

April 2007

Official Magazine

Of the

Vol. 61

No.3

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT
TENNIS LEAGUE

80

1926 to 2006



SEASON 2006-2007

TABLE
DIGEST
TENNIS



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

Editorial

Not long now till the end of another season, an extra Digest to bring you more up to date on the state of the divisions, and with the Closed Tournament and all the Divisional Cup Finals having recently been played, the opportunity to publish the results of those sooner rather than later.

Trevor's now putting out the league tables Wednesday and Saturday, looking at the last one I have dated 14th. April, what strikes me most, are the number of outstanding 14 postponed matches to be played, and 9 of those to be played in the 'buffer' week after the season should have finished, maybe the fact that the last 8 match weeks are played without any breaks / free weeks, and these days most clubs don't have spare nights, adds to the problem, one club has only just got over the problem of a postponed first round cup match, they weren't one of the cup teams involved, but have been trying to get over the last minute, due to indecision of team entries. On page 8, knock-on effect ever since, if only captains would appreciate the problems they cause when allowing situations to arise requiring the postponing of matches. Stan Clarke mentions in his 3rd Div. report about too many blank weeks, looking at the number of outstanding matches, maybe we haven't enough, or they are in the wrong place; this season we had two rounds of the Frank Murphy Cup played in the same week as league matches, as players in the F.M. teams could be from 3 different league teams, the knock-on effect of postponed matches is highlighted. Unless the club has free nights at their venue, or as the Marconi 'B' are doing, playing their postponed home teams! match away, at the time of preparing this, my thought is "how many of these outstanding matches will actually get played", anyone suggest an answer!

This seasons' National Championships at Sheffield, gave a display (via the final of a K.O. tournament), for the

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first time, of Elite Disabled table tennis played from a wheelchair, from two of the finest achievers, Mark Palmer & Shaun Newcombe, both Palmer and Newcombe are regulars on the international stage registering top performances at World and European Championships, plus the Paralympics, in addition to their national dominance. Mark is a regular player in Greenbanks' div. 2 team, and those players who have crossed 'bats' with him know he's no pushover going by some of the league wins he's had, Mark took Shaun's scalp 3-1, well done Mark.

Hopefully you will get your copy of this Digest before the season ends, and remind you of the fact that size of the divisions need to be decided on. Ideally at the next AGM, an acceptable format can be agreed on by all the Clubs representatives, and not finish like last season, when the Handbook couldn't be finalised until the last minute, due to indecision of team entries. On page 8, I've printed the letter which was sent to all Club secretaries in August 2006 for general discussion, on a suggested more competitive 8 team format. In this Digest Divs'.1 & 3 reporters comment on the different issues of divisional size. So if you have any thoughts on this, or any other issue for that matter, mention to your Club Sec. or send in a "letter to the Editor" for printing in the next Digest, due out for the next seasons' Hand Book meeting. You have an opportunity to propose changes to either make the divisions more competitive to the end, or play safe and stay as we are, season over by Christmas for half the teams is in contention for promotion, could be any 2 of 3 teams, and believe me, it does make you look forward to the next match, and I'm sure it will go to the last match of the season..

Finally I must again thank our Divisional reporters, who again have "done us proud" this season, and also our other contributors, who help fill these pages.

The 'Secretary's column came in *after* the 12th hour, after spending a while filling the pages up, I now have to start shuffling everything about again, so part is on this page, remainder on page 18, but at least / at last, it's here!

Secretary's column

Mike Power

Once again we are approaching the end of another season and I note that we haven't received any proposed rule amendments from any club (the Management Committee have put in a few) and I therefore deduce from this that you are all happy with rules as they are? It is pleasing to know that no-one has any gripes or any thoughts of concern over the current rules! I also note there have been no nominations for new committee members so I assume from this that the current members of the MC can pat themselves on the back for a job well done!

That is nice to know but I must emphasise that over the previous 4 years we have only had 2 new MC members elected; as there are no new nominations at this years' AGM this will increase to 5 years. At the age of 21, going on 52, I am the youngest MC member. The oldest is in his 70's. It doesn't take a brain surgeon to work out that this situation cannot continue. We always need new younger committee members in order for the League to continue. There is always talk at each AGM that we, as a committee, need to do something about the declining nature of our sport, namely the lack of new young blood taking part in it, well I am afraid that for a committee with an average age nearing 65 it is not going to be that easy. I make no apology for saying this again, but we need all members of the League to give serious consideration to their role in it. Can you find the time to take a more active

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Do our members really want a Closed championships, more to the point do they deserve one? This season saw our lowest entry for several years with many familiar faces missing. The same amount of work and effort is put in by the same few people to set up the venue and clear it and the same amount of time is involved, this includes giving up a Saturday afternoon and not getting finished until 8pm or later on Sunday evening. The request for assistance on Sunday evening fell as usual on stony ground with a couple of exceptions. We had an unexpected bigger turnout for the finals on the Tuesday night than entries. These are your championships and we are flexible, willing to listen to suggestions for change and our fees have remained unchanged for a number of years. We try to purchase good quality trophies, have purchased additional perpetual trophies and now have one for every event. Entry to the divisional singles is a mere £3 yet this event is poorly supported, we play the doubles event in groups to ensure competitors get games. We provide free coffee, tea and an ample supply of biscuits, so what is it we need to do or put right to improve entries?



Our Annual General Meeting is the custodian of our rule book and is the only Body able to amend our rules, only Clubs and members of the Management Committee have a vote and only Clubs or the Management Committee can put forward amendments. Clubs can put forward amendments every year and any rule not subject to such amendments is an approved rule. Clubs are provided with a rule book for each team and members have a duty to ensure they are familiar with our rules and in particular those relating to match play. Why do I mention these things?, because I was amazed to hear that at the Readman Cup final Management Committee members present as spectators were subject to verbal onslaught as some players were unhappy because a rule that their own club has approved every year for over twenty years was rightly enforced, no member of the league has the power to ignore our rules and when, as sometimes happens, a decision has to be made such decision has to be in accordance with our rules, there are no soft options, room for appeasement, and those who this responsibility falls on have to act in accordance with our rules, for not to do so would be a dereliction of duty. This rule was brought in at the request of clubs and a similar situation has occurred on other occasions but no club, not even those affected, has felt the need to amend the rule concerned. It is also worth mentioning that our Cup Secretary, Roly Wright, adds to the foot of each cup draw reminders on cup rules and reminds clubs of the need to ensure their team/s are able to comply with our cup rules, ignorance of a rule is similar to ignorance of a law, it is not acceptable.

On the same subject, if any member or a club secretary wishes to put forward a rule amendment but are uncertain how to go about this or how to amend, delete or insert wording they need only contact me, and as Chairman of our Rules Committee, I will be happy to assist them. We should all take an interest in our rules and no one should be worried about proposing any change, as our AGM will decide whether or not a proposed change should be implemented.

Is political correctness mania ruining sport? I pose this question having listened with Tom Purcell to a BBC radio phone in programme on photography at sporting events when en route to an event, parents phoned in who had been ordered not to photograph their own children playing football, and coaches obsessed with PC, also phoned to say they always refuse to allow parents to take photos and would order them to leave, even if it was in a public place. This PC has spread to every sport and every National Governing Body has had to comply with the demands of the Mandarin of Sport England to implement a sweeping Child Protection Policy, as have Sports Centres. The ETTA has recently produced theirs in booklet form, a 36 page booklet in order to comply with the demands of Sport England, the cost in terms of staff hours and printing is no doubt prohibitive and the requirements may possibly drive some coaches out, or deter others from becoming a coach, no one would deny there are problem areas but treating everyone as a paedophile is not the answer. If you have come across any crazy incidents why not write to our editor and air your views.

I took the plunge recently and entered my first Vets tournament and this was actually my first ever full tournament venture, I wanted to find out what it is that attracts so many devotees to these events, and have to say that I had a very enjoyable and memorable weekend. Probably also memorable for staying at the first hotel I have known that makes a charge to residents for using its car park. The Vets package excluded this charge but this did not stop the hotel from putting it on the bill to catch out the unwary or those unaware they should not have been charged. My weekend was not as successful as that of Keith Williams who won the Over 40 event or Alan Chase who won the Over 50 Plate, I should add that the standard in the Over 50 Plate was exceptionally high and to win this was no mean feat. I did manage to win five of my ten matches, the downside being I played two home based players in the knockout sections, one from my own club, clearly meeting home based players and my losses were the fault of the referee!!

Do we still need our own magazine in this internet age? I pose this question as we never generate letters or articles from clubs or players, and all most are interested in is looking to see if their win against A N Other gets a mention. A lot of effort goes into our publication along with a lot of money, although ours is sponsored by an anonymous donor, like the rule book, this is your magazine and if you have a point of view on any subject whether it be something you have read in our publication, something you have read or seen elsewhere, or something that has occurred when you have been playing, then you should put pen to paper and you might be pleasantly surprised to find others agree with you, they might also disagree, but if we do not discuss problem areas they will remain problem areas. To create interest a publication sometimes needs to be controversial, ours does not fall into this category because our members prefer to complain verbally rather than express their view in our magazine, the ETTA Table Tennis News is heading the same way, has been for years, and of late letters have been noticeable by their absence, raising the question, is this deliberate policy or just down to none being submitted.

