

On Monday October 18th 1948. the newly formed Linacre Men's Club, played their first ever Liverpool League match when they entertained St. Peter and St. Paul CYMS at Bridge Road, Litherland. Brothers Alec and Jack Davidson, Frank Lacey, Tom Larkin and 'Mac' McGonigle, in that opening fixture, had, however, previously played together for Linacre Boys' Club.

With the League comprising of 104 clubs, Linacre were placed in the North Region, facing teams from Bootle Civil Defence, Bibby's, British Enka, Hamilton Mission, Waterloo Park, Silcock's, Vernon's, Waterloo Park and the CYMS team. Their record in that first season, showed them having won six, drawn four with six losses, to finish in a respectable fourth place - champions Waterloo Park chalking up a 100% record from their 16 fixtures.

After two more season's in the North Region, they moved, in 1952 to division five where they wound up in fourth spot. The following season, they found themselves in division 3 when Wirral clubs' left to form their own League. Jack Davidson, the original club Secretary, handed over the job to Tom Larkin after five years in the job. Around that time, Mike O'Neil, Ron Purnell, Alan Horwood, Harry Reeve and Ken Ainsworth swelled the playing ranks.

The club has played in every division, the peak of their league achievements, c in 1966 when finishing third in division 2A, which earned them promotion to division one. They drew six matches but, were unable to record a victory (I saw them play at Cadwa that season who also went down) but, their overall performances that campaign cannot detract from the splendid history of the club.

Jack Davidson regained the job as Secretary, taking over from brother Alec and at 82, holds the reins today. The club operates a limited rotation system, not, I must stress, to rest the 'lads' but to ensure that all members' enjoy a 'run out'. This, coupled with their 'never say die' attitude, has helped forge a strong team spirit, not bettered by any other in the League. Jack, last season, played in all but four matches. while ever present Harry Reeve, arguably, the best player ever to turn out for the club, chalked up 33 wins from 38 singles outings, Harry Nelson and Ken Ainsworth were also in the mix last season, together with new signing, former Rafter's' division one player, Dave Ferguson, the 1978 Liverpool Closed veteran champion.

A piece of history was created last season when after finishing as runners-up in their previous 15 cup finals', they won two cups, Division 4 champions Aigburth were beaten 5-4 in the Forrest cup final, while overcoming holders Cadwa in the Frank Murphy Memorial Trophy, Veteran final.

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Keith Williams pulled out all the stops when Bootle YMCA visited Harold House, fending off the challenge from home side number one Joe Chacoliades, who came within two points of recording his best ever win. With the pair level after 20 points in the decider, the YM' man took the next two, squeezing home 12-10. He did, however, win 11-9 in the fifth when he partnered John Henshaw to victory against Alan Chase and Williams in the doubles encounter. Fiona Dennett, in her first season with the club, beat Ted Birch - Chacoliades picking up his side's other two points, beating Chase and Birch, the YM' though winning 6-4.

Also suffering a heavy reversal were Christ The King A, who left College Road with just a single point. Bath Street Marine, still without top player Ken Jackson, who has yet to play this season, managed to maintain their title challenge, newcomer Dermot Tierney losing out to Ahmed Thabet.

Christ The King thrashed Maghull for the loss of one set, Peter Lee falling to Kevin Lewis, who recovered from 2-1 down to edge home 11-9 in the decider.

Wavertree Labour left Fairfield with an equal share of the spoils in division one, with two players from each side notching a brace of wins, Bjoern Meyer and Gary Watson did the business for the visitors, being their side's only singles winners, the pair combining to take the doubles. Police number one Jon Taylor, lost only to Meyer, while Paul Gittins went down to Watson - John Dyson inflicting a third defeat on the out of touch Aaron Beech, leaving the match all square at 5-5.

Brenda Buoy made a rare outing for Police A in division 3 at home to Bootle YMCA B, the three times Liverpool ladies' singles champion returning unscathed from her four trips to the table, Police running out 8-2 winners.