



Table Tennis DIGEST

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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EDITORIAL

From time to time, sometimes frequently, complaints are voiced as to the legality of many player's service. The other most often voiced complaint being about bats. I reckon I possibly see more Liverpool league matches than most of you and am often appalled at the total absence of an acceptable level of serving. I have heard it said of one player that he can throw the ball backwards faster than Brian Statham could bowl a quicke.

What to do about this is a problem for everyone in that it is only possible to call a 'fault' if the service action of your own team, and in particular your own, is above reproach and also that you are fully au fait with the service rule. For some it is even more difficult in that they umpire at events where the application of the service rule is mandatory and in most cases their decisions are accepted by the offender without complaint. Not so if you do it in your own match.

So how do we tackle this extensive problem, extensive in that some of the offenders represent a league in the Lancs & Ches League. How do we make ours a league in which players accept the rules of our sport, try to comply with them, and accept they have erred when faulted. In our rules we confirm that play will be in accordance with ITTF Regulations and the laws of TT as recognised by the ETTA. We do not, neither do we make any effort to put our house in order, yet one of our claims is that of being the best league in the North West.

I don't claim to know the answer to this problem but were rackets are concerned a simple remedy is available, that of a written complaint. To his great credit a player has recently done just that. It may be that he will be proved wrong. Just as possible is that his complaint may be upheld. Whatever the outcome, it takes a certain kind of courage to make a complaint given the mostly friendly relations which exist between most teams and clubs.

Could it be that this incident will start off a chain reaction, the eventual outcome of which will be to see all players correctly observing the rules in all aspects. I would like to think so but knowing players as I do, I very much doubt it. However, you could give it a try and start by verbally warning your own team players and faulting them if they persist in breaching the service rule. Your opponents just might feel obliged to join your crusade.

(continued over page)

Unknown to many of you, this season will see the reaching of a historic milestone for Arthur Upton when he completes 40 years as our Chairman. He will also be stepping down and handing his many responsibilities over to his successor. Many leagues experience great difficulty in filling important positions and never function fully and correctly season after season. We in the L'pool & Dist. League have been fortunate in having had Arthur at the helm for 40 years and enjoyed 40 years of stability. A short while back he was also elected President, an Office he will retain. Arthur has remained as Chairman longer than he intended because we entered an extended period of change, a new Treasurer, new Secretary, new Fixture Secretary in a space of a few seasons. He wanted to give the incoming Officers time to settle down and become a team and have the benefit of his vast experience. In that he has succeeded and few know, even fewer realise, how much our league owes to Arthur, for he has gone about his job quietly and efficiently and is a highly respected figure in the TT world. He has always put our league first and been ready to defend us and fight our corner. Forty Years of dedicated service in such an important position is a rarity but Arthur has managed it without breaking into a sweat and done a remarkable job. Anyone who has taken part in or been present at a Cup Final will vouch for his ability in such situations. Likewise, all who have been present at our AGM's and SGM's have experienced at first hand his ability to control such meetings. Those who have served on the Management Committee in any capacity know of his impartiality and fairness and have been privileged to see a dedicated member of our league fulfil his important role with dedication and expertise.

Quite a landmark and one which may never be equalled and in keeping with previous long and dedicated service from other Officers now stood down or passed on. Some may not see

it that way but if they had access to the frequent changes of Officers in other leagues they may well think differently.

K.A. Armson

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SECRETARY'S COLUMN

Volunteers are the life blood of any sporting organisation and the LD TTL is no exception. It is due to the volunteer members of the your Committee and others that our League remains one of the strongest in the Region. While other leagues have seen a gradually declining membership in recent years, we have not, and we are involved in a number of schemes to increase the number of children playing TT.



As some of my more senior colleagues on the Committee retire, it is important to replace them with 'new blood'. There are several vacancies on the Committee and I am appealing to anyone who can spare a few hours a year, to help promote our sport, and ensure the continued smooth running of our League, to step forward and help out.

As one of the more recent additions to the Committee I can tell you that it is not as daunting as you may think and you might actually enjoy yourself!

As reported in the Editorial, our Chairman, Mr Arthur Upton is retiring at the AGM after completing 40 years in post. While a nomination for Chairman will be proposed by your Committee, members are reminded that Clubs can make nominations, not only for the post of Chairman but for any other post. Nominations for the Committee or Officials must reach me in writing before 1st April, 1998.

By the time you read this I hope we have had a successful Closed Tournament at Everton Park and are looking forward to Finals Night at the Police Club on Tuesday 10th March. See you there!

Tony Harris

WORLD VETERAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

17th - 27th June

Following hard on the heels of the world T.T. Championships will be the 9th World Veteran Championships which will be staged in Manchester at the G-Mex, 17th - 27th June. Quite a few members of this league assisted at the World's as volunteers and were able to combine their duties with a free view of the high quality match play.

Volunteers are again required for the World Vets

and tickets to view are likely to be in short supply as Vets events are unique in that their audience follows them around.

If you would like a free viewing of the biggest T.T. event in the world, one which will feature a number of past World Champions and have spare time during that period, why not put yourself forward as a volunteer.

I am, for my sins, Director of Personnel and as such am in charge of volunteer recruitment, just give me a bell and ask for a form. We will cover travel costs and provide you with a meal and a ringside view of the action. These championships will probably not return to this country for many years, and certainly not on our doorstep. We are looking for Computer Operators, Admin. Staff, Stewards, Table Managers, Asst. Table Managers, Runners etc. A host of jobs to choose from or be allocated to and at no cost to you. You wont regret being a volunteer, ask anyone who helped at the Worlds, they will confirm this view.

Ken Armson, MBE Director of Personnel
9th World Veteran T.T. Championships

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Over 2,500 competitors are expected in Manchester for the 1998 championships which will be held from the 22nd-27th June 1998 at the G-Mex, venue for the 44th World Championships held last year. In the week before, from the 17th-21st June, 1998, a new innovations 'Club' World Team Event will be held at the same venue

Why not join us in Manchester for the
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For further information contact:

Mike Watts, Championships Director, World Veterans Table
Tennis Championships
Manchester City Council, The Town Hall, Albert Square,
Manchester M60 2LA
Tel: 0161 831 9135

DIVISION ONE

by Paul Gittins

The Liverpool Closed will soon be upon us and I expect many of you will now be expecting, with raised eyebrows, a lengthy persuasive sermon encouraging you to enter. You will however be very disappointed as I have solemnly vowed never to use these notes as a platform for emotional blackmail. Notwithstanding this, I know that I worry needlessly as I am confident that all the decent, caring, good hearted, faithful, loyal and reliable 'pillars of society' players will be present to help make the tournament a magnanimous (didn't he host Mastermind?) occasion.

