

April 2015



READING & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

(L-R): Laurence de Ste Croix, Yonatan Slobodskoy, Joe Barraclough and Gus Thomis in the Reading Closed.

Photo by Didier Garçon

NEWSLETTER

Editor: DEREK WAVELL

The Show Goes On

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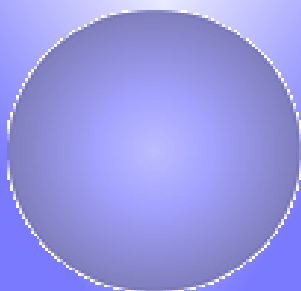
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This is a bit of a crisis Newsletter. Two of our top report writers were rushed to hospital just when they were about to put pen to paper. One is our RDTTA Secretary, Nigel Maltby, who had been minding Division One results, and the other was Duncan Abbott, who watches over Division Five as well as the two Special Competitions. Now one piece of excellent news is that they are both out of hospital and on the mend. Another is that two expert volunteers leapt forward to take their places - Malcolm Gregory to write the Division One report, and Gwynne Penny for Division Five. Our thanks to them!



Another unusual feature of this document is that nearly all the photos are of juniors, rather than the usual mature players. It was simply their turn. The photos and videos, which are all by Didier Garçon, were taken at the junior half of the Reading Open. Some of these young faces may be familiar to you already, because they are already playing in the adult divisions. Others represent our future - and maybe not at all far into the future, because they are improving with eye-watering speed.

Have a good holiday - Derek

Notes from our Acting Chairman

by Derek Harrison

I would like to remind you all that the Reading presentation evening is at O.L.O.P on the 5th May and the Annual General Meeting is also at O.L.O.P on the 3rd June.



I would also like to thank everyone on the committee for their hard work during the season which makes us the best.

Have a good summer and do not forget to practise with the new balls.

Latest on Plastic Balls -

The little plastic fellas are still somewhat up in the air. The news is that some people have decided they must be used, but other people have decided not to decide yet. We're still all looking for the really reliable brand that won't explode - and attention is converging on so-called 'SEAMLESS' table tennis balls under the XuShaofa brand.

There will be further debate at our AGM, on Wednesday 3rd June.

Reading Masters Tournament -

This year the Reading Masters was held at Kingfisher club, on Sunday 19th April. The organizers were Wendy Porter and Mark Banks.

The new **Reading Masters Champion** is **Daniel Moses**

The runner up was **Federico Viterbo**. The final was a close and exciting one that went to four games - 11-3, 11-9, 9-11, 11-9

In **third** place was **Hari Gehlot** - and **fourth** was **Yeqin (Philip) Zeng**.

Congratulations to **Michael McAllister** on winning the **Junior Masters championship!**

And to **Harry Munro** as **runner up**. Harry was close in the first game, which he lost 11-9; then he won the second 11-13; but Michael swept back to win the last two 11-6, 11-8.

Third place went to **Thomas Perkins**, and fourth to Michael's younger brother **Jim McAllister**.

THE FUTURE:

BACK ROW:

Michael McAllister,
Danny Ricks,
Daniel McTiernan,
Siad Cole,
Sam Ricks,
Jim McAllister,
Gus Thomis,
Laurence de Ste Croix,
Yonatan Slobodskoy.

FRONT ROW:

Felix Thomis,
Harry Munro,
Joe Barraclough,
James Rennie,
Lukas Dahmann and
Vasu Pandey





FOND FAREWELLS

Two very well-known players have sent us their farewells after playing for many years in the league. Dave Jones and Richard Lownsbrough - both of them, as it happens, from Tilehurst Methodists. We wish them the very best, which is my excuse for producing the photo of Sonning Sports's good luck charm (above). Life won't be quite the same without them - and with 87-year-old Dave gone, someone else will have to step forward as the League's Oldest Inhabitant!

David Jones

In 1950, David commenced playing in Bristol using an Aubrey Simons bat. Pimpled rubber both sides, David played for the CEGB White Ladies Road. David moved to Taunton two years later playing in the local league. David then moved to Oxford for 4 years then to Exeter for a further 4 years playing in their top division. Following a move to Reading, David worked up the leagues to the top division and then down again playing his final game against the Curzon Club. David lost to Linda King in final game with a nice kiss! He enjoyed every minute of his time playing table tennis.



SAM WILL, DAVE JONES, LINDA KING,
TERRY SPICE, OLIVER LISTER



Richard Lownsbrough

"I have just played my last season in the Reading and District league as I am moving to Monmouth in August. I have enjoyed playing table tennis in Reading for the last thirty years, initially with ICL (Mike Ancell, Dave Godfrey, Martin Wetherell and co) and latterly with Tilehurst Methodist Table Tennis Club with the likes of Nigel Rowland, Ian Cockling, John Virgo, Nick Barnes, and this last season with Chris Taylor, Masoud Ghabachi and once again Martin Wetherell.

"I have many fond memories and have had much enjoyment and pleasure from playing table tennis, mostly in the lower divisions. I can remember when there were four division fives! Because there were so many clubs and teams back then the league was shaped like a pyramid to enable new teams to make swifter progress up through the league. In those days we used to play best of three games with each game being up to 21 points and with service changing after every five points. You could play with long pimples and also use rubber speed glue. How times have changed! I am sure those of you with better memories than mine will be able to recall many other changes over the years. The latest change being introduced next season is the new seamless plastic balls. I played with one in my club last week and it seemed to fly quicker off the bat – being an old fogey I had a long close look at it to see if it was indeed truly uniformly round and, much to my disbelief, it did appear to be so! Well the ETTA may continue to tweak the game but fundamentally it is the same old fast, furious, fantastic game that I have enjoyed playing all my life ever since I first picked up a bat at my youth club when I was a teenager forty years ago. I fell in love with the game in my youth and I recall practising solo by standing behind a table and hitting a ball against the wall in the kitchen at home. I dare say if you have been around as long as me you will have your own fond recollections to share.

"My sincere and grateful thanks to everyone who has been involved in organising the Reading league over the years, without you there would have been no Reading league for me to play in. Also a huge thank you to all you wonderful, warm, friendly people who I have had the pleasure of playing table tennis with. I wish you all the very best and many more happy years of table tennis."

farewell from Richard Lownsbrough

THE JUNIOR READING CLOSED by Derek Wavell

The competition took place over the weekend of 21st to 22nd February. 29 talented juniors came to compete in no less than seven different events - so this was a tremendous gathering of junior talent, that Reading can be proud to possess; and it was pretty complex to work out exactly what was happening on any table, because some juniors were entered under several groups. And of course, some of the older juniors had also competed in the senior section of the Reading Closed, a week before - and done very well in that.



JAMIE LIU



FELIX THOMIS

Reading is lucky to have two under-11's of the superb fighting stature of **Felix Thomis** and **Jamie Liu**. The quality of the onslaught lived up to the highest expectations though almost inevitably Jamie - who is a year older and trains with the England squad - emerged the victor 3 - 0.



JOHNSON XU

Next contests moved up two years, to the **Under 13's** - giving a wider field of contestants. The first group included **Lukas Dahmann, Johnson Xu** (younger brother of Hanson), **Dylan Cook** and **Joe Brooks** as well

as Jamie Liu again.. In the second group were Felix Thomis, **Charles Yang**, **Nathan Munns** and **Zach Bonifacii**. There were some tough struggles - but both Felix and Jamie made it to the finals - in the company of two with Eastern

sounding surnames - **Johnson Xu** and **Charles Yang**.

Both of the original tinies won through to the final - then Jamie repeated his previous victory over Felix.

The next stage was another two years up again - the **Cadet Boys Singles** - i.e. **Under-15**. **Won** - incredibly to outsiders - by **Jamie and Felix** again, though this time they had some much heavier opposition - **Joe Barraclough** and **Harry Munro** coming through to the semis from a field of 17. **So nano power triumphed again!** Actually, both Jamie and Felix have elder brothers who had scaled the heights of the senior league at a very



CHARLES YANG



JAMES RENNIE, LUKAS DAHMANN, VASU PANDEY AND REON WILLIAMS



CAMRAN NESARI



JAMIE LIU

young age - so they knew the way to go, and were able to get started early!

The next title at issue was the **John Cunningham Youth Division** crown - featuring 12 of those members whose activities are described at the end of this Newsletter. Jamie and Felix don't still go to that Friday activity, so that rather held up their triumphal march! The semi finalists were **Harry Munro** and **Thomas Perkins** on one side, and **Joe Barraclough** and **Yonatan Slobodskoy** on the other. In the final, **Joe** played against **Harry**. The final went to four games, and they were pretty tough 12-10, 11-7, 2-11, 12-10 - but **Harry emerged the winner by three games to one.**



YONATAN SLOBODSKOY

Next we went up to the **Junior Singles** - i.e. **Under-18**. This was pretty tough stuff, including two high-ranked players from the adult league Division One - **Gus Thomis** (Felix's elder brother) and **Daniel McTiernan**. Jamie Liu had dropped out by now but Felix kept going - and actually came second in his group. But who would be surprised that **Daniel McTiernan** - from the top team in the adult league - beat **Gus Thomis** in the final, after a fantastic battle (12-14, 11-7, 12-10, 5-11, 11-3), which you can see on video if you like. (**NB** - see below)

The **Junior Doubles** also produced a strong field of 6 pairs. The winning pair was **Gus Thomis** with **Laurence de Ste Croix** (see cover photo) - and the runners up were **Harry Munro**, paired with the persistent **Felix Thomis**. In third place were **Joe Barraclough** with **Yonatan Slobodskoy** (also



L - R: **THOMAS PERKINS**, **JOE BARRACLOUGH**, **FELIX THOMIS** AND **HARRY MUNRO**

shown on the front cover) - Yonatan stepped in as a last-minute substitute for **Thomas Perkins**, who played in the earlier round. Other juniors braving this level included some faces that were new to me - **Lukas Dahmann** with **James Rennie**, **Reon Williams** with **Vasu Pandey**, and **Nathan Munns** with **Zach Bonifacii**.

From there the competition went up to Under-21 level - and now they were joined by some more players from Division One in the Reading League - namely **Sam** and **Danny Ricks**. However, both were knocked out by the winners of the Junior Singles - **Daniel McTiernan** and **Gus Thomis**, who came through as winner and runner-up. **Sam Ricks** won third place.



FELIX THOMIS TAKES ON DANIEL McTIERNAN

JUNIOR FINAL:
Gus Thomis v
Daniel McTiernan

UNDER 13 FINAL:
Felix Thomis v
Jamie Liu

YOUTH DIVISION FINAL:
Joe Barraclough v
Harry Munro

**WATCH
THE
VIDEO:**

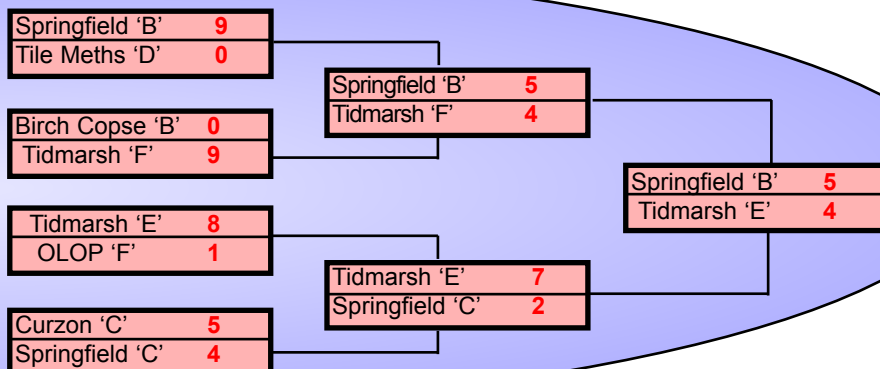


Lower Divisions Knockout Cup

organised by Duncan Abbott

The tournament followed last year's format, with all 9 games in each match being doubles games featuring 3 players on each side. Initially there were 5 groups of four teams. Here are the last three rounds as they have been played, on a knock-out basis.

