
Table Tennis Digest

Volume 30

Number 1



Official Magazine

OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

TABLE TENNIS DIGEST

All correspondence must be addressed to the Editor, "Table Tennis Digest", 051-546 3081.

Published during the months of December, January, March and May.

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Vol. 30

DECEMBER, 1976

No. 1

Editorial

My original Editorial started—We start the season with a big query mark against the "Digest" owing to the general inflationary situation. I can now, fortunately, make a more cheerful start.

After a couple of special meetings and a lot of midnight oil being burned by the Management Committee, it has been decided to risk our financial stability and carry on for this season at least with the "Digest" in its present form. This is being done with the hope that the Closed Championship and its raffles, also the E.T.T.A. draw and the selling of tickets will be given your full support. Particularly the latter, for as Don Cameron points out, if **each** member sells a few books our finances and future would be very much brighter and the future of the "Digest" (if that is what YOU want) assured.

To Messrs. Green, Williams, Marsh and Hewitt—nice to have you with us and to your new clubs, Dutch's, Harding Community Centre and Halewood Youth Club, also a welcome return to University—again.

The Cheshire Junior Tournament, at Birkenhead, the World Championships, the International Invitation Tournament, at Wigan, and England v Czechoslovakia, at Bolton, are mentioned elsewhere—give them your support, particularly the young players of whom there seems to be so many around. There are two possible reasons, I think, for this, one is there appears to be more Mums and Dads with potential Jill's and Denis's than ever before and the great job being done by M.C.A. coaches at Kirkby. When I play the youngies I find it a little frightening, but for local table tennis it is great. We **MUST** find a way to build on this great nucleus we have at the moment.

The World Championships

As most of you know, these will take place at the National Exhibition Centre Hall, Bickenhill, Near Birmingham. The Centre is conveniently situated, under five minutes by car from the M6 Motorway at Junction 4. Tickets are now available to players and clubs, but not as yet to the general public. Starting time of play will be 9-00 a.m. (Hard luck if you are first on!).

Saturday, March 26th—Opening Ceremony and Team events—Tickets £2 and £3; Sunday, 27th and Monday, 28th—Team events—£2 and £3; Tuesday, 29th—Closing stages of Team events—£4 and £5; Wednesday, March 30th—Closing stages and Finals—£4 and £5. There will be no play on Thursday, March 31st.

Friday, April 1st—Individual events seats—£2 and £3; Saturday, 2nd and Sunday, 3rd—Individual events—£2 and £3. Monday, 4th—Individual events Closing stages—£4 and £5; Tuesday, 5th—Individual events Closing stages and Finals—£4 and £5.

A day ticket covers all sessions on that particular day and guarantees you a numbered seat. Your ticket will allow you to visit Sportacus '77, a sport and leisure exhibition.

Season tickets are available and transferable at £20 and £28. You could buy a season ticket for your club and then by mutual arrangement or a lucky dip process, visit the championships at reduced rates, this, of course, guaranteeing you a numbered seat as a day ticket does. But in both cases you may visit the arena where seats are not numbered. The difference in price of tickets is the difference in seat positions. An ordinary lunch in the cafeteria can cost you in the region of £2.50; there is also a restaurant! So it might be advisable to make personal arrangements to make the day a little cheaper. In this respect I am prepared to act as agent for folks wanting to fill cars and share petrol and folk looking for seats. Also utilisation of season tickets, changing tickets when unable to use same through unforeseeable circumstances, etc.

Tickets are obtainable from MAURICE GOLDSTEIN, WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TICKET SALES, 31 BLENHEIM ROAD, MOSELEY, BIRMINGHAM 13.

If you wish to stay for overnight periods during the Championships and you haven't an auntie or an uncle in the area, you can contact Wayfarers Travel Ltd., 176 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1P 0DE, who can arrange special cheap rate accommodation.

This is a lifetime one-off for this area, I would think. Over 70 nations have entered, so make the best of it while it is here.

J.A.L.

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JUNIOR BOYS' TRIALS

The turn-out at the Liverpool Junior Trials, held at Colonsay, was the best for years. All we require now is a top coach and player to form a squad of a reasonable size—8 or 10 players, you name it, to practice weekly or monthly—a room and balls are available. I feel that this would really put our doddering table tennis scene back on the map, where it should be. Players could be promoted to the squad from the M.C.A.—this is just a thought.

The No. 6 English Junior, Tony O'Connor, was automatically ranked No. 1. (He was playing for Liverpool anyway that day). The following eight qualified for the final stages and were ranked as follows:—No 2, Graeme Black (Eng. Electric) unbeaten; 3, Peter Coyle (Colonsay); 4, Paul Brown (Kirkby Sports); 5, Phil Thomson (Eng. Electric); 6, Mark Monaghan (Kirkby Sports); 7, George Cheng (Eng. Electric); 8, Geoff Maher (Rafters); 9, Kevin Parker (Eng. Electric).

With four of the top five juniors last season, Eng. Electric slipped a bit this year with only four out of the top eight this time.

The trials started at 10 on a Sunday morning and finished in the region of 3 o'clock. Committee members present were John O'Sullivan, Alec Gould, Brian Leeson and Don Davies. Don then dashed off to English Electric to captain the Liverpool team against Fylde, which finished at 6 o'clock!!

J.A.L.

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LOCALS ABROAD

England play Czechoslovakia in a European League match at Bolton on Wednesday, January 19th. Lancashire 2-Star tournament—Bolton, Saturday, February 5th. Sunday, April 24th—Cheshire Junior 1-Star, at Birkenhead. Let us help to make this local tournament a success and EVERY junior enter.

The E.T.T.A. International Invitation Tournament will now take place at Wigan on Friday, 17th December, at 6-30 p.m. and Saturday, 18th December, at 9-30 a.m., and not Sunday, as previously advertised.

