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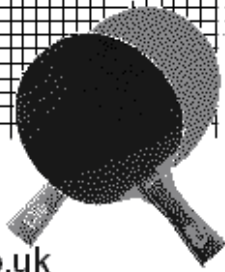
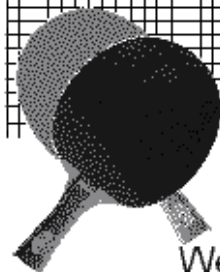
**No.1**

**LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT  
TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE**



SEASON 2007-2008

**TABLE  
DIGEST  
TENNIS**



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# Editorial

We are well into this new season as I write, week 6 is being used as the first Digest cut off, and being back to the 12 team division has settled down, with the loss of only 2 teams, 1 from Div.4, and 1 from Div.5, so Div.5 are getting a fairer crack of the whip this season.

I'm sure all who know League Treasurer and Wavertree Labour Club Secretary Ken Armson will be disappointed to hear he's not too good, to say the least, at the moment he's in the Liverpool Royal Hospital awaiting surgery, I would like to go on, but I think it sensible to just say, everyone sends their best wishes and hope that he is soon back to full health, Stan Clarke has taken over the running of Wavertree Labour Club until Ken is back to health, Stan asks that all request for information be directed through him and has notified all Club Secretaries, in typical Ken Armson style, not to waste any time, he made Faith take a writing pad and pen in to hospital so that he could complete his 'Nets and Edges' notes for this Digest; our thoughts also go out to Faith and family members.

3 a side or 4 a side, I've always been against changing from 4 to 3 in the lower divisions because I thought that those clubs, like our own, who didn't have spare nights to play an extra team would struggle to give everyone regular games, but this season has made me think again, we, (Bootle YM) and a few other clubs, have struggled to play full teams each week due to many different reasons, and it has only been due to the use of the ranking system that has allowed us to cover players missing due to holidays / sickness / work commitments, or many minor events, I must point out that the method we adopted wasn't specifically to gain points, but more so to play full teams against the opposition, if we had adopted the norm of only playing up we would finally finish with players unable to play for their own team, having played up too many times, and consequently having to drop a team through lack of numbers, gone are the days when the same team played every week without fail, I don't think there are many who can guarantee availability every week these days. I recall our "short" spell in division 2, we played the 3 a-side with our normal 4 man squad, rotating on a weekly basis, and it worked very well. I know there are clubs short on nights, long on players who will disagree with these thoughts, but I suggest a bit more thought given to this subject.

How often have we said there isn't much table tennis on T.V. well I can recommend the new link from the ETTA web site to 'YouTube' in the 'Contact Us' section on the front page, loads of English T.T., but some of the International T.T. is unbelievable, all in pretty good video format, well worth a visit.

This seasons Table Tennis Masters will be played out at London's Royal Albert Hall, a great im-



provement on last years tournament when it was played on a stage, the seats are "on the round", completely encircling the playing area and creating a gladiatorial atmosphere with a tremendous sense of intimacy, to be played on Monday evening March 17<sup>th</sup> 08, the Masters is a six-man competition for huge prize money encompassing two quarter-finals, two semi-finals and a final. For anyone interested in a good day out, catch the 10-00 National Express from Norton St. arrive London 15-15 time for something to eat and stroll around, (R.A.Hall is short walk from Bus Station)

doors open at 18-00, competition starts 19-00, finishes 22-30, back to bus station, catch 23-30 bus and back in Liverpool 06-10, nobody will have missed you. Bus fare £11.75 return (senior) Masters tickets £15 best seats (£7.50 senior) down to cheapest at £5 (£2.50 senior), not a bad day out

I thought about the letter from Dave Bradley in the last Digest about "funny rubbers" when I was at Bath St. Marine to see BsM 'C' play Manweb 'B' in a 3<sup>rd</sup>. Div. match, the games between Peter Ross and Alan Biggs, both exponents of "funny" bats, but what an excellent match it was, good defending, hard attacking, very technical use of the rubber, and lots of tension throughout, not the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Div. pace, but enjoyable non the less, going all the way to 5, I'll not say who won, so it's not all doom and gloom with these rubbers. I'm glad to say Dave is still playing.

As (retiring) Cup Secretary, I need to direct a lot of info to the club secretaries, most of it is by e-mails, still time consuming, sometimes I will ask the recipients to acknowledge their receipt by a simple click on a 'yes' box which pops up, it's very disappointing to find that some can't be bothered to do that, I know that non delivery of e-mail is notified to the sender, but what could be easier than a simple click in a yes box!! Congratulations to Ken Jackson who partnered Brian Hill for England's O/60's Vets team win at the recent 6 Nations tournament, Sue Burgess, part of the England 'B' team that won the women's O/40's team event, and Brenda Buoey, part of the England O/40's women's 'A' team. There are so many Liverpool players now involved in Vets tournaments around the country who say that it's not just the taking part, but the social side that goes with it, which attracts them. But it's the other end of the scale which is the problem in Liverpool, youngsters, I mentioned the Fred Pery Urban Trophy in the last Digest, Cardiff were the final winners, looking at the entry rules for next competition, all school age groups, boys and girls, must not have ETTA ranking points, and be part of a youth club, have we got many Youth Clubs in Liverpool where they play table tennis.

It would be nice to have a 'Liverpool' team actually from Liverpool



Having spent the last six weeks lying on my bed with only the four walls for company I got to thinking of how our league has changed and why it has happened.

In 1972 we distributed 600 plus digests by hand or post, five times each season I prepared the labels and wrapped them, Mabel Neary would call at our house to collect them and, using an agreed distribution list, deliver the digests by bicycle as part of her road cycling practice.

So where have all these players gone? A number have passed on but most have just dropped out, we can no longer claim to be the strongest league in the North-West and we are way behind others in getting new junior players to join us. Clubs have fallen by the wayside but many stalwarts are still with us, Keith Williams, in my view the finest player we have produced, always gives 100% and is a credit to his club, a gentleman at the table, in this age of bat throwing, bad language and equipment abuse, Ted Birch, Ken Jackson, Alan Chase, Peter Ross, Eddie Clein, Eric Wood, Stan Clarke, Rod Bulmer, Harry McGanity, Paul Gittins, Roy Smith, Dave Roberts, Mick Tierney, Harry Reeve, Ken Ainsworth, Alan Biggs, Alan Cameron, John Ashley, Don Davis, Rob Davies, Harry Nelson, Alex Bryce, Francis Lay, Arthur Garnett, Graham Rollinson, Alan Biggs and many more. But where have the rest gone? our numerous losses have not been offset with an increase in junior players.

Do you know the answer? Have you any views on this subject? If so why not put them to our editor and bring this important issue to the forefront.

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Is an election battle for ETTA chairman in the offing? The answer is possibly of little interest to most of you so why do I raise this issue? Two reasons, the most important being that our sport has too much to lose and little to gain if a mud slinging election battle takes place now, the other reason is the launch by e-mail of a news sheet "Free Table Tennis" with highly critical comments aimed directly at the present ManCom team led by chairman Alex Murdoch, these already frequent issues are becoming more critical and in some instances very personal. Strip away the wordy wrappings and what is left is an election declaration. The question everyone wants answering is who is Howard Middleton and who is he campaigning for? I hold no views on the capabilities or otherwise of our current chairman and his team, but I do know these are difficult times for any governing body. UK Sport and Sport England control the purse strings and every N.G.B. is scrabbling to obtain additional funding. As a minority sport we possibly get more than our fair share but could well be put at risk if a bitterly contested and un-necessary wordy election battle breaks out.

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The current buzz word is 2012 and the financial mandarins in UK Sport are coming up with expensive proposals to enhance their existing stranglehold on N.G.B.'s. The current one is Mission 2012 and places greater demands on any Olympic sport. In the past they have introduced titles for top athletes, the previous "potential to medal" now being replaced by "podium potential". Put simply this means that any athlete not, in the view of UK Sport, considered as a potential gold, silver or bronze medallist will not be allowed full financial support.

