

April 2018

**READING
& DISTRICT
TABLE TENNIS
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER**

Editor: DEREK WAVELL



Reading Junior Masters champion Joe Barraclough

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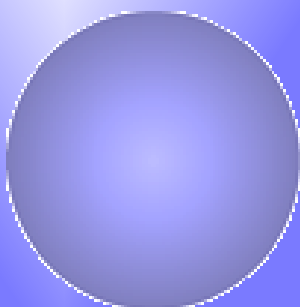
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End of 2017-2018 Season.

Season's end and we report neck-and-neck struggles in each Division. At the top level, the Reading Masters Tournament showed the fantastic qualities of our best players. But League Division One was a nightmare for them - caused by not enough teams, and therefore not enough matches, leaving players looking elsewhere. A very unhappy situation!

For next season it seems there may be more teams again, and a high priority put on making the system work. So with goodwill and an effort all round, there are happier times ahead.

Meanwhile, plenty is happening down below right now, as you will see from the length of the Div 5 report and the Special Competitions have never had such good coverage as Ray Webb is now giving them.

My thanks to Melvyn Lovegrove for his excellent photos of the Reading Masters events. Other photos are my own..

Have a good summer,
Derek BW



Reading Senior Masters by Derek Wavell



HARI GEHLOT

names over the years on the Roll of Honour, on our web site. Hari Gehlot first made an appearance as winner in 2005-6 - twelve years ago. He made it back to the top in 2009, 2010, and 2012 - and he has been battering on the door ever since. For instance, he won the Reading Closed men's title as recently as last year.

Martin Adams started even earlier than Hari, winning the Reading Closed Men's Singles in 1990 - while

Daniel Moses was still in nappies - and the Masters in 1994 and in the last 20 years he has won the title three times, and got into the final last year.

Daniel Moses himself didn't show his nose in the Masters until 2010-2011 - but by the present season had won it three times in succession.

The Reading Masters is a top-prestige tournament that has run since 1984, with the simple aim of deciding by combat which of Reading's many stars is the supreme master.

Only ten senior players (and ten juniors for the Junior Masters) are invited to play. They all know each other very well - some are team mates, but that doesn't stop them struggling fiercely for supremacy.

You can see the winners'



MARTIN ADAMS



YONATAN SLOBODSKOY

Could he win it again, for a fourth time running, and thus set down an all-time record?

So for this year's Senior Masters these three players were all seeded - Daniel, Martin and Hari - plus a new face, Harry Munro.

The tournament started with a rehearsal for the main feature - Hari Gehlot vs Daniel Moses. The first two games went to deuce, as Hari got his venomous left-handed topspins working. First game to Daniel 14-12; the next one to Hari 14-16. But after that Daniel was hitting his nor-



DANIEL MOSES

mal standards in every area, and won the next two games 11-8, 11-8.



IAN COLE

Meanwhile, on the next table Daniel's team mate Martin Adams was playing against Harry Munro from OLOP. After finding himself 4-11 down in the first game, Harry managed deuces in the next two - but couldn't quite break through Martin's great barrier of competence.

Harry went on to win his next three sets in the group stage - against Gary Morgan, Anthony Baker and Yonatan Slobodskoy - and ended up losing once again to Martin Adams in the semi final.



HARRY MUNRO

Defending champion Daniel Moses was able to remain in his comfort zone for most of the tournament, beating three opponents in straight games - Steve Murgatroyd, Danny Ricks and Ian Cole. But the final was not to be quite so simple. Harry Gehlot had also gone through defeating everyone 3 - 0. When Daniel met Harry, he lost the first two games 9-11 and 8-11. However, time and effort brought back the old supremacy, as game followed game. 11-8, 11-7, and finally 11-3 - and Daniel Moses was once again champion of the Reading Masters, for a record fourth year running!



GARY MORGAN AND MARTIN ADAMS

SPECIAL COMPETITIONS FINAL ROUNDS

Organized
by
Ray Webb

Curzon 'C' finalists:
John Walker, Linda
King and Charlotte
Binley.
OLOP 'D' champions:
Pradeep Desh, Abhay
Gore, Binit Bhaskar
and Patrick Daniels.

LOWER DIVISIONS KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION

After a defeat to holders Tidmarsh 'D' in round one, OLOP 'D' steadily improved throughout the competition to achieve fine victories over the much fancied Saiyan brothers, Springfield 'B' and then last season's runners-up Reading FC 'A' in the semi finals. Coming into the final OLOP had used four different pairings, with Pat Daniels / Binit Bhaskar the most successful.

Curzon 'C' had been consistently strong with victories over OLOP 'E', Tidmarsh 'E', current holders Tidmarsh 'D' and then Springfield 'D' in the semi-final. On reaching the final Curzon had used twice as many pairings as OLOP but were in danger of having to concede the match due to having only two of their original five player squad available since January. All credit must go to Binit Bhaskar and his OLOP team for their sportsmanship in agreeing that late signing Charlotte Binley should play.

In the final OLOP chose to use a four player format and settled quicker with the Abhay Gore / Pradeep Desh pairing comfortably beating Linda King / Charlotte Binley. Curzon responded by taking set two with Charlotte Binley / John Walker getting the better of Binit Bhaskar / Pradeep Desh. Whereas the first two sets had been open games, set three was more of a defensive tussle with no-one wanting to make the first mistake and it was John Walker / Linda King just getting the better of Pat Daniels / Binit Bhaskar in three games. OLOP regained the lead taking the next two sets, again both in three games, with some cracking back-hand service returns by Pradeep and power hitting by Abhay. Curzon levelled at 3 sets each with John's retrieving perfectly complimenting Charlotte's delightful shot placement. OLOP took set seven, Binit and Pradeep having too much fire power for Linda and John, and OLOP, through Binit and Patrick, secured the match in the next set. The final set, irrelevant as far as the destination of the trophy stood, brought together the only unbeaten pairings from both sides, OLOP's Abhay and Pradeep against Charlotte and John for Curzon. Bragging rights were to go to Abhay and Pradeep whose balanced attacking game returned a high proportion of successful winners.

As a point to note, Abhay is unbeaten in the finals of both team cup competitions, a remarkable achievement.

Finally I would like to give special mention to Springfield 'D' who put in a tremendous performance by reaching the Semi-finals.

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| OLOP 'D' | 6 |
| Reading FC 'A' | 3 |
| OLOP 'D' | 6 |
| Curzon 'C' | 3 |
| Curzon 'C' | 5 |
| Springfield 'D' | 4 |



Left to right: Richard Witt and Anthony Alleyne (Reading FC); Pradeep Desh, Hari Laddunuri and Abhay Gore (OLOP 'D') and Paul Brown (Reading FC).

Team Handicap Competition 2017-18

With so many close matches in the competition this year, a few points going the other way and any two of a number of teams could have made it to the final. As it turned out, it came down to a repeat of last season between Reading FC 'A' and OLOP 'B' [previously OLOP 'E'].

Surprisingly both teams reached the final without dropping a set in the semi's. Reading had managed an injury shortened 6 - 0 victory over Tidmarsh 'D', and OLOP a 9 - 0 rout of their 'E' team. For the final, OLOP captain Alistair Richardson, with ten players to select from, decided to go with Hari Laddunuri, Abhay Gore and Pradeep Desh all from OLOP's division four side which had already beaten the Reading team twice in the league.

Reading fielded captain Richard Witt, Anthony Alleyne and Paul Brown, and it was they who got off to a flier with Anthony taking set one and in the process handing Hari his first defeat in the competition.

Set two and Richard, with a league average 36% lower than Pradeep, but only receiving a 2 point start, overcame all the odds to take the set in three games. Abhay reduced the deficit with some consistent power hitting to which Paul could find no answer. Antony then restored Reading's two set advantage with a comfortable win over Pradeep who was struggling to get his own attacking game flowing. With sets five and six going to OLOP the match was tied at 3 - 3. Set seven was a tense affair with both Pradeep and Paul looking to record a first win, and it was Paul's steady consistent retrieving that eventually triumphed 21-23, 21-17, 21-18.

The next set faced Abhay against Anthony, both unbeaten on the night, with virtually identical league averages and both playing off +7. This had all the makings of a nail-biter, but turned out to be a comfortable victory for Abhay whose third ball smash had proved difficult to return all evening. In completing his maximum Abhay would remain unbeaten in the competition winning 9/9 overall.

Fittingly this meant the match would therefore be decided by another 5 - 4 scoreline. Richard against Hari to determine who the trophy would go to. Richard had beaten Hari twice in the league, both times in five tight games, but here Hari would receive a five point start. It would be close. Reading who had never been behind in the match took the first game. OLOP levelled, four sets each, one game each. The deciding game unfortunately turned out to be a bit of an anti-climax after Richard lost a few early points and never recovered to close the gap.

Our Lady of Peace 'B' were worthy winners retaining the trophy in the process.

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Tidmarsh 'D' | 0 |
| Reading FC 'A' | 6 |
| Reading FC 'A' | 4 |
| OLOP 'B' | 5 |
| OLOP 'B' | 9 |
| OLOP 'E' | 0 |

Notes from our Chairman

by Derek Harrison

Hello everyone. Yet another season comes to an end. Crikey where does the time go?

Anyway i congratulate the Champions of each division as well as the runners up and hope that you do well in your new division. With regard to the teams who finished in the bottom two i hope that you will make a quick return to the division you left but am pleased that despite losing a lot of matches you still enjoyed your evening so you are all a credit to the game.



Now some good news I am very happy to inform you that all of my committee are willing to stand next season so on behalf of you all I would like to thank them all for all of their hard work which has made the season go well because without these dedicated volunteers we would not have a league.

Please do not forget our AGM on the 6th June at the O.L.O.P club, and before that, the Awards Presentations on Tuesday 1st May at Curzon.

Have a good summer

All the best

Derek

DIVISION ONE by Mark Banks



Well. So that's it then. Probably the most forgettable season in RDTTA history. Lack of games all round, conceded games all round, 2 man teams and players playing up all round. One thing for sure though. Kingfisher A are Champions again. Woohooooo. Have a great summer.

Love & Peace x Banksy



DANIEL MOSES OF KINGFISHER A

Kingfisher 'A' champions again and this time they did it without me! Great performances by Daniel Moses & Martin Adams with support from Richard & Justin but not me 😊



HARI GEHLOT



GARY MORGAN

Kingfisher 'B' - a valiant effort but runners-up for the 2nd season running. Hari, Krasi and Phil. All shining for the Bees. With Dimitry & Ed having their say too. Nice job.



STEVE MURGATROYD

LEADING AVERAGES

| Player | Team | PL | W | % |
|--------------------|--------------|----|----|--------|
| Daniel Moses | Kingfisher A | 29 | 29 | 100.00 |
| Martin Adams | Kingfisher A | 19 | 18 | 94.74 |
| Andrew Smith | Kingfisher C | 12 | 11 | 91.67 |
| Philip Zeng | Kingfisher B | 20 | 18 | 90.00 |
| Krasimir Ivanov | Kingfisher B | 32 | 28 | 87.50 |
| Dmitry Khakhamov | Kingfisher B | 26 | 21 | 80.77 |
| Mark Banks | Kingfisher A | 17 | 13 | 76.47 |
| Hari Gehlot | Kingfisher B | 21 | 16 | 76.19 |
| Harry Munro | OLOP A | 30 | 22 | 73.33 |
| Yonatan Slobodskoy | OLOP A | 20 | 14 | 70.00 |
| Gary Morgan | SC&P A | 36 | 25 | 69.44 |
| Eduard Caliman | Kingfisher B | 12 | 8 | 66.67 |

some good performances all round from Neil, Joe Joes and the man who's always dropped from the doubles, JR.



