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*It's Christmas!.*

*Things seem to be going pretty well for the League at the moment. Division One is active - though in an unusual pattern, with Kingfisher in positions 1, 2 and 4; with Sonning Common in 3, 5 and 8 and Tidmarsh in 6 and 7.*

*Other divisions look like a very even mix of competing clubs.*

*So there's time for some Christmas calm and good cheer!*

*And while we're at it, let's share a mince pie and a glass of mulled wine with those poor politicians who have been beating their heads so long over Brexit.*

*Peace and joy! Love and goodwill!*

Derek

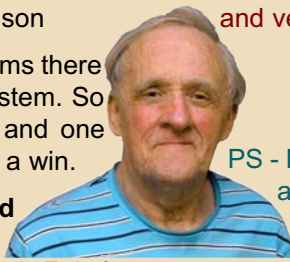


Notes from our Chairman by Derek Harrison

At almost at the half way stage for most teams there is still a lot to play for with the new points system. So far I have had mixed comments about this and one captain told me that losing 6 – 4 seemed like a win.

Write a note for your diary: the **Closed Championship** will be held at **Cippenham on the 10th Feb for the seniors and the 17th Feb for the juniors**. Please look on the website for the details.

Finally I would like to wish you all a good Christmas



and very important a **HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2019**.

All the Best

Derek

PS - I have just heard the sad news that after a heart attack playing for Sonning Com & Peppard 'E' Jim McClure failed to recover and passed away later on Tuesday night.

On behalf of you all i would like to say our thoughts go out to his family, friends and team mates.

### Message from the family of the late Mike Maynard

Tracy, Tom and Rachel would like to thank everyone who attended Mike's funeral, what a great turnout for our lovely Mike. The very generous donations to the Duchess of Kent hospice raised a wonderful £500. Thank you everyone.

## Lower Divisions KO Cup - 2018-19

organised by Ray Webb

Only three matches have been played since the previous newsletter.

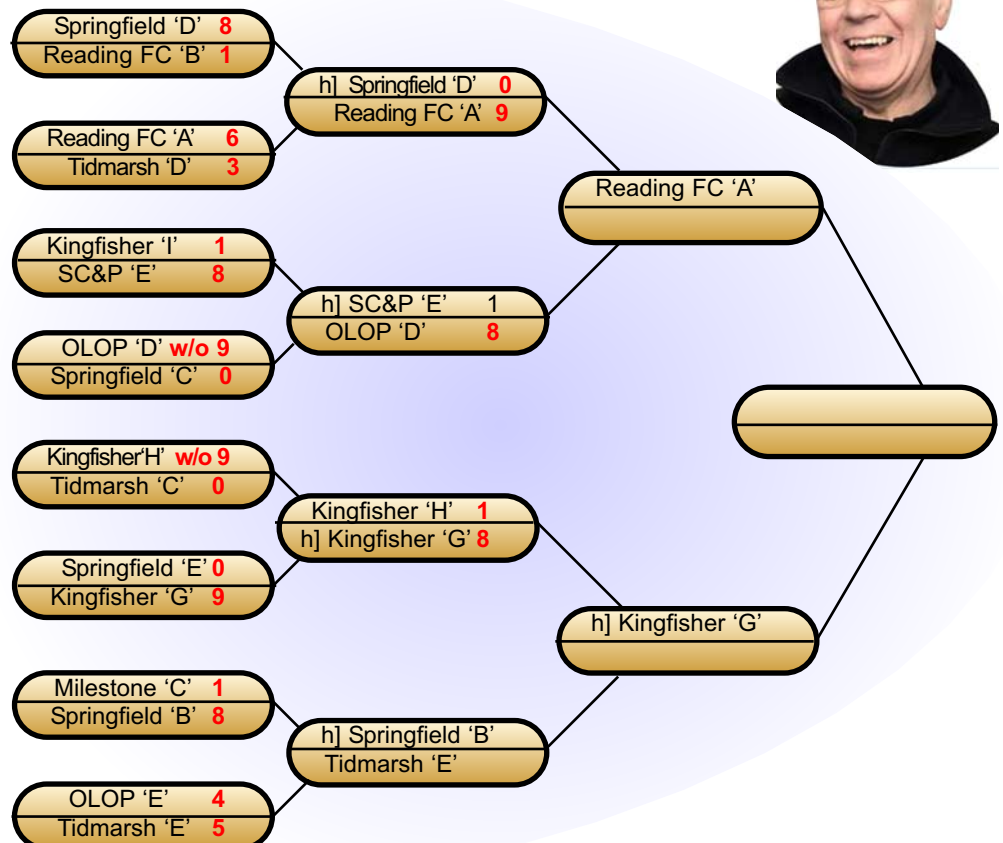
Reading 'A' powered their way to yet another semi-final with a 9 - 0 demolition of Springfield 'D'. An opening 12-14, 11-13 loss in set one and a 12-10, 8-11, 4-11 loss in the

final set was as good as it got for Springfield. Reading's Wayne Alleyne/Paul Brown are now unbeaten in both rounds.

