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Editorial

Well into the season now, and the first hurdle passed without any great problems, the new Divisional Cup format, no designated 'Cup Week', with the option (for the home team) to play the first round any time within the first 7 weeks, some away Clubs weren't happy with the date offered, thinking that they had a choice, but basically, it was the same as if there had been a designated Cup week, the home team decides the match night! We did have some cancellation of League matches, but on the whole, the first round went off fairly well, the bonus being that one week was shaved off the length of the season, are you happy with that?

Sadly, since the last Digest, 5 former players have deceased, obituaries on pages 16 & 17.

Our five reporters have been busy, to give meat to the Digest, one pleasing aspect these days are the comments in their reports of the number of young players starting to play for a number of clubs, and how they are improving as they settle into league competition, a lot of the youngsters are coming in from the local schools leagues, the more skilled ones are coming from outside the area to experience the high level in our top divisions. Hopefully our 'older' players will accept the new young blood into the clubs rather than feel threatened, (I'll never get a game!) because there is a lot of satisfaction seeing them improve.

Paul Gittens has put together another of his 11Up series, this one puts B.B. to the test on pages 14 & 15.

A city centre pub with a table tennis table!! A pint and a game (for the first hour at least) Read on page 13

The venue for our Liverpool Closed hasn't been decided yet, as this season we do not have the automatic choice of the Wavertree Tennis Centre, due to the Financial cut backs in Liverpool, we have to be prepared to pay the going rate, your ManCom is looking at various options, it may be decided that the Tennis centre is the best option, but we will have to foot the bill. Details and entry forms will be published as soon as known, -: read Don's Nets and Edges, page 2

We have in the past had requests for help in funding youngsters going to the many Tournaments around the Country, more often than not, choice of tournament decided by how much it's going to cost in travel and digs. The ETTA have on their web site details of the Ivor Montague Junior Fund' for financial assistance to Junior and Cadet players who wish to enter Open events approved by the ETTA in England. Page 13 has the link to more info and the application form

We must be one of the few leagues that give you, the punters, up to the minute League tables, (twice a week now), the week after the matches were played, thanks to

League Secretary, Trevor, taking the unusual step of sticking 1st class stamps to all the match cards given out at the handbook meeting, and the team captains, in most cases, posting the following day, I remember years ago, maybe having to wait weeks to know where we stood, well done all. The extra cost to the League has been eased, thanks to some Clubs having doubled the fines pot as at the same time last season!!

Thanks also to the effort from the L&DTTL web master John Langton for loading everything that turns up and keeping the site up to date, very time consuming.

We have a number of clubs coaching new youngsters, who always need bats with reasonably good rubbers, I'm sure there are loads of players out there who change their rubbers every other, if not every year, keeping their old one 'just in case', they never use them again, what's the point, so why not give them to a youngster.

Disappointingly, on the coaching theme, we don't have any feedback from the Anfield Academy, a coaching scheme run by the ETTA, with L&DTTL equipment, but continue to stay aloof, I've asked few times for info on progress, but nothing forthcoming. Our own efforts are producing fruit in the number of new youngster playing in the in League. The League should have "Bat Bank" for this use.

Having mentioned it last season, I am changing the method of distributing the Digest, I am printing 2 hard copies per registered team to cut down the numbers of hard copies printed from 360 to approx. 150. The Digest is now loaded onto our web sites, alongside every Digest printed since 1950, colour photo's are now used on the web Digest to add a little to the quality, for those not on the internet, I will print hard copies for them, it shouldn't be too difficult to pass the Digests around team / club members.

The route of the 2012 Olympic torch through Merseyside and Cheshire has been announced.

The 2012 route

Day 14 - 1 June 2012: Bolton to Liverpool, via Horwich, Chorley, Buxton, Croston, Burscough, Ormskirk, Southport, Ainsdale, Formby, Crosby, St Helens, Huyton, Knotty Ash, Old Swan, Liverpool, Birkenhead, Liverpool The route will take in comedian Ken Dodd's home suburb of Knotty Ash, also Antony Gormley's sculptures in Crosby

An evening celebration event is planned for Liverpool's Pier Head that night which will include an entertainment show and the lighting of a cauldron from the Olympic flame
(just a filler)

Editor

Nets and Edges

Don Davies

The most prestigious and star studded event ever staged in the city when the Men's World Cup comes to the Echo Arena in September 2012. Although the League staged the English Open in 1931, being awarded this event when the sport is enjoying it highest profile in the lifetime of many of us, shows great faith in the council, the excellent Echo Arena and the league who, no doubt, will be expected to weigh in with assistance. The 2011 Men's World Cup, won by reigning world champion Zhang Jike in Paris over the weekend 11th-13th November, was a sell out with the 4000 seats being snapped up within hours of going on sale. The event, shown live on the ITTV site, boasted a star studded line-up, the majority of players being ranked in the top 25 in the world and some of those will be in action here just five weeks after the City of Liverpool Grand Prix next year. Tom Purcell had the honour of umpiring in Paris and I'm sure he'll submit an article on his experience of being involved in the event.



While the above projects are a big boost to the sport in the area, the downside is that the City Council has withdrawn financial support for the Liverpool Closed, having earlier advised the league that they no longer can support the COL Junior 4*. The Closed, will of course, still take place but, the management committee must decide where to stage the event, if not at Wavertree. They also, will investigate the possibility of staging certain poorly supported events, at a club or small sport hall to reduce the number of matches taking place on the main day. The league has enjoyed free use of the tennis centre for many years and before that the older members' will recall playing in the Closed at Everton Park, Kirkby Sport Centre, New Hey's school, Liverpool University, Dingle Vale and the Gordon Institute, the latter in 1946 to 48 and in that time I doubt they had to pay for the use of a venue. So, in these times of financial constraints, it seems the league will have to pay for the privilege of staging the Closed.

Another boost for the sport in the city was the announcement that 25 tables will be installed in public places next summer, Liverpool, one of just three cities - London and Bristol, being the other two. The project follows a similar campaign last year when the experiment in London proved to be a big success, this latest venture being financed by the ETTA and the National Lottery. The locations' have yet to be decided but the league will meet next month with the ETTA and Liverpool City Council to discuss the programme. When the campaign finishes, the tables will be permanently donated to the city.

Another event taking place at the Echo Arena is 'Countdown to the Olympics' on January 22nd which will feature a number of sports and the League has been asked to attend. It has yet to be decided how many tables will be set up but from what I gather there may be space for only one. Past and current Olympians' will be present and league officials will be available to hand out club details and where to play. Further information will be posted on the league web site.

A few weeks ago I received a telephone call from Bill Pierce, the Closed junior champion in 1948 and 49. I checked in my 1949 copy of the ETTA's Table Tennis



Bill Pierce played for one of the top clubs of the day Great Crosby with Bernie Hands, Chris Cougan and Joe Watts (photo from 75 Not Out)

and a full account of the Merseyside Open which revealed that Bill and his junior partner Derek Ellison, beat the England international pair of Johnny Leach and Jack Carrington in the semi-finals before losing on the Philharmonic stage in the final. The losing pair met in the last four of the men's singles - Leach winning that one and then the title for the second time with two more to come. Bill also teamed up with E. Davies to take the Closed men's doubles title 1960 and 61 and spoke at length about his call up for the England Junior team to tour Sweden in the late 1940's. Now almost blind, Bill turned 80 on November 15th and will be visiting

relatives in Southport next year when I hope to meet him. Those who have a copy of 75 Not Out by Tony Harris, will also see a photo of Bill and others at the 1952 Merseyside Championships chatting with Liverpool F.C. Player Cyril Done.

A quick glance at the top of the division shows no change from last season. Fords (47 from 6) are one point clear of Crosby High B with Crosby High chasing in 3rd place (43 from 7). These are followed by a group of closely matched mid table teams, without much in the way of points between them and whose positions can change from week to week. Down at the bottom are CADWA (6 from 6), Harold House (10 from 5) and CTK A (19 from 6). Both CADWA and Harold House have struggled to put out regular teams so far this season. Although it is early days both clubs obviously need to be putting some points on the board before they fall that far behind the rest that they will be doomed for relegation.



It is nice to see various clubs giving youth a chance with Crosby High leading the way. 12 year old Robert Barker has recently won the Lancashire under 15 Championship and was runner up at under 18 level, Jack Dempsey and William Roberts are their other youngsters being given a chance. Michael Lunn has moved from the Crosby club to play at Fords, he did well last year in his first season at this level and is again producing good results. Other youngsters new to this level are Joe Mullin (Police), Matt McCormick (Bootle YMCA) and Joe Killoran (CTK). It is great for the league that youngsters are developing in the Merseyside area and coming through at this level, imagine what might be achieved if the league are ever in a position to set up some form of regular coaching sessions, I know from experience that there are kids and adults out there who soon get the bug and love learning and playing the game once the opportunity arises.

