

# The Wirral Horn

NEWSLETTER OF THE WIRRAL TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Editor :- Stan Wilkinson.

January 1986.

A happy New Year to all our readers !

With this copy you will find your entry form for the 'WIRRAL CLOSED' please send this back soon as possible, there are plenty of events to enter so you are ensured of a good days. Even though like me you never get passed the first round.

Events at the H.Q. Arrowe Park.

Friday 10th. Jan Wirral 'B' v Rochdale.

Friday 17th. Jan Wirral 'A' v Liverpool 'A'

Friday 24th. Jan Wirral Ladies v Wigan.

Sunday 26th Jan 1pm. 'Bill Harris Tournament contact Alan Timewell for details.

Friday 7th. Feb Wirral v Bolton 'A'

The Cheshire Closed will be held at Runcorn on Sat. February 1st.

Handbook amendments :- Rob Sim (Caldy 2) New tel no. 334 5868 (H)

Civic 1st team captain :- Roy Smith 608 4691.

Pinewood 1st team captain Alan Timewell.

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It is with regret that I record the untimely death of Bob Ashurst lately playing for the Upton C.C. club he has been a loyal member of the League for many years playing for various clubs, we send our sympathy to his family from his many friends in the League.

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J.S.BANKS Cup

Pinewood v Civic  
Wall. Man. v Thingwall

Results by 3rd. Feb. to Bill Gibbons.







## DIARY OF A SEASON

Originally I was going to call this one "Diary of Half a Season" and make it the last. The original objective, to write an entertaining, warts - and - all account of the whole season, has proved far more difficult to achieve than I expected. Perhaps someone with greater literary talent than what I have got (thank you Ernie Wise) might like to try on behalf of their team? Anyway until your editor gets hold of some alternative material, he suggests I carry on, so blame him !

DECEMBER The month opens with a top-of-the-table clash at Alderley Readers (if any) of last month's literary masterpiece will recall that a decent performance from Mr Free at this venue occurs rather less frequently than a visit from Halley's comet. This occasion proves to be no exception, and the Alderley net and floorboards take a fearful pounding from misplaced smashes. Nonetheless, he does take one game off 'Sandy' Sanderson, which makes it one of his best performances ever at Alderley. At the end of the night, his inability to perform is matched only by his car, which steadfastly refuses to start, and has to be abandoned in Ethelbert road overnight.....

In fact several players besides Ian are well below their best, which makes for a rather disappointing match. Fortunately three of them (Messrs Reed-Clayton, Weldon & Loftus) are Alderley players, so we run out 6 - 4 winners, with Mike & John going through the night unbeaten. The whole match is played in a subtropical heat which does wonders for the bar takings. A pity no one has thought of this at Caldly - the following week we "entertain" Thingwall in the usual sub-zero climate.

Don Collister dominates the match, he wins both singles in which Mike & John fail to take their chances, and blasts Phil & Ian off the table in his doubles with Bill Wonderley. Even more remarkably, he wins a set for us. This occurs when Ian is called on to play Wonderley. Following on from last week's efforts, is lacking form and confidence, having already lost another particularly awful singles. But early on in this set one of Collister's less discreet and more audible remarks wrings an incredible transformation, and suddenly Ian is blasting his way to a crucial and unexpected straight games win.

Most spectacular game of the evening is Phil's aerial battle against Arthur Lampkin. at times, it seems as if they have forgotten about the game, and are just trying to see how high they can get the ball over the net without hitting the ceiling. They split 80 points between them, but in the third it gets serious, and the Thingwall players greater firepower tells as Phil is shot down in flames 21 - 10.

Although none of us play particularly well, each wins one singles and John & Mike pick up a doubles. The final result (5-5) leaves both sides mulling over games they could or should have won, and keeps us top of the table with 61 points.



