



Table Tennis DIGEST

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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Vol:40

F E B R U A R Y 1 9 8 7

Issue 2

EDITORIAL

No, we are not forty years old although we are on Volume 40.

Somewhere along the line one of our previous editors lost a couple of years. Norman Cooke did point this out some years ago - I do not intend to pinpoint the blame - if you can call it that.

We are now in our 37th year, our first issue was in October 1950 with no date on it. Our first co-editors were Jack Pattison and Des Loughrey of Liverpool Cricket Club. How our scene has changed since then, we had sixteen divisions including the Wirral contingent - we have just six left - with one division of three player teams, the sixteen divisions comprised of five man teams although the number of teams per division was smaller. As I suggested in my last divisional notes I would prefer a return to straight divisions to allow new boys to acclimatise.

In this 1950 period Rafterers were at the height of their fame and studded with internationals and county players, now they are no more. Over the years great clubs like Rafterers, Balfour, Linnets and Bootle Y.M.C.A. (and are now back) Oakhill and Anfield and homely clubs like Victoria Park, Beauclair, Elm Hall Drive, Osterley and many more have gone by the wayside. Bootle Y.M.C.A. I have always felt was a major loss and still hurts, as I reckon, as I said before it was a personal ego trip and a misguided idea of the true meaning of Christianity by the then leader.

However, it is the loss of the once truly great Rafterers Club that we now mourn another tragedy and another tug at the heart strings.

(DON'T FORGET THE CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS).

NOTICE TO ALL SECRETARIES AND CHAIRMAN

A general meeting will be held at Merseyside Police Club on Tuesday 24th March 1987 commencing at 7.30 pm. All clubs are requested to be represented and no additional notice will be given.

The agenda is a single item:-

The formation of the Divisions.

This season we lost the fifth division and the traditional fifth teams were absorbed into the two fourths. This appears to have led to quite a discussion, some think that there is a gap in playing strengths between the top and bottom teams in each fourth division, some say that the loss of the fifth division is creating a gap with the fourth divisions being too strong to act as either a nursery for the up and coming or a resting place for the enthusiasts who play for pleasure but whose ability is limited or fading.

Should we have one fourth and one fifth or should we go the whole hog and create six divisions, one to six.

Under our rules the management committee have no power to demote or relegate the teams and if you feel a change of this nature is beneficial to the league we will need a resolution supported by the clubs to introduce such a change. It is important that you ascertain your club's feelings and that you attend the meeting and vote.

E. Cameron.

P.S. All clubs holding trophies should return them at this meeting.

E. C.

DIVISION ONE

KEN ARMSON

Any early season thoughts that Electric Supply may not have an easy stroll to the title quickly faded as they carved themselves a huge lead and at the same time easily disposed of any would be challengers. They recently disposed of Liverpool Y.M. and Watertree Labour by big margins. Only Les Molyneux has shown any sympathy to his opponents and tossed away the odd set or two. As with the league, so with the Cup. There is no chance of a surprise result and I expect Electric Supply to be very comfortable winners and lose the lowest amount of sets ever in achieving victory. This should also be the case with the title. One unusual spin-off is that Mal McEvoy finds himself only third in their averages below Rob Bevan and Wayne Percival.

Wavertree Labour find themselves in second place despite having had to make use of several reserves, some of whom have come from the third division. Liverpool Y.M. can only manage fifth place and they too have used quite a few reserves coupled with the in and out form of Peter Taylor, and the still not at his best, Malcolm Pu. The unfancied Cadwa are at present holding down third place with a few good wins to justify their being there. They

have beaten Liverpool Y.M., drawn against Wavertree Labour but losing to Maghull 6-4. Their match against Bootle in Week 1 which they lost 4-6 was reduced to 3-6 due to Mike Mahoney having once again got into difficulties with his registration which lost them the walkover set he had been given. This also cost them a further ten points for playing an ineligible player and has cost them second place. They suffered the fate of most teams against Electric Supply losing 9-1 with Mike Mahoney picking up their consolation point. They also produced a notable double when Rob Davies, who usually plays in the third division turned out as a reserve and defeated Steve Gittins in two straight, and Rob Lowe 21/23 in the third. Quite a night for Rob. Neil Gravener recorded a notable win against Roy Smith winning in two straight, nine each time. There aren't many players who can point to having kept Roy to such a low total. Their run in the cup ended when Labour 'A' beat them 6-1. It is time we dealt properly with the question of cup and made a clear decision on when they finish. Some still play the full matches and others finish when a winning total is reached. With no clear ruling it is left to teams to sort out and it can lead to disharmony.

Bootle are at present in fourth place but are struggling to stay there and seem likely to fall away. They have lost the services of Phil Thompson for the time being and conceded a 10-0 walkover to Labour 'A' when only Lawrence Kenwright was available. Financially, it was more sensible to concede the match than play with just one player. English Electric also have their share of troubles and find themselves below their newly promoted 'A' team. The 'A' team are comfortably placed and have had a lot of good results. The same applies to Maghull with Frank Murphy, Ted Birch and Alan Chase celebrating their return with some really good performances and some notable scalps hanging from their belts. Both have defeated English Electric with Electric 'A' making up for the early season defeat at the hands of their first team. Maghull also saw off Cadwa with the aid of a treble from Frank Murphy. When they both met it finished a draw.

Many of the results and performances are directly related to the low strength of the first division this season. It is at its lowest for many years and much weaker than last season with quite a few clubs feeling the pinch in relation to the shortage of good players. Many known good players have gone missing and there is a shortage of young players coming through. Any sudden improvement seems unlikely but at least the three-a-side ensures that players still get their share of good games. This is also one of the main reasons why Electric Supply are running away so easily with the league and will have it all sewn up in a very short time.