A quirk of the fixtures saw last season's first and second placed teams facing each other in the first week of the season. Kevin Dolder, Mal McEvoy and Andy Taylor (Fords) fought out a hard earned victory over the Crosby High B team of Paul Hutchings, James Bartello and Aaron Beech by a 6 points to 4 score line, Kevin was the star of the evening being victorious on his 4 visits to the table. Fords repeated that score line when they beat Bootle YMCA with Kevin again in sparkling form, Keith Williams and Wayne Percival took the 4 points for Bootle as they each beat Terry Turner and Andy Taylor.

Since that first week defeat, Crosby High B have remained unbeaten, they have shown no mercy in beating their club's first team 10/0 and repeating this score line against CTK A. When they faced Fords A they had a good 8/2 victory, Robert Barker and Michael Lunn played out the best match of the evening with Robert taking the first 2 sets before Michael came back to win in the 5th.

Crosby High, were without the services of their number 1 Stuart Mudie for their first few matches, however, this did not seem to bother Jamie Hewitt, Cherrith Graham and Robert Barker as they defeated Harold House 6/4 at week 1 and followed up beating CTK A 9/1 at week 2, Robert must have been wondering what all the fuss was about playing first division, with his only loss being to Kevin Lewis as he went down 11/9 in the deciding set. Stuart was back by week 4 and was their main man as he remained unbeaten in a drawn match at BSM, he repeated the trick, including a great 4 set victory over Keith Williams, when they beat Bootle YMCA 7/3.

BSM have had a reasonable start (41 from 7) despite Gary Watson and Steve Green not always being available due to work commitments. Reserve Dave Roberts certainly let no one down when he won 2 at Merseyside Police and then pushed the current Liverpool Champion Jon Taylor all the way before losing out 11/9 in the decider. When losing to Fords another reserve Colin Owens played out of his skin to take the scalp of Terry Turner. In the derby match against their A team that old war horse Ricky Brown was drafted in and brought young Roberts down to earth with a great 4 set victory. Dave still did his bit for the A team in beating Ken Jackson as the first team ran out 7/3 victors.

Merseyside Police have lost only 1 of their 6 fixtures losing out 6/4 at CTK, Jon Taylor played at the top of his form winning his 3 singles comfortably and John Hope chipped in with a win over Joe Killoran. Their best win was when they travelled to CADWA and won 10/0, Joe Mullen played in the match and must have been made up to go home undefeated. I do not know the Police ranking list but with players like Jon Taylor, Chris Ford, John Hope, Paul Gittins and Joe Mullin in the squad I think that they could be pushing for a top 3 finish if they field a strong team on a regular basis.

The CTK team of Keith Bird, Omid Khaiyat and Joe Killoran got off to a good start with wins over CADWA (7/3), Harold House (9/1) and Crosby High A (7/3) and the aforementioned win over Merseyside Police. They had also achieved a creditable draw with Bootle YMCA before reality set in as they went down 9/1 to Fords, Keith Bird saved the whitewash courtesy of a 5 set win over Mal McEvoy (for those who haven't been counting this puts them on 35 points)

Crosby High A and Bootle YMCA are a further 4 points adrift on 31, when facing each other, the Bootle side had Wayne Percival and new signing Barry Elliott supporting Keith Williams and proved to be much too strong in

winning 10/0, surprisingly this is Bootle's only win to date but they have continued to put points on the board with draws at Merseyside Police and CTK, Keith has been his usual consistent self and more or less guarantees his team 3 points per match. Matt McCormick has been playing fairly regularly and displayed his worth in beating Chris Ford and Joe Mullin in their match at Merseyside Police. Crosby High A have been helped by a 10/0 walk over, against CADWA and comprehensive victories over Harold House (9/1) and Fords A (7/3)

Run away 2nd division champions of last year BSM A are, as expected, finding life much harder this season but have settled into the "big time" by accruing 29 from 6 matches, they had an excellent 6/4 win over Bootle YMCA with all team members, Dave Roberts, Clare Peers and Tony Kendall beating James Eaton and Alan Chase, they like most teams who have faced CADWA without the newly signed Tomas Rzesosko in the team won 10/0. They lost out 6/4 to CTK A with Dave losing 13/11 and Clare 12/10 in the deciding sets to Tony Whelan.

The other promoted team Fords A, are a further 4 points behind but well clear of the relegation spots, they have

Division 2

Well, be careful what you wish for Paul! You may, dear captive reader remember me making some comment in the annals about their being a lack of young players in the division, well now they are threatening to take over. It seems that if you don't have a young person in your team then you may have missed the boat. So I am going to try and have the fortunes of this young crop as a theme for this season. One may have to reconfigure ones prosaic style, but I think that I am young enough to engage with the younger readers in a style that they will feel more accustomed; daddio!!

So who are these young people Paul? Well in this first quarter we have the likes of: Jack Dempsey, Tom Hill, Joel Webb, Sam Gittins, and Joe Pilkington.

With my Internet service out of action at the time of writing I cannot refer to the league positions so the order will be in a more random fashion – "Rad"!!

Wavertree Labour 'A'

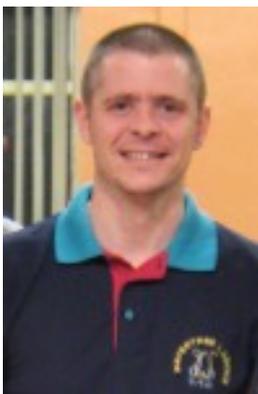
Wavertree has three teams in the division this year and it's the second team that have come out of the hat first. Three wins and two losses in the first five weeks is not a bad return for Roy Adams, Dave Harse, John Rowan and Mendel Williams, Roy Adams is once again proving to be the MVP, only losing to Dave Evans in the first quarter. I was reminded in a game on the Wirral of the pop disc 'Harsie - and he had the fastest backhand in the west' (Groovy)! anyway, Dave must have shown this skill, as he managed to take his three at home to Crosby High C.

strengthened their squad with the acquisition of Michael Lunn and using Andy Taylor on a regular basis. They have had 2 victories to date, both 6/4, Andy and Michael have been instrumental in achieving these results with both winning their 3 singles against BSM A. Andy won 3, Michael 2 and they combined in the doubles to ensure their win over CTK A. Andy has also been playing for the first team and it will be interesting to see if he ceases playing for the A team once he reaches his limit of first team matches, if so, their squad players will have to come to the fore to maintain the necessary accumulation of points to keep them out of trouble.

CTK A are 3rd from bottom on 19 points, they started the season with that good 6/4 win over BSM A, subsequent weeks have been less successful, but the way Harold House and CADWA are faring coupled with the experience of the likes of Tony Whelan, Peter Lee and Ahmed Thabet, they should maintain their first division status without too much difficulty.

Ian McElwee

Paul Banks



Marconi 'A'

Marconi A, are already proving their worth in this division following promotion, the team of Frank McCann), Ian Wensley, Peter Wass and Andy Lloyd have recorded two wins, two draws and three losses.

Special mention must go to Peter Wass, who although I have never commented on or noticed particularly, has been playing in the area for quite a while, Peter's biggest night of the season so far came against Bootle YMCA A where he managed to overcome John Higham, Shakil Malik and Richie Winkle.

Harold House 'A'

At the start of the season there were two Harold House teams in the division and now, after the first quarter there is only one! it looks like the only mainstay in the team is Alec Bryce, and Alec is also winning most of their points, taking all three at Marconi A, being the only player on the night to stop young Jack Dempsey and narrowly missing out on three by getting pipped 14-12 by Alan Chase at Bootle.

Wavertree Labour 'B'

Wavertree's third team had a bit of a harsh baptism to division two in week one getting whupped by Marconi 9-1, but the team of Dong Xia, Lee Farley and Mario Giove are starting to settle in and may be able to rise to the occasion. Lee recording good wins over Bob Edwards, Ian McElwee, Alec Bryce, and had a perfect night away at Marconi (A). Dong chipping in with the scalps of club members, Paul Banks and Dave Harse.

Bath Street Marine 'B'

BSM B may be about to finally live up to their billing this season. On the first three match cards BSM managed convincing 8-2 wins, then a bit of a dip as they only manage a 7-3 win over a strong Marconi side, Dermot being the man of the match here taking his three points over Bob Edwards, Ray Jackson and Chris Spedding. The usual squad of Ian McElwee, Ricky (OS) Brown, Dermot Tierney and Fred Bainbridge taking the points over Police A, Crosby High C and Wavertree Labour B, the only blip so far was a 6-4 loss to the hotly fancied CTK (B), Ricky Brown so far being the MVP having not lost a game yet, I know where he gets his super powers from though!

Christ The King 'B'

So now that we have mentioned them; lets look at CTK B, new signings Peter Walsh Jnr and Joshua Matthewman, along with Peter Taylor and Dave Tagg are looking like a pretty strong team and early favourites for the title, four wins and one loss in the first quarter, including a 10 – 0 drubbing of unfortunate Wavertree Labour (A) supporting this claim.

Marconi

Two wins, two draws and a loss is the record so far for Marconi. It looks like another stable line up for Marconi with Bob Edwards, Ray Jackson, Chris Spedding, and Adrian Bramham making up the team. Adrian is the MVP for Marconi so far, always difficult to play, Adrian has only lost two games thus far. So we come to the themed area of the report.