The reason why winning 2012 for London was greeted with such acclaim is not down to the pride, or the knowledge we will bear the financial burden way past 2012, but because every N.G.B. knows that the host nation is entitled to enter every Olympic event without meeting the qualifying requirements applicable to all other nations. For us this means we will be automatically be represented in the TT, something we would not have been able to achieve via qualification. The last British player to qualify was Matthew Syed in 2000. In 2012 our mediocre women will automatically qualify and be eliminated at the first hurdle, cynical maybe, but also an honest assessment.

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Still creating havoc in every sport is the child protection act, as this is being strongly pushed by Sports England on an empire building basis, the increased programme for N.G.B.s making this a highly emotive subject. Coaches and others requiring a CRB certificate can be banned from all Table Tennis activities with no apparent appeal process.

Continued page 4

Nets & Edges contd.

I believe it is only a question of time before it will be compulsory for everyone involved in any sport to have clearance via a valid CRB certificate. At a Liverpool sports forum not one representative had a good word to say on this, the general view being that the need to protect children is a priority but knee jerk reaction is driving volunteers out of many sports, minor problems from your past can be made available to others and any mis-representation can result in your being banned without appeal by the ETTA child protection committee.

Do you hold any views on this? If so put them in writing to our editor, these matters are important but if everyone remains silent those dealing with such matters will run amok and our sport will suffer. Your magazine is your voice, Joe Bloggs beating Bill Smith will be of fleeting interest, but of greater importance is your view on emotive subjects not being freely available to everyone.

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*Ken's son Lee deciphered Ken's handwritten notes, and sent them to me as a word doc, thanks Lee.*

## Division 1

## Ian McElwee

After 6 weeks the 1<sup>st</sup> Division is beginning to take shape with a number of new players starting to bed in and show their worth at this level. Last season's champions, Fords, have already established a 7 point lead, even at this early stage they must be favourites to retain the championship unless someone else can put together a great run, their squad of Kevin Dolder, Malcolm McEvoy, Terry Turner, Andy Taylor and Phil Luxon certainly look quite formidable. Mal, Terry and Andy opened the season with a comfortable 10/0 victory over Bath St Marine "A", this was followed by a 7/3 win at CADWA "A" when Graeme Black was in top form in beating both Mal and Phil and combining with Mike Power to take the doubles.

Week 3 saw another resounding 10/0 victory over the Police followed by a meeting with Crosby High who pushed them all the way before going down 6/4. Andy Mudie did well to defeat both Terry and Andy and combine with Tom Bray to take the doubles, however, Kevin was his usual masterful self in winning his 3 singles and securing victory. Week 5 saw them involved in an epic draw with Bootle YMCA with Kevin again remaining unbeaten on the night but Mal surprisingly losing his 3 singles. (I don't know for sure but think it is probable that he has not lost all 3 in one match in all the years he has played in the league).

Bath St Marine (40 points) are in 2<sup>nd</sup> position having won 3 and drawn 3 of their matches to date, in my 30 years at the club we have never managed to achieve such a lofty position but hopefully can remain near the top throughout the season. Ken Jackson is still the mainstay of the team and has been joined by Dave Roberts (with his 2 new knees) and Clare Peers (following her maternity leave) to create a good solid



side as confirmed by their results to date. Their first 3 matches ended in draws against Crosby High, Bootle YMCA and CTK respectively, Mike Keane came in as a reserve against Crosby High and rolled back the years to beat Tom Bray 15/13 in the decider. It was Ricky Browns turn to cover himself in glory when he replaced Dave Roberts in the match against CTK, Ricky had a fantastic 12/10 5<sup>th</sup> set victory over John Lau and had match points in his match with Keith Bird before going down 16/14 in the 5<sup>th</sup> set, they have followed up with 9/1 victories over CTK "A" and Harold House and 7/3 over Wavertree Labour.

Crosby High (33 points) have produced a nice steady start, besides their narrow loss to Fords their only other defeat was in going down 7/3 to Wavertree Labour in a close fought encounter, Crosby's Andy Mudie lost 11/9 in the 5<sup>th</sup> to both Gary Watson and newcomer David Hayes, with David also getting the better of Tom Bray in the 5<sup>th</sup>. Good wins came against Harold House 6/4, CADWA 7/3 and Bath St Marine "A" 8/2. Andy, Tom and Cherrith Graham make up the youngest team in the league and I am sure they will continue to progress and look for a top 4 place by the end of the season.

Wavertree Labour (32 points from 5 matches) are once again proving to be a force to be reckoned with, they seem to have strengthened the squad with the acquisition of students David Hayes and Bjoern Meyer (all the way from Germany) joining stalwarts Gary Watson and Roy Smith along with Aarron Beech. Bjoern was voted man of the match when making his debut against CADWA "A", he won his 3 singles convincingly without dropping a game in making a definite contribution towards his team's 8/2 victory, Graeme Black was once again his team's saviour with wins over Gary

and Roy. Their best win to date was in beating CTK when Keith Bird saved the whitewash in defeating David 11/8 in the decider.

CTK (30 points), were no doubt, surprised by such a heavy defeat from that hiccup and another heavy defeat by Fords (9/1), have been going well. Week 1 saw them take advantage of a Bootle YMCA side without Keith Williams to secure a 7/3 victory, Peter Lee played to the top of his form remaining unbeaten on his 4 visits to the table, they then hammered their A team 9/1 with Peter Taylor doing well to take a point by defeating Peter Lee. Keith Bird is another in fine early season form as confirmed when he won his 3 singles in a 7/3 win over Harold House for whom Steve Whalley was brilliant in beating Peter and John Lau and combining with Alec Bryce to take the doubles.

Merseyside Police (28 points from 5) have John Rankin back in the fold but have lost Steve Gittins who apparently is taking some time away from the game. They started the season with a draw at Harold House and have beaten Bath St Marine "A" 6/4 and CADWA A 7/3, Jon Taylor is playing very well, taking his 3 against Bath St Marine A but losing out to Graeme Black in the CADWA match.

Bootle YMCA (28 from 5) have started slowly compared with their standards of recent seasons. Wayne Percival is no longer available on a regular basis but new signing James Eaton certainly has the ability to make his mark, Ted Birch is once again gracing the division and displayed his great defensive abilities when joining Keith Williams and Alan Chase in their 10/0 defeat of CADWA, Keith is playing as consistently as ever with his only loss to date being at the hands of Kevin Dolder. By the time you read these notes he will have celebrated the "BIG 50" yet seems to have lost nothing from his game, 'All the best, Keith', he again remained unbeaten when Bootle forced a draw with Wavertree Labour, Alan played his part in beating Bjorn Meyer and combining with Keith to secure a 12/10 5<sup>th</sup> set doubles win in the final match of the night.

CTK "A" (27) are next in line, having acquired the services of Peter Taylor, he is joined by Ahmed Thabet and Deli Olyombo in a team that has won 3 and lost 3 to date, this record is probably a good indication of their standing in the division, ie. good enough to beat the lower teams but finding it difficult when facing some of the high flyers. In their 8/2 victory over CADWA Deli was in top form in winning his 3. Peter certainly got his money's worth on the night beating Gavin Lloyd 11/9 in the 5<sup>th</sup> before going down 12/10 in the 5<sup>th</sup> to Alan Timewell and then playing in another 5 set win, when combining with Deli, in the doubles, must have slept well that night, Peter!

CADWA "A" (26) are battling well and being ably led by Graeme Black who has had a number of fine wins to his name, their sole victory to date came against their own first team who they hammered 10/0, they drew with Bath St Marine "A" when Graeme was unbeaten on the night and Mike Power played out of his skin when beating me. Mike was at it again when beating Peter Taylor at CTK A and in that match Graeme hung on to beat Ahmed 14/12 in the 5<sup>th</sup>, and Peter 11/4 in the 5<sup>th</sup> before going down to Deli, the match eventually ended up 7/3 in favour of CTK "A".

Bath St Marine "A" (23). Not a lot to report, we were lucky to stay up last season and as expected are struggling again, in our only win to date we beat CADWA 8/2 when Ricky Brown and myself both won our 3 plus combining to win the doubles, we lost narrowly at CTK "A" – 6/4, but the rest of the cards do not make for happy reading.

