

**March 2025**

**READING  
& DISTRICT  
TABLE TENNIS  
ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER**  
Editor: Derek Wavell



Finalists in the Individual Handicap tournament on January 12th - Pehej Vig (who was to win) and Patrick McIntosh. More photos and videos can be seen on [pages 8-9](#) and [14](#).

**A NOTE ON VIEWING VIDEOS, OF WHICH YOU WILL FIND SEVERAL HERE**

These videos have all been taken at the top YouTube quality setting - which is "4K".

When you start viewing, it is worth playing everything full-screen and choosing the highest setting from the right-hand "quality" menu.

This gives the best definition and colour. Secondly, the clips have all been shot with the table tennis score numerals in view, to make sense of each game.

I have experimented with taking the clips from various angles. Which is best? *DBW*



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*This is the Newsletter to read for an account of the Individual Handicap - and we have one video from it too.*

*Although the Reading Closed tournament has now also been held, we decided not to cram that in too.*

*However, in addition to the Individual Handicap we today include the list of Reading Closed winners (p9) and 3 videos from it. Full reporting next time.*

*I hope you like the the videos! And play well!*

*Derek Wavell*





## Notes from our Chairman



Thanks for reading the latest newsletter expertly put together once again by Derek!

Firstly we'd like to wish Mick Mitcham, who suffered a health scare over the new year, a continued recovery and hope he's playing again (and entering scores 😊) before long.

After many years on the committee our treasurer Barry Carter will not be standing for re-election. We will no doubt formally thank him for his service at the AGM but if there are any volunteers out there or you know of someone who could stand in for this crucial role it would be greatly appreciated. Our accounts are not so complex and the role is not admin-intensive for the majority of the season. We will provide a brief role overview lower on this page and will ensure a more formal role description is posted on the website ASAP but contact me or another committee member if you think you can help.

Another opportunity to volunteer will come in the shape

of organising the Reading Closed tournament. Eric van Looy did another sterling job this time around but will not be available moving forwards. We have the duties listed which are all well-drilled with software to help! Again, let us know!

I am pleased to announce that the Senior Reading Masters will make a return this season. See the division 1 write-up for dates and qualification details. We'd like to extend our thanks to Kingfisher TTC for allowing us to stage the event.

Finally, a very important and fun date to put in your diary - please join us at Tilehurst Royal British Legion on Wednesday 4th June at 7pm for our Annual General Meeting and Awards Presentation. Following the great success of last year we will be repeating the buffet, upstairs bar and quiz. It would be great to see even more of you as we come together to congratulate all the trophy winners (all the winners and runners up from the league and Reading Closed - please come to collect them!) and socialise away from the table.

All the best

**Martin**

**Secretary's message.** The final Competition week starts the run in to the end of the season. It also seems that this season has been a useful time for Div 2 to catch up with some games with 3 postponements being played.

On that note I would like to thank all Team captains for being on top of postponements this year. We have had a lot it seems, but between captains and Club availability dates are being arranged swiftly, albeit sometimes quite some time in the future. If there are any still to be arranged, please endeavour to play them by the end of March.

Statistically the divisions are quite different from each other. Division 1 with the highest differential at 80 points between top and bottom. Divisions 3 and 4 with 54 and 68 respectively. Division 2 being the closest at 44 points, where the leaders are only slightly ahead of the Division 1 difference at 86 points.

Lastly I have 2 key announcements.

We will be running a Club facility audit in the summer regarding facilities and playing space. This is normally done when a club joins the league or changes their venue, however it has been so long for some that we want to check in with all and review against ours and TTE guidelines. We will be in contact with club secretaries towards the end of the season.

Secondly another call out for volunteers. Being part of the committee could be compared to being a member of a team in the league. With just 4 or 5 'matches' a year and a few hours of admin spread out depending on the role. Please consider joining us to keep the sport going in the area.

Regards

**Alistair**



**The RDTTA treasurer's** role isn't too onerous these days as it's all done by online banking and there are few, if any trips to the bank as even the cheques sent can now be banked online through the app. This season there have been 22 transactions so far with income coming in the form of team and player registration fees and expenditure being to Cippenham, Royal County of Berkshire TTA and if any national competitions entered, then Table Tennis England. I currently use a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet for the accounts and it automatically produces the information for the year end accounts that are presented at the AGM. The accounts need to be audited by an independent person to the treasurer and it generally takes around 90 minutes to go through everything. The last payments of the year tend to be the trophies that are purchased for presentation evening in June and then nothing happens for a few months. The only other commitment is to attend three or four committee meetings a season where the balance of the accounts and a report has to be done.





# DIVISION ONE

by Martin Adams

**T**he race for the Division One title is Hot Hot Hot! But before we get to that I am happy to announce that the prestigious tournament that is the **Reading Senior Masters** will be taking place on Saturday April 26th in the afternoon at Kingfisher. As is traditional we will be inviting the Reading Closed Men's Singles Champion (Dan Moses – Congrats!) plus those with the eight highest averages in division 1 plus the highest average in Division 2 having played 50% or more of the available matches. If you are likely to qualify please put the date in your diary and I will contact you nearer the time to arrange the final lineup. The aim is to have two groups of five. Contact me ahead of time by all means if you can or cannot play, in which case I'll continue invitations down the averages list.

Back to league and it has been nip-and-tuck between the two top Kingfisher sides, closely followed by Sonning Common & Peppard 'A'.

I won't go to the effort of mentioning every playing individual this time, but some highlights in order of current league positions are as follows...

Back in the lead by 7 points is **Kingfisher 'B'** having



GRAHAM MENDICK OF KINGFISHER B

played an extra match. Mitch Neagu and Vince Nemes again had little trouble (in the singles at least) disposing of the KFA trio of Martin, Rishaan and Hari. Vince also comfortably beat Dan Moses again in their clash with Sonning Common and Peppard 'A'. With the old system of two-for-a-win they would almost have



JULIAN TELFORD

already won it. But with both these matches ending 6 - 4 that still leaves the door ajar. Only Sonning Sports and KFF look like potential stumbling blocks before open road to the close, should Julian decide to put his foot down! cAs men-



JACEK PIECHOCKI OF KFB

tioned next comes **Kingfisher 'A'** - Massive congratulations to Ross Saxby who has recently become a father. We succumbed again to KFF and KFB and we've got three to lose against Dan Moses soon (let's be realistic!) but difficult to see too many other lost points beyond that. It should be noted that Martin and Hari managed a pleasantly surprising 3 - 0 doubles win over Vince and Mitch.



HARI GEHLOT OF KFA



DANIEL MOSES

Third and just a few points back is **Sonning Common & Peppard 'A'**. It hasn't all been about Reading Closed Quadruple winner Dan Moses but they did leak some points against KFC when he was not available. Ian Cole has done little wrong since the break. Jason Roberts has upped his level on occasion including victories over Jordan Huang and his first ever time toppling Mike Childs (12-10 in the fifth!).