DANNY RICKS

| | | PL | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|--------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 | Kingfisher A | 14 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 116 | 23 | 28 |
| 2 | Kingfisher B | 14 | 12 | 0 | 2 | 114 | 26 | 24 |
| 3 | OLOP A | 14 | 10 | 0 | 4 | 84 | 54 | 20 |
| 4 | SC&P A | 14 | 7 | 0 | 7 | 74 | 66 | 14 |
| 5 | Kingfisher C | 14 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 49 | 91 | 11 |
| 6 | Tidmarsh A | 14 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 47 | 93 | 8 |
| 7 | Kingfisher D | 14 | 1 | 2 | 11 | 39 | 100 | 4 |
| 8 | Kingfisher E | 14 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 35 | 105 | 3 |

OLOP 'A' were very good once again although availability issues hampered any real chance they had of coming 2nd. **Harry & Yonatan** stars of the show ably backed up by Ian and Felix.

KFC struggled with injury and availability all year. Murgy was pretty much ever present but they ended up conceding a bunch of matches and sadly I fear for their long term future in the league.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' have been one of the shining lights this season. Led by Gary from the front with



IAN COLE

Tidmarsh were wiped out with injuries too and relied a lot on players playing up. Well done Danny & Squirrel on good seasons though and hopefully they can regroup over the summer.

Kingfisher 'D' did OK actually. Nigel and Phil have both had good enough seasons and I'm sure they will be back next year.

Kingfisher 'E' unfortunately started and finished in the same position but I'm sure they had some fun along the way and I presume with the lack of teams that they won't actually be relegated.



DIVISION TWO

by John Willcocks

As had looked likely for most of the season Curzon 'A' maintained their lead at the top of the division and ended up worthy champions, winning the league by eight points and with an unbeaten record. For a while the battle for runners up spot looked as though it might go down to the last week. However Sonning Common and Peppard 'B' eventually ended up three points ahead of their club rivals Sonning Common and Peppard 'D' who had difficulty in fielding full teams in the last month of the season.

Pangbourne WMC had looked certain to occupy one of the relegation places for some time but the other place was not so clear cut. However OLOP 'B' beat their relegation rivals Kingfisher 'F'

minutes of a match finishing, and for managing to get any matches that had to be postponed re-arranged quickly.

Most of you will probably not see me on the table next season as I am off to the 'promised land' of Division 1, although this may of course only be on a fairly temporary basis. However, I look forward to being your DFS again and hopefully Division 2 will be as competitive next year as it has been this season.



Curzon 'A' finished with four wins in a row which included a match conceded by Tidmarsh 'B'. Their best result in the last few weeks of the season was the 8 – 2 win over the difficult-to-beat Sonning C&P 'C' in a match that saw them clinch the title. This match featured a very good maximum from Pete Bradley and an excellent brace from reserve Charlotte Binley.

Their three regular players finished high up in the averages with Jon Willis the highest at 81% but they had to field other players on eight occasions. They had originally intended to re-register Nick Lean but could not do so due to availability issues in Curzon 'B' but Nick and the other 'reserves' all played well in the matches they played in. This was emphasised by Marc Brent finishing things off with a fine maximum at OLOP 'B' in the final match of the season.

Best Recent Performance – Charlotte Binley: a great attacking performance to beat Matt Stone

Sonning Common and Peppard 'B' had a slightly mixed end to the season with three wins, a draw and a defeat to Tilehurst Methodists 'A'. For a long time it looked like the battle for the runners up spot might go to the last week of the season, especially as they had a fairly tough run in. However, in the end they finished comfortably clear of their club rivals in third.

In the promotion 'four pointer' against Sonning C&P 'D' they recovered from 5 – 3 down to get a draw, with Nigel Maltby winning an epic set against Malcolm Gregory that went to five. Their defeat to Tilehurst Methodists 'A' put a question mark against their promotion prospects but they



NIGEL MALTBY

in their last match to settle the issue with Kingfisher 'F' ending up finishing below Pangbourne WMC.

The division was very competitive with only three points separating fourth and seventh, and even those teams that ended up at or near the bottom often had very close matches against teams much higher up the table.

Lee Calcutt topped the divisional averages with 93.94%. Julian Telford had the most Player of The Match awards with 10 while Lee Calcutt had 9 and Dom Cutter 7.

Can I thank all of the teams for getting the score cards to me promptly, sometimes within

| | | PL | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|----|-------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 | Curzon Club A | 18 | 16 | 2 | 0 | 135 | 45 | 34 |
| 2 | SC&P B | 18 | 12 | 2 | 4 | 117 | 63 | 26 |
| 3 | SC&P D | 18 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 108 | 71 | 23 |
| 4 | Tidmarsh B | 18 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 97 | 83 | 20 |
| 5 | Tilehurst Meths A | 18 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 95 | 85 | 19 |
| 6 | SC&P C | 18 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 95 | 85 | 18 |
| 7 | Tidmarsh C | 18 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 76 | 104 | 17 |
| 8 | OLOP B | 18 | 5 | 1 | 12 | 60 | 120 | 11 |
| 9 | Pangbourne WMC | 18 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 60 | 119 | 6 |
| 10 | Kingfisher F | 18 | 3 | 0 | 15 | 56 | 124 | 6 |



JEREMY WILLIS

finished the season well with wins against the two Tidmarsh teams. This included a 7 – 3 win against Tidmarsh 'B' when they only had two players.

Brian Meheux led the way with an average of 76% with Nigel Maltby and Jeremy Willis not far behind and Andrew Grant Robertson also having a healthy average. Simon Berry only played once and if he had played more matches the title race might have been closer. Nigel Maltby finished the season particularly well with three maximums and three two's.

Best Recent Performance – Nigel Maltby recovering from 2 – 1 down won in five against Malcolm Gregory to gain a crucial point in the their promotion clash

Sonning Common and Peppard 'D' had a difficult last couple of months and they were only able to field two players in four of their last five matches. During that time they were without their star man Andy Wang who had gone back to China. In fact Andy only played once in the second half of



MATT STONE

the season, will we see him playing in our league again? If Andy had played more often they may well have finished in the top two.

Niall McGrane had a very good season recovering from some unexpected early season defeats and Malcolm Gregory gave him some solid support. Carole Chard had some good wins but perhaps did not play often enough to find her best form.

So it's another season in Division 2, should I predict third place again next year Malcolm and Niall?

Best Recent Performance – Niall McGrane with a very good maximum in the promotion tussle with Sonning SC&P 'B'

Tidmarsh 'B' had an excellent second half of the season winning six of their last nine matches to finish a creditable fourth in the table. Their only defeat in the last few weeks was to Sonning C&P 'B' plus a match that was conceded to Curzon 'A' after the original match had to be postponed due to snow. This match was re-scheduled for the week after the season had finished but they also had a match against Kingfisher 'F' which needed to be played that week. The Kingfisher 'F' match had to take priority as it might have had a bearing on the relegation issues so the Curzon one had to be conceded.

Dom Cutter has had a very good season finishing with an average of just under 90%. Their other five players have all had solid seasons with John Golding having a particularly good second half

Best Recent Performance – Dom Cutter with a very good win against Niall McGrane to help secure a point in the match against Sonning C&P 'D'

Tilehurst Methodists 'A' had to play their last few matches without the injured Nigel Rowland. This meant they had to play a reserve on a couple of occasions but despite this they finished the season with two good wins. The best of these was an excellent 6 – 4 win over promotion chasing Sonning C&P 'B'. This match featured a very good three straight maximum by Julian Telford and also impressive wins by Phil Jones over Brian Meheux and Jeremy Willis.

Julian recovered from a slight dip in form after Christmas to finish the season strongly, being unbeaten in his last five matches. The rest of the team offered solid support with all of their averages very close together.

Best Recent Performance – Phil Jones recovered from losing the first two games easily to beat Brian Meheux in five

Sonning Common and Peppard 'C' had a good last few weeks with three wins, including one against Sonning C&P 'D', with their only recent defeat coming against Curzon 'A'. As they did not win their first match until November it was a very good effort to finish up with eighteen points and a comfortable mid table position.

Matt Stone was their best player with an average just under 67% with their other three players all getting averages of around 50%. Matt Isherwood was very consistent, Tim Raby had a very good last few weeks and Denise Weller, having missed quite a large part of the season, came back with some excellent performances.

Best Recent Performance – Tim Raby, a marathon win in five



DENISE WELLER

against Niall McGrane.

Tidmarsh 'C' had three wins plus two defeats in the last month or so of the season. The defeats were against the top two when Lee Calcutt was unavailable but they did the double over Kingfisher 'F' and then managed to beat a two-man Sonning C&P 'D' without Lee.



MATT ISHERWOOD

Unsurprisingly Lee had the highest average with an impressive 94%, but he did not quite have enough support although the other players all had their moments and Ray Webb in particular had some very good wins.

Best Recent Performance – A joint one in the match against Sonning C&P 'B'. Chris Webb with an excellent win in four against Brian Meheux and Simon Barter recovering from 2 – 1 down to beat Nigel Maltby 12-10 in the fifth

OLOP 'B' had a run of seven defeats in a row which meant they looked like they might drop into the bottom two. However, an unexpected win against Tilehurst Meths 'A' gave them a little cushion over Kingfisher 'F'. Then, despite two more defeats, they settled matters with a 6 – 4 win over their relegation rivals in their last match of the season relegation 'four pointer'.

After a bit of a dodgy spell Ziko Jerzmski, despite being hampered by an injury, played well in the run in culminating in a maximum in their win over Kingfisher 'F'. Their other players also came up with some important wins at vital times.

Dave Godfrey had the highest average but nobody got above 45% which shows how their season was a bit of a struggle.

Best Recent Performance – Ziko Jerzmski beating both Pete Bradley and Jon Willis in the match against Curzon 'A'

Pangbourne WMC lost all but one of their matches in the latter part of the season. Their only victory was a comprehensive one over OLOP 'B' which at the time looked like it might push their opponents into a relegation place. They fought hard in their other recent matches but they continued to be unable to turn some good individual performances into wins.



TIM RABY

John Simmonds was comfortably their best player with an average over 50%. If he can get some specs that he is happy with, he could do even better next year. Unfortunately the rest of the team could not muster enough wins to give John the support he needed.

Best Recent Performance – Leroy Wilson with a maximum against OLOP 'B', which included coming back to beat Dave Godfrey 16-14 in the fifth after losing the first two games easily

Kingfisher 'F' lost their last nine matches to end up in bottom place. This was not surprising as the team were decimated by injuries and other availability issues which meant that they had to field one and sometimes two reserves in their last six matches. During this time they only had Grant Wheatley and Rick Leachmann available on an anything like a regular basis and even they missed some matches.

Grant and Allan Bruton had averages of just under 50% and both had a number of very good wins. However Allan could only play in six matches before injury forced him to stop playing. Roger Woolven-Allen has struggled with injury all season and was only able to play eight times and John Morris has missed most of the season.

Best Recent Performance – Reserve Clive Gold winning a very close encounter with Barry Carter 11-9 in the fifth.

LEADING AVERAGES

| Player | Team | P | W | % |
|----------------|-------------------|----|----|-------|
| Lee Calcutt | Tidmarsh C | 33 | 31 | 93.94 |
| Andy Wang | SC&P D | 20 | 18 | 90.00 |
| Dom Cutter | Tidmarsh B | 35 | 31 | 88.57 |
| Julian Telford | Tilehurst Meths A | 43 | 36 | 83.72 |
| Jon Willis | Curzon Club A | 42 | 34 | 80.95 |
| Niall McGrane | SC&P D | 42 | 34 | 80.95 |
| Brian Meheux | SC&P B | 51 | 39 | 76.47 |
| John Willcocks | Curzon Club A | 42 | 32 | 76.19 |
| Nigel Maltby | SC&P B | 45 | 32 | 71.11 |
| Peter Bradley | Curzon Club A | 45 | 31 | 68.89 |



DIVISION THREE

by Barry Carter

Welcome to the final newsletter of the 2017 / 2018 season. The promotion spots have gone to the two teams that have been in the top two for almost all of the season, certainly since Christmas at the very least and they are Milestone 'B' and Springfield 'A' (I only hope that the same applies for the mighty Wolves, who have been top since almost week one of the Championship season). At the bottom of the table it was very close with only four points separating the bottom five teams, there were three matches played after the season had finished and there was a possibility that three teams could have all ended up on thirteen points but as it was none of the results happened and therefore it was Milestone 'A' and Kingfisher 'I' that ended up in the bottom two. No player profiles were sent in for this edition so guess I'll try again next season.



