

Table Tennis Digest

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TABLE TENNIS DIGEST

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No. 4

Editorial

A wind of change is creeping through our sphere at the top—Palmerston beat English Electric, but with great resilience the East Lancashire Road side took 87 of the next 90 points and the first division title, but they lost the Readman Cup to Wavertree Labour who in turn had lost to Rafters side which had been re-grouped and had an average age of about 18½ (I sense John Marshall's influence here). With rumours of changes in all the top teams we have had a season of movement which could make next season a season of real change.

John McNee has come through clearly as our leading player, John Marshall can come again if he varies his stereotyped game a little and amongst many new players Neil Roberts, "News of the World" and Closed Champion, Keith Williams and Clive Strettle must be players who just want a touch to big time. They all have a long way to go to match the dedication of Allanson and D'Arcy, both of whom have had an excellent season inside and outside league warfare. So at last we have the old and new meeting on equal terms, a nice situation which means we have had a good season as all the players below with ambition must strive to reach this top group. Which is why I will always be an advocate of a 10-team 3-man Premier Division, as this must create a higher standard for the others to reach for.

To all our correspondents, even those who have kept us waiting—thank you, I daren't mention names as my two star mentions last season immediately dropped out. To our advertisers—thank you for your help, Wallace & Son, our printers, Eddie Cameron (I never missed a mag.) and Ken Armson (The Wavertree Wizard) great stuff; we are only as good (or bad) as you make us.

LOCALS ABROAD

Business House Championships Singles—John Marshall (Rafters) beat Geoff Edmunds (English Electric). Doubles—John Marshall and Trevor Owens (Wavertree Labour) beat Bob Owens and Alan Timewell (Rafters). Consolation—Dave Williams (Colonsay) beat Dave Crispin (Old Swan B.C.).

Blackpool Closed—Pete D'Arcy (English Electric) beat Brian Parkinson (ex Liverpool Y.M.C.A.).

University Doubles Champions, Paul Tsang and Phil Clarkson (Liverpool Y.M.C.A.), Clive Strettle (Eng. Elec.) Wigan Closed Junior Champion with Alex Still (Eng. Elec.) the Doubles.

In the Bromfield Trophy (Junior Girls) our girls lost to Ormesby (who included Carol Knight, England's No. 2) 5-4. With the score 4-all Julie Black lost 21-17 in the third, Sue Manning and Brenda Williams (both Colonsay) won two each.

Lancashire Schools' Finals at Blackburn: Under 13's Girls—Stephanie Laws beat Julie O'Malley (both Colonsay). Boys' Under-13—Tony O'Connor (Colonsay) beat Graeme Black (English Electric). Boys' Under-16—won by Keith Williams (Rafters). Girls' Under-16—Julie Black (Eng. Elec.) beat Sue Smith (Rafters). Girls Under-19—Cathie Gore beat Julie Turner (both Colonsay). Our congratulations to you all, not forgetting coaches Les French and John O'Sullivan.

Pete Lee (Liverpool Y.M.C.A.) Stirlingshire Singles and Doubles titleholder.

Cheshire third team included Dave Roberts and John McNece (Wavertree Lab.) and Pete D'Arcy; they won their division of the Northern League.

Requiring a five-all draw to win their division, the ladies' team lost 6-4 to Manchester, despite a magnificent win by Susan Manning over Susan Lisle. Barbara Kirkham and Brenda Williams, all of Colonsay, were the team that finished runners-up. The ladies' 'A' team finished fourth, making a change from being champions.

The men's team finished with a 7-3 win over relegated Bolton. You might be interested in a couple of points here—Bolton went down because Stockport (Champions) arrived over the 30 minutes limit late at Blackburn, the latter claiming a 10-0 walkover as per rule and avoided relegation. Earlier in the season Bolton had arrived at Stockport for an inter-city game and by sheer chance a Stockport City player arrived to play in a local league match; he immediately (and fortunately) rounded the city team up and they beat Bolton! Stockport won the league and Bolton were relegated.

On a more personal note our youth team finished second to Blackpool despite a ten nil (20 sets to nil thrashing of Blackpool 'A'). Our chaps lost 6-4 to Blackpool when, despite appeals from our city and county officials, Blackpool refused to offer another date although most of our squad were tied up on other official table tennis duties on the date down to play. The Blackpool captain eventually had the last word and refused an alternative date.

The junior team of Keith Williams, Neil Roberts (Liverpool Y.M.C.A.) and Peter Rutherford (Colonsay) gave a good account of themselves but found this division the toughest for years. The 'A' team squad was varied during the season with Paul Tsang and George Smith (Liverpool Y.M.C.A.) the mainstays.

At Stoke, on March 17th, Childwall Valley High School girls (Colonsay) became the All England Under-13 Champions, Stephanie Lawes, Julie O'Malley, Michelle Entwistle and Elizabeth Faragher beating Maiden Erlegh School, Berks., 7-1.

Alex Davidson has now withdrawn from the scene as Match Fixture Sec. He has had some tough nuts to crack over the past five years and deserves the thanks of the players of the many city teams during this period. May he enjoy his visit to Scotland and England win.

J.A.L.

Cup Finals

FORREST CUP

Vagabonds 'A' 0, Palmerston 'A' 10.

Keith Owens set the pattern of this final with a convincing 21-12, 21-14 win over Dave Rooney. Roy Bradbury followed with a 21-15, 21-18 win over Tom Johnston. Bob Hudson beat Rooney 8 and 14. In the best game so far Arthur Land beat Doug Ridgeway 21-17, 21-12; Bradbury and Hudson made it 5-0 with a 21-5, 21-17 win over Rycroft and Rooney. Alan Rycroft tried valiantly to save the game for Vags but lost against Bradbury 21-16, 19-21, 9-21—6-0.

Les Lindforth, of the Old Swans B.C., excelled with the interval refreshments and was complimented by Ray Hebson, our Vice-Chairman and official in charge.

Land and Owen beat Johnstone and Ridgeway 21-16, 21-19; Hudson beat Johnstone 19 and 10.

Despite a couple of great recoveries, including 1-11 down, Rycroft lost to Land 14 and 19. In the last game Ridgeway really fought to save the whitewash in the finest game and just failed 21-19, 19-21, 18-21.

Scoreline 10-0 for Palmerston tells the sad story for Vags. and that's the way it was.

STAMP CUP

Palmerston 'A' 7, Stanley House 3.

