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Editorial

This is an extra Digest, shorter than the norm, but closer to the last one, the idea being that it keeps you more up to date with the “goings on” but so does our web site, in these days of keeping costs down at the request of the members, should we be giving more thought to using the internet to produce our magazine, or at least, delivering it to the readers, not all have access, but is it a money saving thought!!, anything to save me the 60 mile round trip delivering to Club Secretaries, hoping you the readers, receive them asap.



Congratulations to Ken Jackson who has been selected to play for England National Vets over 60's team in Germany in May this year, Bath St. secretary, Ron Georgeson adds to this in his reflections on the problems of losing club premises, (page 3), also congratulations to Brenda Buoy for a similar recognition mentioned in Ian McElwee's report (page.6)

The problems of premises will strike a cord with members of the Liverpool Cricket Club who are becoming dab hands at the problems associated with moving, 3 seasons ago they had 5 minutes warning of the impending closure on safety grounds, of their venue of many years at Liverpool YMCA, they then spent a busy time doing up their loaned premises at Aintree, for one season, then on to the Cricket Club at Aigburth, same setting up problems, and had to change their name to L.C.C. one season then off again, to Christ the King, same setting up again, and it seems, another name change to the venue's name, so after all that, including a need to find a new secretary, they are still together, turning out formidable teams, and it seems, expanding their numbers, so congrats. to all. Ken mentions a rumour of more possible changes in his Nets & Edges (page 3)

We often hear that Table Tennis doesn't get the publicity it deserves, but one youngster in particular is doing his best to change that, two seasons ago, young Paul Drinkhall, from the Ormsby T.T. Club, Cleveland, entered, and easily won the Liverpool Junior 4 star open, one of many top class youngsters who enter these tournaments, since then, his status has rocketed, recently winning the European Junior top 12 Singles title; at the recent Olympic Youth Festival in Australia, he won the singles Silver medal, and with partner, Darius Knight, they won the Gold. At 16 he's top of the junior national rankings, and amazingly, he's also top of the senior men's rankings, from all that I doubt if he received much

publicity in the national press, but just before Christmas last, he earned his place in the final three of the BBC Junior Sports Personality of the year, finally coming second to Arsenal's Theo Walcott, not unexpected considering our national obsession for soccer, just hours after that presentation, Paul was in Egypt for the World Junior Championships, the ITTF's window of the worlds young Elite talent, reaching the Qtr. Finals, a long time since we had International results like that to report on.

The ETTA has requested Leagues bring to the attention of Club Secretaries and players, the existence of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, and how it affects the sport of Table Tennis, the ETTA recommendations can be found on their web site in the sections -: Development / Disability.

Recently England Ladies played a European match against Holland Ladies at Halton, Holland won 3-0, in what must have been a bit of a one sided night, finishing rather early I would think, I remember the last time a big match was put on in Liverpool against Israel, the match finished rather quickly, as the points go to the first team to 3, there's no incentive for the players to carry on, but what about the spectators who've travelled and paid to watch, if all sets carried a point award, with it the need to play the full nights games, it may begin to look like a “spectator sport” it doesn't guarantee great matches, but it may guarantee more for your money!

Former Liverpool League and Lancashire county player Lillian 'Pinky' Rumjahn, wife of Ronnie, sadly passed away recently. Our condolence goes out to the family; a full tribute to the former Rafter's player will follow in the next Digest

In 1949 Lillian 'Pinky' May, as she was known then, along with her sister Kay 'Bluey' May were in the Liverpool Ladies team which reached the final of the National 'Rose Bowl', playing against the then famous Rowe Twins, who were in the London team, the first time twins were members of opposing teams.

We have mention in the Div. notes on the length of the season, the number of free weeks, we didn't have so many years ago, in hindsight, maybe it could be organised a bit different, having 14 Team Divisions is always going to make it long, but this has been addressed a bit by the Vets Cup semi's and Final being played in normal league weeks, speaking as the Cup Secretary, I don't know how, years ago, they got away with the cup rounds being played in the same weeks as league fixtures, (other than the first rounds).

At the last handbook meeting, number of teams per division was discussed, and secretaries asked to discuss a new shorter divisional format with their members, with the possibility of adopting next season, has much discussion or thought taken place!

EDITOR

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The individual player registration fee continues to be discussed by an ETTA sub committee, Chairman Alex Murdoch having a lengthy piece on this in a recent edition of Table Tennis News, but no mention of cost to players. It is generally accepted this is the way forward (not that any consultation has taken place), but after many months of discussion it is time we were given an indication of the probable cost per player and how the ETTA intend to deal with the affiliation fee issue. This is a real hot potato as leagues currently affiliate per team from team/player income to both the ETTA and County Association. Neither of these will want a smaller slice of the cake but neither will players want to experience a repeat of the decimal changeover when the pound in our pocket may have remained the same but rounding up in all areas led to its purchase value being considerably reduced. It is worth bearing in mind that whereas the number of teams per league is known, what is not known is the exact number of actual league players and the income this could generate. Clubs will still have to pay their league for each team but in addition every player will have to pay a direct affiliation fee to the ETTA, their County also if the ETTA decides not to allocate to Counties a portion of the player affiliation fee. This issue raises more questions than the Chairman has currently answered and it is time seemingly never ending dialogue is replaced by projected cost per player along with a forecast of yearly increases. Only then can this subject be properly debated and it is those who will be doing the paying i.e. the affiliated players, who should make the final decision by way of an individual vote.



I have made reference on many occasions to the abject failure of some players to make any effort to conform to the service law and was interested to learn of two incidents in a recent league match. None other than Chris Ford, when umpiring, asked a player to throw the ball up instead of throwing it backwards, the player duly complied without hassle. At a later stage in the same match a comment about another players' service action resulted in quite a bit of the verbals. Such incidents would not occur if everyone made an effort to comply with the service rule simply by throwing the ball up as near vertically as possible instead of as near horizontal as possible and ensuring that it did actually leave the palm of the hand. Not much to ask for seeing as the current wording has been in force for some years.

Mind you, the service problem is not just a local one, I refereed a Veterans National League weekend recently, matches being umpired by team members and the standard of some service actions that I saw left much to be desired and would possibly make some of our bad servers appear legal. Not to try to conform is a form of cheating and many players rely on the reluctance of others to ignore blatant foul serving and avoid an incident. Players are fully aware of the requirements of the service law but not all are prepared to comply.

Trying to find a date for our Closed that will meet with majority approval is never easy but this season I believe we have found the ideal date, 11th March. As I have stated previously, many leagues no longer run Closed championships because of a falling away interest, but ours were always run at a very high standard by Brian Leeson and I have tried to maintain the high standard he set. Unfortunately the entry has not always been as good as hoped for, but this season I am hopeful members will recognise the input of our small band of volunteers by a flood of entries. I have taken on board the views expressed by those in the Over 55 age group that starting with the Over 55s, followed by Divisional and Veteran Singles is too demanding and this season will try running the divisional singles as the final event. We will again play the Open Doubles as a 1st round group event to encourage entries by giving pairings at least two matches and the opportunity to move forward into the KO rounds.

I recently visited yet another dedicated table tennis centre that has opened at Draycott. Formerly a small one table venue it has now been enlarged to become a six table venue equipped with lounge, kitchen, office, changing rooms, showers and a practice hall that can be sub let to other organisations. Draycott may only be a small place but thanks to the input of a hard working band of volunteers they now have their own dedicated table tennis centre, one any league would be proud to possess. No chance of this happening in our league as volunteers for any aspect are not easy to find, this being one of the reasons why we have so few juniors. All we can lay claim to is a small band of regulars who assist at tournaments, their help is greatly appreciated but most are in the higher age category as younger and fitter members show no interest.

If you play with long pimples and enter tournaments you will be displeased to learn that the ITTF Technical Committee (might be some other committee), who are not quite as out of touch as the ITTF, are proposing to include a ban on non friction long pimples in the International Regulations. If you don't use long pimples and also don't like them you will find this news pleasing. Anyway, the suggestion of such a change has caused quite a stir amongst long pimple users worldwide, but fear not, for the last people the ITTF take notice of are those grass root players who make up the majority of table tennis players and whose fees pay for their globe trotting and any associated freebies.