Milestone 'B' were the worthy champions although 10 of their 18 wins were by the 6 – 4 scoreline. They finished the season with three wins and their only defeat of the campaign. The first win came against OLOP 'C' (6 – 4) thanks to two each from Zoltan Kelemen and Sanket Dave and a Dave Sprackling 11–5, 11–6, 11–5 win over Dan Bright. The only defeat came against Kingfisher 'I' as only Zoltan won a set and he won all three in a 3 – 7 defeat. They bounced back to defeat Kingfisher 'H' (7 – 3) which was slightly assisted by the opposition only having two players but Sanket and Zoltan won both their matches. Oli Bonser took Alex Zheng to four but lost 12–14, 7–11, 11–6, 4–11. The final match of the season was against their fellow promotees, Springfield 'A'. Zoltan and Sanket both won two, Zoltan one and then the doubles to ensure a 6 – 4 win. *Doubles: 11/20 = 55%*

Springfield 'A' held off the late challenge from Kingfisher 'G' to clinch the runners up spot and promotion to division two, however it did end in two defeats in a row against bottom team, Kingfisher 'I' (4 – 6) and the champions, Milestone 'B' (4 – 6). The first two matches after the last newsletter saw them win 6 – 4 against Kingfisher 'G' as Phil Burke won three, Ludo Couillard two and Adam Sheen was unlucky to lose all three. The second win which clinched promotion came against Sonning Sports 'A' as the top two players in the division went head to head in the fourth set of the evening, Phil Burke v Paul Savage. In the end it was Paul who ran out the winner. Adam won the crucial tenth set against Bob Woodmansee 11–4, 11–8, 11–7 to cue celebrations as they won 6 – 4. *Doubles: 13/19 = 68%*

Kingfisher 'G' did well to finish third as they rounded off the season with one win, one draw and two defeats. The win came against Kingfisher 'J' as Mr. Reliable, Eric Holmes won all three, he was supported by Clive Gold and Guy De La Vilesbrunne who both won two. They ended the season with a 5 – 5 draw against fifth placed Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' with Luca man of the match. Luca Bianchi won two, Eric and Clive one each. The two defeats were against

Springfield 'A' (4 – 6) as Luca won two, Eric one and Guy one and the other one was a rather surprising 2 – 8 loss to Tilehurst Meths 'B' as the only winner on the night was Clive with two wins against Masoud Ghabachi 11–9, 11–9, 8–11, 11–9 and Steve Dopson 11–7, 5–11, 11–4, 10–12, 11–7.

Doubles: 5 / 20 = 25%

Sonning Sports 'A' faded a bit after Christmas but still finished a good fourth as they only won one of their last four matches and that was against Kingfisher 'J' in the last week. Keith Machin was man of the match for his maximum, whilst Bob Woodmansee overcame both David Wells and Didier Garçon and Dave Chard won one. The two draws came against Kingfisher 'I' and Tilehurst Meths 'B', in the match against Kingfisher 'I' they did well to pick up a point despite playing with two, Keith won all three and Dave two as he beat both Mick Mitcham and Steve Woolnough. Paul Savage won all three in the draw with Tilehurst. As already mentioned above the Springfield match threw the best two players together: Phil Burke v Paul Savage and it looked like it didn't disappoint, Paul won the first end 11–6 but Phil bounced back and won the next two 11–8, 13–11. Paul responded as he won the fourth 11–5 and inevitably it was 11–9 in the fifth and Paul had won. *Doubles: 15/19 = 79%*

Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' were always safe in mid-table but at one stage they did have an outside chance of promotion. SCP 'E' picked up two draws and a 4 – 6 defeat in their last three matches. The two draws were against Milestone 'A' and Kingfisher 'G' whilst the defeat came courtesy of Kingfisher 'H' where they lost 4 – 6. The trio of Alan Mollett, Eric Walker and Mark Jones all won one in the defeat to Kingfisher 'H' although Alan nearly grabbed a point but lost 11 – 13 in the fifth to Willis Ma. Mark won two against Chris Collins and John Crosfield in the Milestone 'A' draw whilst Alan and Angus Jones won two each against Kingfisher 'G'. *Doubles: 13/19 = 68%*



MARK JONES

OLOP 'C' finished the season strongly to finish in sixth,

| Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 Milestone B | 20 | 18 | 1 | 1 | 129 | 71 | 37 |
| 2 Springfield A | 20 | 13 | 3 | 4 | 128 | 72 | 29 |
| 3 Kingfisher G | 20 | 11 | 3 | 6 | 108 | 92 | 25 |
| 4 Sonning Sports A | 20 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 105 | 95 | 23 |
| 5 SC&P E | 20 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 105 | 95 | 22 |
| 6 OLOP C | 20 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 105 | 95 | 21 |
| 7 Tilehurst Meths B | 20 | 6 | 2 | 12 | 93 | 107 | 14 |
| 8 Kingfisher H | 20 | 6 | 2 | 12 | 86 | 114 | 14 |
| 9 Kingfisher J | 20 | 5 | 3 | 12 | 84 | 116 | 13 |
| 10 Milestone A | 20 | 3 | 6 | 11 | 79 | 121 | 12 |
| 11 Kingfisher I | 20 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 78 | 122 | 10 |

though they really should have been challenging for promotion. The last four matches yielded five points with two wins, a draw and a defeat albeit to the champions, Milestone 'B'. The two matches consisted of a 10 – 0 walkover against Sonning C & P 'E' and then an 8 – 2 win over Kingfisher 'H' as Chris West and Clive Perry won all three fairly easily but the result of the night was Dan Bright's first win of the season as he overcame Peter Bennett 11–5, 11–9, 11–13, 7–11, 11–6. He also took Lee Wirkhani to four before losing 11–13. The draw in the last match of the regular season came against Milestone 'A'. Hari Laddunuri who played up from division four won two against John Crosfield 14–12, 7–11, 11–8, 3–11, 11–7 and John Evans 11–7, 11–8, 11–4. Chris also won two but Dan couldn't replicate the week before and he lost all three. *Doubles : 10/18 = 56%*

Tilehurst Meths 'B' escaped relegation (the escape tunnel was used last season by Tilehurst Meths 'A' in division two) and attained their highest place of the season of seventh as they benefitted from Milestone 'A' not being able to get a team out for their relegation four-pointer at the end of the season. After going eight matches without a win, they suddenly found some form to pick up three wins and a draw from the last four matches, this includes the crucial walkover against Milestone 'A'. The other two wins were against Kingfisher 'G' (8 – 2) as Michael Williams won his first player of the match award of the season with two good wins over Clive Gold and John Liddle, Masoud Ghabachi and Steve Dopson made up the other six to boost their chances of survival. The other win was an 8 – 2 over Kingfisher 'I' that condemned their opposition to division four. Steve Dopson was man of the match for his maximum, whilst Jes Eassom and Michael Williams won two each. Sonning Sports 'A' were full of praise and queried why they were at the bottom, this followed a 5 – 5 draw in which four sets went to five games. *Doubles : 9/19 = 47%*

Kingfisher 'H' claimed eighth, two points ahead of the relegation zone. They managed just one win from their last four matches and that came via a 6 – 4 result against Sonning C & P 'E' as Igor Sremac and Willis Ma won all three, though Rumen Rangelov lost three very tight matches. In the derby match against the 'J' team, Willis was the only one to win sets as they lost 2 – 8 although Peter Bennett endured two five set defeats to Joaquin Munoz Sabater and David Wells. Rumen did get on the scoresheet with an 11–5, 11–7, 11–8 win over Dan Bright as did Lee Wirkhani who won 11–8, 12–10, 7–11, 13–11 in the 2–8 defeat to OLOP 'C'. The last match of the season saw them

travel to the champions, Milestone 'B' with only two players so they did well to come away with a 2 – 8 defeat as Peter and Alex Zheng both beat Oli Bonser 11–8, 11–1, 11–2 and 14–12, 11–7, 6–11, 11–4 respectively.

Doubles : 42%

Kingfisher 'J' were nearly sucked into the three way tie-breaker but in the end finished one point and one place above the line. Two wins in their last four matches saw them battle clear. The two wins came against four-pointers against Kingfisher 'H' (7 – 3) and Milestone 'A' (7 – 3). Joaquin Munoz Sabater won all three in the match against the 'H' team and Nils Wedi joined David Wells in winning two. Nils was man of the match as he won all three against Milestone 'A' the 11–9, 11–8, 11–8 victory against Arun Rajagopal was the most impressive. Joaquin won two with the tightest win being against Carl Edlind with a 9–11, 11–6, 3–11, 11–9, 15–13 score. David also won two but they were three-straight victories over Carl and John Crosfield. The two defeats came against Kingfisher 'J' (3 – 7) with Nils winning two although Gabor Radnoti took Guy De La Vilesbrunne to four. In their last match of the season they entertained Sonning Sports 'A' and lost 4 – 6 as Joaquin won two, Didier Garçon nearly managed to take a set off Dave Chard. *Doubles : 45%*

Milestone 'A' have been flirting with the bottom two all season and in the end, the lack of players saw them relegated to division three. Arun Rajagopal picked up his 7th & 8th player of the match awards in the last two matches of the season to see them to two draws against OLOP 'C' and Sonning C & P 'E'. Milestone 'A' have struggled to field the same three players all season and have called up six players from below to play and this epitomised the concession of the relegation decider against Tilehurst Meths 'B' and that confirmed relegation. Chris Collins won two of his three in the 5 – 5 draw with Sonning 'E' with wins over Alan Mollett and Eric Walker. John Crosfield took Eric to five but lost 4–11 in the fifth. John did win one against OLOP 'C' and coupled with Arun's usual three and a good John Evans win over Dan Bright they picked up their second draw in a row



ERIC WALKER



ALAN MOLLETT

to finish the season. The other match since the last newsletter saw them lose 3 – 7 to Kingfisher 'J'.

Doubles : 42%

Kingfisher 'I' complete the line up and are relegated to division four but the amazing stat is that in their last four matches of the season they beat both the promoted teams and drew with Sonning Sports 'A' who finished fourth but then lost to relegation threatened Tilehurst Meths 'B' in their last match. Gwynne Penny won the only singles match against Sonning Sports as she beat Dave Chard 11–5, 6–11, 11–13, 11–6, 11–8 and then she teamed up with Steve Woolnough to win the doubles. They became the first and only team to beat the champions as two each from the trio of Gwynne, Carol Byers and Steve produced a shock 7 – 3 win with Steve's win over Sachin Mundra being the best. They followed that by then beating Springfield 'A' 6 – 4 as Carol won the player of the match for her three wins over Adam Sheen, Seth Martin and Ludo Couillard. Steve chipped in with two wins over Seth and Ludo while Gwynne only had success against Seth. *Doubles : 5/20 = 25%*

A few random team stats to finish with....

