

November 2014

**READING
& DISTRICT
TABLE TENNIS
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER**

Editor: DEREK WAVELL



A grail worth striving for...

Photo by Didier Garçon

HOLD ON TIGHT...

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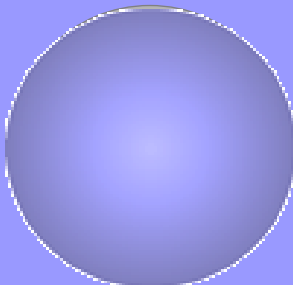
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...to your sick bag, because we're off.

All five senior divisions have been lovingly caught at the end of their first quarter, by their own Fixture Secretary. And as usual, we have photos of the best players - courtesy of image-mage Didier Garçon. Not in action, but receiving well-deserved rewards for their triumphs - at the prize day in May.

There are many trophies and some - like the cup above - are real works of art.

Look out for tributes to the late Bob Anderson, and the retiring Dave West.

I have done my best with this newsletter, and updated my computer and software for it. Well, the computer coped a lot faster than before, but this was a learning experience for me, so please be tolerant!

As usual there are some videos, on page 6.

Good luck and have a good year

Derek



Key Facts from the RDTTA Secretary

1. Individual Handicap Competition - This season's event will take place on **Sunday 4th January 2015** at the Kingfisher Club. Entry forms were issued to Club Secretaries for distribution at the start of the season and they are also available on the website or from Nigel Maltby. Entries should be sent to Duncan Abbott by the closing date of Wednesday 31st December. This is always a great competition to enter - the first 40 entries will be accepted.

2. Reading Closed Championships - The dates for the championships have been provisionally booked for the Kingfisher club for **Sat/Sun 14th/15th Feb 2015** (Senior & Veteran events) and **Sat/Sun 21st/22nd Feb 2015** (Junior events). However, as yet we do not have a volunteer to run the senior/veterans and unless we do it may be cancelled.

3. Berkshire Closed Championships - At the Kingfisher club on **Saturday 6th December 2014** (veterans singles) and **Sunday 7th December** (all other events). Entry forms can be printed out from the RCBTTA web site on <http://www.berkshiretabletennis.co.uk/berkshireClosed.htm>. A fee of £6.00 is paid for entry to the Men's or Ladies' Singles events, and a further £6.00 covers all the other events. Entries to Allan Bruton by 21st November.

4. Invitation Challenge Shield - Knockout competition for Div 1 and leading Div 2 teams - Due to a lack of interest and the number of conceded or unplayed matches over the past few seasons the RDTTA has decided not to run this competition in 2014/15.

Finally I hope everyone is enjoying their table tennis this year. As you will have noticed we are fortunate to once again have an exact number of 60 team entries this year which has meant that we have five full divisions of 12 teams. This is good news as it means everyone has a full quota of league matches. It has however meant that a number of teams (my own in Division 1 included) have had to be elevated to higher divisions than they may have wished. I know some of these teams may struggle this season but I hope they will enjoy the experience of playing at a higher level and will grasp the opportunity to improve their skills by the end of the season.

Nigel Maltby



Players who haven't yet found where **Kingfisher's** new club house is are advised to look on their web site:

<https://www.tabletennis365.com/Kingfisher/Pages/Location>



Sonning Sports 'A' have shared their team mascot with us, to enhance the look of this page!

Notes from our Chairman

by Nigel Rowland

Welcome to another season of table tennis and wish you all success in the season to come. Unfortunately some will have more success than others without this there would be no winners or participants! Note, I did not use the obvious word, as far as your committee is concerned we are all winners for participating.

I have yet another appeal for help on your committee. Once again I have taken the role on temporarily until we can find a willing volunteer. Should you feel you want to make a difference and drive forward Reading and District Table Tennis Association please contact any member of the committee. We also need a minute secretary, its not a difficult role other than attending the majority of the meetings, about six a year.

It looks like we may not be running the Reading Senior Closed this year due to a lack of volunteers, we as a committee cannot do everything ourselves and not all of us have the skills necessary to run an event like this.



Certainly past volunteers have done a superb job and have been given commendations at committee meetings and the AGM. Please let us know if you can help.

I would like to thank all of my committee for their hard work so far this year. Without this we would not have a league structure, administration, player registrations, trophies, a web site, cash flow, special competitions, a youth structure, a newsletter or table tennis results entry.

Other volunteers need to be given the warmest thanks. At club level we have committees, club secretaries, coaches, captains, tea makers and at one club fantastic cakes made by a mum, perhaps marketing as Mrs Abbott's cakes! Every contribution, no matter how small is always appreciated.

Have a great season.

Nigel Rowland

R&DTTA Awards For 2013-2014

On Tuesday 6th May this year, the Reading Association's annual awards were presented at the Curzon Club premises. Many of the photos which appear later in this Newsletter were taken at that event. Nigel Maltby, our Secretary, announced the prize-winners, and Derek Harrison presented the prizes.

NB - [mauve links](#) show page N° of photo.

LIST OF AWARDS:

READING CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS WINNERS:

Mens Singles	Hari Gehlot P3
Ladies Singles:	Lisa Williams P11
Mens Doubles:	Daniel Moses & Daniel McTiernan P10
Ladies Doubles:	Lisa Williams and Wendy Porter P13
Mixed Doubles	Daniel Moses & Wendy Porter
U21 Singles	Daniel McTiernan P4
U18 Boys Singles	Daniel McTiernan P4



PAUL TREADGOLD (TROPHY SECRETARY)
WITH DEREK HARRISON



GWYNNE PENNY AND HARI GEHLOT

U15 Boys Singles	Gus Thomis P9
U13 Boys Singles	Thomas Perkins P19
U11 Boys Singles	Jamie Liu P4
Boys Doubles	Dan McTiernan & Sam Ricks P8
U15 Girls Singles	Scarlett Jones
Youth Division:	Joe Barraclough P19
Veteran Singles:	Hari Gehlot P3
Senior Vet Singles:	Hari Gehlot
Over 60s Singles:	John Barclay
Div 1 restricted:	Danny Ricks P5
Division 2	Steve Miller
Division 3	Grant Wheatley P14
Division 4	Angus Jones P20
Division 5	Zdzislaw Jerzmanski P18

CHAMPION TEAMS OF THE SEASON

Division 1 Champions:	OLOP 'A' P10
Runners-up:	Kingfisher 'A'
Division 2 Champions:	Tidmarsh 'C' P3
Runners-up:	Wokingham 'A'
Division 3 Champions:	Wokingham 'B'
Runners-up:	OLOP 'E'
Division 4 Champions:	Sonning C&P 'D' P18
Runners-up:	OLOP 'F' P17



TIDMARSH 'C' - LEE CALCUTT, PETE SINCLAIR AND DAVE



LEO THOMIS OF THE SPARTANS

Division 5 Champions:

Polish 'C' [P18](#)

Runners-up:

OLOP 'G' [P4](#)

Youth Div 1 winners:

Spartans [P4](#)

Runners-up:

Tigers [P19](#)

Youth Div 2 Winners:

Lions

Runners-up:

Knights [P19](#)

Reading Chronicle Trophy Winner: Daniel McTiernan [P4](#)

Evening Post Trophy Winner: Phil Saunders

John Freeman Trophy Winner: Luca Bianchi [P5](#)



JAMIE LIU



DANIEL McTIERNAN



FELIX THOMIS



OLOP 'G' - JAN POLNIK, WILLIS MA & CHRIS BUNN

DANNY RICKS



OLOP 'B' - NEIL BIRD, DANNY RICKS,
GUS THOMIS & DANIEL McTIERNAN



Team Handicap Winners

Runners-up:

Lower Divisions Cup winners:

Runners-up:

Individual Handicap Winner

Runner-up:

Reading Senior Masters Winner:

Runner-up:

Reading Junior Masters Winner:

Runner-up:

Standard Cup for the Most Improved Junior: **Michael McAllister**

Best Junior Performance: **Daniel McTiernan**

Alan Dines Memorial Trophy: **Chris Moses**

Harold Larcombe Sportsmanship Award: **Bob Winter**

OLOP 'B' [P5](#)

OLOP 'D'

OLOP 'F' [P17](#)

Tidmarsh 'D' [P19](#)

Luca Bianchi [P5](#)

Stephen Yon

Federico Viterbo [P9](#)

Hari Gehlot [P3](#)

Joshua Gallen [P6](#)

Siad Cole [P6](#)

Michael McAllister

Daniel McTiernan [P4](#)

Chris Moses [P5](#)

Bob Winter [P5](#)

LUCA BIANCHI



BOB WINTER



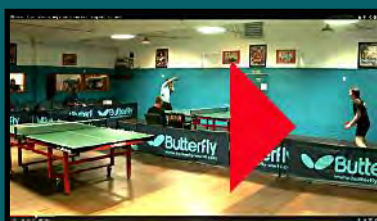
CHRIS MOSES



CLICK ON A THUMBNAIL TO PLAY THE VIDEO



**Final:
Hari Gehlot v
Federico Viterbo**



**Playoff:
Daniel Moses v
Trung Tran**



**Junior Final:
Josh Gallen v
Siad Cole**

Here's a small showcase of our best players - videos of six of them in action. The three videos above were all taken by Didier Garçon at the Reading Masters, senior and junior, in August. In the final (left) Federico Viterbo beat Hari Gehlot.

BOB ANDERSON - A MEMORABLE TILEHURST COACH

Bob sadly passed away on 11th September 2014 at the age of 87. Hailing originally from Washington Village, Tyne and Wear, Bob was a lifelong Table tennis enthusiast and Sunderland football club supporter. Many Reading Table Tennis players will remember Bob particularly those associated with the Tilehurst Methodist's club and the old Woodlands club.

Bob moved to the Reading area in the mid 1960's and my earliest recollections of him are when he was playing for Woodlands and coaching his son Brian at Woodlands in the mid 1970's. Brian also reminded me of his association with Vic Harding's coaching sessions at Bulmershe in the mid 1970's.

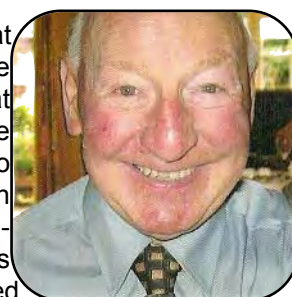
Tilehurst Methodists TT club was founded in 1977 and I know that Geoff Cadwallader was delighted when Bob offered his coaching services to them in 1979. In 1981 both Bob and his friend Les Dunn moved from Woodlands to play for Tilehurst Methodists. He played for and coached at the Methodists until moving to Sherborne in Dorset in 2000.

A year or so before moving to Sherbourne Bob was awarded the 'Harold Larcombe' Trophy for Sportsmanship.

Bob had a successful playing career winning many trophies but it is not widely known that he was an outstanding coach particularly in regard to his ability to get beginners to pick up skills quickly and to lay technically sound foundations. Having helped Bob with his coaching sessions at Tilehurst Methodists I can confidently say that he was 'by a country mile' the best coach I have known for giving players of all abilities the best possible start in Table Tennis. His patience and demonstration of good backhand technique always impressed me but unfortunately it was too late to change mine.

Among the many players that Bob coached at the Tilehurst Methodists club were ; Chris Bosley, Keith Winter, Mary Allen, Barry Carter, Glyn and Alison Cadwallader, Mark Brent, Lisa and Lee Calcutt, Cath Venning, Ian Virgo

and Ben Johnson. I am sure that they and many more all appreciate Bob's input and I also know that Bob was very grateful for all those people at the Methodist's club who helped him with the coaching. In particular Chris Bosley who invariably helped him with the sessions and provided the support needed for a successful coaching session.



