

November 2008

Official Magazine
Of the

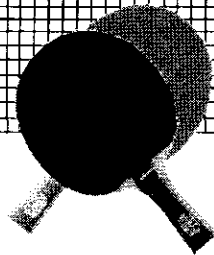
Vol 63

No. 1



SEASON 2008-2009

TABLE
DIGEST
TENNIS

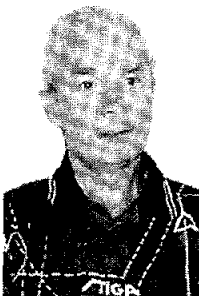


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Editorial

Welcome to the first Digest of this new season, I'm using weeks 6, 12 and 18 as our Digest cut off dates, so your divisional reporters have written up about your exploits in the first 6 weeks, last seasons reporters have agreed to "do it again", so you know what to expect

Welcome to the many new names appearing on score cards, some completely new to the league, but experienced players, a lot of new young players playing in the lower ranks, and welcome to some older players who have decided to 'come back'



Not forgetting our first new Club Team for many years, Edgehill, I think Steve Daniels talked them into joining the league, I'm sure they won't regret it, but like all new ventures, they must be finding it tough, playing against all those "old heads", but they continue to turn out full teams every week, hopefully they will be with us for many seasons, (it does get easier). I was a bit disappointed to see one of their young players go down 11-0 / 11-0 / 11-0, disappointed because I wouldn't have expected any experienced player to do that to a new player, maybe it was unavoidable, but hopefully it won't happen again. I'm pleased to say that the young player didn't pack up, but played in the next two matches, giving a good account of him self, well done Lewis!

We don't have Greenbank with us this season, no reason was given, but I'm glad to see Tony Edge and John Appleton have joined the Police Club, you'll always get a good game from them.

John Langton, Bath St. Marine, who runs the League web site has been waiting to get major heart surgery carried out after suddenly being informed he had a problem. Surgery first arranged for 12th November, then a last minute postponement to 10th of December due to infection problems, I'm sure all players send their best wishes to John and by the 11th Of December starts his road to recovery having joined the ever growing band of heart surgery table tennis players, (table tennis isn't the cause, it's the medication!). He has already given himself the task of bringing the 'team photo' section up to scratch as soon as he's up and about

Kenny Jackson, Bath St. Marine, another player to join the Heart club, late summer, just before he was due to play for England Vets in the 6 Nations Cup in Scotland, Ken was confronted with the possibility of major heart surgery, but on operating day, got away with Angioplasty with a stent insertion, I believe he's well on way to recovery and raring to get back to the table, "but all in good time Ken"!!

Ron Georgeson, Bath St. Marine, an existing member of the Heart club, has just had a re-occurrence of a problem he had years ago, and finished up in hospital while on holiday, he's ok at the moment, the original problem was corrected using external treatment, hopefully the same method will do the trick this time.

Another member of the Bath St. Marine club, conspicuous by his absence from match cards is Peter Ross, Peter struggled all last season, but never gave up, hopefully

with some rest he may soon be back behind the table. I think at this stage I should point out that I don't think there's a connection to Bath St's move to Marine!!, rather an age related problem the league suffers with.

This season's Junior 4 Star was organised and played after the original reservations following the sad loss of Ken Armson, our thanks must go to Ken's assistants of old, Arthur Garnett, Dave Cochrane, Stan Clarke, Faith Moore, and members of the ManCom, I'm sure Ken will be happy in the thought that his years of badgering had paid off, report and photo's pages 16-17

Tom Purcell I.U.(M/side Policc) officiated by umpiring the Men's singles final of the European Championships in Russia, along with Bob Williamson I.U., must be an incentive to up and coming Umpires, the World's your Oyster!, congrats to Russell Thornton who passed his first step on the ladder during the summer, officially umpiring at the recent Liverpool Junior 4star tournament, anyone interested should contact Tom Purcell, by the way a good article on umpiring in the latest TTNews, along with a full page photo of Tom giving advice (laying down the law).

A few facts and figures about our perceived "shortage" of players, we have 16 Clubs fielding 58 teams (should be 60), 35 3a-side and 23 4a-side teams, requiring 197 players to fill all the teams, we have 344 players registered, so a straight bit of arithmetic, and we have 147 players registered but don't get regular games, a bit simplistic I know, not allowing for holidays, sickness, shift work, etc. etc. and the lack of extra nights / premises, but isn't it when players don't get regular games they lose the commitment and drift away, our problem is that Clubs don't start thinking about their teams until the end of the summer, without a commitment by the players, we finish with a chicken or the egg situation regards formulating the divisions

Talking with Joe Reece, and son Julian who plays his table tennis in France for a small town local club, the

T.T. there is played on a 4 a side basis, but more like our 3 a side game, everyone plays every other player, 16 sets plus 2 doubles, 18 sets in all best of 5. all matches played on the Friday night in village main hall, sometimes not finishing till 2 in the morning, how's that for a 'late' finish, and they do start early, 7 / 7-30

The Chinese are Coming. I read an interesting article in the Liverpool Echo the other week, leading with "More than 500 Chinese students are expected to be studying in Liverpool by 2010". Following up from the Liverpool University's setting up a campus at the Chinese city of Suzou, near Shanghai, two years ago, offering University of Liverpool accredited degrees, as part of the course which can be completed at Suzhou, is the offer that after 2 years, the remainder of the course can be completed at Liverpool Uni. This year is the first time Chinese students have been able to take up this offer, and about 100, - two thirds of the initial intake, have moved to the city, (*Liverpool, I assume*). The first intake was 150, in 2007 it was 570, this year 800 and next year, 2500 are expected. I've never heard of Suzhou, but I believe it is an Industrial City bigger than Birmingham with a population over 1 million.