Wavertree Labour

New signing Tom Hill has been wowing the crowds so far at Sheil Road and is, at the time of writing, unbeaten – long may it continue you say. Tom has joined Roy Smith and Mike Tierney from over the water; discussions were held as to whether the team should be called Wirral Labour. Tom's best night so far was at Bootle YMCA! I'll let Alan Chase take over: *'A good nights Table Tennis played in a very sporting manner. Wav Lab had the man of the match in young Tom Hill. The future is bright with what I have seen so far with young talent coming into the league – I hope they stay at it.'* Tom has had good support so far from Roy Smith but needs Mike Tierney and Paul Banks to improve their form slightly to push onwards and upwards in the division.

Crosby High (C)

I'm not too sure whether this is a musician's team, or a team for fruit juice drinkers? Anyway with one draw, one win and four losses – things could be better for Crosby; but with the squad of Dave Evans, Roger Neal and Sylvia Graham, you know that it will be. Added to the squad for this season is the dynamic young Jack Dempsey, Jack really is finding his feet in this division and proving that he has the determination and growing maturity to see out games, this is best illustrated in the match against Marconi where he tussled with Bob Edwards, Ray Jackson and Chris Spedding for a full 15 sets and came out unbeaten.

Bootle YMCA (A)

Bootle, despite fielding more players than anyone else (I think) are hitting all the right notes so far, the mainstays in the team seem to be Alan Chase, Ted Birch, John Higham and Joe Pilkington. Four wins, one draw and one loss have put them in a strong position, I wonder if availability will turn out to be a problem over the season? Anyway, with Ted and Alan only losing 7 points between them so far you know that they are always going to be in a strong position. Added to this is another young dynamo called Joe Pilkington who has only been beaten by Alec Bryce and Tom Hill so far in this division.

Merseyside Police (A)

Another team with a large roll call, the Police force seems to be made up of Steve, Paul and Sam Gittins, and Brenda Buoeu as the main players. Two draws, two losses and two wins make up the stats, so a bit of a mixed bag. Paul has been the MVP so far joining Ricky Brown and Tom Hill on a perfect record. Sam is another youngster that we have seen developing over a couple of seasons and this year he looks better than ever, Sam's powerful left handed attack proving too much for Dermot Tierney, John Higham, Peter Wass and Ian Wensley.

CADWA (A)

CADWA are yet another team who seem to have some slight availability issues and yet with a mainstay of Graeme Black, Mike Power and Joel Webb, they should be competing for honours at the business end of the season. Graeme is proving to be as strong as ever and has only lost one game so far this season.

Joel Webb; the last of our youngsters being discussed is another with a bright future, showing a strong will to win and proved this by taking three points off Brenda Buoeu, Tom Purcell and Paula Adamson.

So let's hope that as Alan mentioned, the future stays bright and we have more of the same from these young dynamic players.

Best Wishes

Paul Banks

Wavertree Labour.

Having mentioned it last season, I am changing the method of distributing the Digest, I am printing 2 hard copies per registered team to cut down the numbers of hard copies printed from 360 to approx. 150. The Digest is now loaded onto our web sites, alongside every Digest printed since 1950, colour photo's are now used on the web Digest to add a little to the quality, For those not on the internet, I will print hard copies for them, it shouldn't be too difficult to pass the Digests around team / club members.

Editor

Division 3 Mike Hughes

Week 1

Maghull v Harold House 'C', a walk over for Maghull, HH having the wrong night. CADWA 'B' v Marine 'E', a bad night for Marine with only Graham Turner and Graham Oates winning 1 game each to save the day, a strong 8/2 win for CADWA. Arriva v Bath St 'D' looked a tight match with 3 of the games going to 5, man of the match Derek Scotland winning all of his games. CADWA 'C' v Marconi 'B', a solid win by Marconi, man of the match being John McCann winning all of his 3 games. Police 'D' v Maghull 'A', another walkover, with the Police conceding. Bootle YM 'B' v B,S Marine 'C', another tight match with honours even. Police 'B' v Police 'C' a good win for the "C" team, not expected, what went wrong with the seeding?

Week 2

Police 'C' v Police 'D' a walkover for the 'C' team. Marconi 'B' v Bootle YM 'B' a good win for the YM 3/7 but man of the match has to be Russell Thornton being 2-0 down against Shakil Malik and to come back and win the next 3, 13/11, 16/14 and 13/11, best effort of the night, well played Russell. Harold House 'C' v Police 'B' an easy win for HH, 9/1, Rod McPherson for HH was MOTM winning all 3 of his games with ease, Rob Midgeley saving the whitewash for the Police. Maghull 'A' v Arriva, a good win for Maghull, looks a tight match with 4 games going to 5 sets. Bath St 'C' v Maghull, a strong 10-0 win for Bath St with only Pete Holmes for Maghull taking 2 games to 5. Bath St Marine 'D' v CADWA 'B' a strong win for B,S,M, 7/3 BSM's first win in over a year, well done. BS Marine 'E' v CADWA 'C' a strong win for CADWA only 1 game going to 5 with Graham Oates coming out on top for BSM.

Week 3

Bootle YM 'B' v CADWA 'C' honours even in this match 5/5, MOTM Shakil Malik winning all his 3 singles, a poor night for Bert Rivers losing all 3 singles, most unusual for Berty. Arriva v Police 'C' A good win for Arriva 6/4 MOTM Derek Scotland for Arriva winning all of his games. Police 'B' v Bath St 'C' A strong win for Bath St 9/1 with Terrie Anne saving the whitewash. CADWA 'B' v Maghull 'A'. a good win for Maghull 7/3, Ian Burrows failed to control his services and gave away too many points, but still managed to win 2 out of his 3 games, Phil Christie was MOTM for Maghull winning all of his 3 games. Maghull v Marconi 'B' a close match, with Maghull coming out on top 6/4 with 4 of the games going to 5 sets, MOTM was Paul Jones for Maghull winning all 4 of his games, reading the match comments it was enjoyed by all hoping for more like it. Police 'D' v Harold House.



Police 'D' yet again conceded the match as a walkover.

BSt Marine 'E' v B St Marine 'D', as expected the 'D' team won 7/3 with Mal Kent winning 2 games and Ted Cramsey1, well played Mal.

Week 4

Police 'C' v CADWA "B" an easy win for the Police 8/2 with Joel Webb saving the day for CADWA winning 2 out of his 3 games. Maghull 'A' v Bath St 'D' an easy win for Maghull, with John Langton MOTM for Maghull, winning all 4 of his

games, Brian Crolley also did well for Bath St, beating Rod Bulmer and George frost, both in 4 sets. Harold House 'C' v Arriva, both Rod McPherson and Colin Singleton won all their single games to gain HH 6 points. Bootle YM 'B' v BS Marine 'E' a comprehensive win by the YM with both Shak Malik and Eddy Preston winning all their single games, only Berty Rivers dropping 1 to Graham Turner in 5 sets the 5th set going to 12/14, a close run game, well played Graham.

CADWA 'C' v Maghull, quite a tight match 4/6, Josef was MOTM for CADWA winning all 3 of his matches, Paul Webb did well beating Harry McGanity in 4 to gain CADWA,s 4th point. Marconi 'B' v Police "B" a comprehensive win for the Police 2/8, Alan French was MOTM for the Police winning all of the 4 games he played.

Week 5

B St Marine 'D' v Police 'C' a close match with Police winning the first 4 games and then a tremendous comeback by Marine, winning all of the remaining games to register a close 6/4 win. Marine 'E' v Maghull 'A', an easy win for Maghull, only Ted Cramsie putting up any resistance, beating George Frost in 4 sets to avoid the whitewash. CADWA 'B' v Harold House 'C' good to see the return of George for CADWA and registering a good win against Geoff, but still an easy win for Harold House. Arriva v Bath St Marine 'C' a strong win by Bath St 2/8, Derek Scotland and Larry Stone winning 1 apiece, Graham Rollinson was also unlucky for Arriva going down 10/12 in the 5th set in the last match of the night. Police 'B' v CADWA 'C' a good win for the Police winning 2 out of the 3 games that went to 5 sets, Tom Purcell was MOTM for the Police winning all 4 games he played in.

Maghull v Bootle YM 'B' a good win for the YM 3/7, with the YM winning 3 out of the 4 games that went to 5 sets, once again Shak Malik was MOTM winning all his games for the YM.

Week 6

Police 'C' v Maghull 'A' a good win for the police with Geoff Pye being MOTM winning all of his singles especially his game against John Langton, winning 11/9 in the 5th. Maghull v Bath St Marine 'E', a tightly contested match with no team taking the upper hand, Ted Cramsie was MOTM winning his 3 single games. Marconi 'B' v Arriva with Arriva winning 2/8, not an easy game as the score first indicates with 6 of the games going to 5 sets, Marconi losing out in all but 2. Bath St Marine 'C' v CADWA 'B' an easy win for BSt Marine, CADWA saving the whitewash by winning the doubles. Bootle YM 'B' v Police 'B' a strong win by the Police 4/6 MOTM was Danny Russell, winning all of his 3 singles along with the doubles.

