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Editorial

Renewing of ETTA Individual Player Membership
By the time you read this, the season will either have started or be within one week of starting, everyone should know that unless they have renewed their ETTA Membership by their first match of the season, they are not eligible to play, and if they do play before renewing, officially, they may be classed as an 'ineligible player'. More on page 19

After a few seasons of players commenting on the "long season," this season we are trying a new format for the L&DTTL, there is no specific week for the 1st round of the Div. Cups, teams are given the option of playing the first round over an extended period of the first seven weeks, the home team decides when the match is to be played, it may not be on the home teams normal match night, but whenever it can be fitted in, shouldn't be a problem for clubs with spare nights, but for those without, check when the 'free' weeks fall, only one div. (3) has a full division. Effort must be made not to have to postpone designated League matches where possible, there's also the option of changing home and away status!. But all 1st round Div. Cup matches must be completed by Friday 29th OCTOBER 2011. Whether this works is down to the Clubs,

I'm gradually changing the format of the Digests to save on the volume of printing, I propose to continue the format of a booklet style publication as now, but only print enough hard copies to send one per Club Secretary, and one per registered team, and one requested by anyone who doesn't have access to the internet, that should bring the printing down from 380 to 100, the Digest will be loaded onto the internet (as now) in PDF format to be read at leisure, (help the world save paper)

On page 12 Len Dyson has sent in a message about a popular Merseyside Police player from the 70's/80's, Barry McLeod who is in a Wirral Nursing home, Len and Tom Pucell have penned this message to all who knew Barry.

In his Nets & Edges page, Don Davies mentions about the cost of T.T. Tickets for the Olympics, did you get any?, an alternative, and for me, better value, is the ITTF Pro Tour in November at the Excel Arena, London, mor info on page 12

Don also sent an e-mail regards the extra events he's setting up on the pre GP evening at Wavertree, on Friday 19th. Reigning COL GP men's singles champion, Ryan Jenkins together with Kevin Dolder and Jonathan Taylor have all agreed to help in the come and try coaching session while Ryan and either KD or JT will attempt to break the record for the most shots in a minute which Ryan tried for a couple of months ago at the Royal Albert Hall but, sadly

failed to break it and enter the Guinness Book of Records. This attempt, however, would be unofficial but, if successful, would be a 'Scouse' record. Entries for the GP closed on 178 which is quite good in today's financial climate.

He mentions that we will not be running the Junior 4 Star Tournament due to financial reasons.

He also mentions names whose season never ends due to paper work for the next season, and gives mention those who spend so much of their time organising the C.O.L. Grand Prix, a mammoth task for those involved.

In the next Digest I hope to report that everything was a well earned success.

Due to the addition of 4 new teams this season, Trevor has had to juggle the divisions about, the new teams are mainly youngsters going into the 5th Div. which has meant Trevor promoting teams that wouldn't normally have gone up, we now have 4 x 14 team divisions with 13 teams, and one full strength division of 14 teams, the 3rd Div. a fair trade off after last season's 3rd Div played with only 11 teams after Sefton Park dropped out.

For those who read the fines tables (extra income for the League) on the back page, you will see that late cards is a good money earner, but kind hearted Fixture Secretary Trevor, has decided to return some of that income back to the players, all players, not just those that pay regularly, and has gone to the trouble of sticking a second class stamp to approx. 800 match cards, in the hope that no one will have any reason not to post the match card the day after the match, or is that wishful thinking? Check next season.

At the recent AGM, a proposal was put forward to restrict the number of teams in the 1st division to 3 from any one Club, this proposal was unanimously defeated, rightly so, if a Club, possibly a Premier type Club, with excellent facilities to attract the best players finished up with many teams in the top Division, they are the teams to beat. I think that the reason for the proposal was the worry that teams can give misleading player rankings below their true level, with the ability to 'float', not always easy with new players, or for other reasons, but we would hope that honesty and common sense would prevail.

Even though there are players suggesting that the season is too long, there seem to be plenty who would like a longer season looking at the number of Coaching Camps that are springing up, Clubs who are trying to get summer Leagues going, (Greenbank), a Halton Club setting up a Hard Bat Tournament (what's a hard bat asks the young ones!) plenty of coaching going on; maybe the reason is holidays, but then hols are taken all year round.

Thanks again to our reporters.

Although the season is still a couple of weeks away, August is a busy month for a number of league officials, none more so than for Mike Power, Trevor Owens and Roly Wright. With promotion and relegation, theoretically, 'done and dusted' weeks before, some clubs' were still amending and finalising their team entries, which left Trevor and Mike the tricky task of equalising the five divisions in an effort to ensure clubs' enjoy the same number of fixtures. When teams' are withdrawn at a late stage, replacements have to be pushed up from outside the automatic promotion places and this has been the case this summer which means that Trevor is unable to finalise the fixtures which delays Roly from printing the handbook. I make no excuse for dwelling on these problems for while it may seem to most that June to August is the 'Closed Season' it certainly isn't for those three outstanding officials, whom we are fortunate to have in the such key positions.



Also, in that period, we had the organisation of the City of Liverpool Grand Prix which, by the time you read this excellent journal, now in its eighth decade, will have been completed with 178 taking part. The entry from Liverpool was, again, disappointing with only ten men from the league entered. Only Kevin Dolder, Jonathan Taylor, Tomasz Rzeszotko, Michael Lunn, Graham Cleary and Peter Lee from division one, entered the men's singles while Janay Gibson, was the sole ladies' singles entry. Keith Williams and Tomasz were leading seeds in the veteran event but, with the league allowing junior players' to enter free of charge, the take up was also disappointing with only Miss Gibson, Michael Lunn and Jack Hunter Spivey taking up this very generous offer. With Eileen Allison, who lives in Louth, in Lincolnshire again officiating as Referee, Mike Power took on the task of receiving and collating the entries and the all important cheques, which was very time consuming. Others carried out important tasks which included Arthur Garnett, Russell Thornton and Tom Purcell who ensured everything went to plan.

The league was, again, grateful to Dick Johnson for allowing the free use of Wavertree Tennis Centre for the GP but, with severe financial constraints on Council spending, the Junior 4 star tournament, unfortunately, had to be called off when the league was advised by the centre would cost £2800 for the weekend. The league received an unusual email from Plymouth player Liz May, who set up her own organisation to raise funds

for a Women's Breast Cancer charity, calling it, PINK PONG. Liz, a regular in the COL GP over the last few years, has been raising money in mainly in the West country through coaching and exhibitions plus other associated table tennis activities. Liz asked if we'd allow her to use the centre on the eve of the GP and with Dick Johnson and centre manager Joe Twamley giving their approval, she asked COL men's singles champion Ryan Jenkins and Kevin

Dolder to help while Closed champion Jonathan Taylor, agreed instantly to attend when I asked for his services.

By the time you read this, hopefully we'll have helped raise a healthy amount to put in the pot. A few days before our GP, Ryan had put on an exhibition in Cardiff which was very good of him having just returned from a week in Hungary with his squad of juniors' while also carrying out his role as Wales' Team Manager. He did, of course, win a gold medal with former Wavertree Labour and Liverpool Closed champion, Adam Robertson in the Commonwealth Games. Ryan, who won the COL GP men's title last season, is in the mix along with the top England players' for selection for the 2012 Olympic Games having been crowned four times as the overall GP champion and is the current holder, while only a part time player - the England men, of course, are all full time.

In anticipation of another sterling effort put in by those non-committee helpers' who turned up at Wavertree on the two days prior to the championships to lug tables and surrounds from the truck before setting up the arena - I sincerely thank you.

Finally, I may be proved wrong next year following my assertion that Olympic Games ticket prices were too expensive for most players for the TT competition. With tickets for a three hours session ranging from £20 to £125, I said I'd be surprised if any session would be a sell out. It appears that all tickets have been taken up but, mainly by foreign visitors' and those who 'just want to be part of the 'Olympic Experience' irrespective of the event or cost. However, we'll see, next August.

Finally, I sincerely hope that every player enjoys the coming season and receives at least whatever they put in.

Don

Division 1

Ian McElwee

At the time of writing the last notes there was the chance of either Crosby High or their B team catching the leaders Fords as only 7 points separated the three sides, Fords also had to play both Crosby sides in the closing weeks.

At week 22 Crosby High A, and Rob Wylie in particular, did nothing to help his B team's hopes when he was in magnificent form to take his 3 singles as the B team ran out 7/3 victors. Fords beat a 2 man Police side to retain the status quo, in this match Jon Taylor got the better of Mal McEvoy and he and John Hope both beat Andy Taylor.

Week 23 saw Crosby High playing out a draw against Fords with Jamie Hewitt and Michael Lunn each taking 2 points and Paul Cicchelli chipping in with a win over Tim Wearden. The Crosby B team closed the gap on Fords when they ran out 9/1 winners over CTK who only had Keith Bird available.

