

# The Wirral Horn

NEWSLETTER OF THE WIRRAL TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Editor :- Stan Wilkinson.

November 1985.

League Headquarters :- We need you now, the premises are now 75% complete, thanks to a small but willing band of worthies who have toiled over the last few weeks, but now we need to have the place used.

The committee agreed for the nominal charge of 50p per person for at least an hours session, I dont think anybody can complain costwise, juniors can use the facilities at half rate , but must be accompanied by an adult.

This months representative matches are as follows :-

Friday 8th. November Wirral Junior v Crewe.

Also 8th. Nov Wirral Junior 'A' v Liverpool.

Friday 15th. November Wirral 'C' v Mid Lanes.

Friday 22nd. November Wirral v Burnley.

Starting on Thursday 14th. November we are going to hold what we shall call 'Headquarters night' and invite anybody to come round and have a knock and a cup of coffee and a natter for the evening or just for an hour ,even if its just to keep up to date with whats going on in the league, we shall by then have 4 tables and we promise the kitchen area will be warm ! 20 members there putting 50p in the kitty could go a long way to running the centre.

The Keyholders at present are :- Fred & Joan Hepple, 3 Nowshera Ave,  
Pensby 648 4025.

Phil Dean, 36 Holmlands Drive,  
Prenton 608 1807.

Les Jones, 14 Clare Cresc, Wallasey,  
638 8868.

DIARY OF A SEASON (part 2)

October.

The League season starts at last - but with a blank first week for Caldby 3. Our first match is not until the following week, at North Cheshire L.T.C. A hastily arranged practice session on the night of the game (such is the dedication of this team, that no-one has bothered to pick up a bat during the hiatus) proves to be a leaden-footed farce. We give up in disgust and set off for the match.

Ian reminds us that N.C.L.T.C. is a 'dry' venue and insists we stop for a quick one at the Nelson - so we're late. Steve Baker isn't playing for the oppo. which is a relief. Mike Thomas isn't either, and they seem almost as relieved as us. Even so, we have cause to be pleased with our performance, as we win 8 - 2. Mike has bad moments in his singles, but manages to win both, Phil grinds out two of his uglier wins but man of the match is Ian, who, after a dismal start finds some devastating form, flat hitting a series of tremendous winners to beat Glyn Challinor and Barbara Tyerman. John is the only one to have a disappointing night - losing to Paul Chandler in 3, and his doubles with Mike. The latter pairing is reminiscent of a Labour party conference - apparent harmony at first, with a total lack of mutual understanding gradually becoming apparent to all. So our 1 and 2 will have to continue as second doubles, but still, we're pleased to get off to a flying start.

The good fortune continues at our next league match - the 'derby' encounter with Caldby 4. Their no. 1 (none other than the hon. Fix. Sec.) elects to attend a committee meeting, which eases our task somewhat. Despite determined, but mostly vain, resistance from the old hands Boyle, Blundell and Baldwin, the wins mount up with encouraging performances from our side. The one exception is Phil's game against Bill Blundell. Phil wins a lot of games while seeming to do nothing, but here his lack of effort goes unrewarded, as Bill rallies from a game and 16 - 19 down to blast him off in the third.

Still, it's 9 - 1 to the lads, and I thought the boy Horobin played a blinder on the left side of the defence (writes Ron Atkinson) Lots of confidence....good all round squad ..... take each game as it comes.....too early to talk about titles..... icing on the cake.....(continued page 94).

The first real test comes in the next game, at Oxton (another 'dry' venue - roll on Civic, Alderley, New Brighton, Neston....!). They use a Mickey Mouse net with no tension across

the top, which has considerable bearing on the match. Mike's 4" high flat hit comes into it's own as he beats Fenwick and Roy Tierney, but Phil and John both struggle, and are wiped out by Peter Hurworth.

It's 4 - 4 with just the doubles to go. Mike and John muddle through to make it 5 - 4, and then Phil and Ian play brilliantly to beat Tierney and Hurworth and give us a valuable 6 - 4. They need a bit of luck though, winning two points in a row from 19 all with heavy net - cords. Sympathy for the losers evaporates when one of them vents his frustration on the ball - strange, you'd think he would have torn the net to pieces, not crushed the ball. Poetic justice anyway - it is their net. Isn't it an idea for the league to insist on a minimum standard of net anyway ?

