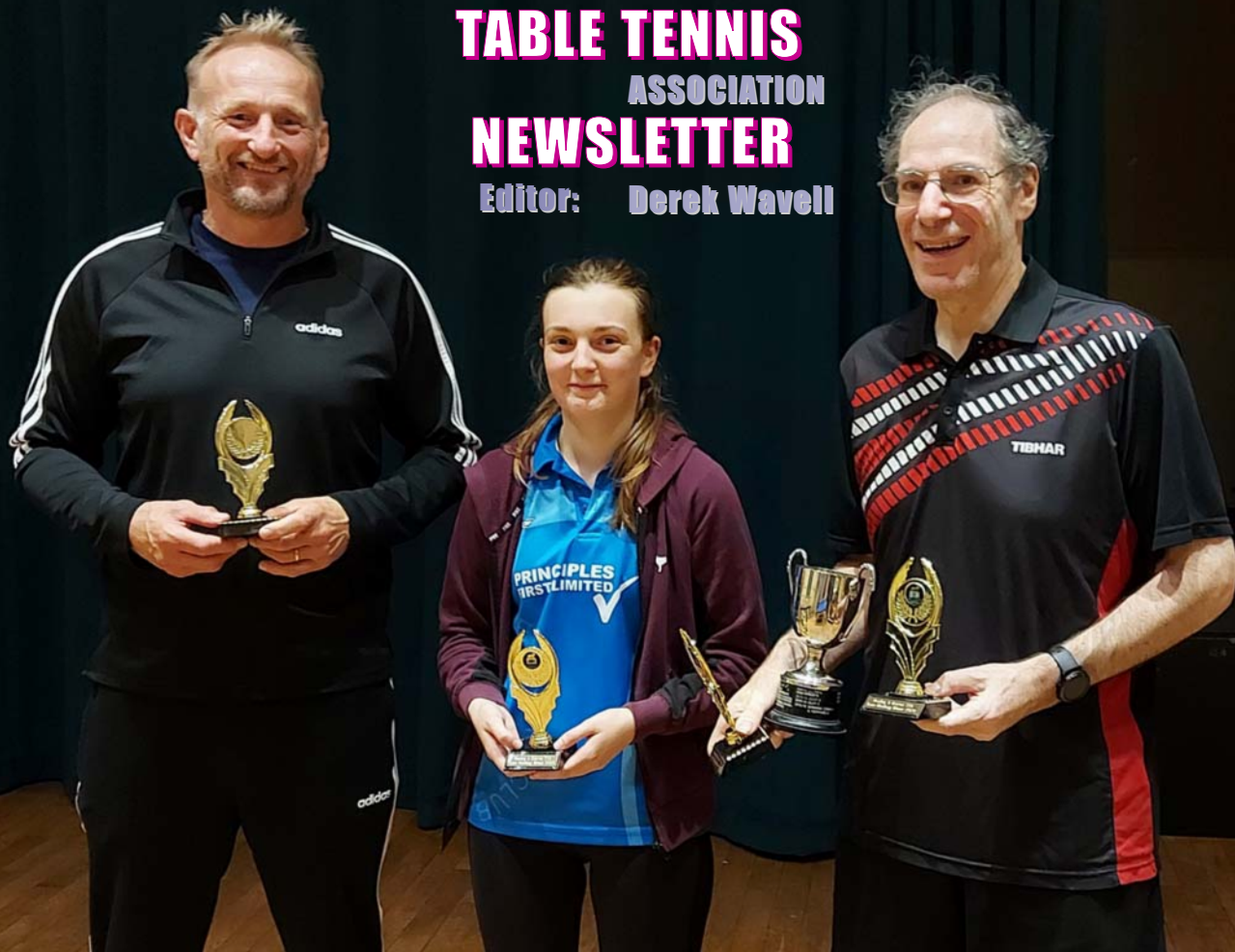


November 2021

# READING

## & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Editor: Derek Wavell



Some of the trophies already awarded this year - to Mark Carless, Morgan Sykes and Simon Brookes of OLOP 'D', for winning the delayed final of the 2019-2000 Team Handicap tournament, which was played this September (see p14)

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*Click ALT + left arrow to return*

*Hello, and congratulations that you are still with us.*

You're sure to notice that this newsletter has less photos of players than usual. Most photos normally come from tournaments and prize-givings - which we haven't had. And Adobe - who make the software on which this runs - have wickedly banned my beloved Flash animations. Fortunately, some forward-thinking captains have sent photos, for which I salute them.



*We will certainly include more after Christmas!*

Another item you'll miss is the report on the Youth League. Wendy Porter, our youth organizer, is away so the Youth League is currently having a rest. But talented young players have not gone away!

*The League is flourishing as usual.*

*Good luck!*

*Derek Wavell*

### Notes from our Chairman

Hello everybody

Welcome back. It has been a very long time. I hope that you have all been OK and have avoided any big problems.

I write this after a few matches have been played and can see that there have been some very good matches and from some information I have received you all



have enjoyed it.

While writing can you help the DFS by sending match reports which they can include in the newsletter.

Also do look at the Reading website to see results and up to date league tables.

All the best

Derek

Chairman

### From League Secretary Nigel Maltby

Well it's been great to get back into league action! Long may it continue! We have 40 teams this year, which is a reduction from the previous playing season, but that wasn't unexpected. All divisions have 1 or 2 gaps which will enable space for any necessary re-arrangements and/or cup matches. Most teams appear to be up to date so far, although there are some teams, particularly in the lower divisions who have a bit of catching up to do. Springfield have had a few issues lately with their venue being a school and the number of Covid cases at the school, but that I think is resolving itself. Also your patience and understanding would be appreciated when playing Milestone at the moment as they are unable to commence home matches until 8pm - The secretary or team captains of Milestone will keep you informed.

As I have said it is all action on the league front and both the Team Handicap and Lower Divisions Cup has also started thanks to Louise Forster. We also have a new volunteer in Eric Van Looy to run both the Reading Closed and the Individual Handicap competitions. He is planning to hold both these events at Cippenham TTC.

Proposed dates are **Saturday 8th January for the Individual Handicap**, **Sunday 20th February for the Reading Closed Junior events** and **Sunday 6th March for the Reading Closed Senior and Veteran events**.

As I say these are proposed dates so we will confirm them as soon as possible.

In the meantime enjoy getting out there and playing your matches.



## Special Competitions 2021-22

*organised by Louise Forster*

Hello, I've taken over from Ray Webb in the running of this year's Team Handicap ([P16-17](#)) and Lower Division Knock Out ([P5](#)) competitions. Many thanks to Ray for all the work that he put in to running these competitions over the past few years, and also for passing on all his insight to me! Some of you may know me, I play for Our Lady of Peace in the Reading league, I also play regularly in the Maidenhead league. I'm a recent returner to table tennis,

having rediscovered the sport after a 30 year break. I'm looking forward to running the two competitions and hoping there will be some good matches.





# DIVISION ONE by Mark Banks

**H**i Guys – Soooooo it's been a while! So long in fact that I can regurgitate all of my old jokes and none of you will remember – Get in! Where have you all been? Hope you and your families have all been keeping well. Personally I think I'm having a season away from Local League – OK I'm registered so I may play one or two – but it's crazy to think the last time I played a Reading match was December 2019 and we're almost in 2022 now – eeeeeek! Good to see that a load of old faces have decided not to do a Mark Banks and are actually competing again and we welcome some new faces too. On the table it's plain to see that Kingfisher 'A' will regaining the Title back from the OLOP Club and whatever they like to call themselves these days – we all know that sadly the Curzon/Tilehurst boys will be going down once again – although I've said that for about the last 15 years and they always seem to stay up haha!

Keep well and hope you're enjoying the season! And when things don't go your way just remember it could be worse – you could play for Kingfisher D!

Love & Peace

Banksy

Nice to welcome back a certain Darren Jones to Berkshire Table Tennis once again after about 40 years away from the scene and he definitely strengthens the already incredibly super strong and star-studded **Kingfisher 'A'** side this season. And what an amazing start we've already had. Effectively ending OLOP's chances of retaining their title in the first few weeks of the season. Superb! Leading from the front as always has been the ever present Hariiiiiiiiiiii. He did moan that he's played every match but secretly he loves it and if we'd dropped him for one of them he would have just moaned that he wasn't playing. We've lost Dan Wills so Ross Saxby has taken it upon himself to be the new TLD. And he hasn't disappointed with a brilliant duck against Sonning 'A'. Dmitry is back and has started relatively slowly by his high standards but will undoubtedly improve in the coming weeks and if you thought that line up was strong enough with me on the bench we've only gone and signed Martin Adams who, despite living hundreds of miles away in High Wycombe, has decided that he can't keep away from thrashing all you Reading players. Brilliant! So we're obviously going to win it. And I'm not required. Happy Days!!!!

**M.V.P. Hariiiiiiiiiiii**

Steady start from **OLOP 'A'** and with a loss already to their



bitter rivals it's very much looking like the runners up position in their title defence season. Star Man Sam Ricks is obviously being rested until the big ones come up – but because there aren't too many big ones anymore in the Reading League he's hardly been seen. Close match again with Hariiiiiiii but this time it was the Hamilton Road star that came out on top. Ian's playing well by the looks of things. Some good maximums already and with him and Murgy and Harry they're going to be too good for most of the rest most of the time. Quick mention to newcomer Phil Davenport who already has a few wins under his belt at this level. So obviously Liam was gonna be a huge loss – massive in fact but fair play to OLOP – they are still looking pretty good and 2<sup>nd</sup> place is all but guaranteed.

**M.V.P. Ricksyyyyyyyy**

What a start then for new look **KFC** who have taken the league by storm and find themselves comfortably in 3<sup>rd</sup> spot. One very familiar face is Dan McTiernan who like many before him have come across to Kingfisher from the OLOP Club and it's good to see him back in action and playing well too. Some unfamiliar names in here too though. Emanuel, Adrian and Shreesh are incredibly keen and not bad players either and Emma has sadly lost her mate back to Dorset but is still playing OK at this level and heads up this team making sure they all know what they're doing. A refreshing addition to the league then. Going really well and don't be surprised to see them keep hold of the bronze medal position for the rest of the season.

**M.V.P. Dannyyyyyyyyy**

		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Kingfisher A	5	5	0	0	43	7	43
2	OLOP A	6	5	0	1	40	20	40
3	Kingfisher C	5	3	1	1	27	23	27
4	SC&P A	5	1	2	2	26	24	26
5	SC&P B	4	3	1	0	25	15	25
6	SC&P C	6	1	1	4	21	39	21
7	Tidmarsh A	4	1	1	2	19	21	19
8	Kingfisher B	5	1	0	4	19	31	19
9	Kingfisher D	5	1	0	4	16	34	16
10	Tilehurst RBL A	3	0	0	3	4	26	4

Mixed start then for **Sonning Common 'A'** who have been rocked by the injury to star man Gary Morgan and undoubtedly missing Jo Jos too. Neil has started the season in great form. No Andy Wang this season for Neil to tell every man and his dog how to beat him but he's actually managed to start beating

other players too with a couple of very good notables in the KFA match grrrrrrrrrr. The absence of a couple of regulars has finally allowed JR to play some doubles and he's actually managed to win a few too. Probably now wondering how he was always overlooked in the past. Doing well in singles too chipping in with a healthy contribution. Great to see that Malcolm Gregory has found his bat after the enforced break and whilst his table tennis is still only slightly better than mediocre – it's still better than some of his terrible jokes. Obviously if Gary returns some time soon then 3<sup>rd</sup> place is probably theirs for the taking but KFC are going to push them for that I'm telling ya!