Week 24 saw Fords and Crosby B both win 8/2 against Bootle YMCA and CADWA respectively, still all to play for. Fords eventually clinched the title in the final week of the season when they beat their nearest rivals Crosby B 6/4, Kevin Dolder was once again man of the match as he kept his unbeaten singles record for the season and partnered Andy to take the doubles, Terry and Andy both contributed with wins over Aaron Beech. Strangely in his final singles of the season Kevin found himself 2 sets to 1 down against James Bartollo and had to pull out all the stops to finally beat James 12/10 in the deciding set.

Bath St Marine ended up 23 points behind 3rd placed Crosby High on 150 but a comfortable 26 points ahead of their nearest challengers Crosby High A and Bootle YMCA. When BSM beat Harold House A 8/2, reserve Ricky Brown came in and, as usual, gave everything to beat Jasmine Yang and Rioh Wan. Jasmine certainly got her money's worth losing out 11/5 in the 5th to Ken Jackson and achieving a terrific 12/10 final set win over Gary Watson. When they faced CTK, Dave Roberts came



in as a reserve and along with Ken and Gary beat Tony Whelan and Peter Taylor, Keith Bird was in great form for CTK remaining unbeaten on the night.

When Crosby A defeated CTK A 7/3 Rob Wylie was joined by reserves James Bartollo and young prospect Jack Dempsey with Rob and James both remaining unbeaten. Rob continued his brilliant end of season form when he and Gavin Lloyd both remained unbeaten against a much depleted Harold House.

Keith Williams has had another great season only losing 2 out of 60 (96.67%) singles for Bootle YMCA, combine these stats with his doubles points and he has ended up contributing more than 58% of his teams points for the season, quite a remarkable achievement. When they beat Crosby High 7/3 Keith was once again unbeaten, but Janey Gibson did well to beat both Gavin Lloyd and Cherrith Graham whilst Alan Chase proved there is still life in the old dog when he came in and beat Aaron Beech in straight sets.

Merseyside Police and CTK both finished on 115 points, throughout the season the Police side struggled to put out their strongest team and conceded a number of points for playing short. Liverpool closed champion Jon Taylor had a healthy average of 82.35% (42 from 51), team mate Chris Ford bettered this with 84% (21 from 25) and the much injured Paul Gittins attained 70% (7 from 10), imagine if these 3 had played regularly week in week out just how close they could have been to putting pressure on the top 3 teams.

Christ the King have been affected by injuries to players and in the latter weeks of the season the only player available on a regular basis has been the ever consistent Keith Bird who finished the season with a very creditable 75% record (won 47 from 62), as mentioned earlier he turned up on his own against Crosby B and took a point off Aaron Beech before losing a cracking encounter against James Bartollo, going down 12/10 in the 5th. When they played their A team he was joined by

reserves Peter Taylor and Ben Aitken, won his 3 but ended up on the losing side with the teams other point coming from Peter Taylor's excellent win over Jon Lau.

After promotion the CTK A team probably did as well as could be expected to finish in 9th place on 96 points, both Peter Lee and Jon Lau had good seasons in achieving 50% averages. Peter was in excellent form when they lost 8/2 to Merseyside Police, although he lost to Jon Taylor he won his matches against John Hope and Steve Gittins, not bad for a man who must be close to playing his 50th season in the league.

CADWA plugged away all season to keep themselves well clear of relegation, Graeme Black (51%) and George Lennon hardly missed a match, Damien Piper played 10 matches but they did not have a regular third player and reserves were constantly in use with 10 other players turning out for them during the season. George had his best night of the season when he won his 3 singles and combined with Graeme in the doubles in a 6/4 win over Wavertree Labour, Graeme beat Mike Tierney and Paul Banks but lost out to the oldest chopper in town as Roy Smith beat him in 3 straight.

Both Harold House teams have struggled with personnel as illustrated by the use of 14 players during the season, with neither side managing to put out a regular team, however, Miles Fong with 59% (26 from 44) and Jasmine Yang on 56% (30 from

53) both did well. The A team avoided relegation with 75 points, 8 points ahead of their first team and Wavertree Labour who both finished on 67. At week 24 the A team won their derby match by a 6/4 margin, John Henshaw and Kevin Lewis had a good night as they both remained unbeaten to secure the win.

Finally Wavertree Labour, the team of Roy Smith, Mike Tierney and Paul Banks all played virtually every week, playing the game in the right spirit although relegation favourites from week 1. Having been there myself in the past, I know how hard this can be, but they never gave up and for this they deserve credit. Roy won 25 and Paul 26 both claiming some good scalps along the way, Roy was in top form when he won his 3 at CTK, he was supported by Paul who beat Ahmed Thabet and Peter Taylor, and Mike combined with Roy to take the doubles.

Just a couple of other bits and pieces, five players managed to play 70 plus games with John Henshaw and Aaron Beech playing 77, Jon Lau 74, and Mike Tierney and Paul Banks 72. At the end of the day point won by individuals are the determining factor in deciding where a team finish in the league (as opposed to averages). Paul Hutchins led the way with 59 single wins, Keith Williams 58, Jon Lau 57, Gary Watson 53 and Aaron Beech 51. These players have been great assets to their teams with combination of reliability in playing regularly and putting points on the board.

Division 2

I always find it difficult writing much about the division winners (as you may have noticed). It goes with the territory that they are going to win most matches with only the occasional slip ups. If the LD TTL developed a fantasy table tennis league - you probably wouldn't be able to get Dave Roberts, Claire Peers and Tony Kendall in a team as they would be too expensive together as a second division team and I think that is how it has played out – this team has been too expensive for the second division and the 34 points margin at the end of the season supports that.

Paul Banks



It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice and this team have managed an exemplary season with a high level of sportsmanship that you would expect from three nice guys! Top average goes to Claire Peers with 96% and young Dave coming in second with 90%.

So hearty congratulations to **BSM (A)** for their fine achievement and good luck for next season.

Congratulations also to **Fords (A)** on claiming the runners up spot six

points ahead of their nearest rivals, Graham Cleary,

Paul Kinsey, Tim Weardon and Bob Hughes, also having a strong season.

Next up is **Harold House (B)** who with only six points difference to the runners up have been a trifle unfortunate, Steve Whalley proving once again to be the MVP with a seasons average of 73%.

Christ The King (B) finish the season in fourth place, now you may remember that in a previous report I made a statement about Marconi always being in fourth place – well this must have been seen as a challenge to CTK(B) and one that they have achieved – so well done CTK(B), they managed this by only losing to Fords (A) and Harold House (B) at the end of the season, both close 4-6 defeats. Billy Cheung, Dave Tagg, Peter Taylor and new boy supersub Ben Aitken taking 29 points out of 50.

Fifth place is; I'm sorry to say, **Marconi** and sitting here in my back room I can't help wondering whether it's all my fault – did I put the Lydiat curse on my favourite fourth place team? can they ever forgive me? Looking at the end of season results it doesn't look like any drop in fervour or wins for Marconi, Chris Spedding could be blamed for allowing Tony Kendall and Claire Peers to win in the fifth set, so with only one point in it; I have concluded that this was where it all went wrong for Marconi.

A bit of a drop now to the 6th place team, 24 points in fact where we find **BSM (B)**. MVP for BSM(B) is Ricky (OS) Brown. Taking three wins at Wavertree Labour, Maghull and Marconi(A) and two at Harold House – Alec Bryce being the only player to beat Ricky in the run up.

Next up is **Crosby High (C)**. Now I feel that I have to mention here how great it is to see so many young players in the second division – it might not be for long though on their way to fame and fortune in the first. No I'm not talking about Dave Evans, Sylvia Graham and Roger Neal, but I am talking about Alec Buchanan, Ben Edwards, Jack Dempsey and Robert Barker all of whom have turned out for the Crosby side this season. Jack Dempsey showing a high level of maturity and grit winning his three at Maghull over Alan Jones, Peter Holmes and John Langton – very much no easy task. Robert Barker also showing what a great prospect he is narrowly losing to Graham Cleary but overcoming Tim Weardon in the fifth set. So sincere well done's to them and well done to Crosby for such a pro-active youth policy.

Another team with a pro-active youth policy is **Merseyside Police (A)**. Sam Gittins and Joe Mullin obviously destined for greater things. Sam with a great win over Chris Spedding and Joe Mullin proving that he is the man by refusing to lose to Billy Cheung and Peter Taylor.

Wavertree Labour (A) are the next in line – only three points behind the Police, although maybe that has something to do with the 10 point walkover at Maghull. In any case Roy Adams has once again proved to be Wavertree's MVP with a 68% average.

Marconi (A) have shown their usual grit and desire to win again this season and have managed some noticeable scalps. Ian Wensley and Andy Lloyd both taking two wins at the derby match with Marconi and Frank McCann and Peter Wass both getting the better over Peter Taylor.

Now with two free spaces in the division, will that have any effect on what happens at the bottom. Maghull have once again struggled but managed to not finish bottom with 9 points out of 40, 5 of those points coming at Crosby High (C). What will happen to Alan Jones, Peter Holmes and John Langton next season?