<u>DIVISION ONE</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>PTS</u>
CIVIC 2	9	8	1	0	74
CALDY	10	8	0	2	71
N.B.C.C. 3	9	7	1	1	62
ALDERLEY	9	5	1	3	54
N.A.L.G.O.	10	6	1	3	53
PINEWOOD 2	10	2	4	4	42
UPTON V.H.	10	4	0	5	38
NESTON	9	3	0	6	35
WALL. MAN 2	8	2	0	6	29
W.R.U.F.C.	9	0	1	8	26
CALDY 2	7	0	1	6	16

<u>DIVISION TWO</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>PTS</u>
CALDY 3	10	8	2	0	69
ALDERLEY 2	10	6	3	1	64
CIVIC 3	10	5	3	2	57
THINGWALL	9	6	2	1	54
N.B.C.C. 4	10	4	0	6	49
OXTON C.C.	9	5	1	3	47
CALDY 4	10	4	0	6	44
ENG. MART.	9	2	3	4	41
ST PETERS	9	2	0	7	35
N.G.L.T.C.	9	2	1	6	31
NESTON C.C. 2	9	0	1	8	29

<u>DIVISION THREE</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>PTS</u>
UPTON C.C.	10	9	1	0	77
ENG. MART. 2	10	4	3	3	54
WALL. MAN 3	10	3	2	5	52
PINEWOOD 3	8	7	0	1	51
CALDY 6	10	4	1	5	47
G.R.P.C.	8	5	1	2	44
W.R.U.F.C. 2	10	3	2	5	43
WALL FERRIES	10	1	4	5	40
MARCONI	9	3	0	6	39
THINGWALL 2	7	3	2	2	38
CALDY 5	10	0	2	8	25



<u>DIVISION FOUR</u>	P	W	D	L	PTS
PINEWOOD 4	9	8	1	0	70
N.A.L.G.O. 2	9	4	3	2	56
ENG. MART. 3	8	6	1	1	54
LIVINGSTONE ST	9	5	1	3	49
THMP. & ROSS	8	5	0	3	42
NESTON 3	9	3	2	4	42
CXTON C.C. 2	8	2	1	5	33
UPTON C.C. 2	8	2	0	6	29
CIVIC 4	9	0	2	7	26
LDY 7	7	1	1	5	19

DIVISION FIVE

OXTON C.C. 3	11	9	2	0	88
BIRK. B.B.	11	7	3	1	80
BIRK. L.R.	10	8	2	0	70
WALL. FERR 2	10	7	0	3	65
ENG. MART 4	11	5	0	6	59
N.A.L.V.O. 3	11	5	3	3	58
G.R.P.C. 2	11	4	1	6	51
MARCCNI 2	10	4	3	3	46
N.B.C.C. 5	10	2	3	5	41
OXTON C.C. 4	11	2	1	8	30
BIRK. B.B. 2	11	1	0	10	26
CIVIC 5	9	0	0	9	16

PREMIER DIVISION

N.B.C.C.	5	5	0	0	43
CIVIC	5	3	1	1	29
N.B.C.C. 2	7	1	2	4	25
WALL MANOR	6	1	1	4	21
PINEWOOD	3	1	0	2	12

LEADING AVERAGES

M. McEVROY (nbcc)	P 15	W 14	93%
D. ROBERTS (nbcc)	P 15	W 13	86%
B. WENTWORTH (nbcc 2)	P 12	W 10	83%
A. TAYLOR (wall man)	P 18	W 11	61%

LONSDALE CUP Round 4 To be played w/c Jan. 20th.

SEVEN results from round 3 still awaited, winning captains please telephone result and I will inform them of opponents as soon as possible.

N.A.L.G.O. 2 will be at home to N.A.L.G.O., or N.B.C.C.



The following week, we head south - three of us to Bromborough, Ian to Majorca. This gives sixth-teamer Eddie Moss a chance to show off his attacking skills against a flu-ridden St Peters side.

The wins mount up, and at 8 - 0 we have hopes of making it a clean sweep and catching last orders at the three stags. Brian Carter has other ideas, however. Earlier, Mike had managed to ease him onto the table, and off again, without waking him up, but in the ninth set, John is less fortunate, a see-saw battle goes to a third game deuce, where a couple of blistering backhands and a net cord tip the scales in favour of the St Peters man, he then partners Glyn Owen to another third game win, this time against Phil 7 Lddie.

