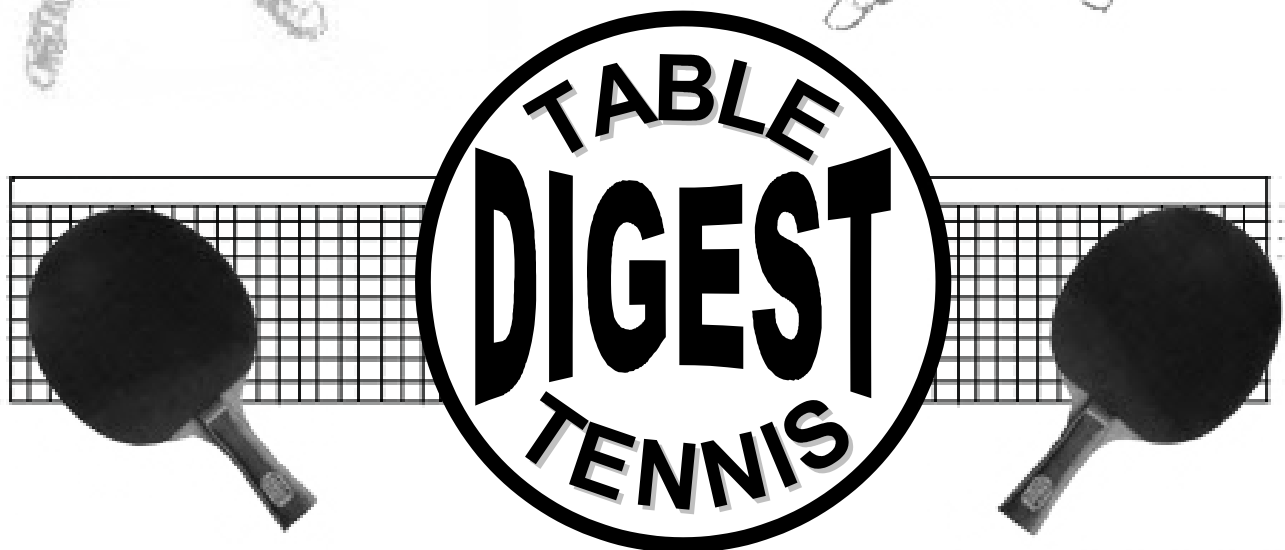


December 2016

Vol 71

*Official Magazine  
Of the*

No. 1



L&DTTL web site -<https://www.tabletennis365.com/Liverpool>

# Editorial

This the first Digest of the 2016-17 season and the last of 2016, doesn't time fly, a few years ago when the League lost players the Divisions were shuffled around to maintain the optimum number of teams in a division, usually to the detriment of losing the 5th Div. but for the last few years we seem to be holding our own, with new players coming in to bolster both ends, top players from afar joining Div. 1 teams, and new players joining Div. 5 teams. But we still have an uneven spread of players, where some clubs have good players who can't get a regular game because the Club they have joined doesn't have enough teams in the League, and other Clubs scratching for players when someone needs a night off, which usually results in teams playing short, with the resultant fines paid by all in the Club, not to underestimate the disappointment of players turning up to sit around

The seasonal Handbook looks like it has been missed by quite a number of players, the mainstay of the season's match information has been 'done away with!' for a number of reasons,

1) all the same information is available on the new [www.tabletennis365.com/Liverpool](http://www.tabletennis365.com/Liverpool), (for those who have access to the internet). 2) The cost and time saving of not printing is also a big plus, for quite a number of seasons I have churned out all the season's requirements, but couldn't see me keeping it up much longer, and getting the required stationary printed commercially would be expensive, which is why so many Leagues are turning on-line to TT365.

Understanding of the difference between 'Match Nights' and 'Season Nights'. A number of team captains are getting confused between the Match and Season nights. As in the past we have 26 'Match Weeks', each league match is given a 'match week' number, total 26!, The new 'Season Week Number' was added as a requirement for the use of the TT365 web site, which has a total of 35 weeks, each season week number covers what happens during every week, including, League match weeks, cup match weeks, holiday weeks and free weeks.

The confusion is starting to show already as some of the match cards are coming in marked as 'Match week' 7, when it is actually 'Match week' 6, hopefully we can now prevent the problem that could arrive in 'Season week' 30, which is actually League 'Match week' 23, which includes the Vets. Handicap Cup semi-finals.

On Page 12 I have tried to give a few hints on how to find match information on the 365/Liverpool Web Page

England v Germany (Women) at the Tom Finney sports centre, Preston on Tuesday 13/12/16. Full details on TTE website but a chance to see a TT International locally, Pg.12

Health Research by Liverpool Hope University. Tom Purcell has circulated the attached flyer (page 14) to all the club secretaries for circulation to members. The Health Research is a chance for members 60-90 yrs, to have a full health MOT, at no cost, and assist the university with its research.

Prof. Omid Khaiyat, who plays in Div. 1 for Greenbank, is the Deputy Head of the Sports Science department at Liverpool Hope University, it is his department that is carrying out this research and Omid would welcome any relevant volunteers from the L&DTTL.

Tom Purcell has joined and the research starts in the New Year.

There must be a lot of current T.T. players in the L&DTTL who fit the bill and could do with a free top class Health Check, save a possible cost of £200!

Contacts to join are on the flyer Pg.14.

I recently received notification of the death of respected Fords player Robbie Goldson, Frank James has put together an excellent Obituary in Robbie's memory. Pg 13

Halton TT Club have now got a team in top flight Premier British League and will have just played their first home match at the Select Security Stadium in Widnes, against long established British League team BATTs, three of the Halton team are regulars in the L&DTTL, Kevin Dolder, Aaron Beech and Joe Pilkington, with Richard Lightowler and Kenny Lindsay making up the squad. To have top flight National Table Tennis so close to Liverpool is definitely worth putting their home matches in the Diary.

The Junior Development Division (JDD) is up and running again, thanks again to Paul, Steve and Jack Gittins, Graham Chellew, Graham Turner, Dave Graham and Tom Purcell, (hopefully I haven't forgotten anyone), now based at Anfield Community Centre. First I must pass comment on the ideal size and condition of this venue, clean and bright, with great help and encouragement from the Staff. Fantastic is the main feeling I had of the table tennis playing and the sporting attitude of the young players, winning and losing, all part of the game.

Beware of, and encourage some of the JDD youngsters coming through the divisions this season, as we are getting the benefit of last year's JDD so soon

Well done to Michael Stewart of Maghull and Lewis Campbell of Waterloo for some good wins in their divisions.

Congratulations to Harry Watson and Joe Killoran for tremendous competitive playing. more on Pg. 13

Thanks again to our five Divisional Reporters who have agreed to 'do another season', four from last season and new volunteer Brian Crolley who has taken on Div. 3, and has settled down to the task as a regular writer, Ian Mc. has moved up to Div. 2, so we now have reporters writing on the Div's they are playing in, Pete (jnr.), Div.1. Ken, Div.4. and Jimmy Div. 5. I must pass on thanks to Ray Jackson who has done Div. 2 for a number of seasons, but when Marconi closed Ray thought he would just be playing in the Halton League, and I had to find a replacement, but Ray has joined East Wavertree, so welcome back Ray, now he can read comments rather than write them.

Also thanks to Don Davies for his Nets & Edges keeping us up to date with our Rep team, he did hope that someone else would take on the Rep Team, but pretty much as expected, no takers, at least we have the team going again!

Hopefully all will receive this Digest before the Christmas Break, and to those who read on line, I wish ALL a very Happy Christmas Break and a settled NEW YEAR in 2017.

Editor

# Nets & Edges

Having finished a disappointing third in last season's Lancashire and Cheshire League's Premier Division, I held out hopes of turning in a stronger challenge this term. Potentially we are a match for any team in the division, but fielding the best three men on two weekends is easier said than done. With Thomas Hadley asking not to be selected this season, on paper we could still be able to raise a strong enough team. However, unfortunately due to a huge slice of bad luck, Ryan Jenkins was on European club duty in Belgium on October 30th while Kevin Dolder had a family arrangement which prevented him from playing. Jack Dempsey, at the time was leading the division one playing averages also turned down the invitation due to a family outing. Keith Williams, working each weekend in London also gave a no while Joel Webb, studying at Nottingham University, was unable to make the 200 miles round trip. Paul Hutching confirmed he was available but, I failed to hear from Steve Green who didn't return my calls, emails or texts which left me with the task of finding two players. Fortunately, Omid Khaiyat accepted the invitation as did Paul Gittins on the understanding that he could leave Horwich at 1pm to take his son Jack to a football refereeing commitment. Amy Hutchings, who'd played at the Hilton TTC for the Ladies team, at the beginning of October became the first female to play in what essentially, has always been a men's team. To round up the results, we won two and lost two and the way the fixtures worked, our first match was against current 'champions' Chester/Ellesmere Port which we lost 4-2. The full results will be found elsewhere.

The Junior team didn't have far to travel for the first round of matches in the Lancashire and Cheshire League which, for the first time was staged at the Anfield Sport and Community Centre, Lower Breck Road, Liverpool 6. The scheduled date was Saturday November 5th in Blackley, in Manchester but was, at a late stage moved to Sunday November 13th, the same day as the Blackpool Junior 2\* open. Considering there are many weekends between November and the end of the season, to clash with a NW event which is an ideal competition for youngsters in the region. This date denied Liverpool the services of Harry Watson and his decision to enter was vindicated when he won the Cadet singles. However, this opened up a place for a DD player and the results may be found in the stand in Match Secretary's report.

