

The Wirral Horn

NEWSLETTER OF THE WIRRAL TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Editor :- Stan Wilkinson.

April 1984.

Three big events :- THE WIRRAL CLOSED TOURNAMENT Grange Rd 15th. April
Entries close 7th. April.

The Wirral League ANNUAL PRIZE PRESENTATION EVENING And Disco at the
E.C.R.C. Club Capenhurst on Friday 18th. May
8.00 pm. to Mid-night, tickets will be available
From Gordon Exell, committee members and will be
available at the Wirral Closed. Price £1.50.

The Wirral League ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held as former years
at the Seacobe Ferry Club a representative is
required to attend from each club. MONDAY 21st
MAY 1984 at 7.30 pm. (there is a £5 fine for non-
attendance).

The big news promised last month :- I have hardly enough space to
give it justice, but the League is negotiating with the council for
premises in the Arrowe Park area to be used as a League Headquarters
more information will be available at the A.G.M. but it is likely
that there will be room for 4 or 5 clubs without facilities to be
based there, if anybody is interested please contact myself or
Peter Mitchel the league secretary.

A note from Mike Ashton from the LIVINGSTONE ST club, they would
like to fix up some friendly matches home or away through the summer
anybody interested his phone no. is 652 9190.

BILL LOWE SHIELD second semi-final to be played w/c 2nd April
Wall Man 4 v Caldys 4 winner to play Busways in
Final during the following week.
A word of thanks from the organiser of the event
to Busways for the smooth running of their passage
through the rounds.

They say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery and the chief imitator has threatened to write a report on the latest instalment of the Neston (who? Ask the Editor!) saga. So, as Willie - John McBride used to say, I'll get my retaliation in first.

But first (and second), a public apology and a word of praise. The match was spoilt by a Neston yob (not a player) who has no manners whatsoever. Without any thought for others, he marched through to the snooker room with the score at 19 - 20 in the first game between Robbie and Steve Wright. When asked politely if he would mind waiting, the reply we received was :-

"I pay (bleep) £70 a (bleep) year to play in this (bleep) place, how much do you (bleeps) (bleeping) pay".

Not content with this, he waited in the snooker room out of sight and, just as Steve served, slammed the door with some force. Robbie nearly jumped out of his skin and completely mis-hit his return. John Fowler called the game to Steve but we asked for a let. Steve graciously allowed it and Robbie won 23-21, 21-19. However, it was a hollow victory. Steve deserves a medal for voluntarily giving up a game that he had won (according to the umpire) especially when he eventually loses. Anyway a public apology to Pinewood and a warning to other teams visiting Neston that, unfortunately, when such louts are around, there is seemingly nothing we can do about it.

The match, or well, they won the first two, we won the next three, they won the next four and we were about to win the following five when we realised, too late, that there was only one game left.

On the preceding Tuesday, Keith met Frank Irwin whilst the latter was giving a quick flash in front of Lord Leverhulme. (photographywise). We were duly promised a "whupping". I think even Frank will agree that this didn't quite materialise. These two loons played the first match and, despite being 20-17 up in the second Rentagob still managed to lose 19-21, 21-23. The noble Essjay was then asked to play their player, who has the soft cuddly bits with the pointed ends (no, not John). This was a tactical choice by Rentagob on the grounds that Essjay is so long in the tooth that he still chases women but has forgotten why. Unfortunately, Ann played very well and gradually asserted her authority to win 17-21, 23-21 21-14. Young Julian then demolished John 14 & 14 and Robbie gained his unfortunate victory over Steve to level the scores.

Ah-ha, Frank then fancies his chances against Essjay. Frank says he's got a bad back and shows everyone his corset to prove it. We would have believed you Frank (if you'd removed the susses and stockings first). Anyway, it didn't matter because Essjay whizzes

around at the speed of light (well, faster than we've ever seen him move) and wellies winners from hither and yon to win 22-20, 21-18.