- Most team wins by 9 – 1: Springfield 'A' & Sonning C&P 'E' (3)
- Most team wins by 8 – 2: Tilehurst Meths 'B', Springfield 'A' & OLOP 'C' (3)
- Most team wins by 7 – 3: Milestone 'B' & Kingfisher 'J' (5)
- Most team wins by 6 – 4: Milestone 'B' (11)
- 55.5% of the results were either 6 – 4 or 5 – 5
- Only 1 match other than concessions ended 10 – 0
- 8 matches ended 9 – 1
- 13 matches ended 8 – 2
- 24 matches ended 7 – 3
- 43 matches ended 6 – 4

- 18 matches ended 5 – 5
- There 53 home wins, 39 away wins and 18 draws of which 18 were scoring draws 😊
- 44% of the sets were won by the 3 – 0 scoreline
- 31% of the sets were won by the 3 – 1 scoreline
- 25% of the sets were won by the 3 – 2 scoreline
- Springfield 'A' won the most sets 3 – 0 (51)
- Milestone 'B' and Springfield 'A' won the most sets 3 – 1 (35)
- Milestone 'B' won the most sets 3 – 2 (36)
- Phil Burke won the most sets 3 – 0 (26)
- Arun Rajagopal won the most sets 3 – 1 (15)
- Sanket Dave won the most sets 3 – 0 (12)
- Sanket Dave had the best five-set win % (12 wins from 15 sets 75%)
- Phil Burke won the most maximums (10)
- Zoltan Kelemen won the most braces (12)
- Keith Machin won the most singles (10)
- Zoltan Kelemen, Ludo Couillard and Adam Sheen all played in the most matches (19)
- Paul Savage won the most player of the match awards (13)
- Sonning Sports 'A' had the best doubles record (15 / 19 = 79%)
- Most players used by a team was 10 (Milestone 'A')
- Least players used by a team was 4 (Springfield 'A' & Tilehurst Meths 'B')

Well that's it from me for this season. Thanks to all the team captains for the scorecards arriving on time whichever method they came... Good luck to the teams heading onwards and upwards and for those heading through the trapdoor to division four.

As has become traditional with my last paragraph of the season. I'd like to wish you all a good summer and here's to Wolves finally making it to the Premier League and the joys and expense that brings, England bringing home the World Cup trophy (as long as that's all they bring back) from Russia and Purley on Thames CC for a good season in the TVL. Back in the Autumn!

LEADING AVERAGES

| Player | Team | P | W | % |
|----------------|------------------|----|----|-------|
| Paul Savage | Sonning Sports A | 44 | 41 | 93.18 |
| Philip Burke | Springfield A | 48 | 42 | 87.50 |
| Sanket Dave | Milestone B | 47 | 38 | 80.85 |
| Chris West | OLOP C | 48 | 38 | 79.17 |
| Zoltan Kelemen | Milestone B | 56 | 43 | 76.79 |
| Arun Rajagopal | Milestone A | 51 | 39 | 76.47 |
| Igor Sremac | Kingfisher H | 29 | 22 | 75.86 |
| Eric Holmes | Kingfisher G | 45 | 32 | 71.11 |
| Clive Perry | OLOP C | 39 | 27 | 69.23 |
| Luca Bianchi | Kingfisher G | 42 | 28 | 66.67 |
| Willis Ma | Kingfisher H | 33 | 21 | 63.64 |
| Alan Mollett | SC&P E | 33 | 21 | 63.64 |

Reading Junior Masters by Derek Wavell



JOE BARRACLOUGH

Both of last year's Junior Masters finalists had moved up to the Senior Masters, so the top spot was ready for a new occupant.

The first of the seeded players was Joe Barraclough - who has won the Reading Individual Handicap twice, and now plays in Division One of the senior league. The other three seeds were Rayaas Asghar and two under-13's, Jamie Barlow and Mo Cook.

Rayaas Asghar won three out of four in the group stage, beating Ralph Phillips, Adam Winterbottom and Harry Bullock, all by a margin of 3 - 0.

Jamie Barlow won three of his four in the group stage, beating Adam Winterbottom,

Harry Bullock and Ralph Phillips. However, he lost to Rayaas Asghar 7-11, 1-11, 11-6, 9-11.

So the final was between Joe Barraclough and Rayaas Asghar. Both players played brilliantly well, but the greater experience and technique of Joe were too much for Rayaas, and he won 11-6, 11-5, 11-6.



RAYAAS ASGHAR

That left Jamie Barlow to battle against Tamir Slobodskoy (younger brother of Yonatan) for third place. After a thrilling contest, Jamie emerged the winner after winning the last game by the narrow margin of 14-12.



JAMIE BARLOW



DIVISION FOUR

by Derek Harrison

In a re-arranged match that was played after my previous notes: O.L.O.P. 'D' beat O.L.O.P. 'E' 7 – 3. For the 'E' team Johnson Xu won all three. He had a close set against Binit Bhaskar beating him 10-12 in the 5th end. Sadly for the 'E' team they were only able to field two players and one was a reserve. I wonder why?

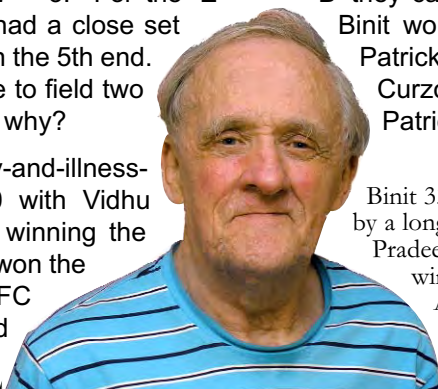
The Saiyan Brothers beat an injury-and-illness-reduced two-player Curzon 'C' 10 – 0 with Vidhu Ravinath, Kaan Kitay and Nikesh Karki winning the single sets. Vidhu and Michal Pszczolka won the doubles. By winning 4 – 6 at Reading FC they clinched promotion. Vidhu and Emma Blachford both hit trebles. By beating O.L.O.P. 'D' 4 – 6 they clinched the championship. Alex Horscroft was the star by winning all three and for the first time Vidhu lost a set but still won two besides teaming up with Alex to win the doubles. I gather from Binit that 4 balls were broken. Against O.L.O.P. 'E', who only had two players, they won 7 – 3. Vidhu won his two sets and Nikesh won one. Vidhu and Michal won the doubles. Against bottom side Sonning they won 3 – 7 with as usual Vidhu hitting a three straight maximum. Kaan won two and there was a first win of the season by Michal who beat Jamie 7-11, 11-8, 3-11, 7-11. After beating Curzon 'B' 6 – 4 they ended with a perfect record, played 20 won 20. Vidhu hit a very good maximum and Kaan won two and Michal gained a single by beating me. Sadly I have to report that the team is breaking up because their main players are leaving the area so I would like to wish them all the best and to say thank you for playing with great sportsmanship.

Michal 2/21 = 9.5% 2 singles best win Derek Harrison
Vidhu 57/58 = 98.3 17 trebles, 3 doubles best win Johnson Xu POM 16
Kaan 14/23 = 60.9% 1 treble, 5 doubles, 1 single best win Geoff Johnson
Olaf 0/9
Antonis 0/2
Nikesh 21/28=75.0% 3 trebles, 5 doubles, 2 singles best win Pradeep Desh
Emma 17/18=94.4% 5 trebles, 1 double best win Jazz Dhillon POM 1
Alex 15/15=100% 5 trebles best win Marc Brent POM 3
Doubles 17/20 = 95.0%
Points first half 20 second half 20

O.L.O.P. 'D' maintained second place by beating Kingfisher 'K' 8 – 2. Patrick Daniels had a great night by obtaining a three straight maximum. Binit Bhaskar and Pradeep Desh both won two besides winning the doubles. At Curzon 'B' they came away with a 3 – 7 victory with Binit winning all three besides teaming up with Pat who gained a single to win the doubles. Pradeep played his part by obtaining a double. At home to the Saiyan Brothers Binit won two which included a great 7-11, 11-3, 10-12, 11-8, 11-8 win over 100% Vidhu. Well done Binit.

Pradeep and Hari Laddunuri both gained singles. After beating Tilehurst Meths 9 – 1 they clinched the runners up spot. So well done to Binit and his team. In the match

Patrick, Pradeep and Hari all obtained trebles. At Springfield 'B' they came away with both points in a 3 – 7 victory. Binit won all three and Abhay Gore won two while Patrick managed a single. At home to a two player Curzon 'C' they won 7 – 3 with Pradeep, Hari and Patrick all beating John Walker.



Binit 33/47=70.2% 7 trebles, 3 doubles, 6 singles best win by a long way Vidhu POM 6
Pradeep 34/43=79.1% 8 trebles, 3 doubles, 4 singles best win Geoff Johnson POM 4
Abhay 17/27=63.% 3 trebles, 3 doubles, 2 singles best win Terry Hardie POM 2
Hari 12/26=46.2% 2 trebles, 1 double, 4 singles best win Jazz Dhillon
Patrick 17/31= 54.8% 2 trebles, 8 singles best win Martin Wetherell POM 2
Doubles 15/20= 75%
Points first half 15 second half 18

Reading F.C. beat bottom side Sonning C&P 'F' 2 – 8 thanks mainly to a very good maximum from reserve Derek Anderson. Richard Witt and Anthony Alleyne both obtained doubles. At home to the Saiyan Brothers Jazz Dhillon, Anthony and Richard all beat Michal. Jazz and Anthony also won the doubles. Next they beat Tidmarsh 'D' 9 – 1 with Jazz and Anthony both hitting trebles. Paul weighed in with a double besides teaming up with Anthony to win the doubles. At Kingfisher 'K' Paul was the star and hit a very good maximum which was his first of the season. Richard won two but the big surprise was that Anthony lost all three however he improved his average from 40% last season.

Richard 17/39 = 43.6% 1 treble, 3 doubles, 8 singles best win Martin Wetherell POM 2
Anthony 34/60= 56.7% 5 trebles, 6 doubles, 7 singles best win Tracy Maynard POM 1
Joe 3/9 = 33.3% 1 double, 1 single best win Ken Robb
Paul 14/27 = 51.9% 1 treble, 4 doubles, 3 singles best win Hari Laddunuri POM 1
Jazz 32/42= 76.2% 7 trebles, 4 doubles, 3 singles best win Binit Bhaskar POM 6
Doubles 11/20 = 55.0%
Points first half 15 second half 18

| Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 Saiyan Brothers | 20 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 149 | 51 | 40 |
| 2 OLOP D | 20 | 16 | 1 | 3 | 134 | 66 | 33 |
| 3 Reading FCA | 20 | 12 | 3 | 5 | 114 | 86 | 27 |
| 4 Springfield B | 20 | 11 | 1 | 8 | 108 | 92 | 23 |
| 5 Curzon Club C | 20 | 9 | 2 | 9 | 101 | 99 | 20 |
| 6 OLOP E | 20 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 102 | 98 | 19 |
| 7 Curzon Club B | 20 | 7 | 3 | 10 | 103 | 97 | 17 |
| 8 Tidmarsh D | 20 | 6 | 3 | 11 | 88 | 112 | 15 |
| 9 Tilehurst Meths C | 20 | 6 | 3 | 11 | 83 | 117 | 15 |
| 10 Kingfisher K | 20 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 67 | 133 | 10 |
| 11 SC&P F | 20 | 0 | 1 | 19 | 51 | 149 | 1 |



TAMIR SLOBODSKOY

A full strength **O.L.O.P. 'E'** beat Curzon 'B' 8 – 2 with Adam Lawes, in great form, gaining a treble. Johnson Xu and Simon Brookes both hit doubles while Adam and Johnson had a good doubles win over Geoff Johnson and Nick Lean. They then had a close call against Sonning by just getting home 6 – 4. Johnson obtained a hat trick besides teaming up with Adam who only came to watch and did not have a bat so he had to borrow one from Simon however they managed to win. Andrew Adair and Tamir Slobodskoy won one each. At the Saiyan Brothers they lost 7 – 3 with Adam winning two and Simon one. At Tidmarsh despite only having two players they won 3 – 7 with Simon and Adam both gaining hat tricks. For Adam they were all three straight. Sadly Tamir did not turn up because he thought they were playing at home. I hope next season Simon you will not have as many problems and will be able to put out a full team.

