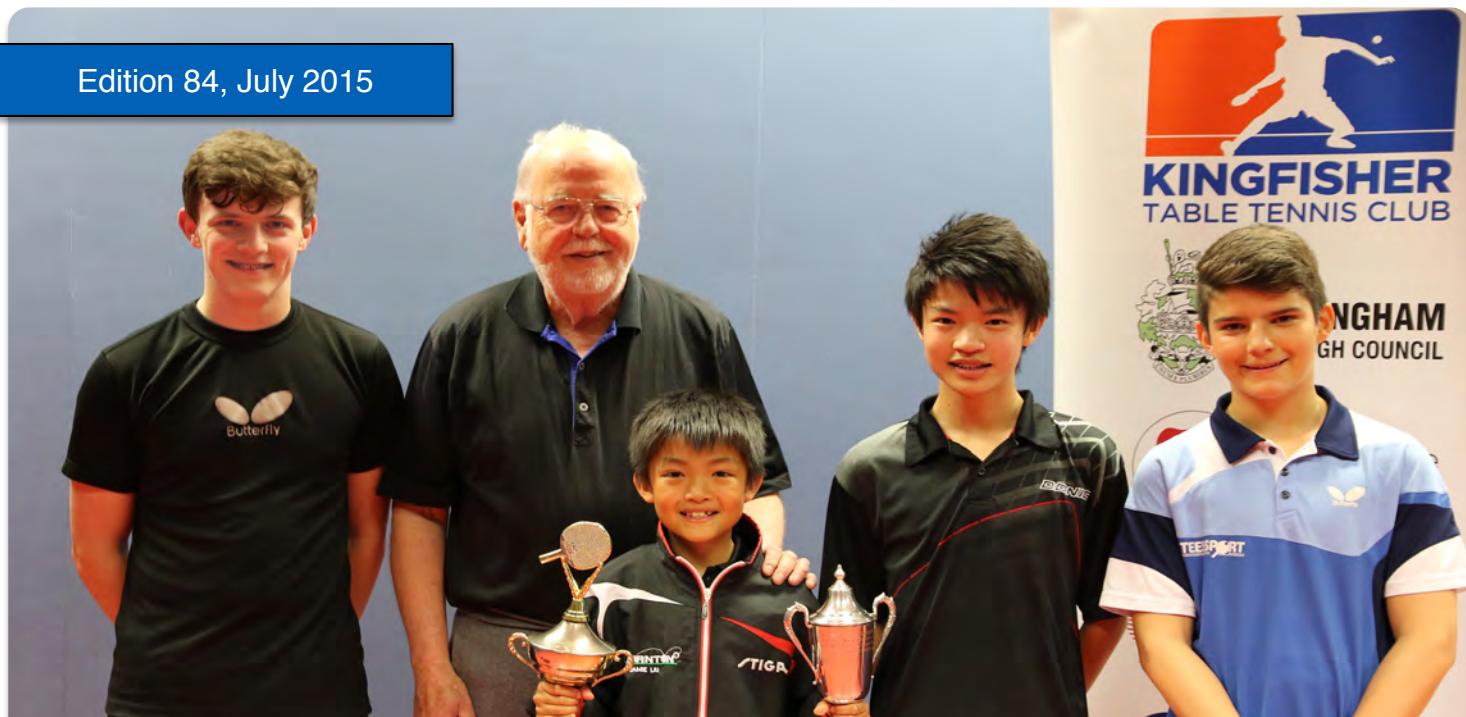


Edition 84, July 2015



## Jamie Liu wins U11 & U12 National Title

### Welcome to Kingfisher News

Congratulations to Jamie Liu, pictured here with Coach Peter Charters and training partners Joshua Gallen, Sam Liu and Janosch Hermann. Jamie won both the under 11 and under 12 National Championship titles in June, in Sheffield.

Kingfisher Summer Grand Prix is over half-way through and has seen a strong field competing each week. In this edition we bring you reports from the first half of the Grand Prix.

Preparations are well underway for the next season - which is now only 6 weeks away (!) - and you'll find information about Reading and Bracknell league team formations.

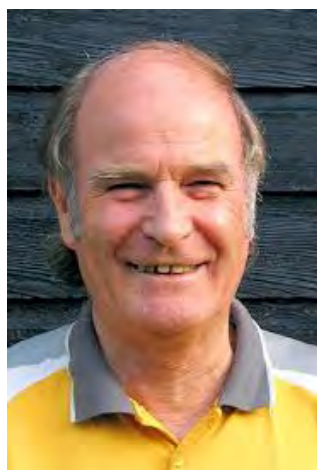
Gwynne Penny, Editor



### Also in this Edition:

- Kingfisher Grand Prix
- Club Night
- Reading League Teams
- Bracknell League Teams
- Kingfisher B win Bracknell Prem
- Your Committee
- Newsletter Noticeboard
- Tees Sport Club Discount Scheme
- Get fit for table tennis with Park Run
- Player Profile: James Johnson
- Good News for Maria
- A Serving of Sneakles
- Roger's Ramblings

# Introduction



Time flies by.

Since the last newsletter, which only seems like yesterday, we have held our 28th AGM, had success on the national stage (congratulations to those members as covered elsewhere), almost completed our Grand Prix series, Peter has organised all of our British League teams for the season, Gwynne and her sub-committee have done all the hard work in organising our local league teams for the coming season, Sandra has worked miracles collecting all the subs and organising fobs, the 12 months defects period on our clubhouse has taken place (still awaiting completion), we have continued negotiating the terms of our lease and are working hard on trying to obtain Community Amateur Sports Club status, amongst many other things).

One disappointment for me at the AGM was that we did not have one person offer to shadow any of the jobs performed by the committee and officers and whilst we have a great team at the moment, I know by experience that it won't go on for ever. So please have second thoughts on this subject and have a chat with me (without obligation) to see if we can make some progress in this direction. ([colindyke@waitrose.com](mailto:colindyke@waitrose.com) or phone 0118 9783770).

Our Facilities Manager, Allen, is trying to progress the humidity problem and hopefully we will have more news on that soon.

A new innovation are the match scoreboards at the back of tables 1 and 2, thanks to Allan. If team captains can ensure that the match scores are displayed as you go along, it will make the viewing from the social area a little more informed.

Before we know where we are, the league season will be upon us so get in plenty of practice and do Kingfisher Club proud.

Colin Dyke, Chairman

# Jamie Liu : National Champion

It's been an exciting summer for 11-year old Kingfisher member Jamie Liu. In May he was interviewed by BBC South Today at the club (as reported in the last edition) and attended the European Hopes Selection Training camp in Luxembourg which included training from China's former national coach, Li Xiaodong and World and Olympic Champion Zhang Yining (pictured).



In July Jamie competed at the Heritage Oil 2\* event in Crawley, in the Band 3 event, and managed a super win against Karim Khassal, who went on to win the event. Karim was ranked 30 in the juniors at the time, against Jamie's Junior ranking of 259.

In early June, he competed at the National Table Tennis Championships in Sheffield and brought back gold in the Under 11 and Under 12 categories, as recounted by Cookie Liu:

"It proved to be a tough weekend for Jamie, with expectations high as he started the tournament seeded number one for both events. Those who don't know Jamie might expect or assume from this that he would automatically win them, when in reality it was a lot more than just a game of seedings. It's more about how well prepared Jamie was ahead of each of the big knock-out matches, and how he performed and reacted to the changing circumstances during the match that determined the outcome.



Jamie on the podium at the National Championships, photographed by Mum, Angela Liu.

There were occasions in the U12 competition where Jamie could have easily yielded to the pressure: conceding away a 2-0 lead in the semi-final against Josh Weatherby and going into the decider 7-2 down, and again at two match-points down at 10-8, showed how much Jamie has progressed in that area of mental toughness 'when it mattered'. Jamie even took himself off with a time-out when he slipped to 5-1 down in the decider. In the U12 final against the number 2 seed, Amirul Hussain, where Jamie trailed throughout the match, it must have been a new experience for Hussain, as he does not normally lose matches when he gets in front. Once again, Jamie played very positively as evident in the fourth game, trailing 9-7 and 2-1 down in games, to earn himself a shot at the title in the decider 5<sup>th</sup> set. Jamie stayed strong and close to the table, attacking whenever he could, and took the title at the second match-point attempt after deuce."

*I'm sure you'll agree with me that it's good to see that all Jamie's hard work, and the hard work of his practice partners at Kingfisher, is paying off! Well done Jamie! (Gwynne)*



# Jamie Liu : National Champion

As reported by Table Tennis England:

Jamie Liu saved two match points in the semi-finals as he won both that match and the final in five sets to lift his first national title. The last-four tie against Josh Weatherby enthralled the crowd, who reacted warmly to both players' excellence.

Having taken the first two sets, Liu appeared on course to book a final place in routine fashion, as Weatherby appeared to struggle with his emotions. If that was the case, it didn't show in the next two as Weatherby stormed back, out-hitting Liu and saving a match point in the fourth.