World Champion Istvan Jonyer (Hungary) plus Stellan Bengtsson (Sweden), Dragutin Surbeck (Yugoslavia), Milan Orlovski (Czechoslovakia), top English men players and Jill Hammersley. Tickets £1.00 and £1.50.

Having finished as runners-up in 1975, and third in 1976, we all expected that our Men's 1st team would make a determined effort to go one better this season. However, with England No. 6 junior, Tony O'Connor, taking the No. 3 spot, the season opened with a 7-3 home defeat by Farnworth. John Marshall had "one of those nights", losing all three singles matches to Clive Heap, Bryn Farnworth and Brian Clements, John McNee 2 and Tony 1, securing our three sets.

For their second match, this time without McNee. John Marshall and Tony were joined by Clive Strettle, but were soundly beaten by a strong Manchester team, led by England's No. 12, Nigel Eckersley, Lancashire, 8-2, Phil Bowen and Tony Boasman. Eckersley and Bowen both gained maximums and also took the doubles, but Boasman, on this occasion, lost all three, who stood in for the injured Pete D'Arcy, who was sporting a mysterious black eye!

With Liverpool Closed Champion, Barbara Kirkman, not wanting to be considered for inter-city play, and Brenda Williams not playing this season, the team for the first match against Crewe, lacked in experience but more than made up for it in enthusiasm, by winning 8 sets to two.

Liverpool Jewish provided two players, when on her City debut, Anne Carline won two of her three sets, and Paula Briethaupt 2 and Julie Black 3. The same team lost 6 sets to 4 at Blackpool, but N.P.C. Alex Gould tells me that the girls put up a good fight.

The Men's 'A'—last season's 4th Division champions, extended their winning sequence to 10 when they trounced Bury 'A' by 9 sets to 1. Clive Strettle, Keith Williams and Rod McPherson certainly seem intent on gaining another title this season.

For the third season in a row our Junior boys have opened the season by playing Barrow. The Cumbrians have won this division for the past two seasons, so another tough match lay in store.

Very little news from open tournaments, Tony O'Connor lost in the Boys' final of the Cumbria Open to C. Reed 13 and 15.

DON DAVIES/J.A.L.

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Table Edges

Continued from the May edition

I start in this vein as so many items were omitted from our last issue through lack of space. Some are still relevant.

With the assistance of ex-ladies' champion, Moya Jones, the most intriguing of Eddie Cameron's queries was, we think, solved.—Who is our longest-serving member? Despite a surprise and close runner-up in Alan Rycroft, of Vagabonds, and pre-war Wembley, Peter Rumjahn, of Rafter's, pre-war Clubmoor, was voted our longest-serving regular. 1932 was mentioned! Sorry about that, Peter!

Our youngest player? However tiny they were, all our young players seem to be 14. Until I mentioned it to the bloke who is generally next to me in the car, and he is 13 and in his third season, George Cheng (English Electric). Paul Challoner (Colonsay) is another 13-year-old regular.

Regarding the third one—the longest-serving secretary. In late 1948 a rather large, plump, Evertonian took over as the secretary of a certain works club and ran neck and neck with Ken Jones (Bohemians) for 16 years as longest-serving secretary; since then—well work it out for yourself.

All three are liable to be challenged, Eddie, the accent is on **REGULAR** and there are no prizes!

Mentioning Eddie brings me to—Do you remember Eddie Cameron as secretary of Victoria Park from 1938 to 1963?, or Jim Green as secretary of Crosby in 1936?, or Lil Upton (Orrell) topping the Ladies' Division 2 averages with 97.05 and 100% in the doubles with Lil Jenkins? How about Dave Butterworth (Bath Street), Liverpool Junior Champion, 1958, or Pam and Tom Johnstone (Vagabonds) playing for Victoria Park.

Ken Brady is going all out for the Zambia Closed next season, and good luck, Ken, at your new job at the University out there.

Good to hear young Dave Money—or should I say Eng. Elec.—is much better after a serious motor bike accident—just after his first Liverpool cap.

Cup Finals

Kirkby Sports 4, Fire Brigade 'A' 6. The account of the final finished at Kirsopp beat Cragg 24-22, 21-17; and then should have continued. The Firemen took the lead for the first time at 5-4 and in the cliff-hanger Davies beat Monaghan 22-20, 17-21, 21-15. Phew!! an excellent tension-packed final with top marks to both teams. No praise is too high for the official committee member, John O'Sullivan, who toured the Childwall area to obtain the keys to the club, eventually getting the match started and melting the icicles that had formed round our persons at 8-15. Also at least 10 out of 10 to the Fire Service girls who also did a great job when going on tour again, this time to find and provide refreshments for a standing room only full house.

Y.M.C.A. 8, Electric Supply 2

A terrific match, despite the tenacity and experience of the Supply boys. Y.M. had too much flair in every way, yellow socks, hat bands, jungle hats, Roscoe's "Anfield"-like victory runs on making a good shot—all these and a good crowd made this number one final. "Hat" of the match Hewitt!

And so to this season. Brian Leason (Colonsay) has been invited to referee the France v Czechoslovakian International match. Whilst on the Colonsay trek, Ron Evans will be missing from their line-up this season, having moved to North Wales, and is living up the mountains at Garth, near Llangollen, a place I know like the back of my hand—lovely view from the Panorama Walk.

This year's Closed League Championships will take place at the Kirkby Sports Centre on one day—Sunday, April 17. Quite a different set-up from that at New Heys School, which has proved a reasonably good venue over the years and has many advantages (how about the cheese and onion sandwiches. But Kirkby can prove to be a top class venue eventually, with cafeteria, bar, a hall for over 20 tables (if obtainable) and a smaller room for the final—a very bold and interesting experiment.

There is one small change in the expedite rules, says Brian Leeson. You may now play to expedite as soon as your game commences but you **must** play to expedite after 15 minutes play in ANY game.

J.A.L.

HANDBOOK ALTERATIONS

Bath Street Club—924 7091.

