

November 2022

**READING
& DISTRICT
TABLE TENNIS
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER**

Editor:
Derek Wavell



Jazz Dhillon and Mike Childs of Reading FC, receiving awards as runners up in last year's Division Two championship.
(In the Reading Closed, Mike Childs was also winner of the Division Two singles championship, and of the Men's Doubles [with Hari Gehlot])

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A new table-tennis season in a changing world - and our cabinet of divisional secretaries has been reshuffled, which means we get new perspectives and interests, and of course new insights.

Players photographed in this edition are mostly clutching trophies rather than table tennis bats - but the Reading Closed tournament will give scope for more thrilling photography later.

Have a good season!

Derek Wavell





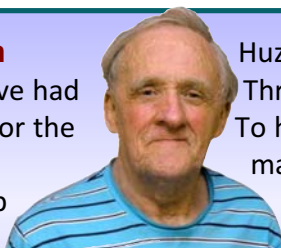
Notes from our Chairman

Hello everybody. I hope that you have had a nice summer and are fit and well for the new season.

With our great committee we are up and running and I can see that

there has been some good table tennis.

At this point I would like to welcome Martin Adams who is looking after Division One and



Huzeyfe Borazan who is looking after Division Three. I hope it goes well for you.

To help them can you please give them some match reports?

Also take a look at the website which is now being looked after by Stephen Reader, who is doing a great job - so thank you, Stephen.

All the best

Derek (Harrison)

Notes from the RDTTA General Secretary

Welcome to another season of League table tennis!

Kingfisher 'A' are looking firm favourites once again for the Division 1 title with a very strong squad. No doubt the only other realistic challengers, OLOP 'A', will push them as hard as they can and the matches between the two teams will be key. Division 2 is a very tightly contested division with any number of teams in contention to go up, while Springfield 'A', Our Lady of Peace 'E' and Pangbourne WMC are looking the strongest candidates for promotion from Division 3. In Division 4 Tilehurst RBL 'C' and Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' and Tilehurst Methodists 'C' have made the best starts and the promotion places will likely be sealed by two of these teams.

The **Reading Closed Championships** are to be held on **Sunday 5th March 2023 at the Cippenham Club** in Slough. Get your entries in as soon as they become available on the website for both the Senior, veteran and Junior events which are all to take place on the same day. **The Individual Handicap competition** will also be staged at the Cippenham club on **Saturday 7th January 2023**.



I hope you are all enjoying your season and for all those near the bottom there is still plenty of time to turn things around!

Nigel Maltby



This summer we had another presentation ceremony, in which trophies were awarded to our glorious winners. For the first time, the ceremony was held at the Tilehurst Royal British Legion club, and it was followed by the annual general meeting of the RDTTA. See front page, also report on p6, and photos passim.



DIVISION ONE

by Martin Adams

Welcome to another season in Division 1. It's a pleasure and honour to take up the role of divisional secretary. Over the seasons I was always keen to follow the results, facts and figures, and now I get the dream job of entering them for you all to mull over.

Before we get into the league status, here's a quick quiz. This is a scorecard from a Division 5 match in 1981. Players A and B are both currently playing in Division 1. Can you guess who they are? Bonus point for player C. (Answers at the end)

It's turning into a fascinating season with three mini-

date. They lost on both occasions but to strong opposition (3 - 7 Kingfisher 'D' and 1 - 9 OLOP 'A'), so I would expect them to catch up with the pack during the coming weeks. I mentioned each team has at least one strong player and Ed Lush (82% last season) has already taken the scalps of Ian Cole, Ethan Zeng and Graham Mendick in a heated encounter, 8-11 11-8 8-11 15-13 11-6. If the two Matts,



Isherwood and Stone (best chocolates I've ever tasted by the way) who pushed unbeaten Ryan Chung all the way, and Tim Raby can find some form, you'll be climbing up the table.

MVP: Ed Lush

10th: Having played just one more game, chalking a draw against 2-player Kingfisher 'C' and two losses, **Reading FC** will be slightly worried that nine of their 10 points have either come from the bat of former England Top 50 player, Mike Childs - or forfeits. I expect Tom Lewis to improve on that statistic though. The Alleynes and Jazz Dhillon are still adjusting to the highest echelon of Division 1. Best of luck lads!

Top Striker: Mike Childs

9th: Tidmarsh 'A' have played against most of the stronger teams in the division already and so had to wait

until their fifth outing to record their first win against Sonning Sports 'A' 6 - 4 which included a double for super-sub Barry Carter taking out both Paul Elliott and Paul Savage. Duncan Groves remains dangerously unpredictable, so close to taking me out plus victories over Ian Cole (11-8 9-11 12-10 9-11 13-11) and Murgu (11-3 13-11 6-11 11-9) but yet losing to

leagues - Kingfisher 'A' in a league of their own, the battle for second (OLOP 'A', Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' and Kingfisher 'D' still to play each other) and the rest, each of whose line-ups include at least one strong player. So team selection will heavily influence the outcome for the higher places and the ('officially' two-team) drop.

Now, I have a tough act to follow in Banksy (yes, he's still alive but taking a break from the game) and in his honour I will continue to take the similar team-by-team approach and MVP. Hell, there might even be Christmas Cracker Jokes in the next edition. This time we'll start from the bottom and work our way up.

Currently bottom of the Div 1 chart at **11th: Sonning Common and Peppard 'B'**. Due to a series of unfortunate postponements including for the funeral of Her Majesty, their season got under way a full month after everybody else's and so they have only played two matches to

READING AND DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION									
Division 5B		Date 18/3/81							
Home Team Adg Activity		v. Berk Sports "A"		Away Team					
HOME TEAM		SCORE EACH GAME				SCORE OF SETS			
		Home Player's Score Marked First							
		AWAY TEAM							
		Singles	Singles	Singles	Doubles	Home		Away	
Singles		1 T. GREEN	10 T. LEWIS	5 B	TL + B	3		—	
K. MARIONHA		21-17	21-17	21-19	—	3		—	
Singles		22-20	21-17	21-19	—	3		—	
C		4 13-21	2 21-15	8 21-17	—	3		—	
		21-16	15-21	21-11	—	3		—	
		21-19	21-15	21-11	—	3		—	
Singles		9 13-21	6 21-16	3 21-12	—	2		1	
A		21-11	15-21	19-21	—	2		1	
		21-10	19-21	21-18	—	2		1	
Doubles		—	—	—	7 15-21	—		—	
KN + RG		—	—	—	21-15	—		—	
		—	—	—	16-21	—		—	
Post this Card Tonight		Home Capt.		Away Capt.		Match Total			
						8 2			



READING FC - WAYNE ALLEYNE, JAZZ DHILLON, MICHAEL CHILDS AND ANTHONY ALLEYNE



players lower down in the averages, where he, surprisingly (to me at least), currently finds himself. Arguably more importantly we are together plotting an end-of-season Friends of Division 1 social evening which is likely to involve curry, beer and possibly a short quiz - more to come next edition. Anthony 'Squirrel' Baker has been pretty solid as usual with no significant shocks (either positive or negative) but Simon Barter is yet to record a win. Lee Calcutt has been away and has only notched up a single appearance so far.

