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Editorial

Individual Membership:- a very important change in the running of our leagues, in the last Digest (Nov. 09) I had copied passages from the ETTA on this subject, one of the comments from ETTA was "*Further information will be circulated on a regular basis in the coming months*", I've checked the ETTA web site regularly, but nothing new, so to try and keep this in the limelight, I refer to the last document which was circulated, (3 / 6 / 2009), 'AFFILIATION PROCESSES and PROCEDURES, Local Leagues, 2010 – 2011, Draft 1'. In early days I had thought that the changeover would be a simple case of everyone filling in a single player-registration form, (a form which will be simplified from the original), which had to be checked and modified each season, that I suppose is correct for individual players, but for others, Club Secretaries, League Officials, I think there is an enormous amount of work ahead, the document I refer to is 26 pages long, including instructions, requirements, implementation timetable, and sample forms to fill in (11, not including the 4 standard ETTA forms already in use), so I would recommend that all start familiarising themselves with these requirements and documents. On pages 14 & 15, I have copied a few pages from this 'draft' document to give you some idea what's expected.

We are 2/3rds way through the season, the div. cup semi finals have just been completed, and before the next Digest, the Finals will have been completed. Coming shortly will be the Frank Murphy Cup Semi finals, the 'Closed' has been organised, just waiting now for the deluge of entry forms to make it all worth the effort for the organisers, (Please remember we always need volunteers for set up etc. etc.). At this stage it would appear that only division 3 looks cut and dried, but with a long way to go, who knows!

Bath St. Marine secretary, Ron Georgeson has joined the ever growing band of heart surgery and has recently had his heart operation, and is on the slow road to recovery, he's been taken under the wing of club mate John Langton, himself a member of the 'heart club', John's using his experience to stop Ron 'going too fast', a problem only members of the 'club' would appreciate. Another member of BSM, Cyril Penny, had a heart op approx. 6 months ago and has recently had a couple of matches. Doug Baker mentions others in his Div. 4 report who also have health problems, best wishes to all, and look forward to seeing all back to full health.

Another player I feel I must mention for his medical problems, and of whom I'm full of admiration for his tenacity to keep things as normal as possible, is the

Police club's Alan Cameron, who has been diagnosed with large brain tumours, he has been carrying this knowledge for some time now, receiving specialist treatment, but from the latest assessment, his consultants have decided that the growth is on hold, and consequently, have put surgery on hold. Alan has always been a very competitive player, but this adds a new dimension to his battles, I remember the many times I've played against Alan, his will to win was always there, and I'm sure that same will to win is with him now, as I said earlier, admiration, is an understatement

I paid a short, long overdue, visit to a round of the Liverpool Schools Sports Partnership Table Tennis League, at the invitation of Paul O'Leary, the Liverpool South Sports coordinator, this round was held at St. Francis of Assisi School, Tuebrook, 7 tables were in use in a pretty crowded hall, non of the luxuries of a 10 x 5 metre playing area surrounded by barriers, balls were flying everywhere, team players were lined up around their match table, what couldn't be mistaken, was the keen-ness of the youngsters playing, without any worry about conditions, and typical of all the advance planning, one of the schools failed to turn up, which meant a hurried re-arrangement of the playing schedule by Paul with input from Stan Clarke, to make sure everyone gets as many games as possible. Next thing noticeable was the "rawness" of play, I'm not thinking of shots, but basic match play, which brings me to the object of this article, some of the youngsters are getting some 'coaching', most aren't, but as we don't have enough coaches to go round, the next best thing is experience, we (the L&DTTL) do have an abundance of experienced players, but could they spare a bit of their time to visit a school to help polish the youngsters up a bit, you would be amazed at the respect you would get from them. But as we know there are a few obstacles for volunteers to get over first, but easily surmountable, think about it!! (schools page. 22).

Congratulations to BSM's Clair Peers on the birth of a son, just as the last Digest was due, I believe all is well, I can only hope and think Clair is looking forward to playing again, (for a rest).

On page 17, Malcolm Caird has added to the short Obituary to his father Eric which was in the last Digest. On page 18, International Umpire Tom Purcell has put forward an interpretation of Rules.

On pages 20-21, thanks to Paul Gittens for another interview, this time BSM's Albert Parker, I think this is settling into a popular read.

And of course, thanks to all our other contributors, who give of their time.

The numbers playing table tennis has increased over the last few years, according to a recent MORI poll of 46 different sports (see page 19) carried out for Sport England. " Table tennis shows a strong growth among the 16-34 year old's as well as informal participation," said a Sport England spokesperson.

To add a bit of credibility to this from a local point of view, player registrations in our own league have gone up over the last 3 seasons, in season 2007 - 08 we had 345 registrations, season 2008 - 09 we had 361 registrations, that was after Greenbank dropped out, but the youngsters of Edgehill joined up, and this season we have 375 registrations up to now. This increase may be old players returning, players passing through (uni), or new players to the game, imagine if we could open the

floodgates to all the youngsters playing now in the schools, is it the thought of the older players getting washed away that's stopping this happening, I don't think so, but we need to give it more thought.

The next 'Nationals' are due to be played at Ponds Forge Sheffield from March 5th to 7th, I had a few spaces on different pages, so rather than increase font size, I'm printing a report from last years Nationals by a reporter, Tom Degun, who was new to table tennis, his sport was tennis, rather like an outsider looking in, I find it an excellent read, and a great advert for the sport of table tennis, it starts on page 9, then to page 11, finishing on page 17,

Remember!! Any proposed rule changes, must be in by 3rd. Saturday in March, more on page 18

Nets & Edges

A number of registered Liverpool League players appear in February's etta Computer Rating List with national veteran champion, Keith Williams (YMCA) rising three places to stand at seven. Rachel Baker and Fiona Dennett both (Harold House) have, during the last year, claimed a number of impressive wins in division one which undoubtedly, is helping them improve their game. Gemma Lloyd (Crosby High) is on at 40 while club-mate Cherith Graham stands nine places lower.

The league has a fair quota of veteran players spread throughout the five divisions with some in their 70's and even a number who are octogenarians. When Wavertree Labour B entertained Bath Street B the combined ages, (according to the card) of Bill Stanley and Bill Clayton is 152 years!! Labour's Bill, lost the opening game 11-9 before recovering to take the next three, 9, 6, 5. Labour went on to take the match 6-4 - Bath Street suffering a rare triple singles reversal.

It was good to see the return of former Closed men's singles finalist Omid Khaiyat who teams up with Peter Lee and Ahmed Thabet in the Christ The King A team. At the time we had difficulty in turning out our strongest teams' Omid agreed to play on Sunday in a number of matches in the Lancashire and Cheshire League despite working throughout Saturday night!! I picked him up on Smithdown Road at 8-30 and after a short sleep in the car, remained unbeaten in his six sets. A secretary's/captains dream player. Welcome back, Omid.

Appearing in his first season in the league is Stuart Mudie for Crosby High, his brother, Andrew, also an excellent division one player turned out for the Liverpool men's team and remained unbeaten before leaving to work in the south. Stuart too, I'm sure, will eventually

Don Davies

leave the city when studying is done, but, until then, I hope you enjoy your stay.

The UK Corporate Games comes to Liverpool over FA Cup Final weekend 13th-16th May, a number of events will be staged at the Echo Arena with table tennis and Lawn tennis being played at Wavertree - the TT in the new building gym. Any organisation or table tennis club may enter. The events being men's and women's singles, over 40's M/W singles, men's and women's doubles and mixed. Competitors may only enter two events. Other sports include Badminton, Golf, Running 5 & 10K, Football, Volleyball, Squash, Basketball, Open water long distance swimming, 10 Pin Bowling plus Soccer 5's and 6's. Entry fee, £65 +VAT. Closing date for entries is 21st April 2010.

Kevin Dolder and Keith Bird produced a ding dong battle when Ford met Christ The King. Keith took the first two games and led 10-8 in the third before Kevin hit back winning the next four points. When the fourth also went Kevin's way, a gambling man would, then have bet on the eight times Liverpool champion coming out on top, but no, not this time, Keith inflicting a rare defeat on the Ford man, taking the decider, 11-7.

ETTA National Computer Ratings

Junior Boys: Michael Lunn (77);

Junior Girls: Rachel Baker (13) Janay Gibson (51)

Senior Men: Kevin Dolder (19)

Senior Women: Fiona Dennett (30) Gemma Lloyd (40) Rachel Baker (41) Cherith Graham (49) Jordyn Layfield (Cadwa) (50) Clare Langford Cadwa (57)

Veteran Men: Keith Williams (7)

Veteran Women: Brenda Buoy (23) Sylvia Graham (55)

Division 1

At this stage of the season the League has a similar look to that of the past couple of seasons with Fords comfortably established at the top with 86 points from 12 matches. Merseyside Police are enjoying an excellent season and currently lead the chase with 71 from 11, followed by Crosby High on 66 from 11. The jostle for the mid table positions is remarkably close with only 8 points separating fourth placed Wavertree Labour 56 from 11 from Harold House in 10th position on 48 from 10. Although the season is barely at the half way stage it appears that CADWA on 36 points and Maghull on 33 points have fell so far off the pace that they are strong relegation candidates unless something dramatic occurs over the forthcoming weeks.

One crumb of comfort for the chasing pack is that Mal McEvoy of Fords has sustained an injury rendering him unavailable for a number of matches. They do, however, have the comfort of having Kevin Dolder in the squad, although he does not normally play in all their matches the regularity of his availability until Mal's return will have a bearing on whether any of the chasing pack can close the gap and put true pressure on Fords. At week 14 CTK became the first team to stop Fords from winning when they secured a hard fought draw, Keith Bird was in great form in winning his 3 singles including a fantastic 5th set victory over Kevin (his first defeat of the season)

At week 7 Kevin and Mal were joined by Terry Turner as Fords beat a Bootle YMCA team of Keith Williams, Wayne Percival and James Eaton by a margin of 6/4. It seems that both clubs attached a great deal of importance to the fixture ensuring that their strongest players turned out. Kevin was unbeaten on the night only dropping 1 set to Keith, Keith and Wayne both got the better of Mal and Terry with Wayne just pipping Mal 16/14 in the deciding set. They had a resounding 8/2 win over last years runners up BSM with Kevin and Mal remaining unbeaten and BSM points coming via victories for Ken Jackson and Steve Green over Paul Kinsey. When facing CADWA without both Kevin and Mal, Terry rose to the occasion in remaining unbeaten on his 4 visits to the table as they ran out 7/3 victors (so much for my earlier comments concerning the adverse effects of Kevin and Mal's unavailability)

Merseyside Police are enjoying one of their finest seasons for a number of years in holding onto second place. When they have their strongest team of Jon Taylor, Paul Gittins and John Hope on duty they are a match for most, these 3 teamed up to beat BSM 8/2 and Harold

Ian McElwee



House 6/4 with Jon remaining unbeaten. Steve Gittins replaced brother Paul when they recorded an emphatic 9/1 win over CADWA for whom Graeme Black saved the white wash by beating Steve. It was perhaps significant that Jon was not available when they went down 6/4 at Wavertree Labour, Paul was man of the match in winning his 3 singles including 11/9 final set thrillers over Jake Shaw and Aaron Beech.