He built an early lead in the fifth as well but Liu chipped away at it, getting some momentum so that, when Weatherby went 10-8 up, he was still able to bulldoze his way through the next four points.

The final was no less exhilarating. Twice Hussain took the lead and twice Liu levelled, reeling off three points from 9-8 down in the fourth.

The decider was tight all the way and Hussain levelled at 9-9 with the help of a net cord. Liu moved ahead again, saw his first match point saved but made no mistake with the next. The other semi-final saw Hussain come out on top in four against Freddie Osenton-Brown.

In the quarters, the standout match was Hussain's tie with Chamika Weerasinghe, won 3-2 by the former (10-12, 11-3, 11-6, 9-11, 11-4).

Liu beat Ben Fillingham 3-1 (11-6, 6-11, 11-5, 11-4), Osenton-Brown defeated Will McCarthy 3-0 (11-8, 11-9, 13-11) and Weatherby was victorious against Louis Moyes in three (11-8, 11-9, 12-10).

- See more at: <http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/wong-and-liu-deliver-their-sunday-best/-sthash.aKa7MHFf.dpuf>

## **Under-12 Boys' Singles**

### **Semi-finals**

Amir Hussain bt Freddie Osenton-Brown 3-1 (11-8, 10-12, 11-8, 11-8)

Jamie Liu bt Josh Weatherby 3-2 (11-9, 11-5, 6-11, 12-14, 12-10)

### **Final**

Liu bt Hussain 3-2 (8-11, 11-8, 10-12, 11-9, 12-10)

## **Under-11 Boys' Singles**

### **Semi-finals**

Rhys Davies bt Dylan Tynan 3-1 (11-8, 11-8, 5-11, 11-8)

Jamie Liu bt Thomas Rayner 3-0 (12-10, 11-6, 11-9)

### **Final**

Liu bt Davies 3-0 (11-9, 11-2, 11-4)

## **Paul Stimpson**

**June 7, 2015**

# Kingfisher Grand Prix

Hosted by Wendy Porter and Andrew Parker, with trophies and refreshments organized by Andy Yon, Kingfisher's popular Summer Grand Prix is now entering it's final phase, with Finals Night taking place on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

In this edition of Kingfisher News, you can read reports 1-6. Reports 7-12 will appear in the next edition.



## About Kingfisher Grand Prix:

- Register on the night by 7:30pm.
- 50p entry fee per week payable on the night.
- Straight knock out competition with a random draw each round.
- Consolation event for first match losers, so everyone is guaranteed at least two matches.
- Points system for both winners and losers.
- Weekly league tables and regular write-ups.
- Losing players to umpire.
- Prizes for various categories of members.
- Friendly atmosphere with nibbles for all.

Good luck everyone, hope to see you there!



# Grand Prix Week 1 – 18 May 2015

Klmgfisher's 2015 Grand Prix season got off to a swinging start with 21 entrants vying for the points on offer.

In the semi-Finals Hari Gehlot overcame Yeqin Zeng in a tight 4 setter whilst Krassi Ivanov comfortably beat George Milovanovic in three games.

Hari came out the winner in a well contested final against Krassi in four to take the lead in the overall competition.

Results:

## Main Event

### Last 16:

Djordje Milovanovic bt Rick Leachman -4,4,4,7  
Richard Rosinski bt Joe Barraclough 9,7,1  
Krassi Ivanov bt David Joyce 2,7,10  
Nils Wedi bt David Gostelow 10,8,8  
Yeqin Zeng bt John Upham 1,6,8  
Colin Dyke bt Allen Pack 8,8 -6,9  
Hari Gehlot bt Roger Woolven-Allen 4,6,3  
Steve Miller bt John Liddle 4,4,4

### Quarter Finals:

Djordje Milovanovic bt Richard Rosinski bt 9,8,7  
Krassi Ivanov bt Nils Wedi 5,3,6  
Yeqin Zeng bt Colin Dyke 8,7,6  
Hari Gehlot bt Steve Miller 2,9,8

### Semi Finals:

Krassi Ivanov bt Djordje Milovanovic 4,5,4  
Hari Gehlot bt Yeqin Zeng -11,5,9,8

### Final:

Hari Gehlot bt Krassi Ivanov 5,-9,4,9

## Consolation Event:

### Semi Finals:

David Joyce bt Melvyn Lovegrove 8,11,12  
Jean-Noël Thépaut bt Rick Leachman 4,3,3

### Final:

Jean-Noël Thépaut bt David Joyce 4,6,2



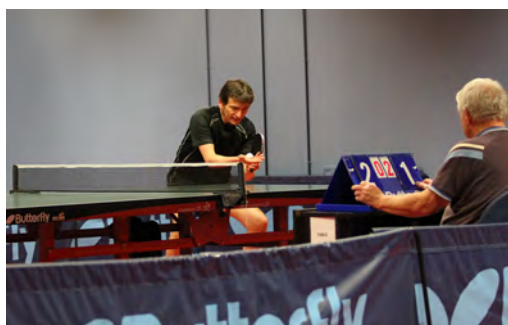
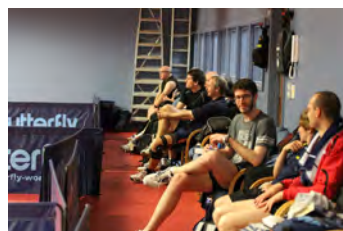
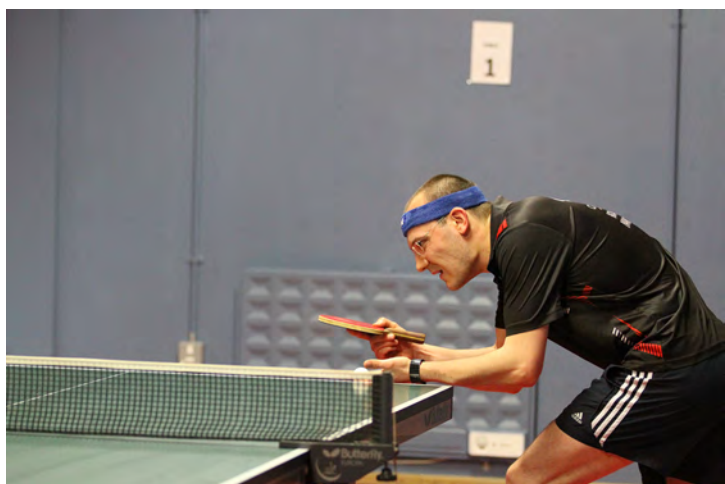
Hari Gehlot Main Event Winner



Jean-Noël Thépaut  
Consolation Event Winner



# Grand Prix Week 1 Gallery



# Grand Prix Week 2 – 25 May 2015

Kingfisher Grand Prix No 2 produced a few surprises but at the end of the day favourite Daniel McTiernan eased through to win the event in some style, beating Hari Gehlot in the final in three close sets. In the semi-finals Hari had won comfortably against Steve Miller whilst Daniel had to work hard, just scraping past Andy Smith in five terrific games.

The biggest upset came in the Last 16 when David Joyce fought back magnificently to beat the previous week's semi-finalist Djordje Milovanovic after being 2 sets down. Hari comfortably leads in the overall table, having played both events so far.

Results: GRAND PRIX NO 2

## Main Event

### Last 16:

Ian Cole bt Gwynne Penny 5,2,7  
Andy Smith bt Jo Barraclough 7,2,-8,7  
Daniel McTiernan bt Hari Vennapusa 5,7,11  
Josh Gallen bt Colin Dyke 7,6,-8,8  
Hari Gehlot bt Yeqin Zeng -7,8,4,5  
Steve Miller bt Roger Woolven-Allen 10,6,7  
David Joyce bt Djordje Milovanovic -5 -9 9,4,8  
Trevor Organ bt Luca Bianchi 6,-9,-6,7,9

### Quarter Finals:

Steve Miller bt David Joyce 10,6,4  
Daniel McTiernan bt Ian Cole 6,-12,1,6  
Andy Smith bt Trevor Organ 7,8,3  
Hari Gehlot bt Josh Gallen 8,-8,6,3

### Semi Finals:

Daniel McTiernan bt Andy Smith -7,9,4,-7,6  
Hari Gehlot bt Steve Miller 2,2,4

### Final:

Daniel McTiernan bt Hari Gehlot 8,8,8

## Consolation Event:

### Semi Finals:

Colin Dyke bt Melvyn Lovegrove 5,-5,4,8  
Sam Liu bt Djordje Milovanovic 8,7,7

### Final:

Sam Liu bt Colin Dyke 9,5,9



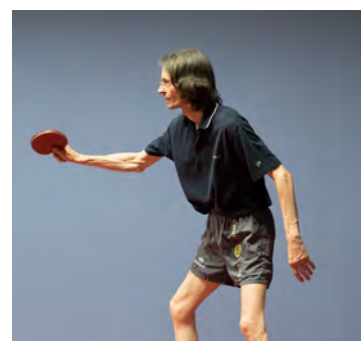
Daniel McTiernan - Main Event Winner



Sam Liu  
Consolation Event Winner



# Grand Prix Week 2 Gallery



# Grand Prix Week 3 – 1st June 2015

The third Grand Prix in our series again saw a strong entry resulting in a second consecutive win for Daniel McTiernan when he beat first time entrant Ian Girdler 3-1. Having gone 2-0 down, Ian came back strongly to take the third but his efforts just fell short when he lost the fourth game at deuce to prevent what could have been an interesting fifth.