In the other half of the draw Kingfisher 'G' progressed at the expense of their club mates of the 'H' team.

Unfortunately with one player failing to turn up, it was to prove an impossible task for Peter Bennett and Ken Robb, who nevertheless produced a remarkable performance, against arguably the strongest side in the competition, taking all their sets to three games, winning one in the process.

There was also a delayed match from round one, in which Tidmarsh 'E' had a much closer encounter with Our Lady of Peace 'E', eventually coming out on top 5 - 4. At 3 - 0 it looked like going the same way as both of the round two matches played, but a spirited fightback saw OLOP level the match at 4 - 4. Andrew Adair/Alona Slobodskoy for OLOP and John Harland/ Steve Andrews for Tidmarsh, met for the deciding set, both pairs with a solitary win up to that point and what a tussle it turned out to be, 12-10, 10-12, 8-11 and Tidmarsh squeezed through.





# THE BERKSHIRE CLOSED by Allan Bruton

The championships were held at the Kingfisher table tennis club on 3rd and 4th November 2018.

A small entry this year but some good matches were produced overall.

## Veteran singles

A smaller than usual entry but some entertaining matches ensued in the group stages which were designed to be groups of 4 giving all players 3 matches before the knockout stage, but with only 4 players for seeding purposes in the first round these 4 players won through with the 4 runners up. The seeds of **Martin Adams**, **Hari Gehlot**, **Ian Cole** and **Antony Baker**



MARTIN ADAMS

made their way through to the semi-finals. The final between Martin and Hari was, as expected, a grand contest from two of the county's best veterans and saw Hari come out on top.

## Under 21 singles

A very disappointing competition with only 2 of 3 entrants there on the day so it was a final only of the diminutive **Jamie Barlow** facing **Benedict Carless** and which saw Jamie come out on top.

### THE WINNERS

Men's Singles	Winner	Martin Adams	Runner up	Hari Gehlot
Ladies Singles	Winner	Sue Purton	Runner up	Cath Venning
Veterans Singles	Winner	Hari Gehlot	Runner up	Martin Adams
Graded Singles	Winner	Roger Pritchard	Runner up	Ian Wu
Under 21	Winner	Jamie Barlow	Runner up	Benedict Carless
Mixed Doubles	Winners	Hari Gehlot & Jenny Tanner		
	Runners up	Martin Adams & Sue Purton		
Men's Doubles	Winners	Martin Adams & Hari Gehlot		
	Runners up	Ian Cole & Julian Telford		
Ladies' Doubles	Winners	Sue Purton & Louise Forster		
	Runners up	Celia Hooker & Jenny Tanner		



JAMIE BARLOW



HARI GEHLOT



ROGER PRITCHARD



IAN COLE

### Men's singles

The seeds for this competition were the same as for the veterans, which eventually meant the same semi-final line. However there were a number of very good matches during the group stages with in particular **Roger Pritchard** and his hard bat performing well. The overall outcome saw **Martin Adams** take his revenge on **Hari Gehlot** in a very close contest to take the title.

### Graded Singles



CELIA HOOKER

This competition was only the second to have a reasonable entry and continues to attract some less skilful players who have a more even chance of progressing through the rounds as it excludes top division and county players. The competition produced a number of very tight 5-game matches before the overall semi-finalists came through. **Ian Wu** took on **Celia Hooker** and **Roger Pritchard** took on **David Tant** both very good matches with Ian and Roger making the Final. Roger

Pritchard eventually came out on top in 4 games.

### Men's Doubles

Due to the no show of 1.5 pairs we started this with just 5 pairs after some last minute finding of volunteer entrants. There were 2 clear favourites for the seedings and they worked their way through to the final but not without a couple of 5-game sets to settle matters. The final between **Martin Adams** and **Hari Gelot** versus **Ian Cole** and **Julian Telford** was won by Martin and Hari in 4 sets



IAN WU



JULIAN TELFORD



### Ladies singles

We had 6 entries this year so started with 2 groups of 3 players with two from each group going through to the second stage. There were some close encounters before the semi-finalists were secure. Semi 1 saw **Cath Venning** take on **Celia Hooker** which Cath won in "5" sets and **Sue Purton** won semi 2, The final was won by Sue in "4" sets



SUE PURTON



CATH VENNING

### Ladies Doubles

There were only 2 pairs entered in this competition and it saw **Sue Purton** and **Louise Forster** overcome **Celia Hooker** and **Jenny Tanner**.

