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# Editorial

This Digest is 24 pages, I started with 16 pages, started to promote T.T. in schools, increased it to 20 pages, added our first ‘memoirs of a 50 plus player, now it’s 24 pages, we only do 4 a season, so take your time to read it all.



Second Digest of the season with week 12 as the cut off, and the front runners are starting to show. Fords are pulling well clear in the 1<sup>st</sup>. div, and with their strength waiting in the wings, I can’t see them relinquishing the title. Div 2 looks like a 3 horse race to the end, Cadwa, Manweb & Marconi, but with Manweb losing Alice Howard to work down south, they could run out of steam. Crosby High put a new team into the league this season, due to the known expected strength of the players, the ManCom put them straight into the 3<sup>rd</sup> div., and sure enough, they are sitting well clear at the top, with a battle going on for 2<sup>nd</sup> spot between H. House ‘B’ and Police ‘A’. In the 4<sup>th</sup> div., top spot and promotion looks like a 3 horse race between Manweb ‘C’, Wav. Labour ‘C’ & Police ‘B’, probably right to the end. And in the 5<sup>th</sup> two teams fighting it out, Arriva N.W. and H. House ‘C’, I expect both to go up, but who will be the champs.

I take great pleasure in my next comment, just in time for this Digest, our latest Club to join the league, Edgell Youth Club, always faced an uphill task, young against the old, but kept at it, have lost most of their matches, but have been getting closer lately, they have at last won a match, beating Police ‘C’ 6-4, a team of old legs, but also old heads, well done to Edgell, it can only get better.

Billy Holmes – Aigburth TTC - passed away recently, aged 83, at his funeral service his son read out passages from Billy’s ‘memoirs’ about his love of table tennis, I recall another funeral service of one of our stalwarts, with passages from his memoirs. Just before Christmas I was sent an e-mail with a comment that we only ever recall past events of long serving players when they pass away, (which is probably true), and wouldn’t it be a good idea to run a question and answer page for those long serving players to remember their past enjoyment of the sport, I may have suggested the wrong thing to the sender of the e-mail, as I replied that it was an excellent idea, would he like to take it on as his ‘column’, I didn’t hear anymore!!, I must admit that at the time I was thinking of all that extra work for me if I’ve got to follow it all up, start to finish. But lo and behold I received the same suggestion from another

source just a couple of days before closure for this Digest, the only difference, the format of topical questions was set out along with his memoirs, typed out, all I had to do was fit it. So the first, of what I hope is many, memoirs of a “50 Plus Club”, players who have been playing for at least 50 years, there are still plenty about, suggestions gratefully received. Whereas I’m trying to encourage our connection with T.T. at beginner level, we must remember the players who have kept it going for many years,

maybe those same ‘old’ players could be helping the new young players via the schools programme, I’m sure the youngsters would appreciate it, and get a shock into the bargain!!

Web Master John Langton has at last had his heart operation, having had to endure 3 postponements, but latest info is that all’s as well as can be expected, and will soon be starting post-opp building up, so hopefully it won’t be long before he’s at the helm of our web site.

Young Daniel Wearden (U12) was one of a 25 strong squad of U12’s and U15’s which took part in a week end Youth Development Squad training session at Sheffield’s EIS Athletics Arena, just before Christmas with a team of top coaches, there may be a lot of hard work ahead, but congratulations to Daniel for the progress he’s making with his local coaches.

Rod Bulmer from Maghull has sent a letter in, suggesting changes to the 3 a side format, page 20.

Mike Power has also sent in a reply to the letter Paul Oakes sent in (last Digest),

Paul pointed his finger at Mike, but I think he was having a go at the system, Mike has replied for the ManCom. Page 19

Congratulations to Karen Tonge of Halton Table Tennis Club who received the MBE in the new years Honours list, Karen not only does a tremendous amount of work for Table Tennis, but is also involved in many other activities to do with youngsters, it seems she has been to Buckingham Palace twice before to receive awards, must know her way around by now, well done Karen.

One request to team Captains, your comments on the back of the match cards are a help and greatly appreciated by the Div. reporters in the Digest, but it would help a bit more if you could print them for clarity, thanks.

## Youngsters and Table Tennis

Since the last Digest, I've been coming across many articles in the press regards the effects playing table tennis is having on the younger generation, not just in the context of sport, but it seems to be having a great social effect as well, space permitting I will be printing a few of those articles starting with one about a 'deprived' area of Glasgow, Drumchapel, a little know name a few years ago, now prominent in the National TT scene.

School sport in Liverpool has received a welcome boost with the appointment of two young competition managers. Faye Parsons (North and Central) and Paul O'Leary (South and Central) whose aim to increase the quantity and quality of competitive sporting opportunities for both primary and secondary school children. "Our role is to provide competition where there are currently gaps in provision, and for those children not catered for by the existing school sport structure," said O'Leary. "Our appointments form part of the government's strategy for school sport. Nationally there are 225 managers working to the same goal." Their job is not just table tennis, but Paul (based at Childwall Comp.) has already started an inter school TT league, which Stan Clarke mentions below, Ken Armson, Stan and others used to run coaching at GaetacreComp. but that stopped when the school required the hall for other things, WavertreeLabour still run their 'famous' Friday night coaching at their club, so maybe this latest schools initiative is another chance to ensure the future survival of the Liverpool Table Tennis League.

### An article From Stan Clarke - Wavertree Labour T.T. Club

A major fact this year is the booming interest for Table Tennis in Liverpool schools, over the past four months Dave Graham and I have been involved with the Liverpool schools league, which has seen ten schools from Liverpool competing in a two age group round robin league. I was impressed by the number of kids taking part, their enthusiasm and their playing ability. Unfortunately unless we start to offer these players somewhere to play other than school they will be lost to the game once they reach school leaving age. I have spent the last twenty years hearing that there are no young players entering the league, well they are there, but we need to open our clubs to them. Yes they need a degree of coaching and help along the way, but unless we get hold of them we will continue to have a league composed of veterans and eventually the league will fall apart. The interesting thing is that a number of schools are prepared to offer their premises for use by clubs, not always an attractive proposition I know, but with the small number of clubrooms available it would provide a viable option for some of our clubs who are in need of new playing premises.

### The Fred Perry Urban Cup



The Liverpool team, with undefeated Jack Hunter-Spivey u 14 in the wheelchair, Jack won silver medal at UK School Games at Bristol this year aged 13; he played in Liverpool at Greenbank at disabled open representing GB at age 12....**and** gave a demonstration with Mark Palmer during the World Fire Fighters Games, also at Greenbank, so could Jack be a candidate for the 2016 Paralympics!!

Once again 'Liverpool' entered a team in this prestigious tournament for juniors, thanks to Halton , we were a bit disappointed last year when we found out without any approach having been made to the L&DTTL. We cannot complain this year as we did nothing, Halton did, again, but to save the blushes, entered as 'Greater Liverpool' The team was

Non - Playing Captain Frank James, Boys, u 16  
John-Ryan Warmick u 14 Jack Hunter-Spivey;  
u 12 Jake Thompson, Girls u 16 Jade Carr, u 14  
Harriet Teal, (borrowed from Wales when Daisy Hogarth could not go), u 12 Charmaine Warnick a substitute who trained 3 nights a week in the 4 weeks leading up to the event. The younger Warnick sister Sakia aged 8 went as Liverpool mascot and found herself playing for Bristol at under 12 when they were short on the morning  
London East managed to beat Liverpool 4-2 for 3rd but with Jack Hunter-Spivey undefeated all day, last years winners Cardiff beat a team from the Welsh valleys to retain the title

Thanks to Karen Tonge for info & photo

*I came across this interesting article about a 'deprived' area of Glasgow called Drumchapel, a little known name in National table tennis until a few years ago, now it's the top club in the National Leagues, read of the effects it's having on the local youngsters, in their school life as well as their social life, there are a few 'Drumchapel' areas in Liverpool, could the same happen here with help, but of course it could require a lot of help.*  
Editor

reporter Gordon Cairns  
'The Independent - Education & Careers Supplement'  
27/11/08

### Why ping pong's a smash

Children's work, behaviour and even health can be improved by getting them involved in playing table tennis, could the transformation seen in Glaswegian schools be replicated elsewhere,

Gordon Cairns reports,

Table tennis, that most understated of Olympic sports, has been introduced in one of Britain's poorest areas to give pre-teens the chance to lead a successful, fulfilling and healthy life.

Drumchapel, a sprawling housing estate on the edge of Glasgow, is blighted by poverty, poor health, gang violence and drug taking. But the local table tennis club has grown from a small group with only three shaky tables 20 years ago to being one of the biggest clubs in Britain today.

In the process it has made a huge difference to the thousands of locals who have passed through its doors. A healthy living initiative has now extended the sport's reach to 16 local primary and two secondary schools, with 60 tables now available for children to play on.

The impact of the club has been noted by the Scottish Government. Nicola Sturgeon, the Scottish Health Secretary is certainly impressed. "The club has rightly won plaudits for encouraging so many young people from the area to take up, and excel in, table tennis," she says. "The club commands strong support in the community and is a shining example of how sport can change people's lives for the better."

Although table tennis was introduced into the schools to tackle from an early age the health problems endemic in the community, head teachers are reporting a wide range of related positive results. Anecdotal evidence suggests discipline is improving and parents are using the sport as a carrot for unruly charges.

First, pupils come in before the school day begins to play ping pong. In one school this has made the incidences of lateness a fraction of what they were. This also means pupils are using breakfast clubs and getting something healthy into their stomachs early in the day.

Teachers have noted that regular players are more alert in class and self-esteem has been boosted as they have found something they are good at. Improved communication is another by-product: teachers are seeing difficult pupils in a positive light for the first time.

"Drumchapel Table Tennis Club is a fantastic example of the part that sport can play in enhancing the lives of the local community," says Louise Martin, chair of sportscotland, which has helped to fund the club and the schools initiative. "The drive and commitment of Terry McLemon, the coach, and his team of volunteers has made a real difference to the lives of young people in the area."

When questioned about his success, McLemon is modest: "Some people say Drumchapel is an institution," he says. "I think it is just a table tennis club."

The head of PE at another local secondary is desperate to get his department involved in the sport, explains McLemon. "He told me, 'We have to get table tennis in our school, hundreds of our kids have come up from primary playing the sport but we can't offer it'.

"Table tennis," he adds, "is bouncing out everywhere."