Simon 20/35=57.1% 3 trebles, 4 doubles, 3 singles best win Geoff Johnson POM 1

Andrew 8/32=25.0% 1 double, 6 singles best win Lee Wirkhani

Paul 9/18=50.0% 1 treble, 1 double, 4 singles best win Binit Bhaskar POM 1

Tamir 6/21=28.6% 1 double, 4 singles best win Tracy Maynard

Johnson 25/27=92.6% 7 trebles, 2 doubles best win Emma Blachford POM 6

Adam 21/26=80.8% 4 trebles, 4 doubles, 1 single best win Nick Lean POM 5

Doubles 10/20=50%

Points first half 10 second half 9

Curzon 'C' crashed to a 10 – 0 defeat at the Saiyan Brothers. Against Springfield 'B' they lost 4 – 6 with Charlotte Binley getting a fine treble. Linda King managed a single. It has to be said that there were 17 games settled by just two points, 11 in favour of Springfield which just goes to show the match could have gone either way. In fact in set ten Chris Taylor beat John Walker 7-11, 8-11, 11-9, 11-2, 15-13 after John was 7-3 up in that last game. In the set between Linda and Aidan Linda was 1-5 up in the final game only for Aidan to come back to lead 10-8 however Linda then came back to win 10-12. Next by drawing with Tidmarsh they are now safe. Charlotte and Linda both obtained doubles besides teaming up to win the doubles set. At home to Kingfisher 'K' John came back to form by winning all three and with Linda picking up a double and Charlotte a single this helped them to a 7 – 3 victory. At O.L.O.P. 'D' with only two players due to illness and injuries they lost 7 – 3. Charlotte had a great night by beating Pradeep 6-11, 11-4, 6-11, 5-11 Patrick 11-8, 5-11, 9-11, 9-

11 and Hari 6-11, 6-11, 7-11.

I hope that next season Linda that your injured players get back and you will not struggle to put out a side

Linda 20/41=48.8% 7 doubles, 6 singles best win Pat Daniels

Terry 7/15=46.7% 3 doubles, 1 single best win Pat Daniels

John 23/53=43.4% 2 trebles, 5 doubles, 7 singles best win Geoff Johnson POM 1

Carine 7/18=38.9% 2 doubles, 3 singles best win Dave Edwards

Tracy 19/29=65.5% 2 trebles, 5 doubles, 3 singles best win Binit Bhaskar POM 4

Charlotte 12/15=80.0% 3 trebles, 1 double, 1 single best win Pradeep Desh POM 3

Doubles 10/20= 50%

Points first half 11 second half 9

Curzon 'B' went to O.L.O.P 'E' and went down 8 – 2. Geoff Johnson had a great 4-11, 11-9, 8-11, 4-11 over Johnson Xu who lost for only the second time. Nick Lean won the other set by beating Simon Brookes. Despite a Geoff hat trick we then lost to Springfield 'B' 4 – 6. For once I managed a win by beating Chris Taylor. Mind you Geoff had to work hard for his maximum by beating Peter Gurney 11-9, 6-11, 5-11, 11-6, 13-11 Chris Taylor 11-4, 9-11, 11-9, 9-11, 11-8 Rob Wilkie 10-12, 9-11, 11-9, 11-5, 11-6. At home to O.L.O.P 'D' we lost 3 – 7. Geoff did well to win two while I beat Pat Daniels 18-16, 11-5, 11-6. I have to say we all had an enjoyable evening and the O.L.O.P. team were great company during the match and in the bar after. At Sonning we were held to a draw with Geoff Johnson gaining a three straight maximum. Yours truly did well to beat Derek Wavell in five games. In the final one I was 6-0 down only to come back to win 9-11. Despite being ill Nick tried hard but in the end he had to concede his last set but prior to that did win a vital single. Against Tilehurst Meths we came back from 0 – 4 down to claim a point. Derek and Geoff both won two each. Mind you Geoff's win over Martin was a bit tight, beating him 15-13, 13-11, 13-11 and I have to say he had a lot of luck. Mike Maynard made a return to the side since the opening match of the season to play in the doubles and with Geoff they beat Patrick and Martin 7-11, 11-5, 11-7, 11-7. At the Saiyan Brothers Nick returned to the side after illness and gained a good double and also teamed up with Mike to win the doubles by beating Michal and Vidhu. Geoff won the other set. I have to say it was great that Mike played in the last two doubles sets and played well so thank you for that Mike.

Also good luck to Jim who is having a hip op at the end of April.

Derek 7/33=21.2% 1 double, 5 singles best win Pat Daniels

Jim 3/27=11.1% 1 double, 1 single best win Paul Brown

Geoff 40/60=66.7% 6 trebles, 8 doubles, 6 singles best win Johnson Xu POM 3

Mike 2/3=66.7% 1 double best win Rob Wilkie

Marc 10/12=83.3% 3 trebles, 1 single best win Pradeep Desh POM 3

Nick 31/38 =81.6% 8 trebles, 2 doubles, 3 singles best win Jazz Dhillion POM 6

Phil 0/6

Doubles 10/20=50%

Points first half 13 second half 4

Springfield 'B' beat Curzon 'B' 4 – 6 with Rob Wilkie, Peter Gurney both winning two. Chris Taylor picked up a single besides teaming up with Rob to win the doubles. They like playing at Curzon because in their next match

they beat the 'C' team 4 – 6. Chris and Rob both won two each and also teamed up to win the doubles. Aidan Simmons gained a vital single by beating John Walker. They then won 3 in a row by beating Tidmarsh 'D' 6 – 4 with Steve Leggett winning all three. Peter and Chris both managed singles. Make that four. They won 4 – 6 at Kingfisher 'K' with Rob hitting a good hat trick. Steve managed a double while Peter obtained that vital single. The good run came to an end when they lost 3 – 7 to O.L.O.P. 'D'. Rob won two and Peter picked up a single. They next went to Tilehurst Meths and came away with a 2 – 8 victory. Rob and Steve both obtained trebles while Chris gained a single.

Aidan 4/18=22.2% 1 double, 2 singles best win John Walker
Peter 26/42=61.9% 3 trebles, 6 doubles, 5 singles best win Adam Lawes POM 3

Rob 27/42=64.3% 4 trebles, 7 doubles, 1 single best win Patrick Daniels POM4

Chris 15/33=45.5% 4 doubles, 7 singles best win Paul Treadgold
Steve 27/45=60.0% 5 trebles, 3 doubles, 6 singles best win Geoff Johnson POM3

Doubles 9/20= 45.0%

Points first half 8 second half 15

Tidmarsh 'D' needed a tenth set win for Dave Edwards over Patrick O'Sullivan which gave him a hat trick to gain them a point against Tilehurst Meths 'C'. Theresa Watson and Dave Smith both obtained singles. At Springfield 'B' just before the snow came they lost 6 – 4. Dave E and Theresa won two each. At the moment Dave E is playing out of his skin. He won all three which included a victory over Charlotte Binley. Theresa and Dave S both obtained singles by beating John Walker to give them a share of the spoils against Curzon 'C'. At Reading F C they only had a Dave E win over Paul Brown to show for their efforts in a 9 – 1 defeat. Theresa was unlucky against Jazz going down 11-8, 11-9, 12-10. At home to O.L.O.P. 'E' they went down 3 -7 to a two man team. Dave thank you for your kind comments on what I do. It is nice that I am appreciated by at least one captain. Also I hope that Terry will be back next season after his hip op.

Dave E 28/53=52.8% 5 trebles, 3 doubles, 7 singles best win Nick Lean POM 4

Terry 23/36=63.9% 4 trebles, 4 doubles, 3 singles best win Kaan Ktay POM 3

Dave S 11/44=25% 1 treble, 1 double, 6 singles best win Pat Daniels POM 1

Theresa 14/38=36.8% 2 trebles, 2 doubles, 4 singles best win Rob Wilkie POM 1

Doubles 8/20 = 40%

Points first half 7 second half 8

Tilehurst Meths 'C' gained a valuable point at Tidmarsh 'D' thanks to a good team performance with Martin Wetherell and Roy Hull gaining singles besides teaming up to win the doubles. Patrick O'Sullivan played a captain's part by winning two. At O.L.O.P. 'D' they only had a doubles win to show for their efforts. Martin and Patrick beat Hari and Pat 6 -11, 10-12, 6-11. At Curzon 'B' Martin and Roy both won two each with Patrick picking up that vital single to give them a valuable point. At home to Springfield they went down 2 – 8 but knew they were safe at the time. Martin and Roy both beat Chris Taylor. Their final match saw them defeat Kingfisher 'K' 8 – 2. Patrick and Roy both hit trebles. For Patrick he gained his first POM of the season. Martin

helped by winning two.

Martin 28/54= 51.9% 3 trebles, 6 doubles, 7 singles best win Abhay Gore POM 4

Pat 22/54=40.7% 2 trebles, 4 doubles, 8 singles best win Binit Bhaskar POM 1

Roy 25/51=49.0% 2 trebles, 5 doubles, 9 singles best win Nikesh Karki POM 1

Doubles 8/20= 40.0%

Points first half 5 second half 10

Kingfisher 'K' remained in big trouble when they lost 8 – 2 at O.L.O.P. 'D'. Tarik Ramjuan and Ken Robb both won one each. At home to Springfield they lost 4 – 6 with Lee Wirkhani winning two and Ken one. At Curzon 'C' they lost 7 – 3 with Lee winning two and Tarik picking up a single. After losing to Reading F C 4 – 6 they cannot now avoid the drop but I have to say they have played the game in the right way and have enjoyed themselves. Ken did well by beating Richard and Anthony. Tarik and Lee both picked up singles. At Tilehurst Meths 'C' they lost 8 – 2 with Tarik beating Martin Wetherell. He also teamed up with Lee to win the doubles.

John 2/18= 11.1% 1 double best win Jamie Legg

Ania 2/24= 8.3% 1 double best win Jamie Legg

Ken 16/48=33.3% 5 doubles, 6 singles best win Tracy Maynard POM 2

Lee 23/39= 59.0% 4 trebles, 3 doubles, 5 singles best win Tracy Maynard POM 4

Tarik 19/51= 37.3% 5 doubles, 9 singles best win Binit Bhaskar

Doubles 5/20= 25.0%

Points first half 7 second half 3



OLI SAYER

Sonning C&P 'F' lost 2 – 8 to Reading F C with Oli Sayer and Jamie Legg winning one each. At O.L.O.P. 'E' it was a case of so near but so far. They only lost 6 – 4 with Marko Madzar winning two and Derek Wavell and Jim McClure both picking up singles. Hooray! At last came a point by holding Curzon 'B' - Marko did well to win two and Jamie picked up a single. Jamie and Derek Wavell had a nice doubles win over Geoff Johnson and Derek Harrison and one set was conceded by Curzon. Against The Saiyan Brothers Oli had a good night by beating Michal 7-11, 8-11, 11-6, 11-6, 11-7 and Kaan 13-11, 6-11, 12-10, 10-12, 11-7. Marko

won the other set in a 3 – 7 defeat.

Derek 12/39 = 30.8% 3 doubles, 6 singles best win Jazz Dhillon
Simon 1/12 = 8.3% 1 single best win Anthony Alleyne
Jim 1/15 = 6.7% 1 single best win Andrew Adair
Jamie 7/47 = 14.9% 7 singles best win Geoff Johnson
Oli 14/39 = 35.9% 5 doubles, 4 singles best win Rob Wilkie
Marko 8/24 = 33.3% 3 doubles, 2 singles best win Nick Lean
Doubles 7/20 = 35.0%

Points first half nil second half 1

A few more stats:

Only Anthony Alleyne and Geoff Johnson played in every match.
Best Doubles Pairings (To qualify must have played at least 5 times):

Nikesh and Vidhu 6/6 100%

Best Team Doubles Record: Saiyan Brothers 17/20 85%

Biggest Win: Peter Gurney beating Patrick Daniels 11-2, 11-1, 11-2

Closest Set: Roy Hull Losing to Derek Wavell 11-13, 11-9, 11-13,
14-12, 8-11

Most improved players:

Adam Lawes First Half 10/14, 71.4% Second Half 11/12 91.7%

Rob Wilkie First half 10/21 47.6% Second Half 17/21 81%

Also there were 12 5-5 matches, 35 were 6-4, 30 were 7-3, 16 were
8-2, 12 were 9-1, and there were 5 10-0

Finally I hope that you all have a good summer and for

DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

| | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|----|----|--------|
| Alex Horscroft | Saiyan Brothers | 15 | 15 | 100.00 |
| Vidhu Ravinath | Saiyan Brothers | 58 | 57 | 98.28 |
| Emma Blachford | Saiyan Brothers | 18 | 17 | 94.44 |
| Johnson Xu | OLOP E | 27 | 25 | 92.59 |
| Marc Brent | Curzon Club B | 12 | 10 | 83.33 |
| Nick Lean | Curzon Club B | 38 | 31 | 81.58 |
| Adam Lawes | OLOP E | 26 | 21 | 80.77 |
| Charlotte Binley | Curzon Club C | 15 | 12 | 80.00 |
| Pradeep Desh | OLOP D | 43 | 34 | 79.07 |
| Jazz Dhillon | Reading FC A | 42 | 32 | 76.19 |
| Nikesh Karki | Saiyan Brothers | 28 | 21 | 75.00 |
| Binit Bhaskar | OLOP D | 47 | 33 | 70.21 |

those of you that will be playing in the fourth next season I
will see you then.