Continued page 4

7th. Stiga Liverpool Junior 4 Star Open Championships January 2007

Almost two hundred young players converged on Greenbank Sport Academy at the weekend for the 7th Stiga Liverpool Junior Open championships, jointly sponsored by The City Sport Development Unit and Thornton's Sports & Leisure from Bury. Included in the draw were players from all the home countries plus China, Italy and the Channel Islands, but it was Derbyshire's Liam Pitchford and China's Wang Zheng who stole the show.

Pitchford, aged 13 eased through the early rounds of the Cadet Boys' singles, not dropping a game until the semi-final when he ousted Ireland's Sam Hanley 12-10, 12-10, 13-15, 11-5. His final opponent, David McBeath (Derby) also accounted for an Emerald Isle player David McCreery in the last four but, this was a much closer encounter, McBeath winning 8-11, 11-5, 11-9, 8-11, 12-10. This left the friends and top two seeds in the final, and in a sensational set, fortunes swung one way then another. Pitchford won the opening two games 11-5, 11-7, but lost the next couple, 7 & 9. Although he led 5-1 at change of ends in the decider, he quickly found himself 9-7 down and then 10-9 up. Two points later he saved a match point and with both players trading blow for blow, Pitchford took three from the next four points to clinch the title, 14-12.

The following day, the demitutive Pitchford kept up his onslaught through the bottom half of the Boys' singles draw and after winning his group, qualified from the last 32 for the final without the loss of a game. Top seed and group winner Wang Zheng (China) was only pegged back once, Chris Parker (Yorks) losing 3-11, 13-11, 7-11, 1-11 in the last 16. The final was a tremendous affair, Wang edging home 12-10 in the opening game before losing the next by the same score. The tall, stylish Wang then took charge of the match, polishing off his young opponent 11-5, 11-1 to claim the crown for the first time.

It took 123 points to decide the Under 13 Girls' singles title but the winner's cheque made little inroads into the £400 it cost Alice Loveridge to travel from Guernsey to Liverpool. After a comfortable passage into the final, she faced Emily Bates but, the Lincolnshire lass took the marathon first game, 17-15, before really getting into her stride, winning the next 11-5. After some serious talk in her corner, Loveridge, a niece of Mathew Le Tissier, set about her opponent in a more positive manner which led her to winning the next 11-4. She had to save a match point in the fourth but went on to win 15-13 and the decider by the same score.

Match Secretary Don Davies



Continued from page 3 nets & edges

Keith Williams has risen to many challenges and in a recent league match demonstrated yet again his remarkable ability as a player and a team man to not only rise to the occasion, as he has done for our league many times in representative matches, but to also send a warning to others that he is a force to be reckoned with. Well done, Keith.

As a league we always try to provide suitable medals of a good quality for divisional winners and runners-up. Just how good ours are (I don't expect anyone to agree with me) was brought home to me recently when I received medals for the ETTA Veteran National League. A few years back a secretary of a National Junior League club had complained to me about the poor quality of medals for this league, imagine my surprise on opening those for VNL to find they were the self same medals complained about in the NJL. The only difference being that these were in boxes, whereas for the NJL they have a ribbon.

The spirit of friendship and a warm welcome to any player from abroad playing in our league was sorely stretched in a match this season when one was given a 'friendly' suggestion from a home based player as to where he should go. Do leopards change their spots, I think not.

Liverpool Cricket Club (formerly YMCA) have now changed their name to Christ the King TTC and it is rumoured that Marconi may move in with them and share their venue. Could this be a first step to a merger between these clubs as happened when Waterloo merged with Bootle YM?

As a league we appear to have encountered massive team problems in the L&C league, I don't know the ins and outs of all this or why we have lost the support of players, but L&C league appear to see our problem as an opportunity to try to bankrupt us and at the same time drive us out of a league we have strongly supported for many years. I would have expected them to be as concerned as our Committee is at this sudden falling away of interest in L&C league match play, but it would seem trying to rake in cash by way of punitive fines is a better option for them. Does anyone know why we have been unable to put out a team in some divisions this season?

"I received a really nice Thank You card from Eddie Cameron's wife following my piece on Eddie in our last issue to let me know Eddie's medication is helping keep him well and he read the Digest with great interest and still talks of the old times. Eddie always had great recall and could recount without difficulty his many wartime memories and pre-war memories of life in Wavertree. I am certain he once had a book about Wavertree, or his wartime memoirs, published. Good to hear he is doing well and nice to know that I have at least one fan, Eddie's wife, don't think I have many others, but my mother loved me. Faith often tells me I am a son only a mother could love and clearly this is her way of praising me!

Ken Armson MBE

Relocation Bath St

Bath St is out of the doldrums and is finally settling in at Crosby's local football club, Marine. We have had over three years of uncertainty when in June 2003 Sefton council announced that the current lease on the property would not be renewed when it expired in 2010. Over the next two years Sefton put offers on the table to the parent club to surrender the lease, but these were all turned down and finally in Oct 2005 Sefton withdrew their interest in buying the lease and the site was bought by a developer at auction.

Then followed a hectic period of searching for suitable playing premises, all the usual likely places being tried such as church halls, community centres, and while we could have nights at these places with having eight teams and requiring four nights the cost would prove inhibitive. Time was now moving on and the new season loomed when finally we secured a large enough venue at the Crosby Leisure Centre, albeit we could only afford one night, and 10 weeks were booked to take us into the new season, extra tables and barriers were purchased and that is where we started the 2006/2007 season.

While all this was going on our Chairman Peter Ross had managed to place editorial content in the local paper. I received various calls but all came to nought until Marine contacted Peter, following a meeting in Oct with their committee, they welcomed us into their club, this was the offer we could not refuse as we had only until the year-end to vacate our former premises.

Then followed hectic reconstruction of the room we had been allocated, there was a snooker table to be removed, as only one was now required, everything had to go, and this was when our no1 player and semi-retired builder Ken Jackson really came up trumps, lighting, flooring, stud wall, heaters, kitchen, new independent doorway, and everything we could salvage and reuse was taken from Bath St., inc. toilet, gas fires, all the lighting, red flooring, sink unit and kitchen cabinets. The flooring was not in very good condition and Peter located a supply

of some 10 rolls lying in storage for some 10 years at a club in High Wycombe. What a job to lay! John Langton and myself completed it in two days, only 3 days before our first match at Marine. The flooring had been very badly stored, and there wasn't time to lay it flat for a few days, then it was all hands to the paint brushes and sugar soap.

The rest of course, as they say is history and we have settled in at Marine and the playing conditions are really superb. When you walk into the club what hits you right away, is you would think you were still at the old club, the paint is the same, so is the floor, but an extra seven foot in width and a little longer. To obtain such superb playing conditions and barely a ¼ of a mile from Bath St is a dream, it has not been without cost however, as with buying extra tables and barriers, plus what we owe to Kenny, and 10 weeks at the Leisure Centre, has left us with our heads just above water.

But our future is hopefully now secured for the foreseeable future, to Marine club our gratitude is manifold, and our Wed. Club has been catered for and they can still meet once a week as normal. Prior to the start of the season we lost 10 playing members, partially due to the uncertainty of where our future lay and had to withdraw our two 4th div teams. Marine members have shown an interest in our game and I am sure some will join once we give them a taster night. Marine are very keen to expand their sporting activities, and are very much involved with the local youth in Crosby.

One final piece of news and once again if focuses our evergreen No 1 player Ken Jackson who has been selected to play in the National Vets over 60's team in Germany in May this year. Ken's standing in the Vets is now No3 after winning the Eastern Masters over 60's title, and was joint player of the weekend also.

Ron Georgeson
Bath St Secretary.
Jan 2007.

Three members of the Harold House Table Tennis Club have, fairly recently, gained incredible personal achievements

Garry Abrams, together with his sons, travelled to India where they took part in a marathon cycle ride for charity. Despite the fact that Garry is in his fifties, and none of them had ever done this sort of thing before, indeed were no more than "local" cyclists they rode three hundred miles in five days – 60 miles per day in the incredible Indian heat.

