

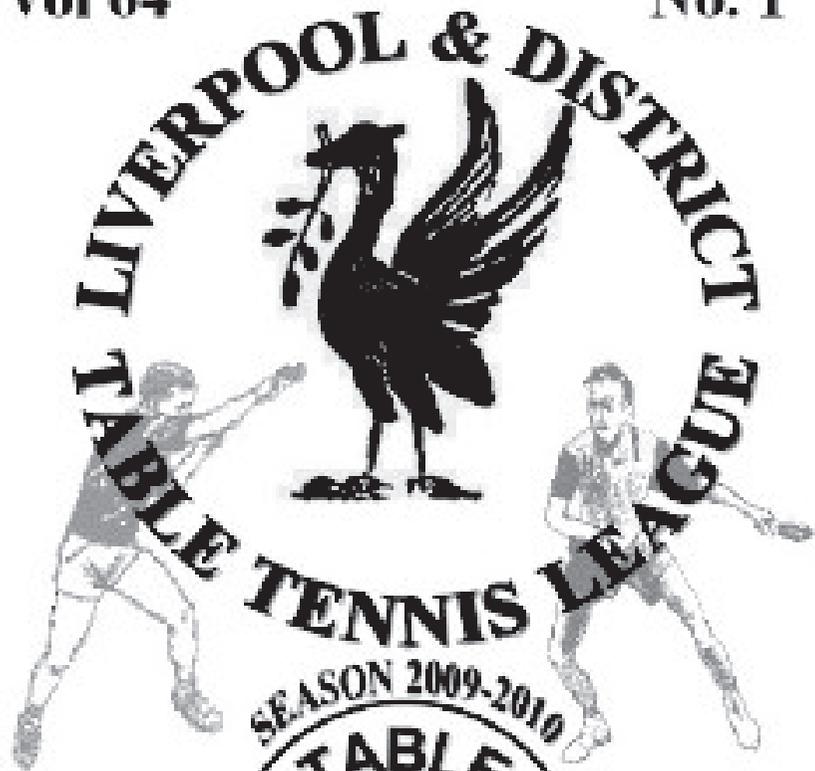
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Editorial

Welcome to the first Digest of this 2009 - 10 season, how often in the past have we heard that table tennis is declining, or more to the point 'dying' in Liverpool, the soothsayers more often than not, being those that sit back and let it happen, but table tennis is not dying in Liverpool, maybe the old style clubs are because of the problems and costs of venues, but there's certainly a revival in interest in the sport, there's a vast amount of money being spent on publicity to encourage people to play, especially at a young level, read article on "Adopt a School" page 3.

From our own leagues point, numbers are increasing for a change, at the corresponding time last season we had 327 players signed up, this season we have 366 signed, we know some are names only, but an increase nevertheless, the encouraging thing is the number of youngsters knocking on the league's doors trying to get in, the new Divisional 14 team format can accommodate more teams, but our thinking on the subject of juniors playing league matches may have to change slightly, who knows, we may be able to go back to 6 divisions. Looking back through old Digests, this was a problem many years ago, on page 2. I have reproduced a letter to the Editor (Eric Caird) in the Feb. 1963 issue from a young then, but well respected Div. 1 player now, on the subject of youngsters trying to join clubs.

Individual registration forms are being circulated around the clubs, so via your team captain, you should receive yours, if they are like ours at Bootle YMCA, they will have basic details already filled in, you are asked to sign it, and, *if you wish*, fill in any of the other details required, most of the questions are about table tennis, some questions you may feel are a bit intrusive, the main thing, is agree to the details entered, and sign. This form will then be returned to the ETTA who will issue a 'players number' allowing you to play competitive table tennis in any league from next season, without this players number, you can't, this form is now a fact of table tennis life!!

On page 19 I've copied a few ETTA articles from TTNews and the ETTA web site for info.

Five seasons ago we ran an article from Aigburth T.T. Club on the oldest playing player of the L&DTTL, at 80 years it was thought that Aigburth player Eric Young was the oldest, but they were happy to concede the eldest to Alec Davidson of Linacre, sadly Alec passed away last year, leaving the way clear for Eric to acquire this title. I read many of the match card comments, and whenever Eric is playing for Sefton TT Club (Ex. Aigburth P.H.) he never fails to draw comments detailing his happy go lucky approach to the



game culminating always in an enjoyable social evening.

I will look forward to an article from Eric's mates celebrating his 90th year, what better encouragement could you give to youngsters than being able to play and enjoy, a competitive sport at 85, well done Eric.

Congratulations to M/Side Police Club secretary and International Umpire Tom Purcel, he was given the task of umpiring the Final at the recent English Open at Sheffield between the World Ranked No. 1 Ma Long & No.3 Ma Lin, Ma Long winning in 4 straight games, more globe trotting ahead for Tom.

I often refer to something I've trawled up from an old Digest, it's amazing how articles of problems from many years ago can repeat themselves, as the article "Closed Shop" next page shows, in those days the Digest had an 'Editorial Board' of 4-6 knowledgeable people, many players sending in articles, and most divisions had their own reporters, with the Editor and Board sorting through everything before sending off to the printers for setting out and printing, 6 Issues a season then, so it had to run like clockwork. Many times over, the Editor stating that the Digest is the players outlet for the way their table tennis league is run, it's still the same criteria, *your* voice on the way table tennis is run in Liverpool, and many times I feel as if it's just an outlet for 'me', if not for the divisional reporters it would be difficult to send out a Digest, but 'I'm' determined to try and send out at least 16 page issues so that its too much to read in one night and forget about, **even so the choice is always yours.**

Everton and Liverpool football clubs have joined forces to launch the 'Premier League 4 Sport' programme. The two clubs came together in support of the government and Premier League backed initiative that is offering youngsters the chance to get involved in Olympic sports, -badminton, judo, volleyball and **Table Tennis**. £3.8 million for 'Premier League 4 Sport' is being invested through the Department for Culture, Media and Sport from the Premier League's Good Causes fund. Full report in Liverpool Echo 11/11/09

I believe Keith Williams is involved in the Everton / Liverpool scheme, and Cherith Graham involved with Man. Untd's scheme.

Further to my mention in the last Digest of players suffering health problems, mainly the problems of growing old that seem to catch us unawares, I, and I'm sure, we, send all our best wishes for continuing recovery, and hope to see you back soon at the end of the table.

Adopt a School

Page 19 Is the school's TT page where you will find details of local schools playing in organised School Table Tennis leagues.

Last season there were 15 teams in the Liverpool area, this has increased to 18 teams this season, from 10 different schools, schools now are especially keen to set up table tennis as an activity sport, the years of selling off school fields had brought the realisation that we have a nation of 'couch potato' kids, with a problem of obesity in many cases. Table Tennis is a quick answer to many of those problems, it doesn't require too much space, the number of tables decided by space and numbers, an 'any' weather sport, hail rain or snow, but what it does require are a few more volunteers to encourage the many youngsters waiting to 'have a go' to take up the sport.

Couch potato doesn't only apply to youngsters, we are all living longer, but generally retiring from work younger, and what's the minimum and cheapest recommendations for a happy and enjoyable retirement? exercise, exercise playing table tennis, and better still, "coaching" new players. The point of all this is the enjoyment that can be had from coaching, or even just playing at the other end of the table with interested youngsters, some of our clubs already have coaching sessions in progress, the longest established, at Formby

High run by Dave Graham, Maghull have also been coaching for years, Wavertree still have their coaching night on a Friday, Marconi have set up coaching on a Friday night timed to end when their normal match night starts, Bath St. Marine's coaching sessions have eased off a bit, but all coaching at the moment seems to be geared up for evenings, and the youngster who are going to turn up at these sessions, are those who already have a strong interest in playing.

To get the youngsters to this stage I think we need to get into the schools before they go home, and build on the new publicity which our sport is getting, I have been pleasantly surprised at the silent support which is out there amongst older players, it just wants that "push" to get started.

So if you are thinking about it, and willing to have a go at a school near you, let the League know and we can get more contact information through official channels, there are a few formalities like Child Protection, for obvious reasons, but no great hurdle.

I'm now visiting a school in Bootle, one hour a week, and enjoy every minute of it, the satisfaction is tremendous, so much so that I'm recommending to my club, Bootle YMCA, for us to "adopt" this school.

Copied from Vol. 23 No. 3 Feb. 1963

"CLOSED SHOP" ATTITUDE TO TEENAGERS ? YOUNGSTER HITS OUT

Letter to the Editor. (Eric Caird)

Dear Sir,

Having just read my second "Digest" I cannot help noticing the repeated cry for "more youngsters, please!" I believe that this is due to the "closed shop" attitude of many clubs towards today's teenagers. Why don't they realise that there are hundreds of youngsters playing in youth clubs, e.g. the Liverpool Boys' Association.

The standard of play may not be very high on the whole but if they are taught the correct rules - e.g. service - and coached for one night a week during the closed season they will quickly improve as they are keen, despite what people' think.

Clubs should follow the example of Wavertree Labour and get young players by going to the Boys clubs and giving a demonstration of how skilful and exciting the game really is and then inviting the boys up to their club (they won't wreck it!) for coaching.

I have found from personal experience that this will work because last year I was a "ping-pong" player before the members of Wavertree Labour came up and gave the youth club I was in, a demonstration, and invited anyone who wanted to play to go up to the club for coaching.

This will pay dividends for the club as the majority of players in Wavertree Labour are young enough to improve and as our 1st, 2nd and 3rd teams are top of their respective divisions, are all through to the semi-final of their respective cups (they would all be in the finals except for a draw which brought the 1st and 2nd team together), there is a bright future in store for the club.

It is now up to you, the people who are crying out for young players, to adopt a youth club in your district and get to work showing them how exciting Table Tennis can be.

I did not know that Table Tennis was played on such a large scale. I thought that the only people who played in competition were Johnny Leach and the "Japs" until I joined Wavertree Labour, I would like to thank everyone concerned with the club for the help and enjoyment they have given me.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) E. BIRCH.

Division 1 Ian McElwee

Welcome to the new season. Although these notes cover up to week 6, due to the vagaries of the revised fixture structure, only 2 teams have played 6 matches to date with another 4 having played only 4. As a result placings in the table have not yet settled down.

On looking through the cards it is clear that there is an influx of experienced ex first division players returning to the fold. These include Steve Gittins (Police), Rob Bevan and Neil Powell (Manweb), Steve Green (BSM), Tomas Rzeszotko (Crosby High), Omid Khaiyat (CTK), Roy Smith (Wavertree Labour) and Tim Weardon (Fords). In addition welcome to new signings Michael Lunn and Stuart Mudie (Crosby High), Miles Yang (Harold House), Jake Shaw (Wavertree Labour) and J Ho (CTK). It will be interesting to see how all these players settle into the division and how the strengths of teams are increased by their presence.

Bath St Marine sit proudly at the top of the table having won their 5 matches to date and taking 40 points, Steve Green has settled well after an absence of 15 years or so and with Ken Jackson and Dave Roberts there is no apparent reason why they should not be there or thereabouts at the end of the season. Weeks 3 and 4 saw them involved in 6/4 victories over Crosby High A and Bootle YMCA, although Tomas Rzeszotko (Crosby High) and Keith Williams (Bootle) each took their 3 singles in these matches. Graeme Black (CADWA) and Les Molyneux (Manweb) both beat "Jacko" to save their teams from the dreaded 10/0 whitewash.

I'm sure Merseyside Police will be more than happy to be in 2nd place with 35 points from 5 matches, when they put out their strongest team of Jon Taylor, Paul Gittins and John Hope they will be competitive against most, as proved by a fine 7/3 victory over Bootle YMCA (once again Keith came to the rescue for Bootle to take their 3 points). The same 3 players were together in a 9/1 victory over Maghull who had Matt Wilson and Kevin Lewis to thank for taking their only point in a fine 5 set doubles victory, I can't help thinking that these 3 will have to turn out regularly together if they wish to maintain their lofty status, neither Jon or Paul were available as they went down 6/4 to Crosby High, for whom Rob Wylie remained unbeaten on his 4 visits to the table.