New member and hard bat specialist Martin Gunn on his first appearance received a tough draw in the preliminary round coming up against fifth placed Yeqin Zeng. A classic encounter saw Yeqin eventually scrape through 8-11, 11-9, 11-9, 8-11, 13-11. Yeqin however met his match in the next round when losing out to favourite Daniel McTiernan in three tight games. David Joyce also showed his current good form at the preliminary stage taking a game from Ian Girdler in a 3-1 defeat.

Tournament leaders Hari Gehlot and Daniel McTiernan were drawn against each other in the quarter finals meaning one of them would have a chance to open or close the gap on the other if progressing through. That was to be Daniel 3-1 after losing a tight first game and he now stands just 27 points behind Hari at the top of the table.

In the semi-finals Daniel and Ian had comfortable wins to ease through to the final.

Results: GRAND PRIX NO 3

**Main Event.** Last 16:

Ian Cole bt Rick Leachman 4,4,4

Daniel McTiernan bt Yeqin Zeng 11,7,10

Hari Gehlot bt Roger Pritchard 8,5,1

Steve Miller bt Jo Barraclough 9,5,7

Djordje Milovanovic bt Dave Gostelow 6,5,-9,9

Trevor Organ bt Gwynne Penny 7,8,8

Ian Girdler bt Richard Rosinski 3,-11,14,7

Krassi Ivanov bt Colin Dyke 7,6,4

Quarter Finals:

Djordje Milovanovic bt Steve Miller 8, -10, -8, 9, 12

Daniel McTiernan bt Hari Gehlot -12,7,2,7

Ian Cole bt Trevor Organ 12, 9,-10,6

Ian Girdler bt Krassi Ivanov 8,4,9

Semi Finals:

Daniel McTiernan bt Ian Cole 3,3,2

Ian Girdler bt Djordje Milovanovic 6,8,8

Final:

Daniel McTiernan bt Ian Girdler 8,5,-4,10

Consolation Event:

Semi Finals:

Colin Dyke bt Jo Barraclough -10,8,12,-13,17

Martin Gunn bt David Joyce 1,8,1



Daniel McTiernan - Main Event Winner



Martin Gunn  
Consolation Event Winner



# Grand Prix Week 3 Gallery





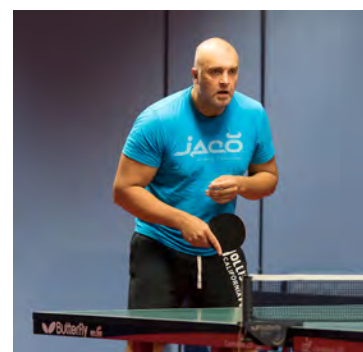
# Grand Prix Week 4 – 8 June 2015

Grand Prix No 4 saw a big increase in participants and the strongest field of the series to date.

Second placed Daniel McTiernan was absent giving Hari Gehlot a massive opportunity to increase his lead if he could get his game together against the tough opposition ahead. And get it together he did. With a 3-0 quarter final win over Josh Gallen, he went on to beat first time entrant Eduard Caliman in the semi final at 7 in the fifth after being 2-0 down in games and just scraping the fourth 17-15. Then he had to face the Italian favourite Federico Viterbo in the final and, after this time leading 2-0, he eventually pulled through at 13-11 in the fifth.



In an interview after the match, Hari said “ It was certainly a tight game against Federico and I was fortunate with some luck in the 1st game which allowed me to pip him in that end. In the second game Fed was a little edgy and made mistakes on his bread and butter strokes and I won that end fairly comfortably. Games 3 and 4 Fed always appeared under control and in both games started with a 4-0 lead and then managed to stay in front of me to secure those games fairly comfortably. Game 5 was a see saw game where one or the other either got in front and then caught again. However with Fed 10-8 in front I was serving to stay in the game. I succeeded in getting to 10-10 with a couple of good serves that helped keep him at bay and secure those points for me. From then on it was down to whoever held their nerve best. Fed eventually lost because a shot by him didn’t find its mark hence giving me the game. The conditions in the club were a little humid and that helped me in feeling and blocking the ball well. And against Fed who doesn’t hit the ball so slowly this was crucial for me. Lastly practicing against each other made the game harder for both of us as we knew each other’s games well.”



Hari now has a substantial 148 points lead at the top of the table but others will be trying to reduce that in the weeks to come.

Results:

[Main Event](#)

## Last 16:

Josh Gallen bt Melvyn Lovegrove 6, -9, 8, 6  
Ian Cole bt Takumi Uchihara 7,9,9  
Ian Girdler bt Yeqin Zeng 6, -8, 9, 5  
Hari Gehlot bt Colin Dyke 4,3,6  
Steve Miller bt John Upham 1,2,2  
Federico Viterbo bt Hari Vennapusa 1,7,9  
Eduard Caliman bt Richard Rosinski 9,6,6  
Krassi Ivanov bt Yuan Zhuang 8,3,6

## Quarter Finals:

Federico Viterbo bt Krassi Ivanov 8,9,7  
Hari Gehlot bt Josh Gallen 5,8,1  
Eduard Caliman bt Ian Cole 8,7,5  
Ian Girdler bt Steve Miller 5,6,-13,3

## Semi Finals:

Hari Gehlot bt Eduard Caliman -4,-8,8,15,7  
Federico Viterbo bt Ian Girdler 8,3,3

## Final:

Hari Gehlot bt Federico Viterbo 8,6,-9,-6,11

## Consolation Event:

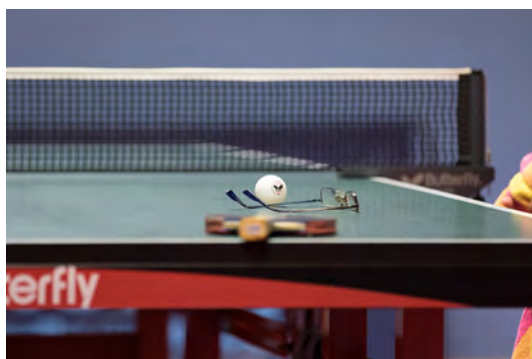
### Semi Finals:

Andrew parker bt David Gostelow 4,6,8  
Martin Gunn bt Richard Fifield 2,4,13

### Final:

Martin Gunn bt Andrew Parker 2,10,6

# Grand Prix Week 4 Gallery

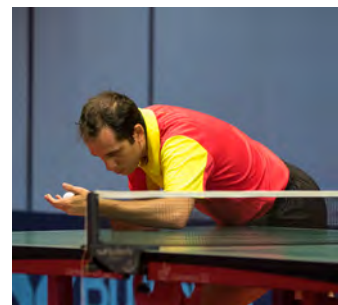




# Grand Prix Week 5 – 15 June 2015

Grand Prix No 5 saw another strong field and produced some surprise results which shook up the leader board and brought more top players in to contention. With Hari Gehlot due to miss Nos 7 and 8 in the series, there will be plenty of chopping and changing to come before the final trophy winners are settled on August 3<sup>rd</sup>

Daniel McTiernan was back and determined to close the gap on leader Hari but met an inspired Martin Gunn in the last 16, who just closed him down at deuce in the fifth in a classic encounter between hard bat and traditional. The audience then witnessed Daniel umpiring the next match, a rare sight at the Kingfisher Club. So it remained to be seen if Hari could take advantage of this but Ian Girdler, having squeezed past Yeqin Zeng in the last 16 for the second week running, followed up by taking out Hari 3-1 in the quarters in a very tight match



Federico Viterbo in the meantime and playing only his second evening of the series, was quietly progressing through the rounds to set up a semi final against Martin Gunn. Whilst this resulted in a 3-0 win, Martin had threatened to take the third having twice had game points. Ian Girdler then got past Richard Rosinski in three, ending Richard's best run to date.

The final was a cracker with an inspired Ian taking the first, looking as though he would take the second but losing his lead to a determined Federico who sealed it 3-1 to notch up his first (and no doubt not his last) win of the series.

Hari in fact increased his lead at the top of the table from 148 points to 163 due to Daniel falling short but Ian now moves in to second with Daniel just 1 point behind in third. Federico being the biggest riser moving up to sixth and looking the biggest danger.

