

READING & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

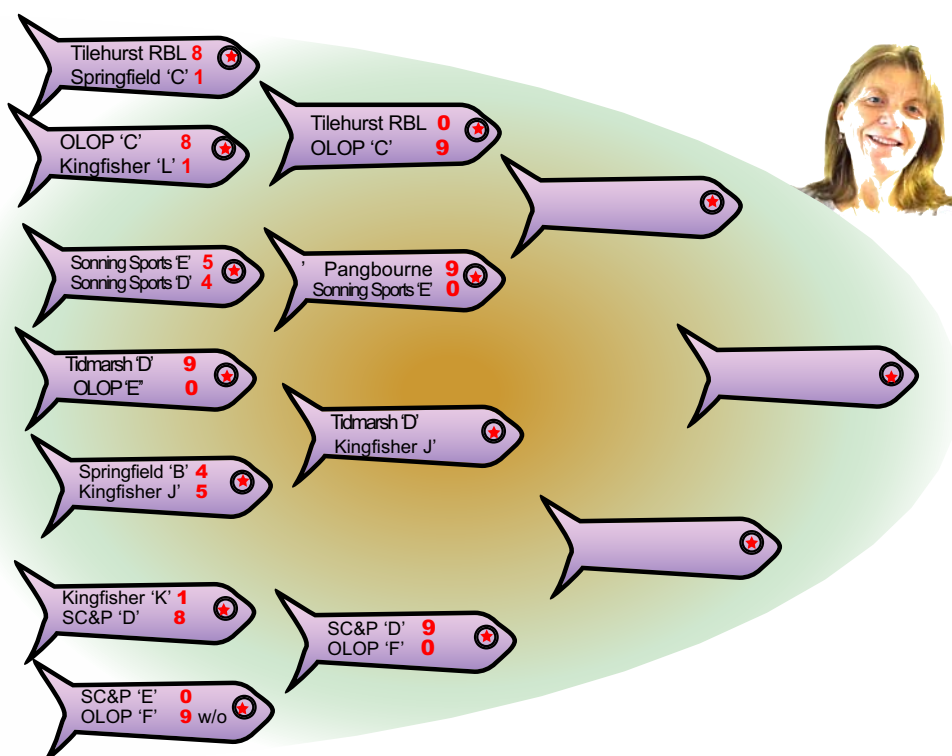
Editor:
Derek Wavell

December 2024

The November cup week brought us to the quarter finals of the Lower Divisions Knockout Cup, and three out of four matches were successfully completed, with the remaining one to be played this week.

All four matches were resounding victories for the winning sides. OLOP 'C' beat Tilehurst RBL 'C' 9 - 0, Pangbourne beating Sonning Sports 'E' 9 - 0, and SC&P 'D' beating OLOP 'F' 9-0.

The two semi-finals, OLOP 'C' vs Pangbourne, and Tidmarsh 'D' or Kingfisher 'J' vs SC&P 'D' will take place in February. Happy Christmas to all. **LF**



Current standings in the Lower Divisions Knock-out Cup, organized by Louise Forster

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Christmas is coming and this is a short but sweet Newsletter. For one thing there are no photos at this time of year - which means I can get the info out in half the time.

Very useful summaries from the DFSS, though, and useful pointers from our Secretary and Chairman - and I hope they, like yourselves, will have a succulent day or two away from the table tennis table.

Eat up, and play well!

Derek Wavell





Notes from the RDTTA General Secretary, Alistair Richardson

The season has been progressing well. Division 2 is struggling more than the others to keep up with the fixtures calendar but all seems in hand. Thank you to all Captains, Players and DFS's for their diligence.

Division 2 stands out on the next statistic with the points spread for the divisions being 59, 24, 43, 53 at the time of writing. Just how close will it be at the end of the season?

In the new year we have the individual handicap tournament to look forward to at Cippenham on the 12th January, already fully subscribed with a waiting list. This will be the last one that Eric Van Looy will run, so please

reach out to the committee if you're interested in helping and learning the ropes this year. Without an organiser this event and the Reading Closed can't be run which would be a big loss for the league and all the players who enjoy it.



The second call out is for volunteers to take up the Treasurer role. Barry Carter has been treasurer for many many years and will be standing down after the season. It is a key role of the committee ensuring proper use and allocation of the monies you all contribute to.

Have a lovely Festive season and a Happy New Year.

Alistair

Notes on Service Rules from the RDTTA Chairman Martin Adams on behalf of the committee

Well it can't all be Christmas cheer! The contentious subject of serving fairly is difficult to police and the committee is here to remind you of the rules. We have had more than one occasion where alleged foul serves have affected the enjoyment of an evening. One notable contention is the free arm shielding the ball from the opponent at the point of impact, particularly on 'pendulum' type serves. If you suspect you may be in breach of this rule or have been accused of it by an opponent, be true to yourself and have a friendly colleague record or observe from the opponents end and offer their opinion away from a match situation. We trust all members to follow the rules, Note especially 2.6.5. and 2.6.6. below....



2.6 THE SERVICE

2.6.1 Service shall start with the ball resting freely on the open palm of the server's stationary free hand.

2.6.2 The server shall then project the ball near vertically upwards, without imparting spin, so that it rises at least 16cm

after leaving the palm of the free hand and then falls without touching anything before being struck.

2.6.3 As the ball is falling the server shall strike it so that it touches first his or her court and then touches directly the receiver's court; in doubles, the ball shall touch successively the right half court of server and receiver.

2.6.4 From the start of service until it is struck, the ball shall be above the level of the playing surface and behind the server's end line, and it shall not be hidden from the receiver by the server or his or her doubles partner or by anything they wear or carry.