When we meet, McLemon is at local primary school St Clare's to oversee a drop-in session, led by four pupil mentors. It is being held for any child who wants to take up the sport. Around 20 children have willingly given up their half an hour of running around outside, to try the game.

Four large green tables are laid out across the length of the gym. At one end of each table stands the mentor, batting the ball across to the child at the front of the queue of children waiting to have a go.

Sometimes the game stops so that the novice coach can adjust his opponent's grip. Some balls go flying across the hall, but most children seem to get the hang of it quite quickly.

A n d r e w Lawor, 10, is here for the first time and boasts: "I got 25 [in one rally]. No one is going to get better than that!" Mentor Matthew Brown, who has only been playing the sport for a month has noticed a side effect also mentioned by classroom teachers- playing table tennis seems to make pupils more alert in class.

"It wakes me up a wee bit because it's a tough game and you need to watch for the ball coming from everywhere," he says.

The children also like the simplicity of the sport, which they can play without having to change out of their school uniform.

Friends Kayleigh McConville and Amy Drennan, both 10, enjoy a sport that can be picked up quickly, and enjoyed alongside the boys, "Football takes you a little while to get good at, but in table tennis you get it just like that," says Kayleigh, with a click of her fingers.

Amy adds: "Other things like dancing you have to practise, practise and practise to get anywhere." Kenny MacDonald, manager of Drumchapel LIFE, a local healthy living initiative, approached the Drumchapel club to help get table tennis into primary schools after he saw the effect it was having on local adults.

"The people involved in the Drumchapel club are different from the majority of people who live in the area; they are successful; they aren't unemployed, they have done well at school and they are either at college, university or working.

"But they didn't start out that differently [from other members of the community]. Once they became involved in sport they had something positive in their lives and it has moved them on."

The cost of the scheme, including supplying coaches and equipment, is £20,000 a year. "For engaging up to 500 kids, that's not a lot of money," says MacDonald.

The head of St Clare's, Gerard McLaughlin, has already noted a change in the school but says it is due to a range of action, not just to the table tennis.

"We have noticed fewer discipline problems since last year," he says. And he is impressed by the order imposed on the game's players. No research has looked at the long-term effects of the project, which is entering its fourth year, but the evidence is going in the right direction.

*"Teachers have noted that regular players are more alert in class and self-esteem has been boosted"*

One former pupil at St Clare's had problems controlling his temper and wasn't taking part in school or sport. But he started coming along to the table tennis club which ran before school started and that solved his unpunctuality. "This pupil had problems following instructions from adults and was a very poor loser, but the work done here and in the table tennis club has made a huge difference to him," says McLaughlin. "He has moved on to high school where he is still coming to school early and is now a table tennis mentor for the younger kids."



This Father Christmas appeared on our web site at Christmas, did you guess who it was ?

Answer on page (take your time!!)

Guess who?

*Stan Clarke mentions the new inter school competitions (page 3) which have already started, and the interesting thing is the offer to use some school facilities for any of our clubs, Crosby High have been doing it for a few seasons now, as well as their big involvement with Formby High, but I think there will be many in the L&DTTL who would look at this as a move to far, but if any players can help in the coaching, or just playing at the practice sessions they should contact Stan, Dave Grahsm, any of the ManCom, or Paul O'Leary who's based at Childwall Comprehensive*

*There's a lot in this Digest about youngsters in table tennis, some may think it's too much in one go, but more involvement in the schools could be the answer to our declining numbers !!!*

*How many times did Ken Armson put this case forward.*

This season's **Liverpool Closed tournament** will be on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> of March at the Wavertree Tennis Centre. Due to the feedback it was felt that though some players liked the playing to a finish on the one day, the majority feeling was that the Finals Night was missed as a social ending, so this season the Finals Night returns, but a week later, on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> of March, so get your entry form filled in asap, it has got to be in by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March.

**[Entry form](#)**

**ENTRY FORM IN THIS DIGEST**

# Division 1

# Ian McElwee

Having just passed the half way stage of the season it is safe to say that only 3 teams, Fords, Bootle YMCA and BSM, are in with a shout of winning the division. Although only 7 points separate these clubs Fords have a game in hand and barring disaster should extend their lead at the top. Despite the valiant efforts of Bootle and BSM I cannot foresee either side being able to stop Fords from retaining the Championship.



Down at the bottom there are 3 teams fighting against the drop with BSM "A" and CTK "A" both on 34 point after 12 matches and Maghull 12 points clear of them. I know from talking to players from these teams that they all expect the worst but at this stage I can't see Maghull being overhauled. BSM "A" and CTK "A" will find it very difficult to overcome the 12 point deficit particularly when you consider that both are averaging less than 3 points a match, unless Maghull go into free fall they should hold onto their hard earned first division status.

The remaining mid table teams are only separated by 7 points in a mini league of their own. Wavertree Labour holds a slight advantage in this group being a couple of points ahead of their nearest rivals and having a game in hand, as the game in hand is against Fords I don't expect them to stretch this advantage by any great extent. This group of teams are evenly matched and are likely to be interchanging positions continuously between now and the end of the season unless there are any significant changes in playing personnel.

Fords have taken 37 points from 5 matches during the reporting period. At week 10 they travelled to championship rivals BSM and confirmed their superiority with a fine 8/2 victory, Mal McEvoy led from the front to remain unbeaten on the night. Merseyside Police managed to break their 100% winning run when the teams met, playing out a well earned draw, Jon Taylor was the star of

the night in winning his 3 singles, including taking the scalp of Kevin Dolder in 3 straight sets, Kevin is so dominant within the league that he probably has not lost for 2 or 3 seasons, which indicates the magnitude of this win for Jon and a measure of his talent.

Bootle YMCA have kept the pressure on Fords by taking 40 points from their last 6 matches, they had a great 9/1 victory over BSM when Dave Roberts saved a whitewash with a terrific straight sets win over Keith Williams, Alan Chase was in great form on the night in taking his 3 singles. However, things did not go so well when they visited Wavertree Labour and sustained only their 2<sup>nd</sup> defeat of the season by a 7/3 margin. David Hayes was in superb form for Wavertree in remaining unbeaten in his singles whilst Roy Smith returned for one of his rare outings, displaying great skills in beating both Alan and Ted Birch.

The 2 heavy defeats reported above have not completely taken away BSM's title aspirations, although it is a clear indication that they are probably not quite strong enough to maintain their challenge for top spot, however, despite these losses they continue to pick up plenty of points against other clubs in the division, in recent weeks they have recorded 9/1 victories over Crosby High, BSM "A" and Harold House and threw in an 8/2 win over Crosby high "A" to keep themselves in contention. It is pleasing to report that Ken Jackson has been given the all clear to play after his recent heart operation, once he gets back into the swing of things the team should be that little bit stronger and keep themselves near the top of the division, Dave Roberts and Clare Peers have had an excellent season to date and have been ably supported by Dermot Tierney, who has acquitted himself well.

When they are able to play a full strength team Wavertree Labour are a match for most as their 7/3 win over Bootle YMCA confirms. David

Hayes is the key to their success having won all his games in the matches against Bootle (7/3 win), Crosby High "A" (7/3 win) and CTK "A" (8/2 win), as usual Gary Watson is winning consistently but their failure to put out their strongest team every week brings about a degree of inconsistency in match results, this was emphasised when a team of Gary, Aaron Beech and Ian Black lost 7/3 to lowly Maghull.

Promoted Crosby High "A" have found their feet extremely well in this division, their team of Rob Wylie, Gavin and Gemma Lloyd pushed Bootle YMCA all the way in gaining a draw, they all did well to beat the experienced Alan Chase whilst Rob and Gemma also took the point off the even more experienced Ted Birch, (by the way Ted tells me that he has found documentary evidence that he was playing in the league as far back as 1955 but thinks he may have played for a couple of seasons before that, can anyone beat this? over 50 years in the league and still playing successfully in the top division, over to you Peter Taylor and Peter Lee). Recently Crosby High 'A' have shown great consistency in beating Maghull (6/4) CTK "A" (7/3) and BSM "A" (9/1), Rob Wylie is probably playing the best TT of his life and remained unbeaten in these matches, Gavin and Gemma both beat Ahmed Thabet and Dave Tagg in the CTK "A" match and Gemma was outstanding in winning her 3 at BSM "A".

Merseyside Police are chugging along nicely having taken 60 points from their 12 matches, Jon Taylor and Paul Gittins are not playing every week as they did in the draw against table topping Fords, they both played alongside Jon Dyson and won their 3 when winning 8/2 at BSM "A", a team of Jon Dyson, Graeme Cleary and John Hope did well to secure a 6/4 victory over CTK "A", Graeme and John both beat Ahmed 10/12 and 9/11 respectively in the 5<sup>th</sup> and all 3 beating Peter Taylor. Paul joined Jon and Graeme when drawing with a young Harold House team, Rachel Baker was in top form for HH remaining unbeaten on the night whilst Fiona Dennett beat Graeme to ensure the draw.

The Harold House side changes from week to week but they have introduced some fine young

players to the division this season, Yeng Kho has been particularly impressive with some good wins over established players, he was player of the match in their draw with CTK winning his 3 singles and pairing with Fiona to take the doubles, Fiona also proved her worth in coming back from 2 sets to 1 down to beat Peter Lee 11/9 in the 5<sup>th</sup>. Ken Connor joined Yeng and Fiona in a fine 8/2 victory over CTK "A", Yeng and Ken both took 3 points and Fiona lost in the deciding set to Ahmed, unfortunately for them Yeng has returned home for 6 weeks and they came down to earth when losing 9/1 to BSM when Ken saved face in beating me.

CTK are having a steady season with 4 wins, 2 draws and 6 losses to date, to be honest I would have thought that a team with a wealth of experience, coupled with their ability, would be higher up the league, four of their losses have come in the last 6 weeks. Their team of Keith Bird, Peter Lee and John Lau gave Fords a fright when going down 7/3, Keith lost 12/10 in the 5<sup>th</sup> to Andy Taylor and they went down by the same narrow margin in the doubles, their 3 points came from wins over Phil Luxon. A similar picture emerged when losing 6/4 to Police, in this match they all defeated Jon Dyson, took the doubles but were unable to match the in form Paul Gittins and John Hope.

