



Liverpool & District stalwart mourned

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The Liverpool & District League is mourning both the death of stalwart Harry Reeve and the loss of one of its long-established clubs.

League Organising Secretary and Administrator Tom Purcell writes:

The untimely death of Harry Reeve due to the coronavirus has highlighted the conclusion of two areas of table tennis, one relating to a gentleman and local league player and the other to the end of a long-established table tennis club.

Linacre TTC has continuously played league table tennis in the Liverpool area since the 1948-49 season and, just before the 2020/21 season was due to start, I was informed by Harry that Linacre would not be entering a team for the new season.

This was partly due to the fact that a number of the team were suffering from physical ailments and concerns about the ongoing covid-19 virus.

Harry mentioned to me that he and the previous secretaries at Linacre TTC had kept a record of every league and cup match they had played in the Liverpool League. The records were kept in books since the day they played their first league match on 27 October, 1948.

Harry wasn't sure what was going to happen to the records so for historical purposes I agreed to transfer all the records on to the computer and on 1 September I started recording the information. I had just completed the data from the 2016-17 season on 20 October when I was informed that Harry had died earlier that day.

The records have been meticulously kept for each season and at the end of each season a record was made of each player's record. The records show that when Linacre played their first match in 1949 they were playing at 21 Bridge Road, Litherland. They played there for one season and then moved to 100 Moore St, Bootle L20 where they played for a number of years.

Harry was 18 when he played his first league match for Linacre in 1957. He won his first two matches. A copy of the scorecard is shown below:

League match v University Away
 Tuesday 10th Dec. '57.

1. L. Jones	1. J. Larkin	21 19	21 19	2	-	1	-	
"	2. F. Lacey	21 10	21 18	2	-	1	-	
2. P. Ascroft	1. J. Larkin	16 21	19 21	-	2	-	1	
"	3. D. M'Gonigal	12 21	21 18	"	21	1	2	
3. L. Rosenbloom	2. F. Lacey	21 16	21 18	2	-	1	-	
"	4. A. Davidson	21 23	18 21	-	2	-	1	
4. J. Towers	3. D. M'Gonigal	20 22	13 21	-	2	-	1	
"	5. H. Reeve	19 21	21 19	19	21	1	2	
5. M. Eason	4. A. Davidson	21 18	12 21	12	21	1	2	
"	6. H. Reeve	13 21	21 19	16	21	1	2	
Match won by Linacre							10	14
							3	7

As Harry grew older he began working as a ship's engineer and over the years he missed many league matches because he was working at sea. He finally retired in 1999 as a senior engineer for a major shipping line.

Below is a record of the number of matches, sets and games played by Linacre TTC between 1948 and 2020.

LINACRE TTC 1949-2020	MATCHES				SETS		GAMES	
	P	W	L	D	F	A	F	A
LEAGUE MATCHES	1645	667	717	261	8056	8347	20479	21473
CUP MATCHES	203	81	96	26	834	1046	2169	2430
TOTAL	1848	748	813	287	8890	9393	22648	23903
TOTAL WIN %		40.50%						
LEAGUE MATCHES		40.55%						
CUP MATCHES		40.00%						

The League is currently suspended due to the pandemic but when it does eventually return there will not be a Linacre TTC for the first time in 72 years.

The club and its hospitality will be a great loss to the LD TTL but above all the passing of Harry Reeve will be a great loss to everyone who knew him.

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