2.6.5 As soon as the ball has been projected, the server's free arm and hand shall be removed from the space between the ball and the net; the space between the ball and the net is defined by the ball, the net and its indefinite upward extension.

2.6.6 It is the responsibility of the player to serve so that the umpire or the assistant umpire can be satisfied that he or she complies with the requirements of the Law and either may decide that a service is incorrect.

2.6.6.1 If either the umpire or the assistant umpire is not sure about the legality of a service he or she may, on the first occasion in a match, interrupt play and warn the server, but any subsequent service by that player or his or her doubles partner which is not clearly legal shall be considered incorrect.

2.6.7 Exceptionally, the umpire may relax the requirements for a good service where he or she is satisfied that compliance is prevented by physical disability.

Martin



DIVISION ONE

by Martin Adams

With the halfway point upon us there's plenty of Christmas spice around to keep the eventual outcomes unpredictable with high calibre, team rotations and delayed fixtures into the mix. On that note, please do your best to rearrange any outstanding matches and not to leave until Easter!

I've tried to keep the annual Christmas jokes fresh, but forgive me in advance of reading!

In **1st place**, but only by way of playing an extra match, is **Kingfisher 'A'**. We have been pretty ruthless in the run up to the break, dropping just four points in the last five encounters and three of those were to Dan Moses as our 7-3 victory over Sonning Common and Peppard 'A' probably makes us the main challengers to KFB. Worthy of mention is Rishaan Sawant's predicted improvement and he remains unbeaten so far, often outplaying his colleagues. As was proven when he was player of the match against KFC, winning all games in 8 or under, as Hari

Christmas Cracker: Where does Father Christmas like to enjoy a mixture of badminton, quad biking and subtropical swimming? Santa Parcs.

To **3rd** and **Sonning Common and Peppard 'A'** – Needless to say Dan Moses has been in imperious form dropping just two ends since the last newsletter, one to Hari and one in the long-awaited face-off with Rob Hansell. Despite valiant support both Gary Morgan and Ed Lush drew a blank against KFA and along with Ian Cole and Jason Roberts will need to find something extra to challenge for a trophy after several unconvincing results including 3 - 7 (KFA) 5 - 5 (Sports) and 6 - 4 (KFE).

Christmas Cracker: What do elves score in a baseball game?

Gnome runs.

A huge gap down to **4th** where we find **Kingfisher 'E'** -Team of the season so far for me - and what a find in Shashwat Somani, whose vital statistics are looking just great (32233) including a three straight win over Ed Lush. Parvin Baishkiyar. Gordon Cho and Clive Gold teamed up to inflict KFF's only defeat thus far (9 - 1!) Adrian Cretu's eccentric playing style almost got the better of Dmitry but he did convert wins in outfoxing the likes of Dale Ballard and Jason Roberts.

Christmas Cracker: How many Reindeers does it take to change a light bulb? Don't be silly, they can't. They have hooves. They don't even know what light bulbs are. Keep reindeers away from light bulbs this Xmas!

In **5th** is **Sonning Sports 'A'** – Yes it finally happened – Both Rob Hansell and Dave Croucher turning up on the same night to a dismayed KFD for a much-needed 9-1 boost. But it's not all about these two. Nick Sears matched Rob to win two plus doubles for their draw with SC&P'A' including outplaying Ian Cole. Like Nick, Graham Diplock expertly defeated Lee Calcutt, but Paul Savage seems to keep losing all his five-setters recently. Bob Woodmansee allowed himself to be bagelled by Vince in his sole appearance since the last edition, testament to what a nice bloke he is.

Christmas Cracker: Why did the Christmas tree have to change positions? It had pines and needles!



		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Kingfisher A	10	8	0	2	79	21	79
2	Kingfisher B	9	9	0	0	72	18	72
3	SC & P A	10	6	2	2	71	29	71
4	Kingfisher E	9	5	0	4	46	44	46
5	Sonning Sports A	10	2	1	7	42	58	42
6	Kingfisher F	7	5	1	1	40	30	40
7	Kingfisher C	9	3	0	6	34	56	34
8	Kingfisher D	9	3	0	6	32	58	32
9	Tidmarsh A	9	2	1	6	30	60	30
10	SC & P B	8	1	1	6	24	56	24
11	Tilehurst RBL A	8	2	0	6	20	60	20

Gehlot and Ross Saxby required five game sets. I can see from the calendar that I may not be available for some future fixtures and Ross may be limited due to a baby being due (Good luck, Ross!) so Dmitry Khakhamov will have to up his game if a title challenge is on the cards.

Christmas Cracker: How do you get out of a Xmas-themed Escape Room?

Follow Santa Clues.

2nd is **Kingfisher 'B'** – They are seven back and their game in hand is KFF. So couldn't be closer. They have only played three times since the last edition and well-done to Cath Venning who got on the scoreboard when they met Sonning Sports 'A'. I hope Vince Nemes likes a beer as (with respect to the opposition whose strongest players were not present) his average game score on the night was 11-3. Julian Telford and Jordan Huang also remain unbeaten, but Jacek Piechocki dropped out of the group of undefeated players as he got pipped by Jon Abbott.



In **6th** but with plenty of matches in hand are **Kingfisher 'F'**. They have only played one match since October so there's not much to report. While they could theoretically still catch up, they may have laid out their intentions in fielding a team to gain valuable league match experience, going down 1 - 9 to KFE, where Grace Wang scored a confidence-boosting win over Clive Gold. They will no doubt continue to strengthen against the top three to influence the eventual outcome.

Christmas Cracker: What happens when Father Christmas looks at old Xmas photos? He gets sentimental!

