

The Wirral Horn

NEWSLETTER OF THE WIRRAL TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Editor :- Stan Wilkinson.

March 1981

WIRRAL CLOSED TOURNAMENT played at the Sports Centre Birkenhead 1/3/81.

Obvious from the much improved entry, the fact of holding the Tournament on a Sunday must be counted a success. It was good to see so many players there, also to see so many stay to watch the Finals played, although there was plenty of room for more.

Competition was hot for the Divisional titles, the 7th. Division was eventually won by Ian Owen NALGO from Micheal Snape (U.C.C.).

The 6th. Division was won by Rich. Barchha (Wally.M.C.A.) who beat David Shallcross (W.R.U.F.C.) 17/21 21/12 21/16 in the final.

Not so many entries in the 5th. Division (7) so M Kong found himself in the final after playing one set, only to be beaten by Steve Green (Mount) 21/17 22/20.

It was left to the two Johns from Wall. Manor to fight out the final of the 4th. Div. John Hardy eventually overcoming his Club-mate John Penberton 22/20.21/17 in the final.

22 entries from the 3rd. Div ! One or two notable names not getting very far, Alan Gurrie (of 200% fame) going out early, but give him his due he spent the rest of the day umpiring. Bill Lowe, Bill Blundell, Norm Berry all dissappeared very quickly and left it to Steve Lunt (Wirr. Ga) to win over Dave Harland (M.F.B.) in the final for the title.

In the 2nd. Div., Steve Wright had a good run, seeing off Barry Gordon, Roy Williams, Don Collister before going down in the Final to Val Franco who also had some good wins including Andy Lloyd, Art (Mr backhand) Lampkin and Phil Roberts in that order.

It was good to see such a big and keen entry for the Junior Boys event, it bodes well fir the future of the League. Billy Wardle was the star of the day reaching the final to play Rob Bevan, whom he eventually beat 19/21. 21/18. 21/18. in the final. I think Rob must have had his sights set higher at the time, his big moment came later, well done Billy.

Quickly gloss over the Girls singles, where were they all ? a beautiful Trophy to play for and just 1 entry!

The Ladies singles eveny was again dominated by Lynn Fennah, overcoming gallant Anne Hepple in the final. 14 entries for this event a little better but still room for lots more.

It was our very own 'Deadly Duo' Anne & Debbie for the Ladies
Doubles Title, wrenching the final from Mun and Lynne.

The Veterans Final is becoming an annual affair between Gordon
Exell & Peter Greenshields, Peter had obviously worked hard to get
there beating H Thomas, Ted Wilson, Val Franco but found Gordon just
too much again, I think Gordon has a tight hold on this title.

The Mens doubles was a very keenly fought competition, all
seemingly went to plan as the 4 seeds all reached the Semi- Final
stage - Fennah, Exell. Tinewell, Manning. Luxon, Birchall. & Roberts,
McEvoy. The final play off was between the Roberts McEvoy and
Tinewell Manning partnerships, a very good final played in a sort of
deep hush. I don't know why, maybe the spectators didn't want to shout
for the Chairman of the League because it would be unbecoming and be
accused of racial prejudice if they shouted for the others, so they
ended up sitting in stony silence, or maybe they were struck dumb
because of the wonder at such a high standard of play??

It was Rob Bevans day as far as the Mens singles competition
was concerned, although the competition was won very worthily by
Trevor Manning. Rob had a very hard run to get into the Final having
to beat Alan Pickering, Malc McEvoy, John Fennah (Last years winner)
then Gord Exell in the semis, but he found Trevor (likeso many other
players do) just too consistant.

Trevor and Dave Roberts delighted those that stayed to watch
in their semi-final game it was a pity one of them had to lose,
the score in the first game 26/24 to Trevor set the pattern, the
second game went to Dave at 22/20 the final game to Trevor 21/19.

We hope you all enjoyed this years tournament, thanks must go
to Norman, Sam, Les & David for the smooth running of it, also the
staff of the Sports Centre for their help and co-operation and to all
those of you who entered, and those who came to watch.