Paul Morgan and his wife, Ann, took up ballroom dancing in the past few years as an additional activity to his table tennis & golf pursuits. In the summer / autumn of last year they became members of The Southport

Ballroom Dancing Formation team which entered the 2006 British Formation Team Championships that took place at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool in October, they won the Gold Medal having finished in first place. Last, but not least, (and this is a little bit of older news) **Eddie Clein** went to Hong Kong as a member of the Merseyside delegation of fire fighters to attend the 2006 Worldwide Fire fighting organisations sporting jamboree, he entered into the International Veteran's Table Tennis event and came third, winning the bronze medal. I think that each of these (plus Ann) deserve tremendous applause
David Cohen. Sec. Harold House T.T. Club

We are just passed the season half way point and remarkably most teams have something to play for, 4 teams, Bootle YMCA, Wavertree Labour, Fords and LCC, only have 8 points between them at the top. At the bottom unto 8 teams are in the pot for the relegation spots, this leaves only Crosby High and Bath St. in a comfort zone and unlikely to be playing under pressure during the forthcoming weeks.



The Bath St. team ticks along nicely with Ken Jackson leading from the front and beating all but the very top players, he is currently ranked at 3 in the Men's over 60's national ranking list and has been selected to represent England at this level in Germany during April. I am sure you will join me congratulating Ken on this fine achievement and wish him luck in the tournament, (the same sentiments apply for Brenda Bouey who has been selected for the Ladies over 40's England team at this tournament)

At the top it is impossible to forecast the eventual winners but in the absence of Peter Lee with a bout of gout (I thought this only affected rich old men), LCC have been dropping points recently and could fall out of contention without a third player to back up Keith Bird and John Lau. It must have been a great disappointment to them when going down 6-4 to Cadwa when Chris Ford marked his return from his recent sabbatical to win on his 4 visits to the table. He was provided with superb support by Gavin Lloyd who beat both Keith and Peter before joining Chris in their doubles victory. Chris again remained unbeaten when Fords entertained Cadwa including a final 13-11 set win over Mal McEvoy in a match won 6-4 by Cadwa.

Cadwa have been down the bottom of the division all season but the signing of Chris may not only ensure they escape relegation but, bearing in mind the aforementioned results may eventually have a bearing on the outcome of the race for the championship, hopefully he and Cadwa will ensure he plays regularly for the remainder of the season so that no teams will be advantaged or disadvantaged by his presence. "By the way great to have you back, Chris!"

It appears that Fords have increased their chances by signing Kevin Dolder and Wavertree Labour signed Christian Petzsche who is over here from Germany. There is no need for me to say anything concerning Kevin's ability and the extent

Ford's would be strengthened by his return if he plays regularly, however, Christian was a completely unknown quantity until he announced his arrival when playing at Ford's, he won all his matches comfortably and helped Wavertree to a 7-3 win. Mal told me that he thought Christian was one of the best players he had seen in Liverpool for some time, only time will tell if he lives up to this compliment but there is little doubt he will provide Wavertree with a huge boost

in the second half of the season. Christian lost his first of the season when Mr reliable, Keith Williams, got the better of him over 4 sets, Christian won comfortably against Wayne Percival and Ted Birch before Ted clinched a 6-4 win in getting the better of Aaron Beech 11-9 in the fifth. Bootle also beat fellow contenders LCC when the teams met at week 11, Keith won 3, Wayne 2, with Keith Bird replying with wins over Wayne and Alan Chase, however, the best match of the evening had to be a brilliant battling display by Alan Chase in overcoming new boy Peter Lau, after Peter won the first 11-1 there was nothing to choose between the two with Alan finally edging a 17-15 fifth set win.

The jockeying for positions changes from week to week in the lower half of the division with all teams picking up points on a regular basis although they invariably suffer some heavy defeats when facing the top teams. At week 14 only 5 points separate Cadwa A (50 points) LCC A (50) Manweb (52) Marconi (53) Cadwa (55) and Bath St A (55), Merseyside Police and Harold House have edged away from this group with both having good recent results to pick up vital points. Paul and Steve Gittins were both in fine fettle in each winning their 3 at Bath St A in a 7-3 victory at week 13. Harold House matched this defeating Manweb 7-3 for whom John Henshaw played brilliantly in beating both Steve Whalley and Alec Bryce. When Police and HH met each other the following week honours were even, a nice points haul at this stage of the season but both teams will be well aware that a couple of poor results will quickly have them looking over their shoulders again. This is particularly true for Merseyside Police who are likely to be without Paul for a number of weeks due to injury, I received this news from his better half who has been the butt of many of his jokes in past digest notes, maybe this was the reason she had a smile on her face when she told me "as an old man he was injured

playing a young boys game, 5 a side football". Goes to prove a woman always has the last word.

Of the remaining lower teams, there is no doubt that Cadwa will pull away from the relegation spots with the acquisition of Chris Ford, this could also be the case for the Marconi team providing Mark Ramsbottom is available to play a reasonable number of matches, his presence certainly has a major affect on their results as indicated by Marconi's 9-1 victory over Bath Street A following two consecutive 10-0 losses against Bootle YMCA and Crosby High when Mark did not play. In the match against my team he was much too good for any of us and I think he would ensure Marconi's safety if he plays fairly regularly for the remainder of the season, I must add that a much improved Tim Ternant was in excellence form, also remaining unbeaten on the night, with Mike Keane getting the better of Bob Edwards to save us from a whitewash. From Bath Street A's point of view, Mike could be the one who makes the difference for us. By his own admission, he has had a disastrous first half to the season, but in recent weeks he has gradually gained in confidence and proved he still has what it takes to win at this level. He started by winning his 3 against Manweb when we ran out 10-0 winners, beat Alec Bryce in a match that ended all square at Harold House, and then beat John and Peter Lau when we did well to take four points when faced by a weakened LCC team. Only time will tell if we avoid relegation, but bearing in mind that all 4 of our squad will be over 60 before the season end, we will probably have set a record for the oldest team to have played at this level. Although I do not wish to get into any political debate perhaps this should be viewed as a warning for the future, where and how are the younger players going to come from to maintain the league?

Both Manweb and LCC.A have fell from comfortable mid table positions during the past few weeks, Manweb have suffered the loss of Tomas Rzeszoko, he has apparently moved onto pastures new but not before winning a high quota of points and taking some prized scalps, with the continued absence of Les Molyneux, due to work commitments, they have done well to continue to pick up vital points, they did well to draw at Bath St. where Paul Evans only loss was to Ken, they then secured their 2nd win to date in getting the better of Cadwa by a 6-4 margin, Alan Evans, Paul's dad, came in as a reserve to beat Gavin Lloyd and George Smith before losing 12-10 to Peter Taylor in the deciding set. LCC "A" have not had the benefit of the availability of number 1 Tony Whelan, although, on one of his rare appear-

ances he took his teams only point in winning against Ming Liu in the club "Derby match".

As is usual last seasons 2nd division champions, Cadwa "A" are finding it hard but they never stop fighting for those vital points, their efforts were rewarded in a great 8-2 win over Harold House when Alan turned back the clock, yet again, in winning his 3 singles and combining with Graeme to take the doubles. They came back to earth the following week, going down 7-3 at Police, however, the final score fails to indicate just how close Cadwa came to achieving at least a draw. 5 matches went all the way to 5, with Graeme losing out 12-10 to each of the Gittins brothers, and Steve repeating the act against Alan, who said life is hard at the top!

Overall there is the prospect of an interesting second half to the season and undoubtedly there will be many twists and turns before we reach the concluding weeks, It seems certain that results will vary dependant upon the availability of players and the division will be won by the team that is able to put out it's strongest combination on a regular basis, equally those in the lower regions cannot afford to give up easy points by playing anything other than their strongest team. Everything points to an exiting climax to the season with the champions and relegation issues likely to go all the way to the wire. Enjoy.

Continuing the early days of the L&DTTL

FIRST INTER CITY MATCH

Liverpool's reputation was growing and at this late stage of the inaugural season came a welcome request from Carlisle for an inter city match with Liverpool. This was the first Inter City match for both Leagues and it took place, again in Foley Street, on Saturday April 23rd 1927, with Liverpool triumphing by 110 points, (9 sets to 2). The system of scoring was even more bizarre than for local league matches, eleven-a-side, each player having one match of 50 up.