Harold House (19 from 5) are another team who have started slowly and need to improve if they are not to be involved in the relegation dog fight, their only win to date being a 6/4 victory over CTK "A". Ken Connor was the star turn on the night remaining unbeaten on his 4 visits to the table, both Steve Whalley and Alec Bryce contributed by getting the better of Peter Taylor. However, it appears that they may have acquired the services of a strong player in the form of Sylvia Rozek, I believe she is a talented young lady from Poland, in her 2 matches so far this season she beat Tom Bray and Cherrith Graham when facing Crosby High and saved the day in beating Clare Peers in their 9/1 defeat to Bath St Marine. It will be interesting to see how she develops during the season but having already beaten 2 of our top lady players there is every indication that she cannot be taken lightly.

CADWA (7) are already beginning to look doomed even at this early stage, the club are clearly struggling to obtain the services of sufficient players of first division standard to maintain 2 teams at this level, Gavin Lloyd has been joined by new signing Graham Cleary but it seems that the team do not have a regular 3<sup>rd</sup> player and struggle even further if Gavin or Graham are unavailable, they have already conceded a walk over to Police as well as being beaten 10/0 by both Bootle YMCA and their own A team, clearly they have a difficult time ahead.

Finally, I have heard on the grapevine that Ken Armson has not been well of late. On behalf of all the players I would like to wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to him being back on the scene before too long.

# Division 2 Paul Banks

Hello and welcome to a new season!  
The closed season and the last digest have given me a number of things to think about.

A reporter of anything is always looking for things to report, new angles etc and is therefore grateful for anyone who helps them look outside of the box and to be less parochial in their writing.

Hopefully then I will be able to include new things in the forthcoming reports.



isn't that what we are all in it for, certainly not an easy life!

## Debate!

For this section I thought that I would start a thread that can run for the season discussing the merits of refreshments.

For some, the refreshments seem to be an inconvenience to the night's proceedings and that they would be more content if the match could continue and everyone gets

home at a more reasonable time, for others it is a valuable opportunity to break for the evening and socialise with their opposing team!

For myself as a tea and biscuits connoisseur I always look forward to this part of the night, and, I would say that biscuits and a cold drink just don't go as well together, therefore I would always sacrifice an earlier dart for the tea option. I realise that this is really putting myself out on a limb but then again this is the kind of on the edge / writing that has been asked for!!

Watch this space for more controversial topics in the next thrilling instalment.

The problem of course with all this other writing is that it means less space for the discussion of matches played etc, so in order to make the print you will therefore have to do something more interesting from now on.

## Week 1

The first thing that hits me as I look at the match cards is that the league re-organisation has by effect re-organised a number of the teams in the division with many teams having personnel changes.

Manweb achieved a 7-3 win over Maghull (A) however Maghull's 3 came from new boy Tony Kendall.

C.T.K (B) took a 6-4 win over Manweb (A), Billy Cheung unbeaten on the night, more new boys involved in the excitement here with Dave Tagg losing what looked like a real ding dong with Paul Evans and good wins for Trevor Barraclough and Michael Kwan over Mikael Bellec.

Marconi found life in the second a trifle testing on the first week going down 3- 7 Fords (A). Bath Street Marine (B) took 7 points from Police (A), this could very easily have been more, but unfortunate Peter Ross was pipped twice in the fifth set.

The top two from last season played out their first game of the new season in the first week (how ironic) and the balance of power which was shifting at the end of last season has now made a 180 degree turn here with

## Controversial!!

(1) I think that the main point to discuss here is the closed season league changes. My team has as much reason to gripe about this change as anyone as it meant that we (as last years fortunate winners) were, in effect, promoted and relegated before the season began, to enable the change from four divisions to five.

These changes are always going to be unpopular with those it impacts upon, however the big picture must prevail and we must do what we can to promote the sport at all levels. What I hope, and I am sure that this is the management committee's hope also, is that the creation of a new division will mean less of a top to bottom gulf in some of the divisions. Cream always rises to the top and if your team is good enough you will be promoted at the end of the season anyway.

(2) I was fascinated to read the letter printed in the last digest regarding those players who choose to use pimples rubbers on their bats! Now I have chosen to discuss this as our division has quite a high level of pimply!, is it the case that those people are employing fiendish un-gentlemanly behaviour by trying to get an unfair advantage over those that don't use pimples? or is it the case that we all use rubbers that assist our game and hide or compensate for our deficiencies as much as possible?. The only solution would be for everyone to use exactly the same rubbers and blades everyone would then be starting at the same point and the true talent would show through, the likelihood is that it would be the same people at the top who are at the top now.

In my own opinion (for what it's worth) pimples are (a) a way of keeping the more mature players playing for longer. (b) Pimples (once you know what effect they have) are just as, and maybe more, predictable than the more conventional rubbers and that they add much needed variety and interest to what could be a fairly two dimensional sport. (c) They can be challenging, but hey

Maghull taking seven points from last years winners Wavertree Labour (A).

#### Week 2

Maghull (A) v C.T.K (B). Tony Kendal reporting.

*"This was a good game evenly contested throughout the night. CTK did well to battle back from 5-1 down to force a draw and I think CTK will be there or thereabouts at the end of the season, they are a very good team and to have Mikael at 3 shows their strength. Good performances by Alan (Cowley) to beat Billy and Dave, Billy to beat Tony K and a great win for Alan Jones over Mikael."*

Marconi, showing their pedigree away at Manweb (A), winning 7-3, great win for Paul Loftus over Alan Evans. Maghull not to be outdone, showed what a strong team they are this season by taking Fords (A) 7-3, Matty Wilson taking his three. John Langton is playing better than ever this season and didn't seem to sweat too much taking his three against Wavertree Labour (A) for BSM(B). Poor Tom (Purcell) was left holding the bag on his own against Crosby High and unfortunately lost his three to a very strong and in form Crosby team. Barry Crook's signing for Greenbank has bolstered what was an already strong line up and he assisted Greenbank to a 6-4 win over Manweb by winning his three.

#### Week 3

Marconi lost out to C.T.K (B) 4-6, with a settled side C.T.K (B) seem to capable of beating any team in the division. A great win here for Police (A) over Manweb. Brian Burrows standing tall and taking his three.

Dave Evans hardly troubled for Crosby High (A) over Wavertree Labour (A), taking his three in three and helping his side to 6-4 home win. Peter Holmes stopped a Greenbank avalanche with a win over John Appleton, Greenbank beating Maghull (A) 9-1. Rob Hughes seems to be very much in form and took another three points for Fords (A) over B.S.M (B) assisting them to a 6-4 win. Maghull continued their rich vein of form beating Manweb (A) 7-3, Alan Evans taking a big point off Matty Wilson has to be the match of the week.

#### Week 4

Wavertree Labour (A) after having a few teething problems at the start of the season are beginning to show that they are playing at the right level by drawing 5-5 with Manweb, Paul Banks, Ian Black, Dave Harse and Roy Adams all taking two singles. Steve Rowe managed to take three points in Marconi's match with Maghull (A), with only the game with Maghull's Alan Cowley going to four sets.

Big game between two teams with their strongest players in action, C.T.K (B) against Maghull, ended almost obviously in a draw, Matty Wilson again taking his three.

Paul Evans, man of the match for Manweb (A) against B.S.M (B), taking his three in their 7-3 win.

Fords (A) drew with Crosby High (A), reporter Grahame Reid on the spot.

*"Nobody more surprised than me, except Dave Evans, my first ever win against him. What a competitive division this will be."*

#### Week 5

Peter Holmes again the man of the match for Maghull (A) over Police (A) taking his three, Alan Jones and Fred Pheysey also taking two each, both being pipped in the fifth by John Moore, Maghull winning 8-2.

Robbie Gouldson was untroubled in Fords (A) 6-4 win over Manweb. B.S.M (B) came close to a very creditable draw at home to C.T.K(B), but lost out in the doubles, to go down 4-6. Crosby High (A) inflicted a 10-0 win over Manweb (A), Paul Evans retiring for the night after losing out to Sylvia Graham. Maghull carry on beating the top teams with a 7-3 win over Marconi, Paul Clarke and Bob Edwards managing to take points off Matty Wilson.