Congratulations to the winners:
Springfield 'B'

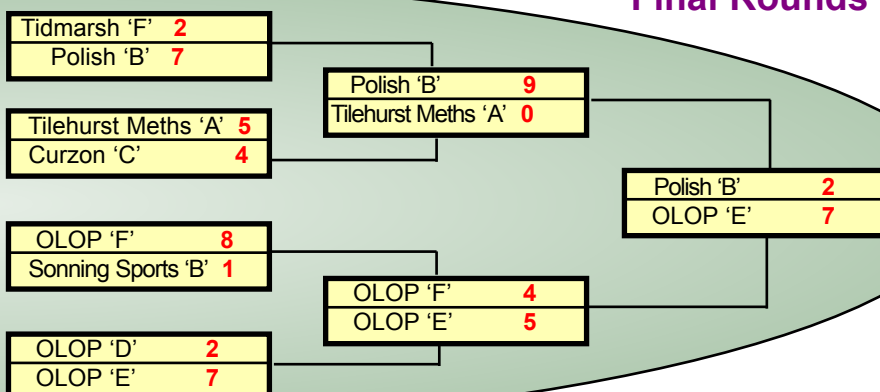


Team Handicap Competition 2013-14

organised by Duncan Abbott

The Team Handicap is a knockout competition open to all teams in the R&DTTA. In a Team Handicap match the three players from one team play all players from the other team, 21-up, taking into account the relevant handicaps. There is no doubles.

Congratulations to the winners:
OLOP 'E'!



Special Competitions Final Rounds

Report on the Final of the Lower Divisions Knockout Cup

The first set saw John Liddle and Terry Hardie of **Springfield 'A'** line up against Dan Mortimer and Ludovic Couillard from **Tidmarsh 'E'**.

After a nervy start from both sides John and Terry pulled away from 8-8 to take the first game 11-8. The second game went to the wire with Dan and Ludo showing determination to take it 13-11 after being 10-11 down. This seemed to ignite something as they took the last game 11-8 to take the first set.

The next set saw Dave Edwards and John Liddle of Tidmarsh take on Adam Sheen and Dan Mortimer. Springfield took the first game comfortably 11-5 and when cruising 8-4 in the next, looked on their way to taking a 2-0 final lead. However, Tidmarsh showed why they were in the final by coming from behind to take that one 11-9 and the next one 11-8 to level up the whole final. (ending with an edge to make Springfield feel more hard done by)

Well, the tide of battle swung first one way then the

other, until Tidmarsh needed just one more set to take the 2014/2015 champions title. Would they hold their nerve?

It looked that way as they took an 8-4 lead in the first game, but Springfield battled back to 10-10 and took the first game 12-10. They built on that success taking the set 2-0 (11-4) to set up a deciding match showdown.

This is a fair reflection of the effort both teams had shown in this match and a great way to finish the match with a crucial deciding set.

Dan and Ludo lined up against Dave and John. The first game was a tight affair with Springfield taking it 11-9. Could Springfield hold their nerve? It seemed so when they went 4-1 up only to be pegged back. However, Springfield managed to hold off Tidmarsh's challenge taking the game 11-8 and the match 5-4!

A thoroughly enjoyable evening and big congratulations to my lads on winning what is Springfield's first trophy in many years. A big congratulations to Tidmarsh who played a magnificent final too and on another evening it could have easily gone their way. A true pleasure playing them as always.

Paul Jenkins (Springfield captain).



TERRY HARDIE, DAN MORTIMER, JOHN LIDDLE, LUDOVIC COUILLARD, DAVE EDWARDS, ADAM SHEEN

DIVISION ONE by Malcolm Gregory

This time last year I welcomed you all to my “final ever report”. It turns out I lied. Due to unforeseen circumstances I have been asked to dig out my quill pen once more. However this report will not contain my usual detailed analysis and uncanny insight. Having not had my eye on the DFS ball, I’m afraid this report will be rather more brief than you are all used to (do I hear a hallelujah?).



DANIEL McTIERNAN

Before I start, it would be remiss of me not to mention our esteemed secretary and your DFS for this year – Nigel Maltby. I understand Nigel suffered a rather nasty mishap in Tesco’s and was air lifted to



	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
OLOP A	22	20	2	0	185	35	42
Kingfisher A	22	20	1	1	178	42	41
Kingfisher B	22	17	1	4	157	62	35
Tidmarsh A	22	14	2	6	132	88	30
Kingfisher D	22	15	0	7	131	89	30
Kingfisher C	22	9	1	12	97	122	19
Reading YMCA	22	7	2	13	92	128	16
Wokingham A	22	5	4	13	92	126	14
OLOP B	22	5	2	15	62	158	12
SC&P A	22	4	1	17	71	149	9
Tidmarsh B	22	3	3	16	65	155	9
SC&P B	22	3	1	18	56	164	7

intensive care where it is predicted he should make a full recovery. Nigel, if you get to read this – on behalf of all your division one comrades: Get Well Soon mate. A time like this serves as a reminder as to just how much work Nigel puts into our association and he deserves our massive thanks for all of his outstanding efforts over the past umpteen years.

Anyway, back to Division One: At the time of writing, having just printed off the latest league table, I have counted no less than TEN outstanding fixtures. Nigel Rowland (standing in for Nigel M) then confirmed that he has had results for some of the fixtures but no cards sent through! Had I been the DFS for this season I would not be a happy bunny right now!!



VIDEO OF DANIEL MOSES AND KRASI IVANOV AT THE READING CLOSED

I'm told that of the three matches which OLOP 'A' were late in playing, two are now played and one is still outstanding. The outstanding match is against Wokingham 'A'. On this basis, I will stick my neck out and say Congratulations to OLOP 'A' on retaining your title. No disrespect to Wokingham (who have done very well in their first season in the top league) but I can't see Mr Moses and his crew slipping up.

For the second year running, Kingfisher 'A' must settle for the runners up spot. A glance at the individual averages tells a story in that OLOP, pound for pound, were just a bit stronger than Kingfisher; Daniel Moses a bit stronger than Federico Viterbo, Krasimir Ivanov a bit stronger than Hari Gehlot, Ian Cole maybe a bit stronger than Mark Banks (although Mark did play nearly twice as many matches as Ian). Trung Trang won more matches than Tony Reynolds.



GUS THOMIS

16 players in the averages are all from the top 5 teams. In my opinion there is a bigger gap between the 5th and 6th teams than there is between the bottom 7 and the top of division 2. When my team rocks up to play one of the top 5 it's a simple case of how many are we going to lose by. You can call me a pessimist (which I am a bit) but the fact is that there is a massive gulf in standard in this division which does not make for good competitive matches.

So to get to the point and rattle the cage I want to ask this question: Has the time come when we should look at restructuring division one? What about splitting it in half and each team in each half playing each other 3 or even 4 times in a season? With a promotion and relegation at Christmas? Premier Division and Division One?

Food for thought.

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	PL	W	%
Daniel Moses	OLOP A	45	43	95.56 %
Martin Adams	Kingfisher B	59	56	94.92 %
Federico Viterbo	Kingfisher A	21	19	90.48 %
Eduard Caliman	Kingfisher D	47	42	89.36 %
Ian Cole	OLOP A	26	23	88.46 %
Philip Zeng	Kingfisher D	56	49	87.50 %
Krasimir Ivanov	OLOP A	32	28	87.50 %
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher A	52	45	86.54 %
Gus Thomis	OLOP B	12	10	83.33 %
Daniel Mctiernan	OLOP A	29	24	82.76 %
Mark Banks	Kingfisher A	43	34	79.07 %
Trung Tran	OLOP A	27	21	77.78 %

So there we have it – OLOP are worthy winners with strength in depth and consistency.

At the other end of the table, our beloved secretary's Sonning Common and Peppard 'B' are relegated for the 3rd year running!! (How does that work?!). They are joined by Tidmarsh B who lose out on goal difference to my team: Sonning 'A'. Maybe it was closer than it should have been as Sonning 'A' fielded a two man team twice this year – both against Tidmarsh 'B'!!

Forgive me for not running through every team in the table and for keeping this brief. But I do want to highlight an issue. The gap between the 5th placed team Kingfisher D and the 6th team Reading YMCA is a massive 14 points. With the exception of Gus Thomis at OLOP B, the top



VIDEO OF YEQIN ZENG AND DANIEL MCTIERNAN AT THE READING CLOSED

DIVISION TWO *by Barry Carter*

Welcome to the final newsletter of the 2014/2015 campaign. It's been an excellent season and congratulations go to Curzon Club 'A' who are champions and to Our Lady of Peace 'C' who are also promoted after an amazing run of thirteen successive victories that saw them from 8th at Christmas to 2nd. I feel sorry for Kingfisher 'E' who were in the top two all the way to week 20 of the season only to be overtaken in the home straight. At the bottom it's the end of a long season for Springfield 'A' and they are joined in the bottom two by Kingfisher 'G', both of whom might be relegated to division three next season. As I'm going to be busy towards the end of the season and I don't want to have the newsletter editor going bananas for the second successive newsletter I wrote this report as the scorecards arrived to me and finished it off with a whole tranche of stats at the end...



MICHAEL McALLISTER OF OLOP 'C'

Week 18:

Curzon Club 'A' edged closer to promotion after they defeated Polish 'A' 7 – 3. John Willcocks and Jon Willis both won three with John coming back from 0 – 2 against Darek to win 11–7 in the fifth. In response the trio of Darek, Jacek and the ever-present Grant all overcame John Walker in four, four and five respectively. Jon & John teamed up to win the doubles 11–5, 11–9, 11–8. The 3 – 7 defeat kept Polish 'A' in eighth place in the table and barring a series of improbable results safe from relegation. Tidmarsh 'C' stayed fifth in the league but moved level on points with Milestone 'A' after their 6 - 4 win over Springfield 'A'. François Durand, John Golding and Mike Aistrop all returned braces with wins over Des Hele and Ian Boaden.

Phil Burke maintained his good form with another maximum although he was made to work by Mike before he finally won 6–11, 11–7, 12–14, 11–3, 11–5. The 4 – 6 defeat left Springfield 'A' on the brink of an immediate return to division three. ... that brink became reality the next night as Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' upset promotion hopefuls Kingfisher 'E' to win 6 – 4 thanks to an impressive three from captain, Matt Stone who defeated Roger Woolven–Allen, John Morris and Geoff Civil but special mention must go to Jon Abbott's brilliant brace as he defeated Roger 11–9, 11–13, 11–6, 8–11, 13–11 and John Morris 9–11, 9–11, 11–4, 11–9, 16–14 before he narrowly lost to Geoff 8–11 in the fifth. Danny Dockree chipped in with a crucial win over Roger 12–10, 11–9, 3–11, 11–9. Kingfisher 'E' seem to be losing form and availability of Bernhard Schnederle as they slipped to their third successive defeat, coincidentally they have lost four matches this season and it's when Bernhard hasn't played. Geoff was the pick of the 'E' team as he won two against Jon and Danny, whilst John defeated Danny 11–8 in the fifth. Wokingham 'B' moved within one point of safety with a 7 – 3 win over Pangbourne WMC 'A'. Nigel Bliss had a great evening as he won all three, the best was the 11–9, 7–11, 8–11, 11–4, 11–7 win over John Simmonds. Dan Buckle had wins over Denise Weller and Simon Hopkins and Richard Neville completed a good all round team display with wins over John and Simon. John Simmonds overcame Dan 11–7, 12–10, 8–11, 13–11, Denise beat Richard 13–11 in the fifth and then John & Simon teamed up to win the doubles. The defeat confined Pangbourne 'A' to another season in division two and three points adrift off fourth. Kingfisher 'F' boosted their chances of a top four finish as they defeated Kingfisher 'G' 10 – 0 in the derby match. It was a relatively simple win as Allan Bruton enjoyed a three straight maximum and Ivor Hardman and Allen Pack dropped only a game as they too picked up maximums. Mick Mitcham took a game off Ivor but lost 8–11, 12–10, 6–11, 3–11 and Dave Duncan lost to Allen 5–11, 9–11, 11–5, 8–11 whereas Carol Byers lost narrowly to Allen. Although this game was played on the Monday, their relegation wasn't confirmed until the Thursday as first Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' picked up a win on Wednesday and then on the Thursday Wokingham scored an unexpected victory over promotion hopefuls Kingfisher 'E'. Our Lady of Peace 'C' were the last to enter the fray for the week as they travelled to Milestone 'A' on Thursday. Milestone 'A' still harboured hopes of promotion themselves but that was soon almost mathematically impossible as Our Lady of Peace 'C' ran out 10 – 0 victors. Milestone captain, Hugh Crosfield wrote that OLOP 'C' were the best team in the division and on current form they certainly are. Siad Cole, Michael McAllister and Djordje Milovanovic all won three although three of the sets went to five. Robin Benwell and John Tucker both took Djordje to five but were both defeated 5–11 and 6–11 in the fifth respectively. Hugh Crosfield took a set off Michael but he succumbed 1–11, 6–11, 11–4, 6–11.