Crosby High's record of 6 wins and 6 losses confirms their up and down form, generally when they have their strongest team out they do well and Paul Chicchelli is proving to be a fine acquisition, he beat both Mal McEvoy and Terry Turner when they lost 8/2 at Fords. The card indicates he was the star of the night when they defeated Harold House 6/4, in this match he inflicted a rare defeat on Yeng Kho winning 12/10 in the deciding set, he is not, however, having everything his own way with Peter Lee playing brilliantly to beat him when they faced CTK, Cherrith Graham then outlasted Peter to win 12/10 in the 5<sup>th</sup> in a match won 6/4 by Crosby, their only real hiccup was when they suffered at the hands of BSM with Jamie Hewitt winning their only set against Dermot Tierney.

Maghull struggled early in the season when they were finding it difficult to field a third player of sufficient calibre to play with Matt Wilson and Kevin Lewis, that problem has now been sorted with Tony Kendall playing on a regular basis, with this settled team they secured their first win of the season at week 7 in beating Wavertree Labour 7/3, although Gary Watson proved to be too strong for them they each won the remaining games against Aaron Beech and Ian Black. They lost 6/4 to Crosby High "A" with Kev beating Gavin and Gemma Lloyd and Tony beating Gavin. When facing BSM "A" in a vital bottom of the table clash they provided themselves with some breathing space by winning 7/3, they followed up with an 8/2 victory over Harold House to take themselves clear of the relegation spots, Tony was in impressive form in winning his 3 with Fiona Dennett beating Matt and Kevin to secure the 2 points for HH.

CTK "A" have strengthened their squad with Tony Whelan returning from working abroad, this has resulted in consistently picking up points each week but not in gaining those elusive

wins required to drag themselves away from the bottom, Tony won his 3 singles when they lost 7/3 to Crosby High "A" and repeated the feat against Merseyside Police when they went down 6/4. They gave a good account of themselves when losing 6/4 to Bootle, Ahmed beat Alan, Tony beat Ted before combining with Peter Taylor to win the doubles.

There are few highlights to report on the performances of BSM "A", Ricky Brown, Fred Bainbridge and I remain competitive, each getting the intermittent good win but we do not have sufficient strength at this level, perhaps our claim to fame lies in the fact that no team has yet managed to beat us 10/0 (I really am scraping the barrel here), I won my 3 singles in our 7/3 defeat at Maghull, Fred had a great win over John Lau and I beat Tony Whelan and Peter Lee in our loss to CTK, Fred took our only point in beating the returning Ken Jackson when we faced our first team.

I hope you all enjoy the remainder of the season.

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## Division 2

## Paul Banks

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### Well, here we are again!

I wonder whether there is a low point to the season and if this time of the season is it?

What I mean is, when you start the season your high because your playing again after the close season and this carries on till possibly Christmas. After Christmas you have a brief honeymoon period after the break and for the last four weeks you can see the light at the end of the tunnel as well as the excitement of knowing that you are in a promotion / relegation battle. It's this period – late January to March that, according to Paul's emotion & seasonal table tennis theory (PESTTT) is the



hardest to keep yourself and your team motivated – driven – and hungry for success.

Any scientific theory has to be consistent in its data analysis and because I am limited to my own results / feelings on this matter (I cannot really tell from looking at the cards whether someone lost to so and so because of the time of the season, extra pressure at work, the recession etc), the theory is somewhat personal, unsound and

untested, so do let me know what your feelings are on this, maybe it is a well known sporting phenomena that I have stumbled upon or maybe its just some useless drivel to take up a few column inches. What I do think is a good idea

and one that would keep all teams and players on their toes especially though this hard time of the season, would be the introduction of a different points system. What is there to motivate people in a match when their team will neither be relegated nor promoted other than their inner winner?

The Preston summer league has a points system where each game won counts towards your points at the end of the night for example if you lose to your opponent 2-3 you still get 2 points to add to your teams tally for the evening and so on, so each game really counts. Looking at the cards sometimes and seeing how many games go to five sets, I think this system would add a new dimension and give everyone in the division a whole lot more to play for!!

I have decided on a new format for these notes and here it is! The notable wins have been decided by a highly qualified executive committee of one, hereby to be referred to as PED-MC – Paul’s executive decision making committee.

### **Marconi. (Predicted placing #3)**

Marconi have benefited from my wise words from last season where I pointed out that they would be contenders if they had a more regular line up, and that is exactly what has happened. Marconi, at time of writing are currently top of the division. The nucleus of Bob Edwards, Frank McCann and Ian Wensley are proving to be a very tough proposition.

Notable wins: It is difficult to include notable wins for someone like Bob Edwards who beats most people anyway, but, first card I look at shows Bob taking the unbeatable Les Molyneux in three, wow!

Same match another notable win is for Ian Wensley who (although used to five setters and would therefore do very well out of my proposed points system) manages to pip Alice Howard 17-15 in the fifth.

Frank McCann is my player of the second third of the season (Roy Adams was the first third – remember) Frank seems to get better all the time and has had some great results this season

– (not just in this league), how I beat him I still don’t know and I don’t think Frank knows, but he scares the life out of me when I am playing him, with his steady consistent flat hitting and ability to play at 100 miles an hour he is a real handful. Franks notable win is his defeat of George Lennon in four sets.

Top of the table status is summed up by the 10-0 thrashing Bob, Frank and Ian gave Bootle YM ‘A’ in week 11.

### **Manweb. (Predicted placing #2)**

Manweb, maintaining their push for promotion are in second spot in the division. This fact reflects very well on Manweb’s two regulars Les Molyneux and Paul Evans after Alice Howard’s departure down south.

Les barely makes a mistake and his effortless style is lovely to watch, which is what I found myself doing whilst playing him. However with Paul Evans you think that you are doing okay – maybe in with a shout and then suddenly after a lot of puffing and blowing you’ve lost three straight. So where do you start with notable wins; well for Les it has to be three notable wins whilst at home to CTK. beating Billy, Mikael and Ming all in the same night is some feat.

Paul’s notable win was against Bob Edwards in the fifth.

### **CADWA. (Predicted placing #1)**

Next up in the holy trinity is CADWA who are only three points behind Manweb and with a more regular team must be the favourites for the title?, Cadwa’s team of Graeme Black, Alan Timewell and George Lennon cover all bases, speed, spin and bamboozlement, (I’ll let you figure out who is who there).

Top average is Graeme Black who equalled Les’s effort at CTK as his notable win, next is Alan Timewell whose notable win is over Roy Adams in three, followed by George Lennon’s notable win over Mick Tierney in the fifth.

### **Harold House. (Predicted placing #4)**

Fourth place is occupied at present by Harold House and wow what a second third of the season they have had, I don’t know too much about their players having not been at the match where we met them in the first half but they are

getting the points over every team they play and what do points make – exactly – prizes.

Notable win for the team was at Manweb A where they came away with a 9-1 win, Alec Bryce, Steve Whalley and Neil Baker winning the point here over a regular second division team and making it look somewhat easy. It shows the strength in depth at Harold House if these players cannot get into the first team, but they will get to the first division if not this season then next, put your house on it – ‘monster, monster’.

#### **Christ The King B. (Predicted placing #5)**

In at number 5 we have CTK (B)! CTK have a nucleus of Billy Cheung and Mikael Bellec and have been joined by Ming Liu and Steve Kee on different occasions. This is a super team, capable of beating any team in the division, their 5-5 draw with CADWA proves this, a consistent number three would I am sure put them in a higher position. Billy Cheung has a great all round game perfectly happy to attack or defend (with seemingly equal success), his notable win was over Paul Evans, who similarly has a defend / attack style, Mikael is a more attacking player, who has a very natural style and plays some wonderful shots, Mikael’s notable win was also over Paul Evans but managed to outdo Billy by taking Alice Howard as well.

#### **Wavertree Labour (A). (Predicted placing #6)**

Wavertree Labour (A) have had a core team of Mick Tierney, John Rowan and Paul Banks so far this season, they have not had the best of seasons so far but they keep plugging away. Mick Tierney is a delight to watch when the game is fast, he manages to push the ball around at will all over the table, sometimes even when his back is turned, Mick’s notable win has to be over Graeme Black who he beat 12-10 in the fifth, wow, what a game that was. John Rowan has been officially recorded as the hardest hitter of the ball in England and when they land there is nothing you can do about them, John’s notable win was over Dave Holland at Fords. Paul Banks has done a good job making the tea but precious little else.

Manweb (A). (Predicted placing #8)

Manweb (A) was another team who would be in a better position if they had a more consistent line up. The team is made up of Dave Harse, Roy Adams and A.N.Other, Dave Harse must have the most lethal backhand in the division and used it to

good effect for his notable wins over Alan Timewell and George Lennon – both in the fifth set. Roy Adams has the ability to hit anything that is a millimetre over the net and with a great all round game he is extremely tough to beat. Roy’s notable win was over Billy Cheung in the fourth set.

Fords (A). (Predicted placing #7)

Fords (A) seem to have a four man rotation with Bob Hughes, Robbie Goldson, Dave Holland and Grahame Reid. Bob Hughes is a rather intense attacking player who makes expert use of his pimples, Bob’s notable win was over John Higham who he managed to dispatch quite easily in three. Robbie Goldson is a super player who manages to get everything back and then fly across from the other side of the room to hit a ball that’s popped up with nothing on it. Robbie has had many notable wins and probably much better performances than this but his notable win was over Paul Banks who he has never managed to beat before despite coming very close on every occasion. Dave Holland’s notable win was over Mick Tierney who he beat 11-6 in the fifth. Grahame Reid is another steady player who likes to all of a sudden hit five balls past you, Grahame’s notable win was over John Rowan in three sets. Have you noticed how a lot of wins are over Wavertree Labour (A), hmm, must be a lesson to learn there.

Bootle YMCA (A). (Predicted placing #9)

Bootle have a four man rotation of John Higham, Danny Every, Richie Winckle and Roly Wright, they have shown themselves to be a steady second division team and have demonstrated their desire to stay there last week with a 6-4 win over (ahem) Wavertree Labour (A). John Higham has the ability to make your life difficult and then from nowhere wallops the ball down your backhand, John’s notable win was over Dave Harse. Danny Every has some great shots and likes the fast play, Danny’s notable win was over Dave Holland 13-11 in the fifth. Richie Winckle must rival Dave Harse for the fastest backhand in the west (north) but Richie has the special talent of being able to pull out that shot from wherever he is on the table. Richie’s notable win was over John Henshaw in three sets. Roly Wright has a very steady all round game that you underestimate at your peril, Bob Hughes found this out the hard way and lost 12-10 in the fourth set for Roly’s notable win.