At the Liverpool Y.M.C.A. with Jack McCaig the official in charge, Ahmed came near to a win over Mabs Francis, losing 21-11, 22-24, 16-21; Arthur Pierce beat Muriel Cox 21-15, 12-21, 21-17; Mike Newton beat Brian Harding 15 and 19. A quick return by Muriel saw her beat Kemal Ali 18 and 17; Derek Inge beat Harding in a tremendous game 18-21, 24-22, 21-19. Mabs beat Ali 13 and 18. Newton, playing in a strange-looking number 4 spot after regular first division play last season, beat Pierce 10 and 19 and clinched the game for the Palmerston team. Ahmed and Harding beat Inge and Newton 18-21, 21-16, 21-19 and Inge beat Ahmed 17 and 19. To make the scoreline more in keeping with the game, Ali and Pierce had a fine 13 and 17 win over Muriel and Mabs and a second cup was in the Palmerston locker.

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RUMJAHN (Replay)

Bath Street "A" 6, Rafters 'A' 4.

Dave Ferguson, Rafters' hero of the first game, continued his good work with a 21-12, 21-17 win over Colin Thompson. Alan Walton evened things with a 14 and 19 win over Peter Rumjahn and Alex Gould beat Pete Short 21-16, 13-21, 21-18. Mike Moran, the Bath Street strong man with six great wins, beat Reg Hetherington 16 and 15. Thompson and Gould lost to Rumjahn and Short 21-19, 12-21, 15-21; Walton and Moran beat Ferguson and Hetherington 11-21, 21-14, 21-18 and gave their side a 4-2 lead.

Amy Bell and Joyce Barton and the Palmerston club looked after what turned out to be the largest crowd at any final, during the interval. Short brought Rafters into the game with a 21-16, 8-21, 21-15 win over Thompson. Rumjahn lost the first to Moran 17 and in the second was 14-6 and 20-15 down. He came back superbly to 20-20 in an unsuccessful effort to same the game and match, losing 22-20. 5-3 ahead on sets and 5 games ahead, Bath Street had won a match that contained far more exciting tennis than the first. The next game, with Walton giving away more points than Ferguson, made me think that cup games should be played to a result. Hetherington beat Gould 20-22, 21-11, 21-7. With Kay, Janet, Ron present, Peter playing and Ted presenting the trophy, this was a true Rumjahn Cup night. Ken Black was the official in charge with Arthur Upton in the chair.

READMAN CUP

English Electric 5, Wavertree Labour 5.

The number one subject for the first few games at the Bath Street club was the slippery dance floor on which John McNee miraculously beat Wally Allanson 21-11, 14-21, after being 15-5 down in the third, won 21-18, tremendous stuff from both players. Mike Tierney lost to Pete D'Arcy 21-12, 17-21, 16-21. Dave Roberts beat Gordon Birch 15 and 13 and Ron Burke tactically beat Eddie Clein 15-21, 21-17, 21-17 on expedite. A 21-10, 15-21, 21-17 McNee win over D'Arcy put the Wavertree boys 4-1 up. Roberts lost 15 and 17 to Allanson, again on expedite, and Clein and Birch had a good win over McNee and Burke 24-22, 11-21, 21-14. But Roberts and Tierney made it a safe 5 for Labour with an 18 and 19 win over Allanson and D'Arcy. Clein and Tierney took a game each at 18 and Tierney 20-17 up in the 3rd—a little aggro from the side had brought Eddie's bristles out and Mike was 22-20 down. Burke then met Birch's old-time power with a 9 and 13 defeat and a 5-all scoreline at 12-20 a.m.

Replay

English Electric 3, Wavertree Labour 7.

At the Palmerston Club this time, but McNee started in the same devastating way, beating D'Arcy 16 and 20; Birch beat Burke 21-8, 19-21, 21-6. Despite the scores in Tierney's 21-6, 21-13 win over Clein, the rallies were hard-fought, long—and, oh dear, pardon the yawn!! Roberts tactics in taking Allanson to expedite failed, as he lost 17 and 17. An 18 and 18 for McNee and Burke over Allanson and D'Arcy made it 3-2 for Wavertree and a welcome cuppa from Amy Bell and Millie Harris.

D'Arcy made it 3-all with a 19 and 19 win over Tierney. We then had the sheer joy of the two best sets of the series when McNee's attack beat Allanson's defence 19 and 19 (Wally was 14-2 up) and Roberts and Birch treated us to a tremendous all-round display of T.T., Dave winning 15 and 16. At 5-3 up and 5 games ahead, Wavertree had scored a great victory and broken Electric's stranglehold on honours. At 10-55 Electric conceded the last two games and the cup and medals were presented by Arthur

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Upton. Don Davies was the official in charge of both these tense games which finished as a great social occasion, thanks to the Palmerston barman and a reasonable finishing time.

Committee members flashed in and out of most games, Rene Sturgeon (Cup Sec.) and John McKim (Hon. Sec.) were regular visitors. In a rather nice, emotional speech Alex Gould said how Bath Street have never won a cup before and Don Davies, quick as a flash, came in—the same as Everton. This was the first time religion had been brought into table tennis (Davies's team is now in the Goof Book). It was more like a "Love in" than a major crunch match as team captains Pete and Dave exchanged teams at the Readman replay. Ken Armson and I were nearly kidded. One answer to the complaint about venues would be a Finals Week at the end of the season—it has so many advantages and my club, for one, could be made available.

J.A.L.

THE LIVERPOOL CLOSED TOURNAMENT

APRIL 1974

John McNee had little difficulty in claiming the Men's Singles title at the recent Liverpool Closed Championships. He had no trouble in winning any of his matches and thoroughly deserved to become Liverpool Champion. All his seven opponents were defeated convincingly in two straight games and the Final, against Wally Allanson, was always under his control.

Wally Allanson, the defending champion, had one moment of worry in an earlier round when Dave Butterworth took him to three games, but this apart, until the Final, Wally had no real difficulty. John's accurate attack, however penetrated the usually reliable defence too often in the Final and ensured that a new name would appear on the Montague Burton Cup.

The Men's Doubles provided a surprise when an unseeded pair knocked out two seeded couples, both in two straight games. Peter Lee and Paul Tsang, unseeded, disposed of Peter D'Arcy and Wally Allanson, the second seeds, and then added to their laurels by seeing off Dave Roberts and Mike Tierney. Even in the Final they gave the top seeds, John Marshall and John McNee, some moments of real anxiety before the two Johns took the title.

