



The Wirral Horn

MARCH, 1978

FROM THE EDITOR

Firstly a moan. The Film Show fiasco '78, where were you all? Beforehand, everybody seemed to think this was a good idea, but on the night, oh dear. 12 people turned up to watch what turned out to be an exceptionally fine film of the World Championships, this out of 500 players cannot be called anything but disgraceful. Even our Committee was only represented by 'yours truly'.

Next a pat on the back. The Wirral Closed 1978. I think most people would agree that this was one of the best tournaments the Wirral have held, plenty of entries, plenty of variety and a fair sprinkling of spectators who stayed right to the last final. A very special thanks to Norman Berry and Sam Cant for their efforts both on the day and the days beforehand. A lot of time and effort goes into running an event like this, so thanks again.

A list of event winners appears elsewhere, but very noticeable were the younger members of the League, who were much in evidence in the main events as well as the divisional events. The biggest upsets occurred in the mens doubles where the top two seeds were eliminated. First to go were Exell & Fennah in the 4th Round to Luxon & McEvoy, then Roberts & Timewell went out to the eventual winners from Division II, Carlisle & Parkes.

Mrs. J. Hepple became Ladies champion once again, in a not very well represented Ladies event, but congratulations Joan. She seems to play better as time goes on.

Dave Roberts retained the Mens championship beating John Fennah in the Final which was, I think all would agree, a fine exhibition of table-tennis - a pity there had to be a loser. It was a replica of last year's final, John won the first set but Dave took the next two.

Young Richard Levy had a good day, winning the Division 6 event, and runner up in both the Junior event and Birkenhead Boys event.

STAN WILKINSON.

THE WIRRAL CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS - FEBRUARY 25th, 1978

	WINNERS	RUNNERS-UP
Mens Singles:	D.Roberts (Hoylake YM)	J.Fennah (Pinewood)
Ladies Singles:	Mrs.J.Hepple (Pinewood)	Miss L.Godsell (Wirral Gas)
Mens Doubles:	D.Carlisle & G.Parkes (Upton VH)	K.Darlington (NBCC) & J.Merrick (Lever)
Ladies Doubles:	Mrs.M.Robinson & Mrs. B.Dooley (Thorndale)	Mrs.J.Hepple (Pinewood) & Miss C.Jones (Thorndale)
Junior Singles:	M.McEvoy (Hoylake YM)	R.Levy (Birkenhead YM)
Veterans Singles:	G.Exell (Upton VH)	S.Trousdale (Upton VH)
Division 2:	D.Carlisle (Upton VH)	G.Parkes (Upton VH)
Division 3:	N.Berry (P.Sunlight)	Miss C.Jones (Thorndale)
Division 4:	S.Farr (NALGO)	R.Bissell (Birk. YM)
Division 5:	P.Wilson (Alderley)	K.Walton (NBCC)
Division 6:	R.Levy (Birk. YM)	Mrs.R.Jones (Upton VH)
Division 7:	G.Jones (St.Saviours)	M.Bowen (Postal)

DIVISION 2 - NBCC 2 - BROM.POOL 6

N.B.C.C.2's entertained the League leaders, Bromborough Pool, the Pool keeping their 100% league record after a hard fight.

The cricketers had been forced to include Dave Fenlon, because of Iain McKillops foot injury. Iain only played in the first doubles, which produced some fine table tennis.

The highlight of the evening, besides the excellent drinks service by John Horobin, was the contest between the No.1's John Conway and Hugh Jones. Jones emerged the winner after three hard fought games. The turning point was at 9 all in the third, when Hugh realised that John was really N.B.C.C.'s No.4.

At the end of a long evening, the league leaders were that little bit better and ran out deserved winners, consolation for John Holdsworth being at least two hours late for work. These two sides plus Thorndale will improve the standard of the 2nd Division if they are all promoted, which they deserve to be

Lancashire & Cheshire League

Bad news I'm afraid about the Wirral team, they lost the semi-final of the Norman Cooke Trophy to Sale. The odds were against us from the start and the only consolation was that we had an early night home after losing 5 - 1.

A quick exit also from the spotlight of the TV cameras against East Flint. I think the crowd (about 40) made our lads nervous or something but it didn't go right at all. A good and close match and a very enjoyable night as far as hospitality goes.

Wirral 'A' -v- St. Helens 'A'

A vital relegation battle this, which went sadly wrong for the Wirral team before a ball was hit in anger. With Neil Roberts away on business in Blackpool and Andy Seward sustaining a broken wrist, Phil Luxon (Hoylake YM) was called upon to make his debut. Team manager Frank Irwin had to step in at the 8th hour to complete the team as Ken Darlington failed to beat the clock.

Phil took all the honours going on the Wirral side, winning one singles and partnering Trevor Barraclough (NBCC) to win the doubles, but that represents the total Wirral successes on the night. It was a pity that the biggest crowd of the season, 4, who came to watch what should have been a close struggle saw very little table-tennis of note.