Maghull (A). (Predicted placing #10)

Maghull have a fairly consistent line up of Fred Pheysey, Alan Jones and Peter Holmes. Fred Pheysey will always make life difficult for you with his patented awkward style. Freds notable win was over Bill Stanley in the fourth set. Alan Jones is able to make life even more difficult than Fred and with this ability and the extra training he was telling me about is taking some big scalps. Alan's notable win was over Dave Holland in three. Peter Holmes is Mr top spin, which he places (usually) down my backhand blind spot, Peter had his work and his spin cut out by Bill Stanley but still managed to take him in the fifth set.

Wavertree Labour (B). (Predicted placing #11)

Wavertree Labour (B) have had a tough season and find themselves at the bottom of the division and with all bias / club loyalty etc aside, I foresee a drop for them at the end of the season. However they have shown themselves to be the model of

professionalism, stoically plugging away, this never say die approach / or maybe it's a couldn't care less approach has brought them a number of crafty scalps. The team is made up mostly of Tony Connor, Mike Ashton and Bill Stanley. Tony Connor with his pen hold style is another who likes the fast play and moves the ball around the table expertly; this is backed up by Tony's 43% average at time of writing. Tony's notable win was over Frank McCann in three sets. Mike Ashton is another super steady player, able to get the ball on the table from anywhere, Richie Winckle and Danny Every found this out as Mike beat them both in the fifth for his notable wins.

Well there it is, next comes the interesting part of the season, let's see how many predictions I get right?

Good luck for the rest of the season.

Paul Banks

Wavertree Labour.

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## Division 3

## Russell Thornton

Well here we are now in 2009 and I hope it will be a Happy New Year for you all and it looks like my calls for more input into these notes from team captains and players have finally been answered, I have received some comments of which I have put to print.

In week 7 top of the league Crosby High 'B' were away at Aigburth and came away with a 8-2 win, but it was the night that Roger Neal lost his unbeaten record going down 11/9, 7/11, 7/11, 8/11, to Aigburth's Alan Davies, Aigburth's only other point coming in the doubles when Alan teamed up with Ian Laird to Beat Sylvia Graham and Dave Evans 3 straight.

2nd placed Police were hosts to bottom team Marconi 'B' and were 9-1 victors, Marconi's



only point being a Paul Loftus win over Tony Edge.

The other Marconi team, Marconi 'A' who were still holding on to 3rd place were held to a draw at home to Bootle YM who were without the in form Shakil Malik, Marconi's Adrian Branham managed to win 3 and team up with Bobby Bell to win the doubles,

Bootle's Roly Wright and Bert Rivers replied with 2 wins each over Bobby and Dave McMahon.

Harold House were home to Bath St. M 'D' and were 7-3 victors with Martin Roberts winning his 3, however Ted Cramsie replied with 2 wins over Eddie Clein and Rod McPherson and then teamed up with Graham Oates to win the doubles.

Two mid table matches played this week

were Manweb at home to Maghull, 7-3 to Manweb due to Neil Jennings and Alan Evans taking 3 points each and winning the doubles together. In the other match Cadwa were 6-4 victors over Bath St. M 'C' helped by 2 wins each for Mike Power and Paul Lunan however Rob Peat went one better by taking 3 for the visitors.

In the 8th fixture week Crosby High were still going strong this time with an 8-2 win at home to Bath St.M 'C, Sylvia Graham and Dave Evans winning 3 each and the doubles together, Rob Peat and Dave Stodder both beating Roger Neal for the visitors, Sylvia wrote ' It was a good match with lots of deuce games, Bath St unlucky not to have got a couple more points but credit to the home team preserving until the very end, the highlight was Dave and I winning the doubles.'

The Harold House team of Martin Roberts, John Hughes, and Rod McPherson inflicted a 10-0 defeat on an under strength Cadwa, and the Maghull team of Tom Downing, George Frost, and Phil Christie subjected Marconi 'A', who were playing with a man short, to a 9-1 defeat.

The Police team had a very close match away at Bath St. M 'D' they were in fact 4-2 down until Brenda Bouey beat both Graham Turner and Ted Cramsie, and Tom Purcell beat Billy Clayton, and then Tom and Brenda teamed up in the doubles to scrape the win.

Aigburth were victorious away at Bootle YM by 7-3, helped by 2 wins each from Alan Davies, Lee Proffitt, and Ian Laird. Ian had a very good win over Shakil Malik 14/12 in the 5th.

Bottom team Marconi 'B' were beaten 8-2 at home to Manweb helped by 3 wins from Neil Jennings. Marconi's 2 wins coming from a Paul Loftus win over Arthur Harrison and a Ken Roberts win over Alan Evans 13/11 in the 5th.

The main match in week 9 was Police at home to Harold House, Tom Purcell wrote 'A keenly fought match, Police took a 3-1 lead with 2 wins from Brenda Bouey and Brian Burrows, but Harold House fought back to lead 4-3 with good wins from Martin Roberts, John Hughes and Rod McPherson, Tom Purcell looked like he was going to level the match, he was 2-0 up against Rod, but Rod fought back and eventually won 13/11 in the 5th game, Brenda Bouey won the 9th set against Martin Roberts leaving the police team 5-4 down going into the last set, the doubles, Tom and Brenda played John and Martin, Tom made up for

losing his 3 singles by playing out of his skin, his flashing backhand was applauded by all the players and John Hughes threatened violence if Tom smashed the ball past him on one more occasion, the match ended 5-5 but it was a good spirited match played with enthusiasm by all players.'

Crosby High moved 20 points clear of the Police at the top of the division with a 9-1 win over Cadwa, Cadwa's facesaver was a Mike Power win over Roger Neal.

Marconi 'A' for the second consecutive week played with a man short this time at home to their B team, the A's 2 players could not stop the B team helping themselves to their first win of the season by 7 sets to 3.

Bootle YM won 7-3 against a weakened Bath St. M 'C'. The other Bath St. M team were beaten 6-4 at Manweb, with Neil Jennings and Trevor Barraclough winning 3 sets each.

Another draw in week 9 was when Aigburth entertained Maghull, Maghull were 4-2 down after 6 sets but fought hard to lead 5-4 after Phil Christie defeated Lee Proffitt 13/11 in the 5th, only for Alan Davies to beat Tom Downing 3-1.

In week 10 Crosby High had a close match at Bootle YM, 6-4 the score with Bootle's Shakil Malik beating all 3 Crosby players.

Harold House moved into 2nd place with a 7-3 win over Manweb with Rod McPherson and Aidan Ranftler winning 3 sets each.

Cadwa got a creditable draw at Police, Tom Purcell wrote 'a good close game with 7 sets going to 5 games, the match depended on the final set when Mike Power beat Len Dyson 11/9 in the 5th game to draw the match.

Marconi 'A' won their first match in 7 with a 6-4 victory at Bath St. M 'D', Adrian Branham winning his 3 for Marconi.

The team of Alan Davies Ian Laird and Lee Proffitt inflicted 10-0 defeat on Marconi 'B', the two closest matches being Ian beating Ken Roberts 11/8 in the 5th and Lee beating his great-uncle Frank, also 11/8 in the 5th.

Maghull got off to a good start in their match against Bath St. M 'C' when Phil Christie had an excellent win over Rob Peat, Phil went on to win his 3 and put his side 5-3 up only for Karen Gibson to beat Tom Downing and then Rob and Karen to team up to win the doubles to earn a draw.

Crosby High made it 11 wins out of 11 when they won 8-2 at home to Maghull, Maghull's Phil

Christie was in fine form again beating Roger Neal 12/10 in the 5th game, their only other win was George Frost's win over Sylvia Graham. Harold House also were 8-2 winners away at Marconi 'A' with Adrian Branham winning the 2 sets for the home team the only downside that night for Adrian was that he lost his unbeaten record as he went down 11/3 in the 5th game to Aidan Ranftler. Of this match Bobby Bell wrote 'I'm making no excuses we were beaten by the better team I'm not going to mention Tony's tennis elbow or Adrian's difficulty in seeing the ball (Although he did win 2) or my two bad knees and sciatic nerve problems..... WE KNOW WHEN WE'RE WELL BEATEN.' well mentioned Bobby!!

Manweb lost 7-3 at home to the Police, their consolations being 2 wins for Neil Jennings and a very good Arthur Harrison win over Tom Purcell 11/7 in the 5th. Police's Brian Burrows won his 3 singles and teamed up with Tom to win the doubles also.

Aigburth beat Bath St. M 'D' 6-4 thanks to Alan Davies 11/9 5th game win in the final set to complete his treble.

Cadwa were 6-4 winners at home to Bootle YM with 3 wins from Mike Power, a singles each from Peter Roberts and George Smith plus a win in the doubles.

Marconi 'B' lost 9-1 at Bath St. M 'C' their face saver being an excellent Dave McMahon win over Rob Peat 11/7 in the 5th.

Week 12 saw 2nd placed Harold House held to a 5-5 draw by Aigburth mainly due to a fine treble from Aigburth's Alan Davies.

Police were 7-3 winners at Marconi 'A' with a treble from Brenda Bouey, Marconi's Peter Wass won 2 sets on his return from injury.

The Bath St derby saw the C team beating the D team 6-4, Rob Peat winning a treble for C and doubles from Graham Turner and Ted Cramsie for the D team. Cadwa were beaten 7-3 at home by Manweb despite 2 wins from Mike Power and a very good win by Peter Roberts over Trevor Barracough, Peter was also unlucky to lose out to Robin Barker 13/11 in the 5th game of their match. Bootle YM managed a 5-5 draw at home to Maghull thanks to a treble from Shakil Malik, Maghull's Phil Christie and Tom Downing won their team's 5 points.

As we are almost two thirds of the way through the season I feel confident to make a prediction, Crosby High 'B' lead the division by 9 points with a game in hand, Harold House in second place have the ability to make up some ground, however I feel the lead Crosby have now got is too much ground, I also believe they will provide a great Hyde cup final.

I won't make any predictions about who will be relegated because at this point in time as I do not want to tempt fate.

Good luck  
Russ

This is my last block to fill with anything that may have come in late, or I may have forgotten from elsewhere, well no one has sent a late entry, I was hoping for something on the new schools league from Paul O'Leary, maybe I'll have something for next next Digest.

There seems to have been a constant stream of new club signings this season, new players to TT, players returning, good players from 'out of town', here for the added bite of the L&DTTL, all adding a bit more challenge to the matches, welcome to you all, hope to see you for many seasons to come.

Thanks to our 5 Div. Reporters for the work they put in, they seem to have gone into overdrive this Digest.