Looking at the ETTA web site one could be forgiven for getting the impression that a finishing position way down in the team event is something of a success, and it is to be hoped that UK Sport view this in the same light, as they have tunnel vision and see only medals potential as success. Not referred to as a potential to medal anymore, but as World Class Podium Programme. Perhaps UK Sport should see medal as 'meddle' and leave NGB's to get on with the job of bringing on players instead of meddling in their affairs by dangling the carrot of money to ensure compliance with their demands. Problem here is that NGB's have no input as to how the money is used; it has to be invested in a few agreed players, the rest of the sport getting zero cash.

At the League Handbook meeting possible changes to our divisional format to take account of the loss of teams were outlined to clubs, we need to seriously consider replacing the current format of 14 clubs per division that has led to a longer season than when 5 divisions were possible, next season we may again have insufficient teams for five divisions, maybe not even enough for the present four, or too many for four and not enough for five. Whatever the number a new format will need to be addressed and clubs should start considering this now and submit proposals to our Organising Secretary or just let him have views or comments on the formats outlined at the Handbook Meeting, this applies just as much to players as to clubs, and if you have a view then air it now rather than when it is too late.

Division 1 Ian McElwee

With the season drawing to a close there is still everything to play for at the top and bottom of the division, it appears likely that the eventual champions and the 2 relegation spots will not be decided until the last week or two of the season, thus, maintaining interest and competitive aspects to the end.

At the top Fords and Bootle YMCA are still within a couple of points of each other with Fords (150) holding a slight advantage over Bootle (148), clearly every point gained or lost is going to be crucial to these teams' aspirations.

The return of Kevin Dodder to play for Fords has significantly improved their chances as they have taken 51 of 60 points available during the reporting period of weeks 14 – 20. Kevin and Mal McEvoy were in brilliant form when they took on Bootle, both remaining unbeaten in the singles, Mal came back from 2 games to 1 down to Wayne Percival before clinching a 12/10 final set victory. Keith Williams and Wayne were at their best in securing a fifth set doubles win with the match eventually ending up 7/3 in favour of Fords. Another 7/3 victory ensued the following week when Fords faced Crosby High, with Andrew Mudie in top form in beating Terry Turner and Andy Taylor, whilst Tom Bray also defeated Terry. Mark Roscaleer was the star man when



they faced Harold House taking his team's only points in beating Andy before recording a magnificent victory over Kevin.

Bootle YMCA continued to keep the pressure on Fords with the aforementioned loss to Fords being their only hiccup. After that match they have gone on a run of five consecutive victories winning each match either 8/2 or 9/1. In their 8/2 win over Bath St. Alan Chase came out a 14/12 fifth game winner over Ken Jackson, Alan asked

me to report that he affectionately calls Ken his "Bunny" having recorded 2 wins over him this season, However Sharon Woolerton, coming in as a reserve for Manweb, took Alan's scalp when the teams met and she won her team's lone point.

At this point I should congratulate Wayne Percival on his selection for England's veteran team "over 50's" in the forthcoming international tournament in Germany in May. I was not aware of his selection when previously reporting upon the selection of Brenda Buoeu and Ken Jackson, hopefully, all three will do well as they carry the flag for our league. It is tremendous that our league is providing 3 players for the England set up and is a clear indication of the strength and talent within the league, however, before becoming too complacent we

must ask where the youngsters are going to come from in the future if we are to maintain these high standards.

Although Christ the King (133) and Wavertree Labour (130) have fallen off the pace at the top they have both continued to pick up more than their fair share of points. When these teams met, C.T.K ran out narrow 6/4 victors. Keith Bird was in top form in winning his 3, including a fantastic 14/12 final set win over Christian Petzsche, in the absence of Keith, C.T.K did well to repeat the scoreline in defeating Police who had John Rankin making one of his rare appearances this season, his evening was spoilt when the ever improving John Lau beat him, whilst Peter Lee used all his experience in getting the better of Jon Taylor in a close fought contest.

Wavertree Labour, last year's champions, will not repeat this achievement but are more than a match for most teams, they have a strong squad with the signing of Christian proving to be a major plus, Gary Watson continues to lead from the front but sustained one of his rare defeats at the Police when Jon Dyson achieved a great four set victory over him in a match Wavertree won 6/4, Roy Smith was in great form on the night in winning his three. Their match against Crosby High resulted in honours being shared, with Christian winning all his singles, although he was pushed all the way by Andy Mudie, before winning the final set 11/9, on the night the Wavertree team was made up by Aaron Beach, Alice Howard and Christian whilst Andy was joined by Tom Bray and Cherrith Graham, I am informed that this was the two youngest teams to oppose each other in this division in over 20 years, with an average age of 21.5 years.

Bath St. are having a nice steady season currently lying in fifth place, Ken Jackson seems to mature like a vintage wine and is having another great season, being ably assisted by team mates Eddie Crowley and Jamie Hewitt, In their 7/3 victory over Cadwa "A" they all contributed with Ken taking his 3, Jamie defeating Mike Power and Alan Timewell and Eddie getting the better of Mike. They repeated this score when faced by Bath St."A" with Ken again remaining unbeaten and Jamie displaying, not only a high degree of ability in one so young (15), but also a fine temperament in beating myself 12/10 and Mike Keane 15/13, both in the fifth, Ricky Brown was excellent on the night in beating Eddie and Jamie.

Next in line Crosby High (103 from 18) continued to improve as their youngsters gain in experience, they had a fine 7/3 win at Bath St. and although none of their players got the better of Ken, they went on to win all the other sets. They also recorded a fine 8/2 victory over Cadwa at week 18, in this match sister and brother, Gemma Lloyd (Crosby High), and Gavin met, with Gavin taking the honours in four sets, **can any of you anoraks remember a sister and brother playing each other in this division in the past?** All answers to Roly Wright please.

After a poor start Harold House (101) have moved away from the relegation battle to sit comfortably in mid table,

although beaten 8/2 by C.T.K. Alec Bryce earned a fine victory over Keith Bird. When facing Wavertree Labour Mark Roscaleer again confirmed his high potential in defeating Gary Watson and although he and Steve Whalley both managed to get the better of Alice they again went down by a 7/3 margin.

Police (89) are picking up points on a regular basis with Jon Taylor doing particularly well when he comes in to play, both he and Steve Gittins remained unbeaten when defeating Manweb 7/3, with Jon repeating the act in a draw at Marconi.

Cadwa (81) are another team who have picked up a good number of points recently, including 8/2 victories over Bath St. "A" and C.T.K "A" when Chris Ford was available they also beat their "A" team 6/4 when Mike Mahoney came in as a reserve to win his three, however, their cause was not helped in turning up with only Peter Taylor and Gavin Lloyd at Crosby High and two weeks later conceding a 10/nil walk over to Harold House, they could easily be pulled back into the relegation dog fight unless Chris and/or Mike can turn out regularly for them in the closing weeks of the season.

In recent weeks C.T.K "A" (78) have done themselves a massive favour in defeating three fellow strugglers, Manweb 10/0, Cadwa "A" 6/4 and Bath St. "A" 7/3, Peter Lau has been playing regularly with his only loss during these matches being to Alan Timewell, Ahmed Thabet did well in winning all his singles against Cadwa "A" and Manweb, his replacement in the match at Bath St. "A", Billy Cheung, did not let the side down in beating Fred Bainbridge and Ricky Brown.

We are, therefore, left with four likely suspects for the relegation positions with Manweb looking favourites for the drop with only 60 points, Bath St. "A" have 67, Cadwa "A" 72 and Marconi 73. Manweb were greatly affected by the loss of Tomas Rzeszotka who had won 80% of his games before becoming unavailable, in their last six matches they have only managed a meagre 8 points, Paul Evans and John Henshaw have continued to fight manfully with the support of various reserves, Paul played well in beating Mike Power and Alan Timewell when facing Cadwa "A", time is running out for them and I cannot see them managing a recovery at this late stage.

Bath St. "A" have also struggled recently including a 9/1 hammering at Marconi where Mike Keane was our saviour in getting the better of Bob Edwards. Cadwa "A" also got the better of us although this time the score was a close 6/4, Graeme Black was on form in taking his three but the deciding factor was, without doubt, the inspired hitting of Mike Power in beating Mike Keane and myself, our biggest problem of the night was when Alan Timewell went on for the final match at 11.00pm when we were all in desperate need of a pint, neither of these "old war horses" gave a thought to our needs and it was forty minutes later that Ricky held out to win 11/9 in

the decider, all was not lost, however, when Rob Davies pulled some strings to get the final orders in at the bar. Graeme Black has been the main points winner for Cadwa "A", performing consistently well on his return to first division action, he beat Peter Taylor and George Smith in the club's derby match, he possibly saved his best form of the season for when facing Keith Williams in a match they lost 8/2 to Bootle, Graeme and Mike both got the better of Alan Chase, and Graeme was leading Keith 2/1 and 9/8 up in the fourth before Keith hung on to win in the fifth.