Beauclair 'A'—Div. 3B, Tuesday. Take over Woolton.

Bohemians—C. Reynolds, 260 9960.

English Electric—Division 5A, 'H'. Match Night—Friday; take over Crawford's 'A'.

Electric Supply Club—733 3838.

Kirkby Sports—Div. 4A: 1st—Tuesday; Div. 5A, 'A'—Tuesday.

Merseyside Police—Alan Wood, 20 Heydale Road, 18; 733 2177 (H), 709 6010, 3141 (O).

Orrell—Div. 3B, Div. 4B 'A'—Monday; Div. 4A 'B'—Tuesday.

Palmerston—Div. 1, 1st—Thursday; 'A'—Thursday; Div. 2, 'B'—Wednesday; Div. 3B, 'C'—Wednesday.

Rafters—Div. 1, 1st—Tuesday; 'A'—Thursday; Div. 4A and 4B, 'D' and 'E'—Out.

St. Katherine's—Div. 5A—Out.

Trinity—Div. 3B, 'C'—Tuesday; Div. 3A, 'D'—Monday; Div. 5A, 'H'—Monday.

Waterloo Park—W. Spencer, 37 Chetwood Avenue, 23; Div. 3B—Tuesday.

Wavertree Labour—K. Armson, 486 3073 (H).

Woolton Boys' Club—Out, a pity.

Div. 6 is out and becomes Div. 5A as per separate instructions.

Rumjahn Cup—Palmerston 'A' **BEAT** Liverpool Y.M. 'A'.

J.A.L.

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Divisional Notes

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	D	Pts
L'pool YMCA	8	8	0	0	76
Wav. Labour	8	8	0	0	60
Eng. Elec.	8	7	0	1	54
Palmerston	6	5	1	0	38
Rafters	6	3	1	2	38
Palmerston 'A' ...	7	2	3	2	33
Eng. Elec. 'A'	7	2	4	1	30
Wav. Lab. 'A'	7	3	4	0	26
Trinity	5	2	2	1	25
L'pool YMCA 'A' ..	6	2	4	0	24
Bath Street	7	0	6	1	23
Trinity 'A'	7	1	5	1	22
Bath Street 'A' ...	7	0	5	2	21
Rafters 'A'	7	0	7	0	10

To start the notes I have been looking at transfers during the summer. The biggest transfer must be that of Marshal and McNee from Rafters to Liverpool Y.M.C.A. Wayne Percival, Paul Morgan and Phil Luxon all moved to Wavertree Labour from Palmerston. Yours truly moved to English Electric and Ronnie Brotherton moved from Electric to Palmerston. There are welcome returns for Mike Truman who "retired" last year, and Liverpool Y.M.C.A. 'A' team, who were promoted. Y.M. 'A' and Palmerston 'A', the other promoted side, are clear of the relegation zone at present. For the second successive year Colonsay were relegated and Gordon Birch has retired. Here at Eng. Elec. we are hopefully expecting only a short retirement.

There are also a few new faces in some of the teams this year. Graeme Black has been given a chance of First Division table tennis by English Electric 'A' Dave Truman is playing for Trinity, Dave is Mike's son, and has only been playing in Southport, but playing in Liverpool will do him good. Bath Street have promoted John Pritchard from the third division and signed an experienced Taiwan champion, Mr. Chen. This could have been Bath Street's answer to Paul Tsang, but it will now have to be Francis Lay. Francis was promoted, long with Y.M. 'A', and both he and Mr. Chen are of a similar style.

This could be the year for a hat-trick of league and cup wins for Y.M.C.A. They may have lost Paul Tsang but they more than made up for him with signing Marshall and McNee. I think they could well prove to be consistent in the league again.

The Readman Cup, however, could provide an upset for them. Wavertree Labour, English Electric and Palmerston have players who, on the night, could sneak a 6-4 win.

At the moment Y.M.C.A. are in top gear. They have only dropped one point. This was a brilliant win by Dave Newton over Peter Lee. Dave also had Peter Turtle on the rack, but Peter pulled through in three games. The three teams who have so far met Y.M.C.A. and gone down 10-0 are Palmerston 'A', Bath Street 'A' and Wavertree Labour 'A'.

English Electric, who have a very young pool of players—Strettle, Lynch and myself (just)—with Eddie Clein, who is, incidentally, celebrating 25 years of consecutive first division table tennis, are, like Y.M.C.A., unbeaten. Electric also have a very young second team, with new signing Joe Green, promoted Graeme Black and Alex Sill, while Rod McPherson is only in his late twenties. I won't disclose Fred Pheysey's age—I would not like to upset him. Wavertree Labour started their season with a 10-0 win over Rafters 'A'. Rafters also have an up-and-coming Liverpool junior in Geoff Maher. Ted Mandaluff proved in their second game, that he is still a force to be reckoned with, when he beat both Dave Roberts and John Fennah, and with Harry Johnston won his doubles. Francis Lay beat Roy Smith in three to give Y.M. 'A' four points out of ten. After looking at the scores in the doubles of their next game, their opposition could be described as "Battling Bath Street". The first doubles of Roberts and Fennah v Butterworth and Chen, was won by the latter 20-22, 23-21, 21-19. The second doubles of Smith and

Tierney v Moran and Reid went Wavertree way 21-17, 17-21, 21-19, Alan Reid beat Mike Tierney in three and Dave Butterworth took a game off Fennah. Wavertree then over-running Bath Street and winning 8-2.