It will also be an opportunity for you to seek out our illustrious Secretary (Tony Harris) and have a sneak preview of his manuscript which contains the history and trivial facts of table tennis. Tony has assured me that the book, when published, will be small enough to be held in one hand - a must for all you 'table tennis anoraks' out there. Time will tell but I have a feeling that the 'Closed' will produce a few surprise results and I wouldn't be surprised if some new faces featured in the Finals night.

As for the league, it would appear that the title has become a two horse race between Wav. St Mary's 1st and Colonsay. It's difficult to predict the eventual winner but the league tables indicate that the games/points ratio favours Colonsay. WSM's squad of Adam Robertson, Bernie Wentworth, Rob Bevan and Dave Roberts have performed 'adequately' as a unit to give themselves a fighting chance of the title. That may sound a bit harsh but it is only Adam and Dave who are having a decent season. Bernie and Rob, by their own high standards, must be disappointed with their overall performance as both have suffered rare defeats.

Conversely, Colonsay's Paul Hutchings is having a tremendous season and still maintains his 100% record which I'm sure some TT statistician could provide as to when such a record was achieved for the full season. Chris Ford and Stuart Richards have however been affected by the 'adequacy bug' with fluctuating performances which may be a reason to why, so it's rumoured, that this Colonsay team may disband next season. I'm led to believe that Chris is going on a personal crusade to travel the cosmic plains in search of that vital clue which

confirms his theory that life does in fact exist within a table tennis ball (3 star only of course). Paul too is travelling on a pilgrimage in search of his ever elusive backhand. Stuart just wants a break!

CADWA 1st, to coin a managerial phrase, are simply, 'not on the bus' and will probably reflect on insufficient strength in depth to seriously challenge for the title. Having said that, Mike Mahoney and Peter Taylor have certainly held their own and Peter, in particular, is having another good season. The writing was probably on the wall when CADWA suffered a 6-4 defeat at the hands of YMCA with Pat McLoughlin beating Keith and Mike, whilst Chris Dunne had a sensational night by taking Keith, Mike and Kevin Dolder. Thus proving that Chris could feature in the 'Closed' if he manages to balance his temperament with his obvious talent.

YMCA's Pat Mc and Peter Lee have found that rare formula of having two team-mates playing well simultaneously. Neither took any prisoners against Bath St. when they secured a 7-3 victory by taking all three sets in relative comfort. Peter also shone against WSM's 'A' again taking all three, however, Pat was not as fortunate against the in form Gary Watson and Roy Smith.

This brings me nicely to WSM's 'A' who are cruising comfortably through the season. Gary's recently documented 100% record was, realistically, never going to remain intact but nevertheless, Gary's game has stepped up a gear and he's causing problems. Stuart Richards, Pat McLoughlin and the Waterloo crew can vouch for that. Assisted ably by Roy Smith, who can add Chris Ford (2 straight, both in deuce) and recently Chris Dunne to his C.V., with Mike Tierney and Phil Luxon bringing up the rear. Incidentally, check out Phil's matching shirt and shorts, The outfit is reminiscent of the one worn by the ugly girl in 'ABBA'. Come on Phil, we know you've got money, you can't fool us with that kit!

Excuse the pun but the Police are also plodding along nicely. An 8-2 win over WSM 'A' and CADWA 'A' took us comfortably through the Christmas period and John Rankin in particular is enjoying a new lease of enthusiasm. On first impression of John, you could be forgiven in thinking that here's a person who could possibly

lift a ton but couldn't spell it. How wrong. His reading of the game and tactics are at times quite extraordinary and his ability to adapt within a game is a quality few players possess. Regardless of this, he still has the appearance of a 'steroidic teletubbie'.

From the outset, Harold House has set their stall out and have done well to maintain their form. The tenacious and experienced style of Alex Bryce, Ray Jackson and Eddie Clein has served them well enough not to be relegation contenders. Alex's wins over Ken Jackson, Mike Mahoney and Peter Taylor are complemented by Ray's success over Ken Connor, Ken Hartley and Paul Gittins. The team has seldomly suffered a huge defeat, constantly pinching 3 or 4 points from most teams.

Bath St, compared to previous seasons, are having a quiet time of it but still manage to churn out the results. Ken Jackson (albeit slightly off the boil) if defeated, is still credited as a worthy win and his 3 against Waterloo and CADWA 'A' secured a 6-4 win and a draw respectively and Ken, and Mike Keane made it a miserable night for WSM's Dave Roberts, taking 2 points from that particular match. Ian McElwee also had a good win against YMCA's Deli Olyumbo.

I may be wrong but I guess that GPT will be thankful when the season has come to a close. Inconsistency, both individually and as a team, has taken it's toll which is reflected in their somewhat unrealistic position in the league. A good example of this is a draw against Waterloo with Bob Edwards winning only one against Alan Chase, then within a week, the same GPT team achieve the same result against YM's 1st team with Bob and John Coysh beating Pat, and Paul Price, and John both beating Peter Lee. John is another player who has adapted well to the league and has a promising future.

If I'm surprised at GPT's plight, then YM's position beggars belief and although the introduction of Chris Dunne has been a God send it's a talent which the 1st team have also exploited. This inevitably affects the 2nd team as does the absence of other players such as Ming Liu. Ahmed Thabet does however continue to mix players up with his unorthodox but effective style. Rob Bevan, John Rankin and myself included have all fallen victim. Waterloo presently hold the penultimate position in the league. A position which, at this stage of the

season, must be as worrying as having Bill Clinton's dog wrapped around your leg. Nevertheless, they continue to hold on (as does the dog) and cramp for points. A 7-3 defeat of YM 'A' saw Ted Birch and Alan Chase collect a hatrick each and Ted repeated the task against GPT. The same match saw Mike Allen notch up a memorable win against Bob Edward's which contributed to the draw. Furthermore, Waterloo could only manage 3 points from HH, again courtesy of Ted.

The four cards I have for CADWA 'A' show three wins and a draw (they obviously don't post defeats - good idea!) which is not, not wishing to state the obvious, a true reflection of their hazardous position. However, in the words of Gypsy Rose Lee, "the cards never lie" and these cards show a 6-4 win against YM 'A' with Ken Connor, Ken Hartley and Peter Taylor all taking 2 a piece and an identical result against HH indicates that they're not taking things lying down (unlike Bill Clinton)

The match comments on the cards are becoming more frequent and I can always rely upon Pat McLoughlin and Alan Chase to contribute, albeit Alan's comments are usually unprintable due to them being extremely slanderous (that means true!) particularly about his team-mates.

