



The Wirral Horn

NEWSLETTER OF THE WIRRAL TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

FEBRUARY 1978

FROM THE EDITOR

Please remember to send in your entries for the WIRRAL CLOSED Tournament - make it the most successful yet. There is something for everybody, even a Veterans event which was omitted from the form by mistake, we will accept entries for this event on the day (30p).

I am very pleased to have a few match reports to publish this month, keep them coming in, I'm sure these are of interest to the league as a whole, it is always good to know what is going on in the other Divisions apart from the one we actually play in.

Will Committee Members please note the next meeting is on the 6th February at 7.30 p.m.

The WIRRAL representative team play the Semi-Final of the NORMAN COOKE MEMORIAL TROPHY competition at Warrington Y.M.C.A. on Sunday 5th February at 7.30 p.m. against SALE T.T.L. We wish them success. Anybody wishing to support their team, please contact me for details.

Congratulations to CHRIS WELCH, Sec. of P.S.B.B. on being offered a place at Southampton University. I don't suppose we will see much of him for a couple of seasons, it's rather a long way to travel for his away games.

Glad to hear ROY TIERNEY is well on his road to recovery, I see he played (and won) a game of doubles the other night.

The GREASBY club first team are struggling after losing NEIL MEHTA who has left the district. Cyril Higby has agreed to carry on playing the Greasby fixtures with the help of younger players from the lower Divisions, so be on your toes Div. 1 clubs, or there might be embarrassing moments for you. Many thanks to those who helped to arrange this, it can do nothing but good to all concerned.

Don't forget the Buffet dance 5th May - tickets still available from Committee members.

STAN WILKINSON

N.B.C.C.3 430 points -v- CALDY 2 434 points (Bill Lowe Shield)

As can be seen from the score-line, the handicapping committee did their job well - too well as far as the players' nerves were concerned. The match was played under typical N.B.C.C. conditions - outside temperature cold, inside temperature colder, the central heating off and the bar shut. Come back N.B.C.C. I all is forgiven. The attendance for this match was, we gather, a ground record of 1 2/3rds, the fractions being an unnamed guest who went to the pub at half-time to thaw out and a Pakistani who had got lost.

In the match itself, it looked initially as though Caldý would experience little difficulty, the initial deficit of 90 being reduced to 67 with only three games played. However, enter stage left, J. Roberts who had obviously not read the script. With a natty line in floor-stamping, backward somersaults and exuberant shouts, he demolished Bob Boyle 21-13. This appeared to encourage N.B.C.C. who, whilst not winning any more games, took three of the next four games to 19 or deuce, W. McKeown playing particularly well. With Caldý initially needing to win each game to 16 or better, these games obviously did not improve their chances, nor did subsequent wins by Stan Grayson and Keith Wells to 16 over G. Fairhurst.

At this point, tea was served (vintage 1972 by the taste-not a good year). Fortified or otherwise by this brew, John Lancaster discarded three of his six sweaters (he's no fool) and beat M. Jarman 21-9. This only served to put Caldý back on schedule for a draw. After another 21-19 win by Bob Boyle over G. Fairhurst, Stan Grayson played superb table tennis against W. McKeown to come back from 5-8 to win 21-13. The next two games did not materially affect the overall situation thus leaving Caldý 14 points adrift with only three games remaining. Bob and John then squandered a 6 point lead in their doubles and just sneaked home 21-19. Everyone was then provided with ear-plugs and Keith Wells took on J. Roberts. The latter hit and the former retrieved. The turning point was when Keith produced his renowned running-backwards, falling-forwards, bat between his legs scooped lob (must be seen to be believed) which somewhat bemused his opponent. By dint of greater experience under pressure, Keith cruised home 21-11. This meant that in the final game, the second doubles, a win for Caldý to 19 or

deuce would mean a draw. This game epitomised the entire match. It teetered every which way. Caldý led 10-5 (the first time they had led overall) only to be clawed back to 12-all. At 15-all, the match was still up for grabs. Only then did nerves begin to show and Caldý took the next six points for the match.

All in all, a superbly balanced and, we hope, enjoyable match for all concerned with Caldý creeping into the next round and N.B.C.C. left to wonder what might have been if only they had maintained their confidence in their own ability.

KEITH WELLS

Birkenhead YMCA 2 -v- Postal 2

Postal took a flying start to this match taking the first three singles with something to spare. A. Edwards demolition of Ged Hannon certainly had YM worried.

G. Hannon and G. Paton led the fight back each winning one singles set, and then combining to take the first doubles from Edwards and M. Bowen. This game had everything - superb uninhibited hitting, good defence, and some excellent positional play.

With the match at 3 all the scene was set for the clash between R. Levy and A. Edwards, two of the most successful players in the division. This set outshone the preceding doubles with both players anxious to attack at every opportunity. Richard Levy's ability to defend at long range, and still get to the table for his looped top spin proved the deciding factor in the third game.