The JDD has been a tremendous addition to the League's competition and credit must go not only to the players' but, a big hand also goes to coaches,



# Don Davies

parents and other helpers who put in many hours in ensuring the JDD continues to thrive. Although I'm sure elsewhere in this edition, grateful thanks will be accorded to the mystery benefactor who has gone well beyond what one may call generous in ensuring the JDD goes from strength to strength.

It was sad to learn from Karen Tongue of the passing of ex Ford player Robbie Goldson who had been ill for some time. He was a fine competitive player and he will be missed by his former team mates. Our thoughts go out to his family and friends.

New Registrar and Fixture Secretary Tony Dixon took on the onerous task from Trevor Owens who started in the role in 2003 when taking over from Paula French. She, in turn had filled the breach after Eddie Cameron's retirement in 1994, having held the position for 39 years. With Tony still working (well, at least when he breaks off from TT) it's a time-consuming task he's taken on. Of course things have changed since the days of Eddie and Trevor with the advent of scanning the cards and forwarding them to the various digest scribes. He also has taken on the role of Assistant Cup Competition Secretary working alongside Stan Clarke. Tony also helped Tom Purcell in transporting League tables, surrounds and umpires tables to Anfield SCC in advance of the opening night of the JDD.

Tom Purcell and Rob Davies accepted an invitation from Dr. Omid Khaiyat Associate Professor in Health Sciences (Sport and Exercise Science, to inspect the new sport hall at the Hope University Campus in Taggart Avenue, Childwall, with a view to the League staging the Closed. The facility according to Tom and Rob is Five Star. This venue and that at Merchant Taylors' will be discussed at the next MC meeting.

For years we have struggled to get a method of Handicapping which we use for the Frank Murphy Handicap Cup, which is easy to work out and which keeps the majority of players happy. Early days was a case of a few volunteers sitting round a table, moving players up and down a list, then Trevor sorted a computer program that did it at the touch of a button. Now it seems TT365 are developing a system using a National Data Base Ranking system, I think the Wirral League use it, so maybe it's worth looking at!!

Editor

# Division 1

# Pete Walsh jnr. (ish)

Welcome to a brand new L&DTTL season which sees new Wirral addition in Mitch Barker enter the league with Merseyside Police. Having beaten his friend Jonathan Taylor in the Wirral Closed Men's final he's sure to make an impact.

Another new addition to the top flight is Sam Pierce previously playing in division 2 last season and division 3 the season before that. Proving not to be a pushover in the 1st division playing for Police his clever tight serving and aggressive style will no doubt give regular 1st division players some problems.

Top national veteran player and former England number 1 Ritchie Venner also makes an appearance this season for Maghull, as a highly accomplished player and son of Harry Venner, a former England international he brings a wealth of experience to our league.

The influx of players not previously seen in the L&DTTL continues with the Harold House signing of Jake Shaw, the former Warrington sports personality finalist and previous top 60 England ranked player has all the tools to give them a leg up.



As a result regulations were utilised as follows:-  
Match Regulation 11(f) states:

"A league match may be abandoned if due to unforeseen circumstances it is not possible for play to continue and the match to be concluded. Sets not played in an abandoned match shall be divided equally between the two teams. If such un-played sets are of an odd number the team leading on sets won at the time of abandonment shall be awarded the remaining odd set. The Management Committee shall be empowered to order the replay of any such abandoned match if in their opinion circumstances warrant such a match should be replayed".

In accordance with MR11(f) the six remaining games were shared equally between the two teams with the final match score of Maghull 7 - Police 'A' 3

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When Fords travelled to Police the result was a draw and doubtlessly an impressive match with

some of the league's toughest opponents duelling each other. Mitch Barker dispatching Andy Taylor in four games, and game 2 in one of those, Mitch similarly beat Andy Town in three sets. Unable to repeat this for a third time against Fords player of the match Kevin Dolder, who assisted Andrew Town in the doubles to beat Mitch and Aaron Beech in five games, the second game was a tin hat zero against Mitch and Aaron - not something that happens too often.

## W/C Tuesday 4th October (4)

Jonathan Taylor didn't drop a match point when Police at home faced Maghull, beating top signing Ritchie Venner and Paul Hutchings in four games, Tournament and British league star Beth Farnworth took Jonathan closest to losing his player of the match award, taking him to five games. The match ended 8-2 to Police in what must have been a late finish as five of the sets went to five games, and three went to four.

Thomas Haddley ended up on the losing side at home to Greenbank despite winning his three, Omid Khaiyat was his toughest opponent taking the first set 13-11 but eventually losing in a five game, the consistency of Omid, Peter Lee and John Lau, overcoming Wavertree's Arash Khozoe and Roy Smith, the final score was 7-3 to Greenbank.

## W/C Monday 12th September (1)

Crosby high a start their campaign off with a 7-3 win over newly promoted Harold house (minus their new signing), Jack Dempsey and Southport league regular Yameen Al-Dahiri winning all their games despite Kevin Lewis taking Dempsey all the way in a five setter, impressive considering Dempsey's sizeable lead in position on the average list compared to Lewis.

Ritchie Venner and Paul Hutchings lead the way in their comprehensive 8-2 win over Crosby high, Ritchie not given the easiest time against Cherith Graham and Kate Roberts, the latter taking him to deuce twice and fighting all the way to a five setter, the former being beaten in four sets but starting off with a nail biting 17-15 win over him in the first set.

Greenbanks 1st team beat their second team soundly 9-1 in their first derby match with the only point coming from some bloke called Pete.

A 6-4 Fords home win over a strong Wavertree team made up of Thomas Haddley, Joel Webb and Arash Khozoe.

saw Kevin Dolder as player of the match, dropping only one game to Thomas from his three visits to the table.

## W/C Tuesday 20th September (2)

Greenbank A's Dave Tagg had two hard fought encounters with Harold House's Stephen Whalley and Kevin Lewis taking both to five sets but ultimately losing. Ahmed Thabet rescued one point in a nail biting game against Peter Findlater which saw the first set ending 16-14 in Ahmed's favour. The eventual score being 5-5 following three wins by some bloke called Pete and a doubles win for Greenbank involving said bloke and Dave.

BsM salvaged three points from a visit to Crosby High when taking on their A team, Dave Roberts beating their number one Jack Dempsey in what's likely to be a rare loss for Jack if he continues with his current form, with a backup from Mathew Laird and top youngster Rhys Davies the home team triumphed in a 7-3 win.

7-3 was also the result for home team Maghull vs Fords when the tightest game was a five game between victor Paul Hutchings and Andrew Town.

Merseyside police's resounding 9-1 win over home team Wavertree Labour included a straight set win over Jonathan Taylor by Thomas Haddley, this was avenged by a defeat for Haddley in four games from Wirral signing Mitch Barker, and a conclusive three set wins from Joseph Mullin.

## W/C Tuesday 27th September (3)

It was business as usual for Greenbank, s new signing Keith Williams who didn't lose a set against BsM, though his path was made difficult by BsM's Clare Peers who was in form smashing any ball slightly popping up past the top veteran, the longest set being five games between Clare and some bloke called Pete, Clare triumphing, the match ending 7-3 to Greenbank.

Maghull vs Police a had to be abandoned midway through due to slippery and unsafe conditions at Maghull's venue.

## W/C Monday 17th October (5)

Consistency was again a factor in Wavertree's next encounter with Harold House, as the home team of Stephen Whalley, Peter Findlater and Michael Denmade beat them 6-4, despite Thomas Haddley not losing a game, Wavertree's Arash Khozoe coming closest with a five game loss to Peter, after coming back from two games down.

A rare loss for Keith Williams at the hands of Terry Turner set the overall tone of Greenbank's a 6-4 home defeat to Fords, Terry finding great form to beat Omid in three sets, not something Omid experiences too often, but suffered it once more during the same match against Andy Taylor. John Lau was unlucky to lose to Andy Taylor when the set was decided in the fifth game, three of the games going right down to the wire in deuces.

## W/C Tuesday 25th October (6)

Home team Greenbank A beat a two man Crosby high A 6-4, which saw Jack Dempsey gain another player of the match award by winning his three. When Greenbank travelled to Police they lost 6-4 despite supersub Joe Killoran beating Aaron Beech, Mitch Barker and Paul Gittins including a rare three game defeat of Aaron. Harold house suffered a 10-0 defeat at Fords, Kevin Lewis providing pithy resistance, taking Andy Taylor to a fifth game after winning the fourth 14-12.

## W/C Monday 31st October (7)

Police completed a comprehensive 9-1 win over home team Harold House, although conversely, Harold House won their doubles game, no mean feat against Harry Watson and Mitch Barker who Kevin and Stephen beat in four games - showing that the right tactics and game can overcome form and dominance.



Crosby High beat Wavertree Labour 6-4 which saw player of the match Thomas Haddley beat Jack Dempsey in four, but Gavin and Cherith in three. Arash gave Jack a tough win when it took two deuce games of 15-13 and 12-10 for Jack to defeat him. Fords continue to push ahead at the top of the league suffering only one loss so far this season. Playing at BSM they came out winners 8-2, Andy Taylor and Terry Turner battling it out to become player of the match with three wins each - Andy being the overall winner of this accolade at the end of the match coming back from 2-1 down to win in the fifth against Clare Peers. Maghull beat Greenbank A 8-2, with both Amy and Paul Hutchings winning all their matches, Amy improving every time she plays.