Marconi continued to keep their head above water but seem to be struggling for players of late, in beating Bath St. "A" 9/1 (week 15) the availability of Mark Ramsbottom was a major factor but he has been unavailable since, to make matters worse they have also lost the services of Tim Ternant. They also gained a fine 9/1 win over Manweb when Paul Evans saved a whitewash in beating Steve Rowe, Trevor Owens beat Peter Lau and Bob Edwards secured victory over John Lau when losing 8/2 to C.T.K.

With 14 teams in the division it has been a long hard season, hopefully, those teams sitting comfortably in mid table will continue to remain competitive and play full strength teams, It would be a shame if the championship or relegation was decided so late in the season by default via teams playing against weakened sides or receiving walk overs.

One final comment : without doubt there is a marked difference in standards between the higher placed teams and those near the bottom. Results confirm that the higher placed teams invariably win comfortably when facing those in the lower regions. Such matches are rarely competitive with none of the players obtaining a great deal of satisfaction for their nights work, as a result during the second half of the season all divisions are often split into three areas :

- (1) top few teams playing for the championship/promotion
- (2) bottom few teams fighting against relegation
- (3) all other teams with little to play for other than their pride

The more teams there are in a division the more likely it is that the above scenario will come into being, I believe that the best matches, where players gain the most enjoyment/satisfaction, are those when teams are more or less equally matched, ideally we should always have competitive matches throughout the season. For this to be achieved, I would suggest that numbers in each division need to be reduced to a maximum of ten or eleven teams. Obviously, less matches in a season but, hopefully, better matched sides throughout each division with most players playing at their own level and thus, having more quality, meaningful matches each week.

Division 2

Paul Banks

Well it just goes to show, never make predictions! Some of the predictions are proving sound but a quite a few of them are trying to show that they won't be pigeonholed into a top, middle or bottom.

Week 15.

First up we have **Greenbank** with a 7-3 victory over **Manweb 'B'**. M.Rogala and M. Palmer winning all of their singles, and Greenbank also taking the doubles.

Manweb 'A' reminded everyone what a dangerous team they are this week with a 9-1 demolishing of **CADWA 'B'**. Rob Davies stopping the rot with a great win in the fifth over Dave Harse.

Crosby High 'A' entertained a two man **Maghull** this week and managed a 7-3 win. The key to this victory was the two wins by Rob Wylie over Tony Kendall and Steve Woods, both of them in the fifth and both of them looking like real crackers. A real ding dong of a match was played out at Maghull where **Maghull 'A'** lost 4-6 to **Fords**. 2 wins each for Fred Pheysey and Kevin Lewis as well as Frank James and Robbie Goldson.

Wavertree Labour 'A' played **Marconi 'A'** this week and man of the match has to go to Ian Wensley for the high octane effort he puts into every game, the effort this week unfortunately meant the



taking of Mick Tierney and Paul Banks 15-13 both in the fifth, Wavertree finishing up 7-3 winners. Another close game was played out this week between **Bath Street 'C'** and **Police 'A'**. Rob Peat, John Langton, Terri-Ann and Tom Purcell all picking up two wins, but again, crucially Bath Street won the doubles in the fourth set to secure a 6-4 victory.

Week 16.

This week we kick off with a key game at the top of the table between **Maghull**

and **Wavertree Labour 'A'**, with Wavertree winning 6-4. Again we have our North Liverpool correspondent Tony Kendall's thoughts on the evening. *"A good game that was always competitive. Dave Roberts comfortably won his three and a good win (if I say so myself!) for Tony over Mick Tierney"*.

Fords 'A' and **Crosby High 'A'** played out a draw in Cronton, with Crosby edging the singles 5-4 but being pegged back for the draw with Fords taking the doubles. **Marconi 'A'** strolled over a two man **Greenbank** 9-1 this week with John Appleton taking the only point of the night for Greenbank over Ted Gilmour.

Manweb 'B' and **Police 'A'** gave us the second draw of the week, the first game of the night was between Trevor Barraclough and Terri-Ann Nolan, and it would prove to be the key for the player of the match prize with both Trevor and Terri-Ann taking the rest of their singles, Terri-Ann finally overcoming Trevor in the fifth. **Christ The King 'B'** overcame **Maghull 'A'** 6-4 this week, stand in for Christ The King, Ben Chen, was unlucky to lose to Alan Jones in the fifth and the very talented Kevin Lewis took the equally talented Paul O'Donnell in the fourth set. Andy Lloyd and Roy Adams were unbeaten this week as **Bath Street 'C'** fell 3-7 to **Manweb 'A'**, despite great wins for John Langton and Rob Peat over Dave Harse.

Week 17. First up this week we have a 3-7 loss for **Crosby High 'A'** against **Christ The King 'B'**, Ben Chen again standing in for the title contenders, and picking up a big win for them, and him, over Sylvia Graham, Roger Neal contributing to the three with a great win over Paul O'Donnell in the fourth set. Sylvia adds her comments, "Good match!, apart from Michael Rogala, Ming Liu must be one of the best players in the division", a fact that is supported by his number 2 position in the averages with 93.3%. **Police 'A'** failed to capitalise on a retired through injury Dave Harse and lost to **Manweb 'A'** 4-6, Brian Burrows with a big win over Andy Lloyd providing the other singles win for the Police. **Maghull 'A'** could have had a 10-0 over **Cadwa 'B'** this week if it wasn't for the very steady George Higham overcoming Peter Holmes in the fourth set and Cadwa's settled doubles pairing of Steve Graham and Rob Davies taking the doubles. Two man **Greenbank** were unable to contend with **Maghull** and went down 1-9, Mark Palmer taking the only point for Greenbank over Kevin Lewis. **Manweb 'B'** had a big win this week over mid table rivals **Marconi 'A'** 8-2, Ian Wensley taking the only singles, and Ian and Ted Gilmour taking the doubles over the very strong doubles pairing of Alan Evans and Sharon Woolerton.

Wavertree Labour 'A' entertained **Fords 'A'** this week and came away with a 6-4 win, man of the match for Fords was Grahame Reid who hit everything that came his side of the table and this helped him to wins over Dave Roberts and John Rowan. Man of the match for Wavertree has to go to the great Paul Banks who had one almighty tussle with Grahame in his first game winning 11-9 in the fifth, then bagged the rest of his singles and paired with Dave to take the doubles.

Week 18. **Maghull** are really hitting top gear this week with a 10-0 win over **Manweb 'B'** and by looking at the card never really looked in any trouble, correspondent T.K has this to say: "Another good scoreline for Maghull, this is only the 5th time in 17 games that we have played our full team, we have taken 47 points in these 5 games and I guess that is one of the reasons why we are not in the top 2, however, we continue to battle on, and if Christ The

King or Wav Labour slip up we might be in a position to take advantage. Mr Banks, keep looking over your shoulder!!" I said this last time, watch out everyone, Maghull really mean business!!

Fords 'A' took their first 10-0 (I think) this week against **Greenbank**, Frank James, Robbie Goldson and Grahame Reid showing what a dangerous side they are. Another mid table clash this week with **Maghull 'A'** travelling to Crosby to face **Bath Street 'C'**, Kevin Lewis was man of the match here bagging his three singles, Peter Holmes took two singles but he had to work for them overcoming Rob Peat and Dave Stodden, both in the fifth, Maghull 'A' finishing up 7-3 winners.

Cadwa 'B' only managed 2 points against **Crosby High 'A'** this week with Rob Wylie and Roger Neal unbeaten. Another top of the table clash with **Christ The King 'B'** taking on **Wavertree Labour 'A'**, Dave Roberts showed why he has the 3rd top average in the division winning his three in three and I think taking Ming Liu's 100%, Dave was helped by Mick Tierney who also beat Ming and Billy Cheung, Dave and Mick then teamed up to take the doubles and a 6-4 win. I know I have said this before but you can count on one hand the times this doubles pairing has lost this season.

Marconi 'A' gave a good team effort to overcome **Police 'A'** this week 6-4 despite Terri-Ann Nolan taking all three singles, Frank McCann and Ian Wensley taking two singles each and combining successfully to take the doubles.

Week 19. Frank McCann took the only point for **Marconi 'A'** when they entertained **Maghull** this week in a nail biting 5 setter with Steve Woods. **Maghull 'A'** entertained **Manweb 'A'** this week and took home a 6-4 victory. Kevin Lewis again proving his worth taking his three singles, Kevin was helped out by two wins from Alan Jones.

Andy Lloyd was man of the match for Manweb taking two out of three singles and combining with Roy Adams to take the doubles. **Crosby High 'A'** overcame their Crosby rivals **Bath Street 'C'** 7-3 this week with a hat-trick for Rob Wylie, only Rob Peat able to take Rob to a fourth game. **Wavertree Labour 'A'** inflicted a 10-0 on **Cadwa 'B'** this week with only two games being stretched to the fourth set. **Manweb 'B'** and **Fords 'A'** played out a draw this week, interestingly Fords have played out more draws than any other team so far this season, I'm not too sure what this signifies, or why it happens, answers on a postcard please. One thing I do know is that they are one hard team to beat, Alan Evans and Sharon Woolerton took two singles wins each for Manweb, this was counteracted by Rob Hughes taking all three singles for Fords. **Greenbank** showed how strong they can be winning 6-4 over **Christ The King 'B'**, but also, ipso-facto, this shows how inconsistent they are, Michael Rogala took his three to maintain his 100%, John Appleton helped out with a great win over

Ming Liu and Mark Palmer took the other singles point for Greenbank over Dele.