Next in line are Bootle YMCA (34 from 6). As usual they are ably led by the ultra consistent, not to mention



highly skilled Keith Williams, Keith has remained unbeaten to date although Tomas Rzeszotko pushed him all the way before going down in the 5th set when Bootle ran out 6/4 victors over Crosby High A. Alan Chase beat both Rob Wylie and Gavin Lloyd with James Eaton also getting the better of Gavin before going down 13/11 in the 5th to Rob. Week 6 saw them run out 7/3 winners over a strong Wavertree labour side, Wayne Percival was in excellent form in beating David Hayes and Jake Shaw and combining with Keith to take the doubles.

Reigning champions Fords have a 100% record in the 4 matches they have played averaging just over 8 points per match (33). They have had resounding victories over Crosby High A (10/0), CTK (9/1) and Maghull (8/2) but were pushed all the way by Harold House in winning 6/4, Andy Taylor and Ken Connor were involved in a titanic battle before Andy managed to eke out a 16/14 win in the deciding set, neither Kevin Dolder or Mal McEvoy have so far tasted defeat and I would be surprised if they were not to retain the championship once again.

Manweb are going along quite nicely after promotion taking 27 points from 6 matches, they got off to a flying start in beating Maghull 9/1 with Les Molyneux and Neil Powell unbeaten on the night. When they faced fellow promotees CADWA they secured a fine 7/3 victory, Les again won his 3 although he had to come back from 10/6 down in the 5th to beat Graeme Black 12/10, Graeme was in excellent form as confirmed with victories over Neil and Paul Evans. Both Les and Neil were unavailable when they faced Merseyside Police and they went down 8/2, however, the match saw the resurrection of Rob Bevan after a long absence, he proved to have lost none of his old abilities in beating both John Hope and Jon Dyson.

Crosby High also have 27 points from 4 and are another team who have not yet tasted defeat with 3 wins and a draw. At week 1 Cherrith Graham hit top form against CADWA to win her 3. 15 year old debutant Michael Lunn and Gavin Lloyd both beat George Lennon and Peter Roberts as they secured a fine 8/2 win. This score line was repeated when Michael was joined by another debutant, Stuart Mudie and young Jamie Hewitt when they visited Harold House. Stuart impressed in remaining unbeaten and was ably supported by his team mates who both got the better of Steve Whalley and Miles Yang. They have used a variety of players to date and I am not sure what is considered to be their strongest

team. They are likely to be near the top if they get out their strongest team on a regular basis.

Harold House are one of 3 teams on 22 points, it appears that young Rachel Baker and Fiona Dennett are playing regularly this season with support from the ever reliable Ken Connor and new signing Miles Yang. Both girls showed their worth in beating Terry Turner and Andy Taylor at Fords, Ken and Rachel were joined by Miles when they gained a 7/3 victory at CTK, both Rachel and Miles remained unbeaten in their singles with Ken contributing with a 4 set victory over Tony Whelan.

When Wavertree Labour met Harold House a draw was played out on the night, however, an admin problem, in failing to register Aaron Beech, resulted in the loss of the point he had "gained" in beating Alec Bryce with Harold House becoming 6/4 victors. As the score indicates this was a closely fought affair with 5 matches going to a deciding set, Gary Watson starred on the night to remain unbeaten. New boy Jake Shaw joined Gary and Roy Smith when they faced Crosby A, Jake proved to be a great signing in remaining unbeaten in his singles and partnering Gary to take the doubles, with Gary and Roy both getting the better of brother and sister Gavin and Gemma Lloyd, Wavertree won 8/2.

Crosby High A with 22 from 6 have had a steady start, they have a strong squad but their eventual position will probably be greatly influenced by the number of occasions Tomas Rzeszotko is available, he played in the team's first 3 matches with his only loss being to Keith Williams, he comfortably won his 3 when facing Manweb and was well supported by Rob Wylie who beat both Neil Powell and Paul Evans before the pair combined to win the doubles as they came away with a 6/4 victory. The following week Tomas again remained

unbeaten on his 4 visits to the table when Crosby A visited BSM, however, these were the only points Crosby managed on the night as they went down 6/4.

Although CTK have only played 4 matches it is surprising to see them 3rd from bottom with only 15 points, their only win so far being 7/3 over CADWA, Keith Bird won his singles without any problems with

CADWA's Graeme Black getting the better of both Jon Lau and Peter Taylor, and Alan Timewell beating Peter 11/7 in the decider in the match between these 2 "old timers". Jon won his other 2 and Peter contributed with a good win over George Lennon. Keith was again the main man in winning his 3 singles when they faced Crosby High but his efforts were to no avail as they lost 6/4, the normally reliable Tony Whelan had a poor night by his standards in failing to win, although he was 2 sets up against Jamie Hewitt before going down 14/12 in the decider, Michael Lunn again proved his worth in beating Tony and Jon and pushing Keith all the way before losing out 13/11 in the 5th. I don't believe there is any chance of CTK being dragged into a relegation struggle but their current situation is probably an indication of just how strong the league is this year.

Although it is early days the 2 bottom teams Maghull (12 points from 6) and CADWA (11 points from 5) will have their work cut out to climb the table, neither team has managed to win a match to date although Maghull achieved a creditable draw when they faced Crosby High, both Matt Wilson and Kevin Lewis beat Cherrith Graham and Andy Buchanan before combining in the doubles to ensure the draw.

That's it for now. All have a good Christmas and New Year.

U.K. CORPORATE GAMES

In May 2010, the UK Corporate Games comes to the city, the venue being the splendid Echo Arena / Bt Convention Centre. I've attended a couple of meetings recently in connection with the TT event. The organisers have asked the league to encourage as many TT players as possible and are hoping for a record entry and would like the league to organise the event. The gym in the main sport centre / pool at Wavertree has been ear-marked for the TT but, I have my doubts as to whether it will be big enough. The Badminton is at Greenbank while the tennis is at Wavertree Tennis Centre. There is also open sea swimming at Albert dock plus many other events.

Don Davies

Thanks again to our 5 Divisional Reporters who have got us off to a good season, you will read that Russ from Div. 3 is requesting a 'break' because of other commitments, and is looking for a volunteer to take over, any interested party, let me know.

Doug is now doing the div. he's playing in, Div. 4. And at the same time trying a different approach, a shorter report, but suggests a more detailed report via

the web as well as the Digest, our new Div. 5 reporter, Paul Oakes has suggested something similar, so 'watch this space'.

Paul has also added an article about his day at the recent 'English Open' at Sheffield, (pg.14), I'm afraid he won't get the same reward that 'insidethegames.biz' reporter Tom Degun got from the ITTF for his report, a free trip to China for the Volkswagen Cup.

Division 2 Paul Banks

DIVISION 2 NEWS Part one.

Good evening and welcome to Division 2 news.

Tonight's show will be looking at the first six weeks of the 2009/10 season in the second division of the 'Liverpool & District Table Tennis League', touching on the new, the old, the new old and each teams progress. I know that you expect it and whilst I will have great difficulty in managing the 100% success in predictions I will, once more, attempt to predict the final placings as well.

So with such a packed programme we had better crack on!

Firstly, following on from last season's piece on the Manweb WaG's we have received an update from Dave Harse himself.

Hi Paul, On behalf of the MANWEB WAGS (aka Moneypenney, Provocateur and Whiplash – they are interchangeable) can I apologise for the excitement and subsequent distress caused to Stan Clark, I hope his blood pressure is now stable. Apologies also to Tony Connor who seems to have been overwhelmed by his workload in the kitchen, the WAGS did appreciate the tea and biscuits, I think they found it a pleasant change from Bacardi and Champagne. It is not easy having WAGS in tow, just like the England football team at the last world cup we turn up at matches exhausted, of course you recognised this Paul when you correctly forecast our final league position! Alas the MANWEB WAGS are no more except for a few 'Revival Evenings', they have seen the error of their ways and will in future be concentrating on domestic chores. The designer handbags are back in the wardrobes or gone to charity shops, If anyone knows of a good home for designer carry out bags and embossed coloured tissue paper please contact Alan Biggs. As for the coming season Manweb 'A' have added an oriental flavour to their team and hope that results will improve although this may be difficult as opponents will no longer be distracted by events off the table.

David

Is this then the end of an era? Text your response to the Digest:

1. *I'm deeply saddened by the loss of the Manweb WaG's:* 0770871011345

2. *I am glad that there will be less distraction at Manweb matches:* 077087100553

3. *Just get on with it:* 07708018118055



First name drawn out will win an all expenses paid trip to the back room at Manweb where people keep appearing from but no-one ever sees them go in!

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Teams:

Christ The King (A) Current Position (1) Predicted Placing (1)

Having come down from the first, CTK (A) are expected by everyone who has played them so far to bounce back up at the end of this season this is supported by the 10 point gap opened up already over their nearest rivals. The team is predominantly, Peter Lee, Ahmed Thabet and Omid Khaiyat! They show their intentions in the first three games winning them all 9-1, this trend is backed by the derby match which they only managed to win 7-3. Their worst result so far has been a 6-4 win over Marconi, Ray Jackson and Chris Spedding taking two wins each here! Who is going to stop them? Omid has only lost one match so far!

Christ The King (B) Current Position (2) Predicted Placing (3)

Following some much needed reorganisation, CTK (B) are up there challenging for promotion, the great Billy Cheung has been joined by a team worthy of his talents in Dave Tagg and Peter Taylor. Their biggest win so far was at Bath Street Marine (A) who only managed to save the tin hat by taking the doubles! The CTK derby appears to have been a great night of table tennis, the seniors beating the more junior partners 7-3, Peter Lee must be an early contender for the most fifth setters played (maybe I should add that as an end of season award), but Billy Cheung was the man of the match for the (B) team taking two of his three singles and the only player so far to beat Omid.

Harold House (A) Current Position (3) Predicted Placing (2)

Another team putting their subordinates in their place are Harold House (A) who beat their (B) team 10-0, the team has been mostly Alec Bryce, Steve Whalley and Neil Baker, they are one of only two teams who are as of yet undefeated (other team being CTK A). Having tipped them for promotion this year, – last year (ehh!), I am duty bound to place them as runners up, and you have to say that with this team they definitely have the players to do just that.

Marconi Current Position (4) Predicted Placing (4)

Another team with big changes this season is Marconi, Bob Edwards has been joined by Ray Jackson and Chris Spedding, aided by Adrian Bramham. With the addition of a new venue (ground sharing with CTK) Trevor has taken a new broom to this team as well as the floor at CTK, and both have benefited from the experience. Results so far have been won two, drawn two and lost two, the two defeats coming at the hands of CTK (A) & (B) both 4-6, a very useful team who will be up in the top third for the rest of the season.

Manweb (A) Position (5) Predicted Placing (6)

The results from the WaG's Text response are in already and the second division has shown that it has a softer side, as out of the three people that sent texts in, two of you felt deeply saddened by their loss, maybe this people power momentum can have some influence on their decision to take more of a back seat and have the odd revival night at Wavertree Labour, let me know and I shall splash out on some viscount biscuits. WaG's aside, Manweb (A) have joined the new player brigade and enlisted Jason Ao to their ranks, joining Dave Harse and Roy Adams, Jason is obviously basking in the (Manweb) light of the most glamorous team in the division and is cutting a sway through the opposition at the moment. Currently holding the team's highest average, Jason beat all of BSM (A), Steve Whalley, John Hughes, Billy Cheung, Peter Taylor, Steve Gittins and was the only Manweb player to stop the impressive Alex Buchanan, you have been warned.

Wavertree Labour (A) Position (6) Predicted Placing (10) Aside from having the best venue, the best refreshments (sorry Ahmed) and the best 'bon homie' / 'joie de vivre' in the division, Wavertree Labour are maintaining their yearly under-achiever status. To be fair the team of Mike Tierney, John Rowan and Paul Banks have shown themselves to be more than an easy night, and have lost plenty of matches in the fifth set, their ruthless team captain has recently been in contact with Derren Brown to come along and plant subliminal messages into the heads of the Wavertree team to help them regain their more primeval winning edge.