Week 19:

Curzon Club 'A' moved another step closer to promotion with the comprehensive 9 – 1 away win over mid-table Pangbourne WMC 'A'. Andy Fakeerjan and Jon Willis both won maximums whilst John Willcocks won two. Denise Weller won the only set on the night for Pangbourne with a good 11–3, 6–11, 11–9, 13–11, the result meant they would remain in seventh no matter what else happened in the week. Our Lady of Peace 'C' kept up the pressure on Kingfisher 'E' for the second promotion spot with a 6 – 4 win over Kingfisher 'F'. Siad Cole was the star of the night for OLOP with a very impressive three straight maximum against Allan Bruton 12–10, 11 –4, 11–5, Peter Bennett 11–7, 11–7, 13–11 and Ivor Hardman 11–5, 11–3, 11–7. Djordje Milovanovic also played well to beat Peter and Ivor whilst Michael McAllister had a bad night by his season

gernaut that is coming up on the rails. Tidmarsh 'C' leapfrogged over Milestone 'A' into fourth as a result of their 7 – 3 win. John Golding won all three, the best coming against Robin Benwell where he won 11–8, 11–6, 9–11, 11–6. Mike Aistrop overcame John Tucker and John Crosfield, whilst Chris Webb defeated John C 11–7, 11–7, 7–11, 6–11. In reply Robin had a five set win over Mike 11–3 in the fifth and Chris Webb, the other winner on the evening was John Tucker as he won a four setter against Chris. The result left Milestone 'A' in sixth place but only two points off fourth.

Week 20:

Kingfisher 'G' bounced back from the disappointment of suffering relegation last week to record a great win over inform Polish 'A'. Carol Byers had her best evening for a while as she won two against Grant Wheatley 11–7, 11–13, 11–1, 5–11, 14–12 and she followed it up with an 11–9, 6–11, 11–5, 12–10 win over Darek Kaminski. Eric Holmes also won two with wins over Grant and Jacek whilst Mick Mitcham overcame Darek. Darek won two for Polish as he beat Eric 12–10, 11–8, 11–6 and Mick 11–7, 11–8, 11–6 and Grant and Jacek picked up one each. The doubles was the decider as Eric & Mick defeated Grant & Darek 11–9, 5–11, 11–4, 11–5 to clinch their third win of the season in a 6 – 4 scoreline; the result kept Polish 'A' in eighth. Curzon Club 'A' clinched promotion with a 6 – 4 win over relegated Springfield 'A'. The result also meant that they would only need one point from their last two matches to become champions.

Jon Willis was absent from the promotion

party as he watched his beloved Manchester United lose to Arsenal in the FA Cup (not sure it was worth it in the end Jon ;-)). Andy Fakeerjan and John Willcocks each won two for Curzon, and John Walker defeated Seth Martin 13–11, 12–10, 11–5. Springfield battled well and Phil Burke returned yet another maximum with wins over John, Andy (for the 2nd time this season) and John Walker. Des Hele was the other winner for Springfield on the night with a good 13–11, 11–2, 11–6 victory over John Walker. As promotion has been guaranteed Curzon can now look to strengthen for next seasons division one campaign. Kingfisher 'F' moved into fifth place after this 6 – 4 derby win over promotion chasing Kingfisher 'E'. Ivor Hardman and Allan Bruton won two each against Roger Woolven–Allen and Geoff Civil. Allen Pack also defeated Geoff in a tight 11–8, 11–13, 11–8, 4–11, 11–7 encounter. The man of the match however came from John Morris who played his best table tennis for a while to return a maximum as he defeated Ivor 11–9, 11–4, 12–10 then Allan 11–7, 11–8, 12–10 and then wrapped up his maximum as he beat Allen 6–11, 11–8, 11–4, 11–8. The defeat for Kingfisher 'E' meant that Curzon Club 'A' were crowned champions on Tuesday 10th March so congratulations to them. OLOP 'C' took advantage of Kingfisher 'E's slip up at Kingfisher 'F' the night before as they won 8 – 2 against two–man Tidmarsh 'C'. OLOP moved level on points with Kingfisher 'E' but

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Curzon Club A	22	19	2	1	154	66	40
OLOP C	22	17	0	5	145	75	34
Kingfisher E	22	16	0	6	144	76	32
Kingfisher F	22	13	0	9	129	91	26
Tidmarsh C	22	10	3	9	106	114	23
Milestone A	22	10	2	10	108	111	22
Pangbourne WMC A	22	9	4	9	108	112	22
Wokingham B	22	8	4	10	110	109	20
Polish A	22	8	1	13	91	129	17
SC&P C	22	6	4	12	98	122	16
Kingfisher G	22	4	1	17	58	162	9
Springfield A	22	1	1	20	68	152	3

standards and only won one. Allan won a tight encounter with Djordje 11–9, 12–14, 11–7, 11–8 and Peter and Ivor both overcame Michael. Kingfisher 'F's hopes of promotion were finally ended by this result but it left them only a point off fourth spot. Polish 'A' made it five 6 – 4 wins in a row with another tight match against Sonning Common & Peppard 'C'. Grant Wheatley and Jacek won two each and Darek chipped in with the set ten win over Danny Dockree 11–6, 11–6, 11–6 that clinched both points. The doubles was also really tight and ended up in a fifth set decider where Polish prevailed 7–11, 11–9, 11–8, 9–11, 13–11. Danny Dockree had two good wins over Darek and Jacek whilst Matt Stone defeated Darek and Grant. Jon Abbott was unlucky as three of his games went to deuce before he ended up losing all three. The result kept Polish in eighth and Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' in tenth. Kingfisher 'E' moved back into the top two with this relatively easy 8 – 2 win over their clubmates Kingfisher 'G'. John Morris and Geoff Civil won all their matches whilst Richard Leachman playing up from division three won one. John Morris was made to work by Eric Holmes before he finally won 11–4, 8–11, 11–1, 8–11, 14–12. Eric Holmes won the only singles match for the 'G' team as he defeated Richard 11–9, 11–8, 11–7 and then teamed up with Mick Mitcham to win the doubles 11–8, 11–4, 12–10. The loss for Kingfisher 'G' meant they were relegated to division three but the win for Kingfisher 'E' kept them one step ahead of the OLOP jug-

stayed third on set difference. Siad Cole continued his massive improvement with a "maximum" as he defeated Mike Aistrop and Chris Webb. The introduction of Djordje Milovanovic was certainly the catalyst for the promotion push as he also got a "maximum" and ever-improving Michael McAllister defeated Mike. Tidmarsh 'C' stayed fourth despite the loss as Chris Webb was the only winner on the night for them as he returned home after a great win over Michael 13-15, 11-8, 11-6, 8-11, 11-9. Wokingham 'B' recorded an 8 - 2 win over Milestone 'A' to enhance their chances of a mid-table finish. Dan Buckle once again had a good evening as he won a fine treble, he was well supported by both Tony Eames and Richard Neville who both won two each. It's turning out to be a slightly disappointing end for Milestone 'A' but they can still finish fourth if results go their way. Hugh Crosfield won two, John Crosfield had a great win over Richard Neville 8-11, 11-9, 6-11, 12-10, 11-6 whilst it was a rare off night for John Tucker. In the final match of the week Pangbourne WMC 'A' won 6 - 4 at Sonning Common & Peppard 'C', the result left Pangbourne in the mix for fourth and Sonning C & P 'C' looking like they will finish tenth and one place above the relegation zone. There was a huge swing in the scores between John Simmonds and Tim Raby as John ran out 11-8, 6-11, 11-9, 1-11, 11-2 winner. George White won all three fairly comfortable and Simon Hopkins overcame Jon Abbott 11-9, 9-11, 12-14, 14-12, 11-9. Danny Dockree won two of the four for Sonning as he defeated John 11-4, 11-13, 9-11, 11-7, 12-10 and Simon 11-6, 11-0, 11-5. Tim also had success over Simon whilst Jon defeated John 1-11, 11-5, 10-12, 11-7, 11-6. The game to look forward to next week is the promotion decider between OLOP 'C' and Kingfisher 'E'... no pressure teams!!!!

Week 21:

Polish 'A' entertained Kingfisher 'F' in a match with very little riding on it. Grant Wheatley missed his first of the season as Polish went on to lose 2 - 8. Jacek Krzyzanowski was the Polish 'A' player of the match as he impressively defeated Allan Bruton 7-11, 11-4, 11-7, 11-6 and Peter Bennett 11-4, 14-12, 11-7. Darek Kaminski took Allan to four and Zico Jerzmanski who played in his first match of the season did well before he lost in five to Peter. Kingfisher 'F' moved into fourth with this result as Ivor Hardman won all three although he was involved in a five-gamer with Jacek before he won 11-5, 11-8, 9-11, 7-11, 11-8, Allan & Peter both won two each against Darek and Zico. Tidmarsh 'C' missed the chance to virtually secure fourth spot as they were surprisingly defeated 3 - 7 by Wokingham 'B'; it appears player availability has scuppered their bid for third or fourth place. Mike Aistrop won two against Aidan Killian and Tony Eames and François Durand won their other set with a 11-8, 11-7, 13-11 win over Aidan. Chris Webb was involved in a tight encounter with Tony Eames but finally lost 12-10, 11-9, 3-11, 2-11, 10-12. Wokingham 'B' can be really pleased with their second half of the season performances and especially Dan Buckle and he continued that with another maximum, this time at the expense of François 3 - 1, Mike 3 - 1 and Chris 3 - 0. Tony Eames won two five-setters, the Chris battle already mentioned and 4-11, 11-6, 11-8, 7-11, 13-11

against Mike. Aidan also enjoyed success over Chris 11-5, 11-6, 10-12, 11-1. The eagerly awaited scorecard for the potential promotion decider between OLOP 'C' and Kingfisher 'E' arrived in my inbox at 8:25 on Wednesday morning and although John Morris gave Kingfisher a 1 - 0 lead as he showed his experience to defeat Michael McAllister 11-8, 3-11, 11-8, 11-9 it was as close as they came to having one foot in division one. Djordje Milovanovic

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Bernhard Schnederle	Kingfisher E	42	40	95.24 %
Djordje Milovanovic	OLOP C	32	29	90.63 %
Robin Benwell	Milestone A	49	42	85.71 %
John Willcocks	Curzon Club A	59	49	83.05 %
John Willis	Curzon Club A	47	37	78.72 %
Michael McAllister	OLOP C	65	50	76.92 %
Daniel Buckle	Wokingham B	59	44	74.58 %
Andy Fakeerjan	Curzon Club A	47	35	74.47 %
Philip Burke	Springfield A	62	46	74.19 %
Ivor Hardman	Kingfisher F	54	39	72.22 %
John Morris	Kingfisher E	35	25	71.43 %
John Golding	Tidmarsh C	41	29	70.73 %
Siad Cole	OLOP C	62	41	66.13 %
Matt Stone	SC&P C	47	31	65.96 %
Allan Bruton	Kingfisher F	51	33	64.71 %
John Simmonds	Pangbourne WMC A	60	38	63.33 %
Dave Wise	Tidmarsh C	29	18	62.07 %

has been a great acquisition and he won all three relatively easily. Michael got back to winning ways with a good win over Geoff Civil and then a tight three straight win 11-9, 14-12, 11-9 over Willis Ma but the most improved player in the division during the second half of the season has to be Siad Cole as he won yet another maximum in straight games. Kingfisher 'E' have certainly missed the services of Bernhard Schnederle, their only other win on the night was in the doubles as John Morris and Geoff overcame Michael and Siad in four. Willis Ma was the only player to take a game off Djordje but he eventually lost 10-12, 9-11, 11-7, 11-13. The 8 - 2 result puts OLOP 'C' in the box seat for promotion as they now only need a point from their last match at Wokingham 'B' to guarantee a place in division one. For Kingfisher 'E' it must be really disappointing as they have been in the top two for twenty weeks of the season only to be shunted out by the OLOP 'C' juggernaut right at the death. The sun has nearly set on Springfield 'A's' season in division two, their penultimate game ended in a "closer than the result says" 0 - 10 defeat as seven of the games went to deuce and six were either 11-9 or 9-11. Springfield were missing the services of Phil Burke for only the second time this season so the trio of Seth Martin, Ian Boaden and Des Hele gave it their best. Seth lost 2 - 3 to Matt Stone and Des 2 - 3 to Jon Abbott, whilst Ian lost 1 - 3 to both Tim Raby and Jon. Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' were already safe but the win gave them the chance of overhaul-

ing Polish 'A' to finish in 9th place. Matt Stone also defeated Ian Boaden 12-10, 11-8, 11-9 and Des Hele 11-7, 12-10, 11-6. Tim went home with a maximum with two 3-1's over Ian and Des plus a 11-5, 11-8, 11-7 victory over Seth and young Jon Abbott also won all three to boost his average for the season.