So after 10 games (halfway), we're just below the 70% mark, but we're still top, and our score will take some licking, however Alderley 2, Thingwall, Civic 3 & Oxton will naturally be thinking otherwise, Here's wishing them all, and every other team in the division, every success in 1986 ( i.e. we hope you all draw your remaining matches 5 - 5).

Finally, here's wishing anyone else who hasn't long since turned the page- A Happy New Year !

M.S.

HEPPLE CUP

HEPPLE CUP

N.C.L.T.C. 5

CALDY 2nd 4.

Old veterans never die, they just get better and better, Norman Eymond for them is only a junior veteran, looks about 25, says he is 44. Still how many Normans do you know under 40. Anyway Gets to 42 points quickly against him and he scores 25! Bill Blundell, 60 or 70, makes no difference, strips off in the freezing cold, fire still not working, does a few handstands and plays with the verve of a junior, I have only spin serves to thank for winning in 3 games, Glyn our junior veteran, then wins a vital game over Bob Boyle, who would make a whirlwind look static. I then outhits Mary in 3, and I just get the better of Norman at 22-20 in the 3rd, making it 4 - 1 at tea and 'Jammy Dodgers' time. But Bill makes it 2 - 4 with a straight games win over Glyn, and Caldy are still in with a chance, Mary & Bob was not a game for people with weak hearts, and the set was played at furious pace which was quite exhausting to watch. Glyn and I were so shattered after helping Mary to win 22 - 20 in the 3rd, that we both lost our remaining games. Paul missed this match having been run over by a Hoover.

Old Man of the Match -mBill Blundell



CIVIC 3rd 8 N.C.L.T.C. 2

Civic-overheated and outplayed by an Indonesian, an Italian and 2 Girls, Cyril, back from Majorca with a cold is outgunned by Sorrentino, and Mary cannot fathom Val Franco's oriental magic. Then at the table I spy Mabel, Neary ex Francis, former Liverpool Ladies star, with a forehand like a Cobra and a hiss to go with it. I am prepared for this, but am caught unawares by her change of style which entails slow loops and vicious spins. Despite leading 20 - 17 in 2nd managed to lose in 2 straight first competitive loss to a woman in 25 years, Cyril is far too much a gentleman to defeat Jean Monaghan, but Barbara brings off our only victory with a fighting win over Sorrentino. He starts like a 'Scirocco' but blows himself out. Fu Ling U (Oriental conjurer) and I then play an exhibition which the crowd enjoy, no need to say HU won. Mary is usually deadly against other women, but Jean stays with her, and despite having all the luck against her pulls off a great win. Both doubles go to them, and Barbara then plays a good first game against Mabel, but in the 2nd Mabel lets the Cobra out of its bag, and hissing forehands speed past Barbara.

Woman of the match - Mabel.

CALDY 4s. 8 N.C.L.T.C. 2.

Arrive late at Caldy (Paul was transport) with a bad headache, not improved by seeing P. Deeks down at No 1. He is supposed to be injured, and manages a few token limps on entry. However this does not seem to impede him from easy wins over Paul & I. Previously by the news that the Bar was open had beaten Bob Boyle. Things were warming up nicely, when the fire went out, and Bob refused to allow us to burn his bat, Mary Barbara could make nothing of Bill Blundell who thumped away merrily while people trailed back and forth to the bar, and Rugby players clattered in. Mary who has eyes in the back of her head was most affected with this traffic. I am on the way to a comfy win over Phil Dean, when Deeksy warns me for a foul serve, actually it was the old 'cardigan' conjuring tricks at work, but I am unnerved and do a bad foul serve next go, but Deeksy wondering whether he should have given a point on the previous serve does not call it, and I manage our second set. Paul and I should also have taken the doubles, game and up and 17 - 18 with Paul to serve to Phil Dean who is clearly nervous and fails to return the 3 serves that Paul gets on the table. Unhappily Paul fails to get the other 2 serves into play, one off the table, and then at 20 - 19 on the wrong side - just about. Ah well that's life.