Bath Street Marine (A) Position (7) Predicted Placing (5) Under-achiever status could also be applied to BSM (A) so far, having come down from the first division, the team of Ian McElwee, Dermot Tierney, Fred Bainbridge and Ricky Brown should be in a stronger position than they find themselves, Ian McElwee is keeping the flag flying for the Crosby team with a 75% average so far and a great win over Steve Whalley in the fifth. You would have to fancy BSM (A) to have gotten over their settling in period and be in a stronger position at the turn for home.

Crosby High (B) Position (8) Predicted Placing (7)

Crosby High are showing their pedigree already after promotion from the third, the team is an amalgam of Dave Evans, Sylvia Graham, Roger Neal, Ben Edwards and Alec Buchanan. Dave Evans on 75% is showing everyone what a great player he is as well as being a role model to Crosby's teenage force on how to win matches, Paul Kinsey, Roy Adams and Billy Cheung the only people able to stop him so far.

Fords (A) Position (9) Predicted Placing (8)

Fords (A) have been a long standing favourite of the team behind the second division report, but are, like so many others, not as recognizable this season, the lynchpin, Robbie Gouldson is joined by Janay Gibson and Paul Kinsey as well as a more regular Bob Hughes, Robbie has yet again been the gold standard for Fords, with the top average so far and good wins against Alec Bryce, Neil Baker and Ray Jackson.

Merseyside Police (A) Position (10) Predicted Placing (9) After a season without a police presence they are back and in greater numbers, I think this team must have had more different players than any other so far, but its nice to see old friends and favourites return. Players so far have been Brenda Buoeuy, Steve Gittins, Sam Gittins, Jon Dyson, Graham Cleary, Terri Ann Nolan and Tom Purcell. Is this large squad rotation a new, untried tactic or a result of circumstance? One feels that there is a strong team there trying to get out or maybe two teams?? Young Sam coming from such fine TT stock is improving all the time and is a good prospect for the future!, will Paul be tempted down to the second to help team Gittins get promotion to the first??

Maghull (A) Position (11) Predicted Placing (13)

Another team, more changes, with Fred Pheysey's abdication to the lower divisions the void has been filled by Michael Russell, another young man (where are they all coming from) with a quick attacking style. Michael joins Alan Jones and Peter Homes to complete the team, Michael's enthusiasm and enjoyment of the game may just be the future of Table Tennis in Maghull. Peter Holmes is the top man from Maghull so far and has had some good wins over, Peter Lee (Joined by Alan Jones), Trevor Owens, Adrian Bramham and Terri Anne Nolan.

Bootle YMCA (A) Position (12) Predicted Placing (12) One of the few teams without any transfers or big summer signings, Bootle YM (A) are banking on a consistent line up to keep them in the division, the team is John Higham, Richie Winckle, Roly Wright and Danny Every, also maintaining his spot at the top is

John Higham with a 58.3% average so far with good wins over Chris Spedding, Billy Cheung, Peter Taylor and Bob Edwards, another gold star goes to Richie for beating Ahmed Thabet in three.

Harold House (B) Position (13) Predicted Placing (11) In last place is another of the promoted teams, Harold House (B), HH (B) are a trifle unfortunate to be in this lowly position as they have two games in hand over some of the teams, the team so far has been made up of, John Hughes, Michael Siu, Rob Midgely, Miles Fong, Jasmine Yang and Steven Simpson, again you feel that there is a strong team here trying to get out, but will they be allowed to? With only four games played it is difficult to pick out good individual wins but as a team they overturned the glamorously seasoned Manweb (A) 8-2, one has to say that the team that won

this game would be strong contenders in the top half of the division.

If these predictions aren't enough to motivate people into improving their team's performance then I don't know what is? So that is how it boils down in the early doors, join us for part two where we shall be focusing on each player, their wins, their losses, their hairstyles and their temperament, after these few messages.

DIVISION 2 NEWS
Paul Banks
Wavertree Labour.

Division 3

This season's 3rd tier is made up of 12 teams representing 8 clubs, only 6 of the teams who played in this division last season remain; therefore we have 6 new teams competing this season.

In the first week of the season the Marconi 'A' team who include the majority of players from their 1st team who finished 4th in the 2nd division last season got off to a good start with a 10-0 win at newly promoted Wavertree Labour 'C', the closest match being the doubles in which Frank McCann and Ian Wensley came back from 2-0 down to beat Dong Xia and Lee Farley 13-11 in the fifth. Sefton Park formerly known as Aigburth also started well with a 9-1 victory at home to Police 'C', Police's John Appleton saving the white-wash with a victory over Dave Cunningham 11/4 in the fifth. The other Police team fared a lot better with a 7-3 win at Manweb 'B' with 2 wins each from Len Dyson, John Moore, and Tom Lynch. Manweb's Ben Chen won 2 and was unlucky to lose 11/9 in the fifth to Tom. Last season's division 4 champions Manweb 'C' went down 6-4 at Wavertree Labour 'B' although Manweb's Robert Wong had a good night with 2 singles wins and teaming up with David Ao to take the doubles. Bath St 'C' had a good 7-3 win at Cadwa but could not stop Mike Power who won Cadwa's 3 points. The only draw of the week was the Bath St 'B' match against Maghull 'B', Bath St's Rob Peat won his 3 and the doubles with Karen Gibson.

Russell Thornton



The Manweb derby in week 2 produced a 7-3 win for 'C' over 'B' with Ben Chen winning the 3 for the B team however Rob Barker, Robert Wong and David Ao won 2 each to clinch the victory. Marconi had a 6-4 win over Bath St 'B' at their new playing quarters, Bath St's Rob Peat was again in good form winning his 3 and teaming up with Dave Stodden in the doubles to avoid a heavier defeat. Marconi's Frank McCann came back from 2-0 down to defeat Billy Clayton 11/9 in the 5th.

Wav Lab 'C' won 7-3 at Police 'C's new premises. Dong Xia won his 3 singles for Wavertree, Police's Terri-Anne Nolan had 3 close matches, all being decided in the 5th, she managed to win 2 of them. Maghull beat Wav Lab 'B' 6-4, Maghull's George Frost came from 2-0 down against Bill Stanley take the last 3 games 11/4 13/11 11/9. Police 'B' also won 6-4 in their match with Cadwa, aided with 3 good wins from John Moore who also teamed up with Len Dyson to take the Doubles.

Week 3 saw Wav Lab 'B' entertain Marconi and Marconi came away 7-3 victors with Ian Wensley winning his 3 and teaming up with Frank McCann to take the doubles. Wavertree's Tony Connor had good win over Frank and a 13/11 in the fifth over Peter Wass. Police 'B' had a 6-4 win at Bath St 'B' thanks to a Terri-Anne Nolan treble. Maghull won 6-4 at home to Manweb 'C' helped by 2

wins each from Rod Bulmer and Tom Downing. Manweb's Robert Wong managed a comfortable win over Rod and to beat Tom 11/9 in the fifth. An Alan Davies treble could not prevent his Sefton Park team going down 7-3 to Bath St 'C'. Cadwa won 6-4 at home to Manweb despite a Ben Chen treble, and then with the score at 5-4 Peter Roberts came back from 2-1 down against Alan Biggs to win 11/9 to ensure his teams victory. .

In week 4 the Marconi v Maghull match produced three 11/9 wins in the fifth, the first being Frank McCann's win over John McLoughlin from being 2-1 down, then Phil Christie triumphed from 2-0 down over Paul Loftus, and then Rod Bulmer also came back from 2-0 down against Frank McCann. However it could not prevent his team going down 7-3 to Marconi who now had four wins from four matches. Police 'B' also kept up their unbeaten run with an 8-2 win over Sefton Park with trebles from Len Dyson and John Moore and 2 wins from Paula Adamson, an Ian Laird win over Paula was Sefton Park's only singles win. Bath St 'C' lost their first match of the season going down 7-3 at home to Wavertree Labour 'C', with Wavertree's Lee Farley winning his 3 singles. Cadwa defeated Manweb 'C' 8-2 thanks to trebles from Peter Roberts and Mike Power who wrote 'Robert Wong was extremely unlucky to lose his 3, at the same time Peter Roberts played exceptional to win his 3, the score line does not reflect the closeness of the match'. In fact Robert lost 2 of his matches 12-10 in the fifth, in the match with Peter he was 2-0 up. Police 'C' beat Wavertree Labour 6-4 thanks to 2 wins each from Tom Purcell, Brian Burrows and Joe Mullins whose loss was a 12-10 in the fifth against Paul Morgan.

The Bath St derby in week 5 saw the 'C' team beat the 'B' team 6-4. With doubles from Andy Chung, Luke McCall and Ted Cramsie but they could not overcome Rob Peat who won his 3 singles for B and teamed up with Dave Stoddern to win the doubles. Marconi and Police 'B' kept their winning streak's going, Marconi with a 9-1 win over Manweb 'C' with trebles from Ian Wensley and Peter Wass, Manweb's face-saver was a Robert Wong win in 3 over Frank McCann, Police's win was a 7-3 victory over Wav Lab 'C'. The other Manweb team lost 6-4 at Sefton Park despite Neil Jennings having a good win over Alan Davies 11/8 in the fifth. The second draw of the season within the division was between Maghull and Police 'C', with Maghull leading 5-3, Terri-Anne Nolan and Tom Purcell saved the match with wins over George Frost and Tom Downing respectively.

Police 'B' lost their first match of the season in week 6 going down 8-2 to Bath St 'B', with Len Dyson winning their only matches, beating Rob Peat and Karen Gibson, Dave Stoddern was unbeaten for Bath St. The notes on the match card said 'The hosts bubble burst going down to the first defeat of the season, Dave Stoddern's backhand was sweet as candy playing some spectacular drives throughout the evening. Len Dyson played well to beat Rob Peat but had a close encounter with Dave before going down by the odd point, poor old Tommy Lynch suffered on his return from holiday, he was off the pace but narrowly lost to Karen and Dave, Bath St deserved their victory'.

Marconi on the other hand carried on winning, 7-3 on this occasion, the victims being Police 'C' of which Tom Purcell wrote 'A good friendly match unusually Terri-Anne Nolan lost her 3 games, however won the doubles with Tom. The set of the night was Geoff Pye's win over Ian Wensley, Geoff stepped up as reserve from division 5, and the set went to 5 games with Geoff winning 11/8 in the 5th, the set lasted 45 minutes, both players defending and each game very close to expedite' Bath St 'C' had a 7-3 win over Wav Lab 'B' helped by an Andy Cheung treble and a doubles win with Brian Crolley.

The other Wavertree team, 'C' had a 6-4 win at Manweb 'B'. Thanks to a Dong Xia treble, including a 3 straight win over Ben Chen, Dong then teamed up with Lee Farley to take the doubles also. A weakened Cadwa team lost 7-3 at home to Sefton Park, Sefton Park's Lee Proffitt had a good night by winning his 3.

So after 6 fixture weeks Marconi are top of the division they are the only unbeaten team and are looking certainties for promotion, the fight for runners up looks to be between Police 'B' and Bath St 'C'.

At the bottom of the division sit both Manweb teams with both Wavertree teams just above them.

Top of the player averages at this time are Ian Wensley with 16 wins from 18 and Alan Davies with 8 wins from 9.

The only unbeaten doubles team are mid table Bath St 'B' who have won only one league match yet seem to have the winning formula in the doubles.

It seems unlikely that I will be able to continue writing these notes; therefore Roly is looking for a volunteer. If there is anybody out there who is interested in writing them for the remainder of the season please do not hesitate to contact him.

Have a Happy Christmas; see you all soon I hope.

Russ.