#### M.V.P. Neilyyyyyyyyyy

Hot on the heels of their A side are **Sonning Common 'B'** who have had a reasonable start just above mid-table and whilst they have lost one superstar in Mr Wang – they seem to have gained another in Jamie Barlow who is flying high in the averages sweeping all before him. Great to see and will be interesting to watch how he performs against a couple of the big guns who are on the horizon. With new faces there are always some old faces too. Brian has started in some good form with a healthy looking early average and Nigel, although only been seen a couple of times in these early days, already has a couple of "above par" wins as he always seems to do these days. I always like to see Simon Berry in the side. Not quite the player he was but will still win his share and obviously Jez's injury has put a bit of a dampener on proceedings but they're still going well. Definite mid-table side and will be very interesting to watch Jamie's progress.

#### M.V.P. Jamieeeeeeeeee

Three Sonning sides all in a row then and in Alphabetical order too! with **Sonning Common 'C'** completing the treble. New signing Ed Lush has been a revelation for them and is a big reason why they are comfortably sitting mid-table rather than finding themselves in a big relegation battle as they have done in seasons gone by. The 2 Matts have started the season OK with half a dozen wins between them but Tim & Denise have struggled to make an impact although both are off the mark. There's a lot to like about this side though and I fully expect them to maintain their position as the season progresses.

#### M.V.P. Eddyyyyyyyyyyy

Early days still obviously but **Tidmarsh 'A'** I have to admit

I would have expected to see maybe 1 or 2 places higher in the table. Part of the reason may be that they have already used 6 players so rotation is key and a couple of their "big guns" haven't quite started firing after the lengthy absence. Duncan I thought was going to be the man this season and in truth he started really well – especially in the OLOP match but then rather uncharacteristically managed a duck against Sonning 'B'. Obviously one never knows circumstances behind a night at the ping but I was as surprised as any and hopefully just a blip on what had been a strong start. Squirrel obviously hasn't had his nuts yet and by his standards hasn't got anywhere close to the form that we have seen in the past. He'll get there though – I'm certain of it. Elsewhere the rest of the squad have all picked up wins when called upon. Lee, François, Simon & even Barry got involved early on. I do expect these to be challenging a bit higher so expecting some improvement as we go into the Winter months.

#### M.V.P. Groveseyyyyyyy

Another side who haven't started well are **Kingfisher 'B'** who find themselves 3<sup>rd</sup> from bottom when normally they are

right up there 3<sup>rd</sup> from top. Alan has started OK – with a great win over Mendick from the D team and Phil seems to have hit the ground running too but the support for both of them hasn't been there as yet and unless it comes quickly they could find themselves in a bit of bother. New signing Michael is seemingly struggling in his first season at this level and Nigel and Steve have only been seen once apiece so perhaps there are injury issues there. Either way it could be a long season for KFB.

### LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher A	13	13	100.00%
Martin Adams	Kingfisher A	3	3	100.00%
Darren Jones	Kingfisher A	11	10	90.91%
Jamie Barlow	SC&P B	11	10	90.91%
Ian Cole	OLOP A	12	10	83.33%
Neil Hurford	SC&P A	12	10	83.33%
Sam Ricks	OLOP A	6	5	83.33%
Daniel McTiernan	Kingfisher C	9	7	77.78%
Mo Cook	OLOP A	12	9	75.00%
Ed Lush	SC&P C	15	11	73.33%
Ross Saxby	Kingfisher A	7	5	71.43%
Emanuel Sandu	Kingfisher C	9	6	66.67%
Philip Mead	Kingfisher B	9	6	66.67%
Brian Meheux	SC&P B	8	5	62.50%
Graham Mendick	Kingfisher D	15	9	60.00%
Adrian Cretu	Kingfisher C	9	5	55.56%

#### M.V.P. Cummsyyyyyyyyyy

If there were prizes dished out for which side practises the most then 100% the winners are **Kingfisher 'D'** who have managed to do the unthinkable and dethrone Hariiiiiii from "Who's up the Kingfisher Club the most" These boys (sorry Cath) are living proof that practice doesn't make perfect though. What is going on????? All those hours on the table, all that talk, all that bigging themselves up and where are they? Pretty much right at the bottom that's where. I'm struggling to believe it myself. Graham Mendick – OK so he still can't get serves back but I would have thought he could do other things right? Like hit a forehand or two over the net to land on the other side of the table? Is that too much to ask from somebody who has more table time than Ma Long Admittedly he plays every match and they've actually had a tough run of fixtures in

the main but as I always say, players are dropped from the doubles for a reason and it's no coincidence that this guy is always overlooked! Jordan looked like he started the season well but his form has seemed to have dropped off too and don't get me started on Julian. He was phoning me every 5 minutes to tell me about his maximum in the first match but now I've not heard from him for 6 weeks – a sure sign that things on the table haven't been going his way unfortunately. Cath too hasn't quite got going this season either. Look, I joke but I'm positive these guys will turn it around and climb the table. Maybe practice a bit less – that might help haha!

#### M.V.P. Mendyyyyyyyyyyyy

And finally we have the old Curzon boys who have rebranded themselves as **Tilehurst Royal British Legion 'A'**; they signed a familiar face in Keith Winter Wonderland but

the new name can't fool us and they still find themselves exactly where they always find themselves er, at the foot of the table. Can't fault them for trying though and this season – along with the usual indifferent form they have had some really bad injuries too and as we know that's never a good recipe when you're already odds on to go down. They never go down though do they – more bouncebackability than any side in the history of the Reading League. I don't know how they do it haha. Must have friends in high places! On the table they've all won 1 match. Pete, Keith, Jon & John. That's their 4 points. Always a shame to see injuries in any side but when you're struggling it's even harder. They won't give up though. They'll keep battling on as they always do. And that my friends is how it should be.

#### M.V.P. Keithyyyyyyyyyyyy

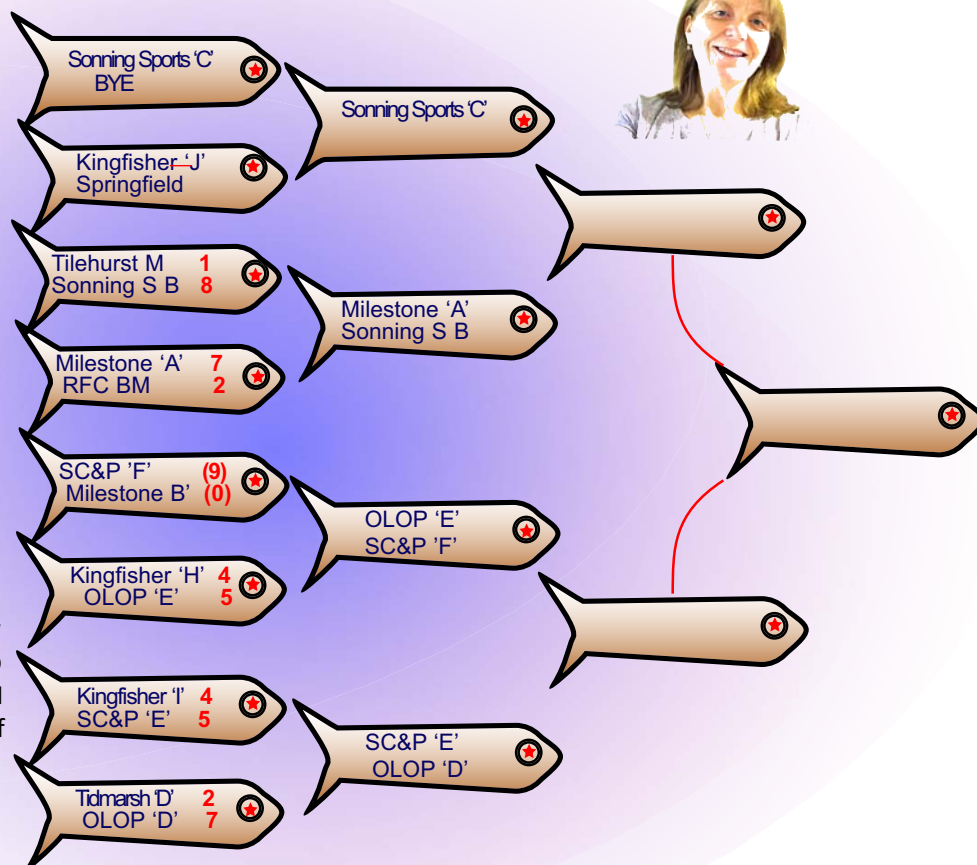
## LOWER DIVISIONS KNOCKOUT TOURNAMENT

by Louise Forster

The tournament has reverted to a singles event for this season; it may go back to being a doubles event next year – I'd be interested to hear what people would prefer. This year we have 15 teams entered from across nine clubs in the Lower Divisions Knockout Cup. This gives us a seven match first round and one team (Sonning Sports 'C') have a bye through to the quarter finals, where they will meet the winner of Kingfisher 'J' and Springfield.

First round matches have kicked off and we've seen Our Lady of Peace 'D' beat Tidmarsh 'D' 7 – 2. Sonning Sports 'B' beat Tilehurst Meths 8 – 1, and will now meet Milestone 'A' in the next round after their 7 – 2 win against Reading Football Club – Biscuit Men. The closest match of the draw saw Our Lady of Peace 'E' beating Kingfisher 'H' 5 – 4 in a match that went all the way to the final set, with Max Griggs defeating Eyup Odemis to take the match.

The second round draws for both events have thrown up some interesting matches; I look forward to the next set of results. Good luck to all!

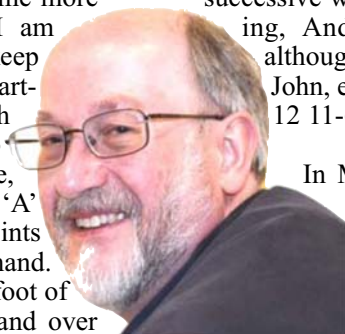




# DIVISION TWO

by Martin Wetherell

Welcome to my Division 2 musings. I have received a few match reports and always welcome more since, when I write these articles, I am always up for a bit of plagiarising. So, please keep them coming! Well, another Season has finally started, albeit with fewer teams than pre-Covid, which has meant that, each week, one team has no match. Reading FC 'A' is currently top the table, with 6 wins out of 6, although Sonning Sports 'A' and Our Lady of Peace 'B' are only a few points behind, and Sonning Sports 'A' has a match in hand. Tidmarsh 'C' are currently 8 points adrift, at the foot of the table, although they too have a match in hand over Kingfisher 'G', who are in 10th.



