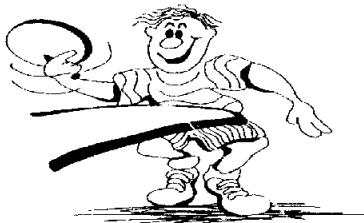


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# Table Tennis DIGEST

## LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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### EDITORIAL

**DEVELOP or DIMINISH** - This is the choice that now faces us as a league. Look around your division, how many new faces do you see? How many players under 25? How many under 18? Then ask yourself what are you or your club doing about development. The answer to that question will be as dismal as the answer to the others. As a League we run a successful 3 Star Junior Open, a successful ETTA Grand Prix Open and we operate a weekly coaching session. All this is achieved with a mere handful of helpers, the rest of you preferring to fiddle as Rome burns.

We are financially supported by City Leisure Services and have been successful in obtaining grants and other funding to improve and expand our development programme but receive little help from 99% of members in ensuring our sport develops and our League flourishes.

Lancaster have five teams in the NW Junior League, Halton and Manchester have four, Tameside, Northwich, Stockport, all smaller leagues than ours, have two. We also have two teams, but so too do Formby. A City of our size with reputedly the strongest league in the NW yet can only scratch together two junior teams and can count our juniors on the fingers of one hand and those assisting with development on the other. Wirral, Halton, Lancaster, Preston etc all receive strong support from players to help them develop table tennis at all levels, we are left to rely on the faithful few. I get the impression that some players in our league would sooner go and assist other leagues such as Wirral or Halton rather than assist their own.

There is, however, a glimmer of light at the end of the long dark tunnel I and the faithful few have been working in, for two clubs, Bath St. and Maghull, now run coaching sessions, and I have received offers of assistance at our coaching sessions from two of our leading players. They will be more than welcome, as will any others, and will greatly speed up our development programme and hasten the input of youngsters into our league. I have been on this soapbox in previous issues but my pleas have generally fell on stony ground. This time I am hoping I will have better luck. If you can spare two hours on a Friday get along to Wavertree Tennis Centre 5 till 7 and give us a hand. Billy Hargreaves and John Rankin have found it to be stimulating as will Kevin Dolder when he joins us. The future of our sport and our League lie in your hands and it is time to put back in a little of what you have taken out.

## L&C LEAGUE

## DON DAVIES

After finishing as division one champions for the past five years the Men's team continued in winning vein in the newly named Premier Division. Eighteen months after playing his last match for the league, Kevin Dolder, four times Closed Champion, returned to action along with Paul Hutchings and Keith Williams in a 10-0 victory over Blackpool.

The Veterans trio of Keith, Peter Lee and Ken Jackson beat Preston 8-2, former Liverpool Closed finalist Tony Rigby beating Peter and Ken for his teams' two wins. In their next fixture, Ken, Peter and Mike Mahoney took on Blackburn who won 6-4 when they met last season, the team then being Keith, Peter and Ken. Mike stepped in for his injured club mate and helped the team to a 5-5 draw. We did have the opportunity to capture both points, Ken being beaten in the last set.

The Veterans 'B' team won 8-2 against Oldham 'C', Brenda Buocy remaining unbeaten in her four trips to the table, Alex Johns and Ahmed Thabet dropping one each. Southport were their next victims, Mike Mahoney and Alex Johns notching their six singles, Brenda losing to Roger Neal and Peter Holmes and combining with Alex to capture the doubles, Liverpool winning 8-2.

Alan Chase, Ted Birch and Alex Johns - the latter playing in place of Dave Evans, who fell down the stairs at home - lost 6-4 to Manchester Vets 1st team. Their next opponents will be 12 times champions, Stockport, who have won the title every year since this division was formed in 1988.

The Ladies beat Blackpool at Kodak, Alice Howard and Brenda Buocy remaining unbeaten in the six singles events and combined to annex the doubles set to record a 7-3 victory

The League won both knock-out competitions in the Lancashire & Cheshire League last season beating Mid Cheshire in the Norman Cook Memorial Trophy final and Liverpool Business Houses in the Dennis Smith Memorial Trophy final. The first round has paired the League against Mid Cheshire in both competitions and we face two difficult matches as Keith, who plays in both teams, will not be available, In the Wilnott Cup, the Men have been paired with Mid Cheshire, Birmingham and the Potteries, who will host the event. The round robin matches will be played on 17th March, the top two qualifying for stage two on 21 April. Also on 17 March, the Ladies face holders and hosts, Wolverhampton, plus Nottingham, the top two the top two progressing to the last eight,

also on 21st April. The Veterans travel to Halifax who play hosts to Northumbria and Grimsby/Cleethorpes, the top two progressing to the last 16 on Sunday 8 April. The Ladies Veterans must also travel in the Pat Archdale Cup, hosts Bradford being joined by Grimsby/Cleethorpes on Sunday 18 March. Brenda Buocy, Julie Prince and Sue Burgess may be required to be in two different places on the same day.

Brenda seems to improve with age and is ranked at 5 in England, she would be one place higher if an Estonian at four is discounted. She beat Ken Jackson 16 & 18 to take away his 100% record, but she did lose to her Liverpool team mate, Alice Howard, 21 & 21. Alice made her debut for the League in a 10-0 victory over Halton and remained unbeaten in her next match against Blackpool. She has opted for Lancashire this season and although not selected for their first match, she will, hopefully, appear in the next county match.

Also worthy of mention is Julie Prince, who made her last appearance for our League in 1979. She played for Lancashire Veterans last season and made her return in the 10-0 victory over Halton, as did Sue Burgess who travels from Chester to play in our League and was unable to play regularly last season. Welcome back to you both.

## OBITUARY

**It is with great regret that we report the death on 6th December of Mabel Neary who passed away after a short illness. Her funeral took place on 13th December at Southport, many league members being present. A full Obituary will appear in our next issue**

## SECRETARY'S DESK

I must start this column by offering my sincere condolences to the Rumjahn family. It is always a sad occasion when we have to say goodbye to one respected member of our clan, but when it is two in such a short space of time it doesn't bear thinking about. Both Ted and Kay Rumjahn passed away within four weeks of each other and my condolences go to all the family, in particular Janet, who has lost both parents and must try to soldier on regardless. Ted had an illustrious table tennis career, that has been documented elsewhere in this issue, and Kay used to play in our Ladies division. As Cup Secretary for 5 years I had the pleasure to be in Ted and Kay's company at Rumjahn Cup finals during that period, and I can tell you they were both two of the kindest and gentlest people you could hope to meet. They will be sorely missed. God bless.

For those of you who didn't know, or are walking around with your eyes closed, the Merseyside Junior 3 star Open took place on the first weekend in December at Greenbank Sports Academy in conjunction with Liverpool Sports Development Unit. It was an excellent weekend and if you missed it it was your loss as there was some excellent table tennis played. I even learned something "KIDS CAN'T CHOP". They just hit the ball very hard and very fast. I thought the larger ball was supposed to slow the game down, maybe I'm just getting older? I would like to thank the Liverpool Sports Development Unit along with Greenbank, together with all the staff at Greenbank for all the help they provided during the course of the weekend.