BSM (C) have also not been lacking in the effort stakes – just the winning stakes. Sylvia Graham managed to prevent Andy Cheung from a hat trick at Crosby High, another two wins at the Police over S.Gittins and Brenda Buoey by Andy may have shown that the season ended just to soon for him.

So all that is left is to make the end of season awards. The award for player of the last quarter of the season goes to Dave Tagg from CTK (B). With a 79% average for the season Dave has proved what a tough player he is to beat and what a valuable commodity he is for Christ The King, Steve Whalley and Graham Cleary being the only players to beat him in the run up.

The award for player of the season has to go to Claire Peers with only two losses out of a possible 56 games played. I shall have to have a look at previous records but this must be close to the record.

So that's it another season done and dusted and what have we learnt – well we have learnt that it is too much fun not to do it again next season.

Best Wishes
Paul Banks
Wavertree Labour.

Division 3

Mike Hughes

Week 22.

Bootle YM (A) v Maghull (A), a good 10-0 win with only Rod Bulmer putting up much resistance, George Frost was nominated as man of the match.

Police (B) v Harold House (B), a strong win 8-2 by Harold house, Tom Purcell had hard luck with 2 of his games going to 5, and 1 to 4.

Bath St (D) v Police (C), a good win by Bath St 6-4 MOTM Colin Owens winning his 3 singles

Wav Lab (C) v Bootle YM (B) A close match Wav Lab winning 6-4, Bert Rivers losing out to Lee Farley in the 5th. MOTM Shakil Malik winning his 3 singles and the doubles.

Week 23

Police (C) v Wav Lab (B) Wav Lab came out winners 4-6 a close match with Paul Morgan being man of the match winning his 3 singles.

CADWA (A) v Marconi (B) A good 8-2 win for CADWA With Alan Timewell being MOTM winning all 4 of his games.

Wav Lab (C) v Bath St (D) Looks a tightly fought match with honours even 5-5

Bootle YM (B) v Harold house (C). The first clear win by YM B 7-3 over HH for some considerable time, let's hope this is a sign of things to come, MOTM Shakil Malik for the YM, winning all his 4 games.

Week 24

Bootle YM (A) v Police C (A), a 10 – 0 win for the YM with the Police not showing much resistance.

Wav Lab (B) v Wav Lab (C), a strong win for the C team 3-7, one would have expected the B team to be the stronger.

Marconi (B) v Maghull (A), a good win by Maghull 4-6, but MOTM was Tony Mullalley, winning all 3 of his singles for Marconi.

Bath St (D) v Bootle YM (B), looks a really tight match 5-5, MOTM Rob Peat winning all his three singles, with a good win over Shakil Malik in 4

Police (B) v CADWA (A), a strong win by CADWA 2-8, with only 2 games going to 5 sets, quite an easy night for CADWA.



Week 25

Wav Lab (C) v Bootle YM (A), a strong win by the YM 1-9, with only Lee Farley for Wav Lab putting up any resistance, beating John Higham in 5 sets.

CADWA (A) v Harold House (C), a good win for CADWA 6-4, MOTM Paul Evans, winning his 3 singles and also his doubles.

Bath St (D) v Wav Lab (B), a good win by Bath St 8-2, both Tony Connor and Paul Morgan saving the day for Wav Lab, both beating Dave Stoddern.

Maghull (A) v Police (B), a comfortable win for Police with Phil Christie winning 2 out of his 3 for Maghull, going to 5 sets with Brian Burrows winning the final set 12-10, MOTM Len Dyson, winning all his 3 games for the Police.

Week 26

Bootle YM (A) v Bath St (D), another easy win for Bootle 10-0, with Bath St being a player short, it's hard giving top of the league a 3-0 start before you have got on the table.

Marconi (B) v Police (C), a strong win by the Police 1-9 with only Paul Loftus saving a white-wash by the Police, beating Len Dyson in a tight game coming out on top 13-11 in the 5th.

Harold House (C) v Maghull (A), an easy win for HH 8-2, with only John Mc. putting up any resistance, winning 2 out of his 3 games.

Wav Lab (B) v Bootle YM (B), a close Match 4-6 with the YM coming out on top.

Good luck to both Bootle YM (A) and CADWA (A) on their promotion to the 2nd division, **make sure you stay up.**

I hope to be playing again next season health permitting.

My thanks to all who have sent and passed on their best wishes to me, it helps me not to feel so low, see you all next season

My thanks to Mike who put these notes together while in the middle of a stressful time of treatment. I wouldn't have been surprised for him to ask to miss this one, and for me to try and find another reporter, but he insisted on doing it, so thanks again Mike, with all our best wishes. *Editor* 7

Well done to Arriva North West (*1st averaging 7.4pts per game*), triple crown winners!!! Taking this Division by 14 points, no losses, two draws and 20 wins! Doubled with the divisional cup and trebled with the Frank Murphy (w/o young buck Derek). Interestingly they and Police 'D' have been promoted in successive seasons. Last year it was the Police who came first, but this year they were behind the buses (an awkward place to be and very difficult to overtake as any driver will attest). Arriva were very consistent, determined and focused, they were as keen on a good win at the start of the season as they were 2/3rds of the way through, Derek finished 3rd in the divisional averages just ahead of Larry, and Graham was up in 7th, you can be sure they and Harry will give it their best shot in the 3rd next season.



Police 'D' (*2nd 6.8*) followed Arriva up and also had 3 players in top 10 of the averages. No.2 Sam was 10th on 71% and No.3 Geoff was 8th. A lot of the credit goes to Joe Mullin who was top of the averages and impressed all who saw him with his speed, technique and power, the two Alan's weren't just hangers on, but may not enjoy the 3rd so much.

Being without your number 1 isn't the best way to play your rivals, but that's what they had to do in week 23 v Arriva, who were in full force, Geoff took to the task, beating Derek and Harry, Alan Cameron nearly took another point off Harry in a close 5 game, but it was only two points for Police as they went down to their worst defeat of the season, they knew then that the title was out of their reach.

Round up of other highlights from the last quarter

Week 22.

Josef beating club mates Roberts and Burrows and then with John O'Sullivan besting Roberts and Higham to get the C teams only points.

Neil Jennings (who ended up 2nd in averages btw) beating Phil Christie in 5 at Maghull.

Sefton Park's Traynor & Perry beating Colin Fyles as Dave Cunningham came good winning both doubles to contribute to the team's victory at Wavertree Labour'D'.

Jack Hunter-Spivey for winning his two, v Arriva, for Sefton Parks only points. Ted Cramsie in beating John Gratton and Dave McMahan, who despite this

bounced back to win their other singles for Marconi'C's only points at BSM'E'.

Week 23.

Phil Christie, preventing a whitewash from Marconi'C'.

Nice to see some old, old faces playing up in the Manweb v Sefton Park'B' match, Arthur Harrison beat Eric Wood 12/10 in the 5th but asking him to do the same with Eric Young was just a stretch too far 13/15 in 't 5th to a Young Charlton Heston (see previous edition).

The polish chaps were on fire v Wavertree running out 9-1 victors, Andy Bird beat Pavel in 4, but then saw a 2-0 lead overturned by Kristof with 3 11/9s.

Ted & Mal have performed well for BSM'E', as shown in the Cadwa'B' encounter, Burrowsy was too strong for Ted but Mal took him, Ted took George and Mal bettered John, Ian Lunt was chuffed winning his two singles in 4 v Keith and Cyril (70+ yo).

Week 24

Again w/o Joe but Police won 7-3 v Manweb, Sam came back from his Arriva disappointment with a brace over Manweb's Ben & Neil, Geoff again won his singles coming from 2-Nil down to Alvin, both Alans beat Arthur.

Sefton Park'A' had a good win at Arriva'A', Derek beat 1&2 as Janus lost to Mike and Ray.

Josef atoned for his loses in the 1st half of the season at Wavertree'D' comfortably beating Colin & Andy on home soil, Colin beat John in 5 and Andy got revenge on myself, Mr Biggs surprised Paul Webb with a 5 game drama.

Cadwa'B' played well at MCA'B', 7-3.

Sefton'B' got a 10-0 pummelling from Marconi'C' which sealed their fate; relegation to the 5th.

Week 25

Wins for Colin Fyles again over Ted & Mal (12/10 in 4th and 11/9 in 't 5th).

Much improved result for CADWA 'C' (*4th 5.6*) at Arriva 'A', only one singles from Kristof and 1st doubles for the home team. My 1st game versus Brian Hornby threatened to take over the whole night, finishing 17/19, Josef was the top player, 9th in averages with Paul Webb our most improved player, 11th in the averages.

A much changed Marconi'C' fell 2-8 to Police who were up to full strength, Frank won the only home singles from Alan Cameron who just piped James Haskell 11/9 in 5.