Fourth having caught up on most of their fixtures (disappointingly having to concede one in the process) is **Kingfisher 'F'**. The youngsters again impressively disposed of KFA 6 - 4. It seems Prayrit Ahluwalia, Theo Kniep and Ryan Chung are playing the tougher matches with their colleagues led by Aarav Pahwa and Sam Kwok coping well with 83% and 78% respectively. Some of this group will also be representing Reading in the Carter Cup after the league is wrapped up - so good luck everyone!

Next **Kingfisher 'E'** - Shashwat Somani powers on, having only lost to KFB players since the break helping them to retain a





	DIV 1	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Kingfisher B	16	15	1	0	119	41	119
2	Kingfisher A	15	10	1	4	112	38	112
3	SC&P A	14	9	2	3	99	41	99
4	Kingfisher F	13	9	1	3	70	60	70
5	Kingfisher E	14	6	1	7	69	70	69
6	Sonning Sports A	15	3	3	9	66	84	66
7	Kingfisher C	15	4	3	8	63	87	63
8	Tidmarsh A	14	4	2	8	60	80	60
9	Kingfisher D	15	5	1	9	56	94	56
10	Tilehurst RBL A	14	4	2	8	46	94	46
11	SC&P B	15	2	1	12	39	110	39

mid-table spot. Gordon Cho, Adrian Cretu and Parvin Baishkayar have all contributed recently, the latter managing a handy 13-11 in the fifth win over KFB's Julian Telford.

**Sonning Sports 'A'** find themselves in sixth with Rob Hansell showing up to face all of the top teams – He scored excellent maximums over both KFA and KFF in 5 – 5 draws. Dave Croucher joined Rob in both of those encounters and dented his average somewhat, only beating Rishaan in the process. However he did not drop a single end in his other two outings. Nick Sears has been their most regular player and contributed in all but one of his last nine appearances.

**On to seventh and Kingfisher 'C'** who have drawn

three out of five since the turn. Plenty of braces about but who will be the first to record a maximum in 2025? Harry Yeates came the closest as he let a lead slip to Ian Cole for his fourth straight double.



PALLAVI URANKAR OF KINGFISHER C

Nigel also swept aside KFB's newly-crowned Reading O40 champion Jacek Piechocki.

**Tidmarsh 'A'** in eighth look to have done enough not to worry about relegation positions in a high-quality field. They combined to thrash Sonning Common & Peppard 'B' 9 - 1 and Lee Calcutt's maximum saved some face - against in a 4 - 6 loss to KFD including 3-0 over Mike Childs.

**Kingfisher 'D'** is in ninth and crucially still to play the bottom two. With Mike Childs in your team every week you always have a chance to get points. He only went and scored a maximum against KFB! Ably backed up by Mike Douglas, who beat Jordan Huang on the same night, and you've got a force to be reckoned with. Tak

Chan has won a few and it was good to see Georgi Ivanov make an appearance but fruitlessly chose SC&P 'A' as his comeback match.

Tenth is **Tilehurst RBL 'A'** who ended their run at the bottom, largely thanks to injury-hit Jon Willis winning more in the couple of matches than he has all season. They still have a couple of tough looking fixtures but Marc Brent also was available in their 7 - 3 win over the bottom side, where Keith Winter also sank Danny Dockree's hopes.

Which leads us nicely to **Sonning Common & Peppard 'B'** who are bottom. They have suffered some availability issues and despite others' best efforts captain Danny Dockree is by far their top scorer. To compel them further their run-



NICK SEARS OF SONNING SORTS A

### DIV 1 LEADING AVERAGES

Vince Nemes	Kingfisher B	21	21	100.00%
Mircea Neagu	Kingfisher B	11	11	100.00%
Daniel Moses	SC&P A	29	27	93.10%
Ross Saxby	Kingfisher A	12	11	91.67%
Jacek Piechocki	Kingfisher B	20	18	90.00%
Robert Hansell	Sonning Sports A	18	16	88.89%
Julian Telford	Kingfisher B	18	15	83.33%
Aarav Pahwa	Kingfisher F	12	10	83.33%
Shashwat Somani	Kingfisher E	27	22	81.48%
Ed Lush	SC&P A	19	15	78.95%
Martin Adams	Kingfisher A	33	26	78.79%
David Croucher	Sonning Sports A	21	16	76.19%
Ewelina Sychta	Kingfisher B	20	15	75.00%
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher A	39	29	74.36%





# DIVISION TWO

by John Willcocks

It has been a strange few weeks since the second half of the season started with some teams catching up on postponed fixtures and others hardly playing at all. However, most teams have now played thirteen or fourteen times which is making it a bit easier to predict the end of season places. The top of the table is very tight and five or even six teams could still get promotion but at the bottom it looks like there are three teams in the mix for the two relegation places.

It looks like the top two will probably be Tidmarsh 'B', who have been the form team for some time, and OLOP 'A'. At the bottom it's very difficult to call but I think that Tidmarsh 'C' and Kingfisher 'H' will probably finish in the bottom two.

## STOP PRESS

*Two late results – SC&P 'C' 4 Kingfisher 'G' 6 with Division 4 reserve Pehej Vig getting a maximum, Tidmarsh 'B' 5 OLOP 'C' 5.*

**OLOP 'A'** should finish in one of the promotion places but it's likely to be very close and could easily go to the last week of the season when they play Springfield 'A'. Team selection could determine their final position because if Chris West (81%) and Darek Kaminski (74%) play together in most of the matches they will almost certainly go up. If they do not then then although Skipper Alistair Richardsn and Dave Godfrey



OLOP A CAPTAIN ALISTAIR RICHARDSON IS A FIGHTER

are having good seasons they will not win as often as their top two in which case the team might just miss out.

## Prediction – 2nd

**Best Recent Performance – Darek Kaminski with a fine maximum against promotion rivals Tidmarsh 'B' including beating Bill Stamatiou 11-9 in the fifth**

**Springfield 'A'** are currently clear in the second place but they have played two matches more than Tidmarsh 'B' who are third. Most of their results since Christmas have been close and have included two losses. Two of their remaining fixtures are against teams at the bottom of the table so big wins in those matches could push them close to

OLOP 'A' which would then set up a possible promotion decider when they meet on 26th March. Jason King and Mat Hickman have both been playing really well and similar to OLOP 'A', when they play the team is likely to win. Rob is having a good second half of the season but Peter has not played much lately.