FOR SALE

A JAQUES TABLE TENNIS TABLE please ring 648 2121 or 652 1787
offers around £60.00.

With the kind consent of the Mountwood Y.C. the Finals of the R.A.F.A. Cup will take place at the CALLISTER Y.C. Premises on WED 11th. March, between Alderley 3, And Wallasey Manor,

The Callister Club is at 19 Argyl St Birkenhead, corner of Hamilton St On April 1st, The Final of the Lonsdale Cup between Alderley and Wirral Gas will take place at the same venue. Assuming that no "alterations" are made to the team order, a further thrilling encounter between Trevor Manning & Dave Roberts is eagerly expected.

The Committee of the Wirral League would like to thank all Clubs who have afforded their premises for the use of representative matches semi-finals and Finals.

BILL LOWE SHIELD replay match 2/2/81

GAUTBY RD 7th. Div V NESTON 1st, Div.

This match turned out to be very hard for our young players in the first round despite the handicap for us. Match temperament lost us the first encounter, so the replay at Gautby Rd turned out to be a cliff-hanger, Gautby start very well indeed with Karen Ormond (No 3) losing her first game 21/10, then our No 1 Mark Platt played Neston No 2 losing only game 12. Those first opening games gave our team great confidence, because in the first match we started so badly. The next of Gautby Ladies Heather Stenhouse played Nestons J Dancaster a excellent master of the backhand, but he was I think surprised at Heathers attacking game even though she lost 12/21.

Half-time pressure lay heavily on Neston, then they cracked, Mark Platt stepped in to score our only win against Neston's No 4. 21/17. the match was sealed for Gautby with the marvelous doubles games, even though losing 16/21 John Hayes & Mark Platt played very well, also our young Ladies only losing 19/21.

One big mention has to be made to all Nestons team, thank-you for your great sportsmanship and inspiration.

DIVISION ONE

	<u>P</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>PTS</u>
ALDERLEY	12	11	1	0	100	20	22
WIRRAL GAS	12	10	1	1	97	23	21
PINEWOOD	10	7	2	1	70	30	15
PINEWOOD 2	10	5	3	2	53	47	12
NESTON	9	5	3	1	44	46	11
ALDERLEY 2	11	4	6	1	44	66	9
LEVER	11	3	6	2	42	68	8
CALDY	10	3	6	1	41	59	7
WALL R.U.F.C	13	1	10	2	33	97	4
ST PETERS	12	0	11	1	26	94	1

DIVISION TWO

ALDERLEY 3	12	10	1	1	88	32	21
WALL MANOR	12	8	2	2	77	43	18
PINEWOOD 3	11	8	2	1	74	36	17
THORNDALE	11	5	4	2	54	56	12
MOSSLANDS	13	6	7	0	57	73	12
NESTON 2	11	5	5	1	52	58	11
N.A.L.G.O.	12	3	7	2	49	71	8
BUSWAYS	11	2	6	3	47	63	7
CALDY 2	12	2	7	3	43	77	7
BROM POOL	13	1	9	3	49	81	5

DIVISION THREE

CIVIC	14	13	1	0	104	36	26
ALDERLEY 4	14	12	1	1	97	43	25
UPTON C.C.	13	8	2	3	84	46	19
CALDY 3	15	7	4	4	89	61	18
MERSEY FIRE B.	16	6	5	5	90	70	17
N.A.L.G.O. 2	15	7	5	3	84	66	17
WIRRAL GAS 2	14	8	6	0	73	67	16
PINEWOOD 4	15	6	8	1	70	80	13
UPTON V.H.	12	3	6	3	57	63	9
NESTON 3	14	2	12	0	52	88	4
POLICE	12	2	10	0	36	84	4
D.K.S.	14	0	14	0	4	136	0