On to Maghull, unarguably the most talked about and contentious situation for many years and a definite product of the problems facing clubs. I have listened to many views about this all coupled with what should be done about it. The biggest moan being that such mediocre opposition should not be allowed to play in this division.

Conveniently overlooked is the fact that quite a few teams have used as reserves players who could be said to fall into the same category. Everyone knows what they want done but no-one gives a thought as to how it could be achieved. The most common suggestion is to cast the Rules aside which most sensible people would consider to be the daftest suggestion anyone could make. But even dafter is the move being mooted, which several players have mentioned to me, of teams conceding 10/0 walkovers to Maghull 'A' is they are still with us as Maghull next season. This will certainly avoid the

necessity of first division players travelling to Maghull to play inferior opposition, but will only serve to ensure they do not get relegated and at the same time swell the League coffers. We lowly mortals in the lower division should applaud and encourage this idea as the income from the Fines may enable the league to reduce our Registration Fee. Said fee being the same for inferior beings as it is for the first division players.

The real crux of the matter is that Maghull took a club decision to rank their players in the order which suited them, having found three players happy to get battered every week. If rumours are to be believed, they are now blaming this decision on everyone bar themselves. Having opted to do this they are to blame. Not the Rules, the players, or the Management Committee. Just simply, Maghull. Anyone who feels our Rules should be able to cope with such problems and think they have the answer need only get their club to put forward their proposed Rule amendments and trot along to the A.G.M. in May to discuss their proposals. It should be borne in mind that Rules are for the benefit of all and not just a minority and Rule changes therefore require a two-thirds majority vote.

Ironically enough, best results so far must go to the much maligned Maghull 'A' when they took four sets from W.H.A. with Bill Salter recording his first win of the season beating Dave Evans in three, and Stuart Fay taking his total to three with a two straight win (8 in the second) against Brenda Bucey, and Rod Bulmer also taking a set off Brenda. They added a doubles to this when Stuart and Rod beat Dave and Paula in the third. Quite a night for them as it trebled their sets total and to them must have been akin to a victory. This now leaves only Dave Lamsden to achieve a win. As the season progresses who can say how much improvement these players will make for first division players claim that 3-a-side improves your game. On that basis we can expect Maghull 'A' to win more sets.

Walton Hall continue to juggle with their players and it is difficult to work out just what they hope to achieve. Their 'A' team seems doomed to relegation and the first team will finish in the bottom half, but in no fear of anything, except perhaps, Maghull 'A'. The confusion has even spread to their scorecards and against Liverpool Y.M. they managed to have a 4-6 defeat recorded as a 6-4 win and even got their opponents to sign the scorecard.

The semi-final draw has paired Wavertree Labour v Liverpool Y.M. and Labour 'A' with Electric Supply. To most players the draw for Labour 'A' is the exit sign from the cup. No so Dave (The Cup) Roberts, for he feels a home draw is a favourable sign from the gods of a win for them. The Wavertree Labour v Liverpool Y.M. is a really intriguing draw for this tie could go either way and possibly to a replay.

Bath Street have got over their narrow escape of last season and have been getting some good results. They drew with both English Electric teams and defeated Wavertree Labour 'A'. They lost 6-4 to Y.M. 'A' when Ken Jackson failed to arrive. Quite an event for Ken to be missing. Bootle disposed of them 7-3 in a match which saw Dave Wilson pick up his three. He has played several times for his first team and has got amongst the wins and can feel well pleased with himself. Still a lot of incomplete cards, a lot of late ones, with the worst coming from a Wavertree Labour first team home match when the card not only arrived three weeks late it also bore only the signature of the opposing captain. Roy Smith was missing from this match and it would appear no-one wanted to be in charge.

Lets start with some controversy and guess which team is involved! Yes you are absolutely right. Eddie Cameron is in possession of two score cards claiming all points to Walton Hall 'B' from the two Jewish teams. I believe it was due to the fact that Jewish cannot play on Fridays and the other team were not able to accomodate them.

I understand that there is an indication on the cards that the matches could possibly be played in the future. Lets hope so because not only could it affect the promotion and relegation prospects of the Jewish teams but also other teams including Walton Hall 'B'.

Early in the season I was unable to play against Jewish and at the last minute told Tom Purcell the fact and indicated that I had the score book etc. Due to a misunderstanding by Tom of our ranking system he played George Wright No.3 and Dave Crispin No.4. Dave had only started playing again recently and for the second team but he played Bob Hudson who was also No.4 and Dave won easily in two. Jewish won 7-3 but Tom told me that Bob indicated annoyance at a good player like Dave being at No.4. I realised that in fact he should have played No.3 and immediately made sure that Eddie Cameron knew of our mistake.

Eddie told us we would have to lose the point Dave had won despite the facts that (1) it had not been malicious, (2) we reported it ourselves and (3) Dave would have played Bob anyway if he had been ranked three in the team that night.

It just shows the need for all players to know the individual rankings of their own teams and it became even more pointed when I saw the result of a game played soon after between Jewish 'A' and Bootle Y.M. The latter won 7/3 but because John McGee played four and won his two games they were later taken away. Apparently John Hodges who played three and lost both his singles was ranked behind John.

Having regard to these matters I have taken great interest in the cards I have received and note that the club rankings are hardly shown. Electric Supply 'A' appear to be the exception to the rule. Please make Eddie's job easier and ALWAYS show the rankings.