I can hear you all 'thinking', what's all this got to do with the Liverpool League, well considering that at least 1 in 4 people play, or have played, table tennis in China, looking at those possible numbers of students coming here, if we follow this up it may present us with the answer to our declining player numbers. I'm not sure if our antiquated club system could cope, (one or two nights in a church hall or similar), but the University have all the required facilities, they used to enter many good teams in our league, but dropped out due to the changing structure of Uni. life. But with this influx of Chinese Students, I would imagine that the University Organisation would be extremely interested in an approach from the league. There are some of our clubs who could, I'm sure, accommodate some of these possible new players, I'm thinking of Christ the King, Cadwa and Harold House, because of their proximity to the Uni. campuses. We only have to look around the National table tennis scene to see how many Chinese players are appearing, and the impact they are having at the highest level, worth thinking about !!!.

But like most good things, there is a downside, being new to the city, players would require collecting and running around and would entail someone 'putting themselves out', I think Harold House know about this, but I'm sure the benefits outweigh the negatives.

Unless, the Uni. could get involved at a high level and took control of the situation, we, in the sport think in terms of - : China - Sport - Table Tennis!!

A few items I picked up from the latest ETTA Chairman's Forum

Re: National Council Meeting 18th October 2008

7. The Membership Committee presented a paper offering 16 recommendations towards an Individual Affiliation system. Each of these recommendations was discussed and agreed in principle. The actual process of this initiative has been discussed at length with the Committee but is still open to suggestion or amendment.

So it seems The Individual Registration System hasn't been finalised yet, but for those who haven't yet filled in those questionnaires, it will be a requirement of playing soon

14. Discussions took place with regard to Authorised Rubbers and the latest issue of the ETTA Approved Laws. After some debate it was agreed that the Chairman of the Rules Committee and I would circulate an appropriate document and that the Rules Committee would investigate the various Rules applicable to these Laws.

Don't throw those pimped rubbers away just yet, they may not be "authorised" but as yet, they aren't banned in local league play!!

13. On behalf of the English Schools' Table Tennis Association, their President, John Arnold, gave an excellent presentation encouraging all present to support the work that is taking place in schools. Bridges are being built through Primary Linked Teachers, Partnership Development Managers and School Sport Co-ordinators. Competition Managers have now been appointed in 46 Counties to work in County Competition Clusters within schools. There are 21 sports involved and therefore the Competition Managers need support and encouragement to accept and develop table tennis within each school. He urged that ETTA and EST-TA work together with these Competition Managers to maximise this opportunity for the future of table tennis.

19. The Vice-Chairman (Development) reported that there was a huge amount of interest in table tennis at the School and Sports Partnerships conference recently held in Telford, with over 300 resource packs and other information handed out to the schools community.

The above passages, 13 and 19, are being enacted in the Liverpool Schools scene already. Liverpool Schools now have a Sports Co-ordinator, Mr Paul O'Leary, who has already started a competitive table tennis league between a number of schools, with a big input from Stan Clarke and Dave Graham, to my mind this is the best way of encouraging youngsters to play table tennis, and with a bit of luck, carry on after school. Our present Club system doesn't really encourage youngsters into the system because of space, and playing times, but maybe with more use of school space things may change, but we need more Stan Clarkes and Dave Grahams.

More details in the next Digest

We are only 6 weeks into the current season and last season's champions, Fords, have already opened up a comfortable gap over their nearest rivals, they have won all their matches to date (47 points). In their 8/2 defeat of Bootle YMCA the card indicates that the match between Kevin Dolder and Keith Williams was, as you might expect, a brilliant spectacle with Keith having match point in the 5th before Kevin went on to take the set 14/12. They were pushed all the way when visiting Harold House before going home victorious with a 6/4 win under their belts, Kevin won his 3 but not before being pushed all the way by Yeng Kho, recovering from being 2 sets to 1 down, before going on to win 11/7 in the decider, the most significant game of the night saw Andy Taylor edging out Joe Chacoliades 13/11 in the 5th set.



Bath St Marine have started well with 39 points from 6, they have probably surprised themselves considering the Club number 1, Ken Jackson, has not been available due to illness, Ken's popularity within the league is confirmed by the number of players asking about him each week and all those who have asked me to pass on to him their best wishes, at the present time he is recovering from his operation and may even have started playing again by the time you read these notes. Under the inspirational leadership of Dave Roberts, ably assisted by Clare Peers and new signing, Dermot Tierney, they have won their first 4 matches, included in this run was an amazing 10/0 victory over a full strength CTK team when, so I am told, Peter Lee went home shell shocked muttering something along the lines of "This doesn't happen at Bath St". Dave came out of these matches with a 100% record with Clare only losing 2 and Dermot 4, however, they came back down to earth when losing 9/1 to Wavertree Labour with Dave saving the whitewash in beating Gary Watson, David Hayes proved to be the Wavertree man of the match winning all of his games comfortably.

CTK are in 3rd place having taken 33 points from their 6 matches, they had a fine start beating Merseyside Police 7/3 and hammered a 2 man Maghull team 9/1 but surprisingly went down 7/3 to Crosby High A. The team seems to change from week to week but with a top strength team of Keith Bird, Peter Lee and John Lau they are always going to be a match for most sides in the division. Miguel Bellec came in as a reserve in their draw with Wavertree Labour and beat both Aaron Beech and Ian Black during a fine evenings work.