DIVISION FOUR

	P	W	L	D	F	A	PTS
WALL MANOR 2	15	15	0	0	133	17	30
THORNDALE 2	15	11	2	2	95	55	24
CIVIC 2	14	9	2	3	86	54	21
ALDERLEY 5	15	8	5	2	81	69	18
WALL. R.U.F.C. 2	15	7	5	3	79	71	17
BUSWAYS 2	14	7	5	2	75	65	16
ENG. MART	13	5	4	4	66	64	14
CALDY 4	15	5	7	3	77	73	13
NESTON 4	15	5	8	2	71	79	12
CALDY 5	15	2	12	1	47	103	5
WIRRAL GAS 3	16	2	13	1	41	119	5
N.A.L.G.O. 3	16	1	14	1	39	121	3

DIVISION FIVE

MOUNTWOOD	11	11	0	0	97	13	22
UPTON V.H. 2	14	8	2	4	88	52	20
B'HEAD L.R. 2	13	8	5	1	74	56	17
ENG. MART 2	12	8	3	1	67	53	17
F.I.L.	11	7	2	2	72	38	16
ST. SAVIOURS	11	5	4	2	54	56	12
WALL. R.U.F.C. 3	14	3	7	4	65	75	10
CIVIC 3	13	3	7	3	52	78	9
POLICE 2	13	1	9	3	46	84	5
B'HEAD L.R.	12	1	9	2	32	88	4
MARINE	12	2	10	0	31	89	4

DIVISION SIX

WALL. Y.M.C.A.	15	11	2	2	95	55	24
MERSEY FIRE B. 2	14	7	4	3	82	58	17
WALL, MAN 3	14	6	4	4	87	53	16
EGERTON	14	6	4	4	78	62	16
PINEWOOD 5	13	7	4	2	72	58	16
WALL FERRIES	13	4	4	5	70	60	13
N.B.C.C.	13	5	6	2	67	63	12
WALL. R.U.F.C. 4	13	4	5	4	62	68	12
POSTAL	9	4	2	3	50	40	11
CALDY 6	15	5	9	1	63	87	11
ENG. MART 3	13	4	7	2	52	77	10
CIVIC 4	14	1	13	0	21	119	2

<u>DIVISION SEVEN</u>	P	W	L	D	F	A	PTS
N.A.L.G.O. 4	11	11	0	0	101	9	22
UPTON C.C. 2	12	11	1	0	94	26	22
PINEWOOD 6	12	9	3	0	78	42	18
G.R.P.C.	13	7	4	2	82	48	16
CALDY 7	13	5	6	2	65	65	12
NESTON 5	12	4	5	3	46	74	11
ENG. MART 4	14	4	9	1	55	85	9
BIRK. B.B.	12	3	8	1	46	74	7
PINEWOOD 7	12	1	10	1	23	97	3
BUSWAYS 3	11	1	10	0	20	90	2

PLAYERS AVERAGES - Qual. 50% of games

<u>DIVISION ONE</u>			<u>DIVISION TWO</u>		
D ROBERTS	W.GAS.	100.0	R.WILLIAMS	Pine 3	85.7
P GREENSHIELDS	ALD	100.0	V FRANCO	ALD 3	80.0
A TIMEWELL	"	90.0	P ROBERTS	"	80.0
J FENNAH	Pine	88.9	R BAKER	WALL. M	72.7
P LUXON	W.GAS	83.3	P REID?CLAYTON	ALD 3	70.0
P BIRCHALL	"	83.3	T JOHNSON	BUS	68.2
D CARLISLE	ALD	81.3	N ROWLANDS	WALL M	66.7
R BEVAN	Pine 2	81.3	G WALLS	"	66.7
M McEVOY	W.GAS	72.7	D MORRIS	NALGO	66.7
C PAGE	ALD 2	71.4			
<u>DIVISION THREE</u>			<u>DIVISION FOUR</u>		
A CURRIE	ALD 4	93.8	J HARDY	WALL M 2	92.6
B CUNDALL	UVH	90.1	J PEMBERTON	"	92.3
J HESKINE	UC.C.	84.6	I BAWDEN	"	89.3
G KIRSOPP	MFB	81.3	P PEARSON	CIVIC 2	78.6
R JONES	CIVIC	80.8	G CHARLES	WALL M 2	76.9
E WALSH	NESTON 3	76.9	M THORNE	THORN	76.7
P LOFTUS	ALD 4	75.0	J GALLACHER	ENG MART	72.7
J FOWLER	PIN 4	75.0	N PARKINSON	"	70.8
N BERRY	W GAS 2	71.4	G CHALLINOR	THORN 2	68.2
<u>DIVISION FIVE</u>					
M KONG	MOUNT	95.5	M HARE	UVH 2	85.7
S GREEN	"	95.0	R JONES	"	83.3
B KENNA	ST SAV	93.8	I STREET	MOUNT	81.8
S ROBERTS	FIL	88.9	G CADDY	B LR2	69.2
M DEPONIO	MOUNT	86.4			