Now down to the table tennis and as suggested earlier Wavertree Labour 'B' are romping away and in the cards I have received for this period I note they have played 9 players. Neil James has been outstanding in these games with an unbeaten record well supported by Justin Evans, Hayden(?) Young, with Paul Griffiths coming in twice only and of course unbeaten. Alan Timewell turned up against Cadwa 'A' and the latter were trounced 10-0. Labour have Paul, Alan, Neil and Justin all unbeaten. Fancy having the luxury of playing Neil at No.3. He who had been beating other No.1's without trouble.

Labour's only hiccup was in late October when they played title contenders Plesseys. Labour had Neil, Justin, R. Jones and young Val Franco. Neil beat R. Edwards and R. Lavin, Justin beat R. Edwards and lost to Trevor Owen. The only other singles victory for Labour was R. Jones beating E. Gilmour in three. Even the doubles went Plesseys way to ensure a 6/4 win for the latter.

I bet the Labour have a stronger team for the return!

Plessey have stayed in contention with R. Edwards playing consistently at No.1 but in this period Trevor at No.3 has only lost to Alan Cameron in two. Plesseys have played 7 players in this period. The only loss in this period was to fellow contenders Jewish 3-7 at home. Harry Johnstone winning two, John Henshaw likewise, Paul Morgan and Eddie Clein one each and the latter beating the Plessey's second double string. A draw at home against Bath Street 'A' was not true to form.

Bootle Y.M.C.A. are still challenging with a steady team of Mike Keane, John Higham, Tom and Jonathan Killop and Derek Sullivan. In this period Tom was the only one not holding his own and I expect them to be challenging for second place right to the end.

Jewish as usual have players popping up for either team with only Harry Johnstone, John Henshaw and Paul Morgan being settled in the first team but as I go to press I understand that Eddie Clein is now the other ranked player in the first team. Harry Johnstone has won 11 out of 16 at No.1 and has been an asset. Paul, John and Eddie have more than held their own.

The 'A' team must stand a chance of relegation but knowing the Jewish propensity to bring the best players out when needed who can tell!

Although Bob Hudson and John Hodges have had a poor spell by their own standards I note Roy Bradbury came in unbeaten for three games. Likewise R. Stevenson with 7/8 could assist greatly if available.

Electric Supply 'A' have disappointed me because I thought they may have been more like promotion candidates than facing relegation. I note that Les Molyneux has appeared for three games and was unbeaten. They have only relied Les, Neil Jennings, Alan Biggs, Peter Carney and John Moore and their ~~form has been indifferent~~

their own, mainly. ...
players.

English Electric 'B' have a settled team of Rod McPherson, Brian Crolley, Frank McCann and Nigel Conquest. All holding their own with Brian not losing many and appear certain to be just below the first runners.

Walton Hall 'B' are fighting for survival and appear to have given points away several times with players failing to turn up. This must hurt reliable and still good Bill Harris, Dave Evans and Ian Wensley.

Bath Street 'A' have played 10 players with Dave Butterworth and Alan Walton showing up best although it is nice to see Eric Ferguson come in a couple of times and only lose once.

Police are also fighting for survival with 10 players up to now. However Paul Gittins has played since soon after the start of the season and has moved to No.2 now John Rankin has managed to get away from Training for as

much of the rest of the season as possible. Paul looked out of touch in his very first match when he lost to John Higham but in the same match Mick Keane brought out his very best and Paul has started to look sharp. John appeared against Labour 'B' but lost both in a 7/3 defeat. Since then he beat Paul in our Force Championship final in a thrilling match and as I go to press note that Police beat Jewish 8-2 with John, Paul and Gareth winning two and both doubles going to Police. With re-ranking to John, Paul, Gareth and Tom, I know I am biased but I fancy we will survive.

My congratulations to Maghull for continuing on with only a Stan Clarke win over Paul Morgan in 2 to shout about. Keep fighting!.

DIVISION 3A

JACK LAMBERT

My apologies again for the lack of notes in your last edition.

A good point to start would be Vagabonds 6 Bootle J.C. 4, Bobby Owen (who else) with a double leading Vagabonds to victory. Bootle had to play a reserve but must be strong favourites for the title, with Vagabonds hot on their trail, although their slip showed a bit against Kirkby who gained a superb five all draw. The next two challengers fought a tough five all - man of the match was Kar Lee of Merseyside Chinese with wins over Sylvia Graham and P. Green of Bootle J. C. Just to join the gang and keep the Pools panel happy we had Kirkby 5 (Steve Rowe 3) Electric Supply B 5. A technical point in having Harrison and Bevan in their wrong order cost them four points in a 6-4 against Brownmoor, so beware folks.

The double. Sarny, Plesseys and John Bailey took better than their position a draw against Electric Supply B (A. Kelly 3) being their best performance. Colonsay A and Bath Street C are making sure we do not have a wooden spoon battle, although they had a bit of a battle themselves, Roger Taylor and Dave Simpson scored trebles in Colonsays first win. Roger also had two outstanding wins over Tom Johnstone and Mark Whittaker of Vagabonds another good prospect.

In keeping with the general form Plesseys A and Maghull D drew their crunch game Plesseys relying on the doubles and Maghull on a Chris Roberts double, a bit surprising seeing these teams just avoiding relegation. Chris and Peter Wass at number one and Harry McGanity and Stan Harvey's experience and captaincy.

Chris Roberts had a good double against Bootle J.C.

Dave Aimson beat Peter Holmes 18 and 14, Brian Aldred playing reserve for English Electric beat Tom Downing 16 and 18, Norman Cooke beat Tom Johnstone

19 and 19, Alan Gillespie had a double against Linacre and a lone win over Electric Supply and Alan Guy a 17 in the third win over J. Reynolds. All saving their teams from a whitewash.