MVP: Tough One – Sorry Ant but Duncan Groves is definitely the danger-man

8th: Despite racking up some great individual performances, Wycombe Wanderers, aka **Sonning Sports 'A'** are yet to string a win together. They are a nice bunch. If the averages were based on being a generally nice bloke, Bob Woodmansee would surely be near the top (but unfortunately they are not, Bob). I have the pleasure of playing with Nick Sears and Paul Savage in the Wycombe league, and I have played against Dave Croucher three times in as many weeks. Dave is a welcome addition to the Reading league and has already shown his class with reasonably comfortable victories over Graham Mendick, Julian Telford and Prayrit Ahluwalia and caused Kingfisher 'A's only dropped point so far, beating Dmitry Khakamov 11-5 11-5 12-14 12-14 11-8. Dave has been competently backed up by Paul and Nick, who recently scored a cracking maximum against Tidmarsh.



PAUL SAVAGE AND KEITH MACHIN OF SONNING SPORTS 'A'

MVP: Dave Croucher

7th: Kingfisher 'B' next, and what a prospect we have in 11-year-old Theo Kniep. A really exemplary temperament and playing style. 44% - at 11! He deserves his own paragraph!

Martin Pugh is another class act. A double against OLOP 'A' including Justin Mead and inflicting Mo Cook's only loss to date is no mean feat. Phil Mead will always put in a consistent performance and deserved his victory over Ian Cole. Nigel Keedy, I'm sure, will not remain winless for too long as most of the top teams have been negotiated. Alan

Cummings' statistics will no doubt also improve, the evidence being that he came close to upsetting both Justin Mead and Graham Mendick, pushing both to tight fifth sets.

MVP: Martin Pugh – but watch your back

6th: Tilehurst RBL 'A' elevated themselves to a comfortable mid-table position with a 9 - 1 victory over Kingfisher 'C' in week 3, despite many closely fought encounters. The maximums came from Keith 'Vinny' Winter and Marc Brent, who both contributed to their equally impressive 6 - 4 victory over Kingfisher 'D'. Kate Maksimenko stepped in to record a win and narrowly lost out to Graham Mendick 4-11 4-11 11-7 11-8 9-11. The majority of remaining fixtures leading up to Christmas include lower placed opposition so captain Jon Willis should improve his average and his team may well cement their comfortable league position in the weeks to follow.

Joint MVP: Vinny and Marc Brent

5th: If it wasn't for young Kingfisherman, Prayrit Ahluwalia, who has contributed to the vast majority of their points, I would have been documenting **Kingfisher 'C'**'s exploits much sooner. Having played in all but one match and currently sitting on 87% he has taken out such players as Jamie Barlow, Mike Childs, and Jo Barraclough at a canter. Having said that most of the team's matches have been closely fought, with half of their matches resulting in 5 - 5 draws. We all know Dan McTiernan has oodles of talent and has got that big win in him but is yet to fire on all cylinders. Their other regular player is Emma Blachford, who has shown what she is capable of in beating both Duncan Groves and Phil Mead as well as narrowly losing to Paul Savage 10-12 in the fifth.

MVP: Easy one this time - Prayrit Ahluwalia



YOUNG THEO KNIEP OF KINGFISHER 'B'

		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Kingfisher A	5	5	0	0	49	1	49
2	Kingfisher D	5	4	0	1	34	16	34
3	OLOP A	4	4	0	0	33	7	33
4	SC&P A	5	4	0	1	32	18	32
5	Kingfisher C	6	1	3	2	25	35	25
6	Tilehurst RBL A	5	2	0	3	17	33	17
7	Kingfisher B	5	1	1	3	17	33	17
8	Sonning Sports A	5	0	1	4	15	35	15
9	Tidmarsh A	5	1	0	4	14	36	14
10	Reading FC	4	0	1	3	13	27	13
11	SC&P B	3	1	0	2	11	19	11



LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher A	15	15	100.00%
Martin Adams	Kingfisher A	12	12	100.00%
Darren Jones	Kingfisher A	9	9	100.00%
Ryan Chung	Kingfisher D	9	9	100.00%
Ross Saxby	Kingfisher A	6	6	100.00%
Jamie Barlow	SC&P A	12	11	91.67%
Mo Cook	OLOP A	11	10	90.91%
Murgy Murgatroyd	OLOP A	8	7	87.50%
Prayrit Ahluwalia	Kingfisher C	15	13	86.67%
Graham Mendick	Kingfisher D	12	10	83.33%
Justin Mead	OLOP A	6	5	83.33%
Mike Childs	Reading FC	11	9	81.82%
David Croucher	Sonning Sports A	9	7	77.78%
Gary Morgan	SC&P A	9	6	66.67%
Neil Hurford	SC&P A	9	6	66.67%
Marc Brent	Tilehurst RBL A	9	6	66.67%
Julian Telford	Kingfisher D	6	4	66.67%

4th: Sonning Common and Peppard 'A' have a strong squad and could potentially challenge for second place, although we will know more once OLOP 'A' and Kingfisher 'D' have had their say. Young star Jamie Barlow leads their averages with 11 from 12 and rarely tested, although was not available for the Kingfisher 'A' encounter, where both Gary Morgan (who has been one of the few to defeat Prayrit), and Neil Hurford suffered their only defeats of the season so far. Former Reading School head-boy Joe Barraclough made a welcome appearance before the university season but will not be generally available, so its up to captain Jason Roberts to pick up the pieces, and he has already contributed 5 points to the cause.

MVP: Jamie Barlow

3rd: OLOP 'A' have won all their matches so far and have a match in hand over both Kingfisher 'D' and Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' and will reinstate their status in second place if results go their way. Mo Cook has emerged as their leading points scorer to date with an impressive 11 from 12 including a 3 - 1 win over Ed Lush. Steve 'Murgy' Murgatroyd is never far behind and likewise beat Ed, this time in five sets, and has only dropped the one match. Their third player to just drop the single point is my friend and former Polish team mate, Justin Mead. Captain Ian Cole is getting more of his money's worth than in recent seasons but remains a stalwart opponent for the best players in the league.

MVP: Mo Cook

2nd: Captain Julian Telford will be very proud of **Kingfisher 'D'**'s performance so far. Ryan Chung has been a revelation and, discounting Kingfisher 'A', is the only unbeaten player in the division. He hasn't had it easy either overcoming such talent as Ed Lush and Mike Childs.