If only Neil Roberts would learn to sunbathe during the Summer and Andy Seward would learn that at his age, bones become brittle

LEADING AVERAGES

DIVISION I	W	L	%
J.Fennah (Pinewood)	24	0	100
D.Roberts (Hoylake YM)	14	0	100
K.Darlington (NBCC)	24	4	85.7
A.Timewell (Upton VH)	12	2	85.7
J.Cooper (Caldy)	22	4	84.6
T.Barraclough (NBCC)	25	5	83.3
G.Exell (Upton VH)	20	4	83.3
A.Seward (NBCC)	18	4	81.8
P.Luxon (Hoylake YM)	19	5	79.2

LEAGUE TABLES (for cards received by Saturday 25th February)

DIVISION I	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
N.B.C.C.	15	14	-	1	109	41	28
CALDY	15	12	1	2	100	50	25
HOYLAKES YM	14	10	1	3	101	39	21
UPTON VH	12	8	1	3	78	42	17
PINEWOOD	13	7	2	4	74	56	16
UPTON VH2	13	7	-	6	73	57	14
ALDERLEY	14	5	2	7	55	85	12
CALDY 2	13	3	3	7	57	73	9
LEVER	13	3	1	9	53	77	7
PINEWOOD 2	14	2	1	11	40	100	5
GREASBY	12	2	1	9	38	82	5
NALGO	14	1	1	12	32	108	3

DIVISION II	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
UPTON VH3	14	12	2	-	102	38	26 34
ST. PETERS	15	12	1	2	95	55	25 34
WIRRAL GAS	15	10	2	3	91	59	22 24
POSTAL	15	8	4	3	88	62	20 27
CALDY 3	15	8	4	3	87	63	20 24
WIRRAL GAS 2	15	5	6	4	81	69	16 22
NDLB	15	4	4	7	62	88	12 16
PINEWOOD 3	15	4	3	8	66	84	11 15
P. SUNLIGHT	14	4	3	7	64	76	11 15
CIVIC	14	2	3	9	51	89	7 10
WALL C.C.	15	2	-	13	48	102	4 5
BUSWAYS	14	1	-	13	45	95	2 5

DIVISION III	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
BROM POOL	15	15	-	-	124	26	30 36
THORNDALE	15	14	-	1	125	25	28 36
NBCC 2	13	9	-	4	82	48	18 21
P. SUNLIGHT 2	14	7	1	6	70	70	15 19
MARINE	13	7	-	6	67	63	14 15
NBCC 3	13	4	3	6	47	83	11 13
NALGO 2	12	4	2	6	56	64	10 10
CALDY 4	15	4	1	10	61	89	9 16
GREASBY 2	13	3	3	7	52	78	9 15
CIVIC 2	14	3	3	8	50	90	9 12
M. POLICE	14	2	3	9	48	92	7 9
THORNDALE 2	13	-	4	9	38	92	4 10

DIVISION IV	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
BIRK YM	15	15	-	-	124	26	30 36
WRUFC	16	10	3	3	106	54	23 29
NALGO 3	15	10	2	3	93	57	22 28
CALDY 5	16	7	4	5	93	67	18 21
HESWALL	14	5	6	3	78	62	16 19
WILLMERS	15	6	3	6	72	78	15 17
MPTE	14	7	-	7	66	74	14 23
CALDY 6	15	4	5	6	68	82	13 15
P. SUNLIGHT 3	15	4	4	7	71	79	12 16
WIRRAL GAS 3	14	4	3	7	63	77	11 15
NALGO 4	15	4	2	9	58	92	10 12
NBCC 4	12	3	-	9	29	91	6 10
CIVIC 3	16	-	2	14	39	121	2 2

DIVISION V	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
BUSWAYS 3	14	13	1	-	98	42	27 30
ALDERLEY 2	14	12	2	-	110	30	26 32
WALL. LTC.	15	10	1	4	95	55	21 29
MPTE 2	15	8	2	5	87	63	18 20
NBCC 5	13	8	1	4	79	51	17 21
BROM POOL 2	14	7	2	5	77	63	16 20
WALL. AMB.	14	6	3	5	81	59	15 20
EGERTON	13	3	3	7	65	65	9 17
BUSWAYS 2	12	4	-	8	45	75	8 14
PINEWOOD 4	14	2	-	12	33	107	4 6
POLICE 2	13	-	2	11	26	104	2 4
MARINE 2	13	-	1	12	24	106	1 2