Next in line are Bootle YMCA (32/5) with their only loss being the aforementioned match against Fords, they started the season with an emphatic 9/1 win over CTK A with Ahmed Thabet beating Ted Birch, Alan Chase kindly provided some notes including " This was more of a Dads Army show than a match in Liverpool's top division with two 70 year olds, two 60 year olds and two 50 year olds playing", Ted came out the winner over Peter Taylor in the battle between the 2 senior play-

ers. When they played Harold House the situation was somewhat different with 2 of the younger players in the division, Joe Chacoliades and Fiona Dennet, facing them, Joe pushed Keith all the way before going down 12/10 in the deciding set but beat both Ted and Alan comfortably, Fiona was able to hit through Ted's defensive skills and Joe and Fiona combined brilliantly to take the last 2 sets of the doubles 18/16, 11/9, the final score was 6/4 in favour of Bootle.

Now we come to Wavertree Labour (31/6) who have had a mixed start with 2 wins, 2 draws and 2 defeats, besides their 9/1 thrashing of BSM they have also got the better of Crosby High, 6/4, with Gary Watson on top form winning his 3. The card for their draw with Merseyside Police indicates that this was "a great night of TT particularly Jon Taylor v Gary" (Jon won in the 4th set), in this match Bjorn Meyer played well to beat Jon Taylor and Jon Dyson, to my mind the inclusion of David Hayes in the team (as against BSM) will probably be required regularly if they are to push for one of the top positions.

Crosby High (24/5) have lost the services of Andrew Mudie from last season whilst Tom Bray will not be available for much of the season having started at university, they have, however, compensated for these losses by signing Paul Chicchelli (a Lancashire ranked player I am told) and Jamie Hewitt who is doing very well at Junior level, Paul contributed both of their points when they went down 8/2 at Bootle YMCA, beating both Wayne Percival and Alan Chase in 4 sets. Both Paul and Jamie were in top form in victories over Maghull (8/2) and Crosby High A (7/3) when they both remained unbeaten. Cherrith Graham also weighed in with a great 5 set win over Gavin Lloyd in their derby match, over the season they should hold their own without threatening the top teams and it will be interesting to see if another of their signings, Paul Hutchins, comes out of retirement at some stage.

Harold House (21/4) have started slowly due to various matches being postponed because of fire damage to

their premises and various Holy nights. In Yeng Kho, Joe Chacoliades, Fiona Dennett and Sylvia Rozek they have 4 youngsters with limited experience in this division, however, all are talented and capable of good results, they certainly were not intimidated in losses to high fliers Fords and Bootle YMCA, the experience of Ken Connor was shown to good effect when he and Yeng both won their 3 singles in a 6/4 win at Maghull, Yeng was again in fine form in winning his 3 supported by Ken winning 2 and Sylvia getting the better of Gemma Lloyd against Crosby High A.

Past experience shows that it is never easy for promoted teams but Crosby High A are settling in well, they have beaten CTK and BSM A both by 7/3 score lines, Gemma Lloyd played extremely well against BSM A to win her 3 singles with Gavin Lloyd and Dave Evans both taking 2. Rob Wylie was the star man against CTK in taking the scalps of Peter Lee, John Lau and Peter Taylor whilst Gavin beat John and Peter Taylor and Gemma also overcame Peter Taylor 12/10 in the 5th. Rob Wylie has not played regularly in the first for some time but he is playing particularly well and had further good wins over Andy Taylor and Phil Luxon of Fords plus Ken Connor and Sylvia Rozek of Harold House.

Merseyside Police (20/5) have not always been able to put out their strongest team as reflected in losses to Crosby High A, 8/2, and CTK 7/3, Paul Gittins won his 3 at CTK but had a hard night's work to beat Peter Lee 11/9, John Lau 12/10 and Ahmed Thabet 11/7 in the final sets. With Jon Taylor in the team they have beaten Maghull and BSM by 6/4 score lines. Jon Taylor displaying his worth to the team, as he remained unbeaten in these matches, if he plays regularly I'm sure they will rapidly move up the table.

Maghull (18/6) another promoted team are finding it difficult to bridge the gap I standards, they battled well

to get a draw at CTK A with Matt Wilson beating Ahmed and then pipping Dave Tagg 11/9 in the deciding set. Kevin Lewis was the man in form when they lost 6/4 to Merseyside Police beating Paul Gittins and Jon Dyson and has also had good wins over Tom Bray and Peter Lee. Matt and Kevin have played in all their matches to date but they do not seem to have a regular third player. Hopefully for them this situation will be rectified sooner rather than later if they are to retain their first division status.

Not a lot of good things I can say about my team BSM A (16/5) other than we keep turning up, smile in the face of defeat and compete to the best of our ability, we displayed great consistency in losing our first 3 matches by 7/3 margins when facing Crosby High A, Bootle YMCA and CTK A. Ricky Brown, as usual, gave his all to beat Dave Tagg and Peter Taylor when we faced CTK A and I took our other point in beating Dave. At week 6 we discovered a way of winning ie turn up at Crosby High on an evening when Liverpool FC are playing at home and two of their team give Liverpool the benefit of their loyalty. Hey presto, we win 6/4 with Fred Bainbridge and I each beating reserves Dave Evans and Alex Buchanan and our own reserve Mike Keane beating Cherrith.

CTK A (16/6) are level on points with BSM A but have not covered themselves in glory other than them beating us 7/3. Ahmed played extremely well to win his 3, Peter Taylor got the better of me and Fred whilst Dave Tagg beat Fred. Tony Whelan made a rare appearance in the drawn match at Maghull proving himself too strong for each of the opposition to remain unbeaten on the night. As far as losses go they are even more consistent than BSM A going down 9/1 in the other 4 matches they have played. Looking on the brighter side, hopefully, things can only get better.

Division 2 Paul Banks

Well, time waits for no man and it's that time of year again. They say that absence makes the heart grow fonder and therefore at the end of the day it's a pleasure to put your best foot forward and finally get going with the new season.