Finally, many congratulations to Justine Thomas on the birth of her baby son. Justine was rather worried and anxious about the actual birth but I calmed her by offering some friendly mountaineering advice, 'Never Look Down!'.

See you at the Closed!

DIVISION TWO by Mike Power

Half way through the season and it seems to be clear who will gain promotion as champions and who will be runners up, and also who will prop up the table.

Waterloo 'A' have a clear lead at the top over Bath St. 'A' who at the time of writing are 18 points behind with a game in hand. I would have to tip Waterloo 'A' to lift the championship, however they have yet to visit Bath St. In what I consider to be a crunch match. Given that Bath St. recently beat them 6-3 in a cup match, on Waterloo's table, this must be their main chance

of closing the gap. If they can then achieve a good result in their game in hand they could pull back Waterloo's lead. From then on the main problem Bath St. will have is in being able to field their strongest team week in, week out. Waterloo have consistently fielded any three from four available players, all of who are, to date, in the top six averages in the division. Nick Miller remains unbeaten and I will tip him to go all season the same way (this will add to the pressure on Nick). Ian McElwee has the second best average having lost only one, this being to Nick. Anyone who beats either of these players is bound to get a mention next time round.

With the exception of Bath St. 'A', Waterloo's dominance is clear for all to see. They have recently defeated full strength teams from both Maghull and GPT 'A' 9-1, both being played on their opponent's table. Unless Ian McElwee plays in all the remaining games for Bath St. I will stick my neck out and resign them to, at best, second place. The proof being a defeat by Maghull 6-4 without Ian. Brenda Buoeu has also suffered from illness of late which wont do their chances any good. Get well soon Brenda.

Colonsay are close behind the leading pack with Martin Hunter being their most consistent player with a 70% average so far. He succeeded where many have failed by inflicting one of only two defeats Frank Brady has suffered 21/13, 15/21, 18/21. Bill Harris is still pushing back the years with good wins over Frank McCann, 15/21, 24/22, 21/23, Eddie Crowley in the same match and a double over Alan Walton and Mike Moran when they met Bootle J.C. Paula French is always a handful but her only treble so far came against Manweb in an 8-2 victory. I would expect more trebles from her as the season progresses.

Maghull, having missed out on promotion last season, and have this season lost the services of Trevor Jones who has moved to Liverpool YMCA, seems to have lost the impotence to maintain a challenge for honours. The introduction of Rob Heeneu has not been enough and I fear, but for Steve Woods, the team would languish near the foot of the table. Their best result so far was a 9-1 victory over Bath St. 'B' with both Steve and Matty Wilson winning trebles and Rob Heeneu defeating both Rob Peat and John Langton but being edged

out by John Watson, 16/21, 21/15, 19/21.

The middle of the table is very close and any team could, if they put a series of good results together, join Colonsay and GPT 'A' as contenders for third spot. On the evidence I have seen I must tip GPT 'A' to clinch this position with Colonsay and Bootle J.C. 'A' close behind.

The whipping boys in the division are Police 'A' and they seem to be set for the third division next season. They started OK with a 6-4 victory over Waterloo 'B' but since then, up until game nine, that remains their only victory, losing seven and drawing one. As in previous seasons they depend too heavily on Gareth Jones who has been their most consistent player. The proof of this is in the pudding. He didn't play against either GPT 'A' or Manweb and the team only collected one point from the twenty available.

Who will join them in division three is the million dollar question. It looks like being one of either Waterloo 'B', Bootle J.C. or Bath St. 'B' with Waterloo 'B' looking the more likely. After ten games Waterloo 'B' have won just two, one against Colonsay 'A' who didn't have the services of Paula French, Denise McEvoy's name is on the card but she didn't show up either, and a 6-4 victory against a full strength Bath St. 'B' team. The highlight of their season so far was a victory for Richie Cragg in the derby match against Frank Brady inflicting Frank's second defeat to date, 13/21, 21/18, 21/16. Peter Holmes defeated Fred Pheysey in the same match 13/21, 24/22, 21/16.

Another middle of the table team yet to be mentioned is Fords. They have been in this division for as long as I care to remember. They never seem to challenge for honours or seem to suffer the relegation battle. They never field the same side, therefore their opponents never know who they are up against until the night in question. Is there a method in their madness? I don't know. What I do know is that if they fielded what I consider to be their best side of Bob Hughes, Graham Reid and Tim Weardon each week, they would be up there battling for promotion. This they don't do or can't do, and will therefore remain a side with no apparent ambition for honours. I'm sure Billy Proffitt has got his finger on the pulse and he can tell you what ambitions the club has

got (if any), Maybe they're just happy to turn up each week and play a friendly game of table tennis, after all, that's what it's all about.

Manweb, promoted from division three last year, may have been expected to be in the relegation area, especially following the loss of Mike Mahoney to CADWA's first team. They have, however, been able to keep ahead of the relegation battle. They have only won two games from nine, those coming against Waterloo 'B' and Police 'A', but have been unable to avoid a whitewash. They picked up three points from both Waterloo 'A' and Bath St. 'A' even though they turned up with only two players against Waterloo. Trevor Barraclough was their hero with wins against Colin Owens, Brenda Buoe, Ricky Brown and Fred Pheysey. Putting these wins into perspective, I have to mention that both Ian Wensley and Frank McCann beat Trevor in an 8-2 victory for GPT 'A' 21/19, 21/23, 18/21 and 15/21, 21/19, 16/21 respectively.

Question - Have Bootle J.C got their order wrong? Why do I ask the question? Answer - At the time of writing the first team have 47 points from 12 games and the 'A' team have 53 points from 10 games. When the two teams met, the 'A' team won 7-3 (they did however have home advantage). Mike Moran started off the season in the 'A' team but has played as a reserve for the first team on at least six occasions, thus promoting himself to the first team. It would be ironic if, after starting the season in the strongest team, (albeit the lower ranked team of two) he was promoted to the weaker team (the highest ranked team of two) and was relegated. Work that one out! I must however congratulate Mike on making Nick Miller go all the way, losing by the closest of margins 18/21, 21/6, 21/19.

Bath St. 'B' are near the relegation zone but I expect them to pull clear due to the obvious talent they have in the side. The main three of John Watson, Rob Peat and John Langton are, in my opinion, second division material. I must, however, wonder why they seem to struggle so much. Looking at their results I can only speculate why they lose games you would expect them to win. For example, they beat GPT 'A' 8-2, GPT did field a reserve who lost his three, but they still managed to take three games off Ian Wensley.