We're now tucked into second place, one point behind the leaders with a game in hand, and turn our attentions to plotting the downfall of NBCC 2 in the Lonsdale Cup - and we so nearly succeed. Phil and Ian each despatch their reserve no. 4, and when both Phil and John (under orders to play as boringly as possible) anaesthetize Mike Thorne in two straight games, we're 4 2 up Mike nearly pinches a game off Tony Barbat, which would have been crucial in the event of a 5 - 5 tie, but then class asserts itself. After game 9 we're 4 - 5 down and need to win the second doubles 31 - 0. 31 - 0 to take the match on a tie - break. In fact we lose that game as well to make it 4-6, but never mind, now we can concentrate on winning the League !

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HEPPLE CUP (over 40 pre - season)

We apologise for the delay in organising this competition the first round of which should be played as soon as possible, winners to notify second round opponents.

Results to be sent to :- P.Mitchell, 13 Grasmere Rd, Whitby,  
Ellesmere Port.

1st Round	GRPC	v	CIVIC B .....	(a)
	Eng. Mart B	v	Oxton CC B.....	(c)
	Caldy B	v	Eng. Mart A.....	(d)
	Pinewood A	v	Thingwall.....	(e)
	Marconi	v	Civic A .....	(f)

See page 6.

<u>DIVISION ONE</u>	P	W	D	L	PTS
CALDY	4	3	0	1	31
CIVIC 2	3	3	0	0	27
NBCC 3	4	3	0	1	26
NALGO	4	3	1	0	25
UPTON VH	4	3	0	1	21
WLL MANOR 2	4	2	0	2	18
ALDERLEY	3	1	0	2	15
PINEWOOD 2	4	0	2	2	12
WRUFC	3	0	0	3	10
CALDY 2	4	0	1	3	10
NESTON	3	0	0	3	5

DIVISION TWO

OXTON CC	4	3	0	1	24
CALDY 3	3	3	0	0	23
THINGWALL	4	2	1	1	21
NBCC 4	3	2	0	1	20
ALDERLEY 2	3	1	2	0	18
NCLTC	4	1	1	2	17
CALDY 4	4	1	0	3	16
ENG. MART	3	1	1	1	15
CIVIC 3	3	1	1	1	14
ST PETERS	4	1	0	3	12
NESTON 2	3	0	0	3	10

DIVISION THREE

THINGWALL 2	4	1	2	1	22
PI. EWOD 3	3	3	0	0	21
WALL. MANOR 3	4	1	1	2	21
UPTON CC	3	2	1	0	20
MARCONI	4	2	0	2	18
CALDY 6	4	2	0	2	18
WRUFC 2	3	1	1	1	16
ENG. MART 2	2	1	0	1	13
WALL FERR	3	0	1	2	12
GRPC	1	1	0	0	6
CALDY 5	3	0	0	3	3

<u>DIVISION FOUR</u>	P	W	D	L	PTS
PINEWOOD 4	3	3	0	0	25
ENG. MART 3	3	3	0	0	24
NALGO 2	4	1	2	1	21
LIVINGSTONE ST	3	2	1	0	19
UPTON CC 2	4	2	0	2	18
NESTON 3	3	1	0	2	13
OXTON 2	3	1	1	1	13
THMP & ROSS	2	1	0	1	11
CIVIC 4	4	0	0	4	11
CALDY 7	3	0	0	3	5

<u>DIVISION FIVE</u>	P	W	D	L	PTS
OXTON 3	4	4	0	0	36
WALL FERR 2	5	3	0	2	30
BIRK. LAND REG,	4	4	0	0	29
BIRK. BB	4	3	0	1	28
MARCONI 2	4	1	2	1	20
GRFC 2	4	1	1	2	17
NALGO 3	3	1	1	1	14
CXTON 4	4	2	0	2	14
NBCC 5	4	1	0	3	13
B.B.B. 2	4	1	0	3	13
ENG. MART 4	4	0	0	3	9
CIVIC 5	3	0	0	3	7

Congratulations to St Peters for changing venues to avoid postponing games and to B.B.B. & Wall Ferries who brought a match forward rather than postpone !  
 I should have had 10 results from the Premier Div. by today (1/11)  
 I have had 5 so I havn't produced a table .

JUNIOR RANKINGS Held on Sunday Sept. 22nd at League H/Q.