The next tournament to be held is the 'BIG ONE' the Merseyside Open, this being classed as a Grand Prix Major this season. It is to be held on 6/7th January 2001 at Wavertre Tennis Centre and expected to attract star names such as Alan Cooke, Alex Perry, Adam Robertson, Nicola Deaton, Andrea Holt and a host of others. If you have never seen table tennis of this quality before I would urge you to come and spectate. I know you will enjoy yourself, make it a family day out.

Back to our league. It is apparent that in some cases matches are being cancelled/postponed for no legitimate reason. All Club Secretaries should know that matches can only be cancelled or postponed in certain circumstances and these are clearly outlined in our Rules. It also appears that in at least one instance a Club Secretary has instructed a fellow Secretary to speak to a team captain in order to advise that team captain of a date for a rearranged match that had originally been postponed within the rules of the League. This can only lead to confusion, errors and possible disputes between Clubs. It is the duty of the Club secretary to advise their own team captain of the date for a rearranged match, it is not up to the opposing Club Secretary to do this. At the Handbook meeting held at the beginning of September all clubs were reminded of rules governing cancellations and advised of the Management Committee's intention not to allow cancellations/postponements outside the rules. Your committee will take a poor view of any such occurrences and has the power to void any matches that fall into this category, in other words, no-one will get any points.

Finally, I would remind you that a match between two teams from the same club cannot be postponed without the consent of the Fixture secretary and any match so postponed must be played within fourteen days of the original fixture, if not so played the match will be declared void, no points being awarded to either team. Again, if this rule is broken your Committee will have no hesitation, or alternative, but to follow League Rules. I would remind you, all the rules were made by you, the clubs!

Promote Table tennis. Support your League. Keep happy.

Mike Power  
League Secretary

NOTE: Since the above notes were submitted the Management Committee have met and declared void a match between Police 'A' v Police played in breach of the postponement rule referred to above.

Welcome one and all to the start of the millenium season, albeit rather belatedly, what with the petrol crisis and all the problems that it caused. I, personally, found that a syphoning kit and neighbours cars sorted out my problems (only joking, your Worship). Also, before we get down to the serious stuff, let's spare a thought for our American friends, their presidential voting system is nearly as complicated as Harold House's fixtures. Well, what have I got in store for you today? What I have noticed is the influx of a few new players/ Some of which you will know from old, some you won't. What is refreshing is that this league is still considered the best in the Northwest and that is something which we sometimes forget.

The top section of the division is pretty much as one would have expected, YM 1st team have got off to a flying start by taking maximum points against Bath St 'A' and Maghull. The team of Pat McLoughan, Peter Lee and Dele Olyumbo have only dropped five points in the same amount of matches and although I don't think that they will beat Police or Cadwa on the night, they still have the ability of collating more points against other teams. I really hope that they have a good go, it just depends if YM can field this best team constantly.

Cadwa's season did not start as sweetly as YM's, they only managed a 7-3 win against Bath St 'A' with Peter Taylor having a nightmare match losing all three to Alex Johns, Ian McElwee and Dave Evans. Peter's misfortune continued when his team faced Police 'A' and the hard hitting form of Terri-Ann Nolan who managed to save the white-wash at Peter's expense. The match result was immaterial to Police's deputised reserve, Jon Dyson, who was more than happy having taken Kevin Dolder to three.

The Police team of John Rankin, Paul Hutchings and Chris Ford has been strengthened this season by the signing of Phil Musgrove who, when fit, will add some resilience to the team and will mean less appearances by yours truly. Having said that, Bath St. 'A' were grateful for my attendance, it gave Alex Johns and Ian Mcelwee the opportunity to gain two unexpected sets.

Just to digress slightly, during the 'closed' season John Rankin actually made the comment that he felt his team was probably the most intelligent in

the league and that having a Degree was a pre-requisite to playing in his team. Cheeky buggger, I can remember the days when John thought that you spelt 'farm' E.I.E.I.O. I'll also have you know that it's not my fault that I've been barred from all Universities. When I applied the lady on the telephone told me to send in my thesis..... and I misheard her.

'Homeless' Wavertree have yet again benefitted from Ken Arnson's 'Big Issue' sales and managed to secure another venue. The 'A' team unfortunately has not survived the move albeit that players from the 'A' team will be guesting for the 1st team. There is a thought that the disbandment of the team, having conceded three walkovers, actually contravenes League rules in that the lowest team in the club should be withdrawn. Thankfully commonsense, which is not very common these days, has prevailed avoiding unnecessary disruption in the club and other divisions.

Wav Lab 1st team stalwarts, Dave Roberts and Roy Smith, are ably supported by Alice Howard who is now an established 1st team player. Although the team will not see the success of old they should finish comfortably within the top five. Dave showed his true grit in the drawn match against Cadwa 'A' by taking all three. This feat was repeated by Roy in the 7-3 win against YM 'A' with his 23/21 decider against Baker Lei competing with Ahmed Thabet's two straight deuce wins against Dave for 'Match of the night'.

There's not much to choose from the middle of the table and although Bath St. lead the way, they've had to battle for it. A 6-4 score line against YM 'A' with Ahmed and Baker taking two apiece from Mike Keane and Fred Bainbridge, was repeated against Cadwa 'A'. Mike Power and Billy Hargreaves on this occasion deserve recognition for their success against Mike and Fred, Billy and Mike's being decided 25/23 in the 3rd. Bath St were then hosts to Police 'A' who managed to reverse the scoreline taking the match 6-4. Gemma Lloyd making her mark by having two great wins over Mike and Fred. Fred did have his revenge beating yours truly two straight. Incidentally, Kenny Jackson never lost in any of the games. Just to stick with Bath St for a little longer, their excellently refurbished room really does promote good table tennis and is a fitting tribute to to the memory of John 'Ginger' Watson. Well done chaps.

My own team of Police A are more than happy with our start, brother Steve is probably playing his best T.T. for a long while and this was evident when he took his three against Wav's Dave Roberts, Roy Smith and Alice Howard. I, unfortunately, cannot play every week due to shifts and baby Jack (if only I'd realised that safe sex meant more than just locking the car door) but the support of 'hinge and bracket' namely Terri-Ann and Gemma, together with the return of Peter Flint eases our resources worries. Peter's return is perhaps long overdue when you consider that such a talented player is within our catchment area. As expected he won his three against Cadwa A but was not as successful against H. House's 'blast from the past' Paul Ashcroft. Again, Gemma had a good win over Alex Bryce resulting in the match points being shared.