Now I know Ian and he doesn't lose three games lying down. Amazingly they then went on to lose 6-4 to Waterloo 'B' and drew with both Bootle J.C. teams. Now I am not trying to decry the efforts and talents of those teams, I am merely pointing out the inconsistency in the Bath St. Players. Maybe as the season progresses the consistency required will emerge. Let's hope it's not too late.

I must make a point of mentioning the return of Peter Coyle (ex pop star with the Lotus Eaters) who made an appearance for Bath St. 'A' against their 'B' team and won a couple of games in a 9-1 victory. Welcome back, Peter.

Looking ahead to next season, it looks likely that Waterloo's first team will be relegated from division one and Waterloo 'A' will be promoted from division two. The question therefore is, which players will make up the first division team and who will make up the second division team next season? Only the hierarchy at Waterloo can answer the question, but I have my own forecast, which for the moment I will keep to myself.

Finally, all I can do is wish you all have a successful end to the season and that your own targets are fulfilled. I hope you eventually beat that player you have never beaten before, because this will give you the confidence you didn't know you had.

DIVISION THREE by Ken Armson

It's still tight at the top with the three main contenders still striving to open up a title winning gap, but big wins are hard to come by as little separates the top eight teams all having match winning players. Their clashes with each other have proved very little and it is their matches against the next group, Waterloo 'C', Bath St. 'C', CADWA 'C', Bootle YM and surprisingly, WSM 'D' which may determine the eventual champions, so close are the top eight in ability.

The only pointer in sight being that CADWA 'B' and GPT 'B' have both beaten WSM 'B'. CADWA beat them 7-3, both teams using a reserve. GPT beat them 4-6 when they still had the services of John Coysh and returned one week later for a well earned 3-6 cup win, reserve Andrew Owen winning his two as WSM 'B' tamely surrendered their cup hopes. The following week it was CADWA's turn to defeat GPT away 4-6. Reserves

were again in action for both teams with CADWA's reserve extra-ordinaire, Ray Parkinson winning his three.

Of the three I see WSM as the most likely to fail in that their play at times lacks consistency and urgency, a factor reflected in defeats by CADWA and GPT and their cup elimination. Promotion is all about making your own luck which stems from a sustained team effort. They also received no favours from their 'C' team who held them to a draw. GPT and CADWA are also having their shares of setbacks with GPT losing 6-4 to Waterloo 'C', more reserves on show and hogging the limelight. They were without Peter Wass and brought in Stan Harvey. Needless to say, Waterloo also had a reserve, Eddie Rowbottom, who beat Stan and also won a doubles.

CADWA could only manage a draw with Bootle YM (WSM bt them 99-1) with yet another reserve grabbing the limelight. This time it was Bert Rivers for Bootle YM winning his 3 and throwing in a 2 straight against George Higham for good measure, and we all know how difficult it is to get the better of George of the disarming smile. A hard to beat player who is also a very sporting opponent. They didn't fare much better against Bath St 'C', both teams having, yes, 2 reserves each. Ray Parkinson starred again for CADWA with another treble. Karen Gibson lost to Ray but had a great win, 17 in the 3rd against Steve Graham. Les (excuse my language) Gee also had a good night beating Paul Robinson 2 straight. The night clearly belonging to the reserves. Got me wondering if it will be reserves who eventually determine the champions for this division.

Not unexpectedly, Waterloo 'C' have pulled clear of the pack and are on course for a 4th place and could still make 3rd. They have justified my earlier comments but still lack that final spark which can bring greater rewards. They drew with WSM 'D' first time round, destroyed them in the cup 6-0 and then had a close result in the league one week later.

CADWA 'C' are also going well and have moved up and they have the strength in depth to do better. However, they appear to have shot themselves in the foot by playing an ineligible player and this may result in their suffering a points deduction

from their final total. They put YM 'B' down 9-1 with Ray beating Louis Arnold -13, 20 & 20 and narrowly lost to Bath St 'C' 6-4.

Promoted WSM 'D' have also improved their position and climbed above their 'C' team, thanks, mainly to 19 points from two matches against weak Manweb teams, but they can point to two narrow defeats against CADWA 'B' which has helped keep their 'B' team in the championship race. In Bill Stanley they have the divisions most laid back captain, if laid back is the correct description. No shilly shallying from Bill, for as other captains ponder on a tactical choice, Bill's rallying call to his team is 'who wants to go next'.

The enigma teams have to be Manweb 'A' and 'B'. Most teams face player problems from time to time but Manweb have cornered the market with a bewildering variety of team line ups bringing in their wake heavy defeats and pushing both teams into the relegation zone. The club don't appear to know which players form which team and in spite of having good players to call on every match involves a crisis. Alan Biggs is out through injury and as secretary is finding the season heavy going. The best result either team can lay claim to was their derby match, the 'A' team sneaking it 6-4. Amongst the 8 players there were reserves but who was and who was not cannot be determined. Weeks 1 and 4 they drew with CADWA 'B' and GPT. Week 11 they lost 9-1 to WSM 'D'. The 'B' team results show the same wide fluctuations. Their 'B' team is doomed, the 'A' team will probably survive.

Promoted YM 'B' also appear likely to join Manweb 'B' for nothing is going right for them. Their anticipated team fell apart as the season commenced and now they have lost the services of Louis Arnold. John Henshaw has joined them and Tim Ternent made a fleeting appearance. As is so often the case, luck deserts you when you fall on hard times. They have limped long and been victims of the malaise which has touched most teams, that of a lack of regular turnout of their strongest players.

This has been the season of reserves and outstanding wins are difficult to find so evenly matched are teams, but one of note being a win for John Ashley 19 in the 3rd against Paul Morgan.

I will stick my neck out and tip GPT 'B' for the title with CADWA 'B' in 2nd and WSM 'B' in 3rd. Why GPT? Because they have Peter Wass is leading their bid and for me this is this division's best player. He also has the best temperament, never gets flustered, doesn't panic and plays with his brains as well as his racquet. An asset to any team and it won't be for want of effort from Peter if GPT fail to take the title and blow my prediction.

For the drop it has got to be YM 'B' and Manweb 'B' and for the cup perm any one from three and you could still be wrong. If I am proved wrong, I naturally hope it will be WSM 'B'.