The eleven players who represented Liverpool on that historic occasion were:

W. Edwards, W. Smith and W. Miller (Hatton), L. Forrest, T. Stone and H. Piper (North Liverpool Y.M.C.A.), E. Woodward, S. Bardgelt and A. Davies (Birkenhead Y.M.C.A.), H. Kesler and A. Pickston (Florence Institute). Liverpool were without the services of the champion J.R. Bather who was engaged in the English National Championships in London. So ended the first season, rounded off by a dance at which the Champions received their trophy, The Jaque Challenge Cup donated by Mr W.T. Lancashire, President of the League.

Firm foundations had been laid and remarkably, in the space of five short years, Liverpool was to become the centre of table tennis in the North of England and second only to London nationally

Well the man has said that my last effort was a trifle overcooked and that I need to condense my notes, well that's the way it goes, the only trouble with this is that there is so much of interest to say, therefore I will try to get the interesting bits in and leave the not so interesting bits out!!



valiant effort against **Wavertree Labour 'A'**, Kevin Lewis taking Paul Banks and John Rowan, and Peter Holmes overcoming John in a gripping five setter, ended the night 3-7 for Wavertree, this hard fought match was reflected by Maghull on their score card; *"Great night – what a good team Wavertree are; competitive but friendly and true sports"*, what can you say about that level of

Week 9

Crosby High 'A' start us off with an impressive victory over **Maghull 'A'**. Gemma Lloyd and Dave Evans taking their three and Sylvia Graham helping out with an impressive win over Kevin Lewis. Crosby winning 8-2.

Marconi 'A' showed their ruthless nature rattling off a tin hat against **Cadwa 'B'**. Cadwa reserve John O'Sullivan coming the closest to taking a game, losing to Peter Wass in the fifth. **Manweb 'A'** don't let things like 'only having two players fielded' get in their way and pull off a 7-3 victory over **Greenbank**. One of our fringeline reporters Tony Kendall of **Maghull** was strangely optimistic following his side's 6-4 loss against **Cricket Club 'B'** due to his win over Billy Cheung and Steve Woods victory over Dele Oluyombo. **Bath Street 'C'** were also in a ruthless vein of form this week against a slightly weakened **Manweb 'B'**, Sharon Woolerton taking the only game of the night for Manweb off Dave Stoddern.. **Police 'A'** missed out on being ruthless against **Fords 'A'**, mainly due to D. Holland picking up two victories, a steady performance from the Police though, with Terri Ann, Brenda Buoy and Tom Purcell taking two victories each.

Week 10

Dave Evans was the man of the match for **Crosby High 'A'** this week over **Police 'A'** winning his three in three and helping Crosby to a 7-3 win. The usually high flying **Cricket Club 'B'** had a tough match against the hard working **Fords 'A'**, top marks here for Paul O'Donnell taking his three and helping Cricket Club to a 6-4 win. **Bath Street 'C'** and **Marconi 'A'** played out another hard fought match, with Bath Street finishing 6-4 victors, man of the match was the great John Langton, whereas unfortunate man of the match was Dave Stoddern who lost in the fifth to Peter Wass, Ian Wensley and Ted Gilmour. The Manweb derby was illuminated by the big tussles with the top two players from each team, Dave Harse and Andy Lloyd being pushed all the way by Alan Evans and Sharon Woolerton being pipped in the fifth by Dave Harse, Manweb 'A' finishing up 7-3 winners. **Maghull 'A'** put up a

praise except to say that the money is in the post!!

Week 11

Well what can you say but 'WOW' as **Maghull** demolished **Bath Street 'C'** 10-0 and with comparative ease, only three games being stretched to a fourth set, our North Liverpool correspondent Tony Kendall summarises the night; *"a solid performance from Maghull against a good Bath Street team. We started the game well and kept going. Just a shame that the Xmas break is here as I feel we are starting to get into our stride ! Roll on the new year"*. with results like that you have to say he has a point, look out!! Another hard night for **Cricket Club 'A'** this week against **Police 'A'** with a 6-4 victory, we have another correspondent (two in one week) as Tom Purcell (I think) writes; *"A good close match with 5 sets going to the fifth game, the result of the match went to the final doubles, LCC winning 6-4, 3 wins for Ming Liu and 2 for Terri Ann"*. **Wavertree Labour 'A'** beat **Crosby High 'A'** 7-3 this week with another three for Dave Roberts and two for Mike Tierney, Rob Wylie also took two for the Crosby team. Dave and Mike are becoming an extremely successful doubles partnership and have the best doubles averages in the division. Greenbank played out a draw with Maghull 'A' this week. M. Rogala taking his three and J. Appleton taking Fred Pheysey and Kevin Lewis in the fifth. **Fords 'A'** also played out a draw with **Cadwa 'B'**. Colin Rourke took his three and Rob Davies chipping in with a good win over Frank James and they teamed up to take the doubles. Well (F.M.O.B) **Marconi 'A'** and **Manweb 'A'** didn't want to spoil the trend, played out a draw and it looked like a cracker. The super Frank McCann having an exceptional night beating Dave Harse, Andy Lloyd and Roy Adams, Roy coming the closest to ruining Franks night.

Week 12

Cricket Club 'B' had a bad start against **Cadwa 'B'** losing the doubles in the fifth to Steve Graham and

Peter Roberts, they managed to put this behind them though and took all the singles.

Fellow title challengers **Wavertree Labour 'A'** also chalked up a 9-1 win against **Police 'A'** the only point for the Police coming from Paula Adamson French who pipped Peter Howden in the fifth.

Crosby High 'A' managed a fairly easy whitewash of **Greenbank**, Dave Evans, Rob Wylie and Sylvia Graham coming up trumps for the 10-0. A real topsy turvey game came in the form of **Manweb 'B'** against **Maghull 'A'** with lots of close games ending in a draw after Manweb took the doubles in the fifth set of the final game. **Manweb 'A'** and **Maghull** also played out a draw, which was quite impressive with Maghull fielding only two in their team. Matt Wilson giving another strong performance and winning his three.

Week 13

The girls (Terri Ann Nolan, Brenda Buoe, and Paula Adamson French) for **Police 'A'** demolished **Cadwa 'B'** 10-0 with only one set dropped all night. **Marconi 'A'** could have had a 10-0 this week against **Maghull 'A'**, could have except for the man Fred Pheysey taking two wins over Frank and Ian (playing 14 sets in total) and having to settle with a very creditable 8-2 win. Roger Neal was the man for **Crosby High 'A'** this week preventing a whitewash against **Manweb 'B'**, taking wins over Alan Evans and Sharon Woolerton, final score 8-2 for Manweb 'B'. **Fords 'A'** took a bit of a beating against **Manweb 'A'** losing 2-8, Robbie Goldson proving to be as difficult to beat as ever, with titanic games, losing to Andy Lloyd and beating Dave Harse also in the fifth set, Fords also lived up to their high doubles average winning in the fourth set.

Liverpool Cricket Club 'B' provided a master class this week against **Bath Street 'C'** winning 10-0, John Langton coming the closest to taking a point losing in the fifth set to Billy Cheung.

Week 14

Matt Wilson for **Maghull** showed why he is on 88.9% average this week taking his three against stablemates **Maghull 'A'**, Steve Woods and Mark Ambrose chipped in with three between them and with the doubles in the bag it was 7-3 to the top Maghull side. Terri-Ann Nolan displayed her number 1 credentials in a 6-4 win this week for **Police 'A'** against **Greenbank** taking her three with relative ease, Paula Adamson-French and Tom Purcell coming undone against John Appleton and Mark Palmer. Dave Roberts swept aside all comers this week at **Manweb 'B'** as his team **Wavertree Labour 'A'** won 8-2, Alan Evans threatened to do the same, beating Paul Banks and John Rowan with blistering pace and super table tennis, but couldn't overcome

Dave losing in three. **Liverpool Cricket Club 'B'** keep up the pace this week with an excellent 7-3 win over **Manweb 'A'**, Ming Liu the man of the match taking his three against Dave Harse, Andy Lloyd and Joe Doyle. **Marconi 'A'** have so far throughout the season showed grit, determination and an ability to give the strongest teams some serious headaches, this week however they came up against an inspired **Crosby High 'A'** and lost 1-9, Ian Wensley stopping the rot, beating Sylvia Graham.