BOB ANDERSON

There is reluctance with many coaches to pass on players that have developed rapidly and that have the potential to reach a very high standard. Such was the case of Ben Johnson but Bob was satisfied that he had given him a good start and was pleased to pass him on to Jim Stokes for further development. Ben went on to represent England on many occasions and it is a credit to Bob's coaching that no major changes in basic technique were required for Ben.

Such was his enthusiasm for Table Tennis that on moving to Sherborne Bob carried on with his coaching and helped the Youth 3A over 55 club until 2012 when his eyesight deteriorated to such an extent that he was forced to stop. Geoff Cadwallader and myself very much enjoyed our visits to Sherborne to keep in touch with Bob and talk about Table Tennis and 'the old days'.

It was always a pleasure to meet Bob as his kindness and humility always shone through as did his sense of humour. Although he was a lifelong Sunderland supporter my inward eye can picture him having a really good laugh at the social media comments going around now. 'I would eight to be a Sunderland supporter right now'.

Mike Maynard

Team Handicap Competition 2014-15

organised by Duncan Abbott

The Team Handicap is a knockout competition open to all teams in the Reading & District League. All players are given handicaps by the RDTTA Handicap Committee based on their recent results. In a Team Handicap match the three players from one team play all players from the other team, 21-up, taking into account the relevant handicaps. There is no doubles contest. Corresponding rounds must be played by week comencing:

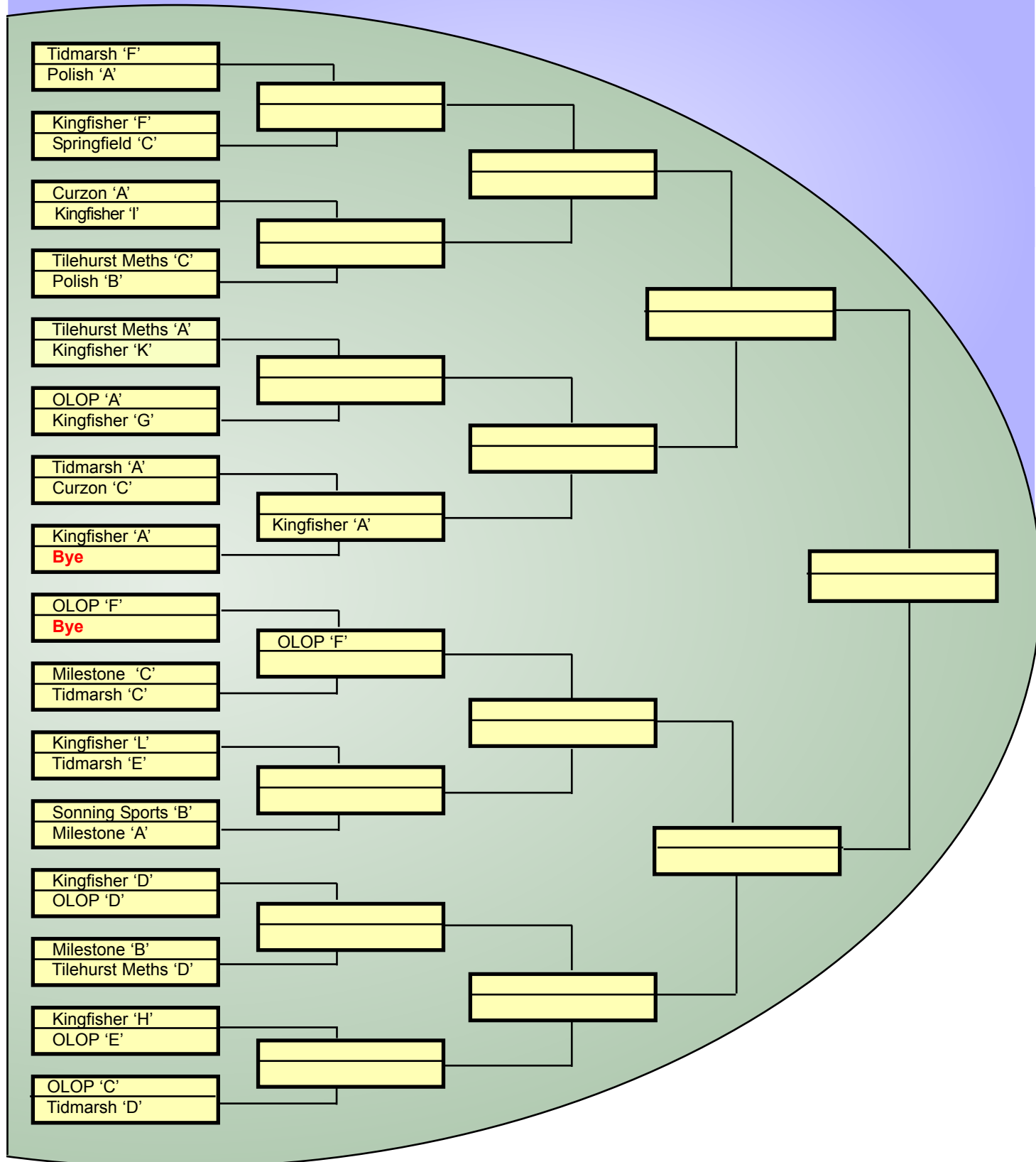
24 Nov

15 Dec

16 Feb

20 March

8 April



DIVISION ONE *by Nigel Maltby*

Well hello everyone and welcome to another division 1 season of table tennis. My thanks to Malcolm Gregory for looking after this division for the past few seasons. I will be nowhere near as funny in my reports, as I am more a facts and numbers type of guy, but I'll give it a go. Looking ahead I will enjoy being Divisional Fixture Secretary this year but we are always looking for new blood on the Reading Committee and if anyone fancies taking on this role, or any other on the Committee next season then please let me know (full training will be provided!).



Just to prove I'm a stats man, I've played 911 table tennis matches to date (since 1974), played 2,733 sets, won 1,337 and lost 1,396 (Just under 50%)! If anyone wants to know their individual record against me it's all there in a neat excel document. Perhaps I'll bore you with a few in some future report. On the football front, Reading v Derby County on the 18th October was my 999th Reading home match – Reading v Blackpool on the 25th will be my 1,000th. Anyone bored or impressed yet?!!! Probably one or two alarmed and the others are phoning the authorities! Back to the table tennis....

Team selection and availability will be key in the matches

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingfisher A	5	5	0	0	45	5	10
Kingfisher B	5	5	0	0	42	8	10
OLOP A	3	3	0	0	29	1	6
Tidmarsh A	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Wokingham A	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Kingfisher D	5	2	0	3	22	28	4
Tidmarsh B	5	1	2	2	18	32	4
OLOP B	5	1	1	3	12	38	3
Reading YMCA	3	1	0	2	15	15	2
Kingfisher C	4	0	1	3	10	30	1
Sonning C & P B	5	0	1	4	10	40	1
Sonning C & P A	4	0	0	4	8	32	0

between the top two teams who I'm sure will be **Kingfisher 'A'** and **Our Lady of Peace 'A'**. Who will come out on top needs a better man than me to predict – but..... I'm leaning towards a Kingfisher title this year simply because I think their top three, if on form, will be better than OLOP's. There, I've said it. So if my TT predicting is as good as my weekly football bets then OLOP will be lifting the trophy come March!

There is of course the possibility of one or both dropping points elsewhere. **Kingfisher 'B'** and **Tidmarsh 'A'** are the most likely culprits. These two teams should complete the top 4. Tidmarsh duo Sam and Danny Ricks are very good players, still improving, which is ominous for the rest of us. Danny's appearances will be fleeting as he is now away at uni. For Kingfisher 'B' Martin Adams is an average player at least! But if he were to win all three against the top teams then a point at least is not out of the question.

There are the usual mix of teams to follow, who are way too good to go down, but not quite good enough to be up there challenging – **YMCA**, **Kingfisher 'C'**, **SC&P 'A'** make up these teams. Neil Hurford of YM and Steve Murgatroyd of Kingfisher should keep their teams safe for another year. I'm not sure what to make of **Kingfisher 'D'** yet but they have at least one quality player in Philip Zeng so should be okay. The same can probably be said of promoted **Wokingham 'A'**, especially with Grahams Outrim and Diplock in tandem.

This leaves three teams left to battle against the drop, **Tidmarsh 'B'**, **SC&P 'B'** and **Our Lady of Peace 'B'**. My gut tells me Tidmarsh will be okay, indeed they may finish much higher – however a nagging doubt as always with OLOP as teams from that club rarely get involved in relegation scraps. As for my own SC&P 'B' team it's very unlikely we will survive but Simon and Jeremy at their best could keep us off the bottom.

Tidmarsh 'A' won a tight opening match with Kingfisher 'D' 6 - 4, Sam Ricks, Danny Ricks and Lee Calcutt all winning twice, however none could cope with Kingfisher ace Philip Zeng who managed an impressive treble. Lee's 4-11 10-12 11-5 11-3 11-9 comeback win against Yuan proved vital in set 3. An 8 - 2 win at SC&P 'B' followed, with Sam Ricks and



SAM RICKS

Duncan Groves getting maximums. Sam, Tony Brown and Nick Barnes were in fine form as they trounced Our Lady of Peace 'B' 10 - 0. Their match against OLOP 'A' was postponed. They could only 'field' two players at Kingfisher 'A', but even so the Ricks boys put up a good fight before going down 7 - 3, Danny earning a notable 4-11 11-8 13-11 13-11 win against Mark Banks and he also won a tight match with Stuart Williams 11-4 12-14 11-13 11-6 13-11.

Pre Season Prediction 4th – Current Prediction 4th.

Team Stats: Duncan (100%), Nick (100%), Tony (100%), Sam (75%), Danny (67%), Lee (50%)

Sonning Common & Peppard 'B' returned from their opening visit to Our Lady of Peace 'B' with a hard earned point thanks to two apiece from yours truly and Jeremy Willis, as well as the pair teaming up to win the important doubles set. This was an excellent start for a team that has been 'relegated' from Division 1 three years running! The team are now without Paul Jarvis who has moved to Poole on the south coast, but have gained Brian Meheux from their 'C' team. They will, as ever, be reliant on the battling qualities of Simon Berry as and when he can be persuaded to turn out (to date none!). An 8 - 2 loss to Tidmarsh 'A' saw Jeremy and Nigel gain wins over Lee Calcutt, Nigel's victory by the tightest of margins at 11-6 8-11 11-5 8-11 12-10. Brian & Nigel then travelled to Kingfisher 'A' and were sent packing almost within the hour! Brian then managed a good first win of the season after he beat YMCA's Dave Gilham 11-7 7-11 15-13 11-7. Nigel also beat Dave, just! 11-9 in the fifth, however YM ran out comfortable 8 - 2 winners. Jeremy beat an out of sorts Andrew Smith for their only win in a 9 - 1 defeat at Kingfisher 'B'.

Pre Season Prediction 11th – Current Prediction 12th.

Team Stats: Jeremy (33%), Nigel (27%), Brian (7%)

Our Lady of Peace 'B' looked like a team fearing the worst this season in their first match against SC&P 'B' after finding themselves in Division 1 with a team that finished in 3rd place in Division 2 last term. However they recovered from 3 - 5 down to grab a point, Steve Miller (a class act when he's not moaning about nets, edges and defenders!) with a treble that included a 14-12 7-11 11-7 7-11 11-5 win over Jeremy Willis.



FEDERICO VITERBO

Chris West and Clive Perry both managed singles to help them find their feet at this level. Heavy 0 - 10 defeats to Our Lady of Peace 'A', Tidmarsh 'A' and Kingfisher 'A' followed, no great surprise, but doing nothing to build confidence that they can stay up. This all changed at YMCA where Steve and Gus Thomis teamed up to give them a fine first win of the season 7 - 3. It's dangerous to predict any OLOP team for relegation, but this is a tough division – even if nowhere near as tough as when I first started playing in the mid 1970's.