## Results: Main Event

### Last 16

Sam Ricks bt Josh Gallen 5, -6, 9, 5  
Martin Gunn bt Daniel McTiernan 6, -7, 7, -7, 10  
Ian Girdler bt Yeqin Zeng -7, 7, 4, -8, 4  
Hari Gehlot bt Colin Dyke 7, 8, 4  
Steve Miller bt Gwynne Penny 5, 8, 8  
Federico Viterbo bt Jo Barraclough 2, 5, 3  
Richard Rosinski bt Djorge Milovanovic 4, 6, 10  
Hari Vennapusa bt Roger Woolven-Allen -11, 12, 7, 10

## Quarter Finals

Federico Viterbo bt Steve Miller 4, 3, -10, 10  
Richard Rosinski bt Hari Vennapusa 9, -9, 7, 10  
Martin Gunn bt Sam Ricks 6, 3, 9  
Ian Girdler bt Hari Gehlot 10, -13, 10, 6

## Semi Finals:

Ian Girdler bt Richard Rosinski 7, 12, 3  
Federico Viterbo bt Martin Gunn 8, 6, 14

## Final

Federico Viterbo bt Ian Girdler -8, 10, 9, 7

## Consolation Event:

### Semi Finals:

Roger Woolven-Allen bt Jim McAllister 4, 14, 4  
Yeqin Zeng bt Richard Fifield 3, 9, 9

### Final:

Yeqin Zeng bt Roger Woolven-Allen 8, 7, 10





# Grand Prix Week 5 Gallery



# Grand Prix Week 6 – 22 June 2015

This proved to be the most unpredictable evening yet as the event reached the half way stage

With Daniel Moses entering the fray, believing that he could do enough in the remaining 7 events to cause some damage, things looked ominous for the other main contenders. Under the no seedings rule, second placed Daniel McTiernan was the first to suffer, having the misfortune to draw an informal Moses in his first match losing 5,5,5. Before this, leader Hari Gehlot had gone out in the last 32 with a shock 3-1 defeat by Krassi Ivanov. Top two GONE!

Daniel Moses then disposed comfortably of Andrew Smith and Eduard Caliman to take his place in the semi-finals where Yeqin Zeng, Martin Gunn and Ian Girdler awaited.

Then who would have forecast that Daniel would be in all sorts of trouble against Martin's hard bat who took him out three straight. In the other semi Ian was playing Yeqin for the third week running, having won previous matches by the narrowest of margins. But neither of these was as close as this one with Ian coming through at 16-14 in the fifth.

A drained Ian went straight back on against a rested Martin who had watched the whole match but it was Ian who had his eye in, winning the third and fourth comfortably after Martin had levelled at 1-1. There will be many more surprises to come, without doubt.



Ian has now cut Hari's lead down to just 83 points with Daniel McTiernan, Yeqin Zeng and Martin Gunn in close contention. With Hari now away for the next two GP's, the battle is hotting up.

## Results: Main Event

### Last 16

Yeqin Zeng bt Krys Szczygiel 6, 1, -9, 7  
Martin Gunn bt Hari Vennapusa 7, 4, 6  
Ian Girdler bt Luca Bianchi 5, 4, 7  
Krassi Ivanov bt Ian Cole 5, 10, 4  
Eduard Caliman bt Richard Fifield 5, 7, 5  
Jim McAllister bt Melvyn Lovegrove 1, 4, 8  
Djordje Milovanovic bt Josh Gallen 6, -6, 9, 10  
Daniel Moses bt Andrew Smith 8, 6, 8

## Quarter Finals

Yeqin Zeng bt Krassi Ivanov -7, 5, 9, 4  
Daniel Moses bt Eduard Caliman 3, 4, 9  
Martin Gunn bt Jim McAllister 1, 4, 8  
Ian Girdler bt Djordje Milovanovic 2, -12, 10, 5

## Semi Finals:

Ian Girdler bt Yeqin Zeng -8, 9, 8, -8, 14  
Martin Gunn bt Daniel Moses 8, 8, 9

## Final

Ian Girdler bt Martin Gunn 5, -8, 3, 5

## Consolation Event:

### Semi Finals:

Daniel McTiernan bt Hari Gehlot -7, 6, 6, -6, 9  
Richard Rosinski bt Richard Fifield 4, 4, -7, 6

### Final:

Daniel McTiernan bt Richard Rosinski 3, 9, 6





## Grand Prix Week 6 Gallery





# Kingfisher Club Night: Thursdays from 7:30pm

By Gwynne Penny

Club Night is back for the summer season and runs until the first week in September.

Club Night at Kingfisher gives club members of all levels the chance to meet and play table tennis in a sociable and friendly environment.

- Ideal for new and prospective members to experience the club – guests are welcome.
- Good for league players to keep their hand in during the off season.
- Players are encouraged to mix outside their regular practice group/team.



## How it works:

- When you arrive, add your name to the bottom of the list on the whiteboard (near table 5) to indicate that you're waiting to play.
- When your name reaches top of the list and a slot becomes free, remove it and go on to play.
- Have a general knock and then play a 'best of 3'.
- Winner stays on for up to two matches then rotates off.
- When you come off remember to add your name to the bottom of the list again, and let the next person waiting know which table to go onto.

## Guests:

- Guests are welcome but must be signed in by a Kingfisher member.
- A guest fee of £5 per guest, per visit, applies after the first visit.
- Guest fees paid during the month in which a member joins are refundable.

## Refreshments:

Tea and coffee available in the kitchen area. Please wash, dry and put away any mugs/cups/glasses that you use.

## Kingfisher Contact:

Gwynne Penny

[gwynnepenny@mac.com](mailto:gwynnepenny@mac.com)

Tel: 07884 020691

## Kingfisher B Win the Premier in Bracknell!



Congratulations to Kingfisher B, who won the Bracknell and Wokingham District Table Tennis Association Premier League for the 2014-15 season and received the team trophy and their individual awards at the AGM in May.



Pictured at the AGM – from left to right: Jeffrey Huggins, Team Captain Allan Bruton, Ivor Hardman, John Barclay (not pictured) and Nigel Lynch from BWDTTA.

# Reading League Update



Kingfisher teams have been drawn up for the 2015-16 season and submitted to the Reading league. Note: Reading have not yet finalised the formation of the league, so there could be some further changes, but we will keep you informed if there are any changes to the planned Kingfisher teams.

**Players are reminded that league fees are payable to Kingfisher no later than Friday 14 August to secure your places.**

We are expecting handbooks to be available from early September, and these will be distributed to your team captains, along with a supply of the new plastic match balls.

As more information regarding fixtures becomes available, I will contact your team captains, information will also be available via the RDTTA web site here:

<https://www.tabletennis365.com/Reading>

<b>KINGFISHER A</b> DIVISION 1 HOME: MONDAY Mark Banks Captain Hari Gehlot Federico Viterbo Stuart Williams Martin Gunn	<b>KINGFISHER B</b> DIVISION 1 HOME: WEDNESDAY Richard Rosinski Captain Martin Adams Ian Girdler Justin Mead John Barclay	<b>KINGFISHER C</b> DIVISION 1 HOME: WEDNESDAY Yeqin (Philip) Zeng Captain Richard Fifield Yuan Zhuang Trevor Organ	<b>KINGFISHER D</b> DIVISION 1 HOME: MONDAY Steve Murgatroyd Captain Niall McGrane Andrew Parker Lisa Williams Tony Reynolds	<b>KINGFISHER E</b> DIVISION 2 HOME: WEDNESDAY Roger Woolven-Allen Captain John Morris Colin Dyke Grant Wheatley	<b>KINGFISHER F</b> DIVISION 2 HOME: TUESDAY Allan Bruton Captain Peter Bennett Ivor Hardman Michael Houghton Allen Pack
<b>KINGFISHER G</b> DIVISION 2-promoted from 3 HOME: MONDAY Willis Ma Captain Rick Leachman Dave Gostelow Roger Pritchard	<b>KINGFISHER H</b> DIVISION 3 (r from 2) HOME: MONDAY Mick Mitcham Captain Carol Byers Eric Holmes Steven Woolnough Dave Duncan	<b>KINGFISHER I</b> DIVISION 3 HOME: TUESDAY Didier Garcon Captain Gianpaolo Balsamo Gabor Radnoti Joaquin Sabater Jean-Noel Thepaut Nils Wedi	<b>KINGFISHER J</b> DIVISION 3 HOME: TUESDAY Melvyn Lovegrove Captain John Upham Krys Szczygiel Luca Bianchi David Joyce	<b>KINGFISHER K</b> DIVISION 4 HOME: WEDNESDAY Gill Bennett Captain Adam McTiernan Ruben Hernandez Ania Pytko Gwynne Penny David Wells	<b>KINGFISHER L</b> DIVISION 5 HOME: TUESDAY Derek Crombie Captain John Creighton Ken Robb Colin Mercer David O'Keeffe Bill Hundley



# Bracknell League Update



Bracknell teams have been drawn up for the 2015-16 season and submitted to the Bracknell league.