YMCA in top gear coasted through the next two sets to make sure of the points before Postal made a big effort to reduce the margin in the second doubles.

This match was a good advertisement for Wirral table tennis, with most of the players on view in their first full league season. At least three of the players are already capable of competing against first division players, and I hope they take the opportunity to do so at the Wirral Closed. There may be some red faces if they do!

LEAGUE TABLES

DIVISION I

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS.
N.B.C.C.	10	10	-	-	75	25	20
HOYLAKE	10	7	-	3	70	30	14
CALDY	9	7	-	2	60	30	14
UVH	9	6	-	3	57	33	12
UVH.2	8	5	-	3	50	30	10
PINEWOOD	8	4	2	2	45	35	10
LEVER	10	3	1	6	43	57	7
ALDERLEY	9	3	1	5	33	57	7
CALDY 2	9	2	2	5	39	51	6
PINEWOOD 2	9	2	-	7	25	65	4
NALGO	10	1	1	8	24	76	3
GREASBY	7	-	1	6	19	51	1

DIVISION II

ST. PETERS	11	10	-	1	72	38	20
U.V.H. 3	10	9	1	-	71	29	19
WIRR.GAS	11	7	2	2	67	43	16
POSTAL	11	6	3	2	63	47	15
CALDY 3	10	4	3	3	51	49	11
WIRR.GAS 2	10	3	4	3	51	49	10
PINEWOOD 3	9	3	1	5	43	47	7
P.SUNLIGHT	9	2	3	4	39	51	7
CIVIC	11	2	3	6	43	67	7
N.D.L.B.	10	2	2	6	40	60	6
BUSWAYS	11	1	-	10	38	72	2
WALL C.C.	9	1	-	8	32	58	2

DIVISION III

BROM POOL	10	10	-	-	82	18	20
THORNDAL	10	9	-	1	88	12	18
N.B.C.C. 2	10	8	-	2	67	33	16
MARINE	11	6	-	5	56	54	12
P.SUNLIGHT 2	9	4	1	4	43	47	9
GREASBY 2.	10	3	3	4	45	55	8
N.B.C.C. 3	9	3	2	4	34	56	8
M.POLICE	10	2	3	5	39	61	7
CIVIC 2.	9	2	3	4	36	54	7
NALGO 2.	10	2	2	6	40	60	6
CALDY 4	10	1	1	8	31	69	3
THORNDAL	10	-	3	7	29	71	3

DIVISION IV

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS.
BIRK Y.M.	12	12	-	-	101	19	24
W.R.U.F.C.	13	10	2	1	93	37	22
WILLMERS	13	5	3	5	62	68	13
NALGO 3	11	6	1	4	61	49	13
CALDY 5	12	4	4	4	67	53	12
HESWALL	10	4	4	2	58	42	12
CALDY 6	12	3	5	4	53	67	11
WIRR.GAS.3	11	4	2	5	52	58	10
P.SUNLIGHT 3	11	3	3	5	53	57	9
M.P.T.E.	10	4	-	6	41	59	8
NALGO 4.	10	2	2	6	36	64	6
N.B.C.C.4	9	2	-	7	22	68	4
CIVIC 3.	12	-	2	10	31	89	2

DIVISION V

BUSWAYS 3	10	9	1	-	66	34	19
ALDERLEY 2	10	8	2	-	76	24	18
M.P.T.E. 2	11	6	2	3	67	43	14
BROM POOL 2	10	6	1	3	60	40	13
WALL L.T.C.	10	6	1	3	60	40	13
N.B.C.C. 5	9	6	-	3	57	33	12
WALL AMB.	10	4	2	4	55	45	10
BUSWAYS 2.	9	3	-	6	36	54	6
EGERTON	10	2	1	7	47	53	5
PINEWOOD 4	9	1	-	8	18	72	2
MARINE 2	7	-	1	6	14	56	1
M.POLICE 2	9	-	1	8	14	76	1

DIVISION VI

BIRK YM 2.	9	9	-	-	72	18	18
ALDERLEY 3	10	9	-	1	64	36	18
UVH.4	10	7	1	2	72	28	15
W.R.U.F.C.2	10	6	1	3	57	43	13
POSTAL 2	10	4	3	3	59	41	11
CALDY 7	8	4	1	3	45	35	9
ENG.MARTYRS	8	3	1	4	34	46	7
P.S.B.B.	10	3	-	7	38	62	6
WALL AMB.	10	2	1	7	37	63	5
HESWALL 2	7	2	-	5	28	42	4
WALL L.T.C. 2	10	1	-	9	26	74	2
BIRK B.B.	8	1	-	7	18	62	2