I see Graham Mendick as a consistently high benchmark. If you can beat this guy or push him close, you're doing OK, which is why he gets so many mentions and in typical style is sitting on 10/12. I'd like to thank Julian for his additional commentaries and enthusiasm when submitting the matchcards. His love for the game was exemplified when he suffered a

serious calf injury during a match. He soldiered on, effectively on one leg, to record two wins and help his team to their current position. He may well still be out of action at time of going to press and so we wish him a speedy recovery. Cath Venning has also made valuable contributions along the way.

MVP: Graham 'Benchmark' Mendick

1st: Kingfisher 'A' has made a near-perfect start towards retaining their title, yet they are still to face potential contenders OLOP 'A' and Kingfisher 'D'. The regular line-up of Darren Jones, Ross Saxby (both still to lose an end), Hari Gehlot, Dmitry Khakamov and myself have dropped just the one point so far - so credit to Dave Croucher for victory over The Virtuoso.

MVP: Everyone except Dmitry



RYAN CHUNG OF KINGFISHER 'D'

QUIZ ANSWERS:

A: Hari Gehlot B: Bob Woodmansee
C: Ramesh Gehlot



THE GREAT HARI GEHLOT OF KINGFISHER 'A'



R&DTTA Awards for 2021-2022

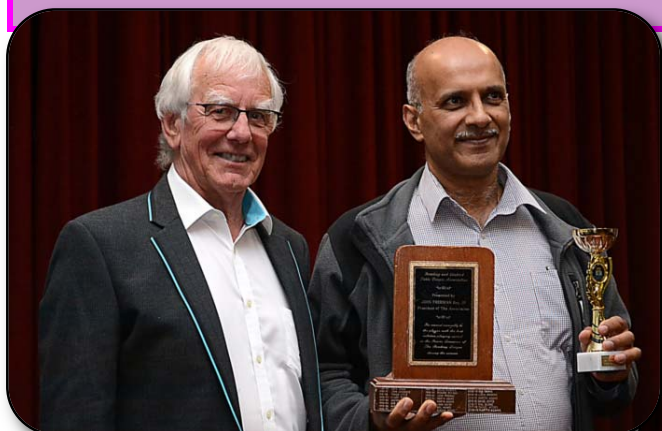
BARRY CARTER WITH PETER BRADLEY

On 22nd June this year, the Reading Association's annual awards were presented at the premises of the Royal British Legion, Tilehurst. Most of the photos which

appear later in this Newsletter were taken at that event. Barry Carter announced the prize-winners, and our President, Peter Bradley presented the prizes. After the presentations, our AGM was held.



Many of the prizes were presented to winners in this season's Reading Closed tournament. Their names are listed in our last Newsletter, and their photos shown on other pages of this one. But there were other notable prizes too, for instance the John Freeman award, presented to the one player with the best playing record in all the divisions of the Reading League. This year that went to super-champion Hari Gehlot (below).



John Freeman Trophy Winner:

Team Handicap Winners

Runners-up:

Lower Divisions Cup winners:

Runners-up:

Individual Handicap Winner:

Runner-up:

Reading Chronicle Trophy Winner:

Standard Cup for the Most Improved Junior:

Edelstone Cup for Best Junior Performance:

Harold Larcombe Sportsmanship Award:

Hari Gehlot

SC&P 'D'

Milestone 'A'

Milestone 'A'

OLOP 'D'

Ryan Chung

Mo Cook

Ryan Chung

Sahil Tekurkar

Ryan Chung

Chris Webb

CHAMPION TEAMS OF THE SEASON

Division 1 Champions: **Kingfisher 'A'**
Runners-up: **OLOP 'A'**
Division 2 Champions: **Sonning Sports 'A'**
Runners-up: **Reading FC**
Division 3 Champions: **Kingfisher 'I'**
Runners-up: **Tilehurst RBL 'B'**
Division 4 Champions: **Sonning Sports 'B'**
Runners-up: **OLOP 'F'**



Above - Division 3 champions, Kingfisher 'I'. Ryan Chung, Rishaan Sawant, Sahil Tekurkar and Theo Kniep - plus Ethan Zeng (not shown). This schoolboy team made such an impression that three of them - Ryan, Theo and Ethan - are now in Division One.

Left: The presenter of prizes is himself congratulated by Kate Maksimenko and Linda King.



DIVISION TWO

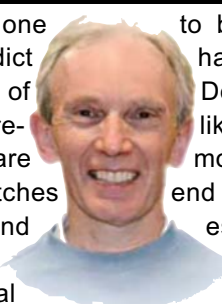
by John Willcocks

This division looks like it is going to be one of the most even and difficult to predict for many years. Although some sort of pattern of results is starting to emerge any predictions about how the season will pan out are difficult in view of the number of close matches and the incredible number of hard-fought and drawn-out sets, even in matches that have ended up not having close results. In a normal season I would expect the top two or three teams to be averaging between seven or eight points a match, with the bottom couple on around two. However, currently the best points per match average is around six with the worst being three and there are a lot of teams with very similar points per match averages.

So we appear to have a division with no obvious outstanding team, and no teams that are much weaker than others either. This makes for lots of interesting matches and could well result in the promotion and relegation issues going to the last week of the season before they are resolved. I have made some predictions about where I think teams will finish but the reality will almost certainly turn out to be very different.

Thanks to all of the team captains for emailing the match cards to me so quickly which is greatly appreciated.

SC&P 'D' are the early league leaders although they have played at least a match more than most of their rivals. Although they have lost twice one of those defeats was 6 - 4 and the other was when they had to field a reserve and they have had a couple of big wins



to boost their points total. Three of their players have averages of 67% or more with Danny Dockree leading the way on 87% and they look like they will have a really good season and could mount a promotion challenge. How well they will end up doing may well depend on how many matches Danny plays in as he is unlikely to lose very often

Prediction – 4th

Best Recent Performance – Danny Dockree with a fine maximum at Tilehurst RBL 'B' including a three straight win over Kate Maksimeto

		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	SC&P D	7	5	0	2	42	28	42
2	OLOP C	6	2	1	3	30	30	30
3	SC&P C	5	3	1	1	29	21	29
4	Kingfisher G	5	3	1	1	25	25	25
5	Tidmarsh B	4	2	1	1	23	17	23
5	Tilehurst RBL B	4	2	1	1	23	17	23
7	Kingfisher F	5	2	0	3	22	28	22
8	OLOP B	4	1	1	2	20	20	20
9	Tilehurst Meths A	4	1	1	2	18	22	18
10	Kingfisher E	6	0	1	5	18	42	18

OLOP 'C' are currently in second place. They have only won two of their six matches, but with one convincing win and all but one of their other matches having close results they have consistently picked up points. Even their fairly heavy defeat against Tilehurst RBL 'B' was far closer than the final score line indicates. They have boosted their squad with the signing of Sachin Mundra and now have five players of a similar standard. They all look capable of getting averages of around 50% so their pattern of close results is likely to continue. However, their players have only recorded one maximum, by Binit, so far and while the team will be hard to beat they are unlikely to figure in the promotion race.