Bath A are plumb in the middle of the table, which is no mean feat when one considers that they have already played the top three teams and, even more extraordinary, fielded a different team on each occasion. Having lost 10-nil to YM 1st where, I'm reliably informed by Pat McLoughan (via the match comments, folks), Eddie Crowley was voted the unluckiest player having lost in three to Pat Mc and Dele. Bath St have since redeemed themselves, taking three against Cadwa and two from Police 1st team. There's only a matter of several points separating the middle teams and I think that this is probably going to be the case throughout the season. YM A are amongst the group and will be quite happy with their start. Ahmed Thabet looks like he's scheduled to have a good season having had wins over Wav's Dave Roberts and Alice Howard and contributed in the doubles giving YM three valuable points. Their new arrival, Baker Lei, is certainly an accomplished player and will no doubt make his mark as Bath St's Mike Keane and Fred Bainbridge found to their cost. Unfortunately for YM A, H. House on the night were too strong and the team of Ken Connor, Alex Bryce and Steve Whalley were worthy 8-2 winners, Dave Tagg stopping the rot with a fine win over Steve. Cadwa A having narrowly survived the relegation battle last year are, I'm sure, even more determined this season to maintain their 1st division status. They have not got the luxury

as other teams have of strengthening their team with additional players, however, the team of Ken Hartley, Billy Hargreaves and Mike Power have to date done themselves proud. A narrow 6-4 defeat at Bath St. was soon replaced by a respectable draw against Wav Lab. Billy being the hero beating both Phil Luxon and Alice Howard.

M'hull, like Police A, are the newly promoted team and, again like the Police team, accept that the fight to avoid relegation is inevitable and has to begin with the first game of the season. The team of Steve Woods, Fred Pheysey and Matt Wilson certainly pinned their flag to the pole by securing a tremendous 6-4 win against a strong H. House team of Paul Ashcroft, Alex and Steve. Paul lost his 3, Alex lost to Steve and then Matt went on to comfortably beat Steve. Although looking at the table you would think that this was a relegation decider, I just can't see H.H. having any problems and like previous seasons, I'm confident that they will slowly creep up the table.

You'll notice that I've totally avoid talking about the change in the ball size. I can't see the point of having a discussion that focuses around an extra ten millimetres. It's a man thing, Anyway, I don't think it's made any difference at all. Dave Roberts is still getting 20 nets and edges each game and Roy Smith is still moaning that 'it' won't bounce. Finally, there's a malicious rumour going around that my articles are somewhat sexist and that I'm a male chauvinist... I'll have you know, ladies, that I fully accept that many of women's problems can be traced to the male gender i.e. MENstruation, MENopause, MENTAL breakdown, GUYnaecology and finally, HIMMorrhoids (that should keep the chicks off my back for a while, lads). See you soon.

Editor's Note: Paul, your Rulebook quote is out of date, it's no wonder you got your wires crossed over the Police A v Police match. Try familiarising yourself with our current Rulebook

**Forms are out for our Closed c'ships, Sunday 21 January. Please note closing date should read 13 January. Every effort will be made to accommodate any late entries. Finals night Tuesday 23rd January, at Police Club, commencing 7:30 pm with Men's semi finals.**

## DIVISION TWO SYLVIA GRAHAM

Well, here I am back in the glorious 2nd having deposed Mr Power as President of Divisional Notes. Do you think I should offer him the Vice Presidency just in case he asks for a recount...? If the Supreme Court gets involved these notes won't be ready for the inauguration of the new Digest in December and there'll be hell to play. Actually, I'm not really sure I appreciate the honour Mr Ken Armonson, MBE (Mainly Bloody Exasperating) has bestowed upon me, but that's another story and I won't tell it now.

Anyway, let's have a look at the division this season. It's a warm welcome back to both W'loo and Marconi, and a hello again to BJC 'A' and Liv YM B. We certainly missed Uncle Ted and Uncle Ricky... not to mention Uncle Mick, didn't we! It's nice to see them again, but do have a quick gab, and I do mean quick, because they're definitely destined for a higher place. I bet they didn't get as many laughs up there, but it won't stop them wanting to go back. Perhaps Gemma will have livened things up by now... ask her for a sip of the new McDonalds beverage cos at cup matches it makes the time just fly by!

Marconi had a weak start to the season having lost the services of Eddie Crowley to Bath St. and with not having practised during the summer and the advent of the bigger ball they all appeared a little rusty. Now they seem to be stepping up a gear and are in the top three. I did hear a rumour that Marconi and Bath St. did a straight swop of Eddie for John McCann, but John assures me that wasn't the case and that Bath St received a substantial amount of cash as well, which was how they managed to fund the entire club renovation programme.

Talking of Bath St, I must say that Colin Owens has had an unbelievable start to the season. I've always thought of him as one of the most talented of their players and being such a modest person he never pushes himself forward, or indeed expects to be mentioned, and to receive the accolade of his peers would just embarrass him. He's such a team man, too. One match his back was giving him so much pain it had him crawling around the table, but he wouldn't give in - the team was more important than his own personal agony, he just gritted his teeth and played on. Ian Grant placed a friendly arm round Colins' shoulders and quietly

pleaded with him to stop, but no! our Col wouldn't... he carried on and eventually beat Bob Edwards (Marconi) to register as M.o.M for that night. M'web A will struggle if they don't get their full team out each week. Ray Parkinson is having some cracking wins and if Andy Lloyd and Chris Hill turn out then it's a side that can pick up points against most teams. If you don't turn out your strongest team each week then expect to be punished in this division. Wav Lab B look pretty secure and I expect to see them about mid table. It's yet another team that can play a blinder one week and scrape through at others.

There's not much to be gleaned from the results, but guess what, folks? It's the beginning of the season and lots of comments on the cards already. Liv YM B send greetings to all and is enjoying the rarefied atmosphere of the 2nd. No vertigo as they celebrated their first match and first wins in their new multi lit hall. They're just waiting for the return of boy wonder, Paul O'Donnell, if he ever gets out of the sin bin. Trevor Owen got man of the match. He didn't like the bigger ball, but surprisingly his backhand didn't seem to mind it. YM are getting used to the average match finish of midnight. Rumour has it that Roger Neal has vampire tendencies, everyone picks on poor old Roger! Last season it was because he always gets his teeth into things and like a vampire drains everyone else's energy. Billy Cheung got man of the match and on closer inspection seems to be notching up quite a few wins. Steve Kee would like some advice on how to win a doubles. Anyone out there with good info, please pass it to me too.

When M'web played Marconi A Alan Biggs turned out as a reserve for Manweb. He started really positively against Ted Gilmour and took the first 19. Before the second could get underway a moth invaded the table and held up play. Apparently the sight of a brightly coloured creature flying about the room completely unnerved Alan and Ted ran out the winner. It didn't upset Ted, though (rumour has it that Ted was seen to check his wallet after the first game!). The rest of the match took its course and M'web eventually won 8-2.

BJC lost 7-3 to Fords but the card says it could so easily have been a draw. Marvellous Mike was the star and dug them out of that smelly brown stuff that we're not allowed to mention. He clearly inspired Roger (Dodger) to new heights when he gladly obliged the team with a win over Tim

Wearden.