DIVISION VII

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Mosslands	10	10	-	-	83	17	20
St. Saviours	9	7	-	2	58	32	14
Mosslands 2	9	3	-	6	40	50	6
Wall B.C.	5	3	-	2	28	22	6
Postal 3	7	3	-	4	27	43	6
Neston C.C.	7	2	1	4	25	45	5
St. Saviours 2	11	1	1	9	33	77	3
Caldy 8	2	-	-	2	6	14	0

Port Sunlight B.B. 6 -v- Birkenhead B.B. 4

This match was by far the closest of this season so far. Port Sunlight shot into a five nil lead losing only one game, a position which seemed beyond the reach of Birkenhead, but after the interval Birkenhead got down to business and gradually whittled their deficit to just one set. The final result rested on the shoulders of Neil Snellgrove for Port Sunlight and J. Hess. Neil lost the first game putting Birkenhead into a strong position, but he regained his confidence to win the second quite easily. The third game was even until with the score at nineteen-all Neil played two good shots to clinch the game for Port Sunlight, a finish which left everybody's nails shorter than at the start of the match.

The SEMI FINALS of the R.A.F.A. cup to be played W/C 13th February:-

THORNDALE	-v-	U.V.H. 3
BROM. POOL	-v-	St. PETERS

LEADING AVERAGES

FEB. 1978

DIVISION 1

J. Fennah (Pinewood)	16	0
J. Cooper (Caldy)	14	0
T. Barrclough (NBCC)	18	2
P. Luxon (Hoylake)	17	3
K. Darlington (NBCC)	15	3
G. Exell (UVH)	15	3
A. Seward (NBCC)	15	3

DIVISION 2

G. Parkes (UVH 3)	18	2
C. Hind (P. Sunlight)	14	2
D. Carlisle (UVH 3)	17	3
J. Harris (W. Gas)	15	3
F. Irwin (W. Gas)	18	4
B. Carter (St. Peters)	13	3
I. Tucker (Pinewood 3)	13	3

DIVISION 3

H. Jones (B. Pool)	16	0
I. McCaig (Thorndale)	18	2
A. Willett (B. Pool)	18	2
W. Jones (Thorndale)	16	2
M. Robinson (Thorndale)	16	2
R. Jones (B. Pool)	17	3
D. Watson (NBCC 2)	17	3
N. Berry (P. Sunlight 2)	15	3
P. Chandler (Thorndale)	15	3
J. Horobin (NBCC 2)	16	4

DIVISION 4

R. Bissell (Birk. YM)	20	0
K. Fessey (Birk. YM)	17	3
D. Rennison (Willmers)	20	6
M. Redmond (Birk. YM)	15	5
J. Griffiths (WRUFC)	19	7

DIVISION 5

E. McDonald (MPTE 2)	16	0
J. Stevenson (Egerton)	13	1
P. Stewart (Alderley 2)	18	2
T. Heatley (B. Pool 2)	17	3
J. Murray (Busways 3)	17	3
G. Charles (WLTC)	16	4
K. Walton (NBCC5)	14	4

DIVISION 6

J. Basnett (UVH 4)	16	1
R. Jones (UVH 4)	16	1
R. Levy (Birk. YM2)	13	1
A. Edwards (Postal 2)	17	3
K. Cross (WRUFC 2)	15	3

DIVISION 7

P. Tsoi (Mosslands)	11	1
A. Lloyd (Mosslands)	18	2
R. McAllister (Mosslands)	18	2
G. Jones (St. Saviours)	16	2

WIRRAL -v- MANCHESTER BANKS

Gordon Exell, John Fennah, Trevor Barraclough

Again the Wirral Team found themselves struggling 3 games to 1 down. The Manchester team seemed at this point to have the beating of our lads, but Trevor dug his heels in at this point and started a revival which ended up in a surprising 7 - 3 win for us, not the best of matches, one I think we would like to forget.

Johns game against their No.2 was the game of the night. The surprising thing about this was the amiable way they talked to each other after the match, because during the game they were hitting the ball at each other so hard and looking as if they really hated the ball, the table and each other. It was with relief we watched them shake hands afterwards.

If we had lost this match, the way home in the fog would have seemed very dreary indeed.

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WIRRAL -v- WIDNES & RUNCORN

Gordon Exell, John Fennah, Alan Timewell

Played eventually at Capenhurst (2) on Friday 27th January. Another traumatic match, only had you been there to witness it would you believe the ups and downs of both teams, including having our venue snatched from under our noses. Next time we will get there first.

Although very pleased that we eventually won the match 6-4, one came away almost feeling sorry for a very patient, sporting and sometimes unlucky Widnes team.

The Wirral team at the moment play as a TEAM. It is good to see and watch as they help each other along. We all have off nights sometimes and this at the moment seems to spur the other members of the team on to even things up, so to mention names would not be appropriate. The TEAM is unbeaten this season, keep it up.