There was a most disappointing number of entries in the Women's events. It seems that several leading players either forgot or were unable to enter and so the two competitions, Women's Singles and Women's Doubles, merely provided gift prizes for Brenda Williams. Congratulations to Brenda for winning, of course, and also to Julie Black, who had the opportunity to show her potential and her undoubtedly improved play, but I still think it's a pity that other leading players, who have received such encouragement and acclaim from our League, can neglect to enter their own Tournament. Only nine couples entered the Doubles and this made me decide to complete this event before Finals night.

The two Junior events had an added interest this year. The Eric Caird Cup for Junior Boys and the Eric Caird Cup for Junior Girls were both being awarded for the first time. The Girls' Cup went, of course, to Brenda Williams, but the Boys' event provided a less clear-cut result. Keith Williams had been seeded number one, but he came unstuck in his Final against the second seed Neil Roberts. Neil claimed the new Cup after an entertaining and exciting win in three games.

It is always more difficult to seed players in the Restricted Singles than in the other events. This illustrates, of course, the equality of ability

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amongst the leading players in the Third Division and below—at least, that is my excuse. Arthur Land, seeded one, was knocked out almost immediately by Les Linforth, who progressed to the Quarters before losing to the eventual unseeded winner, George Bradley. B. Crolley, the second seed, lost to D. Harrison in Round 4, who then went out to J. Letch in the Quarters.

The other two seeds, Paul Morgan and Clive Strettle, reached the semi-final stage as expected, but here Strettle lost to Bradley, while Morgan overcame Letch to claim a Final place. Bradley, however, took the title with a good win in three games.

The Veteran Singles winner was George Smith once again, while the Consolation Events were won by John O'Sullivan and Mrs. I. Clark.

An appreciative audience witnessed some very fine matches during the Finals Night programme, and the prizes and cups were presented to the winner! and runners-up by the Liverpool League Chairman, Mr. Arthur Upton.

I must record my sincere thanks to all those who helped in any way in the running of the Tournament.

A summary of the leading results follows this report.

BRIAN LEESON

I think we also should record our sincere thanks to you, Brian, for a smoothly-run, well-conducted tournament, and, an important point, your co-operation to the limit of your powers on all the "tricky ones." I endorse your thanks to all who helped but must mention your lieutenants Ken Armson and Ken Black and Linda the draw ticket!

"We love the tea girls, we really do,
Your cheese and onions were quite deluxe,
The pies were super, the cakes were, too,
Oh tea girls we love you!"

J.A.L.

LIVERPOOL CLOSED TOURNAMENT — 1974

MEN'S SINGLES —

Semi-Finals

Wally Allanson beat John Marshall 21-15, 21-18.

John McNee beat Peter D'Arcy 21-13, 21-9.

FINAL

JOHN MCNEE beat WALLY ALLANSON 21-16, 21-15.

MEN'S DOUBLES —

Semi-finals

J. Marshall/J. McNee beat E. Hardman/K. Williams 21-13, 21-9.

P. Lee/P. Tsang beat D. Roberts/M. Tierney 22-20, 21-10.

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FINAL

J. MARSHALL/J. McNEE beat P. LEE/P. TSANG 16-21, 21-17, 21-15.

WOMEN'S SINGLES**Semi-finals**

Miss B. Williams beat Miss M. Francis 21-14, 21-17.

Miss J. Black beat Miss J. Rumjahn 14-21, 21-9, 21-14.

FINAL

Miss BRENDA WILLIAMS beat Miss JULIE BLACK 17-21, 21-11, 21-7.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES**FINAL**

Miss BLACK/Miss WILLIAMS beat Miss FRANCIS/Mrs COX
21-18, 21-18.

JUNIOR GIRLS' SINGLES**FINAL**

Miss BRENDA WILLIAMS beat Miss JULIE BLACK 21-15, 21-12

JUNIOR BOYS' SINGLES**FINAL**

NEIL ROBERTS beat KEITH WILLIAMS 21-23, 21-17, 21-16.

VETERANS' SINGLES**FINAL**

GEORGE SMITH beat ROY JONES 21-6, 21-13.

RESTRICTED SINGLES**FINAL**

GEORGE BRADLEY beat PAUL MORGAN 21-15, 13-21, 21-7.

MEN'S CONSOLATION SINGLES**FINAL**

JOHN O'SULLIVAN beat SAMMY HOLLAND 21-15, 17-21, 21-16.

WOMEN'S CONSOLATION SINGLES**FINAL**

Mrs. I. CLARK beat Miss C. DAYBELL 21-8, 22-20.

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THE BENEFITS OF THE 'WORLDS'—

REALITY OR PIPE DREAM?

by K. Armson

The article by Tom Blunn designed to encourage players to believe that it really is a good idea for them to pay a levy of 75p left a lot of questions unanswered. It will merely serve to convince them that the Council is completely out of touch with players' views rather than convince them that basically it is a good idea.

The average player—that means most—couldn't care less if the championships took place at the North Pole or the Sahara Desert and would have some difficulty naming any recent world champion. He certainly knows that there will be no glory or acclaim for him wherever it takes place. He will also view with great scepticism the implied return of this money in the highly unlikely event of there being no loss, particularly when the levy is quoted as accounting for 20% of the estimated cost. He knows ruling bodies are like governments, once they get their hands on your money you'll never get it back.

Several questions were answered on why this money is required and the areas in which it will be spent. But Tom Blunn chose to ignore the questions most players will ask. Firstly, why is it necessary for players to pay a levy? It is just not good enough to quote costs as the reason. If it is such a prestigious affair then the money should not come from us. We are also entitled to ask whether players in other sports have to pay a levy to have a world championship staged in this country? Then there is sponsorship. Surely it is only right that those who reap the financial benefits should foot the cost? Assistance from the government in the form of a grant is mentioned almost as an afterthought. If, as the E.T.T.A. is at pains to point out, the championships are such a world-embracing affair of benefit to our export trade, then assistance from both the government and trades should be of sufficient magnitude to cover the costs without recourse to a levy?