**Mike Childs** (Reading FC 'A') is joint top of the Divisional Averages, along with Eric Van Looy (Tilehurst Methodists 'A'), both on 88.89%, Mike having won 16 of his 18 sets while Eric has won 8 of the 9 sets he has played. Nick Sears (Sonning Sports 'A') is in 3rd place, on 85.71%, having lost 2 of the 14 sets he has played, with Roger Pritchard (Kingfisher 'F') and Dale Ballard (Tidmarsh 'B') completing the top 5, both on 83.33%. Nick Sears & Paul Savage (Sonning Sports 'A') are top of the Doubles Averages, on 100%, having won 5 from 5, with Mike Childs & Wayne Alleyne in 2nd spot, having lost for the first time, on their 6th outing, possibly regretting their decision to play Wayne since he probably had insufficient warm-up for such a close contest. As expected Nick Sears and Mike Childs are also vying for top spot in the Divisional PoM table, both having 4 awards, followed by Barry Carter (Tidmarsh 'B'), Stephen Leggett (Kingfisher 'E'), Alistair Richardson (Our Lady of Peace 'B') and Eric Van Looy, who all have 2 awards.

**Kingfisher 'E'** was the unlucky team who had no opponent in match week 1. They have a squad of five, with Captain Clive Gold ever present in the five matches played, recording two trebles and one PoM. Andrew Adair has played three times and has yet to find himself on the winning side, Luca Bianchi has yet to make an appearance, Abhay Gore has also played in three matches, winning points on each outing, and Stephen Leggett has made four appearances, recording one maximum and collecting two PoMs.

Their first match was a hard-fought contest with Our Lady of Peace 'C' and after 43 games had been played, the match ended 5 - 5. Stephen picked up his first PoM, winning two, just losing out on a treble when he lost his final set, to Binit Bhaskar 11-8 10-12 11-6 6-11 9-11. Andrew and Clive both won their opening sets, Andrew beating Binit 11-8 9-11 7-11 12-10 11-6, but neither were able to add to these wins, although there were a number of close sets, amongst which was Clive's final set that he lost to Pradeep Desh 10-12 11-9 9-11 6-11. However, Andrew & Clive won the Doubles, which helped achieve the draw. The following week they played against club mates Kingfisher 'F' and suffered their worst defeat this

Quarter, losing 8 - 2, Clive recording a single for the second, successive week, Abhay winning once on his first outing, Andrew unable to record another single, although he was so close in his battle with Eapen John, eventually losing his final set 9-11 11-9 10-12 11-6 12-10.

In Match week 4, they turned it around and recorded their best win of the Quarter, beating Tilehurst Methodists 'A' 9 - 1, Clive and Stephen both undefeated, with Abhay recording two wins, Abhay & Steven also winning the Doubles on their partnership debut. The following week, the same three players travelled to Tidmarsh 'B' and after another pulsating match, with 44 games played, 18 of which were won by the minimum two points required, the match was lost 4 - 6, despite a tremendous treble from Clive, who came out on top in each of his three 5-game sets. Their fourth point was courtesy of Abhay, who won his opening set and was unlucky to lose his final set to Dale Ballard 8-11 12-10 12-10 11-13 8-11, with Stephen unable to find a win, Abhay & Steven also narrowly losing the Doubles 11-13 11-9 5-11 11-13, to Barry Carter & Dale.

In their last match, they came up against the Division's current leaders, Reading FC 'A', and again lost 4 - 6, despite Clive & Stephen winning the Doubles, the first time they have played together, the other three points thanks to a singles win for each of Andrew, Clive and Stephen, Andrew just losing out to Jazz Dhillon 9-11 5-11 11-8 11-6 12-14 before beating Tony Alleyne. At the end of this first Quarter, Kingfisher 'E' find themselves in 9th place, four points ahead of Kingfisher 'G', who have played one more match. In the Divisional Averages, Clive is their highest ranked player, on 60% (9 wins from 15). Three different Doubles pairings have been tried, each one successful on their debut and then losing the very next week. Which means that Clive & Stephen are currently on 100%, having won the one match they have played.

		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Reading FC A	6	6	0	0	39	21	39
2	Sonning Sports A	5	4	1	0	36	14	36
3	OLOP B	6	3	1	2	36	24	36
4	Tidmarsh B	6	2	2	2	32	28	32
5	OLOP C	5	3	1	1	26	24	26
6	Tilehurst Meths A	6	2	1	3	26	34	26
7	Kingfisher F	5	3	0	2	25	25	25
8	SC&P D	5	2	0	3	24	26	24
9	Kingfisher E	5	1	1	3	24	26	24
10	Kingfisher G	6	0	1	5	20	40	20
11	Tidmarsh C	5	0	0	5	12	38	12

**Kingfisher 'F'** also has a squad of five players, led by Captain Roger Pritchard, who has played in their last four matches, recording two maximums and one PoM. The remaining players are Eapen John who has also played in four matches, earning himself one PoM, Ajai Kamath who has played in all five matches recording two maximums, John Little who has played twice and is still awaiting his first win, and Rick Leachman who is still to make an appearance.

The opening match was a 10 - 0 defeat at the hands of Our Lady of Peace B, with Ajai losing in straight sets. Meanwhile, Eapen won two games in his contest with Dave Godfrey, eventually losing 11-9 4-11 11-3 4-11 9-11, and John won three games, including the first two against Dave, Ajai & John also losing the Doubles in three games. By the end of the evening, John might have thought 7 was his unlucky number, losing 6 of his games 7-11. The following week saw the team emerge victorious from the match with club mates Kingfisher 'G', winning 7 - 3 thanks to two wins apiece for each of Eapen, Ajai and Roger. Eapen was on for the treble, but narrowly lost his final set, to Satej Jaywant, 8-11 11-6 5-11 11-6 8-11. Satej had previously defeated Ajai 6-11 11-9 11-9 11-9 and Roger 11-7 8-11 5-11 11-9 11-7 but, having paired up with Mick Mitcham, in the Doubles, fell to a narrow 11-8 9-11 9-11 11-13 defeat, against Ajai & Eapen.

Continuing the theme of only playing their club mates, Match week 3 saw the same players beating their 'E' team 8 - 2, with 40 games played, 17 of which went to the wire, being won by the minimum two points. Eapen played brilliantly all evening, winning his final set against Andrew Adair 11-9 9-11 12-10 6-11 12-10, after losing his opening set against Clive Gold 12-10 11-13 9-11 5-11 and then losing the 5th game against Abhay Gore 12-14, with Ajai and Roger each winning three sets, Ajai & Eapen again winning their Doubles, this time beating Andrew & Clive 12-10 17-15 9-11 11-4. A slight change in personnel, but a third consecutive victory followed the visit to Tidmarsh 'C', where Ajai, John and Roger won 7 - 3, John losing in straight sets, his closest set undoubtedly the loss to David Sheppard 6-11 9-11 10-12, Ajai and Roger again recorded maximums, for the second successive week, as well as winning their debut Doubles, against Richard Hudson & Ian Wu, 7-11 11-6 9-11 11-6 12-10.

The following week, the team lost for the second time when visitors Sonning Sports 'A' left as 7 - 3 winners. Roger narrowly missed out on a treble, losing his final set against Nick Sears 11-5 8-11 7-11 12-10 6-11, with Eapen losing in straight sets, Ajai winning his final set, to earn the team's third point, and Ajai & Eapen losing their unbeaten Doubles record. At the end of this first Quarter, Kingfisher 'F' find themselves in 7th place, on 25 points, one point behind Tilehurst Methodists 'A' who have played one match more. Roger Pritchard is top of their averages with 83.33% (10 wins from 12), with Ajai on 60% (9 wins from 15). Kingfisher 'F' have tried three different Doubles pairings, Ajai playing with each of Eapen, John and Roger, losing the one set he has played with John, winning the one set he has played with Roger, and winning two of the three sets he has played with Eapen.

The third **Kingfisher** team in Division 2 is the '**G**' team, captained by Mick Mitcham. Although 5 players were initially registered, Mick has had availability problems, using substitutes on three occasions, and consequently he has made a further signing. In fact, Satej Jaywant played so well in his three substitute appearances, recording a treble and winning the PoM, that he has also been permanently transferred from the 'H' team. Advay Chopra played in the opening match of the Season, but this may be his only outing since it was subsequently decided that late nights and an examination year do not mix too well. Anup Chopra has now been signed and played in their latest match, Satej has played one further match since he was re-registered, having returned to the UK. Neil Dellar has played in the last three, recording one maximum and winning one PoM, Mick has played in three matches, Hamid Mohseni has played in four matches and Steven Woolnough has not played since the opening fixture.

The opening fixture was a narrow 4 - 6 defeat, away at Our Lady of Peace 'C', with Advay and Steven both winning one set, Advay defeating Arun Rajagopal 9-11 6-11 11-8 11-5 11-4 and Stephen beating Kaan Kitay 12-10 11-8 11-9, while Mick had to settle for just the two wins after losing to Pradeep Desh 7-11 11-6 11-13 8-11. In Match week 2, Mick, Hamid and Satej lost 3 - 7, to club mates Kingfisher 'F', Satej playing up from Division 3 to win all three and the PoM award. Mick was close to securing a win and was leading Eapen John 2 - 0, but eventually lost his opening set 11-2 11-8 7-11 7-11 6-11. Another 7 - 3 loss the following week, when the team travelled to Tilehurst Methodists 'A', Satej again playing up and winning twice, both in three games, Huzeyfe Borazan also playing up from the 'H' team and winning once, a 11-5 12-10 11-9 victory over Masoud Ghabachi, while Hamid had no joy, losing both of his 5-game sets. Satej & Huzeyfe also lost to Eric Van Looy & Bil Stamatiou in the Doubles, 12-10 8-11 11-6 6-11 10-12.

An improvement the following week, saw Neil, Satej and Mick share the points with Tidmarsh 'B', after the match finished 5 - 5, with Neil and Satej both winning twice, neither able to overcome Barry Carter although Neil came close, losing 12-10 8-11 11-9 11-13 6-11, while Mick won his opening set against Chris Webb. However, Match week 5 saw the team slip to another 7 - 3 defeat, this time at the hands of leaders Reading FC 'A'. Neil played a blinder to win all three, edging out his opponents in the 5th game of each set, curiously enough each being won 11-5, earning the PoM award and becoming only the second player to beat Mike Childs. Unfortunately, both Satej and Hamid lost their 5-game sets, Satej losing out to Tony Alleyne 12-10 9-11 11-7 3-11 9-11 and Hamid losing out to Wayne Alleyne 3-11 11-7 11-5 9-11 10-12, meaning they both returned home without a win.

Their final match was against another title contender, Our Lady of Peace 'B', which ended in an 8 - 2 defeat. Anup made his debut, but lost in straight sets, Neil again showed his mettle by winning two of his three 5-game sets but was unable to overcome Alistair Richardson, while Hamid's efforts were again for naught as he also lost all three, his set against Darek Kaminski notable as it included the highest scoring game of the Quarter, the final score being 3-11 17-

19 10-12. Although this was the team's worst defeat of the Quarter, the stats show that of the 41 games played, 13 were won by the minimum two points, indicating that the OLOP players couldn't take anything for granted. At the end of this first Quarter, Kingfisher 'G' are in 10th place, having played 6 matches. They have not yet managed a win and on this form they would be relegated. However, as individual results indicate, they have match winners in this squad but, unfortunately, they have not yet managed to click on the same day. Neil Dellar is highest in the averages with 77.78% (7 wins from 9), followed by Satej with 58.33% (7 wins from 12). On the Doubles front, Kingfisher 'G' are unique, in that they have fielded a different pairing in each of their 6 matches. Sadly, none of them have managed that elusive win, although Satej & Huzeyfe went down 2 - 3 against Tilehurst Methodists 'A'.