Crosby High are going along very well with only 2 defeats to date at the hand of Wavertree Labour and Fords, both 7/3. Number one Stuart Mudie has been in great form throughout and remains unbeaten to date, including the 3 points gained at Wavertree. He was clearly man of the match in 6/4 wins over Bootle YMCA and BSM, when facing Bootle he displayed just how good he is in inflicting a rare defeat on Keith Williams, he was well supported by Jamie Hewitt in this match, as Jamie combined with Stuart to take the doubles and went on to beat both Alan Chase and James Eaton.

Wavertree Labour and Crosby High A both stand on 56 points although Wavertree have a game in hand. As mentioned earlier Wavertree did well to beat second placed Merseyside Police and have beaten CADWA 6/4, drew with Manweb but were beaten 7/3 at Fords and BSM and 6/4 at CTK. Gary Watson was in top form in beating Mal McEvoy and Terry Turner in the Fords match with their other point coming from a fine victory by Jake Shaw over Terry. Tomas Rzesotko has been missing for much of the campaign but once again proved his worth for Crosby High A when he remained unbeaten against Harold House, Rachel Baker and Myles Fong both beat Gavin and Gemma Lloyd and combined in the doubles to ensure the draw. Their best result of the season has to be their 8/2 win over Bootle YMCA when Rob Wylie won his 3 and was well backed up by the Lloyds who both beat Alan Chase and reserve John Higham.

BSM (9 matches), Bootle YMCA (11) and CTK (11) all lie a further point adrift with Manweb only 2 points further back on 53. BSM have been hampered by the loss of the injured Dave Roberts and would have definitely been in a better position other than for this. Steve Green was in sparkling form when he remained unbeaten on his 4 visits to the table in the 7/3 win over Wavertree Labour, Ken lost out in the 5th to Gary but won his other 2 and I managed to beat Roy Smith. With Dave back from injury after the New Year break they should

once again prove to be formidable and with games in hand I would expect them to climb the table.

When Bootle YMCA and CTK met, CTK got the upper hand and came out 6/4 victors, Keith Williams was his usual consistent self remaining unbeaten, including an 11/9 5th set win, when he combined with Alan Chase in the doubles. A fine team effort saw Keith Bird, John Lau and Omid Khaiyat each win their other 2 singles. Tony Whelan joined Keith and John when they beat Crosby High A 6/4. The match could have gone either way as Rob Wylie lost out 12/10 to Keith and 11/9 to Tony, each in the 5th set whilst Gavin Lloyd did the same beating John 12/10 in the deciding set. In 2 other close fought matches they drew with Merseyside Police and Fords. In the latter weeks of the reporting period they have missed the services of Tony Whelan but reserves, Omid Khaiyat and Ahmed Thabet have come in and won their fair share of points.

The Manweb side of Les Molyneux, Neil Powell and Paul Evans are going along well after promotion, picking up points on a regular basis. Neil has been in excellent form remaining unbeaten when they beat CTK 6/4. Les beat John Lau after coming back from 2 sets down and he and Paul both beat Peter Taylor. Neil was again at his best when winning his 3 against Harold House, with Les and Paul contributing with wins over John Henshaw.

Harold House may be third from bottom, 5 points behind Manweb, but have a strong squad and should join the other array of mid table sides when they play their games in hand. They drew with Crosby High A before losing narrowly (6/4) to Merseyside Police, Fiona Den-

nett and Jasmine Yang both played well each beating Paul Gittins and Jon Hope.

Despite having only won one match CADWA continue to fight for every point but don't seem to have the necessary strength in depth to change narrow losses into draws and wins. Over recent weeks they have lost 6/4 to Harold House, Wavertree Labour and Crosby High A, whilst losing 7/3 to Crosby High and Fords. Life took a change for the better when they beat fellow strugglers Maghull 6/4 at week 11, Graeme Black went home a happy man after winning his singles and combining with Claire Langford to win the doubles, George Lennon and Claire both played well to beat Tony Kendall. Another new face Jordyn Layfield made her debut in the Wavertree Labour match and contributed by taking the scalp of Mick Tierney, recently signed Steve Rowe has also played a couple of matches and had creditable wins over Janay Gibson (Fords) and Jamie Hewitt (Crosby).

Finally down to Maghull who have had a hard time of it this season, Tony Kendall, Matt Wilson and Kevin Lewis have all had the occasional fine win and all beat Rob McPherson with Kevin also beating Fiona Dennett when they lost 6/4 at Harold House. A two man team of Matt and Kevin did well to take 3 points off Bootle YMCA., Matt beat both Alan Chase and Ted Birch and Kevin beating Alan. At week 14 they got it all together on the night and beat a full strength Manweb 6/4, Kevin played out of his skin to win his 3, whilst Matt beat Les Molyneux and Paul Evans with Tony also beating Paul. Captain Tony Kendall's card comments include "let's hope this is a start". I admire his optimistic outlook but they are so far off the pace I doubt they can keep themselves clear of relegation.

The 2010 Liverpool Closed
To be played
SUNDAY 21st MARCH 2010
at the
Wavertree Tennis Centre

Entry forms are available from all club secretaries
the L&DTTL web site at -: www.ldttl.co.uk or my site at -: www.ttdigest.co.uk.

Entry forms must be returned by Monday 15th March 2010

Finals Night will again be held at the Merseyside Police Club Fairfield.

It is possibly the last Finals Night to be held here - so be there
It's your tournament - restricted to members of the L&DTTL - players of all Standards - all division - not all can win - but you can have an enjoyable day

Division 2 Paul Banks

Hi, and welcome back to division 2 news. This edition will be focusing on weeks 6 to 14 of the LD TTL second division.

Placings from the last edition will be kept, but one can see that they are already quite a bit out in some cases.

Firstly I have to make an apology to Chris Spedding from Marconi for a number of inaccuracies involving him (as well as some of his team mates), it seems that I have documented that some people have had more success over Marconi than actually happened, Chris has therefore been appointed as the unofficial honorary auditor for these notes and will be pointing out any further inaccuracies that appear.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Teams:

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

At present CTK (A) are 8 points in front of their nearest rivals with a game in hand to boot, Peter Lee, Omid Khaiyat and Ahmed Thabet are seeing off all-comers, the team has been managed to maintain this strong position despite an occasional line up inconsistency. Week 8 saw a top of the table clash with CTK (A) and Harold House (A) which CTK underlined the credentials with a 7-3 win. Omid Khaiyat is sitting on a 96.3% average and is looking good on it however he must have been sweating when 'Dangerous Dave Evans' took him to deuce in the fifth!

I know that I have said this before but players in the top teams have more chance of getting mentioned when they lose, so it's making it difficult to write anything about CTK (A) as they turn up and they win. What I can say, subjectively, is that they have considerably raised the bar in the second division and with their friendly nature and competitive approach it has been a pleasure playing them this season.

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

Week 12 and Harold House (A) underline their promotion hopes by beating their nearest rivals (CTK B) 6-4, in what must have been a great night (but long) there were four five setters, most of them going CTK (B)'s way, Alec Bryce, Steve Whalley, and Neil Baker have all been on top form so far this season – Neil with the top average so far (79.1%). Like CTK (A) Harold House (A) have had a strong bank of reserves to draw on when the main players are unavailable which obviously helps maintain their positions, but you have to say that in a season that has been one with the highest standard I can remember, these players have shone, which can only suggest a good showing in the first next season.



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

One of the most consistent line ups so far has been that of Christ The King (B), Billy Cheung, Dave Tagg and Peter Taylor have maintained the high performance that this position requires; only losing two matches, Billy Cheung has the top average in the team (77.7%) proving what a great player he is, Dave Tagg (60%) also proves what a tough opponent he is winning his three at second place Harold House (A), Peter also

helping out with two wins at mid table danger team Merseyside Police.

Marconi Current Position (4) Predicted Placing (4)

Careful now Paul – Get it right!

What a team Marconi are this season, Bob Edwards, Ray Jackson, Digest Auditor Chris Spedding, and Adrian Bramham are the regular team members, again this highlights the strength of the second division this year with this team in fourth spot. Bob is the top player with (61.9%) but all of the team are over 50%. Tin hats are quite rare this season so 'tin hats off' to Marconi for their 10-0 over Merseyside Police (A) and this was with super sub and former player of the season award winner Frank McCann. Marconi are another team that are extremely friendly and at the same time highly competitive and the fact that Chris (61%) comes from Preston every week speaks volumes about the Marconi set up and the second division in Liverpool.

Fords (A) Position (5) Predicted Placing (8)

Well I was doing quite well with the placings up to this point and it all goes down hill or maybe slalom from hereon in and in hindsight I can't quite believe I put Fords in that position. Robbie continues to be the best player in the team with a 66.6% average, taking all three points at such places as Bath Street Marine (A), Wavertree Labour (A) and Bootle YMCA, Paul Kinsey is pushing Robbie close on 61% though and has been a great signing for the Cronton team.

Merseyside Police (A) Position (6) Predicted Placing (9)

Now I don't feel as bad about my prediction here as MPA were a bit of Heinz 57 varieties at the start of the season, but have now emerged into a more cohesive match winning team made up of, Jon Dyson, Steve Gittins and Graham Cleary. Steve (74%) is just pipping Jon Dyson (73.3%) in the averages and with averages like that you can only expect the Police to improve their final position, this is reflected in their 5-5 draw at third place CTK(B) with Steve winning his three. This team

also win the award for neatest card presentation. I am not sure who it is but whoever it is writes the names and scores in a very neat – precise way!!

Manweb (A) Position (7) Predicted Placing (6)

Dave Harse, Jason Ao and Roy Adams are another of the more consistent line ups in the division.

Dave Harse coming out on top this quarter with an average of 53.3%, Dave showing his years and years of experience {and he drove the fastest backhand in the (north)west} having good wins over Alec Bryce, Billy Cheung, Dave Tagg, Robbie Goldson to name a few. Jason on a creditable 51% has had some great wins over Alec Bryce, Billy Cheung and Neil Baker.

Bath Street Marine (A) Position (8) Predicted Placing (5)

I expected this team to be in a much higher position than they find themselves in at the moment, Ian Mcelwee, Dermot Tierney, Fred Bainbridge and Ricky Brown make up the team. Ian being the player of the season for BSM with an enormous 80.95% average, Ian works hard at his table tennis and this is reflected in what I have found this season to be a quite overwhelming standard of table tennis. Ricky (OS) Brown is another great player currently on 64.7%, who is a nightmare to play but a great guy and obviously having a good season.

