

# *The Wirral Horn*

NEWSLETTER OF THE WIRRAL TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Editor : - Stan Wilkinson

November 1980

I presume by now most of you will have settled down to the new seasons Table Tennis, it seems to be a bit slow off the mark as far as normal league matches are concerned, but the Cup competitions are well on their way now, and by the next issue we will be publishing the normal monthly league tables. Later on in this letter you will find a note from the Fixture Secretary, mistakes have been made, I'm sure unwittingly, by some clubs, especially re the new rule about Clubs with two teams in the same division, this rule applies to all the divisions. I hope to have the draw for the Bill Lowe shield to hand if so it will be inserted in this issue. As from the October Committee Peter Greenshields has taken over from me the position of League Secretary, at the moment I have agreed to stay on the Committee as an elected member and to continue to edit this newsletter, with I hope your help, please send me copy, it is going to be more difficult for me <sup>to</sup> keep in the picture of whats going on without your help.

-----

The second match for the Wirral first team ended like the first in a draw, again we struggled and made hard work of it and in the end we were lucky to get the point, Macclesfield 'A' our opponents really had it in for a slightly off form Gordon Exell and our stand in Malc McEvoy, Although I must say Malc. & Dave Roberts did us proud in their doubles set winning 7 & 10. Daves three sets obviously ware very useful.

You may have noticed in previous editions I have a hang-up over the spelling of certain words, My good wife keeps telling me not to believe (here we go again) the old saying about e before i except after c, but she's out tonight HELP.

---

LONSDALE CUP

2nd. Round. Matches to be played w/c 10th. Nov.

Neston	v	Caldy	Caldy 4	v	Wirr Gas
Pinewood 2	v	Lever	Bye	v	Mosslands
St Saviours	v	Pine 4 or F.I.L.	Pined 3	v	Thorndale
Alderley 4	v	Police 2	Wall Man	v	St Peters
Nalgo 2	v	WRUFC	Pinewood	v	Neston 2
WRUFC 2	v	Nalgo	Alderley	v	Thorndale 2
Civic	v	Upton C.C.	Mountwood	v	Alderley 3.
M.F.B./ Nalgo4v		Neston 4			
Neston 3	v	Alderlet 2			

First named teams are at home.

---

J.S. BANKS Cup Preliminary round to be played by 28th. Nov 1980.

St Saviours	v	Eng. Martyrs
Alderley 'A'	v	W.R.U.F.C.
Pinewood 'A'	v	N.A.L.G.O.
Caldy	v	Mountwood.

The following have Byes into the first round :- Mosslands, Pinewood, Wallasey Manor, Alderley.

Please return score cards promptly to :- Bill Blundell,  
18 The Looms, Parkgate, South Wirral, L64 6RF.

---

RULE BOOK amendment.

The amount of fine in Rule 14 (b) should read £1 One Pound not £5 as printed in the rule book. (Inflation will soon make it right again )



Aaaagh! Me noives won't stand much more of this, Nestons answer to the Keystone Cops staggered creaked and wheezed to the table for their first match of the season fortified only by the knowledge that the bar was open.

Soon, Neston were 3 - 0 up and searches were being made in the record Books to see when this last happened (answer: never). Keith Wells beat Don Faulkner, Stan Grayson took the first game fairly against Len Fairclough which justified his eventual win because Len 'netted' the second and Stan replied in kind to take the decider. Cyril Higby, pausing only to smooth down his coiffure, then took out Andrew Edwards reasonably comfortably.

Undeterred by this inspired lunacy, Robbie Lenihan proceeded to give a typical Neston performance by leading Alan Willett 7-0 and losing 21 - 23, 19 - 21. Stan then lost a gritty game against Andrew, the turning point being a purple patch by Andrew in the third game to take him from 7 - 10 to 14 - 11, a lead which was maintained to the end.