**Our Lady of Peace 'B'** have registered 6 players, although Harry Bullock's appearances may be few and far between since he is at University, in a different town/city. So far, Louise Forster has made two appearances, Chris West has played in three matches, recording one maximum and earning one PoM, Dave Godfrey and Darek Kaminski have both made four appearances, Dave recording a treble along the way, while Captain Alistair Richardson has played in five matches, recording two maximums and earning one PoM award.

Their first match was a 10 - 0 win over Kingfisher 'F', Dave, Alistair and Chris all undefeated, Chris taking the PoM after winning in straight sets, Alistair & Chris also winning the Doubles without losing a game. Dave was the busiest player on the night, with two of his sets going to 5 games, the highlight possibly his comeback from being two games down to John Liddle, to win 7-11 6-11 11-7 11-7 11-7 and secure his maximum. The following week they retained their number one slot by beating Tilehurst Methodists 'A' 6 - 4, Dave and Louise both winning twice, with Alistair winning once. Alistair lost the 1st set, to Jes Eassom, before Dave levelled the match score by beating Bill Stamatiou and they took the lead with Louise's 11-9 11-8 13-11 win over Phil Jones. Dave then beat Jes, following which Alistair bounced back, from his loss to Jes, to beat Phil, in possibly the closest encounter of the Quarter, 9-11 11-9 8-11 11-8 15-13. Louise then won her second set, taking the 5th game against Bill, before Alistair partnered Dave to victory in the Doubles, giving them an unassailable lead in the match.

In Match week 3, Louise, Darek and Alistair drew with Tidmarsh 'B' 5 - 5. This was a remarkable fightback since they were losing 1 - 5 before Alistair & Darek beat François Durand & Ray Webb to win the Doubles 7-11 3-11 11-7 11-6 13-11. Louise then took up the baton, winning her final set 3 - 0, Alistair then repeated this feat in defeating Mike Aistrop and the draw was guaranteed after Darek was victorious in a 5-game thriller. By the end of the evening, Alistair had put in a Captain's performance, winning twice and in the process earning himself his first PoM.

The following week, Dave, Darek and Chris were selected to face Reading FC 'A', who were one point behind, in 2nd place. Unfortunately, no-one was able to overcome Mike

Childs and even though Darek and Chris each defeated both Tony and Wayne Alleyne, it was not enough to avoid defeat since Dave was unable to add to his tally, losing all three singles, although he was battling to the end, his final two sets being the Doubles, when he & Chris lost to Mike & Wayne 11-8 11-9 9-11 9-11 8-11 and his encounter with Tony, which he lost 15-17 11-4 7-11 11-8 7-11. This meant

### LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Mike Childs	Reading FC A	18	16	88.89%
Eric Van Looy	Tilehurst Meths A	9	8	88.89%
Nick Sears	Sonning Sports A	14	12	85.71%
Roger Pritchard	Kingfisher F	12	10	83.33%
Dale Ballard	Tidmarsh B	6	5	83.33%
Barry Carter	Tidmarsh B	15	12	80.00%
Paul Savage	Sonning Sports A	14	11	78.57%
Jonathan Abbott	SC&P D	9	7	77.78%
Neil Dellar	Kingfisher G	9	7	77.78%
Pradeep Desh	OLOP C	12	9	75.00%
Wayne Alleyne	Reading FC A	15	10	66.67%
Alistair Richardson	OLOP B	15	10	66.67%
Binit Bhaskar	OLOP C	12	8	66.67%
Chris West	OLOP B	9	6	66.67%
Ajai Kamath	Kingfisher F	15	9	60.00%
Clive Gold	Kingfisher E	15	9	60.00%

that the final score was 4 - 6. In Match week 5, Darek, Alistair and Chris travelled to Sonning Common & Peppard 'D' where they could each only win one set, curiously each defeating a different player thus ensuring no-one recorded a maximum. It all started well, Alistair overcoming Mark Jones 10-12 11-7 11-8 11-4, but there were then four losses before Chris beat Danny Dockree 12-10 7-11 11-3 11-7 and with Alistair & Chris losing the Doubles, the team needed to win the remaining sets to salvage the draw. However, Alistair just lost out to Jon Abbott 5-11 11-8 11-6 8-11 9-11 and Chris was narrowly defeated 8-11 7-11 11-8 12-10 8-11 so, despite Darek winning his final set, to deny Jon his maximum, the team suffered a second defeat and, as a consequence, dropped to 3rd in the table.

Dave, Darek and Alistair played together for the first time and successfully defeated Kingfisher 'G', winning 8 - 2. Dave and Darek both won twice, Neil Dellar responsible for dashing their hopes of a treble, Darek losing his opener 5-11 11-4 11-4 5-11 8-11 while Dave lost his final set 8-11 11-9 8-11 11-2 10-12. However, in winning all three, Alistair netted his second PoM and, in addition, he & Dave also reprised their Doubles success, to maintain their 100% record. At the end of the first Quarter, Our Lady of Peace 'B' are in 3rd place, level on points with Sonning Sports 'A', who have only played five matches. Alistair tops the team's averages with 66.67% (10 wins from 15), although Chris is also on 66.67% (6 wins from 9) and the strength of the squad is highlighted by both Dave and Darek being in the top half of the averages, with Louise also averaging 50% (3 wins from 6). On the Doubles front, Alistair is a member of two undefeated pairings, partnering Chris to one victory and Dave to two.



**Our Lady of Peace 'C'** started the Season with only four registered players, namely Captain Binit Bhaskar, Pradeep Desh, Kaan Kitay and Arun Rajagopal. Kaan and Arun had both previously played for Milestone. Pat Daniels was added to the squad in early October. Binit has played in their last four matches, recording one treble and winning one PoM, Pat made his debut in their final outing of the Quarter, Pradeep has also played four times, recording one maximum and winning one PoM, while Kaan and Arun have each been selected for three matches.

Their first match was a 6 - 4 home win, against Kingfisher 'G', Pradeep starting the Season in style with a maximum that earned him the PoM award, while Kaan and Arun both did their bit, each winning once, Kaan beating Advay Chopra 7-11 11-9 11-8 12-10 and Arun beating Steven Woolnough 11-9 11-7 12-10, in the 10th set, to secure the win. Kaan & Pradeep were also victorious in what turned out to be a crucial Doubles encounter. Kaan made way for Pradeep for their second match, away to Kingfisher 'E', Pradeep justifying his selection with two wins, losing his opening set against Stephen Leggett, 11-9 3-11 3-11 11-7 5-1, but securing the draw after beating Clive Gold, in the 10th set, 12-10 9-11 11-9 11-6. This feat was matched by Binit who also lost his opening set, to Andrew Adair, 8-11 11-9 11-7 10-12 6-11, before winning his next two sets, all three sets requiring 5 games to determine the winner. Having lost the first two sets, Arun drew on all his experience to defeat Andrew 11-6 2-11 8-11 11-9 11-8 and repeat his success of last week, the points eventually shared in a closely fought 5 - 5 draw, in which everyone played their part as they all needed to win their final set.

Back to winning ways the following week, against Tidmarsh 'C', and although there were fewer games played, over the course of the evening, 14 games went to the wire, 10 in favour of OLOP. The personnel were again shuffled, with Arun stepping down to be replaced by Kaan. Binit led the team to a 7 - 3 victory, winning all three and taking the PoM award, with Pradeep recording two wins and Kaan the one win. Binit & Pradeep also won their first Doubles, having lost the previous week. Apart from Kaan's 5-11 11-5 11-7 11-7 10th set defeat of Richard Hudson, the final game in each of OLOP's six other victories, as well as one of their losses, was won by the minimum two points required, a reminder of how closely this match was contested. In Match week 4, Pradeep made way for Arun, for their visit to Sonning Sports 'A', where they succumbed to their first defeat, losing 2 - 8, Kaan defeating Bob Woodmansee, in his opening set, 12-10 11-9 11-4, while Binit also beat Bob, in his final set, 11-8 12-10 12-10. Binit & Arun made a valiant attempt to end Nick Sears' & Paul Savage's 100% record, they were ultimately unsuccessful, losing 8-11 11-4 6-11 11-7 12-14.

After a week to recoup, Binit, Pradeep and new signing Pat narrowly beat Sonning Common & Peppard 'D' 6 - 4, with 16 of the 39 games being won by the minimum two points required. Pat lost his first two sets but defeated Marko Madzar, in the final set of the evening, to seal the victory and mark his debut with a win, while Pradeep and Binit both won twice, in defeating Mark Jones and Marko, but both failed to stop Jon Abbott. Pradeep was denied a maximum after losing 12-10 8-11 5-11 10-12, while Binit lost

his opening set 11-7 9-11 8-11 11-6 12-14, although they had some consolation in the Doubles, when they defeated Jon & Mark 12-10 11-9 11-7. At the end of this first Quarter, Our Lady of Peace 'C' are sitting in 5th spot, with 26 points, 4 points behind Tidmarsh 'B', who have played one more match. Pradeep currently leads the averages for the team, with 75% (9 wins from 12), but Binit is not far behind, with 66.67% (8 wins from 12). On the Doubles front, Binit & Pradeep have played together three times, losing just once, but Kaan & Pradeep are currently undefeated after just the one outing.

**Reading FC 'A'** started the Season with six registered players. However, Paul Brown and Richard Witt have yet to make an appearance, so Tony Alleyne, Wayne Alleyne, Mike Childs and Jazz Dhillon have been taking up the slack. In fact Tony didn't play until Match week 4, so the first three matches comprised the same three players. Tony has now played in the last three matches, Wayne has played in the first five matches, recording one treble and earning one PoM, Mike has been ever present, playing in all six matches, recording four maximums and earning four PoMs, while Jazz has now played in four matches.

For their first match, Tony, Wayne and Mike travelled to Tilehurst Methodists 'A', where Wayne played a blinder, beating Eric Van Looy 7-11 11-7 10-12 11-9 13-11. He continued this form against his other opponents to record his only maximum so far, as well as taking the PoM award. Eric subsequently beat both Jazz and Mike, the 10th set also going to 5 games, to deny Mike his treble. Jazz won his opening set, but was unable to add to his tally. However, Mike & Wayne also blitzed the Doubles, winning all 3 games played. The following week, different opponents, same result, although this time the positions were reversed, with Mike Childs winning all three and earning the PoM, while Wayne lost his opening set to Barry Carter (15-17 11-8 7-11 10-12) and had to settle for a double. Similarities continued as Jazz again recorded one win, following which Mike & Wayne won the Doubles, again without dropping a game. At the end of the evening, Tidmarsh 'B' had been beaten 7 - 3.