#### W/C Tuesday 8th November (8)

Greenbank beat visitors Maghull 6-4 utilising their two new signings Keith Williams and George Lennon, Keith comfortably winning his three games whilst George lost a hard fought battle with Amy in a five game. Keith and George teamed up together to beat the Hutchings pair in the doubles in five games, whilst some bloke called Pete won two further sets against Amy and Paul Banks. Jonathan Taylor wasn't given an easy night when he had to take both Clare Peers and Dave Roberts to five in order to beat them. The always improving Dermot Tierney took Jon to four with two games going to deuce. Aaron Beech had a slightly easier night beating Clare in four games, then Dave and Dermot in three.

The toughest game was yet to come when Joe Mullin had to win 22 points to beat Dave Roberts 22-20 in an epic fourth game, Clare beat Joe in five to steal a point from the match which ended up 9-1 to Police.

Fords played at home to Crosby high when Andy Taylor won his three, Olivier Barthelemy lost the first game against Andy 11-2 which appeared to put fire in his belly for the second set, which Olivier won 11-1, the fire didn't last through to the next games however, as he was beaten 11-7 and 11-9. Terry Turner lost only one game to Gavin Lloyd who was pushed right to the end of the fourth, concluding in a 14-12 score. Conversely and interestingly Andrew Town beat Gavin but lost to Cherith Graham and Olivier, the match ended 7-3 to Fords.

#### Player of the match award -:

Jack Dempsey and Thomas Haddley share the top spot for player of the match as we speak with 6 points each with Paul Hutchings in third place.

So in conclusion Fords are currently at the top of the league, in the lead up to 2017, ahead by 53 points to Police's 49, can they continue this momentum into the New Year?

Wishing everyone all the best for the forthcoming festivities....

## Division 2

Early indications point to this division being extremely well balanced and competitive. From top to bottom there are only 1 or 2 points between team positions in the division. No one is running away at the top and there are no teams cut off at the bottom. The division is one of the most evenly matched I can remember leading to high quality, close matches week in week out.

The CROSBY HIGH B trio Chris Spedding, Roger Neil and Sylvia Graham have got off to a great start, to date they have won 6 from 7 with their only reverse being a 7/3 loss to 2nd placed Bootle YMCA, Chris lost his 100% record in this match losing to Jeff Huntington and Alan Chase but inflicted a rare defeat on Wayne Percival. Their best win to date was a resounding 9/1 defeat of CADWA with Paul Evans getting the better of Roger in the 5th game to save the whitewash.

BOOTLE YMCA are only 4 points adrift with 46 points from 8 matches, after a long break from the league Jeff Huntington has joined the squad with Wayne, Alan, John Higham and Ted Birch (who seems to be playing the odd doubles match). Jeff, Alan and John had a fine 8/2 win against CADWA A at week 2, MOM Jeff was unbeaten in his 4 visits to the table but CADWA fought all the way with Mark Slater having a good win over Alan and Ian Burrows beating John in 4 games. The availability of Wayne is likely to be crucial in determining whether or not Bootle can overtake Crosby, if he plays on a regular basis, he is unlikely to lose many and would strengthen their chances of winning the title.

BATH ST. MARINE A are in 3rd place with 45 points from 8, our best win to date was in beating a strong East Wavertree A team 8/2, both Fred Bainbridge and I inflicted rare defeats on the hard working Lee Madin, the East Wavertree points came via victories for Lee over Ricky Brown and Tony Dixon over Fred. However, the following week everything went pear shaped in the form of a 6/4 loss to our B team, Barry Davis won his 3 singles and combined with Dave Stoddern to take the doubles, Dave Stoddern was in magnificent form in taking the scalp of Fred and Colin Mitchell contributed with a 5 game win over myself.

## Ian McElwee



CADWA are next in line with 41 from 7 and would be right up there challenging if they had not capitulated at Crosby, they were missing Graham Black for this match, as was the case when they drew with St Anne's. Mark Slater came in for Graham against St Anne's and beat Hassib Nuree and Dave Bradley, Mike Power and Paul Evans both got the better of Dave and combined to take the doubles. Graham makes a big difference when he plays, is unbeaten in the 5 matches he has played in, resulting in wins of 8/2 v Wavertree A, 6/4 v CADWA A, 7/3 v BSM B, 9/1 v Sefton Park and a draw with East Wavertree B.

The EAST WAVERTREE A side of Lee Madin, Joey Williams and Tony Dixon are adjusting brilliantly to this higher level of play after promotion, they stand on 36 points from 7 having won 4 and lost 3. Lee Madin is proving very difficult to beat, only losing occasionally, they hammered their higher ranked team 8/2, Lee winning his 3 and being well supported by Joey and Tony who won 2 each. Arguably, their best result was in beating 2nd placed Bootle YMCA 7/3, Lee once again won his 3 singles as did Tony who gained 5th set victories over Alan Chase and John Higham 11/8 and 12/10 respectively. I honestly believe that as they gain in experience they will improve further and could be challenging for a top 3 place by the end of the season.

BATH ST MARINE B lie in 6th place with 31 points from 7, ironically, their only victory to date was the aforementioned win over BSM A. Barry Davis is having an excellent season, he won his 3 and combined with Colin Mitchell to win the doubles when they drew with Bootle YMCA, with their other point coming from a Dave Stoddern win over Liam Shaw. He continued on his winning ways when they shared the points with East Wavertree B, again winning the doubles with Colin, with Brian Crolley contributing with a win over Jimmy Williams.

EAST WAVERTREE B are chugging along quite nicely with 29 points from 7. They cannot afford to become complacent as they and the 5 teams below them are only separated by 4 points, 4 of these teams have only played 6 matches and, no doubt, there is going to be much chopping and changing

of positions in the forthcoming months, they have a strong squad of players and recently added the experienced Ray Jackson to their squad. In their only win to date Tony Mullally was unbeaten in the singles and was well supported by Neil Colville who won 2 with the pair combining to take the doubles when they ran out 6/4 victors over St Anne's. They earned an excellent draw at CADWA when Ray Jackson joined Neil and Tony, Ray and Tony both beat Mike Power and Paul Evans, with Neil beating Mike. These 3 are backed up by John McCann and Paul Loftus, and with the recent addition of Ray should be a match for most teams.

CADWA A are just 1 point adrift of East Wavertree B having played 6, their cause has been very much helped by a 10/0 win over East Wavertree who only had Tom Creevy available on the night. Mark Slater is improving all the time and getting some good wins under his belt, he had a great night when winning his 3 against East Wavertree A, with team mate Ian Burrows getting the better of Tony Dixon. It was definitely a tale of what might have been, having only Mark and Ian available in going down 6/4. In another 6/4 defeat, to BSM A, Mark beat Ricky Brown and myself, Peter Taylor beat me in 5 and they combined to take the doubles.

SEFTON PARK (6 matches) and ST ANNE'S (7 matches) each have 27 points. When they met at week 3 St Anne's won 4 singles with Hassib Nuree winning 3 and Dave Bradley having a great win over Ian Laird, unfortunately they did not have a 3rd player and consequently went down 6/4. When they faced CADWA Israel Isaac won his 3 singles and with Hassib beating Paul Evans and Mike Power, they earned a draw. They were both in top form when hosting BSM B, Hassib going home undefeated and Israel beating Keith Dudley and supporting Hassib in a 12/10 5th set win over Barry Davis and Colin Mitchell in the doubles.

SEFTON PARK started the season slowly but in recent weeks have picked up. At week 4, a team of Ian Laird, Mike Perry and Paul Morgan beat an under strength East Wavertree B team 7-3, Tony Mullally was MOM in winning each of his singles for the East Wavertree side. Club number 1 Alan Davis replaced Paul when they faced Bootle YMCA, he and Ian both beat Alan Chase and John Higham, and combined to take the doubles, Mike Perry having a good 4 game win over Alan, all deuce games! in their 6/4 win. It is surprising to see EAST WAVERTREE'S first team and a potentially strong WAVERTREE LABOUR A propping up the division on 25 points from 6 matches.

East Wavertree's team changes from week to week but when Ben Chen is available he adds considerably to their strength. He has played 3 matches, maintaining a 100% record and leading his team to victory in each of these matches. These matches were against BSM A (6/4), BSM B (6/4) and fellow strugglers Wavertree Labour A (7/3). I am not sure who the club's top players are but with the overall quality of players within the club I would expect them to look to climb the table.

When fielding their strongest team Wavertree Labour A can be a match for most as confirmed with a 7/3 win over BSM B and 6/4 wins over CADWA A and East Wavertree A respectively. In the BSM B match Phil Luxon, Dave Harse and Martin Crause each won 2, and they took the doubles. The same 3 players defeated East Wavertree A who were a player short, Phil, Dave and Martin all beat Tony Dixon. Lumli Xia subbed for Phil for the CADWA match, Dave and Martin both beat Ian Burrows and Alan French whilst Lumli beat Alan and played with Dave to win the doubles.

## Division 3

This year I will be writing the 3rd division notes. All ready I have seen that 3 teams are emerging as being outstanding, these are Wavertree Lab "B", Police "B" and Maghull "A". The rest of us will have to pull are socks up to stay with them. In this 3rd division I know that every team will give nothing away to anybody, so here's to a good season. I will do my best to give a good report. With the amount of information now available on the web site my biggest problem will be to condense it into a reasonable space available in the Digest, so here goes.

