

The Wirral Horn

NEWSLETTER OF THE WIRRAL TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Editor :- Stan Wilkinson.

December 1982

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS and a successful New Year to all our readers !!

The season of goodwill is upon us again, but I must say it seems to have started at the beginning of the season as far as I am concerned, all the matches that I have played in or watched (except one in a far off town which shall be nameless) have been played in the most sporting and pleasant atmosphere, as far as the League business is concerned, it seems to be the same, we have volunteers to run competitions, which does spread the work load of us all out a bit, a few little niggles about fines, I think a lot of these could be cleared up with a little give and take, or maybe Christmas Goodwill, after all the Committee are only trying to run an efficient league for your own benefit.

Keep up the good work and let us all 'carry on' enjoying our T.T.

Elsewhere in this issue you will notice details of a new Cup competition the VETERANS TEAM TROPHY. As the name implies it is to be played for by teams of veterans i.e. 40 years and over, the games to be played where you can fit them in to your program, A look at the handbook will show that for two whole weeks over Christmas there are no fixtures, I know it is not easy but i'm sure that you could squeeze in an odd game between the courses, a bit of exercise will do you the world of good.

The Neston Nutters are on their way. I'm not sure where, but we're on our way. Mark you, we had a lot of seemingly insurmountable difficulties to overcome - like the absence of alchchol at Seaview Rd.

Naturally, we picked the first match. However, since we knew Billy Nelson would be late and Tom Johnson and Tony Davies had mysteriously disappeared, there wasn't that much choice. At least, that's what Gary Pierce said. Nevertheless, we were confident that the noble Essjay would put us into the lead, particularly when he won the first 21-7. Unfortunately, Gary changed his game, made very few mistakes and took his chances well to win the next two 21-15 21-15. Busways looking for a quick kill then called on Tom (the Stomp), against Keith (the Mouth) - and both Tom and Keith wished they hadn't. This match was a clash of similar styles with both players being good retrievers and counter-attackers but neither with a really devastating kill. After much bouncing off walls, falling through floorboards and diving through windows - by both players, Keith netted (and edged) the first game 28 - 26. The second game was equally close but Keith committed the cardinal sin of going for a fast service at 20 - 19 and missed the edgw by about an inch. Tom sneaked home 24 - 22. At this stage (50 points all), both players were grovelling and crawling around on their hands and knees. Tony went and got some liquid refreshment for us - a milk bottle full of water - WATER !! In the third, Tom raced into an 11 - 4 lead. However, sadistic swaine that he is, he let Keith come back to 15 all. The next ten points were equally shared but Keith's finger and a well-placed hit saw Tom home 22 - 20. I can't remember precisely but we must have come close to Noel Fagan's record aggregate points total.

At this point (2 - 0 to Busways), half time tea was taken. This scoreline put a lot of pressure on young David Sherlock who then played Tony Davies. Although this is his first season in the 2nd. Division, David is maturing fast. By dint of quite good tactics some excellent shots and, above all, keeping his nerve at vital times, he won 21 - 17, 21 - 19.

The ever steady Robbie Lenihan then atoned for Stan's defeat by beating Gary 21 - 10, 21 - 19. It rather looks as though Gary could be a difficult player to beat if only he could get going in the first game.

Keith then brought off a master stroke of captaincy. He reckoned that Tom would just have stiffened up nicely and called him on against Essjay. When the score reached 19-all in the first game Tom looked skyward as if to say "not again". Yes, Tom, again - and Stan took it 21 - 19. With the aid of a few nets in the middle

of the game, Tom took the second 21 - 14. In the third, Stan played Tom like a fish. Tom kept getting three or four points in front only for Stan to pull him back immediately. Inevitably, the game went to deuce and Stan held on well to win 24 - 22. By heck, doesn't Tom like getting his money's worth.

Billy Nelson then played his first game (at 10.05). His service gave David problems in the first and Billy won 22 - 20. David then played really well, changed his game slightly and took the next two 17 & 15. So a well-earned double for David and a 4 - 2 lead for Neston.