#### Week 6

Another top clash with C.T.K (B) losing out 4-6 to Crosby High (A), Rob Wylie untroubled here, taking his three, Dave Tagg providing the stiffest resistance to Rob's attacking game but losing 10-12 in the fifth.

No favours in the Manweb derby as Manweb take all 10 points, Dave Harse, Andy Lloyd and Roy Adams doing the damage here. Fords (A) and Greenbank played out a draw with Barry Crook taking his three singles. First win of the season for Wavertree Labour (A) over Police (A), Paul Banks and Ian Black both taking maximum points.

These derby matches are quite ruthless and the first Maghull derby was no exception with Maghull taking all ten points, Matty Wilson, Steve Woods and Kevin Lewis all showing their focus. Bob Edwards and Steve Rowe showing their class for Marconi in the match with B.S.M (B), taking all their singles and helping Marconi to a 7-3 win.

Predictions – No, too early for a fence sitter.

Controversy – Yes and lets have more of it, especially on the tea and biscuits discussion.

Good luck for the rest of the season.

# Division 3. Editor

As I said in the Editorial, It's me writing this by default, but I wait in hope for a volunteer reporter!

First let me welcome 4 new players who are new to Liverpool League T.T. but who are starting in Div. 3, well established players from their results. Sylvia Rozek playing for Harold House 'A', who I believe travels from Preston, so I hope we can give her some good games to make the journey worthwhile, Richard Bentley, who's also had a few good results, and Michael Siu, both playing for Har.House 'B'; Bjoern (as in Bjorn Borg the tennis star) Meyer playing for Wavertree Labour 'B' who learned his T.T. in Germany, now at L'pool Uni.; and Graham Turner, playing for Bath St. Marine 'D' moved to L'pool from the south, a good steady player, so welcome to them, and hope they enjoy their TT in Liverpool.

Looking at the most recent league tables from Trevor, after 6 matches played, Wavertree Labour 'B' are sitting on top with 42 points, with Bath St. Marine 'D' and Bootle YMCA 'A' 8 points behind.

The first week always seems to present problems raising teams, even though this season started 2 weeks later than last season, Bath St. 'D' postponed their Derby match against the 'C', which proved very costly to the 'C' team when it was played 2 weeks later.

Marconi 'B' started the season with a 7-3 win over Bootle YM 'B'; Manweb 'B' started with a new 'front man' in the shape of young Michael Kwan, part of last season's Christ the King 'C' team who emigrated en-block to Manweb during the summer, their match against H. House 'B' ended in a draw with Michael having a good win over Rod McPherson, but losing to Richard Bentley in 5, Paul Morgan (H.H.) and Alan Biggs (Manweb) both getting two. Cadwa 'B' went away to Maghull 'B' with only Steve Graham a ranked 'B' team player for Cadwa, it was always going to be uphill, but they came away with 4 points, winning both doubles, the other wins by Peter Roberts (Cadwa) over George Frost in 5, and George Higham (Cadwa) beat Tom Downing, Chris Roberts and Phil Christie added two each for Maghull, notes on back of card made the point that Maghull were 2 up, then Cadwa were 4-2 up, but Maghull cruised through the last 4. Jim Geddes stepped in to help Bootle YM 'A' take on the Marconi 'A' team of the "terrible twins" Peter Wass and Ian Wensley, Ted Gilmour, and Tim Ternent helping out, John Higham (BYM) lost both his five game marathon sets to Peter and Ian, with lots of nets and edges going against John, (ask him!!), it may have been the laugh a

minute banter from Peter and Ian, but then John is usually switched off during the game, BYM only managed 3 points. Wavertree Labour 'B' Bjoern Meyer, Tony Connor, Mike Ashton and Colin Fyles entertained Harold House 'A' Sylvia Rozek, Eddie Clein, John Hughes and Rod McPherson, in what was an early meeting of possible title contenders, Sylvia made short work of Bjoern and Tony, both in 3, Eddie lost to Bjoern in 3 and Mike in 5, Mike also beating Rod, Colin lost both his sets, with a doubles each the final score was 6-4 to H.H.

Week 2 Marconi 'B' went to Cadwa 'B' and went into a 4-0 lead after all players had played a singles match, but Cadwa 'B' then won both doubles and the next two singles, but neither team could gain the extra win, finishing 5 all. Bootle YM 'B' beat BsM 'D' at BYM by 8-2, new player Graham Turner getting both BsM's points and 100% from BYM's Shakil Malik & Arthur Garnet. A good result for Maghull 'B' away to H. H. 'B' Maghull go into a 2-0 lead, HH pull it back, Maghull forge another 2 set lead, H.H. pull it back, then make it 5-4, last game Rod Bulmer beats John Hughes in 3 to grab the draw, only two sets going to 5, but it must have been a good night. Marconi 'A', with 3 out of the 'B' squad had a good 7-3 win against Manweb 'B', good all round performance by both teams on the match card, best game of the night the only 5 setter, Ian Wensley v Michael Kwan, Michael walking the first two games 5 & 5, but couldn't finish it off, Ian winning next three, 8, 10 & 4, wonder if Ian got Michael frustrated with his long high returns, Marconi won both doubles. A full strength Wav. Lab. 'B' team went to BsM 'C' and came away with a 7-3 win, two wins for new Wav. player Bjoern Meyer, both in 3, against Mark Paterson and Les Gee, Mark had earlier beaten Tony Connor in three, only two 5 setters, both involving Bill Stanley, sets 7 & 9, he lost to Peter Ross 11-7 in the 5<sup>th</sup>, and beat Keith Wright 11-7 in the 5<sup>th</sup>, must have been puffed Bill!

week 3 Wav.Lab. 'B' entertained BYM 'B' Playing against Bjoern M. you know what the outcome will be, just enjoy it, when behind, he just ups a gear, Danny E took him to 12-10 in one game, biggest disappointment for me was battering Tony Connor in the first game, 2, then 5 in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, I've always wanted to beat Tony, anyway, what did I do wrong next, I stopped watching him twiddling his bat and let my eyes wander to his, that psychotic stare took over and I stopped watching the ball and bat, he polished me off 9,8 & 9, is that allowed!, I'm wearing sunglasses next time, Bjoern won his two,



Shakil Malik. won his two, Wav. won both doubles, match finished 6-4 for Wav. Marconi 'B' beat Maghull 'B' 6-4 at Marconi, Tony Mullally & Russell Thornton got the two sets for Marconi, George Frost got his two for Maghull, with doubles shared.

Manweb 'B's Michael Kwan Neil Jennings Alan Biggs & Arthur Harrison went down 9-1 to a rampant Har. House 'A' who had new player Sylvia Rozek at 1 and Eddie Clein at 2, with John Hughes and Rod McPherson 3 & 4, Arthur H. fought both his matches to 5 games, losing to John 13-11 in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 11-7 to Rod in the 5<sup>th</sup>. H.H. put Sylvia on first against Neil, a quickie in 6, 6 & 8 to Sylvia, then back on against Michael, looked like another quickie, Sylvia won first two 3 & 7, but did she take her foot off or Michael sharpen up, he won the next two, 9 & 8, 5<sup>th</sup> game went to Sylvia 11-8, could there have been a shock, first doubles next, Sylvia straight back on, what a game to save the whitewash, Michael & Neil beat Sylvia & Eddie in four, 3-11, 15-13, 11-5 & 11-9. How often do we say about styles, after Michael's fast open game against Sylvia, Eddie humbled him in three later on, 9, 4 & 6. A struggling Cadwa 'B' went down 10-0 at BsM 'D', Steve Graham & George Higham pushing Ted Cramsie & Graham Turner to 5 games, but losing both. Marconi 'A' picked up a 7-3 win at Har. House 'B', helped by winning both doubles, H.H.'s John Hughes pushed to five sets, losing to Frank McCann and beating Ian Wensley.