Forecasts

Well as a player not known to take too many risks I feel the same concern about making any predictions for winners and losers this season, that is until mathematics help me out, I can however make some broad sweeping, sitting on the fence statements!!

Relegation:

Cadwa 'B' currently at the bottom of the division will be looking for divine intervention to help them out of their predicament and are currently strong favourites for the drop. The other drop team could be any one of four teams, namely Bath Street 'C', Fords 'A', Police 'A' and Marconi 'A', with only six points between them it looks extremely tight.

Safety:

Greenbank, **Manweb 'B'**, **Maghull 'A'**, **Manweb 'A'** and possibly **Crosby High 'A'** will be safely in the second division next season with no real chance of relegation or promotion.

Promotion:

Wavertree Labour 'A' and **Liverpool Cricket Club 'A'** are having one mighty tussle at the top of the division with them swapping top spot almost every week, both teams need however to watch their backs as **Maghull** (supported by Tony Kendall's, could be prophetic statement), are hanging on to the top two and ready to pounce on any slip ups.

Well, shorter than last time but is it short enough?
Best wishes for the rest of the season.

Paul Banks

Wavertree Labour

I did ask Paul to shorten report for this extra shorter Digest, and he certainly has, down from 4370 words covering 8 weeks, to 1600 words covering 6 weeks, this one even includes his predictions, but more match card comments would help all div. reporters
Editor

First off I have to get a couple of moans off my chest, would you expect anything else. The first one concerns the way the season has been organised, much play was made at the last A.G.M. suggesting that fourteen team divisions made the season too long and it was suggested that management would look at a different format for coming seasons. It is my view that the season is too long because of all the interruptions included, by my count there are an extra nine weeks added to the season with blank weeks for replaying league matches and rounds of the various cup competitions, take December as an example only one round of league matches in the whole month. For many years this league consisted of fourteen teams per division and ran very successfully the only break was for the first round of cup matches when all teams were involved, after that cup matches were played alongside league matches. I know that this method did on occasion cause problems for some teams, and I am not suggesting that free weeks to catch up with postponed matches is a bad idea, but do we really need so many? I would suggest that one week in each half of the season should be enough.



Moan no. 2 is players arriving late for matches, I was recently at a match where the home team had one player available at the starting time, the second player arrived at 8.10 the third at 8.45 and the fourth did not appear that night, considering that the away team had players from Birkenhead, Halewood and South Liverpool and were all on time for the published start time it was a poor show.

Now to the Table Tennis, the division is finally starting to shake down into some semblance of order, Harold House "A" have taken the lead at long last and about time too, they should have been out of this division years ago now if they continue to play their strongest team they may finally make the second division next year. Bootle Y.M.C.A. "A" and Bath Street "D" are separated by a single point and I fully expect the second promotion place to come from one of these two teams as their nearest challenger Marconi "B" has an eleven point deficit to pull up.

Bootle Y.M.C.A. "B" have surprised me slightly as they are clear in fifth place well ahead of

three teams locked on 69 points. Perhaps the strangest team are Harold House "B" who lie in 11th place with only 60 points, with the strength in the team they should be much higher.

At the bottom of the division Maghull "C" seem to be doomed to the drop next year, it doesn't help that they have lost players to long term holidays and non-availability, who will accompany them down to the fourth division? Well it is almost certain to be one of the Wavertee Labour teams and at the moment it looks like the "D" team who are ten points adrift of their "C" team.

Time for a closer look at some of the matches starting with week nine, Bill Salter had two good wins over Shakil Malik and Bert Rivers for Maghull "C" against Bootle Y.M.C.A."B". Dong Xia beat Mike Ashton and Stephanie Howard beat Ted McGiveron as Wav. Lab "C" went down 2/8 to their "B" team, a close result as Harold House "A" just piped their "B" team 6/4 two good wins for Charlie Ostapski over Eddie Clein and Rod McPherson. Paul Loftus had a great match against Bootle Y.M.C.A."A" beating both John Higham and Richie Winkle and Ken Roberts beat Roly Wright. Tony Mitchell and Steve Perry saved a whitewash beating Russell Thornton and Bobby Bell for Wav. Lab "D" against Marconi "B". Karen Gibson beat Alan Cameron and Billy Clayton beat Arthur Harrison in the only two singles wins for Bath St. "E" against Manweb "C" and as Maghull "B" lost 8/2 against Bath St."D", Rob Bulmer beat Les Gee and George Frost beat Peter Ross plus both doubles as Maghull "C" frightened Bath St. "D" before losing 4/6. Whitewashes for Bootle Y.M.C.A. "B" against Wav.Lab."D" and for the "A" team against Wav.Lab."C". Charlie Ostapski was at it again with both singles against Bath St."E" with Paul Morgan beating Graham Oates as Harold House "B" surprisingly crashed 3/7. Good win for Tony Mullally against Eddie Clein and for Russell Thornton and Bobby Bell against Paul Morgan as a weakened Harold House "A" lost 6/4 against Marconi "B"

Bert Rivers and Mike Hughes both beat Rob Midgeley for the only two points won for Bootle "B" against Harold House "A", Mike Ashton was the

face saver for Wav.Lab. "B" as they crashed 1/9 against Bath St."D". Dong Xia beat Alan Cameron and Stephanie Howard beat Arthur Harrison for Wav.Lab."C" against Manweb.

Frank Proffitt and Dave Bradley beat Bobby Bell and Derek Scotland beat Russell Thornton as Marconi "B" beat their "C" team 7/3. Three whitewashes in week 12 Bootle "A" over Wav.Lab."B" who were without Tony Connor, Harold House "A" over Maghull "C" and Bath St. "D" over Wav.Lab."D". A welcome back this week for his first match of the season to Dave Williams of Wavertree Labour who has struggled with health problems all season, and I must note an excellent two singles win for Stephanie Howard over Rob Midgley and Paul Morgan for Wav.Lab."C" against Harold House "B".

Three more whitewashes in week 13 for Marconi "B" over Wav.Lab."C", four sets going the full distance in this match with Stan Clarke being 2/1 up in both of his singles before losing to John McCann and Bobby Bell, Marconi "C" were thrashed by Bootle "B" and Harold House inflicted the same result on Wav.Lab."D". At the top of the table Bath St. "D" and Bootle "A" fought out a draw with Peter Ross just edging out Danny Every 11/8 in the fifth game of the final set. Two good wins for Chris Roberts and one from bill Salter were not enough to

save Maghull "C" from losing 4/6 against Bath St. "E". Wav.Lab."B" won 7/3 against Manweb "C" mainly due to two singles each for Mike Ashton and Bill Stanley and both doubles, and Maghull "B" trounced Harold House "B" 8/2, a couple of new names, I have not come across before in this match, Alan Cowley for Maghull and Gordon Roach for Harold House, welcome.

Whoever said that this is a strange game was dead right, second place Bootle "A" entertained Manweb "C" five places and 35 points below them and Manweb turned up with only three players but still managed to hold out for a draw, with Alan Biggs winning both singles and partnering Neil Jennings to win their doubles. Wav.Lab."D" must be in line for a record of whitewashes conceded as they surrendered 10/0 against Bath St."E". Maghull "C" fought hard against Marconi "C" losing 6/4 with Chris Roberts picking up both singles and a doubles. Wav.Lab."C" included John Gratton in their team against Bootle "B" and his absence from the game for almost a year showed as he lost both singles in the fifth games, only positives for Wav.Lab."C" were wins for Dong Xia over Bert Rivers and Dave Goulden over Arthur Garnett. Maghull "B" came unstuck against Marconi "B" losing 7/3 and Harold House "A" beat Bath St. "D" by the same score, and finally Wav.Lab."B" beat Harold House "B" 6/4.