W'loo 1st team are having trouble finding a captain. They find themselves with a balding, overweight, alcoholic number one who reluctantly put pen to paper. He said the match between them and Marconi A would have been better but the old warhorse, Trevor Owen, was not in the mood for a fight. There's, quote, 'nothing at stake' unquote. W'loo had Ritchie Cragg as reserve and Tiger (?) Birch was his normal self instead of being ill all the time, (silly old fart!). W'loo ran out winners 9-1 and then went to the Liver for a different sort of training. Alan has decided that if he puts his comments on the card he'll get a mention. He must like Ritchie because he's the only one he doesn't insult.

Only two facesavers to date and surprisingly (?) both against W'loo 1st. Peter Holmes beat Ricky Brown in their derby match 17&11 and Trevor Owen beat Ritchie Cragg 17 -19 18.

Close wins: Billy Cheung beat Mike Moran 20 & 20. Roger Neal beat Tim Wearden 20 & 20.

Close Wins: Trevor Owen had a tremendous night against YM B and had a hand in all his teams' points. He won all his singles and combined with John McCann to win the doubles. Mike Moran beat James Eaton (Fords) 12 & 17. Steve Kee beat Tim Wearden -16 19 & 20. Bill Stanley (Wav Lab) beat Frank McCann (Marconi) 14 & 24.

### **DIVISION THREE**

Time is 21:30 and we are cruising in the South Atlantic en route to Dakar, Senegal, off the port bow (very nautical) I can see the lights on an island we are passing. What has this got to do with table tennis? Absolutely nothing, just thought I would let you see how dedicated I am to your magazine that I have to produce on my return.

How dedicated are you? Your division requires a correspondent, a role I am filling for this issue. If you want to read about events in your division a volunteer is needed for the next two issues. No volunteer, no notes, it is as simple as that

Firstly, a warm welcome back to Graeme Black returning after a long absence and to Peter Roberts returning after a serious illness. Much to the chagrin of his sister Julie, Graeme picked

up his bat and performed as if he had never been away. His return has strengthened W'loo B and whilst it may not have turned them into a promotional team, it has made them a force to be reckoned with. Police have rejoined us by way of one down and one up and in the process have juggled their squads. Presumably this is to ensure one goes back up rather than to consolidate both teams. I feel certain that although Police C appear to be struggling now, they will get their act together and climb to a safe position. Even at this early stage it is apparent that Police B, Cadwa B and C plus Bath St C will be the main promotion contenders. Bath St C struggled against their 'D' team to win 6-4 in a no holds barred clash. four valuable points gained by the 'D' at a cost to the 'C' of four even more valuable promotion points. No doubt the 'C' team will be hoping for a repeat performance when their 'D' team meet up with Police B and Cadwa B and C. Add to the fray the all round strength and reliability of Bootle YM and you have a strong division with 6-4 and 7-3 being more likely than 9-1 or 10-0

Wav Lab also with two teams look to have a hard season ahead, the 'D' team appear certain candidates for relegation. They are without the services of John Gratton until the New Year (he is hard at work in Ireland sampling their various beer products), and have also lost Bob Owen. Lee Farley has returned to help out and is taking the brunt at No.1. with Acting Captain Ken Roberts trying to stem the tide at No.2. they are firmly locked at the bottom and will need something of a table tennis miracle to avoid an immediate return to the 4th. This can only be good news for the other possibles, Police C and M'hull A.

The bulk of the promoted Police team are still together having been strengthened by the inclusion of Jon Dyson at No.2. with Len dropping down to No.4. A formidable line-up for any team to face and certainly Cadwa B and Bath St C are going to have to go some if they want to prevent them doing another double.

Police B battered Wav D 10-0, Cadwa C beat them 8-2. Police B also battered their C team 9-1, Paula saving the whitewash by beating her last season's team-mate Jon Dyson 19 -24 16. Cadwa C on the other hand beat their B team 7-3 but only with the aid of 3 w/over points when Ian Burrows failed to appear. Peter Roberts showing his enforced layoff has not affected his game by beating George Higham

Alan Davies defeating Rob Davies 15 in the 3rd. All cut and thrust at Cadwa between their B & C which just might benefit other contenders.

There is still a long way to go and my money will remain firmly on Police B, but no would be contender can expect an easy ride, every set will have to be fought and it is possible we may see a very tight finish, maybe even a title playoff.

A look at some early results is a clear indication of just how difficult it is going to be for any team interested in promotion and just how easily a team could slide into the relegation zone. Cadwa B set out their marker in week 2 when they narrowly beat Boo YM 6-4, with Alan Davies losing his two it was Rob Peverall and Peter Roberts who pulled them through with two wins each. Rob really going to town by beating John Higham 15 in the 3rd. Tom Killip has now dropped to No 4 for YM. Roly Wright being the only YM player to win his two beating Alan Davies in 2 straight and taking his doubles with Danny Every. Next match Cadwa B again got a 6-4 against a Wav C team that had two reserves, only Alan Davies winning his two. But they disposed of possible contenders, Bath St C, 7-3 and without Rob Peverall they crashed to M'hull A by the same score. Rod Bulmer and Eddie Preston doing most of the damage and Alan Davies keeping his team in the hunt by winning his 3. A severe setback for Cadwa who only a week earlier had held Police B to a draw in their re-arranged Week 1 match. Rob Peverall winning his two for Cadwa and Dave Crispin doing likewise for Police. Winning both doubles helped Cadwa to make it a draw but this result would appear to indicate that Police B look the most likely champions.

Bath St C also took on M'hull A and beat them 8-2. M'hull were without Rob Bulmer and Alan Jones D.N.T.U. gifting Bath St. 3 w/overs and an easier ride than would have been the case. they disposed of Wav Lab C 8-2, their reserve Chris Blackburn losing to the Wav Lab reserve, Steve Perry, 16 in the 3rd.

Police B appear to be behind on matches but apart from their draw against Cadwa B they have done their stuff well. They disposed of Cadwa C 7-3, Jon Dyson losing his two to Colin Rourke and Steve Graham, and despatched relegation candidates Lab D 10-0, the team at that time having Bob Owen at No.2. Their own C team getting the same treatment.

The bottom half is just as strongly contested and there are no easy wins to be had. M'hull A remain an enigma if only because of team troubles. They had a reserve in against Boo YM and narrowly lost 6-4, only two doubles wins keeping their score healthy. They crashed against Lab C when Eddie (Vocal) Preston DNTU following his holiday and in addition fielded yet another reserve. Chris Roberts had to move up to No.1. but had a good night taking his two against Ian Black and Richie Jones. Not a good night for Rod Bulmer, he lost in the 3rd to Ian Black and narrowly won his other singles 19 in the 3rd against Bill Stanley. With a full team against Bath St D they won comfortably 7-3. Against a strong Police C team, and with yet two more reserves, they had a reverse and stuttered to a draw, Alan Jones and Eddie Preston making it a miserable reverse for Terri-Ann Nolan, who we should not really be seeing playing so low down, both beating her 2 straight. Some strange things occur with Club rankings in every division and in this case Terri-Ann is quoted in Div One notes as being a resource for their 'A' team.