Week 20.

Can **Maghull** get any more dangerous? this week it was a 10-0 against **Police 'A'**, T.K takes over:

“Paula French was unlucky to lose against Tony and Steve. Paula clearly wasn't at home in the conditions and we are grateful for the 10-0.

We keep asking questions of Wav Lab and Christ The King and we have made the promotion issue interesting at the top of the 2nd. Roll on the last 5 games”.

It's all terribly exciting isn't it, **Fords 'A'** defied expectations and didn't draw this week although it was mighty close in the game with **Marconi 'A'** which ended up a 6-4 win for Marconi. A promising new correspondent, young Grahame Reid, writes: “*Good old fashioned T.T. Frank James tried to spoil the evening by serving and kill occasionally but with little success. Closest game of the night was Robbie (Goldson) & Frank McCann, despite 3 straight games it could easily have gone to Frank and his forehand kill. Can we have a super Vets league and play them every week.*” **Bath Street 'C'** were in great form as they entertained **Wavertree Labour 'A'** this week but still only managed a 3-7 loss, Rob Peat was man of the match for Bath Street, playing some scintillating table tennis and taking the scalps of John Rowan and Mick Tierney for his efforts, Dave Roberts again taking his three, but game of the night was John Rowan beating John Langton 12-10 in the fifth set, this game was big hits and more big hits from the start and carried on till John Rowan came through victorious.

Christ The King 'B' notched up another big win this week over **Manweb 'B'** 9-1, Trevor Barraclough stopping the rot with a fifth set win over Billy Cheung. **Manweb 'A'** were unable to contain **Crosby High 'A'** this week and lost 3-7, another 3 wins for Bob Wylie and

he was helped out by Sylvia Graham who took two of her singles. **Cadwa 'B'** managed a 2-8 loss this week to **Greenbank**. Steve Graham with the only singles win for Cadwa over John Appleton and he was aided by Rob Davies to take the doubles.

Instead of predictions this time, I thought I would look at how each team has performed statistically over the matches that I have summarised for this digest (weeks 15

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Maghull	6	4	0	2	45	15	45
Wav Lab 'A'	6	6	0	0	42	18	42
Crosby High 'A'	6	4	1	1	37	23	37
Fords 'A'	6	2	2	2	34	26	34
Christ The King 'B'	5	3	0	2	30	20	30
Manweb 'A'	5	3	0	2	29	21	29
Maghull 'A'	5	3	0	2	29	21	29
Marconi 'A'	6	3	0	3	27	33	27
Greenbank	6	3	0	3	23	37	23
Manweb 'B'	6	1	2	3	22	38	22
Bath Street 'C'	5	1	0	4	18	32	18
Police 'A'	5	0	1	4	17	33	17
Cadwa 'B'	5	0	0	5	7	43	7

to 20 inc.) and it makes quite interesting reading!

This table is dependent on who played who etc and isn't therefore a reflection on the seasons performance or that certain teams aren't playing as well as they have been earlier in the season, but it does show the big push Maghull have made. Have they peaked at the right time? Lets hope that the rest of the season is as interesting and exciting.

Good luck and best wishes.

Paul Banks
Wavertree Labour.

Formation of Divisions next season

Letter sent to all club secs. 25th Aug 2006 for discussion

We have put together an alternative which I have enclosed with this letter. There would be more divisions of fewer teams and may provide more competitive matches for all teams throughout the season, although there may be fewer games. This is only one suggestion which has proved successful in other Leagues but we want your opinions. The subject will be discussed at the Handbook meeting next week and anyone with any ideas or feelings about a new system, whether they be positive or negative, will be encouraged to speak up, not that you need any encouragement normally.

- 1) Seven divisions of eight teams playing each other on three occasions, generating 21 league matches.
- 2) Reducing teams in each division should make matches more competitive.
- 3) Will reduce teams playing short and conceding walkovers
- 4) Play offs should ensure that 75% of teams in divisions are involved in promotion or relegation.
- 5) Divisions 1, 2, & 3 3a Side or Divisions 1, 2, 3, & 4, 3a Side.
- 6) Play offs, highest placed team shall be the home team, played on normal home match night.
- 7) Player qualification for play offs shall be as per cup rule, 45% of league matches played.

This season we finished with 52 teams from 54 starters, next season I would expect to start with at least 54 teams. Usually it's the bottom division which suffers from withdrawals, so should we be looking to keep the number of teams in the bottom division at maximum strength to allow for drop outs, say 5 divisions of 8 teams, as proposed, and a bottom division of 14 teams. I'm not sure if the league could operate in this uneven way, it may be a logistics nightmare, but having play offs at the end of the season, would boost the number of matches for the 8 team divs. and 14 teams would benefit the bottom div. in the event of withdrawals .

Editor only

In spite of leaving our closing date as late as possible we invariably reach this date with insufficient entries to make the event viable or possible but of necessity many arrangements are already in place. The entry form has to be prepared, printed and distributed involving a considerable amount of time and input by Roly Wright. The van needed to move our equipment and return it has to be pre-booked and a driver confirmed. This again involves time and input from Dave Oakes. We have to select trophies and order them in advance if we are to be certain we will get what we want. This is no easy task, we try to get the best available but this is not easy when uncertainty about entry levels and cost is a constant worry. Arthur Garnett has to organise volunteers in advance to set up and take down the venue equipment, a task few competitors get involved in and most probably think the venue sets itself up on its own. Clearly they think it dismantles and transports itself

This year we went one step further by purchasing a good quality shield for our D4 event as this was the only division without a perpetual trophy and a perpetual doubles trophy. For some time your Management Committee have been considering what form of tribute to our late Chairman and President, Arthur Upton, would be most suitable and decided on a Doubles Cup. We selected and purchased the best available as a lasting tribute to the memory of a man whose work and input was invaluable and who is still missed by us all. I was most involved in the selection and purchasing of this tribute and for me it was an honour as I held Arthur in the highest esteem. Most members have no idea of his input and work on your behalf and how fortunate we were to have him as our Chairman for so many invaluable years. No tribute could ever reflect this but we did the best we could to ensure ours would be a long lasting tribute.

Having got all that off my chest because it needed saying I will turn to this year's event. Entry figures by the closing date were possibly the worst ever only 16 having been received and we were giving serious consideration to cancelling the event. Not as some may think a no cost option, as except for two events trophies had already been ordered and paid for as had the van plus the cost of the entry form, the Tennis Centre had been booked twelve months in advance as had the Police Club and refreshments ordered for finals night. Entries trickled slowly in, many by phone, and this involved work and input from Faith who fielded all the calls, took down the details and logged them in the book we use annually to record entries. It would be remiss of me if I did not acknowledge the tremendous input from Faith not only for this event but also for other league areas. By the Monday before the event we had a mere 50 but with only two women getting the third at the Rumjahn Cup Final and had a final entry of 57. Some larger clubs had few or none and overall best was Aigburth who although having teams only in D4 entered 7 players. We had what was possibly our best ever entry from Harold House with 5 and a first ever entry from Greenbank, possibly due to input from another competitor.

Taking note of comments from some older players the divisional singles were played as the final event following the MS event and whilst this was an excellent event even though very poorly supported it did involve one competitor who normally enters only the divisional and Over 55 event having to forego the Over 55 event as this was the first event of the day.

Entry breakdown was MS 38, WS 3, VS 27, O55 16, D2 8, D3 10, D4 12, JS 3, and Doubles 38. It has to be mentioned that the entry for both the MS and Doubles was due not to support from D1 players but from the lower divisions. We play the doubles in groups in recognition of this support as it ensures lower pairings get two matches and a chance to get through to the knockout stage. We currently play both VS and Over 55 as a straight knockout and this is in part due to the time factor and the number of successive match's older players can be called on to play as these events are followed by the doubles and MS events. Moving the divisional singles to follow the MS did help ease this problem and in my view made the divisional singles a more prominent event in that it stood alone rather than be just a follow on to the VS and O55 events. I would much prefer playing both age events in group form as both are well supported and becoming increasingly popular and are an important part of our championships with both finals being played on finals night. One possible way forward would be to make our championships a two day event with Over 55 and VS on the Saturday afternoon and doubles, MS, WS, JS and divisional singles on the Sunday. This would enable us to have larger groups on the Sunday with a shorter knockout and an earlier finish. We usually start transporting and setting up at 2pm and the venue is ready by 5pm. We could start earlier, say 1pm, start the Saturday events at 4pm and conclude around 7pm. This is something for members to think about and let Roly have your views or comments for publication.