DIVISION SIX

B FULLER	POST	100.0
J STEVENSON	EGERT	88.5
S CROWLEY	WALL M	381.8
G ABBOTT	MFB	81.2
P HESTER	WYMCA	80.0
R DAVIES	WALL F	79.2
Rich BARCHHA	WYMCA	77.8
J BARROW	ENG M 3	75.0
I NUNNEY	WRUFC4	75.0
Rob BARCHHA	WYMCA	72.2

DIVISION SEVEN

I OWEN	NALGO 4	95.5
S MC LOED	2	95.0
P OWEN	"	95.0
T BRYAN	PINE 6	92.9
M SNAPE	UCC 2	91.7
P DARE	"	86.4
J BARTON	NALGO 4	78.6
B DOBSON	ENG M 4	77.8
R KENYON	UCC 2	77.8
M ROBERTS	PINE 6	75.0

ALDERLEY V PINEWOOD (Friday 6th. Feb.)

Hoads of spectators were well ushered and sitting in quiet anticipation as the Alderley Club staged its second blockbuster in three weeks, this time against champions Pinewood.

Pinewood called on Roberts against Barraclough and in what turned out to be a tortoise and hare game Neil was thankful to escape a third game against a tenacious opponent 21/17, 22/20 (1-0). Manning v Exell followed, Gordon led 9-6, in a very interesting first meeting on the Wirral of our Nos 1 & 3, only to go down 21/16, The second game was won 21/19 by Gordon in a dour tactical battle and he led 10-6 at the change in the third only to be gradually overhauled. The highlight of the game was a 47 stroke rally at 18 -13, Gordon eventually losing 21/13 in a match much closer than the score suggests. (2-0).

Second doubles Roberts/Carlisle v Fennah/Barraclough turned out to be a hounding of hitting and blocking the Pinewood pair scraping home 21/19, 22/20. (2-1). Timewell beat Atwell 15 & 10. (3 -1) and this was followed by Carlisle/ Barraclough. Trevor won the first 21/15 by dint of some good retrieving which eventually forced Dave into too many errors Dave went through Trevor 21/6 in the second and led 10-4 in the third, when Houdini struck again - incredibly Trevor won 21/13 !! (3-2)

First doubles Manning/Timewell V Exell/Atwell was an anti climax the Pinewood pair winning the "battle of the funny bats" easily 21/14 21/16 (3-3). The stage was thus set for the battle of the big boys Manning V Fennah, John won a classic attack v defence 21/18 in the first then blew it 11/21 in the second, in the third Trevor went 13/7 up then 17/14 down then won game 17, what a game ! (4-3). Carlisle v Atwell was next and Gordon using his backhand ayyack to good effect was just too steady winning a couple of 17s (4-4).

Timewell v Exell, Alan a game and 20/18 up failed to clinch it and paid the penalty losing 15 in the third (4-5).

To Roberts & Fennah fell the honour of settling this match, no quarter was asked or given and John just got the better of a counter-hitting epic 21/16 and a nail biting 22/20 what a fitting climax.

The walking wounded then retired to the bar for a couple of helpings of much needed medicinal compound. AT.

The last match of the season for our first team will take place at the E.C.R.C. Club Capenhurst, on Friday 13th. March.

A result in this match will secure a place for them in the premier division of the Lancashire & Cheshire League next season, this will obviously put a bit of edge on this match, should be worth watching.