1. Andy Taylor (Wall. Manor)	7. Peter Lau (Eng Mart)
2. Paul Birken (Wall. Manor)	8. Don Parr (B.B.B.)
3. Neil Kirsopp (Wall. Manor)	9. Paul Mutch (Thing)
4. Nigel Rafferty (Pinewood)	10. Neil Allen (GRCC)
5. Robbie McDonald (B'head. B.B.)	11. Richard King (Thing)
6. Roger Taylor (Wall. Manor)	

HEPPLE CUP (cont)

2nd. Round to be played by 1st. December.

Oxton A	v	(c)
Caldy C	v	(f)
Alderley	v	Wall Manor
(a)	v	W.R.U.F.C.
Caldy A	v	(e)
Pinewood B	v	Wall. Ferries
NCLTC	v	(d)
St Peters	v	Eng. Mart C

Please note these are 3 - a - side matches.

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R.A.F.A. CUP 3rd. Round

To be played before w/c 9th, December.

Result cards to Phil Deeks .-

Alderley	v	Pinewood 3
Oxton	v	Pinewood 2
Civic 2	v	Oxton 3
Wall Man 2	v	Civic 3
NALGO	v	Alderley 2
Neston	v	Wall Ferries
Caldy	v	Pinewood 4
W.R.U.F.C.	v	or NBCC 3

J.S.BANKS CUP (under 21 yrs. Pre-season) 3-a-side, Home team  
to notify away team for  
1st. Round to be played by 9th. December. dates.

Result cards to Bill Gibbins, 216 Mosslands Drive, Wallasey.

Birkenhead B.B. A	v	Thingwall
Wall. Manor	v	Birkenhead B.B.'B'
Pinewood	v	Eng. Martyrs
GRPC	v	Civic

BILL LOWE SHIELD

A preliminary round will not be necessary, details of the first round, to be played w/c 6th. Jan 1986, will be distributed with December Wirral Horn.

N.C.L.T.C. 4

N.B.C.C. 4th. 6.

NBCC know our weakness and call me on to play Abbott, who has the kind of darting game I don't like. He is winning so easily that he asks me to pick up my bat from under the table after dropping it, and return the next shot, years of practice in "round the table" help.

Can Paul fill Steves shoes, probably not as he only takes size 6, but he has his new rubbers, and after an uncertain start, battles Conway into submission. "Prifathro" Evans is next, and Cyril cannot cope with his unique style. Abbott & Muskett now find out why Conway hoped Mary was not playing, as she drills holes through them in 1st doubles. But Evans, not from but with Conway, gets the better of Paul & Cyril to make it 3 - 2 at poison time. They all have 2nd cups, must have got the mixture wrong. 3 - 3 as John cannot CON his WAY past Mary, 4 - 3 to then as Gary Abbott bravely withstands a Chandler blizzard to win in 3, then 4 - 4 as I managed to return Mike Muskett's serve enough times to win in 3, lucky his 'cannonball' hits were missing. But all this is just a prelude to an epic Robinson - Evans encounter. Mary with the fierce expression she usually reserves for playing other women is merciless, but Dave gradually works his game up to the fever pitch at which he plays his best, also cleaning the floor and table at the same time as the sweat pours off him. He is game down, 9 - 15 and 17 - 20, but squeezes his shirt dry, and grits his teeth to achieve a remarkable victory 14 - 21, 27 - 25, 22 - 20. Muskett inspired by this, is firing on all cylinders to defeat Cyril and give New Brighton the match.

Man of the match - it was going to be Paul, then Mary, but I have to give it to Evans' the bat'.

I.McC.

Handbook amendment :-

Mike Ashton (Livingstone Street) has now moved to Greasby.  
i.e. 276 Greasby Road, Tel. 678 6880.

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Late results.

The following match results were not received by the fixture sec within one week of the match night. Secretaries are asked to check with team captains and ensure cards are posted as soon as matches are played (or that postponed games are notified together with revised date).

The committee have resolved that in future (i.e. from league match 15) details will be published in the horn and fines levied in accordance with the rules, proceeds to go to league H/Q upkeep.

CUP	NBCC	v	NALGO
Week 1.	B'Head L.R.	v	NBCC 5
	Alderley	v	Wall. Man 2
	NALGO 3	v	Civic 5 *
	B.B.B.	v	Eng. Mart. 4 *
Week 2.	Pinewood	v	Wall Man *
	NBCC 3	v	Pinewood 2
Week 3.	NBCC 2	v	Wall. Man *
	Caldy 2	v	U.V.H.
	Civic 2	v	Wall. Man 2.
Week 4.	Civic	v	Pinewood *
	Eng. Mart	v	Civic 3 *
	GRFC	v	Eng. Mart 2 *
	NBCC 5	v	NALGO 3

\* denotes card not received by 29th. Oct.