With a full side they beat Bath St D 7-3, Chris Roberts losing his two, both in the 3rd to Mark Paterson and Bill (Conman) Clayton. Peter Ross getting their other point also in the 3rd against Rod Bulmer. Bath St D will not encounter any real problems and should finish somewhere in mid table. Their biggest reverse having been a 9-1 battering against W'loo B when they had to put out 3 reserves from the lower echelon with Bill Clayton playing at No.1. and strutting his conman routine to beat Julie Prince 2 straight.

With Lab D destined for a speedy return to the 4th the battle for who will accompany them is likely to be as fierce as that at the top. Police C on present form appear the best candidates but they could just be suffering from early season hiccups, and who knows what will happen when Paula gets a sniff of country air in her lungs when she moves house in the New Year. One thing is certain, if Police do want to stay up they will need to ensure a more regular team turn out than has been the case to date. One factor that could determine the outcome of the promotion battle has to be the decision of George Higham to change from penhold to European grip after many years of playing penhold. George is still on a learning curve and will lose early season matches because of it. He told me he is determined to stick with it and knowing his determined play



I feel certain he will reverse many of his early season losses and improve his teams' chances. Finally the good news. Yes, I do have good news. A volunteer has been found for your notes who will dazzle you with his brilliance. I say no more.

## DIVISION FOUR DOUG BAKER

The new season's underway, the new ball's getting bashed (in both senses of the word) and Christmas is coming. Early contenders have established themselves and it's the big clubs that are leading the way.

Wav Lab have two teams with the new flavour E team in good early form. Ditto Maghull, who are looking to return their B team from whence they came. Manweb B, who finished 4th last season, have been joined by their C team, undefeated champions of the 5th.

Each club will have a one year plan, to have one team promoted and the other well established. with only two places available it's going to be a close run thing. Perhaps for an indication of how things might play out one should look outside the division. Wav have a team (possibly two) struggling at the bottom of Div 3 and another contending for promotion from the 5th. This tends to pull on teams caught in the middle and creates problems for the club secretary and captains later in the season.

So perhaps M'web will rise above this and play their cards wisely. Their preferred 'B' appear to be Paul Jennings, Alan Cameron, Alan Biggs and Peter Carney. Their 'C' team club mates don't seem to have read the script though, drawing with them and fighting to win 4 of those five in the 3rd. Rob Conley, John Ashley and Peter Carney protecting unbeaten records.

No such misunderstanding at M'hull when 'B' beat 'C' 9-1. Harry McGanity can claim family privilege for beating young Steve 18 & 20. George Frost and Bill Salter are leading the charge with little to upset them to date.

Lab E have carded a 10/0 w/over v W'loo C, turns out W'loo weren't aware of the change in Lab's match night from W'day to Thursday. Tony Connor is willing to replay, but I'd imagine the fact that W'loo should have turned up the night before and hence found out their mistake

will count against this. Wav 'E' have shown they want to be back in the 3rd, Tony Conner, Mike Ashton, Colin Fyles and Dave Williams turning Cadwa 'D' over 8-2. Only Steve Critchley taking Tony's 100% record (the only one of 5 3rd gamers that went Cadwa's way), Trevor Dolder doing the same to Colin, bringing joy to Cadwa. Both Mike and Dave beat John O'Sullivan, which is a rare occurrence for John. Mike coming from a game down and staring at defeat to steal the 2nd 26/24. Not so easy away to rivals Maghull 'B' without Mike resulting in a draw. Bill Salter undefeated for the home team. Tony and Colin undefeated for the visitors. Stan Clarke stepped in at No.4, but found Harry and Bill too tough.

Stan's been leading Wav 'F' as their No.1, with Ken Armson and Rez Mirdamadi as stalwarts. With Ken's exemplary efforts its objectives achieved so far. A good win away at Manweb 'C' was, however, undone with a 2-8 defeat from rivals Maghull 'C'. Ken, no doubt, too excited by winning his singles to remember to sign the card and put down the squad numbers (a lesson for us all, there). Special mention to Ken Ray who broke his duck beating H.H.'s Mike Poole 21 -18 17.

Maghull 'C' are the best placed of the '2nd teams' in this division and are no doubt relishing their venue's makeover. However, a visit from Handy Andy is needed as when I was there I slipped on a wet carpet. The carpet burn took a lot of explaining, but did serve as a good excuse for losing my games. Ditto for Harold House, who lost 6-4, new boy Rosenbloom beating Steve McGanity 22 in the 3rd as Christie and Gregory bagged a brace.

I don't know quite what to make of Bath St 'F' at the moment. Early on they received 2-8 defeats from M'web 'B' and Cadwa 'D' - Dave Cunningham and Chris Blackburn both lost a 3-gamer 19). They have come back strongly and only lost once since.

It's dog eat dog in the lower reaches. BooYM 'A' beat M'web 'C' 9-1, but then lose 8-2 to A'burth, who in turn lose 7-3 to Wav 'F'. A'burth and Wav 'F' have both beaten H. House 'A' 6-4, in part due to the no show of the opposing No.1. H.H. seem to be without a No.1. at the moment, Ray Jackson and Eddie Clein having been mentioned but not appeared.

Sorting this out will be the key to their season.

What can I say about mine own cadwa 'D'? We feel we should be doing better, and we're all having

good and bad nights. At least we're still listening to advice and that support has made a difference. As witnessed in our 6-4 win over M'web 'C' and my game v Rob Conley, losing the 1st from deuce and winning the 3rd from deuce. Being the 1st team in the club we have our own squad rotation system, which comes down to playing whoever's available, including that there Don Davies (Ok, he's averaging an impressive 75%).

W'loo 'C' have had some early season problems, as they also had to cancel their match with Cadwa, so the current tables are not representative, but being close to the drop last season serves as notice to Ken Nelson and his team. They struggled against M'hull 'B' 3-7 but at least with Eddie Rowbottom unbeaten. However, on closer inspection 3/4 of the M'hull team were "taken" from their 'C' team.

All this rollercoasting at the foot of the division makes predictions at this stage impossible, and means that all should be wary. I can, however, say a warm welcome back to A'burth and good luck in surviving. They had a tall order in playing M'web 'B' away in their first match back in div 4. They contested every point in their 3-7 defeat at Wav 'F', losing 4 of 5 sets in the deciding 3rd game. It'll be a mountain to climb, but they have at least established base camp with two home victories. Still spiking the ale, eh boys?

The next third of the season will mark things out, changing outlooks from hopeful to desperate. That will affect how players and teams approach their final matches. So, best enjoy the Christmas and New year break, but not too much. Cheers, everyone, Doug Baker.