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Colonsay	7	7	0	0	54
Police	8	5	3	0	49
Eng. Elec. 'B'	8	5	2	1	48
L'pool Jewish	7	5	2	0	43
Beauclair	6	4	0	2	39
L'pool YMCA 'B'	8	3	4	1	39
Old Swan	7	3	3	1	37
Cadwa	8	4	3	1	36
Colonsay 'A'	8	1	5	2	34
Maghull	7	3	4	0	32
Palmerston 'B'	6	3	2	1	32
Elec. Supply	8	2	5	1	30
Trinity 'B'	8	0	6	2	23
Rafters 'B'	6	0	6	0	14

There are now five teams in the relegation battle—Wavertree Labour 'A', Bath Street 'A', Rafters 'A' and Trinity 'A'. If I had to reduce this list, Bath St. and Wavertree Labour are the teams I expect to pull clear. In Dave Butterworth, Bath Street have a player who kept both their first division teams clear of relegation last season. Wavertree Labour are, unlike previous seasons, fielding a regular side. Rafters 'A' look certain for relegation. Bath Street 'A' and Trinity 'A' look to be the other contenders. John Pritchard, of Bath Street 'A' seems to be getting a rough deal at present. He is playing at No. 1 and 2, over such experienced players of the calibre of France, Clayton and Walton, not exactly the correct kind of baptism to first division T.T. for a young player in a struggling team.

For this season the division welcomes an unusual distribution of newcomers with only one team relegated from the first division and five teams promoted from the third.

What's happened to Tony O'Connor? We were all lead to believe he was a great prospect for Liverpool. Yet he languishes in the second division. Rumour has it that he may be scared of first division opposition, but I can't believe that!!

Colonsay have rationalised their order this year and if they can stick to their present four they should find no difficulty in returning to the first division. Lead by Tony O'Connor, who will lose few matches, and Dave Williams comprising their main strengths, they appear ably supported by Norman Chaloner and John O'Sullivan. Many teams will obviously fiddle their ranking order to try their best players against Colonsay's more vulnerable positions. So far Cadwa, with Trevor Hughes, one of their better players down at No. 4, managed to take one point by beating John O'Sullivan narrowly. Electric Supply also played a peculiar order. This did not help them, however, and they only picked up one point from their second doubles pair. Full marks to Liverpool Y.M.C.A. 'B' who played a straight order and picked up two points. Jim Clewett, from last year's promoted 'A' team, became the first player to beat Dave Williams and Paul Clayton narrowly beat John O'Sullivan 22-20 in the third set.

Now for a small quiz and a plea on behalf of a fellow club. Which club has two holes in their table, a floor that bounces and a door that never stops rattling? If you know the answer please supply the club, if possible, with a little of some kind of filler for their holes in their table. I am sure the rest of the league and their own players would be very grateful to you.

There seems little difference in these early stages between the five promoted teams. Maghull narrowly lost 4-6 to Cadwa with eight matches going to three sets and Trevor Hughes winning both singles 22-20 to clinch the match for Cadwa. Maghull lost by the

If anyone would like any news or games, etc. mentioned in the notes, write them on the back of the scorecard, or send them to Jack Lambert.

ERIC HARDMAN.

same score, 4-6, to Y.M.C.A. 'B', with Jim Clewett involved in close matches, losing 21-23 in the third to Ken Jones but going on to beat Gordon Brownlee 24-22 in the third. Y.M.C.A. perhaps confirmed that they are one of the best teams of this group of five by narrowly losing 4-6 to a strong Police side. Ahmed Thabet had a good night beating Len Dyson 24-22 in the third and going on with Alan Pickering to win their doubles 22-20 in the third. Cadwa also look as if they mean to stay in this division with a good 6-4 win against Old Swan. Electric Supply, coming into this division at the last gasp as they went out two seasons ago, perhaps look the most vulnerable of the promoted teams with three heavy defeats in their first four matches. Their results are mixed with defeats by English Electric and Jewish and wins against Old Swan and a weaker Police side. Arthur Land and Bob Hudson both figured in last year's 'A' team and can hold their own here.

Of last year's strugglers Colonsay 'A' and Rafters 'B' look to be in trouble. Colonsay 'A' lost heavily to Old Swan and Jewish but came back to beat Rafters 'B' 9-1. Barbara Kirkman made a successful appearance in this match beating Bob Graves and then G. Maher narrowly 23-21 in the third. Peter Coyle may also improve to give the team a chance of staying in the division. Rafters 'B', however, with four defeats, look as if they will find it impossible to avoid relegation. They appear to have lost veterans Peter Rumjahn and Reg Hetherington, and without the aid of their higher ranking teams they will be struggling. Trinity 'B' have lost all last year's players and also, with four defeats, look doomed for relegation.

Old Swan have lost Dave Crispin to the Police but have found an able replacement in Fred Price, who has had good results so far. They fought hard to come back from 4-0 down to draw 5-5 with Beauclair. Ken Linforth, with magnificent control of his backhand hit, became the first player to beat Frank

Murphy this season. The Police, with Dave Crispin, were without Barry McLeod for the first two matches, losing heavily to Beauclair and Palmerston 'B', but Barry's return later has added a competitive edge which has rejuvenated them. Three wins followed and with their latest form, must stand an outside chance of promotion. Liverpool Jewish have signed Ian Wensley from Colonsay and look strong enough to maintain last year's position. They greatly missed one of the divisions' most consistent players, John Hodges, against Beauclair, going down 3-7. John Henshaw added some respectability by coming back from 13-18 in the third to beat Ted Birch with magnificent hitting.

Beauclair, after being close to promotion over the last two seasons, look perhaps too erratic to make it again. Although Frank Murphy is as consistent as ever, Ted Birch is having problems in changing his bats and is struggling to make his class show. Beauclair's doubles also look to be too vulnerable for the team to achieve consistent high scores needed for promotion. The team looking most likely to join Colonsay are English Electric. They have lost George Bradley but in Phil Thomson they have a young player who is already having a big impact. With the modern game he shows a patience and deliberation which is rare in young players and has won his first twelve singles, including a fine win over Arthur Land. Their match against Beauclair proved to be a dour struggle illustrated by Brian Crolley pulling back from 10-20 down to Frank Murphy to level it at deuce; only to finally lose 21-23, 21-23. The only three unbeaten teams in the league so far are English Electric 'B', Colonsay and Beauclair.