DIVISION FOUR by Arthur Garnett

Back in December, writing for the last Digest notes, I mentioned that Rod Bulmer of Maghull 'C' would not have any easy games this season. I then went on to name just a few of the opponents that he would be facing. Among these names was Eddie Clein playing at No.1 for Harold House 'A'. The good news for Rod, as we probably all know now, is that Eddie Clein has now played his six games in Division One and is now in that division for the rest of the season. The bad news for Rod, is that Billy Hargreaves has been re-ranked to play at number one for Cadwa 'D'. The division just gets stronger and stronger. Just a thought, if we in division four picked our strongest four players, how would they fare against the best four in division three. I believe it wouldn't be a foregone conclusion, and that 'our team' would do very well indeed.

Who would you pick as our four best players? If you make a list and pass it to me I'll put the top four in the notes for the last issue in May. This could be likened football's players 'Player of the Year' award. There may be some surprising choices.

Anyway, enough of the chit chat. Police 'B' have opened up a small gap at top of the division, with Maghull 'A', Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'A', Wavertree St. Mary's 'E' and Bath Street 'D' still in very hot pursuit. Obviously, no forecasts from me, this will 'go to the wire' and any two of the five teams can win promotion to Division Three, but, sticking my neck out by not very much, I agree, I would suggest that it is more likely that the two promoted teams

will come from those contesting the semi final of the Forrest Cup. They are Maghull 'A', Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'A', Wavertree St Mary's 'E' and my team Police 'B'. Of course, this cuts Bath Street 'D' out of the calculations. They have missed Reg Edwards, and I think this could be vital to their chances. Reg is back now, but how long will it take for him to be back at his best? Their record against the other contenders is not too good either, the best being a 5 - 5 draw against Maghull 'A', but losing 9 - 1 to Police 'B' and 7 - 3 to Wavertree St Mary's 'E' doesn't help them.

Ken Armson told a friend of mine (no names, no pack drill) that his team - Wavertree St Mary's 'F' were going to concentrate on the cup, and not the league. I don't believe you Ken, you're not the kind of person to give up on anything.

At the bottom of the table are five teams battling it out to avoid the 'drop'. Waterloo 'D' will have to find something spectacular if they are not to finish at the bottom. They are currently almost 10 points adrift. They had a problem early in the season playing Ian Lunt and this could make matters even worse for them. One place higher are Wavertree St Mary's 'F' who are currently at the bottom end of five teams who could join Waterloo 'D'. Positions 7 - 11 are covered by only 7 points and all the teams involved will have to work hard every week to keep their noses in front. CADWA 'D' have been strengthened by the re-ranking of Billy Hargreaves to No 1. This should see them pull clear of the 'dog fight'.

Maghull 'B' are too strong and experienced a side to allow themselves to be drawn in further, but, they must play their strongest team each match. Aigburth have done well since the last Digest notes, and put the full seven points between themselves and Wavertree St Mary's 'F'. I think they will continue and avoid relegation. That leaves Harold House 'A' and Wavertree St Mary's 'F' to fight it out, to prevent going down with Waterloo 'D'. The Wavertree side play a fairly settled team each week, but Harold House could be seriously affected by the loss of Eddie Clein, and I don't think that the re-ranking of John Hodges to No. 1 will change things significantly for them. Wavertree St Mary's 'F' should see this as their big chance to gain the few vital points they need. In the recent match between them the Wavertree

team ran out 6 - 4 winners. This could be a pointer to how things will turn out.

That leaves our division's only mid table team - Maghull 'C'. They have recently strengthened their team by re-ranking Chris Roberts to No 1, putting Rod Bulmer at No. 2. (No easy games there either Rod!). It's too late for them to catch up and join the battle at the top, and they never were in any danger of being drawn into the melee at the bottom

So, Eddie Clein has now gone back to Division One. He didn't leave undefeated however. In the match against W.S.M. 'E' he was leading Bob Owen 17 - 11 in the third, Bob taking the point 20 - 22 in a great fighting comeback.

The game between Maghull 'A' and Bath Street 'D' ended in a 5 - 5 draw. Doubles from Val Franco and John McCann for Bath Street and Harry McGanity and both doubles matches for Maghull.

Wavertree St Mary's 'E' defeated Bath Street 'D' 7 - 3 Mabel Neary and Ken Armson winning two apiece and again, W.S.M. taking both doubles, Alan Willis winning his two for Bath Street.

Wavertree St. Mary's 'E' lost to Maghull 'A' 4 - 6. Bob Owen won his statutory two singles, but Maghull bounced back with Harry McGanity winning his two singles points.

Maghull 'C' earned a very creditable draw against Bootle Y.M.C.A. 'A', with Rod Bulmer and Chris Roberts winning two each. Bootle YM hitting back taking both the doubles points.

Performances of Note.

Dave Money (Harold House) defeated Alex Gould (Bath Street) 15/21 in third. Peter Williams (Aigburth) defeated Chris McGuire (Bootle YM) 17/21 in third. Dave Evans (Aigburth) defeated Mike Hughes (Bootle YM) 11/21 in third. Alan Willis (Bath Street) defeated Tom Downing (Maghull 'A') 16/21 15/21

Close Calls.

Ken Ray (W.S.M. 'E') defeated Alex Gould (Bath Street) 19/21 21/19 22/20. Preston/McGanity (Maghull) defeated Baker/Hargreaves (CADWA) 25/23 in third. Mabel Neary (W.S.M.) lost to Eddie Preston (Maghull) 21/12 21/23 21/23. Bert Rivers (Bootle YM) lost to Andy Bird (W.S.M. 'F') 16/21 21/16 22/24. John Mitchell (Aigburth)

defeated Naresh Tagore (Maghull) 21/19 22/20. Steven Kee (W.S.M.) lost to Dave Evans (APH) 21/11 19/21 22/24.

Strange results :

Chris Roberts (Maghull 'B') took the point from Alan Platt (Waterloo) 21/6 20/22 21/9. I wonder which end of the Maghull table Chris played from first.

Well, that's it for now, its the cup semi finals next week, so good luck to all taking part. Best of luck to everyone in the coming weeks. I hope the stress of it all doesn't get to you in this, the closest season I have ever seen in this division.

Stop Press :

After suffering an 8-2 defeat at Maghull 'A' in the league, Bootle YM 'A' performed brilliantly a couple of days later to reverse the result in the Forrest Cup semi final, winning 6-4, to earn a final clash with Police 'B' who beat WSM's 'E' by the same margin.