Week 22:

Curzon Club 'A' rounded off their championship and promotion winning season with a relatively comfortable 7-3 victory over mid-table Tidmarsh 'C'. John Willcocks and Jon Willis both won maximums with wins over François Durand, Chris Webb and Mike Aistrop whilst an unwell John Walker battled well but lost all three. Tidmarsh are sweating on the result of the Milestone 'A' match to see if they finish fifth or sixth. François and Chris both needed four games to beat John Walker but Mike went one better to record a 11-6, 11-7, 11-7 win.

Kingfisher 'G' ended their season in fine style by registering their fourth win of the campaign with a 7-3 victory over fellow relegates Springfield 'A'. Eric Holmes had a great evening as he won all three straight and it included a very impressive performance against Phil Burke 11-6, 13-11, 11-7. Carol Byers made it two braces in a row, it's probably a shame the season is just finishing as it's her best run of the season and Dave Duncan chipped in with a useful win over Ian Boaden 12-10, 11-9, 11-1. Phil Burke replied with two for Springfield as he overcame Carol and Dave, Des Hele also beat Dave 11-7, 7-11, 11-8, 15-13 and narrowly lost to Carol 4-11 in the fifth. Ian took a game off Carol before he eventually lost 5-11, 9-11, 11-7, 6-11. Both these sides could meet once again next season but in division three, good luck on the bouncebackability.

Kingfisher 'F' v Pangbourne WMC 'A' guaranteed fourth spot in the table with a tight 6-4 win over Pangbourne WMC 'A'. Ivor Hardman and Allan Bruton were the pick of the Kingfisher players as they won two each against Denise Weller and Simon Hopkins and Allen Pack won an important match against Simon 11-5, 5-11, 11-4, 8-11, 13-11 but the man of the match was John Simmonds with a fine maximum although he was made to go to five by both Allen (12-14, 11-7, 12-10, 5-11, 11-6) and then Allan (9-11, 11-7, 12-10, 4-11, 11-8). Denise overcame Allen but Simon unfortunately lost all three but two of them were in the fifth. The result meant that dependent on results still to come Pangbourne could finish six, seventh or eighth.

The only match with any impact on the honours in the last week of the season arrived on Friday and that was the match between Wokingham 'B' and promotion hopefuls Our Lady of Peace 'C'. Dan Buckle's email stated that Richard Neville had won all three and played an absolute blinder so I put two and two together and came up with five. I assumed that perhaps Dan had got his usual two or three and perhaps they had sneaked the match and therefore possibly denied OLOP promotion but when I opened the email I saw that although Richard had indeed had a great evening and won all three against Michael McAllister (11-7, 5-11, 11-8, 7-11, 11-9), Djordje Milovanovic (10-12, 12-10, 11-9, 1-11, 11-7) and Siad Cole (11-9, 11-8, 11-7) it was as good as it got as both Dan and Tony Eames had lost all three.

Congratulations to OLOP 'C' who had a great second half of the season to clinch promotion. Michael won his two against Dan & Tony in straight games, Djordje dropped a game against both Dan & Tony whilst Siad only dropped one game against Dan. A great achievement by OLOP to overhaul Kingfisher 'E' and nick the second promotion spot, good luck in division one next season but if the lads continue to improve they will more than hold their own!

The last match of the week saw Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' take on Milestone 'A', it turned out to be a close run match that ended in a 5-5 draw. Matt Stone defeated Robin Benwell 11-8, 11-5, 4-11, 11-8 for one of his best wins of the season and then went on to win his other two. Danny Dockree got the better of Hugh Crosfield 8-11, 11-4, 13-11, 11-9 whilst Tim Raby had a rare off night and lost all three. Milestone's season began with promise but my prediction of a top four finish obviously jinxed them...sorry lads ;-). Robin won two, John Tucker won two, an 11-7, 11-7, 11-9 win over Tim and then a win over Danny. Hugh won one and that was five-setter against Tim, I think Milestone will be disappointed with at best sixth and dependent on remaining results possibly seventh but Sonning 'C' will be pleased to have avoided relegation and by the substantial margin of seven points.

Post-season

Pangbourne WMC 'A' made sure of seventh place with an 8-2 win over relegated Kingfisher 'G'. Simon Hopkins recorded his second maximum of the season with wins over Steve Woolnough (11-7, 11-9, 3-11, 11-9), Carol Byers (11-9, 3-11, 2-11, 11-9, 11-6) and Dave Duncan (2-11, 3-11, 11-5, 11-7, 12-10) and he was well supported by John Simmonds and George White who both won two. John overcame Steve and Carol, whilst George defeated Steve and Dave. In reply it was only a Dave Duncan 12-10, 11-9, 6-11, 6-11, 11-9 win over John and a Carol 11-9, 10-12, 10-12, 11-9 win over George that ended their season on a high. They can look forward to a promotion push back to division two in 2015/2016.

Wokingham 'A' guaranteed eighth in the table with a Maundy Thursday victory over Springfield 'A'. It was Tony Eames' turn to win a maximum for Springfield after Richard's in the last week of the season as he saw off Ian Boaden 11-7, 11-8, 11-5, then Seth Martin 11-6, 11-7, 11-8 but the best win of the evening came against Phil Burke and that was 11-8, 11-4, 11-4. Dan Buckle won two as did Richard Neville; I'm sure given their team availability issues at times this season they will be pleased with eighth and who knows next season could be pushing for promotion to join their 'A' team colleagues in division one. Springfield 'A' battled well with two of Phil's going to five which he won 11-4, 11-7, 8-11, 10-12, 11-8 against Dan and 11-4, 9-11, 11-7, 6-11, 11-9 against Richard but that was about it from them as both Ian and Seth lost all three although they did take Tony & Richard to four in the doubles before they lost 9-11, 15-17, 11-8, 5-11, the final result on the evening was 8-2 to Wokingham 'B'.

Kingfisher 'E' finished off their campaign with a comprehensive 9-1 victory over Polish 'A'. The campaign that began so brightly with 20 points amassed in the first half, fiz-

zled out a little with only 12 in the second (a bit like the mighty Wolves footy campaign). John Morris finished the season with a maximum as did Geoff Civil who returned to form with only his second maximum of the second half of the season. Roger Woolven-Allen won two and then joined up with John to win the doubles. Polish 'A' were safe following their five 6 - 4 wins during January and February but only won one set in the last match and that was a 9 - 11, 11 - 8, 11 - 9, 8 - 11, 11 - 9 Jacek Krzyzanowski victory over Roger. Darek Kaminski did also take games off both John and Roger before he lost 9 - 11 in the fourth. Grant finished with a duck which was only his third of the season and none of them went to five, must be a first!

TEAM and PLAYER STATS

CURZON CLUB 'A'

Team Stat Best doubles average – 86%
John Willcocks Won the most by the 3 – 0 scoreline (30)
Jon Willis Won 17 out of 20 of his four set matches
Andy Fakeerjan Only lost one of his six five-setters
John Walker His two braces came at home against Kingfisher teams
DOUBLES 19 / 22 = 86%

KINGFISHER 'E'

Team Stat Best home record (20 points) [won 10 lost 1]
Bernhard Schnederle Won the most games by the 3 – 0 scoreline (30)
John Morris His five maximums were against different teams
Geoff Civil Four of his five maximums were at home
Roger Woolven-Allen Had two runs of four braces in a row
DOUBLES 14 / 22 = 64%

OLOP 'C'

Team Stat Won thirteen games in a row, best winning sequence of division two
Wendy Porter Played in three of their wins in the first half of the season
Siad Cole Played the joint most matches in the season (21)
Michael Mcallister 2nd on the most amount of maximums list (12)
Djordje Milovanovic Won two or more every time he played (11)
DOUBLES 14 / 22 = 64%

MILESTONE 'A'

Team Stat Only got 50% of the points (7) in the second half as they did in the first half of the season (15)
John Crosfield Only time he won more than one was a maximum against Kingfisher 'G'
Hugh Crosfield Won 2 out of his 12 five set matches
John Tucker On two occasions v Springfield & Wokingham he won the same sets on an evening
Robin Benwell 29 of his 42 wins were 3 – 0
DOUBLES 11 / 22 = 50%

TIDMARSH 'C'

Team Stat Only team in top five not to win by the 10 – 0 scoreline
John Golding Of Tidmarsh's five 7-3 wins, John won maximums in four
Dave Wise Whenever Dave won a maximum, Tidmarsh 'C' won
Mike Aistrop Mike's two maximums occurred in January
Francois Durand Tidmarsh won every time Francois won a brace (4)
Chris Webb None of his eight wins were 3 - 0
DOUBLES 9 / 22 = 41%

KINGFISHER 'F'

Team Stat Won twice as many points at home as they did away 18 at home, 8 away
Ivor Hardman Six of his eight maximums were against three teams
Allan Bruton Five of his six maximums were at home
Allen Pack When Allen won two, Kingfisher 'F' always won (4)
Peter Bennett All five times Peter won one set, they were away
DOUBLES 15 / 22 = 68%

PANGBOURNE WMC

Team Stat Lost the most games by the 1 – 9 scoreline (4)
John Simmonds 32 of his 38 wins were 3 – 0 or 3 – 1
Denise Weller On the 7 times Denise won 2 sets, Pangbourne always won
George White On the five times George won two sets, Pangbourne always won
Simon Hopkins Both maximums were at home
DOUBLES 11 / 22 = 50%

POLISH 'A'

Team Stat All but one of their 8 wins was by the 6 – 4 score line, they won five successive matches 6 – 4
Grant Wheatley Was involved in the most five set matches (23) [won 15 lost 8]

Jacek Krzyzanowski Won nearly twice as many sets in the second half as in the first 11/19

Darek Kaminski Won one match on every evening the most times (10)
DOUBLES 4 / 22 = 18%

WOKINGHAM 'B'

Team Stat Six of their eight wins were by the 7 – 3 scoreline
Dan Buckle Had the best five-game win record: 10 / 12 = 83%
Richard Neville Won five braces in a row during January and February
Tony Eames Won three times the sets in the second half as in the first 4 / 12
Aidan Killian Both his braces came at home
DOUBLES 10 / 22 = 45%

SONNING C&P 'C'

Team Stat Won twice as many games in the second half as they did in the first
Matt Stone Won two or more sets in 12 of his 16 matches
Tim Raby Both maximums were at Sonning
Danny Dockree Was involved in most four set matches (30) [won 14 lost 16]
Jon Abbott When Jon won two, Sonning always won (3)
DOUBLES 9 / 22 = 41%

KINGFISHER 'G'

Team Stat Won all four of their matches against different teams
Eric Holmes Played in all four of their wins
Mike Mitcham 4 of his 6 wins were 3 – 1
Carol Byers Won both her braces at Kingfisher
Steve Woolnough Only time Steve won a brace was only time Kingfisher 'G' drew
Dave Duncan His four wins were either 3 – 0 or 3 – 2
DOUBLES 10 / 22 = 45%

SPRINGFIELD 'A'

Team Stat Lost the most matches by the 4 – 6 scoreline (7)
Phil Burke 37 of his 46 wins were either 3 – 0 or 3 – 1
Des Hele Six of his nine wins were away from Springfield
Ian Boaden Two of his three wins were at Springfield
Seth Martin Most successful venue was Milestone
DOUBLES 7 / 22 = 32%

DIVISIONAL STATS

% OF 10 – 0 RESULTS	12	9%
% OF 9 – 1 RESULTS	14	11%
% OF 8 – 2 RESULTS	25	19%
% OF 7 – 3 RESULTS	33	25%
% OF 6 – 4 RESULTS	37	28%
% OF 5 – 5 RESULTS	11	8%
HOME WINS	73	
AWAY WINS	48	
DRAWS	11	
BEST HOME RECORD	Kingfisher 'E' 20 points out of 22	
BEST AWAY RECORD	Curzon Club 'A' 21 points out of 22	
MOST 3 – 0 WINS	Bernhard Schnederle (30)	
MOST 3 – 1 WINS	Michael Macallister (19)	
MOST 3 – 2 WINS	Grant Wheatley (15)	
MOST FIVE SETTERS	Grant Wheatley (23)	
HIGHEST GAME SCORE	20 – 18 Jon Willis v Allen Pack	
MOST 10 – 0 WINS	Our Lady of Peace 'C' (3)	
MOST 9 – 1 WINS	Kingfisher 'E' (4)	
MOST 8 – 2 WINS	Our Lady of Peace 'C' (5)	
MOST 7 – 3 WINS	Curzon Club 'A' (7)	
MOST 6 – 4 WINS	Polish 'A' (7)	

DIVISION THREE *by Derek Harrison*

Well, another season bites the dust. The last ball has been hit, but not broken. I wonder what the new balls will be like? Anyway there are winners and sadly losers so first I congratulate Dave Reynolds jnr and his Tidmarsh 'D' team on their success on winning the title and also well done to Willis Ma and his Kingfisher 'H' team for gaining the runners up spot. Sadly Sonning Sports 'A' and Tilehurst Meths 'B' go down so I wish you both a speedy return. At this point I would like to clarify last season's averages in my stats - these are only for players who were played in the third division last season. There are only 5 players who took part in every match for their team this season; they are Mike Willmott, Leroy Wilson, Derek Wavell, Alan Mollett and Bob Woodmansee. Although in one match Bob only played in the doubles.