Week 7

CADWA 'B' v Marconi 'B' a solid win for Marconi, but CADWA showed good fighting spirit each winning a

singles game in 5 sets. Bath St Marine 'E' v Police 'C' a good win by the police 3/7 only 3 games going to 5 with the police winning 2 out of the 3. Bath St Marine 'D' v Bath St Marine 'C' a predictable win for the 'C' team but the games were tighter than the score indicates, a competitive match with Brian Crolley and Barry Davis doing well to win a singles game each. Maghull 'A' v Harold House 'C' an easy win for Harold house with Maghull avoiding a whitewash by winning the doubles in 5. Arriva v CADWA 'C' a strong win by Arriva 7/3 with each of the Arriva players only losing 1 game each to Josef Koudelek, who I would nominate as MOTM winning all his 3 games. Police 'B' v Maghull, a steady win for the Police 7/3 with Danny Russell MOTM, winning his 3 single games.

Mike Hughes

Division 4 Doug Baker

Well what a shake up from last year! 16 teams pushed in from the 3rd and 22 pulled up from the 5th. And just one team (based in Borneo who couldn't be found to be told they had been relegated/promoted) left over from last season's 4th division. Or so it seems. Ok, I admit it- it's just too complex for me to figure out where all the teams went to/came from!? It's gonna be a real hotchpotch.

To summarise the first 7 weeks:

Wavertree Labour 'C' the only team to win every match, amassing a whopping 14 point lead (the team in second admittedly have a game in hand). **Sefton Park** (1st) can be proud to be undefeated (obviously they ain't played WavLab'C yet) and also in the fact they've already opened up a healthy 6-7 points lead on the 3rd & 4th placed teams. Only one defeat for **Arriva'A'**, **Marconi'C'** and **BSM'F'** means they are to be watched as promotion contenders. Only their second season in creation, but **Huntsman Wood** are looking comfortable. **Wavertree Labour'E'** and **CADWA'D'** are middling. Surprisingly there are 5 teams struggling; **Linacre**, **Maghull's B&C**, **Wavertree Labour'D'** and **BYMCA'C'**, with a big profit to loss imbalance, **BYMCA'C'** the only team without a win. So, what of these teams? Who are they and what do they do?

Wavertree. In a cruel corruption of the old English grammar mentor, 'E' comes before 'D' but after 'C'. Well, that's just how they've been CED'ed! Like a witches coven



WavLab'C' have a bag full of good olde proven hexes; Paul Morgan (ex Harold House), Neil & Paul Jennings (ex Manweb) and Robin Barker (ex partner of Robin Corbett), with such a line up it's no surprise they lead not only their club mates but the whole division. The fact that the top three have played all the matches to date is key to that success, 58 points out of 70 including two 10-Nils is a level they look like emulating next period even though stronger teams await. Well Done/Tough Luck (WD/TL): Paul M. & Neil for both beating Harry Reeve in straight sets. Arthur Harrison has replaced Neil in the old "Manweb" team

that is

WavLab'D', and they've been less able to stick to a regular team, only win was over Maghull'B' who had two reserves, Ben, Alvin & Allan taking all their singles (esp Alvin 13/11 over Janette in't 5th). WD/TL: Allan showing he still has to be watched, beating Paul Morgan in 4. As Alf Perry also did for Robin in a close tussle, ditto to Ray Jones, Alvin in a rolllicking 5 gamer with Mike Perry and straights win to Andy Bird, Ben besting Paul Loftus & Dave McMahon (from 2 down).

WavLab'E' are the long standing (someone get Stan a chair) buddies of Fyles, Bird, John & Dave Williams and Clarke, hence they have the team spirit to drag results out; witness good team efforts that earned victories over Huntsman, Linacre & WavLab'E', they are however the only team to have appeared one short. WD/TL: Colin just

beating Paul Rees 9 in't 5th at Huntsman as John also beat him to bag his brace (sic), John did the same the following week defeating Linacre's Reeve and Charlie.

Sefton Park are undergoing a period of change after the loss of their first team, Derek Traynor was everywhere last season, this one he's in with Perry, Cunningham and Jones, they too have 3 with 100% appearance records. Keep that up and at the end of the season they'll get a trip to the zoo.

They finished 9th last year and already look set to better that.

WD/TL: 10-0 at BYMCA'C': "Ray outstanding coming back to win vs A. Cameron from 2-0 and 1-6 down to win 11/9 in the 5th." 8-2 hosting WavLab 'D' "Great stand in from Robbie Puddifer – 2 5 setters, priceless show from Alf – pushing back the years with the help of a 'special bat!!", Mike & Dave over Grahame Reid.

At **Arriva'A'** Brian Hornby has joined Kristof, Pavel and Wacek, and a good move that's been as Brian shows at fifth in the averages, losing only to Billy Clayton. Kristof has been knocking them in at No.1.

WD/TL: 8-2 at Linacre, Kristof from 2-0 to beat Harry Reeve, as Pawel from 2-1 to beat Charlie 12/10 in decider, Pawel dismissing Andy Bird with 2 13/11 games, Kristof close but 3-0 v Alvin.

Marconi 'C' have cut down to Loftus, McMahon, Bell, Roberts & Proffitt, "biggest" match so far was probably Marconi 'C' v SeftonPark, both had their best teams out, Paul & Dave exemplary, not losing, though Mike Perry nearly had, Dave just losing the 4th and 5th games, Bobby came from 2 down to Ray, doubles was the visitor's forte, winning the last two sets to snatch a draw.

WD/TL: 7-3 at Wav. Lab. 'D' and 8-2 v Maghull's B & C, Dave beating Barry and Ned, Bobby beating Barry & Billy, both 11-8 in't 5th, Paul & Dave beating John McLoughlin. Trevor Owens undefeated reserve at Huntsman.

The **Huntsman Wood** "family" are making waves, fine draw at Arriva'A'; Joe beating Pawel in 5, but then just losing out to Kristof, Lee also beat Pawel but only narrowly, 10/12 in't 5th after being 2 down, Paul had good wins over Kristof & Wacek (11/9), Brian Hornby stood his ground to achieve the draw. Superb win versus Maconi'C'; rarely does Dave lose both singles but he did in 4 to Paul then 11/9 in 5th to Joe. They completed singles with wins over Bobby & Kenny. Both doubles going to 5, shared.

WD/TL: 9-1 at Maghull'C'. Lee Madin lost first game to Colin Fyles then ran in 3 12/10's! Lee also shut out BSM'F's Ned & Colin Mitchell as did Steve 12/10 in decider with Colin, at Linacre, Lee again heroic, undefeated and beating Alex & Ken in straights.

Bath Street 'F' 6 Arriva 'A' 4: "close game, both sides played very well, especially Bath St missing two regulars Ned & Colin, but deputies both performed well", yes

Albert could have made it a clean sweep for him & Billy if he hadn't lost 10/12 in't 5th to Brian. Best team out for visit by Marconi'C' which was drawn, this time Billy couldn't provide a full sweep at the bottom, Colin beat Ken & Frank as did Bill, but Bobby came from 2 down to win in 5 close games. Same four got a 6-4 win at Huntsman, 5 sets going to 5, Barry & Billy on good form as were the doubles.

WD/TL: another 6-4 to Maghull'C', without Barry. Barry & Bill couldn't quite prevent the WavLab'C' whitewash, losing game 5 12-10 after being 2 up in second doubles v Morgan & Barker, Barry beating Harry Reeve & Alex.

CADWA'D' still have Lennon & Howard, but Laird & Reid have muscled in, Captain Peter Roberts has had to relinquish the position due to sickness which has been a big blow to the team's morale and we wish him a speedy recovery, Grahame took a while to find the right bat but is now in form, Ian started from go and has only lost to Barry Davis & Neil Jennings. Grahame won both his singles from Pauls Morgan & Jennings (PJ's first and so far only loss). They've used more players than any other team, only Ian has played every match.

WD/TL: Coming from 5-2 down to draw with BSM'F' thanks to doubles (1st 16/14 in't 5th) and Grahame beating Barry (12/10 in 4th). At Sefton Park; Ian Laird persevering v Mike Perry & Derek, and Steve Lennon victory in 5 v Dave Cunningham, Grahame Reid contributing to the only points from Arriva'A'. Ian win in 4 over Sue Hughes.

I'm glad to see **Linacre** bounce back into the division they were unfairly relegated from, it's hard to imagine how they must have felt when in their first match Harry Nelson had to retire from his second singles, Sefton Park won 7-3, but Charlie only just lost to Derek 9/11 in't 5th and Ken was even closer with Dave 10/12 in 5th, Mr Nelson hasn't played since, so I can only think it's a very serious injury and I wish him a good recovery, Reeve, Charchenko and Bradshaw-Charlie have called on Ainsworth & Bradshaw-John to assist. Linacre played three strong teams in the first four weeks, then had a fine 8-2 win over Maghull'C' and finished with a draw with Huntsman where Mr Reeve won his two, Alex beat Joe and Charlie beat Steve (12/10 in 3rd).