Tom Blunn also speaks of the benefits of table tennis as a sport and even quotes it as a family game which just needs a spark to ignite it into a flame which would engulf the country. Is this really true? I think not. Table tennis as a sport today lacks spectator appeal. This lack of spectator appeal is evident at all levels of our sport from tournaments down to club matches. If anyone doubts this lack of spectator appeal let them go along to any social club when a snooker or darts match is taking place and they will find spectators in abundance. This lack of spectator appeal is very apparent when T.V. coverage is involved. The game comes over as lacking in interest and excitement and it is easy to get the impression that little effort is involved. T.V. coverage needs personalities who can put bite and excitement into a game and leave viewers eager to see more. Our type of T.V. coverage seems more like a commercial to take up tiddley-winks. Snooker is an example of how first class coverage of top personalities can convey to the viewer the drama and intensity of the game and the skill required to play it. The Pot Black programme has 5½ million viewers.

I am well aware that as snooker is a much slower game the camera can follow each shot from start to finish. The Council will have to study this aspect of T.V. in great detail, for if their hopes are to become a reality then it will be via T.V. presentation. Only the very best matches must be shown in a manner designed to give impact and stimulate a desire to learn more about our sport.

No one doubts the magnitude of the task that lies ahead of the Council and it will certainly be of great benefit to the game if the staging and presentation of 'The Worlds' were to put us back on the map as a sport. But we are going to have great difficulty in convincing most players that their 75p will really help change pipe-dreams into reality.

For myself, I am convinced that basically it is a good idea. Unfortunately when I vote on this at the A.G.M. it will be in accordance with the wishes of our club members. With so many questions left unanswered I have a good idea what their wishes will be and I can't help feeling that similar views will be expressed in a great many other clubs.

Divisional Notes

Division 1

	P	W	L	D	Pts
English Elec.	26	23	2	1	210
Wavertree Lab. ..	26	22	2	2	204
Liverpool YMCA	26	23	2	1	201
Rafters	26	17	7	2	162
Trinity	26	15	8	3	153
Palmerston	26	15	8	3	152
Bath Street	26	14	11	1	143
Wavertree Lab. 'A'	26	10	11	5	131
L'pool YMCA 'A'	26	8	14	4	111
English Elec 'A'..	26	10	16	0	110
Colonsay	26	6	17	3	94
Sefton	26	4	22	0	68
Wavertree Lab. 'B'	26	1	23	2	49
Waterloo Park ..	26	0	25	1	32

An exciting and hard-fought season is now at a close and English Electric, although not sweeping everything before them quite so much this season, have still retained their grip on the League championship. Wavertree Labour wrenched the other half of the coveted double, i.e., the Readman Cup with a fine victory over Electric in the final (after a replay).

It is debatable whether the best team won the league title, no doubt Jack Lambert and Co. will give voice and point to the facts but I am of the opinion (biased as it is) that Wavertree, when dropping seven sets to Rafters (albeit to a fine young team) virtually handed Electric the title on a platter. This result was a particularly weak one in view of Wavertree's fine overall performance throughout the season and surely the cup victory demonstrated Wavertree's superiority over the Electric club (shrieks of dissent can be heard echoing from the East Lincs!). Apart from that my congratulations to both clubs and their two fine secretaries—Messrs. Lambert and Armson.

One of the most exciting things to occur this season was the re-emergence, as a first division force, of that well-established club, Rafters. Under John Marshall's leadership they have really made themselves felt this season and this augurs well, bearing in mind the youth of the side for future Liverpool table tennis.

Palmerston's good form throughout the season is worthy of mention, the only black mark being

their concession of the Readman Cup semi-final to English Electric without a bat being raised. Trinity, Bath Street, Wavertree Labour 'A', Y.M. 'A', Colonsay, English Electric 'A', as well as Palmerston and Rafters, played their part in the usual "cut and thrust" of mid-table encounters. These teams, although honours rarely come their way, still turn out every week, give wholly of their best and make each game a usually well-fought struggle. My thanks to you for a highly enjoyable season.

My commiserations to the Y.M. first team for making the championship a "three horse affair" for so long; it was only in the latter stages that their efforts started to lose momentum.

Last, but by no means least, a word about the less successful teams this season. Sefton have managed to keep their newly-won first division status for another season—well done lads! Sadly to the relegated teams—Waterloo Park and Wavertree 'B'—your only consolation is that its probably only for a season and you will be back with the big guns the season after next.

One last individual performance of merit, which occurred in the Sefton-Waterloo Park match, Bill Crafter, 11-4 down in the third to Dave Olsen, ran out a 21-11 winner. I won't dwell on Dave's reaction to this reversal of fortune as it's pretty pointless (I can hear the groans already!).

Enjoy the close season, cheerio and see you in the Autumn.

GORDON W. NEVINS.

Division 2

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Rafters 'A'	26	23	2	1	200
Trinity 'A'	26	22	2	2	189
Bath St. 'A'	26	17	7	2	167
Beauclair	26	16	10	0	142
Colonsay 'A'	26	13	11	2	142
L'pool YMCA 'B'	26	12	11	3	134
Crawfords	26	12	10	4	129
Police	26	11	9	6	124
Colonsay 'B'	26	10	16	0	118
Trinity 'B'	26	8	13	5	116
Linacre	26	11	14	1	115
Old Swan	26	8	16	2	110
Vagabonds	26	4	20	2	86
Police 'A'	26	0	26	0	49

Congratulations to Rafter's 'A' and Trinity 'A' who win promotion to the 1st Division. It has been clear for some time that they would both go up and only the championship was uncertain until the last 2 or 3 matches. In a way it is a pity there were just two the main interest down at the other outstanding teams because it left end where a great number of teams were trying to avoid relegation.

I feel a little sorry for Bath Street 'A'. To finish 3rd two years on the run can't be much fun, and I hope they go one better next season. They do have the consolation of winning the Rumjahn Cup. They did it by 26 sets to 24 after drawing 5-5 twice. Both teams had their heroes, Rafter's 'A' had Dave Ferguson, who won 4 sets and Bath Street 'A' had M. Moran, who won his 4. In the 1st match Rafter's 'A' were 5-3 up but good wins for M. Moran and C. Thompson, who beat Peter Short two straight, kept their hopes alive. In the replay it was the other way round and Bath Street 'A' were 5-3 up but this time wins for Dave Ferguson and Reg Hetherington made it another draw.

Having played in a Rumjahn Cup final and lost by 1 set I know just how the Rafter's team feel and I am sure Bath Street 'A' would much rather have taken the cup by winning the match. I have sounded off about the cup rules before and I will say again that they should be changed. I can quite see that it would be impracticable to go on having replays, so I would suggest that if the 1st match is a draw the replay should only include one doubles set which would make a result inevitable. No cup should be won or lost without a clear-cut match result. However, I do not want anybody to think I am getting at Bath Street 'A' for winning the cup in this manner. The cup rules are not their fault and they deserve every congratulation for their success.