Since my previous notes Tidmarsh 'D' have caught up on one of their outstanding matches by beating Kingfisher 'I' 9 – 1 with Steve Ricks and Dave Reynolds jnr both getting maximums. Mike Willmott managed a double. At O.L.O.P they came away with a 2 – 8 victory with Mike and Peter Galea both gaining maximums. For Peter they were all three straight. Dave jnr obtained a double. They then had to work hard at Curzon with Peter winning all three but he had to come back from 2 -1 down to beat Mike Maynard. Mike and Dave jnr both won one each. They then entertained Polish in a match that was re-arranged and beat them 8 – 2 thanks to trebles from Dave jnr and Mike. Reserve Terry Hardie managed a single by beating Div 3 winner Krys Szczygiel. They then clinched the title by beating Tilehurst Meths 'A' 8 – 2 with yet another hat trick from Peter, while Dave jnr and Mike gave him able support with doubles. At Sonning Sports they came away with a 1 – 9 victory with Dave jnr and Steve hitting fairly comfortable maximums. Mike managed a double. At home to Sonning C&P they hit good form to win 8 – 2 with Dave jnr winning all three which included a 21-19 win over Alan Mollett. Mike and Steve both gained doubles. In their final match they beat Pangbourne 8 – 2 with Dave jnr getting a very impressive maximum by beating Leroy 11-7, 11-6, 11-2 then Clive 11-6, 11-6, 11-2 and Ray Webb 11-5, 11- 6, 11-6. Mike and Steve played their part by winning two each.

Peter 30/30=100% 10 trebles, best win Jean-Noel 100% first half 100% second half

Dave jnr 53/63=84.1% 12 trebles, 8 doubles, 1 single, best win Phil Jones - 86.7% first half 81.8% second half

Mike 47/66=71.2% 6 trebles, 13 doubles, 3 singles, best win Mike Maynard - 72.7% first half 69.7% second half

Dave S 2/12=16.7% 2 singles, best win Mike Williams 16.7% first half did not play second half

Steve Ricks 12/15=80.0% 2 trebles, 3 doubles, best win Clive Taylor - 66.7% first half 83.3% second half

21 Points first half, 21points second half

Kingfisher 'H' could only manage a draw at the bottom

side Tilehurst Meths 'B'. Rick Leachman hit his first maximum of the season with Colin Dyke winning two. The big surprise was the nil return from Dave Gostelow. Well it's like them busses again because Rick hit another hat trick in their 7 – 3 win over Polish 'B' with Colin and Willis Ma both getting doubles. They then travelled to Birch Copse and came away with both points in a 2 – 8 victory. Willis did the business by winning all three with Dave and Rick both winning two each. They then won a close match by beating Pangbourne 'B' 6 – 4 with Colin on top form, gaining a great treble. Dave weighed in with a double while Rick won that important single by beating Roger Stevens. At O.L.O.P 'D' they just went down 6 – 4 with Colin winning two and Willis one. Colin and Willis also won the doubles.

Willis 34/48=70.8% 7 trebles, 5 doubles, 3 singles, best win Dave Reynolds - 79.2% first half 62.5% second half

Colin 40/53=75.5% 8 trebles, 7 doubles, 2 singles, best win Phil Jones - 77% first half 74.1% second half

Rick 24/51=58.5% 2 trebles, 7 doubles, 4 singles, best win Nigel Rowland - 53% first half 62.5% second half

Dave 22/44=50.0% 4 trebles, 3 doubles, 4 singles, best win Geoff Johnson - 55% first half 45.8% second half

Leigh Mahoney 3/9=33% 1 double, 1 single, best win Daniel Dzieciol - 33% first half, did not play second half 17 Points First Half, 15 points second half

Tilehurst Meths 'A' just saw off O.L.O.P. 'D' 6 – 4 with Paul Treadgold and Phil Jones both gained doubles. Cath Venning played her part by winning one and also teamed up with Phil to win the doubles. At leaders Tidmarsh both Cath and Phil were not available so as a result they were forced to play a reserve. Nigel managed a win over Mike and Paul beat Dave jnr. At Curzon Paul hit his first maximum of the season to help towards a 2 – 8 victory. Nigel and Phil both won two each. Nigel even managed to break his bat while returning one of Geoff Johnson's big hits!! At Pangbourne they were held to a draw with Cath having a great match by winning all three. Paul played his part by gaining a double. Sadly Nigel did not have his normal bat and lost all three. At home to Sonning Sports they strolled to a 9 – 1 win with Cath and Phil both obtaining trebles, while Paul managed a double.

Nigel 30/45 = 66.7% 5 trebles, 6 doubles, 3 singles, best win Colin Dyke - 72% first half 63% second half

Phil 33/42= 78.6% 6 trebles, 7 doubles, 1 single, best win Simon Clarke - 75% first half 83.3% second half

Cath 29/45= 64.4% 4 trebles, 7 doubles, 3 singles, best win Leroy Wilson - 62% first half 66.7% second half

Paul 29/57=50.9% 1 treble, 9 doubles, 8 singles, best win Geoff Johnson - 40% first half 63% second half

14 Points first half, 17 Points second half

Curzon 'B' come unstuck at Kingfisher 'I' when we went down 7 – 3. Geoff Johnson played very well to win two, but Mike Maynard had a rare off night and only managed a single. At home to leaders Tidmarsh 'D' we went down 4 – 6

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tidmarsh D	22	20	2	0	165	55	42
Kingfisher H	22	15	2	5	136	84	32
Tilehurst Meths A	22	15	1	6	134	86	31
Pangbourne WMC B22	10	4	8	107	113	24	
Curzon Club B	22	11	1	10	115	105	23
OLOP D	22	7	4	11	99	121	18
Polish B	22	7	4	11	99	121	18
Birch Copse A	22	6	5	11	105	115	17
SC&P D	22	6	5	11	97	123	17
Kingfisher I	22	8	1	13	92	128	17
Tilehurst Meths B	22	5	4	13	89	131	14
Sonning Sports A	22	4	3	15	82	138	11

with Mike winning two and only just losing in five games to Peter. Geoff beat Dave jnr and I had a rare win over Mike. We then crashed to our fourth defeat in a row by going down 9 – 1 at bottom side Tilehurst Meths 'B' with Geoff winning the set by beating Alex. Make that 5 in a row when we lost 2 – 8 at home to Tilehurst Meths 'A'. Geoff played well by beating Nigel and Phil. At Polish Geoff and Nick, who was making a welcome return after being out injured, won two each but I was not any help, losing my three in straight games.

Mike 31/36 = 86.1% 8 trebles, 3 doubles, 1 single, best win

Dave Reynolds

90.5% first half 80% second half last season 92%

Geoff 30/45=67% 4 trebles, 7 doubles, 4 singles. best win

Dave Reynolds

76.2% first half 58.3% second half last season 35%

Nick 22/36=61.1% 3 trebles, 5 doubles, 3 singles, best win

Colin Dyke

52% first half 73% second half last season 50%

Derek 8/33=24.2% 2 doubles, 4 singles, best win Colin Dyke

47% first half 5.6% second half last season 34%

Jim 5/39=12.8% 1 double, 3 singles, best win Clive Taylor

19% first half 5.6% second half last season 17%

13 Points first half, 10 points second half

Sonning C&P 'D' went down 7 – 3 at Polish 'B'. Alan Mollett did well by winning two with Derek Wavell winning one by beating Daniel 11-9, 5-11, 12-10, 5-11, 11-13. At home to Birch Copse they were forced to make their first change of the season due to Anthony being on holiday, however they managed a draw with Alan hitting a hat trick and Derek gaining a single by beating Jes Eassom. The two of them also won the doubles. Jim McClure who came into the side tried hard but was without match practice. It was only his second match in two seasons. At Pangbourne despite an Alan treble they lost 6 – 4. Anthony won the other set by beating Leroy. They then faced a determined O.L.O.P. side that had to win to be certain of staying up. Alan and Anthony tried hard but they could only win two each so they lost 4 – 6. (I just wish I could win two in a match!) At Tidmarsh they went down 8 – 2 with Alan having a good night by beating Mike and Steve.

Alan 45/66=68.2% 8 trebles, 9 doubles, 1 single, best win

Colin Dyke - 63.6% first half 72.7% second half

Anthony 24/63=38.1% 1 treble 7 doubles 7 singles best win

Geoff Johnson - 39.4% first half 36.7% second half

Derek 21/66=31.8% 1 treble, 4 double, 10 singles, best win

Colin Dyke - 39.4% first half 24.2% second half

Jim 0/3

11 Points first half, 6 points second half

Birch Copse 'A' came back to form by beating Sonning Sports 'A' 7 – 3 mainly thanks to a Jes Eassom treble, however Simon Clarke with two and Roy Hull with a single gave him good support. Jes also teamed up with Simon to win the doubles. At Sonning C&P they came away with a share of the points with Roy and Mike Williams winning two each and Jes gaining that important single. At home to Kingfisher 'H' they went down 2 – 8 with Simon beating Rick and Mike defeating Dave. At Kingfisher 'I' they lost 7 – 3 with Simon winning two and Mike one.

Simon then played in his last match in the Reading League and hit a three straight treble, with Mike and Jes both gaining singles to share the spoils with Tilehurst Meths 'B'. Jes would like to thank Simon for his brilliant contribution for the club and to wish him well in the Midlands.

Simon 39/54=72.2% 6 trebles, 9 doubles, 3 singles, best win

Mike Maynard

70% first half 74% second half last season 74%

Jes 23/51=45.1% 2 trebles, 4 doubles, 9 singles, best win Cath

Venning - 48% first half 41.7% second half last season 51%

Mike 12/42=28.6% 1 treble, 1 double, 7 singles, best win

Alistair Richardson -

22% first half 33.3% second half last season 23%

Roy 18/48=37.5% 2 trebles, 2 doubles, 8 singles, best win

Luca Bianchi - 46% first half 29.2% second half

10 Points first half, 7 points second half

Pangbourne 'B' managed a 3 – 7 win at Sonning Sports with Leroy Wilson and Clive Taylor both obtaining trebles. At home to Sonning C&P it took a set ten win from Clive over Derek Wavell to clinch a 6 – 4 victory which gave him a double. Reserve Ray Webb also won two with Leroy picking up a single. At Kingfisher 'H' they just went down 6 – 4 with Clive managing a double and Leroy winning one by beating Rick. By drawing with Tilehurst Meths 'A' they moved into 4th place. Clive won two and Roger and Leroy both gained singles. Roger's win over Nigel deserves a special mention. The doubles was rather tight with Clive and Leroy beating Paul and Cath 11-7, 5-11, 6-11, 11-7, 12-10. At Tidmarsh they crashed to an 8 – 2 defeat with Clive beating Mike and Ray Webb beating Steve. They then played a weakened Kingfisher 'I' and beat them 8 – 2 with Leroy and Clive both gaining maximums. Roger had a rare win by beating Gabor.

Leroy 36/66=54.5% 7 trebles, 3 doubles, 9 singles, best win

Geoff Johnson

60.6% first half 48.5% second half last season 70%

Clive 39/63=61.9% 4 trebles, 12 doubles, 3 singles, best win

Geoff Johnson

60% first half 63.6% second half last season 52.4%

Roger 11/51=21.6% 2 doubles, 7 singles, best win Nigel Rowland

20.8% first half 22.2% second half last season 10%

Howard 0/3 did not play second half last season 35%
13 Points first half, 11 points second half

Polish 'B' went well clear of the bottom two by beating Sonning C&P 'D' 7 – 3 with Ziko Jerzmanski getting a good hat trick ably supported by Luca Bianchi who gained a double besides the two of them winning the doubles. Daniel Dzieciol won one by beating Anthony. At Kingfisher 'H' they went down 7 – 3 with Luca and Daniel both obtaining singles and also teaming up to win the doubles. At Tidmarsh Krys Szczygiel and Daniel both won one each in an 8 – 2 defeat. Congratulations Krys on winning the divisional championship. At home to a very strong Kingfisher 'I' they went down 2 – 8 with Daniel beating Nils and Luca beating Joaquin. At Tilehurst Meths 'B' they lost 6 – 4 with Ziko, Krys and Daniel all obtained singles. At home to Curzon Dan hit his first hat trick for over a year and with Ziko and Krys both beating me it helped towards a 6 – 4 win. Krys and Dan also won the doubles by beating Geoff and Nick 12-10, 11-7, 12-10.