Pre-Season Prediction 12th - Current Prediction 11th

Team Stats: Gus (100%), Steve (50%), Clive (17%), Chris W (11%), Dan W (0%) Lawrence (0%)

Kingfisher 'D' just lost out in their opener against Tidmarsh 'A' 4 - 6 despite that impressive treble from Philip Zeng. Philip almost pulled off a major coup before just missing out against Kingfisher 'A's top dog Federico Viterbo 11-13 7-11 11-8 11-7 11-13 in a 0 - 10 defeat. Things eventually got better at the third time of asking as they won a tightly fought match at YMCA 6 - 4, Philip and new recruit Eduard Calliman both getting maximums where any win against YM's Neil Hurford is a worthy achievement. A 3 - 7 loss to clubmates Kingfisher 'B' followed before an impressive 9 - 1 win at Wokingham 'A' (Details of the latter not yet available as I go to print)

Pre season Prediction 8th - Current Prediction 5th
Team Stats: Philip (67%), Eduard (67%), Hari (0%), Trevor (0%), Yuan (0%) (Not Counting Wokingham Away)



GUS THOMIS



DIVISION ONE CHAMPIONS OF LAST SEASON OLOP 'A' - DAN MOSES, SAM LIU, KRASI IVANOV AND IAN COLE

Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' have not got going yet due to player unavailability issues early on. This should improve, as will their current points tally of zero! They predictably lost 2 - 8 at Kingfisher 'A', Keith Swain and Jason Roberts both earning hard fought five game victories over Kingfisher's Stuart Williams. Jason ran Andrew Smith extremely close in their 9 - 1 defeat to Kingfisher 'B', Jason just missing out in a fifth game decider. Keith, Jason and Malcolm Gregory will pick up some points from teams in mid table and so long as there are no slip ups against the lower teams they will be okay. A third defeat in a row followed, as a weakened team lost 8 - 2 at home to Wokingham 'A', Jason getting both their wins including a win over Graham Diplock 6-11 11-6 17-15 11-6 and also beating Graham Outtrim. Then a two man team lost out at Tidmarsh 'B' 7 - 3, Jason winning two but losing to reserve Dave Reynolds jnr while Malcolm managed a first win of the season.

Pre Season Prediction 7th – Current Prediction 10th

Team Stats: Jason (50%), Keith (17%), Malcolm (11%)

Kingfisher 'A' made a bright start by defeating Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' 8 - 2, Hari Gehlot and Mark Banks with maximums. Hari, Tony Reynolds and Federico Viterbo (just! – See Kingfisher 'D' report) all got trebles as they saw off club mates Kingfisher 'D' 10 - 0. Two man Sonning Common & Peppard 'B' were never going to trouble them (10 - 0 win!), while Our Lady of Peace 'B' were similarly dispatched 10 - 0. The first big test saw them hold off a two man Tidmarsh 'A' side to win 7 - 3. Hari was in top form, beating Sam Ricks 11-9 10-12 11-5 11-3 and Danny Ricks 11-6 11-7 9-11 11-2, while Mark decided to revert to his old bat having practised all week with his new one – apparently not a wise decision!

Pre Season Prediction 1st – Current Prediction 1st

Team Stats: Hari (100%), Federico (100%), Tony (100%), Mark (86%), Stuart (60%)

Our Lady of Peace 'A' trio Danny Moses, Krasi Ivanov and

Ian Cole all got hat tricks as they began their championship challenge with a comprehensive 10 - 0 win against their 'B' team club mates. Danny and Krasi were again on treble hitting form as they beat Tidmarsh 'B' 9 - 1, Danny and Ian needing 4 games to see off 'B' team reserve Michael McAllister. A potentially tricky match at Tidmarsh 'A' was postponed to a later date and they also have an outstanding fixture away at Wokingham 'A' to re-arrange. So as a result they have only played two matches to date and been gifted a 10 - 0 win by Kingfisher C.

Pre Season Prediction 2nd – Current Prediction 2nd.

Team Stats: Danny (100%), Krasi (100%), Ian (100%), Trung (67%)

Kingfisher 'B' may just threaten the top two this year, despite losing the 'volatile' Steve Dobbins. With Martin Adams and Andrew Smith in their side they will be a tough nut to crack. They have added John Barclay to their squad from Tidmarshland, and there are rumours of another top quality

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	PL	W	%
Martin Adams	Kingfisher 'B'	15	15	100
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher 'A'	13	13	100
Danny Moses	OLOP 'A'	6	6	100
Krasi Ivanov	OLOP 'A'	6	6	100
Graham Outtrim	Wokingham 'A'	9	8	90
Mark Banks	Kingfisher 'A'	7	6	86
John Barclay	Kingfisher 'B'	12	10	83
Andrew Smith	Kingfisher 'B'	15	12	80
Sam Ricks	Tidmarsh 'A'	12	9	75
Philip Zeng	Kingfisher 'D'	12	8	67
Daryll Griffith	Wokingham 'A'	9	6	67

'signing'. Both Martin and Andrew hit trebles as they won 7 - 3 against Kingfisher 'C', Martin, Andrew and John Barclay maximums saw them defeat Tidmarsh 'B' 10 - 0 while Andrew just held on to his 100% record by beating Jason Roberts 12-14 11-9 6-11 11-9 11-9 in their 9 - 1 victory over Sonning Common & Peppard 'A'. John Barclay earned a fine comeback win over Eduard Caliman 6-11 7-11 11-9 11-7 12-10 as they beat Kingfisher 'D' 7 - 3 to make it 4 wins from 4 and this was quickly made 5 from 5 with a comfortable 9 - 1 win against SC&P 'B', Martin & John with maximums, while Andrew still won twice without having his table tennis head on that night!

Pre Season Prediction 3rd – Current Prediction 3rd

Team Stats: Martin (100%), John (83%), Andrew (80%), Richard (0%)

Reading YMCA should enjoy another comfortable mid table finish. Quality players in Neil Hurford and Dave Streak are a tough test for every player at this top level and with Pete Bradley, Keith Winter and Dave Gilham chipping in, another good season should be in store. However they were defeated 4 - 6 in their opener against a tough Kingfisher 'D' team to put doubts of a top half finish in the mind (in my mind anyway!). Keith just lost the opening set to Philip Zeng 7-11 12-10 11-8 10-12 5-11 and that in the end proved crucial. A comfortable 8 - 2 win at SC&P 'B' followed however, Keith and Neil with trebles. It's looking like it's going to be a bit of a roller coaster this season for YM as they crashed to a 3 - 7 defeat to Our Lady of Peace 'B' in their next match.

Pre Season Prediction 5th – Current Prediction 6th

Team Stats: Neil (67%), Keith (56%), Dave (33%), Peter (33%)

I think **Kingfisher 'C'** have a safe mid-table look about them this year. Lisa Williams looks to have rediscovered her form over the summer. Lisa, Murgu and Niall all managed wins over Richard Rosinski in their opening 3 - 7 defeat to a strong Kingfisher 'B' team. Andrew Parker and Niall won twice and Murgu a single as they drew with Tidmarsh 'B' to open their points tally; however, a heavy defeat at Wokingham 'A' leaves them too close to the bottom for comfort at present. Andrew enjoyed a good 11-4 11-7 11-4 win against Tony Baker in the Tidmarsh draw while Niall actually put them 3 - 0 up in that match after beating Andy Stephens 11-8 11-8 6-11 10-12 11-4. Lisa put up a good show against Wokingham's Graham Outrim before just losing 6-11 11-5 7-11 13-11 7-11.

Pre Season Prediction 6th – Current Prediction 8th

Team Stats: Andrew (50%), Niall (44%), Steve (33%), Lisa (17%)

Promoted **Wokingham 'A'** will be a tough team for the lower half teams to play, especially with the addition of Graham Diplock. With Graham Outrim in tandem they look like just having enough to stay up. Graham Outrim's treble proved crucial as they drew their opening match at Tidmarsh 'B' but they also needed Daryll Griffiths' 5-11 12-10 11-4 11-4 good win over Barry Carter. Daryll also starred as they won 8 - 2 at SC&P 'A', beating Jason Roberts 11-8 17-19 11-8 12-10 on the way, and they also won 8 - 2 against Kingfisher 'C', Graham Outrim beating Andrew Parker 11-4 9-11 11-8 19-17. A disappointingly heavy 1-9 defeat to Kingfisher 'D' still leaves



LISA WILLIAMS

them handily placed in the early table with no relegation worries looming – yet!

Pre Season Prediction 9th – Current Prediction 7th

Team Stats: Graham O (90%), Daryll (67%), Graham D (67%)
(Not Counting Kingfisher 'D' at home)

Tidmarsh 'B' are another team that will be just above the drop line. Andy Stephens is a good player but they won't be able just to rely on his victories. They started with a tough 0 - 10 loss at Kingfisher 'B'. Andy scored a notable 8-11 22-20 6-11 11-6 11-4 victory against OLOP 'A's Trung Tran in their 1-9 defeat while they might consider a 5 - 5 draw against Wokingham 'A' as a point lost rather than gained. Another point 'gained' came against Kingfisher 'C' with Tony Baker and Andy both winning twice, Andy getting his money's worth yet again as all his sets went to a fifth game, including a marathon 19-17 8-11 8-11 11-8 13-11 victory over Andrew Parker. A first win came against a two man SC&P 'A' side, Barry Carter managing a good 11-8 11-6 6-11 11-9 win against Malcom Gregory while reserve Dave Reynolds junior scored a shock 11-7 11-9 6-11 4-11 11-5 victory over Jason Roberts.

Pre Season Prediction 10th – Current Prediction 9th

Team Stats: Andy (42%), Tony (36%), Barry (14%)

Finally just a reminder to e-mail me match cards at least the day after the match and don't forget to put in doubles pairings. Right I'm off to count the granules in my cup before having a well earned coffee! Enjoy the next quarter of your season.

DIVISION TWO

by Barry Carter

Welcome to another season and like the "Mighty" Wolves I once again find myself in a higher division. The division looks like it could be extremely competitive with a few teams in with a shout of promotion and a few already thinking that it might be a "long season". As has been the case in previous seasons I'm going to jinx two teams, so apologies to the following teams who I'm going to tip for promotion...

Kingfisher 'E' will be promoted as champions and they will be joined in the promised land of division one by Curzon Club 'A'. At the bottom it looks like Springfield 'A' and Wokingham 'B' could be those thinking it might be a "long season". I have the same thoughts about my team's season in division one ;-). On to the match reports...

Kingfisher 'E' have started the season with five fairly comfortable victories to vindicate my selection of them as champions. In week one they entertained Pangbourne 'A' and with trebles from Geoff Civil and Bernhard Schnederle a brace from Colin Dyke saw them to a 9 - 1 victory. In week 2 they came up against Springfield 'A' where the trio of Roger Woolven-Allen, Geoff and Bernhard all defeated Ian Boaden and Seth Martin but they all lost to an inspired Phil Burke where only Roger won a game as he lost 11-9, 0-11, 11-9, 9-11, 3-11. Bernhard and Geoff teamed up to win the doubles as the final score was 7 - 3. Milestone 'A' were next up and were washed aside 8 - 2 by a three straight maximum from Bernhard and two each by Roger and on his season debut John Morris, who overcame Hugh & John Crosfield and narrowly lost to John Tucker. Colin recorded his first maximum of the season in the 9 - 1 win over Tidmarsh 'C'; he was joined in the maximum department by Bernhard. The latest encounter saw them overcome new boys, Wokingham 'B' 6 - 4 thanks to a third straight maximum from Bernhard and two from Roger and one from Geoff.