### Mixed Doubles

We had 6 pairs in this competition with a good mix of standards between Ladies and their male partners,



JENNY TANNER

two groups of 3 with the winners of each group progressing to the final. **Martin Adams** and **Sue Purton** took on **Hari Gehlot** and **Jenny Tanner** and it was to be Hari and Jenny's day in a very good final.

Overall a poor entry but my thanks to all those who did enter and I know that it was a championships that was still enjoyed. A new organiser will be needed however for the continuation of these championships as the current organiser is standing down, so if you think you would like to have a go at taking this task on please contact Allan Bruton the Chairman.

**Allan Bruton**

## Team Handicap Competition 2018-19

organised by Ray Webb

Should Springfield 'C' overcome Milestone 'C' in the delayed second round fixture then Springfield along with Our Lady of Peace will be the best represented clubs remaining in the competition, each with two teams. Intriguingly both the OLOP teams have the majority of their players taken from their league 'D' team, a new innovation in this competition?

OLOP 'DB' brushed aside Kingfisher 'G' by an 8 - 1 scoreline that looked comfortable, but with six sets going to a deciding game was probably anything but. Gabor Radnoti picking up the consolation set for Kingfisher. OLOP 'DA's 5 - 4 victory over Tidmarsh 'B' was a closer contest with the match swinging set by set until Paul Treadgold clinched set

nine, the match and a well deserved maximum in the process. Interestingly despite the close scoreline, all nine sets were decided two straight.

Performance of the round must go to Kingfisher 'E' who routed Tidmarsh 'A' taking all of the first five sets reasonably comfortably leaving Tidmarsh with no way back into the match. With the 'dead' sets unplayed there were no official maximums, but Tarik Ramjuan still remains unbeaten in the competition.

Tidmarsh 'D' keep the flag flying for the village club following a 6 - 3 success over Kingfisher 'D'. Two apiece from Dave Edwards, Theresa Watson and Dave Smith, none of

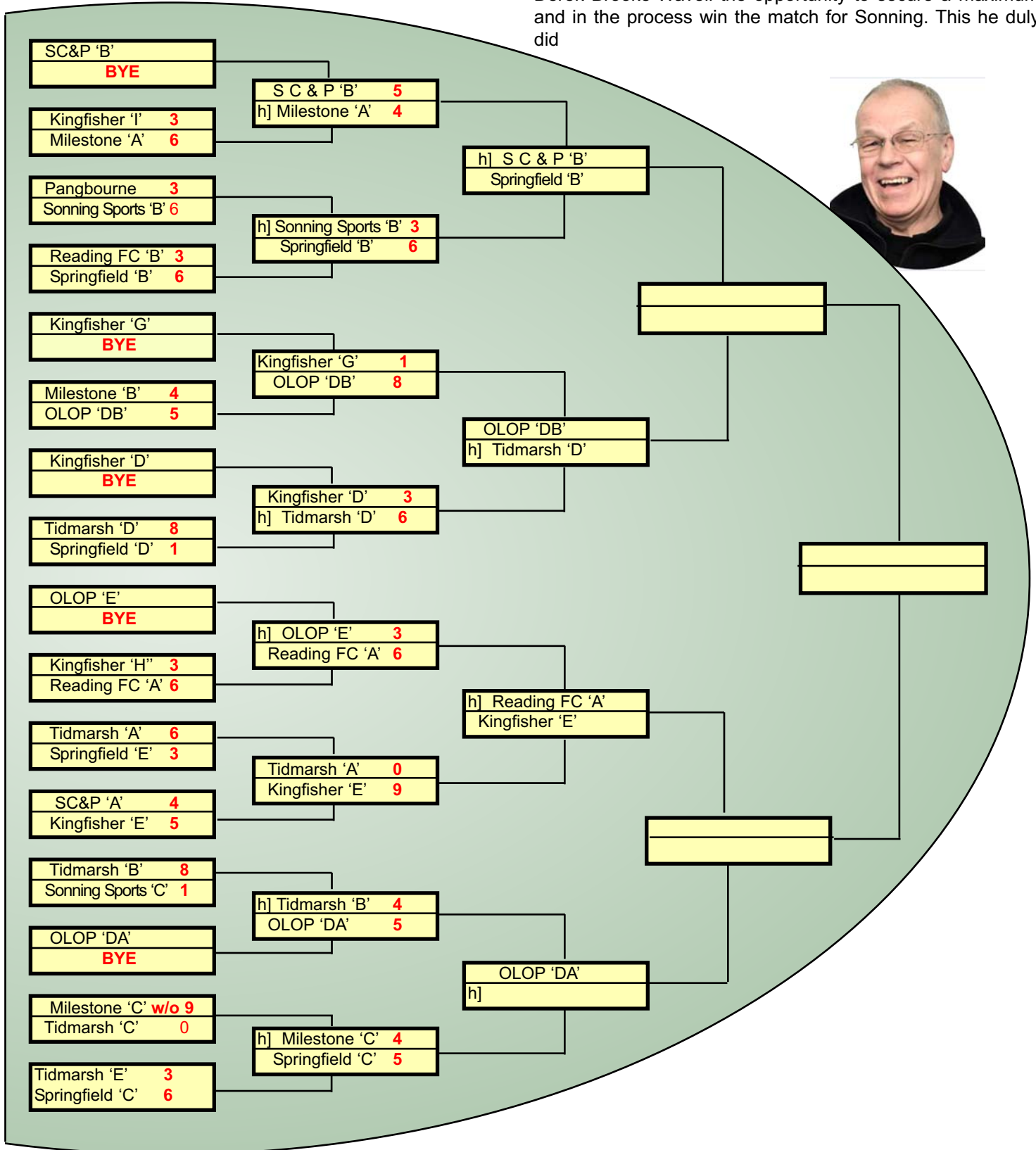
whom could overcome Luca Bianchi's individual style of returning the ball.