Krys 19/48=39.6% 1 treble, 5 doubles, 6 singles, best win Mike Willmott 39% first half 39% second half

Daniel 24/54=44.4% 1 treble, 6 doubles, 9 singles, best win Willis Ma - 38% first half 48% second half last season 61.9%

Luca 25/51=49% 1 treble, 6 doubles, 10 singles, best win Geoff Johnson - 48% first half 50% second half

Ziko 21/42=50% 4 trebles, 3 doubles, 3 singles, best win Willis Ma - 67% first half 40% second half

Eddie 0/3

8 Points first half, 10 points second half

O.L.O.P 'D' came up against a strong Tidmarsh side and went down 2 – 8. Mark Bullion had a great 5-11, 11-9, 11-1, 4-11, 11-2 victory over Dave Reynolds jnr and he also teamed up with Dave to win the doubles. Against Tilehurst Meths 'A' Alistair Richardson had his best night of the season by obtaining a treble with Mark picking up a single but this was not enough in a 6 – 4 defeat. Alistair certainly got his money's worth because all of his sets went to five games. I should add he likes playing against Tilehurst Meths sides because he got a maximum against both teams. By beating Sonning Sports 6 – 4 they now need only one point to keep them safe. Yet again Alistair came up trumps by winning all three. Dave did well to win two with Phil winning that very vital single. By winning 4 - 6 at Sonning C&P they have avoided the drop. Young reserve Harry Munro was the star by winning all three in straight games. I would like to tell you this tribute from Derek Wavell: "I suppose Harry Munro must be about 12 but he is a really classy player and put the rest of his team and us to shame, none of the usual weaknesses of a junior and managed to make fools out of us and do it with artistry." Dave and Mark helped him out by winning one each. Harry also teamed up with Dave to win the doubles. Harry was again the star by winning all three against Kingfisher 'H' to help to a 6 – 4 victory. Phil gained a double and Mark picked up that important single by beating Dave Gostelow.

Alistair 25/48=52.1% 4 trebles, 3 doubles, 7 singles, best win Phil Jones - 38% first half 66.7% second half

Mark 17/45=37.8% 1 treble, 3 doubles, 8 singles, best win

Clive Taylor - 42% first half 33.3% second half
Dave 21/36=58.3% 2 trebles, 6 doubles, 3 singles, best win Nigel Rowland - 67% first half 50.0% second half
Phil 19/45=42.2% 1 treble, 5 doubles, 6 singles, best win Willis Ma - 45.8% first half 38.1% second half last season 51%
7 Points first half, 11 points second half

Sonning Sports 'A' were sliding into trouble after losing 7 – 3 at Birch Copse. Bob Woodmansee is trying hard and managed a good double. Bob Snelgrove won the other set by beating Roy Hull. Yet again they took an early lead this time 1 - 3 but then lost all of the remaining sets. Also you may recall in one of my previous notes I mentioned that Bob had lost all of his previous sets to Jes at home but won all of them away, but in this match that came to an end when he lost to Jes so perhaps home advantage is a help after all. At home to Pangbourne they went down 3 – 7 with Nigel, Bob W and Bob S all beating Roger. Sadly for the team I feel this was the defeat that sent them down. With

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Peter Galea	Tidmarsh D	30	30	100 %
Jean-Noel Thepaut	Kingfisher I	39	38	97.44 %
Michael Maynard	Curzon Club B	36	31	86.11 %
David Reynolds (jnr)	Tidmarsh D	63	53	84.13 %
Steve Ricks	Tidmarsh D	15	12	80.00 %
Phil Jones	Tilehurst Meths A	42	33	78.57 %
Colin Dyke	Kingfisher H	53	40	75.47 %
Simon Clarke	Birch Copse A	54	39	72.22 %
Mike Willmott	Tidmarsh D	66	47	71.21 %
Willis Ma	Kingfisher H	48	34	70.83 %
Alan Mollett	SC&P D	66	45	68.18 %
Geoff Johnson	Curzon Club B	45	30	66.67 %
Nigel Rowland	Tilehurst Meths A	45	30	66.67 %
Cath Venning	Tilehurst Meths A	45	29	64.44 %
Clive Taylor	Pangbourne B	63	39	61.90 %
Nick Lean	Curzon Club B	36	22	61.11 %

a depleted team they went down 6 – 4 at O.L.O.P. Bob tried hard to do his bit but could only manage a double. Bob S won one but reserve Tom Gordon who tried very hard could not muster a win. With big team problems they carried on and then lost to Tidmarsh 1 – 9 with Bob W beating Mike Willmott. Bob would like to thank Dave Reynolds and his team for giving their reserve Cris Reynolds encouragement - he tried hard and did enjoy his experience playing up in the third division. I would like to say a little about Keith Machin who has been out of action since the 4th match of the season. I gather he is having an operation on the 22nd April so I wish him well and hope he will be playing again next season. The Tidmarsh lads at the end of the match asked them if they were going for a beer and do they go to their usual place. Bob said yes, thinking they were aware where they go, but after putting away the table discovered they were not there so Bob drove down to Berks Sports and there they were waiting for them, but in the wrong place! Also Bob thank you for your kind comments - I have to say it is nice to be appreciated. The season came to an end at Tilehurst Meths 'A' where they lost 9 – 1 with Bob S saving the whitewash by beating Paul.

Bob W 31/ 63=49.2% 1 treble, 9 doubles, 10 singles, best win Simon Clarke
60% first half 39.4% second half last season 63%
Dave 13/42 = 31% 3 doubles, 7 singles, best win Nigel Rowland
33% first half 27.8% second half last season 45%
Nigel 7/15=46.7% 2 doubles, 3 singles, best win Mike Willmott
55% first half 33% second half last season 59%
Bob S 18/60=30.0% 1 treble, 2 doubles, 11 singles, best win Derek Wavell
33% first half 27.3% second half last season 46%
Keith 2/6 = 33% 2 singles, best win Jim Brent
33% first half did not play second half
9 Points first half, 2 points second half

Tilehurst Meths 'B' gained a great draw with Kingfisher 'H' with Alex Zheng winning two and Nick Barnes and John Virgo both gaining singles. John also teamed up with Ian Cockling to win the doubles. They then lost 8 – 2 at Kingfisher 'I'. Ian won their only singles set by beating Nils Wedi while Alex and Nick won the doubles. At home to Curzon 'B' John Virgo had a great night by potting a 147 maximum. Whoops I should have said he obtained a great treble, as did reserve Richard Lownsborough, while Alex did well to win two. They then gave themselves a lifeline by beating Polish 'B' 6 – 4 thanks to a great hat trick from Ian with Alex getting a good double. John hit that vital single by beating Ziko. Sadly for the team other results went against them so they are relegated, however they gained a draw in their final match at Birch Copse thanks to two each from John and Ian who also teamed up to win the doubles
Ian 24/48=50.0% 3 trebles, 4 doubles, 7 singles, best win Clive Taylor - 40% first half 66.7% second half last season 56%
John 18/51=35.3% 1 treble, 3 doubles, 9 singles, best win Geoff Johnson
29% first half 40.0% second half last season 41%
Nick 9/24=37.5% 1 treble, 2 doubles, 2 singles, best win Phil Jones - 67% first half 20% second half last season 48%
Alex 16/45=35.6% 1 treble, 4 doubles, 5 singles, best win Colin Dyke - 33% first half 37.5% second half
4 Points first half, 10 points second half

Kingfisher 'I' went to Tidmarsh 'D' and lost 9 – 1. Nils Wedi saved the whitewash by beating Mike Willmott.

They then played their best side and beat Curzon 7 – 3 as Jean-Noel Thepaut hit a great maximum. Nils Wedi gained a double and I umpired his win over Mike which had superb rallies. Joaquin Sabater helped out by winning one. Then by beating Tilehurst Meths 'B' 8 – 2 they lifted themselves out of the bottom two. Jean-Noel and Joaquin both hit trebles and Nils won two. They then won their third match in a row by winning 2 – 8 at Polish with Jean-Noel hitting a three straight maximum and only Luca managed to win more than 7 points in any game. Joaquin and Nils both won two each. This win means they will stay up. At home to Birch Copse they made it four wins in a row by beating them 7 – 3 with again Jean-Noel winning a three straight maximum. It's no real surprise that the team are winning having played him and Nils who won two in every match. Gabor Radnoti managed a single by beating Roy Hull.

They finished their season by going down 8 – 2 against Pangbourne. Gianpaolo and Joaquin won the sets by beating Roger.

Jean-Noel 38/39=97.4% 12 trebles, 1 double, best win Mike Maynard
94.4% first half 100% second half last season 100%
Joaquin 23/51=45.1% 3 trebles, 4 doubles, 6 singles, best win Phil Jones
45.8 % first half 44.4% second half last season 31%
Nils 14/30=46.7% 5 doubles, 4 singles, best win Mike Maynard
0/3 first half 51.9% second half last season 69%
Gabor 3/24=12.5% 3 singles, best win Luca Bianchi
11.1% first half 13.3% second half last season 36%
Gianpaolo 1/24=4.2% 1 single, best win Roger Stevens
0 % first half 16.7% second half last season 7%
Didier 0/27 last season 0%
5 points first half 12 points second half

Before I finish I would like to thank as usual Derek for his fine newsletter, to Nigel for his efforts as publicity officer and to Nick for his splendid work on the website. On saying that, I would to thank everyone else on the Committee for their hard work.

Finally I hope you have all enjoyed your table tennis, win or lose, and hope to see you next season. Do not forget to practice with the new balls.

Cheers,

Derek

DIVISION FOUR *by Nigel Rowland*

Congratulations go to OLOP 'E' for leading the table for most of the season and getting their promotion as title holders. It was touch and go whether they would stay the course as they lost a few points in the run in and could have seen their title slip away in the final weeks.



Milestone 'B' eventually got the second place. Pangbourne 'C' and Kingfisher 'J' played their part in a fascinating end to the season whereby any three of them could have sneaked the second promotion spot.

At the bottom of the table both Springfield 'C' and Tilehurst Meths 'D' are relegated. Tilehurst Meths 'D' managed a first win over fellow relegation rivals Springfield 'C'.

In the averages Djordje Milovanovic of OLOP 'E' and Harry Munro sit top of the table with 96%. Ray Webb of Pangbourne 'C' played 66 and won 59 games ended up in third place, a superb achievement. Only Mick Grantham also played 66 games.

In the doubles stakes Linda King and Terry Spice finished the season with 11 wins out of 16, a 68% win rate, worthy winners. Mick Grantham and Ray Webb finished second with 8 wins out of 14, a 57% win rate followed by John Upham and Melvyn Lovegrove with 7 wins out of 12, a win rate of 58%.

OLOP 'E' Trebles from both Giuliano Ghidini and Harry Munro with a double from Jan Polnik gave them a good 8 – 2 win over Tilehurst Meths 'C' to maintain their title position. Harry just won a five game against Richard Lownsbrough. In their top of the table clash Jan, Harry and Chris Bunn could only muster a 7 – 3 loss to promotion challengers Milestone 'B'. Harry was in top form with a treble and Jan just lost in five to Arun Rajagopal. Trebles from Giuliano and Chris with a double from Jan gave them a 9 – 1 win over Springfield 'C' to again maintain their top spot. Jan had



HARRY MUNRO

a five game win over Aidan Simmonds and just lost in five to Alan Goold. Harry starred with a treble with a single from Giuliano along with a doubles win to grind out a point with Kingfisher 'J'. Giuliano just lost in five to John Creighton. Jan lost three straight. In their final match of the season Harry, Jan and Giuliano inflicted an 8 – 2 win over SC&P 'E' to end up as champions. Jan had a brilliant five game win over Eric Walker.