On the day we had an excellent turnout with only 2 absentees. Some early arrivals assisted with umpiring in the first round of the O55, always a tricky part of the day and we kept up with the schedule most of the day. Players take for granted the venue preparation but are invariably the first to complain if something is not to their liking. Same with umpiring, those who are reluctant to umpire are generally the first to complain if they have to wait for an umpire, I have to say that on the day we experienced no umpiring problems and players came forward

readily to umpire, this is an important area and the prompt responses on the day not only from those due to umpire but also from other competitors helped ensure the tournament flowed smoothly and without delay.

I believe we put on a first class event comparable with any other table tennis event and everyone involved has an enjoyable day with the only downside being the lack of support by way of an entry from so many league members.

With so many events there is not the space to do justice to them all so I will make reference only to one, D4 singles, the final of this event was worthy of any other final as Ian Laird (Aigburth) and Michael Kwan (Christ the King) slugged it out to be the first name on our new D4 trophy, it went right to the wire, Michael winning 13 in the 5th with the final point being worthy of any MS final.

Finals Night was one of our best ever and drew a much bigger audience than we had expected, had we had as many competitors I would need to find something else to complain about. It could be that the first ever appearance of Michael Rogala may have had something to do with this but whatever the reason it made for a successful finals night with a new MS champion, new, and slightly unexpected Open Doubles champions, when Peter Lee and Keith Bird lost to Michael Rogala, ably supported by his partner Mark Roscaleer, as they wrested the doubles from Peter and Keith to become the first names on our new trophy dedicated to the memory of Arthur Upton. Unfortunately Lil Upton was unable to attend to present the trophy on this first occasion due to illness. No finals night would be complete without an appearance from, or mention, of Keith Williams and this one was no exception. Keith comfortably reaching the final of the MS and although not likely to overcome his opponent, Michael Rogala, never stopped trying and played his part in what was a superb table tennis match enjoyed by all present. He did not go away empty handed as he again retained his VS title defeating Chris Ford in the final. The standard of table tennis on the night was excellent and the spectators enjoyed the evening, I have only praise for the players involved in any final and express my thanks to those involved in the presentation of finals night such as Roly Wright for the programme, Arthur Garnett for preparing the venue, Don Davies for his player profiles and our umpires Ray Lavin and Graham Rollinson.

No Closed report would be complete without reference to our sponsors, Fawley Construction, who have sponsored this event for many years and their continued support is of great importance to the running of our closed championships. Bill Fawley, who is also our President, and his wife Vivienne along with Leo Crone who is one of our Vice Presidents, and his wife Carol have become an integral part of finals night and are on first name terms with many of the contestants. This year we moved them to a better viewing area and Bill in particular was well pleased with the move, the ladies also liked it but I don't think they liked having to negotiate the steps to the playing area and the walk to the presentation area, short though it was. Brian Leeson also put in an appearance as he does every year and I think he was satisfied that standards have not slipped since he stood down. Finally my thanks to the Police club for again making their venue available to us, this is something of a sore point to some finalists, as the Police club is not high on their list of favourite venues, but when sorting a venue there are a number of requirements that must be considered, and the Police club meets all of these, a good location with ample parking and good bar facilities, excellent refreshments, and very spectator friendly, for without spectators, as with finalists we would have no finals night.

Division 3

Stan Clarke

My comments in the last edition of the magazine concerning the number of blank weeks this season seems to have found some support amongst players, nobody has complained at the number of matches, but several have told me that they agreed that there were far too many free weeks included in the schedule. I can't believe that players are opposed to playing 26 matches in a season, let's face it, from a player's point of view it is a much more advantageous to get 26 matches than to be in smaller divisions, get less matches and pay the same fees. Don't think that smaller divisions will mean smaller fees, they won't, it costs just as much to administer smaller divisions as it does with larger divisions.



Having said that we still benefit enormously from the work done by the management committee, who invariably give of their time at no cost to the league, if they were to charge for the hours they commit on our behalf, fees would be very much higher.

And so to the matter of the division, the first three places are incredibly close with Bootle Y.M.C.A. A and Harold House A tied on 149 points, with Bath St. D only two points adrift on 147, these three are forty points ahead of their nearest challengers Marconi B. In the end I believe the promotion places will be filled by the two teams who regularly turn out their strongest line up, who that will be I don't

know, but it is a sign that Harold House have squandered a considerable lead since I last wrote a set of notes.

WEEK 15.

A full strength Harold House A thrashed Bath St, E 10/0, with Eddie Clein coming from two sets to one down against Karen Gibson to win 11/6 in the final game.

Wav Lab. C beat a depleted Maghull C 9/1 with Eddie Preston beating Stephanie Howard to avoid the whitewash. Bootle A had a narrow win over Harold House B 6/4, Andy Woodyatt beating both John Higham and Ritchie Winkle, Bath St. D had the same result against Manweb C with Karen Gibson playing as reserve and she played a major part by beating Alan Cameron and Alan Biggs. Bootle Y.M.C.A. B beat Maghull B 7/3, Marconi B destroyed Wav. Lab. B 9/1, Tony Connor beating Andrew Owens, but only having three players did not help their cause, the misery for Wavertree continued as the D team lost 3/7 to Marconi C.

WEEK 16.

Bath St. E did their senior team no favours by taking three sets from the D team, Ted Cramsie beating Mark Paterson and Neil Pritchett and Karen Gibson beating Les Gee, the E team did however give two sets away when Ron Georgson retired injured after the doubles. Another injury, this time to Tony Mitchell who injured his wrist in during the first point of his game against Ken Armonson as Wav. Lab. C demolished their D team 9/1 Manweb C and Harold House B fought out a 5/5 draw, and Harold House A thumped Marconi C 9/1, Derek Scotland beating Martin Roberts to avoid the whitewash. Maghull B played Maghull C and ran out winners by 7/3, good wins for Harry McGanity over George Frost and Wilf Gibson over Tom Downing, another draw as Wav.Lab,B met Bootle Y.M.C.A. Two wins for Mike Ashton over Shakil Malik and Arthur Garnett for Labour and for Bert Rivers over Tony Connor and Bill Stanley for Bootle. Marconi B turned up to play Bootle Y.M.C.A. A minus No.1 John McCann, result? Not surprisingly they lost 9/1, but not before some spirited play from Russell Thornton who beat Danny Every 11/9 in the fifth and lost to Roly Wright 9/11 also in the fifth.

WEEK 17.

Marconi B beat Manweb C 7/3, four sets going to five and Marconi winning all of them, Bath St. D beat Harold House B 8/2 only Rob Midgely beating Les Gee and Paul Morgan beating Peter Ross for the away team. Bath St. E beat Marconi C 6/4, rather surprisingly Ted Cramsie and Karen Gibson both lost their singles matches, but two each from Billy Clayton and Graham Oakes and both doubles proved to be enough for the win. Harold House A beat Wav. Lab.C 9/1 Dong Xia beating Martin Roberts to avoid the whitewash. Wav. Lab D lost to Maghull B, but Andy Bird beat both Phil Christie and Rod Bulmer and Gordon Langshaw beat Tom Downing. In the derby match between Bootle Y.M.C.A.B and Bootle Y.M.C.A. A the A team were merciless, winning 9/1 but a good win for Shakil Malik over Ritchie Winkle for the B team,

Maghull C lost their home match against Wav. Lab B 3/7, but an excellent win for Bill Salter against Tony Connor and two for Steve McGanity over Mike Ashton and Bill Stanley

WEEK 18.

The Derby match between Wav. Lab. B and D produced an easy win for the B team, as might be expected, but not before Tony Mitchell beat Colin Fyles and took Tony Connor to 11/8 in the fifth, Eric Spencer also had no luck losing to Colin 11/5 in the fifth. Manweb C beat Bootle Y.M.C.A. B 6/4. Harold House A were on top form for their visit to Maghull B and ran out winners 10/0 but Bootle Y.M.C.A. A dropped a point as they beat Maghull C, Steve McGanity again acquitted himself well with all three of his sets going to five, he lost out in his singles but combining with Wilf Gibson beat Roly Wright and Danny Every in their doubles encounter.

Wav. Lab. C fell foul of Bath St. E losing 3/7, both Dong Xia and Stan Clarke took Dave Mullen all the way but Dong lost 9/11 in the fifth and Stan lost 10/12, Ken Armonson and Andy Bird both beat Keith Wright and Stan and Ken beat Dave Mullen and Karen Gibson in their doubles match. Harold House B defeated Marconi B 8/2 but hero of the match was Russell Thornton who beat both Paul Shaw and Rob Midgley and finally Bath St. D kept up their challenge for promotion by thrashing Marconi C 10/0.

WEEK 19.

Wav. Lab. D were hosts to Bootle A, and generous hosts they were sending the visitors home happy with a 10/0 victory, only Gordon Langshaw posing any sort of problem as he took Danny Every to five. Maghull C, bottom team all season welcomed Manweb C to their club and how delighted they must have been to find that Neil Jennings failed to show and that Peter Carney was making one of his occasional appearances as reserve, even so it was a little surprising that Manweb lost 8/2, a victory that took Maghull C off the bottom of the table, at least temporarily.