Man of the match Deeksy.



### Leading Averages

#### Div. 1

M Tierney	(Civic 2)	P 12 W 12	100%
R Jones	(Civic 2)	P 12 W 12	100%
J Cooner	(Caldy)	P 16 W 15	94%
N Roberts	(ALDO)	P 12 W 10	83%
J Clewitt	(Civic 2)	P 14 W 11	79%
E McLeod	(Caldy)	P 14 W 11	79%
E Murphy	(NBCC 3)	P 14 W 11	79%
T Barraclough	(NBCC 3)	P 18 W *4	78%

#### Div. 2

V Franco	(Civic 3)	P 14 W 13	93%
L Collister	(Thing)	P 18 W 15	83%
J Gallagher	(Eng M)	P 18 W 15	83%
M Neary	(Civic 3)	P 12 W 10	83%
F Hurworth	(Oxton)	P 16 W 13	81%
H Sanderson	(Ald)	P 20 W 16	80%
G Abbott	(nbcc 4)	P 20 W 15	75%
F Loftus	(Ald)	P 20 W 15	75%

#### Div 3

J Heskin	(Upton)	P 20 W 18	90%
F Godby	"	P 20 W 18	90%
F Elkin	(Wall Fer)	P 14 W 12	86%
H Bissell	(Thing 2)	P 14 W 11	79%

#### Div 4

F Williams	(Pine 4)	P 18 W 17	94%
S Corcoran	(T & R)	P 14 W 12	86%
G Williams	(Pine 4)	P 18 W 15	83%
B Dobson	(Eng M 3)	P 16 W 13	81%
M Ashton	(Liv St)	P 18 W 14	78%
I Kernighan	(Pine 4)	P 12 W 9	75%

#### Div 5

J Sullivan	(Oxton 3)	P 22 W 20	91%
E Grain	(Wall F 2)	P 20 W 18	90%
I Lau	(Eng M 4)	P 20 W 18	90%
A Deponio	(BBB)	P 22 W 19	86%
H McDonald	(BBB)	P 20 W 17	85%
M Allen	(GRPC)	P 22 W 18	82%
B Lynch	(Oxton 3)	P 22 W 18	82%
B Kelly	(B L R)	P 18 W 14	78%
D Steadman	(NBCC 5)	P 20 W 15	75%



# The Wirral Horn

## NEWSLETTER OF THE WIRRAL TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Editor :- Stan Wilkinson

February 1986.

This is the month of the WIRRAL CLOSED everybody should have entry forms if not please ring Les Garrett on 644 9739 or myself on 527 4221 and we will oblige, the tournament will be held at Grange Rd as usual these days on Sunday 23 rd. feb. plenty of events for everybody.

There is still room for a few more on Thursday nights at the H Q we are enjoying some good nights Table Tennis there why not come and have a game or two or maybe a spot of coaching or maybe just a coffee and a chew over old times, you never know if we get too many going we shall have to spread it out to two nights !

Events at ARROWE PARK :-

Friday 7th. Feb 7.30 pm. WIRRAL v BOLTON 'A'  
Friday 14th. Feb 7.30 pm. WIRRAL 'C' v MID CHESHIRE.  
Saturday 15th. Feb 2.30 pm. CHESHIRE II v LINCOLNSHIRE.  
Friday 21st. Feb 7.30 pm. WIRRAL 'A' v BLACKBURN 'A'  
Friday 28th. Feb 7.30 pm. WIRRAL JUNIOR 'A' v TARGET GOLD  
Friday 14th. March 7.30 pm. WIRRAL JUNIOR 'A' v PRESTON 'A'

Let me underline the COUNTY MATCH on 15th. Feb a chance to see a top match locally, spectators would make a difference, especially to a team who have travelled so far.



CIVIC (5) - 1 NALGO (3) -9.

Civic's drive to increase their points tally was not in any way helped by this result but individual games are beginning to come Civics way - 4 this time.