Merseyside Grand Prix takes place Sat/Sun 6/7th January at Wavertree Tennis Centre. Play on both days commences 09.00. Top players can be seen in action with final of the Men's & Women's singles being played Sunday evening. Come along and watch quality table tennis. Friday evening there will be a Come & Try session 1730 to 1930 with an exhibition match and coaching led by Alex Perry & Nicola Deaton followed by an open session 1930 to 2100.

A weakened B. St 'F' team met Liv YM 'C' in the opening match the result, an 8-2 win for YM who will be up there at the top come season end. The team of Tony Wong, Johnny Tsang, Francis Lay and Robert Aldridge were too strong for a depleted Bath St., only reserve Dave Batty with wins over Aldridge and Lay earned his team points. I am told that Jimmy Clewett is the regular No.1. for this team. This was borne out in their match against Linacre - fresh from their drop from Div 4 - when they won 8-2 with Jimmy taking Jack Davidson in 3 and Ken Ainsworth two straight. But star man for Linacre was evergreen Frank Lacey who beat Tony Wong 20 in the 3rd and achieving an even better result by disposing of Russell Thornton in 3. Strange to see Russell at No.4. in this div! Linacre, themselves, got off to a comfortable 8-2 against M'hull 'D', Frank Lacey again did his stuff, losing narrowly in the 3rd to Denise Cox, but squeezing home in 3 against the much improved Jeanette Hutchings. Jack Davidson and Ken Ainsworth both beating Naresh Tagore. Harry Reeves is not yet playing but his return will see them in the top half when the season ends

H. House 'C' conceded a 10.0 w/over to Wav 'G' reasons unknown. Fuel crisis, maybe? When they travelled to M'hull a week later they were swept away 10-0. M'hull being strengthened by the inclusion of Jeff Banks and Andy McCourt, no set going to 3.

Greenbank, with some wheelchair players, are not a team to be taken lightly. anchor man at No.1. is Tony Edge and you underestimate him at your peril. He defeated George Crowley and Richard Woodley, Bath St. 'F', in their first match 2 straight. Tony has only lost one match to date, this in 3 to Naresh Tagore. His other scalps include Jack Davidson, Ken Ainsworth, Johnny Tsang and Francis Lay. Greenbank also lay on a lovely supper courtesy of T.T. Organiser Rob Jameson. They have a wonderful setup at Greenbank and will host the L'pool Junior 3 Star. Please note you will play all your 'home' matches against them at their venue. H. House 'B' met Bath St 'G' in the first match and the result was a draw. Both Bath St teams are of much the same strength and neither will be up at the top come season end. Steve Simpson when he plays a controlled game is hard to beat, but Dave Batty edged him off in 3, but Steve made no

**LETTERS:**

mistakes against Alex Gould. Evergreen Eugene Berger playing his usual chop, push and backhand drive taking his two against Gary Abrams and Richard Beilin.

Bath St have had an infusion of senior ladies from yesteryear who play in the LBH, but from time to time they are seconded to the F or G teams. Lil Randles being one who turned out for their 'G' team without success, but the experience of playing in the L'pool League again must have brought back memories.

Police 'D', with Alan French at No.1, who has had wins against Dave Batty and Alex Gould, won't win this div but are capable of taking points from most teams. Alan was a lone winner against Wav 'G'. The Wav Lab team also beating A'burth 'A' 8-2. Anthony Mitchell won his two against Billy Holmes and Lee Proffitt and to date has not lost a set.

Who will win the title? I think it's between M'hull 'D', YM 'C' and Wav 'G', the 10-0 w/over for Wav. 'G' having helped their cause, and all three remain undefeated. My money is on M'hull if they can turn out their strongest side each week.

For reasons known only to Liv YM they have chosen to group Paul O'Donnell at No.4 in their 'C' team. I know he has had 5 week ban, but his talents are far above this div and he cannot receive any pleasure from defeating 3 & 4 position players in our div. In a recent Div 5 cuptie he was called on 3 times to lay the foundation for his sides win. I don't blame the players - just club policy.

Finally, the 'tension' is unbearable - or lack of it in the net, when you play at Aigburth! all shots that hit the top, or just below, kerplop on your side and you have no chance of retrieving them. Come on, Eric, sell some 'spots' in the club and you'll have enough to buy a legal net!

**SUPPORT YOUR CLOSED C'SHIPS  
ENTER THE DIVISIONAL EVENT  
APPLICABLE TO YOUR DIVISION  
ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE FROM  
YOUR CLUB SECRETARY OR BY  
PHONE FROM THE REFEREE ON  
486 3073. TOURNAMENT DATE IS  
SUNDAY 21 JANUARY. CLOSING  
DATE FOR ENTRIES, 13 JANUARY**

Dear Editor,

Kay & Ted Rumjahn, 1920-2000

May I take this opportunity to thank all members of the League for their kind messages of condolence on the passing of Mum and Dad within three weeks of each other, and to the Management Committee for their generous donation to the R.N.I.I. for whom dad worked tirelessly for forty years. We were all very proud when he was presented with his Gold Badge by the Duke of Kent a couple of years ago. Some of Mum and Dad's closest friends were drawn from the table tennis circle and of course from Rafters TTC. There are many treasured memories associated with Table Tennis, long may these continue.

Thank you all very much

Jan Davies

Dear Editor

LEAGUE WEB SITE

This is a call for help from league members, this being my second season running the web site. In order to give the site more interest I want to create a list of players from each club with Email addresses willing to receive regular league tables, cup draws etc. In this way you, the players, will receive the information as and when club secretaries are informed. to date I have contacts with Bath St, Bootle JC, Bootle YM, Cadwa, L'pool YM and Police.

One idea I have is for someone from each club to send a short article about their club, containing information such as number of members, teams, the divisions in which they are playing, match nights, meeting times, coaching etc. This would be linked into the "CLUB" page on the web site. Any photographs of the club premises (with players) for scanning in would be appreciated.

Another idea I have been toying with is to have 'pen pictures' of players or teams from various divisions. Roly Wright (Boo YM) Emailed a photo of W'loo B taken at a recent Div.3. match.

He has agreed to send more photos, so put on your best face if playing at Bootle YM - you never know your luck. All photos can be scanned in and will be returned to the sender. Some notes about the players i.e. age, when they started playing, where they started, honours, anything humorous etc., would be greatly appreciated. If you could send the information via Email it will save a lot of typing.

The League Email address is:

ldttl@liverpooltt.freemove.co.uk

Web-site address is:

www.liverpooltt.freemove.co.uk

Many thanks

John Langton

## **I WAS THERE Jimmy McClure THE LONGEST POINT**

It happened in Prague in 1936 at the World Championships and I was there!

When several members of our team entered the arena to eat lunch, we noticed a large crowd standing around the table where Paneth of Romania and Ehrlich of Poland were playing. We saw that the score was zero to zero and when we asked if they had just started, we were told that they had been playing for 15 minutes. When we asked if it was the second game, we were told it was the first point of the game. We watched for about 10 minutes and then decided to go eat with the score still zero to zero. While we were eating, people would come into the dining room and exclaim that they were still playing the first point.