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Results

Wirral 'A' beat Farnworth 7 - 3.

Wirral 'C' lost to Nelson 'A' 7 - 3.

Wirral Ladies lost to Manchester 8 - 2.

N.B. UPTON VICTORY HALL have changed their match night to THURS.

Get well soon to Bill Lowe who was taken ill while coaching at Thingwall.



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## NEWSLETTER OF THE WIRRAL TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Editor :- Stan Wilkinson.

December 1985.

A happy Christmas to all our readers ! We must have some readers because somebody asked me the other day where the new Headquarters where (that is not good grammar but I have run out of correction fluid !) I would have hoped that most of the league members would know by now the whereabouts of the premises, also the facilities it offers, if not please come down on Thursday evening and find out, our H/Q night has got off to a reasonable start, but we could do with a few new faces, there is certainly the opportunity to have some really useful practice against some notable players from lower and higher divisions, the big news is that now I'm reasonably sure that all the previously named keyholders have now got keys - obviously this is a great step forward, a few of our members are using the premises for practice but there is still a lot more room in the diary.

On Saturday 30th. Nov the first of 3 County matches will have been played at Arrowe Park, this one being Cheshire Veteran second team versus Essex Veteran seconds, unfortunately this booking was made after the last Wirral Horn was published, but the next one :-

CHESHIRE II v CLWYD is to be held on Saturday 14th. December at 2.30 p.m. at Arrowe Park, hope to see a few spectators there.

After this CHESHIRE II v LINCOLNSHIRE will be held on Saturday 15th. Feb. 1986 at 2.30 p.m. but will remind you again of this.

Other dates :- Friday 6th. December WIRRAL LADIES v OLDHAM 'A'

this will be played in the evening, judging by their last performance this will be a good match.

Cont. from front page :-

Friday December 13th. WIRRAL JUNIORS v ROCHDALE again  
this is in the evening.

Friday December 20th. WIRRAL JUNIORS II v BARROW.

Friday 10th. January 1986 WIRRAL 'B' v ROCHDALE.

RESULTS seem to read better this month,

WIRRAL 'A' Beat Oldham 6 - 4.

WIRRAL Beat Burnley 6 - 4.

WIRRAL LADIES drew with Ellesmere Port Ladies, this was a  
very good result for our YOUNG LADIES Debbie, Belinda &  
Sharón. Debbie winning her 3 games, the doubles with Belinda,  
and Belinda winning one of her singles, all the more  
commendable for the opposition were all highly ranked  
Cheshire Juniors

LONSDALE CUP Round 3 To be played w/c 16th. Dec or soomer home  
teams to notify away team of match night.

Wall R.U.F.C.	v	Civic
Wall Manor	v	Caldy
Thingwall	v	Civic 3
Oxton 2	v	N.B.C.C. 2
Upton C.C.	v	Pinewood
N.B.C.C. 3	v	Civic 2
N.A.L.G.O. 2	v	Wall. Ferr.
N.A.L.G.O.	v	N.B.C.C.

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The Fixture Secretary has granted an amnesty for clubs not up to date with their fixture card returns because of the recent postal strike, but beware he will strike in the new year if the rule is not obeyed !

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Handbook amendment :- CALDY 5 match night is now WEDNESDAY.

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WIRRAL REPRESENTATIVE away matches for December :-

December 10th.	Macclesfield	v	Wirral 'A'
" 12th.	Burnley	v	Wirral 'B'
" 13th.	Preston	v	Wirral
" 14th.	Lytham 'A'	v	Wirral 'C'
January 17th.	Southport	v	Wirral

JUNIORS

January 11th.	Fleetwood	v	Wirral
" 16th.	Halton	v	Wirral 'A'

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This years TRIUMPH ADLER ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS will be held  
at the Brighton Conferance Centre on th 23rd - 25th. January 1986.