Cyril then started to wipe the floor with Don utilising a lot of no-nonsense hitting, unfortunately, Don got stuck in and Cyril proceeded to smash his way into trouble to lose uncomfortably in the third. The score was thus 3 - 3 and sanity had been restored. Ratman (KW) and Floggin (SG) sneaked the first game of the first doubles then selfishly decided that discretion was not necessarily the better part of valour and ran out comfortably winning. Neston's second deadly duo then repeated the medicine in the next set. 5 - 3 to Neston! Holy Tackiness Can it be! will Nestn 2 win a match (and we don't mean Swan Vestas) Heigh Ho, Keith gives a typically insipid performance to lose in straight games to Alan Willett in a game noted for the number of overhead smashes and inspired retrieving.

So enter stage left, Robbie and Len. Len leads 19 - 16 start biting balls, Robbie levels at 19 so sup pint in relief. Len has six consecutive advantage points - nails now bitten up to wrists. Robbie saves them all and has two advantage points himself which he proceeds to lose. Len wins game 29 - 27. (curses, curses) Oh no here we go again, Robbie is match point down twice in the second before eventually winning 23 - 21 and we have now reached our elbows. Thankfully for our nerves, the third game was, by comparison an anti-climax and Robbie was triumphant.

A draw would have been a fair result but we will still claim the two points. Attendance : 0 Gate receipts : 0 Bar takings enormous, Star of the night.... The heavily home - biased net (sorry Robbie)

KRW/SJG.



From the Fixture Secretary :-

Since the beginning of the season 4 result cards were received after the due date --- The clubs have been notified as has the Treasurer. Also since the season commenced 5 Teams have played unregistered or ineligible players, this has resulted in 4 cases of forfeiting the match.

Would you ensure that cards are forwarded on time and registrations must be received IN WRITING 3 days prior to playing.

-----

On a happier note the following players have been awarded WIRRAL BADGES for their services to the League as Juniors :-

DAVID BERRY	LYNN FENNAH	ANDREW McCREADY
ROBERT BEVAN	ANDREW HOWELLS	GEOFF OLDFIELD

-----

R.A.F.A. CUP 3rd. Round to be played w/c 1st Dec.

W.R.U.F.C. 4	v	Neston 3
Civic 2	v	Thorndale
Busw 3/ Caldby 2	v	W.R.U.F.C. 2 / Mossland
Thorn 2	v	Eng Mart
Upton C.C.	v	Pine 3 / Police 2
Wall Man	v	F.I.L. / St Sav
Alderle 3 / B Land Regv		Brom Pool
Police	v	Neston 2.

-----

STOP PRESS

A good win for our Wirral Rep team in the Norman Cooke Memorial Trophy on Sat 1st Nov. playing against a premier division team from BURY, they came out winners 6 sets to 3, Full marks to Trevor Manning for his two singles & his doubles set with Gordon, thanks to Ann Hepple for her timely win against a hard hitting opponent, Spectators were of cup Final proportions ( 8 ) Better than yours Keith.

# The Wirral Horn

## NEWSLETTER OF THE WIRRAL TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Editor :- Stan Wilkinson.

December 1980

Welcome to a new club D.K.S. CONTAINERS LTD. Laird St Birkenhead they take over fixtures (c) in the 3rd division, we wish them well, I don't think they are strangers to Table Tennis, so treat them with respect both ways. Secretary :- N J Owen, 29 Zig Zag Rd, Wallasey, L45 7NY.  
Tel. 652 3411 (bus) 652 3411 (club) M/N Tues.

-----  
n. Merseyside Police Now have a new Secretary :- R D Dyer, 151 Mill Lane, Wallasey 638 1595.  
Phone number for 2nd team captain should read 638 3300 (not 647 7900 as shown).

Mountwood

-----  
New home address for Sec. J Davies, 26 Elm Road, Higher Trannere, Tel. 653 5227.

-----  
Apologies to PAUL WILSON his name was missed in the list of Juniors who have been awarded Wirral Badges last month, he has or will receive this well deserved recognition in due course..Congratulations.  
-----



Note from Alan Timewell re Bill Lowe shield, There are only 22 Teams in the Prelim Round to be played this week Dec. 1st. If you have not sent in a score sheet you are not in it! First round matches are due to be played Wk. Comm 5th Jan, Handicaps will be forwarded as soon as possible, Postal delays may occur over the holiday period, so if in difficulty ring Alan...339 3646.