Week 4 There were four 5-setters in the match between a full strength BsM 'C' & Manweb 'B', unlucky Manweb losing all of them, Mark Paterson beat Michael Kwan, Peter Ross beat Alan Biggs & Arthur Harrison; and Karen Gibson & Les Gee beat Rob Barker. & Arthur Harrison in the doubles, 7-3 to BsM 'C'. Marconi 'A' went down 7-3 to Har. House 'A' after Peter Wass retired after playing his first set, gifting two sets which may have made a difference. Cadwa 'B' continue their slide, losing 9-1 to a full strength Wav. Lab. 'B' Steve Graham saving the whitewash with a 5 set win over Bill Stanley. BsM 'D' came away with a 6-4 win from Maghull 'B', Billy Clayton with the only double. Har. House 'B' went to Marconi 'B' for a 6-4 win, including both doubles, Dave Bradley played for Marconi, losing to Richard Bentley in 5 and beating Mike Poole in 4, did you read Dave's letter in the last Digest, hope you enjoyed your night Dave. The derby at BYM finished 7-3 to a full strength normal 'A' team, Richie Winckle playing his first league match; winning both doubles made the difference, the 'B' team's No.1. Shakil Malik, won both his singles along with Danny Every for the 'A'team

week 5 Maghull 'B' went to Wav. Lab. 'B', Phil Christie saving a whitewash by beating Mike Ashton in 3, Rod Bulmer took the 3rd game off Bjoern Meyer, 11-6, Bjoern must have panicked, walking the next game 11-2. A strong BYM 'A' team (Roly was missing) had a clean sweep over Cadwa 'B'. Tim Terner helped Marconi 'B' to a draw at BsM 'D'. Manweb 'B' drew with BYM 'B' at home, two good wins for Michael Kwan in 5 against Roly W. and in 4 against Shakil Malik, Arthur Garnett won his two for BYM, in 5 against Alan Biggs and in 3 against Arthur Harrison. doubles shared. BsM 'C' went to Marconi 'A' who only had 3 players, but Marconi still managed a 6-4 win, BsM's only played win was Peter Ross beating Frank Proffitt 3-0. Richard Bentley saved the whitewash in the Harold. House derby between the 'A' & 'B' teams, 'B' team player Richard beat Martin Roberts in 4.

week 6 Cadwa 'B' took 3 points off Manweb 'B', Rob Barker lost to Steve Graham but beat George Higham, Arthur Harrison lost to George Higham but beat Pete Roberts, doubles shared. Les Gee saved the whitewash against H. House 'A' at BsM 'C' beating Eddie Clein. 8, 9 & 3, did Les hypnotise Eddie! BsM 'D' had a good 7-3 win against H.H 'B' Ted Cramsie & Graham Turner winning all their singles, with the doubles shared. Spoils were shared at Maghull 'B' with BYM 'A'. level pegging to the last two doubles, both going to 5 games, BYM winning the first, Maghull saving the tie winning the second. Marconi 'A' beat BYM 'B' 6-4 with Frank McCann and Ian Wensley winning all their singles, but BYM claiming both doubles. Marconi 'B's John McCann had a good win against Tony Connor, Tony Mullally and Russell Thornton getting a point each, going down 7-3 to Wav. Lab. 'B'.

The thing that strikes me about the first 6 weeks are the missing names of players who would have been playing every week, Peter Wass and Andrew Owens, Marconi; Rob Davies, Colin Rourke (not signed on), and Rob Peverall, Cadwa; Richie Winckle and Mike Hughes, BYM; and the names you wouldn't be expected to see, those helping out by indirectly playing "down", but that will change now, and hopefully teams will settle down to their regular teams. Predictions, only two, Harold House 'A' to repeat last seasons top spot with the strong squad they have, and Cadwa 'B' to repeat last season's slide down if they don't get their act together.

O.K. so who was it that said I would find things much easier in the fourth division than in the third? Whoever it was, was lying, or perhaps trying to boost my confidence. There are some seriously strong teams in this division, notably Aigburth, Marconi C and Cadwa C, not to mention a strengthened Linacre, the inclusion of Dave Ferguson in their line up has stiffened their bottom order considerably.



I am sure that by now you will all have heard that Ken Armson is suffering from ill health and is not able to play and I am sure that you will all join me in wishing Ken a speedy recovery and look forward to his return as soon as possible, I am missing him more than most as I miss carrying him in the doubles.

It seems that the early start to the season caused problems for more than one team with a number of teams calling on reserves for the first round of matches, you may have thought that with smaller divisions the start date would have been put back a couple of weeks to anticipate this problem, I may be wrong but my memory of the last time we played in twelve team divisions the start date was much later in September allowing for late holidays etc.

The postal dispute obviously had a devastating effect on the receipt of cards by the fixture secretary, but it seems that the problems are now all behind us, as most teams seem to be up to date with their fixtures.

Only a fool would make predictions about promotion and relegation places at this stage of the season so here goes, the Stan Clarke predictions. I believe that the promoted teams will come from a short list of three, Aigburth, Marconi C. and Cadwa C. At the time of writing Aigburth have a three point lead over the other two teams but have played one more match and are the only one of the three to have lost a match, Marconi C have drawn one and won four whilst Cadwa C have won all five of their matches, but are six points behind the leaders. The relegation places are currently held by Cadwa d and Maghull D with Maghull D four points behind their nearest rivals and Wavertree Labour D not much better off and having played a game more than the other two.

In week one Cadwa C steamrolled Wav.Lab D, 8/2 with Colin Fyles and Andy Bird beating George Higham to avoid the whitewash, Wav. Lab C, with two reserves were hammered 8/2 by Marconi C with Dong Xia beating Paul Loftus in five games and the enigmatic

Stephanie Howard beating Dave McMahon for the home team, Aigburth dropped just two points at home to Maghull C with father and son Harry and Steve McGanity beating Lee Proffitt and Graham Rollinson.

In week two Marconi C white-washed Cadwa D with only two sets going to five as John O'Sullivan lost 5/11 to Derek Scotland and Doug Baker lost 8/11 against Dave McMahon,

Cadwa C gifted three points to Aigburth A, when Ian Lunt failed to turn up, but still ran out 6/4 winners, Dave Cunningham beating John Ashley. The impressive Jason Ao beat Harry Reeve and Jack Davidson in the match between Manwb C and Linacre. Rather surprisingly Maghull C held Marconi C to a draw thanks mainly to a treble from Eddie Preston and Wav. Lab D held Cadwa D to a draw with a treble from Andy Bird. Aigburth proceeded on their merry way with a 7/3 defeat over Manweb C and Cadwa C thrashed Maghull D 8/2.

Maghull D had an even worse result against Aigburth in week 5 as they went down 10/0 against the league leaders, and Cadwa D were thumped 8/2 by Aigburth A, my old friend John O'Sullivan beating Ray Jones and Doug Baker beating Norman Lindsay for their two points. Cadwa C thumped Linacre 7/3, as on many occasions in the past, Harry Reeve scoring a treble for the Crosby outfit. Wav Lab C beat Manweb C 7/3, with Jason Ao winning both singles over Dong Xia and Stan Clarke and Robert Wong beating Stephanie Howard, a late finish to this match mainly due to a very late start, thanks Alvin. Wav. Lab D conceded three points having only three players against Marconi D plus a reserve, two singles wins for Colin Fyles and one from reserve Gordon Langshaw for Wavertree.

In week six Linacre sprang a shock result when they entertained Aigburth, who were missing Lee Proffitt and had John Mitchell in as a reserve, Alan Davies with two wins over Harry Reeve and Harry Nelson and Ian Laird over Jack Davidson the only successes for Aigburth. Maghull D lost 1/9 against Wav.Lab C, Jim Ambrose beating Stan Clarke to avoid the whitewash. Aigburth A were dumped by Marconi C 2/8 but a good night for Norman Lindsay as he remained unbeaten in singles with wins over Paul Loftus and Frank Proffitt.