Continuing the early days of the L&DTTL

MR. L.E. FORREST

There is no doubt that the Liverpool and District League as well as other Leagues in the country are indebted to the pioneering work of Les Forrest whose enthusiasm and development of the sport was second to none. Such was his nature, that he went out onto the highways and byways to further the cause of the game and was responsible for setting up other Leagues in the Region. Mr. H.M. Bunbury (later Chairman of the E.T.T.A.) wrote to Les Forrest telling of the signs of interest in his Area, Manchester, and appealed to him to come and give a small band of would be organisers the benefit of his advice and guidance. The benefit of the advice and guidance was seen the next year when the Manchester and District Table Tennis League was formed.

Following a visit of the North Liverpool Y.M.C.A. team to St Helens where Forrest, T. Stone and Syd Jackson entertained large crowds to marvellous exhibition matches a League was started in St Helens.

These are just two examples. In the course of his work Les used to travel all over the country and by keeping in touch with another great pioneer, Bill Pope (later to become Secretary of the E.T.T.A.) he was able to explore various localities with the aim of getting more leagues started. This work went on continually all over Lancashire and Cheshire and further afield as far away as Sheerness and Hereford. In North Wales, such was the gratefulness of the local leagues that they wanted to affiliate to Liverpool and there was some trouble at the time with the Welsh Table Tennis Association.

A small band was gathered together by Les to spread the 'T.T. gospel' and if it was not off to Hereford to give an exhibition, then it was away to some tiny Open Tournament to give it a much needed boost. It is important to remember that this work was going on initially, prior to the formation of the E.T.T.A. and later while it was still finding its feet.

Passages from Tony Harris's "75 Not Out"

Welcome to my attempt to sum up weeks 9 to 14. But an appropriate card to begin with, as it reflects the big news of this period – the termination of Greenbank ‘A’s run, is a late one from week 6, Greenbank put title contenders LCC‘C’ to the sword 6-4; each of the team won a singles and then claimed both sets of doubles in 5 games, however, a lesson they haven’t learnt is to know what your order is, hence 3 points deducted and a 7-3 win granted to LCC‘C’. Now that kind



of mistake must irk the other title contenders. however, the team were “pulled” with a 3rd 10-0, against Harold House ‘C’, I have heard from Dave Cohen, who said the original match was to be played at theirs as it has disabled facilities but Greenbank thought it not up to snuff. I have since heard that previously the access points were not relayed to the visitors, and the far flung toilets had narrow doors, so you can understand Greenbank’s reticence to repeat the experience. however, Dave said he offered to play it within 8 weeks at Greenbank, but for the second time this season no date was offered by the club, that’s as much as I have heard over the affair, I can only hope that if Greenbank come back next year they will be older, wiser and more organised.

Matches of the week:

Week 9 saw Harold House ‘C’ repeat Greenbank’s mistake, as they played two newcomers out of order, didn’t affect the score line though as Aigburth ‘A’ steam rolled the weakened team 10-0. Battle of the Captains at Bootle and Jim Geddes enjoyed a 3-1 set over Jack Davidson, but Jack was in the right team as Linacre chalked up one of their biggest wins, 8-2 over BYMCA ‘C. Battle of the Contenders (who aren’t from Aigburth) was tidied as LCC ‘C’ couldn’t make use of home advantage v CADWA ‘C’, unusually Peter Roberts lost his two, as Michael Kwan won his two and George Higham did the same for the visitors, most surprisingly, in what you’d expect to be a closely fought match, there were no 5 game sets. Clubmates CADWA ‘D’, threw two youngsters in at the match with Maghull‘E’, Paul Lunan went first on to Alan Chan who came from 2 down to win, Alan latterly played season rookie Paul Webb who played without fear to beat Alan 3-1, to rack up his most impressive victory to date, i.e. his first (of many), doubles were key to Maghull‘E’s 6-4 win, their first

of the season. Aigburth‘B’ showed Aigburth have more than 2 good teams in this division with an 8-2 defeat of Maghull‘D’, back of match card comment has it “Aigburth‘B’ got lucky or more determined, 5 sets to 5 games, Aigburth win 4. Great Match.”

Week 10:

CADWA‘D’ 8-HH‘C’ 2. HH, with 1 player short and Richard Woodley retiring, gave out 4 points. CADWA acknowledged the kind-

ness by rearranging the doubles to ensure they all got at least 2 matches, even though it was a weaker pairing, Paul Webb lost to Dave Cohen (in 4), and I lost to Dave Batty (in 5), but together the sum of parts disparity was shown in a good doubles win over Batty & Cohen. As per HH, Greenbank‘A’ too showed up one short (why is it never the 4th man??) to allow Maghull‘E’ a draw when Ogburn & Pigeat were too strong in their singles. Aigburth‘B’ won’t be too disappointed by the 10 nil they suffered at home in this week, as it was to the betterment of their ‘A’ team, Neil Croxton almost beat Norman Lindsay in 3, but Norm turned it around in the only 5 gamer, a fair result for a team riding high. CADWA‘C’ showed what they can do with a straight forward 10-0 over BYMCA‘C’ in a match played in a “sporting” spirit. Francis Lay had another bad night at Maghull‘D’, involved in all 3 points the home team amassed, Janette Hutchings earned her victory over him in 4, as Jimmy Ambrose kept plenty in reserve to surge through their 5th game, Denise Chorley was on the wrong end of 2 10/12 games with Ben Chan, the first in game 1 and the second in game 5. Oh!

Week 11:

Aigburth 1st finishing their hiatus with a 10-0 win at Maghull‘E’, like they’d never been away. Eddie Preston got the closest to a home win, losing 9/11 to Lee Proffitt, Lee came from 2-1 down to show his steel and steal the show. (Lee – will you shut up now you’ve got your winning write up!). BYMCA‘C’ suffered the revenge of Maghull‘D’, as they went down 3-7, Denise & Janette both beating Jim Geodes, Gary Williamson took on the mantle of “home team hero”, beating Janette in 3 hotly contested sets on his way to 2 points, doubles just aren’t BYMCA’s forte. Aigburth‘A’ turned on the heat (not through the pipes though) as they painted CADWA‘D’ a nice colour of

whitewash, Dave & Norm had irrefutable wins over John'0, where as Jack battled bravely with Norm and I gave Eric Wood a slight start (4-0 up in the 5th if memory serves). Francis Lay took the captain's decision to drop himself for the match with Aigburth'B', and what a good one it was (for the team), Ben, Robert, Michael and Jason only dropped 1 game in their drubbing of the visitors, which now makes it difficult for Francis to play himself, yet another aspect of the anguish of being a Captain! HH'C' v Greenbank'A', and here cometh the aforementioned last straw, which is officially recorded and commented as "Match Ceded. Third Walkover Greenbank'A' withdrawn for the third time in three seasons. Record Expunged"; so, someone up there has noticed, and someone down here who has "suffered" all three withdrawals, wonders what will be done, by the Committee and the club itself to assure us it won't happen again!?

Week 12:

Linacre 7: Maghull'E' 3, Steve Banks with a good 3-1 win over Harry Nelson, Eddie Preston can claim a re-ranking is needed after bagging a brace. Aigburth 1st again 10-niling this time to HH'C', as (virtual) top played bottom. Clubmates 'B' found a revitalised BYMCA'C' a much more difficult proposition losing 3-7. Neil Croxton's No.1's battle with Jim Geddes was their only singles victory, the other points coming in the doubles, both struggling to a 5th game, with Neil & Alan's 16/14 last ditch effort, just bettering John & Barry's 11/9, quite a result for a team struggling at home. Remaining Aigburth Clubmates the 'A' team, did the 1st team (and themselves) a big favour winning away at LCC'C', Michael Kwan & Ben Chan started things well for LCC'C' beating Eric Wood & Dave Cunningham respectively, Derek Traynor got one back beating Alvin Tso, 11/13 in the 5th after storming to a 2-0 lead, Eric was called back on to face Robert Wong and won in 4, Michael beat Norm to give home team the lead at the break, in the 2nd half the doubles turned things round for Aigburth'A', Dave nearly lost in 3 straight in the 3rd against Robert, but jumped over the line to 12/10 to start his own comeback, Derek then had a tremendous win over Ben, before Alvin closed the night with a 3-1 win over Norman.