Match WEEK. 1. Wavertree Lab "B" The team of Lee Farley, Dong Xia and Mario Giove were far too strong for BSM "C" only Mal Kent winning against Mario to get a single point for BSM "C". BSM "D" fought out a draw with Police "B" Steve Gittins being the star for match winning all his 3 games with Matt Evans winning 1 and the doubles with Steve for the Police, Darren Taylor and Miguel Monteiro winning 2 each, and Ted Cramsie winning 1, to get the draw for BSM 'D'. Bootle YMCA "B" lost 3-7 to Maghull "B", Mathew Cranny winning all his 3 games, Sue Hughes won 2, and Alan Chan won 1 and the doubles with Mathew for Maghull "B", Steve Daniels 2 and Jason Sumner winning 1 for YMCA "B". Arriva N.W. lost 3-7 to Bootle YMCA "A", only John Rowan could cope with the strength of the YMCA "A", John won all his 3 games for Arriva, Shakil Malik, Tom Doubtfire and Liam Shaw winning 2 each for Bootle YMCA "A". Wavertree Lab "C" beat CADWA



## Brian Crolley

"B" 7-3, Ian Wensley won all his 3 games for CADWA "B", but Andy Bird, Michael Dugdale and Alan Liu put in tremendous performances winning 2 each plus the doubles for Wavertree Lab "C". Linacre did very well holding Sefton Park to a very good draw, Alex Charcenko winning his 3 matches and Charlie Bradshaw winning 2 for Linacre, Robbie Puddifer winning 2 and Paul Jennings and Ian Finden 1 each for Sefton Park, plus the doubles, to get the draw.

Match WEEK. 2. Maghull "B" 5 v BSM "E" 5, another hard fought draw, watch out for Mathew Cranney, he won all his 3 games. Sefton Park "A" lost 3-7 to Wavertree Labour "C" Michael Dugdale being the star player for Wavertree "C" winning his 3 games. Gavin Minett also won 3 with Alan Liu getting 2 for Wavertree "C", Neil Jennings won 1 and the doubles with Ian Findon for Sefton Park. CADWA "B" lost 8-2 to Wavertree Lab "B", some team this Wavertree Lab "B", Lee Farley and Dong Xia winning 3 games each. Bootle YMCA "A" 7 v Bootle YMCA "B" 3, Shakil Malik being the big difference between the teams winning his 3 games, but watch out for Jason Sumner. BSM "C" lost to Maghull "A" 4-6, another tough encounter, Michael Stewart winning his 3, Mal Kent v Steve Braddick was a superb match, Mal just coming out the winner. Merseyside Police "B" 8 v Linacre 2, Matt Evans winning his 3 with Brenda Buoey and Steve Gittins winning 2 each and the doubles, Alek Charcenko putting in a great performance to beat Brenda, and Steve, in this case 11-9 in the 5th.

Match WEEK. 3. BSM "D" beat Bootle YMCA "A" 6-4, Shakil Malik once again won his 3 games, but Darren Taylor Ted Cramsie and Dave Nodden won 2 games each. Maghull "A" 9 v CADWA "B" 1, when you look at the strength of CADWA "B" and for them to lose 9-1 in this match it just shows the strength of Paul Banks, John Langton and Michael Stewart. Arriva N.W. 6 v BSM "C" 4, another hard fought match, John Rowan being the star for Arriva winning his 3 games, but every one of them were close in 3. Wavertree Lab "B" 9 v Wavertree Lab "C" 1, all I can say is well done to Michael Dugdale for his win over Lee Farley to get his teams only point. Sefton Park "A" 1 v Police "B" 9, Police "B" are another very strong team with Steve Gittins, Matt Evans 3 each and Brenda Buoeuy winning 2 games. Robbie Puddifer took Sefton 'A's only game. Linacre 5 v Maghull "B" 5, Charlie Bradshaw won his 3 games in good fashion, but Maghull "B" fought back with George Frost and Janette Hutchings winning 2 each, it was nice to see Harry Reeve and Naresh Tagore winning 1 each for their teams.

Match WEEK. 4. Maghull 'B' 5 v Police 'B' 5. Mathew Cranney once again winning his 3 games, some player this, George Frost won 1 and Mathew Cranney and Janette Hutchings winning the doubles for Maghull, Steve Gittins and Matt Evans winning 2 each with Dave Macmahon winning 1 to get a draw. BSM 'C' 7 v Bootle YMCA 'B' 3, a tough encounter this, Mal Kent, Brian Crolley and Dave Nodden winning 2 game each, but Jason Sumner was the star for YMCA winning all his 3 games. Wavertree Lab 'B' 9 v Sefton Park 'A' 1, another strong performance from Wavertree 'B', once again Robbie Puddifer winning 1 for Sefton Park 'A'. Wavertree Lab 'C' 4 v Maghull 'A' 6, Michael Stewart again winning his 3 games, Andy Bird, Alan Lui and Gavin Minnet all fighting back to make a very tight match. CADWA 'B' 6 v Arriva NW 4, another great match, John Rowan winning his 3 games, it is very good to see Alan Timewell in the CADWA team, what a great player Alan is and over many years and still churning out the wins. Bootle YMCA 'A' 10 v Linacre 0, Tom Doubtfire, Liam Shaw and Jason Sumner all winning 3 games, but Linacre still put up a very good fight, Charlie Bradshaw taking Liam Shaw to 5, It's is good to see Harry Reeve back after injury.

DIV 3. HYDE CUP 1st Round. Maghull "B", Merseyside Police, BSM "C, Sefton Park "A" and CADWA "B" all got through to the 2nd round, these will be joined by the 3 teams who got a bye. These are Arriva, BSM "D" and Wavertree Lab. "B".

Match WEEK. 5. BSM 'D' 7 v BSM 'C' 3, BSM 'C' had to play 2 reserves in Les Dodd and Ray Hibbs, both of them beat Dave Nodden, the doubles went the 'C' teams way, but the 'D' team of Darren Taylor, Ted Cramsie and Dave Nodden were just to strong and took a well deserved 7-3 win. Maghull 'A' 7 v Wavertree Lab 'B' 3, what a match this must have been, two top teams, both in good form, Paul Banks the Star Man followed by Michael Stewart for Maghull, Dong Xia winning 2 and Lee Farley 1 for Wavertree. Bootle YMCA 'B' 4 v CADWA 'B' 6, Ian Wensley winning 3, and Peter Wass 3, for CADWA 'B', Steven Daniels, Jason Sumner and John Taylor, all weighing in with 1 each for the YMCA 'B', and Steven and Jason also winning the doubles. Arriva NW 4 v Wavertree Lab 'C' 6, this must have been another great effort for Wavertree 'C', Gavin Minett winning his 3 for Wavertree, some player this, backed up by Andy Bird 2 and Michael Dugdale 1. Good to see Derek Scotland playing so well to get his 2 and the doubles with John Rowan. I must mention Graham Rollinson, he always puts in a great effort as he does with his umpiring around the country for Liverpool and Lancashire. Merseyside Police 'B' 7 v Bootle YMCA 'A' 3, Steve Gittins was the star man in this encounter

winning all his 3 games and the doubles with Matt Evans, Matt Evans 2, and Dave Macmahon 1, making up a deserved win for Police, Shakil Malik 2 and Jason Sumner 1 getting valuable points for YMCA 'A'

Match WEEK. 6. BSM 'C' 8 v Linacre 2, BSM 'C' were just that much too strong for Linacre, Charlie Bradshaw got Linacre off to a good start beating Brian Crolley in 5, and Alek Charcenko, the big Russian beat Mal Kent in 5, but then fell apart to lose the rest of the games, Andy Cheung won his 3 for BSM 'C', Harry Reeve put up a fine performance against Mal Kent but just could not get over the winning line. Maghull 'A' 9 v Sefton Park 'A' 1, this Maghull 'A' outfit is very good, Paul Banks, John Langton and Michael Stewart all performing at their best, Robbie Puddifer for Sefton Park must have played very well to beat Michael Stewart in 5. Wavertree Lab 'C' 8 v Bootle YMCA 'B' 2, Andy Bird and Alan Liu both winning 3 each and the doubles, Eddie Preston and Jason Sumner stepping in to win 1 each against a very good Michael Dugdale, some wins these. Bootle YMCA 'A' 9 v Maghull 'B' 1, Bootle YMCA 'A' are a tough outfit, to get a win like this really does take some doing, Shakil Malik and Liam Shaw winning 3 each and the doubles, Sue Hughes was Maghull 'B's only winner, beating Tom Doubtfire, Tom won his other 2 games. CADWA 'B' 3 v BSM 'D' 7, Darren Taylor was the star for BSM 'D' winning all his 3 games and the doubles with Dave Nodden, Dave also won 2 with Ted Cramsie winning 1 for BSM 'D', Ian Wensley winning 2 and Martin Latham winning 1 for CADWA 'B', this was a close match as 4 games went to the 5th set and BSM 'D' won them all. Wavertree Lab 'B' 2 v Arriva NW 8, the fearsome Derek Scotland won his 3 games and the doubles with John Rowan. Derek was "Man of the Match", John Rowan and Lenyk Krzysztow (alias Kristof) winning 2 each for Arriva NW, Lee Farley doing a great job for Wavertree Lab 'B' to get his 2 wins.

