

Reigning champions Ford, the only unbeaten division one team, could muster only an equal share of the spoils when they visited Police. Although they were without Terry Turner and Mal McEvoy and drafted in Andy Taylor and Phil Luxon, they couldn't have expected Jon Taylor to inflict defeat on England number 20 Kevin Dolder. Unbeaten throughout last season, Kevin went down in straight games, for only his second league reversal in more than four years.

Keith Williams also incurred an unexpected defeat when Bootle YMCA visited Bath Street. Dave Roberts, after years of suffering painful difficulties, has enjoyed a new lease of life since undergoing successful surgery, enabling him to again play at the highest local level. It's many years since he got the better of Keith but, he must have been delighted with his straight games win over over the ten times Liverpool champion.

The England international veteran, ranked at five in the country, cut it finely in his set against Clare Peers but, after going 2-1 down, stormed back in the next two, 11-4, 11-3. Whilst that opening set Roberts' victory was a bonus point for the home side, it also proved to be a white wash saver, the YMCA winning all nine remaining sets.

Williams was also involved in a sparkling encounter with Paul Gittins when the YMCA met Police, the Fairfield bobby recording arguably, his best ever singles win. Paul took the first two games by the narrowest of margins and although the YM' man levelled matters at 2-2, he couldn't hold off the Gittins challenge and lost the decider, 12-10. Jon Taylor came close to overcoming Wayne Percival after taking the first two games, but lost the next three, 9-11, 10-12, 9-11 - the YM' winning 6-4.

Bath St. A had a tough match when they faced the club's first team, who enjoyed an appearance by club number one Ken Jackson who has been incapacitated forcing him out of action for the early season matches. The underdogs, kicked off without Ian McElwee - Brian Crolley stepping in to join Fred Bainbridge and Ricky Brown. The senior trio took the opening set but, in the next clash Freddie registered a 3-2 success over KJ but his 11-6 in the fifth, was all the A team could muster.

Over the last few years, Cadwa has found themselves relegated from division one on a number of occasions, before gaining promotion the following season. They currently trail Manweb by six points in division 2, who were hoping the club's second string would take points from the Childwall side when they met at Bowland Avenue. Cadwa number one Graeme Black, who has suffered just one reversal this term, to Manweb's 100% man Les Molyneux, maintained his good form, chalking up a treble while team-mate Alan Timewell, was edged out in a great set with Dave Harse, the latter winning 12-10 in the fifth, Cadwa taking the match, 8-2.

A Rob Wylie treble helped Crosby High A secure a 6-4 victory in division 1 at Maghull with the home side's Kevin Lewis getting the better of the Crosby sibling pair of Gemma and Gavin Lloyd. Maghull's top player Matt Wilson, surprisingly, returned without a win from all three singles trips to the table. Dave Evans and Sylvia Graham both turned in unbeaten trebles for Crosby High B in division 3 against neighbours Bath Street C, Mrs Graham edging out Dave Stoddern 12-10 in the fifth.

Harold House C enjoy a 100% record from their six matches in division 5 while boasting the strongest numerical and playing strength squad in the division. In their 10-0 drubbing of Police C, all but one of the singles sets were completed in straight games, the exception being an 11-2 in the fourth, Paul Morgan win against Geoff Pye.

Although Bootle YMCA C and Maghull E, played out a 5-5 draw in the fifth division, the talking point was the appearance of Amy Hutchings. The 10 year old, though, can call on a wealth of experience, for dad Paul, was on two occasions, the Liverpool Closed men's singles title. Mum Janette, a former Liverpool representative player and a regular for Maghull, won her two singles events but was unable to complete her hat-trick after joining forces with Amy, in what was almost certainly, the youngest ever women's doubles partnership in the League.