Back to the league—and joint 4th come Beauclair, who always looked as though they would finish in about that position, and Colonsay 'A' who, until the latter part of the season, did not. They came back very well after a bad start and deserve their high position. Next come the Y.M. 'B', another

team proving that a poor start is not the end of the world. They had only two regular players in J. Doherty and J. Brown and with a settled team could have done a lot better. I noticed, too, that they received a walk-over from Rafter's 'A' for a match that should have been played at Rafter's. I wonder what happened there?

Seventh come Crawfords and here I must send them my apologies for being unable to play in the second half of the season. I noticed they played short on a number of occasions and there is nothing worse than seeing your own team play short when there is nothing you can do about it. Next are Police, and here again another team that pulled up well. Following them are Colonsay 'B' and Trinity 'B', two teams who stayed in this division by the skin of their teeth. The last week's results made interesting reading. Colonsay 'B' took 4 sets off Trinity 'A' and Trinity 'B' drew with Colonsay 'A'. These sets kept both teams in the division. Now that's what I call keeping the interest going right to the end.

On now to the relegated teams and in 11th place are Linacre, which is a bit of a surprise to say the least. They are just about the last team I expected to go down and here again the last result of the season decided their fate, a 6-4 defeat, by of all teams, Crawfords. I expect to see them back the season after next. The other three places go as expected to Old Swan, who made a brave fight to avoid the drop and nearly made it, Vagabonds and Police 'A'. Vagabonds started quite well but after George Saunders stopped playing their results went from bad to worse. Police 'A' never had a chance and although they had three regular players in the side, they played a total of 15 different players in the team. I hope they have success in the 3rd Division.

Reflection: Well, as I have only played in 7 matches I have not got any, except for me which is more a reflection on the whole league. This season I have played in the following leagues:—Liverpool, Chester, Crewe, Warrington and East Flintshire. Out of all these leagues the Liverpool League is the only one in which matches do not

start by 7.45 p.m. and finish in time for a last pint. Think about it. Finally the notes you have been reading will be the last I will be able to write for the Digest for some time to come. Ken Armson at least will be sad as he will have nobody to skit at. I can honestly say that I have enjoyed writing the notes over the past few years and I hope some of you at least have found them interesting. Hope to see you sometime.

KEITH FITZSIMMONS.

Good point about starting times, Keith—we should start a campaign.. Thank you for your efforts and co-operation. I must put on record that you were **not** one of those who caused me **weeks** of worry and the readers **weeks** of waiting with late notes—a problem I will have to solve.—Ed.

Division 3A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
English Elec. 'B'..	26	26	0	0	229
Rafters 'B'	26	19	7	0	173
L'pool Jewish	26	19	5	2	167
Beauclair 'A'	26	14	8	4	144
Knotty Ash	26	11	11	4	140
Cadwa 'A'	26	14	11	1	137
Maghull	26	14	7	5	137
Bath St. 'C'	26	11	12	3	128
L'pool Y.M. 'D' ..	26	10	11	5	126
Wav. Lab. 'C'	26	10	11	5	123
Bedford House ..	26	6	16	4	108
Eng. Elec. 'D'	26	5	19	2	99
Giro	26	2	23	1	57
Polytechnic	26	3	23	0	52

Elec. 'B' duly finished up clear champions and emphasised their strength by also taking the Hyde Cup. They easily disposed of the challenge from that other lot by defeating their own 'C' team 6-4. With George Bradley disposing of 3B's No. 1 player, Clive Strettle, on his way to taking the Restricted Singles title, our superiority over 3B is firmly established. Better luck next season Colin!

Congratulations to Elec. 'B' for a worthy and convincing double. They never took it easy even though the title was theirs some weeks ago. Second place looked to be booked by Liverpool Jewish, instead we had a sensational reverse from Rafters 'B' who, after a period of average results, suddenly woke up and showed their

true form with a really storming finish to pip Jewish for promotion. Their run-in included 10-0's v Bath Street 'C' and Maghull, which were the first 10-0's recorded against either team. As Jewish had already been given promotion by the "Echo," the news of Rafters' revival came as quite a shock to them. They can only blame themselves for this, particularly against Cadwa 'A' when, in spite of receiving 3 w/o's they could only manage a 6-4 win. They were without Roy Lussey and Dave Cohen for this match which should bring home to others that if you want to get promotion or avoid relegation you must turn out your strongest team regularly. In their other two final matches v. Bath Street and Beauclair, they could only manage a 6-4 and 7-3. So its commiserations to Jewish and congratulations to Rafters 'B'.

Beauclair failed to last the pace and fell away completely after conceding a 10-0 w/o to Cadwa. The chance was there but they never seemed to have the will needed to take it and finished in 4th place. I can't help feeling that they didn't really want promotion. Knotty Ash also dropped completely out of the race with a series of declining results. With a little more consistency next season they could well achieve their aim to return to the 2nd Division.

As expected Giro and Polytech go down and I can only say they deserve relegation. Polytech have conceded 4 10-0 w/o's, being unable to raise a team. This from a team which has used 12 players is ridiculous. Giro conceded two. Both clubs have shown little fight and have contributed to their own fate. Polytech could have made a better fight of it with the strength they had available. For Giro only Alan Nolan showed any real fight but received little or no support from his teammates.

Maghull managed to get a good placing but strangely conceded a 10-0 w/o to Cadwa 'A', which must have cost them a place or two. No doubt they are well satisfied with what, on the whole, could be considered a satisfactory season. Cadwa confirmed my remarks in the last issue and a continued gathering of sets, aided I must add, by 10-0's claimed against Beauclair

and Maghull, gave them a reasonably well-earned 6th place. Along with Bath Street they are our walk-over specialists, having claimed three each.

Very little separated Bath Street 'C', Labour 'C' and Y.M. 'D' who all had a fair season. Bath Street may be a little bit disappointed as they were obviously hoping for a much higher position, but on the whole theirs seems a reasonable position. Y.M. 'D' disappointed a little with fluctuating results due to team changes. They started to improve towards the end with draws v. Beauclair and K. Ash, a 6-4 win over Jewish and 7-3 against Bath Street. Wav. Labour are fairly satisfied with their placing, having been hampered by unnecessary shortages on several occasions.