Good news from our second team they are also sitting pretty at the top of their division at the moment, our third team and Ladies are both esconced in the middle of their respective divisions.

Our Juniors also are in a safe position in their division.

Results are awaited for the undermentioned games which are outstanding at 20-2-81.

Lever v Neston	Wall Man 2 v Eng. Mar
Alderley v Alderley 2	Mount v St Sav
Pinewood v Neston	B Head L R v F.I.L.
Neston 2 v Busways	Postal v N.B.C.C.
F.I.L. v B Head l.r. 2	Wall Fer v Eng Mart 3
Police v Civic	Neston 5 v Busway 3
MFB 2 v Postal	Busways v Thorndale
W Gas 2 v U.V.H	U.V.H. v Neston 3
Marine v F.I.L.	Mount v Eng Mart 2
Wall Fer.v Postal	Police 2 v St Sav
Wall M3 v W.R.U.F.C.	Civic 4 v Egerton
Pine 2 v Neston	Eng Mart 3 v N.B.C.C.
Pine v Lever	Postal v Pinewood 5
U.V.H. v U.C.C.	Wirr Gas 2 v D.K.S.
Ald 4 v Police	Pine 5 v Postal

The Wirral Horn

NEWSLETTER OF THE WIRRAL TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Editor :- Stan Wilkinson.

APRIL 1981

The good news this month is that the Wirral First Team has won itself a place in the Premier division of the Lancashire And Cheshire League for next season and I hope for many seasons to come, it is 10 years since we had a team playing at this level, congratulations and thanks must be given to our 'regulars' TREVOR MANNING. DAVE ROBERTS and GORDON EXELL for their efforts on our behalf throughout the season, their enthusiasm and dedication has made my job as team manager very easy and also very pleasant.

Also our second team has gained promotion to the second division to take our vacated place, this must give all our 'rep' players a boost of confidence to start the new season with, and give our young players something well worth while to aim for.

The news of our third team is still coming in, their results from the last three matches shows -

Wirral 'B'	V	Glossop	won 7 - 3.
"	V	Widnes & Runcorn	won 8 - 2.
"	V	Wilmslow	lost 6 - 4.

Phil Luxon a very consistent member of this team all season winning 8 out of his 9 games in these matches.

Rob Bevan called into the team for the last few matches consistently winning 2 out of his three games each night.

I will try to print the relevant league tables in the final Wirral Horn next month.

The Lonsdale Cup for this season has been won by Wirral Gas beating Alderleys first team in the final. 8 sets to 2.

The final of the J.S. Banks Trophy will be played on 22nd. April 1981 at the Caldby Club between teams from Alderley & Pinewood.

<u>DIVISION ONE</u>	P	W	L	D	F	A	PTS
WIRRAL GAS	16	14	1	1	134	26	29
ALDERLEY	15	14	1	0	127	23	28
PINEWOOD	13	10	2	1	97	33	21
PINEWOOD 2	14	7	5	2	69	71	16
NESTON	12	6	5	1	55	65	13
CALDY	14	5	8	1	57	83	11
ALDERLEY 2	14	5	8	1	52	88	11
LEVER	14	4	8	2	56	84	10
W.R.U.F.C.	16	2	12	2	38	122	4
ST PETERS	16	0	15	1	35	125	1
<u>DIVISION TWO</u>							
ALDERLEY 3	16	14	1	1	118	42	29
WALL MANOR	14	9	2	3	89	51	21
PINEWOOD 3	12	9	2	1	81	39	19
NESTON 2	14	7	6	1	69	71	15
THORNDALE	16	6	7	3	75	85	15
CALDY 2	16	5	7	4	68	92	14
MOSSLANDS	14	6	7	1	62	78	13
BUSWAYS	15	3	9	3	64	86	9
N.L.G.O.	16	3	11	2	59	101	8
BROM POOL	15	1	11	3	55	95	5
<u>DIVISION THREE</u>							
ALDERLEY 4	19	17	1	1	143	47	35
CIVIC	18	17	1	0	131	49	34
UPTON C.C.	19	12	4	3	123	67	27
CALDY 3	18	9	4	5	110	70	23
N.A.L.G.O.	19	9	6	4	108	82	22
WIRRAL GAS 2	17	10	7	0	94	76	20
MERSEY F.B.	19	7	7	5	97	93	19
PINEWOOD 4	18	7	10	1	87	93	15
UPTON V.H.	18	4	10	4	81	99	12
NESTON 3	19	4	15	0	74	116	8
POLICE	18	2	16	0	42	138	4
D.K.S.	18	0	17	1	10	170	1