Team Stat: Won the most matches 9 - 1, on two occasions

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingfisher E	5	5	0	0	39	11	10
Milestone A	5	4	0	1	34	16	8
Curzon Club A	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Tidmarsh C	5	3	1	1	29	21	7
Pangbourne WMC A	5	3	0	2	28	22	6
Sonning C & P C	5	1	2	2	24	26	4
Kingfisher F	5	2	0	3	21	29	4
OLOP C	4	2	0	2	15	25	4
Polish A	5	1	0	4	18	32	2
Kingfisher G	5	1	0	4	11	39	2
Wokingham B	4	0	1	3	16	24	1
Springfield A	4	0	0	4	12	28	0

Player Stat: Bernhard has won 11 of his 14 wins by the 3-0 scoreline. Geoff hasn't lost by the 1-3 scoreline. Roger has yet to win 3-2, his eight wins have been 3-0 or 3-1.



Milestone 'A' have started the season well, with only the one defeat from the first five matches. I think they will just miss out on promotion and finish third. They got off to a great start with a 10 - 0 win over Kingfisher 'G' where Hugh Crosfield, Robin Benwell and John Tucker all comfortably won two and then all struggled to defeat Steve Woolnough with Robin and John finally winning 3 - 2.

The second match came against Kingfisher 'F' and thanks to three from Robin which included a long encounter with Ivor Hardman in which he finally won 12-14, 11-9, 11-3, 6-11, 11-2, saw them to an 8 - 2 win, John and Hugh both lost to Ivor but enjoyed success over Michael Houghton and Gwynne Penny. Their only defeat to date came at the leaders, Kingfisher 'E' where only a John Tucker brace with wins over John Morris 4-11, 11-6, 11-9, 7-11, 11-7 and Roger Woolven-Allen 11-5, 11-9, 8-11, 11-9 was all they had to show in a 2 - 8 defeat as both the Crosfields, Hugh and John lost all three. John Crosfield won his first set of the season in the 8 - 2 win over Polish 'A' when he beat Darek Kaminski and he was close to beating Grant Wheatley but lost 11-13 in the fifth. Hugh returned to form with a maximum and Robin made it 9 from 9 with a three straight maximum. Another maximum from Robin, two from John Tucker and the doubles saw them edge a close-encounter (not of the third kind) 6 - 4 against Pangbourne 'A'.

Team Stat: Have won two of their four matches 8 - 2

Player Stat: Hugh has lost 3 of his 4 matches by the 1 - 3 scoreline. Robin has yet to win or lose by the 3 - 1 or 1 - 3 scoreline. John T has won all three of his five-sets. John C has won his game by the 3 - 1 scoreline.

Curzon Club 'A' are my other tip for promotion as they are still to splash out on expensive signings using the parachute payments following relegation from division one and still find themselves in third with a match in hand. As their first match was postponed, it took them a week longer to get into it and this seemed to be a problem as they struggled to a 7 - 3 win over OLOP 'C' in week 2. Jon Willis lost two of his three so it was left to John Willcocks with a usual maximum and Andy Fakeerjan with two to see them off to a winning start. John did need five-sets to get past young Michael McAllister 9-11, 11-7, 11-7, 8-11, 11-6 as did Andy over Siad Cole 4-11, 11-2, 14-12, 10-12, 11-5. It was plain sailing for them in the 8 - 2 win over Sonning Common and Peppard 'C' with three from Andy and Jon and a John Walker 11-3, 5-11, 8-11, 11-9, 11-6 win over Derek Brooke-Wavell. Their second straight 8 - 2 win came against Kingfisher 'G'



WENDY PORTER OF OLOP 'C'

as John Walker improved on his showing the previous week by going one better with a brace thanks to wins over Steve Woolnough 11-8, 6-11, 8-11, 12-10, 11-9 and Carol Byers 16-14, 8-11, 8-11, 12-10, 12-10 and he was well supported by three from John W and two from Jon W. A rather surprising 10 - 0 was the outcome of their trip to play Kingfisher 'F' as John W and Andy had routine wins over Ivor, Allan and Allen but Jon was made to sweat by Allen Pack before he won a tight match 20-18 in the fourth.

Team Stat: Have the best doubles record 4 out of 4 (100%)

Player Stat: Andy has won both of his five-setters. John Willcocks 6 of his 9 wins have been 3-0. Jon has yet to lose by the 1-3 scoreline.

Tidmarsh 'C' could be in with an outside chance of promotion (sounds a bit like the "once mighty Royals" although apparently not on the evidence of the Derby match) as they have won three and drawn one of their first five matches and sit well placed in fourth. The season opener was away to Sonning C&P 'C' where after some tight sets the night ended all square as two from Mike Aistrop and one each from Steve Ricks and Chris Webb plus the doubles saw them to a 5 - 5 scoreline. Mike had a particularly close set with Matt Stone before winning 8-11, 9-11, 14-12, 15-13, 11-9. John Golding made his debut in the 9 - 1 win over Kingfisher 'G' and he went home happy with a maximum as did Dave Wise. Francois Durand also played and ended with a brace following wins over Dave Duncan 11-5, 11-9, 14-12 and Mike Mitcham 9-11, 8-11, 11-6, 11-3, 11-8. They made it two wins from three matches with a narrow 6 - 4 win over Kingfisher 'F' with two each from John and Dave, plus a Mike win over Peter Bennett. A trip to the leaders, Kingfisher 'E' brought them down to reality as they could only muster a Mike Aistrop 11-5, 11-9, 7-11, 11-4 win for all their efforts on the night. Francois was unlucky not have made it 2 - 8 but fell annoyingly close against Bernhard Schnederle 11-8, 11-5, 8-11, 9-11, 15-17. A Dave Wise maximum was the highlight of a return to winning ways as they won 8 - 2 at Polish 'A' in their most recent match.

Team Stat: Their three wins have been by different scores.

Player Stat: Mike has yet to lose a five-game set. Chris has yet to play in a winning team (sorry). John has yet to play in a five-game set. Dave has yet to play in a losing team. Francois has yet to win by the 3 - 1 scoreline.

Pangbourne WMC 'A' (Dons) formerly known as Post Office 'A' have upped sticks although not quite as far as Milton Keynes and relocated to sunny Pangbourne following the sad closure of the Post Office club. I think they have a chance of sneaking into the second promotion if they desire the fruits of the promised land. Saying that, it couldn't have started much worse as they visited Kingfisher 'E' first up and were soundly beaten, having only a Denise Weller 11-9, 11-13, 3-11, 11-1, 11-7 win over Colin Dyke in a 1 - 9 reverse. Simon Hopkins and John Simmonds did come back from 0 - 2 down in the doubles to 2 - 2 but ended up losing 12-14 in the fifth. John, Simon and George White all opened their winning accounts for the season with 2, 1 and 2 in the 6 - 4 win over Polish 'A'. John had the better of five with Grant Wheatley whilst Simon and George got the better of Jacek in five. The 10 - 0 win over OLOP 'C' was quite straightforward as seven of the ten were three straight as John, Denise and George all returned their first maximums of the season with wins over Michael McAllister, Siad Cole and Wendy Porter. Their third successive win came against newly elevated Springfield 'A'. John Simmonds scored a very impressive 11-6, 11-4, 10-12, 11 -5 win over Phil Burke whilst Denise and Simon won two each against Des Hele and Ian Boaden in the 7-3 victory. The match against Milestone 'A' saw them slip to their second defeat of the season and they lost 4 - 6 despite two from John.

Team Stat: I have been at two of their matches this season, Kingfisher and OLOP.

Player Stat: Denise has yet to lose a five-game set. John has lost all five of his sets by the 0 - 3 scoreline. Simon has won three of his four sets by the 3 - 0 scoreline. George has yet to be on the losing side.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' find themselves in mid-table with four points from five matches. Their only win came in the most recent match with Kingfisher 'G' which also saw the introduction of Tim Raby into the team as his three wins against Dave Duncan, Mike Mitcham and Steve Woolnough saw them to an 8 - 2 win. Tim certainly got his money's worth as he won 3 - 1, 3 - 2 and 3 - 2. Tim was well supported by youngsters Danny Dockree and Jon Abbott who won two each. Danny won against Mike (6-11, 11-7, 11-6, 11-5) and Steve (11-13, 11-7, 11-9, 9-11, 11-7) whilst Jon won against Mike (11-8, 11-4, 11-9) and Dave (4-11, 8-11, 13-11, 12-10, 11 -3). They opened their campaign with two draws against Tidmarsh 'C' and Wokingham 'B'. In the Tidmarsh match Danny Dockree scored an impressive maximum with wins over Mike Aistrop, Steve Ricks and Chris Webb (all experienced campaigners) and Matt Stone won two. Danny won two in the draw with Wokingham with Matt one (11-5, 11-4, 11-2 over Tony Eames) and Jon one (11-8, 11-7, 11-5 over Tony). Danny and Matt were the only winners in the 2 - 8 defeat to Curzon although Derek Brooke-Wavell ran John Walker close before he lost 3-11, 11-5, 11-8, 9-11, 11-6.

Team Stat: They are unbeaten away having won once and drawn once, both defeats have been at home

Player Stat: Matt has won 3 of his 4 sets by the 3 - 0 scoreline. Jon has lost by the 1 - 3 scoreline the most times, five. Danny has been involved in the most 3 - 1, 1 - 3 scorelines (8) winning five and losing three. Tim has won two of his three matches by the 3 - 2 scoreline.

Kingfisher 'F' are in a false position. I expect them to be in the top half of the table come April with the squad that they have put together. They have had a mixed start with two wins and three defeats. The two wins have come against Springfield 'A' (8 - 2) and Wokingham 'B' (7 - 3) who currently lie bottom and next to bottom and the three defeats have come against Curzon 'A' (3rd) [0 - 10], Tidmarsh 'C' (4th) [4 - 6] and Milestone 'A' (2nd) [2 - 8] so a little pattern is occurring. Allan Bruton started off the season with two maximums which included a victory over Phil Burke of Springfield 'A' (11-4, 4-11, 9-11, 11-8, 11-7) and both John Golding and Dave Wise of Tidmarsh 'C' (5-11, 11-5, 7-11, 11-9, 11-9 and 11-5, 11-8, 11-8 respectively). Peter Bennett and Michael Houghton also started brightly with two against Springfield 'A' but since then Peter has only won once out of six and Michael none out of three. Ivor Hardman had a good night in the 7 - 3 win over Wokingham 'B' as he won all three against Dan Buckle (14-12, 7-11, 12-10, 14-12), Aidan Killian (11-8, 11-8, 21-19) and Richard Neville (11-7, 11-5, 11-8) and Allen Pack also played well to win against Aidan and Richard.

Team Stat: Have used the most players, six.

Player Stat: Allan has only played at home. Peter - all three of his wins have been by the 3 - 1 scoreline. Michael has lost three of his four five-game sets. Ivor has yet to win a five-game set. Allen has won both his matches by the 3 - 1 scoreline.

Our Lady of Peace 'C' find themselves in eighth place with two wins and two defeats. The small squad is a combination of youth and experience and I think this season will be one of consolidation with a view to push on for promotion to division one next season. In their opening match they travelled the short distance as the crow flies (although thanks to Reading's one way system about ten miles ÷) down to Polish 'A' and their reward was a narrow 6 - 4 win as Michael McAllister won all three with the highlight a tight 11-6, 4-11, 17-15, 8-11, 11-6 win over Grant Wheatley, he also overcame both Jacek Krzyzanowski and Darek Kaminski on the night. Wendy Porter and Siad Cole chipped in with valuable wins over Jacek and Darek and when the lads beat Jacek and Grant 11-9, 5-11, 11-9, 11-5 the points were in the bag. Their other win came against Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' as Michael once again shone with a maximum and once again Wendy and Siad chipped in with important wins over Jon Abbott and Danny Dockree. The two defeats have come against promotion hopefuls Curzon 'A' (3 - 7) with Michael defeating Andy Fakeerjan and Jon Willis and Wendy having a good win over Jon (11-7, 11-7, 11-5). I was playing at OLOP when Pangbourne 'A' came to play and although the scoreline was 0 - 10 it seemed like there were some close games especially when it came to the games involving George White and so

it proved when I received the scorecard as both Wendy and Siad lost 2 - 3 to George with the scores being almost the same.