## Prediction – 3rd

**Best Recent Performance – Rob Wilkie recovering from two games down to beat Bill Stamatiou 11 - 9 in the fifth.**

**Tidmarsh 'B'** are currently third but they have two matches in hand on Springfield 'A' and one on OLOP 'A', most of their remaining matches are also at home which should help them. They have only lost once since mid October and they have had three good wins since Christmas and a close defeat to OLOP 'A'. Simon, Bill and Barry all have averages of over 65%, are all in consistent form and with Francois playing again and winning and Mike also chipping in they should finish in the top two and they will probably be champions.

## Prediction – 1st

**Best Recent Performance – Simon Barter with a comprehensive maximum against Kingfisher 'G'**

**OLOP 'B'** have played seven times since Christmas and although they have only lost once, three of those have been drawn. Most of their results throughout the season have been close and their final league position is likely to reflect that with them finishing in mid table or just in the top half. Binit Bhaskar, Pradeep Desh and Dave Sankhet have all been very consistent and are likely to finish with averages of around 50% to 60% and after a slow start to the season Shownik Thakur has improved and is now winning at least once every time he plays. Their league position has been helped by their great doubles record which is the best in the division.



BILL STAMATIOU

	DIV 2	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	OLOP A	14	9	2	3	86	54	86
2	Springfield A	15	8	1	6	84	66	84
3	Tidmarsh B	14	8	2	4	81	59	81
4	OLOP B	15	5	6	4	77	73	77
5	Kingfisher I	12	5	3	4	65	55	65
6	Tilehurst RBL B	13	6	3	4	63	67	63
7	SC&P C	12	3	4	5	61	59	61
8	Kingfisher G	14	4	5	5	60	80	60
9	Kingfisher H	13	1	4	8	51	79	51
10	Tidmarsh C	12	2	2	8	42	78	42



### Prediction – 5th

**Best Recent Performance – Binit Bhaskar beating Darek Kaminski 12-10 in the fifth**

**Kingfisher 'I'** have had a disjointed second half of the season so far, only playing four times. Consequently, they have more matches left to play than all but one of the division. Their recent form has been a bit mixed with four close matches resulting in a win, a draw and two defeats. The way they started the season they looked like they could get back to back promotions but they have been unable to keep that form going. They could still gatecrash the promotion party but I suspect that they will just fall short even though they have been boosted by the return to playing of captain Huzeyfe Borazan. They have a good all round squad but with their top average of 67% (Akeel Mir), they are probably not quite strong enough to finish in the top two.

### Prediction – 4th

**Best Recent Performance – Akeel Mir with a three straight win over Mat Hickman**

### Tilehurst

**RBL 'B'** have been hampered by illness and other player availability issues so have had a difficult

start to the second half of the season, only playing twice. Fortunately, they had previously brought forward two matches scheduled for February to earlier in the season and that has helped to limit the problems. At one stage it looked like they might have difficulty in fulfilling their remaining fixtures but the signing of Luca Bianchi on registration deadline weekend plus the additional registration of Wendy Porter for their 'C' team has meant that their squad will be able to see the season out.

In the two matches played they lost 9 – 1 to OLOP 'B' on a night when illness was a factor but bounced back with a 6 – 4 win against Tidmarsh 'C' when Luca recorded a debut



EYUP ODEMIS OF KINGFISHER I

maximum.

### Prediction – 7th

**Best Recent Performance– Nick Lean with a three straight win over Binit Bhaskar**

**SC&P 'C'** have had two draws and two close defeats against teams at the top recently. After a good start to the season they have now not won since late October and although they have matches in hand on everyone, realistically their chances of promotion have gone. They have had issues fielding teams on occasions and Simon Berry has not played very often. Nigel Maltby, Malcolm Gregory and Holly Ranson have all played well but with a top average of 60% most of their results are likely to remain close which means they would finish mid table.



HOLLY RANSON

### Prediction – 6th

**Best Recent Performance – Malcolm Gregory beating both Chris West and Darek Kaminski in the match against OLOP 'A'**

**Kingfisher 'G'** have shown some improvement in their form recently including 6 – 4 wins against OLOP 'A' and Kingfisher 'I'. These results have given them a fair chance of avoiding relegation and it's likely to be a fight between them and their 'H' team to see who can avoid the drop. They have had injury and other team availability issues all season but they have been helped by good performances from reserves playing up, with the reserves contribution twelve wins so far. Satej Jaywant is in good form and is their best player on 67% but with the rest of their players on the 30 to 40% mark there probably needs to be a bit of an improvement if they are to



ANDREW ADAIR

escape. In may all come down to their match against Kingfisher 'H' which takes place on 11th March.

### Prediction – 9th

**Best Recent Performance – Satej Jaywant with a maximum against OLOP 'B' which included a marathon 16 – 14 win in the fifth against Binit Bhaskar**

**Kingfisher 'H'** Have only played three times since Christmas and have not played at all this month. Their recent results were two defeats, one heavy and one close, and a draw and if this sort of pattern continues they could well end up in one of the relegation positions. Glen Armashula continues to be their best player and is on close to 67% and Eapen

## DIV 2 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Kate Maksimenko	Tilehurst RBL B	23	23	100.00%
Simon Berry	SC&P C	13	12	92.31%
Jason King	Springfield A	33	28	84.85%
Chris West	OLOP A	26	21	80.77%
Mat Hickman	Springfield A	33	26	78.79%
Darek Kaminski	OLOP A	38	28	73.68%
Simon Barter	Tidmarsh B	30	21	70.00%
Barry Carter	Tidmarsh B	23	16	69.57%
Akeel Mir	Kingfisher I	27	18	66.67%
Bill Stamatiou	Tidmarsh B	27	18	66.67%
Satej Jaywant	Kingfisher G	24	16	66.67%
Sayali Bendkhale	Tidmarsh C	15	10	66.67%
Glen Armashula	Kingfisher H	23	15	65.22%



John has been playing well. Their other players have had mixed seasons but are capable of some good results so they certainly still have a chance of avoiding the drop

#### Prediction – 9th

**Best Recent Performance - Stephen Leggett with two very good wins against Kingfisher 'I'**

**Tidmarsh 'C'** have been struggling with injuries and player availability issues and, although they still have six matches left to play, if things do not improve I cannot see them avoiding relegation. They have lost the four matches they have played since the new year, three of them fairly comfortably, so their league position is now worse than it has

been at any other point during the season. The majority of their remaining matches are against teams in the bottom half which gives them a chance but they have only had one big win all season and they will need a few more to get out of trouble.

Sayali Bendkhale has their best average of 67% but she has only played in five matches and apart from Simon Craig their other averages are below 35%.