---

McNaught Rose Bowl 79/80 Regretably Thorndale were unable to raise a team to play the Final of this Ladies event, so the Trophy has been awarded to PINEWOOD the runners - up.  
80/81 The draw for this seasons competition as follows :-

<u>Prelim Round</u> by 31/1/81	<u>Semi-Finals</u> by 28/2/81	<u>Final</u> by 31/3/81
CIVIC )		
NESTON )		
	CALDY )	
	PINEWOOD )	
	Thorndale )	

Joan Hepple is now running this competition, please ensure that results are forwarded to her immediately after the match, existing League cards, suitably adapted will suffice. Joans address :- 3 Nowshera Ave, Pensby. NOTE only the Final will be played on a neutral table, in earlier rounds, the side drawn first has the home advantage.

---

A Sub - Committee comprising A Timewell, N Berry, P Greenshields has been elected to decide ranking lists throughout the season.

---

Frank Irwin has now resigned as Team Manager of the 2nd Team, and P Greenshields has now accepted the position.

---

CHESHIRE CLOSED TOURNAMENT this will be held this year at the Neston Recreation Centre on Sunday 22nd February 1981, The Ellesmere Port League who are running this event will be looking for support from Wirral League members to make this tournament a success. More news of this later.

-----

Congratulations to TREVOR MANNING of the Alderley Club and currently Wirral no. 1. He has been selected to attend the Top Twelve Round Robin tournament for Welsh players, in Cardiff this weekend, We wish him well in this important event.

-----

A player looking for a club. MICHAEL BALL who has played 2nd & 3rd Division Table Tennis in Rhochdale, has moved to this area and wishes to join a local club, any offers, his daytime phone is 051 709 6954.

-----

2nd Team Match Wirral 'A' v Macclesfield 'B' 14/11/81

In an exiting match played at the English Martyrs Club, Malcolm McEvoy's 3 wins, Alan Timewell & Neil Roberts 1 win and 2 wins respectively enabled Wirral to win 6 - 4. Due credit must be given to our opponents who fought back from 4-1 down to 5-4 down when in the last game Neil having lost the first game 13-21 pulled out all the stops in his own dominating manner to win the next 2 games to clinch the match.

Congratulations to English Martyrs who provided what must be the best conditions in the League for representative matches.

Wirrals 1st. Team continue their run of success with a good win over a very strong team from Oldham in the League, full marks for Dave & Trevor, Gordon making hard work of it with his new bat, but a 7 - 3 win suits me. In the 2nd round Norman Cook match a comfortable win over the local lads of Ellesmere Port who all looked very familiar to us, Steve Davies, Dave Carlisle & Des Wright plus their leading Lady Mrs Gerrard, after some very good games they were trailing 7 games to nil until Dave & Des hustled Gordon & Dave off in the last sets.



Thank you Brom. Pool ( see Nov. Wirral Horn) for providing a good training session in nail-biting. However the Pool match was like a vicaridge tea-party compared to this match.

The first set brought together Ian McCaig and Stan Grayson. Ian was his usual immaculate self - has he an inexhaustable supply of sloppy sweaters? but proved he meant business by not wearing his headband. In the first set, Ian decided to attack but reverted to his normal style at 4-11. After a few alarms, Stan just managed to sneak home 23-21, Stan got 23 points in the next game as well but still lost. With Ian making Stan work for every point, it seemed inevitable that the third game would also go to deuce, did, Stan creeping in 22-20. Robbie Lenihan then beat Gerry Eichelshein 18 & 16 which was perhaps slightly easier than the score suggests.

Don Beynon deputising for Cyril Higby, then took on a slightly hesitant Paul Chandler and Neston were beginning to think about a 3-0 lead when Don led 21-18, 17-13. Unfortunately Don tried a couple of over-ambitious shots and Paul got his head down to level the sets by taking the second game 22-20. You dont give Paul a second chance and much as D'n tried, Paul took the third.

