

Subject: Table Tennis 28/1/09  
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Paul Gittins has been in fine form of late for Police, having recently claimed the scalp of reigning Liverpool Closed champion Keith Williams. Recovering from two games to one down, he beat Christ The King number one, Keith Bird while adding wins over Peter Lee and John Lau. The Fairfield club's new signing, John Hope, a Lancashire and Cheshire league premier division Manchester player, replicated the feat and in doing so, also won in five against Bird from 2-1 down, Police taking the match 6-4.

Although Cadwa A and YMCA A were engaged in a closely fought match in division 3, not one set required all five games - all but two being completed in four games. Mike Power got the better of Shakil Malik, Bert Rivers and Mike Hughes, the latter also falling to Peter Roberts and reserve, George Smith, the 1972 Merseyside Open veteran champion, bravely playing after having been out of action due to illness.

Harold House A and Manweb players, turned in Jekyll and Hyde performances in their division 2 clash at Dunbabin Road. Steve Whalley lost the first two games to Manweb's Paul Jennings, 8-11, 3-11 but hit back strongly to level matters, winning 11-9, 11-8, before sweeping to victory, 11-1 in the decider. Whalley, though, went one better in becoming only the second this season to beat the visitor's top player, Les Molyneux, this, after losing the first two games 11-4, 11-9.

After forging a 2-1 lead against Neil Jennings, the left handed Manweb man, took charge of the set, winning the next couple, 11-4, 11-9. Alec Bryce chipped in with a brace for Harold House while newcomer Neil Baker added another for the home side, beating N. Jennings, the match ending all square at 5-5.

Also in division 3, Karen Gibson returned a 100% record for Bath Street C at College Road when they entertained Marconi B. Her treble was achieved by seeing off, Frank Proffitt, Dave McMahon and Dave Bradley, the trio also falling to Dave Stoddern. With the home side leading 6-0, McMahon chalked up his side's only point, beating Rob Peat, in a remarkable encounter, 1-11, 19-17, 10-12, 11-9, 11-7, in the only set to extend beyond four games.

Peat, however, remained unbeaten when he faced the club's D team side of Graham Turner, Ted Cramsie and Keith Wright. He returned unscathed in his fourth trip to the table, partnering Dave Stoddern to an 11-9 in the fifth doubles success over Cramsie and Turner, giving the C team a 6-4 victory.

Another in-form lady in the league is Brenda Buoey, who won the first of her four Liverpool Ladies singles titles way back in 1972 when only a junior. Her hat-trick for Police A helped her side to a 7-3 victory over Marconi A in division 3.

Linacre and Cadwa B engaged in an evenly fought division 4 league match, the sides' taking an equal share of the spoils. The Waterloo based club took the top four singles sets, the Childwall club visitors' winning the bottom four sets. Home side number one Harry Reeve and Cadwa's Paul Lunan both remained unbeaten in singles combat while winning their respective doubles clashes earning 100% records on the night.

Frank Murphy Memorial Trophy holders, Linacre, progressed to the semi-finals thanks to a convincing home victory over useful Bath Street trio of Dave Roberts, a recent winner against Keith Williams, Ricky Brown and Rob Peat. Harry Reeve, Harry Nelson and Dave Ferguson, the 2008 winners, enjoyed a healthy handicap advantage of 167 points and although the visitors battled valiantly to reduce the deficit, Linacre emerged as victors by 72 points.

Don Davies