Division 4 Doug Baker

I'd just like to start by recording my appreciation of Jack Davidson, who passed away recently, Jack was a great sport and fine club secretary who tried to keep those Linacre upstarts in check, his illness took him so quickly as he was in fine fettle when we played in April, that night he caused John O'Sullivan a few problems, coming from 1 down to go 2-1 ahead. Sadly, his illness wasn't for turning, it was a shock to me, and no doubt to his family, friends and team mates, to whom my thoughts go out to.



The Season sees 13 teams in the 4th, with quite a lot of changes from last year's line up, three teams down from playing in Division 3, two red hot tearaways from Division 5 and a brand new team straight in, and don't be fooled - Sefton Park is not a new club but wolves in flat caps - as it's Aigburth. The quality of the teams coming in mean it's going to be a tough division; tough to get out of (well, by going up anyway), and tough to stay in. I can't predict who will win through to promotion, oh, and a look at the league tables in the first few weeks would have revealed the truth of the above with the 6 newbies in the first 6 places!

As I wasn't reporting on this division last year, I'm going to try a "more personal" approach, as I'm part of the CADWA 'C' team I will get to see most of the players up close, also I've only had three correspondents on the match cards and you can readily get results off the LDITL website and Digest's back pages.

Our first match of the season was a trip up to the borough of Crosby to play one of the newbies - Bath St Marine 'D', and what a shock it was as we came away with the same number of points we started with, if they could learn to throw the ball up I'd have no complaints. No.1 Ted Cramsie was the cool assassin not dropping a game, Les Gee used guile to frustrate Josef Koudelik in 5, Keith Wright had an epic encounter with John O'Sullivan, all games bar the first won by 2 pts, Keith came from behind to win the last 2 12/10, 14/12, just when John thought he had him in 4. Interesting moment in the 4th was when Keith thought John's serve was a let, Graham Oakes umpiring said no and let the played point stand, taking John to 10-6, Keith then won 6 on the bounce, the interruption certainly unsettled JOS?! no blame on Keith shoulders, Graham turned back the years with a controlled performance, also not dropping a game. They have a few more cards to shuffle into this pack;- Mal Kent and Billy Clayton, fifth with three wins, a draw and only one loss seems ok, but it was a heavy defeat to the last season's Division 5

Champions Arriva 1st, which shows that the relegated teams will have to fight hard to get out.

Sefton Park 'A's Dave Cunningham & Eric Wood were joined by Neil Croxton & Derek Traynor, we've played each other for a few years now and know each others games well. Neil has improved from last year as both his games went to five, he began with a see-saw exchange v Paul which played out 12/10, 12/14, 12/10 in the last 3

games in his favour, showing that he now has a more level headed approach to the crucial deuce points. Dave had mixed fortunes against two old foes; he turned the tables on John thanks to opening games 13/11 and 12/10 but lost out over 5 to "Czech Please" Koudelik (Josef was a waiter so that works on two counts ☺). This was after he'd won a massive middle game 17-15. We had two other 17/15s one in the doubles and one in my 5 gamer with Derek. Nerves played a part as three of the games were won from deuce, it was in a mammoth 4th game that I wriggled off the hook. Paul wasn't so lucky, as Derek beat him by two points in each of 3 games. Eric played as committedly and as sporting as ever, he nearly had me in the 1st game at deuce.

Bootle YMCA 'B' thumped us 8-2, ironically it was the drafted Danny Every (who had played in the 2nd division last year, in for Bert Rivers) who lost the two, John perplexed him and then Josef went to 5 with him. Game of the night was Shakil Malik versus Josef, by a mixture of powerful play and consistency Shak came back from 2-0 down overwhelming Josef in the 3rd & 4th, Josef then picked up his form and the 5th became a story of missed chances and misfortune by both players, the pots and pans resided with Josef when Shak won through 18/16 in a game that could have gone either way. Eddy Preston was also in a full-on determined mood and didn't let the loss of a two (close) game lead unsettle him, storming ahead of John in the 5th. Our reserve Joud Abduljawad did well to take a set off Eddy (/5) and did better than I did against Mike Hughes - 13/15, 12/10, 12/10, 11/9.

Marconi 'C' seem to have a fluid line-up, which is to be expected in a Club's lowest team, with several players available, Kenny Roberts at No.1 saved the whitewash as they pushed out two reserves who hadn't played competitively for a combined 50 years! not that Jin and Adrian gave a bad account, Adrian went to 5 in matches with John & Paul. Kenny had resolve in the 1st game to win 15/13 over John and did the same again in

the 5th: 12/10, latterly he doused Josef's fire to win in 3, 12/10, 13/11, 11/8.

Maghull 'C' have the remarkable John McLoughlin at No.1, last year John was a rock in the 5th division team, this year he is proving the decision to chance him at top spot in the higher of their two 4th division teams to be well founded, he was persuaded to take up the game again after a long layoff by his sons. "J.Mc" contributed half the points in their visit, doing it the hard way with two 5 gamers over Josef and John, even though both brought out their big guns, John didn't buckle, he levelled with Josef with a 2nd game 11/2! two close games followed to setup a decider, the 5th ebbed and flowed but John did enough to block and cause Josef to miss-time hits to win out 11/8. He went two up against John'O and could have won it in either of the next two games (both 12/10), he was able to forget about that and concentrate to win the 5th 11/9. My old adversaries Harry McGanity and (reserve) Naresh Tagore did for me in 5, I think I should be pleased I got to 5 against Naresh, as he walloped me 11/0 in the first, (shame you can't buy a net to get one point to save the embarrassment of a whitewash). There were a lot more points traded between me and Harry and he saved the match 17/15 in the 4th. Loon almost had Paul, but Paul picked himself up to win over 5. Fred Pheysey has played, but the other regular would appear to be Steve McGanity.

I would point out that it was pretty much the same CADWA'C' team that played in all the above games, so the results are a good benchmark for the respective merits of the teams that we played (albeit for sure that they may not be fielding the same four every week for whatever reason).

Star turns for the first quarter have been **Harold House 'C'**, (I've heard on the grapevine that Harold House 'C's captain of last year Paul Morgan has left for another club, a blow to their chances and a headache for their organising (- "what's my group number?"). Rod McPherson was playing 3rd division last year and appeared 13th in the averages greatly assisting in the B team's promotion, so it's a bit of a surprise (and slim reward) to find him & Eddie Clein playing here and below two of the regulars of last year's 5th division team, Michael Siu and Rob Midgeley, nice of them to give the old men an easier ride.

I wish you all a merry Christmas and Happy New year. Finally, best wishes to Eric Wood who's waiting to go into hospital for an operation or two.

Doug Baker

Division 5 Paul Oakes

First, thanks to Doug for writing reports for the last 2 seasons without playing in Division 5. As new players entered it must have been difficult to write about people he knew nothing about beyond numbers on scorecards, to write so well about our division was an achievement and much appreciated.

My forecasts first.

Champions

Police D. Sam Gittins and Geoff Pye are left from last year, Alan Cameron drops down from the B team, N. Thomas (if you want names, put them on the card!) has won all his games, and Joe Mullins is from Southport Div 2 so they even have a pool of players.

European Cup Qualifiers



BSM E are last season's BSM F, but with living legend Billy Clayton coming from the 3rd division to play No.1 and tell us his life story (often at the same time). Only 8 points behind Bootle C last season, and with three players dropping down a ranking place they (OK, we) expect to be in the hunt.

Arriva A have Kristov Lenyk and Lynton Hunter from last season and Pavel Tomczyk from the first team, with the opportunity of borrowing players from the B team as well they could emulate the First's promotion.

Wavertree D were relegated from Div 4 despite finishing 10th, with all their main players from last season still playing they'll be a hard night's work in this division.

Europa League Spot

Bootle YMCA C were the strongest team left from last season after promotions and the re-organisa-

tion at Maghull, with Steve Daniel one of the best players in the division, but Joe Rees is not playing regularly now, and with no other 5th Division side to borrow players from substitutes may be a problem.

Arriva B have Daniel Bellard from the A team, they also have probably the second most talented player in the division - Larry Stone, after this comeback year he'll be in a higher division next year. It's great to see this club add a new team every year, the free sauna with every home fixture is memorable.

Mid-Table

Maghull F, have lost John McLoughlin Snr. to the 4th Division, but still have two J. McLoughlins left. Also losing a family member to the 4th Division, Lung Sing Wai returns after a year away, but without his baseball cap, but keeping his loose-wrist top-spin style.

Maghull must have an amazing family scheme – the E team is fraternal enough, but Jeanette, Paul, Amy and Ashleigh Hutchings is the line-up for **Maghull E**, Amy played matches last season, and may have been coached a bit judging by her style, but experience of using her shots to win points is needed. Paul Hutchings has apparently played a bit before, players trying to protect their averages may be mysteriously ill the week of Maghull E games. In playing terms it's hard to see what Paul (or his opponents) will get out of this, but the chance for a weekly family night out and coaching his daughters was obviously too good to resist, although there may be some selection problems during family holidays.

Sefton Park C struggled for players last season. In Ian Findon they had someone who gave Brian Crolley a game, until he retired hurt – his 20% average is a mystery to me. Essentially the ageless Eric Young (ageless in that no-one knows it), Alan Staniland and Ian were the team, with Robbie Pudifer with 16 games (and 14 wins!) the 4th in appearances.

Wavertree E have an excellent top 2 in Gordon Langshaw and Eric Spencer, Sharon Mahon showed an appreciation of the need to hit winners, and is one of the obviously improving players in the division.

Tough Season

Bath St F are a new team, with the old E side leaving for other Divisions/clubs, Des Logan is the sole survivor, and has talented players without league experience and precious little playing since re-starting the sport after breaks, they'll improve as the season progresses, but need Ron Georgeson to have his operation, and Cyril Penny to recover from his.

Edge Hill noticeably improved during the season, they need to keep Chris and Terry Johanson playing, Chris was one of my players of the season, coming into League TT at number 1 and scoring 40% while playing a thoughtful game, they would hope to finish top of this group.

CADWA D are in the Brian Wilson category (God only knows), can't find any records of the players in last season's records, so they're here based on results so far.

Let's start on a good note: Neil Thomas of Police D writes of their match with Sefton Park "Great match, keenly contested but with the usual lower division friendship! looking forward to re-match. Eric Young played very well at a young 85 years [see below] plus his usual humour". Nice to see title contenders remembering this is fun, not a career. I suppose the 8-2 win helps with Eric and Barry Meyer getting a win each against an under-strength (!) Police led by Camo.

The Arriva Table Tennis factory's latest product, the B team scored an excellent draw with Bootle C, Larry Stone beating both Steve Daniels and Jim Geddes is impressive, John Taylor won both his singles for Bootle convincingly but Arriva took both doubles – selected by Bootle as the 1st and 3rd games in a tactical plan that didn't go too well.

Barry Davis of BSM F beat Jeanette at Maghull in his first ever league game, best to pack it in at that point, no, he didn't beat Paul, a 4-6 defeat for Maghull E is short odds this season.

With number 1 playing long pimples and 2 short pimples without sponge ("Barna") BSM E are a novel experience for most opposition, and Bill Clayton and Albert Parker showed they can play a bit as well in an 8-2 win over Maghull F. Lung Sing Wai's serves giving Barbara no end of grief in singles and doubles amused some onlookers.

Big match of the week was a 3-7 win for Wavertree D at Arriva A, these guys have all been playing in the league for years, but after just 2 years myself I don't know the WavLab players at all, a stunning win against a full strength Arriva side,

Week 2 has new boys CADW A's first game, at Maghull E, wondering if all teams are like this, as well as predictable wins for Mum and Dad, congratulations to Amy on her first singles win, beating Steve Lennon in 5 to give the family a 6-4 win. Sefton Park recorded a surprisingly comprehensive 8-2 over Edge Hill, Eric's 70-year age difference no handicap, and good 3-0s for Ian Findon and Arthur Pierce at the top of the card, Terry against Alan Staniland and a doubles win were the boy's consolation.