Crosby High (B) Position (9) Predicted Placing (7)

Another team who I had predicted better things for, CH(B) are made up of Dangerous Dave Evans, (I've only just thought of it and now I can't get rid of it), Roger Neal and Sylvia Graham, assisted on occasion by Ben Edwards and Adam Choi. Dave (79.1%) has been the player of the season so far for Crosby High! his consistent success rate, difficult to read serves and winning shots played from all over the park is the winner of the player of the second quarter of the season award, this winning mentality / consistency has to be a great example to one of the few teams bringing young players into the division. Dave has taken all three points at Wavertree Labour, CTK (B) and Bootle YMCA, so well done Dave for winning this prestigious award.

Harold House (B) Position (10) Predicted Placing (11)

Well one hardly knows what to say, in the last edition this team were bottom of the pile and although they haven't moved up too considerably, my team played them in a rearranged match the other night and they walloped us. Miles Fong & Jasmine Yang 86% and 83% respectively are truly outstanding players and have the ability to beat all of the players in the division, the predicament is that they are not playing in as many games as they should and the teams fortunes suffer because of it, however I am sure that everyone appreciates the opportunity of playing such talented players.

Wavertree Labour (A) Position (11) Predicted Placing (10)

Well, I won't be hiring that Derren Brown again! Another mixed bag from the housewives favourites Wavertree Labour, the team is made up of Mike Tierney, John Rowan and Paul Banks, this team is another consistent line up and have been maintaining their hard to beat but obviously not hard enough to beat status.

John Rowan showing with good wins over Fred Bainbridge, Sylvia Graham and Richie Winckle, Mike Tierney with wins over Peter Taylor, Sylvia Graham and Dave Holland. Paul Banks has maintained his status as providing the best cup of tea in the division.

Bootle YMCA (A) Position (12) Predicted Placing (12)

This is where all of the excitement is going to come from at the end of the season! who will finish bottom of the division and at the moment it is difficult to predict, will it be Bootle YMCA or Maghull (A).

Bootle YMCA are made up of a four man squad; John Higham, Roly Wright, Richie Winckle and Danny Every, top player award going to John Higham on 47.6%. Similar to Wavertree Labour, Bootle are not an easy team to play and work hard to get their points. This is reflected in Roly's comments on their first win of the season against a somewhat depleted Harold House (B) , 9 of the games going to five sets, starting early and finishing late, Roly asks if 9 sets going all the way is a record? Someone will let us know I'm sure.

With only a three point advantage over Maghull and having played one more game than them it really is nail biting stuff at this end.

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

As previously mentioned, the situation is perilous, which way will it go? who would be brave enough to call it? Coming in to the equation will be the teams that each of the prospective drop candidates has to face, and very possibly who turns out for those teams, it would be a real shame if one of these fighting teams were relegated because of inconsistencies in other teams line ups, but I suppose that it is difficult to prevent in the real world. Maghull are made up of Alan Jones, Peter Holmes and the ever improving Michael Russell.

Alan Jones with good wins over Roy Adams, Jason Ao and Alec Bryce, Peter Holmes with wins over Jason Ao, & Ian Mcelwee, Mike Russell with a great win over Bob Edwards, these wins show the experience and talent that is in this team and again makes it hard to call the final placings.

So, as it stands, it's all to play for, if not for your team then very possibly for the fate of others.
Good luck

Paul Banks
Wavertree Labour.

Division 3 Russell Thornton

A happy 2010 to you all! In the absence of a volunteer scribe from this division I find myself again writing these notes, as an outsider this season.

Week 7 was a free week for leaders Marconi so nearest challengers Police 'B' and Bath St 'C' both had an opportunity to reduce some of the deficit. Bath St 'C' were away at Maghull, always a difficult venue to grind out a result, but came away 6-4 winners thanks mainly to an Andy Cheung treble. Police 'B' won by the same score at Wav Lab 'B' helped by doubles from Len Dyson and John Moore. Wavertree's C team however, were fairing somewhat better with a 9-1 victory over Cadwa, with trebles from Lee Farley and Mario Giove, Cadwa's only point was a Steve Graham win over Dave Goulden. Another Robert Wong treble prevented defeat for Manweb 'C' in a 5-5 encounter with Police 'C', Manweb 'B' also managed a draw away at Bath St 'B'.

The big game in week 8 was Marconi's match at Bath St 'C' and Marconi came away with an 8-2 win, Bath St's 2 points coming from wins over Ian Wensley by Luke McCall and Graham Turner, Graham coming back from 2-1 down to win 11/9 in the 5th. Police 'B' were 7-3 winners at home to Maghull helped by a treble from Len Dyson, Len survived being 2-0 down to Rod Bulmer to win 15/13 in the 5th.

Sefton Park won 6-4 at home to Manweb 'C' thanks to an Alan Davies treble, Cadwa were also 6-4 winners at home to Bath St 'C' helped by a 13/11 win in the 5th by Peter Roberts in his match with Dave Stoddern.

Wav Lab 'B' had a 9-1 win away at Manweb 'B' with trebles from Tony Connor and Bill Stanley, Manweb's sole point coming from an Alvin Tso win over Colin Fyles.

Leaders Marconi increased their lead at the top in week 9, at home to 2nd placed Police 'B', a 9-1 win with trebles from Adrian Branham and Peter Wass, Tom Lynch claimed the Police's only point coming back from 2-1 down to win 12/10 in the 4th and 11/9 in the 5th over Frank McCann. For the 2nd consecutive week Sefton Park won 6-4 with an Alan Davies treble this time away at Wav Lab 'C'.

Police 'C' had a close match at home to Bath St 'C' but took the last 2 sets to win the match 6-4, Tom Purcell and Terri Anne Nolan each winning their 3, Terri Anne beating both Brian Crolley and Graham Turner 13/11 in the 5th. Maghull won 6-4 against Manweb 'B' due mainly to a Rod Bulmer treble, a Tony Connor treble



helped Wav Lab 'B' to a 7-3 win over Cadwa.

The Police derby B v C was the highlight of week 10 with 'C' emerging 7-3 victors, Len Dyson wrote 'C' deservedly won the derby albeit 2 or 3 sets could have gone either way, Tom Lynch was the unluckiest player of the night losing 2 close encounters against Terri Anne and Brian Burrows, Len had an outstanding win over Terri Anne from being 2-0 down to win comfortably in the 5th, Tom Purcell then turned the tables on Len who went 2-0 up winning 11/3 11/2 however young Tom had the energy & stamina to ease home in the 5th. On this form Police 'B' will settle for a mid table position and the c team are definitely improving.'

The Marconi machine of Frank, Ian and Peter went into overdrive with a 10-0 win over Manweb 'B'.

Another big win this week was Cadwa's 9-1 victory over Maghull thanks to trebles from their very own Stevie G and Ian Burrows. A Sefton Park team minus Alan Davies lost 7-3 at home to Bath St 'B' Ian Laird winning all of the Sefton Park points. Wav Lab 'C' was comfortable winners 8-2 at home to Manweb 'C' with a treble from Dong Xia and doubles from Mario Giove and Lee Farley.

Only 3 division 3 matches survived the adverse weather conditions of week 11 in fact no matches were played from the Tuesday to Thursday. On the Friday Cadwa made the short journey to Marconi buoyed by their victory over Maghull the week before, however they were soon reminded what it was like to go away with a 9-1 defeat, they managed to win the doubles 3 straight as a consolation.

Police 'C' were continuing in good form with a 9-1 win at home to Manweb 'B', Manweb's consolation being an Alvin Tso victory over Brain Burrows. A Graham Turner treble helped Bath St 'C' defeat Manweb 'C' 8-2, Manweb's 2 points coming from wins by Robert Wong over Brian Crolley and Andy Cheung respectively.

The attractive fixture of week 12 was the Wavertree derby C v B and 'C' came out 7-3 winners with a treble from Dong Xia and doubles from Mario Giove and Lee Farley yet again, Tony Connor replying for 'B' with 2 wins. Cadwa, for the second consecutive week were beaten 9-1, this time at the hands of Police 'C', and again they managed to win the doubles 3 straight as a consolation. A Paula Adamson treble helped her team to a 5-5 draw at home to Bath St 'C'. A match card reported that Paula won all of her games convincingly due to her

opponents having no answer to her controlled defensive play. A Rob Peat treble earned his Bath St 'B' team a 6-4 win at home to Manweb 'C'. An Alan Davies treble in his return to the Sefton Park side saw them claim a 7-3 victory over Maghull.

Wav Lab 'C' continued in fine form with a 9-1 win away at Maghull, Maghull's consolation coming from a Tom Downing win against Dave Goulden, Dong Xia and Mario Giove winning 3 each for Wavertree.

The other Wavertree team 'B' had a really good 6-4 win over Bath St 'B' due to a Tony Connor treble, Billy Clayton managed to overcome Paul Morgan 12/10 in the 4th and 11/9 in the 5th to take the set, however he was not so fortunate in his match with Bill Stanley he went down 11/9 9/11 6/11 5/11, I'm informed their combined ages total 152 years!

The other Bath St team 'C' with slightly younger personnel were 8-2 victors at home to Manweb 'B'. Andy Cheung winning 3 for Bath St and Ben Chen replying with his team's 2 points, the other Manweb team 'C' were also beaten 8-2 in their home match against Police 'B', Police's Paula Adamson and Len Dyson both picking up trebles.

In week 14 Marconi made it 90 points from 11 matches with an 8-2 win at home to Wav Lab 'C' with trebles from Frank McCann and Peter Wass. The Police 'B'

team of Len Dyson John Moore and Tom Lynch thrashed Manweb 'B' 10-0. Police 'C' were held to a draw at home to Sefton Park, Alan Davies and Ian Laird winning 2 each, however they were both beaten by Police's Terri Anne Nolan who managed to win her 3 singles. Bath St 'C' were 7-3 victors over Cadwa, Brian Crolley wrote 'another great match with a wonderful display of backhand hitting from Mike Power to beat both Andy Cheung and Luke McCall, Steve Graham played well to beat Brian Crolley, Andy and Luke were consistent taking 2 games each & the doubles, Pete Roberts was most unlucky to lose to Brian after being 10-5 up in the 5th, I can't forget Rob Davies who stepped in to play in the doubles, well played everybody!'

Maghull went down 6-4 at home to Bath St 'B' helped by a Rob Peat treble, Maghull's points were Phil Christie and Rod Bulmer winning 2 each. Manweb 'C' managed a draw at home to Wav Lab 'B' thanks to a David Ao treble.

At the mid point of the season it seems very likely that Marconi will be promoted as champions and it will be between Police 'B' and Bath St 'C' for the runners up spot.

At the bottom I fear it will be both the Manweb teams that will be relegated.

The 2009 English Nationals

Tom Degun: I am now a table tennis convert

I'll be perfectly honest – when I went on Sunday to the 65th English Open Table Tennis Championships at the impressive English Institute of Sport (EIS) in Sheffield – I didn't know all that much about the sport. But before you criticise me too much, I did know some of the basics. I knew that for each game, the first player to reach 11 points wins that particular game and that a game must be won by at least a two point margin. I also knew that a point is won every time the ball is in play and not – as many think - just by the server. I even knew that the edges of the table are part of the legal table surface, but not the sides. But after that – my knowledge of the sport becomes rather insignificant unless you count the trivial tips I picked watching the film Forrest Gump when Tom Hank's loveable character competes at the Olympic Games in the sport. I had played the sport before at an undoubtedly "recreational level" but as a spectacle – I will admit that my preconceived idea was that table tennis would be – well - a tiny bit dull.