Team Stat: Have won both matches away, but lost both ones at home (so much for home advantage)

Player Stat: Michael hasn't lost a set that has ended in four. Wendy hasn't won a set that has ended in four. Siad has won all of his sets away.

Polish 'A' have had a poor start to the season with only one win from their first five matches and that came against Springfield 'A'. Grant Wheatley and Jacek Krzyzanowski both won two against Des Hele and Seth Martin with Darek Kaminski gaining a good win over Seth 11-8, 11-7, 11-6. The doubles proved to be the decisive match as Grant and Darek overcame Des and Phil 11-8, 5-11, 11-9, 11-8 to win the match 6 - 4. The first two matches that were played both ended in 6 - 4 defeats against OLOP 'C' and Pangbourne 'A'. In the OLOP match there were wins for Grant over Wendy and Siad (11-9, 11-4, 7-11, 5-11, 11-8 and 6-11, 16-14, 11-8, 11-7), Darek over Wendy and Jacek over Siad. Pangbourne proved equally frustrating as Grant won twice again and was narrowly defeated by



GRANT WHEATLEY OF POLISH 'A'

John Simmonds (5-11, 11-7, 7-11, 11-6, 7-11) and Jacek and Darek won once. Grant and Jacek both defeated John Crosfield in the 2 - 8 defeat to Milestone 'A' and Grant won both the games in the 2 - 8 defeat to Tidmarsh 'C'.

Team Stat: Have been involved in three 6 - 4, 4 - 6 scorelines.

Player Stat: Jacek has won one set per evening on the most occasions, four. Darek has yet to lose a five-game set. Grant has won a brace per evening on the most occasions, four.

Kingfisher 'G' have won only one of their first five

matches and find themselves hovering just above the relegation places in tenth. The only win came against Wokingham 'B' where fortunately (for Kingfisher), Wokingham could only get two players out. Eric Holmes and Mike Mitcham both defeated Richard Neville and their teamwork in the doubles which saw them beat Dan Buckle and Richard 2-11, 12-10, 11-5, 11-8 enabled them to win the match 6 - 4. A big welcome back to Carol Byers after a few years away from the Reading league but unfortunately Milestone 'A' showed no sentimentality to either her or Eric Holmes as her return ended up with a 0 - 10 defeat. Steve Woolnough had some good matches with him losing two of his three 2 - 3 to Robin Benwell (10-12, 11-7, 6-11, 11-7, 4-11) and John Tucker (4-11, 11-9, 11-6, 5-11, 6-11). Carol got off the mark with a win over Francois Durand 12-10, 7-11, 11-6, 11-5 but that was as good as it got in a 1 - 9 defeat to Tidmarsh 'C'. Both the other two defeats to Curzon 'A' and Sonning C&P 'C' were by the 2 - 8 scoreline so things are getting better for them. In the defeat to Curzon, Eric turned in two good performances to beat both John Walker and impressively Jon Willis 8-11, 7-11, 11-9, 11-3, 13-11. Both Carol and Steve lost 2 - 3 to John Walker in close matches (Steve lost 8-11, 11-6, 11-8, 10-12, 9-11 and Carol 14-16, 11-8, 11-8, 10-12, 10-12). Dave Duncan and Steve Woolnough were the winners over Danny Dockree and Jon Abbott in the 2 - 8 defeat to Sonning 'C'.

Team Stat:

Player Stat: Eric has won both of his five-game sets, Carol has the best average at Tidmarsh. Steve has lost all five of his five-game sets. Dave won his only set 3 - 0. Mike won his only set 3 - 0.

Wokingham 'B' find themselves in the bottom two and are currently winless after four matches. Last season's division three champions are finding it a little harder, they have been close in each of the matches they have lost with their heaviest defeat being only 3 - 7 so I think there are grounds for optimism if they can pick up points against the teams around them but they can't afford to play them with only two players if they can help it. Their only point came against Sonning Common 'C' in the first match of the season as Dan Buckle won all three although against both Danny and Matt they were titanic five-game sets. Nigel Bliss won two against Jon and Matt but it was defeat in a close-fought doubles that denied them a win as Dan & Nigel lost to Danny & Matt 10-12, 13-15, 11-8, 13-11, 9-11. Dan made it six out of six with his maximum in the 4 - 6 defeat to Kingfisher 'G' but with only two players it proved fruitless despite Richard's 11-6, 11-6, 6-11, 11-5 win over Dave Duncan. Dan lost his 100% record to Ivor Hardman but still won two. Aidan Killian made his season

debut but couldn't win although he did lose 19-21 to Ivor. Richard overcame Peter but it wasn't enough and they lost 3-7. Their best result of the season came against the leaders where they lost 4 - 6. Dan had great wins over Geoff Civil and Roger Woolven-Allen whilst Tony Eames gave Bernhard Schnederle a real fright before going down 16-14, 12-10, 12-10, this gave Tony some confidence and he defeated Geoff 11-8 in the fifth.

Team Stat: Set difference of -8 is better than four of the teams above them.

Player Stat: Dan has won all five of his five-game sets. Tony's only win has come against the leaders. Nigel hasn't been on the losing side. Richard has lost both his five-game sets. Aidan was involved in the longest game to date 19-21.

Springfield 'A' could be in for a "long season" although it just needs for them all to click on the same night and a couple of wins, especially against the teams around them

are on the cards. Phil Burke has started well with nine wins out of twelve, Des Hele has done well with two wins and I'm sure it will only be a matter of time before Ian Boaden and Seth Martin win a game or two (a bit like myself in division one ☺). The nearest they have come to a point was a 4 - 6 defeat to Polish 'A'. Phil Burke had a maximum with wins over Darek, Jacek and Grant and Des won a close match with Darek 11-6, 16-14,

11-7, 14-12. Seth took Grant to five but appeared to run out of steam at the end of it. The best win and performance came in the match with the leaders, Kingfisher 'E' where he not only won a maximum, but he inflicted the only defeat so far on Bernhard Schnederle with a 11-9, 11-9, 12-10 victory. The other wins were over Roger Woolven-Allen and Geoff Civil. Ian took a game off Denise Weller in a 8-11, 9-11, 11-6, 8-11 defeat but that was as good as it got for him in the match, Phil was beaten by John Simmonds in four (possibly surprising) and the match result ended 7 - 3 to Pangbourne 'A'.

Team Stat: Have lost by the 3 - 7 scoreline on the most occasions, twice.

Player Stat: Phil has provided 75% of the winning sets. Des has won both his sets by the 3 - 1 scoreline. Seth has lost his only five-game set. Ian has only played at home.

Well that is finally the end of my ramblings... I've taken so long to do it that I have listened to QPR v Liverpool and Stoke v Swansea. If you have any comments (hopefully nice ones) then let me know. If you want to see something I haven't done then feel free to email me at the address in the handbook... have a good month and a bit.

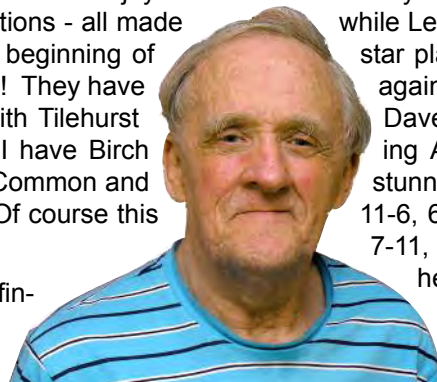
LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Robin Benwell	Milestone A	12	12	100.00 %
John Willcocks	Curzon Club A	9	9	100.00 %
Tim Raby	Sonning C & P C	3	3	100.00 %
Bernhard Schnederle	Kingfisher E	15	14	93.33 %
Dave Wise	Tidmarsh C	9	8	88.89 %
Andy Fakeerjan	Curzon Club A	9	8	88.89 %
Daniel Buckle	Wokingham B	12	10	83.33 %
George White	Pangbourne WMCA	6	5	83.33 %
Colin Dyke	Kingfisher E	6	5	83.33 %
John Golding	Tidmarsh C	9	7	77.78 %
Philip Burke	Springfield A	12	9	75.00 %

DIVISION THREE *by Derek Harrison*

Welcome to a new season so let us all enjoy it. I start with my usual set of predictions - all made before a ball was struck at the beginning of the season, so let's see how they turn out! They have Kingfisher 'H' finishing as champions with Tilehurst Meths 'A' as runners up. At the bottom I have Birch Copse 'A', Pangbourne 'B' and Sonning Common and Peppard 'D' battling to avoid the drop. (Of course this is all dependent on team selection.)

To sum up this is my predicted order of finishing:



8 victory. Willis and Colin both obtained maximums while Leigh weighed in with a double. Without their star player Willis they crashed to a 4 – 6 defeat against Sonning C&P. Rick Leachman and Dave Gostelow both obtained doubles by beating Anthony and Alan. At Curzon Dave hit a stunning maximum by beating Derek 8-11, 11-8, 11-6, 6-11, 2-11, Jim 11-7, 6-11, 4-11, 9-11, Nick 7-11, 8-11, 11-3, 11-2, 4-11. Colin and Rick helped out by both beating Jim and Dave's day was made complete by teaming up with Colin to give them a 4 – 6 victory.

START-OF-SEASON PREDICTIONS:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1 Kingfisher 'H' | Any side with Colin Dyke and my old mate Rick Leachman will do well |
| 2 Tilehurst Meths 'A' | Phil Jones and Nigel Rowland. Enough said. |
| 3 Tidmarsh 'D' | Dave Reynolds snr/jnr, Pete Galea and Steve Ricks could even finish in the top two. |
| 4 Polish 'B' | They have 4 steady players in their squad and moving up from div 5 will not be a problem |
| 5 Sonning Sports 'A' | Will depend how often Nigel Goodman will be available. |
| 6 O.L.O.P 'D' | Another good steady side. Team selection by Mark will decide |
| 7 Curzon Club 'B' | Will rely on Mike Maynard again but with 5 players we will drop points galore |
| 8 Kingfisher 'I' | Another side who will rely on stars, namely Nils Wedi and Jean-Noel Thepaut |
| 9 Tilehurst Meths 'B' | With Ian Cockling and John Virgo they have enough experience to keep them safe |
| 10 Sonning C&P 'D' | Last season's division 4 champs should just about survive |
| 11 Birch Copse 'A' | stayed up by one set and unless Simon Clarke plays often will have a problem |
| 12 Pangbourne 'B' | Same squad as last season so I cannot see them staying up |

Tilehurst Meths 'A' started their season with a 7 - 3 win over Sonning Common and Peppard 'D' with Phil Jones gaining a very good maximum. Nigel Rowland weighed in with a double and Paul Treadgold hit a single. Nigel and Catherine Venning had a vital doubles win to help the cause. At the possible champions Kingfisher 'H' they were without star player Nigel and as a result went down 6 – 4. Phil did well to win two while Catherine and Paul both won one each by beating Dave Gostelow. They then beat Kingfisher 'I' 8 – 2 with Cath winning all three in style. Phil and reserve Martin Wetherell both gained doubles. In the Meths derby Cath and Phil both obtained doubles and teamed up to win the doubles. Paul won an important single by beating Ian. Against Polish Nigel came back to the side after feeling unwell and promptly hit a great hat trick as did Phil. Paul picked up a nice single in a 8 – 2 win.