#### Prediction – 10th

**Best Recent Performance – Ian Wu with a three straight win over Sanket**

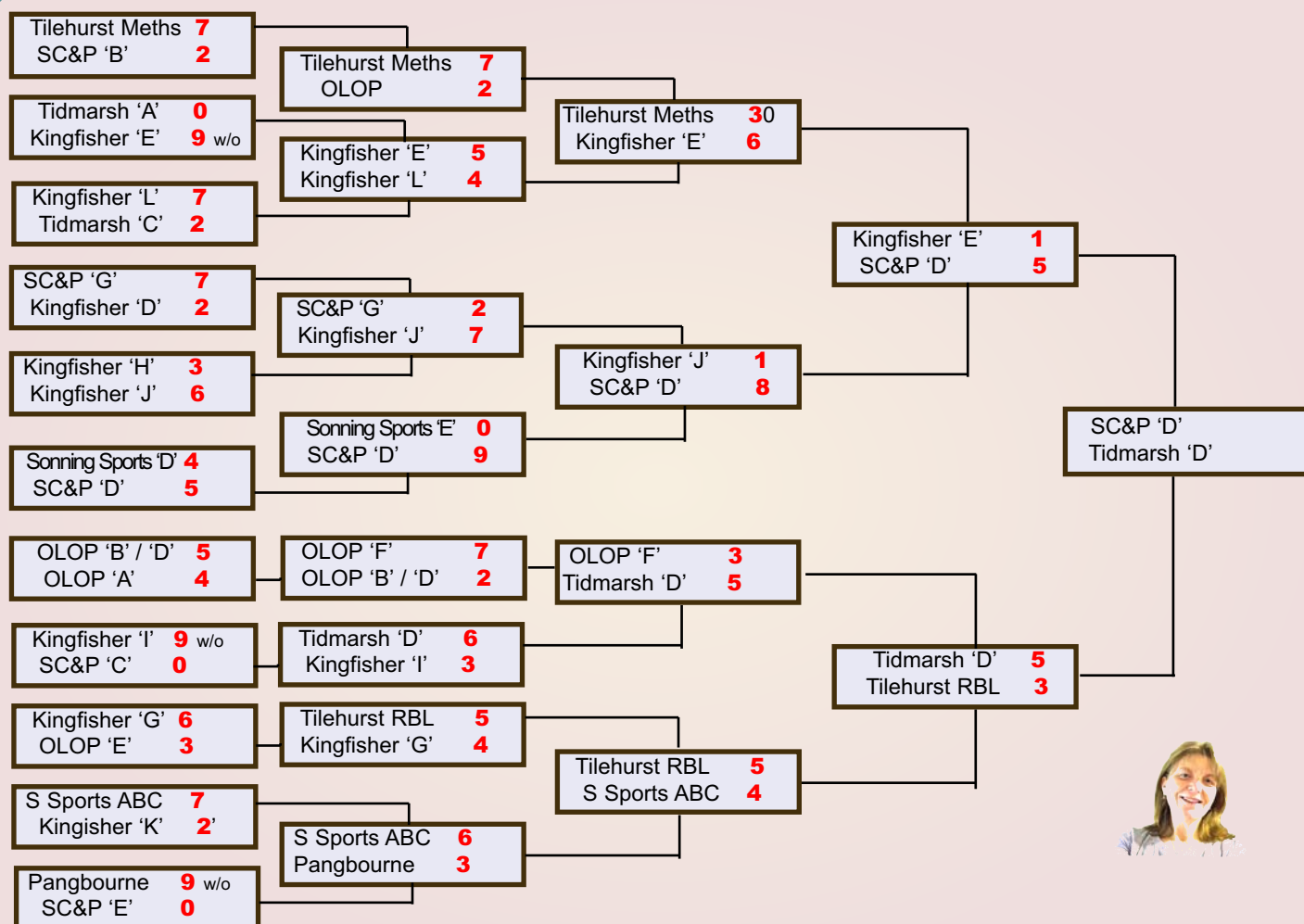
## TEAM HANDICAP TOURNAMENT

*by Louise Forster*

The Team Handicap event semi finals have both been played in February. Tidmarsh D met Tilehurst RBL in a well fought match. Nick Lean was on form for Tilehurst RBL and won all three, but John Willcocks and Kate Maksimonto struggled to pull back against their handicaps and lost their games. So the Tidmarsh team (Dave Edwards, Ray Webb and Terry Hardie) won the match 5 - 3 to take them through to the final.

The second semi final saw reigning champions Kingfisher 'E' take on SC&P 'D'. Not such a close match for this one and the SC&P side of Anthony Reeve, Ian Davenport and Jim Warren won the match 5 - 1 and this now sees them reaching the final of both team competitions.

The final will be SC&P 'D' vs Tidmarsh 'D'.







# INDIVIDUAL HANDICAP TOURNAMENT *by Eric Van Looy*

**O**n the 12th of January, 40 R&DTTA players – the first time we reached full capacity since the COVID epidemic – landed in Slough to participate in the latest Individual Handicap Tournament.

Thanks to Cippenham's generous size, we could set up 10 tables - 2 for each round robin group of 8 players – and offer everyone at least 7 matches to try and top their group, with only group winners going through to the elimination rounds.

With 140 group games, there are too many highlights to mention and too many names to drop, so I hope the following summary does it justice.

Junior Pehej Vig (rated +8) conquered each and every



PEHEJ VIG WITH THE CUP HE WON, AND TOURNAMENT ORGANIZER ERIC VAN LOOY

one in Group A, winning all 7 of his matches, followed by highest rated player Parvin Baishkiyar (-4) with just the 1 loss to Pehej (-9,-13). Alona Slobodskoy (+4) and Atinc Erguven (+7) both ended with 4 wins, with Alona claiming 3rd place, courtesy of her win over Atinc (21,12). Places 5 to 8 were taken by Tim Raby (-3, 3/7 wins), Louise Forster



ALONA SLOBODSKOY



AJAY YESI

(+2, 2/7), Gopi Ponnappalli (+2, 1/7) and Holly Ranson (-2, 1/7).

Group B was a complete spectacle from the beginning til the end. Ajay Yesi (3) looked set to top the group until the very last match, when Kaushik Shukla (+12) defeated Ajay 2-1 (19,-20,17), putting 4 players on 5 wins out

of 7: Ajay, Daniel Dzieciol (+2), Aleksey Mokhov (+3) and Huseyin Celik (+3). Huseyin came out on top thanks to his better head-to-head record, an outcome he himself had not expected. Prime witnesses to the drama were Harry Bullock (+2, 3/7), highest-rated player Glen Armashula (-4, 2/7), Kaushik (2/7) and Emrah Bulut (+8, 1/7).



HUSEYIN CELIK

A much more straightforward result in Group C, which – according to many present – contained two of the three pre-favourites of the tournament (Brett Hastings (+3) and Neil Abbott (+7)), with Brett remaining undefeated and topping the group. Our highest-rated player in the tour-



BRETT HASTINGS



DANNY DOCKREE

namment was Danny Dockree (-8), who surprised many by expertly navigating past 5 opponents into 2nd spot. Akeel Mir (-5) – last season's runner-up – equally had a hard time overcoming big handicap gaps, but fought hard to win 5 matches as well. Andy Stone (+7) ended with 4 wins, but came

very close with 3 matches being lost in the deciding leg. Neil, in his first handicap tournament, claimed 3 wins, while Muharrem Aydin (-1) and Walter Aldridge (+5) each won 1. Richard Hudson (-1) remained winless, though not through lack of trying in what may have been one of the toughest groups.



