 'A'	7	3	2	2	37
Manweb	9	2	3	4	36	Manweb 'A'	7	3	1	3	36
L/Pool CC 'A'	8	2	3	3	34	Fords 'A'	7	2	4	1	35
M/Side Police	8	1	2	5	30	Greenbank	7	3	2	2	33
Bath St 'A'	8	2	1	5	29	M/Side Police 'A'	7	1	1	5	27
Marconi	8	2	0	6	28	Marconi 'A'	8	1	1	6	25
Cadwa 'A'	8	1	2	5	27	Cadwa 'B'	7	0	0	7	10
Cadwa	8	1	1	6	22	Bath St 'B'	Record Expunged				

<i>Division Three</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>Pts</i>	<i>Division Four</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>Pts</i>
Harold House 'A'	8	7	1	0	56	Aigburth	8	7	1	0	65
Bootle YMCA 'A'	8	7	0	1	56	Cadwa 'C'	8	7	0	1	62
Bath St 'D'	8	6	1	1	56	Aigburth 'A'	6	4	0	2	41
Maghull 'B'	8	3	3	2	43	L/Pool C.C. 'C'	5	4	1	0	40
Marconi 'B'	8	3	2	3	41	Linacre	8	3	1	4	39
Wav.Lab. 'B'	8	3	1	4	41	Bootle YMCA 'C'	6	3	1	2	32
Manweb 'C'	8	2	4	2	38	Aigburth 'B'	7	3	1	3	30
Wav.Lab. 'C'	8	4	1	3	38	Cadwa 'D'	6	2	0	4	30
Bootle YMCA 'B'	7	4	0	3	37	Maghull 'D'	8	3	0	5	29
Wav. Lab. 'D'	8	2	2	4	36	Maghull 'E'	6	0	1	5	14
Bath St 'E'	8	1	2	5	32	Harold House 'C'	6	1	0	5	12
Marconi 'C'	8	1	1	6	30	Greenbank 'A'	6	0	0	6	6
Harold House 'B'	7	2	0	5	23						
Maghull 'C'	8	1	0	7	23						

Tournaments coming up soon

The 7th. Stiga City of Liverpool Junior 4 Star Open to be held at The Greenbank Centre, Aigburth over the weekend of 13th & 14th January 2007

And

The Liverpool & District League Closed, to be held Sunday 11th. March 2007 at the Wavertree Tennis Centre, **entry forms available in January.**

For both these events, help from any direction with setting up the venues will be gratefully accepted, satisfaction guaranteed, information from Ken Armson MBE, Arthur Garnett, or any of the Management Committee, contact details in the handbook.