The next game was critical for both sides - Julian against Ann. Julian decided to attack in the first and paid the penalty. He then slowed things down in the second and took it comfortably. As they changed round for the third, the lad himself said that he was not going to be able to loop and hit her off. Why, then, did he do just that in the first six points of the third game and so find himself 5-1 down, despite drawing level on three or four occasions, he never managed to get his nose in front. And guess who served off at 14-17 and went on to lose 19-21, never mind Julian it's all good experience.

Drawing a quick veil over the next game in which Rentagob, still upset by the yobbo's behaviour, played so badly that the only possible method of help of help was to call in the Dyna-rod man. Steve stood at the other end and waited for the points to be given him. John then started to demolish Robbie and won the first 11 in double quick time. However, these two showmen couldn't resist the opportunity to play to the gallery and go for the endurance record in the second. Unfortunately, something went wrong and the game came to an early and unscheduled end at a paltry 30-28 to John.

So, only the doubles to play and Pinewood dormie two. Robbie & Julian took on Ann & John. In the first, Julian hit through John frequently enough for us to win 18. In the second, they sneaked home by the same score. At 10-4 in the third, things looked good for us but the baddies gradually edged their way back. The turning point was when the score was about 15-12 to us. Julian hit an absolutely stunning kill only for Ann to step into it and block it back. Spontaneous applause from all-on-Sunday (including the players) and the shot of the season as far as most of us are concerned. They caught up at 20-all and didn't waste much time after that.

In the dead last game, an inspired Essjay managed to beat Frank, Steve and Rentadynarod 14-21, 21-19, 22-20.

One final question to the Pinewood team. How much did it cost you to bribe us to lose this game? Answers (on used £50 notes only) to Rentagob c/o Neston C.C.

I do have in my possession the other version of this match from Pinewoods angle I will endeavour to print this in a limited edition of the 'Horn' to be available at the A.G.M. so keep this copy to compare.

This will be the last copy to be distributed this season, so a word of thanks to those who have helped me with copy and to those who have helped in the distribution of the newsletters, I hope that the Club Secretaries or whoever receives this edition will see that it is given out to as many members as possible, thank you.

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	L	TD	F	A	PTS
WIRRAL GAS	17	15	1	1	138	32	31
ALDERLEY	16	15	0	1	121	39	31
N.B.C.C.	16	12	3	1	108	52	25
E.P.I.C.	16	7	7	7	84	76	16
WALL. MANOR	16	7	8	1	74	86	15
CALDY	17	6	11	0	73	97	12
PINEWOOD	15	5	10	0	60	90	10
CIVIC	16	4	11	1	62	98	9
ALDERLEY 2	17	3	11	3	53	117	9
NESTON C.C.	16	2	14	0	37	123	4

DIVISION TWO

N.A.L.G.O.	21	19	1	1	146	64	33
ALDERLEY 3	20	17	2	1	145	55	35
PINEWOOD 2	21	13	5	3	131	79	29
W.R.U.F.C.	20	10	8	2	116	34	22
UPTON V.H.	20	9	7	40	103	97	22
UPTON C.C.	21	9	9	3	105	105	21
N.C.L.T.C.	20	7	9	4	88	112	18
ST PETERS	20	7	11	2	87	113	16
NESTON C.C. 2	19	6	10	3	93	97	15
CALDY 2	21	5	13	3	90	120	13
CALDY 3	22	4	15	3	71	149	11
CIVIC 2	21	1	17	3	55	155	5

DIVISION THREE

N.B.C.C. 2	21	19	2	0	145	65	38
WALL. MANOR 2	20	17	3	0	155	45	34
BUSWAYS	21	14	7	0	139	71	28
PINEWOOD 3	17	13	3	1	108	62	27
ENG. MART	21	9	6	6	112	98	24
ALDERLEY 4	21	11	8	2	103	107	21
CALDY 5	20	6	11	3	77	123	15
W.R.U.F.C. 2	20	6	12	2	97	103	14
CIVIC 3	20	5	11	4	90	110	14
FIRE. BRIG.	18	6	11	1	66	114	13
CALDY 4	21	2	18	1	61	149	5
N.C.L.T.C. 2	20	1	17	2	47	153	4