Cheers,

Derek



DIVISION FIVE

by Martin Wetherell

There were some unanticipated twists and turns in the final leg of the Division 5 title race, with Milestone 'C' turning up the heat to draw with Sonning Sports 'B', therefore giving a boost to the title hopes of Our Lady of Peace 'F'. However, the very next week, Springfield 'D' beat Our Lady of Peace 'F', in the process becoming the only team not to drop a point against them which, in turn, got Sonning Sports 'B' very excited.

In their final match, Our Lady of Peace 'F' beat Tidmarsh 'E' 7 - 3, to finish their campaign on a high, Graham Stark with another Player of the Match performance. After this result, with so much at stake, Sonning Sports 'B' started to tweak their player selections, in order to field a stronger team, in their last two fixtures, than had originally been planned. This tactic meant that Sonning Sports 'B' went into their final match, against Kingfisher 'F', knowing that a victory would guarantee them top spot. However, although they won 7 - 3, the match was not without incident, Kingfisher taking an early 1 - 0 lead, through Dmitry Merzlyakov, before Tom Allen seriously injured himself in his first set, necessitating a visit to A&E, with the score at 2 - 1 to Sonning Sports. Cris Reynolds then beat Dmitry, following which John Scott beat Derek Crombie, thus guaranteeing both points and first place.

So, with Our Lady of Peace 'F' and Sonning Sports 'B' having been in contention for top spot throughout the season, the title race was not decided until the very end, following which it was "Congratulations" to newly crowned champions Sonning Sports 'B' and "Commiserations" to runners up Our Lady of Peace 'F'. The end of season stats revealed that Our

Lady of Peace had won all 18 Doubles matches, regardless of which pairings they fielded, while Sonning Sports' Florin Dimofte went one better than last season, remaining undefeated, although he had a few close calls. Sadly, Kingfisher 'L' failed to find that elusive win, although they came close recently, just losing 4 - 6 to Reading FC 'B', and therefore finished bottom.

My thanks to everyone who sent in a match report, with especial thanks to regular contributors Chris Bunn (Our Lady of Peace 'F'), Cris Reynolds (Sonning Sports 'B') and John Harland (Tidmarsh 'E'). I believe I have had fewer chases this season, to translate hieroglyphs and verify incorrect scores, so thanks to everyone who checked that the scores were legible and correct, especially those who took the time to re-enter the entire card or to highlight corrections, with Jan Polnik's use of technology particularly impressive. Finally, if you still post cards, please try and avoid water soluble ink, since this has caused problems when the postie delivers the card while it is raining!

Kingfisher 'L' ended the season without a win and finished in last place. Their situation was not helped by having to start two matches with only two players, nor having to finish a further two matches with only two fit players. Over the course of the season, Derek Crombie has played in more matches than his teammates, Meriel Low has the best average (45.83%), while Dmitry Merzlyakov and Meriel Low have both picked up a PoM.

In this final Quarter, their first match was against Springfield

'D', when Tom Allen injured his back in his first set and had to withdraw from the match, which resulted in a 2 - 8 defeat. Dmitry Merzlyakov recorded one win, but missed out on his double, losing to Paul Martin 9-11 9-11 12-14. Dmitry also partnered Derek Crombie in the Doubles, fighting back from 0 - 2 down to beat Julian Lancaster & Marcello Caramma 9-11 10-12 11-3 11-8 11-6.

In their next match, against Tidmarsh 'E', Kingfisher could only field two players, eventually losing 1 - 9, with Derek Crombie avoiding the whitewash by beating Bob Sunerton in 5 games, Gill Bennett losing all three of her singles. However, Gill fared much better in their next match, against Reading FC 'B', beating both Harry Edwards and Tony Edwards, only losing out to Derek Anderson, who recorded a treble. Tom Allen also returned, along with Meriel Low, and they recorded one singles win each but, in losing the Doubles, eventually lost the match 4 - 6 and therefore missed out on a point.

In their final fixture, a match against title chasing Sonning Sports 'B', Tom Allen sustained an injury, during his first set, which required a trip to A&E and a subsequent scan. Battling on without Tom, Dmitry Merzlyakov and Derek Crombie each won one set, Dmitry beating John Scott 11-8 9-11 11-7 11-7 and Derek beating Mike Gautrey 11-8 12-10 6-11 11-13 12-10, before partnering up to win the Doubles, the match ending in a 3 - 7 defeat.

On the Doubles front, 9 different partnerships have been tried, the most successful pairing being Dmitry Merzlyakov & Derek Crombie, who have three wins from three outings.

Milestone 'C' finished in 5th place, thanks to three of their team averaging 60% or more, with everyone from their squad of 5 picking up at least one PoM. Maksym Schipka only joined Milestone this season, and has been one of the Division's new stars, but the remainder of this squad were in the team which finished bottom of Division 5, last year, so congratulations are also due to Tony Hayden, Colin Phillips and Carl Edlind for their improved performances this season. If this squad can keep together, then promotion is a definite possibility next year.

Milestone started off this quarter with a visit to title contender Our Lady of Peace 'F', eventually losing 7 - 3, with Colin Phillips having no joy, Tony Hayden beating Tony Barnett for his single and John Evans only able to record a double after losing to Graham Stark in his final set, his 10-12 15-13 12-10 12-10 victory over Jan Polnik being especially tight.

Milestone then welcomed another title contender, Sonning Sports 'B', drawing 5 - 5, with both John Evans and Maksym Schipka recording doubles, while Carl Edlind recorded a single. However, there were many close sets and the result could just as easily have been a victory for either side. Carl was unlucky when it came to the "deuce points", losing two games to Michael Byrne by a 9-11 scoreline, although he did win the set, and losing 11-7 9-11 11-4 9-11 11-13, to Sally James. However, his misfortune was countered by John Evans winning all four of his "deuce points", John beating Sally 12-10 6-11 12-10 11-9. Maksym Schipka also beat

Sally, gaining revenge for his defeat in their previous encounter

A return to winning ways was never in doubt, as Milestone beat Tilehurst Methodists 'D' 9 - 1, John and Maksym both recording maximums, John without dropping a game, and Colin Phillips recording a double, Colin losing 11-6 9-11 8-11 11-7 10-12 to Jamie Li-Telford. Milestone then faced 3rd placed Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', losing 3 - 7, Tony Hayden, Carl Edlind and Maksym Schipka each beating

| | Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|----|-------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 | Sonning Sports B | 18 | 14 | 3 | 1 | 125 | 55 | 31 |
| 2 | OLOP F | 18 | 14 | 2 | 2 | 129 | 51 | 30 |
| 3 | SC&P G | 18 | 12 | 1 | 5 | 109 | 71 | 25 |
| 4 | Springfield D | 18 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 96 | 84 | 20 |
| 5 | Milestone C | 18 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 93 | 87 | 19 |
| 6 | Reading FC B | 18 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 93 | 87 | 17 |
| 7 | Tidmarsh E | 18 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 86 | 94 | 17 |
| 8 | Springfield C | 18 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 89 | 91 | 16 |
| 9 | Tilehurst Meths D | 18 | 2 | 0 | 16 | 39 | 141 | 4 |
| 10 | Kingfisher L | 18 | 0 | 1 | 17 | 41 | 139 | 1 |

Derek Maltby, Tony winning 15-13 6-11 11-7 13-11, Carl winning 15-13 11-9 11-9 and Maksym winning 11-6 12-10 12-10, Derek losing all seven "deuce points".

Having played 1st, 2nd and 3rd, with a match against 9th place offering some light relief in between, Milestone then faced 4th-placed Springfield 'D', in their final fixture, Tony, John and Maksym upsetting the form book by winning 6 - 4, the Doubles partnership of John & Maksym defeating Paul Martin & Adrian Wegrzynowski 8-11 11-9 9-11 11-9 11-6, which was instrumental in winning the match. John and Maksym both ended the evening with two wins, Maksym just beating Paul Martin 11-9 11-9 11-9, while Tony had an even closer set, just beating Marcello Caramma 11-13 11-9 9-11 11-9 11-9. With the first game in the 6th set going to Springfield 15-13, this meant that nine consecutive games had been won by the minimum two points. Overall, 35 games were played in this match, with 17 of them being won by the minimum two points.

On the Doubles front, 7 different partnerships have been tried with 9 wins over the season. However, their best pairing is John Evans & Maksym Schipka who have three wins from three outings.

Our Lady of Peace 'F' led the way for much of the Season, topping the Division for over 10 weeks. However, Sonning Sports 'B' had kept pace, waiting for any chink in OLOP's armour, and this opportunity finally arrived in the penultimate match, which allowed Sonning Sports 'B' to snatch the title. Having led for such a long time, ending in 2nd place may feel like defeat, even though this team has achieved great things, with four of the squad boasting an average of 75%, or more, and twelve PoMs being awarded. Graham Stark has only started playing in the Reading League this season and effectively finished 3rd in the Divisional Averages with 83.33%, which is a tremendous accomplishment, while Tony Barnett has averaged almost

45%, which is also quite impressive for a first season, and I fully expect this team to hold their own in Division 4, next season.

Our Lady of Peace 'F' started with a 7 - 3 victory over Milestone 'C', Tony Barnett beating Colin Phillips but losing to Tony Hayden and John Evans, Graham Stark recording a treble and Jan Polnik recording a double, narrowly losing to John Evans 12-10 13-15 10-12 10-12. Another 7 - 3 victory followed, as OLOP entertained Tilehurst Methodists 'D', winning 26 of the 41 games played, Graham recording a further maximum, Tony recording his first double and Mariusz Paluszkiwicz a single, in beating Jamie Li-Telford 11-6 11-9 9-11 11-9.

Next up was a visit to Springfield 'D', who had beaten them earlier on in the season, their only defeat so far. What ensued was a battle royal, with 44 games being played, which is the highest number this season. I suspect that by the end of the evening (or possibly the start of the next day !) everyone was exhausted, with Tony Barnett having played in 19 games, beating Adrian Wegrzynowski 10-12 13-11 9-11 11-7 11-7, Alona Slobodskoy having played in 18 games, beating both Colin Jones and Marcello Caramma, and Chris Bunn taking it easy, by only playing in 12 games, just losing out to Colin Jones 10-12 9-11 11-9 9-11, which meant that although Alona & Tony won the

ishing second in the Divisional Averages, with 87.5%, Keith Greene also ending the season with almost 75%, having played in half the matches. Tony Edwards ended the season with no wins, although he did take a game off Florin Dimofte, which is no mean feat.

Reading FC started off their remaining fixtures final with a visit from a strong Sonning Sports 'B' side, eventually losing 1 - 9, Derek Anderson avoiding the whitewash when he beat Cris Reynolds, having earlier become only the third player to take Florin Dimofte to 5 games. Harry Edwards was also unlucky not to win a set, losing 10-12 11-9 6-11 10-12 to Cris Reynolds in the 1st set and 8-11 11-7 11-5 14-16 11-13 to Sally James in the 10th.