HARRY.

• • •

DIVISION 3A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Linacre	7	5	2	0	47
Police 'A'	7	6	1	0	45
Fire Service	6	5	1	0	43
Wav. Lab. 'B'	6	5	0	1	43
Bath Street 'C'	8	3	3	2	41
Maghull 'A'	7	4	3	0	41
Trinity 'D'	7	3	2	2	36
L'pool YMCA 'C'	6	2	3	1	29
Bath Street 'D'	7	1	4	2	26
Colonsay 'B'	6	2	4	0	26
L'pool Jew. 'B'	5	2	1	2	24
Eng. Elec. 'D'	6	0	4	2	22
Crawford's	6	0	5	1	16
St. Hugh's	6	0	5	1	11

The end of last season saw the departure of 3 super teams from our division. This time new teams and new faces have, on early results, thrown up at least five strong sides to make it a tough fight from the top and a rough ride for everyone else.

Maghull 'A' with five regulars, A. Howarth, E. Taylor, A. Smethurst, S. Draper and Stan Clarke, have made the best start being the only team to win their first four matches, but so far they have yet to meet any of the other big guns.

With three wins out of three, Police 'A', with a similar line-up to last season, have also started well. This includes a good 7-3 win with doubles by L. Dyson and George Wright over the Fire Service. Although the Firemen dropped that one, they are well in the running for promotion with a team that is already in the Business Houses 1st division. In their line-up of Ernie Owens (No! not ex-Electric Supply), Ray Gavin, W. Sherburn, J. Bird and J. Ashley, they include three Linnets players. They certainly had my alarm bells ringing the night I played them. After many years of hopping between the 1st and 2nd divisions it looks as though Anno Domini is catching up a bit with those evergreen youngsters at Linacre who, with Harry Reeve in fine form, will probably repeat their performance between our division and the 2nd.

Don't eat a large tea before you visit them, as the Linacre hospitality is famous. Sorry I had to miss it on the night gents.

With a very strong 1 and 2 in Eddie Moran and Fraser Farquharson, Wavertree Labour 'B' don't intend to lie near the bottom like they did last time, and if Mabel Neary can play more often then we might see a championship side here.

Still pursuing their successful youth policy, E.E.C. 'D' introduce more new names with Dave Money Jnr. and Geoff Connor. With the experienced Paul Coughlin at No. 1 the team is still looking for a win—but don't write them off yet.

An injury kept Ken Foulkes out of Bath Street 'C' from the early matches but he has nearly recovered now to re-establish the old firm with C. Spencer and the Cunningham brothers. Bath St. 'D' introduce new "Pioneers" in Clive Chislett and Pete Mercer.

In a recent local Derby the teams fought out a friendly draw. No music here—the fiddles didn't work. A word about the daddy of us all. Rumour has it that Bath Street 'D' captain, Cyril Smith's retirement from work has nothing to do with his age. He simply wants to get more practice in for the World Championships next April.

Down in the relegation zone Liverpool Jewish and Crawford's have made a slow start. But there is surely too much experience in these sides for this situation to last. No doubt Dave Cohen and Eddie Cameron will soon captain their respective teams out of danger.

After several seasons of just missing promotion out of the 4th. St. Hugh's have finally made it only to find it is hard work staying up here. I hope old friends, the McAlle brothers, have more success in the future.

I understand the strong arm of the law is not what is was since George Wright thought he was Colonel Austin and tried to stop a car single-handed; glad to see George has now recovered.

Finally, in last season's 1st Div. notes Eric Hardman passed comment about teams not putting their players in correct order. I'll bet his eyebrows go up when he

sees some of the names in 3A. Apparently now some clubs are not even putting their players in the correct team.

TED JANE.

DIVISION 3B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Bath Street 'B' ...	7	6	1	0	55
L'pool Jew. 'A' ...	7	5	1	1	49
Vagabonds	6	6	0	0	48
Eng. Elec. 'E'	8	5	1	2	46
Orrell	6	3	3	0	34
Eng. Elec. 'C'	6	3	3	0	31
Old Swan 'A'	7	2	4	1	31
Waterloo Park ...	5	2	2	1	28
Beauclair 'A'	6	2	3	1	26
Bath Street 'E' ...	6	2	4	0	26
Palmerston 'C' ...	5	3	2	0	26
Trinity 'C'	6	2	4	0	21
Rafters 'C'	7	1	6	0	17
Colonsay 'C'	8	0	8	0	12

A warm welcome to our newly-promoted teams Orrell and Palmerston 'C'. They have both made a good start and will clearly have no relegation worries. Palmerston 'C' can turn out a strong side at full strength but as this is their bottom team operating on a rota basis they won't be promotion challengers. Orrell are a useful side but not strong enough to worry the top teams. Already Alun Williams and Dave Jones are proving a good doubles combination with 4 out of 5.

Unless there are any great changes in playing strength I expect the promotion race to be contested by just three teams—Vagabonds, Bath Street 'B' and Jewish 'A'. Vagabonds, with Bobby Owen joining Ted Barnes, Doug Ridgway and Tommy Johnstone, are undoubtedly the strongest team in the division. Bobby and Ted are players of real class and will only lose a few sets between them so the team should go through the season undefeated. It looks like we have the Hyde Cup favourites, too. Bath Street 'B' and Jewish 'A' will battle it out for second place. Bath Street's side has a solid look about it. Captained by Alec Gould, as hard to beat as ever, they have John, deuce in the third, Letch, Alan Waddington and Brian Aldred (nice to

see you back in action, Brian). This team won't give anything away, so they should build up a good sets total. My own team, Jewish 'A', is playing better than ever and Paula Breithaupt is now a much stronger player and more than holding her own, having now gained two full seasons' experience. Paula and I are determined to have the best doubles record in the division this year, so watch out. To date we have won 7 and lost 1.