Looking at the number of National Leagues on the go these days, it's just as well we don't try putting teams into Rep. Leagues, it's surprising how many of our local players play in these National Leagues, The Senior British League, Women's British League, Junior British League, Vets. British League, Vets. National League, then all the County Leagues, all the VETTS tournaments, I don't know where you find the time, still the experience rubs off in our league matches, good luck.

Last, but not least, in the last Digest, in the Obituary for Dave Crispin, I mistakenly used a photo of Gareth Jones, in my mind I was so sure it was a photo of Dave, I didn't think of querying it, it was only after the first Digests were delivered that the mistake was pointed out, too late then, so I offer my apologies to anyone who was upset or offended by this genuine mistake. Roly Wright Editor

So another New Year begins and I take this opportunity to wish all a happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year, may 2009 shine upon you all, unless you are playing me that is.

2009 promises to be an eventful year for table tennis, first off there will be a contest for the leadership of the E.T.T.A. as Alan Ransome has decided to throw his hat in the ring and oppose Alex Murdoch in the election for Chairman, with Mike Smith of Leicestershire running as his Deputy Chairman. This is the first challenge Alex has had to face since his election four years ago and both sides are lobbying hard for votes.

The second big event recently announced to the National Council is that later this year there will be an English Open Tournament which will be part of the International Pro Tour and is to be held in Sheffield. If you want to see the best players in the world perform this will be your chance. It is some eight years since the last English Open, which was held in Chatham, so not so far to travel to see the best players perform.

And so to the fourth division at last, yes I know I prattle on about other things, but I have to keep the editor happy.

Things have changed somewhat since my first set of notes, Police have failed, so far, to measure up to the high billing I gave them, as have Cadwa B. but they are still nicely placed to make a push for one of the promotion places. Team of the year so far have been Manweb C, who are the only undefeated team in the division and provide the player with the best individual record in Jason Ao, who has still to loose a set, well done Jason, it is all the practise he gets at Wavertee Labour on a Friday evening in my opinion.

And so to the matches:

## WEEK 5.

No close matches this week in the cards I have before me, Cadwa B whitewashed Maghull D though Harry McGanity took both George



Higham and John Ashley to five. Wav. Lab.D lost 2/8 against Manweb C, Andy Bird and Steve Perry beating Ben Chen and David Ao. Aigburth B sent Maghull C home with little to cheer about as they romped to an 8/2 victory, Harry McGanity beating Neil Croxton and Mike Russell beating Phil Crompton for the visitors. Finally Wav. Lab. C beat Cadwa C 8/2.

## WEEK 6.

Linacre were the looser when they hosted Maghull C by six sets to four, the unflappable Harry Reeve winning his customary three, but only supported by Dave Ferguson who won their other point, good night for Mike Russell who featured in three of the winning sets for Maghull, three sets went to five, but Linacre lost all of them. Aigburth B ran out easy winners on their visit to Maghull D only Alan Chan winning a singles set for the home side. The next two matches involved teams in the top four places, Cadwa B beat Wav. Lab. C 6/4 and Manweb C and Police B fought out a draw, Jason Ao winning all three visits to the table, and Wav. Lab. D conceded a walkover against Cadwa C.

## WEEK 7.

This week started with Police B beating Cadwa C 7/3, Josef Koudelik beating both Len Dyson and Tommy Lynch with Paul Webb beating Alan Cameron for their other point. Wav.Lab. C followed with a whitewash of Maghull D. The week finished with Maghull C just failing to hold out against Aigburth A going down 4/6 and just failing to get the draw when they lost the penultimate doubles. WAV. Lab. D LOST 9/1 AGAINST cadwa B with only three players, this team has struggled of late with the absence of Colin Fyles through health problems and Steve Perry with shift duties, and finally Aigburth B drew with Linacre, notable for the ever dependable Harry Reeve loosing against Derek Traynor.

## WEEK 8

Cadwa B hosted Police B and were very inhospitable as they defeated their opponents 6/4, Ian Burrows, surprise surprise their top man of the night with three wins from three sets, Wav. Lab. C recorded the same score against Aigburth B, Mario Giove beating John Tsang and Neil Crompton. Manweb C continued on their imperious way with an 8/2 defeat of Maghull C, only Mike Russell beating Francis Lay spoiling their night. For the second week running Linacre drew their match, this time away to Aigburth A and for the second week running Harry Reeve lost to the opposing no. two, in this case Norman Lindsay. Maghull D beat Wav. Lab.D by the narrowest margin, man of the match for Wavertree Femi Olerunfemi with two singles wins over Wilf Gibson and Andy McCourt.

## WEEK 9.

Police B thundered to an 8/2 victory against Maghull D, their top three, Len Dyson, John Moore and Alan French winning all of their sets, only the luckless Alan Cameron failing to register a singles win. Harry Reeve was at it again this week loosing to the opposition no.2, in this case Jason Ao, so some excuse there, but how long is it since Harry lost a set in three successive matches? In any event Manweb kept their unbeaten record with a 6/4 victory. In the Derby match between Aigburth B and Aigburth A the lesser lights!!! emerged successful with a resounding 7/3 win, I understand the A team have promised their juniors a drubbing when they play them at home/Another derby match as Wav. Lab. D hosted Wav. Lab. C with a much depleted D team loosing 10/0. Maghull C really spit their collective dummy out against Cadwa c as they ran out winners by 8/2, mind you four sets went the full distance and Maghull won them all, only Paul Webb and Josef Koudelik standing in the way of a walkover.

## WEEK 10.

Cadwa B beat a Maghull C side without Harry McGanity winning 8/2 Brian Gregory and Warren Lee winning one each for Maghull. Manweb C went one better as they thrashed Aigburth A 9/1, that man Norman Lindsay saving the white-wash when he beat Alvin Tso. Wav. Lab. C. ran

out easy winners against Police B taking a 7/3 victory and pushing themselves up to second spot in place of Police, it might have been worse for Police but for a Len Dyson double over Dong Xia and Mario Giove and John Moore making it a miserable night for Dong. Linacre travelled to Cadwa C and fought out another draw and once again Harry Reeve lost to no.2 Josef Koudelik, Harry Nelson winning all three of his sets.

## WEEK 11.

They did it again!! Linacre forced a draw against Cadwa B, only this time Harry won all three of his sets along with two wins from Harry Nelson that was enough for the draw. Police beat a full strength Wav.Lab D team, Colin Fyles returning after a long lay off beat Len Dyson 11/8 in the fifth and Andy Bird was the only other winner for Wavertree against Alan Cameron. Aigburth A returned a resounding win against Cadwa C running out winners by 9/1, no John O'Sullivan for Cadwa. Aigburth B suffered the same result against Manweb C, with Jason Ao finally re-ranked to no.1, only slip-up was in the second doubles with Ben Chan and Robert Wong loosing to Phil Crompton and Ian Findow, and in the final match of the year the two Maghull teams fought out a draw, again no Harry for the C team, of the eight players only J.Mc Loughlin won both singles.

## WEEK 12.

A New Year dawned but Manweb C march on in habitual fashion with a 9/1 win against Cadwa C, our Chairman, Don Davies played in this match but it was only Josef Koudelik who managed to record a victory when he beat Alvin Tso. Aigburth A did Cadwa no favours when they met; running out winners 6/4, both doubles going Aigburth's way proving the difference. Police B returned to winning ways when they visited Aigburth B and left with an 8/2 win, Neil Croxton the only singles winner for Aigburth, and Wav.Lab.C shorn of no.1 Dong who has returned to China for his annual visit, still managed a 7/3 victory when they visited Maghull C, Brian Gregory with two singles wins for Maghull matched by Lee Farley with two for Wavertree.

That's all for now folks.

Biggest news of this quarter has been the rapid rise of Harold House 'C', last time I didn't have much to comment on as they had played so few games, now they are definitely out of the blocks and breathing on the neck of Arriva 1<sup>st</sup> 10 points free from a cancelled match with Wavertree Labour 'E', was nice.

Concentrating on what's happening on the table, Harold's number 3 Michael Siu has been a revelation, leading the averages with an unblemished 100% record for months (see later), number 1 Rob Midgeley and 2 Paul Morgan had only 1 game dropped, and they lost their clean record to the same man. In the top of the table clash with Arriva 1<sup>st</sup>, Derek Scotland took them in the first and last matches of their 7-3 win, both losing 11/9 in 4, Derek also contributed to the visitors other point, winning second doubles with Graham. Rob got revenge on Graham, 11/7 in 't 5<sup>th</sup>, as Paul went from strength to strength against Pavel, in 3. Graham gave it his best shot in the 1<sup>st</sup> game with Michael but missed out 12/10. Kristof did slightly better, taking a game off him. Mendel Williams proved he had bottle, winning crucial deuce games in matches with the Polish chaps, so, a clear gap shown by Harold House 'C' in this head to head.

As you can imagine if they can crush their nearest opponents 7-3, the rest have tumbled like pins, and it's more interesting to report worthy attempts by the opposition, e.g. Chris Johanson for EdgeHill taking a game off Rob. A 10-0 night when Mendel Williams played his first match for HH'C' and won his first game 11-0. Mike Poole came in for the BYMCA'C' (8-2) match but lost singles to John Taylor & Gary Williamson. Mike was the most worked player in the following match with Maghull 'E' (8-2); four games with Denise Chorley, each of his wins from deuce, previous to this he had 5 sets v Warren Lee ending in deuce but in Warren's favour. Doubles was the next most hotly contested sets, each in 5, Janette & Naresh were delighted preventing defeat in the 4<sup>th</sup> game 13/ and well ahead 4/ in the decider against Rob & Michael.

Maghull 'F' team, at home, fared even better, 4-6, a match that Michael, this time Siu would rather have not played in, Maghull reserve/secret weapon (!) Steve Appleton won his two, he and the other Steve – Jones, took Michael's 100% record, first Mr Jones in 3 after a 13/11 opener, later Mr A in 3, again after a close



opener 11/9. Mr A took Mike Poole who also suffered at the hands of John S McLoughlin for a fine win by the youngster. So two of Harold House having a nightmare, whilst Rob & Paul held the ship – just as well the doubles were split, each went to 4 but in HH'C's favour after being 1-1.

Arriva'A' weren't able to make any impression for their club mates as they went down 10-nil, Kristov Lenyk certainly tried; 4 games lost 10/12 (!) to Rob & Paul including the 5<sup>th</sup> v Paul, Lynton Hunter also close against Mendel. It's hard to keep up, but I think those 2 defeats for Michael, dropped him to 4<sup>th</sup> in the averages (2 defeats) behind Rob & Paul & Derek (1 defeat), looks like the next Arriva 1<sup>st</sup> v Harold House 'C' match on 2<sup>nd</sup> March might not decide who wins the league but could decide who comes out top of the averages.