Harold House A entertained Wav.Lab.B and must have been surprised to concede two points as, first off Tony Connor recorded a great win over Eddie Clein then Colin Fyles and Bill Stanley beat Martin Roberts and Rod McPherson in what was undoubtedly the set of the night, from two games to nil down the Wavertree couple fought back to level the set 2/2 then took the final game 14/12.. Bath St. E had a tight match against Maghull B five sets going the full distance; man of the match for Maghull was Alan Cowley who was unbeaten on the night. Bath St. D consolidated their place in the top three by beating Marconi B 9/1, only Bobby Bell able to stop the whitewash when he beat Peter Ross. Bootle B lost to Harold House B 4/6, Paul Morgan and Charlie Ostapski winning two singles each.

WEEK 20.

Manweb C must have felt sorry for Wav. Lab. D when Peter Carney failed to turn up for their home match and neither Paul or Neil Jennings were in their line up, Wav.lab.D duly cashed in with a very welcome win, thanks mainly to Tony Mitchell beating Alan Cameron and Alan Biggs.. Harold House B returned Maghull C to bottom place with a 9/1 win, Steve McGanity winning the sole point for Maghull when he beat Rob Midgley. B Shock, Horror, in the clash of the titans, Bootle A versus Harold House A Bootle must have delighted when they were gifted three sets when Martin Roberts failed to show, to make matters worse H.H. called Ritchie Winkle on in

the first set to face Eddie Clie, big mistake, as Ritchie played out of his skin to win three straight 11/8, 14/12, 14/12. Eddie did make amends by beating John Higham 11/7 in the fifth, the only other success for the visitors coming when Rod McPherson beat Danny Every. Maghull B beat Marconi C 7/3, good match for Derek Scotland as he beat Alan Cowley and George Frost and Paul Loftus beat Rod Bulmer. And finally Wav.Lab. B and Bath St. E fought out a draw, Tony Connor and Andy Bird, playing as a reserve, were unbeaten on the night.

Division 4 Doug Baker

Week 15:

Maghull 'D' 8 Harold House 'C' 2
Richard Woodley losing both games in 5, firstly to Denise and then to Jimmy. Jimmy & Janette bolstered the performance with 2 wins each. Janette had a very close match with Dave Batty, who rallied to record a good win over Naresh taking sets 3 & 4 12/10 & 13/11.

Aigburth B 7 Maghull E 3

One of APH 'B's finest results of the season with some of the old guard out. John Mitchell describes it for us.

"Eddie Preston playing for the first time in 4 years, (and in at number 1) played Arthur Pierce, what a result, Eddie winning the first two 18/16 and 12/10 and Arthur winning the other three 11/8 13/11 and 13/11! As Eddie needed to get away early, he opted to stay on the table only to be confronted by an ever improving Neil Croxton, who beat him 11/6 9/11 14/12 and 11/9. Saving the best news of the night till last Alan Staniland beat Jeff Banks in 4 sets with some amazing passing shots. Aigburth went on to win by 7 sets to 3."

CADWA C 9 v CADWA D 1

A nice boost for the C team, over a team that nearly beat them last time out, 5 sets over in 5, but only one to 'D', John O'Sullivan beaten in each of his 11/9 in't 5th by Mr Roberts then Lefty Higham. The "shock" of the night however was Paul Lunan beating Peter in 5, coming from 2 down, to win 11/8 11/9, 11/9. John Ashley had shown how to play Paul, beating him in 3 straight, he dropped a game against Paul Webb in the last game on, Ian Lunt was also exemplary winning in 3.

Aigburth 1st 6 Aigburth 'A' 4

The 'A' team turned out their big guns out for this vital derby match, Graham had a "sick as a parrot" night, losing the opening match to Eric in 3, and latterly Dave. Alan, Ian & Lee may have won all their singles, but have collective responsibility as the doubles went to the visitors without a game being picked up. Alan boosted his averages with wins over Derek and Dave, likewise Ian



with good wins over Dave and Norman, but each hotly contested over 5 games, Lee had one close game with Norman, 17/15, but won the games either side with ease. Last match on, he played Eric who went two up to make a draw extremely likely, however, Lee recovered and gathered pace to win in 5, so 3 sets going to 5, and none to the B team, makes them wonder if a draw would have been a fairer result, but the result as stands left 1st

undefeated in 11.

Week 16

CADWA 'D' 8 Maghull 'D' 2

Re arranged match. John O man of the match, with 4 game wins over the ladies, I was more lucky than anything to win my two over Denise & Jimmy in 5, Jack with plenty of life left, won out to Janette & Loon. Paul Webb didn't play his game in the first match v Jimmy who took no prisoners, Paul also met defeat to Jimmy in 2nd doubles with Jack & Loon respectively.

Maghull 'E' 3 Liverpool CC 'C' 7

Last outing for LCC'C', (see next week), and a comfortable team performance, Alvin winning his two, but not without a fight from Steve Banks, 11/9, 12/10, 12/10. Performance of the night for the home team was Alan Chan in game 3 versus Jason Ao. 2-0 down and facing defeat at deuce, he won the next 2 points. Jason seems to have been unnerved by that game which became the turning point, Andy McCourt beat Jason's younger brother David but couldn't do enough to stop Robert Wong running out winner in 5, David & Jason showed that the Youth nowadays are no respecters of age by both beating Jeff Banks in 3.

Aigburth 1st 8 Linacre 2

Aigburth, keeping the pace in what was a potential pitfall, Alan took both Harry's in 4, but they each won their remaining singles, Mr Reeve over young Master Laird and Mr Nelson over old Mister Rollinson. Everything else went to plan for the APH'ers, although Lee had a slight hiccup losing 1st game to Ken.

HH'C' 7 Aigburth B 3.

Star for the visitors undoubtedly Liam, winning both his singles in 3 (Gary Abrams so nearly took the 1st game off him) and teaming up with Alan for the 2nd doubles point. This doesn't detract from a good performance from the home boys. Top half of the card all to HH thanks to Dave & Richard & Gary. Special mensch (as in mention!) to Dave Cohen, for a big win and big smile to Alan Staniland, finally, John Mitchell unlucky to lose a 2-1 lead over Richard.

Week 17

LCC reborn as Christ the King, so some kind of religious irony that the C team's first match under this banner (/cross?) should be against the club affectionately known in the league as "Jewish". CTK put Harold House asunder 8-2, good call by the away invaders with Dave Batty kicking proceedings off with a fantastic straight set skirmish over Ben Chan. Then Robert restored the balance, almost another good call as Gary went 2 up over Francis, 3rd game to Francis. Gary could have won it in the 4th when level on deuce, but St Francis won the next 2 points, Francis finished him off in the 5th again by the narrowest of margins 11/9. Dave Batty was then on again, versus Jason, Jason won in 4, thanks in part to two close games both 13/11, with the exception of a good win for Mike Poole & Gary Abrams in 1st doubles over Robert & Jason, all went CTK's way. Nice to see Francis back with 2 singles victories.

Bootle YMCA 'C' 2 Maghull E 8

BYMC 'A' not able to bounce back after the enforced rest period we call Bath St F 'n' G. (See, Bath Street not even in this division, yet they affect how teams play!) Well that's BYMs excuse for a poor show. At least Jim and Gary have comfort in a singles win each, over Banks & Fong respectively, Steve Daniels tried his best but Eddie Preston & Alan Chan weren't giving anything away.

Aigburth 'A' 8 Linacre 2

Aiggy A doing the same to Linacre as their 1st team had done the week before, yes Harry Reeve won a game again – from Derek and lost a game again – to Dave, but Harry Nelson this time lost both, to Derek and Norman, although bowing out 9/11 13/15 was a bit rough. It was Jack Davidson though who will write up a well earned victory over Eric. So Aigburth A also pass the Linacre test with flying colours.

CADWA C 4 Aigburth 1st 6

Aigburth rejoicing in a good away win in their toughest trial to date. Again, Alan won his 2 in straights. He led with a fine 1st match win over Peter Roberts, Ian Laird couldn't beat Peter and almost let a 2-0 lead over John Ashley slip. John lost to 5 in a see-saw battle with Lee Proffitt, George beat Graham with that unfathomable penholder grip. Graham beat the more orthodox Ian Lunt 12/10 in 4, this after Ian had already impressed by turning around a dropped 1st game against Lee, to win the next three 11/9, 14/12, 11/9. George say: "*Alan played well hitting good shots with back and forehand. Ian & Lee*

dug deep to beat John A. George provided stability beating Graham and was joined by Ian L in a well thought out doubles! We need to graft out games."

APH'B' 3 CADWA 'D' 7

Due to hospitalisation/absence/sickness of 3 players, APH played 1 short. Derek Traynor turned up at 8:45 to note that the match was underway but with players in the wrong order! Liam therefore robbed of his win over Jack Highton. John O started the night well with a fine 5 game win over Liam, closing it 11/9, 12/10. First time I'd seen Liam play and he does look a tremendous prospect, what a nurturing ground Aigburth has become! Liam was directed to Aigburth by Ken Armson, what a fine gift from a generous man. I beat Neil Croxton in 3, Alan then suffered his first of two defeats, to Paul Webb, last singles was John O v Neil and John let a 2-0 lead go, losing out 11/6, 11/6, 11/8. We kindly set the only doubles up for Jack & Paul to play, to give them at least 2 games, this worked in APH's favour as Neil & Liam were too strong and too quick for them.