Some joy for Sefton's Derek Traynor over Arriva's Larry Stone, though Mr Scotland won the battle of the Dereks, Mr Perry just beat Harry Hughes in 5, Graham could have lost to Dave C in straight games but won the 3rd from deuce, both doubles were won by 2 points in the 5th set by Arriva 5, so not as clear cut as the 2-8 result suggests, indeed Marconi'C' (6th 4.8) have turned things around from last year after finishing 11th.

Although more of a fight was made, there was another 10-0 for Sefton'B' (12th 2.4) this time from Cadwa'B' who were w/o No.1 Pete Roberts, this was Cadwa'B's penultimate game of the season ensuring 3rd place, King George writes "3rd – a pleasing season for Cadwa'B', proved you need a good squad to achieve in the 4th div. All players contributed over the season. John Ashley and Ian Lunt won valuable sets. Ian Burrows – vintage performances! George makes the tea!" what about Peter!? Burrowsy finished 6th in the averages on 79% (apu!). It was Sefton Park'B's last game of the season and the last one in this division for at least a year. We'll be sorry to see them go, but they have suffered from player availability throughout. Eric just needs one more major surgery to complete the bionic man transformation (steel springs in his legs) that will help them bounce back to the 4th.

Week 26

Sefton Park'A's (9th 4.5) Jack H-S won his two in 5, v Paul and myself (sorry for the tea incident btw) as CADWA'C' ran out 8-2 victors. Mike Perry will count himself unlucky 11/13 to John, as will Ian Findon 9/11 to Paul, in deciding games.

Arriva 1st finished with a 7-3 win over Manweb (7th 4.7). Derek must have relaxed (does he ever?) losing to Ben Chen in his last match. Larry had no such trouble winning both singles v Ben & Alvin in 3. Neil Jennings took Harry in 3. Rollo won his two, but not w/o effort v Alvin and Arthur (11/13 in 4th and 11/9 in't 5th). Harry & Graham went 2-0 up v Alvin & Arth in second doubles and could have won in 3 but instead lost the game 10/12. Then A&A showed no mercy putting in two 11/4 games to win.

A full strength Police'D' beat a CADWA'B' (3rd 6.2) w/o Pete & Burrowsy 8-2, and even had the comfort of using Mr Cameron in the doubles. The night started well for the visitors as Ian Lunt beat Alan French, but

then Joe & Sam were unblemished (cept for George taking the 1st game off Joe 15/13 and Ian Lunt taking the 1st off Sam 11/9). John Ashley had a good 3 game win over Geoff (8/ 10/12 11/13).

Mal Kent had two 5 gamers with Arriva'A' (8th 4.6). Initially losing to No.3 Janus (12/10) but then beating No.1 Kristof, Ted also beat Kristof and Wacek, both doubles secured a win for BSM'E' (5th 5.3).

Best till last. Performance of the season (in the circumstances).

At home, Maghull 'B' went into their last game versus Wavertree 'D' 3 points behind them in the 2nd relegation spot, the match was played like a cup match, with the Captains calling on the match they thought most likely to win, needing to win 7-3 at least. MCA'B' were 3-2 down at the break. Andy had gone on 1st v Harry and won 17/15 in't 5th! Phil had levelled with a straights win over Stan, Stan's loss to Steve McGanity was sandwiched between Loon Wai's defeats to Gordon Langshaw and David Williams.

So, for the 2nd half, MCA knew they couldn't afford to drop a set. Phil kicked it off with a win over Andy in the battle of the Number 1s, Gordon then succumbed to Steve (becoming the 2nd Maghull player to be undefeated), Harry showed no sign of nerves v Dave, that just left the doubles. It's not clear from the card what order the doubles were played in; what I can say is that Wavertree had 1&2 as second doubles and MCA had 2&4, surely a formality as Harry had lost to Andy, and Loon had lost both singles?! That's how it appeared to be when Andy & Stan won the 1st game, though narrowly 11/9, complete turn round in the 2nd game as H&L won /2! then things settled in games 3 & 4:- but in favour of Harry & Loon who won out /9 /8.

In the first doubles, Phil & Steve as 1&3 were also favourites v Dave & Gordon, they slipped up losing the first game 12/10, then D&G won an even closer 2nd 14/12, at deuce in the 3rd, I bet Harry & Loon couldn't watch. But P&S won the next two points, but there was no let up for the spectators as the 4th game also went to deuce, now Andy & Stan would have been on the edge of their seats. Yet again one edge, one net could decide the success or failure of the whole season, and again Phil and Steve ran in two consecutive points, to push the match to a decider.

Something gave in the 5th as Phil & Steve stormed it 11/2, did they step up a gear or did the wheels come off for Dave & Gordon? thus Phil & Steve pulled the set out of the fire just as a team

they rescued the match. Commiserations to Wavertree Labour'D', a sickening way to end the season, one in which they didn't look likely to return straight back to the 5th division. This was the closest relegation fight for many a year, coming down to this one match, the pressure must have been immense for all concerned, perhaps it was the luck of the draw – Maghull having home advantage that swung it? Wavertree Labour'D' (11th 3.8) had also won the 1st half of the season match with Maghull'B' (10th 3.8) at their place 7-3.

I hope the new season can be as exciting and demanding as this one has been.

BTW, did you notice near the end of the season, in a move that was almost as long coming as an ETTA registration card, that Manweb joined with Wavertree? maybe now Alan Biggs will not play when really he should be resting with his neck brace on!

TTFN

Doug

Division 5

Paul Oakes

Lets start with the various awards as voted for by the Division 5 players.

Best player – no nominations.

Best number 1 – no nominations.

Best number 2 – no nominations.

Best number 3 – no nominations.

Best number 4 – no nominations.

Best doubles pair – no nominations.

Most sporting player – no nominations.

Best hosts – no nominations. Best newcomer – no nominations.

Best beginner – no nominations.

Most improved player – no nominations.



side next season they should be reasonably comfortable in Division 4.

Of the chasing pack, CADWA improved from last season. If Ged had been able to play more often they may have been 2nd. It was s surprise to see them lose 9-1 to Linacre (Joud beat little Harry) without any close games. Against Maghull C Ged wrote “very strong line-up from Maghull, Jim and Steve both dangerous with their forehands and Andy and John rarely making errors. Therefore outstanding

wins for Rob D [against John McL and Steve Jones, 11-8 and 11-9 in the 5th] especially after losing 3- straight to Steve a few weeks ago. Joud having to show some uncharacteristic discipline to come back from 2-0 down against Andy, though still included a few ball-bursting hits – TSP, give him a sponsorship deal now, he's costing us a fortune”. For your information Ged, Nittaku Premium are harder, but cost £1.50 each.

As had been inevitable since January, Linacre won the Division, with 190 points representing nearly 8 points a match. They've been able to play their first choice team almost every night, but the worry for them next season must be an injury or other circumstance forcing a change in the line-up for an extended period. This is the problem Wavertree E have, with Colin Fyles missing nearly half the games. If Colin played every week they'd be above mid-way in Div. 4, but they've finished 11th of 12, and after promotion from Div. 5 last year - a worrying sign for the promoted sides.

Linacre's last 5 games had 3 9-1s and a 10-0. However, Bath St. F produced their performance of the season to beat them 7-3, with Colin playing in place of Barbara. A strange season for BSM F, who were level with Linacre until December, then spent a few months letting Bootle C, CADWA D and H. Wood catch up before getting it together and finishing with scores of 10 (helped by Arriva's inability to put their 3 players in the correct order), 10, 8, 7, and 8 to finish 14 points clear of CADWA. With Ned Hassan in the

Ged writes on Bootle D – CADWA “Saul – a million times better than the scrawny thing found playing in the breakfast club at Savio”, a meeting started by Ged. A different commentator (Roly?) adds “best games of the night were Saul and Stephen, both producing great shots and rallies but also missing so many sitters, both must learn that the game doesn't have to be played at 100MPH [it's possible to play that slow? - Paul]. Liam unlucky to lose his 5-games to Rob, down to experience”. Apologies if some of that isn't what was wrote – the postmarks didn't help. 4 points from Roly and Saul is good play, but not much help for CADWA at this stage of the season.

Huntsman Wood have every chance of promotion next season – I'd make them favour-

ites – with 3 experienced players and young stars whose results will improve markedly after a season of League play plus all the coaching they receive. I'd like to write more about them, but I didn't play against them and no-one wrote any reports on their games.

Bootle C finished 18 points behind CADWA, so can hardly be called competitors. But with a 6-man squad rotating every game their placing reflected the average ability of their players, not the best 4 (think Liverpool forced to play Poulsen and Cole every second week, no offence meant to the Bootle C players). If giving everyone a game is the objective then that's no concern of anyone else's, but the club must be close to being able to form another team, which would allow the C side to play their best team each week to see if they can play Division 4 standard after 3 seasons of dodging promotion. Steve's win against Ned Hassan of BSM G was spectacular stuff, with Ned unable to hit winners despite changing tactics several times. An 8-2 defeat to BSM F ended their hopes of 3rd place, Andy Tucker beating Albert for their only singles point.