WD/TL: Alex besting Paul Morgan to save the whitewash from WavLab'C' and also Colin Fyles in 5, as Harry did in 4. Harry beat Pawel 11/9 & Alex upset Kristof 14/12 4th. Reeve in 5 v Hassan as Charchenko bt Clayton.

Maghull'B' have a core of Steve McGanity, Loon Wai Yu & Lung Sing Yu, but are second only to CADWA'D' in their use of reserves, it got out of hand in week 3 as they played an "ineligible" player, which cost them a fine and a point. Lung is coming on, viz besting Pete & Steve at CADWA, whilst Loon beat me 13/11 in games 3&4.

WD/TL: valuable wins over BYMCA'C' (due to doubles), & WavLab'E' (doubles and Steve & Lung singles), Jim

Dickson beating Sefton's Dave & Ray, who also lost to Alan Chan 11/9 5th.

Maghull 'C' are Janette & Amy Hutchings with Denise Chorley (not quite "LOGF"), they've even managed to get Sue Hughes to play, as such the all ladies team lost on their first home outing to CADWA'D' (strange seeing Steve Lennon head butting a chair hidden behind the curtain), Amy lost to Ian Laird in 4, each to 9, Denise beat Steve Lennon after nearly losing in 3 - 16/14. They won the following week at BYMCA'C', their first this season, Sue & Amy winning their singles yet losing together in first doubles.

WD/TL: Janette beating Paul Morgan, on a night when the card said "Tom Miller played very well on his Liverpool League debut to win one of his singles (*v Robin Barker*) and his doubles, a name to watch out for". Reserve Matt Cranny doubly prevented a whitewash at Marconi by winning both his singles in 5 and again at Linacre, similarly at BSM'F' including a win over Colin. Denise took the only point from Huntsman beating Jess in a close 4 gamer.

Ex Merseyside Policer Alan Cameron has thrown his hat in with **Bootle YMCA 'C's** Daniels, Tucker & Taylor. Competing with Maghull'B', Steve & Alan beat Steve McGanicy; Stevie D adding this to his win over Loon,

Andy got a good win over Janette 13/11 in't 4th, but all else was Maghull'B's, so a 4-6 defeat. Fellow strugglers WavLab'E' gifted 3 points to allow them to setup a draw. At Maghull'C' Arthur Garnett subbed and came from behind to win the last two games 14/12 & 11/8 v Denise, doubles were shared and Andy beat Janette for the Bootle Boys only points.

WD/TL: Andy almost got a point v Paul Jennings 10/12 in't 5th. Alan Cameron also couldn't stop the Sefton Park 10-Nil, losing both singles from leading positions; 9/11 in't 5th to Mike & Ray (who he could have beaten in 3 but for a 10/12), similar story in 2nd doubles which John & Jim could have won in 4th but for a 13/15 from Jones & Tod!

Andy too strong for Arriva's Wacek and Janusz. If anyone wants an honourable mention in the next edition, it's assured if they can beat - Neil Jennings, Matthew Cranny, Ben Chen, or in doubles, either of the Sefton Park pairings or Jennings & Jennings, yes, they are that good. Week 10 Sefton v WavLab'C'; Perry & Traynor up against the Jennings', should be a cracker!

Hope the refurb at Maghull goes well, be good to be on a level playing floor.

Doug Baker

Division 5

On the eve of the Division Five kickoff it was a big worry as to the quality still in the division, following the mass exodus to Division Four with no less than five teams now participating in the Fourth; Runaway champions Linacre, followed out of the Division Five exit door by Bath Street Marine F, Cadwa D, Huntsman Wood and Bootle YMCA C. With players from these teams populating seven out of the ten top averages in the division, it must have been a puzzle to predict how Division Five life will shape up this season.

Fortunately, any concerns as to the quality of table tennis being played can be dismissed after a frenetic first five weeks of match play that has seen the table start to shape up with the early pacesetters making a bold opening statement as to who is going to be taking top spot come the end of the season.

Five matches in has seen a curious act of symmetry in the league table with Sefton Park A's fortunes mirroring their B team's start to the season - the A team having racked up 48 points and conceding just

Ged Howard



2 whereas the B team shipping 48 with two points on the board. Will this Sefton sandwich continue through to the end? It really shouldn't do with the experience of the B team, led by the duo of Eric Wood and Mike Poole who do not offer opponents too many easy points with some consistent play.

It took over a month of play before the Sefton A boys felt the sting of conceding any points following an opening sequence of 10-0 wins. I can only hope that Peter, Robbie,

Fred and Ian do not become bored with life in the Fifth on their travels this season. Even with a hand injury hindering Peter Todd, the cool head compared with impeccable control and finesse at the table - or ten feet behind it - will frustrate countless opponents. I've had less consistent matches with a TT robot; a welcome addition to the Division Five roster.

The only other team to win five out of five has been Arriva Northwest B. Facing Harry Hughes and Janus Wator will be a formidable two matches for any number 1 player this season, both fresh from their

Division Four exertions with the Arriva A team last year. Both were in the top 25 in the Fourth Division averages so the Arriva Fortress may once more become an extremely tough bus stop for the rest of the league. Then there is Danny Bellard - slipping in at number 4 – who will no doubt be causing a number of head scratching from opponents this season watching the ball kick off violently to the side.

Youth used to be considered a barrier to Division Five survival – after a few defeats to the Division's mainstays the message seemed to be 'Go get 50 years mainstay experience, then we'll talk...' After all, how do you surprise the likes of Eric Young with a shot he hasn't seen before? However, times look like they are a-changing with more than one team of junior players. Not only this, but they are actually doing well! Bootle D and Marconi D have both gate-crashed the top five at the time of writing which is a great advert for the vitality of the Liverpool League. From working at Savio, I know the Bootle boys well – from weaning them off from playing with a slice of pizza in hand at lunch time to escorting the team to the Sefton Schools League – so it is great to see now that their enthusiasm and commitment to the sport is now translating into points on the cards after being blooded into the league last season. It is testament to Roly's Mr Miyagi-style mentoring of the teenagers that Mr Wright can take a touchline role and only step in as required as the team maintains a consistent line-up that is able to play most weeks. With a 10-0 and 9-1 win already in the bag, last year's debutants Liam Shaw, Josh Cashmore and Saul Keelan have shown that they are able to hold their own this year and have added Tom Doubtfire to their ranks who will give many something different to think about this year. Bootle D have collected two draws so far which shows the resilience within the team. My Cadwa team were fortunate to escape from the YMCA with a point as the boys were on form. Saul showed signs of stepping away from the self-destruct panic button which was seen on occasion last season and defeated Jack Highton and Lewis Devonish. Liam showed an attacking side to punish Jack and Josh had to be the unluckiest player of the night, leaving empty handed despite impressing all spectators with his controlled attacking in both of his matches.

Among the glossy advert for the quality of youth in Division Five has to be the 5-5 draw between Bootle and Marconi. Two matches went the distance and three matches were settled in four in what appears to have been a tight encounter. Despite two wins for Liam, wins for Adrian over Josh and Jack Nelson defeating Saul ensured that Marconi went into the

doubles knowing that they were able to escape defeat. Josh and Saul fought back from two sets down to take the penultimate doubles match with Liam and Tom completing the fightback to salvage the draw in the night's final match.

Bootle D and Maghull F featured 9 juniors out of the ten players with Roly commenting that the match was closely fought despite the deceptive 9-1 score line. The clash between Luke and Liam was the highlight of the night. Anyone who has played either of these two will know that Luke can hit and Liam can defend so it was always going to be a bit of an exhibition. Liam edged this one in a fifth game nail biter. It is safe to say that the future is in good hands on the basis on these displays!

Odd to see not a single Hutchings in any of the Fifth's Maghull teams (Janette and Amy playing in the Fourth this season) but the D team look like they will manage just fine – Alan Chan and Naresh Tagore leading from the front to put Maghull D into second place at the time of writing. Cadwa E, new team but with the experienced frontline of Jack Highton and Paul Oakes, experienced this on opening week with a whitewashing 10-0 with only two matches requiring more than three games.

The Maghull E and F team may have a fight on their hands to get into the top half of the table along with the trio of newly inserted teams, Cadwa E, Waterloo and the Police E who are all lagging behind already at this early stage. The E team may have the league experience of recent years through Andy McCourt and Wilf Gibson but the F team have some promising talent in Luke Courtney.

Wavertree F and Bath Street G both have the players to attack the top five if they are able to use their experience to overcome the newcomers who sit below them in the table. Wavertree have the tricky customers of Gordon Langshaw and Eric Spencer as well as Femi and Sharon who have both benefitted under Gordon's tutelage. It appears Bath Street F's promotion was not to the tastes of Albert and Barbara who have dug their heels in and remain in the Fifth Division. Alongside Des and Cyril, this team have the potential to trouble the top half and Parker provides a litmus test for many a player new to the league on whether they can adapt to the myriad of styles you will see throughout a season in the Fifth.

Ged Howard

Liebherr Men's World Cup – Paris Sunday 13th November 2011



Crowned World champion earlier in the year in Rotterdam, 23 year old Zhang Jike added another title to his collection on the afternoon of Sunday 13th November 2011.