Milestone 'B' Arun Rajagopal, Chris Collins and Ian Scheidler all scored maximums in their 0 – 10 demolition of basement club Tilehurst Meths 'D' to maintain their promotion challenge. Doubles from Arun, Ian and Chris gave them a brilliant 7 – 3 win over title chasers OLOP 'E'. Arun had a great five game win over Jan Polnik. Doubles from Arun and Ian with a single from Villiam Andrascik along with the all important doubles win gave them a close 4 – 6 win over promotion rivals Pangbourne 'C'. Ian had a close five game win over Mick Grantham and

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
OLOP E	22	15	4	3	141	79	34
Milestone B	22	16	1	5	145	75	33
Pangbourne WMC C	22	14	4	4	142	78	32
Kingfisher J	22	13	3	6	138	82	29
Tidmarsh E	22	11	3	8	121	99	25
SC&P F	22	11	2	9	113	107	24
SC&P E	22	9	5	8	108	112	23
Springfield B	22	9	4	9	109	111	22
Tilehurst Meths C	22	7	4	11	105	115	18
Curzon Club C	22	6	3	13	92	128	15
Springfield C	22	3	0	19	58	162	6
Tilehurst Meths D	22	1	1	20	48	172	3

Arun got the set ten win over Ted Cripps to snatch both points in an epic five game battle that almost ended Pangbourne's promotion hopes. A Chris double with singles from Villiam and Arun earned them a point against Springfield 'B' to take second place. Villiam had a great five game win over Dan Mortimer. Arun, Chris and Ian made sure of second place by defeating SC&P 'E' 1 – 9. Five sets went to five games each and two sets to four games, quite a scrap for such a winning margin.

Pangbourne 'C' Ray Webb's treble and singles from Ted Cripps and Mick Grantham enabled them to grind out a point against Tidmarsh 'E'. Ray's crucial five game win over Dave Smith ensued a share of the points to keep their promotion hopes alive. Ray and Mick worked incredibly hard for their maximums as they just defeated Tilehurst Meths 'C' 4- 6 to maintain their challenge for second place. Ted came close to a win but lost in five to Masoud Ghabachi. Ray got a brilliant treble with a single for Mick in their top of the table clash with Milestone 'B' losing 4 – 6 in the process. Mick lost in five against Ian Scheidler and Ted lost in five to Arun Rajagopal. Mick, Ted and Ray showed their resilience to deliver a 3 – 7 win over Springfield 'C' to keep their promotion hopes alive. Ted, Ray and Mick defeated fellow promotion hopefuls Kingfisher 'J' 7 – 3 in the hope that Milestone 'B' would falter in their last game, alas not to be.

Kingfisher 'J' Trebles from 'in form' Melvyn Lovegrove and John Creighton with a double from John Upham as they won 9 – 1 against Curzon 'C'. John U just lost in five to Linda King. A treble from in-form Melvin with singles from John U and John C won them a point in a hard fought contest against SC&P 'F' where seven sets went to four or more games. John U, John C and Mel teamed up to serve an emphatic 0 -10 defeat on Tilehurst Meths 'D'. Mel came back from two down to defeat Mal Collis in five. Doubles from John U and John C with a single from Melvyn resulted in a hard earned draw against top of the table OLOP 'E'. John C was the home team's hero defeating Giuliano Ghidini in five in the last game to snatch a point. Melvin just lost in five to Harry Munro. In what could have been a classic match, illness and unavailability meant Melvyn and John U were unavailable for selection. So John C, Derek and Ken Robb stepped in but lost 7 – 3 to fellow promotion hopefuls Pangbourne 'C'. Derek just lost in five to Ted Cripps.

Tidmarsh 'E' Doubles from Dave Edwards and man of the match Dave Smith enabled them to snatch a point against promotion hopefuls Pangbourne 'C'. Dave S almost got a treble, just losing in five to Ray Webb. Jon Little managed game wins only. Terry Hardie hit top form with a treble along with a double from Dave E to secure a close 6 – 4 win over Springfield 'B'. Dave S managed game wins only. Terry continued his form with a treble along with doubles from John and Dave S to defeat Curzon 'C' 3 – 7. John had a great five game win over Linda King. A Terry treble, Dave E double and single from John gave them a 7 – 3 win over Tilehurst Meths 'C'. Terry avoided a whitewash

with a set ten win over Mike Casserley in their 9 – 1 loss to SC&P 'E'.

SC&P 'F' A treble from Eric Walker, double from Matt Tarrant and a hard earned single from Julian James gave them a comfortable 7 – 3 win over relegation threatened Springfield 'C'. Julian lost a five game against Rob Attack. Wally Allanson, Angus and Scarlett Jones played their socks off to match Kingfisher 'J' to nick a point and possibly put a dent in their promotion push. Angus had to win game 10 and duly won in five against John Creighton. Wally and Eric doubles with a single from Julian secured a close 6 – 4 win over Curzon 'C'. Wally had a five game win over Terry Spice and Julian a five game win over Mike Gillard. Eric just lost in five to Linda King. Eric and Angus recorded trebles to help defeat Tilehurst Meths 'D' 7 – 3. Julian lost two five gamers to Sam Will and Paul Cook. Angus and Wally won singles in their 8 – 2 loss to champions OLOP 'E'. Wally had a good five game win over Jan Polnik.

SC&P 'E' A double from Joe Barraclough and single from Mike Casserley resulted in a 7 – 3 loss to Springfield 'B'. Joe had a brilliant five game win over Ludovic Couillard. Gerry Bacon lost two five gamers to Ludovic Couillard and Chris Speight. Thomas Perkins, Joe and Mike teamed up to record a 3 – 7 win over Tilehurst Meths 'C'. Mike and Thomas had close four game wins over Martin Wetherell. Gerry, Joe and Mike scrapped to win one set between them in their 1 – 9 loss to promoted Milestone 'B'. Five sets went to five games and two sets to four games, quite a scrap for such a losing margin. Joe and Thomas trebles with a double from Mike resulted in a convincing 9 – 1 win over Tidmarsh 'E'.



JOE BARRACLOUGH

Springfield 'B' Doubles from Paul Jenkins, Ludovic Couillard and guest Chris Speight gave them a good 7 – 3 win over SC&P 'E'. Chris just lost a five game against Mike

Casserley. A double from Dan Mortimer with singles from Adam Sheen and Paul Jenkins resulted in a close 6 – 4 loss to Tidmarsh 'E'. Dan had a good five game win over Dave Edwards. Guest Chris Speight got the only win apart from the doubles in their 2 – 8 loss to Tilehurst Meths 'C'. Adam lost two sets in five games against Martin Wetherell and Richard Lownsbrough. Paul J managed a game win over Masoud Ghabachi. Ludo was the hero of the night winning set ten and a treble with singles from Adam and Dan to take a point from promotion chasers Milestone 'B'. Dan had a good five game win over Arun Rajagopal. Adam and Ludo trebles with a single from Paul Donovan gave them an 8 – 2 win over rivals Springfield 'C'.

Tilehurst Meths 'C' Richard Lownsbrough won the only single in their 8 – 2 loss to title chasers OLOP 'E'. Martin Wetherell and Masoud Ghabachi came away empty handed. Martin, Richard and Masoud worked hard for their singles but just lost out 4 – 6 to promotion challengers Pangbourne 'C'. Martin just lost in five to Mick Grantham, a win would have earned them a point. Trebles from Richard and Martin with a double from Masoud gave them a resounding 2 – 8 victory against Springfield 'B'. Masoud and Martin won singles along with the doubles in their 3 – 7 loss to SC&P 'E'. Masoud had a great five game win over Mike Casserley. Richard signed off the season with his final game by winning two with a Martin single in their 7 - 3 loss to Tidmarsh 'E'. Masoud lost three straight. We wish Richard well in his new venture.

Curzon 'C' Linda King won the only set in their 9 – 1 loss against 'in form' Kingfisher 'J'. Terry Spice and Mike Gillard came away empty handed. Terry, Linda and Mike managed a close 6 – 4 win over a weakened SC&P 'E'. Linda was in great form with a treble and a single from Terry as they went down 6 – 4 to SC&P 'F'. Mike just lost in five to Julian James. Linda and Terry got singles with yet another doubles win in their 3 – 7 loss to Tidmarsh 'E'. Linda just lost in five to John Liddle and Mike came close to game wins over Dave Smith. Terry, Oli and Linda had a good 2 – 8 win over relegated Tilehurst Meths 'D'. Terry and Linda finished the season with yet another doubles win.

Springfield 'C' Despite their precarious position Alan

Goold, Colin Jones and Rob Attack put in a shift to try and get something in their 7 – 3 loss to SC&P 'F'. Colin had a brilliant five game win over Matt Tarrant and Rob a five game win over Julian James. John Burke, Rob and Aiden Simmons could only manage singles against fellow relegation strugglers Tilehurst Meths 'D' losing 3 – 7. Unfortunately this result condemns them to Division Five. Rob just lost in five to Patrick O'Sullivan. Alan came away with the only win in their 9 – 1 loss to title chasers OLOP 'E'. Aiden just lost in five to Jan Polnik and Colin managed game wins over Chris Bunn and Jan Polnik. John Burke battled hard for his treble, Aiden and Rob gave Pangbourne 'C' a run for their money in their 3 – 7 loss. John and Rob could only muster singles in their loss to rivals Springfield 'B' 8 – 2.



THOMAS PERKINS

Tilehurst Meths 'D' Mal Collis had the best chance to take a set losing in five to Arun Rajagopal in their 0 – 10 loss to Milestone 'B'. Both Paul Cook and veteran David Jones lost all sets in three. Trebles from Sam Will and Patrick O'Sullivan gave them a great first win defeating Springfield 'C' 3 – 7 and inflicting relegation at the same time. Mal just lost two sets in five against Rob Attack and Aiden Simmons. Despite some very close games Mal, Sam and Paul were given a 0 – 10 pasting from promotion chasers Kingfisher 'J'. Singles from Sam, Patrick and Paul as they lost 7 – 3 to SC&P 'F'. Patrick just lost in five to Eric Walker. Sam, Patrick and David lost 2 – 8 to Curzon 'C' in their final game of the season. David announced he will no longer be playing league at the young age of 87, we wish him well in his retirement.

DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Djordje Milovanovic	OLOP E	29	28	96.55 %
Harry Munro	OLOP E	27	26	96.30 %
Ray Webb	Pangbourne C	66	59	89.39 %
Ian Scheidler	Milestone B	24	21	87.50 %
Giuliano Ghidini	OLOP E	42	36	85.71 %
Melvyn Lovegrove	Kingfisher J	54	46	85.19 %
Christopher Collins	Milestone B	51	43	84.31 %
Thomas Perkins	SC&P E	44	35	79.55 %
Terry Hardie	Tidmarsh E	48	38	79.17 %
Ludovic Couillard	Springfield B	45	32	71.11 %
John Creighton	Kingfisher J	48	34	70.83 %

DIVISION FIVE *by Gwynne Penny*

Nigel Rowland approached me and asked if I would be able to write something on behalf of our divisional fixture secretary, Duncan Abbot who is currently in hospital. I'm sure I speak on behalf of all Division 5 players in wishing Duncan a speedy recovery! Although I don't have Duncan's experience or penmanship I shall do my best to pick out some of the highlights. Playing in the bottom division of any league is competitive but also has a great social element. In some ways our captains have a harder job than any of the higher division teams – there is nobody 'below' that they can call upon to play up when injury and illness strike. Several of our teams have struggled to field full teams for all their fixtures this season, but our DFS, Captains and teams have all done a superb job keeping things running as smoothly as possible in sometimes difficult circumstances so that we can all have an enjoyable season.



their experience gained from Division 4 in the previous season.

Gill Bennett's (49%) 3rd placed **Kingfisher 'K'** team had a great start to the season with a 10 - 0 victory over **BBC Club** and looked to be an early contender for one of the top slots until being put firmly in their place by a strong Our Lady Of Peace 'F' (3 - 7) and experienced and steady Tidmarsh 'F' (4 - 6). In the second half of the season with Gwynne (89%) and Diane (60%) both out of action due to injury, the team struggled to keep up the early form, although David Wells (88%) continued to consistently deliver great results – impressive when you consider that he has only been playing for 3 years, and this was his first season playing in Reading. Bill Hundley (4%) valiantly stepped up and joined the team for the second half, having not played competitive table tennis since 1978! – Bill has thoroughly enjoyed his matches and is improving all the time, proving that it's never too late to (re)-start.

Milestone 'C' have struggled to fulfill some of their fixtures this season, which is a pity because they have otherwise performed well, and have raced up the table in the second half from 8th position to finish 4th. Monty Berzon's team held Tidmarsh 'F' to a draw at home in December, with Monty (64%) winning some very close fought games against Bob Sunerton (12-10, 8-11, 13-15, 12-14) and Mike Bundy (66%) (10-12, 11-9, 11-7, 8-11, 14-12). Sachin Mundra (82%) gained 3 sets that night over Bob, Theresa and Mike, plus the doubles with Monty in 3-straight sets. Vivek Pandey (37%) came close to a win, taking Bob to 5 sets.