Thorndale then levelled the match score when Alan Evans beat Keith Wells 21-19 in the third. This set had everything (I will leave this for imagination Ed.) Alan then advised everybody (at 9-35) that he was supposed to be at work by 10-30, so he went on against Stan. The scenario was virtually identical to the Keith-Alan set although the skill quota was higher. Stan took the first game 22-20 only for Alan to 'net' the second 21-13 Stan looked in command at 17-13 in the third only for Alan to take the next 4 points. Iron man essjay kept his cool however, & crept home in yet another deuce game. Half-time, 10-02 pm.

Determined not to let Alan get away early, Robbie then beat Ian in 2 str ight games which, guess what, both went to deuce, six sets had now been played and, of the 16 games, no less than 10 were 19 or deuce. Ian poor blighter, had lost both of his singles in five games, all of which had gone to deuce.

Keith & Stan then put Neston into a 5-2 lead in their doubles. At this point, Thorndale appeared to sag slightly and a win for Neston was ensured by Robbie & Don out-foxing & outlasing the awkward combination of Ian & Gerrie, & by Keith out-gunning Paul. Needless to say the last set of the night went to 3, with Gerrie salvaging some of Thorndales pride by beating Don. A great evenings entertainment to which Thorndale contributed one hell of a lot. We think we deserved to win, if only on a commitment basis, but we are well aware that we couldn't have complained if the final score had been reversed.

Crowd 2. (new Neston record)

P.S. 50% of the crowd was Bill Jones, nice to see you well on the road to recovery, Bill..

K.R.I.



Neston 2 emphatically deny that they only write reports when they have won, so, quickly glossing over last weeks 9 - 1 defeat by Pinewood in the Lonsdale Cup, on we go to their latest League match.

In the first set, Robbie Lenihan, fresh from his win over Lynn Fennah and therefore seriously in contention for a place in the Wirral Ladies Team, faced Keith Paisley. Robbie true to form won 18 & 19 and emphatically denies the rumour that he refuses to pay his match fee if any game does not go to deuce. Stan Clayton the Nalgo captain, then pulled a piece of gamesmanship by calling on Keith Wells & Art Lampkin. Keith and Arthur have played each other on & off, for some twelve seasons, know each others game inside out and know that the only way to win is to cause the awkward ungainly fellow at the other end of the table to tie himself in knots. Arthur got knotted in the first game but despite a few, (quite a lot actually) of nets and edges against him took the second. Arthur led 19 - 13 in the third but gallantly let Keith square things at 19 all. However, Keiths will to lose was greater than Arthurs and A crept home 25-23. Confusion then reigned as Stan (Grayson) played Stan (Clayton). Stan C was rather hesitant & off-form and the noble essjay won reasonably easily.

Your intrepid reporter was threatened with physical ooh-nasties if he divulged the name of the next Nalgo player who then played Cyril Higby, so i'll call him AB. This was the classic defender - attacker confrontation Dave B. sorry. A Morris. Sorry AB won a close first game to 18 but lost the second 17. Cyril lost concentration and lost the third 16.

Neston then called on Robbie to restore their lead by beating Stan unfortunately Stan decided to play nearer to his usual form and our Houdini pushed his luck a little too far, and lost in the third.

AB then played the unflappable Essjay, a mixture of teasing floaters and devastating counter-wellies saw Stan home 22-20 21-15. So 3 all and Nalgo refused Nestons offer of a draw.

Nalgos refusal appeared to be justified when Arthur beat Cyril, with Cyrilat 22-21 down a desperate return from Arthur clipped the edge of the table and dropped like a stone, effectively ending Cyrils resistance, this was getting ridiculous- we had won three sets in two straight and lost all four that had gone to three.

However Stan C. then produced his second, and fatal, bit of gamesmanship. Half-time ale was then produced - pints for them and halves for us, incenced by this inhuman, barbaric treatment, Neston revolted (or were revolting) and stepped up a couple of gears. Keith and Essjay beat Stan C. and AB 12 & 14, Cyril and Robbie beat Art. and Keith C 7 & 19. and finally KeithW beat Keith C 8 & 10. It doesn't pay to insult Neston 2.

- Thinks (1) Four more points & we've equalled last years total.  
(2) What the hell are we going to do when we play at  
unlicensed premises.