# Division 5 Doug Baker

I'm not here but I am in spirit. This is because my team CADWA 'D' who finished 6<sup>th</sup> out of 11 last year managed (wangled?) "promotion" (?) to the 4<sup>th</sup>. not only I'm I not good enough to play there, I'm not good enough to write there! ☹

Anyway, that in itself indicates the level of changes that have been made to give us the new format for this season, 5 divisions with 12 teams in each, hang on, that's how the bottom division started out

last year too! So the newly formed division is made up of two halves; the lower half of last year's division 4 and the other half being new teams.

Did I say 12 teams, well that should of course be 11 as just like my horse in the National, Harold House 'C' pulled up at the start, this gave a quiet start for the new club from the olde Business Houses, Arriva North West, somehow ironic considering where they've come from, they came here looking for table tennis not free weeks.

Predications: Some of the other divisional writers seem to have a problem with this and are about as accurate as Mark Lawrenson, well for me it's easy, my crystal ball was able to predict last year by bringing forth the team lists, if that was Aigburth 'A's' team, then Aigburth 1<sup>st</sup> must be pretty damn hot.

This year, fate delivered me the first game card, and I was able to make out the name of the winner of the 07-08 5<sup>th</sup> Division title carved upon it, it wasn't even in some elfish language that needs a Grand Master Wizard with an in depth appreciation of the writings of the Valar to decipher it. A team with quality from Len Dyson at No.1 through to Dave Oakes at No.4 = sure-dragon's-fire champions, rush out now and put your life savings on it, do a double up and put them down for Division 4 champions 08-09 and you'll have enough money to buy a new table tennis table.

First put to the halbred was the re-emergent Ron (they call him "The Boss") Georgeson and E Street Marine Bathers. Now, consider this, you struggle all summer to regroup your timid bunch of Brandybucks and Tooks that have been cast to the four corners by the wolves of 05-06, only to be gobbled up by the Alsatian Wargs of the Constabulary in your very first foray into the dark woods of Kensington. Dyson, Lynch, Cameron (captain), Oakes, are weather worn professionals. Len & Tommy were playing in the 2<sup>nd</sup> division last year and Alan was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> with Manweb, shame Tommy Lynch



isn't in charge as I could've referred to them as the Lynch mob. The likes of Georgeson, Woodley, Logan and Berger are artic poles apart from them, and there are many teams comparable to them in this division. The card said it very loudly, 10 sets to Nil, 30 games to Nil, I can just hear The Boss saying to his team, "It won't be like this every week, please turn up next week, It will get easier".

Police 'B' are the only team at the time of writing (- week 6) across all divisions to have won every game, that won't change, but what exactly do they get out of beating someone 3-0 and collectively some team 10-0, nigh on week in week out? It's not the team I am criticising (unless they asked to be placed in the 5<sup>th</sup>). Rather the decision makers/rules who put a team drawn from players used to playing in higher divisions into a newly formed lowest division whilst booting other teams of lesser ability upstairs merely to even out the numbers!/? Surely it was an opportunity to place the team at a more appropriate level. As it stands, it's like putting four foxes into a chicken coop contaminated with bird flu. I bet the Vets handicap committee will have a blue fit when they look at this. I seem to remember it happening a few years back as well. Wasn't that a Police team too? *{{Yes, seven years ago.}}*

The Police's other vehicle (panda car?) in this division is a much more experimental bunch, headed by John Jeffrey's, my one time doubles partner, Alan French has been a busy boy, flitting between No. 1 for the 'C' team and No.4 for the 'B'. The 'C' struggled early on, Aigburth 'A' got a good away win with Arthur Pierce in charge. Good to see Paul Croxton back with Neil and winning, which is what any young player wants, he doesn't want to turn out every week and get hammered, but have a crack at some more experienced players and pick up as many tips as points, this is what the bottom division should be about. And there should be a place for old stagers / staggerers at the other end of the generation spectrum. Hence it's also good to see Eric Young back after a year in the wilderness, this time allied to Aigburth (APH). Old TT players shouldn't be allowed to fade away, they should be recycled, turn swords into shears and old Table Tennis players into new teams

A good example of the spirit/essence of this division was in the Bootle YM 'C' versus Maghull 'E' match, old adversaries throw up the best contests,

Janette Hutchings narrowly beat Steve Daniels and also Jim Geddes in 5 games, Janette will have felt elated at having come out winner in such close scrapes. Steve & Jim, whilst no doubt deflated will be girdled and emboldened to improve their performances in forthcoming matches and will eagerly await the rematch at Maghull.

Bath St 'F' are headed up by Barbara Alcock who will benefit at playing at this level, other names are not known to me, but Cyril Penny's victory over Aigburth 'C's Eric (no matches in a year then 2 come along in one week) Young caught the eye. Bath St F took 4 points off their team mates in the derby with their E team, mainly due to strong doubles combos.

Greenbank 'A' are back, but it doesn't seem as if it will be for long, two walkovers in this part of the season already, and one of them a rearranged fixture from a match they postponed. Which reminds me, ex CADWA player Johnson Olorunfemi who played against Greenbank 'A' last year is now with Wavertree Labour 'C', makes sense as he lives on the other side of Sheil Road, the newly formed team is headed by Gordon Langshaw and has ex Otis man Eric Spencer at 2.

Arriva, when they did get started, must have thought this is P'easy; 8-2 over Greenbank'A', 9-1 at Police'C', Harry 'H' Hughes & Brian Harrison only thwarted by Lynne Riding, I remember 'H' and Brian as olde adversaries from when I played in the Business League, Arriva won't be able to drive a bus through this division. The wheels came off as they were pulled over by Police 'B': 1-9, 'H' tried hard to turn it round, losing to Len & Alan in 5, Dan Bellard took Dave in 5, after losing the first two games, Paul Murphy saw Alan French squeeze through. Says something's not right when the team 2<sup>nd</sup> in the league gets beaten 9-1 by the top team, even a good Aiggy B team, Traynor, N.Croxtan, Pierce and Mitchell faired no better, saving grace by Arthur over Alan C.

Maghull have decided the secret to good table tennis is in the gene's, or maybe that should be Jan's, as Janette has signed on her two girls. When playing Aigburth 'C', Hutchings wrote about her hatchlings: "League debut for Ashleigh and Amy, both girls enjoyed the match helped by the friendly atmosphere created by the Aigburth team". Could this be the biggest age gap between opponents, Amy – 8 years old, Eric Young a week off his 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday?" Good to see the youngsters getting involved. It's what this division should be about, forget babysitters, bring the kids along! Loon Wai Yu has also kept it in the family bringing in younger brother Lung Sing Yu and between them they have only dropped one set in their singles.

Aigburth are already struggling to run their two teams in this division, John Mitchell doesn't seem to know if he is coming or going; missing out on the first 2 games as No.1 for their 'C' team, so, quite remarkable that his team managed a draw at Bath St; Barry Meyer and Phil Crompton victorious, Eric lost to Cyril but then beat Steve Rees. Just like at Bath St (see above), the higher 'B' team had their promotion push stalled by their own 'C' team taking 4 points off them, John had a great win over Neil, 11/9 in't 5<sup>th</sup> and yet again, amazingly both doubles went to the lower ranked boys. A week later though and the 'C' went down by the same score at Wav Lab 'C'. John & Eric still getting a brace to counterpoint Olorunfemi's two, Ironically it was their doubles that let them down this time.

I think it will be a good contest for 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Aigburth 'B' could do it if they manage to field the players they have on paper. (Where's Liam bin?)

Now excuse me whilst I go off to take a hammer to me porcelain NatWest piggy collection.

3. The new insurance policy has been well received and Local Leagues, County Associations and Premier Clubs are taking advantage of the greatly reduced premiums. Perkins Slade has given the concession of voluntary involvement for this current season. This will not be the case in future years. A simplified explanation will be circulated showing what is covered in this policy although it is advised that the full version is studied for the finer detail.

*The new ETTA Insurance Policy seems to be the answer to all Leagues problems of Insurance cover for local players at a reasonable price, but the previous statement and the following F.A.Q. from the ETTA web site, suggest to me, that after this current season, this insurance will only be available to those submitting an individual registration form to the ETTA..... Editor*

**Question 10: How would the insurance work and how would it benefit me?**

Most clubs and leagues take out Public Liability insurance and its cost is passed onto their members via the club and league fees paid. Direct insurance as part of Individual Membership would mean that Clubs and Leagues would not have to take out insurance for their individual members and those who are playing in more than one League would pay only once for insurance.