After this the match tailed off slightly, with Neston taking the second doubles 14 & 14, the first doubles 8 & 19 (albeit after being 5 - 11 and 16 - 19 down in the second), Robbie basically preventing Billy from getting his big hits to win 16 & 19 and Keith just sneaking home against Tony 19 & 18. Note how Keith's cowardly captaincy meant that he only played his second game (the doubles at that) when we were leading 5 - 2.

The score flattered us (and so did the net). When 11 out of the 24 individual games go to 21 - 19 or deuce, 8 - 2 is hardly a fair result, but then, neither was our defeat by Lever (nyah,nyah,nyah).

Match report St Peters v Neston 2

St Peters won 6 - 4.

The WIRRAL LADIES team had a very enjoyable match played at Pinewood against WIGAN 'A' ladies on Wed. 20th. Oct.

Heather Stenhouse and Linda Walsh made their debut for the Wirral team in this match. Heather winning two singles and Linda winning one and the doubles partnered by Ann, who won her 3 singles, making it a 7 - 3 win for Wirral.

Well done girls in your first representative match.

On 19th. Nov. 82. WIRRAL JUNIORS 1st. Team lost their first match of the season against a very strong LIVERPOOL team. Although they were beaten 10 - 0, the team of Ian Thomas, Neil Montague & Andy Taylor played with great spirit throughout and a few of the games could have gone either way.

The following day, the 2nd. Team travelled to ROCHDALE and won by 8 sets to 2 to lead their Division. Roger Butler was outstanding and he received good support from Tony Bryan and Andy Taylor.

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	L	D	F	A	PTS
N.B.C.C.	8	8	0	0	67	13	16
ROSEBANK	6	6	0	0	44	16	12
WIRRAL GAS	5	4	1	0	36	14	8
ALDERLEY	6	4	2	0	37	23	8
CIVIC	6	3	2	1	32	28	7
WIRRAL GAS 2	5	2	1	2	28	22	6
ALDERLEY 2	9	2	5	1	28	52	5
PINEWOOD	3	2	1	0	20	10	4
NESTON	7	1	4	2	23	47	4
N.C.L.T.C.	7	1	5	1	25	45	3
CALDY	7	0	6	1	16	54	1
ALDERLEY 3	6	0	6	0	14	46	0

DIVISION TWO

WALL MANOR	8	5	2	1	52	28	11
ALDERLEY 4	7	5	1	1	42	28	11
NALGO	8	4	2	2	49	31	10
W.R.U.F.C.	8	4	2	2	47	33	10
PINEWOOD 2	7	4	2	1	39	31	9
WIRRAL GAS 2a	6	3	1	2	37	23	8
ST PETERS	7	4	3	0	33	37	8
LEVER	6	3	3	0	28	32	6
CALDY 2	7	2	4	1	31	39	5
NESTON 2	7	1	4	2	29	41	4
BUSWAYS	8	2	6	0	26	54	4
UPTON C.C.	7	0	7	0	17	53	0

DIVISION THREE

CALDY 3	8	5	2	1	47	33	11
ALDERLEY 5	8	4	1	3	42	38	11
UPTON V.H.	6	5	1	0	39	21	10
WALL MANOR 2	8	3	1	4	47	33	10
CIVIC 2	8	4	2	2	45	35	10
W.F.U.F.C.2	7	4	1	2	40	30	10
PINEWOOD 4	7	3	3	1	41	29	7
N.C.L.T.C. 2	8	2	4	2	32	38	6
WALL. Y.M.C.A.	7	1	5	1	23	47	3
WIRRAL GAS 3	8	1	7	0	27	53	2
CALDY 4	7	0	7	0	16	54	0

DIVISION FOUR

	P	W	L	D	F	A	PTS
NESTON 3	7	6	1	0	46	24	12
W.R.U.F.C. 3	7	5	1	1	41	29	11
ENG. MART 2	8	5	2	1	47	33	11
M.F.B.	7	4	1	2	45	25	10
CALDY 5	8	4	2	2	46	34	10
WALL. FERR.	7	3	2	2	40	30	8
CIVIC 3	7	3	3	1	34	36	7
MARINE	8	3	3	2	38	43	7
POLICE	7	2	3	2	36	34	6
N.A.L.G.O. 2	6	2	4	0	24	36	4
OXTON C.C.	7	0	7	0	18	52	0
B'HEAD L.R.	7	0	7	0	11	59	0