Match WEEK.7. BSM 'D'9 v Wavertree Lab 'C'1, BSM 'D' are steaming along, this was a fantastic win, Darren Taylor 3, Ted Cramsie 3 and Dave Nodden 2, Alan Liu getting Wavertree 'C's only point. However 5 games went to 5, all 11-9 in the 5th for BSM 'D'. Life is unfair in this division. Merseyside Police 'B' 8 v BSM 'C'2, the police were too strong for BSM 'C' Steve Gittins and Matt Evans won 3 each and the doubles. Mike Winders won one close game in 5 against Mal Kent, Brian Crolley and Andy Cheung got 1 each for BSM 'C'. Arriva N.W. 6 v Maghull 'A'4, John Rowan putting in another fine performance winning his 3, Derek Scotland winning 2 and the doubles with Kristof Lenyk, Paul Banks winning 2 with Mathew Cranney and Michael Stewart winning one each for Maghull 'A'. Sefton Park 'A'4 v Bootle YMCA 'A'6, this match highlights the strength of this division, here we have the current top of the division playing a team in the bottom three of the division and the result is 6-4 with the YMCA 'A' scraping home by virtue of winning the doubles in the 5th, Robbie Puddifer and Paul Jennings winning 2 each for Sefton Park 'A' and the superb Shakil Malik winning his 3 with Tom Doubtfire and Liam Shaw coming in with 1 each for Bootle 'A'. Linacre 3 v CADWA 'B' 7, Alek Charcenko made a great effort to win all his 3 games for Linacre, Ian Wensley, Peter Wass and Martin Latham all winning 2 with Peter and Martin winning the doubles to make it 3-7 to CADWA 'B'.

Match WEEK. 8. BSM 'C'3 v Maghull 'B' 7, Mathew Cranney was the star man tonight, he's a very good player, very fast on both back hand and forehand, all BSM players struggled to get points never mind games from him, Sue Hughes also played well to get her 3 games and Alan Chan won Maghull 'B's other game, Mal Kent and Andy Cheung won the doubles in fine style, Andy Cheung and Brian



Crolley got 1 set each. Best game of the night was Mal Kent v Sue Hughes, Sue just coming out the winner in the 5th. Maghull 'A'10 v Bootle YMCA 'B' 0, what can I say except that Paul Banks, John Langton and Michael Stewart are playing superb table tennis against a very good Bootle YMCA 'B' team. Arriva N.W.8 v Sefton Park 'A'2, another great performance from John Rowan and Derek Scotland, winning 3 each and the doubles, with Kristof Lenyk also winning one for Arriva, Robbie Puddifer and Neil Jennings putting in fine games to win one set each for Sefton Park. Wavertree Lab 'C' 8 v Linacre 2, Gavin Minnet was the star player in this match winning his 3, Andy Bird and Alan Liu getting 2 each with Andy and Gavin also winning the doubles for Wavertree, Alek Charcenko winning the 2 for Linacre, important wins for Alek. Wavertree Lab. 'B' 2 v BSM 'D'8, another great result for BSM 'D', Daren Taylor again being the star man for BSM 'D', with Ted Cramsie and Dave Noden doing their

bit, Darren and Dave also winning the doubles for BSM, Lee Farley and Mario Giove winning 1 set each for Wavertree. CADWA 'B'3 v Merseyside Police 'B'7, another great night for Steve Gittins winning his 3, and the doubles with Matt Evans, Matt also won 2 and Tom Purcell won 1 for the Police, Tom put in a great performance to beat Martin Latham 13-11 in the 5th, Ian Wensley, Peter Wass and Martin Latham all winning 1 each for CADWA "B".

It is wonderful to see so much young talent in division 3 this season, some of the less young are not too bad either, but what is better is to see the sportsmanship throughout the division, with credit to all the players, particularly those who play their hearts out each week trying to win games, but not quite getting there.

## Division 4

## Ken Roberts

Well here we are at the start of a new season. Welcome to Division 4 to the teams who have joined us from Divisions 3 and 5. We are in for another good season of Table Tennis if last year's standard was anything to go by.

**Week 1** Starts with Cadwa C against QVC. A match that at first was won by QVC 8-2, however unfortunately 2 of QVC played out of order and the result was overturned to read a victory for Cadwa 6-4. A good win for Arriva A against Bootle YMCA C 6-4. Eddie Williams beating Eddy Preston in 5 for Arriva, Bert winning his two for Bootle and a good win by Gary S for Arriva over Mike Hughes. Maghull C beat Waterloo B 8-2, both Steve Mc and Luke C picking up both for Maghull. One of the promoted teams Bath Street E beat Police C 8-2, this was a good win over a strong Police side, John Moore saving the whitewash with an excellent brace against Graham T and Keith D. Sefton Park B beat Wavertree D 7-3, Robin B winning his two against John G and Bobby for Wavertree, and Steve Johnson just edging myself game 9 in the 5th for their 3 points. Waterloo A produced a whitewash of Maghull D. Jimmy Ambrose unlucky to lose game 9 in the 5th to try and salvage a point.



**Week 2** Police C beat Wavertree Labour D 9-1, Steve J saving the whitewash by producing an excellent performance to beat Dave Mc. Another strong performance by Bath Street E beating Maghull C 9-1, Luke winning their only point with an excellent win over the very strong Miguel. Bootle YMCA C beat Waterloo B 6-4, Eddie winning his two for Bootle and Paul M. returning the compliment for Waterloo. Arriva A beat Waterloo A, also 6-4, some hard fought sets here with only 2 being won in 3 games. Janusz and Gary wining their singles for Arriva. Sefton Park beat Maghull D 7-3, Janette, Denise and Loon winning a single each for their 3 points, Denise just edging out Roy C game 10 in the 5th!! Sefton Park C beat QVC 7-3, however QVC were a player short plus they also played a player out of order.

**Week 3** Cadwa C beat Maghull D 7-3, George F, and Loon winning a single each plus a double, for their 3 points. Sefton Park C beat Arriva A 6-4, Eddie W winning his two for Arriva and Yanusz just losing out to Chris G game 11 in the 5th! Paul M also picking up two points for Sefton Park.

The derby between Waterloo A and B saw both teams share the points, Lewis C the only player to win his two games for the B team. Bath Street E beat Bootle YMCA C 7-3, Eddie producing a strong performance for Bootle with a brace over Miguel and Les. Honours equal between Maghull C and Wavertree Labour D. Robin winning both of his games for Wavertree. Police C beat Sefton Park B 9-1, Sefton picking up a doubles for their point.

**Week 4** Police c beat QVC 6-4. Pancho winning his two for QVC and both Tom P and John M winning their 2 games for Police. Some long games in this match too which could have gone either way. Maghull C beat Sefton Park b 6-4, unfortunately Phil Murphy

who played up for Sefton had to retire hurt after his doubles when he went over on his ankle, let's hope Phil recovers soon, John G winning his two for Sefton. Bootle YMCA C beat Wavertree Labour D 7-3, Robin, Kevin and a doubles accounted for Wavertree's 3 points, again some long hard fought games in this match. Bath Street E beat Waterloo A 9-1, Graham C beating Peter A for Waterloo's point. Waterloo B beat Sefton Park C 6-4, 5 of the 10 sets went to 5 here, a very close match, Chris G of Sefton just losing out in 5 games to Paul M. Paul and Lewis winning both of their games for Waterloo. All square between Arriva A and Cadwa C. Vaclav winning both for Cadwa and Janusz returning the compliment for Arriva.

Ken has 'done a bunk' and will be away for a month for a once in a lifetime tour of the Far East and Australia, he sends his apologies, but thought there wasn't much choice between Australia and the L&DTTL, so in order to keep Div. 4 up to date, here are a few comments from yours truly.

**Week 5** Young Lewis Campbell looks like a name we will hear a lot of, in Waterloo 'B's match at Cadwa 'C' he pulled off a good win against Purvi Shukla, first 3 games 12-10, 11-13, 15-13, 2-1 down but held his nerve to take the next two 11-5, 11-6, must have been a cracker, he added his doubles with Gary Corran, only losing his other singles 3 straight to an experienced Alan French, well done to Lewis, last season he was playing in the JDD division, hope there will be more youngsters coming through from there!! A good 8-2 win for BsM 'E' away to Sefton Park 'C', MoM Graham Turner had a good doubles win in 4 with Pete Ashley against Derek Traynor and Alan Staniland, Sefton's



Kenny, Sefton's Kenny Y. and Chris G. beat Miguel M. and Keith D. in 5 and Derek T. beat Keith D. for their two points. Only draw of the week was the Waterloo 'A' v Wav. Lab. 'D' with MoM going to Nikolaj Primuk winning his three visits to the table, but he had to fight hard to beat Terry Jones in 5, 11-13, 13-11, 13-11, 9-11, 14-12, probably a good match draw for the nights TT. Sefton Park 'B' turned up at high flyers Bootle YM 'C' a man short and got the expected 10-0 battering. Julian Dutch saved the whitewash for Maghull 'C' with an excellent win against Police 'C's Brian Burrows in 5. QVC's Tom Lewis had to fight hard for his two single wins, both in 5, and both ending in the last game going to 17-15, against Maghull 'D's Denise Chorley and Joe Rock Jnr. but match went to a solid 10 - 0 for QVC.