In the final of the Liebherr Men's World Cup, he recovered from a two games to nil deficit to beat compatriot Wang Hao and thus reversed the decision of one year earlier in Magdeburg. The victory meant he became only the third player to win both the Men's Singles title at the World Championships and the Men's World Cup title in the same year; the others being Jörgen Persson 1991 and Kong Linghui in 1995.

Furthermore, he emulated the achievement of Jörgen Persson; in 1991 Jörgen Persson beat the same player in both finals, he beat Jan-Ove Waldner.

Zhang Jike beat Wang Hao 7-11, 7-11, 11-9, 11-4, 11-5, 11-3

By: Ian Marshall, ITTF Publications Editor

Congratulations to Merseyside Police Club Secretary and player Tom Purcell N.U. & I.U. as the official umpire, leads out the Finalists, Wang Hao (Chn) and Zhang Jike (Chn) in front of a crowd of 4000 spectators in Paris. (take note budding Umpires) assistant umpire was Corinne Stoffel, France

The good news is that next year the Liebherr Men's World Cup will be staged at the Echo Arena 24th to 27th September 2012 wow!. Organised by the ITTF and ETTA

Playing System for the LIEBHERR 2011 Men's World Cup was :-

1. The tournament will consist of 3 stages.
2. In the preliminary stage the 4 continental representatives from Africa, Latin America, North America and Oceania shall compete for an Intercontinental Cup, played on a group basis with all the members of the group playing each other. The winner of this group shall join the remaining 15 players in the 1st stage.
3. Seeding shall be done according to the latest available World Ranking.
4. In the 1st stage the players will be divided into 4 equal groups, with all the members of a group playing each other, and in the 2nd stage the group winners and runners-up will compete in a knockout.
5. For the 1st stage, the highest-ranked player will be placed in Group A, the 2nd highest in Group B, the 3rd highest in Group C and the 4th highest in Group D. The remaining players will be drawn into the groups 4 at a time in ranking order.
6. If there are 2 players from the same Association, they will be drawn into separate groups but a 3rd player from the same Association may be drawn into any group.

7. For the 2nd stage, the winners of Groups A and B will be placed in positions 1 and 8 respectively and the winners of groups C and D will be drawn between positions 4 and 5; the runners-up will be drawn into the remaining places, in opposite halves from the winners of the same groups. There will not be separation by Association.

8. In the semi-finals, the winner of the 1st quarterfinal will play the winner of the 2nd and the winner of the 3rd will play the winner of the 4th ; the winners of the semi-finals will play each other in the final, with the losers of the semi-finals playing each other for third place.

9. The tournament will be played in accordance with the Laws of Table Tennis and the Regulations for International Competitions.

10. All matches shall be the best of 7 games.

Prize money was 45,000usd for the winner down to 15,000usd for 4th place,

Tom Purcell has agreed to write up an article about his experience during the Paris tournament to be printed in the next Digest (early February 2012), to start building up our expectations for next years Tournament .

Even though Fixture Secretary Trevor fine-tuned the ETTA registration procedure to such an extent that all that was needed was either do it on line (a few tick boxes) or ring up the ETTA help line, plenty of information was given weeks before the start of the season, yet we still finished up with the season well under way with players not registered, with some players still oblivious to the fact that it was 'illegal' but were given the benefit of the doubt. This was supposed to save the Fixture secretary a lot of work, believe me it created work, so much so, that another approach may be required - to pamper!!

Table tennis is on the up!

More people are playing table tennis and they are doing so on a regular basis according to the latest results from Sport England's Active Peoples Survey which show strong levels of increase over the past 2 quarters.

The results gathered from the last 12 rolling months (to April 2011) show an increase of 39,200 (0.27%) playing at least once a week for 30 minutes or more and an increase of 54,600 playing once a month when compared to the 2007/8 bench mark survey (Active Peoples Survey 2).

As a sport, table tennis has become well known for its raft of participation schemes, including Ping! which had over 50,000 members of the public playing table tennis on 100 free to use tables in and around London last summer. The Ping! effect has seen many continue to play in the capital with both London and the south east showing particularly strong growth.

Ping! is set to continue in 2011 as it ventures to Birmingham and Hull from 4th July to 22nd August, for more information log on to pingengland.co.uk

Next year Liverpool has been chosen to receive 20 of the concrete practice tables to be erected around various Parks in the Liverpool area, and possibly in the city centre, under the ETTA scheme

Another night getting smashed?

Barroom sporting pursuits were once limited to darts or pool – or more recently a drunken huddle around a glowing quiz machine. Now, we are seeing an influx of bars that offer their clientele a chance to get in a bit of table tennis in between pints with the sport being given an indie-cool street cred not seen in years.

This trend has spread to Liverpool with the Shipping Forecast on Slater Street sporting a full size table tennis table for punters to enjoy. My eyes lit up when I eyed the table, quickly dragging my (non-table tennis playing) friends over to have a knock. Due to the bar's penchant for imported strong European lagers the play was not of the highest level you will ever see but all of us had lots of fun! Later on in the night when the lights are dimmed, play got a bit tricky with only one half of the table being visible but a small light in the corner would solve this issue.

Liverpool is not always so quick to follow on trends from the capital, but many have spoken of The Book Club in London where table tennis can be played with a drink in hand.

Always good to see TT being played by more people, even in such a casual fashion. And it doesn't get more casual than returning a serve with a pint of Amstel in hand.

The Shipping Forecast, 15 Slater Street, Liverpool, L1 4BW
Ged Howard



It's good to see 'Family Teams', in the League, first we had the 'Rees Clan' at Huntsman Wood, now we have the 'Gittens Clan' at the Merseyside Police Club, Jack, Paul, Sam and Steve, photo was taken on the occasion of Sam's 17th birthday, after a league match against Marconi, birthday cake supplied by the Police Club catering Department, two good wins over Peter Wass and Ian Wensley qualified Sam for the 'extra' candle.

Ivor Montagu Fund

The English Table Tennis Association has allocated a fund known as the 'Ivor Montague Junior Fund' for financial assistance to Junior and Cadet players who wish to enter Open events **approved by the ETTA in England** which involve Junior players.

For junior players who wish to apply for financial assistance towards the cost of travel or accommodation at tournaments please use the form attached at the link below to state your claim.

[Ivor Montagu Fund Form <http://etta.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Ivor-Montagu-Form-and-Regs1.pdf>](http://etta.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Ivor-Montagu-Form-and-Regs1.pdf)



Another in the series of interviews of well known players by Paul Gittens, this one from Merseyside Police Club's **Brenda Buoe**y

1. Where did it all start ?

Holly Lodge Girls High School, West Derby early 70's. Les French asked in a physics lesson did any one want to be coached at table tennis. I asked if it was a proper sport because I'd never heard of it. I then joined Colonsay in Bootle.



The Holly Lodge School team of Gill Rowbottom, Brenda Williams (Buoe)y Pauline Lane, Suzanne Manning (Burgess) and Ellie Astle, all Colonsay players, winners of the All England U13 Schools title 1970

2. Best Player played against ?

Jill Hammersley. Didn't know anybody could put so much spin on a chopped ball.



Another National Title for Holly Lodge School, and Brenda, Cathy Baxendale, Sue Burgess, Barbara Kirkman, the U17 National Schools Championships in 1973

3. Best win ?

At junior level, beating both Linda Howard and Carol Knight when they were No 1 juniors. Vets level, winning the Vets Nationals over 50's at championships.

4. Worst defeat ?

Where do I start ! Far too many !!

5. Best player to watch ?

Samsonov, such smooth and relaxed strokes. Also Kerangas backhand. Never misses.

6. Funniest table tennis moment?

Me and Steve Gittens encouraged three welsh kids at a tournament to approach a player who had a wig on and ask him if he did actually wear a wig. We told the kids that he would oblige by taking the wig off and show them all the different coloured glues on it that he uses to keep the wig on.. We watched from a safe distance and witnessed a tirade of a finger wagging reply to the kids !!



Taken at the 1966 Closed Finals Night, six Ladies Champions spanning 5 decades, L to R- Mabel Neary, Barbara Kirkman, Brenda Buoeuy, Justine Thomas, Paula French & Eileen Mansell

7. Who's your T.T. hero & why ?
 Can't think of one but I'm sure Ian McElwee would tell you that his hero was Gaten . Whilst in a tournament in Manchester . Ian dragged me to every table Gaten was knocking or playing on. It was bordering on harassment. Quite worrying really. I think Ian's moved on now although I guess the 50 yard exclusion zone imposed by the Court has helped !!

8. Is there life other than table tennis ?
 EVERTON !! Once a blue , always a blue . Honest !

9. Tell me something that would surprise me ?

I love my new vocation of two years working with the mentally ill. So challenging and rewarding even though you have to have eyes in the back of your head. Also , when I was at school I was invited to have county trials at hockey. I didn't turn up as I went to watch Everton instead . As I said, 'Once a blue always.....you know the rest .



Cathy, Sue, Brenda and Barbara meet up again, a 'few' years later to celebrate one of the groups big five-O birthday, but which one ??

10. What changes in the game would you like to see ?

No 'screaming out' when a point is won and no funny rubbers.