Bracknell league formation committee (comprising a representative from each club) have agreed to 3 divisions again this season, with 7 teams in the Premier, 7 in the 1<sup>st</sup> division and 8 teams in division 2.

As in previous seasons, teams will play each other 3 times during the season. There will be a Howard Shield Competition, and all Kingfisher teams have been entered.

Players are reminded that league fees are payable to Kingfisher no later than Friday 14 August to secure your places.

When more information regarding fixtures, tournament events and the handbook become available, I will inform your team captains. Information will also be available via the BWDTTA web site here:

<https://www.tabletennis365.com/BracknellAndWokingham>

<b>KINGFISHER A</b> PREMIER HOME NIGHT THURSDAY HOWARD SHIELD Y	<b>KINGFISHER B</b> PREMIER HOME NIGHT THURSDAY HOWARD SHIELD Y	<b>KINGFISHER C</b> PREMIER HOME NIGHT THURSDAY HOWARD SHIELD Y	<b>KINGFISHER D</b> DIVISION 2 HOME NIGHT FRIDAY HOWARD SHIELD Y	<b>KINGFISHER E</b> DIVISION 2 HOME NIGHT THURSDAY HOWARD SHIELD Y
Allan Bruton Captain Availability: ?%	John Willcocks Captain Availability: 80%	Mick Mitcham Captain Availability: 100%	Derek Crombie Captain T/F Availability: 100%	Gwynne Penny Captain Availability: 100%
Ivor Hardman Availability: 90%	Geoff Civil Availability: 90%	Carol Byers Availability: 90%	Kenneth Robb Availability: 75%	Gill Bennett Availability: 90%
Jeffrey Huggins Availability: 80%	John Morris Availability: 90%	Peter Bennett Availability: 90%	Dave Duncan Availability: 50%	David Wells Availability: 80%
Allen Pack Availability: 70%	Roger Woolven-Allen Availability: 60%	Michael Houghton Availability: -%	John Creighton	David O'Keefe Availability: ?%
John Barclay Availability: ?%	Phil Mead Availability: 80%		Bill Hundley Availability: reserve	

# Your Committee



President and  
Coaching Officer:  
Peter Charters



Chairman and  
Treasurer:  
Colin Dyke



General Secretary,  
Premier Club and  
Clubmark Co-ordinator:  
Peter Bradley



Facilities Officer &  
Web Site Manager:  
Allen Pack



Membership  
Secretary:  
Sandra Shepherd



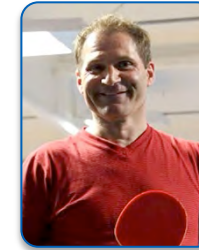
Assistant  
Treasurer: Richard  
Fifield



Welfare Officer and  
Bookings Officer  
Mick Mitcham



Newsletter Editor,  
PR, and Local  
League Co-ordinator  
Gwynne Penny



Committee Member &  
Trophy Secretary:  
Andy Yon



Committee Member:  
Allan Bruton



Committee Member:  
Krysz Szczygiel



Committee Member:  
Ck Liu



Committee Member:  
Carol Byers



Committee Member:  
Melvyn Lovegrove

## Additional Club Roles:

Team Kit Manager: Peter Charters  
Robot Manager: Allen Pack  
Table Manager: Dave Duncan  
Lost Property: Andy Yon  
Guest Book Administrator: Hari Vennapusa

Kingfisher Agent, Tees Sport discount scheme:  
Sandra Shepherd

Grand Prix Hosts: Wendy Porter and Andrew Parker

Cleaning: Feargal Gallen

## Morning Club Contacts:

Contact the Morning Club leaders below for more information about Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday Club.



Tuesdays:  
Diane Taylor



Wednesdays:  
Roger Woolven-Allen



Fridays:  
Allan Bruton



# Kingfisher on Social Media: Facebook

Have you visited the club's facebook page yet? If you 'like' our page, you'll be able to see updates in your Facebook timeline, including reminders about events like the Grand Prix, and notifications about news items on our web site.

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/kingfisherttc>

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**Butterfly Kingfisher Table Tennis Club Sports Venue & Stadium**

Create Call to Action Liked Message

Timeline About Photos Reviews More

993 likes +6 this week  
Bernhard Schnederle and 18 other friends

193 were here 0 this week  
Angela Liu and 12 others

Invite friends to like this Page

243 post reach this week

**Get Phone Calls from News Feed**

Include a Call Now button so people nearby can call your business directly from your promotion.

Promote Local Business

**ABOUT**

Woodlands Avenue, Woodley Reading, England

07434 596247

Open 24 Hours

Add price range

<http://www.kingfisherttc.co.uk/>

Promote Website

**Finals Night! - Kingfisher Grand Prix 2015 - Week 12**

Tomorrow at 19:30  
Kingfisher Table Tennis Club in Reading, England  
3 people are going

Going +

Like Comment Share

Doug Younan likes this.

Write a comment...

89 People Reached 7 Post Clicks

View Insights Boost Event

**Kingfisher Table Tennis Club**

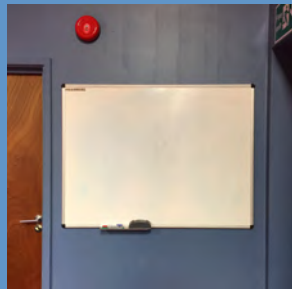
Published by Gwynne Penny 17h · 16 hrs

Grand Prix Week 11 -- Results now on our web site

# Newsletter Noticeboard

## 40-Minute Session Rule

There are times when practice facilities are at a premium and members are waiting to play. All members are reminded that, whenever the playing hall or individual tables are not pre-booked, table use must be limited to sessions of 40 minutes maximum (whether for 1-to-1 coaching, training or practice), if other members are waiting to play. To help manage this a whiteboard has been added near table 4/5. When you arrive and want to play, add your name and the time to the board.



## Social Area

The committee would like to remind members to keep the chairs in the social area clear for people to sit. Bags and clothes should be left either in the changing rooms, or stowed underneath the chairs in the playing area.



## Lost Property

Left something behind at the club?  
The lost property cupboard is located below the kitchen worktop.  
Contact the Lost Property Manager, Andy Yon for more information.

## Always Bring Your Key + Fob

Please ensure that if you are the last person to leave the building you check that the building is empty, the emergency exit doors in the playing area are securely shut, the lights are switched off and the front door is closed **and locked** with the mortice key.

## Non-Marking Playing Shoes

To reduce the amount of dirt being brought into the playing area, members are reminded to change into clean, non-marking playing shoes before entering the playing area.



# Newsletter Noticeboard

## Reminder: Guests

Members may sign in up to 2 guests at a time – **the member must be present** at the club while their guests are at the club.

A guest may visit up to 4 times before they need to decide whether to apply for membership.

The first visit is free, but the subsequent visits are chargeable at £5 per guest, per visit.

### Payment of Guest Fees:

The member signing in the guests is responsible for ensuring that the guest fees are paid to the treasurer (Colin Dyke).

Guests must be signed into the guest book (located near the front door) **BEFORE** they enter the playing area.

## First Aid

There is a First Aid kit and AED/Defibrillator inside the playing area near the main door. The accident record book is stored in the social area at the far end on/in one of the green cupboards at the far end. All accidents must be recorded in the book, and if any first aid supplies are used, please remember to inform a member of the committee so that they may be replenished.



## Emergency Exits

Please ensure that the emergency exits are left clear at all times with no chairs, scoreboards, bags or rubbish bins blocking the way to the exit.



## Health and Safety: Fire Extinguishers

Reminder to all members: Please do not remove the fire extinguishers from their wall mounts to use as door-props during the hot weather.

## New Barriers, Towel Stands and Match Score Cards

A number of the older barriers have been replaced. Towel stands have been added to tables 1 and 2 for matches. At the back of the courts we now have wall-mounted score cards to keep track of matches won during team events.

# Club Discount Scheme with Tees Sport

Kingfisher has a contract with Tees Sport which runs up to the end of 2015. Tees Sport provides kit for our British League and National League teams and provides members with generous discounts on all clothing and equipment.



We are continuing to work with Tees Sport on special projects and, if anyone has any ideas, Chairman Colin would be pleased to hear from you.

Tees Sport is a leading supplier of specialist table tennis equipment in the United Kingdom, offering a wide range of most of the leading brands. Tees Sport is the largest retailer of Butterfly specialist equipment and Butterfly is the leading brand of blades and rubber. World Champion, Zhang Jike, European Champion, Timo Boll, and most of the England Team use Butterfly blades and rubbers. If you wish to obtain technical advice prior to ordering you will find Tees Sport staff knowledgeable and helpful and all of their sales staff have been involved in table tennis for many years and have played the game to at least British League standard. You can contact Tees Sport on 0800 458 4141 (freephone) or 01642 217844 / 249000 (standard).

Members wishing to take advantage of the generous discounts offered should place all orders via Sandra Shepherd, who can also provide advice, if required.