**Week 6** Maghull 'C's Danny Hall had a great night v QVC winning both his singles and his doubles with Luke C. Harry & Steve Mc. winning their doubles to help team get a 5-5. Bootle YM 'C' had a good 6-4 win at Police 'C', Tom Purcell slowing up the charge with two singles wins, Richie W. doing same for the YM. Bobby Bell helped Sefton Pk. 'B' get a draw against Waterloo 'A', beating Peter Roberts in the last set, John G. and Derek T. winning all their singles, Phil and Nikolay both managing to cope with Richie P's speed, twists and turns, Waterloo won both doubles for the draw. BsM 'E' had a good 9-1 win against CADWA 'C' whitewash saved by Purvi Shutla beating Keith D. in the only 5 set match of the night. Arriva 'A' had two MoM's of the night, Eddie W. and Vacek B. winning all their visits to the table in their 8-2 win at Maghull 'D', good 3 game wins by Janette and Loon Wai saved the night.

**Week 7** Robin Barker and Terry Jones were the stars of Wav. Lab. 'D's visit to Cadwa 'C' winning all their matches including the doubles, especially Terry's 5 game to and fro against Doug B., Vaclav and Alan saving 2 singles points for Cadwa. The Derby match between Sefton Park 'C' & 'B' ended 6-4 for the 'B' team, thanks to John G. winning his two singles, and a good win from Faye Taylor playing up from the 'E' team, it could have been better, Faye only losing out in the 5th in her other match game against Roy, C. both doubles shared. Police 'C' had a good 7-3 win at Waterloo 'A' thanks to two trebles from Tom P. and John M. John needing the only 5 gamer of the night to beat Phil, well done Pete Roberts getting a good win over Tom L. start of the good days I hope! Bootle YM 'C' march on with a 7-3

win over Maghull 'C', a treble off Eddie, a double off Richie and a singles win off Burt and Mike. Three valuable points from wins by Janette over Mike, the doubles match of Julian and Janette, and an excellent 3 game win by Luke over Burt. Waterloo 'B' left Maghull 'D' with a good 6-4 win enhanced with a treble from Paul Mainey, an excellent double from a young Lewis Campbell and Graham Chelley chipping in with the other, Janette, Denise and Loon a singles each, and a doubles from Janette and Loon. A treble from Vacek B. helped Arriva 'A' to a 5 all draw at QVC, with singles from Eddie and Yanos. One game each from John, Panchu, Shaun, Tommy and a doubles completed the night for QVC.

**Week 8** Bootle YM 'C' had a good 7-3 home win against QVC to keep them on track for another table topping season, but if results show up wins seemingly down to styles, this result does, YM's Eddie P. beats QVC's John A. 3-0, John beats Bert R. 3-0. Panchu X. beats Eddie 3-0 then loses to Mike H. 3-0, Rob F. loses to Bert 3-0 then beats Jim G. 3-0 both doubles to the YM and only player not to have the luxury of winning was Ron H. who lost both singles in 5, every other set over in 3 games, time for a chat!! Waterloo 'A' had a good 6-4 win at Maghull 'C', star man of the night was Waterloo's Peter Roberts winning all his visits to the table, Danny Hall making him fight for 5 games though, Danny lost his other singles to Nikolay, again in 5, but had a consolation of a doubles win with Lewis C. again in 5, tough night for Danny, but a good doubles partnership!! M. Police 'C' keep the title pressure up with a good 7-3 win against Sefton Park 'C', this match had three MoM's Dave M. and Tom P. won all their games for Police, and Derek T. won all his games for Sefton P.'s 3 points, Derek's style and bat takes some beating. Another team chasing the title is Bath St. Marine 'C' with a 9-1 battering of Maghull 'D', eight sets over in 3, only Les D had to play more, beating Denise M. in 4, but losing in 5 to Janette H. for Maghull's saving point. Arriva 'A' took away a 7-3 win from Waterloo 'B', MoM was Gary S. winning all his sets, including a good win against an ever improving Lewis C. Lewis did have a great 5 game win against No. 2 Vacek Bondek, another good win for Paul M. against Eddie W.

At time of writing, the table is 1 to 4 -: BsM 'E' top, Police 'C', Bootle YM 'C', Arriva 'C', will it stay that way??

Ken R. will be back for the next Digest, **"Happy Christmas"** Editor!

## Division 5

Welcome to the new season (albeit four months in!) in what is already shaping up to be an extremely exciting and challenging division. Whilst the warmth and friendliness that characterises Division 5 persists, the standard of play across the board has certainly gone up a notch or two. Whilst last season appeared to be a mini-league of four teams at the top followed by an unofficial second tier that had little between them, the current table suggests a different structure this time around. A quick look through some of the 'experienced' players in the current division reflect the level of individual challenge - without naming the obvious suspects - but it also hints at a more frequent high standard of play this time around, certainly better for our individual development as players, add to that, the influx of 'new' players to the division who also play at a higher level. Such is the general strength of the squads, the top six all currently look like making a genuine case to



## Jimmy Williams

finish the season at the top, further down the table there is sufficient quality for so called lower teams to take points off anybody and climb up the table. In a nutshell, this is going to be a very interesting season and promotion could hinge on (the old cliché of) 'who plays their strongest four' most regularly. Or who has the greater squad - which I sense seems apt this time around, this adds to the promise of an enjoyable season with many twists and turns.

**Week 1** saw a very strong Sefton Park D put their marker down with an emphatic 9 - 1 win at Wavertree Labour F, however, the home side certainly made them work for their win, Francis Lay picking up the sole point in a close contest with Eric Wood, Dave Williams unlucky to lose to Paul Morgan (11 - 13 in the fifth) and Femi losing to Mark Brookes in another close encounter. Another convincing win was Arriva North

West B's 10 – 0 win at new side Greenbank B, captain Colm Cox going very close against Harry Hughes in the battle of the number 1's (10 – 12 in the last end). A healthy start to the season for Dad's Army (Maghull E) with a 7 – 3 win over Cadwa E (playing with one player missing), Ged Hanley (aka Private Walker) was the star performer for the Home Guard and, similarly, Shantanu Singh for the away team. As usual, excellent match notes provided by Andy McCourt, others feel free to follow his consistently excellent example.

**Week 2** produced a range of intriguing fixtures, Arriva North West B, newly arrived from Division 4, met with their first loss of the season (although current statistics still looking very impressive - only lost 2 in 9) in their home fixture with East Wavertree C, the away side taking the share of the points 7 – 3. Stand out games on the night include Gary Mavris winning an epic battle with Matthias Mach 13 – 11 in the fifth and Ged Howard's close five set win over a determined Ray Guy, a great night's competitive table tennis in a top atmosphere, great hosts with humour aplenty. An ominously strong looking Wavertree Labour E won their 'derby' 7 – 3 against the F team with Alf Perry, Richie Pandey and David Ao all chipping in with two singles each, excellent doubles win for Gordon and Eric over Alf and Richie, Gordon and Francis both picking up a valuable point each in their singles over Allan Briggs. Close match at Cadwa saw an experienced home side edge out a defiant Sefton Park E, the dependable Tony Lowe pick up a brace for the visitors and a good win for the improving Cameron over Patricio, the experienced Cadwa duo at 1 and 2, Shantua and Satish, winning both of their singles.

Excellent match at Bath Street Marine (F) during **week 3** saw the spoils shared between the hosts and Arriva North West B, the hosts bringing in Ned Hassan at number one who stayed undefeated at the table, Paul Morrey also winning his three for the bus men. Strong 8 – 2 win for East Wavertree C against Harold House A, Lol, Jimmy and Marcus staying undefeated on the night for the home side. Captain Eddie Clein and Gary picking up a point each, in close four set victories over Matthias, for the visitors. Great 7 – 3 victory for Bath Street Marine G at Greenbank B, captain Des Logan overcoming Colm in three straight – very impressive win, other notable wins on the night include Colm edging out the tricky Bill Clayton 12 – 10 in the fifth and Tim Ainsworth's promising double over Des and Barbara.

**Week 4** saw Waterloo C, minus number 1 and 2 Lewis and Gary, host an experienced and strong Wavertree Labour E, the visitors picking up a useful 7 – 3 win, Waterloo captain Geoff Metcalf providing stubborn resistance to the Wavertree side - winning both of his singles against the capable Alvin and Stan. The Sefton Park 'derby' saw the D side take advantage of their E team only playing 3 players, to gain an important 7 – 3 win, Derek Traynor (100%) comfortably driving the team to victory, nice double for Mark Brooks for the E team, over Eric and Cameron, with the ever improving Faye Taylor also chipping in with a win for the E side.

**Week 5** saw the disappointing recent rise in forfeited games continue (four players in the previous week alone) - although not always to the benefit of the 'full team', forfeits are disappointing for a number of reasons, none more so than the players sitting around waiting for games that will not take place, after making the journey at the end of a working day, plus the implications it could have in the final league table of a tight division. Hopefully in the latter part of the season, there will be fewer games forfeited across the board as it progresses.

Great 9 – 1 win for Maghull E at Greenbank B, with Dad's Army in fine form, the Greenbank lads are well led by Colm

(who picked up another good win over Ged Hanley in three sets to prevent the whitewash), and making steady individual progress, as well as enjoying their games in a challenging league. Recent additions to the team (Simon and Tony in particular) have added more strength to their growing squad, don't be surprised to see them picking up a lot more points in the second half of the season. winning 7-3. A good 7-3 win for East Wavertree 'C' against Cadwa 'D' played in a warm and competitive encounter.

**Week 6** produced another strong win for Wavertree Labour E at Harold House A, with Richie Pandey (100% and recently re-ranked to a higher position in the squad – well earned after an electric start to the season and looking like he has never put a bat down since his university days) in a 8 -2 win, Eddie Clein in good form, picking up both of his singles for the home side over Alf and Alvin. An excellent match between Arriva North West B and Waterloo C resulted in a hard fought draw for both sides, an excellent double for Gary Corran who, along with Lewis Campbell, shows great promise after their successful season in the Junior Development League. Two exciting young players who are bringing added quality to the division – although it looks possible we could lose them both to the lofty heights of division 4, Arriva picked up both doubles to avoid defeat and keep themselves in

he mix at the top – as often stated, the importance of doubles cannot be underestimated.