Six games went to three Brownmoor Park 4 (Rowland 2) Linacre 6 (Ainsworth 3) Peter Holmes and Rod Peverall just scraped home against Karen Gibson and Norman Cooke 22-20; 19-21; 22-20; Sandy Sanderson beat David Ng 18 in the third, Brownmoor had another close struggle with Kirkby (Steve Rowe 2).

Lots of cards to sort out for this edition and a 'lorra, lorra' close games which of course all give us better and more competitive table tennis, a few less ten-nils. It's nice to see a few new young faces and quite a few oldies returning to the game - but in this division old stalwarts abound who I have met over the years, it's great when you can have a laugh, a chat, a drink AND a competitive game. All being well you will have a younger and better looking correspondent next issue, Sylvia Graham, a terrific and dedicated worker to our table tennis cause.

DON'T FORGET THE CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Statistics and records are hard to come by as your first batch of cards are still in someone's back pocket. However, Bobby Owen is still the man to take 'one' off, he beat Frank Brady who with Keith Miller are just behind him as top scorers, Val Franco has only lost to Frank and beat Keith but is not a regular for Wavertree. A. Clark (lost to Ro Craddock) Norman Challinor, Tony Leary and Allan Kelly all had a very good session and just below them again Peter Choi, Julie Prince, Alan Kelly and John Moore.

As I have already mentioned there were plenty of cards in the last batch and these figures are taken from them, maybe you will get a more comprehensive record in the next issue.

Now here's a question - do you look at the other divisional notes? If you don't - I mentioned in the divisional 4A notes that we need a grooming ground for new players and new clubs to feel their feet. We have a meeting on March 24th to discuss that problem and possibly switching back to straight divisions. Also should the management have the right to promote and relegate teams in extraordinary circumstances - think about both items and talk about them.

DIVISION 3B

COLIN PRATT

Well into the second half of the season now, and two teams have opened up a lead at the top of the division. Y.M.C.A. and Colonsay are neck and neck, both winning well and both with strong squads. Y.M.C.A. with the top player Wing Law well supported by Steve Graham, Francis Lay and Ted Mandaluff plus reserves of the calibre of Jim Clewett and Peter Lau. Francis Lay went to English Electric the week after losing his first game of the season in the cup, and promptly lost his 100% league record to Margaret Collins, again playing as reserve for the Electric team. Well done Margaret - hard luck Francis.

Colonsay have Colin Rourke, Brian Jennings, Barbara Kirkman and Dave Piper well backed up by John O'Sullivan and Harry Nelson. This squad system seems to be needed these days in order to win a division with players playing in several different leagues.

Destined for relegation is Bath Street D, their only regular player seems to be Viv Smallwood with any three from seven others, although Warwick Bolam are also in trouble at the wrong end of the division. Rodney Youth are a team which I think will do very well next season with some very good players.

Y.M.C.A. beat Rodney Youth 9-1 with 5 games going to three. Wing Law continued his habit of losing the second game against Alan Noor and Justin Quinn, winning in the third 21-19; and 27-25. Francis Lay beating Joe Williams and losing to Alan Noor 19-21; in the third game. Rodney Youth had the same problems when losing 2-8 to Colonsay another 5 games going to three and Alan Noor only losing to Colin Rourke 15-21; 21-18; 25-27.

Have a look at these lists, the various players who have better than 60% average:- No.1 players, Wing Law 95%, Colin Rourke 77%, Alf Southall and Alan Noor 73%, Ron Jones 72%, Bill Clayton 72%, Richard Hardaker 68%, Don Davies 62%: No.2 players:- Dave Southall 91%, Colin Pratt 72%, Brian Jennings 70%, Eric Ferguson 68%, Reg Edwards 66%: No.3 players, Francis Lay 75%, Joe Williams 69%, Barbara Kirkham 68%, Clive Roberts 66%, Colin Fyles 61%: No.4 players, Brian Aldred 92%, Ted Mandaluff 88%, Alec Gould 84%. Only two clubs have four players in the above averages. Bath Street 'B', and English Electric who are unbeaten when at full strength and who have beaten Y.M.C.A. and Colonsay twice each. Some close games which deserve a mention include Waterloo's 6-4 win over Cadwa with Mike Power and Clive Roberts winning Cadwa's only singles, both against Mike Nelson. Cadwa winning both doubles. The game Colonsay against Cadwa almost produced a major surprise, Cadwa were 5-2 ahead and George Higham led Dave Piper 17-12 only for Dave to turn on the gas and win 21-19. Colin Rourke with a singles and Barbara and Dave in their doubles turned defeat into a 5-5 draw. Warwick Bolam, with a 6-4 win over Waterloo, won six singles against very good opposition. Colin Owens beat Andy Armstrong and Mike Nelson. Carl Ledson beat Mike and John Simm, Phil Wilkinson and Robert Peat won one each against Andy and Mike Griffiths, and all this at Waterloo, amazing.

Wavertree Labour 'C' waiting at their club to play Colonsay, but nobody turns up! What do they do? Fill in a 10-0 card and have a few games amongst themselves! NO. Wavertree ring Colonsay and invite them to turn up whenever they can. The last player turns up at 9.45 pm and the match is played. Ron Jones - top spin, top spin and still more top spin, beats Colin Rourke 22-20; 26-24. Peter Jones beats Barbara and reserve Val Franco beats Barbara and Dave Piper, 6-4 for Wavertree and Sportsmanship at it's best - well done!

Good performance from Bootle J.C. beating a full Cadwa side 8-2, Dave Graham and Ray Parry winning three each. Mind you seven games went to three. Norman Cooke happily back from injury with 3 wins against Warwick Bolam in an 8-2 victory for Bath Street 'D' Dave Aimson also winning his three.