Discounts off the catalogue prices are as follows:

Butterfly, Karlsson, Andro and Adidas products – less 25%.

Some Tees Sport products such as cleaners, rollers etc – less 25%.

Donic products – less 20%

All other Tees Sport products – less 15%

(The above discounts exclude tables which can be quoted for separately.)

OR

If the online, website price works out to be lower, even after the above discount has been applied, then Tees Sport will allow a 5% discount off the online price!

Orders through our Kingfisher Agent, Sandra Shepherd, should be made either by email at [sandra.shepherd@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sandra.shepherd@tiscali.co.uk) or by post at 5 Orwell Close, Caversham, Reading RG4 7PU. Any queries please contact Sandra as above or by telephone: 0118 947 6089 (or text 07759 479977).

Tees Sport offers a same day shipment service for orders placed by telephone, internet or mail with a great saving on postage when ordered through our agent, Sandra.

AND

We are delighted to have negotiated a deal with Tees to offer members the opportunity of ordering a Kingfisher Club Shirt. For details of this offer please follow the link below or go to the Kingfisher TTC website.

[https://www.tabletennis365.com/Kingfisher/Pages/Club\\_T\\_shirt](https://www.tabletennis365.com/Kingfisher/Pages/Club_T_shirt)



# Player Profile: James Johnson



Having always been keen on sport without very much success I took up golf at the age of 26 and with practice and lessons managed to reach a standard that I was happy with. However the back developed a problem and I decided to stop playing.

I took up table tennis at the age of 38 and became a defensive player of very moderate standard. Having played in the local league for a few years, I became disappointed at my lack of progress and decided to turn to snooker which I played seriously for ten years before my wife considered that the smoking habit of the other players was not good for my health and I stopped and returned to golf.

Over the next twenty years I played Golf but the back was again giving me problems and Based on medical advice I was told to rest it for a few years. Last March 2014 whilst on holiday, I decided to look at playing table tennis again but this time with the determination of becoming a better player. Since then I have had lessons with Andy Smith and lately with Graham Outrim who have both been very helpful. I practice for one hour each day and with the help of the robot I am beginning to notice an improvement in my game. In a recent tournament held at Thornbury, although I did not win my games in the over 70's ( I am 75) I have however been given a ranking of 102 which is very encouraging.

Subject to fitness, I have set myself a target of playing in the Veteran European Championship when I am 80 with the object of trying to win the over 80's singles title.



Best regards  
James Johnson

*Best of luck James! It's great to hear that you are practicing regularly, enjoying your table tennis, and benefiting from coaching. Good luck in the Vets!*  
Gwynne

# Maria gets first senior call in squad for Euros

Congratulations and good luck to Maria Tsaptsinos, who has been included in the England squad for the European Championships, as reported on Table Tennis England website at the end of July:

England's Commonwealth Games silver medal-winning men's team are reunited, and there is a first senior call-up for Maria Tsaptsinos, as England's squad for the European Championships is revealed.

Table Tennis England has announced a nine-strong squad for the championships in Russia at the end of September.

Paul Drinkhall, Liam Pitchford, Andrew Baggaley, Sam Walker and Danny Reed comprise the men's squad and will be competing as a unit for the first time since taking team silver at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games last year.

The women's line-up sees Tsaptsinos in for the first time alongside three more Glasgow competitors – mixed doubles medal-winners Kelly Sibley and Tin-Tin Ho plus Karina Le Fevre.

Table Tennis England's Head of Coaching & Performance, Simon Mills, said: "I'm looking forward to getting the Commonwealth Games men's team back together and seeing how they perform, and seeing Maria Tsaptsinos earn her first cap."

The competition is in Ekaterinburg, Russia, from September 25 to October 4.

Ekaterinburg is a happy hunting ground for Paul Drinkhall, having reached the final of the Russian Open there last year, beating top-10 players Marcos Freitas and Dimitrij Ovtcharov along the way.

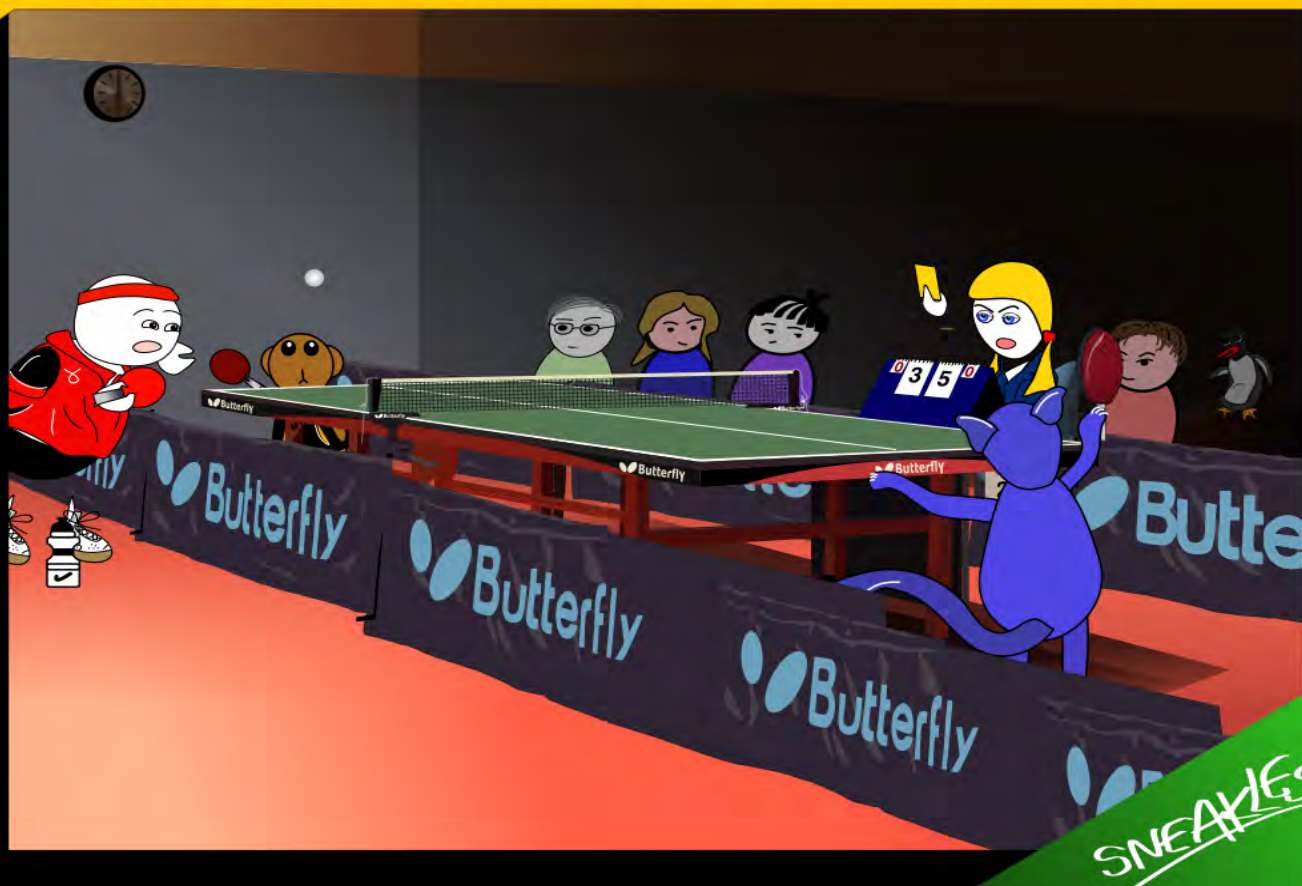
Paul Stimpson  
July 31, 2015

- See more at: <http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/maria-gets-first-senior-call-in-squad-for-euros/> - sthash.4hgic1OK.dpuf



## A Serving of Sneakles

### SNEAKLES GETS HIS FIRST YELLOW CARD



## Caption Competition – Just for Fun!



If you've been at the grand prix this summer you've no doubt seen your newsletter editor lurking around with a camera, but by the time I've processed them, I don't always have time to write suitable captions..... maybe you can help me out with this photo? Send your captions to [gwynnepenny@mac.com](mailto:gwynnepenny@mac.com).

# Get Fit for Table Tennis: Park Run

With about 6 weeks to go until the start of the table tennis season, now is a great time to think about what additional activities we can do to build our fitness for table tennis. Allen Pack sent in some great information about Park Run:

I'm a great fan of the radio and recently I heard a mention of parkrun. These are 5km courses held each Saturday at 09:00 in park near you all over the country, in fact its popularity is now spreading to many other countries. After having completed a few marathons in my time I fancied getting back into running and parkrun seemed the ideal platform to kick this off, I mean how hard can 5 km be. The answer is .. a lot easier when you are running with a friendly group of people.

## So what is parkrun?

parkrun is such a simple concept: turn up every Saturday and run 5km, or if you're a junior then 2km every Sunday. It doesn't matter how fast you go. It doesn't matter what you're wearing. What matters is taking part.