<u>DIVISION FOUR</u>	P	W	L	D	F	A	PTS
WALL MANOR 2	18	17	1	0	153	27	34
CIVIC 2	20	14	3	3	127	73	31
THORNDALE 2	20	13	4	3	118	82	29
CALDY 4	20	9	7	4	110	90	22
W.R.U.F.C. 2	18	9	6	3	98	82	21
ALDERLEY 5	20	9	9	2	105	95	20
ENG. MART	*18	8	6	4	93	87	20
BUSWAYS 2	19	8	7	4	95	95	20
NESTON 4	19	7	9	3	91	99	17
CALDY 5	19	2	14	3	62	128	7
WIRRAL GAS 3	20	2	17	1	47	153	5
NALGO 3	19	1	16	2	51	139	4

DIVISION FIVE

MOUNTWOOD	15	15	0	0	133	17	30
ENG. MART 2	15	11	3	1	87	63	23
F.I.L.	15	9	3	2	99	51	22
UPTON V.H.2	16	7	5	4	86	74	18
B'HEAD L.R. 2	14	8	5	1	75	65	17
W.R.U.F.C. 3	16	4	7	5	76	84	13
CIVIC 3	15	3	9	3	61	89	9
POLICE 2	15	2	11	2	51	99	6
MARINE	14	3	11	0	38	102	6
B'HEAD L.R.	13	1	10	2	32	98	4

St Saviours record deleted.

DIVISION SIX

WALL Y.M.C.A.	26	15	3	2	130	70	32
PINEWOOD 5	18	11	4	3	110	70	25
MERSEY F.B. 2	17	8	5	4	97	73	20
W.R.U.F.C. 4	18	8	6	4	94	86	20
WALL MANOR 3	18	7	6	5	109	71	19
EGERTON	16	6	4	6	88	72	18
WALL FERRIES	17	6	5	6	90	80	18
POSTAL	14	5	5	4	73	67	14
N.B.C.C.	17	6	9	2	78	92	14
CALDY 6	19	6	11	2	81	109	14
ENG. MART 3	16	4	10	2	57	103	10
CIVIC 4	16	1	15	0	23	137	2

<u>DIVISION SEVEN</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>PTS</u>
N.A.L.G.O. 4	16	16	0	0	149	11	32
UPTON C.C. 2	15	14	1	0	119	31	28
PINEWOOD 6	15	12	3	0	108	42	24
G.R.P.C.	16	8	6	2	98	62	18
CALDY 7	17	7	8	2	78	92	16
NESTON 5	16	6	7	3	68	92	15
B'HEAD B.B.	16	6	9	1	71	89	13
ENG. MART 4	16	4	11	1	59	101	9
PINEWOOD 7	16	1	14	1	27	133	3
BUSWAYS 3	17	1	16	0	23	147	2

The next issue of the Wirral Horn which will be the last one for this season will be available at the A.G.M. of the League, also available at this meeting a list of players averages for the season.

A still out of breath Noel Fagan told me about the hardest set he has ever had to play, this against Malc McEvoy during Caldys match against Wirral Gas - Malc. won the first game 30 - 28
 Noel won the second 24 - 26
 & went on to win the 3rd 21 - 17
 A few games like this and we will have to spread matches over 2 nights..

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the League will be held on Wed, 27th. May 1980 at 7.30 pm, at the Seacombe Ferrics Club Wallasey. Each Club must be represented, (£5. fine if not !)