Close encounters - Brian Aldred and Ian Lunt beat Alec Gould and Barbara Smallwood 14-21; 21-11; and 30-28. Bill Proffitt of Fords beat Andy Armstrong 22-20; 24-22: Ted Mandaluff beat Colin Owens 23-21; 22-20: Joe Williams beating Wilf Gibson 23-21; 24-22 and Paul Keating in the same match.

beating George Frost 21-17; 16-21; 27-25. New boy Keith Goodwin for Bath Street beating Louis Rosenbloom 15-21; 21-18 and 25-23.

This fellow says that in twenty years, I've only mentioned him when he loses, so this should make a change. This season he has beaten Wing Law, Francis Lay, Brian Jennings, Clive Roberts, Alan Davies, Bill Proffitt, just to name a few, well done Colin Fyles, mind you you have lost the odd game but I suppose I can't mention that!

There was a very tense cup match in which English Electric beat Colonsay 6-2, Richard Hardaker coming from 18-20 down in the second to win 21-18 in the third against the non-stop hitting of Colin Rourke. Brian Aldred beating Barbara Kirkman and Harry Nelson (both in three) in games of high quality play. Don't forget Captains, Christian names on the score cards, an asterisk alongside the star games and the odd note on the bottom of the card, helps me no end. Now I'll name the top 8 teams, Y.M.C.A., Colonsay, Bath Street 'B', English Electric, Cadwa, Bootle J.C., Wavertree Labour, Fords.

DIVISION 4A

MABS NEARY

You will now notice a quick change of author or contributor of your divisional notes. I have been brainwashed into thinking I volunteered for the job.

The cards were delivered (i.e. thrown) to me by a flying M.C.P. (and proud of it) and gave me my writing orders. Now enough of the compliments and on with the job.

No prize for guessing who will be making a quick return to the 3rd division. Yes, Police 'A', that was obvious after only the first few matches with Jack's comment and observations in the first issue, then we may never see the name down this low for a long time to come. Jewish 'C' would appear to have a few matches to catch up on, so if they can make an effort, could lift themselves up by 2 or even 3 places from their present lowly position. But it could be a case of "There's no relegation, so why bother". At least when there is another division below you - you can 'fight' to stay up.

In the last Cadwa 'Derby', the 'D' team who were with their No.1 Ian Douglas, walloped the 'C' team, who ere without their No.2 Tony Moon, by the final score of 6-4. The return match saw a very different result. The full 'C' team sledgehammered the 'd' team who were minus Ian. 10-0 (and only two going to three). I hope it was a friendly sporting match - and with two cups of tea.

Bootle Y.M. 'A' and Vagabonds 'A' are going to battle it out for runners up. Both their respective No.1's, Roly (not Dolly) Wright and Jack Highton are very useful players and won't lose many sets. It's nice to see several players still playing and playing well - with their faithful Barna bats. Maybe one day we'll all go back to them and then I won't think I've gone

deaf anymore!

A new 'old-name' to appear this season is Maureen King - yes none other. It must be all of 15 years since she last signed on anywhere - the last being the "Pirates" of Duke Street (in the Yacht pub - where else). The old style is still there - but timing and accuracy not quite there - yet. I believe she's had a go at Scuba diving since her Table Tennis retirement. Anyway, she seems to be enjoying playing again, but tells me she can't believe the amount of foul serving being allowed. To date, she's spoilt her 100% record, by beating Stephen Sin of M.C.Y.A. 'A'.

I am writing these notes in a bit of a rush and more personally than I would normally write any (as in the past - occasionally) and I am glad Pauline Lawrenson is continuing to play on as with the folding of Rafter's last season we saw the Table Tennis retirement of an ex Liverpool ladies player from that club Jean Reynolds.

Some good wins by the following to save a whitewash were:- Richard Blackburne (Liverpool Jewish C) over Jack Highton (Vagabonds A) 21/19; 21/18; Dave Palmer (University) over George Wright (Police A) 21/10; 8/21; 21/18; Sue Willis (Cadwa D) over Gloria Burns (Wavertree Labour F) 21/16; 21/18; Ian Andrews (Liverpool Jewish C) over Jack Power (Cadwa C) 15/21; 21/9; 21/14; Bryan Pickett (University) over Ken Roberts (Vagabonds A) 21/17; 21/17; Pauline Lawrenson (Cadwa D) over Les Higham (Bootle Y.M. A) 22/20; 21/14 and last but not least:- Ken Armson (Wavertree Labour F) over Robin Sissons (University) 21/18; 21/10.

I believe Ken Ray (Vagabonds A) is way ahead for king of the net serves award. The two young lads that Joan Connor (Wavertree Labour F) is grooming for stardom, are improving bit by bit, namely Mark Barnes and Neil Anderson - let's hope that they will carry on playing.

Please try and have your Score Books at your match with you - as most people like to look through it, to see exactly who beat who and how with any comments, Captains (or anybody) may make in it.

For some interesting reading, have a look at University's, and a peep at Wavertree Labour's (E).

I think this is Dave Palmers last season with University and he is a hard left-hander to beat. Their female player Bryony Edwards (home town Bath) got her revenge on Ken Armson recently (who may have had his pumps on the wrong feet).

Every result card doesn't always tell the story - so you can put some comments on it (clean ones only - the comments I mean) - if you want to.

A little story about Bootle Y.M.'s matches, during the very cold spell we had, they had left the tray ready in the kitchen, including a pint bottle of milk for the refreshments - and when they came to pour it out - it had frozen. It was a good job they had some warm pipes they could warm it on.