There are now parkrun events each Saturday and Sunday in countries all around the world. Each event is based in a unique location like a park, beach or promenade. All events are organised by a group of wonderful dedicated volunteers.

parkrun is all about inclusiveness and wellbeing. We want as many people as possible to feel part of a real local community brought together by our events, as well as our global parkrun family.

It's why parkruns are never more than 5km – it's a distance that anyone can complete (even if some of us are walking by the end...)

And it's why we've kept the format of parkrun so simple: register once, then turn up and take part wherever you want, whenever you want.

## What makes it unique?

Its local, its regular, its friendly, its well organised, its for everyone, just turn up on time and run. It's even free as its run by volunteers. One of the great things is the way you can track your weekly performance from your local parkrun website, have you completed a PB?, what was your finish position for your age category?, its all available to you.

So if you're looking to improve your fitness and stamina then check out the parkrun website at for more information:

<http://www.parkrun.org.uk/> or <http://www.parkrun.org.uk/reading/>





# Roger's Ramblings

## Prologue



Hello again everyone!! Yup, I'm afraid that it's me again. I know, I know; it's a bit of a bummer, but life's like that. You win some; you lose some...

On a serious note, though, the summer Grand Prix series (as I write this) is nearing its conclusion. And what a tournament it has proven to be! I am sure that final details of these Championships will appear elsewhere in the magazine but, without any question of doubt, the standard of play has been phenomenal. Ian Girdler, Hari Gehlot (pictured), Daniel Moses, Yeqin Zeng, Federico Viterbo, Steve Miller and Daniel

McTiernan have all entertained us with some truly superb matches.

But, perhaps, two "new" players stand out for worthy mention. Hard-bat player Martin Gunn has out-hit and out-played many top players on numerous occasions and, it has to be stated, he has an incredible natural talent. Martin could well become an unexpected winner in this year's event. The only thing that I have against Martin is the sound of his bat striking the ball. I am sure that they can hear it at the nearby Goals Club!



The second player worth praising is the Serbian Djordje Milovanovic. Most English players know him simply as "George" because the correct pronunciation of his first name is, for most of us Brits, very difficult to master. I have tried, but with only limited success. However, all that is irrelevant. Djordje is undeniably highly talented and deserving of any trophies and prizes that come his way. But, to me at least, his biggest asset is his character. He is extremely friendly, charming, a "good loser" on the rare occasions that that this happens and – to put it succinctly – a really great bloke. As Andy Yon would say, he is a top contender for Kingfisher's Helluvaguy Club. I am sure that those of you who know Djordje will join with me when I say that I hope our Serbian friend will be with us for a long, long time to come.

But on to the kids. Katie Shepherd has a highly promising talent and I look forward to hearing more about this young lady in the future. Joe Barraclough, too, is a youngster to be watched while Harry Munro, in my humble opinion, is going to become the next Daniel McTiernan. In due course, please correct me if I am wrong. But I won't be!

But more about the Grand Prix later on. And I mean that! Within these dreaded Ramblings, you will, hopefully, see some stuff that will surprise, if not absolutely amaze, you. But, for this and for now, you will have to read on...

## Sporting Quotes

Do you remember TV presenter David Coleman (pictured) from years ago? His errors (or Colemanballs as they were subsequently called), have gone down in history. Perhaps one of his most famous quotes was when he was commenting on a snooker game, way back when colour television was in its infancy. The wording went something along the lines of "Reardon is about to play the pink. But, for those of you watching in black-and-white, please note that the pink ball is the one next to the green." Or words to that effect.



# Roger's Ramblings

But what is YOUR favourite sporting quote? Please do let me know. Mine, perhaps, was when, at the recent Wimbledon Championships, new BBC presenter Andy Roddick (pictured) mentioned tennis legend Rod Laver, who happened to be sitting in the Royal Box.

"Ah," said Roddick, as the camera swung round. "There is Rod Laver, arguably the greatest tennis player ever to have existed. For sure, John McEnroe certainly thinks he is. Whenever Mac sees Laver, he acts like a 13-year-old schoolgirl at a Justin Bieber concert."



## Raspberries



It was approaching the bewitching hour of midnight on a dark and stormy Grand Prix evening and I found myself sitting next to Chairman Colin Dyke, both of us watching the amazing play of some of our top players. But it was late and I was tired.

"Gosh, Colin," I said, "I think I'll have to go home before the end. I'm tired and – more to the point – I have a couple of beers in the 'fridge."

"I'm tired, too," said Colin. "And I've got some raspberries and ice-cream to look forward to."

"Interesting that you say that," I replied. "Raspberries are very healthy, or so they say, while ice-cream certainly is not. It's strange, really, that they seem to go together. They are really very, very different."

"Yes," agreed our Chairman. "They are quite different. The main difference is that you can't blow ice-cream."

## Grand Prix

During one of the earlier 2015 Grand Prix events one particular talented player (who shall remain anonymous) lost his first round Main Event match. This player decided that he wasn't prepared to wait around for the Consolation Event and told organiser Wendy Porter that he was leaving. Wendy told him, in no uncertain terms, that he was being selfish and thoughtless. "What if everyone did that?" she asked. The chap left regardless.

As is now the norm, I also lost my first round match in the Main Event but, due to some great draws (thanks, Wendy) I found myself still in the competition over two hours later. I thought I'd stir things up a little...

"Hey," I remarked to Wendy and Sonia (pictured). "Poor old pensioners need their kip. I wish I'd gone home after my exit from the Main Event."

"So do we," said Sonia Gallen...



## Oncey

I was playing big bat-and-ball recently when poor old Jonny Willis (known to his pals as "Oncey") badly tore one of his Achilles tendons and, it is feared, he will be out of sporting action for several months.

Many Kingfisher players will know Jon because he is also a talented table tennis player – one of John Willcocks's impressive Curzon Club squad no less – and he is also a serious contender to become a member of Andy Yon's *Helluvaguy Club*. I am sure that all of you who know Oncey will join with me in wishing him a complete and speedy recovery.



## Roger's Ramblings

# How To Improve Your Game, by Dave Gostelow

The following was given to me by Dave Gostelow and, although the advice was originally meant for his "other" game of green bowls, Dave feels that much of it applies to table tennis. There is certainly much food for thought...



**HEALTH:** Stress can have an adverse effect on a player's performance. Stress can have numerous causes: financial, relationship disharmony (including friends and/or work mates) and tiredness.

**CONCENTRATION:** Your ability to concentrate will be lower if any of the above "health" details applies to you.

**BREATHING:** A huge proportion of the population breathes well below the maximum for best body function. A daily few minutes' DEEP breathing WILL be beneficial. Why? Because deep breathing oxygenises the blood, allowing the brain to function at its best. In extreme shallow breathing cases, faintness and passing out can occur. Breathe deeply while playing!

**PRACTICE:** It is often said that "practice makes perfect". WRONG! If you have a poor playing technique, continuous practice will NOT help. Get the technique correct and THEN practise. You will improve.

**POSITIVE THINKING:** If anything negative happens while you are at the table, turn it into something positive! For example, if you mess up a serve, tell yourself that you are so pleased that this is the first time you've done it this match. Thirteen good serves so far, but only one bad one. Good, eh?

**STRENGTH:** Not physical but mental. Link this with positive thinking. Never predict verbally that you are going to play badly, no matter what has already happened. Why? It is important during competitive play that you show no sign of weakness to the opposition.

**WATCH AND LEARN:** Not only your own play, but things that are going on around you. Why? Analysing other players' good and point points will improve your own game.

**CONSISTENCY IN SERVING:** The ability to bend and move does, of course, depend on your physical ability and other possible circumstances beyond your control. However, you CAN ensure that you are ready to serve. Wait a few seconds if you're not. Make sure your free palm is not sweaty. How many points have been lost because the ball has "stuck" to a moist palm?

## Switzerland

Jonathan Samuel called round a while ago, at the most inconvenient time. I was busily packing for my trip to Switzerland, you see.

"Hello," said the Looney. "What are you doing?"

"I'm getting ready for my table tennis visit to Switzerland," I replied.  
"B\*\*\*\*r off, Jonathan."

"I see you are checking your baggage size," continued Jon, ignoring my subtle hint. "Who are you flying with?"

"Dave Fox and Trevor Kerry," I said. Jon rolled his eyes skywards, but still forced himself to stay for a bikkie and a cup of coffee.



# Roger's Ramblings

A few days later my team and I were off on our mission to take part in the railways' annual ~~beeze-up~~ four-nations table tennis championships. The British team finished in a lowly third position, but a great time was had by all and our Swiss hosts were absolutely magnificent.

On the way home, I became separated from my friends and colleagues and found myself in a train carriage with a pleasant American couple. The lady turned out to be an obstetrics surgeon while her husband was a "petrol-head" who loved Porsche motor-cars. Indeed, they were on their way to Stuttgart for a pre-arranged tour of the Porsche factory. I never did find out what he did for a living but, at one point, I asked him if he'd ever had a motoring brush with the law.