7th is **Kingfisher 'C'**, who have experienced tough opposition recently in full-strength Sports and KFA, where Harry Yeates pushed Hari all the way in a 12-10, 7-11, 13-11, 11-13, 8-11 encounter. He also won two, combining with Phil Meads' maximum to pip strugglers Tilehurst 6 - 4, with Pallavi Urankar contributing to the tally in her two most recent appearances.

Christmas Cracker: What do elves say when Santa gets angry? No need to Clause a scene!

Kingfisher 'D' find themselves in **8th**. Mike Childs' unbeaten performances against both Tilehurst, where Mike Douglas also gained an impressive triple, and SC&P 'B' helped to achieve 9 - 1 and 7 - 3 victories respectively and aid their survival prospects. Their other most turned-out player is Tak Chan who also helped in their 9 - 1 romp at Tilehurst including wins over Keith Winter and Jon Willis. Georgi Ivanov also made a recent appearance but was not able to improve matters when they faced fellow strugglers SC&P 'B'.

Christmas Cracker: What did Santa do when his sleigh broke? Held on for deer life!

9th is **Tidmarsh 'A'** – Their only much-needed team victory and individual maximum in recent weeks came from the bat of Antony Baker against the Sports trio of Sears, Savage and Diplock, where Rob Mcmillan also put in a good shift resulting in a 7 - 3 win with Lee Calcutt also on the scoreboard. Captain Duncan Groves and Dale Ballard have experienced tough run-ins to Christmas, but Dale managed to contribute in overcoming Phil Mead in five who was playing up for KFA.

Christmas Cracker: Why did the reindeer insult Santa? – 'cos he was rude-olph!

Currently sitting in **10th** is **Sonning Common** and

Peppard 'B'. Captain Danny Dockree will need to inspire his colleagues with his impressive attendance record and 50% win rate to date if they are to ease out of the relegation zone, having fielded incomplete teams and reserves on occasion. As mentioned, Jon Abbott did well to end Jacek's unbeaten run and Daniel Artene pipped fellow commoner Jason Roberts. Angus Jones also brought some encouragement with an impressive win over Georgi Ivanov, but the squad appear to have availability issues accentuated by the notable recent absence of Tom Astle.

Christmas Cracker: What do you call Father Christmas when he's on a break? Santa pause

Propping up the table in **11th** is **Tilehurst RBL 'A'**. In a similar vein and a couple of rearranged matches still to play, they haven't had much to shout about in the first half (Kate Maksimenko's reserve appearances aside). I'd even go so far as to say one to forget! Keith Winter did put a spring in his step and recover impressively in their last match to edge Harry Yeates. Marc Brent has also been available in the last couple of matches and my previous prediction of Kate's transfer has not yet come true. We all know captain Jon Willis has more to give having historically been around the 50% mark and he'll have to lead a turnaround for himself and his squad in the second half. Happy Christmas! Chin up!

Christmas Cracker: Knock, knock! Who's there? Anna. Anna who? Anna partridge in a pear tree!

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Julian Telford	Kingfisher B	12	12	100.00%
Jordan Huang	Kingfisher B	12	12	100.00%
Vince Nemes	Kingfisher B	12	12	100.00%
Daniel Moses	SC & P A	20	19	95.00%
Ross Saxby	Kingfisher A	12	11	91.67%
Shashwat Somani	Kingfisher E	15	13	86.67%
Martin Adams	Kingfisher A	24	20	83.33%
Theo Kniep	Kingfisher F	12	10	83.33%
Robert Hansell	Sonning Sports A	12	10	83.33%
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher A	24	18	75.00%
Ed Lush	SC & PA	16	12	75.00%
Mike Childs	Kingfisher D	20	13	65.00%
Jason Roberts	SC & PA	14	9	64.29%
Ian Cole	SC & PA	16	10	62.50%
Jon Abbott	SC & PB	12	7	58.33%
Pallavi Urankar	Kingfisher C	12	7	58.33%
Dmitry Khakhamov	Kingfisher A	18	9	50.00%
Danny Dockree	SC & PB	18	9	50.00%
Robert McMillan	Tidmarsh A	18	8	44.44%



DIVISION TWO

by John Willcocks

The majority of the results in the last few weeks have been very close, consequently no teams have been able to pull away at the top of the division or get cast adrift at the bottom. To illustrate this there have been six draws and seven 6 – 4's since the start of November. It's the sort of division where a couple of big wins or heavy defeats could be the difference between a mid-table position and promotion or relegation.

All of these close results have made it even more difficult to predict who will end up in the promotion and relegation places. SC&P 'C' still look to be one of the



Tilehurst RBL 'B' brought two matches forward from the second half of the season and consequently they have played more matches than anyone else. So, although they are currently second in the table, this is a bit of an artificial position. Kate Maksimenko is unbeaten and although the form of the rest of the squad has been a bit patchy some improved results in the last couple of matches suggest that Nick Lean, CJ Choong and your DFS could have better second halves of the season. They may have team availability issues after Christmas so are unlikely to finish better than mid-

table

Prediction – 6th

Best Recent Performance– CJ Choong with recovering from what looked like losing positions to beat Ian Clothier and Neil Dellar in five

Tidmarsh 'B' have put their slow start to the season behind them and have won their last five matches to move up into a promotion contending position. Simon Barter, Barry Carter and Mike Alstrop have played in most of their matches and they all have solid averages of between 41% and 61%. Bill Stamatiou has their

highest average but has only played four times and François Durand has only played in three matches. So, it's a bit difficult to judge quite how well they will do in the rest of the season as it may depend on who plays but they should continue to do well