P.S. Jack mentioned this old ladies campaign - well I had a couple more lined up - but me spade broke!

Into the second half of the season and still thirteen teams left in our division - is this a record? Warwick Bolam are the team to drop out, which I had been half expecting, although they obviously had some good players signed on judging by a 4-6 defeat in their first match against the strong Action Youth outfit (eight three-setters here). As predicted, English Electric are setting a strong gallop, despite losing number one Keith Wright to the Southport league early on. They have now also lost Ken Black, who has taken a job in the Midlands, Ken has been a stalwart of our league for many years - I hear his first mention in the Digest was 1927-28 season! Good luck Ken.

English Electric nearest rivals are Action, but their top of the table clash resulted in a comfortable 8-2 win for the leaders, although one doubles and Wally Sill's defeat of Paul Howard were deuce in the third. Top of the averages for English Electric is Margaret Collins with only three singles defeats and 100% doubles with Ken. If I were not writing these notes I could have got a mention as one of the three! Top player in the division is Brian Murphy of Electric Supply with, I think, only one defeat to date and that does'nt count because it was by R. Peat of Warwick Bolam. Brian got a walkover against Bath Street through the failure to arrive of Brian Cunningham who was ineligible to play for them anyway! So do Bath Street get fined for playing short, playing (or not playing) an ineligible player or both?? Mention of Bath Street brings me to the tough luckstory of all time; in the match against Aigburth A Eric Wood is one game all against Keith Goodburn and Keith is 20/12 up in the third, Keith serves and Eric hits the ball back way over the end of the table, only for Keith to catch the ball on his bat. Eric then proceeds to win the next seven points for 20/20. It's then nip and tuck until 26/25, when Eric wins the match on a net-cord!

Bootle Y.M. and Police 'B' are proving a hard nut for the best to crack, but whilst you have Ken Davies and Bert Rivers to thank for most of their sets, Police are winning regularly through their settled quintet of Richie Winkle, Albie Baker, Sue Anderson, Bob Rawlinson and Arthur Garrett. Also doing well are the evergreen Aigburth first team - combined ages about 740 now, with Bill Leeming having a very good season and near septagenarian Tim Lightburn still dancing round and hammering in his wrong-footing forehand. One of the best wins so far was by George Burns look-alike Frank Leece of Maghull in defeating Action No.1 Tony Dixon 19 and 15.

A great performance also by Alex Crowe (Brownmoor Park) in winning his teams two sets against Electric Supply, defeating Peter Highton 21/12 in the third and Neil Bascombe 22/20; 22/20. Alex must be one of the most inconsistent players in the league as I beat him comfortably on his table whilst playing for the first team and six days later he thrashed me 8 and 15 at our place during a shock 6-4 win for Brownmoor Park, well it shocked us anyway!!! The Electric Supply versus English Electric match - which bright spark put these two together - produced a night of very mixed fortunes for Peter Highton defeating English Electric's No.1 Wally Sill 17 and 5 but losing to Ken Black 11 and 12.

The two Jewish teams are getting some good individual results with Jerry O'Keefe and Tony Cohen being the main set winners for the 'B' team, although Richard Thornton had an excellent win against Margaret Collins. For the 'E'

team Ken Dutch is still proving a difficult opponent for anyone and son Julian is showing much improved form this season whilst daughter/sister Susan pops up with the occasional good win along with the two Normans, Simmons and 'Action Man' Zalud. Martin Levy - now sadly out of action with a broken leg - won two whilst playing as reserve for the 'D' team in the Derby match.

University have not fulfilled my prediction of the last Digest that they would find players to help them climb the table and are entrenched at the bottom. However, at the time of writing I am informed they have taken four sets off Aigburth 1st, a result which augurs well for the second half.

Aigburth 'A' are having an up and down sort of season with Eric Wood playing exceptionally well as when scoring a treble against the first team in a 6-4 defeat. Simon Killeen and Peter Knight have also got some very good wins under their belts. A little more attention to defence could bring them up to the top level in our division. Unfortunately Peter Meyer having finally changed from his eighty year old pimple bat has been struggling to produce his excellent defence of previous seasons whilst the other player who shall remain nameless has never been much good anyway! Face savers not previously mentioned include:- Tony Cohen v Bob Rawlinson (Police) 21/15; 21/18; Richard Woodley (Bath Street) beat Tony Dixon (Action) 10.21; 21/19; 21/18; Ken Dutch a great win 21/19; 14/21; 21/19; over Richard Winckle. Jimmy Gill (Maghull) defeated Jim Lightburn 21/17; 12/21; 21/14. Ken Davies (Bootle) scored a double over Bill Leeming and Bill Holmes. Also scoring a double was Brian Murphy against Action defeating Tony Dixon and Paul Howard two straight.

Finally Susan Dutch won 21/16; 21/18 against Jim Lightburn.

A few phew! games to conclude the epistle S. Woods (Maghull) v P. Birch (Jewish 'D') 21/18; 15/21; 23/21: in the same match Julian and Ken Dutch lost to Eddy Cameron and Neil Bascombe 20/22; 21/18; 21/23: Ron Georgeson (B/S) against Alan Finnan (Action) 10/21; 24/22; 19/21: Ken Davies v Ritchie Winkle 19/21; 21/18; 22/20: Ken and Bert Rivers beat Richie and Bob Rawlinson 21/11; 19/21; 27/25: Julian Dutch lost to Barry Steven (Bootle Y.M.) 19/21; 22/20; 19/21: and the closest of all Ron Georgeson beat Peter Highton 19/21; 21/19; 25/23.

Finally, finally, as I write I'm informed that Arthur Garnett has 100% record for the Police, the only perfect record left in our division.