"Yessiree," he replied. "I was once given a speeding ticket but I refused to pay the on-the-spot fine. I was trown in jail for the night and I found myself in the company of murderers and pimps."

At that moment, my team captain Dave Fox (pictured) came into the carriage and said, "Ah, there you are, Roger. We've been looking for you."

"Hi, Dave," I replied. "I'd like you to meet two very pleasant people from Austin in Texas. The lady is a medical surgeon and the gentleman is a convict."

All was explained, of course, and the conversation soon wound its way round to table tennis.

"We watched some table tennis being played on board a cruise-ship recently," said the lady. "One or two of the players were very good. They were returning the ball from three or feet behind the table."



I thought of the antics of Daniel Moses and Trevor Organ and also of one particular time when Matt Syed put on a demonstration, returning balls from the third row of spectators. But I said nothing and, as we approached Basel, we bade farewell to our new friends.



In Basel there was an enormous amount of transport police activity. The final of the Champions' League was due to be played there that afternoon and Juventus and Barcelona were set to do battle with each other – or so I was told. I am not much of a football fan and I was pleased when our flight departed for the UK.

When we went through Immigration Control at London Luton, the official looked at my passport and said, "Good afternoon, sir. Where have you come from?"

"I can't remember," I replied.

The chap must have thought, "We've got a right one here," but he waved me through nonetheless. A couple of minutes later, it came to me! I dashed back.

"Sumiswald!" I called out, as though the answer to an Eggheads question had finally occurred to me. "I've been playing table tennis in Sumiswald!"

"Thank you, sir," said the official, giving me a withering look. "Have a pleasant day."

## Team Captain?

**When** we completed our application forms for entry into the Reading League, Colin Dyke, John Morris and I had, where it asked if you were prepared to be captain, all written an emphatic "No". But, of course, we had to have a captain and so a vote was taken.



# Roger's Ramblings

"Who would like Roger to be Captain?" asked Colin. Two hands went up and one didn't. "Vote concluded," said our Chairman. "By two votes to one, Roger is elected Team Captain." That's democracy, I suppose, but I have a nagging thought that I may have been stitched up somewhere along the line...

*I'm sure Roger will make a super team captain, and I am very much looking forward to reading his reports! Gwynne*

## Grand Prix

Well, I promised you something unusual regarding our Grand Prix series, and here it is. I was rummaging through a whole pile of old press cuttings, mainly with the intention of heaving stuff out, when I came across several articles relating to the Kingfisher Grand Prix Championships of 1992. I had kept them because (somewhat immodestly) I had written them and I had also taken the accompanying photographs. However, after the passing of nearly a quarter of a century, I have to admit that they surprised even me. I am sure they will surprise you.

At the time Marc Priddle (pictured) was a teenager (I fear that I have no record of his date of birth or where he has disappeared to since) and a highly talented player. In those bygone days, Yours Truly was at his peak (not that it would have taken much of a mountaineer to scale such a height) and I was 48 years of age. Hari Gehlot (pictured), although only 29 years old, was even then a much better player than I was – but not by the incredible margin that exists today. I suspect, in this particular series, that Hari either hadn't entered as many tournaments as I had, or I simply had incredible luck in each draw. In



those days I could take the occasional game from Hari – but I have to admit that this didn't happen too often! In 23 years' time Hari will be in his 70s and will know what it's like to play against a 50-something "youngster" as, indeed, he is today. I dread to think where I'll be...

The Reading Evening Post article of 28 July 1992 ran (with slight editing) as follows:

"In the penultimate tournament of the Kingfisher Summer Grand Prix, a determined Hari Gehlot finally slammed arch-rival and competition leader Marc Priddle.

"Reading's Gehlot beat Maidenhead's Priddle by the closest of margins – 21-19 in the third and deciding game – and jumped from sixth to fourth place in the competition points table.

"To reach the final, Gehlot had to defeat the up-and-coming player Geoff Civil as well as the young sidespin maestro Trevor Organ.

"Despite this latest set-back, Priddle maintained his lead in the competition, some 230 points ahead of second-placed Geoff Davis, who was 68 points ahead of Roger Woolven-Allen.

"In the final tournament of the series, Gehlot again triumphed but this supreme last-ditch effort just failed to earn him a place in the top three. Hari finished the Championships a tantalising four points behind third-placed Woolven-Allen.

"Undisputed champion of the Grand Prix series, though, was Priddle who finished 229 points ahead of his nearest rival, Reading's Geoff Davis (also pictured)."



# Roger's Ramblings

FINAL 1992 CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS (and how many names do you, dear 2015 reader, recognise?): Marc Priddle 652, Geoff Davis 423, Roger Woolven-Allen 398, Hari Gehlot 394, Ben Johnson 278, Kashif Subhan 235, Ali Subhan 168, Trevor Organ 164, Mike Harris 138, Colin Dyke 134, Roland Marslin 112, Geoff Civil 111, Dave Duncan 99, Mark Kemp 76, Bob Sym 72, Louis Conlon 58, Richard Woolven-Allen 51, Gareth Herbert 50, Steve Barnes 46, Terry Young 40, Phil Mead 34, Stan Smith 31, Chris Forrest 27, Chris Pusey 26, Peter Goatly 25, Helen Goatly 24, Peter Slatford 20, John Glew 15, Ian Schwartz 11, Maureen Allchurch 10, Syd Montgomery 6.

*(As a sort of afterthought, the names of some extremely good players (even 23 years ago!) appear towards the bottom of the above list. I have no details, but I can only assume that the players concerned took part in very few tournaments.)*

## The "Old" Club

**Peter** Charters kindly gave me the picture you see alongside. It shows an enthusiastic band of volunteers who were busily erecting what was to become the Kingfisher Table Tennis Club. Can you recognise them all? I shan't keep you in suspense, I promise!

From left to right we have Derek Crombie, Peter Charters (looking for all the world like Anthony Quinn playing the Greek resistance fighter in the film *Guns of Navarone*), Mike Bullock (Chairman of the Woodley TTC), Colin Dyke, Brian Halliday and Colin's lovely wife Marion. Takes you back a few years, eh?



## Epilogue

**Well**, everyone, that's it from me again. If Gwynne fails to give up her masochistic tendencies, I shall be back next issue. I imagine it will be "Captains' Reports" time, if nothing else.



My own rubbish aside, this is a wonderful newsletter and I am sure that you will all join with me in thanking Gwynne (pictured, left) for her sterling work. Indeed, she does so much for our Club (the newsletter editing is only a small part of it) that I am surprised she finds the time to do her "real" job. Great stuff, young lady!

Appreciation must also go to Wendy Porter (also pictured) for her superb administrative work relating to the *Grand Prix* series. I know that Andy Parker created the software program (and heartfelt thanks to him, too), but Wendy operated it each and every tournament. Many, many thanks go to this young lady as well!



Seizure round like a donut...

**(Roger)**



# And Finally....

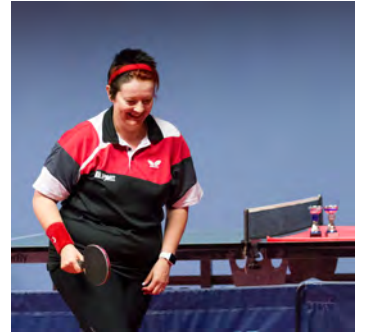
I hope you've enjoyed reading this edition of Kingfisher News.

Only a few weeks until the start of the season, so if you haven't played since last season, it will soon be time to dust off your bat and get back into the training hall!

Please keep the articles and photos coming and enjoy the remainder of the summer.

Hope to see you at the club soon!

Gwynne



## Useful Links:

### Kingfisher Web Site:

<https://www.tabletennis365.com/kingfisher>

### Kingfisher Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/kingfisherttc>

### Kingfisher on Instagram

<http://instagram.com/kingfisherttc>

### Kingfisher on Twitter

<https://twitter.com/kingfisherttc>

### Table Diary:

[https://www.tabletennis365.com/Kingfisher/Pages/Table\\_diary](https://www.tabletennis365.com/Kingfisher/Pages/Table_diary)

### Club Shirts:

[https://www.tabletennis365.com/Kingfisher/Pages/Club\\_T\\_shirt](https://www.tabletennis365.com/Kingfisher/Pages/Club_T_shirt)

## Related Sites:

### Table Tennis England Web Site:

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk>

### Reading League Web Site:

<https://www.tabletennis365.com/reading>

### Bracknell League Web Site:

<http://www.bwdtta.co.uk>

# ????

## What do you think?

Remember, this is **YOUR** newsletter, so please do let me know if there is something that you would like to see included.

Please send any articles that you would like me to include in the next edition via email at:

[gwynnepenny@mac.com](mailto:gwynnepenny@mac.com)