Prediction – 5th

Best Recent Performance – Barry Carter with a hard-fought maximum against Kingfisher 'I'

OLOP 'A' have had some postponements and have only played three times since the last newsletter winning twice and drawing. They are currently in fourth place and are in the promotion mix but will probably finish third or fourth. Chris West and Darek Kaminski are averaging 67% and more and if they both played in the majority of matches they would probably finish in the top two. Dave Godfey and Alistair Richardson are averaging in the mid forties so they are a strong all-round team

Prediction – 3rd

Best Recent Performance – Alistair Richardson with a fine maximum against Kingfisher 'H'

Kingfisher 'I' are another team who have played very few matches recently. They are still in a very good position despite a recent blip against Tidmarsh 'B' when they lost 8 - 2. Eyup Odemis, Akeel Mir and Muharem Aydin, who have averages of between 56% and 87%, have played in the majority of the matches and if that continues they have a good chance of get-

		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Springfield A	10	5	1	4	56	44	56
2	Tilehurst RBL B	11	5	3	3	56	54	56
3	Tidmarsh B	9	5	1	3	49	41	49
4	OLOP A	8	4	2	2	46	34	46
5	Kingfisher I	7	4	2	1	43	27	43
6	Kingfisher H	10	1	3	6	41	59	41
7	SC & P C	7	3	2	2	40	30	40
8	Kingfisher G	9	1	4	4	35	55	35
9	OLOP B	7	2	2	3	32	38	32
10	Tidmarsh C	8	2	2	4	32	48	32

favourites for promotion but it is really too close to call and where they finish will probably depend on how often Simon Berry plays. The other promotion contenders are probably Kingfisher 'I' and a resurgent Tidmarsh 'B', who have recovered from a slow start to the season to move up to third, and possibly Springfield 'A'

The situation at the bottom has not really changed much as most of the recent results involving those teams have been close. Kingfisher 'G' have the worst points difference of minus twenty and they are still just about the favourites to go down. Kingfisher 'H' have a minus eighteen points difference having played ten matches and Tidmarsh 'C' are on minus sixteen having played two matches fewer. So, any of those teams could finish in one of the relegation places.

Springfield 'A' have played five times since the end of October and those matches saw two wins and a draw and two defeats. They have had some player availability issues but are now back to full strength so they could end up in the promotion mix, especially if Jason King and Mat Hickman play in the majority of the matches. Jason is leading way on 81% and the rest of the squad are all playing well so they should win the majority of their remaining matches. Their recent defeats were in a re-arranged match against Tilehurst RBL 'B' when they had to field a reserve plus a slightly surprising loss at Kingfisher 'H' in a very close match.

Prediction – 2nd

Best Recent Performance – Jason King with a great maximum against OLOP 'A'



ting promotion and could even end up as champions.

Prediction – 1st

Best Recent Performance – Muharrem Aydin contributing two fine wins on a difficult night against Tidmarsh 'B'

Kingfisher 'H' have shown some improved form and have two draws and two very close defeats recently and they finally won their first match just before the Christmas break with a good win over Springfield 'A'. They have three players averaging over 55% but one of them has played in very few matches. If Glen Armashula, Eapen

DIVISION 2 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Kate Maksimenko	Tilehurst RBL B	23	23	100.00%
Simon Berry	SC & PC	13	12	92.31%
Akeel Mir	Kingfisher I	15	13	86.67%
Bill Stamatiou	Tidmarsh B	12	10	83.33%
Jason King	Springfield A	21	17	80.95%
Mat Hickman	Springfield A	21	16	76.19%
Dave Sanket	OLOP B	12	9	75.00%
Chris West	OLOP A	12	9	75.00%
Darek Kaminski	OLOP A	21	14	66.67%
Glen Armashula	Kingfisher H	18	12	66.67%
Sayali Bendkhale	Tidmarsh C	15	10	66.67%
Eyup Odemis	Kingfisher I	21	13	61.90%
Simon Barter	Tidmarsh B	18	11	61.11%
Eapen John	Kingfisher H	15	9	60.00%
Barry Carter	Tidmarsh B	17	10	58.82%
Muharrem Aydin	Kingfisher I	18	10	55.56%
Malcolm Gregory	SC & PC	17	9	52.94%
John Willcocks	Tilehurst RBL B	24	12	50.00%

John and Nikhil Kulkarni play in the majority of matches they will stand a good chance of moving up the table but if they do not their current points difference of minus eighteen could get worse which could put them into trouble.

Prediction – 9th

Best Recent Performance – Ajay Yesi with a maximum against Kingfisher 'G' which included two fine wins in five

SC&P 'C' are another team who have only played three times in recent weeks with their recent matches resulting in a draw and two close defeats. This has meant they have slipped down the table but they still have a points difference of plus ten and they should be in the promotion race at the end of the season. Their recent results have not been helped by Simon Berry falling ill during a match and having to concede two sets plus they also had to field a reserve in one match. If Simon plays in most of the matches they stand a good chance of finishing in the top two but if that does not happen they will probably just miss out

Prediction – 4th

Best Recent Performance – Nigel Maltby getting a maximum with some excellent defensive play against a hard hitting Tidmarsh 'C' team which included beat-

ing Sayali Bendkhale 11-9 in the fifth

Kingfisher 'G' have played three times since the beginning of November drawing all three. In their their last six matches they have either drawn or had 6 – 4 defeats so their points difference has not really alternated. However, this means they have not recovered from their poor start to the season and are still on minus twenty, the worst in the division. Satej Jaywant has an average of 83%, but has only played three times, and the most of the rest of their squad are only averaging in the 30% range. They will need to improve these averages a bit if they are to avoid finishing in one of the relegation places

Prediction – 10th

Best Recent Performance – Abhay Gore beating Simon Berry in four

OLOP 'B' have postponed two recent matches so they have only played twice since the last newsletter. In those two matches they had a 6 – 4 win and a loss by the same scoreline so their points difference of minus six is unchanged. With the exception of their first match all of their results have been draws or 6 – 4 wins or defeats and if that pattern continues they should comfortably avoid getting caught up in the relegation scrap. Sanket Dave has an impressive 75% average but he has only played four times so with their next best average being 48% they will need him to play reasonably often.