LATE STOP PRESS:- Simon Killeen (Aigburth 'A') has just beaten him 21/14 in the third.

TABLE EDGES

While appreciating that Divisional contributors are volunteers (aren't we all) I would ask that if you find it impossible to return your notes within a reasonable time, or not at all - quite often illness, holidays etc., make life difficult. Would you please return the cards to me as I feel it is most unfair that a division should be without a write up.

Thinking about my last item should make us appreciate all the more the fact that Don Davies provides table tennis with a regular Tuesday and Saturday column in the Liverpool Echo, quite a job and much appreciated.

Rumour has it that Keith Williams will make an early return to the scene and how about Brian Davey.

Congratulations to Mr. Trevor and Mrs. Debbie Hughes who were married on February 28th, very best wishes to you both.

Rafters may have ceased to exist but following the return of Gloria Burns I hear Myra and genial Joe Lovelady have returned to the fold (welcome home) with Brownmoor Park.

I have mentioned Liverpool Cricket Club which reminds me that Maureen King with memories of Pirates (and their fight with authority) is also back with Wavertree, quite a personality kid in those days our Maureen. Is Barbara Topping next on your list Mabel?

Dave Newton started his table tennis career with Trinity in the Sunday School League (as many of us did) and continued with them and Maghull Co-op in the Liverpool League and then went to Maghull with his very good friend Alan Chase and other lads. I am sure all his friends at these clubs and throughout the league will miss his friendship and competitive play very much. To his wife Joan and family we send our deepest sympathy on their sad loss - which is ours too.

For quite a number of years Derek Sullivan of Ashcrofts has been a firm supporter of our game and has gone out of his way to help us in any way he could. He is leaving in mid-February and wishes to say a fond farewell to the many friends he has made - particularly Ken Armson, Don Davies and John O'Sullivan, he will be around now and again but in case he doesn't see you he sends his good wishes to you all and to you Derek best wishes for the future.

In the Veterans County game versus Norfolk, our representatives Mabel Neary (Wavertree) and Alan Chase (Maghull) both had a couple of good wins. Lancashire won 6-3, home venues for these games seem to be bordering on pretty awful!

There is no truth in the rumour that Ken Armson hides in a railway waiting room when any of his teams are playing Bootle J.C., Maghull or Bath Street first teams!!!!!!??

Heartbreak for Ken BLACK (English Electric) hell bent on his possible first championship success after many years with the league, has been reluctantly whisked away to Birmingham on a new job, all the best Ken. Daughter Julie was soon back to her old form after a season off to have a baby, making Ken and Betty (why is't she on your list Mabel) grandparents twice over.

Stan Harvey (Plesseys) brings up an old nutmeg, who is the longest playing member. At the last count Alan Rycroft of Maghull pipped Peter Rumjahn Rafters (both now retired), Stan reckons he is well in the running, particularly as he plays regularly.

Barbara Kirkman seems to have been with us forever - but only because she was young enough to be a member of the girls team to reach the girls

Bromfield Trophy final - and only lost very dubiously. She didn't lose against Stockport the other night, three great wins by our resident ladies player. Seventeen years as a member of the Liverpool Ladies team, a credit to the game this charming young lady.

Proposals for rule amendments and nominations for the Management Committee should be in secretary John McKims hands not later than May 1st.

I have often thought of looking beyond the table tennis of our members - if you see what I mean. We used to have many top tennis players in our ranks - I suppose it could get a bit personal, but ex or is he ex player Chris Amoo of Stanley House won't mind me mentioning him after his win at Crufts' with his Afghan hound as champion of champions! Arthur Pearce of Fords was in the same team.

DON'T FORGET THE CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS.

100 CLUB

Lucky Winners since our last issue are:-

November held at Electric Supply:-

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Mike Truman | £25 |
| 2. Peter Lee (Kirkby) | £10 |
| 3. Plessey Table Tennis Club | £ 5 |

December held at Bootle J.C.:-

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Warren Davies (Liverpool Jewish) | £25 |
| 2. Mrs. J. Parker (nee McCaig) | £10 |
| 3. Norman Zalud (Liverpool Jewish) | £ 5 |

January held at Crawfords:-

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Electric Supply Table Tennis Club | £25 |
| 2. Phil Luxon (Wavertree Labour) | £10 |
| 3. J. O'Sullivan | £ 5 |

Our appeal in the last issue for new members did not prove very fruitful. So once again the appeal goes out for extra members. As you can see two clubs have already benefitted, so why not join for the second six months.

RAFTERS TABLE TENNIS CLUB

I cannot tell a lie!! This is my second effort - I found on completing my first that I had completed a work of art (another query) on the same club word for word exactly fourteen years ago. Dare I repeat it? I think not - just excerpts.

The club was formed in the late months of 1946, Eric Caird, Vice President, Jack McCaig our Vice Chairman and Life Member, Monty: Albert Montgomery who recently died, and I think the May twins were in at the start, (later Mrs Clint Casselman and Mrs Ron Rumjahn) Pinky and Bluey May together with Eileen Mansell (Balfour and Rafters) were our only ladies to reach the final of the Rose Bowl but met the famous Rowe Twins in the final. Amongst many club rooms used, - over a garage in Roscoe Street, Aigburth C.C. a stately home in Croxteth Park, but we mainly remember the club in the conservatory Bentley Road and the Whitefield Cricket pavilion in Court Hey Park.