11. Coaching tip ?

For beginners to use a slow bat and rubbers to enable them to develop their strokes .

For the first time ever, the Liverpool League entered a Ladies team in the National Gainsford Cup, in 2003 Bath St. entered their team of Brenda, Clare Newnes (Peers) and Sue Burgess to finish runners up.



Brenda as you will see her now - still a formidable opponent



Obituaries



Arthur Pierce

Sadly, we lost Arthur in September 2011, he had played for Fords in the Liverpool League for many years before he joined us. He was a great player with lots of experience, who our players looked up to, always available to pass on his knowledge and advice to any member, which rubber was best for their type of play.

He will be sadly missed by Sefton and Widnes players
Eric Wood
Sefton T.T. Club



John Ashley

John passed away after a short illness, September 2011
A popular member of CADWA Table Tennis Club who had played in the Liverpool Table Tennis League for many years since taking up the game whilst working for the Merseyside Fire Brigade. John enjoyed all aspects of the game and was at home scoring as well as playing. John a gentle giant could lose his cool on occasions but was a very good player. He also enjoyed other sports, a cricket umpire during the summer and a true supporter of Liverpool Football Club. His friends in the Liverpool Table Tennis League have lost a great character and a gentleman respected by many.

George Higham and friends from CADWA T.T. Club.



Frank Lacey

Passed away October 2011

Frank was one of the original 5 players who started Linacre Men's T.T. Club, their first game was in the old North Division at Silcocks, 27th October 1948, Frank won his 2 sets in a 7-3 victory.

Frank rose alongside his team mates to the dizzy heights of the 1st Division in the season of 1966 – 67, the air was too rarefied up there, so Frank and Co. settled back into the 2nd Division.

As a penholder, Frank's playing style did not enamour to most of his opponents, (he was very hard to beat). It's rather disheartening to find your best shot turning into Frank's best shot, his close to the table reflexes were razor-sharp.

In later years, Frank served on the Management Committee, and also helped Ken Armson and Stan Clark with their coaching.

He is sadly missed by his many friends, especially the lads at Linacre. His tea tasted better than anyone else's, Frank was a true sportsman and a great friend.

Harry Reeve Linacre T.T. Club



Obituaries



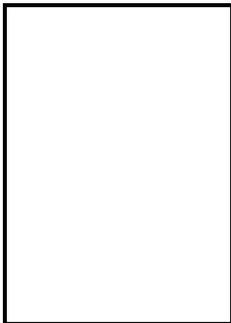
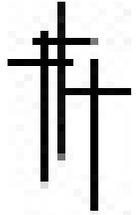
Les Higham

Passed away October 2011

Having known Les for over 40 years through playing table tennis I still don't know a great deal about him. Travelling to matches we would chat on the way about family and sport in general. He was quite a sportsman playing football, cricket, tennis and table tennis and all at a very good standard. While in the forces he played quite an amount of football with the then professional players. He played most of his tennis at Beauclair's as was with his table tennis at the start. We played at

Courtaulds in the business houses league and then formed teams to play in the Idttl. Les always played with the Barna bat and was a good exponent with it. In the latter days he had replacement hips done and after a recovery period came back to play for quite a few seasons but other illnesses' took their toll and he stopped playing.

He will be sadly missed by us. Jim Geddes Bootle YMCA



Fred Biggs

Fred passed away July 2011 aged 93, after being married for 70 years, served his time as a Precision Engineer at Whiteley Lang & Neil, Fred's early sport was Cycling, joining various Clubs. His first table tennis was starting a team in Whiteley's, playing in the canteen at first, then entering a team in the Liverpool Business Houses League, climbing their way from Div 8 to Div 4 between 1962-63 to 68-69, he joined Cadwa to play in the L&DTTL at the time of Jack Power. But Fred's main love of sport was Crown Green bowling, joining many Liverpool Clubs in the many Liverpool Leagues.

Will be sadly missed

Alan Biggs



Letter to the Editor

Hi Roly,

Just one of my many ranks about the Management committee, from which you are exempt as I know you were away in London at the time, but which I would like you to publish in the next edition of the magazine.

Regards, Stan

It was recently my sad duty to attend, on successive days, the funerals of two old stalwarts of the league, who between them had racked up many, many, years of play in this league. I refer to Frank Lacey, formerly of Linacre and Les Higham formerly of Bootle Y.M.C.A. Both of these men were stalwarts of the league and both were thorough gentlemen and well remembered, despite being unable to play for some years due to ill health, and who I considered to be good friends and more than worthy opponents on the table. It is always a sad occasion when such people leave us for the great table in the sky, so you can perhaps understand why I was very disappointed when not one member of our Management Committee could be bothered to acknowledging the passing of these two players by attending their funerals. Not good enough gentlemen, I know that some of you were at work but there are enough retired persons on the committee to ensure a representation on your behalf, or are you not interested enough?

Stan Clarke

Editors reply page 19

Frank Murphy Memorial Vets. Handicap Cup

1st. Round Results

CADWA 2	504	v	491	BATH St. M.6
MARCONI 2	420	v	431	BATH St. M.3
BATH St. M. 4	427	v	436	MAGHULL 1
CADWA 4	416	v	397	MARCONI 3
BATH St. M. 5	526	v	446	LINACRE
M/POLICE 3	476	v	428	ARRIVA 2
BOOTLE YMCA 2	468	v	452	CADWA 3
MARCONI 1	394	v	349	BOOTLE YM. 3
M/POLICE 2	475	v	298	SEFTON PK. 2
ARRIVA 1	313	v	341	BATH St. M.1
BATH St. M. 2	393	v	371	CADWA 1
WAV.LAB. 1	403	v	442	SEFTON PK. 1
WAV.LAB. 2	460	v	450	HUNTSMAN WD
M/POLICE 1	conc.	v	w/o	BOOTLE YM. 1
CHRIST the KING	w/o	v	conc.	FORDS
SEFTON PARK 3	478	v	485	MAGHULL 2

2nd. Round Draw

CADWA 4	v	BATH St. MARINE 2
BATH St. MARINE 3	v	MAGHULL 2
MARCONI 1	v	BOOTLE YMCA 1
CADWA 2	v	MAGHULL 1
M/POLICE 3	v	BATH St. MARINE 1
BATH St. MARINE 5	v	SEFTON PARK 1
M/POLICE 2	v	BOOTLE YMCA 2
CHRIST the KING	v	WAVERTREE LAB. 2

Please note - in the event of a team playing short in the Handicap Cup, only players who play have their handicaps added to the final scores!

Liverpool Schools Table Tennis

The Liverpool Schools Table Tennis League was re-started a couple of seasons ago by Mr. Paul O'Leary in the newly formed post as School's Sports Coordinator, after a lot of 'pushing and shoving' he got the League running, but last season emigrated to New Zealand to take up a similar post there.

YEAR 8/9 LSSP LEAGUE

Games

Pos		Pl	Won	Lost	Diff.	Pts.
1	Broadgreen	3	23	13	10	23
2	Shorefields	2	17	7	10	17
3	Childwall	2	16	8	8	16
4	SFX	2	15	9	6	15
5	Calderstones	2	14	10	4	14
6	St Margarets	2	12	12	0	12
7	Academy SFA	3	10	26	-16	10
8	Bluecoat	2	1	23	-22	1
9	King David	0	0	0	0	0

YEAR 10/11 LSSP LEAGUE

Games

Pos		Pl.	Won	Lost	Diff.	Pts.
1	Broadgreen	3	27	9	18	27
2	St Margarets	2	23	1	22	23
3	Childwall	3	14	12	2	14
3	Academy SFA	2	14	10	14	14
4	SFX	2	7	17	-10	7
4	Bluecoat	2	7	17	-10	7
5	Shorefields	2	4	20	-16	4
6	King David	0	0	0	0	0

King David School missed first round!

Thankfully we now have a new Liverpool Schools Sports coordinator, who took up the challenge, Nuala Dunne from St. Margarets School, and has got the League off to a good start, (first round tables attached), a tremendous amount of organising goes into these leagues to run smoothly.

The first round of the 2011 -12 LSSP Table Tennis Tournament was held on Thursday 10th November at Shorefields Technology College. The league is full with 9 schools entered at Yr8/9 and 8 schools entered at yr 10/11. The standard of play has been improving year on year in this league and Thursday's fixture night was no different. **Big thanks must go to Shorefields for hosting & to Stan Clarke (Wavertree Labour) for overseeing games.**

Next tournament night is Tuesday 6th December 2011 at Calderstones School 4 - 6pm

Nuala Dunne (Secondary Schools Competition Manager - South Central & South Liverpool School Sport Partnership)

Having sent an e-mail to Nuala congratulating the Schools League in encouraging more youngsters to take up T.T. and the numbers now appearing in League Clubs and wishing her continuing success, her reply was -

" I agree the take up has been great - with regards to pupils joining teams in the league is good, but I believe we can improve this by getting more players from **League clubs**

involved in the School fixture nights, if they are available? I also think it would be advantageous for clubs to make up flyers to be given out on fixture nights for pupils interested in going to League Clubs? "

There you are, a straight request, it would be nice to get 'coaches', but retired players would do just as well to get involved, these leagues usually take place after school, 4 till 6 pm, it is well worth while!