Nalgo put in Brian Hadfield against Susi as the first set and as usual Brian beams happily at everyone - opponent, umpire and spectators alike. A good game is produced with some fine rallies and counterattack, Brian eventually sailing through in straight games.

For the home side Rob is having one of his better nights, soon realising that Andy Jones is not moving around the table fast enough to reach his hits - it later transpires that Andy has damaged tendons in his leg following a football injury. Rob seizes his opportunity and wins with some good power play levelling the score at one - all.

However Civic's rising hopes are soon dashed as Nalgo recall Brian to play Peter L. for a fast and furious get with good examples by both of (nearly) orthodox forehand attack and equally good examples by the Nalgo player of a type of backhand volley almost defying description one seeming to consist of leaps in the air with the ball played from somewhere around the front of his jumper. They work and the opposition are 2 - 1 up.

Civic try to cash in on Andy's injury by putting him on again against Chris but he's having none of it, and proceeds to deal out a straight games win to the home sides dismay. The second half produces some good table tennis, notably Norah Murphy's games against Susi and Rob, both of which go to three, unfortunately the wrong way for the Civic pair.

Meanwhile Dick Bradbury for Nalgo patiently sitting watching from the sidelines and thinking that maybe he wasn't in the team that night, finally gets called on for sets 7, 8 (doubles) and 10. Any hopes by the home side that at his age he may not have the stamina for all this prove groundless. Singles wins over Chris and Peter, despite the latter's attempt to take the second game in his set catching up to 17 all after being 9 - 16 down, together with partnership in a doubles victory over Chris and young Peter Walsh complete the 9 - 1 result for Nalgo.

Best players - Nalgo Brian  
- Civic Rob.

AWL.



I have to play D. South first. He is the only member of the Oxton team that I do not know, and I still don't know him. His style is hard to describe, and even harder to play against. After about 10 points I have gone through my varied repertoire of misses and lose 5 & 7.

Paul is slightly more successful against Roy Tierney, who I remember as a junior star. He has not changed much, only a bit more of him. Anyway class tells as Roy takes all Paul can throw at him and puffs his way to a straight game win.

News comes that Bernie Lynch's shoes have arrived, and shortly after Bernie. He splits games with Barbara, but then forges ahead in the third, with a succession of mishits and edges. Not wanting to boost Peter Hurworth's morale too much by playing him at singles, I opt for 1st. doubles, knowing that Paul is always good for a game at this event. I am correct and we lose in 3 to Peter & Roy. Peter then fools everybody by calling Paul on again for his singles, and proves 'HIS' worth in two closely fought duce games. Finally I manage to get Mary into action against Bernie. This brings into opposition the current holders of the Mens & Womens singles of the Wallasey Table Tennis Tournament, which was last held in the early 60s, anyway Mary wins, which shows that she would have probably won the Men's title as well.

I am interested what Barbara can make of South, and the answer is not much, but she did get into double figures. In the last two singles Roy & Peter demonstrate their backhand kills against Mary & I respectively. The evenings programme is brought to a close by 2nd. doubles, where Mary & Barbara at last find an answer to South's game. Only let him hit the ball every 4th. shot.

Man of the match is not North, East or West.

I. McC.

Our WIRRAL 'A' team beat LIVERPOOL 'A' 6 - 4 at the H.Q.  
Eric Hardman, Nigel Rafferty & Alan Timewell doing the honours.

The WIRRAL first team beat SOUTHPORT 8 - 2 as well - Dave Roberts on a hat trick - but Phil Thompson of Southport taking one off Neil Royden & Malc McEvoy.