Week 13:

Linacre scored another fine win, 9-1 over Harold House 'C' who had roped in Mike Poole to improve things, however it was Gary Abrams win over Ken that got the solitary home point. Similarly BYMC'C' won't want to be reminded of the visit by the injured

tiger LCC'C' team, 2nd doubles almost got them a point, then again Gary Williamson almost looked to have turned things around v. Robert Wong, going 2-1 up, but the narrow 3rd set defeat just spurred Robert on, fine show of bouncing back by the LCC youngsters.

CADWA'D' had some say in the title race, not for themselves though, a wheel came off the Aigburth 1st roller coaster as they were held to a draw when without Graham Rollinson, big Happy Al (South Park reference to which Alan will kill me, I wonder what his signature dish would be?) called himself on in the 1st match against Coach O'Sullivan, and what a battle it was as hits were blocked and big guns exchanged. Alan proved his mettle with a clear win in the 5th. Momentum was maintained as Lee Proffitt beat me (look 2 wins mentioned!) comfortably but Ian Laird needed just a tad of luck to beat Don Davies, second doubles went our way as Paul Lunan & I combined to defeat Ian & Eric, next, first doubles could have also gone to CADWA as John & Don at 2 games to love up, failed to close out Alan & Lee in the 3rd (11/13), Don & I beat Eric in the singles, but "truth be told", Don more robbed him than beat him; 12/10 in the 5th. Paul Lunan got his loop working against Lee to win in 3, at least sub Eric could consider that he had helped his own 'A' team keep ahead of their 1st team. Maghull'E' took 2 points off CADWA'C', Eddie Preston again rolling back the years to subdue Ashley and Burrows, who in turn had hiccups against Chan and Tsang in their respective other singles matches, it could have been a lot worse for CADWA, as Maghull just failed to combine well in the doubles, each lost in 5.

Week 14:

Honours even in the intra club rivalry at Maghull, this has always proved to be an interesting event as neither team acknowledges the eminence of the other (- they usually are close, hotly contested clandestine affairs, like what the Royals have), Eddie again at No.4 won his 2, Steve Banks went all the way with Naresh Tagore, Andy McCourt did ditto to Loon Wai Yu, Jimmy and Naresh both bested Alan Chan. Aigburth'A' tonked BYMCA'C', there were some close games but not many game points for the visitors.

CADWA'D' in a forerunner to the Cup Semi Final, met Linacre and duly lost 6-4, Harry Reeve won his two, but Ken Ainsworth had the biggest smile beating both Don & Jack, although neither could quite understand how, Harry Nelson also so very nearly won his two, after beating Don, he was 2-1 up against John,

Continued over

Div 4 report cont.

and lost the next two 12/10 13/11, Ouch! Jack Highton played an ace in the battle of the Jacks versus Mr Davidson, taking the crucial 3rd set 15/13, the second doubles win by Lunan & Highton, set last match, 1st doubles, up as a chance for CADWA to draw, but O'Sullivan & Davies were bettered by the staying power of Reeve and Davidson. I didn't play in that match, but stepped out to assist the C team at HH'C'. Everything went the way of the visitors - being urged on by Captain Roberts, and I can only, publicly apologise to Richard Woodley for the damndest kind of luck, without which I would not have won the 2nd & 3rd sets from deuce, Sorry Richard, on your table to!

At this half way point in the season, CADWA 'C' were top, 3 points ahead of Aigburth 'A', Aigburth 1st were 5 points back with a game in hand, Liverpool CC'C' were 10 points behind with a game in hand on them too. Clearly though Aigburth 1st are the team to stop, as yet no one has beaten them; 2 draws their worst performances. Also, I was cheered to see that every team had recorded at least one win, I know it's not all about winning, It's about improving, but you only prove you've improved by winning more.

It will be a close run thing for promotion, no doubt luck and resolve will play major parts in the final story. You'll just have to read the next digest to see how things played themselves out.

Doug

**The L&DTTL CLOSED Tournament
will be played
SUNDAY MARCH 11th.
Finals night TUESDAY MARCH 13th
have you got / sent in your entry form
they must be in by
SATURDAY MARCH 3rd.**

K.O. CUPS

DIVISIONAL

SEMI-FINAL DRAW

Division 1. Readman Cup

BOOTLE YM.	v	L/POOL CR.CLUB
FORDS	v	M/SIDE POLICE

Division 2. Rumjahn Cup

CADWA 'B'	v	L/POOL CR.CLUB 'B'
WAV.LAB. 'A'	v	CROSBY HIGH 'A'

Division 3. Hyde Cup

MANWEB 'C'	v	HAROLD HOUSE 'A'
BATH ST.'D'	v	MARCONI 'B'

Division 4. Forrest Cup

AIGBURTH	v	CADWA 'C'
CADWA 'D'	v	LINACRE

To be played week commencing
Monday 5th. February

**Frank Murphy Memorial
Handicap Trophy**

THIRD Round RESULTS

CADWA 2	394	v	286	BOOTLE YM. 1
MANWEB 3	469	v	543	LINACRE
BATH ST. 1	400	v	368	MAGHULL 2
MANWEB 1	376	v	373	M/SIDE POLICE

SEMI - FINAL Draw

HOME		AWAY	
MANWEB 1	v		LINACRE
CADWA 2	v		BATH St. 1

To be played week commencing
Monday 12th. February

Thanks to the divisional reporters for their notes, and also to the other contributors whose pieces help me to fill this and other Digest Magazines

Thanks also to the small number of helpers who continue to turn up to help move and set out all the equipment for the various tournaments, and do the reverse after they are over, the next one where help is needed is the 'CLOSED', please ask for more details of how to help. Without these helpers it just wouldn't happen. It has been felt in the past that recognition should be given to those who do help, in the only way we can, by naming in the next Digest, and maybe give the average age!!!

Divisional averages to 4 / 2 / 07 - top 25 only (full list on L&DTTL web site)

Division 1

	Name	Club	P	W	Ave
1	WILLIAMS Keith	Bootle YMCA	41	41	100%
2	FORD Chris	Cadwa	12	11	92%
3	PETZCHE Christian	Wavertree Labour	9	8	89%
4	McEVOY Mal	Fords	41	36	88%
5	JACKSON Ken	Bath St	45	39	87%
6	WATSON Gary	Wavertree Labour	37	31	84%
7	MUDIE Andrew	Crosby High	30	25	83%
8	PERCIVAL Wayne	Bootle YMCA	30	25	83%
9	TURNER Terry	Fords	33	27	82%
10	RZESZOTKO T	Manweb	21	17	81%
11	BIRD Keith	Liverpool CC	39	30	77%
12	RAMSBOTTOM Mark	Marconi	21	16	76%
13	GITTINS Paul	M/Side Police	24	18	75%
14	LAU John	Liverpool CC	42	31	74%
15	ROSCALEER Mark	Harold House	11	8	73%
16	TAYLOR Jonathon	M/Side Police	27	19	70%
17	BRAY Tom	Crosby High	36	25	69%
18	CONNER Ken	Harold House	27	18	67%
19	LEE Peter	Liverpool CC	12	8	67%
20	TAYLOR Andrew	Fords	23	15	65%
21	LIU Ming ***	Liverpool CC 'A'	14	9	64%
22	BEECH Aaron	Wavertree Labour	25	16	64%
23	BLACK Graeme ***	Cadwa 'A'	44	26	59%
24	CHASE Alan	Bootle YMCA	29	17	59%
25	GITTINS Steve	M/Side Police	36	19	53%