I recently heard on the radio that all sports journalism / commentary is festooned with tired cliché's / proverbs and catchphrases, so secure in the belief that my prose aims for a purer dialect I challenge you all to keep a close eye out for such weary wordage.



Week 1

The first card out of the hat this week is Manweb at home to Harold House, 9-1 is a bit of a rude awakening for the newly promoted Harold House and also a strong message to the rest of the division on how strong Manweb are this season, Les Molyneux taking his three in three and Rod McPherson overcoming Trevor Barraclough to stop the rot.

Wavertree Labour kicked off their campaign with a tough home tie against CADWA and duly lost 4-6, man of the match and possibly the man to beat this season was Graeme Black who took his three, Mick

Tierney and George Lennon both picking up two singles wins.

Fords (A) who are, year in year out, one of the toughest teams to beat faced newly promoted Bootle YMCA (A) who found no such problem and won 8-2, a good start for Alan Chase, John Higham and Richie Winckle.

Not a good start for Wavertree Labour (B) who lost away to Marconi 7-3, Bob Edwards and Ian Wensley both picking up three wins, only Tony Connor and Colin Fyles able to take singles wins over Ray Hibbs.

Manweb (A) were saved by the great Roy Adams, who seems to improve every season, Roy picked up his three, home side CTK 'B's Billy Cheung and Mikael Bellac took two each and the night ended in a stalemate.

Week 2

Well it's a funny ole game innit! first out of the hat this week is Manweb (A) and my tip for the top Roy Adams drops two points at home to Marconi, Marconi take the game 4-6, Andy Lloyd the man of the match for Manweb (A) with two wins and Bob Edwards outshining everyone with three wins.

Here is as good a place as any to document the withdrawal of Bath Street Marine from the division, and to pass on best wishes to John Langton and that we all hope to see him playing as soon as possible, on the bright side the lack of John and Rob Peat should improve my averages for the season.

Wavertree Labour (B) continue to find the going tough and end up 8-2 losers to Fords (A), Mike Ashton involved in both of Labours points with a singles win over Dave Holland and teaming up with Bill Stanley to take the doubles.

Cadwa entertained Manweb this week and lose 4-6, I predict that these two teams will be fighting it out at the top of the table at the end of the season, the man to beat for the season Graeme Black loses in the fifth to the other man to beat for the season Les Molyneux.

Maghull (A) lose out at home to Wavertree Labour (A) 2-8, as pointed out by the Maghull correspondent, "good trebles by Ian(Black) and Paul(Banks), Fred(Pheysey) and Alan(Jones) saved the whitewash".

Week 3.

Mick Tierney is man of the match this week taking his three and helping Wavertree Labour (A) to a 7-3 home win over Bootle YMCA (A), John Higham and Paul Banks both picking up two singles wins.

Fords (A) take Manweb (A) 7-3 with a great treble by Rob Goldson, Dave Harse picks up two for the visitors. A team that hasn't really found its feet yet but I am sure will be by the time of the next digest is Harold House who lose this week to the strong Cadwa 3-7, Alec Bryce and George Lennon both picking up two wins.

A strong Marconi team overcame a slightly weakened CTK (B), Steve Rowe man of the match here taking his three, Frank McCann (no I wont say it Frank) seems to

be causing people an awful lot of problems and winning more than he is losing, this is proved tonight with wins over Billy Cheung and Steve Kee.

Week 4.

This must be a first for a very long time, a Wavertree derby in the second division as (B) take on (A), feeling duly historical (A) show no mercy and take the match 2-8, Tony Connor and Mike Ashton with one singles win apiece.

At last, the so far underachieving CTK (B) put out their strongest team yet and duly whoop Fords (A) 9-1, Billy Cheung and Ming Liu both unbeaten, Robbie Goldson picking up the only point for Fords.

Bootle YMCA (A) lose at home to the bookies favourite Manweb 2-8, South Sefton correspondent Roly Wright writes "Les, the comeback kid is at it again, never seems to lose any of his ability, although didn't need to step up a gear tonight".

When you're hot, you're hot and when your not, your not, this seems to describe the match between Maghull (A) and Cadwa, Peter Holmes stops the rot in this 1-9 rout with a fine win over George Lennon.

Week 5.

Another David and Goliath encounter this week as Manweb host Wavertree Labour (B) and only let them have 1 point, Tony Connor got out his pen hold sling and dispatched Alice Howard in the fifth.

Roy Adams (that man again) puts Wavertree Labour (A) to the sword this week winning his three over Mick Tierney, John Rowan and Paul Banks helping Manweb (A) to a 4-6 victory.

Fords (A) lose out to the regularly strong Marconi this week 3-7, Grahame Reid is a consistent correspondent on the back of the cards and it is very much appreciated, but since I am getting the cards digitally I am finding it hard to make out Grahame's handwriting, so if you could write a bit larger Grahame I would really appreciate it. Grahame, was I likening Adrian Bramham's table tennis style to that of the great Muhammad Ali, keeping the opponent on the offensive until they have run out of puff, this comment would make sense as both Adrian and Ian Wensley appear to have radar guided homing beacons enabling the ball to hit the table wherever they hit it from.

Another 9-1 (there doesn't seem to have been many 10-0's - I wonder what that means - hmmm!) for Cadwa as they faced Bootle YMCA (A) this week, only Richie Winckle able to save face with a win over Mike Power. Harold House also record a 9-1 over Maghull (A), Peter Holmes again stops the rot for Maghull (A) with a great win over Alec Bryce.

Week 6.

Fords (A) lose out 2-8 to Harold House (see watch them), Dave Holland and Ken Bennett both accounting for Alec Bryce.