<u>DIVISION ONE</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>PTS</u>
CIVIC 2	11	10	1	0	92
CALDY	12	10	0	2	87
NPCS 3	11	7	2	2	71
NALGO	12	7	1	4	63
ALXERLEY	10	6	1	3	60
PINEWOOD 2	12	2	5	5	49
UPTON VH	12	5	0	7	45
NESTON	10	4	0	6	43
WRUFC	12	1	2	9	40
WALL MAN 2	10	2	1	7	38
CALDY 2	10	0	1	9	22

DIVISION TWO

CALDY 3	12	10	2	0	82
ALXERLEY 2	13	8	3	2	82
CIVIC 3	12	6	4	2	68
OXTON	13	6	2	5	68
THINGWALL	11	7	2	2	64
ENG MART	13	5	3	5	62
CALDY 4	13	6	0	7	62
NECC 4	11	5	0	6	58
ST PETERS	13	3	0	10	48
NOFC	12	2	1	9	40
NESTON 2	11	0	1	10	35

DIVISION THREE

UPTON CC	12	11	1	0	96
WALL MAN 3	12	5	2	5	64
MARCONI	12	5	1	6	57
PINEWOOD 3	9	7	0	2	55
GRFC	10	6	1	3	54
ENG MART 2	10	4	3	3	54
THINGWALL 2	10	4	2	4	53
CALDY 6	13	5	1	8	53
WRUFC 2	11	4	2	5	49
WALL FERR	12	1	5	6	49
CALDY 5	11	0	2	9	26



DIVISION FOUR

	T	W	D	I	PTS
PINEWOOD 4	12	11	1	0	96
NALGO 2	12	6	3	3	75
ENG MART 3	10	8	1	1	70
LIV ST	10	6	1	3	57
NESTON 3	10	4	2	4	51
CXTON 2	10	3	1	6	42
THOMP & ROSS	9	5	0	4	42
UPTON CC 2	10	2	0	8	30
CALDY 7	10	1	1	8	29
CIVIC 4	11	0	2	9	28

DIVISION FIVE

CXTON 3	13	10	3	0	100
BLRK BB	13	8	3	2	90
TRK LREG	12	10	2	0	87
WALL FERR 2	13	9	0	4	85
ENG MART 4	13	6	0	7	71
NALGO 3	12	5	4	3	63
GREC 2	12	4	2	6	56
MARCONI 2	12	4	4	4	54
NBCC 5	11	2	3	6	42
OXTON 4	13	3	1	9	40
BLRK BB 2	13	1	0	12	29
CIVIC 5	11	1	0	10	23

PREMIER DIVISION

CIVIC	9	5	1	3	52
NBCC	6	5	0	1	45
WALL MAN	9	3	1	6	36
NBCC 2	9	2	2	5	35
PINEWOOD	7	3	0	4	32

Although not yet reflected in the league tables, pleased to report that the Premier Divisions games are now being played regularly and the fixtures are expected to be completed.



BILL LOWE SHIELD results from first round :-

THINGWALL	beat CIVIC5	by	9 points
THINGWALL 2	" MARCONI 2	by	31 points
UPTON CC 2	" NBCC 4	by	24 "
THOP & ROSS	" NESTON 2	by	8 2
NBCC 2	" BIRK L R	by	15 "
CALDY 2	" ENG MART 2	by	4 2
G R P C	" NBCC 5	by	22 "
OXTON 3	" NCLTC	by	70 "
UPTON CC	" St PETERS	by	43 "
CALDY 7	" Eng MART 4	by	3 "
UPTON VH	" WALL FERR 2	by	44 "
PINE 4	" WALL FERR	by	22 "
CALDY 3	" NALGO	by	39 "
NALGO 2	" ALDERLEY 2	by	10 "
WRUFC	" OXTON	by	5 "
NESTON 3	" GRPC 2	by	60 "
LIV ST	" ALDERLEY	by	5 "
WALL FERR 2	" ENG MART	by	52 "

Round one marked by a number of walkovers and teams playing one short which gave them no chance against the handicaps.

Early results from round two :- congratulations to organisers of home teams for their efficiency.

WRUFC 2	Beat	CALDY 3	by	41 Pts
PINEWOOD 4	"	WRUFC	by	14 "
LIVINGSTONE ST	"	NBCC 2	by	3 "
CALDY 4	"	CALDY 2	by	3 "
MARCONI	"	UPTON CC	Walk over.	