The final of the Bill Lowe Shield will be played at the Beaufort Club on Fri, 10th. April between Pinewood 4 and Nalgo 4.

Copies of the minutes of last A.G.M. and also agenda will be found with this issue, 1 copy for each TEAM .

Look out for next months account of Neston 2 v Alderley 3 the final saga of Keiths eventfull season.....

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Editor :- Stan Wilkinson.

MAY 1981

Looking back now I think it was a mistake to leave this issue so late, it did seem to be a good idea at the time to leave it until the A.G.M. but I fear the news content will appear very stale, especially to players like myself who played their last match some weeks ago.

The final League Tables and individual records will be printed separately and inserted in these copies, I know that it is sometimes difficult to contact team members after the season, but will club Sec's please do their best to distribute the newsletter to their members.

WIRRAL LADIES

I am once again writing my annual article on behalf of the Ladies of the Wirral League. I think most of the Ladies enjoyed the season.

The McNaught Rose Bowl was played for during the season, in the first round Civic Ladies beat Caldy Ladies 6 - 3 and Pinewood Ladies beat Thorndale Ladies 6 - 2. In the Final Pinewood beat Civic 9 - 0, all very enjoyable matches. I might add every match was played at the Civic club, excellent conditions and plenty of spectators. I also want to thank Frank Sorrentino and the Civic Club for the use of the club for all the Ladies home matches in the Lancashire & Cheshire League, and the support the club gave us in every match. One match in particular we had 20 spectators (I have heard that is more support than County Matches get).

The League registered six ladies in the L & C league and five of the players, played in at least one match during the season. The results as follows :- Won 3. Lost 3. Drew 3. We finished mid-way in the second division. I must mention Sue Rimmer played very well in the matches she was able to play in. If we could have a consistent team of Ann, Debbie and Sue next year we may gain promotion to the first division.

J Hepple.

NESTON II 4 ALDERLEY III 6

The return match between the Neston Nutters and the Alderley Alcoholices started like the first. We arrived slightly late to find them, where else, in the bar. Eventually, however, we did persuade them to play.

They decided to go one up by putting Paul Reed-Clayton on against Robbie Lenihan, in the battle of the jabbing pushers, the script was closely followed with Paul winning the first and Robbie taking the second. Unfortunately, Robbie took the third as well which led to some heated arguments as Alderley claimed, that for an unspecified sum, Robbie had agreed to take a dive. According to Val Franco, Keith then committed a grave tactical error by asking the noble Essjay to play the said Val. Three close games later, Keith was pleased to admit that he was wrong as Essjay saw off the divisional champion to give Neston a 2 - 0 lead.

Alderley then decided to be serious and asked Phil Roberts to play Keith. Keith won the first, mainly by virtue of bad serving by Phil, but lost the second comfortably. At 12 - 8 in the third, things looked good for Keith and Neston but Phil took the brakes off and took 13 of the last fifteen points. Suspecting that Val was having a bad night, Keith called on Cyril Higby to play him. 62 points later (Cyril having got 20) Keith had to admit that Val wasn't having that bad a night.

Sandy Sanderson who according to their scorebook is nicknamed one or more of Superfat belly, fatbelly, scruff, superscruff, or ferret, was beginning to wonder if he was ever going to get a game. If truth be told Keith was scared of Alderleys secret weapon. Nevertheless, Sandy then played Robbie in a game that was not good to watch, Sandy played well in the 1st & 3rd whilst Robbie played rubbish, the roles being reversed in the middle game.

St. Essjay, Nestons patron saint of lost causes, then played Paul. At 2-8 down in the first, Essjay was in danger of losing his halo. However a magnificent run of 13 consecutive points gave Essjay the first game. The second game was tight to 10 all when Stan hit another purple patch and ran out a comfortable winner. The first doubles Stan & Keith v Val & Phil was probably the decider when the Alderley pair sneaked home 21-18, 22-20 with a little bit of luck at the crucial time.

Quickly glossing over the next doubles in which Paul & Sandy tanked Cyril & Robbie, we came to the 9th game with Alderley downie two.