I had caught glimpses of the sport on television during the Olympics and the Commonwealth Games - where it appeared a very fast paced sport seemingly dominated by the Asian nations – particularly China - but I was not under the illusion that table tennis had a large fan base in England.

I was therefore slightly taken aback when I walked into a magnificent and packed arena with an atmosphere that rivalled anything I had experienced at the electric 41st Artistic Gymnastics World Championships at the O2 Arena just over two weeks ago.

The boisterous crowd were seated around a single, gleaming table tennis table that took to the spotlight effortlessly. As I took my own seat – my naivety for the sport becoming more readily apparent by the second – I almost fell straight out of it again as suddenly, deafening rock music bellowed out of the surround sound speakers

One-by-one, the players walked out to the music that was almost drowned out by the rapturous applause of the Sheffield natives. For a moment, I was convinced that I had entered a world heavyweight boxing contest and was half expecting to see Mike Tyson emerge from the player's tunnel so caught up was I in the moment. When the entrance music faded and I coolly re-gathered myself, I settled down in anticipation for a "run-of-the-mill" table tennis match.

It became readily apparent though that my perception of a "run-of-the-mill" table tennis match was woefully inaccurate. The first point I saw, in the women's final, almost bought me to my feet. As the serve went over the net - with so much spin it made a Shane Warne leg-break bowl look straight as an arrow - the two players engage

Continued on page 11

Division 4 Doug Baker

To continue my tour of the teams started in the first report.

A white Witch has placed a cold spell on **Sefton Park**. CADWA' C' team did the B teams cause no good; 8-2. Neil Croxton at 1 played some formidable forehands to take Josef to a 5th set, but it was Derek who triumphed against him in 4, Neil & Derek teamed up to defeat Josef & John in 1st doubles, sadly Neil hasn't played many games, and player availability is a general problem which is putting a serious strain on the teams, and Derek's nerves. Non the less El Del's put in some good performances- straights wins over Kenny Roberts & Harry Hughes, to 5 versus Derek Scotland ("scotty" revived from 2-1 down to drop only 8 points in the final 2 games), a 5 game win over Mendel Williams (after almost being beaten in't 3rd). An "improving all the time" Mike Perry had an even closer victory over Rob Midgely 15/13 in the 5th, 'his was the 2nd time Mike's beaten Rob as he played at 4 for the A team and won in 3, in Derek's words, there may be some light for the B team.

At least you're guaranteed a warm welcome at the **Arriva** garage on (not so) Green lane, it's like going to the bowels of hell as they play in a cauldron, so hot that the doors have to be left open, and we all know what passes through bowels, and that's just how good we felt going down 9-1, Josef had a little joy beating Brian "Hades" Hornby, whilst the only fun for the visitors was to watch the ball try to escape down the stairs and into the car park. Derek is having a great season and didn't drop a game, Paul & I lost 1-3 in the doubles with the three lost games all lost from 10's! Brian and Harry are playing well in their first season in this division, Graham kindly let Paul and I have the crumb of one game, they were in 2nd with a 7.3 average but have recently dropped to 4th (6.3 average).

CADWA'B' gave no quarter, except in the doubles, J&J lost to a reformed Ashley and Burrows in 5, as did Paul & I to Lefty and Luntly - a match we should have won from 10-7 ahead in the fifth (arrh!), George was in scintillating form, he averaged 11/4 against Josef and 11/6 v John O, his (probably unique) style married with his ability to "read" an opponent marks him out as an awkward old fox. John A is looking more focused, e.g. he took a game off Josef from deuce and got the better of our close exchanges. Mr Burrows seems to be battling below his weight, I say he should be released to forage on the upper plains. Mr Lunt's best performance so far was against Mal Kent where he overcame awk-



ward moments in the 3rd & 4th - 10/12 then 12/10 to setup a 11/5 5th game win.

We were two regulars down for our trip to **Harold House'C'**, but I don't think that would have improved upon the whitewash, well, they are unbeaten, the only minor observation I could make is that Rod, Mendle and Eddie (but not Steve) all must be slow starters as they each lost their 1st game, Eddie (who was down as "E.Clean" in our book) lost the first game to 2 versus old hand Highton. **HH'C'** even beat the stronger of the two **Maghull** teams 10-0, Rod, Steve & Eddie had their games over in 3 whereas both of Mendle's games ran to 5, John McLoughlin forced a 5th game after winning the 4th 12/10, Steve McGanity went 2-1 up before Mendle drew level with a 11/8 4th and then edged the deciding game 14/12. They won out 7-3 over **BSM'D'**, Mal Kent came back, 10/12 in games 4 & 5 v Steve Wearden, Mendle also turned around a 1-2 v Les Gee.

I see that they have re-ranked, Rod McPherson now at No.1, where he's continued his winning spree, Rod hardly ever drops a game, wonder if he will get re-ranked up to the A/B team before the season ends?

Maroni'B' put us out of the cup and they appeared for the league match with Tony Mullally in at 1 and Paul Loftus down to 2, Tony has beaten Harry Reeve; 11/2 in't 4, so I didn't envy our No1 the prospect of playing them. The two Johns, O'Sullivan and McCann weren't required to play their match in the cup, so it was an interesting proposition, Mr McCann took the 1st & 3rd games 11/9, but Mr O'Sullivan showed no signs of nerves as he won the 4th 12/10 and 5th 13/11. Bobby Bell bested me in 5, with a bizarre exchange of 11/3 sets in games 4 & 5, doubles was a close affair with 7 out of 9 games won by the bare 2 points. One controversial point was at 11/10 serving, Bobby thought he'd served in and started to walk whilst the Receiver was still discussing the serve with the Referee, special mention to Paul Loftus for making it across from the Wirral in the bleak mid-winter.

They recorded a draw at **BSM'D'**, fiery Ted won the battle of the No.1s v Tony, 17/15 in't 4th and 12/10 in't 5th! not a good night for Paul Loftus, beaten in 4 by Ted then by Keith Wright in 5, Keith bouncing back from defeat by Bobby, who had previously lost to No.4 Graham Oates, just shows you can't rely on the team numbers to predicate who will win.

Linacre with Charlie Bradshaw ex of Bath Street, are a consistent team, he had two 5 gamers with Joud and

myself (12/10, 12/10, 9/11, 9/11, 11/9). Mr Reeve had a fine battle with Josef 10/12 in the fifth, one which JK did well to turn the tide, Harry should have tried Mr Nelson's tactics; at 8-10 down in the 5th to Joe he "caused" the ball to drop just over the net, Josef was still cursing his luck as Harry's ratio (geddit?) of wins over Mr Koudelik increased by 1. Elsewhere, Harry Reeve beat Paul Loftus in 3, as Ken Ainsworth proved there's life in the old dog yet, holding his nerve after seeing his 2 nil lead levelled versus Russell. Against BYM B, Shakil had a good win over Harry Reeve, who in turn got the only Linacre point beating Bert 9, 8, 9. Harry & Dave Fergusson were solid in the 7-3 win over **MCA'D'**. Harry Reeve beating Ted and Les the only points v **BSM'D'**, despite 3 other matches going to 5; Craig v Ted, Dave v Les (an amazing "120 years experience between the last time they played each other") and first doubles. They gifted **Sefton'A'** 3 points with a "failed to show", Dave C going down to Reeve & Bradshaw, who also won doubles. Charlie had the up of beating Kenny Roberts but then the down of losing in 5 to Frank Proffit, who's second singles win then ensured victory for **Marconi'C'**. At **MCA'C'** Mr Reeve had the rare experience of losing both singles, to the Mac Lads; McLoughlin and McGanity, both in 5.

Maghull 'D' are at the bottom of the division and well adrift, James McLoughlin is following in his Dad's footsteps and had an assured 5 game victory over yours truly, whereas my team mates, Josef, John and Paul had

their games over in 3. Against **Linacre** Jimmy Ambrose had a good victory over Harry Nelson, and Wilf Gibson beat Charlie closing it /10 /9 in the closest game of the night, Jimmy almost got a point off Les Gee, 11/13 in't 5th, again, v **Sefton'A'** he performed heroically to come from 2 down against Dave Cunningham but only to lose the last 9/11. They've looked to 5th division players to provide life belts, Sue Hughes has been invaluable when she has stood in, she gave John McCann his first defeat of the season to complete a double after beating Bobby Bell, Sue took sets from Kenny and Frank at the other **Marconi**, as Janette and Amy were drafted in.

At the end of this stage of the season **Harold House 'C'** are were well placed; top with a game in hand on the 2nd place, If anyone is to pip HH'C' to the title, they won't do it by beating them, but by beating everyone else 10-0, then, they just might have a chance (- about as much as a snowflake at Arriva). They got 'piped' last year by Arriva by 2 points, I think they've learnt from that experience and won't let it happen again this year. So the real race now seems to be for second place.

Good luck and best wishes for Ron Georgeson, Dave Fergusson, John O'Sullivan and Eric Wood, who will be /are subject to surgical procedures that will keep them from the table.

Contd. from page 9

in what can only be described as full out warfare on either side of the rectangular surface.

As a big tennis fan, I thought table tennis would prove a miniature version of my beloved hobby just with a little less skill, less speed, less emphasis on technique and less athleticism. Watching the sport in the first person proved to me almost the exact opposite. The speed in which the players were hitting the ball was frightening. While my eyes were struggling to keep up with the pace of the ball, the player's were anticipating the angle of their opponents next shot with lightning reflexes that would rival those of the fastest cat while the hand-eye coordination I saw from the table tennis players was superior to that I had ever seen before from any athlete in any sport. And all the spins on show in tennis were there, just more of them

There was top-spin, back-spin, side-spin, and a spin I can only describe as defensive reverse chop spin that stops as it hit the surface then speeds up again and loops up before flattening out - though I do not believe that is the technical name of the spin for anyone wishing to quote me on it. It was so tactical, so quick, so delicate and yet so athletic that I shall now renounce anyone that can watch the sport at this level and call it "boring". The

object is to out-think and out-manoeuvre your opponent out of position, with the use of accurate spin, flat shots and blistering speed, before delivering the killer blow like a boxer delivering the knockout punch to his weakened foe. It is like a graceful game of chess played at a breakneck pace. And for those who think it does not require and athletic ability, you are very wrong. These guys are fit, muscular specimens and if any of the guys took their tops off, I assure you that you would not want your girlfriend in close proximity. For anyone looking to lose a little weight - and I could certainly do with shedding a few pounds right now - don't bother with running. Find a good table tennis sparring partner and an intense half-hour game a day should have you sweating more than Rafa Benitez is right now.