DIVISION FIVE

by Barry Meyer

Nearly half the season gone and Bath St. 'E' are carrying all before them. We may as well give them their medals now! I think I'm right in thinking that their regular quartet of Dave Batty, Ron Georgeson, Norman Lindsay and George Crowley have played in every match. They beat nearest rivals, Harold House 'B' 7-3 despite a superb double by Jerry O'Keefe with wins over Ron, 19, 15, and George, 16, -19, 14.

My forecast that Hope would finish bottom in the last issue may well turn out a long way off the mark. They have a new player, Richard Eden, who is unbeaten to date, including a double over Dave and Ron (Bath St). I wonder if he is any relation to Bob and Andrew. Either way, if they can field their strongest team regularly, allowing Martin Hopwood to drop to No.2 and Darren Morgan to No.3 then I can see them pulling well clear of the wooden spoon slot.

The match between Linacre and Bath St. 'F', which ended in a draw, is worth closer inspection. 'Young' Jack Letch had an excellent double, defeating those two outstanding 'kids', Jack Davidson, -10, 18, 15 and Ken Ainsworth, 18, 19. Ken and Norman Appleby both beat Richard Woodley and Norman

overcame G. West, who, along with Dave Cunningham beat the 'teenager' Frank Lacey, whom I'm sure will improve with age! Fitness must have told in the doubles as both went to three, Linacre coming out on top.

Colonsay seem to be fulfilling my prediction and may even snatch second spot from Harold House 'B'. Lee Farley, however, suffered a rare double defeat at the hands of Eric Wood and Bill Holmes (Aigburth), Bill going on to also overcome Kevin McNulty 13 and 19. Colonsay won the match 6-4.

If other divisions are as slapdash at filling in their scorecards, I don't envy Paula her job as Fixture Secretary as even I have to chase back through old cards to try to get an idea of where certain teams are in the division. It only takes a few seconds to fill in the record at the bottom of the card. A comment in the 'Match Comments' slot (worthy of mention in itself) from Eric Young (H.H. 'B') wondering if it is 'Wong' for Tommy (Bootle YM) to be playing at No.4 after losing two straight to him, although Jerry O'Keefe had no problems so it was probably 'all right on the night'.

Police had a rare win away to Maghull with five of their wins being in the third game, the exception being an amazing 21-7, 21-9 win for Brian Burrows over Denise Cox.

Harold House 'C' earned an excellent 5-5 draw at home to Linacre with Steve (Oh Dear, fancy me doing a shot like that!) Simpson having a superb double over Jack Davidson and Frank Lacey, while Jonathan (Hiza) Kyte defeated Ken Ainsworth -16, 18, 19, as well as winning the doubles with Richard Beilin against Jack and Neil Appleby. Incidentally, it's nice to see so many close results with a propensity of matches finishing no worse than 7-3.

The only facesavers I can find recently were Steve Simpson with a double against Bootle YM, overcoming Jim Geddes -22, 19, 19 and Les Higham in straight games.

Close games include Paul Grugel (APH) v Robert Li (Colonsay) 19-21, 21-14, 20-22. Alan French (Colonsay) lost to Doug Christie (Maghull) 11-21, 21-19, 20-22, Richard Beilin lost to Tony Maguire (Bootle YM) 17-21, 21-13, 20-21 and in an absolute cracker Steve Simpson beat Eric Wood

(APH) 16-21, 24-22, 22-20.

If you are reading this Digest at the Liverpool Closed, try to do our division proud. Sorry I won't be with you (for the first time in 35 years) as I'll be away at a wedding in the South East. Hope to see you at Finals Night.

MAILBOX



Dear Editor,

I hope everyone in Liverpool is keeping well and had a good Christmas!

We are enjoying our summer in Australia now and it's very warm. Yesterday it was 41° so we had to jump in our neighbour's swimming pool to keep cool. I still can't get used to eating Christmas dinner and plum pudding while wearing shorts as it's so hot.

I am still playing table tennis each week. We have just finished our spring season, just before Christmas and the summer season starts in a fortnight. My team finished runners up in Grade 4 (equivalent to your Division 3). We play 3 man teams up to 11 points. Each player plays three singles games, one player takes part in 2 doubles events and the other two players take part in one doubles. As I told you, with the four seasons each year there is no summer break over here.

I hope the National Lottery money comes along to enable the League to get the Table Tennis Centre going. It will be a great asset for table tennis in Liverpool and will be a great room to hold tournaments.

Thanks for the TT Digest. It was nice for me to read about all the players that I knew years ago who are still playing.

Please pass on my best wishes to all my ex team mates and friends in Liverpool.

Regards

Alan Wood (Ex Police TT Club)

MATCH SECRETARY'S ROUND UP by Don Davies



It had to happen one day. Yes, the division one Lancashire & Cheshire league champions have been beaten after an 18 match winning run.

Burnley, languishing in bottom place at the time, won 6-4, Keith Williams and Stuart Richards failing to collect a singles victory between them, the first time this has ever happened. Kevin Dolder kept up his 100% singles record but since then the balance has been redressed, with the destiny of the title now back in our own hands.

More than 20 spectators turned up for our next match against Mid Cheshire at CADWA, the main reason being an appearance by Adam Robertson. The brilliant 14 year old didn't disappoint winning his three singles sets all two straight. Brian and Ian Johns were both beaten for the second year in a row, Terry Turner suffering the same fate, the champions dropping just one set, Keith losing to Brian 19/21 in the third.

The all Merseyside title crunch fixture was postponed at Wirral's request, two days before it was due to be played when Bernie Wentworth was struck down with gastro enteritis. The way that other results have fallen makes it essential that we pick up both points, for defeat would more than likely hand the title to rivals Salford and Farnworth.

Stuart Richards returned in place of Adam for the 10-0 victory over Wigan at CADWA in February in front of just a handful of spectators. This has given us a seven sets advantage at the top of the division and maximum points from Wirral and Blackpool should ensure the title stays with the league, irrespective of what our rivals do.

A similar situation has developed in the ladies division with champions Liverpool plus Wirral and Oldham in with a shout. We lead the division and since our rivals have both dropped points, we may by the time you read this be champions elect. Our match at Oldham on 10th January was postponed and by league rules should have been re-arranged within one month of the original date. This has not been the case and although not a desirable way to collect a couple of cheap points,

the situation is out of my hands and I await an official decision. I have offered to play the match and we require at least a point or the title is likely to be Oldham's for the first time in their history.

Two victories and two reversals have left the Vet's in mid table. Without Dave Roberts for the two toughest fixtures against Stockport and Manchester, we were not strong enough. With 2 Vets matches being played on the same night and 4 players unavailable, Brenda Buoey stepped into the 1st team against the Mancunians but we were beaten 6-4. From what I gather, Brenda would have won her games in the 2nd team, who won 10-0.