Vagabonds have already demonstrated their right to the championship by beating both rivals. First they beat Bath Street 'B' by 8-2 with only Brian Aldred winning a singles v Johnstone. John Letch lost 19 in the third to Ted Barnes but this was the only serious resistance apart from a good doubles win for Gould/Waddington over Barnes/Johnstone. The Jewish 'A' v Vagabonds match was one of the best seen in this division for many years. Vagabonds won 7-3 but the score should have been 5-5 but for two Houdini acts by Tommy Johnstone. Gerry Goldring was leading 20-15 in the third and lost, and Paula, with some fine attacking play, swept to a 9-1 lead in the third game. At this point she lost her dominance and allowed Tommy to slow the game down for a great comeback. Gerry Goldring and myself both beat Doug Ridgway comfortably but Ted and Bobby were too good for us. Ted and I had a tremendous tussle (as we always do) this time Ted taking the honours -19, 18, 17. Our other set came from a doubles win for Paula and myself over Bobby and Doug, who were undefeated until then.

English Electric 'C' have the same team as last year and should finish fourth. Their hopes were dashed by an 8-2 defeat by Vagabonds and a 6-4 defeat by their own 'E' team in a match that could rival Jewish v Vagabonds as the match of the season. EIGHT of the games went to three and Alan Hewett (note the spelling) lost 19, 18 to Julie Black. A great win for Kevin Parker over Julie Black, 19 in the third. George Cheng won two and the 'E' team won both doubles. Brian Cullen won

two for the losers. Evergreen Andy Byrne (what a nice person he is) won against Ro Craddock for the vital sixth set. This English Electric 'E' side has a nice blend of youth and experience and could spring a few surprises.

The appearance of Beauclair 'A' in our division is something of a mystery. Last season they finished in mid-table of 3A (hate, hate). Rumour has it that they heard how good it was in 3B and asked for a transfer. A warm welcome to the ageless talents of the likeable Bill Leeming, Billy and Harry Holmes and Jim Lightburn. You're assured of a friendly but fiercely-competitive match against this team, which has style of its own. We hope that they'll stay with us. Waterloo Park, relegated from Div. 2 last year, are finding the going tough but should be good enough to keep away from relegation worries.

Candidates for the wooden spoon appear to be Colonsay 'C', together with Rafter's 'C' and Trinity 'C', teams suffering from changes in club playing strength. Colonsay and Trinity both have a couple of inexperienced players who won't win many. This puts pressure on the rest of the team, although Colonsay can call on the talent and experience of Liverpool's women's champion, Barbara Kirkman. Alan Guy has also made an appearance for this team so they could do another escape act like last season. The Trinity side should improve as the season progresses so this could be ominous for the relatively experienced Rafter's side. Phil Kelly, Jean Reynolds and Alan Nisted form the basis of the team, assisted by Sue Smith and Pauline Lawrenson. Old Swan 'A' also have two inexperienced players and could be in danger but for the sparkling form of Pete Dobbs and Pete McAdam. They won all of their singles against Waterloo Park to earn a draw and repeated the feat against Trinity but their team still lost 6-4. Dixon won two for Trinity. Six games went to three in this match.

Bath Street 'E' have an experienced side led by Norman Cooke.

John Stewart, an old team-mate of mine at Colonsay in the 2nd division, Eugene Berger and Ron Georgeson complete the side. Bath Street 'E' beat Old Swan 6-4 with two wins each for John and Eugene. Orrel beat Bath Street 'E' 6-4 with double wins from Alun Williams and Ken Miller. Eugene, whose proving hard to beat, won two against Waterloo Park to keep the score respectable, 7-3 to Waterloo. He beat Fred Bainbridge 23-21 in the third and Tony Delamere 27-25 in the third, so it could easily have been 9-1.

Some good individual performances: Bill Spencer (Waterloo Park) beat Gerry Goldring. Paula Breithaupt beat Bill Spencer in the same match. Ray Wainwright beat Brian Cullen. Alan Hewett beat John Letch—wait for it—you've guessed it, 25-23 in the third. George Cheng beat Brian Aldred, 17 in the third, and Warren Davies 10 in the third.

It looks like being a great season. Good wishes to you all. Keep me informed when you play against Jewish if you want particular matches mentioned in these notes.

LES FRENCH.

DIVISION 4A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Polytechnic	7	6	0	1	53
Cadwa 'A'	7	5	2	0	49
Eng. Elec 'F'	5	4	1	0	38
Kirkby	4	4	0	0	35
Trinity 'F'	6	3	3	0	34
Vagabonds 'A' ...	5	4	1	0	32
L'pool Jew. 'C' ...	5	3	2	0	30
Orrel 'B'	6	3	3	0	27
Bath Street 'G' ...	5	0	3	2	19
Wav. Lab. 'D' ...	7	0	6	1	18
Cadwa 'B'	5	0	3	2	17
Vagabonds 'C' ...	6	1	4	1	13

With less than 20 scorecards to work from and only two days in which to prepare these notes, I hope you will forgive the rather scant information content. Being a newcomer to this division I'm afraid the majority of names and faces are new to me, so to help me write these notes I would be grateful for all bits of news which you think are worth a mention—good wins, close games.

etc. Perhaps team captains could let me have a few notes when you play my team, Trinity 'F', or have them passed on to me.

Early results suggest that last years 5A runners-up, Kirkby Sports, will again be the team to beat. Spearheaded by Mark Monaghan and Paul Brown, with new signing Jimmy Prescott and Muriel Cox completing the team, their line-up looks strong. With only three points dropped from their opening three games they look set for a successful season.

An experienced looking English Electric team look a more than useful side, and have started with some solid wins. Their 7-3 victory over Trinity 'F' was no easy match, however, with six sets going to three, the EDITOR beating Mike Corcoran 21-18, 24-22, but losing to Mark Royden 24-22, 23-21. Watch out for these two Trinity lads, especially Mike Corcoran, whose improvement during the summer has been quite outstanding. Now gaining confidence with every game, he has already notched several useful wins.