R A F A CUP Semi - finals

N A L G O           v     CALDY  
ALDERLEY or N B C C   3   v   CIVIC 2   or   PINWOOD 2

LONSDALE CUP Semi - finals

PINWOOD           v   N B C C  
CIVIC             v   THINGWALL   or   N B C C 2

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DIARY OF A SEASON - JANUARY

Just for the moment, it's time to forget about the league and turn our attention to the Bill Lowe Shield. We haven't a hope of winning, of course, Fixture Secretary P.A. Deeks (Caldy) would be so embarrassed at the idea of a team from his own club winning it, he'd hit us with a crippling handicap if we made any progress at all in the competition, so we duly get eliminated in the first week of matches, though it takes us two attempts to do so.

The first round throws us up against our RAFA cup conquerors, NALGO, at home, with a reasonable (for once) 50 point start. After 11 games, we're still 43 ahead, and it's looking easy for us. Stan Clayton is having an "off" night, Dave Morris is dreaming of TV stardom (he's been sent a Krypton Factor entry form/questionnaire), and the net and edge are driving Rich Jones to distraction. Then suddenly, Steve Deeble brings the tie to life with two brilliant wins Looping John off 21 - 8, and Ian 21 - 2. At this critical phase, with the margin down to 11 points, Ian elects to stay on the table, and shows his resilience, by beating Clayton 21 - 10. As a result, we go on to win by a comfortable margin (on paper at any rate). We never did find out if Dave Morris included "eliminated in 1st. round of Bill Lowe Shield in th'sporting achievements' section of his Krypton Factor questionnaire.....

Knowing that our next round opponents, WRUFC 2 are through on a walkover, our second round tie is arranged for three days later, at their place. this time we're giving 110 points away, against what always used to be one of our 'bogey' teams in seasons gone by. The match is played in their 'second' room and Ian decides that its floorboards remind him of Alderley - a clear sign of trouble ahead.



Sure enough after flattering to deceive against Bryn Halliday, he plays like a drain, hitting rock-bottom with a 8 - 21 against Fuller, which seals our fate. Mike & John are also below par, and only Phil demonstrates what's really needed. At the end, we're 42 points down, and our opponents are deserving winners.

So to the second half of the league season. We might be out of all the cups, but with everyone snapping at our heels in Div. 2, it's going to seem like we've got 10 cup finals to play. Moreover, as our individual percentages( ranging from 61 - 73) suggest, no-ones good enough to win the league for us single - handed - it's got to be a team effort and we can't afford anyone to have a bad run.

So round we go again - first up North Cheshire at home. Phil & Mike have relatively comfortable nights, but the alarm bells start ringing when John & Ian each go down in straight games to the supposedly weaker of their respective two opponents. John can't make his chop bite against Mary Robinson, and Ian throws points away with apparent indifference against Barbara Tyerman. However, both redeem themselves on their next visit to the table, with much improved performances. Ian's topspin and counter - hitting break up Mary's attacking game, while John hangs on bravely against Paul Chandler, and just nicks it 19 in the third. Two hard - fought doubles ensue, and we drop one of them, when the Robinson - Tyerman combination seize their chances in the third against Phil & Ian, we've had to work hard for a 7 - 3 against one of the bottom sides in the division - an indication of the evenness of it's strength.

The 'Derby' match against Caldby 4 is next. Ther's no chance of any 'favours' from them - they're at full strength and keen to avenge their 9 - 1 defeat from earlier in the season. Phil Deeks gives nothing away, and Bob Boyle hands John another defeat against a wooden bat hitter. Fortunately Ian comes good at just the right time; wins against John Sharratt & Bill Blundell give him his first 'double' since November. The doubles combination of Deeks and (in a wheelchair) John Sharratt poses insoluable problems for John & Mike, however, who never get used to the different rules required in this situation, In the end we just nick it 6 - 4 and remain top (albeit jointly) with Alderley, on 82 points, with a game in hand.

M.S.

Congratulations to our LADIES TEAM who won their match against WIGAN last Friday 6 - 4 Debbie, Belinda & Sharon seem to be getting it together and doing well keep it up, you can go far !