The Vets' A team lead division 3 with five wins and a draw. They still have to face second placed Trafford A in a re-arranged match at home before rounding off the campaign with a trip to Salford and Farnworth. Maximum points from these matches would ensure a divisional title for the second time in five years.

The juniors have recorded two victories plus a walk over and with a home match against Macclesfield to come, things are looking up for Lee Farley, Jay French and Robert Li.

A disappointing Norman Cook Memorial trophy tie against Lytham in Blackpool saw Liverpool bow out, losing by the odd set in nine. As the holders we were expected to qualify for the semis and made two changes from the last round, Stuart Richards stepping in for Adam Robertson while Brenda Buoey returned for Delyth Davies. The home side enjoyed 5 points start in every game and at 2-1 up it didn't seem to be too much of a problem. However, the tie dramatically swung in the home sides favour when the ladies entered the fray and the home side took a 4-2 lead. With Lytham not having a Ladies team in the Lanc & Ches league, the rules allow them to select a player from another member League.

After Lytham League supremo Tony Meredith failed to tempt Wirral's Alice Howard who has this season beaten Liverpool's three ladies, he persuaded Oldham's Lancashire player, Mandy Winkill to play her first ever match for Lytham. Mandy was delighted to receive the 5 points start and beat Brenda in straight games. We also lost the Mens doubles and the mixed after leading 20-19 in the decider.

This left us requiring the last three men's events to remain in the competition. Kevin and Keith overcame the handicap to level the tie at 4-4 before Stuart lost in the ninth set to former CADWA players Jonathan Ash.

It was a fine win by the third division outfit but sadly, although Tony provided an excellent spread, non of the Lytham men joined us leaving Mandy as the only 'Lytham' representative present. They missed the post match chat and camaraderie which develops after the initial disappointment of losing the match has had time to sink in. They also missed any congratulations on behalf of the Liverpool League and I must add, that our team, as usual, took their defeat with good grace, which is nothing less than expected from all concerned in our League. It seems bizarre that a league can choose any player who hasn't appeared in that season's competition and could even select an International who doesn't represent her own league in Lancashire and Cheshire League competition.

In conclusion, as I step down from my soap box, may I suggest that in future, where a player is imported, then perhaps that player should play off scratch.

LANCS & CHESHIRE LEAGUE RESULTS

Men	Bolton	A W	8-2
	Stockport	H N	7-3
	S'ford & F'worth	A W	9-1
	Burnley	A L	4-6
	Mid Cheshire	H W	9-1
	Wigan	H W	10-0
Ladies	Wirral	H D	5-5
	Burnley	A W	9-1
	Blackpool	A W	9-1
	Manchester	H W	8-2
Vets	Oldham	A W	6-4
	Halton	A W	7-3
	Stockport	H L	2-8
	Manchester	H L	4-6
Vets 'A'	Tameside	H W	9-1
	Botlon	A W	9-1
	Lancs/Morecambe	A W	7-3
	Rochdale	A D	5-5
	Barrow	H W	10-0
	Odham 'B'	H W	9-1

Juniors Wirral 'A'	H L	1-9
Halton	A L	1-9
Oldham	H L	2-8
Barrow 'A'	H	10-0 W/O
Chester	A W	7-3
Lytham St Annes	H W	10-0

Norman Cooke Memorial Trophy

Bolton	H W	7-0
Lytham St Annes	A W	4-5

Wilmott Cup (Men) Group Matches

Blackpool	N W	5-0
Huddersfield	N W	5-1
Bradford	N W	5-2

Dennis Smith Memorial Trophy (Vets)

Wirral	H W	5-2
Macclesfield	A W	5-2

Alec Brook Trophy (Vets) Played on Group basis

Stockport	N L	1-5
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Three more faces to identify, not too difficult this time. This photograph was taken at the 1966 'Closed' Tournament.

(answers - foot of page 13)

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YOUR RACKET

A complaint as to the legality of a player's racket was recently upheld. To conform with the rules, your racket must have approved rubbers on each playing surface and bear the ITTF logo. Rubbers must be black on one side and red on the other. The surface of a rubber must not be tampered with or have been altered in any manner which alters its playing characteristics.

Any overlap or underlap must not be greater than 2mm (the thickness of a 2p piece). These are the very basic requirements, there are others, so make certain your racket always conforms with the rules as your opponent has the right to examine it. Any non compliance may render your sets void.

A side not used for striking the ball has no restrictions as to covering but if this is not a legal covering and the ball is struck with it you will lose the point.

Identities Revealed

Peter D'Arcy, Arthur Upton and Gordon Birch

MORE TABLE EDGES

Dave Wilson, who founded the Bootle S.C. table tennis team, with promising youngsters such as Paul Hutchings, John Rankin and Lawrence Kenwright, sadly passed away recently. His young players quickly established themselves as formidable opponents and are even more so today. Unfortunately, Dave, who played in the league himself, suffered health problems, his interest in TT waned and his club folded, the players moving on. He will be remembered by those who knew him as a forthright person of exceptional coaching ability.

CLOSED TOURNAMENT : Once again, the closing date imminent, entries are very low. Much work and effort goes into our 'Closed' tournament but sadly it appears wasted. Your Management Committee make every effort to ensure events encompassing the varied levels of ability and age are available, yet these are shunned by the majority of players below Division 1. Tournaments are all about playing as much TT as possible and meeting other players outside of match play. You also get the opportunity of watching many good matches. In all, a great day out at minimal expense. We can't all be winners, but these tournaments are not so much about winning as about competing.

Brian Leeson, our League Referee for 37 years is stepping down at the end of this season from the position he has filled with great ability, dedication and efficiency for more years than most of you have been playing. If you can remember his work as Referee at the Merseyside Open then you are showing your age. Refereeing anywhere is no easy task and for your own league it is even more onerous, but Brian has always made it look easy. 37 highly successful years mark him as an exceptional and gifted Referee and our tournaments have been fortunate in having had the benefit of his expertise for so many years.

The Police 1st team of Paul Gittins, John Rankin and Steve Gittins have made history, becoming the first Police Team to reach the final of the Readman Cup. Despite the fine form of Kevin Dolder, Police won the semi final against the holders, CADWA 6-4, in a nail biting match.

TABLE EDGES, NETS & ECHOES OF THE PAST

Delyth Davies has become the third Wales international lady to appear in a Liverpool team when she took part in the recent Norman Cooke Memorial trophy tie against Bolton.