Lots of new players in BSM F, – Arriva B, 8-2 for the drivers helped by winning 4 of the 5-setters, Stephen Carey managing it twice, strength in depth was the key, as Scary at 3 and Janusz Wator at 4 (interesting ranking) took all their points. In a "bring your boots, you might get a game" incident Ron Georgeson went from spectator to player for BSM after a non-arrival, and played 14 sets without success.

Wavertree D showed their capability winning 9-1 at 3-man Maghull F, C Fyles with 2 rapid wins to finish the night off.

Bootle 3 – Arriva A 7 indicated the change in relative strength from last season. Kristov Lenyk beat both Steve and Jim for a night to cherish. 2nd doubles box score was 7/11, 14/12, 11/9, 11/13, 13/11. Scoring 54 points and losing must sting a bit.

Week 3 saw Bootle get their first win, scraping home 10-0 at BSM F in 35 sets. The two new sides played each other, Arriva B beating CADWA 6-4.

Edge Hill – Wavertree E went 6-4 for the boys in the South Central Liverpool derby, Josh Bristow and Paul Irving getting a point each, as did Sharon and Eric Spencer, only Chris winning twice (but losing his doubles).

Maghull E 5 – Sefton Park 5. Guess the match scores. Police E 7 – BSM E 3 showed which side has the greater strength through the team, Albert Parker won his singles, and Billy got a point, but the lower ranks weren't able to deal with Camo, Geoff Pye and Joe Mullin, a match notable for the non-playing captain Dave Dundas keeping Bill Clayton on for the second game, then calling him back for the fourth, a “tactic” that worked as Bill's 77 year-old legs gave up against a rather fitter Sam Gittins in his 14th game inside 70 minutes. Arriva A kept up with the pace at the top with 9-1 at Maghull F.

Week 4 was Eric Young's 85th birthday, (allegedly – I think we should cut him down and count the rings to be sure) with cake, candle (one) and a singles win in the 3-7 defeat to Arriva B, Larry Stone at 1 moved to 7 wins from 8, while Daniel Bellard maintained his win one/lose one start. Thanks to DT for the info.

Less amusingly, the comment of “Words fail me!!!” justifiably adorn the Wavertree Labour D - Police card, as Wavertree played with two players, it looks unexpected, names are on the card, the E players were available, a shame as this is possibly our top two sides. Camo managed two fine walkovers in his singles, played a bit of doubles for another point and went home, the hitting of Stan Clarke beat Sam Gittins in 4 tight games that probably wore out a ball. BSM E 10 Edge Hill 0 wasn't as one-sided as the score suggests, with Parker and Clayton taken to 5 sets in games against the Johanson brothers, Terry seems to have caught on that hitting the ball at warp speed isn't much use if only 1 in 4 land on the table, and now plays a controlled top-spin attack of pace and accuracy, Josh and Terry both pointed out edges against themselves that no-one else spotted. WavLab E – Maghull E had the welcome return of Gordon Langshaw at 1, beating Jeanette, who Sharon took to 4 sets. Anna Yang got off the mark against Ashleigh, Amy had another win in

another Maghull E draw, Amy is now the best doubles player in the division, winning all her games in 3 sets. Richard Woodley's two wins saved the whitewash in CADWA's 8-2 win against BSM F, their first victory after two narrow defeats.

The next week CADWA found Bootle much tougher, excellent wins for Ged Howard over Steve, and Joud v. Jim Geddes salvaged a little, but clean sweeps for Gary Williamson, John Taylor and the doubles, mostly in 3 sets. Larry Stone v Gordon Langshaw must have been something to see in Arriva B v Wavertree E – Larry's control and trickery winning 2 sets easily, then Gordon adapting to win in 5. Max points from Gordon and Eric Spencer is familiar. Maghull F – BSM E: Paul Hutchings practiced his retrieval skills against Albert and Bill, Amy was unlucky to lose to Barbara in 5, and also dropped a set in Doubles before being sent to bed with no supper. Police – Arriva A was the big game this week, 6-4 to the home side, a new record for the season was 21-19 win for Camo over Pavel in their first set, the effort was too much, and Camo lost the next 3.

Best performance was Seffy Park's 10-0 against BSM F, mostly in 4-setters with 11-8 scores – the kind of night you've played close games all night and got nothing to show.

Week 6: Denise guested for Maghull F against Police, but couldn't stop Geoff Pye rolling along with 2 wins, an “excellent performance” beat Camo, and a win for reserve Andy Cowell are noted in a card that has alternate wins all the way down. Gordon Langshaw subbed for Wavertree D, rewarded with 2 games against the girls, he conceded 13 points in a night that will boost his average at least. A. Bird (I'm not psychic) and Stan Clarke (know that one) took a set in a close top doubles.

Cheering news with Sharon Mahon and Anna Yang winning their second singles games of the season at BSM F, great to see persistence rewarded – or perhaps the Friday night coaching is working, Eric Spencer the only 2 point player in a 5-5. Sefton Park continued their good form with 7-3 against CADWA, a stable team with Barry Meyer playing regularly has helped no end, all 4 players usually scoring.

Finally, my e-mail is pauloakes1@btinternet.com, and I welcome comments, observations and general abuse.

Further to the letter printed on page 3 “Closed Shop” on the attitude to teenagers, can anyone provide details of ‘E.Birch’, he's not Gordon or Ted, (G.H.E.) but around that time Wavertree Labour had 3 teams in the 1st division, letters to Editor please

The English Open - A Grand Day Out

The English Table Tennis Open might be expected to be a national tournament featuring all the top British players and precious little of the overseas stars. That the tournament hasn't been held since 2000 hardly boosts its rating. Winner of the men's singles that year was Wang Liquin, who had a good year as he picked up the men's singles in The Olympics as well. Previous winners include Persson, Des, Gatién, Saive and going back a bit Bergmann, Bengtsson, Reisman and Barna. A few decent players seem to have given it a go then.

The event was revived this year as part of the ITTF Pro Tour, so there's money in the event and for end-of-season ranking (equals more money), Wang Hao didn't enter, nor Samsanov. Everyone else who matters in men's table tennis (sorry, I don't know the women players) was in the draw, making it the biggest Table Tennis event in Britain for 11 years, we won't see anything better for ...8 months. It was in Sheffield, so there was no reason not to go and see superhuman ability showing off for a day or two.

As it's run by the ETTA I expect details like not being able to reserve tickets on the day ("Just pop in and see if there's any left"), and dealing with the railways (Italian car) and a taxi out practically to Rotherham (the venue is next to Rotherham's football ground) gets things off to a great start, but the train ride is the most scenic in England as a consolation.

Tickets aren't sold from the box office with the computers, but a table with a cash box! The £3 programme is free, but the home printed draw and results so far costs £1. I've chosen the Saturday as it's still 4 tables at once, and all the top players will still be there (wrong!). The hall is big and modern, with most of the seats at one end giving an end-on view of the tables, which are laid out in a square pattern. This gives most a good view of 2 tables in addition to the nearest, so changeovers and dull games aren't wasted time, while exceptional rallies are signalled by the whole room going quiet while two warriors sweat blood for a point. It's better than Lewis's, where it was held in the 30's.

A Women's Last 16 game is the first I see, and there's a defender in action, Park Mi Young (Korea). Every drive is chopped back, usually off the forehand and using reverse rubbers. When a winner is set up it's smeared away, but if it comes back (and they do, often) there's no follow-up hit, we're back to the chop. Must be hell to play against, but Feng Tianwei is seeded 3 and doesn't worry about that sort of thing. Her reward for winning is more of the same, but better from Yana Tie (HK) who beats her next round.

The next match in front of me is totally overshadowed by Yue Wang (Sin) v Sara Ramirez (Spa) on the adjacent table. Both follow the same philosophy – put the ball in play, tap it about a few times then try to hit it through the opponent's bat. This isn't dull, as they both trade all-out forehands in long rallies, point after point for 7 games. Wang wins, and Ramirez should be gutted

and elated after a game like that. If you think Men's Table Tennis is dominated by the East Asians, Ramirez and 3 Hungarians are the only Euros in the Women's last 16.

Some Men try to follow that, Xin Xu who's one of the young Chinese new wave against Tiago Apolonia of Portugal. Apolonia is good, but Xu is awesome, and the result is predictable. I then notice that Apolonia beat Wang Liquin in the first round, the result of his career. I'm not pleased to miss "liquid Wang", the 2004 Olympic Gold Winner in a changing of the guard type match.

Ma Long, top seed and winner, plays on the far table, so I watch a Croat heavyweight wrestler play a Taiwanese 8-stone weakling. The little guy wins a close match by missing less. Then in glorious technicolour, Ma Lin. Current Olympic champion, best serve in the world and owner of a sense of perspective and a big behind. He wins the first easy, nods off, finds he's 2-1 down and wins in 7 against Yoshida (Jpn).

Anyone following the perceived wisdom that the modern game is all about 3rd-ball kill (serve, return a bit high, wham!!!!) is in for a shock. There's virtually no foul returns all day, and no match is dominated by serve. Most rallies are won by winners seemingly played at random. Some rallies are won 2 or 3 times before the ball stops coming back. No-one has a major weakness, just preferences. Smashes are never missed (not once, all day), and the showboat rally of one player smashing lobbed returns happens every 10 points or so, usually ending with a failed lob from wide backhand.

After 4 hours time for a break and a shop. Bribar and Tees Sport have shops there, and that nice Michael Marsden sells me 6 rubbers (not all for me) way below catalogue price. Suss (Ger) jumps the queue, but if Torres wanted a new pair of boots in JJB you'd hardly tell him to wait, would you. He's going to lose to Boll in a bit anyway. A quick drink of the worst coffee of my life and back to the quarter finals. More great stuff, no surprises – Maze still chucks the bat about when losing but Ma Lin is making a meal of his game and it's 7.30. Boll looks like he's about to lose the last men's quarter-final, I decide that with no car it would be rude not to visit The Kelham Island Tavern (National Pub of the Year), The Fat Cat 50 yards away where Kelham Island Beers are brewed (confused? Have a pint and I'll explain) and maybe The Wellington and The New Barracks. Except this being Britain, the last train from Sheffield that gets to Manchester before 11.15 leaves at 8.30, so it's 2 pints and off.

Another 2 hours on the train to check if a 16-page sports section really has no space for Table Tennis results (commentary? be serious!) and time to wonder when I'll see the like of players like that again? Summer next year, with any luck.