Prediction – 7th

Best Recent Performance - Sanket Dave recovering from two down to beat Mark Jones 11-9 in the fifth

SC&P 'C' are unbeaten but have only played four matches to date. They have a team of very experienced players both at Division 2 and Division 1 levels so they are certainly one of the favourites to secure a promotion place. Their three players all have averages of over



MARK JONES, SC&P 'D' CAPTAIN, RECEIVING THE TEAM'S PRIZES FOR WINNING THE TEAM HANDICAP LAST SEASON



ANDREW ADAIR OF KINGFISHER 'G'

50% and nobody has recorded a duck so far, Nigel Maltby is playing very well and has the highest average of 75%. Their core three players are likely to play in most of the matches but they have got Simon Berry to call on if needed so they should maintain their good early season form.

Prediction – 1st

Best Recent Performance - Nigel Maltby with a maximum against Tilehurst RBL 'B' including an epic win in five against Kate Maksimenko.



THE PLAYERS OF TILEHURST RBL 'B' - KATE MAKSIMENKO, LINDA KING, NICK LEAN AND JOHN WILLCOCKS

matches have been very close. All of their players look like they will win sets regularly and are likely to all get averages of 40% or over. Neil Dellar has only played once so far and if he plays more often their results should get even better, but the early season signs are that this team will finish in the top half of the division but may not be quite strong enough to challenge for promotion.

Prediction – 5th

Best Recent Performance – Neil Dellar recovering from two down to beat Sachin Mundra 13-11 in the fifth and then following that by also recovering from two down to beat Binit Bhaskar 11-7 in the fifth. All that golf in the summer looks to have helped with your fitness levels Neil!

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Eric Van Looy	Tilehurst Meths A	12	12	100.00%
Dale Ballard	Tidmarsh B	12	11	91.67%
Danny Dockree	SC&P D	18	16	88.89%
Chris West	OLOP B	6	5	83.33%
Kate Maksimenko	Tilehurst RBL B	12	9	75.00%
Roger Pritchard	Kingfisher F	12	9	75.00%
Nigel Maltby	SC&P C	15	10	66.67%
Jonathan Abbott	SC&P D	15	10	66.67%
Mark Jones	SC&P D	12	8	66.67%
John Willcocks	Tilehurst RBL B	9	6	66.67%
Barry Carter	Tidmarsh B	6	4	66.67%
Parvin Baishkiyar	OLOP C	3	2	66.67%
Neil Dellar	Kingfisher G	3	2	66.67%
Satej Jaywant	Kingfisher G	12	7	58.33%
Hamid Mohseni	Kingfisher F	9	5	55.56%
Binit Bhaskar	OLOP C	15	8	53.33%

Kingfisher 'G' have won three of their five matches and apart from their 8 – 2 loss to SC&P 'D' all of the

Tidmarsh 'B' are another team who have only played four times but they have started the season well despite having to field reserves in two of the matches. Dale Ballard has been in excellent form and is averaging over 90%. Their other three players are all very experienced at this level and will win regularly so I expect them to mount a promotion challenge but how well they end up doing may depend on how many matches Dale plays in.

Prediction – 2nd

Best Recent Performance - Dale Ballard beating Danny Dockree 11-9 in the fifth.

Tilehurst RBL 'B' have had a good start to the season although they had to postpone their match against Tidmarsh 'B' due to injury and illness issues. Kate Maksimenko has been playing very well and is currently averaging 75% and their other players, including your DFS, will win matches regularly so they could mount a promotion challenge. However, I suspect that although they will have a good



ALISTAIR RICHARDSON OF OLOP 'B'

season, they will not be quite strong enough to end up in one of the two promotion places. Kate will get quite a few maximums but although the rest of the team will win a lot of sets it's likely to be in ones and twos and that may not be quite good enough to secure a promotion place.

Prediction – 3rd

Best Recent Performance – Kate Maksimenko with a fine display of hitting to get a maximum against OLOP 'C'

Kingfisher 'F' have had four very close matches and that pattern could well continue for the rest of the season. So far three of their five players have played in most of the matches and while they have only picked up one maximum between them there have been no ducks amongst the three regulars, which makes for a solid team. Their other two players have only played once or twice with less success so how well they do may come down to which players play the most matches. Roger Pritchard has started the season in good form and is on 75% and has had excellent support from Hamid and Ajai but there is slight danger that this team could get dragged into the relegation fight.

Prediction – 9th

Best Recent Performance – Ajai Kamath recovering from two down to beat Alistair Richardson in five.

OLOP 'B' are another team who have only played four times and have also had lots of very close matches. They are very experienced at this level and if Chris

West keeps up his great early season form, they should at least end up in a comfortable mid table position. Chris has only played twice but his results have been very good with his only defeat being against Dale Ballard.

The rest of the team have been picking up ones and twos and I expect their results to improve as the season progresses

Prediction – 6th

Best Recent Performance – Chris West with a great maximum against promotion favourites SC&P 'C'

Tilehurst Meths 'A' find themselves in one of the relegation places but again are another team who have only played four times so they are probably in a bit of a false position. All of their matches have been close but they look like they are going to be very reliant on skipper Eric Van Looy who is unbeaten having played every time. They have been hampered by an injury to Jes Eassom which happened in the match against OLOP 'B' and if he is unable to play for a while they may struggle at times.

As long as Eric plays in most of the matches they should be fine but if he does not they might end up struggling to avoid getting dragged into a relegation fight

Prediction – 8th

Best Recent Performance – Eric Van Looy beating Danny Dockree in four on a night when he recorded yet another impressive maximum.

Kingfisher 'E' have lost five of their six matches and look like they are going to struggle this season. Clive Gold and Stephen Leggett have had solid starts to the season and have averages of around 50% but they will need more support from their other players if they are going to avoid a long relegation battle. However, Clive recently won five sets in a row and Stephen has won his last four, including a great maximum against the title favourites, so that sort of form gives them hope for the rest of the season.

Prediction – 10th

Best Recent Performance – Stephen Leggett with a fantastic maximum against the title favourites including recovering from two down to beat Nigel Maltby in five.



TEAM HANDICAP TOURNAMENT

by Louise Forster

This season 22 teams signed up for the Team Handicap competition, so we've had six matches in the first round and ten teams received byes to the second round.