CTK (B) lose out 4-6 to Wavertree Labour (A), new boy Steve Dean picks up his three here for Labour.

The Manweb derby can quite often cause a few sparks but not alas this time, Les Molyneux (has Les dropped one? - I'm sure he was never accused of that at school) cruises to his three only dropping one set all night, the strong and steady Paul Evans also takes his three giving the senior team a 3-7 win.

Well here it is (fanfare) the first 10-0, unsurprisingly it goes to Cadwa over Wavertree Labour (B), well done to Graeme Black, Alan Timewell and George Lennon.

Bootle YMCA (A) take on a strong Maghull (A) side with Tony Kendall in the ranks, unfortunately Bootle also had a strong team and it's the match between Alan Chase and Tony Kendall that ultimately decided which

way the points were going, Alan won and so did Bootle, 6-4.

Every time I write these notes I struggle with what to write to make the report interesting and more than just a list of results, also with the digest editor now playing in the division I feel more expectation resting on my young shoulders, so do help me out with stories, gossip, scandal to go in the notes, even if I don't write them I will definitely enjoy them.

Predictions.

Top two - (1) Manweb Bottom two - (1) Maghull (A)

(2) Cadwa (2) Wavertree Labour (B)

Good luck for the rest of the season.

Division 3 Russell Thornton

Welcome to a new season with a new 3 a side format for this division, I for one relish this change because I prefer playing all of the opposing team rather than half of them and when the averages are reckoned up it should give a more accurate account of your ability.

At the end of last season we lost a very strong Harold House 'A' team who were league and cup winners, Bootle YM 'A' who clinched 2nd place, also Wavertree Labour 'B' managed to secure a place in division 2. Cadwa 'B' and Marconi 'B' were relegated although the latter found themselves back in the division due to their C team winning promotion from the 4th division and Cadwa 'B' are back as Cadwa 'A' who were a 1st division team last season.

In their place this season we have three new teams Crosby High 'B' Police 'A' and Aigburth PH who between them have players of the calibre of Brenda Bouey, Sylvia Graham, Dave Evans, Roger Neal, Tom Purcell, also Mike Power is making an occasional appearance for Cadwa 'A'. So if we thought this division was going to be any easier this term we just might have been mistaken.

In week 1 Crosby High got off to a good start with an 8-2 win at Marconi 'B' the home sides only wins were an excellent Paul Loftus win over Sylvia Graham and Paul and Ken Roberts win in the doubles over Dave Evans



and Roger Neal, Ken was unlucky in his match with Sylvia going down 18-16 in the 5th.

Marconi 'A' had a fine 8-2 win away against a depleted Police team, Marconi's Adrian Branham winning his three plus the doubles with myself, the Police's 2 wins coming from an Alan French win over Bobby Bell and Brian Burrows over myself, we left the match with Brian's words ringing in our ears 'you wont get this result next time'.

Manweb had a good start with a 7-3 win at home to Cadwa, Manweb's Arthur Harrison had two very close matches losing to Peter Roberts 12-10 in the 5th, but making amends by beating Paul Lunan 12-10 in the 5th, Manweb's Michael Kwan winning his 3 plus the doubles before he went off to join the army, best wishes Michael, take care and I hope you get to read this.

The Bath St derby D v C was a close affair with the D team being 3-1 up before losing out 6-4 with Rob Peat winning his 3 for the C team.

Bootle YM had a close win at Maghull 6-4, Maghull were 2-0 up before Bootle's Shakil Malik went on to change the outcome by winning his 3, and helped by Mike Hughes's 11/8 11/4 10/12 11/13 13/11 win over George Frost.

Week 2 saw Crosby High at home to Bath St 'D', Crosby winning 7-3 with trebles from Dave Evans and Roger Neal but Sylvia Graham losing to both Graham Turner and Brian Crolley, Crosby High lost the doubles for a 2nd week when Dave and Sylvia lost to Graham and Ted

Cramsie.

Police had a comfortable 7-3 win at newly promoted Aigburth, a John Appleton treble for the Police and an Alan Davies double in reply for Aigburth.

Marconi 'A' had a close 6-4 win over Manweb 'B', helped by a treble for myself including a very tense 11/7 11/9 10/12 10/12 12/10 over Ben Chen.

The Harold House team of Fiona Dennett, Eddie Clein, and Rod McPherson condemned Bath St 'C' to a 10-0 defeat the closest match being Eddie's win over Karen Gibson 12/10 in the 4th.

Cadwa lost at home 6-4 to Maghull, Maghull's Rod Bulmer winning his 3 including a 4 game win over Mike Power.

Marconi 'B' lost 9-1 at Bootle YM, Ken Roberts winning Marconi's only point with a win over Bert Rivers.

In week 3, Harold House, after their heroics the week before were themselves on the wrong end of a 10-0 defeat at the hands of leaders Crosby High and the only difference in their personnel was John Hughes in for Fiona, only one match went to five games as Sylvia Graham edged out John 11/4 in the deciding game.

Marconi 'A' made it 3 wins out of 3 with a convincing win 8-2 at Cadwa, with Cadwa reserve Ian Burrows winning their 2 points with wins over Bobby Bell and myself, Peter Roberts was unlucky to lose 2 matches that went to five, 9/11 6/11 11/9 11/6 6/11 against Tony Mullally and 8/11 1/11 11/9 12/10 8/11 against myself. The Police inflicted a 7-3 defeat on Bath St 'C' despite Bath St's Les Gee beating Brenda Bouey and Tom Purcell, and Dave Stoddern beating Brian Burrows 15/13 in the 5th but he then lost out to Tom 12/10 in the 5th. Bootle YM lost their 1st match of the season at Bath St 'D' 6-4, two really close matches were Ted Cramsie's win over Mike Hughes 9/11 11/3 9/11 12/10 11/9 and Roly Wright's win over Billy Clayton 9/11 11/8 11/6 9/11 11/9.