<u>DIVISION ONE</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>PTS</u>
CIVIC 2	6	6	0	0	52
CALDY	7	5	0	2	46
NBCC 3	6	4	0	2	37
NALGC	6	4	1	1	33
UPTON V.H.	5	3	0	2	24
ALDERLEY	4	1	0	3	18
WALLASEY MANOR 2	4	2	0	2	18
NESTON	5	2	0	3	18
PINEWOOD 2	5	0	2	3	16
W.R.U.F.C.	5	0	0	5	15
6ALDY 2	5	0	1	4	13

DIVISION TWO

CXTON C.C.	7	5	1	1	44
CALDY 3	6	5	1	0	42
ALDERLEY 2	6	3	3	0	39
THINGWALL	6	4	1	1	36
N.B.C.C. 4	6	3	0	3	36
ENG. MART.	6	2	2	2	28
CALDY 4	7	2	0	5	27
CIVIC 3	5	2	1	2	23
N.C.L.T.C.	6	1	1	4	21
NESTON 2	6	0	0	6	18
ST PETERS	5	1	0	4	16

DIVISION THREE

UPTON C.C.	5	4	1	0	36
PINEWOOD 3	5	5	0	0	35
WALL. MANOR 3	6	2	1	3	34
ENG. MART 2	6	2	2	2	34
THINGWALL 2	6	2	2	2	34
CALDY 6	6	2	1	3	27
WALL. FERR	5	1	2	2	24
W.R.W.F.C. 2	5	1	1	3	21
G.R.P.C.	4	2	1	1	20
MARCONI	5	2	0	3	20
CALDY 5	6	0	1	5	11

<u>DIVISION FOUR</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>PTS</u>
LIVINGSTONE ST	6	4	1	1	37
PINEWOOD 4	5	4	1	0	37
ENG. MART 3	4	3	1	0	29
THOMP & ROSS	5	3	0	2	29
N.A.L.G.C. 2	5	2	2	1	29
UPTON C.C. 2	6	2	0	4	23
NESTON 3	5	2	0	3	21
OXTON 2	4	1	1	2	15
CIVIC 4	4	0	0	4	11
CALDY 7	4	0	0	4	8

DIVISION FIVE

OXTON 3	7	7	0	0	63
BIRK. L.R.	6	6	0	0	41
BIRK. B.B.	6	4	1	1	40
WALL. FERR 2	6	3	0	3	34
N.A.L.G.O. 3	6	2	2	2	31
ENG. MART 4	6	2	0	4	27
MARCONI 2	5	1	2	2	22
OXTON 4	6	2	1	3	22
G.R.P.C. 2	5	1	1	3	21
N.B.C.C. 5	6	1	1	4	19
BIRK. B.B. 2	5	1	0	4	13
CIVIC 5	4	0	0	4	9

PREMIER DIVISION

N.B.C.C.	3	3	0	0	26
CIVIC	2	2	0	0	16
N.B.C.C. 2	4	0	1	3	11
WALL. MAN,	3	0	1	2	9
PINEWOOD	2	1	0	1	8

( N.B. 7 results only from 16 fixtures)

BILL LOWE SHIELD

To be played during or before w/c 6th. Jan. 1986.

Handicaps and score sheets will be included in the envelopes containing December Wirral Horns for the HOME teams.

Wallasey Man 2	v	Upton V.H.
Upton C.C.2	v	N.B.C.C. 4
N.C.L.T.C.	v	Oxton 3
Eng. Mart. 4	v	Caldy 7.
N.A.L.G.O. 2	v	Alderley 2
Eng, Mart 3	v	Bye.
Civic 3	v	Bye.
G.R.P.C. 2	v	Neston 3
WALL.R.U.F.C. 2	v	N.B.C.C.
Caldy 3	v	N.A.L.G.O.
N.A.L.G.O. 3	v	Bye
Neston 2	v	Thomp & Ross
Civic	v	Bye
Pinewood 3	v	Bye
Upton C.C.	v	St Peters
Marconi	v	Bye
Caldy 5	v	Oxton 4
Marconi 2	v	Thingwall 2
Civic 4	v	Pinewood
Thingwall	v	Civic 5
Pinewood 2	v	Wall Manor 3
B.B.B	v	Bye
Oxton	v	W.R.U.F.C.
Wall Ferr.	v	Pinewood 4
N.B.C.C. 5	v	G.R.P.C.
Caldy 6	v	B.B.B. 2
Birk. L.R.	v	N.B.C.C. 2
Alderley	v	Livingstone St.
N.B.C.C. 3	v	Oxton 2
Wall Ferr. 2	v	Eng. Mart.
Eng. Mart 2	v	Caldy 2
Caldy 4	v	Civic 2.