Prediction – 7th

Best Recent Performance – Sanket Dave beating Glen Armashula 11-9 in the fifth

Tidmarsh 'C' have had a fairly difficult run of results recently winning and drawing once but having three fairly heavy defeats. This has seen them slip to the bottom of the table although they have played fewer matches than most and their points difference of minus sixteen is better than two other teams. They have not been helped by having to field reserves twice recently plus Ian Wu only playing in three matches so far. Sayali Bendkhale has been playing well and has their top average of 67% and with two other players averaging over 40% they should be good enough to avoid relegation. However, if their player availability issues continue they may find themselves in trouble.

Prediction – 8th

Best Recent Performance – Sayali Bendkhale with a three straight maximum against Kingfisher 'H'

Stop press item
LATE RESULT OLOP 'A' 7 KINGFISHER 'I' 3, RESULT
WHICH MAKES THE PROMOTION RACE EVEN MORE OPEN.



TEAM HANDICAP TOURNAMENT

Team Handicap report – December 2024

The November cup week saw us down to 16 teams in the Team Handicap, and all matches were played on time. Thank you to all teams for getting their matches organised.

Tilehurst Meths met OLOP 'C' and won the match comfortably 7 - 2, with hat-tricks from both Andy Stone and Mark Bullion. Kingfisher 'L' were up against Kingfisher 'E' in a local derby, it was a close match with the E team taking it 5 - 4. Tilehurst Meths will meet Kingfisher 'E' in their quarter final.

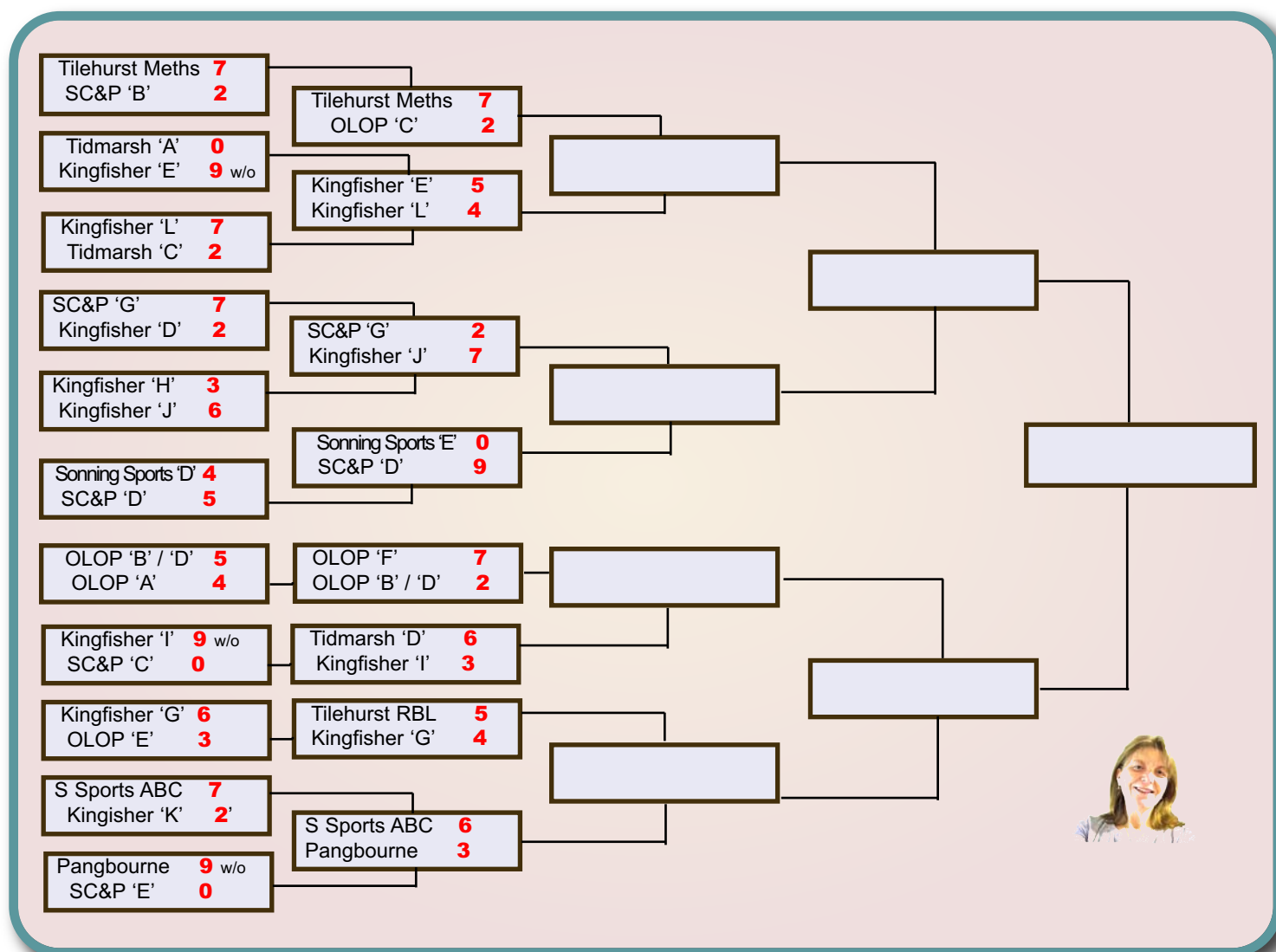
Kingfisher 'J' came up against SC&P 'F' and won the match 7 - 2, and will meet SC&P 'D' in their quarter final after their emphatic 9 - 0 win over Sonning Sports E.