ANDY STONE



RICHARD HUDSON

Anish Shukul (+8) may seem to have had an easy passage with 7 wins out of 7, but only 2 points separated him from being demoted to second spot in Group D.

His final match against Houron Tsun (+8, 5/7) was decided in the last leg (19,-14,19), keeping Houron in 2nd place. Alistair Richardson (-2) kept himself in the running for a long while, only to fall at the last hurdle (4/7). 3 players ended on 3 wins each, with highest-rated player Nick Sears (-5), Bill Stamatiou (-3) and Simon





MARK CARLESS

Brookes (+3) taking 4th, 5th and 6th respectively. Stephen Reader (+7) fought valiantly and took 2 wins, with Graham Stark (Scr) admitting to 'needing to work on his mental game' after a single win.



EYUP ODEMIS

With a hint of drama, Group E was dubbed the 'Group of Death', since James Smith (+2) and Eyup Odemis (-3) had been the winners of the last 2 editions. However, it was Patrick McIntosh (+4, 6/7) who took top spot, with club mates James Smith (5/7) and Mark Carless (-1, 5/7) in second and third. Junior Krishiv Shukul (+8) showed some great table tennis and won 4 out of 7. Grant Baartman (+2) and Eyup both managed 3 wins, while Isaac Doel (+11) and Andrew Adair (-3) closed the ranks with 1 win apiece.



PATRICK MCINTOSH

All results can be consulted on the tournament page .

With 5 group winners, we had 2 players in a preliminary round to decide the 4th semi-finalist. Huseyin Cilak and Patrick McIntosh were the two 'worst' winners, and they treated the remaining spectators to an exciting match, with Patrick's spin shots eventually breaking down the wall of Huseyin's steady countering game (-15,18,18).

Pehej Vig and Anish Shukul – both on a +8 handicap – played an old-fashioned scratch game to 21, and Pehej's clear attacking skills (especially that crisp backhand punch) proved too much for Anish (14,15).

Straight off his quarter-final win, Patrick continued his good form with a hard-fought win over Brett Hastings, who nearly brought the game to a deciding leg but had to settle for a well-deserved joint 3rd spot overall (18,19)

The many remaining spectators witnessed a thrilling final between two equally strong players with completely different attacking styles: left-handed Patrick and (side) spinny-attacks – even managing to curl a fantastic winner from underneath the table and around the net – against the fast forehands, backhand punches and 3-point attacks from Pehej. In the end it was Pehej who clawed his way back into a second game that seemed lost, and won this season's edition of the of the Individual Handicap (15,21). Congratulations!

Here is a VIDEO of one handicap struggle. Not a final, but interesting. Danny Dockree (in green) is a div 1 player on minus 8 handicap - so he is the most handicapped player present. His opponent, Richard Hudson, is on -4. Just their last game is shown.



## READING CLOSED DISCLOSED Here are the bare results - fuller details of play in next Newsletter

Mens Singles (35 entrants) : Daniel Moses beat Ian Cole  
 Mens Doubles: Ian Cole + Daniel Moses beat Graham Mendick + Julian Telford  
 Womens Singles : Pallavi Urankar beat Kate Maksimenko  
 Women's Doubles: Louise Forster + Alona Slobodskoy beat E Maksimenko + Wendy Porter  
 Mixed Doubles: Wendy Porter + Daniel Moses beat Pallavi Urankar and Ian Cole  
 Veteran Singles: Jacek Piechocky beat Hari Gehlot  
 60 Plus singles : Andrew Adair beat Nick Lean.  
 Division 1: Hari Gehlot beat Graham Mendick  
 Division 2: Huzeyfe Borazan beat Bill Stamatiou  
 Division 3 : Brett Hastings beat Gopikrishna Ponnappalli  
 Division 4 : Pehej Singh Vig beat Krishiv Shukul  
 Junior Singles: Pehej Singh Vig beat Holly Ranson  
 Under 40 singles: Daniel Moses beat Pehej Singh Vig  
 Over 50 singles: Hari Gehlot beat Ian Cole

**NB PLEASE ALSO FIND 3 ADVANCE VIDEOS FROM THE READING CLOSED ON PAGE 14 - THE LAST PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER.**

**You can also get a very wide range of results from the tournament software - log in from the Tournaments page on our website.**



# DIVISION THREE

by Huzeyfe Borazan

Welcome to the 3rd edition of the Division 3 Newsletter. After the mid-season break, league and table tennis joy continued where it had left off. Some teams and players are finding their form, while others are struggling to convert their performances into points. So first, let's take a look at the highlights, and then we will go team-by-team performances.

## Shake up in the standings!

As we moved deeper into the season, Division 3 has seen some major shifts in the standings. While OLOP 'C' remains at the top, Sonning Sports 'B' and Pangbourne WMC have gained ground and are now serious title contenders. Unlike last season, this year's competition for the title and promotion is exceptionally challenging, as four determined teams are vying in the race. The promotion battle is intensifying, while the struggle to avoid relegation is becoming increasingly desperate.

Here are some highlights after mid-season break:

- In recent editions of this newsletter, OLOP 'C' was very comfortable, sitting almost 10 points clear at the top. However, they now find themselves only 3 points ahead of Sonning Sports 'B', having played one more match than the Sonning team.
- Sonning Sports 'B' has had an incredible run, making them one of the strongest contenders for the title.
- Pangbourne WMC has closed the gap somewhat, but they are considered slightly less favoured for the title compared to Sonning Common & Peppard 'D'.

Now let's have a look to the performances team by team.

## What's Changed?

### Our Lady Of Peace 'C'

🤔 **First losses of the season!** After a perfect record in the first half, OLOP 'C' has finally suffered two defeats.

However, they still lead the table with 105 points. Still the favorites for the title, but now under real pressure. And the rising form of Sonning Sports 'B' is especially threatening for them.

**Key Players:** Daniel Dzieciol, Simon Brookes, and Graham Stark have similar averages, and all three have +70% average, which is impressive.



GRAHAM STARK OF OLOP B



DANIEL ZIECIOI OF OLOP B

**Key Results:** Two big margin wins - both 8 - 2 - against Kingfisher 'J' and Tilehurst Methodists 'B' are significant for the title race.

### Sonning Sports 'B'



**Suging into second place!** With 12 wins from 15 matches, they have become serious title contenders. Their recent form has been excellent, and they are only 3 points behind OLOP 'C'.