During the Championships, I ran into the delightful Joanna Parker, the British women's number one player, who was kind enough to show me her specially built defensive racket - which retailed at around £120 - and explained the complexities of spin and flattening out shots in a terminology I could almost understand. Joanna also said to me: "We just need more clubs around England as they play it everywhere in Asia. But I have never

Contd. on page 17

Division 5

Back in November, when Liverpool wasn't a frozen wasteland, Barack Obama was a popular president and John Terry was a highly respected footballer (yeah, right) CADWA D played Wavertree Labour E in week 7 of the 5th Division of the Liverpool and District Table Tennis League, Jack Highton lost 10-12 in the fifth to Gordon Langshaw, Gordon and Eric Spencer managed 2 wins each in the 4-6 away win, Anna Yang scored 26 points without winning a set against Stephen Lennon, which must have tested even her perseverance.

The Bath St derby was an 8-2 win for the E team, but the 2 were notable wins for Barry Davis against Albert Parker (11-3, 11-3, 11-5!) and Des Logan against Barbara Alcock. Similarly, Bootle C's 8-2 over Sefton Park C featured 2 wins for Michael Perry against Jim Geddes and John Taylor, pity they can't get him to play more often. Best team performance of the week was Arriva B's draw with Wavertree D, Larry and Janusz scoring all the driver's points in a result that will please Arriva A, hard lines to Alan Jones though, losing two 5-setters.

Wavertree recovered next match with a narrow 10-0 win over BSM F, Andy Bird able to watch as his boys took the spoils in just 34 sets. Wavertree E weren't so happy losing 1-9 to Sefton Park, a surprising margin between two closely-rated sides, a player calling off after the game started didn't help, but Ken Ray is a superior sub, still, as Gordon has said, it's a "practice and beginner's team".

Big win for Police D, 9-1 over Bootle, with Joe Rees now playing, Bootle are as good as anyone in the division (except the Police, I suppose), so fielding a near first choice Police team was essential for a game that could badly mess up their title chances, although Jim Geddes's absence helped. Maghull E scored rather more than their usual 4 points, 8-2 against their F team, keeping it in the family, Maghull bring in Big sis Sue Hughes at 2 - Jeanette at 3 and Amy at 4 is a tough night for most teams.

Another big derby win, at Arriva, Larry and Janusz scoring for the B team in a match where the Scouse accent probably needed translation. Shock of the week was CADWA's 3-7 at BSM E,

Paul Oakes



partly explained by absences of the legends (Bill and Albert) who were worried about the health of their bats when trying to return Joud's gentle 140MPH forehand push, two good wins for Ged against Barbara and Richard Woodley and points from all the team.

Inspired by that result CADWA had no fear against Wavertree D next week, just like Custer showed no fear at Little Big Horn - a lone win for Ged over Femi, where the hosts saw in Andy Bird and Stan Clarke just how good the best players can be at this level. Speaking of which, Arriva A aren't exactly weak, but when they have a player missing they get Larry Stone in at 4! BSM F lucky to get Nil against such a side, although hard lines Barry losing 9-11 in the 5th to Pavel.

A full strength Bootle might be disappointed at only 6 points against Wavertree E, but Gordon winning both his singles is hardly an upset - Gordon against Steve and Jim would be highlights of the week's matches - but if Bootle are to catch the leading 4 they need to score heavily every week.

Week 10 were the last games before Christmas, so plenty of charity expected against new sides. Maghull F beat BSM F 9-1. Denise has ended up playing in Division 5 this year after Maghull's Div. 4 side picked the wrong home night for her to play (their loss), Barry managed to take her to 5 sets, Colin took 12 points off her - the bionic arm seems to be doing its job, as noted by Andy McCourt "four 5-setters could have gone the other way, good performances from Denise, Steve, Andy Cowell and Barry."

A great win for Ged Howard over Krystov - I can picture Ged's big forehand against Krystov's incredible speed retrieving and counter-hitting, but that was it for CADWA at Arriva A, another 9-1 keeping the pace at the top merciless. A challenge Wavertree D can handle as they take 8 from Sefton Park, Eric, inevitably, winning the points in singles and doubles - he's really taken to this Number 4 lark! "the power of Colin and Stan proved too much, and the guile of Dave also bamboozled his younger opposition (and Eric). Femi struggled against Eric but came good against Matthew" writes my regular correspondent DT.

The re-start was mostly postponed, although 4 teams bravely battled through up to 2 inches of snow to play, the buses were still running in South Liverpool as Arriva A got to Sefton Park to win 8-2, Ian Findon's 5 set win over Wacek and Mike Poole against Danny Bellard the only home scores in an evening of close games. With Danny Bellard playing for the A team that night, the B team could only field 3 players at the Police, and duly lost 10-0 with only Scarey's game v Sam going beyond 3 sets.

Next week a full-strength Arriva B enjoyed the other side of a whitewash, against Edge Hill, Chris losing in 5 to Janusz and starting to learn how to play Larry a bit too late (1-11, 6-10 (that's what it says), 11-13) while Paul took Stephen to 5, and these two also lost a 5-set doubles in their recurring nightmare.

The top 2 in the table played each other, and a weakened Wavertree D managed a 5-5 with BSM E, Andy Bird becoming the second player to get a double over Bill and Albert with some great top-spin attack against Bill in a complete clash of style where Bill's long pimples confused Andy for all of 3 points, a result that will please the other top of the table teams, no doubt. Thanks to Eric Spencer for the home-made scones (well, thanks to his wife really).

The Police immediately took advantage with an 8-2 win at BSM F, Cyril Penny making his return to the league and beating Dave Dundas, who also gave Keith Dudley his second win of his debut season.

Big 8-2 win for Maghull F over 3-player Sefton Park, with Denise, Maghull are far better than their league position indicates, and could easily go up 3 or 4 places in the table, good wins for Ian against Denise and John McLoughlin against Eric - "another good humoured night at Maghull...rasping Barry Meyer ran out of steam against Denise while captain Andy McCourt watched it all unfold with a pint of John Smiths."

Eric Spencer did his Canute impression against Arriva A, winning his 3 games while the tide raced past the rest of the team, with 2 regulars missing, this was a match that could have gone wrong, but Danny and Stephen won 3 singles and a doubles for a team that might be expecting promotion rather than just hoping for it.

Bootle have now got near to the top group, and a game against Wavertree D is a chance to make up some more ground, but Andy and Stan had other ideas, winning both their singles in a 4-6

win for Wavertree, oddly both doubles going to the losing side. Another big game as Arriva A take 7 points back with them from Bath St E, despite Bill Clayton's two wins, Larry Stone subs for Arriva at number 4, a move not greeted with unalloyed joy by the writer. Only 33 sets required leaves plenty of time to endure the karaoke in the club bar. Meanwhile, BSM F record their first 10-0 win, at Edge Hill, with a player missing and an ineligible player the visitors certainly make life hard, shades of Greenbank's organisation here.

Bootle's 5-5 with Arriva B was a contrast between strength in depth for Bootle against a top player at 1 for Arriva. Janusz (now more realistically seeded 2) should be very happy to beat Steve, while Gary and John are also winning a lot of points for Bootle.

The expected close match between Wavertree D and Arriva A ended 6-4, Andy Bird and Stan Clarke's 2 wins each meaning every visitor dropped a point. When Wavertree get their first 4 out they are a match for any team, but Colin Fyles especially, seems to find it difficult to play every week. On the other hand the Police beat Sefton Park 9-1 without Jeff Pye, Joe Mullin showing he can pick up points at number two as well.

Fantastic 3-set win for Barry Davis against Jeanette, who's suddenly acquired a set of sneaky serves - not nice! Keith Dudley collapsed over the line against Amy (still unbeaten in doubles all season) 13-11, 12-10, 7-11, 8-11, 11-9, while Jeanette beat Cyril in another 5-setter that may have had shorter rallies.

Bootle - BSM E was finally played, and an important 8-2 away win stopped Bootle's attempt to catch BSM for now, and maintained the chase at the top of the table for the visitors.

So in the third year of the 5th Division we finally have a multi-team contest for promotion rather than two teams breaking away early and never looking catchable, the Police have a useful lead, while Arriva A and Wavertree D are dead level, BSM F are a small way behind with a game to spare. Elsewhere any team could rise up a few places over two matches, with the disappointing exception of Edge Hill. With so many new players in the division this season it was inevitable that there would be improvements once they got used to the speed and intensity of the better players, and it's pleasing to see CADWA and BSM F not struggling against anyone but the best.

A few pages ref. Individual Membership, the whole new process starts late May 2010!!

English Table Tennis Association Ltd. Draft 1 AFFILIATION PROCESSES and PROCEDURES Local Leagues 2010/2011

Page 1.

Summary of Changes for Local Leagues

- The ETTA needs to have better systems to know how many members it has and what kind of members it has
- It needs to enhance its capacity to bring in new ones in whatever way to increase membership
- It needs to improve responses to current government expectations required of all NGBs
- Individual Membership satisfies those needs better than current systems
- It will also enhance direct communication with members, develop a sense of belonging, generate more income but from more people and can lead with increased numbers to enhanced benefits for all members of the Table Tennis family

Membership changes

1. Whole emphasis on individuals
2. Two categories - Player Member - who plays Competitive Table Tennis; Associate Member - who does not
3. Associate Member will enable capacity to increase membership numbers

Workload changes

1. No more Individual Registration forms
2. No more Ethnicity / Disability information required on membership forms instead a separate ethnicity/disability survey will be established
3. New simpler club form to register individuals
4. End of Activity Survey as part of Membership form
5. Encouraged moves towards on line payments
6. Help given in transition phase through documentation and advice on line or visits on request

Financial changes

1. Only one ETTA fee per member – i.e. NO more fees to ETTA for any second and more leagues
2. All Junior Player Members pay reduced fees
3. Leagues and Clubs - changing away from fee collection by team - still act as fee collection agents but now for members
4. All current non paying people – Eg coaches or umpires – continue not to pay unless they play Competitive TT
5. No more affiliation fees for Leagues who will receive affiliation certificates as will all other Affiliated Organisations
6. Civil Liability Insurance fees now paid by players no longer paid for by Leagues

Page 10.

6 Fees and Work Load Implications

6.1 Individuals

WORKLOAD

Every effort has been made to simplify and reduce to a minimum the process of collecting information. The Individual Registration forms currently in use will be discontinued. In their place, there will be a simplified form on personal details sent via Local Leagues to clubs/teams to fill out for their members and return via the Local League to the ETTA. This form will not include such details as ethnicity and disability information, which will be requested separately at a later date.

There will be one type of form for Player Members and one for Associate members but these are identical in content. The Activity Survey will no longer be part of this process

FEEES

There will be one annual payment for each member to affiliate to the ETTA regardless of how many leagues they play in.

All other due fees (eg to Club, League, County) will be paid as now.

There will be reduced fees for all Juniors.

6.2 League Clubs/Teams

WORKLOAD

Responsible for providing personal details for their members and notifying the Local League of who is playing in which team, who is secretary, what is the home night, etc etc.

FEEES

The payment from your members will depend on whether they have already taken out ETTA Membership in the current year as will your payment to the Local League for them.

Page 5.