In Match week 3, the same three players travelled to Sonning Common & Peppard 'D' and managed a narrow 6 - 4 win. A familiar scenario unfolded, whereby Mike won all three, Wayne won two and Mike & Wayne won the Doubles. However, Jazz was unable to help the cause, losing both of his sets that went to 5 games, the first to Angus Jones (6-11 11-8 11-7 10-12 9-11) and the second to Mark Jones (8-11 11-4 11-8 9-11 6-11). Jazz was replaced in the line-up by Tony, for the trip to Our Lady of Peace 'B', but the end result was another 6 - 4 result. This was their toughest match so far, as to be expected from a top of the table clash, with 40 games played, with Mike recording his third consecutive treble and PoM, despite a valiant attempt by Darek Kaminski, Mike eventually winning 2 -11 8-11 11-8 13-11 11-8. Mike & Wayne also won a closely contested Doubles, against Dave Godfrey & Chris West, 8-11 9-11 11-9 11-9 11-8 3 - 2, and with Tony and Wayne each registering a singles win, Tony beating Dave 17-15 4-11 11-7 8-11 11-7, in the 10th set, to secure victory.



READING FC 'A' - MICHAEL CHILDS, JAZZ DHILLON,  
TONY ALLEYNE AND WAYNE ALLEYNE

The same three players then faced Kingfisher 'G', for whom Neil Dellar was unbeatable on the night, winning all his sets 3 - 2. However, Tony, Wayne and Mike all won their other sets and with Mike & Wayne recording their fifth straight Doubles win, the match score finished 7 - 3. Results are often balanced on a knife-edge and this was highlighted by Wayne's 11-3 7-11 5-11 11-9 12-10 win over Hamid Mohseni and Tony's 10-12 11-9 7-11 11-3 11-9 win over Satej Jaywant. For the final match in the Quarter, Tony, Mike and Jazz were selected to play Kingfisher 'E'. Mike won all three, without dropping a game, Tony was denied his first maximum when he lost his final set to Andrew Adair 3-11 9-11 9-11, Jazz opened his evening with a win, defeating Andrew 11-9 11-5 8-11 6-11 14-12, but was only able to win one game in each of his remaining sets. Although Wayne didn't play in the singles, he travelled with the squad to compete in the Doubles. Sadly this strategy failed, with Wayne at a possible disadvantage since he was coming in cold, and Mike & Wayne were beaten for the first time this Season, losing 11-5 4-11 11-3 8-11 9-11. However, despite this setback, they had secured at least a draw prior to the Doubles and with Mike winning his final set, victory was assured.

At the end of the Quarter, Reading FC 'A' is top of the Division, having beaten all of their first six opponents. However, under the points scheme in use this Season, this is no longer sufficient to win the title and they may need a few bigger wins to ensure they are still top, when the Season ends. Mike is the obvious star for this team, but Wayne is also playing better than ever, with Tony and Jazz also contributing to their winning performances. On the Doubles front, Mike & Wayne lost their 100%, after five straight wins, by the tiniest of margins. I suspect that we will see this pair go on to win a lot more, before the Season ends !

**Sonning Common & Peppard 'D'** have registered a team of five, who on paper not only look strong, but have the results to back this up. However, Alan Mollett has not yet

made an appearance and they have needed to call upon Marko Madzar, from their Division 4 team, so availability may play a large part in this team's final position. This Quarter, Captain Mark Jones has played four times, Jon Abbott has made three appearances, recording one maximum and winning one PoM. Reappearing in now in the Reading League Danny Dockree has been selected for four matches, earning one PoM, while Angus Jones has only made two appearances.

They started in style, with a 6 - 4 win, away to Tidmarsh 'B', with Jon and Danny both winning twice as well as partnering up to win the Doubles, neither able to overcome Barry Carter, although Barry's hardest set was possibly his defeat of Angus 12-10 10-12 11-7 11-9. However, Angus

did win the 10th set, beating Chris Webb 11-9 11-4 8-11 11-7, to record his first win of the evening and ensure victory.

They could only field two players for their next match, at home to Sonning Sports 'A', and this proved to be a step too far, against what we now know to be one of the title chasing teams, with the match ending in a 3 - 7 loss. However, it should be noted that 11 of the 26 games that were played, were won by the minimum two points required, so not a big step by any means. Danny lost his first set, against Nick Sears 8-11 11-9 9-11 11-2 4-11, but won his remaining two sets, beating Keith Machin 12-10 12-10 11-9 and Paul Savage 6-11 6-11 11-6 11-8 12-10, while Mark required a couple of sets to shake off the rustiness before winning his third, defeating Keith 11-6 12-10 11-13 13-11. Sadly, Danny & Mark were no match for the Division's other star combo, Nick Sears & Paul Savage, losing 0 - 3.

Sadly, the following week, they were visited by Reading FC 'A', another of the title chasing teams, and Danny, Angus and Mark lost 4 - 6. Mark lost his opening set, but then won his next two singles, beating Wayne Alleyne in the 10th set 7-11 15-13 13-11 11-6, Angus the exact opposite in that he only had joy in his first set, defeating Jazz Dhillon 11-6 8-11 7-11 12-10 11-9, while Danny lost his first two sets but then recorded an emphatic 3 - 0 victory over Jazz. They had to wait almost two weeks before they played their match against yet another of the title contenders, this time deposed leaders Our Lady of Peace 'B'. This was a strong team performance, with Jon, Danny and Mark each winning twice, Danny also earning his team's first PoM. With Danny & Jon also winning the Doubles, beating Alistair Richardson & Chris West 11-6 11-8 11-13 15-13, the match ended 7 - 3.

The final match of the Quarter was against Our Lady of Peace 'C' and with only Jon and Mark available, Marko Madzar was drafted from their 'F' team, who play in Division 4. Unfortunately, this step up proved to be too much, this time, and Marko lost all three sets. Although Jon played brilliantly, winning all three, to record not only his first maximum but also his first PoM, Mark was unable to



match his results, only winning the first of his three 5-game sets in beating Pat Daniels 3-11 13-11 7-11 11-8 11-7, and with Jon & Mark also being beaten 10-12 9-11 7-11 in the Doubles, the match ended in a narrow 4 - 6 loss. At the end of this first Quarter, Sonning Common & Peppard are in 8th place, amongst a group of four teams who are only separated by 2 points. Jon is currently top of the team's averages with 77.78% (7 wins from 9), followed by Danny on 58.33% (7 wins from 12), with Mark also in the top-half with 50%, from his four matches. On the Doubles front, four partnerships have been tried, with Danny & Jon winning twice, the other pairings each losing once.

Out of the three teams, in Division 2, who have only registered four players, **Sonning Sports 'A'** appear to have the strongest squad. Captain Bob Woodmansee waited until Match week 4 before making his first appearance but, shyness over, he also played in their latest match. On this Season's journey he is accompanied by Keith Machin, who has made three appearances, Paul Savage, who has played in every match and has recorded two maximums, and Nick Sears, who has also been a permanent fixture in this first Quarter and has recorded four maximums and won four PoMs.

The opening match saw them beat Tidmarsh 'C', another team with a four player squad, 9 - 1. Although it was not quite one-sided, since Keith lost his final set, Tidmarsh only won 4 other games, Nick winning in straight sets, while Paul dropped just one game on his way to a treble. Nick & Paul also played the Doubles, defeating Ian Wu & Simon Craig 11-5 14-12 12-10. The following week, the same three players travelled to Sonning Common & Peppard 'D' where they found only two opponents, thus netting 3 "bonus" points. Nick won his other two sets, although he had a tough opening set against Danny Dockree, while Paul beat Mark Jones but just lost out to Danny 11-6 11-6 6-11 8-11 10-12. Keith was unable to defeat either Nick or Paul, but came tantalisingly close in his match-up against Danny, eventually losing 10-12 10-12 9-11. Nick & Paul also won the Doubles, without dropping a game, meaning that the match finished 7 - 3.

There was no match the following week but, for their next match, at home to Our Lady of Peace 'C', Bob replaced Keith in the line-up. Bob lost to Kaan Kitay 10-12 9-11 4-11, then defeated Arun Rajagopal, before losing his final set to Binit Bhaskar 8-11 10-12 10-12, but with Paul and Nick both recording trebles, as well as partnering up to win a closely fought Doubles, finally defeating Arun & Binit 11-8 4-11 11-6 7-11 14-12, the final score was an 8 - 2 victory. Keith returned for the away trip to Kingfisher 'F', doing his bit when he beat Eapen John to win his 2nd set, to maintain his record of scoring in every match. Nick won all three, but Paul was unable to match him, only recording the two wins, one of which was the 6-11 11-9 11-9 11-9 defeat of Ajai Kamath. However, with another victory in the Doubles, the team won 7 - 3. Stats wise, this was a slightly unusual match, since eight sets were won 3 - 0, the remaining two ending 3 - 1 and 3 - 2.

Their last match was at home to Tilehurst Methodists 'A' and after a very tough match, Nick's run of four maximums and four PoMs was ended, as was the team's 100% winning

record. However, after drawing the match 5 - 5, the team is still unbeaten. Paul lost his opening set to Eric Van Looy 6-11 11-5 8-11 11-7 9-11 but won his remaining sets, Nick won his 1st set, but then lost first to Eric and then to Bill Stamatiou, who recovered from losing the first game to hit a succession of amazing winners, the final score being 11-2 7-11 9-11 6-11. Bob beat Bill in a close encounter, but then lost to his nemesis Jes Eassom (although, truth be told, he actually has another nemesis !), before losing to Eric. However, Nick & Paul did retain their winning streak in the Doubles, beating Eric & Bill 12-14 11-6 11-9 11-3. At the end of this first Quarter, Sonning Sports 'A' are in 2nd place, but are only three points behind leaders Reading FC 'A', with a match in hand. Nick is 3rd in the Divisional Averages with 85.71% (12 wins from 14) and Paul is in 7th place with 78.57% (11 wins from 14). Keith and Bob are in the bottom-half of the table, Keith is on 37.50% (3 wins from 8) while Bob is on 33.33% (2 wins from 6). On the Doubles front, Nick & Paul are top of the table, with 5 wins out of 5, while Nick also leads the PoM table with 4, although Mike Childs has the same number of awards.

**Tidmarsh 'B'** look to have a strong squad, led by non-playing Captain Peter Sinclair. Well, Peter is actually playing for another Club, whose name we will not mention here! Five players were registered and they have all made at least one appearance, but they have still needed to call upon Ray Webb as a substitute. Not too shabby a replacement! Plus, they also nabbed Ray before their competition in the shape of Tidmarsh 'C'! Mike Aistrop has played four times, Dale Ballard has played least, with just two appearances, recording one maximum and winning one PoM, Barry Carter has been selected for five matches, recording two maximums and winning two PoMs, François Durand and Chris Webb have both appeared three times, with François recording one maximum.