After we finished eating, we went back to their table and sure enough they were still playing the first point, it was well over an hour after they had started. Ehrlich was standing straight up and just blocking the ball back and every so often he would switch hands and block a few balls back with his left hand. He seemed to be thoroughly enjoying it, often joking with the crowd. On the other hand,

Paneth was bent over chopping every ball back and was deadly serious. We also heard from one of the spectators that Paneth had said before the match, that he could keep the ball in play all day. To which Ehrlich had replied that he could keep the ball in play forever.

After watching for 15 minutes we decided we would walk around and see if we could find any other exciting matches going on. Wherever we went, we were able to keep track of their match, as people would pass by and announce they were still playing the first point. Since almost everyone in the hall was now gathered around their table, we decided to go back and maybe if we were lucky, we would be able to see a couple of points before we had to go back to our hotel to eat supper.

They had now been playing almost 2 hours. Finally after 2 hours and 4 minutes Paneth chopped the ball into the net and the crowd let out a roar. As soon as I calmed down from the excitement of this first point, I roughly figured out that if the match continued at this pace, the first game should be finished in 2/3 days and the match completed in about 10 days.

On the very next point, the second ball that Ehrlich blocked back, hit the top of the net and rolled over. What a turn around. The first point lasted 2 hours 4 minutes and next point 4 seconds. This really upset Paneth and he decided to change his style of play and switch to attacking the ball. It was to no avail. After bending over for two hours chopping the ball, he seemed unable to straighten up enough to attack. When this failed, he attempted to go back to his original style but found that after trying to stand up to attack, he was unable to bend over low enough to chop every ball.

Much to the disappointment of the crowd, most of whom had decided to stay to the bitter end, the rest of the match lasted less than 25 minutes.

In the many years since that history making match, I have often wondered how the Czech Officials would have dealt with the ticket demand had it continued at the same pace in order that the spectators could see the match finish. We will never know the answer to that question but we do know that those of us who were fortunate enough to be there, were able to see the longest point ever played in a World Championships.

(Editor: Don't know when this article was first published, or how it came into my possession, but acknowledge its receipt with thanks.)

**64TH ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPION -  
SHIPS - BUCKMORE PARK, KENT,  
7 - 11TH FEBRUARY 2001**

The 64th English Open will break new ground in moving to Buckmore Park, near Chatham, Kent.

Traditionally, Buckmore Park was known as one of Britain's largest scout camps, but the expansion of the M2 Motorway and Channel tunnel rail connection to London brought a large financial windfall from the sale of land. This has been used to create a new £20 million pound complex open to the wider community.

Entries are still coming in, a large preliminary entry from around 30 countries ranging from Europe, Asia and Africa having already been received for this event. After many years out of international competition North Korea (Korea DPR), traditionally a powerful force in table tennis, have indicated they will be entering a team. Many of the current top Nations have also given intent of taking part, including Sweden, W

orld Men's team champions, France, Germany and a large squad from Japan.

The Pre-qualifying competition is held on the Tuesday and open to allcomers.

Seen as one of the oldest and most prestigious international championships in the world of table tennis, this will be the 64th English Open although the records show that it all started in 1922, 79 years ago, and the first ITTF Pro Tour event of 2001

If you are interested in being present to savour and enjoy the explosive atmosphere created when the world's leading players face each other in top competition then Buckmore Park, Chatham, Kent, 6th - 11th February is the place for you

Quite a number of our members went to the 63rd when it was held at Potters Leisure Centre but on this occasion entertainment etc. won't be included.

How to Get There: If travelling by car nearest Motorway junction is junction 3 on the M2. Alternatively you can use the M20 and exit at junction 6 and take the A229 for Chatham. By rail Chatham is the nearest station, a bus service (101) will take you from the station to the edge of Buckmore Park, from where the venue is a 5 minute walk.

Ticket prices are: Tuesday - £4, Wednesday/Thursday - £6, Friday to Sunday £12. alternatively you can purchase a season ticket for £40 or a Weekender, Fri to sun for £30.

Full information available from ETTA Events Unit, 01424 722525.

## **PETER TAYLOR**

**(CADWA TT CLUB)**

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## NETS & EDGES

The league has sadly lost two former players within the space of four weeks, when Kay and Ted Rumjahn, passed away. Kay died in October following an illness, and husband Ted, unexpectedly passed away just a month later. Ted was a Vice President of our League and represented the League on many occasions while with Clubmoor and later Rafters. He was the runner-up in the English Junior Open in 1936 and later played for the England senior team. The Liverpool Men's champion in 1948, 1951 and 1957, the Closed Men's doubles champion with brother Peter in '49 and '50 and in 1957 with Arthur Taylor. His last Closed title came in 1962, winning the Veterans' title. Before and after he retired from playing, he helped to bring players into the game as one of the leading coaches in the area. Keith Williams, Brian Davey and John Marshall all benefitted from his coaching whilst still at school. The respected presence of Ted and Kay will be missed by many both in and outside of the League.

\* \* \* \*

Our Fixture Secretary, Paula French, is moving in the New Year to Wigan, but scorecards should continue to be sent to her current address. Any changes in contact will be advised to Clubs as and when they become operational.

\* \* \* \*

A change to International Regulations covering racket changes during a match has been introduced this season and applies only to matches being played under such regulations. Unfortunately some players are under the impression that this change also applies to local league matches, this is not so. Our league match play is governed by ETTA Laws of Table Tennis and these do not include current International Regulations. If in doubt you should do nowt, that way you will not unfairly penalise players by applying incorrectly something you have read about, but are not familiar with!

\* \* \* \*

Revised Veteran Cup Regulations are now in use and your views on any aspect of these changes will be welcomed by our cup Secretary, John Langton. Obviously, we have not yet got player handicaps correctly balanced, but these will be fine tuned next season. To assist with this aspect you should play all nine sets irrespective of a match outcome being known before the match is completed.

Are our ranking rules tight enough? Judging by the way some Clubs drive holes through them, the answer has to be an emphatic NO. Abuse of ranking rules leads to inequality in divisions and can affect the outcome of promotion and relegation issues. If you have a view on this important subject, why not air it in your magazine!

\* \* \* \*

F.S. Paula French, was faced with an embarrassing situation when her own Club breached a postponement rule resulting in the match concerned being declared null and void. Paula is determined to enforce strongly the Management Committee's declared intention of not allowing any postponements that are in breach of Rule. You have been warned, illegally postpone matches and you risk the match being declared null and void. This strong action is in the best interests of all teams and will ensure fair play all round.

\* \* \* \*

Graham Rollinson has successfully passed his County Umpire examinations and is now a qualified CU.

\* \* \* \*

Rat Lavin has reluctantly had to hang up his table tennis bat and his cricket bat due to ill health. He now intends to take up umpiring in both sports and is currently taking his table tennis CU written examination.