DIVISION FIVE

N.B.C.C. 2	7	7	0	0	50	10	14
NESTON 4	7	6	1	0	48	22	12
PINEWOOD 5	6	4	2	1	42	18	9
W.R.U.F.C. 4	6	4	1	1	38	22	9
WIRRAL GAS 4	7	4	3	0	36	34	8
ENG. MART. 3	7	3	3	1	39	31	7
G.R.C.C.	7	3	4	0	28	42	6
EGERTON	6	2	3	1	27	33	5
WALL. MANOR 3	6	2	4	0	24	36	4
D.K.S.	6	1	5	0	15	45	2
BEAUFORT	6	1	5	0	15	45	2
ST MARKS	7	0	7	0	16	54	0

DIVISION SIX

CALDY 6	7	5	1	1	47	23	11
WALL MANOR 4	6	5	1	0	49	11	10
ENG. MART 4	8	3	2	3	46	34	9
PINEWOOD 6	5	4	1	0	35	15	8
SHAFTS.	6	4	2	0	39	21	8
UPTON C.C. 2	7	3	3	1	39	31	7
CIVIC 4	7	3	3	1	35	35	7
B.B.B.	8	3	4	1	35	45	7
BEAUFORTS 2	6	1	3	2	22	38	4
G.R.P.C.	7	2	5	0	21	49	4
ST MARKS 2	6	1	4	1	17	43	3
OXTON C.C.2	7	0	5	2	15	55	2

J.S.BANKS CUP 1st. Round to be played before 4th. Jan. 1983.

WALLASEY MANOR	v	ST. MARKS.
PINEWOOD	v	WALLASEY R.U.F.C.
WIRRAL GAS 'B'	v	WIRRAL GAS 'A'.
GAUTBY RD C.C.	v	CALDY.
ALDERLEY	v	ST. MARKS 'A'.
ENGLISH MARTYRS	v	PINEWOOD 'A'
WIRRAL GAS	v	CIVIC.
ROSEBANK	v	BIRKENHEAD B.B.

Result cards to be sent to Chris Wentworth, 1 The Ridgeway,
Bebington. Promptly please.

HANDBOOK AMENDMENTS :-

ALDERLEY H.SANDERSON (Sandy) has now moved to
56 Anglesca Road, West Kirby.

D.K.S. Match night changed from Tues. To Monday.

A plea from Peter Greenshields :- PLEASE, PLEASE dont send
any more of LAST YEARS SCORECARDS to him, as these are now being
forwarded down to BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, by the time they find their way
back to Norm Berry, they will most probally qualify for a fine for
being late.

Check that all cards are addressed to Norman Berry.

Change of address for MISS KAREN ORMOND Sec of G.R.C.C. Div. 5
has now moved to 13 Smith Avenue, Birkenhead.

VETERANS TEAM TROPHY

The rules of the Lonsdale Cup shall apply, mutatis mutandis (i.e. the necessary changes being made) to the Veterans Team Trophy with the following exceptions :-

1. Eligibility for participation in the V.T.T. Competition is restricted to players of either sex who are 40 years of age or over on the 1st. July immediately preceding the season in which the competition takes place.
2. Each team in the V.T.T. shall consist of three players.
3. Sections 13(b) and(d) of the rules of the Wirral Table Tennis League shall not apply to the V.T.T.. Each player in each team shall play one set against each player in the opposing team, each set being the best of three games so that each match consists of nine sets. There shall be no doubles sets.

V.T.T. Prelim round to be played before 2nd. January 1983.

Pinewood 'A'	v	Wirral Gas
N.C.L.T.C.	v	Wall. R.U.F.C.
Alderley	v	Civic.
Eng. Martyrs 'A'	v	Upton C.C.
Neston	v	Pinewood
Caldy 'A'	v	St. Marks.

V.T.T. First round to be played before 23rd. January 1983.