4 Affiliation procedures for Local Leagues

The ETTA will -:

Late May Send out Forms

AFF1/AFF2/AFF4/AFF5/AFF6 either in the post or electronically.

Before August 15th Receive completed AFF1 form either in the post or electronically.

Before 15th November Receive completed AFF2/AFF4/AFF5/AFF6 forms either in the post or electronically along with the League affiliation fees.

November/December Check returns and resolves any anomalies and send out League Affiliation Certificates and Membership Cards*.

Early March Send out Forms AFF12/AFF14/AFF15/AFF16 either in the post or electronically.

Before 1st May Receive Forms AFF12/AFF14/AFF15/AFF16 either in the post or electronically.

Local Leagues will (all dates are latest possible)

June onwards Send clubs by post or electronically, a League Fees Payment Form (see example EX1), a League Club and Team Secretaries Form(see Example EX2) and Forms AFF5/AFF6 as supplied by the ETTA.

July Receive League Fees Payment Form and Club/Team Secretaries Form along with Club/Team

payments for Teams either in the post or electronically.

September Receive Forms AFF5/AFF6 from clubs along with Player Fees either in the post or electronically.

Pre 15th November Returns Forms AFF2/AFF4/AFF5/AFF6 to the ETTA electronically or by post along with the Local Leagues Affiliation fees.

November/December Resolve any queries from the ETTA offices and receive a League Affiliation Certificate and Membership Cards*. Distribute Membership Cards* should be distributed to their members via clubs/teams..

Pre 1st May Fill out AFF12/AFF14/AFF15/AFF16 Forms received from the ETTA and return them electronically or by post with any additional Membership payment necessary – this caters for additional players/teams registered with the Local League post November 15th

* Only one Membership Card will be issued to each Individual and it will be sent to the club that is responsible for sending the Individual Membership Fee to the ETTA or who informed the ETTA that they have somebody who is eligible for Free Membership. Where a club member obtains his ETTA Membership directly through the ETTA he will be required to nominate an organisation for his card to be delivered to.

Page 7

Exhibits (sample forms)

The following pages give examples of

- a) Player Registration form Form AFF5
- b) Associate Registration Form Form AFF6
- c) Ethnicity/Disability Survey Form Form AFF7
- d) Affiliation Fees Payment Form Form AFF2
- e) Notification of Teams Form Form AFF4
- f) Player Registration Form(Update) Form AFF15
- g) Associate Registration Form(Update) Form AFF16
- h) Affiliation Fees Payment Form(Update) Form AFF12
- i) Notification of Teams Form(Update) Form AFF14
- j) League Fees Payment Form – example Sample EX1
- k) League Team Registration Form example Sample EX2

ETTA Forms AFF1, AFF3, CA1 and DAC1, also mentioned in this document, will remain unchanged and are not included in these exhibits

Page 8.

Notes on Inputs and Outputs

- A Local League Certificate of Affiliation and Membership Cards will be issued to the Local League after 15th November. The Membership Cards should be distributed via the clubs/teams in your Local League to your members.
- Forms AFF2 and AFF4 and their update versions AFF12/AFF14 will also be returnable electronically with payment of fees by bank transfer.
- As at present Form AFF1 will request details of Local League Committee members and their posts. This can be processed by filling in the details on form AFF1, or by providing the details online using the Local League Administrator User-ID and Password you will have been supplied with.

LATE PAYMENT WARNING: Local Leagues (including Junior/Youth) which are late with their payment will lose General Meeting and Election voting rights and become liable to pay interest .Note: An affiliated person must not submit any information which he believes to be incorrect or which he/she has no reason to believe to be correct. (Rule 46.2.1)(2008/9)

JOHN JEFFREY

John Jeffrey died on the 5th December 2009 after a long illness. He was a member of the Merseyside Police Table Tennis Club and started playing table tennis towards the end of his police service. John played all his table tennis in the lower divisions of the league but thoroughly enjoyed the sport and the camaraderie. John was a red hot Liverpool supporter and when he retired from the police he became the chief security officer at Goodison. He always said his job was easy because Everton had nothing in the trophy room.



Tom Purcell
Secretary
Merseyside Police T.T. Club

[ETTA web site 20/11/2009](#)

Liverpool in the Community and The Everton Foundation

represent the only two Premier League clubs that are working in partnership to develop the Premier League 4 Sport programme, that will be rolled out across Liverpool and Knowsley.

The scheme will initially run for three years up to the 2012 London Olympics and will see both football clubs link up with Greenbank Sports Academy and secondary schools in the area to create a number of satellite clubs to enable young people to take up any of the Olympic sports being promoted. Working closely with the sports governing bodies, the Youth Sport Trust and Sport England, both Everton and Liverpool, along with other Premier League clubs, aim to encourage 25,000 young people, aged between 11 and 16, to join local sports clubs in the four Olympic sports.

Premier League community development executive Siobhan Atkinson said: "The Olympic sports we're promoting tend not to appear on too many school curriculums and are ones Great Britain have not had too much success in to date.

"We're hoping that by providing lots of opportunities for young people we'll start to see more clubs developing the four sports and hopefully providing some performance pathways to come through "This region is unique as Liverpool and Everton are the only two clubs who are working jointly on the programme in the community, they've helped us put together a really coordinated programme across Merseyside".

It is a vehicle to drive the government's commitment to get young people to undertake five hours of physical activity per week. The Premier League has invested £3.8 million into the programme. The £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. The Premier League is involved in a wide range of community activities, investing over £120 million a season down through the game. For more on the 'Creating Chances' programme, or to read about some of the projects that the clubs deliver, visit: www.premierleague.com/creatingchances.

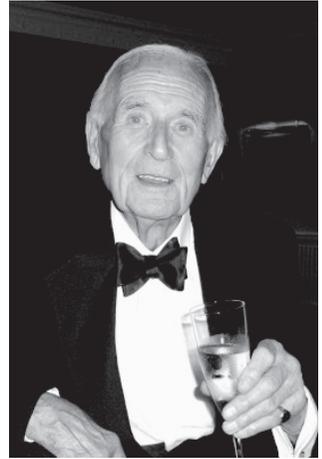
Greenbank Sports Academy in Sefton Park, Liverpool. Was the venue for the launch with Sylvain Distin of Everton and Emiliano Insua Liverpool both played Table Tennis with pupils from Broadgreen School, Liverpool.

The Table Tennis session was organised by Andrea Holt North West Regional Development Manager with Regional Coach Katy Parker both former International players; assisted by young coaches from Merseyside Cherith Graham, Claire Langford and Jordyn Layfield. Accompanied by Mark Willerton National Programme Manager for ETTA Premier 4 Sport and Karen Tonge MBE Regional Chairman.

When I read this article, I was puzzled by the choice of Broadgreen School as the local participating school, when we already have so many schools that take part in a locally run schools league, (which Broadgreen does not take part in), it was suggested to me that this 'carrot' may encourage Broadgreen to join the local schools league soon, but my thought would be to reward the schools already taking part in the local schools league, (they would really benefit from this coaching with 4 hard to come by qualified coaches at the one event, wow!), for Broadgreen, It's like winning the prize without taking part in the race.

I must stress I have nothing against Broadgreen itself, and I do hope they join the local schools league, maybe that's the object of the exercise, from nothing to something, when do the next sessions take place, can this scheme get some of our own players/clubs interested in helping, but then there are the 'hurdles'. Editor

ERIC CAIRD - 1919-2009



My Father started his table tennis career by playing for St Simons in the 1930's, where he met Clin Casselman. Shortly after the war, Albert "Monty" Montgomery formed a new club, and both went along to join, soon to be followed by many others. The playing venue at first was an attic, and in the absence of any better or more relevant name, this new club became known as Rafters after the beams which held the whole thing up. Contrary to popular belief at the time, the club's name had absolutely nothing to do with the RAF.

Thus began many friendships which survive to this day, even though the club itself has sadly gone. The club thrived in those first years, when Rafters ran two first teams, such was its playing strength – the likes of the Rumjahn brothers (Peter, Ted and Ron), Jack McCaig, and the legendary twins "Pinkie and Bluey" May, who were "honorary blokes" in the first teams, which itself caused occasional consternation about changing rooms at venues such as the YMCA.

Most of the Rafters players were accomplished at other sports, my Father playing cricket for Aigburth. After he stopped playing in 1952, he served on the League's management committee in a variety of roles, including Editor of the Digest in the early 1960s

Rafters was clearly an important part of many people's lives – indeed, Don Brown, Rich Brennan and Kay Rumjahn became my godparents. Many excuses were found for getting together at social events, be they playing rounders in the back garden of Ted and Kay Rumjahn or meeting in some far flung corner of North Wales or the Lake District to go off on a car treasure hunt – the frustration and tantrums at getting lost were soon forgotten in the hilarity of shared experiences of missed turnings, while inevitably having to wait for at least one car which had got well and truly lost. Whenever my parents journeyed north, it was often to take part in the latest excuse for a Rafters reunion, conversations among friends usually starting with "as I was saying....."

Elsewhere in Liverpool, my Father served as County Commissioner for the Liverpool Scout Association for nearly 15 years until he moved south in 1973, brought about by a reorganisation within the Avery group for whom he had worked since 1948 for one of its subsidiaries, Berry & Warmington Ltd, which was based in Liverpool.

Since coming to Havant in 1973, my Father never ceased to praise the merits of Liverpool FC to the uninitiated in the land of Arsenal, Spurs and more recently Chelsea. He became very involved in Rotary, which he had joined in Liverpool but not had the chance to develop, and so began another chapter of commitment and friendships. The town of Havant became his new adopted home, and he was secretly thrilled when Havant and Waterlooville scored twice at Anfield in the FA Cup, but would have been furious had they gone on to win. A true red to the very end, we even had "You'll never walk alone" at his memorial service.

My mother, Audrey, continues to thrive, and will be moving to Emsworth in the near future. The picture was taken in July 2009 on the occasion of his 90th birthday, which itself was shortly before their 68th wedding anniversary

Malcolm Caird

12th February 2010

Contd. from page 11

spoken to anyone in England who says they don't like hope to soon play non-stop with anyone who fancies a game.

Anyone who has played it or has seen it live has never said it is boring." After my experience on Sunday, I think with a bit of practice – I could get into some decent shape (don't laugh) and actually be quite good. I am inclined to agree with the British number one. I left Degun for table tennis gold at London 2012? On the other hand, after seeing the superhuman Chinese Ma Long win in Sheffield, save yourself a few quid and don't bet on it...

as any other. I think I am now hooked on the sport and have already made room in the garage for what I hope

will be a rectangular shaped Christmas present and I *Tom Degun is a reporter with insidethegames.biz*

Letters

To the Editor

Re 'Rules of Engagement' Vol 64 No.1

The ITTF match regulations have not been accepted by the Liverpool League and I believe that most players in the League do not understand the Laws of TT. They may understand a little bit here and a little bit there but they don't understand the majority of Laws.