Two more 6-4 results saw Manweb beating Aigburth thanks to a Neil Jennings treble and Maghull winning at Marconi 'B' despite Adrian Braham winning his 3 for Marconi.

In week 4 Crosby High became the only unbeaten team in the division when Marconi 'A' went down to a surprise 8-2 defeat at Aigburth with Alan Davies and Ian Laird winning 3 each for Aigburth and Marconi's Bobby Bell and Dave McMahon restoring some pride with wins over Lee Proffitt.

Crosby High themselves were extending their lead at the top of the division with a fine 8-2 win over the Police team, with Dave Evans winning his 3 matches and Tom Purcell winning the Police's 2 points with wins over Sylvia Graham and Roger Neal.

Marconi 'B' were beaten 9-1 at home by Cadwa. Kenny Roberts winning the only Marconi point with a win over Rob Davies and Bath St 'D' were beaten 8-2 at

Maghull, the only singles win for Bath St. was Ted Cramsie's win against Rod Bulmer.

The other Bath St team were also beaten 6-4 at home by Manweb, with Trevor Barraclough winning his 3 for Manweb.

In week 5 Crosby High's next victims were Manweb, 9-1 the score, Manweb's point was a Neil Jennings win over Steve Dickenson.

2nd placed Marconi lost again, this time 6-4 to Bath St 'C' Rob Peat making the difference with 3 wins and teaming up with Dave Stoddern to take the doubles. Police beat Bootle YM 8-2 Thanks to a treble by Brenda Bouey and 2 wins each for Tom Purcell and Len Dyson but they lost their matches to Bootle's Shakil Malik, Len's match with Shakil ending up 14/12 in the 5th.

Harold House beat Maghull 7-3 thanks to 3 wins each from John Hughes and Rod McPherson.

Cadwa beat Aigburth 6-4 thanks to 2 wins each from Mike Power, Peter Roberts and Rob Davies with Lee Proffitt replying with 2 wins for Aigburth. Marconi 'B' still looking for their first win lost 7-3 at Bath St 'D' Billy Clayton winning 3 for Bath St and Paul Loftus winning 2 for Marconi.

Week 6 saw the top 2 teams facing each other; Crosby High beating Marconi 'A' 8-2 with Roger Neal once again winning his 3 for Crosby, Marconi's 2 points were won by Tony Mullally who beat Sylvia Graham and Ben Edwards before falling victim to tennis elbow during his match with Roger.

Police took full advantage of Marconi's defeat by moving into 2nd place with a 9-1 win at Maghull, Police's Brenda Bouey and Tom Purcell won 3 each and teamed up to take the doubles, Maghull's lone reply was a Rod Bulmer win over Brian Burrows.

The Bootle YM v Manweb match produced the only draw in the division so far with Bootle's Shakil Malik winning his 3, Bert Rivers winning 2, and Trevor Barraclough winning 2 matches in reply for Manweb.

Both Bath St teams won 7-3 the C team beating Aigburth and the D team beating Cadwa. Harold House beat struggling Marconi 'B' 9-1, Marconi's only win coming from a Paul Loftus victory over John Hughes.

After 6 matches Crosby High have built up a 15 point lead at the top of the division and will be hard to catch, so I'll predict they will be champions with either the Police team or Harold House to finish 2nd.

At the bottom things are looking pretty ominous for Marconi 'B' they are currently 10 points adrift of Aigburth who also have a game in hand, only 4 points separate Marconi 'B' in 3rd place and Bath St 'C' in 10th place.

I do enjoy doing these notes but sometimes the task is made more difficult by untidy cards and captains not putting full names of players on them, also it would be good if there were a few more comments on the cards; there must be something worth mentioning from most matches so feel free to write something.

Having said that, all that remains, is to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Russell.

Division 4 Stan Clarke

Here we go for another season of ping pong, I hope you are all fit and raring to go, I don't know about you, but it seems to me to be getting harder each year, could be due to old age, and too many cigarettes in my case.

If you have visited Roly's web site you will have seen that the League has run two prestigious tournaments already this season, the Liverpool Grand Prix and the City of Liverpool Junior 4 Star, both events were held at Picton Tennis Centre, thanks to the support of Liverpool City Council, and both were very successful. Only one gripe, where were the people from the Liverpool league? there were a few competing at the Grand Prix but none at the Junior event, and not many local spectators either. Where were you, it's not every week you have the opportunity to see top class players competing like this, or the chance to buy equipment from a Trade stand. Entry is free and we are always pleased to see our own people taking an interest in events organised and run by the league, not to mention taking part either as a player or helping out during the day.

One moan out of the way, second one coming, in all of the years I have played this sport, and that is a lot, the standard of play has risen, equipment has improved, but some things have definitely not altered for the better. There is evidence that players are resorting to more and more bad language on the table, an offence under I.T.T.F. regulations which should be dealt with by the Umpire by warning cards and ultimately with the award of a point to the opponent followed by two points awarded to the opponent and if continued by disqualification from the match. Unfortunately this will not happen in local league play so the culprits get away Scot free to carry on spouting their filth again and again. There is no way you should be subjected to this type of behaviour and if you want to put a stop to it the remedy is in your hands, report the culprit to the Committee so that they can take action against the player concerned, only people who are present at such times are able to make such a report, and I can assure you that the Committee will take action against the transgressor.