Other teams who have made a promising start are Polytechnic, Cadwa 'A' and Liverpool Jewish 'C'. The clash between Jewish and Polytechnic produced a 6-4 win for the Poly, N. Roberts the matchwinner here with wins over Eric Young and Julian Quirk.

Already struggling and looking set for a hard season are Police and Wavertree Labour. In the Labour team Tony Moon badly needs support. He picked up his side's only points in an 8-2 defeat by Vagabonds 'A' and did likewise when losing by the same score to Cadwa 'A'. Bath Street 'G' too have made a poor start, losing badly to Orrell 'B', but Loretta Hardman has turned in some fine performances for them. She beat both M. Delahunty and Gil Rowbotham, of Jewish, and another good win was over M. Jarman, of Polytechnic.

After beating Bath Street, Orrell themselves crashed to Trinity 'F', Brian Forshaw being their sole winner. Results like

these make the middle of the table somewhat unclear.

With any luck the notes from now on will be a bit more informative, and also I'll have a better idea of league positions at the time of writing. Don't forget, anything you want included, just let me know. Also, how about putting first names on the score-cars to make these notes a bit more informal.

MIKE GRIFFITHS.

DIVISION 4B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Fire Service 'A' ...	7	7	0	0	63
L'pool Jew. 'D' ...	6	4	1	1	46
Trinity 'E'	6	4	2	0	38
Bath Street 'F' ...	7	5	2	0	36
Police 'B'	7	4	2	1	35
Maghull 'B'	7	3	3	1	34
Wav. Lab. 'C'	6	2	2	2	30
Police 'D'	6	2	4	0	26
Orrell 'A'	7	1	6	0	22
Vagabonds 'B' ...	5	2	3	0	22
Cadwa 'C'	7	0	4	3	21
Eng. Elec. 'G'	5	1	3	1	19
Police 'E'	6	1	5	0	18

Liverpool Jewish 'D' and Fire Brigade 'A' are the two to watch out for. One day a team will come out of the blue and upset the favourites, but it is rarely that the form of the first couple of games is contradicted.

A 10-0 scoreline is of no news value generally, but I must say I was a little surprised to see Maghull 'B' come away from Jewish 'D' with that scoreline against them, despite the strength of the young Jewish team. Congratulations to Ann Carline on her selection for the Liverpool Ladies' team. Blood, sweat and extra duties when the Police 'E' lost 6-4 to their 'B' team. I notice young Tyrer chickened out—doubles from Ferguson and Purcell T. gave them the edge despite a Wilkinson double. Police 'D' and Orrell 'A' were keen to get plenty of practice in with 8 games going to three in their opening game. Purcell beat Jolley 11-21, 22-20, 21-10 for Orrell, who won both doubles. Spedding, Sawyer and McCormac won their two for Police 'D'.

Heffenden was soon on the winning trail again, winning his

two in the Trinity 'E' 7-3 win over English Electric 'G' (Pratt 2).

Wavertree Labour 'C' gained two hard-fought away draws against Maghull 'B' (Draper 2), Cadwa 'C' (Stokes 2). A good win here for Sue Hughes over McEvoy R., which was Ron's only loss out of the six games. Sawyer, of Police 'D', beat Wright, Bath Street 'F' 19-21, 21-18, 24-22, and Spedding beat Bruford and Killbane 21-17, 21-23, 21-12, who had the last laugh as they won all their singles in Bath Street's 8-2 win. Holden and Ray, of Vagabonds, won their four singles but lost 16-21, 21-12, 14-21 to Wilson and Bethel in their side's 7-3 win over Cadwa 'C'.

The closest win of the session was Bath Street 6 (Ann Crist 2), Orrell 'A' 4, Ann combining with Bruford to beat Stevenson and Purcell 21-10, 8-21, 22-20. Nice to see Ron Stevenson and Les Walsh surviving the many changes in their club.

Whitewash savers, Wilson (Cadwa) beating Almon (Jewish) 21-19, 21-13; Ferguson and Christian (Police 'B') beating Davies and Cullen (Fire Service) 16-21, 21-18, 21-16.

Birchall (Wavertree Labour) beat Whittaker (Maghull) 21-19, 15-21, 23-21 in their 5-5 draw. I wonder what stage of the game that was; the same applies to Orrell's doubles win 22-20 in the third as previously mentioned.

JACK LAMBERT.

DIVISION 5A

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Dutch's	7	7	0	0	69
Kirkby 'A'	6	6	0	0	52
Bohemians	8	5	3	0	50
Maghull 'C'	6	6	0	0	48
Wav. Lab. 'E'	7	1	4	2	28
Fire Service 'B'	7	2	4	1	27
Kirkby 'B'	6	2	3	1	26
Trinity 'G'	5	2	2	1	24
Barker & Dobson	6	2	3	1	23
Bohemians 'A'	7	2	5	0	22
L'pool Jewish 'E'	6	0	6	0	14
Trinity 'H'	6	1	5	0	10
Eng. Elec. 'H'	3	1	2	0	7
St. Katherine's —	Expelled.				

If we are going to allow students to participate in our

sport we MUST make allowances for them when they are not here. Maybe the clubs claiming walk-overs from St. Katherine's did not realise this, nor did they realise that they could be depriving the division of nearly 30 games if St. Katherine's are expelled through default. We need as many teams and players as possible so that we can PLAY table tennis.

The pattern forms very early and Dutch's and Kirkby 'A' appear to be the teams to watch. J. Jones, of Fire Brigade 'B' was the first winner against Dutch's, beating G. Hughes 14 and 15 and losing to Green 21-10, 12-21, 12-21; Kneal (Bohemians) and O'Sullivan (Barker and Dobson) spiked Kirkby's guns, both beating Chaloner, P.