In relation to the Service Law the vast majority of players understand that they have to throw the ball up but they don't know how high, it should be thrown up at least 16cm. (the height of the net). Nearly all umpires choose to ignore a breach of this law because they don't want confrontation and they probably have a player in their own team who is an even worse server.

Reference your two questions at a) changing bats and b) Intervals:

Changing Bats

Because the L&DTTL has not adopted the ITTF Reg's., a player in the Liverpool League can change his/her bat after every point in a game if he wishes, whether damaged or not, and there is nothing the umpire or opponent can do about it. Thankfully the vast majority are sensible and rarely change their bat, however, if a player does change his bat, even if it is every point, Law 2.4.8 states that the player "shall" show the bat to the player and umpire and "shall" allow them to examine it, (but would expect the umpire to allow a period of exchange of shots to allow the opponent to familiarise himself with the new bat, as when renewing the ball)

Reference your question about continuity of play:

Intervals

There is nothing in the Laws of TT about "continuous play" and therefore a player in the Liverpool League can take a rest after every point, if they wish even if it upsets the opponent.

The ITTF Regulations cover this subject, it states that play, in matches to which the Regulations apply, (not L&DTTL) shall be continuous throughout a match, although a player can take a one minute break in between games and take a brief towelling break every six points after the start of a game. The umpire controls the break times and a player who fails to comply with the regulations or wastes time can, initially, be warned by the umpire (yellow card) and penalised (yellow/red card) and have points awarded to his opponent if he continues to waste time, this does not apply to L&DTTL.

An umpire in a Local League match cannot issue Yellow and Red cards. However, one could argue that a player deliberately wasting time to upset the opponent was in breach of Rule 1(d) of the L&DTTL Rules which states that "all activities of the League and its members should reflect a high standard of integrity and sportsman ship" and Rule 18 which states that "No member shall by misconduct do anything which would bring the League or the game of table tennis into disrepute". An opponent or umpire could make a complaint to the L&DTTL and the matter would be dealt with under the League Disciplinary Rules.

I hope the above helps.

Tom Purcell

Thanks Tom, a straight forward answer to questions which never seemed to have a written answer, (local TT that is!),

Tom is a highly regarded International Umpire

I would like to correct a slight error I made in Vol 63 No. 4 when converting a handwritten letter from Wally Allinson, Wally referred to a match played by Ted Birch in which Ted beat a 'W. Murray of Bath St.' in the 3rd, I entered the score as 21 -10, as pointed out, not a significant score, it should have read 21 – 0, which would be more significant, apologies for that!
Editor

9 (a) (Rule Book Page 5) Proposed rule changes and resolutions for the Preliminary Agenda must be sent to the Organizing Secretary in writing not later than the **3rd Saturday in March** of each year. Amendments to rule change proposals and resolutions contained within the Preliminary Agenda must be sent to the Organizing Secretary in writing not later than the **1st Saturday in May** of each year. All rule change proposals, resolutions and any proposed amendments to same must bear the signatures of the relevant Club Secretary and one other Club Official. Resolutions and proposed amendments can also be submitted by the Management Committee. No rule change proposals, resolutions or amendments shall be accepted after the closing date for submission of same. The Management Committee shall be exempt from this provision.

Continued page 19

Point of Order

To the Editor

A recent away match at H. H. produced one of those unexpected situations that could have turned a good night's T.T. sour, we were getting another pasting and were into the last set, the doubles, we were down to 2 players, our third player had gone home injured, so the umpire was provided by the home team, one of two home side spectators. The games were played as normal, going to the 5th game, at 10-9 to the home side, the home side player throws the ball up to serve, and the spectator shouts 'net', taking all by surprise, the serve goes off the table, score 10 all. All players and the Umpire turned to the spectator in bewilderment, what's going on!, he explains that earlier, the Umpire called 9-8 to the home side, when it should have been 9-7, non of the others recall this situation, and just wanted to carry on at 10 all, but the spectator insisted that the score be returned to his assumed score that should have been, 10-9 to the home team. When it was pointed out that it was a bit late to change now, he said he had shouted let at 9-8, but no one heard him, and he insisted (only he insisted, not the Umpire or the players) that the game go back to 10-9. With the night deteriorating to farce, and it could be seen that he wasn't going to let the matter close unless it was to his satisfaction, as captain, I said ok, and we restarted at 10-9, with us getting a lucky edge to make it deuce again, (the home side server said to me after the match he intended to serve off to level the score), anyway the game went on to a 15-13 to the home side conclusion, with both teams having the chance to win, which saved the night.

I have not used any names to save embarrassment to the 'spectator' concerned, who's well aware of "Points of Order" I'm sure the 'spectator' was in the wrong, but to us, it was just a game, to him it was an issue, the object of this letter is to make other teams aware of the possibility of having to politely tell this 'spectator' to get knotted.

Yours
Roly Wright
Bootle YMCA

This is not a letter -but an article from the ETTA web site

18 December 2009-12-19

by Jim Beckly
ETTA Web site

New research shows table tennis on the move

It's the news that table tennis in England has been waiting for - and it could have important implications for our Olympic sport.

Sport England, the government agency responsible for community sport in this country, has given table tennis the thumbs up in their latest Active People Survey conducted by Mori of the 46 Sports supported by Sport England.

New research shows a very positive trend in regular participation during the last four years with table tennis among five other sports meeting their growth targets - just six months into the funding period.

In the last 12 months the number of participating players rose by 10,000 this included a rise of 9% in the age range 16-34. The 35-54 year old players moved up slightly by 2% although there was no significant increase in the 55 and over age groups.

Although the overall trends from the survey of all sports show a small decline in women players, within table tennis women's participation shows an increase.

Of course different parts of the country show up differently. The North West came out best of all increasing their player base by 25%

Another in the series of interviews of well known players by Paul Gittens,
this one from Crosby club Bath Street Marine's **Albert Parker.**

Where did it all start ?

I began playing TT at the age of 14 (1949) at Warbeck Moor Methodist Church in Aintree with friends Bert Arris, Doug Christie and Ron Reynolds. The bats supplied by the club were cork on one side and sandpaper on the other. The balls were made in two parts joined together by a seam which use to split and end up as two halves during the game. Travel to matches in the Sunday School League was by tram, bus, bike or walk. One game I will always remember was against the Deaf & Dumb school where you always had two umpires (one from each side) and if one made a mistake in the score or disputed a point it caused chaos trying to sort it out.

During my National Service I played for the RAF stationed at Uxbridge. On return to civvy street my first club was British Rail for two years and then English Electric for many years until I had to stop due to health problems (Angina). A quadruple bypass op sorted that out and thanks to my neighbour Barbara Alcock who took me along to Bath Street TT club as a visitor. I have been playing there for the last eight years and hopefully a few more to come.

Best player played against

My standard of table tennis was 3rd & 4th Division so the best played I have ever played was Gordon Birch in the 1970's at one of English Electric handicap tournaments where he sportingly allowed me to win a few points and make the game more interesting to all those watching.

Best win

My best win was probably beating Ro Craddock at Cadwa in the 3rd Div (03/04 season). I had just restarted playing after my operation and Peter Ross of Bath St asked me to play as a reserve for his team. Ro and myself had both played at English Electric for many years so it was a needle match trying to outdo each other. Cannot remember the scores but it was a good game. I think Ro stopped playing TT soon afterwards but I'm sure it was nothing to do with my win.



An English Electric Final's Night in the 1970's. -: L to R Wally Sill, Gordon Birch, ?, ?, Ron Simister, ?, Geoff Edmunds, Albert

Worst defeat.

When my son Kevin Parker (older players may remember him up to 1987) beat me for the first time (aged 14). It was not the beating but having to listen to him telling his mother over and over again point by point.

Best player to watch

Two names come to mind. One being Fred Pheysey and the other Gordon Birch both from English Electric. Fred always played to the rules, never got ruffled and thoroughly enjoyed the game. Gordon on the other hand was more of an extrovert showman who tried every trick in the book which gave a lot of entertainment and the umpire headache. My vote goes to Fred for his straight forward TT.

Funniest Table Tennis moment

When playing Trinity TT club in Orrell Park many years ago against John Hankin which was a very close game. My style of game is all backhand. Close to the table. Low over the net which creates a lot of net points and has given me a reputation over the years. John, although a better player than me, got fed up with the long defensive rallies and nets and lost in the 3rd. As he walked off the table he threw his bat on to a chair and in a loud voice shouted "It's like playing against a bloody tomb stone" at which all 8 players had a good laugh.

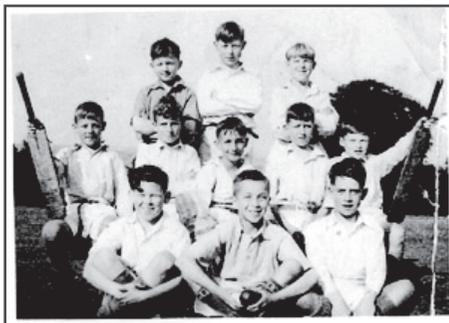
Who is your TT hero and why?

The late and great Jack Lambert for his dedication to all aspects of Table Tennis from Management – league – his Club and all the youngsters that played at English Electric: Julie Black, Graham Black, Alex Sill, George Lennon, Kevin Parker, Sue Hughes, Phil Thompson, Brian Thomas Nigel Conquest to mention a few all started under Jack's guidance. Jack made himself captain of their team. Driving them to all their matches. Made sure they learnt the social disciplines of TT and then drive them home again. On a Sunday morning for about 8 years Jack, Wally Sill and I (and others) spent 4 hours each week coaching the youngsters at the cub. Also, when the World

Championships were held at Birmingham NEC in 1977, Jack took a group of them down for the day. There are many more past & present officials of the Management – league and Club levels equally dedicated as Jack and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for all their hard work giving me many years of pleasure playing the game.



Son Kevin, granddaughter Laura and Albert



Albert , centre front row and school cricket team

Is there life other than TT?

At senior school 1947/1951 I played cricket for one of the school teams. I played tennis at Trinity Tennis Club Orrell Park in my younger days and also had a season ticket for Liverpool Football club for 20 years although I now watch from the comfort of my armchair. My wife and I have always enjoyed Ballroom and Rock & Roll dancing but since retirement our main interests are going to the theatre and holidays abroad especially cruising where I am able to play in the TT competitions on board.

We enjoy spending time with my son Kevin and his family who have lived in Leicester since 1987 where Kevin still plays TT in the Leicester 1st Division. His daughter Laura (aged 14) has also taken up the sport and is presently the Leicester League Cadet Champion, County Cadet Champion and the Leicester Schools Cadet Champion. There are now three generations of the family still playing the ‘beautiful ‘ game and we’re all looking forward to when Kevin’s 6 year old son Michael gains a bit more height to get his bat above the table.

What changes in the game would you like to see?

I would like to see the social side of the matches remain within the game. We at Bath St enjoy ‘party nights’ to celebrate a player’s special birthday. We stop playing and have a bit of a do which the ladies organise. We have not got up to 85 as yet although Beryl Matchett and Eugence Burger have both reached their 80ths.

Tell me something that would surprise me?