Their first match ended in a 4 - 6 defeat by Sonning Common & Peppard 'D', despite Barry winning all his matches, as Mike could only win the one set while Chris lost all three, Barry & Mike also unable to start the Season with a Doubles win. The following week, the same players travelled to Reading FC 'A', but with Barry winning just two, including his 17-15 8-11 11-7 12-10 defeat of Wayne Alleyne, and Mike only successful in his opening set, when he beat Jazz Dhillon 6-11 12-10 8-11 12-10 11-9, the team lost 3 - 7, Barry being partnered in the Doubles by Chris. In Match week 3, leaders Our Lady of Peace 'B' came visiting and although Barry was absent, his substitute Ray Webb only fell at the last hurdle, Louise Forster denying him his treble, and with Mike also stepping up to the plate and winning two, and François winning his 2nd set, victory was within their grasp. However, François & Ray lost 11-7 11-3 7-11 6-11 11-13, in a closely contested Doubles with Darek Kaminski & Alistair Richardson, and the match ended 5 - 5, after François lost the 10th set to Darek 11-7 7-11 11-4 6-11 3-11.

A big shuffle of the squad for the trip to Kingfisher 'G', with only François retaining his place, Barry and Chris both returning to the fray. This match also ended in a 5 - 5 draw, but this time the team needed to win two of the last four sets, with Barry & François recording the team's first Doubles



win and Barry beating Mick Mitcham 11-4 11-7 3-11 11-9, to record his second treble and PoM. Chris was the unfortunate soul who needed to win the 10th set and help the team achieve victory, but luck was not on his side and he remains one of six players who are still to get off the mark. Mike, Dale and Barry were picked to play against Kingfisher 'E' and after a tumultuous match, comprising 44 games, 18 of which were won by the minimum two points, they emerged victorious, with the match ending 6 - 4. Barry played first and although he was beaten by Clive Gold (6-11 11-4 11-2 9-11 11-13), he won the next two sets as well as winning the Doubles with Dale, defeating Abhay Gore & Stephen Leggett 13-11 9-11 11-5 13-11. Dale also lost to Clive but copied Barry by winning both his other singles, while Mike lost his opening set to Abhay 9-11 7-11 12-10 11-8 6-11, but bounced back to beat Stephen, earning a point which proved necessary for the win.

Their final match saw Mike drop out, to be replaced by François, as they took on their 'C' team. With Dale and François both recording their first maximums, Dale was awarded the PoM, although François looks to have put in more effort, requiring 14 games to complete his treble. Since Barry had previously partnered both Dale and François to a Doubles win, this may explain why Dale got the nod. Not a bad decision, it turns out, since they emerged victorious from a very close contest with Ian Wu & Simon Craig, winning 8-11 11-9 13-15 11-9 11-7. With Barry the only player to drop a set, the match ended 9 - 1. At the end of this first Quarter, Tidmarsh 'B' are in 4th place, six points ahead of Our Lady of Peace 'C' who, admittedly, have played one fewer match. Dale is currently in 5th place, in the Divisional Averages, with 83.33% (5 wins from 6) while Barry is in 6th with 80.00% (12 wins from 15). François is also in the top half with 55.56% (5 wins from 9), while Mike is at 41.67% (5 wins from 12). On the Doubles front, five different pairings have been tried, Barry having played in every match for which he was selected, partnering each of his teammates. His partnership with Dale is so far the most successful, with 2 wins from 2, but he has also achieved success in the one match when François was his partner.

**Tidmarsh 'C'** are another team that only has four players registered so, now that the 'B' team has snaffled Ray Webb, I hope they all remain fit. David Sheppard is the Captain and had made four appearances, Simon Craig has played twice, with a gap of over four weeks between these two dates, Richard Hudson has been selected for the last four matches and Ian Wu has been ever present, so far, recording one maximum and winning one PoM.

The team, comprising Simon, David & Ian, travelled to Sonning Sports 'A' for the Season's opener. However, only Ian managed a win, against Keith Machin, and they therefore returned home having suffered a 9 - 1 defeat. Unfortunately, there was no match the following week and



TIDMARSH 'C' PLAYERS RICHARD HUDSON,  
IAN WU AND SIMON CRAIG

it was almost two weeks later when Ian, Richard and David were on their merry way to Our Lady of Peace 'C'. Although the outcome was another defeat, this time 3 - 7, this was a much more competitive affair, with 40 games played. Ian won the 1st set, beating Kaan Kitay 11-5 9-11 11-6 7-11 11-8, but the team then lost the next three, David winning the 5th, beating Kaan. However, Richard lost the 6th set to Binit Bhaskar 12-10 4-11 6-11 12-10 9-11 and after Ian & Richard were beaten 9-11 4-11 9-11 in the Doubles, by Pradeep Desh & Binit, the team needed to win all of the remaining sets to salvage a draw. Unfortunately, Ian was the only winner, defeating Pradeep 11-4 5-11 11-9 11-5. The same trio were playing five days later, when their opponents were Kingfisher 'F', but the end result was another 3 - 7 defeat, with Richard, David & Ian each winning once, all defeating John Liddle but each, in turn, losing to Ajai Kamath and Roger Pritchard. However, Ian only lost to Ajai 14-16 11-2 11-9 6-11 6-11 and Ian & Richard just lost the Doubles, to Ajai Kamath & Roger Pritchard, 11-7 6-11 11-9 6-11 10-12, so there is hope for the future.

Exactly one week later, Richard, David & Ian were on their travels again, this time visiting Tilehurst Methodists 'A'. However, despite Ian recording his first maximum, the team returned home having lost 4 - 6, the other point courtesy of Richard who won the 10th set, beating Jes Eassom 11-9 11-7 9-11 12-10. Ian & Richard also partnered up for the third time, but are still seeking their first Doubles win, after losing 5-11 8-11 11-3 11-13, to Bill Stamatiou & Jes Eassom. Their final match was against their Club mates in Tidmarsh 'B', Simon, Richard and Ian stepping up for this challenge, and a challenge it proved to be with Richard winning his final set, against Barry Carter, 11-9 11-9 6-11 11-4, to add some respectability to the 1 - 9 score line. However, this was no easy victory for the 'B' team since 40 games were played with three sets requiring 5 games to determine the winner, sadly the opponents in every case. So, as the first Quarter ends, Tidmarsh 'C' find themselves anchored to the foot of the table, eight points adrift of

Kingfisher 'G', who have played one more match. However, with no wins or draws to their credit, this Season is going to be tough and they are looking likely relegation candidates unless they can bolster their squad. Ian's averages are currently the best at 46.67% (7 wins from 15), with his teammates all in the bottom-half of the table. On the Doubles front, two pairings have been tried, Ian losing three times when partnering Richard and losing twice when partnering Simon.

**Tilehurst Methodists 'A'** originally registered four players, but subsequently managed to tempt Masoud Ghabachi back to his 'alma mater' before the Season kicked off. Eric Van Looy took the reins as Captain and persuaded Bill Stamatiou to help out, in their hour of need. Bill normally plays in Newbury, but this is a mere stone's throw away compared to the distances travelled by one of Sonning Sports' Division 4 players ! Stalwart Phil Jones is the other member remaining from last year's squad and Jes Eassom has been promoted from last year's 'B' team. Jes has played five times, winning one PoM, Masoud has appeared twice, Phil has made four appearances, Bill has been selected four times and Eric has just the three appearances to his name, recording two maximums and earning two PoM awards.

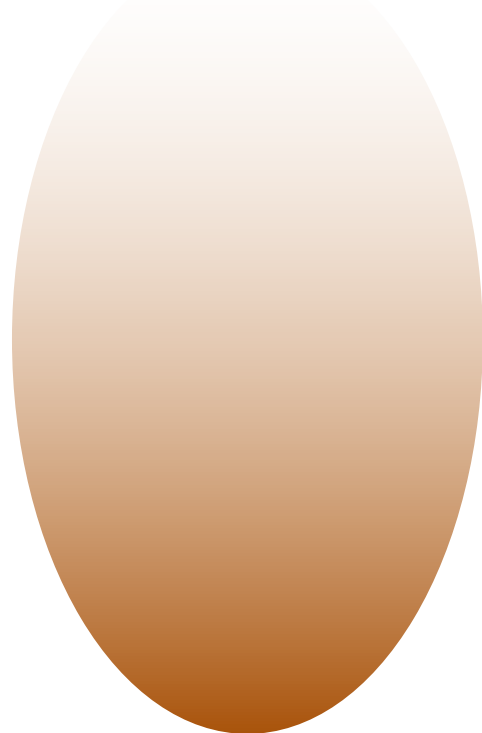
In their first match Jes, Phil and Eric welcomed Reading FC 'A' and Wayne Alleyne upset the form book by beating Eric in the 1st set 7-11 11-7 10-12 11-9 13-11. However, Eric rallied to win his remaining sets. Phil lost to Mike Childs and then lost to Wayne, before outwitting Jazz to record his solitary win, but Jes was unable to find a way past his opponents, losing all three, and with Eric & Phil making no headway in the Doubles, the match finished 3 - 7. The next week, Jes, Phil and Bill travelled to play leaders Our Lady of Peace 'B' and Jes kicked off proceedings by winning the opening set, against Alistair Richardson, 10-12 11-9 11-6 11-4. However, the results went downhill from there and after Jes & Phil lost the Doubles, the team was losing 1 - 6. Pride may have played a part, but they all won their final set, thus denying both Louise Forster and Dave Godfrey their chances of a treble.

The following week, Kingfisher 'G' were the visitors and Eric returned to record a maximum. Bill also won his first and last sets as well as playing the Doubles with Eric, in what turned out to be a close contest, which they won 3 - 2. Masoud also played in his first match, defeating Hamid Mohseni 11-5 11-7 8-11 5-11 11-6, in a closely contested encounter, which meant that the team finished with a 7 - 3 win. Stats wise this was their third consecutive match that took 38 games to determine the winner. However, this happy glow didn't last long as Jes, Masoud and Phil were beaten 1 - 9, away at Kingfisher 'E'. Phil picked up the solitary win, defeating Abhay Gore, and Masoud just missed out in his final set when he lost to Abhay 5-11 11-3 11-8 10-12 6-11.

Bill replaced Masoud in the line-up, for the visit by Tidmarsh 'C' and won two sets, Ian Wu winning the final set to deny him a treble and determine who went home undefeated. Phil also won twice and partnered Bill to a Doubles win, on their debut appearance, with Jes defeating

David Sheppard to help ensure a 6 - 4 win. The final match was against Sonning Sports 'A', one of the title chasing teams, and although only 37 games were played, there were a number of closely fought encounters, before the match was eventually drawn 5 - 5. The opening set saw Eric play Paul Savage and this was a super contest, which could have gone either way, Eric winning the 5th game 11 - 9. They don't come much closer and effectively determined who went home undefeated, since both players won their remaining sets. More importantly, this win helped ensure that the match ended in a draw. Eric also partnered Bill in the Doubles although they were unable to repeat the win from their previous outing. However, this loss seemed to revitalise Bill and he went on to beat Nick Sears in his last set, this point crucial in securing the draw, as was the win from Jes, when he beat Bob Woodmansee.

At the end of this first Quarter, Tilehurst Methodists 'A' are in 6th place, with 26 points, although the three teams immediately below them all have a match in hand. On paper this is quite a strong squad so their current position is slightly surprising and I expect them to move further up the table, as the Season progresses. Eric is 2nd in the Divisional Averages, with 88.89% (8 wins from 9), Bill is on 50% (6 wins from 12), Phil is on 41.67% (5 wins from 12), with Jes and Masoud languishing near the bottom of the table, although they both have wins under their belts. On the Doubles front, pairings that include Bill are the only winners and currently the partnership with Phil is on 100%, after a single outing, while the partnership with Eric is on 50%, with one win and one loss.