Pinewood 'A' or Wirral Gas	v	Police.
St. Peters	v	Upton V.H.
Wall. Manor	v	Alderley or Civic.
Eng. Mart. 'A' or Upton C.C.	v	Wirral Gas 'A'
N.A.L.G.O.	v	Caldy 'A' or St. Marks.
W.R.U.F.C. 'A'	v	Eng. Martyrs.
Caldy	v	N.C.L.T.C. or W.R.U.F.C.
Oxton C.C.	v	Neston or Pinewood.

Event organiser :- Peter Mitchell, 13 Grasmere rd, Whitby, Ellesmere port. 356 4196.

To whom scoresheets are to be sent as soon as possible after matches have been played.

BILL LOWE SHIELD Clubs involved in this seasons event will find
 scoresheets inserted with this issue of the 'Horn'. That is all
 teams drawn to play at home, which are the first named.
 Handicaps will be ciculated at a later date, either by phone or
 verbally, Alan Timewell and Stan Wilkinson will have copies of the
 handicaps if anyone wants to know them soon.
BILL LOWE SHIELD 1st. Round to be played W/C 10/1/83.

Pinewood 5	v	Civic 4 or Pine 4.	Wall Manor	v	Oxton C.C.
Wall Ferr	v	B.B.B.	N.B.C.C.2	v	Caldy 4 or Wan 4
Wall Man	v	Police.	N.C.L.T.C. 2	v	Upton C.C. 2.
W.R.U.F.C.3	v	W.R.U.F.C.	D.K.S.	v	Wall Man 3.
Eng Mart 3	v	Caldy 3.	Oxton C.C. 2	v	W Gas 2a.
Alderley	v	Shafts.	Neston 4	v	N.A.L.G.O.
St Marks 2	v	Upton C.C.	Alderley 2	v	Egerton.
Caldy 5	v	W Gas 3.	N.A.L.G.O. 2	v	N.B.C.C.
M.F.B.	v	Eng Mart.	Busways	v	Alderley 5
Pinewood 2	v	Civic 2.	Pinewood 6	v	Pinewood.
Marine	v	Civic.	N.C.L.T.C.	v	Alderley 4.
U.V.H.	v	W.R.U.F.C. 4.	Wall Y.M.C.A.	v	B.L.R. or E Mart
St Marks	v	Lever.	Beaufort 2	v	Caldy 2. 4
Caldy 6	v	Alderley 3.	W.R.U.F.C. 2	v	Neston 3.
G.R.C.C.	v	Neston 2.	Beaufort	v	W Gas 4.
Eng Mart 2	v	St Peters.	Civic 3	v	Caldy.

Event organiser :- Alan Timewell, 5 Glensk Rd, Gt. Sutton.
 339 3646.

The following matches have not yet been played, would you please
 endeavour to play these games during the Christmas period.

Week 1	Div 1	Civic	v	Rosebank
		Wirral Gas 2	v	Pinewood
	2	Wirral Gas 2a	v	Lever
	6	Pinewood 6	v	Beaufort
2	3	Pinewood 4	v	Upton V.H.
4	1	Pinewood	v	Civic
	5	Wall Man 3	v	Beaufort
	1	Pinewood	v	Alderley 3
6	1	Alderley	v	Wirral gas
	6	Pinewood 6	v	Wall Manor 4.

77 CRANTOCK
 CLOX

HAWKWOOD

THE WIRRAL HORN

NEWSLETTER OF THE WIRRAL TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Editor : Stan Wilkinson.

January 1983

A happy new year to all our readers! 400 copies of our newsletter are sent out each month if you as a playing member of the league don't get yours see your club secretary..

Please Keep this date free ; - SUNDAY 6th. MARCH, at Grange Rd Sports Centre. for the WIRRAL CLOSED TOURNAMENT. Entry forms will be inserted as usual in next months (Feb) Wirral Horn.

Notice from Les Jones (coaching secretary) : coaching at Grange Rd on the 16th. 23rd. & 30th. January will be held in the hall.

Change of address for PHIL LUXON, He has now crossed 'over the water' to 8 Elm Park Rd, Wallasey. Phone 639 5551. We wish you and your Family well in your new home.