Another local derby saw OLOP 'F' up against the OLOP B/D team. A friendly but well fought match against fellow club-mates saw the 'F' team win 7 - 2. Tidmarsh 'D' met a

two-man Kingfisher 'I' team and won the match 7 - 2. The winners of these two matches have already played their quarter final match ahead of schedule so I can also report that Tidmarsh 'D' beat OLOP 'F' 5 - 3 in a very close match this week, making Tidmarsh 'D' the first team through to the semi-final stage.

Tilehurst RBL met Kingfisher 'G' in what was one of the closest matches of this round with Tilehurst RBL taking the match 5 - 4. The amalgamated team of Sonning Sports A/B/C (who have 18 team members to select from!) met Pangbourne in a well fought match and managed a 6 - 3 win. Tilehurst RBL will meet Sonning Sports A/B/C in their quarter final.

I look forward to seeing the results of the upcoming quarter finals this week - all the best to all teams for some good matches. Happy Christmas to all and best wishes for 2025.



by Louise Forster



DIVISION THREE

by Huzeyfe Borazan

Season's Greetings to all our players, captains, and supporters! As the festive season arrives, it's a great time to reflect on an exciting first half of the 2024-25 table tennis season. From nail-biting finishes to standout performances, Division 3 has delivered plenty of thrilling moments to warm us up during these chilly months. Let's jump straight into the updates!

Mid-Season Highlights

The competition has been fierce, with Our Lady Of Peace 'C' setting the pace at the top of the table with a perfect 10/10 record and a dominant points tally of 71. Well done to them for an exceptional run so far!

However, the fight for the promotion remains wide open:

- Sonning Common and Peppard 'D' (62 points) and Sonning Sports 'B' (61 points) are just behind and ready to pounce in the new year.
- A solid performance from Pangbourne WMC (59 points) keeps them in the chase as well. And they have one match in the hand.
- Teams in mid-table, such as Tilehurst Methodists 'B' and Kingfisher 'J', are still holding on, while others like Sonning Sports 'C' and Tilehurst Methodists 'A' will be aiming for big comebacks after Christmas.

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

Methodists 'A' showed their firepower.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'D'

Currently second with 62 points, SC&P 'D' remains a solid contender for promotion. Their balanced squad and consistent performances keep them in the hunt. Despite losing 4 matches they are second in the table because their losses have been so close. All their losses are 6 - 4.

Key Players: Jeremy Willis (85.71% win rate, 4 POM awards) has been instrumental.

Key Wins: A vital 9 - 1 away win against Tilehurst Methodists 'A' showed their dominance.

Sonning Sports 'B'

In third place with 61 points and with a match in hand, Sonning Sports 'B' has had an impressive season, winning 6 of their 9 matches. Tim Challenger seems a great transfer for the Sonning team. Depending on the second half they can be a contender for the title however, they need to beat the unbeaten.

Key Players: Brett Hastings (85.71% win rate) and Tim Challenger (80% win rate, 4 POM awards).

Key Wins: A convincing 9 - 1 win against Tilehurst Methodists 'B' and a gritty 5 - 5 draw with Sonning Common and Peppard 'D' highlight their ability to perform under pressure.

Pangbourne WMC

With 59 points and a match in hand, Pangbourne WMC is still in the running for a top-three finish. However, if they want to go back to the Division 2 they need to score some high margin wins.

Key Players: John Simmonds leads the way with an extraordinary 90% win rate and 6 Player of the Match awards, while Clive Taylor (76.92%) provides excellent support.

Key Wins: A critical 8-2 away victory over Tilehurst Methodists 'B' boosted their standing.

Our Lady Of Peace 'D'

Mid-table with 48 points, OLOP 'D' has had a mixed season so far. While consistency has been a challenge, standout individual performances have kept them competitive. They are an all round team and their win rates are so close.

Key Players: They don't have a player with more than a 65% win rate however they are a very good team in terms of team play. Patrick McIntosh, James Smith and Louise Forster all have a solid 55%+ win rate.

Key Wins: A stunning 9 - 1 away victory over Sonning Common and Peppard 'E' showcased their potential.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'E'

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 OLOP C	10	10	0	0	71	29	71
2 SC & P D	10	5	1	4	62	38	62
3 Sonning Sports B	9	6	1	2	61	29	61
4 Pangbourne	9	6	0	3	59	31	59
5 OLOP D	10	4	2	4	48	52	48
6 SC & P E	9	3	1	5	37	53	37
7 Kingfisher J	9	2	3	4	37	53	37
8 Tidmarsh D	8	4	0	4	36	44	36
9 Tilehurst Meths B	9	3	2	4	36	54	36
10 Tilehurst Meths A	10	1	2	7	35	65	35
11 Sonning Sports C	9	1	0	8	28	62	28

team.

Team-by-Team Round-Up

Our Lady Of Peace 'C'

Sitting proudly at the top of the table with 71 points, Our Lady Of Peace 'C' has been a dominant force this season. Their perfect 10/10 record reflects their consistency and quality. They are the biggest favourite for the title.

Key Players: Graham Stark (85.71% win rate) and Daniel Dzieciol (79.17% win rate).