Plenty of new faces and plenty of established players—McKim lost to Travis 21-13, 17-21, 18-21, and beat O'Sullivan, F. 21-18, 18-21, 21-15. Travis and Woodburn beat Debbie Driver and McKim 9-21, 21-3, 23-21, this giving Barker and Dobson a 6-4 win despite a double win by Delahunty, of Jewish 'E', Layton of Fire Brigade 'B' beat Armson and Amy Bell in his side's 5-5 draw with Wavertree Labour 'E', whose saviour was Monica O'Donnell with two good wins. McGregor lost to Betty McEvoy 21-15, 19-21, 18-21.

Monica had another double against Trinity 'G', adding a doubles win with Amy Bell over James and Byron 16 and 13. Sanders and Jones won the other doubles against Millie Harris, Betty McEvoy 14 and 17. Ian Lunt, the Kirkby secretary, is keeping his 'B' team's flag flying with a few good wins including a double against Fire Service who won 7-3. Quite a battle with Jackman 21-17, 19-21, 22-20.

The Double 'H' from Trinity and English Electric look like having a tough time; it should be quite a battle when they meet. English Electric 'H' have taken over Crawford's 'A' fixtures on Friday. Evans of Bohemians, won both singles and his doubles with Reynolds against Sanders and Jones, T. 21-15, 14-21, 22-20; a close one but it helped Bohemians to a 7-3 win over Trinity

'G'. Nice to see Chris Reynolds keeping the once famous Bohemians name on the map.

Chaloner, P (Kirkby 'A') beat Davies (Bohemians) 16-21, 24-22, 25-23, in Kirkby's 8-2 win. How often have you seen a game that has all the ingredients of a draw but some poor bloke has to lose.

JACK LAMBERT.

DIVISION 5B

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Harding	7	5	0	2	52
Nat. Giro	6	6	0	0	50
Elec. Supp 'A' ...	6	4	0	2	45
Nat. Giro 'A'	8	3	3	2	37
Bohemians 'B' ...	7	2	4	1	32
Cadwa 'D'	5	4	1	0	29
Vagabonds 'D'	5	2	3	0	26
Maghull 'E'	6	2	4	0	24
University	4	3	1	0	23
Maghull 'D'	6	1	4	1	19
Halewood Y.C. ...	5	1	4	0	13
Wav. Lab. 'F'	5	0	5	0	13
Colonsay 'D'	6	1	5	0	12

With newcomers Harding and Elec. Supp. 'A' including established and experienced players from higher divisions, another frustrating season lies ahead for all teams with the exception of Giro. The stage is set for a battle between these three for the title. The only good thing so far is that we have, for once, been spared the company of a team capable of running amok.

Some of the players used by Harding and Elec. Supp. 'A' look a little suspect, and if Giro experience their usual problem of a regular turnout we could experience that rare event of a lower team providing upsets. Both Harding and Elec. Supp. suffered this sort of setback when held to a draw by Giro 'A' and Bohemians 'B'. Bohemians exposed the weakness of Elec. Supp. by taking four sets off the 3 and 4.

At the moment it all points to Giro as the front runners, with Harding and Elec. Supp. providing the opposition. If Giro fall down on the job then my money will go on Harding to take over, with Elec. Supp. being a comfortable third.

In spite of this the chances for upsets will present themselves, so it is up to the rest of you to get

stuck in. Every other team has players capable of cashing in on the weaknesses of these three. Several have already done so. One such is Paul Brownlee, who took a set from Harding's No. 4. Paul is one of several promising juniors introduced by Maghull, although it saddens me to see his name linked with Maghull, for his father was a regular with the Labour Club for many years. Our loss is Maghull's gain.

There is quite a sprinkling of promising new juniors in the division and I will be watching their progress closely. It would be unfair to mention any at this stage as I have not yet seen them all.

Bohemians 'B' have picked up where they left off last season when they were in disguise as the 'C' team. They look set for a good final sets total and a place in the top six. No chance this time of their ruining my notes by unexpectedly using a reserve, as they have already used one. The experience gained last season looks like bearing fruit.

Halewood appear to have a useful team, but unfortunately I know nothing about them yet as they failed to send a team to play at the Labour Club twice within a week.

Vagabonds 'D' have taken over the York House fixture leaving us with one vacancy. A useful side with experienced, if not outstanding players, and if you don't like their room, the bar provides a pleasant alternative, especially if you've lost.

Cadwa 'D' have some new faces in the team and from what I have seen of them they look quite promising. One good thing about finishing bottom is that anything else is an improvement, and this is the case with them. So be warned, Cadwa have made it known that the "Wooden Spoon" is now on offer.

I suppose it is only right that I should, as usual, offer a contender. It looks a little more difficult this season, however, in spite of a very creditable draw with Giro 'A', I am going to plump for Maghull 'D' with a possible challenge from Halewood or Colonsay 'D'.

So there it is, those named can now devote themselves to proving how utterly useless my predictions are. I have a feeling that Colonsay won't find it very difficult. Fortunately you won't be able to make me eat my words by beating me as my club have very kindly protected me from this indignity by promoting me. Like Cadwa, the only way I can go is up. Mind you, not everyone would agree with me.

Have a good season and try to remember that whilst winning is important, enjoyable participation is even more so. You are, after all, spending a social evening with others who find as much pleasure in playing table tennis as you do.

KEN ARMSON.

The Management Committee fined Bohemians and Liverpool Jewish £1 each for playing players in teams lower than those for which they were grouped.

In addition the ineligible games won by the players were forfeited. This resulted in the following revised scores:—

Jewish 'E' 3, Kirkby 'B' 7
Police 'B' 6, Jewish 'D' 4
Bohemians 'B' 3, Vags. 'D' 7

The Fixture Secretary wishes to thank those clubs sending in their cards on time and regrets that the League Tables do not fully represent the true positions at the time of going to press. There were 40 cards missing after the first 7 weeks.

E. CAMERON,
Fixture Secretary.

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