Revised score: APH'B' 2 CADWA 'D' 8.

Week 18

Linacre 4 CADWA 'C' 6

Without Harry Nelson against a full strength CADWA 'C', Harry Reeve led from the front and back, winning games 2 and 10 over Roberts & Higham, both in 3, Jack D came from 2 down to beat John A for the other singles home point and teamed up with H to win 1st doubles.

CADWA 'D' 5 Christ the King 'C' 5

John O lost to an on fire Alvin, who beat me in the last night to snatch a draw out of the jaws of defeat, Jason Ao also won his two beating John and Jack in 4, his younger brother David also gave a fine display in 4 against Jack, but only took the 2nd game. A similar story against Paul Webb shows that the youngster has talent that is blossoming under the guidance of Francis & Alvin, I'm glad to say that I beat Francis in 4, but with the 1st being 16/14 and last 13/11 it was only due to home advantage. Francis enjoyed some luck himself in his other match v Paul, being buffeted around but winning out 16/14, CADWA's saving grace was the doubles, both to us in 5. Aigburth 1st rolled over Maghull 'D' 10:0, 7 games won in 3.

HH'C' 6 BYMCA'C' 4.

Jim Geddes enjoyed an impressive win over Dave Batty, Richard Woodley was bested by Steve Daniels, Gary Abrams chipped in with 2 wins both in 5, this was a remarkable turnaround by the "House", as when they lost the 2nd doubles in game 6, they were then 4-2 down, No.1 Mike Poole then won the 1st of his singles against Steve Daniels to lead the comeback, and finished off the night with an epic encounter v. Jim.

Week 19

Aigburth 'A' 6 CADWA 'C' 4.

A weakened C team, without any Ians, lost to a full strength APH'A'. Peter Roberts again turned in another sharp performance not dropping a game. Derek & Dave got the better of their other opponents in their other

singles, the match of the night was Norman's comeback victory to Lefty George after losing first two games by a smidge.

APH' B 2 Aigbuth 1st 8.

Aigburth's rollercoaster pulled up single handedly by Liam, Rollo coming closer than Lee, Neil Croxton got 2 ahead of Ian Laird before Ian picked himself up, Neil also had the temerity to take a set off Alan D!

Maghull 'D' 2 Linacre 8.

Lets subtitle this "One each for the ladies" as Denise was on song to beat Jack Davidson (2 games from deuce) and Janette in tune to Ken Ainsworth over 5, the half way stage read 2-3, so all went to the visitors in the second half, mostly due to the effort of the Harrys; both including wins over a fighting Naresh.

Week 20

Linacre 7 Aigburth 'B' 3. Arthur Pearce took a point off Jack D., Neil managed to stop the rot with a 18/16 3rd game win over Harry Reeve, but not the inevitable defeat, he went on from this small victory to win over Ken Ainsworth, Ken in turn beat Barry Meyer in 4 as did Mr Barton, it was John Mitchell over PB that lead to the other visitor's point, however, John couldn't steal a win over Jack, who ran out Victor 12/10 in the 4th.

Aigburth 8 Liverpool CC 'C' 2

Alan was just too strong again for Ben Chan and Alvin, Ian also beat Ben in a close match, but lost out to Michael Kwan in an even hotter contest, Graham had the better of Alvin and Jason in 4, Lee was called on for the 1st game and lost out 13/15 to Michael in the 4th. 2 games later he was on to best Jason over 4. Again a match that was in the balance at the half way stage, 3-2 but was landslided to the home team in the second half, Aigburth showing how Champions are fashioned!

Maghull 'E' 1 Aigburth A 9

Eddie Preston suffered at the hands of Derek but then survived all that Dave C had to throw at him to win out in 5. Steve Banks also played well but for no reward, thanks largely to Norman piping him in a 5 gamer /9, /9, 12/14, 11/13, 8/. Alan Chan had a similar story to tell against Dave, Andy McCourt gave Norman a fright, whereas Eric just quietly picked off his shots and Andy & Alan along the away.

CADWA C 9 Maghull D 1

Recorded on the back of the card as:

"CADWA push for promotion. Vital point lost? (John A lost to Denise after he'd comeback to level 2-2) Peter & George had to be at their best to beat a confident Naresh who played at his maximum. Janette played well however CADWA guile proved to be strong." The "Push" hit the buffers as the card has the disastrous comment "G.Higham played Six games up. Revised match score 6-4. 10 pts deducted end of season".

George had fallen foul of rule 13(d) 2 days previously when turning out as a last minute reserve for the B team, in what was an irrelevant match as the B team are well adrift at the foot of the Second, George was obviously cut up about it as he was only trying to help the club and the B team's opponents in putting out a full team, he lost his 3 matches. The penalty means he won't be able to play for the C team again this season, a big blow to the C team, who will also have to call upon the irregular Mr Burrows more often, and John & Ian Lunt will have to play further up the order, it will take a tremendous effort to pull themselves back together.

A sad note to end on, as this will have seismic effects on the promotion race in this division.

Secretary's Column Continued from page 2

role in the running of the League? I am sure that each club has a committee and you obviously see the importance of this, you may well be on your club committee yourself. Well without a League Management Committee you wouldn't have a League for you clubs to be members of!

While you are reading this (well hopefully you are reading it) you may be saying to yourself 'I wouldn't mind being more involved but I don't know what will be expected of me?' There is only one way to find out and that is to ask. If you want to ring either myself or any other MC member, without any obligation, then do so. In order to become an MC member you need to be elected at an AGM or at a SGM but the MC can always co-opt you onto the committee during the season and have your status confirmed at the following years AGM.

The League cannot survive forever without new younger MC members coming through and learning how the League is run. So come on and give it some serious consideration. Mike Power Hon. Sec.



It is with sadness that we report the recent passing away of **Stan Harvey** he was a member of the Victoria Park TTC, and played in the same team as Eddie Cameron. He also played for and was the Secretary for many years of the ATE club (later Plessey, GPT, Marconi). He was on the Business Houses Management Committee and in recent years, was heavily involved with his local football club Burscough FC, and was a regular at their matches both home and away, our sympathy goes out to Family and Friends

Divisional Player Averages to 10th. Apr. 07

Qualification 20% = 9 sets

Division 1

	Name	Club	P	W	Ave
1	WILLIAMS Keith	Bootle YMCA	65	63	96.92%
2	DOLDER Kevin	Fords	17	16	94.12%
3	FORD Chris	Cadwa	21	19	90.48%
4	McEVOY Mal	Fords	58	51	87.93%
5	JACKSON Ken	Bath St	65	57	87.69%
6	PETZCHE Christian	Wavertree Labour	21	18	85.71%
7	WATSON Gary	Wavertree Labour	46	38	82.61%
8	RZESZOTKO T	Manweb	21	17	80.95%
9	PERCIVAL Wayne	Bootle YMCA	54	43	79.63%
10	TURNER Terry	Fords	47	37	78.72%
11	MUDIE Andrew	Crosby High	44	34	77.27%
12	RAMSBOTTOM Mark	Marconi	21	16	76.19%
13	BIRD Keith	Christ The King	56	42	75.00%
14	TAYLOR Jonathon	M/Side Police	42	31	73.81%
15	LAU John	Christ The King	56	41	73.21%
16	GITTINS Paul	M/Side Police	36	25	69.44%
17	TAYLOR Andrew	Fords	32	22	68.75%
18	BRAY Tom	Crosby High	48	32	66.67%
19	CONNOR Ken	Harold House	36	24	66.67%
20	LIU Ming	Christ The King	14	9	64.29%
21	BLACK Graeme	Cadwa 'A'	62	38	61.29%
22	ROSCALEER Mark	Harold House	23	14	60.87%
23	LEE Peter	Christ The King	27	16	59.26%
24	SMITH Roy	Wavertree Labour	36	21	58.33%
25	BEECH Aaron	Wavertree Labour	39	22	56.41%