**Week 7** surprisingly saw a wave of whitewashes – Wavertree Labour E over Bath Street Marine G, Maghull E against Bath Street Marine F and Cadwa D put Wavertree Labour F to the sword. Other notable wins this week included Sefton Park D edging out Arriva North West B 6 – 4 in a close contest, Derek (100%) and Mark Brooks (83%) picking up both of their singles for the home side.

**Week 8** produced an excellent 9 – 1 win for Waterloo C at Bath Street Marine G, Bill Clayton preventing the whitewash with an excellent win over Geoff Metcalf, strong performances from the young Waterloo boys (Luke, Gary and Sean) to highlight their genuine potential. A determined young Bath Street Marine G player, Euan Mason, was unlucky to lose an extremely close set against Gary Corran (9/11, 12/14, 13/11, 8/11), four great prospects for the future. Good 6- 4 win for Wavertree Labour E at Cadwa D in a closely fought contest, Satish winning his two for the home side to maintain his 100%, another excellent night of table tennis between two evenly matched teams.

**Final thoughts:** At the time of writing East Wavertree C are sitting at the top of the table with Sefton Park D just one point behind them, nothing in it. Hovering extremely closely in a position to overleap both teams sit another four teams, further down the table it is equally competitive with everyone – throughout the division – capable of taking points off each other. I anticipate that there will be lots of movement between league positions as we progress through the season, minor details could be the difference(s), this all points to a demanding, enjoyable, exciting and unpredictable journey.

Best of luck to all and have a great Christmas. Remember to get some practice in. Best laid plans...

## 1. Where did it all start

I started playing table tennis in Birkenhead at Saint Anselm's Grammar school.

It wasn't organised, we were being nosey around our new school and discovered a table behind and above the school stage. There were also a couple of bats and balls, we played a few games between four of us I seem to remember.

That would have been 1965 when I was 13 years old.

We played for months without being missed in class (bad boys!), when we were discovered they brought the table down to the main hall where we trained a few more new boys.

## 2. Best player played against

## 3. Best win.

## 4. Worst defeat

Gabriel Achampong was the best player I've played against, and also my greatest win and greatest loss. I believe he is /was Top Twenty U21 England player.

I won a game and deuced another game, and I felt I was in with a chance using untried tactics on him, that I believed in.

Untried because I find it hard to get good practice with these tactics, as it does people's heads in, lol!!

## 5. Best player to watch

Waldner, Roy Chopper Smith, Peter, methodical son, Walsh Junior, Des Douglas, Phil Luxon, Kerry, determined, Walsh, John, the Spin, Goodall, Dave (efficient) Robert's....And, all for different reasons

## 6. Funniest TT moment

Using my left hand against Gabriel Achampong, and it was working, when everybody was telling me not to do it.

## 7. Who's your TT hero and why

Des Douglas was my hero, and Jan Ove Waldner I love to watch and learn from too

## 8. Is there life after TT?

I refer you to the crash I had after a match, the subsequent stroke and World Veterans Championships in Alicante 2016 and wanting to win, believing I Could do it - LoL

## 9. Tell me something that would surprise me

Watch this space! I will win at every level in all comps if I can get the right practice, two handed table tennis is the way forward, and amazingly fast and efficient.



I met and played with Desmond Douglas, it was at a training course at the old Bankfield TTC.



● An anniversary to remember ... members of Birkenhead Civic Club celebrated 20 years' membership of the Wirral Table Tennis League with their best-ever performance — they won every division in which they had a team as well as three major cup competitions. Picture by Bob Bird.

This picture was in celebration of Civic TTC's 20 year anniversary and the fact they had won the league and every other division our teams were in as well as Three major cup competitions. Pete snr. was the captain of the league winners, Pete jnr. was in the team that won the 3rd division (think!).

In the Wirral Globe picture from 1985 is from the rear left to right is -:

Frank sorrentino, Bill Stanley, Pete Walsh jnr. and Jimmy Clewitt

Then front row from left to right...

Roy Smith, Steve Green, Barbara Major, Linda Walsh (Mrs.) Pete Walsh Snr with his Pablo Escobar moustache, Mick Tierney, Richie??..

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

Two handed TT .

## 11. Coaching tip

Move your feet, aim for body of opponent and Corners on table.

Be different.

Serve well and receive well.

Get everything back safely if you can.

Get in when you can, enjoy every point and every game, and learn from each point

**Believe and achieve**



For years we have struggled to come up with a method of compiling handicaps for use in The Vets' Handicap Cup., the only reason that we use Player Handicaps, for players who play Competitively , there are the TTE Ranking lists. It appears that TableTennis 365 are now compiling a Ranking list that can be used for Local League players who don't play Nationally, it looks complex, and time consuming, and I would think take a lot of work setting up, maybe using info from back years, Wirral are using it so it must have some merit.

for more reading go to [www.tabletennis365.com/Wirral/Ranking/Explained](http://www.tabletennis365.com/Wirral/Ranking/Explained)

## European Championships

European Championship Qualification (Team) matches are part of the qualification system for team events in the European Championships. This is the premium team event for 50+ nations affiliated to the European Table Tennis Union (ETTU). The Championships are hosted biannually at a central venue by bidding cities and feature Europe's leading players.

To qualify for the European Championships, national teams must play in the qualification event where there are three

divisions – Championship, Challenge and Standard. Both England's men and women are laying in the Championships Qualification Division, with the aim of reaching the finals in Luxembourg 2017.

Matches are played over a two year cycle, in a group format and consist of up to five singles rubbers (matches are only played to a result) on a home and away basis between teams of three/four players.

This competition is one of the few times that the public has the opportunity to watch England's

European Championships Qualifier - England vs Germany (Women)

Sir Tom Finney Sports Centre, University of Central Lancashire

13 December 2016

A little help at understanding The Liverpool League 365 Web Page, to find a particular 'Match Number'

Click on 'FIXTURES & RESULT'

Under FIXTURES choose a Division

Opens up Matches played in Week No. 1 with a column of choices on the right.

Starting from the top -:

To save confusion between 'Week Numbers' and 'Match numbers' when filling in the match cards, the best choice is the 'Advanced' button. There are 5 choices, but for the issue of match week numbers, stick to the 'Advanced' button!

Next choice down is 'Filter by Division' – Division 1 to 5 this season, by clicking on the down arrow in the choice panel, any division can be chosen,

Next choice down 'Filter by Venue' – All venues is best choice to show all matches played in that chosen division, but individual venues can be chosen to show all matches played by a particular team at home.

Next choice down 'Filter by Club' – 'All Clubs' is best choice, but again the choice of a particular Club will show the match results of all the teams from that particular Club in that particular division, including home and away matches.

Next Choice down 'Filter by Team' – 'All Teams' is the best choice, but if the down arrow is clicked a list of all teams in that division appears and any particular team can be chosen in that division.

All the above choices are inter linked so that you have the choice of many combinations - of Division, Venue, Club and Team.

If you just want to know the League match Number, use the next choice, 'Week' / 'Match No.' Clicking on 'Week No.' gives you the number of every week from the start to end of the season, including Cup weeks and holiday weeks. Clicking on 'Match Week' gives you the Match Number for entry on the Match Card.

Next Choice is 'Completed Fixtures' – Click the 'Hide' button and it shows matches still to be played, not those already played. Click on the 'Show' button and all matches appear, played and not played.

Next Choice is 'Merge Divisions', - This is very comprehensive, showing every match, played and not played, starting with all matches played on a Monday, then all matches played on Tuesday and so on to Friday, this can show every match card for every match played on a particular night /week.

It's just a case of clicking and scrolling to show a very comprehensive list of facts and figures, and that's just on the 'FIXTURES & RESULTS' Section on the header task bar.

Hopefully this will help to give more enjoyment from the Table Tennis365/Liverpool Web Site, and hopefully the correct 'Match number' on the match cards!

Spend a bit of time clicking around on the 365 web site, it's surprising how much info is there!!



# Obituary -- Robbie Goldson



Robbie was 73 when he sadly passed away on 10th November 2016.

Robbie worked at Fords in the transmission plant until his retirement and represented Fords in both the Liverpool and Halton Leagues.

I had the pleasure of playing alongside Robbie for many years in the Liverpool League where we both represented Fords, but we also regularly played against each other in Halton, in this league we played for different clubs. Playing Robbie was one of the matches that I always looked forward to every season as it seemed to bring out the best in both of us, the matches rarely resulted in anything less than 5 hard fought games with winning scores of 11 x 9 or 12 x 10 etc. being the norm rather than a rarity and long rallies being the order of the day.

Although I always found Robbie to be not only a fine player and fierce competitor he was never anything less than a gentleman and true sportsman, whether in victory or defeat, although I must admit that in recent years it was more victory for him and defeat for me. Unfortunately it seems that I was also the last person to play against Robbie in a competitive match when we faced each other in March of this year in a match which went true to form with Robbie winning 13 x 11 in the 5th game.

John Kenwright and Peter Cunningham recall that Robbie played as a youngster in Liverpool for a team called Oakhill where Robbie said, Peter Taylor was the best player.