DIVISION VI	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
BIRK YM 2	14	13	1	-	110	30	27 32
ALDERLEY 3	14	11	1	2	87	53	23 28
POSTAL 2	15	9	3	3	101	49	21 25
WRUFC 2	14	10	1	3	90	50	21 27
UPTON VH 4	14	9	1	4	95	45	19 27
CALDY 7	13	7	1	5	72	58	15 20
ENG. MARTYRS	12	4	1	7	48	72	9 14
WALL AMB 2	15	3	2	10	53	97	8 5
HESWALL 2	11	3	1	7	48	62	7 11
P.S.B.B.	14	3	-	11	44	96	6 6
WALL LTC. 2	14	2	-	12	42	98	4 4
B.B.B.	14	2	-	12	30	110	4 4

DIVISION VII	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Nosslands	13	13	-	-	106	25	26 10
St.Saviours	11	8	-	3	70	40	16 24
Nosslands 2	11	4	-	7	50	60	8 13
Postal 3	11	4	-	7	41	69	8 8
Wall B.C.	5	3	-	2	28	22	6 6
Neston C.C.	7	2	1	4	25	45	5 5
St.Saviours 2	12	1	1	10	35	85	3 5
Caldy 8	4	1	-	3	16	24	2 3

A Week with Caldys

The week started with a needle match between the two Division 4 sides at Caldys. The fifth team stormed to a four one lead with the closest set being that between the two number ones George Healey and John Powell. After much dogged defending and low 'they shall not pass' pushing George ran out winner 21-15 in the third. The one set to the sixths was taken by Charles McCoombe who ran into a golden spell to hit through Roy Mahon's defences.

After the break the characters of the match changed and the sixth team fought back to good effect and only narrowly lost the match. Two very close doubles eventually left the match 6-4 with only George Healey undefeated.

The first team had two games against Pinewood teams, the seconds and thirds in the league and Lonsdale quarter finals respectively. Both games ended 9-1 but only after having to search around for reserves. Clive Judd came in on Tuesday to replace Neil Roberts and successfully won all his games. The lost game was Phil Deeks against Steve Roberts which went comfortably to Steve in the third. Hero of the second match was Bill Blundell coming in at the last minute after the whole of the second team were unavailable. Although Caldys should have won on form it was only after Bill beat Geoff Fennah that the team showed the confidence to force the victory.

The third team were given a ten nil walkover but Bill Blundell and Wyn Postance were still able to go up to the club for a practice session which obviously stood Bill in good stead later in the week.

The fourth and the eighth teams had two matches to play in the week.

The fourth played Upton first in the Bill Lowe Shield and eventually lost by 30 points. They were particularly impressed with the determined attitude of the Upton team though the highlight of the evening was Ian Cleators 21-19 victory over Don Collister. Rob Sim and Mike Hill must have been saddened but wiser after losing 21-1 to Gordon Exell and Gordon Atwell in the top doubles. (Not to worry the two Gordons thrashed Neil and Phil a couple of weeks earlier).

Their second match of the week finished no more favourably when losing 8-2 to division leaders Bromborough Pool. Ian Cleator and Rob Sim were the only Caldys victors but the match was hard fought and it was by no means the walkover the score suggests.

The eighth team had more success when visiting Postal third in Division 7. With Brian Murphy returning to competition after an ankle injury they reversed a defeat of the previous week to win 8-2. However, without Brian they narrowly lost to Neston Cricket Club later in the week. Brian Spencer and Philip Boland won both their singles but lack of experience was the downfall of young Alan Price and Andrew Siddle and of the doubles combinations. To those who have seen these seventh division matches it seems that most of the sides could hold their own in higher divisions and the experience being gained by the younger Caldys players is invaluable.

The second and seventh team played but failed to beat opponents for the second time this season. Stan Grayson won both his games but the loss of both the doubles left Pinewood 6-4 victors in Division one and in Division six despite top class play from Andy Rowntree, Wallasey RUFC 2nd made the seventh team 7-3 victims for the second time.

Ah well, that's another week over, 11 matches with 5 wins and 6 defeats - let's hope next week is a little more successful.

PHIL DEEKS.

BIRKENHEAD YMCA II -v- UPTON V.H. IV

Upton made a good start to this match, exploiting their strength at No.1 and 2. Ged Hannon kept YM in the hunt at this stage with his 3rd win out of 4 sets with Mrs. Reg Jones this season.

With the interval score at 3-2 in favour of Upton, YMCA had expectations of better things to come which were soon justified. The Upton tail put up very little resistance and YM only needed one doubles to clinch a win which they consolidated in the second doubles.

John Bassnett of Upton, probably the best player in the division (until Ged Hannon's shattered specs are repaired) won both his singles with plenty to spare, with Graham Paton recording a similar feat for YMCA.

second and seventh team played but failed to beat opponents
on second time this season. Stan Grasse won both his matches
on loss of both the doubles lost 6-4 victory in
on one and in Division six despite top class play from
forwarder, William RUTC and made the seventh team 3-3 victory
on second time.

It's another week over, 11 matches with 5 wins and 6
losses - let's hope next week is a little more successful.

PHIL DEES