Divisional Cups

1st. Round Results

READMAN CUP Div. 1

Crosby High	5	v	3	M/side Police
Fords 'A'	xx	v	win	Bath St. Marine. 'A'
Bootle YMCA	5	v	1	Crosby High'A'
Bath St. Marine.	w/o	v	xx	Harold House
Fords	5	v	0	Christ. the King'A'
Crosby High 'B'		v		BYE
CADWA		v		BYE
Christ. The King		v		BYE

RUMJAHN CUP Div. 2

Marconi	w/o	v	xx	H.House'B' (W.D.)
Harold House'A'	5	v	3	Bootle YMCA'A'
M/side. Police 'A'	5	v	4	Bath St. Marine'B'
Christ the King'B'	5	v	3	Wav. Labour
CADWA 'A'	4	v	5	Crosby High 'C'
Wav. Labour 'A'		v		BYE
Wav. Labour 'B'		v		BYE
Marconi 'A'		v		BYE

HYDE CUP Div. 3

Harold House'C'	1	v	5	Bath st. Marine'C'
Police 'D' (W.D.)	xx	v	w/o	CADWA 'B'
Maghull 'A'	5	v	3	Bath st. Marine'D'
Bath st. Marine'E'	5	v	0	CADWA 'C'
Bootle YMCA'B'	5	v	2	M/side. Police 'C'
Arriva N.W.	5	v	1	M/side. Police 'B'
Marconi 'B'		v		BYE
Maghull		v		BYE

FORREST CUP Div. 4

Maghull 'B'	5	v	1	Bootle YMCA'C'
Bath st. Marine'F'	4	v	5	Huntsman Wood
CADWA 'D'	w/o	v	xx	Arriva 'A' w/o given
Linacre	5	v	3	Wav. Labour 'D'
Marconi 'C'	1	v	5	Wav. Labour 'C'
Maghull 'C'		v		BYE
Sefton Park		v		BYE
Wav. Labour 'E'		v		BYE

STAMP CUP Div. 5

Sefton Park 'B'	3	v	6	CADWA 'E'
Marconi 'D'	3	v	5	Bootle YMCA 'D'
Arriva N.W.'B'	4	v	5	Maghull 'D'
Wav. Labour 'F'	5	v	2	M/side. Police 'E'
Waterloo	5	v	4	Bath st. Marine'G'
Sefton Park 'A'		v		BYE
Maghull 'E'		v		BYE
Maghull 'F'		v		BYE

2nd. Round Draw

READMAN CUP. Div. 1

Crosby High	v	CADWA
Bootle YMCA	v	Crosby High 'B'
Bath St. Marine. 'A'	v	Fords
Christ. The King	v	Bath St. Marine.

RUMJAHN CUP. Div. 2

Harold House'A'	v	Crosby High 'C'
M/side. Police 'A'	v	Wav. Labour 'A'
Marconi 'A'	v	Wav. Labour 'B'
Marconi	v	Christ the King'B'

HYDE CUP. Div.3.

Maghull	v	Bootle YMCA'B'
Marconi 'B'	v	Bath st. Marine'C'
CADWA 'B'	v	Bath st. Marine'E'
Maghull 'A'	v	Arriva N.W.

FORREST CUP. Div. 4

Maghull 'C'	v	Wav. Labour 'E'
CADWA 'D'	v	Maghull 'B'
Huntsman Wood	v	Linacre
Wav. Labour 'C'	v	Sefton Park

STAMP CUP. Div. 5

Wav. Labour 'F'	v	Maghull 'F'
Waterloo	v	Maghull 'E'
Sefton Park 'A'	v	CADWA 'E'
Bootle YMCA 'D'	v	Maghull 'D'

Short reply to 'Letter to the Editor' on page 17
 I'm very disappointed in having to print this Letter, as The Editor, and also member of the ManCom; Disappointed that there wasn't a representative from the ManCom at those funerals, but from my time on the ManCom, I know that bereavements are treated with utmost respect, irrespective of how long since playing, and as far as I can recall, a member (or members) of the ManCom attend every known funeral where possible. Could be an unfortunate series of circumstances coming together here, but to suggest that members are "not interested enough" is rather demeaning.
 I only received this letter just before going to print, so may expect a reply from the ManCom in the next Digest.
Editor

Sefton Schools have also gone through a transition period, Cathy Robinson did a great job as Sefton Schools Sports Coordinator, but will now cover only North Sefton (Southport), but we now have new coordinators covering the South end of Sefton (Crosby & Bootle), having contacted Alison Watt at a large Crosby School putting her in the picture of what the L&D'TTL & Digest is hoping to do. Alison and her colleagues are hoping to start the Sefton schools league in December, and has promised to send me info as it happens with league tables

League Tables to 16/11/2011

Division One		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Fords	7	7	0	0	57
2	Crosby High B	7	6	0	1	53
3	Bath St Marine	8	4	1	3	48
4	M/Side Police	7	4	2	1	45
5	Crosby High	7	5	1	1	43
6	Christ The King	7	4	2	1	40
7	Bootle YMCA	7	1	2	4	34
8	Bath St Marine A	7	2	1	4	34
9	Crosby High A	7	3	0	4	31
10	Fords A	8	2	1	5	27
11	Christ The King A	7	2	0	5	23
12	Harold House	6	0	0	6	13
13	Cadwa	7	1	0	6	12
14	Free	0	0	0	0	0

Division Two		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Bootle YMCA A	7	5	1	1	42
2	Bath St Marine B	6	4	1	1	40
3	Christ The King B	6	4	1	1	38
4	Cadwa A	7	2	3	2	38
5	M/Side Police A	7	3	2	2	35
6	Marconi	6	2	3	1	34
7	Wavertree Lab	6	3	1	2	33
8	Marconi A	7	2	2	3	33
9	Wavertree Lab A	6	3	1	2	27
10	Crosby High C	7	1	1	5	26
11	Wavertree Lab B	8	1	0	7	23
12	Harold House A	5	0	2	3	21
13	Free	0	0	0	0	0
14	Harold House B	withdrawn				

Division Three		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Bath St Marine C	8	6	2	0	61
2	Bootle YMCA B	7	3	3	1	42
3	Arriva Nth West	8	4	1	3	42
4	M/Side Police C	7	4	1	2	41
5	Harold House C	6	5	0	1	39
6	M/Side Police B	8	4	1	3	39
7	Maghull A	7	4	0	3	36
8	Bath St Marine D	8	3	0	5	35
9	Maghull	7	3	1	3	33
10	Marconi B	7	3	0	4	32
11	Cadwa B	8	2	0	6	30
12	Cadwa C	7	1	1	5	26
13	Bath St Marine E	8	0	2	6	24
14	M/Side Police D	withdrawn				

Division Four		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Wavertree Lab C	7	7	0	0	58
2	Sefton Park	7	5	2	0	49
3	Arriva Nth West A	7	5	1	1	45
4	Bath St Marine F	8	5	2	1	44
5	Marconi C	7	3	2	2	41
6	Huntsman Wood	8	2	3	3	40
7	Wavertree Lab E	7	3	2	2	38
8	Cadwa D	8	3	2	3	38
9	Linacre	8	2	1	5	32
10	Maghull B	7	2	0	5	27
11	Maghull C	7	1	0	6	22
12	Wavertree Lab D	6	1	0	5	21
13	Bootle YMCA C	7	0	1	6	15
14	Free	0	0	0	0	0

Division Five		P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Sefton Park A	8	8	0	0	76
2	Marconi D	8	6	1	1	55
3	Bootle YMCA D	8	4	2	2	52
4	Arriva Nth West B	8	6	0	2	49
5	Maghull D	6	3	2	1	42
6	Cadwa E	7	3	1	3	34
7	Wavertree Lab F	7	2	2	3	32
8	Bath St Marine G	7	1	3	3	32
9	Maghull F	7	2	2	3	27
10	Maghull E	7	1	2	4	25
11	Sefton Park B	8	2	1	5	21
12	M/Side Police E	8	1	1	6	18
13	Waterloo	7	0	1	6	17
14	Free	0	0	0	0	0

Fines to Date 23/11/10	No	Fine	Total
Walk Overs Vets Cup	1	£6	£6
Ineligible Player	0	£0	£0
Player Short	8	£3	£24
Walk Overs League	2	£6	£12
Walk Overs Cup	1	£6	£6
Played Out of Order	0	1.50 PP	£0.00
Late Score Card	4	£3	£12
Total	16	£60.00	

Fines to Date 16/11/11	No	Fine	Total
Late Score Card	2	£4	£8
Player Short	4	£3	£12
Walk Overs 3 A-side	8	£9	£72
Walk Overs 4 A-Side	0	£12	£0
Walk Overs Cup 3 A-Side	3	£9	£27
Walk Overs Cup 4 A-Side	1	£12	£12
Played Out of Order	0	1.50 PP	£0
Ineligible Player	0	£0	£0
Total	18	£131.00	