Robbie went on to become a very good player in his teens but then stopped playing only to resume some 45 years later and according to John was like a good wine (or as he says in Robbie's case Guinness) improving with age, and inch by inch, becoming a good player again.

In the Halton League he first played for Hale but moved to the Fords club where he played in the Liverpool League, the Business Houses League, and the Halton League for many years, and became a well-liked and respected member of the club by both his team mates and his opponents. Latterly (until his illness) together with John Kenwright, Grahame Reid, Peter Cunningham and Ian Burrows he would turn up for practice sessions at Halton Table Tennis Centre on Monday mornings, where his will to win and competitiveness were still evident.

He will be sadly missed by all of us who knew him both as an opponent and a friend. RIP Robbie.

Frank James.,

Joe Killoran - Blackpool GP

The Blackpool GP took place over the weekend of 19-20th November 2016. Joe Killoran, who plays in the Liverpool League for Greenbank took part in the tournament and after a series of very good table tennis Joe was successful in winning the Band 3 event. He beat Keir Morton (Scotland) in three to win the Men's Band 3 Final. Joe controlled the game throughout giving Morton little chance to make his mark, taking the three games 11-5, 11-7, 11-7. Joe was also successful in winning the "Player of the Tournament" award.

Harry Watson - Blackpool Junior Tournament

Congratulations to Harry Watson who won the Cadet singles title at the Blackpool Junior 2\* Open at the weekend beating England number 9 Max Stephens 8, 10, -6, -2, 9 in the final. The Police club junior also did well in the Junior singles, losing in the S/F to the eventual champion Sam Kwan.



## 60-90 YEAR OLD MALES AND FEMALES WANTED

**Volunteer For Cutting Edge Research Receive a Free Health Assessment as well as Exercise and Nutrition Advice**

### RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

This research will investigate the impact of exercise and nutrition interventions on age-related 'sarcopenia' (loss of musculoskeletal mass) and associated functional performances.

### PARTICIPANT CRITERIA

- Healthy male and female adults aged 60 90 years
- No systemic neurological, cardiovascular, and musculoskeletal diseases

### TESTING SCHEDULE

Volunteers may have to attend the university's Health Sciences laboratories and Sports Centre on several occasions (each lasting approximately 1-2 hour) over 16weeks. Sessions may include Familiarisation, Pre-programme testing, Exercise programme, Nutrition programme, and Post-programme testing.

### BENEFITS

Your participation in this study will provide valuable insight and information regarding benefits of exercise and nutrition interventions on musculoskeletal function and health-related quality of life in older adults. You may also be offered a free exercise and nutrition programme, and gain health information regarding your body's overall functional and nutritional performance.

**If Interested To Participate In The Study Please Contact:**

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**2016-17 DIVISIONAL CUPS --****1st.ROUND RESULTS****Division 1. Readman Cup**

Maghull	1	v	5	Crosby High
BYE				M/side Police
BYE				Crosby High A
Greenbank				BYE
BYE				Bath St M.
Harold house				BYE
Fords	5	v	1	M/side Police A
Greenbank A	1	v	5	Wav. Labour

**Division 2. Rumjahn Cup**

Bath St. M. A	5	v	3	Crosby High B
Cadwa A				BYE
Sefton Park	0	v	5	East Wav.
East Wav. B	1	v	5	Cadwa
Bootle YMCA				BYE
East Wav. A	5	v	1	St. Annes
Bath St. M. B				BYE
Wav. Labour A				BYE

**Division 3.Hyde Cup**

Bootle YMCA. B	0	v	5	Maghull B
Arriva				BYE
Maghull A	5	v	4	M/side Police B
Bath St. M. B				BYE
Wav. Labour B				BYE
Wav. Labour C	2	v	5	Bath St. M. C
Sefton Park A	5	v	3	Bootle YMCA A
Linacre	2	v	5	Cadwa B

**Division 4. Forrest Cup**

Sefton Park C	0	v	5	Bootle YMCA. C
M/side Police C				BYE
Waterloo A	5	v	0	Waterloo B
Bath St M. E				BYE
Sefton Park C	1	v	5	Maghull D
Maghull C	2	v	5	Arriva A
Cadwa C	5	v	0	Q.V.C.
Wav. Labour D				BYE

**Division 5. Stamp Cup**

Harold House A	0	v	5	Sefton Park D
Greenbank B				BYE
Cadwa D				BYE
Bath St. M. G	0	v	5	Sefton Park E
Maghull E	5	v	3	Wav. Labour F
Bath St. M. F	2	v	5	Arriva B
Wav. Labour E				BYE
East Wav. C	5	v	1	Waterloo C

FRANK MURPHY MEMORIAL CUP 2016 / 2017 Preliminary Round			
	HOME		AWAY
1	Cadwa 3	v	Sefton Park 1
2	Sefton Park 5	v	Bath St. Marine 4
3	Bath St. Marine 1	v	Sefton Park 3

**2016-17 DIVISIONAL CUPS --****2nd..ROUND RESULTS****Division 1. Readman Cup**

Crosby High A	0	v	5	M/side Police
Greenbank	5	v	2	Harold House
Crosby High	3	v	5	Bath St. Marine
Fords		v		Wav.Labour

**Division 2. Rumjahn Cup**

Bath St. Marine B	5	v	3	Cadwa A
Bootle YMCA	5	v	3	Cadwa
East Wav. A	5	v	3	Bath St. Marine A
Wav.Labour A	5	v	3	East Wavertree

**Division 3.Hyde Cup**

Maghull B	5	v	4	Wav.Labour B
Bath St. Marine D	1	v	5	Arriva
Sefton Park A	1	v	5	Bath St. Marine C
Maghull A	5	v	0	Cadwa B

**Division 4. Forrest Cup**

Waterloo A	1	v	5	M/side Police C
Maghull D	1	v	5	Arriva A.
Wav. Labour D	2	v	5	Bath St. Marine E
Q.V.C.	5	v	3	Bootle YMCA C

**Division 5. Stamp Cup**

Arriva B	W/O		v	X	Sefton Park E
Cadwa D	W/O		v	X	Greenbank B
Sefton Park D			v		Maghull E
Wav.Labour E	5	v	2		East Wav. C

# Divisional Positions at 1/12/2016

Division 1		P	W	D	L	Pts.
1	Fords	8	6	1	1	53
2	Merseyside Police	7	5	1	1	49
3	Maghull	8	5	1	2	47
4	Crosby High A	7	5	1	1	42
5	Greenbank	7	5	0	2	42
6	Crosby High	7	4	0	3	37
7	Wavertree Labour	8	1	0	7	30
8	Greenbank A	7	2	1	4	29
9	Bath Street Marine	7	2	0	5	28
10	Harold House	7	1	1	5	23
11	Merseyside Police A	7	1	0	6	20
13						
14						

Division 2		P	W	D	L	Pts.
1	Cadwa	9	6	2	1	55
2	Bath Street Marine A	10	5	1	4	55
3	Crosby High B	8	6	0	2	53
4	Bootle Ymca	9	5	1	3	49
5	East Wavertree	8	5	0	3	40
7	East Wavertree A	7	4	0	3	36
8	Sefton Park	8	4	1	3	36
9	Wavertree Labour A	8	4	0	4	35
10	CADWA A	7	2	0	5	35
11	Bath Street Marine B	8	1	3	4	34
12	East Wavertree B	8	1	2	5	32
13	St Annes	8	0	2	6	30
14						

Division 3		P	W	D	L	Pts.
1	Maghull A	10	9	0	1	75
2	Merseyside Police B	8	6	2	0	58
3	Arriva North West	9	6	0	3	56
4	Bath Street Marine D	9	5	2	2	52
5	Bootle YMCA A	8	5	1	2	51
6	Wavertree Labour B	8	5	0	3	51
7	Maghull B	10	4	3	3	50
8	Waverrtee Labour C	10	5	0	5	48
9	Cadwa B	9	4	0	5	38
10	Bath Street Marine C	9	2	1	6	37
11	Sefton Park A	9	1	1	7	26
12	Linacre	8	0	2	6	19
13	Bootle YMCA B	9	0	0	9	19
14						

Division 4		P	W	D	L	Pts.
1	Bath Street Marine E	9	9	0	0	75
2	Merseyside Police C	9	7	0	2	61
3	Bootle YMCA C	9	7	0	2	59
4	Arriva North West A	9	5	2	2	53
5	Waterloo A	10	3	3	4	48
6	Maghull C	10	3	3	4	44
7	QVC	9	2	2	5	44
8	Wavertree Labour D	9	3	2	4	42
9	Sefton Park B	8	4	1	3	38
10	CADWA C	8	3	2	3	34
11	Sefton Park C	8	2	0	6	32
12	Waterloo B	9	2	1	6	31
13	Maghull D	9	0	0	9	19
14						

Division 5		P	W	D	L	Pts.
1	East Wavertree C	9	8	1	0	66
2	Sefton Park D	9	8	1	0	65
3	Arriva North West B	10	5	3	2	64
4	Wavertree Labour E	9	6	2	1	58
5	Cadwa D	9	5	0	4	58
6	Maghull E	8	5	1	2	49
7	Waterloo C	9	3	1	5	39
8	Bath Street Marine F	9	3	1	5	38
9	Wavertree Labour F	9	4	0	5	35
10	Harold House A	8	2	0	6	31
11	Sefton Park E	8	2	0	6	29
12	Bath Street Marine G	8	1	0	7	23
13	Greenbank B	9	0	0	9	15
14						

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