Maghull D always look like a team that could develop into a promotion side, but every season the side is radically different to the year before. This year that was taken to new heights, as half of the E team left the club and the other 2 merged with the D team. There's no weak players in the 5 who play most games, and Amy (obviously) and John are improving. They lack a top player who can get them 40 points from singles, but it's a lot easier to get a single player than to improve the whole team. Next season might be Amy's last in Div.5. In the 5 games I'm reviewing they scored 4 – 6 points 4 times, only BSM F pushing them below their median.

Maghull C were our other arrival from Div 4 with Linacre, and they seem to have found their level with an exact 50% win rate. Struggled against the top teams but usually took points off everyone else, and a very sociable side. I'm restricted in comments by only playing them once and no prior experience, but a balanced side who give all 4 of their opponents a worthwhile night of Table Tennis.

Bootle D don't follow the usual parameters, as the side is designed to give young players a game. A lot of their wins have come from Roly or John at 1, but that's not the point. In the short term the target is to improve the play of the younger players, in the longer view to get them playing in the higher divisions. Whether they'll keep playing in their late teens and early twenties, as so few do, there's no way to know, but the technical improvement is there, and the ability

to deal with opponents who don't let you play your favourite shot all the time is being forced on them virtually every match night. The next step is to start scoring more than 6 against the bottom-half sides and someone other than Roly to win an occasional game against the best, like Saul did at CADWA.

BSM G, were perhaps the surprise of the season – from next to bottom last year with 66 points to 9th with 101 is a significant move. The big improvements were from Colin, who has developed a controlled all-round game, and Keith who is very efficient at keeping the ball on the table (but gives the net some terrible punishment with his forehand shove). Ned at 1 was 7th in the averages – it can take some pressure away knowing you are likely to get 2 points from a player every night. A draw with HW was the late highlight, Colin beating Steve a great performance.

Most of the comments about Bootle D apply to Marconi D, which is the result of Trevor Owens and Ian McElwees' Friday junior training sessions.

Wavertree E (now F) are probably the most relaxed side in the Division – Gordon views it as a gateway to higher teams for the players who have ambitions, and the others get to play for the fun of it without any pressure on them.

Arriva B, were always going to be weakened by the loss of Larry Stone, and they've had difficulties fielding a full team. The large pool of social players at Arriva isn't such a bonus under the new registration rules – previously a phone call to Trevor was enough to get a player eligible to play the next game, now it requires money to the ETTA in advance. Danny is a useful player, but they really need to be able to play a full side every match.

Sefton Park also struggled (and sometimes failed) to get 4 players out each match. As with Arriva next season could easily be changed by the arrival of someone who can score over 50% at number 1, allowing the others to play a place lower and have easier games. Also, it easy to forget that there's a lot of players who don't want to move up divisions, so the league table is just statistical analysis, not something to obsess about.

That's the 1500 words Roly requested, so I can stop now. This is my last Division 5 review, I'm sure one of the Division 5 players will be eager to take over this report, and might even be able to generate some response to their comments. Thanks to Andy McCourt, Ged Howard and John McLoughlin for their frequent match commentaries.

Div 5 Reporter Paul Oakes has decided to end his input to the Digest, I think Paul was a bit disappointed at the lack of feedback from the players in Div. 5, but I'm sure all reporters feel the same after most Digests, due to lack of feedback, the impression given by that is that "no one reads it", I've been assured many times that most do!!, anyway thanks to Paul, who usually sent in interesting reports, I hope he carries on with his general observations on T.T. there's a few of his inputs in different Digests, the hunt is now on for a new reporter for Div. 5, early applications would be Appreciated before I need to knock on doors, or Div. 5 players panic when the phone rings.

Possibly better value for money than the Olympics is the ITTF Pro Tour this year.

Tickets are now on sale for the ITTF Pro Tour Grand Finals (Nov 24-27th 2011) at ExCeL in London. World Number One Wang Hao will have high expectations for 2012, This is the final chance to see the world's best players in England before the Olympics arrive next summer. The Pro Tour Finals are being used as a test event for the 2012 Games and will provide both players and fans with a pre-Olympic taster for what's to come next year. Along with a share of the \$365,000 prize fund allocated to the event, the victors will benefit from a big psychological advantage ahead of the main event, which is also staged at ExCeL. The Tour event includes Men's and Women's Under-21s singles, Men's and Women's Doubles and Men's and Women's singles competitions. Certain events will also be televised via a live transmission. If the ITTF Pro Tour competitions are not enough then there will also be the chance to see Great Britain take on the rest of the world in two Team GB vs World All Stars matches that will take place on Friday 25th. Prices begin at £10 for concessionary tickets to the Men's and Women's last 16 matches, and rise to just £25 for the finals days on the Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are also available for all four days, weekday tickets or weekend tickets while discounts are available to affiliated members.

Tickets will be available from Thursday 11th August via ticketmaster.co.uk.

More details can be found at the link below:

<http://etta.co.uk/news/itff-pro-tour-tickets-available/>

After a few seasons of players commenting on the "long season," this season the L&DTTL is trying a new format, there is no specific week for the 1st round of the Div. Cups, teams are given the option of playing the first round over an extended period of the first seven weeks, the home team decides when the match is to be played, it may not be on the home teams normal match night, but whenever it can be fitted in, shouldn't be a problem for clubs with spare nights, but for those without, check when the 'free' weeks fall, only one div. (3) has a full division. Effort must be made not to have to postpone designated League matches where possible, 7 days notice must be given to the away team, and all 1st Rnd. Matches must be completed by Friday OCTOBER 29th. 2011. Whether this works is down to the Clubs, with the option of changing home and away status!

Another season starting with an increase in the number of teams competing in our League
Season 20006-07 had 53 teams
2007-08 had 56. - 2008-09 had 59 - 2009-10 had 63

2010-11 had 62 and 2011 - 12 we start with 66 teams.

in season 2008-09 div.3 changed to 3 aside and increased to 59 teams, 09-10 increased to 63 team, this coming season we are starting with 66 teams, 13 extra teams in 5 seasons, a lot of these extra teams are due to the gradual influx of youngsters starting out in the local schools thanks to the efforts of local Schools Sports Coordinators Paul O'Leary (Liverpool) and Cathy Robinson (Sefton), but their efforts required L&DTTL Clubs to keep the youngsters interest going. For too many years the interest from our Clubs was lacking, but thanks to the interest of a few Clubs, Marconi, M/Side Police, Wav. Labour, Cadwa, Maghull, Bootle YM., Sefton Park, and Huntsman Wood, we now have a stream of new youngsters coming through via the bottom divisions, these are the players we need to encourage. There are also the coached youngsters who come into the League at a higher level, from the efforts of Dave Graham at Formby, and Keith Williams at BYM, but don't normally increase the number of teams, so well done to all who are now making the effort to turn around the situation of a few years ago of a League slowly dying, to one showing hope of a bright future.

The following article was sent in by Paul Oakes, there is still money out there, but it needs effort to get it

Financial Funding

There was a small article on page 14 of the Liverpool Daily Post 2nd August which mentions a £50m Inspired Facilities Fund, a national fund to boost sports participation. Its aim is to be simple and accessible (not a lottery form filling marathon then) and for community groups and sports clubs who may not have been previously publicly funded. There's a meeting at St Helens Town Hall August 22nd 6 PM to explain more about the fund and how to apply for grants (apologies to those out of Liverpool).

the funds website

<http://www.familylearningnetwork.com/funding/view/inspired-facilities-fund-%E2%80%93-sport-england>

It does look like an organisation that might help pay for new equipment like robots, tables, nets or to upgrade lights or similar. Worth following up if you're spending some money soon.

Paul.

Over the last month, there has been plenty of publicity on the L&DTTL web site, (<http://www.ldttl.co.uk>) and hopefully your Club Secretary, drawing your attention to the important requirement of renewing your player registration, my site, <http://www.ttdigest.co.uk/>, and there's been plenty on the ETTA site, <http://etta.tv/>, also Fixture Secretary Trevor Owens has contacted all

Club Secretaries with the same request to remind players to renew! All player membership No's are posted on our web sites, for those that aren't on the internet, they only have to ask their Club Secretary, or contact the League Fixture Secretary Trevor for what to do. There are 3 simple ways to renew-;

1. Via the internet at

<https://www.tabletennis365.com/etta/membership>,

2. via telephone to ETTA on 0845 0500 388 and a member of the admin team can advise you how to proceed.