Bedford House finally confirmed my faith in them by finishing above Elec. 'D' although there were times when I thought they were going to let me down. A poor season for Elec. 'D' but although 3rd from bottom they never really looked in danger of relegation, but they will have to watch out next season. They finished the season in grand style with a 6-4 win against Bath Street, Julie Black and Alby Parker getting two each and Ken Black chipping in with a singles and a doubles with A. Parker.

A few facts: Nine 10-0's conceded, six of which were from 2 clubs. Nine matches played with players short. Only Beauclair played all their league matches with an unchanged team. Best Doubles averages Bradley/Ellard undefeated in 22 matches, Crolley/Jones 20 from 23 (both Elec. 'B'), Money/Cohen T. (Liv. Jewish) 17 from 20.

Our total of nine w/overs is the worst in the league. Not a very nice record to hold and one I hope we will not win again next season (this information is to be kept from Colin Pratt as 3B do not appear to have conceded any!).

KEN ARMSON.

Division 3B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
L'pool YM 'C'	24	19	2	3	172
Bath St. 'B'	24	18	3	3	172
Orrell	24	16	5	3	159
Eng. Elec. 'C'	24	15	4	5	156
Cadwa	24	16	3	5	153
Trinity 'C'	24	12	12	0	116
Colonsay 'C'	24	11	11	2	113
Rafters 'C'	24	9	13	2	99
Old Swan 'A'	24	5	16	3	92
Police 'B'	24	5	17	2	90
Waterloo Park 'A'	24	7	17	0	82
Eng. Elec. 'E'	24	3	17	4	81
Maghull 'A'	24	2	17	5	75

Another season has come to a close and in our division the promotion and relegation was only decided in the very last match. In the case of Bath Street 'B' and Y.M.C.A. 'C', who shared the title, outright victory was open to them both right up to the last game of the last match.

Y.M.C.A. 'C' were on 166 points with Orrell to play, Bath Street were on 167 with English Electric 'C' to play, Orrell and English Electric were 2nd and 3rd, both at home and both fielding full teams.

The previous game Y.M.C.A. versus Orrell had been a draw but this time Y.M.C.A. won 6-4, Frank Lay winning 3 for Y.M. and Cyril Callaghan winning 3 for Orrell. The outstanding performance here was Peter Wilson's fine win over John Donnelly 22-20 in the third. In the other match for the title (played on the same night) Bath Street switched their team order only to find that English Electric had done the same. Alan Waddington at No. 4 won his 3, Paul Taylor and John Letch winning the other two for Bath Street.

For Electric, Clive Strettle won his two singles, Wally Sill and Pete Lewis won one each with Wally and Pete winning their doubles. The resulting draw gave both Bath Street and Y.M.C.A. 172 points to conclude a season which has seen the lead change many times. I think both teams will have to strengthen their sides to compete successfully in Division 2, that is, of course, a personal opinion and I've been wrong on most things this season.

The other 3 teams in the leading five have had fine seasons and but for Orrell losing Cyril Callaghan in

vital matches I think they would have finished much closer to the top. Thank you for your thanks and best wishes note on your last card, Orrell.

English Electric 'C' had the singles star of the season in Clive Strettle, who had a 92% average and seems destined for a first division future.

Cadwa have had many strange results this season, one minute they're winning 10-0 and next they're losing 0-10. When they met Colonsay, Dave Piper and Ian Blore both beat Alan Guy, yet Colonsay won 6-4, John Read and Tony O'Connor winning 2 each and both doubles going to Colonsay.

Trinity finished the season poorly, losing to Waterloo, Old Swan, English Electric, Colonsay, Cadwa, Orrell and 0-10 to Y.M.C.A. They used 9 players in these 7 games, only Stan Smith playing in all and he only won 4 out of 14. That's not like Stan Smith.

In the match Rafter's versus Orrell, Joe Lovelady and Jean Reynolds played a great set—Joe winning to great applause. In the same match Janet Rumjahn won a battle of tactics against Peter Wilson—21-9 in the third.

In the struggle against relegation, as I stated in the previous Digest, Old Swan and Waterloo, after being the bottom two for most of the season, decided to improve their position. They were both helped by 10-0 walkovers when the Police and Maghull failed to turn up at Old Swan and Waterloo respectively.

Waterloo finished the season with 7 victories, most of which occurred after Graham Reid had joined the side. A notable performance was the taking of 4 sets from Bath Street, Graham Reid winning 2 singles and R. Greaves beating Malcolm Clark in a tense game 23-21, 21-19. Graham Reid and Bill Spencer also ending the doubles reign of John Letch and Alan Waddington.

Old Swan played Colonsay twice in two weeks—losing the first 4-6 but then, with the inclusion of Les Griffin, they won the return 7-3 with only Alan Guy winning a singles for Colonsay. W. Richardson (Old Swan) just winning over

S. Brooke 21-23, 21-17, 28-26 in the last game of the night.

With English Electric 'E' picking up 3 or 4 from each game this left Maghull to seek "re-election" after a disappointing finish to the season for them. 5 of Maghull's last 7 games were against the top teams and they only picked up 7 sets out of 50. In their last game they were well beaten 2-8 by Waterloo. Ken Stevens and Neil Royden winning the two both 22-20 in the third.

Police 'B' have had a good season and have kept a settled team. Good results for them include George Wright beating Ian Blore 25-23, 12-21, 21-15; J. Mills winning against Dennis Brookfield, Eric Ferguson beating Alan Guy 21-12 in the third, and Dereck Rimmer beating Doug Johnston 22-20 in the third.

Take a look at the league, only 97 points from top to bottom. Look at other leagues now, some teams get thrashed every week and average 1 point per game, others average 9 per game. At least we've all had our moments in this division; Old Swan had a good cup run, as did English Electric 'C' and Y.M.C.A. 'C'.

Some of our lower teams have beaten some top teams and its been an excellent season all round. Thank you all for your participation and interest.

COLIN W. PRATT.

Division 4a

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Vagabonds 'A'	22	22	0	0	183
Trinity 'D'	22	17	4	1	168
United Biscuits	22	16	4	2	149
Eng. Elec. 'F'	22	13	5	4	146
Cadwa 'B'	22	10	8	4	128
Bath St. 'B'	22	12	9	1	126
APH Linnetts	22	8	9	5	117
Police 'C'	22	11	9	2	114
Orrell 'B'	22	5	14	3	71
Barker & Dobson	22	3	19	0	52
Knotty Ash 'B'	22	3	17	2	45
Woolton 'A'	22	0	22	0	19

Well, Vagabonds won the division easily in the end, so congratulations to them on having a perfect record by winning every match. If Trinity had started the season in the same vein as they finished, it could have been a very close fight.