Kingfisher 'H' had Willis Ma in fine form, winning all three with ease. Colin Dyke managed a brace besides teaming up with Willis to win the doubles which gave them a 6 – 4 victory. Next came Sonning Sports and they had a fine away 2 –

One other comment I suspect that Dave's maximum was the first for many years. Perhaps you could tell me Dave when you had your last one.

Tidmarsh 'D' started with a 3 – 7 win at Kingfisher 'I' with Pete Galea winning all three which included a 9 11, 7-11, 11-13 win over Jean-Noel. Dave Reynolds jnr and Mike Willmott both obtained doubles. At home to Tilehurst Meths 'B' Dave jnr and Mike both managed trebles which gave them a 6 – 4 victory. At Polish they shared the spoils with Dave jnr winning all three and joined up with Mike to win the doubles. Mike picked up that vital single by beating Luca. It then took a set ten win for Dave jnr over Simon Clarke to give them a 6 – 4 victory. This completed his maximum. Mike won two and there was a first win for Dave Sheppard who beat Mike Williams.

Last season's division 5 winners **Polish 'B'** had a good 3 – 7 win at Birch Copse 'A'. Daniel Dzieciol, Luca Bianchi and Krys Szczygiel all obtained doubles. They then lost 4 – 6 to Pangbourne 'B'. Luca Bianchi did well by gaining a maximum with Krys picking up a single. A good team performance saw them gain a point against



WILLIS MA OF
KINGFISHER 'H'

Tidmarsh with Daniel and Krys both winning two each with Luca winning one. At Tilehurst Meths 'A' they went down 8



ALISTAIR RICHARDSON OF OLOP 'D'

– 2

with Daniel and Luca both beating Paul.

O.L.O.P 'D' started their season by beating Kingfisher 'I' 6 – 4 with Mark Bullion, Dave Godfrey and Alistair Richardson all gaining doubles. They then went down 8 – 2 to Tilehurst Meths 'B' with Alistair winning two by beating Nick Barnes and Richard Lownsborough. Against Birch Copse they were forced to play with two reserves but what a reserve because Djorde Milovanovic hit a great treble. Phil had a nice win over Roy but this was not enough because they went down 4 – 6. Two each from Mark and Phil and a single from Dave helped them gain a point from the leaders Pangbourne 'B'

Pangbourne 'B' opened up with a fine 9 – 1 win over a weakened Tilehurst Meths 'B' with Leroy Wilson and Clive Taylor both gaining maximums. It was nice to see Roger Stevens find some form by gaining a double.

What have I done regarding my predictions because they have won again by beating Polish 'B' 4 – 6 with Leroy and Clive Taylor both winning two and reserve Eddie Cripps picking up a vital single besides Leroy and Clive winning the doubles. What do I know about the game because they then made it 3 wins in a row by beating Birch Copse 6 – 4 thanks to a great treble from Leroy and a good brace from Clive who also teamed up to win the doubles. Next came Curzon and they beat us 6 – 4 with Clive in brilliant form, gaining a hat trick. Leroy won two with reserve Ray Web picking up a single. It makes my predictions look rather silly. At O.L.O.P they dropped their first point with Leroy the star hitting a great treble and also teaming up

with Clive to win the doubles. Clive also gained that important single by beating Dave Godfrey.

Nick Lean and Geoff Johnson starred for **Curzon 'B'** by both hitting trebles which helped them win 3 – 7 at Sonning Sports 'A'. They also teamed up to win the doubles. At home to Sonning C&P 'D' Mike Maynard was the star by hitting a great maximum and with Nick winning two and a first win of the season by Jim Brent, victory. At Pangbourne we went down 6 – 4 with Derek, Geoff and Nick all winning one each. Nick and Derek won the doubles by beating Leroy and Clive who lost for the first time. At home to Kingfisher 'H' both Nick and Derek gained doubles by beating Colin and Rick but alas we lost 4 – 6.

As ever Jean-Noel Thepaut hit a three straight maximum for **Kingfisher 'I'** besides teaming up with Joaquin Sabater to win the doubles but this was all in vain as Kingfisher 'I' went down 6 – 4 at O.L.O.P 'D'. For the first time in 5 years Jean-Noel lost a set when he went down to ex first division player Peter Galea but to be fair Peter spent most of his time in the second. The side did win the doubles in a 3 – 7 defeat against Tidmarsh 'D'. They then crashed to an 8 – 2 defeat at Tilehurst Meths 'A' with Joaquin Sabater gaining a double. At last a first win by beating Sonning Sports 6 – 4 with Jean-Noel winning all three with ease and Joaquin gave him great support by winning two. They also teamed up to win the doubles. A very weakened side then lost 7 – 3 at Sonning C&P 'D' however; Joaquin was in top form and won all his three. He beat Alan 10-12, 11-8, 6-11, 9-11 Derek 15-13, 9-11, 11-6, 9-11, 5-11 Anthony 7-11, 8-11, 7-11. So well done Joaquin.

New signing Keith Machin, Bob Snelgrove and Dave Chard all gained singles by beating Jim Brent in **Sonning Sports 'A's'** 3 – 7 defeat against Curzon 'B'. At Sonning C&P 'D' a good team performance saw them gain a draw with Bob Woodmansee and Dave both winning two each. Bob S gained a vital single by beating Derek. At home to Kingfisher 'H' Bob W had a nice win over Leigh and only went down to Willis 10-12, 11-7, 11-6, 9-11, 6-11. Dave for the third time this season lost 9-11 in the 5th end. The two Bobs did well to win the doubles in their 2 – 8 defeat. As a result of losing 6 – 4 to Kingfisher 'I' they slipped to the bottom of the table. A rare outing for Nigel Goodman was rewarded with a good double by beating Gianpaolo and Joaquin with Bob W and Keith both getting singles by also

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pangbourne WMC B	5	4	1	0	32	18	9
Tilehurst Meths A	5	4	0	1	33	17	8
Tidmarsh D	4	3	1	0	24	16	7
Kingfisher H	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Sonning C & P D	5	2	1	2	24	26	5
Curzon B	4	2	0	2	22	18	4
Polish B	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
OLOP D	4	1	1	2	17	23	3
Sonning Sports A	5	1	1	3	21	29	3
Birch Copse A	4	1	0	3	17	23	2
Tilehurst Meths B	5	1	0	4	20	30	2
Kingfisher I	5	1	0	4	18	32	2



LUCA BIANCHI AND ZDZISLAW JERZANSKI OF POLISH 'B'

defeating Gianpaolo.. They then hauled themselves out of the bottom two by beating Tilehurst Meths 'B' 7 – 3 with Bob S gaining a rare maximum. Bob W won two and Dave picked up a single.

Birch Copse 'A' who were without their top player went down 3 – 7 at home to Polish 'B'. Jes Eassom had a nice double while Roy Hull won one by beating Luca. At Pangbourne they went down 6 – 4 with Simon Clarke winning two and Jes and Roy both picked up singles by beating Roger Stevens. A good team performance saw them beat O.L.O.P 'D' 6 – 4 with Simon and reserve Duncan Abbott both winning twice. Roy did his bit by beating Jan Polnik besides teaming up with Simon to win the doubles. At Tidmarsh Simon hit a double and Roy a single. The two of them also won the doubles.

Sonning C&P 'D', last season's division 4 champions went down 7 – 3 at Tilehurst Meths 'A'.



ANTHONY REEVE OF SCP 'D'

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Willis Ma	Kingfisher H	6	6	100.0%
Mick Maynard	Curzon B	3	3	100.0%
Peter Galea	Tidmarsh D	3	3	100.0%
David Reynolds (Jnr)	Tidmarsh D	11	12	91.7%
Jean-Noel Thepaut	Kingfisher I	8	9	88.9%
Leroy Wilson	Pangbourne WMCB	13	15	86.7%
Nigel Rowland	Tilehurst Meths A	5	6	83.3%
Phil Jones	Tilehurst Meths A	12	15	80.0%
Clive Taylor	Pangbourne WMCB	11	15	73.3%
Mick Wilmot	Tidmarsh D	8	12	66.7%
Nick Lean	Curzon B	8	12	66.7%
Catherine Venning	Tilehurst Meths A	6	9	66.7%
Colin Dyke	Kingfisher H	6	9	66.7%
Nick Barnes	Tilehurst Meths B	6	9	66.7%

Derek Wavell had a good evening winning two, beating Nigel and Paul. His win over Nigel was very good considering that N was playing in the second division last season and finished with an average of 48%. Alan Mollett won the other set by also beating Paul. Alan was in top form against Sonning Sports by winning all three. He also teamed up with Anthony Reeve to win the doubles. Anthony also beat Bob S. At Curzon Alan played well to beat Nick and Jim. Anthony also beat Jim in a 7 – 3 defeat. Derek was in top form at Kingfisher 'H' by winning all three, beating Rick 8-11, 11-8, 8-11, 8-11 Dave 7-11, 11-8, 11-13, 3-11 and Leigh 9-11, 6-11, 11-7, 11-5, 3-11. Alan and Anthony won one each besides teaming up to win the doubles which gave them a 4 – 6 victory. Doubles from Derek, Anthony and Alan then helped them gain both points in a 7 – 3 win over Kingfisher 'I'

Tilehurst Meths 'B' crashed to a 9 – 1 defeat at Pangbourne 'B'. Ian Cockling saved the whitewash by beating Roger. At home to O.L.O.P 'D' they stormed to a 8 – 2 win with Ian doing the business with a very good hat trick.

Nick Barnes and Richard Lownsborough gave him good support by gaining doubles. At Tidmarsh Ian, Nick and John Virgo all beat Dave Sheppard and John and Nick also won the doubles in a 6 – 4 defeat. At home to their 'A' team Nick played out of his skin by winning all three but sadly for the team they lost 4 – 6 with John beating Paul 16-14 in the 5th end. At Sonning Sports Alex Zheng broke his duck by beating Bob W and Dave. John won the other set by also beating Dave in their 7 – 3 defeat.

Before I close can captains please give me a few comments that are not obvious from the scorecard. For example if a player comes from a long way behind to win a game. Also I have been receiving a number of score cards with errors, so please can you double check it is correct before sending. Thank You.

Cheers,

Derek



ALAN MOLLETT OF SCP 'D'

DIVISION FOUR *by Nigel Rowland*

Welcome to all teams for another season. Already the season promises to be shaping up to be a highly competitive division with all teams dropping points. It would appear that no team is going to dominate the division. It's very early in the season and potentially any of the teams can win the division.



Congratulations go to Tidmarsh 'E' for leading the way. Currently OLOP 'E' are the only team undefeated. Tilehurst Meths 'D' are currently the only team that remain pointless and languish in basement position, it's that close.

The closeness of the teams is being reflected in the player averages. Once again no player is dominating the averages, top spot is shared with Christopher Collins of Milestone 'B', Terry Hardie of Tidmarsh 'E' and Djordje Milovanovic of OLOP 'E' on 88.89%.

In the doubles stakes we have a surprise partnership at the top of the table, basement club Tilehurst Meths 'D' Patrick O'Sullivan and Mal Collis lead the way.

Tidmarsh 'E' Singles from John Little, Dave Edwards and Dave Smith along with a doubles win resulted in a 4-6 loss to Milestone 'B'. A Terry Hardie treble with doubles from Dave E and John gave them a good 3 - 7 win over Springfield 'C'. Both Terry and Dave E recorded trebles in their 7 - 3 win over Kingfisher 'J'. Dave S just lost in his set against Ken Robb. A Terry double and John single as they lost 7 - 3 to SC&P 'F'. A first treble for Dave S and Jon with a double



JOHN LITTLE OF TIDMARSH 'E'



THOMAS PERKINS AND JOE BARRACLOUGH OF SC&P 'E'

from Dave E gave them a good 8 - 2 win over Tilehurst Meths 'D'.