With one match still to be played, results are now in for the other five matches and interestingly four out of the five ended on a 5 – 4 scoreline which hopefully means the handicap system is working!

Kingfisher 'G' won a very tight and close match against Sonning Sports 'A'. At half time, Sonning Sports were 4 – 1 up, but Kingfisher managed to pull back to 4 – 4. The deciding match saw Neil Dellar taking on Dave Chard, with Dave having a 12 point advantage. Neil took the first game 22-20, then Dave took the next game comfortably at 21-12. The third game was nip and tuck. The points seemed to go with serve for the most part. In particular, Neil's serves were bothering Dave. Dave was leading 19-16 but Neil had service. Neil managed to get to 19-19 before playing some brave shots to close out the match and provide Kingfisher with the win. (Thanks to Cris Reynolds for the report of this final game)

Kingfisher 'H' had a good 5 – 4 win over OLOP 'A'. This was an interesting match where no-one won all three. Simon Brookes for OLOP beat Eyup Odemis and Muharrem

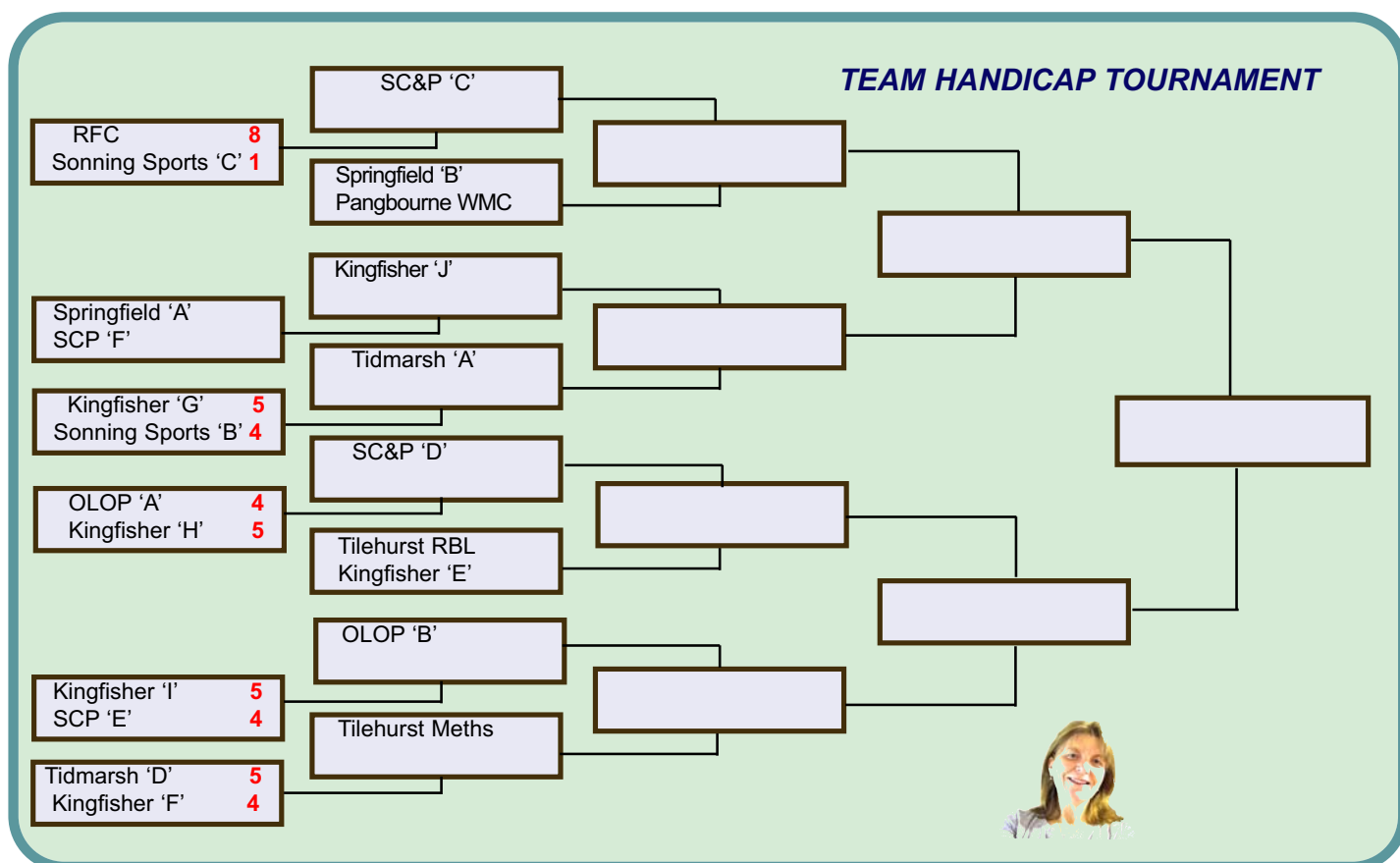
Aydin for Kingfisher, yet lost to Ruben Hernandez, whilst Louise Forster and Graham Stark both beat Ruben but lost to Eyup and Muharrem. It was a good match, with many close sets, and sadly a very slippery floor by the end of the evening which led to a few interesting moments.

Tidmarsh 'D' beat Kingfisher 'G' in another close 5 – 4 match. Hamid Mohseni won all 3 for Kingfisher but good efforts by Ray and Chris Webb winning two apiece for Tidmarsh, along with a win from Dave Edwards gave them the 5 – 4 win.

Reading FC had a comfortable 8 -1 win against Sonning Sports 'C'; several seats went to three games so a closer match than the score line suggests, and well done to team captain Stephen Reader for winning the final game for Sonning Sports 'C'.

And another Kingfisher team came through to the second round with Kingfisher 'I' beating SC&P 'E' 5 – 4, with three good wins from Maksym Schipka.

We have eight matches lined up for the second round draw, scorecards will be going out to team captains soon, and matches are to be played by the end of November.





DIVISION THREE

by Huzeyfe Borazan

Welcome to this Divison 3 Newsletter. Season 2022-2023 is well underway as weeks pass; competition becomes very exciting every week.

As last season, we have 10 teams competing for promotion or fighting to survive in Division 3. This year we have 3 teams from Our Lady Of Peace Club, namely OLOP 'D', OLOP 'E' and OLOP 'F', which means the remaining teams will pay quite a few visits to OLOP during the season. There is also one Tidmarsh team (Tidmarsh 'C') who joined from Division 2. Tilehurst Methodists 'B' were also promoted into Division 3 along with Sonning Sports 'B' last season. The other teams remain the same except for minor changes and Springfield 'A', which is basically a better version of last year's Springfield team.

In the first 6 weeks, except for 2 fixtures, all the matches were played to avoid a later backlog. Hopefully, both those remaining matches will be played this side of Christmas. With most fixtures played as planned, all teams played 4 or 5 matches.