Adam Robertson has won every singles set over the past two seasons for the men's team while Kevin Dolder boasts a 100% singles record during the current campaign.

The Veterans team has qualified for the semi finals of the Dennis Smith Memorial Trophy, a competition organised in honour to the late secretary of the Lancashire & Cheshire League.

Brenda Buoeuy etched her name even deeper into the League records after playing in the Vets' 1st team against Manchester.

This season we have called on more players than usual and players who can appear at short notice are as important to a League as the so called stars. One such stalwart is Ricky Brown. This quiet and unassuming man has pulled out the stops over the years, never publicly assuming that his place in the team is assured. He has this season played as a late reserve and as the other team members will vouch, always gives 100 %. Well done Ricky and thanks, it is much appreciated!

Without wishing to put the mockers on Paul Hutchings, his 100% singles record in the Liverpool league is most praiseworthy.

The semi-final of the Readman Cup has paired six times winners. Wavertree St Marys with Colonsay while the in form Police side take on the inconsistent holders. CADWA at Fairfield. John Rankin is in fine form this season and I understand he's looking forward to the tie.

Letters to the Editor in recent years have been in short supply. However, I see that players are taking a greater interest in the Digest, which is a good sign. Keep them coming.

Adam Robertson reached the semi final of the Cadets singles in a recent tournament in Portugal. The eventual winner, Belgium number 1. Herve Delporte, ranked at three Cadet in Europe, was beaten by Adam when they met in a Belgium club match. In the team event. Wales' team of Adam and Steve Jenkins finished in 11th place while the England duo of Gareth Herbert and Howard Quartey wound up in 14th position, the first time ever that England has finished below a team from the principality.

The St Mary's player has now risen to five cadet in Europe and has been chosen for the forthcoming European Championships in Holland. Good luck Adam, we will be looking out for your results, hopefully the tournament will be shown on T.V.

Jonathan Taylor, ranked number 8 in England and now a member of the Greater Manchester Police Force, was a recent visitor to Fairfield Police Club, where he competed in the North West Police TT Tournament. As expected, Jonathan swept all before him, winning the Men's Singles title and also taking the Men's doubles with partner, Jeff Craighill. John Rankin put up a decent performance against Taylor in the semis but there was only going to be one winner. Other winners included Dave Newton (Lancashire) who won the Vets singles and the Johns brothers, Ian and Alex who took the veterans doubles title. The only Merseyside winners on the day were Paul Gittins and Chris Foley who beat Newton and Liz Connelly to take the Mixed title. The winners go on to the Police national finals which for the last few years have been held in the Potters Leisure Resort, Norfolk, recent venue for a European Division One Men's tie between England and Greece.

DIVISION 1	P	W	L	D	PTS
WAV ST MARYS	13	12	0	1	105
COLONSAY	10	9	0	1	83
C.A.D.W.A.	12	8	3	1	78
LPOOL YMCA	14	7	4	3	75
POLICE	11	5	5	1	60
WAV ST MARYS 'A'	13	4	6	3	59
HAROLD HOUSE	13	3	7	3	58
BATH STREET	12	6	4	2	56
G.P.T.	12	2	6	4	52
LPOOL YMCA 'A'	13	2	8	3	48
WATERLOO	13	1	9	3	41
C.A.D.W.A. 'A'	13	4	8	1	40

DIVISION 2	P	W	L	D	PTS
WATERLOO 'A'	13	13	0	0	105
BATH STREET 'A'	12	9	3	0	90
G.P.T. 'A'	13	7	5	1	73
COLONSAY 'A'	14	6	6	2	70
MAGHULL	13	6	4	3	64
BOOTLE J.C. 'A'	12	6	4	3	63
MANWEB	12	5	6	1	57
BOOTLE J.C.	13	3	8	2	52
FORDS	11	5	6	0	50
BATH STREET 'B'	12	4	6	2	47
WATERLOO 'B'	12	2	9	1	44
POLICE 'A'	13	1	10	3	35

DIVISION 3	P	W	L	D	PTS
C.A.D.W.A. 'B'	14	12	0	2	93
G.P.T. 'B'	14	9	3	2	90
WAV ST MARYS 'B'	13	9	2	2	87
WATERLOO 'C'	13	6	5	2	73
BATH STREET 'C'	14	6	7	1	72
C.A.D.W.A. 'C'	14	5	8	1	72
WAV ST MARYS 'D'	14	6	6	2	71
BOOTLE YMCA	12	5	3	4	67
WAV ST MARYS 'C'	14	4	6	4	61
MANWEB 'A'	12	4	4	4	55
LPOOL YMCA 'B'	14	2	11	1	42
MANWEB 'B'	14	0	13	1	27

DIVISION 4	P	W	L	D	PTS
POLICE 'B'	14	11	2	1	105
MAGHULL 'A'	14	11	0	3	98
BATH STREET 'D'	14	10	2	2	90
BOOTLE YMCA 'A'	14	10	3	1	89
WAV ST MARYS 'E'	12	8	3	1	79
MAGHULL 'C'	12	4	5	3	55
HAROLD HOUSE 'A'	14	3	8	3	54
C.A.D.W.A. 'D'	13	3	8	2	52
MAGHULL 'B'	13	2	9	2	50
AIGBURTH	14	1	8	5	49
WAV ST MARYS 'F'	13	2	8	3	45
WATERLOO 'D'	13	2	11	0	34

DIVISION 5	P	W	L	D	PTS
BATH STREET 'E'	11	10	0	1	82
HAROLD HOUSE 'B'	12	9	2	1	72
COLONSAY 'B'	11	6	3	2	67
LINACRE	12	4	3	5	66
AIGBURTH 'A'	12	4	5	3	61
BATH STREET 'F'	12	3	5	4	59
BOOTLE YMCA 'B'	13	4	8	1	56
MAGHULL 'D'	11	4	5	2	50
HAROLD HOUSE 'C'	11	1	6	4	43
HOPE	10	3	5	2	39
POLICE 'C'	11	2	8	1	35

FIXTURE SECRETARY'S NOTE

The tables shown above are based on all cards received up to Monday 16th February, 1998. If there appears to be a discrepancy in your records please contact me.

As you can see from the tables there are a large number of outstanding matches in all divisions. May I take this opportunity to remind Club Secretaries that postponed matches must be rearranged in accordance with the rules of the league.

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE
SOCIAL/PRESENTATION EVENING
AT FAIRFIELD POLICE CLUB**

FRIDAY 8TH MAY, 1998

(Full Details to follow)