

Don's Notes No. 3

Bootle YMCA chalked up a comfortable home victory over Crosby High, the visitors' only points coming from England number 74 Paul Cicchelli. The Lancashire county player accounted for Alan Chase and Wayne Percival - Keith Williams weighing in with his usual three singles sets, all in straight games to secure an 8-2 success. Crosby High A secured a comfortable victory, restricting Police to a couple of sets, Paul Gittins beating the home side siblings', Gemma and Gavin Lloyd.

Peter Taylor was the sole set winner for Christ The King A when division one champions Ford were the visitors to Score Lane, the septuagenarian recovered from 2-1 down to beat Phil Luxon 11-1 in the fifth to save a white wash.

Wavertree Labour and Christ The King emerged with an equal share of the spoils, with only one set extending beyond the fourth game, Labour took a commanding lead before facing a terrific fight back, the Childwall side taking the next four. When the two top players met in the eighth set, it was the enigmatic Keith Bird who came out on top beating the tricky Gary Watson to put his side on level terms at 4-4. Labour regained the advantage in the next which left reserve Ian Black, having to beat Mikael Bellec to win the match, this turned out to be the only clash requiring a fifth game and, Bellec, having earlier beaten Aaron Beech, made it a double, pipping the unfortunate Labour man, 11-9 to level matters at 5-5.

Maghull, promoted from division 2 last season, hover around the lower reaches of division one and were only able to collect a couple of points when they entertained Bath St. Marine, not one set went the distance, Kevin Lewis and Matt Wilson were the only home side victors, getting the better of league newcomer, Dermot Tierney.

Manweb, sixth in division 2 last term and aiming for promotion, kicked off the campaign with six straight wins, their latest success, a 9-1 home victory over newly promoted Wavertree Labour B. Alice Howard, after losing the first two games to Tony Connor, took the next two but, couldn't fend off the Labour man, who won 11-8 in the decider.

In division 2, Manweb A left Wavertree Labour A with a hard fought narrow victory, the pick of their six sets coming from Ben Chan, trailing by two games to one against home side number one, Michael Tierney, the youngster turned it around to win 11-6 in the decider, Les Molyneux swept aside his three singles opponents in straight games, Manweb taking the match by 6 sets to 4.

New Harold House signing Fiona Dennett, listed at 43 in the England senior women's list, registered an impressive treble for the A team in their division 2 home match against Maghull A. Alan Jones and Peter Holmes were both comfortably dispatched but, her clash with Fred Pheysey, developed into a strange encounter. She lost a marathon opening game 21-19 to the Maghull veteran but, after getting the measure of him 11-1 in the next. he restricted her to just 4 points in the third, that, though, was the end of his challenge, the Mid Cheshire youngster taking the set in the next two, 11-5, 11-2. Harold House number one Alec Bryce, lost 3-1 to Holmes leaving them victors by 9 sets to 1.

Last season's division 5 champions Police B who won 19 of their 20 matches, were beaten in their division 4 match by Aigburth A at Fairfield. Norman Lindsay's brace included a win over Police number one Len Dyson while Dave Cunningham and Eric Wood both accounted for John Moore, the former edging home 18-16 in the fifth. Cunningham was involved in another ding dong encounter but, in this one, after leading 2-1 against Dyson, he was beaten 11-8 in the decider. Ray Jones, let a 2-0 lead slip away but, kept his nerve against Alan Cameron to edge home 11-8 in the fifth - Aigburth winning 6-4.

Division 1

Bootle YMCA 8, Crosby High 2; Crosby High A 8, Police 2; Christ The King A 1, Ford 9; Wav. Lab. 5, Christ The King 5; Maghull 2, Bath St. Marine 8;

Division 2

Manweb 9, Wav.Lab.B 1; Wav.Lab.A 4, Manweb.A 6;

Division 3

Marconi A 4, Bath St. Marine C 6;

Don Davies

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