Reading FC fared no better in their next match, when they travelled away to Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', losing 7 - 3, despite Derek returning to form and recording a further maximum. Which possibly gave Derek a feeling of déjà vu, as he also recorded a maximum the previous week, when he played up for the 'A' team against SC&P 'F' !

The following week Springfield 'C' were the visitors and Reading FC were leading 5 - 3, before Springfield 'C' took the final two sets to rescue a point. Harry and Keith both won one set to add to a treble from Derek, with the first 9 sets all being straight set victories. However, the crucial 10th set went all the way, Keith just losing out to Alan Goold 11-7 10-12 10-12 12-10 9-11. In their final match, Reading FC travelled to Kingfisher 'L' and with Derek & Tony winning the Doubles, Derek guaranteed both points by beating Tom Allen in his final set, to record his third consecutive treble. In a similar vein to last week, 8 sets had been won in straight games, with 2 sets going to four games each.

On the Doubles front, Reading FC 'B' have tried 6 different partnerships, with the pairing of Harry Edwards and Derek Anderson possibly their best, with three wins from six outings, although there are two pairings with 100% success, each having played in one match and won.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' consolidated their 3rd place by virtue of three more wins in their final four matches, and although they missed out on promotion this season, they must surely be favourites for next year. Their star player, by a whisker, is Mike Casserley who played in the most matches and achieved a win rate of 82.05%, which places him 4th in the Divisional Averages, but Gerry Bacon is not too far behind, with 77.78%, followed by Julian James, on 70%. Unfortunately, Julian's season was cut short when he snapped his Achilles, so he didn't have the opportunity to add to his four PoMs, leaving Gerry top dog with five PoMs.

Sonning Common & Peppard's first match of the Quarter was against Reading FC 'B', which they won 7 - 3, with Mike, Gerry and Julian each winning two sets, none of them being able to beat Derek Anderson, although Gerry took Derek to five games and Mike lost 16-18 2-11 11-8 10-12. An away trip to Sonning Sports 'B' was up next, which Sonning Sports won 8 - 2, Mike and Gerry winning one set each, Steve Knott losing, in four games, to both Cris Reynolds and Jude O'Halloran.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' won their two remaining matches to clinch 3rd place, firstly travelling to Milestone

LEADING AVERAGES

| Player | Team | P | W | % |
|---------------------|------------------|----|----|--------|
| Florin Dimofte | Sonning Sports B | 33 | 33 | 100.00 |
| Marko Madzar | SC&P G | 15 | 14 | 93.33 |
| Derek Anderson | Reading FC B | 48 | 42 | 87.50 |
| Graham Stark | OLOP F | 36 | 30 | 83.33 |
| Cris Reynolds | Sonning Sports B | 34 | 28 | 82.35 |
| Mike Casserley | SC&P G | 39 | 32 | 82.05 |
| Adrian Wegrzynowski | Springfield D | 30 | 24 | 80.00 |
| Gerry Bacon | SC&P G | 36 | 28 | 77.78 |
| Alona Slobodskoy | OLOP F | 21 | 16 | 76.19 |
| Jan Polnik | OLOP F | 33 | 25 | 75.76 |
| Christopher Bunn | OLOP F | 36 | 27 | 75.00 |

Doubles, OLOP lost the match 4 - 6.

Their final match was against Tidmarsh 'E', which was another 7 - 3 victory, Graham recording his third treble this Quarter, Tony recording his second double and Mariusz recording a further single. This match also saw Jan Polnik & Graham Stark put their reputation on the line in the Doubles, coming good with their 5th win. However, other remarkable Doubles facts are that this pairing is not the team's "best", since Jan has also partnered Chris Bunn to 7 victories, putting them top of the Divisional Averages, and that their other four pairings are also undefeated.

Reading FC 'B' dropped one place to finish in 6th, just edging out Tidmarsh 'E', who had the same number of points (and wins, draws and losses !), thanks to a superior set difference. Harry Edwards has been the stalwart for Reading FC, having played in every match this season, winning 2 PoMs along the way, although Derek Anderson has been their star player, missing just two matches and fin-

'C', where they won 7 - 3, and then entertaining Springfield 'C', emerging as 8 - 2 victors. Against Milestone 'C' both Gerry Bacon and Mike Casserley returned maximums, Mike beating Maksym Schipka 7-11 13-11 11-8 11-9 and Gerry beating Maksym 13-11 11-8 11-9, with Derek Maltby & Mike also beating Carl Edlind & Maksym in the Doubles, whilst against Springfield 'C', Gerry and Mike both recorded further trebles and Derek weighed in with an impressive victory over Chris Speight, winning 12-10 11-9 11-8, as well as partnering Gerry to a 9-11 4-11 11-4 11-9 11-9 Doubles win.

Over the course of the season, SC&P 'G' have used 11 different Doubles partnerships, with an overall success rate of over 55%. Derek Maltby & Julian James have played together three times, losing each time, so probably have the worst record, whilst their best pairing is probably Mike

and then fight back against a battling Harry Edwards, in the 10th set, eventually defeating Harry 11-8 7-11 5-11 16-14 13-11, to record her treble. Harry ended the evening with nothing to show for his troubles, also narrowly losing the 1st set, against Cris, 10-12 11-9 6-11 10-12.

Their title hopes took a knock as Milestone 'C' almost grabbed both points, despite a treble from Florin and Michael Byrne & Florin winning the Doubles, Sally rescuing a point by beating Carl Edlind in the crucial 10th set 7-11 11-9 4-11 11-9 13-11, to draw the match 5 - 5. The significance of this match was such that Mike Gautrey was being kept updated, as he travelled from Costa Rica to Guatemala !

Sonning Sports then beat Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' 8 - 2, which guaranteed their promotion to Division 4, Cris Reynolds and Florin both recording maximums, Jude O'Halloran winning his contest with Steve Knott, as he made his first appearance in over two months, Jude also partnering Florin, for the first time, to record a Doubles win.

Since Sonning Sports knew that if they won both of their remaining matches they would lift the Title, they changed the team they had intended to field against Springfield 'C', with Jude stepping down in favour of Sally. A strong Springfield 'C' side pushed them all the way, with 41 games being played during the match, Chris Speight almost defeating Florin, in his last match of the season, Florin fighting back from 3-10 down, in the 5th game, to win 12-10. However, on the day, a treble from Florin, a double from Cris, a single from Sally, along with the Doubles, when Sally & Cris beat Alan Goold & Chris, were enough to take both points, in a 7 - 3 victory.

Similar tactics were employed in the final match against Kingfisher 'L', with Phil Peat's singles debut cancelled, following his recovery from a season-long injury, to allow Cris Reynolds to join up with Mike Gautrey and John Scott. Following John's defeat by Dmitry Merzlyakov, in the 1st set, Cris beat Derek Crombie to tie the match at 1 - 1. Mike then took on Tom Allen, who unfortunately injured himself in the third game and was unable to continue. Cris then played Dmitry, winning 11-13 11-7 11-3 11-4, following which John played Derek Crombie, winning in three games. Since Tom had had to concede his remaining sets, this meant that at 21:02 Sonning Sports 'B' snatched the title from Our Lady of Peace 'F', winning their first trophy for 40 years (taken on faith since I haven't checked the archives !) Subsequently, both Mo Cole & Phil Peat made their season debuts, playing together in the Doubles, eventually losing to Derek & Dmitry 12-10 9-11 8-11 8-11.

As expected with such a large squad, 12 different partnerships were tried during the season, Michael Byrne & Florin Dimofte possibly being the most successful, with two wins from two outings. It is anticipated that this squad will be split up to form two new teams, for next season, with at least one new name being added to next year's roster.

Springfield 'C' had a poor run in, gaining only one further point, and subsequently dropped from 4th place to 8th. Even so, both Rob Atack and Chris 'Spike' Speight still achieved over 60%, each having played in 12 matches, the



DEREK MALTBY

Casserley & Derek Maltby, who won three from four outings.

Sonning Sports 'B' has the largest team roster and although it took until the last match of the season, I can now report that all 9 squad members have played in at least one match. Florin Dimofte is the undisputed star, undefeated in 11 matches, although Cris Reynolds has also been in fine form finishing 4th in the Divisional Averages, with 82%, with a further four players recording averages from 45% to 67%.

Sonning Sports started the last quarter two points behind Our Lady of Peace 'F', but with a match in hand. Since they had an inferior set difference, they knew that OLOP would have to drop points to give them a chance of taking the title. First on their schedule was an away match at Reading FC 'B', when they fielded a strong team of Cris Reynolds, Sally James and Florin Dimofte, who delivered the goods with an emphatic 9 - 1 victory, Sally and Florin both recording maximums while Cris could only record a double after being beaten by Derek Anderson. Sally played her best table tennis of the season to defeat Derek Anderson in four games

same number as Alan Goold, while both Tom Berryman and James Regan only played in 9 matches.

They started with a narrow 6 - 4 defeat, away to Tidmarsh 'E', despite a treble from Rob, with Tom Berryman managing to beat Bob Sunerton for his single, Alan having nothing to show for his efforts, apart from possibly exhaustion, after his 12-14 13-15 14-16 defeat by Bob Sunerton.

Springfield 'C' were on the road again for the trip to Reading FC 'B', James making his first appearance in over a month and winning his first set, against Harry Edwards. Rob could only record two wins, as opponent Derek Anderson was unstoppable, but with Rob & James beating Keith Greene & Harry 13-11 11-7 13-11, they kept themselves in contention and Alan Goold rescued a point when he defeated Keith 7-11 12-10 12-10 10-12 11-9, in the 10th set.

A home match then beckoned, unfortunately against Sonning Sports 'B' who surged into a 5 - 0 lead, before Chris Speight raised some hope with his 7-11 13-11 11-9 11-8 win, over Sally James. However, Cris Reynolds & Sally subsequently took the Doubles, defeating Alan Goold & Chris, to guarantee the visitors both points. Chris ended his evening with another win, to earn his double, but he was so close to a treble, almost defeating Florin Dimofte, leading 10-3 in the 5th game before losing 7-11 11-6 6-11 12-10 10-12. Rob Attack defeated Sally in the 10th Set to record one win for all his efforts, having played in 14 games during the match, which meant that the match ended 3 - 7.

In their final match, Springfield 'C' travelled to Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', where they lost 8 - 2, Chris losing all three for only the second time this season, while James Regan and Rob both defeated Derek Maltby but lost to Mike Casserley and Gerry Bacon, James only just losing to Mike 9-11 11-13 11-9 10-12.

During the season 9 different Doubles partnerships were tried, with no stand-out pairings, although Alan Goold & Tom Berryman might be considered the most successful, with two wins from three outings.

Springfield 'D' climbed to a 4th placed finish, on the back of three victories in their final four fixtures, which also entitles them to bragging rights over their 'C' team, for the next few months. Newcomer Adrian Wegrzynowski has been their star player, finishing 6th in the Divisional Averages, with an impressive 80%, maintaining his form over the season, consistently winning 2 or 3 sets in each match, after his first appearance. Three other players in the squad have also recorded averages between 45% and 55% (Marcello Caramma on 48.15%, Colin Jones on 48.72% and Paul Martin on 54.29%), with each squad member playing in at least 9 matches, with their other newbie (Julian Lancaster) on 27.59%.

Springfield 'D' started their remaining fixtures with the visit of Kingfisher 'L', heading into a 3 - 0 lead, before Tom Allen had to concede two sets due to back problems. With Marcello Caramma recording his second maximum, Julian Lancaster beating Derek Crombie for his single and Paul Martin beating Dmitry Merzlyakov 11-9 11-9 14-12, as well as beating Derek, Springfield eventually won the match 8 - 2.

Our Lady of Peace 'F' then came to town and both teams

played their part in what was possibly the Match of the Season. Overall, 44 games were played, and with the match tied at 4 - 4 Springfield won the last two sets to take the match 6 - 4, with Marcello Caramma beating Tony Barnett in the 9th Set to record his double and then Adrian Wegrzynowski beating Chris Bunn in the 10th Set, to record his double, Colin Jones having previously beaten Chris 12-10 11-9 9-11 11-9 and Tony 6-11 10-12 11-2 11-8 11-4 to record his double.