DIVISION FOUR

	P	W	L	D	F	A	PTS
WIRRAL GAS 3	21	18	3	0	156	54	36
ENG. MART 2	21	17	3	1	136	74	35
NESTON C.C. 3	20	12	4	4	117	83	28
N.C.L.F.C. 3	20	13	6	1	107	93	27
PINEWOOD 4	17	9	6	2	93	77	20
MOUNTWOOD	18	9	8	1	83	97	19
WIRRAL GAS 4	21	8	10	3	96	114	19
WALL. FERR.	21	8	13	0	102	108	16
NESTON C.C. 4	21	7	12	2	89	121	16
MARINE	21	4	15	2	81	129	10
N.A.L.G.O. 2	20	3	15	2	71	129	8
W.R.U.F.C. 3	19	1	14	4	69	121	6

DIVISION FIVE

WALL. MAN. 3	18	17	0	1	140	40	35
OXTON X BATS	20	15	2	3	142	58	33
EGERTON CON	20	11	4	5	122	78	27
PINEWOOD 5	19	11	4	4	109	81	26
D.K.S.	19	10	5	4	110	80	24
ENG. MART /	20	9	8	3	103	97	21
WALL. MAN. 4	19	7	11	1	97	93	15
B'HEAD. L.R.	19	6	10	3	88	102	15
CALDY 6	18	5	9	4	82	98	14
G.R.P.C.	19	5	12	2	68	122	12
N.B.C.C. 3	19	1	14	4	58	132	6
B.B.B.	20	1	19	0	31	169	2

DIVISION SIX

BEAUFORTS	18	15	0	3	141	39	33
CIVIC 4	18	15	2	1	138	42	31
WALL. FERR. 2	19	12	4	3	127	63	27
UPTON C.C. 2	17	11	3	3	131	39	25
LIVINGSTON ST.	17	8	6	3	79	91	19
OXTON X BATS 2	17	8	7	2	91	79	18
MOUNTWOOD 2	16	5	11	0	57	103	18
ENG. MART 4	18	4	12	3	62	118	10
OXTON X BATS 3	19	5	14	0	56	134	10
G.R.P.C. 2	18	4	13	1	56	124	9
B.B.B. 2	19	2	17	0	42	148	4

A letter from Norman Berry :-

Having held the position of Fixture Secretary for 8 of the past 10 years, I have decided that I no longer wish to remain a committee member. The decision was made much easier when I visited a club on a two-fold matter, (a) to advise another of their teams that the last match of their season would not be played. (b) I was interested in the result of a certain match. What I didn't expect was a request from another club member to leave their premises. This kind of re-action I could do without and I would suggest that this club put forward nominations for the committee to fill at least one vacant position.

What is probably known, is that a great deal of effort and time has been put in to produce Results and League Tables for the newspapers and averages for the Wirral Horn.

What is probably not known by the ordinary league member is the amount of rule - bending or dubious practices carried on by some clubs.

This season has seen many instances and in my opinion many more than in previous seasons. Take the first division.

At the beginning of the season it appeared to be a race between Alderley, Wirral Gas & New Brighton. Alderleys registrations looked very strong, as did Wirral Gas, with New Brighton putting forward a formidable overall team. In practice what happened? - ALDERLEY Trevor Manning Wirral No 1 turns out only in crucial matches, 7 so far this season. Wayne Percival a Cheshire ranked player has managed to play 2 matches and by coincidence were both against Wirral Gas. Dont however spare any pity for Wirral Gas for in these matches they produced Keith Williams the Lancashire No 4 and Liverpool no 1 for his only 2 matches in the Wirral league, losing all his singles.

New Brighton did however play the majority of their matches with the same 4 players not withstanding that 2 of their players were Liverpool domiciled at the beginning of the season.

Another query that arises with regard to Liverpool and North Wales domiciled players is with representation in our Lancashire & Cheshire teams. At present the foreign strength is 4 seniors and 2 juniors and I know criticism has been voiced by members of the league in this respect.

The Second Division has been quite competitive and it would appear that Nalgo will win the Division from Alderley 3. I have however heard that an Alderley player did give preference to his Liverpool League Club on a clash of dates and in consequence Alderley suffered a shock defeat, which could have cost them the Division.