Paul Oakes.
Bath St. Marine

Divisional Cups

The results of the 1st. Round
Played week com. 5th Oct. 2009

Division 1. Readman Cup

BATH St. M.	5	v	1	MAGHULL
CROSBY HIGH	5	v	1	CROSBY HIGH 'A'
FORDS	5	v	3	CHRIST the KING
MANWEB	5	v	3	HAROLD HOUSE
CADWA		v		BYE
M/SIDE POLICE		v		BYE
BOOTLE YMCA		v		BYE
WAV. LABOUR		v		BYE

Division 2. Rumjahn Cup

M. POLICE 'A'	5	v	0	MANWEB 'A'
C. t. K. 'A'	5	v	2	C. t. K. 'B'
HAR. HOUSE 'A'	5	v	0	WAV. LAB. 'A'
HAR. HOUSE 'B'	2	v	5	FORDS 'A'
BOOTLE YM. 'A'	5	v	1	MAGHULL 'A'
MARCONI		v		BYE
BATH St. M. 'A'		v		BYE
CROSBY H. 'B'		v		BYE

Division 3. Hyde Cup

CADWA 'A'	W/O	v	con.	BATH St. M. 'C'
WAV. LAB. 'C'	1	v	5	M. POLICE 'B'
BATH St. M. 'B'	1	v	5	MARCONI 'A'
M. POLICE 'C'	4	v	5	MANWEB 'B'
MANWEB 'C'		v		BYE
SEFTON PARK		v		BYE
MAGHULL 'B'		v		BYE
WAV. LAB. 'B'		v		BYE

Division 4. Forrest Cup

ARRIVA N. W.	5	v	1	MARCONI 'C'
BATH St. M. 'D'	5	v	1	SEFTON PK. 'B'
MARCONI 'B'	5	v	1	CADWA 'C'
LINACRE	0	v	5	BOOTLE YM. 'B'
CADWA 'B'	5	v	2	SEFTON PK 'A'
HAR. HOUSE 'C'		v		BYE
MAGHULL 'C'		v		BYE
MAGHULL 'D'		v		BYE

Division 5. Stamp Cup

CADWA 'D'	3	v	5	ARRIVA N. W. 'B'
ARRIVA N. W. 'A'	5	v	0	WAV. LAB. 'E'
MAGHULL 'E'	2	v	5	M. POLICE 'D'
BATH St. M. 'E'	2	v	5	WAV. LAB. 'D'
EDGE HILL	4	v	5	MAGHULL 'E'
SEFTON PK. 'C'		v		BYE
BOOTLE YM. 'C'		v		BYE
BATH St. M. 'E'		v		BYE

Divisional 2nd. Rnd. Draw

Matches played week com. 23rd. Nov. 2009

Division 1. Readman Cup

WAV. LABOUR	v	BOOTLE YM.
BATH St. M.	v	M. POLICE
CROSBY HIGH	v	MANWEB
FORDS	v	CADWA

Division 2. Rumjahn Cup

CROSBY HIGH	v	BATH St. M. 'A'
M. POLICE 'A'	v	MARCONI
C. t. K. 'A'	v	FORDS 'A'
HAR. HOUSE 'A'	v	BOOTLE YM. 'A'

Frank Murphy Memorial Handicap Trophy

1st. Rnd. Results

Played week com. 2nd. Nov.09

HOME AWAY

MANWEB 1	343	v	280	M. POLICE 3
M. POLICE 2	337	v	354	BATH St. M.1
BATH St. M.3	W/O	v	conc	MANWEB 2
BOOTLE YM.3	493	v	485	MARCONI 2
MAGHULL 1	425	v	421	CADWA 2
SEFTON TTC 1	455	v	497	MARCONI 1
M. POLICE 1	400	v	401	MAGHULL 3
BOOTLE YM.1	306	v	287	FORDS
CADWA 3	368	v	355	C. t. K.
CROSBY HIGH	plus 5	v	!!	LINACRE
CADWA 1	470	v	457	ARRIVA N.W. 2
SEFTON TTC 3	445	v	476	BATH St. M.4
MAGHULL 2	470	v	493	ARRIVA N.W.1
MARCONI 3	396	v	369	MANWEB 3
BATH St. M.5	471	v	495	SEFTON TTC 2
BATH St. M.2	374	v	347	BOOTLE YM.2

F. M. 2 nd. Round Draw

Matches to be played week com. 14th Dec

HOME AWAY

CADWA 1	v	MAGHULL 1
ARRIVA N.W. 1	v	CADWA 3
BOOTLE YM. 3	v	BOOTLE YM.1
BATH St. M. 1	v	MAGHULL 3
MARCONI 1	v	BATH St. M. 2
BATH St. M. 4	v	CROSBY HIGH
MARCONI 3	v	BATH St. M. 3
MANWEB 1	v	SEFTON TTC 2

Division 3. Hyde Cup

WAV. LAB. 'B'	v	MAGHULL 'B'
CADWA 'A'	v	SEFTON PARK
M. POLICE 'B'	v	MANWEB 'B'
MARCONI 'A'	v	MANWEB 'C'

Division 4. Forrest Cup

MAGHULL 'D'	v	MAGHULL 'C'
ARRIVA N. W.	v	HAR. HOUSE 'C'
BATH St. M. 'D'	v	BOOTLE YM. 'B'
MARCONI 'B'	v	CADWA 'B'

Division 5. Stamp Cup

BATH St. M. 'E'	v	BOOTLE YM. 'C'
SEFTON PK. 'C'	v	ARRIVA N. W. 'B'
ARRIVA N. W. 'A'	v	WAV. LABOUR 'D'
M. POLICE 'D'	v	MAGHULL 'E'

11 UP

Another in the series of interviews of well known players by Paul Gittens, this one from Crosby club Bath Street Marine's **Billy Clayton**, with just a few of the many photo's supplied. Paul has requested that the title be changed from '50 Plus' to '11 Up', maybe to indicate that age doesn't matter in table tennis

1. Where did it all start?

I was introduced to the sport in 1946 by a man called Dave Styles, he had returned from D-Day to Litherland Boys Club where we met. During the war he had been playing table tennis with Victor Barna, Johnny Leach and Richard Bergmann who were all previous World Champions. Most competitions were regionally organised and most of the major clubs were linked with tennis clubs such as Bohemians, Palmerston and rafters. Consequently although table tennis was a popular sport amongst working class people, few of them played in clubs which tended to be more for the middle classes.



In 1951-52 Litherland Boys Club won the North Region Division, their team squad was L-r Billy, Arthur Taylor, Gordon Porter, Wilf Anderson, Don Henwood & Alec Hoatson, with a few cups from the local Crosby & District League.

My first game was in the North Region, season 1949 -50 and although I missed two seasons due to National service, I have been a registered player for the last 60 years and I still get the buzz. The teams I have played for include Litherland Boys Club, Wav lab, Linacre & Bath Street. I have also represented England Vets all over the World, the last championship was held in Croatia 75 to 79 years category .

Table Tennis has enabled me to travel the World with my TT family and maintain long standing friendships with my fellow players. My proudest moment came in London winning the Gold medal in the Vets Doubles with partner and great friend Les Gee who played the game of his life (what a backhand), a tear came to my eye when we received our Gold medal from none other than Johnny Leach twice world champion.

2. Who was the best player played against ?

Arthur Taylor - an opponent from the 1950s. He was Liverpool Champion on many occasions. Arthur became a great club mate of mine. I always felt that when I was playing him he was in control of every facet of the game. With a bit more discipline and sponsorship Arthur could have gone onto have been an even better player.

3. What was your best win ?

My best victory was against Alec Bryce. At the time I was playing for Liverpool Business Houses and Alec was representing St Helens. We had to win the fixture to win the Lancs & Cheshire League. I won the first 21-5. Alec won the second 21-5 and I won the third, wait for it ... 21-5! the game was played at British Sidac at St Helens, we won the match 6-4 & gained promotion.

4. What was your worst defeat ?

My worst ever defeat was against Fred Rebecca from the Wirral. It was my second season in the Liverpool League (which in those days incorporated the Wirral). It was the 1950-51 season. Fred exposed my weak backhand and



Billy at the 1992 World Vets Championships in Dubais with Chris Coogan and the then World Champion Chen Laing



Billy with varnished wood!! and a Bath Street team of Reg. Edwards, Alex Gould and Karen Gibson

beat me handsomely. The game lasted so long that my team mates left early to get home and to add insult to injury, me and Arthur Taylor had to thumb a lift back through the tunnel. We arrived home in darkness and both of us got a flea in our ear.

5. Best player to watch ?

Richard Bergmann, who was England number 1 at the time, I watched him play at Wembley in the English Open which he won defeating Johnny Leach in the final. This was the first organised trip from the L & D TTL outside of the city, we had hundreds of people who travelled down by train for this, which was specially chartered by the League. Bergmann was the complete all-round player and a great entertainer who sadly died at an early age at Clatterbridge Hospital and is buried in New York.

6. Funniest Table Tennis moment ?

Playing against Cheshire Lines, a well known player of the time, Alf Gower, was playing my club mate Arthur Taylor. Alf was losing and was becoming increasingly frustrated. He suddenly said, "I shouldn't be losing to you. I could beat you with a ham shank", at this point the went into the kitchen and emerged with said shank, he played two points with the ham to everyone's hilarity.

7. Who's your Table Tennis hero and why ?

A player who really inspired me was a man called Alan Lawson from Anfield. Alan was always impeccably turned out and always had a smile whether he won or lost. I felt Alan created a great image for the sport both on and off the table. Unfortunately Alan died young so we never saw the best of him, with modern equipment he would have been a real force to be reckoned with.

8. Is there life other than Table Tennis ?

My other sport is Crown Green bowls. A sport that I love and have been able to play at a high standard for many years. My first game was in 1958 for Derby Park in Bootle, I currently play for the Brook Pensioners who have been league champions four years in a row. Fortunately, I have had the opportunity to spend thousands of hours in this sport and I have made some great friends.

9. What are we most likely to hear you say ?

My first reaction on meeting opponents both in Table Tennis and bowls is "I've heard you're playing great stuff at the moment" this causes consternation amongst my opponents who think I'm trying to psyche them out, but in fact I'm just being friendly - honest!

10. Tell me something that would surprise me ?

I would love to appear on Strictly Come Dancing. Fred Astaire had nothing on me. Despite this talent, I still hold the record number of knock-backs at the Grafton, Lacarno and Litherland Town Hall. I was never given up by Connie Millington though.



Billy's other sport, here holding the Clare Cup, the handicap competition of the Bootle & District League, played at Freshfield, with another ex. Litherland Boys Club member John Ray



Billy as you'll see him now, 78 and still enjoying every game

11. What changes would you like to see ?

Although I've got use to the 11 Up system, I still prefer playing three sets up to 21 points. I also prefer 4 and 5 a side instead of 3 a side. I think that 4 and 5 a side encourages more people to play the game. However, I feel that the rules of table tennis are basically sound. It remains a great game and I enjoy watching all levels and all ages of people participating in our sport.

Rules of Engagement

I watched a match some weeks ago where a player (a) was unexpectedly winning against a higher ranked player (b), having won the first 2 games, player 'a' was 5-1 up in the 3rd, when player 'b' decided to 'stop for a break' which lasted for 3 – 4 minutes, after a little prompting, player 'b' returned to the table, winning the next 2 points, but player 'a', fired up after all this, settled down winning all the remaining points, just as well, cos, believe me, if player 'a' had have lost the match he would not have been a very happy chappie.

The main problem on the night was that no one seemed to know what to do about this situation, which could have turned an enjoyable night into a confrontational night, so I have checked to find out any information which may prevent this happening again.

1. **The L&DTTL, do not acknowledge the Time Out** call in league matches. The ITTF Regulations refer specifically to 'International Competition Matches', but in the absence of any other regulations (ETTA), I suppose the general ITTF regulations apply to us.

Intervals

ITTF 3.04.04. States -: Play shall be **continuous** throughout an individual match except that any player is entitled to -:

*"An interval of up to 1 minute **between successive games** of an individual match. **Brief** intervals for towelling after every 6 points from the start of each game and at the **change of ends** in the last possible game of an individual match."*

But I would assume that if a player is going to use the towel, he would be expected to have the towel at the table and not have to go searching for one!

So really the onus is on the Umpire to prevent breaks in 'continuous play', but if everyone plays by the rules during normal play, he shouldn't need to.

Like everything in life, there's always a few "what ifs", like the ball getting lost amongst the chairs, behind the screens at Cadwa, or at Wavertree, or stuck in the corner at BYM, or 2 matches side by side, hopefully commonsense will prevail then.

Changing Bats

While looking for the above info, I had a thought about changing bats, you know when a player just can't handle the opponents play and decides to change his bat, nothing unusual or unsporting in that, if trying to get back into the game, but I was a bit puzzled by the only regulation I could find,

*ITTF Reg. 2.04.08 "At the **start** of a match and **when-ever he changes** his racket during a match a player*

shall show his opponent and the umpire the racket he is about to use and shall allow them to examine it"

To me this rule can be interpreted to allow multiple changes .

ITTF Reg. 3.04.03.03. States -: Players shall be given reasonable opportunity to check and familiarise themselves with any equipment which they are to use, but this does not automatically entitle them to more than a few practice rallies before resuming play after the replacement of a damaged ball or racket

I expect that this also applies to players changing bat as in Reg. 2.04.08 above.

I couldn't find anything in the ITTF or ETTA Rules which gave a more definitive interpretation of these rules, but during discussion at a recent match I was told that there was an understanding that a player cannot change his bat during a match, so I had another go at trawling the internet and came across a site called www.allabouttabletennis.com, a very comprehensive Table Tennis site where the webmaster has taken on the task of applying a sensible interpretation of the ITTF Rules, (I may stand corrected on this assumption), this is his detailing of the changing of a bat Rule

Changing your racket during a match?