## LAST SEASON'S TEAM HANDICAP FINAL

The 2019-2020 Handicap Final in the Reading League finally took place at Pearson Hall on Thursday 2nd September, featuring Sonning Sports and OLOP. It was the first time in 42 years that



FOR SONNING SPORTS 'B': KEITH MACHIN, BRETT HASTINGS, CRIS REYNOLDS AND PAUL SAVAGE



OLOP 'D': MARK CARLESS, MORGAN SYKES AND SIMON BROOKES

Sonning Sports appeared in a Final. It was agreed that the match should be delayed from March 2020 owing to Covid but both teams were keen to play this delayed final.

For Sonning, Brett Hastings, Keith Machin and Paul Savage were playing whilst for OLOP it was Simon Brookes, Mark Carless and Morgan Skyes.

The handicaps somewhat favoured OLOP as Paul had to give players who were in the same division 13 points! The first game of the evening was probably the best of the entire match as Paul played Mark. It went 20-20 but ended 28-26 to Paul. A great game! However

Mark playing some stunning table tennis stormed games 2&3 to win.

Keith beat Simon in three games, after narrowly losing the first game when leading comfortably! However, Keith managed to claw back the next two games to keep his 100% record in the tournament. The win by Keith put Sonning on the board.

However, for OLOP, Morgan, Mark, and Simon won their next games to win the trophy 5-1. The last three sets were not played. A deserved win for OLOP. An enjoyable evening and we were pleased that Simon and Mark joined us in the bar!



OLOP SKIPPER SIMON BROOKES IS PRESENTED WITH HIS TROPHY BY CRIS REYNOLDS

Cris Reynolds



# DIVISION THREE *by John Willcocks*

The first part of the season has been disrupted by venue and player unavailability issues, consequently there is a wide variation in the number of matches played between the teams in the division, with some playing five, and one only a single match. In all five matches have been postponed so to avoid a backlog later in the season could the team captains please try to agree revised dates as soon as they can.

However, a pattern of results is starting to emerge with six teams tightly bunched together at the top of the table. It looks like it will turn out to be a close promotion race and promotion and relegation could well be influenced by squad sizes which vary quite a lot. I have predicted where each team will finish but I am sure a number of my predictions will turn out to be wrong.

Tilehurst RBL 'B' started with two comprehensive wins beating OLOP 'E' 9 - 1 and Springfield 10 - 0 but their last two matches against promotion contenders Milestone 'A' and Pangbourne WMC have resulted in a 6 - 4 win and a defeat by the same margin. Kate Maksimenko has only lost once and with John Willcocks and Nick Lean also high in the averages and Linda King picking up useful wins they should maintain a promotion challenge for the whole season.

## Prediction – 2nd

*Best Recent Performance- Nick Lean with great maximum against Kingfisher 'H' including a win in five against Ruben Hernandez*

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Tilehurst RBL B	4	3	0	1	29	11	29
2 Kingfisher H	5	2	0	3	27	23	27
3 OLOP D	4	3	1	0	26	14	26
4 Milestone A	4	3	0	1	26	14	26
5 Pangbourne WMC	4	3	0	1	25	15	25
6 Kingfisher I	4	2	0	2	23	17	23
7 Springfield	5	1	0	4	13	37	13
8 SC&P E	3	0	1	2	9	21	9
9 OLOP E	4	0	1	3	7	33	7
10 Tidmarsh D	1	0	1	0	5	5	5

**Kingfisher 'H'** although they have lost three of their five matches they were all 6 - 4 so their points total finds them in second spot. Two of their 6 - 4 defeats have been against Milestone 'A' and Tilehurst RBL 'B' which were creditable results. They look to be a pretty strong all-round team and it would not surprise me if they are

challenging for a promotion place at the end of the season.

## Prediction – 6th

*Best Recent Performance – Ruben Hernandez with a hard-fought maximum against the talented youngsters from Kingfisher 'I'*

**OLOP 'D'** are just a point behind Kingfisher 'H' with a match in hand. They won their first match easily with a 9 - 1 victory over Springfield and since then their matches have all been very close and included a 6 - 4 win over a two-man Pangbourne WMC. Their four players all have very similar averages with Mark Carless leading the way on 75% so they look to be a team that will be difficult to beat. Their promotion chances may depend on whether they can get some big wins against some of the teams in the bottom half of the table.

## Prediction – 4th

*Best Recent Performance - Mark Carless with a three straight win over Satej Jaywant in the victory over Kingfisher 'H'*

**Milestone 'A'** - like OLOP 'D' they have 26 points with a match in hand on the second placed team. They have had three good wins but in their last match they slightly surprisingly suffered a 7 - 3 defeat to Pangbourne WMC despite a Zoltan Kelemen maximum. Zoltan is currently the division's top player with four maximums to his name and he has been well supported by Sachin Mundra; Oliver Bonser has also picked up some good wins. They should finish in the top three although with only three players signed on they could be susceptible to injury or illness issues.

## Prediction – 3rd

*Best Recent Performance – Zoltan Kelemen with an excellent maximum against Pangbourne WMC*

**Pangbourne WMC** have started the season well and are just two points off second with a match in hand. They have won three of their four matches with their only defeat coming against promotion rivals OLOP 'D' when they only had two players. Clive Taylor is playing very well and has a 92% average with his only defeat being against 100% Zoltan Kelemen. John Simmonds has been very consistent picking up two's each week and after a blank in his first match Leroy Wilson's form has improved and he has had some very good wins. This team has done well at this level in the past but having only three players may prove to be an issue which could hamper their promotion chances.

### Prediction – 1<sup>st</sup>

*Best Recent Performance – Clive Taylor with a three straight win over the previously unbeaten Kate Maksimenko.*

**Kingfisher 'I'** are also in the promotion mix and started the season with two big wins including a 10 - 0 against OLOP 'E'. Since then they have lost the Kingfisher derby 6 - 4 and then they lost 8 - 2 to an in-form Pangbourne WMC. Theo Kniep and Ethan Zeng have got impressive averages in the high 70's and Sahil Tekurkar has picked up some good wins and although Rishaan Sawant has only won once his two matches were against strong teams so he is sure to win far more during the season. It is great to see a team of such young players in this division and it is worrying for the rest of us that they are likely to improve dramatically as the season progresses.

### Prediction – 5<sup>th</sup>

*Best Recent Performance – Theo Kniep with a very good win in four against John Simmonds*

**Springfield** have the largest squad in the division so unlike some of the other teams should have no problems fielding full teams for all of their matches. They started the season well with a 9 - 1 win over OLOP 'D' but they then played three of the teams who are likely to be contesting for promotion and these three matches were all lost. However, in their last match they picked up their second win when they beat SC&P 'E' 7 - 3. Their players have very differing averages so how well they do may depend on how often their stronger players play. At present they have some hall availability issues but hopefully these can be resolved.

### Prediction – 8<sup>th</sup>

*Best Recent Performance – Jason King with three marathon sets in the match against Kingfisher 'I' where he came out on top in two of them to beat Ethan Zeng and Sahil Tekurkar in five.*

**SC&P 'E'** have had some postponements and have only played three matches drawing one and losing the other two. They lost heavily to Kingfisher 'I' and had a close defeat to Springfield but in their first match they drew with OLOP 'E'. It is difficult to gauge how well they will

do as they have a five-man squad and some of their players have only played once so far.

### Prediction – 9<sup>th</sup>

*Best Recent Performance – Ian Davenport with a good win in four against Eyup Odemis*

**OLOP 'E'** have only a draw to show for after their first four matches. However, three of the four were against teams who are likely to finish in the top five so they may be in a bit of a false position. In their most recent match they managed a creditable draw against SC&P 'E'. Parvin Baishkiyar looks to be their best player but he has only played twice so far and he has a 67% average

### Prediction – 10<sup>th</sup>

*Best Recent Performance – Parvin Baishkiyar with a good maximum against SC&P 'E'*

**Tidmarsh 'D'** have had a frustrating start to the season and have only played one match to date which was a draw against OLOP 'D'. They have an experienced squad at this level so I anticipate they should have a decent season and should finish somewhere in mid table.

### Prediction – 7<sup>th</sup>

*Best Recent Performance – Terry Hardie recovering from losing the third game 11-0 to beat Simon Brookes in four*

### LEADING AVERAGES

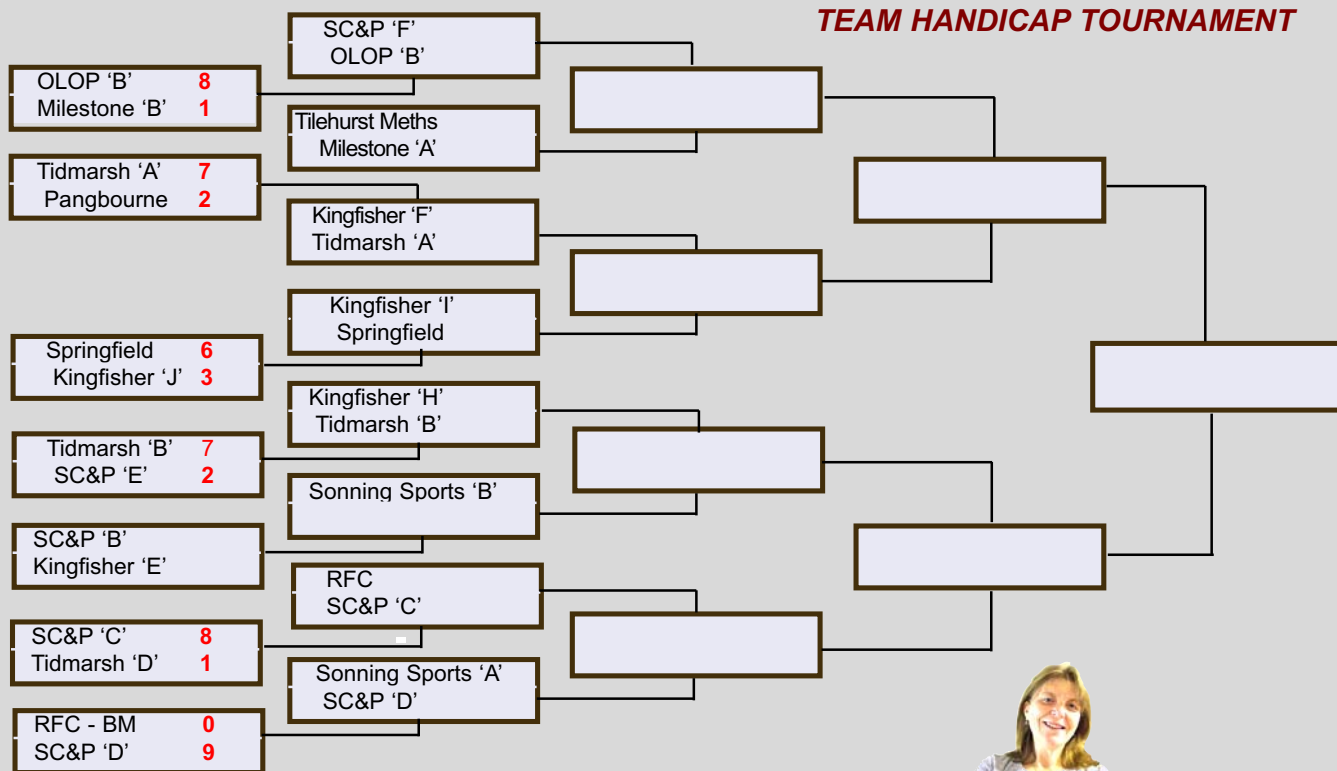
Player	Team	P	W	%
Zoltan Kelemen	Milestone A	12	12	100.00%
Kate Maksimenko	Tilehurst RBL B	12	11	91.67%
Clive Taylor	Pangbourne WMC	12	11	91.67%
Ethan Zeng	Kingfisher I	9	7	77.78%
John Willcocks	Tilehurst RBL B	9	7	77.78%
Theo Kniep	Kingfisher I	12	9	75.00%
Mark Carless	OLOP D	8	6	75.00%
Sachin Mundra	Milestone A	12	8	66.67%
Ruben Hernandez	Kingfisher H	12	8	66.67%
John Simmonds	Pangbourne WMC	9	6	66.67%
Nick Lean	Tilehurst RBL B	9	6	66.67%
Morgan Sykes	OLOP D	6	4	66.67%
Satej Jaywant (S)	Kingfisher H	6	4	66.67%
Parvin Baishkiyar	OLOP E	6	4	66.67%
Rob Wilkie	Springfield	6	4	66.67%
Simon Brookes	OLOP D	8	5	62.50%