The other area that has not improved is the Service, I know your saying he's on his soap box again, and so I am, not serving correctly is a fault and should result in a point being awarded to the receiver, you would do so without any qualms if the ball finished in the net or missed the table, so what is the difference?

And so to the division, this is the 4th division isn't it? Some weeks it feel like the 3rd some of the teams are so strong, especially Merseyside Police B, Manweb C and Cadwa B, with several others not far behind, but I think that the eventual champions will come from one of the three I mentioned. But there is a long way to go and things can and probably will change.

Interesting to see that in week 1 Cadwa C claimed a walk over set against Manweb C when the Manweb player was not present at 8 pm, that's what rules are for, mind you it was the only set they won as Manweb won by a crushing 9/1, Police B went one better as they hammered Aigburth B 10/0, Wav.Lab. C beat Maghull C 7/3, and Cadwa B, Aigburth A, Maghull D and Linacre fought out draws.

In the second week Cadwa C beat Aigburth B 7/3, this without John O'Sullivan, the much improved Josef Koudelik winning two at no1, Neil Croxton beat Paul Ward and Johnny Tsang beat Doug Baker for the two singles wins by the Aigburth team. Good to see Jack Huyton back for Cadwa. Another returning player is Lee Farley, absent from the league for some years; Lee is the "Youth policy" for Wav.Lab.C. who pulverised Linacre 8/2, as usual Harry Reeve was undefeated in his singles matches. Aigburth A really went mad as they thrashed Maghull D 10/0

Manweb C defeated Cadwa B 7/3, only Josef Koudlik, playing as a reserve, winning a singles and Wav.Lab. D and Maghull C played out a draw, three sets going to 5 and Wav. Lab. took them all.

In week three Police played their second match against Maghull C, a hard enough fixture at any time, made harder for Maghull when No.1 Eddie Preston failed to

appear, their one point came when Mark Russell beat Alan Cameron in five. Alan French beat Brian Gregory and Leon Wai both in five. Maghull D were also thrashed 9/1 by Manweb C, Andy McCourt beating Francis Lay their only success even if Andy confesses it was all down to nets and edges. Wav. Lab. C beat Aigburth A 6/4 two wins each for Mario Giove and Stan Clarke, who came from 2/0 down to beat Eric Wood in five. Cadwa B narrowly lost to their lower ranked C team 4/6 and Wav. Lab. D drew with Linacre, most worthy of a mention Andy Bird beat Harry Reeve, sorry Harry.

Week 4 and Police B continued on their merry way with a 9/1 thrashing of Linacre, even Harry Reeve could do nothing against the Fairfield outfit, the only success for Linacre came in the 6th set when Dave Ferguson and Harry Nelson beat Alan French and Alan Cameron in the doubles. No luck for Maghull D when they visited Cadwa C and came away empty handed suffering a 10/0 thrashing, mind you 4 sets went the full distance but Cadwa won them all

Wav. Lab. D lost 7/3 against Aigburth A, Dave Cunningham and Ray Jones undefeated on the night. Wav. Lab. C visited Manweb C in a tense match at the top of the division, Mario Giove undefeated in two singles and paired with Stan Clarke also won his doubles, a feat matched by Jason Ao, mind you he did not have the disadvantage of playing doubles with Stan. Aigburth B put on a great show against Cadwa B, losing by the narrowest margin against a full strength Cadwa side.

In week 5 Maghull D found Cadwa B far too much to handle going down to a whitewash, only Steve McGanity able to offer much resistance taking George Higham and John Ashley to five but unable to convert the fifth game. Two matches finished 8/2, Aigburth B beat Ma-

ghull C, with only Harry McGanity and Mark Russell standing firm against Neil Croxton and Phil Crompton, and Wav. Lab. C beat Cadwa C, only singles win for Cadwa coming from Josef Kudelik who beat Stan Clarke. Without a doubt the result of the week came when Police B entertained Aigburth A and lost their unbeaten record going down 4/6, man of the match Norman Lindsay, who won both singles over Len Dyson and Alan French. Only four matches played this week.

And finally week 6, Aigburth B continued their run of good results with an eight two win over Maghull D, only Alan Chan winning a singles set against Phil Croxton spoiling the night for Aigburth. The other Maghull team gained a much needed win when they visited Linacre, three wins for the youngest member of their team Mark Russell proving the key factor in their win by 6/4. At the top end of the division, previously unbeaten Wav. Lab. C found Cadwa B just a little too much on the night losing 4/6, Ian Burrows and Ian Lunt doing the damage for Cadwa.

One team that is still unbeaten this season, Manweb C faced their toughest test so far when they faced Police B, the two doubles were played first and were shared and that is the way the match progressed until at 4/5 sets down Jason Ao faced Tommy Lynch and promptly won 3 games to one to ensure a draw. Again only four matches played this week.

The re-arranged match between Wav. Lab. D and Manweb C, postponed because of building repairs to the playing room, resulted in a win for Manweb 8/2. Andy Bird beating Ben Chen 14/12 in the fifth and Steve Perry beating David Ao, the only wins for Wavertree.

Division 5 Doug Baker

A great start to the season in the 5th before a ball was thrown. How so? Because we have a full table of 12 teams, Huzzah! Bit of luck that Maghull were able to put in a team to replace Manweb 'D', and that team was not dropped into the 4th (to replace Marconi 'C').

We've lost Greenbank but gained a brand new club, Edge Hill, Steve Daniels is running the club of youngsters even though he plays for Bootle YMCA, a very commendable thing to have done and I hope it works out.