The insurance offered through Individual Membership would also include Personal Accident insurance, which most Leagues and Clubs do not provide.

### **Announcement by ITTF on glue.**

An announcement regarding glue has been made by the ITTF following a Board of Directors Meeting in Zagreb on 26th May 2007, which has been published on the ETTA website.

Item 6. From 1 January 2008 for ITTF junior events and from 1 September 2008 for all other ITTF events, ITTF will introduce an improved "zero tolerance" method of testing and a player whose racket contains any trace of such solvents will be liable to immediate disqualification and will be reported to his or her Association for possible further disciplinary action.

The "policing" of this, in ETTA approved events from 1st January 2008 for Junior Events and 1st September 2008 for Senior Events, will indeed be very difficult, but the ETTA will do everything in its power to assist the organising bodies. For those events run directly by the ETTA we will follow the ITTF lead and will be purchasing the necessary testing equipment to ensure compliance with the new regulations

ETTA will include a condition of entry acceptance in its events at all levels of item 1 mentioned above.

This may be perceived by some as too much legislation and control, however, all administrators of our sport have a clear responsibility to the players and officials to advise of the concerns raised and take the necessary actions to prevent any potential harm to these players and officials. The longer term will result in no glues being available from the table tennis manufacturers with harmful volatile compounds and it is hoped that with this and the testing, that this whole matter will result in a better and "cleaner" and more environmentally safe sport.

Regards

**Alex Murdoch**

ETTA Chairman

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*At least one manufacturer has already brought out a substitute "substance" to replace Glue, which is applied to the sponge, increasing the speed and spin characteristics for a much longer duration, I'm sure many more will, but I'm also sure that until Manufacturers have run down their stocks, solvent glue will be obtainable*

29th October 2007

### **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP**

The Membership Committee has been tasked by the ETTA Directors to develop proposals for a system of Individual Membership. Debate on this issue has been ongoing for many years but it has become more important in recent years.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS' (there are 20 F.A.Q.'S on the ETTA web site)

*Question 1: Why does the ETTA need to change from the current system of League Team Affiliations to Individual Membership?*

The current League Team Affiliation system has a number of shortcomings:

- It is 'indirect', it does not relate to individual players but rather to team places, so those playing in more than one league pay multiple fees to the ETTA
- The ETTA has few details about those playing table tennis and therefore cannot take into account their needs nor communicate directly with them.
- A large number of people play table tennis, most of them are affiliated to the ETTA, but currently only those that play in affiliated local leagues (or hold a competition licence) pay affiliation fees.
- ETTA affiliation fees are often combined with League and County fees and the element that goes to the ETTA is often not known by the individual player
- The system does not provide the accurate numbers or details of those who are affiliated that the ETTA needs to report on participation in Table Tennis

*Question 3: What are the principles of the proposed new system?*

The principles of the Individual Membership system currently under development include:

- Levels of membership to suit all those involved in table tennis – four levels are under consideration:
  - o Level 1 - equivalent to a current licence holder
  - o Level 2 - equivalent to a current league player
  - o Level 3 – for recreational players, in clubs or schools, etc.
  - o Level 4 - for non-players such as officers, officials, parents, supporters etc.
- Membership at one level would include the levels below and each individual would pay only one membership fee
- Fees for Levels 1 and 2 would relate to the present levels for Licence holders and league players, that is £16.50 and £4.28 respectively for senior players in 2007/8, with a small added element to cover additional benefits such as personal insurance
- Fees for Levels 3 and 4 would be less than those for Level 2
- Concessionary fee rates for Junior and Cadets would be available.
- Membership 'packages' similar to Gold and Silver Licences would be available at all Levels

# Merseyside Schools Table Tennis Association

The Merseyside Schools Table Tennis Association was formed in 1998 to promote Table Tennis in schools in the Merseyside area. Each year Team and Individual Championships are held. The championships are open to all pupils in full time education at any of the Schools and Colleges within the Merseyside areas of Liverpool, Knowsley, Sefton, St.Helens and Wirral.

Players can enter ONE of the following events:  
Ages being taken from September at the start of the new school year

**Primary Schools** Boys under 11 Girls under 11

**Secondary Schools and Colleges** Boys under 13, 16, 19 Girls under 13, 16, 19.

This is a good opportunity for boys and girls at all levels of ability to represent their school and compete at local level against other schools within Merseyside. The winners of each event will have the opportunity to represent Merseyside Schools at the ESTTA National Championships which are held at a central venue each year.

During the last few years a number of players from Merseyside have won honours at the National School Teams and Individual Championships and then progressed to represent English Schools and win Gold Medals at the International Championships.

If you require information on the activities of the MSTTA or on Table Tennis in general in Merseyside, please contact your area's representative, [sylvia@graham137.freeseerve.co.uk](mailto:sylvia@graham137.freeseerve.co.uk) who will be pleased to answer your queries, give you advice and supply you with entry forms.

Unfortunately, when you read this, the first part of these competitions will probably have taken place, as the Team Events take place at Formby High School on 24th Nov.

Cardiff won this seasons Fred Perry Urban Cup, which is a new £170,000 tournament mainly for Youth Clubs, to run for an initial period of 4 years mainly to keep the local Youth Club scene active, an area lacking in Liverpool. Next seasons competition has included an extra U18 level. Cut off date for entry to the 2008 competition is May 31st 2008 All teams must have one girl and one boy member from each of the following age categories: U12, U14, U16 & U18 (8 in total) With a view to maintaining fair standards across the competition, regrettably entries from table tennis players who have ETTA ranking points cannot be accepted.



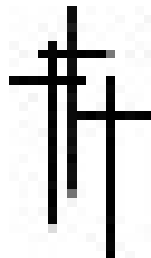
## Obituary to Lil Upton 1922 - 12/09/2007

Lil was the backroom staff for the L&DTTL late President of many years, Arthur E. Upton, who was so involved with table tennis at every level Nationally, for Liverpool, Lancashire and the ETTA.

Lil met Arthur during the war at a Wardens Post when they were both undertaking Civil Defence duties, Arthur having been invalided out of the Royal Engineers in 1940, and Lil being employed in a 'Reserved Occupation' (manufacturing food for the forces).

She joined a Concert Party known as 'The Cee Dees' and travelled to hospitals for troop entertainment. At the Wardens Post, Arthur introduced Lil to table tennis and, subsequently, a Ladies Team was formed. They then entered the Liverpool & District Table Tennis League in the Ladies division, under the name of Orrel.

A fitting tribute to Lil would be the phrase,  
Behind every great man is a great woman  
Our thoughts go out to all family members



# Divisional Cups 07 - 08

## 1ST ROUND RESULTS

Division 1. Readman Cup				
2	CADWA 'A'	v	M. POLICE	5
5	CROSBY HIGH	v	CH.the KING 'A'	2
5	WAV. LABOUR	v	BATH St. M.	2
2	CH. the KING	v	BOOTLE YM	5
	BATH St. M. 'A'	v	BYE	
	HAROLD HOUSE	v	BYE	
	FORDS	v	BYE	
	CADWA	v	BYE	

Division 2. Rumjahn Cup				
5	MANWEB	v	CH.the KING 'B'	3
5	CROSBY HIGH 'A'	v	MANWEB 'A'	0
X	GREENBANK	v	FORDS 'A'	W/O
1	BATH St. M.'B'	v	MAGHULL	5
	MARCONI	v	BYE	
	WAV. LAB. 'A'	v	BYE	
	M. POLICE 'A'	v	BYE	
	MAGHULL 'A'	v	BYE	

Division 3. Hyde Cup				
5	CADWA 'B'	v	MAGHULL 'B'	3
0	BATH St. M. 'C'	v	BOOTLE YM 'A'	5
2	MARCONI 'B'	v	WAV.LAB. 'B'	5
0	HAR.HOUSE 'B'	v	MARCONI 'A'	5
	HAR.HOUSE 'A'	v	BYE	
	BOOTLE YM 'B'	v	BYE	
	B. St. M. 'D'	v	BYE	
	MANWEB 'B'	v	BYE	