A black mark to Orrell for two

walkovers conceded towards the end of the season. The reason given in each case was that they couldn't raise a team, but to my mind it is better to arrive with even two players than not to arrive at all. On the credit side, however, they did at least inform their opponents that they would not be coming.

Well, I didn't make a verck good job of forecasting in the first issue; I think the only position I got correct was Vagabonds to win. No wonder I haven't won the pools!

Barker & Dobson and Police had a good match with victory going to the latter 6-4, K. Wilkinson being the only player either side to score a double win.

The battle of two of our top average players resulted in Eric Hughes (Trinity) beating Arthur Harrison (UB) 21-14, 10-21, 21-11. This match was evidently much closer than the 8-2 Trinity victory suggests as all five Setters wend their way.

It is a bit difficult to work out the averages exactly but I would think Eric Hughes must be top followed by Tom Johnstone (Vags) and Arthur Harrison.

Peter Meyer (APH Linnets) had a great game against Doug Ridgeway (Vags) pulling up from 14-20 in the third only to lose 20-22.

Young Graeme Black (Eng. Elec.) must have a great future in the game and he gave Joe Bird (Linnets) a terrific game before going down 17-21 in the third. Also he caused one of the upsets of the season by beating Arthur Harrison 18-21, 21-18, 21-18.

Bob Alcock (Bath St.) had a good double against Vagabonds, beating Alan Rycroft and Dave Rooney; he was also his side's only winner against Trinity, beating Gordon Crompton in straight games.

I have just seen a funny heading for a match. It says: Woolton 'A' v. Sweets and then in brackets, Barker & Dobson. Ah, well! I suppose its one way of sugaring the pill (ugh!) for an 8-2 defeat.

Margaret Lambert (B. & D.) put up a very good performance to go down by only 19-21 in the third to Eric Hughes.

I must apologise for these notes being shorter than usual as I have just moved into a new address after getting married and I am up to my eyeballs with decorating.

However, I must finish with my usual congratulations and commiserations paragraph.

First the commiseration to Marie Gaul (K. Ash) for losing 19-21, 21-14, 21-23 to John Huxley (Orrell); Norman Morrissey (Police) 21-19, 13-21, 20-22 to Colin Fyles (Eng. Elec.); Alan Gillespie (Trinity) 21-11, 13-21, 20-22 to K. Wilkinson (Police) and in the same match Tony Ham 17-21, 21-17, 21-23 to Eric Hughes (isn't he getting a lot of mentions). Now the congratulations for the sole winners:—Colin Tunstall (Woolton) 9-21, 21-13, 21-18 against Sue Anderson (Police); K. Wilkinson 22-20, 21-11 v. Alan Gillespie and John Huxley 21-12, 21-14 over Eric Pemberton (Cadwa).

So that's it for another season. Hope to see most of you again feeling fit and well in October.

BARRY MEYER.

Congratulations and best wishes to you and your wife, Barry.—Ed.

Division 4B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Palmerston 'A' ..	26	26	0	0	243
Panto	26	20	2	4	197
L'pool Jewish 'A' ..	26	18	3	5	178
Woolton	26	16	6	4	162
Cadwa 'C'	26	16	8	2	151
Colonsay 'D'	26	10	11	5	125
Bath St. 'E'	26	9	11	6	123
St. Hugh's	26	9	14	3	121
Orrell 'A'	26	12	13	1	116
Knotty Ash 'A' ..	26	8	13	5	115
Vagabonds 'B'	26	6	16	4	91
Police 'D'	26	3	21	2	79
Knotty Ash 'C' ..	26	4	17	5	78
Maghull 'B'	26	2	24	0	41

In a match recently, fortunately not in this division, my opponent came out dressed in the latest mod. gear, complete with thick platform soles and high heels. After a couple of points, when I couldn't stand the noise any longer, I stopped the game and asked him if he had any pumps. I wasn't worried about him breaking his ankles, but I was concerned about the damage he was doing to our floor.

His reply was a beauty. He said he had no pumps and had no

intention of ever getting any, but I was quite welcome to wear the same shoes as him if I ever played at his club! NO THANK YOU.

Congratulations to Palmerston 'A' on winning both the divisional championships and the Forrest Cup. It has been obvious from the start of the season that they were far too strong for the rest of us. Still, it's nice to know how the other half play. If you ever come up against them in the future, don't look on it as a hammering but more as a table tennis lesson.

In the cup final Palmerston became champions supreme by beating Vagabonds 'A', the 4A winners, 10-0. With a result like that it looks as though Palmerston have been holding back a bit in the League.

Our congratulations are also extended to Keith Owen for being the only player in our division to complete the season with a 100% record, and for proving to all of us that it's the man that makes the player and not the expensive bat he's hanging on to.

Panto have once again finished as worthy runners-up to Palmerston and must be a bit fed up with always playing the bridesmaid, etc., but they can console themselves in that they are still improving, and with greater reserve strength they could soon climb out of the third division as well. Paul Morgan, the Panto No. 1, proved that he needs to fear no one next season by reaching the final of the restricted singles at the "Closed."

Liverpool Jewish 'A' have firmly secured No. 3 position and are now sweating on an extra vacancy in higher spheres. This has been a good season for Gerry Richardson, Eric Dorfman, Jim Conroy and Gerry Goldring. No big stars here, but all above average and always fighting for every point.

Woolton's recent 7-3 victory over Cadwa has turned out to be a decider for the 4th and 5th places. This match produced a clash between W. Hargreaves and M. Power, two of this division's outstanding players. Hargreaves came out the winner 21-17, 21-19 on his own table. Colonsay, Bath Street, St. Hugh's, Knotty Ash 'A' and Orrell 'A' all finished up close together. I wonder if Knotty Ash

'A' would have conceded a 10-0 walkover to Maghull 'B' if they had known how close all these clubs were.

The relegation battle has also been a tight struggle. Vagabonds survived fairly comfortably, but the Police just scraped in by one point. The Police are another team that have called on a lot of players this season, at least eight in my reckoning. With most of their members on shift duty, looking after this club must be a match secretary's nightmare.