Division 2

	Name	Club	P	W	Ave
1	LIU Ming	Liverpool CC 'B'	21	21	100%
2	ROGALA Michael	Greenbank	15	15	100%
3	WILSON Matty	Maghull	27	24	89%
4	WYLIE Rob	Crosby High 'A'	23	20	87%
5	ROBERTS Dave	Wavertree Lab 'A'	38	33	87%
6	EVANS Dave	Crosby High 'A'	32	25	78%
7	BANKS Paul	Wavertree Lab 'A'	18	14	78%
8	TIERNEY Mick	Wavertree Lab 'A'	26	20	77%
9	ROURKE Colin	Cadwa 'B'	12	9	75%
10	WOODS Steve	Maghull	30	22	73%
11	OLUYOMBO Dele	Liverpool CC 'B'	33	24	73%
12	LLOYD Andy	Manweb 'A'	41	29	71%
13	APPLETON John	Greenbank	23	16	70%
14	CHEUNG Billy	Liverpool CC 'B'	36	25	69%
15	HARSE Dave	Manweb 'A'	35	24	69%
16	KENDALL Tony	Maghull	27	17	63%
17	NOLAN Terri-Ann	M/Side Police 'A'	24	14	58%
18	GOLDSOON Robbie	Fords 'A'	33	19	58%
19	LANGTON John	Bath St 'C'	30	17	57%
20	LLOYD Gemma	Crosby High 'A'	9	5	56%
21	LEWIS Kevin ***	Maghull 'A'	33	18	55%
22	O'DONNELL Paul	Liverpool CC 'B'	24	13	54%
23	WASS Peter	Marconi	27	14	52%
24	BARRACLOUGH T	Manweb 'B'	30	15	50%
25	ADAMSON-FRENCH P	M/Side Police 'A'	24	12	50%

Division 3

*** Played for more than one team

	Name	Club	P	W	Ave
1	OSTAPSKI Charles	Harold House 'B'	8	8	100%
2	BLACK Ian	Wav Labour 'D'	14	13	93%
3	HUGHES John	Harold House 'A'	28	25	89%
4	WRIGHT Roly	Bootle YMCA 'A'	26	23	88%
5	JENNINGS Paul	Manweb 'C'	14	12	86%
6	HIGHAM John	Bootle YMCA 'A'	30	25	83%
7	RIVERS Bert	Bootle YMCA 'B'	30	25	83%
8	MULLALLY Tony	Marconi 'B'	12	10	83%
9	ROBERTS Chris ***	Maghull 'C'	6	5	83%
10	PATERSON Mark	Bath St 'D'	28	23	82%
11	ROBERTS Martin	Harold House 'A'	18	14	78%
12	CONNER Tony	Wavertree Lab 'B'	26	20	77%
13	CLEIN Eddie	Harold House 'A'	24	18	75%
14	OWENS Andrew	Marconi 'B'	16	12	75%
15	JENNINGS Neil	Manweb 'C'	22	16	73%
16	BULMER Rod	Maghull 'B'	28	20	71%
17	BIGGS Alan	Manweb 'C'	14	10	71%
18	SCOTLAND Derek ***	Marconi 'C'	26	18	69%
19	GEE Les	Bath St 'D'	28	19	68%
20	ROSS Peter	Bath St 'D'	30	20	67%
21	McCANN John	Marconi 'B'	15	10	67%
22	MULLAN Dave	Bath St 'E'	6	4	67%
23	EVERY Danny	Bootle YMCA 'A'	29	19	66%
24	CLAYTON Bill	Bath St 'E'	26	17	65%
25	McPHERSON Rod	Harold House 'A'	28	18	64%

Division 4

	Name	Club	P	W	Ave
1	DAVIES Alan	Aigburth	22	21	95%
2	KWAN Michael	Liverpool CC 'C'	16	15	94%
3	PIERCE Arthur ***	Aigburth 'A'	15	13	87%
4	CHEN Ben	Liverpool CC 'C'	14	12	86%
5	ROBERTS Peter	Cadwa 'C'	20	17	85%
6	REEVE Harry	Linacre	22	18	82%
7	LAIRD Ian	Aigburth	20	16	80%
8	WONG Robert	Liverpool CC 'C'	20	16	80%
9	JONES Ray	Aigburth 'A'	18	14	78%
10	PROFFITT Lee	Aigburth	22	17	77%
11	CUNNINGHAM Dave	Aigburth 'A'	24	18	75%
12	ASHLEY John	Cadwa 'C'	16	12	75%
13	BURROWS Ian	Cadwa 'C'	8	6	75%
14	HIGHAM George	Cadwa 'C'	22	16	73%
15	ROLLINSON Graham	Aigburth	18	13	72%
16	WOOD Eric ***	Aigburth 'A'	28	20	71%
17	LUNT Ian ***	Cadwa 'C'	17	12	71%
18	LINDSAY Norman	Aigburth 'A'	20	14	70%
19	AO Jason	Liverpool CC 'C'	14	9	64%
20	LUNAN Paul	Cadwa 'D'	10	6	60%
21	PRESTON Eddie	Maghull 'E'	10	6	60%
22	O'SULLIVAN John	Cadwa 'D'	22	13	59%
23	CROXTON Neil	Aigburth 'A'	21	12	57%
24	NELSON Harry	Linacre	16	9	56%
25	HUTCHINGS Janette	Maghull 'D'	20	11	55%

League Tables up to 7 / 2 / 2007

Div. One	P	W	F	A	Pts
Fords	15	12	106	44	106
Bootle YMCA	15	11	106	44	106
L/Pool C.C.	15	12	103	47	103
Wav.Labour	15	11	100	50	100
Crosby High	15	8	85	65	85
Bath St	15	6	80	70	80
M/Side Police	15	5	72	78	72
Harold House	15	4	67	83	67
Cadwa	15	6	63	87	63
Bath St 'A'	15	3	55	95	55
Manweb	15	3	55	95	55
Marconi	15	3	53	97	53
Cadwa 'A'	15	2	53	97	53
L/Pool C.C. 'A'	15	3	52	98	52

Div.Two	P	W	F	A	Pts
Wav. Lab. 'A'	14	12	102	38	102
L/Pool C.C. 'B'	13	11	93	37	93
Maghull	14	8	88	52	88
Crosby High 'A'	14	9	83	57	83
Manweb 'A'	14	7	80	60	80
Maghull 'A'	15	4	68	82	68
Manweb 'B'	14	4	62	78	62
Greenbank	14	5	62	78	62
Marconi 'A'	15	3	59	91	59
M/Police 'A'	13	4	57	73	57
Fords 'A'	12	3	56	64	56
Bath St 'C'	11	5	53	57	53
Cadwa 'B'	13	0	17	113	17
Bath St 'B'	W/Drawn record expunged				

Div.Three	P	W	F	A	Pts
H. House 'A'	15	13	111	39	111
Bootle YM. 'A'	15	12	104	46	104
Bath St 'D'	15	11	103	47	103
Marconi 'B'	15	9	92	58	92
Bootle YM. 'B'	15	10	88	62	88
Wav. Lab. 'B'	15	6	69	81	69
Bath St 'E'	15	5	69	81	69
Manweb 'C'	14	4	69	71	69
Maghull 'B'	14	4	68	72	68
Marconi 'C'	15	4	61	89	61
H. House 'B'	15	4	60	90	60
Wav. Lab. 'C'	15	5	57	93	57
Wav. Lab. 'D'	15	3	47	103	47
Maghull 'C'	15	1	42	108	42

Div.Four	P	W	F	A	Pts
Cadwa 'C'	12	10	94	26	94
Aigburth 'A'	12	9	91	29	91
Aigburth	11	9	86	24	86
L/Pool 'C'	10	7	76	24	76
Linacre	11	6	59	51	59
Cadwa 'D'	12	3	52	68	52
Maghull 'D'	12	4	46	74	46
Aigburth 'B'	11	4	42	68	42
Bootle YM. 'C'	11	3	34	76	34
Maghull 'E'	12	1	33	87	33
H. House 'C'	12	1	17	103	17
Greenbank 'A'	W/Drawn record expunged				

It would be much appreciated when filling in the match cards, Team Captains made a point of filling in the ' Match Week ' number and the ' Fixture Key ' numbers for BOTH teams, all of these numbers can be found on pages 8 & 9 of the Official League Handbook, the inclusion of this information greatly helps in the admin of the score cards.

The keeping of the ' Home Team Playing record ' up to date at the bottom of the card also helps!

YOUR Liverpool & District League's own Closed Tournament, will be held Sunday 11th. March 2007 at the Wavertree Tennis Centre, Final's night on Tuesday 13th March at the Merseyside Police Club, Fairfield

entry forms available from Club secretaries or can be downloaded from the L&DTTL web site -- forms must be returned by Saturday March 3rd.

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

Competitive table tennis for all divisional standards--- have a go!