Key Wins: A crushing 10 - 0 win against Tilehurst



Currently on 37 points, Sonning Common and Peppard 'E' has shown flashes of brilliance but will look for more consistency in the second half. They will like to finish in the middle of the table but still it's not granted yet.

Key Players: Gerry Bacon (55% win rate, 2 POM awards) has been their standout player.

Key Wins: A convincing 9 - 1 victory over Sonning Sports 'C' not only gave them points but also provided a healthy advantage over their competitors.

Kingfisher 'J'

Sitting mid table with 37 points, Kingfisher 'J' has performed admirably despite a tough schedule.

Key Players: Neil Abbott has led from the front with an impressive 80% win rate.

Key Wins: Their 7-3 away win against Tilehurst Methodists 'A' was their standout performance.

Tidmarsh 'D'

Currently in 8th place with 36 points, Tidmarsh 'D' has been competitive in many matches but will need a strong second half to climb the table. They also have 2 matches in hand.

Key Players: Ray Webb (66.67% win rate) continues to be a reliable performer.

Key Wins: A 7-3 win over OLOP 'D' highlighted their potential when at full strength.

Tilehurst Methodists 'B'

Level on 36 points with Tidmarsh 'D', Tilehurst Methodists 'B' has shown glimpses of their potential but struggled for consistency.

Key Players: Nigel Rowland has been their standout player with 75% win rate.

Key Wins: A hard-fought and a crucial 7-3 win over Our Lady Of Peace 'D' performance was brilliant from them.

Tilehurst Methodists 'A'

With 35 points, Tilehurst Methodists 'A' have had a challenging first half but remain competitive. They need more consistency in the second half to avoid relegation.

Key Players: Phil Jones and Jes Eassom were their reliable duo for the points.

Key Wins: A high margin 9 - 1 victory over Sonning Sports 'C' showed their ability to battle for points.

Sonning Sports 'C'

At the bottom with 28 points and despite challenges, the team continues to battle hard, and there have been notable moments, particularly from James Miller, whose recent performances stand out.

Key Players: James Miller has been their brightest performer with an 83.33% win rate.

Key Wins: Their 4 - 6 away win against Sonning Common and Peppard 'D' provided a much-needed boost.

What's Coming Up

The second half of the season kicks off in January, promising more intense battles across the table. Title and promotion race will be intense as there are 4 teams battling for the promotion. Especially the matches between these teams are the most anticipated fixtures in the second half. On the other side of the table, Sonning Sports 'C' has a mountain to climb and they have the toughest task to avoid relegation. However, starting from 7th team to 10th team they all have the risk of relegation, so be ready for one of the most exciting league ends.

😊 Season's Greetings 😊

LEADING AVERAGES 3

John Simmonds	Pangbourne WMC	20	18	90.00%
Jeremy Willis	SC & PD	21	18	85.71%
Graham Stark	OLOPC	21	18	85.71%
Brett Hastings	Sonning Sports B	21	18	85.71%
James Miller	Sonning Sports C	18	15	83.33%
Tim Challender	Sonning Sports B	15	12	80.00%
Neil Abbott	Kingfisher J	15	12	80.00%
Ian Davenport	SC & PD	15	12	80.00%
Daniel Dzieciol	OLOPC	24	19	79.17%
Clive Taylor	Pangbourne WMC	13	10	76.92%
Nigel Rowland	Tilehurst Meths B	12	9	75.00%
Anthony Reeve	SC & PD	27	18	66.67%
Mark Carless	OLOPC	18	12	66.67%
Ray Webb	Tidmarsh D	15	10	66.67%
Simon Brookes	OLOPC	12	8	66.67%
Patrick McIntosh	OLOPD	21	13	61.90%
Grant Baartman	Sonning Sports B	15	9	60.00%

On behalf of the RDTTA Committee, I'd like to thank all players, captains, and officials for their hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm this season. We hope you enjoy a relaxing and joyful Christmas break and return refreshed for the challenges ahead!

🎅 🎅 Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
to you all!



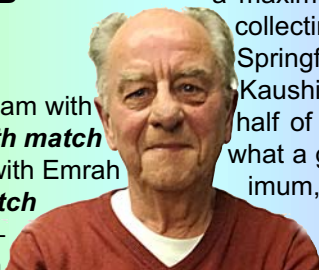
DIVISION FOUR

by Mick Mitcham

Looking good for the leaders Springfield B

Kingfisher 'K'

6th match of the season away to their L team with a 7 – 3 loss. Emrah 2 wins and Houron 1. **7th match** home to Sonning sports 'D' with a 6 – 4 win with Emrah and Walter each with a maximum. **8th match** away to Our Lady of Peace 'F' and loss of 7 – 3 with Moto getting her first win of the season and Anson and Mick getting 1 each. What a last match of the first half of the season with a 8 – 2 win over Tilehurst RBL 'C', Walter getting a maximum and the doubles, with Emrah and Houron 2 each.



a maximum and the doubles with Anish and Krishiv collecting 1. Going into their 8th match away to Springfield C and a 7 - 3 loss with Isaac, Adi and Kaushik winning 1 each. Their last match of the first half of the season was home to Kingfisher 'K' and what a good win: 7 – 3 with Abhishek getting a maximum, Anish 2 wins and Kaushik collecting only his second★ win of the season over Mick Mitcham.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'F'

6th match of the season and a draw away to Sonning Sports 'E' - David maximum and Alistair 1 with David and Graham picking up doubles win. **7th match** away to OLOP 'E' and a 6 – 4 loss with David and Derek picking up 2 wins each. **8th match** away to 2nd place Kingfisher 'L' and a creditable draw Alistair and Derek with 2 wins and Graham picking up only his second win of the season. **9th match** home to Sonning Sports 'D' and a 6 – 4 loss. Alistair 2 wins and Graham 1 plus the doubles.