## TEAM HANDICAP TOURNAMENT by Louise Forster

We've had a total of 23 teams, from across ten clubs entering this year's Team Handicap, which is three teams more than entered in 19/20 season. This gives us a seven match first round with nine teams receiving byes. Handicaps are in the main based on 19/20 rankings so may be out of kilter depending on whether players spent their lockdown practising on a home table, or eating cake! Time will tell.

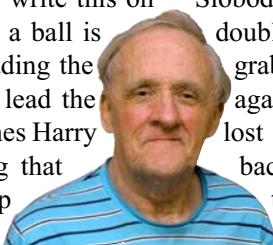
Several first round results are now in. Winners from the 19/20 season, Our Lady of Peace have started strong with an 8 - 1 win over Milestone 'B'. Tidmarsh 'A' beat Pangbourne 7 - 2, a close match with lots of three setters. Tidmarsh 'B' also had a 7 - 2 win over Sonning Common and Peppard 'E'. Springfield beat Kingfisher 'J' 6 - 3, and the two teams are also meeting each other for another head to head in the LDKO Cup too.

## TEAM HANDICAP TOURNAMENT



## DIVISION FOUR by Derek Harrison

Hello everyone, welcome to a start of a new season which I hope that you will enjoy. I write this on Sunday the 12th September. Before a ball is hit I will give my thoughts on the teams leading the way. As I see it Sonning Sports 'B' could lead the way however it will depend on how many times Harry Brough will play. I cannot see him losing that many sets. Tilehurst Meths 'B' will also be up there with Martin Wetherell and Patrick O'Sullivan in the team. Also dare I say it Tilehurst Royal British Legion Club 'C' could have a shout but we would have to play Paul Treadgold and Geoff Johnson in nearly every match. At the bottom I see hard seasons for Milestone 'B' and Kingfisher 'J' - prove me wrong folks. The first result I received saw O.L.O.P. 'F' beat Reading F



C 'B' 8 - 2 thanks mainly to a great hat trick from Alona Slobodskoy. Jan Polnik and James Smith weighed in with doubles. At Tilehurst Meths 'B' Alona won two with Jan grabbing a single by beating Andy. In James's match against Andy as I mentioned in the Tilehurst report he lost 3 close games. In fact in the third game he came back from 10-4 down to get to 10-9 and then served off the table. At home to Sonning Com & P 'F' they lost 3 - 7. New signing Qing, Jan and James all won one each. Jan informed me that the set between Qing and Marko was a classic with great shots that had the ooh, aah factor

Next result saw Sonning Sports 'C' beat a 2-player Kingfisher 'J' 0-10. In the set between Miguel Caballero of Kingfisher and Mike Gautrey it went as follows 11-8, 13-15, 7-11, 11-5, 9-11 and the last point gained by Mike was due to a service error by Miguel. Stephen Reader came back when all seemed lost by beating Terry Hoskins 5-11, 6-11, 15-13, 11-4. And at that stage he was gone, however he came good by winning the 5<sup>th</sup> game 7-11. John had a good game against Miguel by winning 3-11, 11-6, 8-11 after being down 10-12. At Sonning Com & P 'C' they went down 7 - 3 with Stephen winning two by beating Marko and Alistair. He also teamed up with Linda Barlow to win the doubles.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Tilehurst Meths B	4	3	0	1	23	17	23
2 Tilehurst RBL C	2	2	0	0	19	1	19
3 SC&P F	4	2	0	2	19	21	19
4 Reading FC B	4	1	0	3	16	24	16
5 Sonning S B	2	2	0	0	15	5	15
6 OLOP F	3	1	0	2	15	15	15
7 Sonning S C	2	1	0	1	13	7	13
8 Kingfisher J	5	2	0	3	13	37	13
9 Milestone B	2	0	0	2	7	13	7



**Tilehurst Meths 'B'** won 4 - 6 at Sonning Common and Peppard 'F' with Martin Wetherell gaining a fairly easy maximum. Patrick O.Sullivan won two besides teaming up with Martin to win the doubles. The Sonning captain mentioned about Arek Ziolkoski who was playing in his first league match and despite losing all three he did himself proud. His retrieving was worthy of Div 1. One exceptional get was about 5 metres from the table out wide and almost on the floor. Next they beat O.L.O.P 'F' 6 - 4 thanks to another treble from Martin. Arek got off the mark by beating James and Jan so well done. Andy Stone making his debut also beat James 12-10, 13-11, 11-9 - a bit tight Andy! Next they beat Milestone 'B' 7 - 3 with Martin and Andy both obtaining Hat Tricks. For Andy it was his first; ever so well played. At Kingfisher 'J' without Martin they lost for the first time 6 - 4. Patrick won two and Andy won one.

**Tilehurst Royal British Legion 'C'** beat Sonning Com & P 'F' 9 - 1 thanks to trebles from Jim Brent, Linda King and Geoff Johnson. For Jim they were all three straight, beating Mike Casserley 11-6, 11-7, 11-9 Marko Madzar 11-3, 12-10, 11-9 and Alistair Scott 11-5, 11-7, 11-7. As a result Jim gained his first ever P.O.M. We then played Kingfisher 'J' and won 10 - 0 with Jim, Geoff and Paul Treadgold all gaining trebles. For Geoff and Paul they were all three straight. In fact no one got more than 6 points against Geoff. The doubles were amazing when Jim and Paul beat Maksym and Miguel 2-11, 2-11, 11-3, 11-6, 11-6.

**Sonning Sports 'B'** opened with a 9 - 1 victory over Kingfisher 'J'. Top player Harry Brough and Cris Reynolds both hit trebles. Brett Hastings managed to win two besides teaming up with Cris to win the doubles. At home to Reading FC 'B' Harry, Cris and Dave Chard all won two each to gain a 6 - 4 victory.

**Sonning Com & P 'F'** lost 4-6 to Tilehurst Meths 'B', Gerry Bacon won two with Mike Casserley and Alistair Scott hitting singles. At T.R.B.L 'C' they only had a doubles win to show for their efforts with Mike and Marko Madzar beating Linda and Jim 11-13, 9-11, 8-11. They then bounced back by beating Sonning Sports 'C' 7 - 3 with Gerry gaining a three straight maximum by beating Stephen Reader 13-11, 11-7, 11-8, Linda Barlow 11-8, 11-4, 11-5 and Mo Cole 11-5, 11-2, 11-5. Both Marko and Alistair won two each. At O.L.O.P 'F' they won 3 - 7 with Mike hitting top form by gaining a hat trick. Gerry did his bit by gaining a double.

**Reading F C 'B'** started by losing 8 - 2 at O.L.O.P 'F'. Derek Anderson did well to win two by beating Jan Polnik 8-11, 2-11, 9-11 and James Smith 7-11, 12-10, 2-11, 6-11. At Milestone 'B' they had a narrow 4 - 6 win with Joe Bull hitting a three straight maximum. Harry Edwards managed to win two besides teaming up with Joe to win the doubles.

At home to Kingfisher 'J' they lost a close match 4 - 6, Joe and Harry were the scorers with two each. At Sonning Sports 'B' they went down 6 - 4. Derek had a great match by beating Harry Brough and Dave Chard while Joe had a nice win over Cris Reynolds.

A two man **Kingfisher 'J'** lost 0 - 10 to a rampant Sonning Sports 'C'. They then went down 9 - 1 at Sonning Sports 'B' with Peter Bennett beating Brett. Next they beat Reading FC 4 - 6 with Peter and Miguel Caballero both winning two each while Terry Hosking obtained a single. In the match there were 19 games settled by two points. Peter then starred by winning all three against Tilehurst Meths 'B' which helped them win 6 - 4. Miguel hit a double while Terry won one. At Tilehurst R.B.L 'C' they went down 10 - 0.

**Milestone 'B's'** season started with a 4 - 6 defeat to Reading FC 'B'. The evergreen John Evans did well by gaining a double. Tony Hayden and Colin Phillips both gained singles. At Tilehurst Meths 'B' they lost 7 - 3. Tony, Colin and John all beat Wayne. In Colin's game against Andy he was 2-9 down, came back to 8-10 then served off. Hard Luck

Finally I have to say I am not happy at the number of postponed matches. Sonning Sports must be jinxed because both teams have had 3 postponed. I have had a lot of hassle which I could do without. This cannot go on so we must try to sort it. Fair enough there are no players to play up, but I think that perhaps to stop this happening I wonder if teams should consider playing with only two players rather than asking for a postponement, which would avoid having a fixture pile up. Kingfisher did this earlier in the season.

All the best,  
Derek

#### DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Martin Wetherell	Tilehurst Meths B	9	9	100.00%
Jim Brent	Tilehurst RBL C	6	6	100.00%
Geoff Johnson	Tilehurst RBL C	6	6	100.00%
Alona Slobodskoy	OLOP F	6	5	83.33%
Harry Brough	Sonning Sports B	6	5	83.33%
Cris Reynolds	Sonning Sports B	6	5	83.33%
Stephen Reader	Sonning Sports C	5	4	80.00%
Gerry Bacon	SC&P F	9	7	77.78%
Peter Bennett	Kingfisher J	9	6	66.67%
Joe Bull	Reading FC B	9	6	66.67%
Derek Anderson	Reading FC B	6	4	66.67%
Patrick O'Sullivan	Tilehurst Meths B	6	4	66.67%
Andrew Stone	Tilehurst Meths B	9	5	55.56%
John Evans	Milestone B	6	3	50.00%
Jan Polnik	OLOP F	9	4	44.44%
Mike Casserley	SC&P F	9	4	44.44%