3. By Post direct to the ETTA. Or League Fixture Secretary Trevor Owens. Even though Trevor went through all of this last year, hoping to be free of the hassle once the numbers were established, he is offering to do the same again this year for those having problems, but his way will take much longer, because you have to fill in the same form as last year, pass it on to either your club Sec. or direct to Trevor, complete with cheque for the relevant amount. I'm sure 90% of players are internet savvy, and many will pay bills via the internet, so option 1 is the easiest and quickest, and you get an instant confirmation e-mail that all has been processed. A final reminder that this process has to be repeated every year at this time of the season, so get used to the "easy way" of doing it



The 2011 winners of the Liverpool Schools Individuals Tournament in age groups 9 to 12 and 13 to 15 look out for them in the L&DTTL

Sefton Schools 2010 - 11

The Sefton Schools table tennis league is in it's third year now and is going from strength to strength. We are delighted to have such a great set up in Formby with the high school hosting the league every month and Dave Graham from Formby Table Tennis Club being on hand every month to support the players and ensure they make the transition into local table tennis clubs. The commitment from the schools and teachers involved is amazing.

The boys that attend the league every month thoroughly enjoy the camaraderie and team spirit that has developed between the schools over the years - most of them don't get a chance to play any other sport for their school so it is really important that there is a competitive outlet for schools table tennis.

Sadly with the recent funding cuts to school sport the role of the competition manager is being made redundant. Our challenge in the near future will be to keep the league running without the current organiser of the league. This will undoubtedly be a huge undertaking but one I am sure we can win!"

Please find attached the 2010 - 11 final results from the Sefton Schools Table Tennis League.

Wednesday 9th March saw the final round of the Sefton table tennis league. Once again around 70 young people filled the sports hall at Formby High School for an outstanding evening of table tennis. All teams played against the next team in the league to decide the final placings.

After 5 months of competition Savio High School teams were victorious in both age groups of the competition with St Mary's coming second in both.

Cathy Robinson

Sefton Competition Manager, Stanley High Sports College
Fleetwood Rd, Southport, PR9 9TF

U13 SEFTON TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

GAMES

Pos		Pld.	won	lost	diff.	Points
1	Savio A	9	78	8	70	78
2	St Marys	9	54	27	27	54
3	Savio B	8	35	45	-10	35
4	Formby A	7	34	36	-2	34
5	Meols Cop	8	23	56	-33	23
6	Formby 'B'	9	23	65	-42	23

U16 SEFTON TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

GAMES

Pos		Pld.	won	lost	diff.	Points
1	Savio A	9	65	15	50	65
2	St Marys	9	54	35	19	54
3	Formby A	8	50	28	22	50
4	Meols Cop A	9	46	44	2	46
5	Savio B	9	42	43	-1	42
6	Meols Cop B	9	41	44	-3	41
7	Formby B	7	32	33	-1	32
8	Crosby High	7	20	49	-29	20
9	Formby C	2	6	14	-8	6
10	Birkdale	2	4	14	-10	4
11	Meols Cop C	2	4	16	-12	4

Liverpool Schools 2010 - 11

Paul O'Leary, the Liverpool Schools Sports Coordinator has now ended his association with Liverpool Schools Sport to take up a similar challenge to work in a sport development role in Perth, Australia, before he finished he acknowledged the help from L&DTTL Referee Stan Clarke among others, with this letter to Stan, Paul giving me permission to print in the Digest.

Stan,

I would like to say a big thank you for your endeavour to develop schools Table Tennis over the past three and half years I have been in post. The fact we now have flourishing leagues at full capacity is a great testament to the level of structure they have been planned with. I am aware you are very

busy but still you have been able to offer your time to be present at fixture nights which I believe is essential and I do hope you can continue this offer of support in future years.

The challenge to the local Table Tennis network is for a club/group to step in and become more involved (or even take over) in the delivery of competitions. Obviously I have been doing this, but with funding looking less likely in the next couple of years, the education sector may not have Competition Managers / SSCo's etc. in post, thus the league would cease which would obviously be tragic. We have spoken about this before Stan, and I know you have been pushing for this over the years, hopefully with the help of Don Davies and other key people something can be put in place beyond next year?

Good luck for the future! Kind Regards

Paul O'Leary

There are others besides Stan who are involved in encouraging youngsters into competitive table tennis, with the result that the last few seasons have seen a big increase in new young faces taking the plunge in the L&DTTL! which all should encourage.

Attached are the final tables for this years LSSP Table Tennis Leagues. With school withdrawals and late cancellations it proved difficult to come up with a fair way of comparatively measuring teams as not everyone played the same amount of games, after consulting with colleagues it was decided the fairest method was by average points won per match. If you are slightly confused all should be clear from looking at the league tables.

There were clear winners in both leagues, more so in the KS3 competition. Paul O'Leary

LSSP league table 2010 - 11

KEY STAGE 3 LSSP LEAGUE TABLE (yrs. 7 - 8)

GAMES							
Pos	school	Pl.	Won	Lost	Diff.	Pts.	Ave pts
1	St Margarets	5	56	4	52	56	11.20
2	SFA	6	46	26	20	46	7.67
3	Childwall	6	39	33	6	39	6.50
4	SFX	4	22	26	-4	22	5.50
5	Shorefields	5	21	29	-8	21	4.20
6	Broadgreen	5	15	45	-30	15	3.00
7	Bluecoat	2	4	20	-16	4	2.00

KEY STAGE 4 LSSP LEAGUE TABLE (yrs. 9 - 10)

GAMES							
Pos	school	Pl.	Won	Lost	Diff.	Pts.	Ave pts
1	Bluecoat	5	43	17	26	43	8.60
2	SFX	5	39	21	18	39	7.80
3	King David	4	29	19	10	29	7.25
4	Childwall	7	50	34	16	50	7.14
5	Calderstones	2	11	13	-2	11	5.50
6	SFA	6	28	44	-16	28	4.67
7	Broadgreen	6	24	48	-24	24	4.00
8	Shorefields	5	18	42	-24	18	3.60

LSSP Singles Tournament 2011 Final Placings					
Year 7 / 8		Year 9/10			
Pos.	Group 1	School	Pos.	Group 1	School
1	C. Pinheiro	SHOR	1	T. Doubtfire	SMA
2	L. Olyumbo	SMA	2	J. Webb	SMA
3	M. Makin	KD	3	N. Naserijam	SMA
4	J. Hadden	KD	4	J. Congues	CW
5	L. Binks	SHOR	5	C. Scregg	SFX
Group 2		Group 2			
6	J. Whittingham	BH	6	J. Nelson	SMA
**7	M. Goodwin	SFX	7	J. Bookey	KD
**7	D. Bramwell	SFX	8	J. Barton	CW
**7	D. Richardson	CTK	9	J. Rice	SFX
10	D. Blundell	CW	Group 3		
**3 players joint 7th					
Group 3		Group 3			
11	J. Evans	SFX	10	A. Shiffman	KD
12	T. Omotola	CTK	11	K. Kui	CW
13	T. Gielnik	CW	12	J. Raniszewski	SHOR
14	R. Inglesby	CTK	13	F. Welsh	CTK
Group 4		Group 4			
15	T. Simms	CTK	14	S. McGrath	KD
16	K. Sabri	SHOR	Group 4		
17	A. Smith	SMA	15	K. Jenkinson	CW
18	M. Chow	SMA	16	D. Boskowski	SHOR
Group 5		Group 5			
19	A. Kennagh	CW	17	D. Johnson	SFX
20	N. Islam	SHOR	18	C. Barwise	SHOR
21	T. Nze	CW	19	L. Hughes	CW
22	J. Casey	CTK	KEY to schools		
23	J. Bonganaso	CTK	BH	Broughton Hall	
			CTK	Christ the King	
			CW	Childwall	
			KD	King David	
			SFX	St Francis Xavier	
			SHOR	Shorefields	
			SMA	St Margarets	

Last season St. Margarets came 2nd in the Key stage 3 table, this season they romped away with it, probably due to the coaching from Keith Williams. They did enter a team in the Key stage 4 competition, but failed to complete

any fixtures, I'm sure things will be different next season. New kids on the block are Christ the King School (not the same Christ the King who play in the L&DTTL) who didn't enter a team in the League but did enter a big very keen squad into the Singles Championships, another Liverpool coach, George Lennon is now coaching at CtK, so expect them to enter league teams next season.