As results emerged, 3 teams soon showed they were strong contenders for promotion. OLOP 'E'. Pangbourne WMC and Springfield

contributing to the team with solid wins.

Best Win: 9 - 1 (twice)

Worst loss: n/a.

MVP: Parvin Baishkiyar

Prediction: 4th.



Pangbourne WMC are one of the strongest teams in Division 3. They missed promotion in the last couple of weeks last year, and they will definitely be again in the promotion zone. They are 3 strong players and play with those 3 in all matches, making them consistent and tough opponents. On top of that, Clive Taylor had a really good start making 12 out of 12 wins. Leroy Wilson and John Simmonds chipped in all the wins. The most interesting match was when they beat a solid team, Kingfisher 'H', 9 - 1, which was very surprising as they drew 5 - 5 last year. This clearly shows that they are the strongest candidate for promotion as well as the title.

Best Win: 9 - 1 (twice)

Worst loss: n/a.

MVP: Clive Taylor

Prediction: 1st.

Springfield 'A' is another strong candidate for the title and promotion. Their team has 3 players like Pangbourne WMC, but they had to call on the help of Division 4 players in 2 matches. Captain Jason King carried the heavy lift for the team with 11 out of 12 wins. One of the surprising results was their loss to OLOP 'D' 7 - 3 in a match they had to play with a Division 4 player. On the other hand, at a very important match, they managed to get a draw from their arch-rivals Pangbourne WMC.

Best Win: 8 - 2

Worst loss: 3 - 7.

MVP: Jason King

Prediction: 2nd.

After promotion from Division 4, **Tilehurst Methodists 'B'** started the season well. They are a few points below the promotion zone. Captain Patrick O'Sullivan and Michael Williams are helping their team to get consistent wins in all matches. Their biggest wins were against the teams at the bottom of the table, and they lost their last 2 matches 8 - 2 against Tidmarsh 'C' and 'D', which indicates they might be moving down towards mid-table.

Best Win: 9 - 1

Worst loss: 2 - 8 (twice).

MVP: Patrick O'Sullivan

Prediction: 6th.

Kingfisher 'H' was a mid-table team last year which had con-

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 OLOP E	5	3	2	0	34	16	34
2 Pangbourne WMC	4	3	1	0	29	11	29
3 Springfield A	5	3	1	1	29	21	29
4 Tilehurst Meths B	5	2	0	3	25	25	25
5 Kingfisher H	5	2	2	1	23	27	23
6 Tidmarsh C	4	2	1	1	22	18	22
7 Tidmarsh D	4	1	1	2	21	19	21
8 OLOP D	4	1	0	3	19	21	19
9 Sonning Sports B	4	1	0	3	15	25	15
10 OLOP F	4	0	0	4	3	37	3

'A' are at the top of the table. OLOP 'E' and Pangbourne WMC have yet to lose a match, whilst Springfield had one defeat, 7 - 3. At the other end of the chart, OLOP 'F' is the only team yet to win a match, and they have only 3 points after 4 matches which puts them 16 points away from being safe from relegation.

In the first quarter, Clive Taylor and Parvin Baishkiyar are 2 players who still maintain their 100% record after 12 games, and Jason King is joining them with only 1 loss out of 12 games. These 3 players are in the top 3 teams in the table, which is not surprising. After a general overview, let's have a look at how teams are performing and what my prediction is about their future performances:

OLOP 'E' made a really good start to the season. They showed their strength by drawing with two teams - Tidmarsh 'D' and Kingfisher 'H'. Then, 2 consecutive 9 - 1 wins made all the difference to their position in the table. Despite these impressive wins, they were against teams who were at the lower side of the table. In upcoming weeks their matches against tougher teams like Tidmarsh 'C', Springfield 'A' and Pangbourne WMC will be very interesting. Parvin Baishkiyar is doing the heavy-lift for them with 100% whilst new player Harry Bullock joined him recently, starting out with a double and a treble. Qing Wu and Loise Forster are also

LEADING AVERAGES

Clive Taylor	Pangbourne WMC	12	12	100.00%
Parvin Baishkiyar	OLOP E	11	11	100.00%
Jason King	Springfield A	12	11	91.67%
Chris Webb	Tidmarsh D	6	5	83.33%
John Simmonds	Pangbourne WMC	9	7	77.78%
Ian Wu	Tidmarsh C	12	9	75.00%
Rob Wilkie	Springfield A	12	8	66.67%
Patrick Osullivan	Tilehurst Meths B	12	8	66.67%
Michael Williams	Tilehurst Meths B	12	8	66.67%
Huzeyfe Borazan	Kingfisher H	9	6	66.67%
Ray Webb	Tidmarsh D	9	6	66.67%
Harry Bullock	OLOP E	9	6	66.67%
Dave Edwards	Tidmarsh D	6	4	66.67%
Harry Bullock (S)	OLOP D	6	4	66.67%
Terry Hardie (S)	Tidmarsh C	3	2	66.67%
Richard Hudson	Tidmarsh C	9	5	55.56%



sistent scores in most matches and strong all-round players. Their first 5 matches proved the same this year, as they had 2 wins, 2 draws and 1 defeat. However, their only defeat was a heavy one against Pangbourne WMC, which was 9 - 1. Kingfisher 'H' is most likely to finish in mid-table unless all their players start to win 3 in some matches, which none of them is managing at the moment.

Best Win: 6 - 4 (twice) **Worst loss: 1 - 9**
MVP: Huzeyle Borazan **Prediction: 5th.**

Tidmarsh 'C' is another solid team in Division 3 with some tough players like Ian Wu and Richard Hudson. Ian Wu is doing the hard work with the wins for the team, and Richard Hudson follows him. Terry Hardie played up for them in one match and had a positive impact in the team with an important 2 wins. They collected 22 points in 4 matches, so they have yet to play a match which might move them into the upper half of the table.

Best Win: 8 - 2 **Worst loss: 3 - 7**
MVP: Ian Wu **Prediction: 3rd**

Tidmarsh 'D' has the same team as last season and had a similar performance in the first quarter of the year. Despite losing 2 matches out of the first 4, they were against strong teams, and Tidmarsh 'D' is a good bet for moving up in the table. Like last season Ray Webb is their strongest player. However, Chris Webb had a great start by winning 5 of his first 6 matches. Terry Hardie and Dave Edwards also contributed to the points, so they have a very solid team of all-round players.

Best Win: 8 - 2 **Worst loss: 4 - 6**
MVP: Chris Webb **Prediction: 7th**



SIMON BROOKES AND GRAHAM STARK OF OLOP 'D'

OLOP 'D' lost one of their good players from last season but kept the rest of the team. However, they did not have a good start and lost 3 matches out of 4. Having said that, these defeats were against tough teams like Pangbourne WMC and Tidmarsh 'C'. On the other hand, they had an impressive win (7 - 3) over Springfield 'A'. Next quarter they will be playing relatively easier matches, so it's fair to say that they might move up in the table easily.