**Winning Streak: 4 consecutive victories!**

**Key Players:** Tim Challenger proved to be a very good transfer for the team with a 7-time POM award. Brett Hastings is also on fire with a +80% average which made them become favourites for the title.



BRETT HASTINGS

**Key Results:** Winning against their title contenders, OLOP 'C', with 8 - 2 scoreline was their most important result of the season.

### Pangbourne WMC



**Still in the hunt!** They have moved up to 3rd place and are level on points with Sonning Common & Peppard 'D'. With 11 wins from 15 matches, they remain a promotion threat. However, they need a little more to challenge Sonning Sports 'B' and OLOP 'C'.

**Key Players:** Clive Taylor and John Simmonds continue to carry on the team and keep the promotion target alive.


**Key Results:** Securing a decisive 8 - 2 victory over their title rivals, OLOP 'C', stands out as the pivotal challenge of the season.





DIV 3		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	OLOP C	16	14	0	2	105	55	105
2	Sonning Sports B	15	12	1	2	102	48	102
3	Pangbourne WMC	15	11	0	4	97	53	97
4	SC&P D	15	10	1	4	97	53	97
5	OLOP D	15	7	2	6	74	76	74
6	SC&P E	16	4	3	9	66	94	66
7	Tilehurst Meths B	15	5	3	7	64	86	64
8	Tidmarsh D	14	5	1	8	63	77	63
9	Tilehurst Meths A	16	3	3	10	61	99	61
10	Kingfisher J	16	3	4	9	60	100	60
11	Sonning Sports C	15	1	0	14	51	99	51


### Sonning Common & Peppard 'D'

 **Slipping slightly.** Previously 2nd, they have now dropped to 4th place. However, they are still in the promotion battle with 97 points. They must regain momentum quickly to stay in contention.

**Key Players:** Jeremy Willis and Ian Davenport are the top 2 performing players for the Sonning Common and Peppard team.

**Key Results:** A 9 - 1 victory over Kingfisher 'J' and 8 - 2 win on Tilehurst Methodists 'B' helped them to keep their promotion dreams alive.

### Our Lady Of Peace 'D'

 **Mid-table stability!** A strong performance has kept them in 5th place, with 7 victories so far. Nonetheless, their inconsistency persists, and they will require additional significant wins to enter the top four.


**Key Players:** James Smith, Louise Forster and Patrick McIntosh are joint top performer with 60% win rate.



JAMES SMITH OF OLOP D

**Key Results:** Last two consecutive wins helped them secure their spot in the upper side of the table.

### Sonning Common & Peppard 'E'


 **Struggles continue!** Sitting in 6th place, they have lost 9 matches so far. They could only win one match after mid-season break. They are very comfortable in their spot but they need a strong finish to avoid slipping further, and

preserve their hardly earned mid-table spot.

**Key Players:** Gerry Bacon is the only player who has more than 50% average.

**Key Results:** Their only win in the second half against Tidmarsh 'D' is crucial for them.


### Tilehurst Methodists 'B'

 **Boosting their performance!** After a difficult start, they have achieved 5 victories and 3 draws, placing them in 7th position in the standings. Currently, they are safe from relegation to the bottom of the table.

**Key Players:** With a 71% win rate, Nigel Rowland was the team's standout player this season.

**Key Results:** The 9 - 1 victory against their A team was the best performance by the team which was crucial to staying a bit safer from the relegation zone.


### Tidmarsh 'D'

 **Still in trouble!** They are currently in 8th place, and their form this season has been inconsistent. Their greatest advantage is that they still have 2 matches in hand, so they must quickly find consistency; otherwise, they risk slipping into the danger zone.

**Key Players:** Ray Webb is their top performer, boasting a 63% advantage and consistently winning games in every match.

**Key Results:** Winning against their competitors, Tilehurst Methodists 'A', by an 8 - 2 margin was significant for them to remain above the danger zone.


### Tilehurst Methodists 'A'

 **Relegation fight!** A challenging season continues, but things are improving for them. Following their first win in December, they have been achieving better results. They are now just one point away from the relegation zone, which remains concerning for them, though prior to mid-season they were in 10th place despite having played more matches.

**Key Players:** Jes Eassom has been a rising star for them. Especially after fully recovering from his shoulder injury, he has been achieving triples in most matches, which is instrumental for the team if they are to remain in Division 3.

**Key Results:** Winning 8 - 2 against Kingfisher 'J' was crucial as it allowed them to move up in the table and placed Kingfisher 'J' in a challenging position.

### Kingfisher 'J'

 **Relegation battle came out of nowhere!** Before mid-season, they were quite comfortable in 7th position. However, they lost crucial matches, which further complicated their standing. Despite a minor improvement, they are at risk. Every match is now a must-win!



## Sonning Common & Peppard 'D'

### Slipping slightly.

Previously 2nd, they have now dropped to 4th place. However, they are still in the promotion battle with 97 points. They must regain momentum quickly to stay in contention.

**Key Players:** Jeremy Willis and Ian Davenport are the top 2 performing players for the Sonning Common and Peppard team.



NEIL ABBOT

### DIV 3 LEADING AVERAGES

James Miller	Sonning Sports C	36	32	88.89%
Jeremy Willis	SC&P D	30	26	86.67%
Clive Taylor	Pangbourne WMC	28	24	85.71%
Tim Challenger	Sonning Sports B	30	25	83.33%
Ian Davenport	SC&P D	27	22	81.48%
Brett Hastings	Sonning Sports B	36	29	80.56%
John Simmonds	Pangbourne WMC	35	27	77.14%
Graham Stark	OLOP C	33	25	75.76%
Daniel Dzieciol	OLOP C	36	26	72.22%
Simon Brookes	OLOP C	18	13	72.22%
Anthony Reeve	SC&P D	39	28	71.79%
Neil Abbott	Kingfisher J	21	15	71.43%
Nigel Rowland	Tilehurst Meths B	21	15	71.43%
Jes Eassom	Tilehurst Meths A	36	23	63.89%
Mark Carless	OLOP C	33	21	63.64%

**Key Results:** A 9 - 1 victory over Kingfisher 'J' and 8 - 2 win on Tilehurst Methodists 'B' helped them to keep their promotion dreams alive.

### Our Lady Of Peace 'D'

**Mid-table stability!** A strong performance has kept them in 5th place, with 7 victories so far. Nonetheless, their inconsistency persists, and they will require additional significant wins to enter the top four.

**Key Players:** James Smith, Louise Forster and Patrick McIntosh are joint top performer with 60% win rate.

**Key Results:** Last two consecutive wins helped them secure their spot in the upper side of the table.

### Sonning Common & Peppard 'E'

**Struggles continue!** Sitting in 6th place, they have lost 9 matches so far. They could only win one match after mid-season break. They are very comfortable in their spot but they need a strong finish to avoid slipping further, and preserve their hard-earned mid-table spot.