So, it is easy to see that Schools table tennis is continuing to advance, but other than the schools mentioned you have qualified coaches helping them, there are many who haven't, don't know if shortage of funds will have much effect next season on coaching, but table tennis is being recognised more and more as an ideal sport for youngsters, there's an enormous amount of satisfaction from coaching youngsters, so enquire for more details, and have a go. Editor

Jack Hunter-Spivey wins bronze in Romania

21st June 2011

Jack Hunter-Spivey has had a busy few weeks. Following his 16th birthday he headed off to the Slovakian Open for his first foreign tournament representing Great Britain on the 24th May. Here the going was tough with some of the top World Players but he showed his promise by playing his first match against the world number 14 **Zoran Krizanec** from Croatia, beaten in the 5th 11-7, having been 2-0 down. He played in the team event with World Ranked 8 Scott Robertson. Returning on 29th May to Luton Jack had a quick turn round...heading off for Romania on 1st June. This trip had to be self funded with Halton TT Club raising the money for entry fees and flights thanks to a Race Night, sponsorship from local firms and organisations, Clubs for Young People, Runcorn Rotary Club and Halton Stadium. Jack returned on June 5th having finished 4th in the Class 5 singles. He then combined with USA player Andre Scott world Ranked 35 to win his first medal BRONZE. A fantastic achievement which has now hit the headlines on the International TT Federation web site and in their press release:- "A young generation of talented players emerged at the recently concluded Romania Para Table Tennis Open, a Factor 20 tournament, which was staged in Cluj-Napoca from Thursday 2nd to Saturday 4th June 2011. One of the prime examples was Jack Hunter Spivey. He finished in fourth place in the Men's Singles Class Five event; at first glance that may seem no great feat but when taken into consideration that he is only 16 years old, it is a noteworthy achievement". Jack has had a few days resting before competing in National Clubs for Young People Championships at Halton on Saturday 11 June along with 130 other players from England, Scotland and Wales; on Sunday its the Cheshire Senior Closed and then 14th June is a flight to the German



Open. Romanian results equated to 320 ranking points his first on the World list in his quest to fulfill the dream of selection for the Paralympics in London 2012.

Item from the ETTA web site by Karen Tonge

Jack played in the 5th & 4th Div last season with Sefton Park

END OF 2010 -11 SEASON QUIZ

Name the Team

The Clues

1. Only one other team in any division lost fewer games
2. Only one team in any division won their division by more points
3. Only one team in any division had a better average points per game than 8.1
4. Only one other team in any division had two players in the top three of the average in their division.
5. Only 4 players in any division had a better average than the No. 1
6. No team in any division had more players with an average of over 80%

Answers on a postcard please to the Management Committee!

Name Supplied on Request.

A quiz question for the digest.

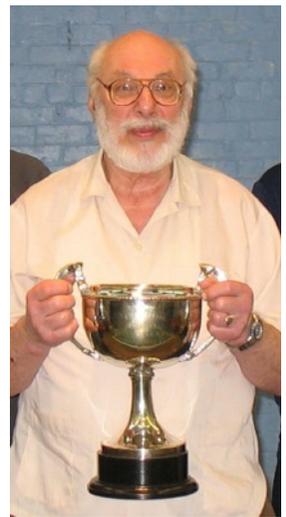
"Who scored in the 1949 England V Italy friendly?"

For what it's worth, it was the last but one time that an England match was played at White Hart Lane. the answer does have a strong table tennis significance.

Answers to the Editor please, not sure what the prize is, but then "it's the taking part that matters" winners will get a mention in the next Digest

A “**Very Happy Birthday**” wish to Harold House Club Secretary of many years, David Cohen who has now joined the band of Octogenarian T.T. Players (1/8/2011), David recently had a serious operation to the blood vessel in his neck which curtailed his involvement in T.T., but is now back assisting Eddie Clein in the affairs of Harold House T.T. Club.

I thought this little message, one of many David puts out, would be appropriate for the occasion!



Thought this one might tickle you.

Explanatory note: "Goy" is an old yiddish word indicating a person not Jewish and in the days of [say] 100 years ago when the vast majority of Jewish people living in the small towns and villages of Russia & Poland were religious to the extreme and their faith didn't allow them to do any sort of (physical) work whatsoever on the Sabbath (Shabbes) they would ask a Goy to do the work/task for them.....hence the description "Shabbes Goy"

In a large Florida City, the rabbi developed quite a reputation for his sermons; so much so that everyone who was Jewish in the community came every Shabbes. Unfortunately, one weekend a member had to visit Long Island for his nephew's bar mitzvah. But he didn't want to miss the rabbi's sermon. So he decided to hire a Shabbes goy to sit in the congregation and tape the sermon so he could listen to it when he returned. Other congregants saw what was going on, and they also decided to hire Shabbes goys to tape the sermon so they could play golf instead of going to shul. Within a few weeks there were 500 gentiles sitting in shul taping the rabbi. The rabbi got wise to this. The following Shabbes he, too, hired a Shabbat goy who brought a tape recorder to play his prerecorded sermon to the 500 gentiles in the congregation who dutifully recorded his words on their machines. Witnesses said this marked the first incidence in history of **artificial insermonation!**

Wed, 4 May 2011

Gentlemen,

I just thought I'd record my views on the way the League has been run over the 4 years I've been involved. I am repeatedly amazed at the efficiency, smoothness and scope of the organisation. I play in the Southport and Wirral Leagues, so I have a basis of comparison. We have a website (none in The Wirral) that's updated with weekly (currently bi-weekly!) league tables, the league seems stable in overall size, number of clubs and top end player quality (Southport suffered an exodus of top players like Ken Jackson and has seen teams folding in all 3 Divisions). The competitions are well-managed, and in most Divisions there is a feeling that teams winning promotion will stay up and not yo-yo about, (Police C, and this season Arriva, and Police D, have gone from Division 5 to 3 in my time in the league). In addition we have a large closed tournament, The Grand Prix and the digest - extra work for those involved, but things which improve the experience of being in this league. That players travel from Wigan, Wrexham and Northwich (and that's from my very limited knowledge of the top end of the league) testifies to what players generally think of the league. Of course there are times when I'm annoyed at the difficulty in postponing fixtures, but when I see a Wirral League Table with teams 4 games out of sync (before Bank Holidays) I accept this as a price worth paying to keep the League Tables meaningful.

Particular thanks to Trevor, who in addition to processing a mountain of cards each week and churning out the stats, typically finds time to warn me that one of our players has just been ranked upwards under rule 13d, before we fielded him as an ineligible player.

And all of the above is without the added complication of the size of the enterprise - 5 Divisions, 6 Cups, 15 Clubs and 61 teams doesn't simplify the job.

Thanks for all the great work you've done, hope the money's worth it.

Paul Oakes,, Secretary, Bath Street Marine

Paul is no longer Secretary of the Bath St. Marine Club, but compliments of the work done by the MannCom. don't come very often, so this was "one not to miss" thanks Paul, I'm sure the ManCom will appreciate this recognition, hope BSM's new Secretary Graham Turner comes to the same conclusion ! Editor

Summer Training camps are springing up everywhere in the world of T.T., some local, others either a long drive, or add the cost of digs to save the constant travel, not cheap, but a lot of positive feedback. Our Div. 5 reporter Paul Oakes attended one in Keighley, Yorkshire, he has put pen to paper with his thoughts on the experience, the following is just a part, the whole can be found on my web site at -: <http://www.ttdigest.co.uk>

The Best Player in Keighley - a weeks training with Chen WeiXing.

An opportunity to be coached by Chen WeiXing, current World No. 29 is something that's wasted on me. At my level (Division 5, I ask you!) coaching from anyone is good enough. The real attraction of a 5-day course in Keighley with the great man is 5 days of coaching from a set of less famous names - Hannah Hicks (England no 3), Andy Bray, Chris Parker, Simon Nouth (Yorkshire No 1) and Cliff Edens, who organised the thing and had the gumption to publicise it with e-mails to most of the leagues in the country - something that our own ETTA are incapable of (who here knew of Keith William's 5 nights of coaching at Halton organised by the ETTA - 3 turned up first night!). The result is 24 players turning up from as far away as Exeter and Edinburgh, with George Lennon and Russell Thornton among them, which gives us a coach every third table - an incredible ratio.

The Table Tennis Centre at Keighley is in a huge mill (The Keighley Business Centre), which in the rain is a decrepit structure outside and seems semi-derelict inside. The great man's thoughts on arrival probably didn't include whoops of joy. Up a couple of flights of stairs, across a rubbish filled ante-room and you're at the centre, and into another world. 11 tables in a row, each with the space of Bath Street, divided by movable boards and nets into 4 groups, well lit and heated (which will most definitely not be a problem in June), and a passageway to the cafe. There's as much space for another set of tables in another room, and the whole thing has clearly been finished in the last few days as it's immaculate. Still work to be done though, as the toilets are a bit basic (no hot water or showers) and the

beer is keg (in the home of Timothy Taylors - sacrilege) but it's an amazing effort by Andy Bray and his club (Haworth Hawks) to build a facility on a par with Halton or Preston.

Half an hour of top table to get players in groups of similar ability and there's three things apparent; no kids. no beginners and only a few there who can blast me off the table. I end up where I wanted, in the middle so avoiding the ridiculous players while getting capable ball feeders. Then the star of the show makes his first comments. And we can't understand him. After all those years in Germany and Austria his English is heavily accented and he lacks a lot of the specialised vocabulary for the coaching (technique, tactic, topspin get confused). After a bit of shrugging Cliff re-iterates what we're expected to do. Chen's technique is amazing - all the other coaches play from a low crouch with lots of movement and a full stroke. He stands slightly stooped, barely moves and plays forehands with just forearm and wrist (at the speed of light of course). His body twist and stroke are very short but fast, allowing him to recover before the ball has passed the net. He looks like an old bloke who can't be bothered to move too much to play a shot. On the backhand he shows us how to loop like Kreanga, with a body twist instead of rising through the ball. I can barely hit the ball this way, and decide I can leave that for another year after the bigger problems become smaller problems.