The club was so strong at one time that the League Committee asked them to split their strength, an example - Closed Championship 1948, gives you an idea: E. Rumjahn Mens Singles, K. May Ladies Singles; E and P Rumjahn Men Doubles; K and L May Ladies Doubles; P Rumjahn and L May Mixed Doubles - all Rafters. The Rumjahns (plus Ron) Internationals. The Mays County players. The strong Balfour Club stole into the scene for team honours but both clubs had their moments and some terrific battles, 1954 saw Balfour A and Rafters A first and second. Other names we know during and perhaps a little after that period are Dave Ferguson, Pete Short, Doug Ridgeway, Arthur Taylor, Reg Hetherington and Eileen Mansell (these two also Balfour), Myra and Joe Lovelady, Jean Reynolds and many more of course.

We thought in the early seventies we were to see a resurgence of former glories when John Marshall seemed to command respect and support particularly from Keith Williams and Brian Davey and later John McNee, a fine player who became a regular Scottish International, but it was short and sweet. It was John Marshall's dad (sadly, recently died) who originally mentioned Rafters to Alan Timewell who kept the senior side of the club at the top including a league championship and a couple of cup finals and brought in very good players like Manning, Mercer and Ashcroft, but it was Janet Davies of the Rumjahn clan - who else - with Don who kept the club going during the latter years - Janet and her girls team (to think we once had two ladies divisions) were lovely, Pauling Lawrenson, Jean Reynolds, Sus Smith (she left me for squash), Jerry O'Keefe, Alan Nisted, Clive Roberts were a bonus to secretary Janet.

A great club with an aura all of its own respected and renowned throughout table tennis and a great loss to the league.

DIVISION 1	P	W	L	D	PTS	DIVISION 3B	P	W	L	D	PTS
ELECTRIC SUPPLY	18	18	-	-	161	COLONSAY	19	14	4	1	140
WAVERTREE LABOUR	18	9	5	4	106	L'POOL YMCA B	18	17	1	-	138
WAVERTREE LAB.A	16	9	4	3	99	ENGLISH ELEC. D	19	12	3	4	116
MAGHULL	18	9	6	3	99	CADWA B	18	11	5	2	111
CADWA	17	10	3	4	96	BATH STREET B	18	10	4	4	106
L'POOL YMCA	16	8	6	2	95	RODNEY YOUTH	19	11	6	2	104
BOOTLE S.C.	18	10	5	3	94	FORDS A	18	10	7	1	100
ENGLISH ELEC.A	20	7	8	5	94	WAVERTREE LAB. C	19	10	7	2	99
L'POOL YMCA A	18	7	9	2	89	BOOTLE J.C. A	18	7	8	3	89
WALTON HALL PARK	18	5	10	3	86	WATERLOO	20	5	13	2	89
ENGLISH ELECTRIC	19	7	10	2	84	MAGHULL C	20	5	12	3	88
BATH STREET	18	5	10	3	70	L'POOL JEWISH B	19	2	14	3	55
WALTON HALL PK.A	17	2	13	2	48	WARWICK BOLAM	18	1	16	1	42
MAGHULL A	19	1	18	-	18	BATH STREET D	17	1	16	-	19

DIVISION 2	P	W	L	D	PTS	DIVISION 4A	P	W	L	D	PTS
WAVERTREE LAB.B	16	15	1	-	132	POLICE A	14	14	-	-	119
BOOTLE YMCA	17	11	4	2	112	VAGABONDS A	16	10	3	3	103
PLESSEY	16	10	2	4	99	BOOTLE YMCA A	14	11	1	2	99
ENGLISH ELEC.B	17	8	5	4	99	CADWA C	14	9	4	1	92
LIVERPOOL JEWISH	16	9	5	2	95	PLESSEY B	15	9	4	2	92
CADWA A	16	7	4	5	91	WAVERTREE LAB. E	18	6	9	3	87
POLICE	18	6	8	4	89	UNIVERSITY	16	9	7	-	84
WALTON HALL PK.B	14	8	6	-	85	M.C.Y.A. A	17	4	13	-	53
BATH STREET A	18	6	8	4	84	WAVERTREE LAB. F	14	2	11	1	42
ELEC.SUPPLY A	17	5	11	1	74	CADWA D	15	1	13	1	34
FORDS	16	4	7	5	66	L'POOL JEWISH C	13	1	11	1	33
L'POOL JEWISH A	18	4	13	1	56						
MAGHULL B	17	-	17	-	4						

DIVISION 3A	P	W	L	D	PTS	DIVISION 4B	P	W	L	D	PTS
BOOTLE S.C. A	19	17	1	1	152	ENGLISH ELEC. E	18	18	-	-	150
BOOTLE J.C.	19	16	1	2	134	ACTION YOUTH	14	13	1	-	110
M.C.Y.A.	20	12	5	3	132	ELEC. SUPPLY C	17	11	5	1	103
VAGABONDS	18	14	2	2	119	AIGBURTH	16	11	4	1	99
KIRKBY	20	8	5	7	108	POLICE B	14	9	4	1	89
WAVERTREE LAB D	18	10	6	2	98	BOOTLE YMCA A	16	9	6	1	89
ELEC. SUPPLY B	19	9	6	4	98	MAGHULL E	16	4	8	4	71
ENGLISH ELEC.C	19	7	10	2	95	L'POOL JEWISH D	18	6	11	1	71
LINACRE	19	7	9	3	93	AIGBURTH A	15	5	9	1	65
BROWNMOOR PARK	20	4	12	4	89	BROWNMOOR PARK A	17	4	13	-	61
MAGHULL D	20	6	12	2	85	BATH STREET E	15	3	11	1	49
PLESSEY A	17	5	11	1	70	UNIVERSITY A	14	2	11	1	40
BATH STREET C	20	1	18	1	44	L'POOL JEWISH E	16	2	14	-	33
COLONSAY A	20	1	19	-	23						