In a classic hitter/defensive game Phil just managed to get the better of Cyril even after being pulled back once or twice.

In the final game of the night, with only pride (and a few pints at stake) Keith played Sandy. This game was notable mainly for Keiths shouts of "ordure, ordure" (or something like that) and the umpires shouts of "order, order". After winning the prize prune award in the first game Keith took a feint look at Sandies bat, changed his game somewhat and scraped home on the last games, perhaps Alderley deserved to win but it was tight.

K.R.W.

The FINAL of the J.S.BANKS Trophy competition, between ALDERLEY and PINWOOD under 21s, was played at the Caldys Club on 22nd April. The League Chairman, 5 other committee members and one other spectator were treated to a 'feast' of the modern game by Dave Carlisle, Steve Davies & Billie Wardle of Alderley versus Lynn Fennah, Rob Bevan and Steve Roberts of Pinewood.

Alderley triumphed 8 - 1 but it was not as easy as the score suggests, 6 of the matches went to 3 games, and in one of the others Lynn lost 21 - 23, 21 - 23. to Dave. Rob beat Steve in 3 to win Pinwoods only set.

All of the players exhibited lightning reflexes and most also managed to intersperse their smashes with delicate touches, when necessary to 'break up' their opponents game.

Congratulations to all the players on an excellent match played in the best of sporting traditions.

W.A.B.

It was decided in Committee to declare an amnesty on all fines that have accrued this season, for the lateness and non-arrival of score-cards, due to administrative difficulties, I fear next year sterner measures may be brought to bear.....

WIRRAL "B" TEAM

The last match of the season against BURNLEY'S 1st. team produced an unexpected result in favour of Wirral. Needing only one point against an undefeated team to ensure the runners - up position, Wirral not surprisingly viewed the match with fear and trepidation.

The first match set the scene for the evening with Alan Tinewell after having lost the first game 21 - 19, knuckling under down to win the next two 21-12, 21-16 against the Burnley No 1. Neil Roberts lost the next set to the opponents no. 3.

Malc. McEvoy then took on the Burnley No 2. and lost the first game 20-22 before proceeding to win the next two quite easily 21-11 & 21-14. Alan against the No 3 opened very nervously and lost the first game 14-21, but against an opponent who was adept at pushing the ball over the table won the next two.

At this stage with Wirral 3 - 1 up, Malcolm showed how well

he can play by defeating the opposing No 1, 13-21 21-19 & 21-18.

The team manager then took the difficult decision of playing our unbeaten doubles pair Alan & Neil, with Malcolm obviously playing so well, against the Burnley 1 & 2. This looked to be a disastrous decision with the Wirral pair 10-3 down in the first before Neil took the bull by the horns and with a magnificent display of hitting won the set two straight 21-17, 21 - 12.

Wirral 5 - 1 up had now gained promotion.

Neil continued the next game against their No 2 just as he had left off in the doubles winning 19-21, 21-15 & 21-16. Everybody agreed that they had never seen forehand and backhand hitting like it before.

Having now gained two points for the win, Wirral were now looking to take the championship and Malcolm did not let the side down, taking the No 3 in two straight 21 -16 & 21-12.

At 7 - 1 up the bubble had to burst Alan losing the "Battle of the funny bats" 17-21 & 20-22 and Neil finally meeting a defender who could return his hits losing 17-21 & 16-21.

By winning 7 - 3, Wirral were now shared the Div 3 South Championship with Burnley by being equal in points, and having won the same number of games.

Well done Alan, Malcolm & Neil. you played like a team and not as individuals, where one failed the other succeeded.

I have in my KEEPING two more match reports from our intrepid well known, division two, ace reporter in chief, when he mentions his one regular reader, I could also mention my one regular contributor, how nice it would be if each division had somebody like Keith to keep them in touch, some of his 'characters' seem like old friends. Anyway if anybody wants to read the next two, they may be loaned out at a small fee, until such time they are safely stored away in the archives of the Wirral League.

Thanks Keith.

Once again I am signing off for the season, I wish you all a pleasant summer, and hope to see you all next season.

S.W.