Tilehurst Meths 'C' A double from Richard Lownsbrough along with conceded games resulted in a share of the points against Curzon 'C'. Martin Wetherell and Masoud Ghabachi also played their part to take a point. A Martin double with singles from Masoud and Chris Taylor as they lost 6 - 4 to Milestone 'B'. Richard and Martin doubles with a Chris single recorded a draw against Kingfisher 'J'. Chris was in fine form getting a treble with a Richard double and Masoud single to defeat SC&P 'F' 7 - 3.

SC&P 'E' Joseph BarracloUGH and Thomas Perkins trebles with a Mike Casserley single gave them a good 7 - 3 win over Springfield 'C'. Two each from Djordje Milovanovic and guest Jazz Dhillon along with a doubles win snatched a point against Pangbourne 'C'. Chris Bunn got a game win over Ted Cripps. Mike, Joe and Thomas all got singles losing in their local derby 3 - 7 to SC&P 'F'. Joe and Mike recorded hard fought trebles with a single from Gerry Bacon to defeat Tilehurst Meths 'D' 7 - 3.

Milestone 'B' A Christopher Collins treble with a double from Arun Rajagopal and single Villiam Andrascik gave them a hard fought 4 - 6 win over Tidmarsh 'E'. A Chris treble with a double from Arun as they defeated Tilehurst Meths 'C' 6 - 4. Doubles from Arun, Villiam and Chris as they defeated Curzon 'C' 4 - 6. A double from Arun with a single from guest John Evans as they were defeated 7 - 3 by Springfield 'C'.

Springfield 'B' A Paul Jenkins double could not stop a 2 - 8 loss to Kingfisher 'J'. Daniel Mortimer lost in four to Melvyn Lovegrove and Paul Donovan lost in five to John Upham. An Adam Sheen treble with doubles from Paul and Ludovic Couillard gave them a 2 - 8 win over SC&P 'F'. A treble from Adam with doubles from Paul and Ludovic helped defeat Tilehurst Meths 'D'. Despite a double from Adam and a sin-

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tilehurst Meths C	6	3	2	1	38	22	8
Milestone B	5	4	0	1	30	20	8
OLOP E	5	3	2	0	30	20	8
Sonning C & P E	6	3	1	2	30	30	7
Tidmarsh E	6	3	0	3	32	28	6
Pangbourne WMC C	4	2	2	0	24	16	6
Springfield B	6	2	1	3	29	31	5
Kingfisher J	5	2	1	2	28	22	5
Springfield C	6	2	0	4	25	35	4
Sonning C & P F	6	2	0	4	24	36	4
Curzon Club C	5	1	1	3	22	28	3
Tilehurst Meths D	4	0	0	4	8	32	0

gle from Paul they lost 7 – 3 to OLOP 'E'. Singles from Adam and Ludo with a Dan Mortimer double and crucial set ten win over Ted Cripps gave them a point against Pangbourne 'C'.

OLOP 'E' Djordje Milovanovic scored a treble and Giuliano Ghidini a double as they won 4 – 6 against Curzon 'C'. Chris Bunn just lost in five to Linda King. Two each from Djordje and Jazz Dhillon with an important doubles win gave them a share of the points against Pangbourne 'C'. There were a Djordje treble, a double from Giuliano and single from Jan Polnik as they won 7 – 3 against Springfield 'B'.

SC&P 'F' A hard fought treble from Matt Tarrant with a single from Scarlett Jones could not prevent a 4 – 6 loss to Pangbourne 'C'. **Angus Jones** just lost in five to both Mick Grantham and Ted Cripps. Walter Allanson and Eric Walker made singles as they lost 2 – 8 to Springfield 'B'. Angus, Scarlett and Matt were in good form with a treble, double and single to defeat Tidmarsh 'E' 7 – 3. In their local derby Matt and Angus recorded hat tricks, and a doubles win gave them a 3 – 7 win against SC&P 'E'. An Angus double and Walter single was all they had to show for a battling performance in their 7 – 3 loss to Tilehurst Meths 'C'.

Springfield 'C' Singles from Alan Gould and Aiden Simmons resulted in a 7 – 3 defeat to SC&P 'E'. Colin Jones just lost in five to Joseph Barraclough. John Burke won two and teamed up with Aiden for a doubles win in their 3 – 7 loss to Tidmarsh 'E'. Doubles were recorded by John, Alan and Aiden as they defeated previously unbeaten Milestone 'B' 7 – 3. John led the way with a treble, which with a double from Colin and single from Alan resulted in winning 3 – 7 against Curzon 'C'.

Pangbourne 'C' Two each from Mick Grantham and Ray

Webb with a single from Ted Cripps and the doubles gave them a close 6 – 4 win. Two wins apiece for Ted and Ray with a single from Mick gave them a hard earned draw against OLOP 'E'. Ray was in great form with a treble and there were singles from Mick and Ted to snatch a point at Springfield 'B'.

Kingfisher 'J' A hard fought treble from Melvyn Lovegrove plus doubles from John Creighton and John Upham gave them a good 2 – 8 win over Springfield 'B'. A Ken Robb double with a single from John U and doubles win resulted in a 4 – 6 loss to SC&P 'F'. Derek Crombie lost two close five gamers. Melvin, John U and Ken all won a set apiece in their loss to Tidmarsh 'E'. Melvin got a hard fought treble with a John U single and a doubles win to snatch a point against Tilehurst Meths 'C'.

Curzon 'C' Doubles from Terry Spice and John Walker with a doubles win resulted in a share of the points against Tilehurst Meths 'C'. Linda King scored a double with singles from Terry and Oli Lister as they lost 4 – 6 to OLOP 'E'. There were two from Terry and a one from Linda along with the doubles as they narrowly lost 4 – 6 to Milestone 'B'. A Linda double with a Mike Gillard single as they lost 3 – 7 to Springfield 'C'. Oli just lost in five to Alan Gould

Tilehurst Meths 'D' There were singles from Patrick O'Sullivan and Mal Collis plus a doubles win as they lost 7 – 3 to Springfield 'B'. Patrick and Dave Jones singles and a Patrick and Mal Collis doubles win resulted in a 3 – 7 loss to SC&P 'E'. In a team battling performance Patrick got the only win along with a Mal and Pat doubles win in their 8 – 2 loss to Tidmarsh 'E'.



ANGUS JONES OF SCP 'F'

DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Christopher Collins	Milestone B	12	11	91.67 %
Djordje Milovanovic	OLOP E	12	11	91.67 %
Melvyn Lovegrove	Kingfisher J	12	10	83.33 %
Ray Webb	Pangbourne WMCC	12	10	83.33 %
Richard Lownsbrough	Tilehurst Meths C	11	9	81.82 %
Terry Hardie	Tidmarsh E	12	9	75.00 %
Giuliano Ghidini	OLOP E	12	9	75.00 %
Thomas Perkins	Sonning C & P E	12	9	75.00 %
Adam Sheen	Springfield B	15	11	73.33 %
Arun Rajagopal	Milestone B	15	10	66.67 %

DIVISION FIVE *by Duncan Abbott*

Welcome to a new season of table tennis in Division 5. Gone from last season are all top four teams from Polish, OLOP, Springfield and Tilehurst Methodists to be replaced by the two relegated teams, Tidmarsh 'F' and Milestone 'C' plus two new teams OLOP 'F' and Kingfisher 'L'. We have lost one of last season's Springfield teams but gained an additional team from Sonning Common & Peppard. Otherwise it's as you were.



OLOP 'F' are a team of players new to the Reading & District Table Tennis League and have made an excellent start. Captained by Herbert Tang they are the only unbeaten team in the division with four wins and a draw. Herbert has won 9 sets out of 10 whilst Jazz Dhillon with 6 wins out of 7 is the pick of his team mates. Tony Alleyne is next best having won 7 sets out of 13, then Eddie Fogg 3 from 6 and Mihajlo Ralic 1 from 3. Best team score to date is 9 - 1 against Springfield 'D' and the worst a 5 - 5 draw against Birch Copse 'B'. They did replicate the 9 - 1 scoreline against Tidmarsh 'F' but unfortunately one of the opposition had to retire after just three points played whilst another was ineligible.

Kingfisher 'K' are currently in second place courtesy of points difference. Gillian Bennett's team currently have four wins out of five having exploded into the season with a 10 - 0 win over BBC Club. Their only blip so far was a 3 - 7 reverse at the hands of leaders OLOP 'F', when they were without their top player Gwynne Penny. Gwynne has been a revelation this season having scored maximums in all four matches she has played in. Newcomer David Wells has stepped up to the mark with 10 wins from 12. Both Gill and Diane Taylor have won 5 sets out of 9 whilst Sandra Sheppard has 1 win from 3.

Tidmarsh 'F' also have four wins and one defeat from their opening five matches. Unbeaten so far are captain Bob Sunerton (2 matches) and newcomer Simon Barter (1 match). Mike Bundy and Theresa Watson each have 7 wins from 9, John Harland 2 from 3 and Steve Andrews 5

from 9. Biggest win to date was a 10 - 0 whitewash of Springfield 'D' and their only defeat so far was 1 - 9 against OLOP 'F' when Pete Sinclair had to retire early with an injury and their administration department got the player registration rules wrong.

BBC Club have made a solid start to the season despite an embarrassing 0 - 10 reverse at the hands of Kingfisher 'K' in the opening week. Three wins followed that and then a draw at Birch Copse 'B'. Biggest wins have been 7 - 3 against SC&P 'H' and Milestone 'D'. John Scott has 3 wins out of 3



GWYNNE PENNY OF KINGFISHER 'K'

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
OLOP F	6	5	1	0	45	15	11
Tidmarsh F	6	5	0	1	39	21	10
Kingfisher K	6	4	0	2	41	19	8
BBC Club	5	3	1	1	25	25	7
Milestone D	6	3	0	3	34	26	6
Sonning C & P G	4	2	1	1	25	15	5
Sonning C & P H	6	2	0	4	26	34	4
Milestone C	5	2	0	3	16	34	4
Sonning Sports B	6	1	1	4	19	41	3
Kingfisher L	5	1	0	4	21	29	2
Springfield D	5	1	0	4	15	35	2
Birch Copse B	4	0	2	2	14	26	2

from one appearance, Kyrill Dissanayake 7 wins from 9, Dave Pearson has won 6 sets out of 12, captain Phil Peat 4 wins from 9, Jack Mitchell 2 wins from 6 and John Lancashire 1 from 6.

Next come the two Sonning Common & Peppard teams. **SC&P 'H'** have played five matches to date, winning two and losing three. Last season's debutant Marko Madzar has made an improved start this time around with the German star winning 10 out of 12. Captain Phil Turton has been his steady self with 4 wins from 5, then comes Oliver Sayer with 3 from 13, and Jamie Legg 2 from 11. Biggest win to date is 8 - 2 against Sonning Sports 'B', and on the reverse

side 3 - 7 defeats have come against Milestone 'D' and BBC Club.

Problems with availability with home premises, plus Milestone 'C' conceding their match has meant **SC&P 'G'** have in fact played only two matches to date. In the first match braces from Derek Maltby, captain Peter Harman and Steve Knott gave them a 6 - 4 win at Milestone 'D', and this was followed by a 4 - 6 defeat against BBC Club, Peter winning two and Oliver Hester one.