## DIARY OF A SEASON

### November

A troubled start to the month, at home to English Martyrs. Mike arrived at the match, to put up the table, and only then discovered that the room was booked for a buffet later in the evening. A compromise was reached, in the form of an extended half - time break, so that the guests could be served and disperse; trouble was, some of them still kept barging into the room in mid-rally, and tested everyone's patience to the limit.

Perhaps because of this, the atmosphere soured more and more as the evening wore on. We annoyed them by disputing their claim for service fault in a doubles set, but on the other hand we had to put up with one opponent (guess who) whose grasp of (verbal) etiquette contrasted sharply with his grasp of impartial umpiring, and another with a novel interpretation of what constituted a volley, who spent much of one game kicking the ball back to his opponent (possibly because he wasn't having to much success using his bat).

There was also some Table Tennis, but so far as we were concerned that too was a bit depressing. John & Ian made it 2 - 0, but after Phil lost from set point up against Joe Gallagher, it was all downhill. Mike played as badly as Neil Parkinson played well, and 2 nil up became 3 - 5 down. Sanity was restored with Mike & John at last producing a decent doubles performance, whereupon Ian returned from the bar (where he understandably spent most of the evening) to crush Bill Gibbons and made it dishonours even at 5 - 5. A bad result for us, but at least it might jolt the complacency that was creeping in.

A visit from the Civic team with Alf Hayes in it almost guarantees a cold night, and Monday the 11th. was no exception. The wood fire at one end of the room flattered to deceive - dazzling the unfortunate player at the other end with its brightness, while conspicuously failing to heat the room. Alf is affected more than most by such conditions, and when Ian, at 18 - 18 in the third game against him, managed to hit a clean winner from an edge ball, it seemed to extinguish his will to win for the rest of the night.

Neither Frank Sorrentino nor Bill Stanley looked as sharp as they did on their last visit here when the Civic 2 juggernaut crushed us 10 - 0. As a result, we picked up both doubles, as well as five of the six singles that didn't involve Val Franco. That particular gentleman wouldn't have broken sweat even if the heating had been more effective. so it finished 7 - 3, and a generous contribution of 10 service faults from Ian (including 3 in a row) put the total fines for the season up to the £10 mark.

The following week saw us at Neston, who have struggled so far

this season. Aware of this, the skipper was hoping for a 10 - 0 result at the outset. Leading by example, he called himself on to play the first set against John Reynolds, who promptly looped him off two straight. Not to be outdone, Ian then blitzed Keith Naylor 21 - 7 in the first game of the next set, spluttered to a halt and lost the second 17 - 21, and got annihilated in the third. 0 - 2, and almost every game thereafter was a real struggle. John had to produce a really good performance to keep Reynolds quiet and level at 2 - 2; Ian gave another opponent (Ron Spence) 10 start in the third, which let them level it at 3 - 3. At 4 - 3, John went on against Spence and elected to hit, rather than push him off, to the horror of his teammates. After nonchalantly saving a set point in the second, the net and edge helped to justify his decision as he sneaked home 21 - 19 in the third; the sort of game that might yet drive his skipper to using Grecian 2000 !

Again both doubles dropped our way, with Phil and Ian recovering a substantial third game deficit on the way. 7 - 3 wasn't the result we were looking for at the outset, but it was a fair reflection of the match, and there was lots of tense competitive table-tennis. The result kept us in second place, a couple of points behind Oxton, with a game in hand. Nevertheless, with New Brighton 4, Alderley 2 & Thingwall our next three opponents, and all of them hot on our heels, we can't afford a single bad result.

A visit from our friends and rivals New Brighton, at home the following week, was keenly anticipated, well prepared for, and produced our best performance of the season so far. Ian caught Mike Muskett cold in the first set. Phil, warned about Dave Evans ("that xxxx never gives up when he's losing!") won his first game 21 - 6, lost the next 17, and produced a master stroke by letting his opponent take the lead in the third. With roles reversed, Dave could do nothing to stop Phil gradually overhauling him and winning 21 - 16. Gary Abbott beat John and Mike, but again our doubles teamwork brought us both sets (and our doubles record in the league to 12/14) and Phil and Ian rounded off the night. The former recorded his seventh successive win, this time at John Conway's expense; the latter blasted Evans off with some tremendous hitting. 8 - 2 was a result we didn't dare hope for, and a great finish to November.

Next month : Ian (diana) Free and the Table of Doom  
(Alderley away)

Don't miss it - because he's bound to !