Rob & Paul have been constants for Harold House with the 3 on rotation, this is a team that will be top of the table, or second with a game in hand, for the rest of the season.

It's interesting that the two Bath Street Marine teams are conjoined mid-table, whereas the historically identical twins from Maghull are well separated, it was shown how well balanced the Bath St Marine teams are, when they duly fought each other to a draw, Mal Kent unbeaten for the 'E' just as Paul Oakes was for the 'F'. This came in the middle of a tremendous run from Bath St. Marine 'F' since they were beaten 10-0 by BYMCA'C' in week 4, their next match with HH'C' was postponed and they used the break to reconsider and re-evaluate. And how well it was done, Benitez & Moyes should take notes from these guys as they have since gone on a tremendous unbeaten run, win (7-3 over Maghull 'F') - followed by win (7-3 over Arriva 'A') - followed by aforesaid Draw with club mates - followed by Draw (at Wav. Lab 'E'). Cancelled match v Police 'C' w/c 8<sup>th</sup> Dec didn't break their stride as they then had their (and anybody else's for that matter) best result of all – a Draw at HH'C' 5-5 on 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. Away draw at Maghull 'E' and strong 7-3 home win over Aigburth 'C' to wrap this period up. Not that it's been smooth sailing, as Albert Parker has had knee trouble and will miss more games, this prompted Brian Crolley to come in and Paul to move to the team's No.2, if they and Barbara & Cyril, keep

this up, they will be certain to be well ahead of their club mates at the end of the season.

Their match with Aigburth 'C' was one of a few "odd" matches that were played out this quarter, 3 of the home team failed to win their singles but the team won 7-3! APH turned up one short and were quickly down to 2, Paul reports "Stunning game between No 1s ended with Ian Findon pulling calf muscle led to very short evening, Eric tricky as ever, Barry-Brian some great rallies but Brian doesn't miss and defends like a wall."

Bath St. 'E' are struggling to keep ahead of the trail-blazing 'F', 7-3 over Aigburth 'C', Ian Findon btg Kevin in 5. A Strong 9-1 from EdgeHill, 2<sup>nd</sup> Doubles – Terry & Craig, Mal in 5 over Chris, Richard close v Chris & Craig, each in 4. Loss 4-6 from BYMCA'C', Mal the home hero and Jim hero for BYM. Kev bt Joe narrowly 11/9 in 5<sup>th</sup>, after losing to Arth in 5, the only sets to go all the way.

Maghull 'E' team are looking to be 3<sup>rd</sup> fine 8-2 wins over WavLab 'E' and Police 'C' (Geoff Pye beat Janette, fine win for Sam Gittins over Denise 11/, 10/ and 9/), 5-5 with Bath St. 'F' when without Naresh. Match o.t. night was Warren v Barbara; 13/11, 8/11, 9/11, 11/9 9/11 to Barbs. Doubles played in player order both to visitors and the 13/11 5<sup>th</sup> game in 1<sup>st</sup> doubles helped secure the draw, good night for Jimmy with wins over Paul & Cyril, Paul not quite able to force a 5<sup>th</sup>, 12/10 in 4<sup>th</sup>

Conversely to Bath Street, the gulf between Maghull E and F was shown in their derby, 9-1 to the 'E's, Janette lost to James in the last game to give the consolation point, Naresh also struggled with James but came through 12/10 in 't 5, Denise had a few deuce games but came through v Stephen & John S. Warren was too strong for Barry in the 1<sup>st</sup> match and got better after a shaky start v John S, card comment - "Question: Are Maghull'F' the team which looks most like a boy band?" We'll have to send Roly down for pictures to be posted on the website and then we can decide.

The family friendly policy at Maghull is beginning to pay off, not only with Hutchins but also McLoughlins. John McLoughlin and his sons Jim and John S are now regulars for the 'F' team.

Maghull 'F' 7 EdgeHill 3, both John & John S were happy bunnies and Chris & Terry had a singles win and then won doubles over Steve Jones & Barry Hutton. Maghull'F' lost to Aigburth'C' in a lower half of the table duel, for the home team, John unbeaten and Jim narrowly lost out to Ian Findon 11/9 in 5<sup>th</sup> but beat Alan. Every visitor won at least one game and the 14/12 in 5<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> doubles win by Barry & Eric secured victory 6-4.

Arriva

Arriva 10 Maghull 'F' 0

Three members of the McLoughlin clan as John S joined John & James. No mercy from the 1,2,3,4 of Arriva who are desperate not to take their foot off the accelerator. Arriva 9 BSM'E' 1, Mal did his best against Derek who won in 5, but recovered against Harry to win 3 in arrow 9/ to prevent the whitewash. Arriva 'A' 4 – Arriva 6 Not quite as good as 1<sup>st</sup> would have liked. Derek got his 2, but Graham (in 5) and Pavel went down to Lynton. Harry got the 1<sup>st</sup> game off Kristov who then took the next 3 by 2 pts each. Kristov & Lynton took 1<sup>st</sup> doubles off Harry and Graham in 5. Arriva 'A' 2 – BYMCA'C' 8 Brian bt John in 5, Brian & Kristov won 1<sup>st</sup> doubles from 2-1 down v Steve & Gary, Kristov lost to Joe in 5.

BootleYMCA'C'

They've been pushed down the order but still vying for third, started well with 7-3 over EdgeHill, Jim had quite a battle against Chris Johanson 11/9, 12/14, 14/16, 12/10 9/11, every game decided by the narrowest margin, but Chris won out, similarly, Jim had a close games with Craig Walker but over in 3 in favour of Craig. Another good solo win for Terry over Joe Rees in 4, but the top and tail of the singles; Steve & John, didn't lose (Steve coming back from 2-1 down against Terry). Draw with Maghull 'E', unusually Steve lost his 2, but to good opposition in Janette & Warren who went on to beat Arthur and Jim respectively. I've seen Warren play up for their D team and can testify to what a good player both he and Michael Russell are, Janette again had Amy (ranked 15 below her mum) in support and also James Mc. was called on as reserves, Janette & Amy took a game off Arthur and Jim G in the doubles. James & Warren teamed up to come back to win a close doubles 10/ and 8/ in the last 2 of 5. The draw favoured Maghull 'E' as defeat 4-6 would have had them level.

BYMCA'C' did get a 6-4 against a Maghull team a fortnight later, the 'F' team, double from Joe Rees contributing to the win, John Mc winning both, Steve btg Jim in 5 /9, Steve Jones coming back to beat John Taylor in 4.

Aigburth PH 'C'

Aigburth PH'C' are a team of characters for sure, e.g., losing 8-2 to Arriva 'A' Derek reports "Great fun night, plenty of laughs, played in the best of spirits, even Eric!!!. longest 3 setter ever, Eric v Lynton Hunter." Barry beat Kristov and Eric beat Stephen Carey. No.1 Ian Findon had a good 5 game win over BSM 'E's Kevin Eggleton. Draw to 1 man short Wav. Lab 'E', Eric & Barry beating Tony Leung, as Gordon & Eric took their singles and Gord & Tony won the doubles. Edge Hill

Wk 8 v Arriva NW'A' 1-7, both teams a player short 2 games void, no played sets won by Edge Hill, though

3 went to 5, Chris having deuces aplenty against Kristov and Lynton.

Wavertree Labour 'E'

Gordon was the player who got the only points at Maghull 'E' beating Naresh & Denise. Whitewash from Arriva 1st, all over in 3 sets for a very short night, 7-3 win over EdgeHill, Chris & Lewis 1<sup>st</sup> doubles, Gord & Sharon 2<sup>nd</sup> doubles – having the highest scoring game yet – 20/18, some revenge for Gord & Sharon after losing the previous game to Terry & ig 11/13, Chris thwarted Eric in a see-saw 5 game, Terry v. convincing in his win over Tony.

Merseyside Police 'C'

Draw with Wav Lab 'E', Geoff Pye 2 for Police as Tony Leung 2 for WLE, both were challenged; Geoff winning 2&3 games 13/ 13/ in 5 setter from Gordon, and Tony by Neil Thomas 9/11 in 5<sup>th</sup>. 2 teams close to each other but Police needing points to make good use of the game in hand. Another draw chalked up to Aigburth 'C', "game 2 saw 84 yrs old Eric Young (he thinks he is the oldest player in div 5) just about beat Michael Evans 12 years old (possibly the youngest player in div 5) in a 5 set game." that's a 72 year difference, hope Michael is still playing when he is Eric's age, Eric already thinks he is Michael's age! 2 points from the visit of high-flyers Arriva 1<sup>st</sup>, Sam surprised Graham with a strong finish to their 4 game set 7 & 4, Sam previously having teamed up with Dave Oakes to win 2<sup>nd</sup> doubles over Derek & Pavel, Harry also in strong form winning singles without dropping a game.

And finally,

John Taylor was moved by BYMCA 'C's match at Arriva 'A' to email: "Thought I should make a comment about the match which was what can only be described as a great night's entertainment, never heard so much laughter at a table tennis match, what a team of characters, every game was played in great spirit with plenty of rib tickling comments for every comical moment, of which there were a few. Gary Williamson foul volley serve in the doubles that went down Lenyk Kristov's shirt, Joe Rees chair collapsing during a rally (stay off the mince pies Joe). Alan Jones bat slipping out of hand and hitting referee when totally missing a smash (everyone nearly had stomach cramps laughing at this one, 10min before we could restart, then nobody could remember the score, hilarious). These were just some of the incidents throughout the night, all of which received great merriment, with a Bootle team leaving very happy, not just because of

the score (2-8) but because of a great night playing table tennis in the spirit it should be played.

I would like to pass on my compliments to an Arriva team full of great characters who know how to entertain and give you a good game of TT."

Doug

How's this for a rule change? If a home team don't play their match on the handbook date, and then the away team can't meet any of the rearranged offerings, then the away team get the points. After all the Away team were ready to play on the agreed date.