I have been told that result cards are a bit slow coming in for the Veterans team event, please get your matches played so the following rounds can be played on time.

You will notice this months edition contains no league tables. Two reasons for this, 1. They have not altered a great deal since last month owing to the holiday period & 2. Those of you who read your local newspapers will notice that our league tables appear regularly in most if not all the local papers e.g Birkenhead News, Bebington News et al.. On reading that paragraph over I don't think the grammer is quite all it should be but I can't find my eraser, I suppose one of the many female members of my family has been using it as nail varnish remover or some other dreadful use..

LONSDALE CUP 4th. Round to be played w/c 24th. Jan 1983.

N.B.C.C.	v	Pinewood.	Alderley	v	Rosebank or Neston 2.
Lever	v	Wirral Gas	Neston	v	Caldy.

R.A.F.A. cup 4th. Round to be played w/c 7th. Feb. 1983

St.Peters	v	M.Fire Brig.	Pinewood 2	v	Wall M.n.or Caldys 2.
Nalgo	v	Upton C.C.	Wall R.U.F.C.	v	Neston ² .

CHAPTER II.

Norman Berry, there is only one word to describe you. Perverted, sadistic and swine are three that immediately come to mind. All eight players in this match reckon that this R.A.F.A. Cup draw was fixed after the titanic (we sank) league match. Both sides were weakened by the absence of their respective No 1 players. Our Roy Williams was called to higher service by Milord Daneaster (are you still talking to us inferior players Roy?) and Roy Tierney was too concerned about his wife's unfortunate mishap to play. Get well soon Mrs. Roy!

In the first match, David Sherlock took on Norman Roberts. In the first game, Dave tried to set up his big kill with slow topspin rolls. Unfortunately, Norman lapped the rolls up and killed them himself to take it 21-10. Keith then suggested a change in tactics and David managed to get his big hits in to take the next two 21-12, 21-17. Keith then called on Robbie Lenihan against Kevin Wild. In the league match, Robbie won the first 21-8 only to lose the third 30-28. Tonight, your intrepid reporter watched Robbie win the first game 21-10 and then had to go on an errand. predictably, by the time I got back, Kevin had taken the next two 21-12 21-17. Note the identical scores in the first two matches, it was that sort of night.

I will draw a veil over the next match between Ex-Noble Essjay and Alan Saxton. Suffice it to say that Stan played badly in the first game but Alan played even worse. In the second & third, Alan maintained his stupendous mediocrity but Stan went downhill fast. Alan won 17-21, 21-18, 21-14. Two post-match quotes were :-

Robbie : I'm not clapping that diabolical performance.

Kevin(I think): And they say watching Everton is purgatory.

The habit was catching because Keith & Norman then gave an equally abysmal display. Good shots were few and far between and Keith managed to keep the ball on the table just long enough to win 17-21, 21-13, 21-13.

We then thawed out Roger Leech and let him play Robbie. Something went wrong with this game because Robbie won it in two straight games. Mark you, there was a nice bit of sportsmanship at the end of this game. At 20-18 in the second, Robbie came in with a tremendous third ball kill. Roger raised his eyebrows and queried, quietly, whether it was a let service. Kevin, unpiring, hadn't seen it but Robbie immediately suggested the point to be replayed. However, hard-man Robbie still had one trick left up his sleeve. When the point was replayed, Robbie got a magnificent edge which was totally unplayable- shades of Alan Saxton !

Keith then looked to extend the Neston lead to 4-2 by calling on the first doubles. Things looked good when we won the first 21-17 but Keith soon found that Essjay's malady was catching and we gently lost the next two 21-15, 21-13. Alan then saw a light at the end of the tunnel and called himself on against Keith. Now, Keith has never beaten Alan and the first game went true to form with Alan winning it 21-17.

Keith (sitto voce): What the hell am I doing wrong?

Stan (loudly): Nothing, you're just playing badly.

That's what I like about Stan, he's brutally honest and totally impartial. Much to everyone's surprise, particularly his own, Keith also won the third 21-13. Ah well, the best laid plans of mice (Keith) & men (Alan).