\* \* \* \*

Eddie Clein will record yet another Lord Mayor first when he plays in the Veteran Event in the Merseyside G.P. Major.

\* \* \* \*

Although the ETTA currently has responsibility for the Merseyside GP the league is responsible for the general running of the event in so far as providing volunteers for setting up and taking down etc. If you can help with this task on Friday afternoon or Sunday evening get in touch with Keith Williams who is the Tournament Organiser, or any committee member. Assistance is also required during Saturday and Sunday with the general running of this major event.

\* \* \* \*

Mick Allen has joined the ranks of league members who have undergone major heart surgery and is hoping to resume playing. He is not yet fully recovered having undergone a really big major heart operation. We extend our best wishes to Mick for a full recovery and a speedy return to our ranks.

Our first ever Wheelchair team have settled in and made a good start, players finding to their cost that wheelchair players are not just there to make up the number. Their No.1. Tony Edge already having already taken quite a few scalps and looking for more. They have also brought a new meaning to the break for tea and biscuits.

\* \* \* \*

The Black family created a new record for themselves when three of them, Julie, Graeme and Dad, Ken, turned out for W'loo B in a Div.3 match. Ken and Graeme have not played in our League for many years, but Graeme was an established 1st div. player. They have an illustrious table tennis background, Graeme having won the Closed Junior title in 1977, the same year as Keith Williams and Sue Burgess won their respective senior titles. Julie winning the Junior Girls in '75 & '76 and adding the Ladies title in '82 and '84, teaming up with Brenda Buocoy to take the Women's Doubles title in '74 and again in '82 with Sue Hughes. Ken served on the League Management Committee and was Cup Secretary in 1977/78. He also assisted on the Control Table at our Closed for a number of years. No happy ending to this story as their team was beaten 7-3 but at least Graeme and Julie won their teams' 3 sets.

\* \* \* \*

The League now have two teams in the NW National Junior League and both are doing well. The players are all products of our Coaching Scheme and some are already playing with League Clubs. Hopefully we will see more of them entering next season.

\* \* \* \*

Paul O'Donnell (Liv YM) is now Lancashire No.2. junior having defeated some strongly fancied players in the County Trials. He also came a very creditable 3rd in the Regional Trials and qualified for this season's Nationals. These are being played at Fareham and the League is assisting Paul with his travelling expenses to ensure he does not miss out on this well earned opportunity.

\* \* \* \*

Got a view? Why not air it in your League magazine?

\* \* \* \*

Has anyone really noticed any substantial difference made to play by the 40mm ball?

After 25 years playing with a penholder grip, George Higham (Cadwa) has changed to the European handshake grip. George is not yet back to his normal hard to beat style but is slowly getting to grips with his new grip.

\* \* \* \*

Liverpool is to host the first ever international Open Veteran Tournament and this will be held at Wavertree Tennis Centre over Easter weekend. The City Sports Development Unit will be supporting this new event. Stan Clarke is I.C. Volunteers so contact him on 928 3771 if you are interested in assisting with the event in any capacity.

\* \* \* \*

Your Management Committee recently decided to go ahead with our Closed Championships on the advertised date of 21st January. There was a reluctant decision in that this date clashes with another major event and some of our top players will be unavailable. An alternative date was looked at but with no suitable date being available until end of April it was felt we should go ahead with our planned date in fairness to other league members. With major events taking place most weekends it is becoming increasingly difficult to avoid such clashes, particularly when we need to get our booking for the Tennis Centre in by mid summer. Anyone know of a possible solution to this problem that will be acceptable to all players?

\* \* \* \*

Apologies for the later than anticipated distribution of this magazine, preparation of which has been beset by IT problems of a horrendous nature. At least the league table is bang up to date and for that I would thank our F.S. Paula, who provided me with this after Christmas as I had requested.

\* \* \* \*

For the first time for almost 40 years we now have only one team from Wavertree Labour in our 1st Division.

\* \* \* \*

Another first comes with the inclusion of two teams from the Police Club in Division One. Can anyone recall this ever happening before?

\* \* \* \*

A Happy and Prosperous New Year to all our members, may you win many more than you lose, and may all nets and edges go your way. May you enjoy continued good health throughout 2001.

\* \* \* \*

DIVISION 1	P	W	D	L	PTS
LIV YM	9	8	0	1	68
CADWA	8	6	0	2	61
POLICE	6	6	0	0	52
WAV LAB	8	4	2	2	45
POLICE A	7	3	3	1	37
MAGHULL	9	3	0	6	32
BATH ST	6	3	1	2	31
BATH ST 'A'	8	1	1	6	30
H. HOUSE	9	3	1	5	30
LIV YM 'A'	8	1	1	6	28
CADWA A	7	1	1	5	26

DIVISION 4	P	W	D	L	PTS
MANWEB B	10	6	3	1	68
WAV LAB E	9	6	3	0	64
MAGHULL B	9	6	2	1	63
BATH ST E	9	5	1	3	51
MAGHULL C	9	4	2	3	48
CADWA D	9	3	2	4	44
BOO YM A	9	4	1	4	44
WAV LAB F	10	4	2	4	41
AIGBURTH	9	2	1	6	34
MANWEB C	8	1	1	6	26
H. HOUSE A	7	1	1	5	25
W'LOO C	8	0	3	5	22

DIVISION 2	P	W	D	L	PTS
WATERLOO	9	9	0	0	73
BATH ST 'B'	9	1	0	8	26
WAV LAB B	9	3	3	3	50
FORDS	9	6	2	1	60
MARCONI	9	1	1	7	29
LIV YM 'B'	9	3	1	5	36
BOO JC 'A'	9	5	2	2	51
MANWEB A	9	6	0	3	53
MANWEB	9	2	3	4	38
BOOTLE JC	9	5	4	2	45
W' A	9	3	2	4	44
MARCONI 'A'	9	2	2	5	35

DIVISION 5	P	W	D	L	PTS
LIV YM 'C'	8	6	2	0	60
W.S.M. 'G'	8	6	1	1	59
LINACRE	8	7	1	1	56
M'HULL 'D'	8	6	1	1	51
A'BURTH 'A'	8	4	1	3	46
H.HOUSE 'B'	9	2	3	4	37
BATH ST 'G'	8	1	2	5	31
BATH ST 'F'	7	2	2	3	28
GREENBANK	7	0	1	6	23
POLICE 'D'	6	2	0	4	22
H. HOUSE 'C'	9	1	0	8	17

DIVISION 3	P	W	D	L	PTS
CADWA 'C'	9	7	0	2	60
POLICE 'B'	7	6	1	0	53
BATH ST 'C'	8	4	2	2	44
CADWA 'B'	9	4	2	3	44
BOOTLE YM	8	4	0	4	40
BATH ST 'D'	9	2	2	5	40
WAV LAB C	7	5	0	2	39
W'LOO 'B'	7	2	1	4	37
M'HULL 'A'	7	3	1	3	34
POLICE 'C'	8	2	2	4	30
WAV LAB D	9	0	0	9	19