So its farewell to Knotty Ash 'C' and Maghull 'B'. The Knotty Ash regulars of D. Davies, C. Blackburn, K. Ray and Linda Myhan, have gone down fighting. A 6-4 win over Police for their last match proved to be not quite enough; however, if they stick together they should be soon back up in the fourth.

Maghull may not have won many points at table tennis this season, but they have gained top marks for their sportsmanship and friendliness. May they soon return.

Looking at the season as a whole, most one and two's in the division have been fairly close matched, and the bulk of matches have apparently been decided by the varying strength of the threes and fours, so there's a lesson for us all here for next time.

I understand the Woolton Boys' Club is looking for a table tennis coach, so if there are any registered coaches or experienced players who fancy the job, will they please contact the club warden, Mr. K. C. Wooldridge. The club has a number of good youngsters who just need polishing up a bit, so there could be plenty of job satisfaction in this one. Well, the season is over, now is the time to start practising for the next one. Remember—he who hangs his bat up for the summer could be next winter's dead duck.

Best wishes for your holidays.

TED JANE.

Division 5A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Palmerston 'B'....	16	15	0	1	141
Stanley House ..	16	11	1	4	121
Trinity 'F'	16	10	5	1	109
Rafters 'D'	16	11	5	0	87
Panto 'A'	16	8	7	1	81
L'pool Jewish 'B'..	16	5	11	0	62
Barker & Dob. 'A'	16	4	12	0	51
Colonsay 'F'.....	16	3	12	1	47
Vagabonds 'C'	16	1	15	0	21

The Palmerston girls take all the limelight by completing the cup and league double. Mabs Francis, the division's top scorer, leading the way and Marie Lupton, Lil Wynn and Muriel Cox all showing great form. Stanley House made a successful come-back to the league, finishing runners-up in both league and cup. Pierce was top man and finished second to Mabs in league wins, Ali and Ahmed were not far behind with Jenkins completing a strong foursome.

Nisted was tops for Rafters 'D' with only Maher J. giving regular support. I note two returns from retirement — Roberts, J. L. and Maher, S. Liverpool Jewish, with Davies, W. leading, were a compact outfit, Anna Cohen, Rudnick and Glover (still going strong) only missing a handful of games. The same applies to Trinity 'F', Prescott was the leader but Chris Daybell, Vaight and Wainwright rarely missed. The Brownlows, father and son, were mainly responsible for the survival of Vagabonds 'C' who had a tough time.

Plenty of potential at Colonsay 'F' with Julie O'Malley in the top spot with Stephanie Lawes and Julie Turner following closely. Ten out of ten for Barker & Dobson's 'A' with Woodcock and Travis supporting top man Greaves in their winning battle against the wooden spoon.

Hayes and Kennedy were top scorers in the Post Office 'A' squad of twelve players.

Inge (Palmerston) lost to Wainwright (Trinity 'F') 22-24, 23-21, 19-21; even closer was Hayes (Post Office) win over Monaghan (Vags.) 26-24, 21-23, 21-19, and Vags. lost 10-0!

With such a small division things could have been better and I am inclined to agree with Annette Cross (Trinity), "let's have one big

Division 5; we might have problems but we would have plenty of games."

Quotes on performances apply to league results only—less a few cards.

JACK LAMBERT.

Division 5B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
APH Linnets 'A'..	20	19	1	0	163
Eng. Elec. 'G'	20	16	2	2	142
Rafters 'E'	20	13	3	4	124
Maghull 'C'	20	10	4	6	123
Trinity 'G'	20	10	6	4	118
Palmerston 'C' ..	20	4	10	6	87
Palmerston 'D' ..	20	5	11	4	85
Police 'E'	20	5	14	1	79
Colonsay 'E'.....	20	5	11	4	73
Eng. Elec. 'H'	20	5	15	0	65
Trinity 'E'	20	2	17	1	41

To Mr. and Mrs. Fixture Secretary, thank you once again for phenomenal facts and figures.

In their first season in the league the boys of A.P.H. Linnets 'A' made their mark with a fine 100% championship success. Gaskarth, their top man, has also the best league record in our Division, with Higham number two in club and league. Wakefield, the main support, and Pearce and Roulston sharing number 4 spot. Runners-up were Eng Elect 'G' with Graeme Black top man, Hubbard, Connor and Money, Jr., all having a good season.

The Colonsay 'E' youth squad of top player Dunne, Rooney, Collins and Coy. led by Swann, must feel pleased with their season's performance. Trinity 'E' had a tough time but Mellon led the way with Smith, Walker and Stevenson battling bravely. Annette Cross (thanks for your letter) held Trinity 'G' together, winning most games with Hatfield and eight others in support. The Kelly brothers J. and W., Johnson and Sue Smith missed very few games for Rafters 'E', Kelly, W., eventually losing his one game on the table to Gaskarth. As he missed a few matches he finished number 3 in the division. I am more interested in games played and won than averages.

For Palmerston 'D' Allanson had a pretty good season, leading the scorers and not missing a game, a

secretary's dream player, but he only just pipped Owens, C., on both scores, with Alvis in regular support. The 'C' team called on eleven players with Millie Harris playing regularly at one and two, winning the most sets. Monica O'Donnell, Joyce Barton and Amy Bell were the main supporting cast (or is that just Amy).

Oakes, of Police 'E', certainly kept his team together and at the same time was top man followed by Smale, Waddie and Illingworth. Only a couple of sets separated Smethurst, Cullen and Banks in the Maghull 'C' team with McMeakin on their tails. Of the young English Electric 'H' team, Thomson topped 50% in his first season, Parker, K. and Hunter, J., took the most of the hard ones, but Cheng, Sue Hughes and Donna

Hunter all deserve a mention for their enthusiasm with a full side for every game.

Far too many cards and interesting results for a last magazine—Maghull 5 (Cullen 3), Palmerston 'C' 5 (Joyce Barton 3); A Roskill double for Palmerston 'D' against Maghull. Monica O'Donnell won on points but lost 20-22, 21-7, 19-21 to Annette Cross.. Chris Daybell won Palmerston (Joyce 3). Hunters J. won 2 but his 24-22, 11-21, 24-22 over Prescott and Stevenson doubles win with Cheng gave his side a 6-4 in the wooden spoon battle. A Gaskarth double again and two wins in the doubles gave Linnets a 6-4 edge over Electric in the top clash and so I could go on. Let's hope we have a few more teams next season.

JACK LAMBERT.

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