You're no longer allowed to change your racket during a match unless it's been accidentally damaged so badly that you can't use it.

If the umpire does allow you to change your racket, you must show your new racket to your opponent and to the umpire.

Therefore you can no longer use a different racket without your opponent (and the umpire) examining it first, which means that you can't bamboozle your opponent by using a racket which he hasn't been allowed to examine.

Also, to prevent you from secretly changing your racket between games, you must leave it on the table during the intervals between games and you must not remove it without the specific agreement of the umpire.

If, with the agreement of the umpire, you do remove your racket during an interval for any reason, the umpire and your opponent must be given the opportunity to inspect your racket before the next game starts.

Any comments please to the Editor

Schools Table Tennis.



This is the photo we missed (Vol63No.4) of last season's winners of the Liverpool Schools Competition, Bluecoat School, Champions of both year groups (years 8-9 & 10-11) leagues. Here we have Schools Sport Coordinator Paul O'Leary, presenting the trophies to both Bluecoat teams.

The new 2009-10 season started on 12th Nov.
For the Liverpool Schools

Fixture	Venue	Date
1	Shorefields	12th Nov. 09
2	Calderstones	10th Dec. 09
3	Gateacre	14th Jan. 10
4	TBC	11th Feb. 10

1st round played 12th Nov. 09

Years 7.8.9.

match Game

Pos			Pl.	Won	Pts
1	King David	Childwall	2	21	21
2	SFAssisi	Tuebrook	2	19	19
3	Childwall	Childwall	2	12	12
4	Shorefields	Dingle	2	12	12
5	SFXavier	Woolton	2	11	11
6	St Margarets	Aigburth	2	10	10
7	Bluecoat	Wavertree	2	7	7
8	St Benedicts	Garston	2	4	4
9	Gateacre	Gateacre	0	0	0

The 7 Schools taking part in this season's Sefton School's Table Tennis League

Savio Salesian College
St Ambrose Barlow
Formby High School
Meols Cop
Christ The King
St Marys
Range High School
U13 and U16

Paul O'Leary's comments on the first round of the 2009-10 Liverpool Schools matches

"Last nights games were excellent, schools have improved in standard considerably, bodes well for the league this year!"

years 10 / 11

match Game

Pos			Pl.	Won	Pts
1	Bluecoat	Wavertree	2	17	17
2	Shorefields	Dingle	2	17	17
3	St Benedicts	Garston	2	14	14
4	SFXavier	Woolton	1	10	10
5	Calderstones	Allerton	2	6	6
6	Childwall	Childwall	2	5	5
7	St Margarets	Aigburth	1	3	3
8	Gateacre	Gateacre	0	0	0
9	SFAssisi	Tuebrook	0	0	0

UK School Games Newport, south wales - 3rd/6th September 2009

The Wheelchair event culminated with Jack Pegram (England South East) against Jack Hunter-Spivey (England North West), both unbeaten before their final match. Pegram fought hard to retain the title he had held for two years, but a closely contested final saw new champion Hunter-Spivey winning 3 games to 2.

Individual Championships - Final Positions

Wheelchair - Disability:

- 1 st Jack Hunter-Spivey (North West)
- 2nd Jack Pegram (South East)
- 3rd Hannah Coulthurst (North East)



This is how games should end
(Photograph: Courtesy of Fast Track & ESTTA)

Jack plays under the umbrella of the Halton T.T. Club, and won the Silver medal at the UK School Games at Bristol last year aged 13;

from Chairmans Forum Sept. 2009-10-23

Individual Membership/Affiliation

For clarity the Rule Change Proposals agreed at the AGM were submitted on behalf of the ETTA • by National Council and albeit the Treasurer at the AGM gave details of the determination of fees, these recommendations were first put forward by the Membership in consultation with Rules Committee and subsequently approved by Council at two meetings in October 2008 and January 2009.

The Membership Committee and its sub-groups have met and we are moving forward, further • information on a regular basis will be circulated in the coming months. It is essential that implementation and process is circulated widely to the membership as well as ensuring it is user friendly and the volunteers within the Clubs and Leagues are given the appropriate support/advice. My wife, Val, is a Local League Secretary with over 250 members in her League so I have an additional vested interest in the process. If you have any questions please ensure you contact the ETTA.

NATIONAL COUNCIL SUMMARY 28.07.09

4. The Chief Executive spoke of the need to review the official magazine; Table Tennis News and possibly link the magazine with Individual Affiliation to be able to give one copy to each member.

Whereas the TTNews is a good magazine for those who wish to be kept up with TT events, the latest issue now retails at £3-50 , up from £2-95, (8 copies for £23), I don't know how the Chief Exec. intends to reconcile the extra cost on the Individual Affiliation fee to the majority of players who don't buy the TTNews at present. The extra sales would inevitably bring the cost down, but not to the extent of being a "freebie".

10. The Treasurer proposed to members an increase of 20p for the Insurance Fee Unit, which becomes £3.20 per team. The budget figures presented to the April meeting have not been amended, but any subsequent variances would be dealt with by revising forecasts and highlighting variances.

People are flocking to play table tennis according to one of the biggest surveys ever carried out into the nation's sporting activities. The Olympic sport has been given a huge boost, with figures released by Sport England showing that it is proving a big hit with the country's 16 plus age group, a key part in Sport England's ongoing Active People survey.

The survey, involving over 350,000 interviews, clearly showed that table tennis was the only one of 31 funded sports including swimming, football, gymnastics and rowing, to attract a statistically significant increase in young people taking part in sport.

Affiliation Numbers

A recent document has been produced for the returns from Leagues on a Regional and County • basis for the 2007/8 and 2008/9 season not just based upon the Team Affiliation numbers but the Individual Registration Forms and the Number of Registered Players shown in the standard AFF2 form returned by Leagues. This shows that 31,011 affiliated persons were registered for the Leagues in 2008/9 a decline unfortunately of 2%. In addition the Affiliated Teams over the last 6 years have shown a 7% decline not the 30% reported elsewhere.

Any decline is unacceptable albeit these figures do not include those who are members of Clubs • and do not play within the League programme, which would of course significantly increase the Affiliated Persons the ETTA has.

The advent of IM/IA in 2010/11 will give us real Affiliation numbers so at least we shall have a • base to work with.

It is important to remember that as a sport, despite the progress being made, we have areas which need improving and these were included in the Whole Sport Plan, Interventions and Transformation policies. These can only be met with the Table Tennis fraternity working together to achieve the goals for our great sport.

Regards

Alex Murdoch Chairman ETTA

Individual Membership/Affiliation

The Membership Committee and its sub-groups have met and we are moving forward with the process. Further information will be circulated on a regular basis in the coming months. It is essential that implementation and process updates are circulated widely to the membership, as well as ensuring the system is user friendly and the volunteers within the clubs and leagues are given the appropriate support and advice. If you have any questions please ensure you contact the ETTA.

I did see somewhere that a simplified Individual Membership Registration form was being devised, but haven't seen one yet!!

Some of the questions on the original may be a requirement for statistical purposes, but have been a major turn off for many players.

Hopefully in the next Digests I will have more information on how the Individual Registration will be affecting our League members, but the finality is - non registration means non playing!

OBITUARY

Jack Davidson

Linacre T.T. Club

15. 4. 1926 - 4. 10. 2009

Passed away 4th October 2009 Aged 83

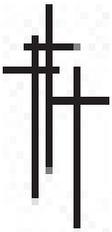
His first league game was on 27th October 1948 and his last game was on 9th April 2009. In between, Jack played 2910 sets for Linacre, not counting his Frank Murphy Cup games. The best set I saw was during our only foray into the 1st division. Jack beat Roy Smith at Wav. Labour to save the whitewash. At Linacre, after that match he was known as PIM (Poetry In Motion). He was the last of our original 5 players and was Linacre's first Secretary. He was Secretary up to his fatal illness.



On a personal note, Jack took me to away games on the back of his motorbike during the 60's. We only fell off twice, neither time being Jack's fault! He was my doubles partner for 50 years and we were just getting the hang of it.

Jack was a fierce competitor, but completely fair - a true sportsman. Linacre have lost a secretary, captain and more importantly a great friend.

I would like to thank all Jack's many table tennis friends who attended the funeral, we at Linacre & Jack's family really appreciate it.



Harry Reeve
Linacre T.T. Club

By coincidence, in the corresponding Digest last season Vol.63 No.1 we reported the passing of Jack's brother Alec at the age of 84, Alec was another founder member of Linacre, Jack prepared Alec's Obituary with the help of all the friends at Linacre



Eric Caird 1919 - 2009

Eric was a member of the Man. Com. in the 1970 - 80's, a League Vice President, and was renowned for his involvement at League AGM's as a club Secretary, and for his perceptive comments on knotty issues, usually, gaining a laugh which lightened the proceedings, a founder member of the Rafters club. his Wife Audrey also played and were both quite involved in the sport, when playing Table Tennis was the main relaxation both before and after the war. He was also The Editor of the Digest from 1960 to 1963 inc.

Hopefully I will be able to include a more in depth memory of Eric Caird in the next Digest, Editor

Division 1					
	Name	Club	P	W	Ave
1	WILLIAMS Keith	Bootle YMCA	18	18	100.00%
2	LEWIS Kevin	Maghull	18	5	27.78%
3	EVANS Paul	Manweb	18	4	22.22%
4	LLOYD Gavin	Crosby High A	18	3	16.67%
5	WILSON Matty	Maghull	18	3	16.67%
6	ROBERTS Dave	Bath St Marine	15	13	86.67%
7	GREEN Steve	Bath St Marine	15	12	80.00%
8	HOPE John	M/Side Police	15	12	80.00%
9	JACKSON Ken	Bath St Marine	15	11	73.33%
10	MOLYNEUX Les	Manweb	15	11	73.33%
11	BLACK Graeme	Cadwa	15	8	53.33%
12	WYLIE Rob	Crosby High A	15	8	53.33%
13	KENDALL Tony	Maghull	15	2	13.33%
14	LENNON George	Cadwa	15	2	13.33%
15	CHASE Alan	Bootle YMCA	14	5	35.71%
16	McEVOY Mal	Fords	12	12	100.00%
17	WATSON Gary	Wavertree Labour	12	10	83.33%
18	TURNER Terry	Fords	12	9	75.00%
19	POWELL Neil	Manweb	12	8	66.67%
20	CONNER Ken	Harold House	12	4	33.33%

Division 2					
	Name	Club	P	W	Ave
1	CHEUNG Billy	Christ The King 'B'	21	18	85.71%
2	TAYLOR Peter	Christ The King 'B'	21	10	47.62%
3	KHAIYAT Omid	Christ The King 'A'	18	17	94.44%
4	TAGG Dave	Christ The King 'B'	18	13	72.22%
5	AO Jason	Manweb 'A'	18	11	61.11%
6	HARSE Dave	Manweb 'A'	18	6	33.33%
7	JONES Alan	Maghull 'A'	17	5	29.41%
8	BANKS Paul	Wavertree Lab 'A'	15	10	66.67%
9	BRYCE Alec	Harold House 'A'	15	10	66.67%
10	EDWARDS Bob	Marconi	15	10	66.67%
11	LEE Peter	Christ The King 'A'	15	10	66.67%
12	GOLDSON Robbie	Fords	15	9	60.00%
13	ADAMS Roy	Manweb 'A'	15	6	40.00%
14	ROWAN John	Wavertree Lab 'A'	15	5	33.33%
15	WRIGHT Roly	Bootle YMCA 'A'	15	4	26.67%
16	RUSSELL Michael	Maghull 'A'	15	2	13.33%
17	BAKER Neil	Harold House 'A'	12	9	75.00%
18	EVANS Dave	Crosby High 'B'	12	9	75.00%
19	McELWEE Ian	Bath St Marine A	12	9	75.00%
20	WHALLEY Steve	Harold House 'A'	12	9	75.00%