The bat I am still playing with today is the one I bought when I was 17 (1952) and is similar to a



Albert as you will see him now

Barna bat. It is an Eric Filby bat (57 years old) and made by Slazenger. Apart from a few new sets of standard pimped rubbers (no sponge) it has stood the test of time and still causes a few comments at matches – rude and otherwise – and a few problems for the up and coming youngsters who do not come across this type of bat very often.

What are we most likely to hear you say and why?

It’s not so much what you’d hear me say but what I’d love to hear someone say to me..... And that’s my 6 lottery numbers which I’ve had the same numbers for the last 10 years. Would I treat myself to a new bat? Nah ... maybe a new bat cover.



Party time at Wednesday morning practice L to R -: Lil Randles, Albert, Barbara Alcock, Don Gibson, Beryl Matchett, Bill Clayton, Paul Oakes

Schools

KEY STAGE 3 LSSP LEAGUE TABLE

Pos	schools	Pl.	games		Pts
			Won	Lost	
1	SFA	6	50	22	50
2	King David	6	50	22	50
3	St Margarets	6	48	24	48
4	Bluecoat	6	43	26	43
5	Shorefields	6	35	37	35
6	Childwall	6	33	36	33
7	SFX	5	18	42	18
8	St Benedicts	3	4	32	4
9	Gateacre	2	1	23	1

KEY STAGE 4 LSSP LEAGUE TABLE

Pos	schools	Pl.	games		Pts
			Won	Lost	
1	Bluecoat	6	48	24	48
2	SFX	4	34	5	34
3	St Benedicts	4	30	18	30
4	Shorefields	5	29	31	29
5	Calderstones	4	23	25	23
6	Childwall	5	22	38	22
7	St Margarets	3	12	18	12
8	Gateacre	2	4	20	4

The above tables are after 3 rounds of the Liverpool Schools Sports Partnership League.

The tables below are from the Sefton Schools Sports Partnership League at the same stage.

I did ask for information from the recent Merseyside Schools Individuals Tournament, but non has come through.

U16 SEFTON TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Pos	schools	Pl.	Games		Pts
			Won	Lost	
1	Savio	6	45	15	45
2	St Ambrose Barlow A	6	34	22	34
3	St Marys	5	28	25	28
4	St Ambrose Barlow B	4	26	12	26
5	Meols Cop	6	25	35	25
6	Formby	6	18	42	18
7	St Allsorts	2	18	12	18
8	CTK	4	4	36	4

U13 SEFTON TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Pos	schools	Pl.	Games		Pts
			Won	Lost	
1	Savio A	6	42	18	42
2	Formby A	6	41	19	41
2	Savio B	4	35	5	35
4	St Ambrose Barlow	6	33	27	33
5	Formby 'B'	6	25	25	25
6	Meols Cop	6	13	47	13
7	St Marys	2	8	12	8
8	CTK	4	3	27	3



The first round of this season's Liverpool School's league took place at Shorefields comprehensive in Dingle



The latest round of the Liverpool School's League was held at St. Francis of Assisi comprehensive in Tuebrook



This photo shows a practice session at Savio Salesian College. in Bootle

Three photo's showing that table tennis is going on in lots of schools, with excellent facilities, lots of interested youngsters wanting to play and get better, all would appreciate 'some form tuition' from experienced players, or even better, experienced coaches, but they are hard to come by. We still have the problem of where do the youngsters go for more competitive play later (L&DTTL Clubs), but at least we can nurture their original interest before they change their minds and head in another direction. We know that it's not so easy to start, but why not ask how! I don't see a Premier Club Status on the horizon, but helping in schools is achievable.

Divisional Cups

Round 2 Results

SEMI-FINAL RESULTS

Division 1. Readman Cup

WAV LABOUR	5	v	4	BOOTLE YMCA
BATH St. M.	5	v	4	M/side POLICE
CROSBY HIGH	5	v	3	MANWEB
FORDS	W/O	v	conc by CADWA	

Division 1. Readman Cup

BATHSt. M.	3	v	5	CROSBY HIGH
FORDS	5	v	4	WAV. LABOUR

Division 2. Rumjahn Cup

CROSBY HIGH 'B'	5	v	4	BATH St. M 'A'
M/side POLICE 'A'	5	v	4	MARCONI
CH. the KING 'A'	5	v	2	FORDS 'A'
HAR HOUSE 'A'	5	v	1	BOOTLE YM 'A'

Division 2. Rumjahn Cup

M/POLICE 'A'	2	v	5	CH. the KING 'A'
HAR HOUSE 'A'	5	v	1	CROSBY HIGH 'B'

Division 3. Hyde Cup

WAV LAB 'B'	5	v	3	MAGHULL 'B'
CADWA 'A'	4	v	5	SEFTON PARK
M/side POLICE 'B'	5	v	0	MANWEB 'B'
MARCONI 'A'	5	v	3	MANWEB 'C'

Division 3. Hyde Cup

SEFTON PARK	2	v	5	M. POLICE 'B'
MARCONI 'A'	5	v	0	WAV. LABOUR 'B'

Division 4. Forrest Cup

MAGHULL 'D'	0	v	5	MAGHULL 'C'
ARRIVA N. W.	3	v	5	HAR. HOUSE 'C'
BATH St. M. 'D'	2	v	5	BOOTLE YM. 'B'
MARCONI 'B'	5	v	2	CADWA 'B'

Division 4. Forrest Cup

HAR HOUSE 'C'	5	v	1	BOOTLE YM 'B'
MARCONI 'B'	5	v	1	MAGHULL 'C'

Division 5. Stamp Cup

BATH St. M 'E'	5	v	2	BOOTLE YM 'C'
SEFTON PK. 'C'	1	v	5	ARRIVA N.W.'B'
ARRIVA N. W. 'A'	3	v	5	WAV. LAB. 'D'
M/side POLICE 'D'	5	v	1	MAGHULL 'E'

Division 5. Stamp Cup

ARRIVAN. W. 'B'	3	v	5	WAV. LABOUR 'D'
M. POLICE 'D'	5	v	1	BATH St. M. 'E'

All Divisional Finals to be played in the same week - beginning Monday 22nd, March 2010 as per handbook

The Frank Murphy Memorial Handicap Cup

3rd. ROUND RESULTS

h/cap	home	score	v	score	away	h/cap
76	BATH St. M. 2	247	v	334	BATHSt. M. 1	-44
211	ARRIVA N.W. 1	384	v	387	CROSBY HIGH	11
17	MANWEB 1	325	v	339	CADWA 1	38
73	MARCONI 3	375	v	357	BOOTLE YM 1	16

THE SEMI FINAL DRAW

home		v	away	
BATH St. M. 1		v	CROSBY HIGH	
CADWA 1		v	MARCONI 3	

to be played week Mon. 1st March

The 2010 Liverpool Closed SUNDAY 21st MARCH 2010 at the Wavertree Tennis Centre

Entry forms available from any club secretary, or downloadable from the L&DTTL & Digest web sites,
Entry forms must be returned by Monday 25th. March 10

League Tables after week 15- as at 10th. February

Division One	P	W	D	L	Pts
1 Fords	12	11	1	0	86
2 M. Police	11	7	1	3	71
3 Crosby High	12	8	2	2	71
4 Bath St. M.	10	7	0	3	65
5 Wav Labour	12	6	1	5	62
6 Bootle YM.	12	5	1	6	60
7 Crosby H. 'A'	13	5	1	7	60
8 Ch. The King	12	5	3	4	60
9 Manweb	13	4	2	7	59
10 Har. House	11	4	2	5	52
11 Cadwa	13	1	1	11	41
12 Maghull	13	1	1	11	33
13 Free					
14 Free					

Division Two	P	W	D	L	Pts
1 Ch.the King 'A'	13	13	0	0	103
2 Har. House 'A'	13	9	3	1	88
3 Ch The King 'B'	13	7	4	2	78
4 Marconi	13	6	3	4	74
5 M. Police 'A'	13	6	2	5	68
6 Fords 'A'	13	6	2	5	68
7 Manweb 'A'	13	4	3	6	62
8 Crosby H. 'B'	13	5	2	6	61
9 Bath St. M. 'A'	11	4	3	4	57
10 Har. House 'B'	13	5	2	6	57
11 Wav Labour 'A'	13	4	1	8	55
12 Bootle YM 'A'	14	1	1	12	36
13 Maghull 'A'	13	0	2	11	33
14 Free					

Division Three	P	W	D	L	Pts
1 Marconi 'A'	12	12	0	0	98
2 M. Police 'B'	13	9	1	3	77
3 Bath St. M. 'C'	12	8	1	3	70
4 Wav. Lab. 'C'	12	8	0	4	70
5 M. Police 'C'	13	6	3	4	67
6 Bath St. M. 'B'	12	4	2	6	59
7 Sefton Pk.	10	6	1	3	54
8 Wav. Lab. 'B'	11	4	1	6	54
9 Cadwa 'A'	13	4	0	9	51
10 Manweb 'C'	13	2	2	9	48
11 Maghull 'B'	12	3	2	7	47
12 Manweb 'B'	13	0	1	12	35
13 Free					
14 Free					

Division Four	P	W	D	L	Pts
1 Har. House 'C'	13	12	1	0	109
2 Bootle YM 'B'	14	12	0	2	108
3 Marconi 'B'	13	11	2	0	93
4 Arriva N.W.	14	10	0	4	89
5 Bath St. M. 'D'	14	7	4	3	81
6 Cadwa 'B'	13	5	1	7	69
7 Maghull 'C'	13	5	1	7	66
8 Sefton Pk.'A'	14	4	1	9	52
9 Marconi 'C'	13	4	3	6	52
10 Linacre	13	4	1	8	49
11 Cadwa 'C'	13	4	1	8	46
12 Sefton Pk.'B'	14	1	1	12	37
13 Maghull 'D'	13	0	0	13	19
14 Free					

Division Five	P	W	D	L	Pts
1 M.Police 'D'	13	11	1	1	103
2 Arriva N.W. 'A'	14	11	0	3	102
3 Wav. Lab. 'D'	14	11	2	1	102
4 Bath St. M. 'E'	12	8	1	3	80
5 Arriva N.W. 'B'	14	7	4	3	75
6 Bootle YM 'C'	13	7	2	4	73
7 Maghull 'E'	13	3	2	8	60
8 Cadwa 'D'	12	5	0	7	59
9 Sefton Pk.'C'	13	4	1	8	54
10 Maghull 'F'	12	3	1	8	48
11 Bath St. M. 'F'	14	3	1	10	39
12 Wav. Lab. 'E'	12	1	3	8	34
13 Edge Hill	12	1	0	11	11
14 Free					

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

Fines to Date	No	Fine £'s	Total
Player Short	14	3	42
Walk Over League	2	6	12
Walk Over Cup	4	6	24
Played Out of Order	0	1.50 PP	0
Late Score Card	17	3	51
Total 2009-10	37	£129	

The fines situation seems to improve each year, both tables from the same time in the season, less walkovers also means less players missing games.