Best Win: 7 - 3 **Worst loss: 4 - 6 (3 times)**
MVP: Harry Bullock (playing up from OLOP 'E')
Prediction: 8th

After being promoted to Division 3 **Sonning Sports 'B'** have struggled to adapt to the new division and lost their first 3 matches



CRIS REYNOLDS OF SONNING SPORTS 'B'

in a row. However, in their last match, they defeated their rivals 10 - 0 and got an important 10 points to stay in the division. In upcoming matches, they will play against tougher teams which will be important for their future in the division. Harry Brough and Himanshu Pasbola had the most wins (5 games each) for their teams which makes 10 out of 15 points.

Best Win: 10 - 0 **Worst loss: 1 - 9**
MVP: Himanshu Pasbola **Prediction: 9th**

Another team that was promoted to Division 3 this year is OLOP 'F', and they are the only team without any win. They collected only 3 points in 4 matches, and those came only from Alona Slobodskoy. In the first matches, it proved that they are still in the transition period of adapting to the new Division. Upcoming weeks may help them get more points.

Best Win: n/a **Worst loss: 0 - 10**
MVP: Alona Slobodskoy **Prediction: 10th**

The second quarter of the season will start after the cup break, and the excitement will resume from where it left off. We will see if Pangbourne WMC gain the top position at the half-season, as they have a match in hand which might see them to the top.



JAN POLNIK OF OLOP 'F' - 'IN HIS CUPS'?



LOWER DIVISIONS KNOCKOUT TOURNAMENT

by Louise Forster

We had a total of 12 teams enter the Lower Divisions Knockout tournament this season, and the tournament has reverted to its doubles format, which everyone seems to be enjoying. The first round consisted of four matches (and four teams received a bye straight to the second round)

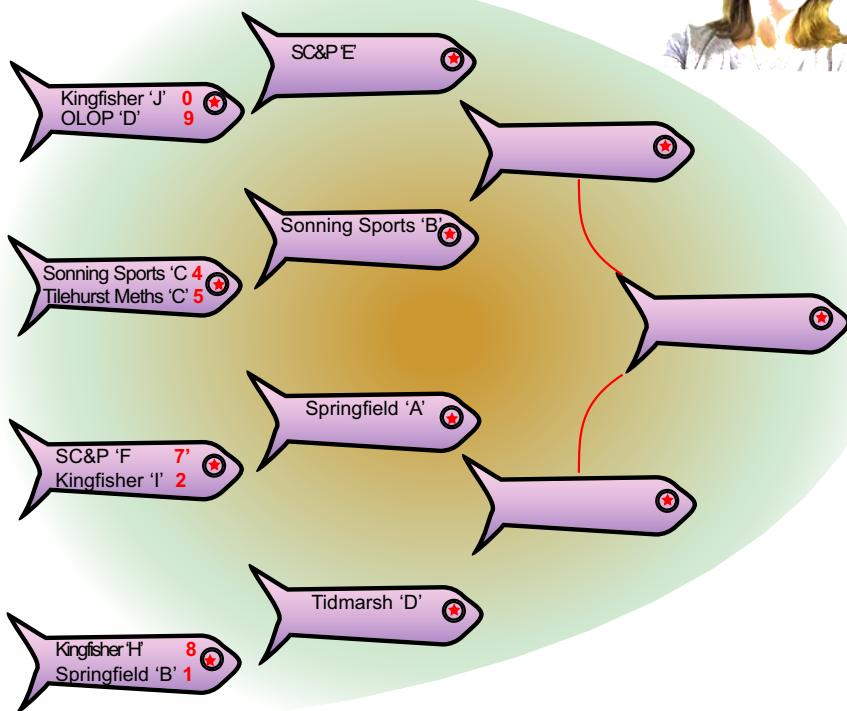
Match 1 – Kingfisher 'J' vs OLOP 'D'. Sadly Kingfisher were unable to get a team together for the match so this game was a 9 – 0 walkover for OLOP 'D' who will now meet SC&P E in the next round.

Match 2 – Sonning Sports 'C' vs Tilehurst Meths 'C'. A very close match with Tilehurst Meths taking it to win 5 – 4. Six out of nine of the sets went to three games which shows what a close match this was. After seeing off Sonning Sports 'C', the Tilehurst Meths team will now meet Sonning Sports 'B' in the second round.

Match 3 – SC&P 'F' vs Kingfisher 'I'. This match saw a comfortable win for SC&P 'F' with a 7 – 2 scoreline. SC&P 'F' will now meet Springfield 'A' in their second round match.

Match 4 – Kingfisher 'H' vs Springfield 'B'. A strong Kingfisher 'H' team took the match to win 8 – 1, and will now meet Tidmarsh 'D' in the next round.

Second round matches are to be played by the end of November and scorecards will be going out to team captains soon, looking forward to some great matches!



DIVISION FOUR

by Derek Harrison

Hello everyone and welcome to the start of a new season which I hope that you will enjoy. Before a ball is hit I will try to predict who will win the league and I will go for Sonning Common & P 'F' who have a good all-round squad however Sonning Common & P 'E' could make an instant return to the third division.

Some of the other players are new to me so it will be difficult to predict who will finish bottom but I feel it will be between Kingfisher 'J', Sonning Sports 'C' and O.L.O.P 'G'. Now prove me wrong!

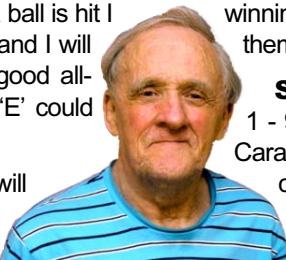
No sooner do I suggest that **Sonning Common & P 'F'** will win the league than they were held to a draw in their first match at home to Kingfisher 'I'. Gerry Bacon was the star, gaining a hat trick while Mike Casserley won two.

Then at Tilehurst Meths 'C' despite a very good maximum from Mike they lost 6 – 4 with Gerry beating Rob James.

They then scored their first win of the season by beating Sonning Sports 'C' 6 – 4 with Gerry gaining a comfortable maximum. Graeme Streets managed a double while Mike

gained a single. At home to TRBL 'C' Gerry was on top form, winning all three, and with Mike gaining a double this gave them a share of the spoils.