Division 3					
	Name	Club	P	W	Ave
1	WENSLEY Ian	Marconi 'A'	18	16	88.89%
2	McCANN Frank	Marconi 'A'	18	14	77.78%
3	WONG Robert	Manweb 'C'	18	7	38.89%
4	PEAT Rob	Bath St Marine 'B'	15	13	86.67%
5	DYSON Len	M/Side Police 'B'	15	11	73.33%
6	CONNOR Tony	Wavertree Lab 'B'	15	10	66.67%
7	MOORE John	M/Side Police 'B'	15	10	66.67%
8	CHEUNG Andy	Bath St Marine 'C'	15	9	60.00%
9	Xia Dong	Wavertree Lab 'C'	15	9	60.00%
10	PROFFITT Lee	Sefton Park	15	7	46.67%
11	PURCELL Tom	M/Side Police 'C'	15	7	46.67%
12	AO David	Manweb 'C'	15	6	40.00%
13	ROBERTS Peter	Cadwa 'A'	15	6	40.00%
14	STANLEY Bill	Wavertree Lab 'B'	15	5	33.33%
15	MORGAN Paul	Wavertree Lab 'B'	15	3	20.00%
16	CHEN Ben	Manweb 'B'	12	10	83.33%
17	POWER Mike	Cadwa 'A'	12	10	83.33%
18	BULMER Rod	Maghull 'B'	12	8	66.67%
19	CROLLEY Brian	Bath St Marine 'C'	12	8	66.67%
20	NOLAN Terri-Anne	M/Side Police 'C'	12	8	66.67%

Player Averages

Trevor has again compiled an up to date list of averages to date, but for a change I have used a different format, so that instead of the usual list in order of 100% down, (from min. 6 sets played) and the same names appearing each time, I've used the main criteria as of games played, so the ever presents each week will lead the lists rather than those who've played the minimum games but won all.

As I have limited space in each Digest, it will give names not normally seen a chance, but the full averages set out in the normal way can still be found on the League web site at

-: www.ldttl.co.uk

Division 4					
	Name	Club	P	W	avg
1	SCOTLAND Derek	Arriva North West	12	12	100.00%
2	MALIK Shakil	Bootle YMCA 'B'	12	11	91.67%
3	McLOUGHLIN John	Maghull 'C'	12	11	91.67%
4	McPHERSON Rod	Harold House 'C'	12	11	91.67%
5	HUGHES Harry	Arriva North West	12	10	83.33%
6	PRESTON Eddie	Bootle YMCA 'B'	12	8	66.67%
7	ROBERTS Ken	Marconi 'C'	12	7	58.33%
8	HUGHES Mike	Bootle YMCA 'B'	12	6	50.00%
9	HIGHAM George	Cadwa 'B'	12	5	41.67%
10	CROXTON Neil	Sefton Park 'B'	12	5	41.67%
11	LUNT Ian	Cadwa 'B'	12	5	41.67%
12	CLIEN Eddie	Harold House 'C'	10	9	90.00%
13	REEVE Harry	Linacre	10	6	60.00%
14	McGANITY Harry	Maghull 'C'	10	6	60.00%
15	TRAYNOR Derek	Sefton Park 'B'	10	6	60.00%
16	OATES Graham	Bath St Marine 'D'	10	6	60.00%
17	KOUDELIK Josef	Cadwa 'C'	10	5	50.00%
18	PUDDIFER Robbie	Sefton Park 'B'	10	5	50.00%
19	WRIGHT Keith	Bath St Marine 'D'	10	5	50.00%
20	ROLLINSON Graham	Arriva North West	10	5	50.00%

Division 5					
	Name	Club	P	W	avg
1	STONE Larry	Arriva Nth West 'B'	12	9	75.00%
2	CAREY Stephen	Arriva Nth West 'B'	12	6	50.00%
3	LOGAN Des	Bath St Marine 'F'	12	3	25.00%
4	HUTCHINGS Paul	Maghull 'E'	10	10	100.00%
5	CLAYTON Bill	Bath St Marine 'E'	10	8	80.00%
6	PARKER Albert	Bath St Marine 'E'	10	8	80.00%
7	WILLIAMSON Gary	Bootle YMCA 'C'	10	8	80.00%
8	YOUNG Eric	Sefton Park 'C'	10	8	80.00%
9	DANIELS Steve	Bootle YMCA 'C'	10	7	70.00%
10	HOWARD Ged	Cadwa 'D'	10	7	70.00%
11	HUTCHINGS Jannette	Maghull 'E'	10	7	70.00%
12	CAMERON Alan	M/Side Police 'D'	10	7	70.00%
13	MEYER Barry	Sefton Park 'C'	10	7	70.00%
14	STANILAND Alan	Sefton Park 'C'	10	6	60.00%
15	OAKES Paul	Bath St Marine 'E'	10	6	60.00%
16	ALCOCK Barbara	Bath St Marine 'E'	10	6	60.00%
17	TAYLOR John	Bootle YMCA 'C'	10	6	60.00%
18	FINDON Ian	Sefton Park 'C'	10	5	50.00%
19	GEDDES Jim	Bootle YMCA 'C'	10	5	50.00%
20	EVANS Michael	Wavertree Lab 'E'	10	4	40.00%

Fixture Secretary,s Guide to Completing Match Score Card

1 Match Week No. 2 Division 3 Date 4 Match Week No. 5 6 7

1) Match Week No---as per week com date page 11 of handbook & inside cover of score book. (MOST IMPORTANT)

2) Division in which teams are playing.

3) Date on which the match is played.

4) Name of home team.

5) Fixture Key No of home team---as on page 10 of your handbook or inside cover of score book.(MOST IMPORTANT)

6) Name of away team.

7) Fixture Key No of away team---as on page 10 of your handbook or inside cover of score book.(MOST IMPORTANT)

8) Home team ranking numbers, to be provided by your club secretary.

9) Away team ranking numbers, to be provided by your club secretary.

10) Home teams players names.

11) Away teams players names.

12) Order of play in which matches are played.

13) Home Teams Doubles Pairings

14) Away Team Doubles Pairings

15) Match Result

16) Name of winning team & score

17) If match drawn place X in box

18) Home teams Captains signature confirming score card is correct.

19) A way teams Captains signature confirming score card is correct.

20) Home teams playing record to date.

MATCH WEEK NO & BOTH FIX KEY NO's MUST BE INSERTED

HOME TEAM GROUP No's:.....	AWAY TEAM GROUP No's:.....	Order of Play	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Sets	
HOME TEAM	VISITING TEAM		Games							H	A
1	8	1	/	/	/	/	/	/	/		
1	9	2	/	/	/	/	/	/	/		
2	11	1	/	/	/	/	/	/	/		
3	10	2	/	/	/	/	/	/	/		
3	12	4	/	/	/	/	/	/	/		
4	13	3	/	/	/	/	/	/	/		
4	14	4	/	/	/	/	/	/	/		
D	15	D	/	/	/	/	/	/	/		
D	16	D	/	/	/	/	/	/	/		
RESULT.....	T.T.C. WON BY.....	SETS TO.....									
(Signed).....	Home Captain.....									
HOME TEAM PLAYING RECORD			Pld.....							Pts.....	20
										18	19

Would Appreciate Your Help in Completing Match Score Card Correctly

The filling in of the match card correctly is important, helpful to the match secretary, and means the running of the League is correct. Team captains only have to fill in one card each week, the match sec. has to check 30 every week, so please take a bit more care when filling in, print preferred for clarity

All information required to fill the card correctly is in your Match Book and Handbook, the only info not there is team ranking, but each captain should know his team ranking, remember, rank in the wrong order and you lose points!! Please post the next day rather than forget in bag.

League Tables to 10th November 2009

Division One		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Bath St Marine	5	5	0	0	40
2	M/Side Police	5	4	0	1	35
3	Bootle YMCA	6	4	0	2	34
4	Fords	4	4	0	0	33
5	Manweb	6	2	0	4	27
6	Crosby High	4	3	1	0	27
7	Harold House	5	2	0	3	22
8	Crosby High 'A'	6	2	0	4	22
9	Wav Labour	4	2	0	2	22
10	Christ The King	4	1	0	3	15
11	Maghull	6	0	1	5	12
12	Cadwa	5	0	0	5	11
13	Free					
14	Free					

Division Two		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Christ The King 'A'	6	6	0	0	47
2	Harold House 'A'	6	4	2	0	43
3	Christ The King 'B'	6	4	1	1	37
4	Marconi	6	2	2	2	33
5	Manweb 'A'	6	1	2	3	26
6	Wav Labour 'A'	5	2	1	2	23
7	Bath St Marine 'A'	5	1	2	2	23
8	Crosby High 'B'	5	2	0	3	23
9	Fords 'A'	5	2	1	2	23
10	M/Side Police 'A'	5	2	1	2	23
11	Maghull 'A'	6	0	1	5	18
12	Bootle YMCA 'A'	5	0	1	4	16
13	Harold House 'B'	4	2	0	2	15
14	Free					

Division Three		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Marconi 'A'	6	6	0	0	46
2	M/Side Police 'B'	5	4	0	1	30
3	Bath St Marine 'C'	5	4	0	1	30
4	Sefton Park	5	3	0	2	27
5	Maghull 'B'	5	2	2	1	25
6	Bath St Marine 'B'	5	1	1	3	25
7	M/Side Police 'C'	6	2	1	3	24
8	Cadwa 'A'	5	2	0	3	24
9	Wav Labour 'C'	5	3	0	2	23
10	Wav Labour 'B'	5	1	0	4	20
11	Manweb 'C'	5	1	0	4	18
12	Manweb 'B'	5	0	0	5	18
13	Free					
14	Free					

Division Four		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Harold House 'C'	6	5	1	0	46
2	Bootle YMCA 'B'	6	4	0	2	38
3	Arriva North West	6	4	0	2	38
4	Maghull 'C'	6	2	1	3	34
5	Bath St Marine 'D'	5	3	1	1	31
6	Marconi 'B'	5	4	1	0	31
7	Marconi 'C'	6	1	3	2	27
8	Cadwa 'B'	6	1	0	5	26
9	Cadwa 'C'	5	3	0	2	22
10	Sefton Park 'B'	6	1	1	4	22
11	Linacre	5	2	1	2	19
12	Sefton Park 'A'	5	1	1	3	18
13	Maghull 'D'	5	0	0	5	8
14	Free					

Division Five		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	M/Side Police 'D'	6	5	1	0	44
2	Bath St Marine 'E'	6	5	0	1	42
3	Sefton Park 'C'	6	3	1	2	35
4	Arriva Nth West 'B'	6	3	2	1	34
5	Arriva Nth West 'A'	5	3	0	2	33
6	Bootle YMCA 'C'	5	3	1	1	32
7	Maghull 'E'	6	1	2	3	28
8	Wav Labour 'D'	4	3	0	1	24
9	Cadwa 'D'	5	1	0	4	21
10	Wav Labour 'E'	5	0	3	2	19
11	Bath St Marine 'F'	7	1	1	5	17
12	Maghull 'F'	5	0	1	4	13
13	Edge Hill	4	1	0	3	8
14	Free					

Fines to Date 10.11.09	No	Fine	Total
Ineligible Player	0	£0	£0
Player Short	5	£3	£15
Walk Over League	1	£6	£6
Walk Over Cup	2	£6	£12
Played Out of Order	0	1.50 PP	£0
Late Score Card	7	£3	£21
Total	15	£54.00	

The fines keep coming down, this season **above**, the same time last season **below**, more players get games, but regards late cards some players never change!!

Fines to Date 10.11.08	No	Fine	Total
Ineligible Player	0	£0	£0
Player Short	5	£3	£15
Walk Over League	4	£6	£24
Walk Over Cup	1	£6	£6
Played Out of Order	0	1.50 PP	£0
Late Score Card	10	£3	£30
Total	21	£78.00	