Having lost their top players from last season, **Milestone 'C'** have not found the transition from Division 4 that easy. Two wins, two defeats and a conceded match leaves Monty Berzon's side in eighth place. Pratik Kothari has 4 wins from 5, Monty 4 from 8, Vivek Pandey 3 from 9 and Ashok Thingore 3 from 11. Wins by 6 - 4 were achieved against Springfield 'D' and SC&P 'H', while they succumbed by 2 - 8 reverses against Kingfisher 'K' and Milestone 'D'.

Next come three teams on two points. A treble from Chris Speight led **Springfield 'D'** to a 6 - 4 win over Kingfisher 'L'. The biggest reversal though was 0 - 10 at the hands of Tidmarsh 'F'. Chris is top performer so far with 8 wins out of 9, Tom Berryman 1 from 3, Nigel Outhwaite 2 out of 11, Andrew Atack 1 from 11 and Tim Carr is yet to trouble the scorers in three matches. Captain Bob Sibun has yet to make an appearance.

Birch Copse 'B' have lost the prolific Roy Hull and gained the services of yours truly. Two draws and two defeats have been the tally so far, the opening draw against OLOP 'F' being particularly impressive but the following week's 1 - 9 reversal at the hands of Milestone 'D' was not quite so. Duncan Abbott has made a sound start winning 8 out of 9, losing to Tidmarsh 'F's newcomer Simon Barter 13-11 in the fifth and deciding game. Best support so far has come from Melanie Griffiths with 4 wins out of 9. Trevor Davis has 1 win from 6, captain Chris Dummett 1 from 9 and Elizabeth Hull, who is currently out injured, zero from 3.

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Bob Sunerton	Tidmarsh F	6	6	100.00 %
John Scott	BBC Club	3	3	100.00 %
Gwynne Penny	Kingfisher K	15	14	93.33 %
Herbert Tang	OLOP F	13	12	92.31 %
George Strong	Milestone D	12	11	91.67 %
Chris Speight	Springfield D	9	8	88.89 %
Duncan Abbott	Birch Copse B	9	8	88.89 %
Jazz Dhillon	OLOP F	7	6	85.71 %
Marko Madzar	Sonning C & P H	12	10	83.33 %
David Wells	Kingfisher K	12	10	83.33 %
Theresa Watson	Tidmarsh F	12	10	83.33 %

Perennial strugglers **Sonning Sports 'B'** have strengthened their squad this time around with the addition of Cris Reynolds, who is top performer so far with 4 wins out of 6. Last season's leading light Tom Gordon has 3 from 6, Martin Perry 1 win from 3, captain Suzanne Brownhill 2 from 9, Meriel Low 2 from 12 and Mo Cole zero from 9. The vastly experienced Dave West has finally hung up his bat after many seasons in the fray. The only win to date is a 6 - 4 win over Springfield 'D', worst reverse 1 - 9 against Kingfisher 'K'.

Propping up the table are Hilary Husbands' **Kingfisher 'L'** who have lost all four opening matches. They are however not the whipping boys their league position suggests, as all defeats have been by either a 4 - 6 or 3 - 7 margin. Top player has been Ruben Dario Hernandez with 6 wins from 9, followed by close season signing from Polish Ania Pytko with 4 wins from 9. Colin Mercer has 3 from 9, whilst captain Hilary has found the going tough in her initial season. I understand the team has injury problems and are on the lookout for new blood.

Lower Divisions Cup by Duncan Abbott

The Lower Divisions Knockout Cup is open to all teams registered in Divisions 4 and 5.

This tournament follows last season's format, with all 9 games in each match being doubles games featuring three players on each side. Please note that each game will be best of 3 (not 5) with games being up to 11 points as in league games.

Group A
Curzon C
Springfield C
Tidmarsh F
Birch Copse B

Group B
Springfield B
Tile Meths D
Milestone C
Kingfisher L

Group C
Tidmarsh E
Kingfisher K
OLOP F
Milestone D

W/C 27 October 2014

Springfield C v Birch Copse B
Curzon C v Tidmarsh F
Kingfisher L v Springfield B
Milestone C v Tile Meths D
Tidmarsh E v Milestone D
OLOP F v Kingfisher K

W/C 24 November 2014

Birch Copse B v Curzon C
Tidmarsh F v Springfield C
Springfield B v Milestone C
Tile Meths D v Kingfisher L
Milestone D v OLOP F
Kingfisher K v Tidmarsh E

W/C 15 December 2014

Curzon C v Springfield C
Birch Copse B v Tidmarsh F
Kingfisher L v Milestone C
Springfield B v Tile Meths D
Tidmarsh E v OLOP F
Milestone D v Kingfisher K

W/C 16 February 2015

Semi Finals
Tuesday 7 April 2015
Final

John Cunningham Youth Division

by Emma Barraclough

The Youth Division has got off to a strong start with over thirty players registered and ten teams established. The Division has had good attendance since the first evening on 19th September with a welcome mix of established players and a number of new faces who have brought great enthusiasm and great promise to the league.

There have been five weeks of competitive play so far with much good play to be seen. **The Tigers** consisting of **Harry Munro, Thomas Perkins** and **Joe Barraclough** top the division at the moment with 47 points, with the **Spartans** consisting of **Leo Thomis, Camran Nesari** and **Keyan Ghods** in second place on 39 points. Both teams

are being pursued by a strong group of teams – the **Panthers, Trojans, Knights** and **Jaguars** who are all playing well.

The Division will have a break from competitive team play this week with the first part of an individual tournament which will be completed on the last session before the Christmas break. The team matches will resume on November 7th and continue until Christmas. After Christmas the Youth Division will divide into two divisions for the remainder of the season. The first five weeks have been a great pleasure to watch with much to enjoy.

TEAM PLACINGS

	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Tigers	5	5	0	0	47	3	47
2	Spartans	5	4	0	1	39	11	39
3	Panthers	5	4	0	1	28	22	28
4	Trojans	5	3	0	2	25	24	25
5	Knights	5	3	0	2	25	25	25
6	Jaguars	5	2	0	3	24	26	24
7	Strikers	5	2	0	3	23	26	23
8	Avengers	5	2	0	3	20	30	20
9	Attackers	5	0	0	5	11	39	11
10	Raiders	5	0	0	5	7	43	7

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	P	W	%
Harry Munro	15	15	100.00 %
Thomas Perkins	12	12	100.00 %
Jamie Filby	3	3	100.00 %
Joseph Barraclough	15	14	93.33 %
Leo Thomis	14	13	92.86 %
Gareth Wheatley	14	13	92.86 %
Camran Nesari	14	12	85.71 %
Alex Duggan	6	5	83.33 %
Bill Hayden	15	12	80.00 %
Charles Yang	11	8	72.73 %
Balazs Horanyi	15	10	66.67 %
Daniel Knott	12	8	66.67 %

Other Youth Highlights

Daniel McTiernan wins first title of new season and plays a legend

11th August: Fifteen year old Woodley based Daniel McTiernan won the first open junior tournament of the new season in England – the Topspin Donic Legends Table Tennis Championships held at Fusion TTC in South Bermondsey.

Among more than 20 entrants, McTiernan was seeded second due to his national top 25 ranking. He proceeded to win his four-boy group without losing a set and continued in this rich vein of form during the knock out rounds, beating a top French Cadet player in the quarter finals and London based Curtis Walsh (third seed) in the semi finals, both in straight sets.

In the final he faced regular adversary and number 1 seed, Matthew Lette from Grantham in Lincolnshire. Daniel lost twice to Matthew last season in the Junior British league but this time he was not to be denied, taking a one and then two set lead, the second in a deuce game. He was always up in the final set and closed it out 11-8 for yet another 3-0 victory and the title. He was a deserved winner having not dropped a single set over the six matches he played in the event.

McTiernan was presented with an attractive trophy and his £50 prize money by the Mayor of Lewisham. His main prize however was a place amongst the six qualifiers in the



DAN McTIERNAN (IN RED) PLAYS JAN-OVE WALDNER

Legends Competition, featuring former World and Olympic champions, Swedish pair Jan-Ove Waldner and Jorgen Persson, who are on a Donic Legends World tour and came to officially help open the club at its new premises.

Daniel was drawn against Waldner, a legend in the game who many consider to be the greatest player of all time. At 48 years old, he has retired from international competition but still plays some truly amazing shots – during his illustrious career, his skills earned him the nick name ‘Mozart of Table Tennis’ and his huge popularity around the world has not dwindled over time.

Fresh from victory in the Junior competition, and with Waldner clearly fighting a back injury which would later force him out of the tournament, it was a close contest throughout with McTiernan mainly playing the role of the aggressor and Waldner content to sit back and counter attack.

In a closely fought best-of- three match, Waldner took the first 13-11 but Daniel bounced back to win the second game 11-9. This set up a deciding game which witnessed some of

the best rallies of the match. It was however Waldner who won through to the semi finals by an 11-5 scoreline.

McTiernan played his part in a thoroughly entertaining match which had the 300 plus strong crowd thoroughly enthralled.

The Waingels College pupil said after his ‘once in a lifetime’ experience, ‘Waldner has been a hero of mine for many years and I watch old clips of him on the internet to learn from, so to play him was so surreal. I was pleased with the way I played today and glad I was able to help entertain the large crowd. I’d like to thank the Fusion Club for putting on such a prestigious event and also my long term sponsors, Tees Sport.’

McTiernan is playing in the Earley based Our Lady of Peace TTC ‘A’ team this season as they look to defend their Reading & District Table Tennis Association Division 1 title.

by Adam McTiernan,

A LIVING TRIBUTE TO DAVE WEST

Did it ever occur to you how unfair it is that we normally never get to find out how much everyone appreciated us until after we’re dead? Setting what may be a new precedent Bob Woodmansee writes this tribute to his former colleague Dave West - who will now be able to read it while he is still alive!

At our recent AGM, our Secretary Dave West announced his retirement from table-tennis at the tender age of 81 - far too young, I told him!! And, in addition, Dave is standing down after 18 years as our Secretary.

It really is an incredible achievement to still be playing competitive League table-tennis regularly at 80 plus – most of us will be grateful to still be standing at 80, I guess!!

And, of course, Dave is a multi-talented sportsman – I first knew him as a cricketer when Berks County Sports played his Shinfield Cricket Club – plus I know that he has played golf to a good standard for many years.

Dave first played in the Reading League in 1950 as an 18-year old for ‘The Central Club’. He then played for Robert Cort before joining our Club (then Berks County Sports) in the mid-1980’s. I did once play against Dave in 1980 in those Robert Cort days in Division 6 in what was only my second season in the League – but, sadly, even my records couldn’t find the full scores of the match in question!!

Dave reached the age of 80 in September 2012 – and, surprisingly, not only did he not consider this a sufficiently mature age to retire then – but he was far from the only octogenarian playing in the Reading League – as evidenced by an article in the League Newsletter showing five other octogenarians!! Anyway – although all this should make a total of 64 years of League table-tennis, Dave did tell me that he missed a few seasons somewhere along the line – initially for National Service and then to get married and start a family. So it might not be 64 seasons - but it’s still “a lot”!!

As a player Dave has spent most of his career in the lower reaches of the League and has rarely been near the top of the averages – but he has always been a keen and sporting competitor, always giving 100% – and even being prepared to help out our A team in Division 2 on a few occasions – quite a step up in standard but, typical of the man, he didn’t appear too overawed!! As Secretary, he has been a diligent and hard-working Officer – making sure that all the necessary forms were filled in and all the fees paid on time – sometimes initially paying these out of his own pocket when our previous Treasurer was a little tardy and/or lost our cheque book!!

I must personally thank Dave for supporting me with the Club admin for so many years – I shall particularly miss him for this – but, more importantly, all our Club members congratulate him on a great career and thank him so much for all his efforts as a player and as our Secretary over so many years and wish him a long, happy and healthy ‘TT’ retirement.

Bob Woodmansee, 15h July 2014