Division 2

	Name	Club	P	W	Ave
1	ROGALA Michael	Greenbank	27	27	100.00%
2	ROBERTS Dave	Wavertree Lab 'A'	59	53	89.83%
3	WILSON Matty	Maghull	48	43	89.58%
4	WYLIE Rob	Crosby High 'A'	35	30	85.71%
5	LIU Ming	Christ The King 'B'	36	30	83.33%
6	WOODS Steve	Maghull	48	37	77.08%
7	EVANS Dave	Crosby High 'A'	38	29	76.32%
8	ROURKE Colin	Cadwa 'B'	15	11	73.33%
9	OLUYOMBO Dele	Christ The King 'B'	45	32	71.11%
10	BANKS Paul	Wavertree Lab 'A'	27	19	70.37%
11	KENDALL Tony	Maghull	46	32	69.57%
12	TIERNEY Mick	Wavertree Lab 'A'	44	30	68.18%
13	CHEUNG Billy	Christ The King 'B'	45	30	66.67%
14	HUGHES Bob	Fords 'A'	15	10	66.67%
15	LLOYD Andy	Manweb 'A'	59	39	66.10%
16	NOLAN Terri-Ann	M/Side Police 'A'	39	25	64.10%
17	LANGTON John	Bath St 'C'	57	36	63.16%
18	O'DONNELL Paul	Christ The King 'B'	45	28	62.22%
19	LEWIS Kevin	Maghull 'A'	47	28	59.57%
20	GOLDSON Robbie	Fords 'A'	54	32	59.26%
21	ADAMS Roy	Manweb 'A'	44	24	54.55%
22	REID Grahame	Fords 'A'	15	8	53.33%
23	HARSE Dave	Manweb 'A'	53	28	52.83%
24	PEAT Rob	Bath St 'C'	57	30	52.63%
25	APPLETON John	Greenbank	44	23	52.27%

Division 3

	Name	Club	P	W	Ave	***
1	BLACK Ian	Wav Labour 'D'	14	13	92.86%	2.4
2	WRIGHT Roly	Bootle YMCA 'A'	39	34	87.18%	3.5
3	HIGHAM John	Higham YMCA 'A'	42	36	85.71%	1.0
4	HUGHES John	Harold House 'A'	42	36	85.71%	3.0
5	PATERSON Mark	Bath St 'D'	42	35	83.33%	1.0
6	OSTAPSKI Charles	Harold House 'B'	12	10	83.33%	1.0
7	ROBERTS Chris	Maghull 'B'	11	9	81.82%	3.0
8	MULLALLY Tony	Marconi 'B'	16	13	81.25%	2.3
9	ROBERTS Martin	Harold House 'A'	30	24	80.00%	3.2
10	OWENS Andrew	Marconi 'B'	18	14	77.78%	1.2
11	RIVERS Bert	Bootle YMCA 'B'	40	31	77.50%	2.4
12	CLEIN Eddie	Harold House 'A'	38	29	76.32%	1.0
13	CONNER Tony	Wavertree Lab 'B'	38	29	76.32%	1.0
14	JENNINGS Paul	Manweb 'C'	16	12	75.00%	1.0
15	McPHERSON Rod	Harold House 'A'	42	31	73.81%	2.7
16	EVERY Danny	Bootle YMCA 'A'	43	31	72.09%	3.3
17	GEE Les	Bath St 'D'	42	30	71.43%	2.8
18	JENNINGS Neil	Manweb 'C'	34	24	70.59%	1.4
19	ROSS Peter	Bath St 'D'	44	31	70.45%	3.7
20	PRITCHETT Neil	Bath St 'D'	36	24	66.67%	1.9
21	BULMER Rod	Maghull 'B'	42	27	64.29%	1.9
22	MULLAN Dave	Bath St 'E'	14	9	64.29%	1.0
23	BIGGS Alan	Manweb 'C'	30	19	63.33%	3.5
24	McCANN John	Marconi 'B'	19	12	63.16%	1.4
25	SCOTLAND Derek	Marconi 'C'	40	25	62.50%	2.0

Division 4

	Name	Club	P	W	Ave	***
1	DAVIES Alan	Aigburth	34	33	97.06%	1.0
2	KWAN Michael	Christ The King 'C'	20	18	90.00%	2.5
3	ROBERTS Peter	Cadwa 'C'	30	25	83.33%	1.1
4	WONG Robert	Christ The King 'C'	24	20	83.33%	2.9
5	REEVE Harry	Linacre	34	28	82.35%	1.0
6	PIERCE Arthur	Aigburth 'A'	17	14	82.35%	1.6
7	LINDSAY Norman	Aigburth 'A'	30	24	80.00%	2.5
8	BURROWS Ian	Cadwa 'C'	10	8	80.00%	4.0
9	LAIRD Ian	Aigburth	32	25	78.13%	2.0
10	TILDSLEY Liam	Aigburth 'A'	9	7	77.78%	3.4
11	JONES Ray	Aigburth 'A'	22	17	77.27%	3.9
12	PROFFITT Lee	Aigburth	34	26	76.47%	3.8
13	CUNNINGHAM D.	Aigburth 'A'	32	24	75.00%	1.5
14	ROLLINSON G.	Aigburth	30	22	73.33%	2.9
15	LUNT Ian	Cadwa 'C'	21	15	71.43%	3.6
16	CHEN Ben	Christ The King 'C'	20	14	70.00%	1.0
17	WOOD Eric	Aigburth 'A'	36	25	69.44%	3.4
18	PRESTON Eddie	Maghull 'E'	16	11	68.75%	2.5
19	TSO Alvin	Christ The King 'C'	12	8	66.67%	2.0
20	TRAYNOR Derek	Aigburth 'A'	20	13	65.00%	1.3
21	HIGHAM George	Cadwa 'C'	28	18	64.29%	1.8
22	AO Jason	Christ The King 'C'	22	14	63.64%	2.7
23	ASHLEY John	Cadwa 'C'	24	15	62.50%	2.9
24	LUNAN Paul	Cadwa 'D'	10	6	60.00%	2.0
25	BAKER Doug	Cadwa 'D'	27	16	59.26%	2.6

*** = average ranking position in that team

Only top 25 shown. Full list on L&DTTL web site

League Tables up to 14 / 4 /07

<i>Division One</i>	P	W	D	L	Pts
Fords	22	19	1	2	167
Bootle YMCA	22	18	3	1	163
Christ The King ***	22	16	0	6	139
Wavertree Labour	22	15	1	6	137
Bath St	22	10	4	8	117
Crosby High	19	10	2	7	107
Harold House	22	7	4	11	104
Merseyside Police	22	6	7	9	102
Cadwa ***	23	10	2	11	102
Christ The King 'A'	21	7	3	11	85
Cadwa 'A'	21	4	3	14	78
Bath St 'A'	22	4	2	16	78
Marconi	23	4	2	17	77
Manweb	21	3	4	14	63
*** C.T.King v Cadwa 1 Set Void					

<i>Division Three</i>	P	W	D	L	Pts
Bootle YMCA 'A'	23	20	2	1	174
Bath St 'D'	22	18	2	2	162
Harold House 'A'	21	18	1	2	156
Marconi 'B'	21	12	2	7	118
Bootle YMCA 'B'	21	11	1	9	112
Maghull 'B'	22	8	4	10	104
Manweb 'C'	22	6	6	10	103
Bath St 'E'	22	8	3	11	103
Wav. Labour 'B'	21	8	4	9	100
Harold House 'B'	21	8	2	11	96
Marconi 'C'	21	5	2	14	77
Wav. Labour 'C'	21	7	1	13	76
Wav.Labour 'D'	22	4	2	16	66
Maghull 'C'	22	2	0	20	63

<i>Division Two</i>	P	W	D	L	Pts
Wav. Labour 'A'	21	19	1	1	153
Maghull	21	14	1	6	144
Christ The King 'B'	20	15	1	4	134
Crosby High 'A'	21	14	3	4	127
Manweb 'A'	21	10	3	8	115
Bath St 'C'	21	11	1	9	108
Maghull 'A'	22	7	5	10	102
Fords 'A'	20	5	7	8	98
Marconi 'A'	23	7	2	14	97
Manweb 'B'	22	6	3	13	92
Greenbank	21	8	3	10	88
M/Side Police 'A'	21	4	3	14	84
Cadwa 'B'	20	0	1	19	28
Bath St 'B'	Withdrawn Record Expunged				

<i>Division Four</i>	P	W	D	L	Pts
Aigburth 'A'	18	15	0	3	142
Aigburth	17	15	2	0	136
Cadwa 'C' ***	18	13	2	3	127
Christ The King 'C'	16	11	3	2	114
Linacre	17	8	1	8	86
Cadwa 'D'	15	5	2	8	73
Maghull 'D'	19	4	2	13	61
Aigburth 'B' ***	18	4	2	12	60
Maghull 'E'	16	3	2	11	53
Bootle YMCA 'C'	15	3	1	11	42
Harold House 'C'	17	3	0	14	34
Greenbank 'A'	Withdrawn Record Expunged				
Cadwa C Ineligible player 10Pts deducted at the end of					
*** Aigburth B v Cadwa C2 Sets Void					

I mentioned in the last Digest a request to teams when filling in the match cards, that they 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!

Quite a number match cards are still coming in without any of these details on, this information is required in order to keep the league tables up to date, surely it is in the interest of the teams themselves to keep their own match book up to date, then a simple case of transferring this info. to the match card.

Has raising the cost of the different fines had the desired effect, to get more players to actually play their matches, and cards sent in on time, it seems as though it could be. **At this stage last season**, we had 53 playing short, this season 44, late score cards last season were 26, this season 15, walkovers in the Cup last season were 9, this season 1. Played out of order is the same at 6, the only problem not improving is league match walkovers, last season was 11, this season we are now up to 12, and as we have quite a backlog of postponed matches, who knows how many we will finish with. So, even though fines are helping the coffers, the ideal is to have no reasons for resorting to fines, that's down to you!!