**Key Players:** Gerry Bacon is the only player who has more than 50% average.

**Key Results:** Their only win in the second half against Tidmarsh 'D' is crucial for them.

### Tilehurst Methodists 'B'

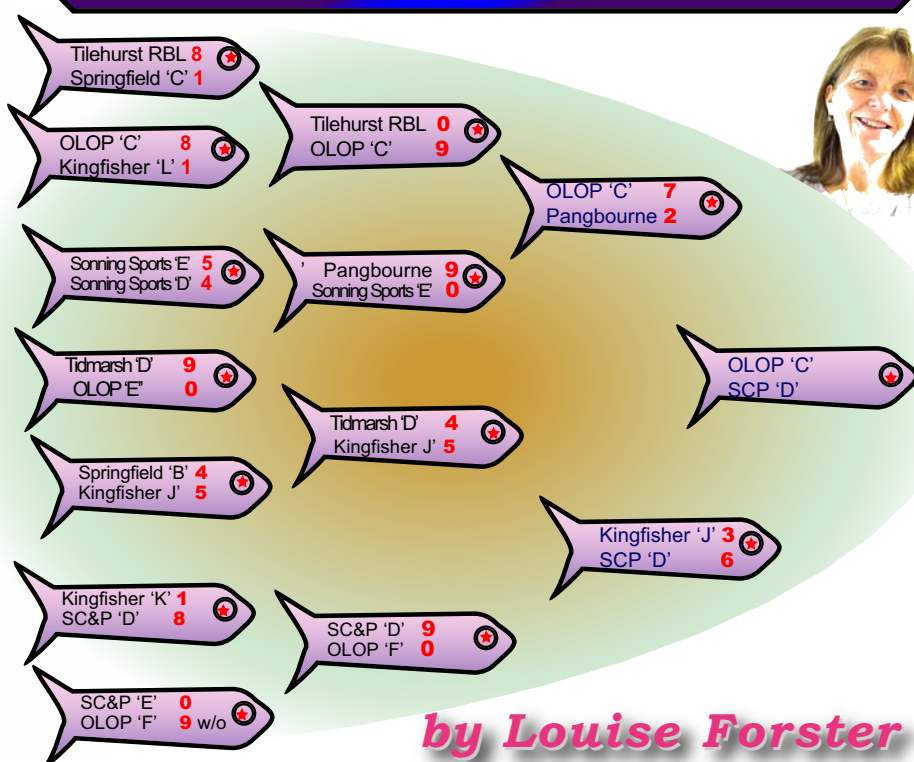
**Boosting their performance!** After a difficult start, they have achieved 5 victories and 3 draws, placing them in 7th position in the standings. Currently, they are safe from relegation to the bottom of the table.

The Lower Divisions Knockout Cup reached the semi final stages in February. First match up saw OLOP C take on Pangbourne. With both teams currently competing for the Division 3 title I expected this to be a close match. On the night however Pangbourne only had 2 players, and because this is a doubles competition this meant that only 3 out of the 9 sets could be played. Leroy Wilson and John Simmonds put up a good fight and won two out of three - beating Gopi Ponnappalli and Simon Brookes, and then Simon and Mark Carless. Despite this, the lack of a full team meant that OLOP C took the win 7 - 2.

The second semi final was a closely fought match between SC&P D and Kingfisher J. The Sonning Common team took a 6 - 3 win with the pairing of Jez Willis and Anthony Reeve remaining unbeaten throughout the match.

So the final, in April, will see OLOP C meeting SC&P D, it should be an interesting match

## LOWER DIVISIONS TOURNAMENT







# DIVISION FOUR

by Martin Adams

It's a real pleasure to be entering the results and to write a short division 4 update on behalf of Mick, who continues to recover away from the table. I'm confident he'll be back for the end-of-season edition. Also thank you for the match comments – while I know some of you personally I'd love to put more names to faces at the Presentation evening on 4th June.

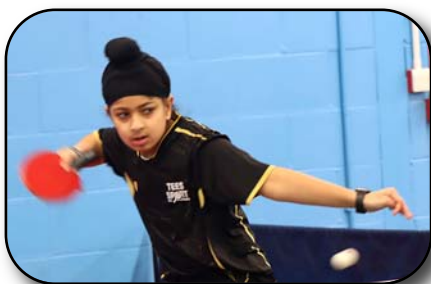
**First** place and as-yet unbeaten **Springfield 'B'** look to have done enough to romp home as division winners. They find themselves five ahead with a match in hand over second, and ten ahead of third with two matches in hand - and have already negotiated and beaten their two nearest rivals, Kingfisher



ROB ATTACK, BENSON SHIU AND LUDO COUILLARD

'L' 6 - 4 and OLOP 'E' 10 - 0. Their top four of Ludovic Couillard, Robert Attack (Good name unless you're a defender), Marcello Caramma and Steve O'Connor show only 2's and 3's on their cards all season. And while Benson Shiu's average is not nearly as high he has contributed at least one point in every single appearance. What a team!

To **second** and **Kingfisher 'L'** – Pehej Vig is the Reading Closed junior champion and Individual handicap champion – what more can you say? Oh, he's only got a 100% unbeaten record! They look to be



PEHEJ VIG

heading for promotion as they dampened the challenge from OLOP 'E' with an impressive 8 - 2 victory. Aside from the additional high averages also coming from Atinc Erguven and the occasional call-up for Noah Reid, it's perhaps regulars Ian Shailer and Sue Parker who may enjoy their medal the most if they can hold their position.

**OLOP 'E'** is **third**. Pat Daniels is still unbeaten in 2025 and showed great leadership to keep his cool and score a maximum in their recent 5 - 5 draw with KFK coming from

1 - 2 down to outsmart HouronTsun, and then again in a 5 - 5 draw at TRBL as he edged Paul Treadgold 8-11, 6-11, 12-10, 12-10, 12-10 ! And Susan and Wade joined in the family action as they both performed well to beat John Walker that night. Fitz Licorish isn't far behind Pat in the averages and Derek Brook has been a regular pick so far in 2025 with an impressive performance carrying his team in a tight 6 - 4 victory over Sonning Sports 'D' after Christmas.



HOURLON TSUN

**Tilehurst RBL 'C'** next in **fourth** - Nice consistent team this, scoring 4,5,5,7 in 2025, the two draws being earnt against KFL and OLOP 'E' (both above them in the table). Geoff Johnson and Paul Treadgold lead the way on 76% and 70% respectively with Linda King not far behind. Jim Brent's stats are on a downward trend as are John Walker's, but they have been called up for some tough encounters. They have a couple of matches in hand but will need to make the most of them to catch up to third.