I'm afraid Doug's been a bit selective with the Rule, his point comes under Match Regulation 11 which gives a variety of 'acceptable' reasons why a match may be postponed

**11 ( d )** A team requiring a change of date under any of the foregoing circumstances must, immediately the circumstances giving rise to the change are known to them, notify their opponents and the Fixture Secretary that the match will not be played on its original date. A home team must, before any re-arranged match can be played give to their opponents and the Fixture Secretary **seven clear days notice of the new date**. All matches must be played within 8 weeks of the original match week number with the proviso that no match is played later than one week following the final week number of the playing season. Any fixture not played within this time scale, reasons for which have not been advised to the Fixture Secretary will be awarded to the away team as a 10-0 walkover. If an acceptable reason is given the match will be played in accordance with the final paragraph of this Management Rule.

*The final paragraph is*

The Management Committee shall be empowered to order the replay of any such abandoned match if in their opinion circumstances warrant such a match should be replayed.

i.e. The ManCom shall decide on the circumstances.

*Editor*

# Obituary

## Billy Holmes

1925 – 2009



It is with deep regret I have to inform you of the death of Billy Holmes, Billy played for many Clubs in his time, teams like Bibby's, Beauclair and more. But I remember him when himself, brother Harry, Billy Leeming and Jim Lightburn joined my old club Linnets, (Jimmy Green Gang).

I had the pleasure of playing with Billy, Harry, Bill Leeming and Charlie Gallanty in the Business Houses League with L.U.S.S.A.C.

Bill worked for Synthetic – Resins and I spent many dinner time practicing with him, Billy will be sadly missed.

Billy leaves his wife Rene, Daughters Barbara and Irene and Sons Alan and Billy

Eric Wood Aigburth TTC.



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## Letters to the Editor

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*In the last Digest, Paul Oakes of Bath St. Marine sent in a letter regards the "apparent" strength of one of the teams in the 5th Div. He mentioned League Sec. Mike Power in his letter, Mike has taken this opportunity to state the case of the ManCom. when considering how the divisions are formulated*

I feel I must reply to a letter published in the previous digest and make it clear that in respect of season 2007/08 the Management Committee were not made aware of the players who would be involved in the Police 'B' team until just prior to the commencement of the season (as is the norm) at which point it was too late to place them into a higher division as the divisions had already been formulated and each had a full compliment although Christ the King withdrew their 4<sup>th</sup> division team at the last moment. The letter inferred that if Doug Baker knew who the Police players were then the Management Committee should have known. Well, Doug didn't know who the players were, he only found out once the season had commenced having seen their results and their match cards. He therefore only knew in hindsight.

Each division is formulated as per the rules. The Police 'B' team was a new team and therefore correctly entered into the bottom division. The divisions were formulated during the summer (July/August) of 2007

before the clubs provided the League with their grouping lists which don't normally arrive in front of us until a week, or maybe less, before the season starts. Had we been advised earlier as to who they expected their players to be, as Crosby High did this season, we may, **if a vacancy had existed**, have placed them into a higher division. This is nothing new and is a well known fact and is indeed covered under rule 21(b).

It is always the intention of the Management Committee to provide all players with a competitive sport but unfortunately situations like the one above do occasionally happen and are, in the main, unavoidable. I would however take this opportunity to remind all club secretaries to brush up on rule 21(b) as it is only with the use of this rule that we have any hope of avoiding situations like this in the future.

Mike Power  
Hon. League Sec.

# Letters to the Editor

## NO DOUBLES

### PROPOSAL FOR 3 A SIDE DIVISIONS

**In any division consisting of 3 players per team each match shall consist of 9 singles sets only.**

**I can see no good reasons for keeping the doubles set but can present a number of good reasons to lose it.**

Can we first look at my recollection of the history of team set-ups?

5 A SIDE Each player played 2 sets of singles, total of 10. 10 was an important number as a draw could be attained from an even number and that gave a team 1 point. With 2 being awarded for a match win and no points for a match loss.

Captains could rank players as they saw fit, important as it gave captains an option in trying to decide the outcome of a match.

4 A SIDE Each player played 2 singles plus 1 set of doubles. Better, because each player now had 3 sets to play. Each match had a maximum of 10 points available. 10 now not an important number.

It is just the mathematical result of having a 4-player team set up. Players ranked for singles but not for doubles. Captain could rank doubles to try to ensure at least one win against the stronger sides.

3 A SIDE Each player has 3 sets of singles; same number of sets as 4 a side, so no diminishing of the amount of table tennis per player. We then seem to have locked ourselves into the thinking that we must end up with the figure of 10, so we throw in 1 set of doubles. Why???

**I could argue that we have ended up with a total number of sets that we do not need.**

Deciding a Divisional Title

A division can be decided on 9 points per match being available; we do not need to use multiples of 10.

10 is now a redundant total.

Captain's Ability Captains have now lost any ranking ability both in singles and doubles.

By only having 1 set of doubles the captain has limited opportunity to out think the other captain.

Their only weapon is the order in which the sets are played.

**If we continue to have one set of doubles it also gives some teams an unfair advantage.**

We have found that teams can have a player who is obviously playing in a division too low to his/her playing strength.

In the 4 a side format they can only contribute 30% of the total points; in the current 3 a side set up that rises to 40%.

In a 3 a side without doubles no player can contribute more than 33% of the total points available.

### Precedent set by the MC.

I could further argue that the MC has deemed that the doubles set is the least important set.

For a 3 a side divisional cup match they need to ensure that a result is reached on the night and hence need to drop one set, they have deemed that the doubles set be dropped. Similarly for the 4 a side divisional cups they drop one of the 2 doubles sets. They could have dropped the set consisting of the 2 number ones and taken the point of view that a set of doubles involves 4 players and hence more reflects the team ethic; but no they dropped a set of doubles.

### The argument for 3 a side Division.

When the proposal was put to the last AGM to move other divisions to 3 a side, one of the arguments was that we should concentrate on the singles skills of players. The loss of one set of doubles would not challenge that argument.

### The use of the doubles set

Out of the 13 matches we have played to date the doubles has been the last set played on most occasions.

This again shows its low importance in the eyes of captains/teams.

You could of course say that all the above are the rantings of an aged player who finds it difficult to play 4 good sets in a night.

Plus being poor at doubles does cloud my thoughts.

I do hope people take the trouble to read and comment either back to the digest or direct to me at [rod.bulmer@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:rod.bulmer@blueyonder.co.uk) but please be aware that any mails to me I will then forward to a wider audience.

Please also note that these are my personal comments and in no way represent the views of Maghull Table Tennis Club.

**Rod Bulmer**

**The Liverpool Closed  
Have you filled in your  
Entry form yet !!!**

**Must be completed and returned by  
Monday 16th March**

## ARTICLE FOR TABLE TENNIS DIGEST

It has occurred to me to try and work out when I first played in the Liverpool Leagues. This has not proved easy but with the help of our assiduous Editor I have been able to establish that I turned out for Brenka in the season 1955-1956. I suspect I played for Brenka a couple of years earlier but there is no proof. Accordingly this is my 51st season in the Liverpool Leagues (1957-58 to 59-60 were in the Manchester Leagues) and rather than write a rambling article, I have decided to deal with those 51 years by way of a question and answer format where I set both the questions and the answers. There are a number of players in the League who have similar longevity to mine and I do hope that a number of you will co-operate with the Editor in future editions by entering an article with a similar format to this one.  
Ted Birch - Bootle YMCA.

*Whereas I'm trying to encourage table Tennis for youngsters, and the effort that is being put into promoting table tennis in schools, we must still keep faith with those who have kept TT going for so long in Liverpool, the "aged", Ted has come up with this idea of a 'plus 50' club, but if not 50, maybe a 'plus 40' club. I hope it's not looked at as a "competition", not everyone will be able to draw on such eventful memories, but I'm sure they could put an answer to most of the questions, even having most of your TT in the lower divisions, there was always someone you would love to have beaten, and maybe did, I'm sure Billy Holmes would have had a few happy memories to add, too late now.*

*Anyone interested in taking part in future editions, please contact me. Editor*



### TED BIRCH (1955-66 -2009)

Prior to joining the Liverpool League, like many other people of my age I played in a Methodist Church Hall from about the age of 10 and so table tennis has been a part of my life for virtually as long as I can remember. So many games, so many matches, so many incidents, but most of all, so many friends.

#### 1. **Best Player Played Against** - John Hilton

Somehow I managed to get to the final of a 2\* event and found myself playing John Hilton in the final. Prefer to recall beating Keith Williams in the Semi-final! John, like the gentleman that he is, made the final into something of a game which actually went to 3, but 21-8 in the third says it all. The prizes were presented by the Lord Mayor, and I have to admit, hoping to get some splendid bauble but instead I got a white envelope with a cheque inside, a real disappointment and so I gave the cheque back to retain my amateur status!

#### 2. **Best Player Beaten.**

I once got to 20, all in the third against Pete Darcy but even if I had beaten him it would not have counted in my book because it coincided with the day of his third divorce hearing. It has to be Keith Williams.

#### 3. **Best Sportsman.**

Alan Chase. In 2000 Alan and I reached the last 32 in the World Over 50's Veteran's Doubles Championship in Vancouver and faced a very good Swiss and a German pair in that round. We had already well exceeded our expectations for progress in this event. At 18 All in the 3rd game we thought we had lost the point but the Japanese Umpire (female and all of 4'6") awarded the point to us. All hell let loose, particularly from the Swiss player and eventually the Umpire called the Tournament Referee to the table. After a lengthy delay, the Tournament Referee upheld the Umpires decision. However, they had both under estimated Alan Chase. When play resumed, instead of playing the ball with his bat Alan simply caught the ball in his hand in an attempt to concede the point to the opposition to make up for the injustice of the previous point. However the Umpire simply called a 'let' and ordered the point to be replayed and refused to award the point to our opponents. Alan then attempted to sabotage the next point, but yet again the Umpire called a 'let'.

Still undaunted and determined not to take advantage of a wrong decision and under enormous pressure from the Officials and a large crowd which had gathered, Alan winked at me and then hit the opponents next serve miles off the end of the table leaving the Umpire with no option but to award the point to our opponents. I was speechless throughout. Incidentally, we went on to win the game 21-19 only to lose in the round of the last 16 to the Danish 1 & 2 in a wonderful match, 21-14, 17-21, 17-21.

4. **Best Umpire.**

Jimmy Clewitt who I once persuaded to umpire 9 games and he wasn't even playing!

5. **Best Team Played For.**

Bootle YMCA in 1964. The team comprised Ralph Gunion (England no.3) Wally Allanson (Liverpool Closed Champion) Gordon Brownlie, yours truly and Ian Rogerson. Incidentally, Gordon Birch couldn't get in the team and was no. 1 in the 2nd team.