Division 3. It would appear that N.B.C.C. 2 will now win this division by tactics certainly within the rules, but considered by the chasing teams to be completely unfair and unsporting, Table Tennis in the middle divisions was at one time played in a friendly atmosphere,

and not as competitively ruthless as in the higher divisions.

Y
nt In this context clubs were allowed considerable latitude in the starring
of their players and whilst the league rules could stop this practice
they are rarely used. Clubs in this category in the 2 middle divisions
are Pinewood, Caldy, Engglish Martyrs, W.R.U.F.C., N.C.L.T.C., Wirral Gas
& Neston. in 6 of the above instances the higher ranked team could be
strengthened by the inclusion of members of the lower ranked team.

e This leads on to division 4 where the division is being contested by
Eng. Mart 2 & Wirral Gas 3. both these teams are in breach of the rules
for entirely different reasons. The results for the season have shown that
in the case of the former team they have a player who could be in a higher
division, and in the latter team is not playing to its full strength.

Wallasey Manor 3 are almost certainly winners of division 5 with
Oxton X Bats runners up, this division contains quite a number of young
players who will make the higher divisions as the years progress.

e
s Four teams at present fight out division 6 with Beauforts the
favourites. I often wonder what goes through the minds of the more ex-
perienced in the Beauforts, Wall Ferries & Upton C.C. teams when they
are faced with the 11 & 12 year olds in this division. At present they may
be able to take it easy and be lenient. they should reflect however that
these youngsters will progress rapidly and within a short time will be
knocking them off the table.

A further area of contention is the requests by Clubs after the 31st
Jan. for the registration of additional players and re-starring of other
players. I can as fixture secretary and in accordance with the rules either
accept or reject such requests. In this respect this season has been no
different from previous seasons. Since the 1st Feb. I have received 4 such
requests, nearly all indicating that if they are rejected, they will have
to turn up with a player short or not turn up at all. In the interests
of playing Table Tennis the request has normally been accepted.

However these decisions can sometimes have repercussions not envisaged
at the time of acceptance and can have bearings on future results. I have
always held the view that the league is in existence to promote the
playing of Table Tennis at all levels.

This report is not intended to upset members, it is mainly to point
out difficulties and anomalies in trying to carry out a thankless task.

The A.G.M. is due in May and I am sure that the committee will be
pleased to receive any constructive assistance in any of the foregoing
matters.

LANCS & CHESH. NEWS :-

Wirrals first team finished off their season by being beaten 9 - 1 by Liverpool. Trevor Manning scored the only victory. Worse news, however, is that Warrington have been awarded a game they had lost to Preston because Preston had played an ineligible player. This means that Warrington move ahead of Wirral in the division and the Wirral will be relegated.

Our second team also finished the season by losing to Blackburn 9 - 1. This may cost them the division championship but at least they were already assured of promotion to Div. 2 where they will be competing with our first team next season. This has been a fine achievement by Phil Luxon (player manager), Malcolm McEvoy & Billy Wardle.

The third team completed their season with a 6 - 4 win over Blackpool, this team have had a disappointing season, but although they lost more than they won they have avoided relegation, the fourth team also recorded a win in their final match to finish up in a respectable position in div. 5. This team has been used to give experience to players who have never represented Wirral before and to juniors. Best results were obtained by Bernie Wentworth & Andy Taylor but Roger Butler after a poor start won several matches in fine style.

The junior first team beat Ellesmere Port in the final match of the season by 6 - 4 to win the Div. 2 championship. The tension generated by the importance of the match (only a win was good enough for our team) meant that the quality of play was not as good as anticipated. Andy Taylor, Bernie Wentworth and Gary Daw were the regular members of this team and high hopes are entertained of the team winning Div. 1 next season.

The junior second team finished their season by beating Macclesfield to attain a respectable mid-table position. The regular team was Paul Birken, Neil Kirsopp & Neil Montague. Opportunity was also given taken to give representative experience to Paul Wright, Graham Fletcher, Julian Weatherall & Leigh Donnison.

Congratulations to Andy Taylor who was picked to play in a regional team to play a visiting team from Norway recently I believe he won one & lost one of his games.