Sonning Sports 'D'

5th match of season a big loss to league leaders Springfield 'B' 10 – 0, 6th match home draw with Springfield 'C', John winning 2 and Michael and Phillip collecting 1 each with John and Phillip winning a great

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Springfield B	9	8	1	0	70	20	70
2 OLOP E	8	7	0	1	56	24	56
3 Kingfisher L	8	5	2	1	54	26	54
4 Tilehurst RBL C	9	5	0	4	53	37	53
5 Kingfisher K	9	4	0	5	45	45	45
6 OLOP F	9	3	2	4	42	48	42
7 SC & P F	9	1	2	6	38	52	38
8 Springfield C	9	2	2	5	30	60	30
9 Sonning Sports D	8	2	1	5	25	55	25
10 Sonning Sports E	8	0	2	6	17	63	17

Kingfisher 'L'

6th match of the season away to Springfield 'C' with a 10 – 0 win - Pehej, Atinc and Noah all getting maximum. Next match home to their K team 7 – 3 wins with Pehej getting his 6th maximum of the season (Who is going to stop him?) Ian helped with 2 wins and Sue collected 1. **8th match** at home to Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' with a draw. Atinc was the star with a maximum plus the doubles with Ian who also collected 1 point. Their last match of the first half of the season is cancelled.

Our Lady of Peace 'E'

7th match a 6 – 4 win over SC & P 'F' with Pat maximum and Wade and Derek 1 each and Pat and Wade collecting the doubles. **8th match** away to Sonning Sport 'E' with a great 9 – 1 win with Wade and Fitzroy with maximum and Derek collecting 2 points; Pat coming in to play the doubles with Wade and collecting the 9th point. Their last match of the first half of the season is cancelled.

Our Lady of Peace 'F'

6th match a bit of a letdown away to Tilehurst RBL 'C' who were on form, with a 10 – 0 loss and their 7th match up against the league leaders Springfield 'B' and what a result with a draw! Abhishek the player of the night with

DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	P	W	%
Pehej Vig	Kingfisher L	18	18	100.00%
Ludovic Couillard	Springfield B	12	12	100.00%
Atinc Erguven	Kingfisher L	15	14	93.33%
Abhishek Saraf	OLOPF	15	14	93.33%
Marcello Caramma	Springfield B	15	13	86.67%
David Riddle	SC & PF	18	15	83.33%
Patrick Daniels	OLOPE	18	15	83.33%
Robert Attack	Springfield B	21	17	80.95%
Fitz Licorish	OLOPE	21	17	80.95%
Steve O'Connor	Springfield B	15	12	80.00%
Geoff Johnson	Tilehurst RBL C	15	12	80.00%
Walter Aldridge	Kingfisher K	15	12	80.00%
Richard Sabberton-Coe	Springfield C	15	11	73.33%
Emrah Bulut	Kingfisher K	18	12	66.67%
Paul Treadgold	Tilehurst RBL C	18	12	66.67%

double 16 – 14 in the fifth. **7th match** away to Kingfisher 'K' and a 6 – 4 loss with wins for Kev, Peter and Mike plus a doubles win for Peter and Mike. Last match away to SC&P 'F' and a win with Peter getting a maximum, Michael 2 wins and Mo Cole playing up for 1 win.



Sonning Sports 'E'

6th match of the season home draw with Sonning Common and Peppard 'F'. Mo and Stephen 2 wins and Dave 1 - their 7th match away to an in-form team Tilehurst RBL 'C' with a 10 – 0 loss. **8th match** another heavy loss 9 – 1 this time to OLOP 'E' with Stephen getting the only point.

Springfield 'B'

6th match and 6th win 10 – 0 over Sonning Sports 'D' Robert, Benson and Marcello all getting maximum. 7th **match** was not a win well done OLOP 'F' a draw. Robert and Steve 2 wins and Benson 1 but still a good team. **8th match** Oh well back to winning ways with a 9 - 1 over Tilehurst RBL 'C'; Robert and Ludovic maximum and Steve 2 wins and Ludovic and Roberts getting the doubles. 9th and last match of the first half and yet another win this time away to their C team with an 8 – 2 win Marcello and Ludovic maximum and doubles and a point for Benson.

Springfield 'C'

5th match a big loss to Kingfisher 'L' 10 – 0. **6th match** a good result at Sonning Sports 'D' with a draw. Richard was on good form with a maximum and Paul collecting 2 wins. **7th match** another good result with a 7 – 3 win over OLOP 'F' with Richard and Shas maximum and the doubles. **8th match** away to Tilehurst RBL 'C' with a big loss 9 – 1, Paul getting the 1. Last match of the first half of the season and an 8 – 2 loss to their B team with Shas and Richard collecting a point each.

Tilehurst RBL 'C'

5th match great win 10 – 0 home to OLOP 'F' Paul Linda and Jim maximum with Linda and Paul collecting the doubles. **6th match** and another 10 – 0 this time over Sonning Sports 'E' this time Paul Jim and Geoff with maximum and Paul and Jim with the doubles. **7th match** back down to earth with a 9 – 1 loss to the league leaders Springfield 'B' with Geoff getting the 1 point. **8th match** back to winning ways with a 9 – 1 win over Springfield 'C' Linda and Geoff maximum and Paul 2 wins and the doubles with Linda. Last game of the first half of the season and a big 8 – 2 loss to Kingfisher 'K', Paul getting the 2 points.