6. **Best Team Played Against.**

Very difficult decision but I have chosen the English Electric Team in the early 70's comprising a combination of Tony Clayton (English International), Wally Allanson, Peter Darcy (Cheshire Champion) Gordon Birch (Liverpool Closed Champion) Eddie Clein and Eric Youd.

7. **Best Competitor.**

It has to be Gordon Birch who went over two full seasons undefeated in the first division playing virtually every game. There was nothing outstanding about his game except the priceless ability to be able to control the ball in all circumstances plus of course a fierce determination to win.

8. **Worst Nightmare Opponent.**

I played Peter Flint many times but not only did I never get a game, I never even reached 10. His name came up in conversation earlier this season in a post match drinks session and it was enough to put me off my extra cold Guinness. I don't know where he is now playing and don't want to!

9. **Best Win.**

To understand my answer to this question you probably have to be a defender. Expedite is a dark art dominated by the mind. Many years ago when Eddy Clein was at his peak, I played him away at Liverpool Jewish and was 13-7 down in the 3rd game. That was my greatest ever win by many light years.

10. **Best Conditions**

Although it was too quick for me and I always struggled there, it has to be the old YMCA.

11. **The Most Talented Unorthodox Player.**

The great Ted Mandaluff, he would arrive with his newspaper in his jacket pocket and a pair of old pumps and sometimes you felt that he could have beaten you and read his newspaper at the same time.

12. **Biggest Defeat**

Away at Cadwa in the early 80's, 21-1, 21-0 to Neil Gravener, this was before he had "a little local difficulty" with Malcolm McAvoy.

13. **Funniest Moment**

There were so many with characters in my team like Frank (Con Artist) Murphy, Wayne (I'm Injured) Percival and Harry (Buddhist Militant) Harrison. Arriving at Beauclair for a match to find Harry Harrison literally standing on his head in the table tennis room takes some beating as does Frank Murphy turning up for a game with a full head of pink hair which had been jet black the week before, but the accolade for the funniest incident has to be Frank's win against a very young Tony Kendall at Liverpool YMCA in the early 80's. Although hopelessly outclassed Frank talked his way to a win including an infamous point when Tony was somehow persuaded by Frank that Frank's ball, which had missed the end of the table by at least 2 feet, had hit the edge. However, typical of the man, after the match Frank put his arm round Tony and offered him a lift home.

G.H.E. (Ted) Birch



Well did you guess who, the photo of Bill Harris disguised as Father Christmas was sent in mainly to celebrate Bill's 80th birthday on Boxing day 2008, also a 'guess who', and as a candidate for our "50 plus club" was requested, so get your thinking cap on Bill, you could be next!!

I don't know when Bill opens his appointments book for next Christmas bookings, you will need to contact his agent.

# CUPS

## Div. Cup 2nd round results

### READMAN CUP (DIVISION ONE)

5	WAV.LABOUR	v	MAGHULL	0
5	FORDS	v	BATH ST M.	0
3	HAR.HOUSE	v	BOOTLE YMCA	5
1	CROSBY HIGH	v	CHRIST THE KING	5

### RUMJAHN CUP (DIVISION TWO)

2	MANWEB	v	CHRIST THE KING 'B'	5
5	MARCONI	v	MANWEB 'A'	2
5	MAGHULL 'A'	v	WAV.LABOUR 'B'	2
5	HAR.HOUSE 'A'	v	BOOTLE YMCA 'A'	0

### HYDE CUP (DIVISION THREE)

2	MARCONI 'B'	v	MAGHULL 'B'	5
5	HAR.HOUSE 'B'	v	MANWEB 'B'	1
3	BATH ST M. 'C'	v	CROSBY HIGH 'B'	5
2	MARCONI 'A'	v	AIGBURTH	5

### FORREST CUP (DIVISION FOUR)

5	AIGBURTH 'B'	v	CADWA 'C'	1
2	LINACRE	v	WAV.LABOUR 'C'	5
5	M/SIDE POLICE 'B'	v	CADWA 'B'	2
5	MANWEB 'C'	v	WAV.LABOUR 'D'	1

### STAMP CUP (DIVISION FIVE)

5	BOOTLE YMCA 'C'	v	MAGHULL 'E'	2
5	ARRIVA N. W.	v	BATH ST M. 'E'	0
2	M/SIDE POLICE 'C'	v	BATH ST M. 'E'	5
5	HAR.HOUSE 'C'	v	ARRIVA N. W. 'A'	2

## Divisional Cup - Semi Final Draw

### READMAN CUP (DIVISION ONE)

BOOTLE YMCA	v	FORDS
WAV. LABOUR	v	CH. THE KING

### RUMJAHN CUP (DIVISION TWO)

CH.THE KING 'B'	v	MARCONI
MAGHULL 'A'	v	HAR. HOUSE 'A'

### HYDE CUP (DIVISION THREE)

HAR. HOUSE 'B'	v	AIGBURTH
MAGHULL 'B'	v	CROSBY HIGH 'B'

### FORREST CUP (DIVISION FOUR)

M/SIDE POLICE 'B'	v	AIGBURTH 'B'
MANWEB 'C'	v	WAV. LABOUR 'C'

### STAMP CUP (DIVISION FIVE)

ARRIVA N. W.	v	HAR. HOUSE 'C'
BOOTLE YMCA 'C'	v	BATH ST M. 'E'

Dates of Cup Competition weeks are found in Official Handbook,  
Note that some Cup Weeks are also full League match weeks

## Frank Murphy Memorial Handicap Trophy

### 2nd. Round results

H/CAP	HOME	score	v	score	AWAY	H/CAP		
110	MAGHULL	2		488	v	395	AIGBURTH 1	267
12	CROSBY HIGH			370	v	359	BOOTLE YMCA 2	95
193	AIGBURTH	2		461	v	350	CHRIST the KING	m6
237	ARRIVA N.W.			365	v	342	BOOTLE YMCA 1	m36
108	MAGHULL	1		449	v	469	LINACRE	171
144	BATH St. M.	4		392	v	426	M/SIDE POLICE 2	72
218	M/SIDE POLICE	1		571	v	536	MANWEB 3	202
m5	BATH St. M.	1		373	v	360	BATH St. M. 3	227

### 3rd. Round results

H/cap	HOME	score	v	score	AWAY	H/cap
12	CROSBY HIGH	299		404	M/SIDE POLICE 2	43
162	LINACRE	430		358	BATH St. M. 1	-5
218	M/SIDE POLICE	1		547	ARRIVA N.W.	255
110	MAGHULL	2		470	AIGBURTH 2	193

### the Semi Final draw

HOME	v	AWAY
M/SIDE POLICE 2		MAGHULL 2
LINACRE		M/SIDE POLICE 1

# League Tables to 28th. January 2009

<b>Division One</b>		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Fords	13	12	1	0	104
2	Bootle YMCA	13	10	1	2	85
3	Bath St Marine	13	8	0	5	80
4	Wavertree Labour	13	7	2	4	73
5	Merseyside Police	13	6	3	4	67
6	Christ The King	13	5	2	6	66
7	Crosby High	13	6	1	6	61
8	Crosby High 'A'	13	6	1	6	61
9	Harold House	13	4	3	6	59
10	Maghull	13	3	2	8	51
11	Bath St Marine 'A'	13	1	1	11	37
12	Christ The King 'A'	13	1	1	11	36

<b>Division Two</b>		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Cadwa	13	9	3	1	93
2	Manweb	12	10	2	0	87
3	Marconi	12	9	2	1	86
4	Harold House 'A'	13	7	2	4	73
5	Christ The King 'B'	12	5	3	4	65
6	Wavertree Lab 'A'	12	6	1	5	60
7	Fords 'A'	12	4	1	7	55
8	Manweb 'A'	12	4	1	7	49
9	Bootle YMCA 'A'	11	2	1	8	40
10	Maghull 'A'	11	1	0	10	29
11	Wavertree Lab 'B'	12	1	0	11	23
12	Bath St Marine 'B'	withdrawn				

<b>Division Three</b>		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Crosby High 'B'	12	12	0	0	97
2	Harold House 'B'	13	9	3	1	87
3	M/Side Police 'A'	13	9	2	2	80
4	Aigburth PH	13	4	2	7	64
5	Maghull 'B'	13	5	3	5	64
6	Manweb 'B'	12	7	1	4	63
7	Bootle YMCA 'B'	13	3	4	6	59
8	Bath St Marine 'C'	13	5	1	7	58
9	Bath St Marine 'D'	13	3	0	10	54
10	Cadwa 'A'	13	4	1	8	51
11	Marconi 'A'	12	4	1	7	50
12	Marconi 'B'	12	2	0	10	33

<b>Division Four</b>		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Manweb 'C'	12	10	2	0	94
2	Wavertree Lab 'C'	12	10	1	1	86
3	M/Side Police 'B'	11	7	1	3	75
4	Aigburth PH 'A'	12	7	2	3	70
5	Cadwa 'B'	12	6	2	4	66
6	Aigburth PH 'B'	12	4	1	7	55
7	Cadwa 'C'	12	5	1	6	54
8	Linacre	12	0	6	6	47
9	Maghull 'C'	12	3	2	7	47
10	Maghull 'D'	12	2	2	8	29
11	Wavertree Lab 'D'	11	0	2	9	27
12	Free	0	0	0	0	0

<b>Division Five</b>		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Arriva N.W.	13	12	0	1	106
2	Harold House 'C'	12	11	1	0	101
3	Maghull 'E'	13	9	2	2	90
4	Bootle YMCA 'C'	13	10	1	2	87
5	Bath St Marine 'E'	12	6	1	5	63
6	Bath St Marine 'F'	11	5	4	2	62
7	Arriva N. W. 'A'	13	5	0	8	58
8	Wavertree Lab 'E'	13	2	4	7	46
9	M/Side Police 'C'	12	2	2	8	40
10	Maghull 'F'	13	2	0	11	39
11	Aigburth PH 'C'	14	2	2	10	35
12	Edge Hill	13	1	1	11	31

2007-08			
Fines to Date	No	Fine	Total
Players Short	21	£3	£63
Walk Over League	9	£6	£54
Walk Over Cup	6	£6	£36
Played Out of Order	2	1.50 PP	£8
Late Score Card	14	£3	£42
Total	52	£202.50	

2008-09			
Fines to Date	No	Fine	Total
Player Short	16	£3	£48
Walk Over League	9	£6	£54
Walk Over Cup	2	£6	£12
Played Out of Order	1	1.50 PP	£3
Late Score Card	16	£3	£48
Total	44	£165.00	