For continuation -: <http://www.ttdigest.co.uk/Paul-chen%20Weixing.pdf>

Barry McLeod

Colleagues,

We have received some sad news about Barry McLeod who used to play in the LD TTL in the mid 70s and 80s. Some time ago Barry developed Diabetes and unfortunately his condition resulted in him having both legs amputated.

For those of us who remember him, he was a prominent member of the Police 1st team, playing in the 2nd/3rd divisions alongside Don Chalkley, Gareth Jones and Dave Crispin. Barry was a popular figure and will be remembered for his outstanding athleticism, his game was based on physical fitness, he was highly competitive yet fair minded and enjoyed the social side of the sport.

I am pleased to report that Barry now has the benefit of full-time care and support and is permanently resident at:

Edgeworth House Nursing Home,
Church Road, Bebington, Wirral.
Tel 0151.643.1271.

Barry had many sporting interests and gave up table tennis to concentrate on squash. He joined a squash ladder on the Wirral and was equally successful at his new sport. He was a larger than life character and we are reliably informed that he has retained his sense of humour and he remains in good spirit. He would welcome the opportunity to meet with old friends and loves to reminisce about old times.

If any of our colleagues can spare the time to visit it is recommended that you ring the nursing home first, to avoid meal times etc.

Len Dyson
Merseyside Police T.T. Club

A bit of white space to fill, my brain has run out of ideas, and no feed backs to include, so let's have a smile, I came across this article a few weeks ago, for those who remember the early Skodas and East German Trabans this will bring back memories,

By Ray Massey Transport Editor Daily Mail 20/07/11

IT has long been the butt of car jokes but Skoda need no longer fear the punch line. Yesterday it was crowned the most satisfying car to own in Britain.

Not only did Skoda top the league table of most popular car-makers - beating German sports car maker Porsche and Japan's luxury Lexus - four of its individual cars finished in the top ten most satisfying individual models.

Which? Car said Skoda jokes were now 'a thing of the past' - suggesting it's now the bottom-ranked French who deserve to take some stick.

The plaudits came as Czech Skoda celebrated its 20th anniversary of being owned and revitalised by German car giant Volkswagen following the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe.

Skoda bosses said the jokes about them had long been consigned 'to the dustbin of history' leaving its satisfied customers smiling, and their downcast rivals laughing on the other side of their faces. It is the first time Skoda has topped Which? Cars' satisfaction survey. It scored a top-ranked satisfaction rating of 88.4 per cent ahead of Porsche (87.6 per cent) and Lexus (87.1 per cent). By contrast, it was France's Renault (68.1 per cent) languishing at the bottom of the satisfaction survey, just ahead of Vauxhall (69.1 per cent) Peugeot (69.3 per cent) and MG (69.8 per cent).

The Which? Car report said: 'Skoda scoops the prize for 2011 most popular car-maker. Owners love its utilitarian, great value cars -especially the latest models.'

It noted: 'Skoda, for so long the butt of jokes about its lack of appeal and dependability, need no longer fear the punch-line.

Instead it is sitting pretty as the car brand with the best customer score in our survey -while Renault brings up the rear.'

The magazine even reflected this by citing a joke themselves - but with a twist - in their 2011 winners and losers survey.

The magazine quipped: 'A man walks into a garage and asks: "Have you got a wing mirror for a Renault?" The mechanic replies: "That sounds like a fair swap guv'nor."'

Among individual models, four Skodas made the top ten: the multi-purpose Yeti, the Superb estate and two versions of the flagship Superb saloon - the old and the new models. The Toyota Yaris Verso came top of the satisfaction league. The British-built Land Rover Discovery 4 came in at a 'surprise' third place.

The bottom of the table has a distinctly Gallic flavour - seven out of the ten least popular cars were French with Renault's Laguna Sport Tourer hitting 'rock bottom'.

The Which? Car survey is based on ratings from owners of 63,000 new and used cars

Q: How do you make a Skoda go at 60mph?

A: Drive it off Beachy Head

Q: What do you call a Skoda with a sun roof?

A: A skip

Q: How do you make a Skoda disappear?

A: Apply rust remover

Q: Why do Skodas have a heated rear windscreen?

A: To keep your hands warm when you're pushing them

Q: How do you mend a broken Skoda?

A: First, lift off the radiator cap. Then, push the Skoda off a cliff. Finally, push a new Skoda under the radiator cap. Tighten

Q: What is the difference between a Skoda and the flu?

A: You can get rid of the flu.

Q: What do you call a Skoda with a j long radio aerial?

A: A dodgem.

Q: What do you call a Skoda with twin ! exhausts?

A: A wheelbarrow.

Q: Why do Skodas have a rear wiper?

A: To remove the flies that crash into them.

Not exactly table tennis, but how technology has changed things i.e. Rubbers!

Final League Tables season 2010 - 2011

Division One		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Fords	24	22	1	1	190
2	Crosby High B	24	19	2	3	180
3	Crosby High	24	18	4	2	173
4	Bath St Marine	24	14	3	7	150
5	Crosby High A	24	11	3	10	124
6	Bootle YMCA	24	12	3	9	124
7	M/Side Police	24	10	3	11	115
8	Christ The King	24	8	3	13	115
9	Christ The King A	24	9	1	14	96
10	Cadwa	24	5	3	16	84
11	Harold House A	24	5	1	18	75
12	Harold House	24	4	3	17	67
13	Wavertree Lab	24	4	0	20	67
14	Free	0	0	0	0	0

Division Two		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Bath St Marine A	22	20	1	1	185
2	Fords A	22	16	2	4	151
3	Harold House B	22	16	1	5	145
4	Christ The King B	22	15	1	6	133
5	Marconi	22	15	2	5	132
6	Bath St Marine B	22	10	1	11	108
7	Crosby High C	22	8	5	9	99
8	M/Side Police A	22	8	1	13	93
9	Wavertree Lab A	22	8	2	12	90
10	Marconi A	22	2	2	18	67
11	Maghull	22	3	2	17	62
12	Bath St Marine C	22	0	2	20	45
13	Free	0	0	0	0	0
14	Free	0	0	0	0	0

Division Three		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Bootle YMCA A	20	19	1	0	162
2	Cadwa A	20	15	3	2	139
3	Wavertree Lab C	20	12	3	5	118
4	Harold House C	20	8	3	9	110
5	Bath St Marine D	20	8	4	8	104
6	M/Side Police C	20	9	1	10	97
7	Bootle YMCA B	20	7	5	8	97
8	M/Side Police B	20	9	2	9	92
9	Maghull A	20	4	0	16	65
10	Marconi B	20	3	3	14	60
11	Wavertree Lab B	20	3	1	16	56
12	Sefton Park	records expunged				
13	Free	0	0	0	0	0
14	Free	0	0	0	0	0

Division Four		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Arriva Nth West	22	20	2	0	163
2	M/Side Police D	22	19	2	1	149
3	Cadwa B	22	13	3	6	136
4	Cadwa C	22	12	2	8	123
5	Bath St Marine E	22	10	6	6	117
6	Marconi C	22	9	1	12	106
7	Wavertree Lab D **	22	9	2	11	104
8	Arriva Nth West A	22	9	2	11	102
9	Sefton Park A	22	7	2	13	99
10	Maghull B	22	5	2	15	84
11	Wavertree Lab E **	22	2	4	16	83
12	Sefton Park B	22	2	2	18	54
13	Free	0	0	0	0	0
14	Free	0	0	0	0	0

Division Five		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Linacre	24	21	0	3	190
2	Bath St Marine F	24	17	4	3	169
3	Cadwa D	24	16	4	4	155
4	Huntsman Wood	24	17	2	5	148
5	Bootle YMCA C	24	13	2	9	137
6	Maghull D	24	14	3	7	136
7	Maghull C	24	9	2	13	120
8	Bootle YMCA D	24	6	7	11	103
9	Bath St Marine G	24	5	7	12	101
10	Marconi D	24	6	3	15	99
11	Wavertree Lab F **	24	4	5	15	75
12	Arriva Nth West B	24	6	1	17	71
13	Sefton Park C	24	1	2	21	56
14	Free	0	0	0	0	0

2009 -10

<i>Fines to Date</i>	No	Fine	Total
Player Short	36	£3	£108
Walk Over League	13	£6	£78
Walk Over Cup	4	£6	£24
Played Out of Order	2	1.50 PP	£7.50
Late Score Card	29	£3	£87
Total	84		£304.50

2010 - 11

<i>Fines to Date</i>	No	Fine	Total
Walk Overs Vets Cup	1	£6	£6
Ineligible Player	0	£0	£0
Player Short	35	£3	£105
Walk Overs League	12	£6	£72
Walk Overs Cup	2	£6	£12
Played Out of Order	5	1.50 PP	£15
Late Score Card	23	£3	£69
Total	78		£279.00