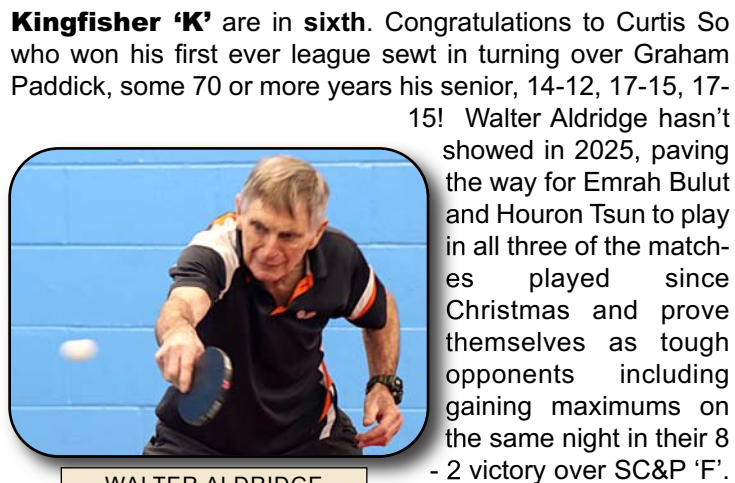
	DIV 4	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Springfield B	13	12	1	0	101	29	101
2	Kingfisher L	14	9	3	2	96	44	96
3	OLOP E	15	10	2	3	91	59	91
4	Tilehurst RBL C	13	6	2	5	74	56	74
5	OLOP F	14	6	2	6	70	70	70
6	Kingfisher K	12	5	1	6	61	59	61
7	SC&P F	14	2	3	9	55	85	55
8	Sonning Sports D	14	3	1	10	48	92	48
9	Springfield C	12	2	4	6	41	79	41
10	Sonning Sports E	13	1	3	9	33	97	33

**Fifth** now and **OLOP 'F'**– Despite their W70-L70 record their player averages are spread across the extremities of the list. We have Abishek Saraf who has only lost to Pehej. Anish and Krishiv Shukul boast an encouraging 60% or so, and while much lower down the list, Adi Kapoor, Isaac Doel and Kaushik Shula have all contributed to the tally. So far in 2025 they have been pretty ruthless against lower placed teams (scoring 7, 8 and 10) but could not make much impression on those above them (scoring only 1 and 2).

Although they could gain some places once postponed games are redeemed partly due to Mick's illness,



KRISHIV SHUKUL



WALTER ALDRIDGE

**Kingfisher 'K'** are in **sixth**. Congratulations to Curtis So who won his first ever league sewt in turning over Graham Paddick, some 70 or more years his senior, 14-12, 17-15, 17-15! Walter Aldridge hasn't showed in 2025, paving the way for Emrah Bulut and Houron Tsun to play in all three of the matches played since Christmas and prove themselves as tough opponents including gaining maximums on the same night in their 8 - 2 victory over SC&P 'F'.

**Sonning Common & Peppard 'F'** are in **seventh** and Dave Riddle continues to impress, earning a comfortable 3 - 0 over Ludo and an unbeaten performance over TRBL helping them to a 6 - 4 victory. Simon Blake has upped his appearance rate in 2025 and put in some solid performances including helping Dave on the same night to earn the scalps of Linda King and Jim Brent. They joined up again to earn a 5 - 5 draw against Springfield 'C'. Captain Alistair Scott has encountered some tough opponents recently, as have Derek Brooke-Wavell and Graham Paddick, but I expect some decent results in the final run.

**Sonning Sports 'D'** are in **eighth** position and yet to earn an overall victory in 2025 despite having played their E team and Phil Cantor winning two on the night. More points are trickling in - such as when John Scott managed two singles wins against both KFK and OLOP 'E'. Nick Cook and Peter Evans have also earnt points, as have a couple of handy E team reserves being drafted in due to unavailability. (Including KC's two at TRBL!).

Splitting the Sonning Sports squads in **ninth** is **Springfield 'C'** but their low position is certainly not down to Richard Sabberton-Coe. Riding high on 71% with several

## DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Pehej Vig	Kingfisher L	33	33	100.00%
Noah Reid	Kingfisher L	12	12	100.00%
Abhishek Saraf	OLOP F	21	20	95.24%
Ludovic Couillard	Springfield B	24	22	91.67%
Atinc Erguven	Kingfisher L	24	21	87.50%
Marcello Caramma	Springfield B	21	18	85.71%
Patrick Daniels	OLOP E	30	25	83.33%
Steve O'Connor	Springfield B	18	15	83.33%
Robert Attack	Springfield B	27	22	81.48%
David Riddle	SC&P F	30	24	80.00%
Walter Aldridge	Kingfisher K	15	12	80.00%
Fitz Licorish	OLOP E	33	26	78.79%
Geoff Johnson	Tilehurst RBL C	21	16	76.19%

impressive victories including Dave Riddle, the team has shown promise in drawing two of its three matches (Sonning Sports 'E' and SC&P 'F') since the turn. Both Shas Veeramani and Paul Martin have identical stats, a creditable 10/21. Adele Ireland has also contributed points in 2025 and I do hope James McGeough can get off the mark before the season is out.

Propping up the Reading league (well someone has to) is **Sonning Sports 'E'** but they did not only pick up an impressive draw over Springfield 'C', but also went one better, celebrating their first victory of the season over their D team. It was unsurprisingly the same combination, as KC Leung earnt 'player of the match', remaining unbeaten and teaming up with Dave Chard (who won two more) to take the doubles, the final score being 6 - 4. Well done too to Arun Mehra who picked up a first season win over Isaac Doel (who also succumbed to Mo Cole on the night). Stephen Edwards has won a point in 2025 (against Susan Daniels) - unfortunately it was for the D team!

Get well soon, **Mick**.

## HOT FLASHES FROM THE READING CLOSED!



DIVISION ONE FINAL



MIXED DOUBLES



Jordan  
v  
Pej

- **Division One Final** - In a knife-sharp contest, two top Kingfisher raptors (**Graham Mendick** and **Hari Gehlot**) fight it out for the Division One title. Last two games shown. **Watch the video (above)**
- **Mixed Doubles** - something special happened when three of the biggest names in Reading table tennis (**Wendy Porter**, **Daniel Moses** and **Ian Cole**) joined up with an intriguing newcomer: **Pallavi Urani**. This is a full set.
- **Jordan v Pej** - Half way through the Reading Closed an electric thrill surged through the Cippenham table tennis hall. Young Division 4 sensation **Pehej Vig** - who had already won the Individual Handicap - was now undertaking the demolition of **Jordan Huang**, a Div 1 star from Kingfisher B. See their last two games.

These videos are an extra bonus with the present Newsletter The Reading Closed tournament itself will be fully covered in our next issue, with more vdeos on that date. The sucesses of young Pehej and the return ot Wendy Porter are two of the good things in store.