Springfield 'B', a brand new side, started by winning 1 - 9 at Sonning Sports 'C' with Rob Attack and Marcello Caramma both gaining trebles. Stephen Reader the Sports captain said both players were ranked higher and it showed. Richard Sabberton-Coe looked useful and



Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Tilehurst RBL C	5	4	1	0	34	16	34
2 SC&P E	5	4	0	1	34	16	34
3 Tilehurst Meths C	4	4	0	0	32	8	32
4 SC&P F	4	1	2	1	20	20	20
5 Sonning Sports C	5	2	0	3	20	30	20
6 Springfield B	4	1	1	2	19	21	19
7 Kingfisher I	4	0	1	3	14	26	14
8 OLOP G	4	0	1	3	10	30	10
9 Kingfisher J	3	0	0	3	7	23	7



won two. They then went to TRBL 'C' and lost 7 – 3 with Rob and Steve both gaining singles. They also had a nice doubles win. At home to SC&P 'E' Steve and Marcello won one each in a 2 – 8 defeat. At home to O.L.O.P 'G' Ludo Couillard made his first appearance of the season and won all three in style with Rob winning two; this gained them a draw.

Tilehurst Meths 'C' started well by winning 2 - 8 at Sonning Common & P 'E'. Lewis Oke had a good night by obtaining a treble with Steve Christelow and Arek Ziolkowski both gaining doubles. At home to Sonning Com & P 'F' they won 6 – 4 with Steve Wood and Steve C both winning two besides teaming up to win the doubles. Rob James weighed in with a single. Next they beat O.L.O.P 'G' 9 – 1 with Andy and Lewis both gaining trebles and Arek winning two. They then played Sonning Sports 'C' who did not have Stephen playing and won 1 – 9 with Steve and Rob both gaining hat tricks. For Steve they were all 3 straight. Arek managed a double.

Tilehurst Royal British Legion 'C' started with a 2 - 8 win

DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Lewis Oke	Tilehurst Meths C	6	6	100.00%
Andrew Stone	Tilehurst Meths C	3	3	100.00%
Ludovic Couillard	Springfield B	3	3	100.00%
Anthony Reeve	SC&P E	15	14	93.33%
Jim Warren	SC&P E	9	8	88.89%
Gerry Bacon	SC&P F	12	10	83.33%
Steven Wood	Tilehurst Meths C	6	5	83.33%
Linda King	Tilehurst RBL C	9	7	77.78%
Geoff Johnson	Tilehurst RBL C	12	9	75.00%
Mike Casserley	SC&P F	12	8	66.67%
Walter Aldridge	Kingfisher I	9	6	66.67%
Arek Ziolkowski	Tilehurst Meths C	9	6	66.67%
Robert Atack	Springfield B	9	6	66.67%
Rob James	Tilehurst Meths C	6	4	66.67%
Steve Christelow	Tilehurst Meths C	6	4	66.67%
Patrick Daniels	OLOP G	6	4	66.67%

at O.L.O.P. 'G' with Linda King getting a nice hat trick. She had to work hard against Fitzroy Licorish by winning 11-8, 11-9, 7-11, 9-11, 5-11. Jim Brent and Geoff Johnson both won two each. At home to Springfield 'B' Geoff gained a three straight maximum and with Linda and Paul Treadgold both winning two this gave them a 7 – 3 victory. At Kingfisher 'J' they came away with a fine 3 – 7 win with Linda, Paul and Jim all winning two each. Geoff came back into the side against Kingfisher 'I' and won all three. Jim won two and Paul obtained a single besides teaming up to win the doubles which gave them a 7 – 3 win. At Sonning 'F' Paul came back to form by winning two and also won the doubles with Jim who also gained a single as did Geoff which gave them a draw.

Kingfisher 'I' gained a great draw at Sonning 'F' mainly thanks to a double from Walter Aldridge and singles from Mick Mitcham and Maksym Schipka. Maksym and Walter also won the doubles. At Sonning Sports 'C' they only had two players and lost 7 – 3. Walter was in great form, winning all three. Sue Parker played up from the 'J' team and the team took advantage of the

new rule that you can play up for a team in the same division. At TRBL 'C' they lost 7 – 3. Andy Read, Mick and Emrah Bulut all picked up singles. At home to Sonning Common & P 'E' they lost 3 – 7 with Maksym and Walter winning one each besides teaming up to win the doubles.

Sonning Sports 'C' went down 1 - 9 to Springfield 'B' with Stephen Reader saving the whitewash by winning one.

They then went to Kingfisher 'J' and won 3 – 7 with Stephen obtaining a good treble; John Scott won two while Mike Gautrey managed a single. At home to Kingfisher 'I' who only had two players they won 7 – 3 with Mike, Stephen and Linda Barlow all getting singles. At Sonning Common & P 'F' they lost 6 – 4. Linda had a good double by beating Mike and Graeme with Stephen picking up a single. At home to Tilehurst Meths 'C' a Linda single saved the whitewash.

O.L.O.P. 'G' lost to T.R.B.L 'C' 2 - 8 with Fitzroy Licorish and Sue Daniels both winning one. Susan's win over Geoff Johnson was very good. Sue stuck to the task after being two games down by winning 8-11, 9-11, 11-8, 12-10, 11-8. At Sonning Common & P 'E' they lost 8 – 2 with Pat Daniels gaining a double. At Tilehurst Meths 'C' only a Fitzroy single prevented a whitewash. At Springfield 'B' Pat won and Fitzroy and Derek Brook won one each. For Derek it was his first win of the season.

Kingfisher 'J' lost 3 – 7 to Sonning Sports 'C' with Miguel Caballero winning two and newcomer Frank Meardon gaining a single. At home to TRBL 'C' Miguel won two and Peter Bennett won one in a 3 – 7 defeat, then at Sonning Common & P 'E' Peter won the sole set by beating Derek in a 9 – 1 defeat.

Sonning Common & P 'E' went down 2 - 8 to Tilehurst Meths 'C'. Anthony Reeve did well to win two

They then bounced back by beating O.L.O.P. 'G' 8 – 2 with Anthony winning all three in straight games by beating Pat Daniels 12-10, 11-4, 11-2, Sue Daniels 12-10, 11-3, 11-1 and Derek Bond 11-15, 11-5, 11-4. Derek Brooke-Wavell and David Riddle won two each. At Springfield 'C' they won 2 – 8 with Anthony and Jim Warren recording trebles. John Evans hit a single. At home to Kingfisher 'J' they had a very easy 9 – 1 win with Jim and Anthony hitting trebles. For Jim they were all three straight and Derek weighed in with a double. At Kingfisher 'I' they won 3 – 7 with Anthony recording yet another hat trick. Jim and Ian Davenport both gained doubles.

Sadly I hardly get any match reports which makes it difficult for me because I just have to report what I see on the scorecard so do not know if someone came back from a long way behind to win.

LEADING P O M PLAYERS

Gerry Bacon 3
Anthony Reeve 3
Lewis Oke 2
Linda King 2
Geoff Johnson 2

Cheers,

Derek