Newly-formed team **Kingfisher 'L'** started the season on the back foot with 4 consecutive losses which saw them sink to the bottom of the table, but as the season progressed they steadily worked their way up, with help from new recruits Adam McTiernan (70%) and David O'Keeffe (58%). A 4th position looked possible but in the end Milestone 'C' just overtook them by 2 points at the finishing post. Sadly team captain, Hilary Husbands, was taken ill and had to leave the team in October and we wish her all the best with her recovery. Colin Mercer (17%) and Ania Pytka (38%) both with the team from the start have put in spirited performances throughout and the strongest member of the team has been Ruben Hernandez (75%) who has consistently delivered good results and proved an excellent doubles partner for Adam, Ania and David. This could be one of the teams to watch out for next season.

Sonning Common and Peppard 'G', captained by Pete Harman (55%) have had a stronger second half of the season with six wins and one draw compared with four wins and three draws in the first half. With two team members in the top of the averages: Nicolas Nowak (92%) and Dave Aust (83%) the team has had some memorable victories: 10 – 0 over Sonning Sports 'B' in February and 9 – 1 over club rivals Sonning Common & Peppard 'H' in March. Derek Maltby (29%) and Steve Knott (26%) have both made valuable con-

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
OLOP F	22	20	1	1	172	48	41
Tidmarsh F	22	18	1	3	146	74	37
Kingfisher K	22	12	4	6	135	85	28
Milestone C	22	13	1	8	113	107	27
Kingfisher L	22	12	1	9	119	101	25
SC&P G	22	10	4	8	120	100	24
Milestone D	22	10	2	10	121	99	22
Birch Copse B	22	5	7	10	92	128	17
SC&P H	22	7	2	13	86	134	16
BBC Club	22	6	3	13	83	136	15
Sonning Sports B	22	3	2	17	70	149	8
Springfield D	22	2	0	20	62	158	4

The final results are now in and it's no surprise that **Our Lady Of Peace 'F'** have won the division after putting out a consistently strong winning team with Jazz Dhillon (95%), Herbert Tang (94%), Tony Alleyne (60%), Mihajlo Ralic (52%) and Eddie Fogg (44%). The team dropped just one match to Sonning Common and Peppard 'G' and drew one match (Birch Copse 'B') in the first half of the season. The second half saw a 9-match winning streak, although sadly their opponents in the final match of the season (Kingfisher 'L') were unable to field a team, bringing their season to a premature finish.

Just 4 points behind them in runner-up position are **Tidmarsh 'F'** with 18 wins under their belts. Having lost out 2 - 8 and 1 - 9 to OLOP 'F', a pivotal match took place early in March against Sonning Common & Peppard 'G'. Captain Bob Sunerton (61%) picked up 2 sets and Steve Andrews (67%) and Theresa Watson (70%) picked up a set each, however, Nicolas Nowak and Dave Aust proved a strong doubles pairing, and a triple from Dave put the home team in the advantage with 6 - 4 to snap up the 2 points on offer that night. Overall Tidmarsh 'F' put in consistently good performances throughout the season, with 12 of their matches being won with a margin of 2 or more games, demonstrating

tributions to the team – leading to a 6 – 4 victory over league winners OLOP 'F' in November. Net result is a respectable top-half-of-table finish, in 6th position.

Milestone 'D' – Notable wins in the second half include 9 – 1 at home over Sonning Common & Peppard 'H' in January and an 8 – 2 victory over Springfield 'D' in March. Milestone 'D' had 5 wins and one draw in the second half. John Evans (83%), and George Strong (78%) lead on individual averages within the team. In their final match of the season, at Kingfisher 'K', the team consisting of George Strong, Ian Strong and Darren Vass came away with a draw against Gill Bennett, Bill Hundley and recently returned from injury Gwynne Penny. George and Ian Strong proved an accomplished doubles pairing, dispatching Gill and Gwynne in 3 games (15-13, 11-6, 11-9). George won two against Bill and Gill, Ian and Darren both picked up one from Bill. Darren had a close game with Gill but in the end lost out in the fifth game (12-10, 13-11, 8-11, 4-11, 9-11).

Birch Copse 'B' finished in 8th position, (1 position higher than in the previous season) having concluded the second half with two wins, three draws and four losses. The match at home to Sonning Common and Peppard 'H' in mid-March resulted in a draw, but it was very close. Melanie Griffiths (63%), scored a triple, plus a win in the doubles with partner Trevor Davis (15%). Trevor had three five-game sets that evening, with a win over John Sayer (13-11 in the fifth). Another draw in March, this time at home against Kingfisher 'K' saw Duncan Abbott (91%) with a treble, whilst Elizabeth Hull (15%) and Trevor picked up one each. The doubles went to five, with the Kingfisher 'K' duo just clinching it 11-9 in the fifth. Captain Chris Dummet (17%) scored the only one over at Sonning Sports 'B' but with Chris and Elizabeth the only team members available that night it was always going to be a difficult challenge.

Sonning Common and Peppard 'H' – Marko Madzar (62%) and Phil Turton (62%) led the averages of the team, and alongside Jamie Legg (22%) came close to a draw at Tidmarsh 'F' at the end of February. In the doubles match Marko and Phil won in the fifth game over Theresa and Simon Barter (88%) with a scoreline of 8-11, 11-6, 11-7, 7-11, 14-16. Phil beat Bob Sunerton in 4 games and Theresa in 5, and Marko picked up one against Bob. However, the highlight of the second half had to be the team's win away at Kingfisher 'K' (6 – 4) with Marko, Oliver Sayer (38%) and Jamie representing the team. Marko scored a treble, Oliver won 2 and Jamie won 1. Both Jamie and Oliver have shown good progression over the season and, in his second season in the senior division, Oliver has improved his average from 18% last year to 38% this year.

Six-man team **BBC Club** had a tough second half with 2 wins and 2 draws. The wins came against Springfield 'D' (7 - 3) and Sonning Sports 'B' (8 - 2). The lineup for the Sonning Sports 'B' match in early March comprised Phil Peat (34%), David Pearson (36%) and Kyrill Dissanayake (67%). All three players took Cris Reynolds to 5 games, but Cris put up a good fight and only Kyrill managed to secure a win against him. In the last two games, Phil narrowly lost out to Cris 14-16 and 14-16. Kyrill completed his treble with two 3-game wins over Mo Cole and Suzanne Brownhill. David and Phil followed suit, both securing wins

over Mo and Suzanne, bringing the team's total to 7. The icing on the cake was the doubles, in which Kyrill and David faced Cris and Mo – after a 9-11 defeat in the first game they managed to secure the win in three more close games: 11-8, 11-8, 11-9. In the last fixture of the season away at Springfield 'D' John Scott (66%) and John Lancashire (13%), short one player, had a mountain to climb but only just missed out on a draw, with John Scott winning 2 and John Lancashire winning 1, and a win in the doubles (10-12, 11-8, 9-11, 6-11) resulting in a 4 – 6 match score.

Sonning Sports 'B' highlights for the second half of the season include a 7 – 3 win at Springfield 'D', a draw at Kingfisher 'K' and a win over Birch Copse 'B' to round off the season. Cris Reynolds (50%), Mo Cole (21%) and Meriel Low (26%) played in the match at Kingfisher 'K' where Cris scored a treble against Gill Bennett (12-10, 11-9, 12-10), Bill Hundley (11-1, 11-7, 11-2) and David Wells (13-11, 4-11, 11-8, 11-5). Mo and Meriel both picked up one over Bill Hundley, but Gill and David managed to dispatch doubles pair Cris and Mo in 3 games in the doubles. The winning team against a 2-man Birch Copse 'B' at the end of the season comprised Mike Gautrey (35%), Suzanne Brownhill (21%) and Mo Cole. Mike won both his matches in 4 games. Mo fought back after going 2 games down against Chris Dummet to take a win in the fifth game (7-11, 9-11, 11-9, 11-7, 11-4), and picked up a second win against Elizabeth Hull in 3 games (11-7, 11-8, 11-1). Suzanne also took a 3-game win over Elizabeth (12-10, 12-10, 11-7). Mike and Mo won the doubles, bringing the final score in at 9 - 1.

Springfield 'D' – have had a very tough season and just missed out on a draw 7 times. Overall the team won 2 of their matches, the first near the start of the season against newly formed Kingfisher 'L'. The team's second win came at the very end of the season, at home to BBC Club who arrived short-handed with John Scott and John Lancashire. The final score was 6 - 4 with Chris Speight (87%) winning both his sets and Tim Carr winning in 4 games over John Scott.

Finally, for anyone who is considering league play, but hasn't plucked up the courage yet, I strongly recommend it – division 5 is full of great people and you'll have some super matches – so why not come and join one of our teams next season and give it a go! Look forward to seeing you all next season, enjoy the summer!

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Jazz Dhillon	OLOP	43	41	95.35 %
Herbert Tang	OLOP F	47	44	93.62 %
Nicolas Nowak	SC&P G	12	11	91.67 %
Duncan Abbott	Birch Copse B	44	40	90.91 %
Gwynne Penny	Kingfisher K	36	32	88.89 %
David Wells	Kingfisher K	50	44	88.00 %
Simon Barter	Tidmarsh F	32	28	87.50 %
Chris Speight	Springfield D	38	33	86.84 %
John Evans	Milestone D	48	40	83.33 %
Dave Aust	SC&P G	36	30	83.33 %
Sachin Mundra	Milestone C	39	32	82.05 %

John Cunningham Youth Division

by Emma Barraclough

It has been a great pleasure watching this season and there has been lots of great play to see both from players well established in the Youth Division and from newcomers of various ages. Following the split in



HARRY MUNRO

January the teams were now playing in two divisions. In Division One the Tigers continued to dominate with the other four teams Spartans, Panthers, Trojans and Knights competing strongly for second place. The **Tigers** consisting of Harry Munro, Joe Barraclough and Thomas Perkins won all their matches with commanding play and took the Division One title with 68 points with percentages of 96%, 95% and 93% respectively. There was great play throughout Division One ending

with the **Spartans** (Camran Nesari, Charles Yang and Leo Thomis) in second place with 40 points and the **Panthers** (Adam Winterbottom, Sachin Dougall and Yonatan Slobodskoy) in third place on 34 points. Close behind were the **Trojans** (Daniel Knott, Gareth Wheatley and Rory Walder) on 32 points and the **Knights** (Alex Duggan, Bill Hayden and Gianluca Chessell) were in 5th place with 25 points.



LEO THOMIS

Div One Table							
	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
1	Tigers	8	8	0	0	68	11 68
2	Spartans	8	3	2	3	40	39 40
3	Panthers	8	2	2	4	34	46 34
4	Trojans	8	3	1	4	32	48 32
5	Knights	8	1	1	6	25	55 25



JAMES RENNIE

There was energetic play throughout both the two divisions and **Division Two** again saw some great play with fierce competition. The **Strikers** consisting of James Rennie, Saif Maher and John Sampson dominated the division and won all their matches to take the division with 63 points with personal averages of 88%, 75% and 83% respectively. The **Raiders** (Joseph Brooks, Nathan Munns and Zach Bonifacii) won six of their eight matches and ended second with 48 points. The **Avengers** (Chris Brant, Jack Hopkins and Stefan Chessell) took

third place with 35 points, with the **Attackers** (Haasin Khan,

Dylan Cook and Vasu Pandey) in 4th on 28 points and the **Jaguars** (Charlie Lethbridge, Daniel Follant and Keyan Ghods) in 5th on 25 points.

The second half of the season was played in a great atmosphere and it was a pleasure particularly to see so much potential in some of the players new to the league. The season ended on a high note with an evening of games and a party on 28th March which was enjoyed by everyone. Many thanks to Wendy Porter for all her hard work and to Sam Ricks for help with coaching.



JOE BROOKS



NATHAN MUNNS & ZACH BONIFACII

AVERAGES (Div 1)

Player	%
Harry Munro	96%
Joseph Barraclough	95%
Thomas Perkins	93%
Yonatan Slobodskoy	75%
Alex Duggan	62%
Charles Yang	59%
Adam Winterbottom	56%
Leo Thomis	48%
Rory Walder	48%
Bill Hayden	42%
Gareth Wheatley	41%
CamranNesari	38%

AVERAGES (Div 2)

Player	%
Joseph Barraclough	100%
Thomas Perkins	100%
James Rennie	88%
John Sampson	83%
Nathan Munns	81%
Saif Maher	75%
Chris Brant	67%
Joseph Brooks	61%
Jack Hopkins	42%
Daniel Follant	41%
Dylan Cook	39%
KeyanGhods	38%
Zach Bonifacii	37%
Haasin Khan	33%