Keith then called on the second doubles. Roger & Kevin managed to tie Robbie & Dave in knots to win the first game comfortably. They also looked like winning the second until Robbie slipped Dave's leash and we sneaked it 21-19. The final game was a nail biter except that no-one had any nails left to bite. If I remember correctly, we had a good lead but then lost it and Roger & Kevin looked home & dry. However, Robbie and Dave didn't lie down and die but clawed their way back to duece. Unfortunately for us, Roger & Kevin won 23-21. so 4-all and still only one two game set.

The words that spring to mind concerning the David-Kevin match are "Wham-bam-thankyou ma-am". Both players love to attack and boy-oh-boy, didn't Dave hit some beauties. Mark you, he gave us all heart attacks by losing seven consecutive points to go from 16-9 to 16 all. However he kept his cool to win 21-17, 21-18. What David didn't realise till afterwards was that he had ensured a Neston victory (5-4 up with a 3 game advantage).

Keith : Hard luck Kevin but when he gets his hit working.....

Kevin (with feeling): I had noticed.

In the final game, Stan dug deep and managed to find unplumbed depths of awfulness and Roger beat him, without breaking sweat, 21-18, 21-11.

So we won by 14 games to 13 and, just as a matter of interest by 491 points to 489. I have to admit that if Roy Tierney had been playing, things would probably have been quite different. But please, if we get through our first matches, don't put us together in the Bill Lowe Shield, none of us could stand the strain.

And finally, don't miss the final gripping instalment of this classic tale struggle which should appear in your Wirral Horn in March (yawn, yawn).

Averages (5 matches to qualify).

Div One

E Hardman	Ald	100
S Green	Rose	93
T Turner	"	90
M McEvoy	NBCC	88
M Kong	Rose	86
R Smith	Civic	83
P Luxon	NBCC	80
I Molyneux	"	80
T Barraclough	"	75
E Wentworth	W.Gas	73

Div Two

N Montague	W Gas2A	88
I Owen	Nalco	85
E Bolger	Caldy 2	80
B Maiden	Wrufo	78
J Bassnett	"	78
C Page	Ald 4	78
R Barker	W Man	75
J Pemberton	"	75
I Thomas	W Gas 2A	72
D Williams	St Pet	71

Div Three

F Hepple	Pin 4	94
G Kirsopp	W Man 2	93
N Mason	UV H	88
R Stephenson	Ald 5	80
R Bennion	Civ	75
J Powell	Cald 3	75
A Bryan	Pin 4	75
N Travis	u v h	75
D Stewart	Cald 3	72
N Parkinson	E Mart	71

Div Four

M King	Police	94
G Abbott	Fire B	89
R Spence	Nes 3	85
M Muskett	Fire B	85
A Hayes	Civ 3	83
R Davies	Ferries	80
W Gibbons	Eng Mar 2	79
E Harris	Civ 3	78
M Clewett	Wrufo 3	75
B Dobson	E Mart 2	74

Div Five

J Stevenson	Egert	100
J Conway	Nbcc 2	94
J Horobin	"	90
B Murphy	"	85
D Coulson	Pin 5	85
D Beynon	Nes 4	80
S Parker	Egert	78
W Stanley	Wrufo 4	77
J Wetherall	Nes 4	72
S Corcoran	DKS	71

Div Six

I Street	BBB	100
D Rennison	UptonCC	94
N Kirsopp	W Man 4	89
D McKEown	"	89
L Donnison	Pin 6	89
P Birken	W Man 4	83
J Blackwell	Pin 6	83
D Johns	Cald 6	81
K Williams	"	81
C Rothwell	Shaft	80

Wirral Juniors 1st Team beat Mid-Lancs 10 nil in their last match this makes their record played 2 won 1 lost 1. Team on this occasion B Wentworth, Ian Thomas, N Montague.

Wirral Juniors 'A' team beat Ellesmere Port 'A' 7 - 3 this makes their record :- Played 4 won 4 pretty good !

Team :- Andy Taylor, Roger Butler, Garry Daw.