Springfield 'D' then travelled to Tilehurst Methodists 'D', Paul Martin and Julian Lancaster both recording trebles, this being Julian's first maximum, while Colin Jones only won two, having lost to Ryan Arch in the 10th Set, resulting in a 1 - 9 victory.

Their final fixture was against Milestone 'C' but, despite a treble from Adrian Wegrzynowski and a single from Paul Martin, Milestone left with both points having won the match 4 - 6. It had been level pegging until the Doubles, when Paul & Adrian lost to John Evans & Maksym Schipka 11-8 9-11 11-9 9-11 6-11 and Milestone were guaranteed both points after Paul lost to John in the 10th Set.

On the Doubles front, Springfield 'D' have tried 7 different partnerships, but their best pairing has to have been Colin Jones & Paul Martin, with four wins from four outings, which places them 3rd in the Doubles Averages (behind OLOP & OLOP !)

Tidmarsh 'E' finished in 7th place, equal on points, wins, draws and losses, with Reading FC 'B', but with a slightly inferior set difference. Steve Andrews has been the star, playing in 13 matches with a win rate of over 70%, however Pete Sinclair is not far behind, on 65%, although he has only played in 7 matches. Of the remaining squad, Bob Sunerton has been the side's stalwart, turning out for 16 matches, John Harland having played in 9 matches and Mike Bundy having played in 8.

In a brought-forward fixture, Tidmarsh entertained Tilehurst Methodists 'D', Pete Sinclair and Steve Andrews each winning two, both beating Jamie Li-Telford and Lala Stryjak, while Bob Sunerton won one. However, Pete & Steve winning the Doubles was crucial to them going home with both points, following their 6 - 4 victory. Bob Sunerton had an especially busy night, with all three of his singles going to 5 games, beating Steve Christelow 11-6 8-11 11-6 9-11 11-9 but subsequently losing to Lala 8-11 12-10 4-11 11-5 7-11 and Jamie 10-12 11-13 11-5 11-8 5-11.

Tidmarsh then welcomed Springfield 'C', beating them by the same 6 - 4 scoreline, with doubles for both Pete and Steve, as well as a single for Bob, Tidmarsh guaranteeing both points by winning the 10th set, Pete & Steve having previously won the Doubles. However, equally crucially was Steve's 16-14 11-4 11-7 win over Tom Berryman in the 6th set, to tie the match at 3 - 3, and Bob's 14-12 15-13 16-14 win over Alan Goold, in the 8th set.

Their next fixture was away to Kingfisher 'L', who could unfortunately only field two players, and Tidmarsh duly took advantage, winning 1 - 9, Bob Sunerton losing out to Derek Crombie 7-11 9-11 11-6 11-5 3-11, while Pete and Steve won both their sets, as well as combining to win their third con-

secutive Doubles.

Their final fixture was away to Our Lady of Peace 'F', which was a 7 - 3 defeat, Steve Andrews beating Tony Barnett 11-4 11-6 12-10 and Mariusz Paluszkiwicz 16-14 11-7 11-2, while John Harland beat Mariusz 6-11 11-2 11-7 11-8, Bob Sunerton having no joy, losing all three sets, each in 4 games.

On the Doubles front, 9 different partnerships have been tried, with the best pairing being Pete Sinclair and Steve Andrews, by dint of their three consecutive wins, raising their win rate to 50% and joint 8th place in the Divisional Averages.

Tilehurst Methodists 'D' have remained in 9th place throughout the season, avoiding the wooden spoon by dint of their two victories over Kingfisher 'L'. This is a new team, captained by Ryan Arch who had played in a couple of league matches last season, although the more experienced Rob James was signed as an additional squad member at Christmas, playing once in February. Newcomer Steve Christelow has made the biggest impact, playing in 13 matches with an average win rate of 43.59%, but the other newbies (Jamie Li-Telford, Lala Stryjak and Lewis Oke) have all won at least once.

The remaining fixtures started with an away trip to Tidmarsh 'E' which Tilehurst Methodists lost 6 - 4, despite a battling display over 40 games, Steve Christelow recording a double, by beating Pete Sinclair 5-11 11-8 7-11 11-8 14-12 and Steve Andrews 11-7 9-11 11-4 11-6, with both Jamie Li-Telford and Lala Stryjak beating Bob Sunerton, Jamie by a 12-10 13-11 5-11 8-11 11-5 scoreline and Lala by an 11-8

10-12 11-4 5-11 11-7 scoreline.

A trip to leaders Our Lady of Peace 'F' was next on the cards, with Tilehurst Methodists losing 7 - 3, having been tied at 3 - 3 before losing the last four sets. Again, this match wasn't lost without a fight, with 41 games being played, Steve recording a double, in beating Tony Barnett 7-11 11-4 6-11 12-10 11-8 and Mariusz Paluszkiwicz 9-11 11-7 14-12 11-5, with Ryan Arch recording a single in beating Mariusz 5-11 11-6 11-2 7-11 11-7. Jamie ended the evening with no wins for his efforts, losing to Graham Stark 9-11 8-11 9-11 and Mariusz 6-11 9-11 11-9 9-11.

The penultimate fixture was a visit by Milestone 'C', when Jamie Li-Telford's 2nd set win, beating Colin Phillips 6-11 11-9 11-8 7-11 12-10, was all that avoided the whitewash, although Lala Stryjak was close to a 10th set win, before Colin fought back from two games down to win 11-6 11-3 2-11 10-12 9-11, Lewis Oke losing all three in straight sets, although he was the only player to take John Evans beyond deuce.

In the final match, against Springfield 'D', Ryan Arch won the 10th set, beating Colin Jones 11-8 5-11 11-6 11-4, to avoid the whitewash, Jamie Li-Telford narrowly missing out on a win when he lost 9-11 12-10 5-11 9-11, to Julian Lancaster, and Lewis Oke tantalising close before losing 4-11 12-14 10-12 to Paul Martin.

On the Doubles front, 7 different partnerships have been tried, although there were no new ones tried this quarter, which means that their best pairing is still Steve Christelow & Ryan Arch, who have one win from six outings !



YOUTH DIVISION

by Emma Barraclough



RAYAAN ASGHAR

Dines Memorial Handicap Tournament run in memory of a former organiser of the Division with the finals being played on the final evening of the season on 6th April 2018.

The 23rd February saw strong wins in the First Division for the Spartans and the Lions (Spartans 9 - 1 against the Avengers and Lions 9 - 1 against the Attackers) and a close match between the Panthers and the Tigers ended with a 6 - 4 win for the Panthers with 3 wins for Ryan

February 9th continued to see good play in both Divisions with wins in Division 1 for the Avengers, Spartans and Lions. The Avengers defeated the Attackers 8 - 2 with three wins each for Dylan Cook and Harrison Ryan. Spartans defeated the Panthers 9 - 1 with 3 wins each for Rayaan Ashgar and Ralph Phillips while the Lions defeated the Tigers 7 - 3 with three wins for Mo Cook. In Division 2 three much closer matches saw wins for Leopards, Raiders and Trojans. Leopards defeated Strikers 6 - 4 with 3 wins for Tommy Woodward, Raiders defeated Pumas 7 - 3 and Trojans defeated Jaguars 7 - 3 with 3 wins for Josh Sandland.

Friday 16th was the half-term week and saw the running of the preliminary stages of the A l a n



HARRY BULLOCK

Griffiths. In Division Two the Raiders defeated the Jaguars 10 - 0 while two close matches saw a draw between the Leopards and the Pumas and a win for the Trojans against the Strikers 6 - 4 with 3 wins for Anish Deshpande.

Heavy snow in the few days leading up to March 2nd meant that the decision was made to postpone that evening's play as players come from a considerable geographical area to play in the Division. The decision was made to add an additional week on April 6th to complete the season's play. On March 9th we resumed the schedule of matches and in Division 13 close matches saw wins for Panthers, Lions and Spartans – the Panthers defeating the Attackers 6 - 4, the Lions defeating the Avengers 6 - 4 with 3 wins for Mo Cook and the Spartans defeating the Tigers 7 - 3 with 3 wins for Rayaan Ashgar. Division Two again saw some close, competitive play with a draw for the Trojans and Leopards, the Raiders defeated the Strikers 7 - 3 with 3 wins for Harry Durkin and the Pumas defeated the



RALPH PHILIPS



BEN CARLESS

Jaguars 6 - 4 with 3 wins for Arran Reeve.

March 16th saw some great play as the race for final placings continued. A comprehensive win for the Spartans saw them defeat the Attackers 10 - 0, the Lions and the Panthers drew while the Avengers defeated the Tigers 8 - 2 with 3 wins for Dylan Cook. Division Two saw a good win for the Leopards against the Jaguars 9 - 1 with 3 wins each for Tommy Woodward and Rajat Sawant. The Pumas defeated the Strikers 5 - 4 while the Trojans defeated the Rangers 7 - 3 with 3 wins for Josh Sandland and Anish Deshpande. Two weeks of competitive play remained before the final places were decided.



TWINS HOLLY AND EMMA RANSON - WINNERS OF UNDER-11, UNDER-13 AND CADET GIRLS' TITLES



MO COOK

Division One saw wins for the Spartans, Avengers and Tigers on March 23rd with wins for the Trojans, Strikers and Leopards in Division Two. The final evening of league play was held on March 30th with wins for Avengers, Spartans and Tigers in Division One and for Strikers, Raiders and Trojans in Division Two. These results confirmed the final positions in the Divisions with the Spartans winning Division One with the Lions in second and the Avengers in third. In Division Two the Trojans topped the Division with the Raiders in second place.

Div One Team Placings

| | Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|-----------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1 | Spartans | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 88 | 11 | 88 |
| 2 | Lions | 10 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 62 | 36 | 62 |
| 3 | Avengers | 10 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 46 | 47 | 46 |
| 4 | Panthers | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 39 | 61 | 39 |
| 5 | Tigers | 10 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 36 | 63 | 36 |
| 6 | Attackers | 10 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 20 | 73 | 20 |

AVERAGES (Div 1)

| | Player | P | W | % |
|--|------------------|----|----|--------|
| | Rayaan Asghar | 25 | 24 | 96.00% |
| | Ralph Philips | 20 | 19 | 95.00% |
| | Mo Cook | 25 | 23 | 92.00% |
| | Tan Saha | 17 | 14 | 82.35% |
| | Benedict Carless | 22 | 18 | 81.82% |
| | Dylan Cook | 22 | 14 | 63.64% |
| | Tamir Slobodskoy | 28 | 16 | 57.14% |

That left one week remaining, 6th April, for the playing of the last stages of the Alan Dines Memorial Handicap competition and the party. Both the consolation and main events had competitive finals going to three sets. In the consolation event Jamie Weir beat Om Gore in a very exciting match and in the main event Anish Deshpande defeated Mo Cook. An enjoyable end to the season.

AVERAGES (Div 2)

| | Player | P | W | % |
|--|-----------------|----|----|--------|
| | Arran Reeve | 16 | 15 | 93.75% |
| | Anish Deshpande | 23 | 20 | 86.96% |
| | Jamie Weir | 22 | 17 | 77.27% |
| | Joseph Brooks | 25 | 18 | 72.00% |
| | Joshua Sandland | 21 | 15 | 71.43% |
| | J. Cunningham | 20 | 14 | 70.00% |
| | Tommy Woodward | 16 | 11 | 68.75% |

Div Two Team Placings

| | Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|----------|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1 | Trojans | 10 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 73 | 26 | 73 |
| 2 | Raiders | 10 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 67 | 33 | 67 |
| 3 | Strikers | 10 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 45 | 52 | 45 |
| 4 | Leopards | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 45 | 54 | 45 |
| 5 | Pumas | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 42 | 56 | 42 |
| 6 | Jaguars | 10 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 24 | 75 | 24 |