His protégés got off to a fine start with a Draw at home to one of the oldest clubs in the league, represented by Wavertree Labour 'E', the draw in part due to fine doubles wins, and doubles is harder to master than singles. Wav Lab also had a newbie, Anna (any relation to Eric?) Young, Anna lost to the Hillsiders Craig & Louis, home team No.1 Chris Johanson, fought hard but playing the 1st three matches on the bounce might explain why he lost both his singles to Gord Lanshaw and Eric Spencer in 5, narrowly 12/10 to Gordon as well.

Edge Hill's next game was a welcome to the complexities of ranking lists as Police C had Tom Purcell as their number 1, Craig Walker saved the whitewash by beating Dave Dundas, maybe this was a knee jerk reaction by the Police to their 10-0 drubbing by Arriva the previous week, it seems poor form to take it out on a new team, horse, door and bolt come to mind? I do see the irony of my picking up on one appearance by a 3rd division player, when last year they had a team of 3rd division players in this division!

Since this event Chris Johanson has been getting to grips with things, fine consecutive wins over Bath St's Albert Parker & Paul Oakes, Aigburth 'C's Ian Findon & Barry Meyer & Maghull's Janette Hutchins (but Naresh Tagore stopped his roll). Craig Walker was also among the points versus Bath St F, preventing Des Logan from nipping the 2nd game whilst comfortable in games 1 & 3, Terry Johanson also chipped in a point at Aigburth beating Alan Staniland.

Maghull have 2 teams again this year, but 'E' & 'F' are not quite the same as last year, as what was the E team are now effectively in the 4th, the 'F' team are full of new names who stepped in at the last. At least their first match wasn't too imposing as it was against the 'E' team, John McLoughlin beat Janette and nearly Naresh too, (9/11 in't 5th), but no other quarter was given as 'E' ran out 9-1 victors. John seems to have the rest of the family signed on, as James & John S turned out at Bath St., I thought it was only the Hutchins who travelled in numbers, John & James both won a singles then teamed up to win 1st doubles, but that was the only points BS'F' dropped.

The 'E' team are oldies Janette, Naresh, Denise and Jimmy but now aided by Warren Lee, after the Derby, they won the following game 9-1 too, Aigburth 'C' being the patsy's, how often have they won two matches 9-1 on the bounce! Jimmy dropped the point to Barry Meyer, but Barry probably deserved it coming from 2-1 down. A 7-3 win over Arriva A was only a slight drop in form, as Maghull 'E' got off to their best start in years, a hotly contested match this as No.1 Kristov Lenyk won his 2, Janette narrowly beat Danny Ballard, 12/10 in't 4th then 11/9 in't 5th, Danny also suffered a 5 game defeat to Denise, Warren was again a composed No.4. The scores were reversed when Mag'E' played Arriva's 1st team the following week, No.4 Pavel Tomczyk beaten by Jimmy & Warren, who also won 2nd doubles. A 7-3 win at Edge Hill put them 3rd in the division, they now have the problem of maintaining that pace and handling the pressure that comes with it, something they have not had to deal with before.

Yes Arriva have expanded, new players, players from other clubs and a new team. Arriva 'A' started well, 8-2

over Maghull'F' in their 1st start, Kristov, Alan and Lynton the ones to watch.

The 1st team set their stall out with Derek at one, Harry at two, Graham at 3 and Pavel at 4, the inside story I got at the Mersey Open was that they would walk it. A 10-0 opener v Police' C' showed the way, but without Derek & Graham at BSM'F' they faltered 6-4 with Kristov and Alan Jones brought in, Harry had no trouble, but Pavel lost to Albert Parker, Alan suffered at the hands of both Cyril Penny and Paul Oakes, Pavel redeemed himself with a fine win over Cyril (8/ in't 5th). With DS & GR back it was a joyous 10-0 return to Aigburth 'C' for Graham in a landslide match.

The following week Bootle YMCA 'C' turned up also on the back of a 10-0 win, over BSM'F', the visitors had to wait till game 8 to get their first points on the board, then just like buses, 2 came along in quick succession. Joe Rees beat Pavel 12/10 in 5th and Steve then did the same to Derek, Derek's first defeat and I'm sure he can't wait for the rematch in the New Year, 8-2 is a fine result against potential championship rivals, and is a warning to the rest of this division, Ding Ding the buses are back and are motoring in top gear.

I stand by my description of BYMCA'C' as Arriva's nearest contenders as yet, because even with that defeat, they stayed in 2nd spot, they too had come through a test of fire. First match of the season against BSM'E' was a fine 6-4 win, Mal did ever so well to beat both Steve & Arthur Garnet, unfortunately John Taylor lost his two, Joe Rees continued where he left off last season with a brace. BYM'C' seem to be able to pick from 5/6 good players, which is essential to have a good promotion run. Garry Williamson didn't disappoint when in for the 8-2 win at Wavertree Labour 'E', for the home team, Gord & Eric won one a piece, Gord able to hang on in with Steve in an extremely close match, winning the set 3-2, with his 3 games won by just 2 points, this after Steve had cut through Eric in 3 straight, 33 to 9 in points, Eric didn't let his head drop and after a close first game (/12) with John Taylor, won in 3.

9-1 was then the score versus Police 'C', but the back of card man of the match wasn't a BYM player, Sam Gittens was nominated with the endorsement "Young Sam looks a bright prospect for (the) future and hits the ball ever so hard, once he gets consistency in his game (he) will be difficult to beat." He must already have some consistency as he won a sticky game (*groan*), beating John, taking the 4th & 5th games 11/9.

The BSM'F' match has to have noted that Paul Oakes was very unlucky, going to 5 in both games with Jim and John (where he nearly won it in the 4th 12/14), Des Logan similarly in his match with John, where JT went from 9/11 in't 3rd to 11/9, 11/9 in the next 2.

Like Maghull, Bath Street again have 2 teams, E & F in this division, pretty much the same faces as last year.