Division 4. Forrest Cup				
X	MAGHULL 'D'	v	MANWEB 'C'	W/O
5	AIGBURTH	v	WAV. LAB. 'D'	2
0	MAGHULL 'C'	v	CADWA 'C'	5
	MARCONI 'C'	v	BYE	
	AIGBURTH 'A'	v	BYE	
	WAV. LAB. 'C'	v	BYE	
	CADWA 'D'	v	BYE	
	LINACRE	v	BYE	

Division 5. Stamp Cup				
2	BATH St. M.'F'	v	MAGHULL 'E'	5
5	WAV. LAB. 'E'	v	G/BANK 'A'	0
1	BOOTLE YM 'C'	v	M. POLICE 'B'	5
	BATH St. M.'E'	v	BYE	
	AIGBURTH 'B'	v	BYE	
	AIGBURTH 'C'	v	BYE	
	ARRIVAN. W.	v	BYE	
	M. POLICE 'C'	v	BYE	

## 2nd round draw To be Played week com. 26 / 11 / 07

Division 1. Readman Cup		
CADWA	v	M/SIDE POLICE
WAV. LABOUR	v	CROSBY HIGH
BATH St. M. 'A'	v	HAROLD HOUSE
FORDS	v	BOOTLE YMCA

Division 2. Rumjahn Cup		
MAGHULL 'A'	v	MANWEB
FORDS 'A'	v	CROSBY HIGH 'A'
MARCONI	v	WAV. LAB. 'A'
M. POLICE 'A'	v	MAGHULL

Division 3. Hyde Cup		
MANWEB 'B'	v	CADWA 'B'
WAV. LAB. 'B'	v	BOOTLE YM 'A'
HAR. HOUSE 'A'	v	BOOTLE YM 'B'
BATH St. M. 'D'	v	MARCONI 'A'

Division 4. Forrest Cup		
LINACRE	v	MANWEB 'C'
AIGBURTH	v	MARCONI 'C'
AIGBURTH 'A'	v	WAV. LAB. 'C'
CADWA 'D'	v	CADWA 'C'

Division 5. Stamp Cup		
M. POLICE 'C'	v	BATH St. M. 'E'
WAV. LAB. 'E'	v	MAGHULL 'E'
AIGBURTH 'B'	v	AIGBURTH 'C'
ARRIVAN. W.	v	M. POLICE 'B'

# Frank Murphy Memorial Handicap Trophy

## 1st. Round results

H/CAP	HOME	FINAL SCORE	v	FINAL SCORE	AWAY	H/CAP
69	Manweb 2	441	v	435	Maghull 3	187
	Maghull 1	W/O	v	XXX	Crosby High	
137	Maghull 2	294	v	362	Bath St. Marine 1	-16
112	M Side Police 1	332	v	396	Marconi 1	61
148	CADWA 3	521	v	471	Manweb 3	220
76	Marconi 3	276	v	338	Bootle YMCA 1	-29
195	Linacre	552	v	462	Aigburth (A-PH) 1	214
217	Aigburth (A-PH) 2	423	v	396	Fords	18
122	CADWA 2	404	v	376	Bath St. Marine 2	31
133	M Side Police 2	400	v	422	C.T.K	57
237	Arriva N.W.	507	v	532	Bath St. Marine 5	173
90	Bootle YMCA 2	425	v	409	Bath St. Marine 4	75
175	Marconi 2	546	v	446	Bootle YMCA 3	212
108	CADWA 1	473	v	448	Bath St. Marine 6	258
	Bath St. Marine 3				BYE	
	Manweb 1				BYE	

## 2nd. Round draw

To be played week. Com. 17/12/07

HOME		AWAY	
MAGHULL 1	v	AIGBURTH (APH) 2	
BOOTLE YMCA 1	v	MARCONI 2	
CADWA 2	v	CADWA 1	
CHRIST the KING	v	CADWA 3	
BOOTLE YMCA 2	v	MARCONI 1	
BATH st. MARINE 1	v	BATH st. MARINE 3	
MANWEB 2	v	BATH st. MARINE 5	
MANWEB 1	v	LINACRE	

# League Tables to 21st November 2007

Division One		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Fords	7	6	1	0	55
2	Crosby High	7	4	1	2	42
3	Bath St Marine	7	3	3	1	42
4	Wavertree Labour	6	4	1	1	40
5	Bootle YMCA	6	2	3	1	37
6	M/Side Police	6	4	1	1	35
7	Christ The King	6	3	1	2	30
8	Christ The King 'A'	7	3	0	4	30
9	Cadwa 'A'	7	1	1	5	27
10	Bath St Marine 'A'	7	1	1	5	24
11	Harold House	6	1	1	4	21
12	Cadwa	6	0	0	6	7

Division Two		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Crosby High 'A'	7	6	1	0	53
2	Maghull	7	6	1	0	50
3	Manweb	8	3	2	3	44
4	Fords 'A'	7	4	2	1	41
5	Marconi	8	3	0	5	39
6	Christ The King 'B'	7	3	3	1	37
7	Wavertree Lab 'A'	6	2	2	2	34
8	Bath St Marine 'B'	7	1	1	5	29
9	Maghull 'A'	7	1	1	5	22
10	Greenbank	4	2	1	1	20
11	Manweb 'A'	6	1	0	5	17
12	M/Side Police 'A'	6	1	0	5	14

Division Three		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Harold House 'A'	6	6	0	0	49
2	Marconi 'A'	7	6	0	1	44
3	Bootle YMCA 'A'	6	4	1	1	43
4	Wavertree Lab 'B'	6	5	0	1	42
5	Manweb 'B'	8	3	2	3	39
6	Bath St Marine 'D'	6	3	1	2	34
7	Marconi 'B'	8	2	2	4	34
8	Bath St Marine 'C' **	7	3	0	4	31
9	Bootle YMCA 'B'	7	1	1	5	28
10	Maghull 'B'	7	1	2	4	27
11	Harold House 'B'	7	1	2	4	24
12	Cadwa 'B'	7	0	1	6	15

Division Four		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Aigburth PH	7	6	0	1	47
2	Marconi 'C'	6	5	1	0	44
3	Cadwa 'C'	6	5	0	1	39
4	Aigburth PH 'A'	7	4	0	3	36
5	Wavertree Lab 'C'	7	3	0	4	36
6	Manweb 'C'	7	3	0	4	32
7	Linacre	6	2	0	4	28
8	Maghull 'C'	6	2	1	3	26
9	Wavertree Lab 'D'	6	0	1	5	22
10	Cadwa 'D'	5	1	1	3	17
11	Maghull 'D'	5	1	0	4	13
12	Free	0	0	0	0	0

Div. 3 Bath St. Marine 'C' played ineligible player  
10pts. Deducted at end of season

Division Five		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	M/Side Police 'B'	6	6	0	0	57
2	Arriva North West	6	4	1	1	38
3	Bootle YMCA 'C'	6	4	2	0	36
4	Wavertree Lab 'E'	6	4	0	2	35
5	Aigburth PH 'B'	6	4	0	2	34
6	Maghull 'E'	5	2	1	2	29
7	Aigburth PH 'C'	7	1	1	5	28
8	Bath St Marine 'E'	7	3	0	4	27
9	Bath St Marine 'F'	5	1	1	3	24
10	M/Side Police 'C'	6	1	0	5	19
11	Greenbank 'A'	6	0	0	6	3
12	Free	0	0	0	0	0

<i>Fines to Date</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Fine</i>	<i>Total</i>
Players Short	13	£3	£39
Walk Over League	4	£6	£24
Walk Over Cup	3	£6	£18
Played Out of Order	0	£1.50	£0
Late Score Card	6	£3	£18
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>		<b>£99.00</b>

At roughly this point last season, fines had reached £111 ,  
there were 3 more League walkovers last season at this  
stage, so keep it up