Reading 'A' remain on track for a third successive final with a 6 - 3 win at OLOP 'E'. Hari Laddunuri and Pat Daniels, members of last season's champions, were unable to stop Reading this time round. Anthony Alleyne had a fine maximum for Reading.

Springfield 'B' go forward following a second 6 - 3 victory, this time away to Sonning Sports 'B', in what was a virtually

identical match to their round one victory. Both rounds Springfield have upped their game when at 3 - 3 to take the final three sets. This time set seven proved to be the turning point when the both unbeaten, Himanshu Pasbola and Robert Wilkie met, Rob taking the honours and securing his maximum 22-20, 13-21, 21-17.

The final match of the round paired Milestone 'A' against Sonning Common and Peppard 'B' and it was the latter who prevailed in a close fought 5 - 4 victory. At 4 - 3 down captain Jamie Legg picked up his second set of the evening to give Derek Brooke-Wavell the opportunity to secure a maximum and in the process win the match for Sonning. This he duly did







# DIVISION ONE

by Mark Banks

Hi everybody. And welcome to the legendary special festive edition of your favourite newsletter. Hope you're all enjoying your season as we reach the halfway point. Just 11 matches to go and still one or two things undecided so some teams still have a bit to do in terms of accumulating as many points as they possibly can. Kingfisher A are our champions elect and Milestone are destined for the drop. Big question is whether KFD can get themselves out of trouble. Sadly for them at least I don't see it but hey! I said I would destroy Andy Wang and look how that turned out. I'll have him in the New Year 😊! Hope you all have a good one whatever you are doing and see you all very soon.

Love & Peace x



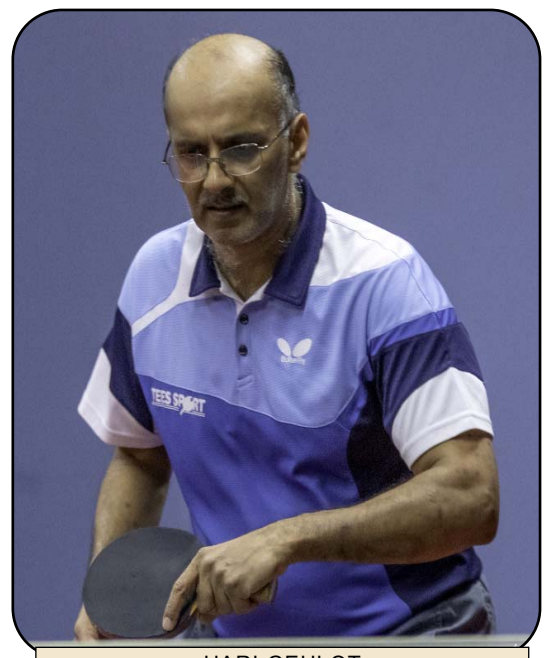
arguably we wouldn't necessarily have dropped and may have made a difference to the table – or maybe not. We will see it out though and see what we're gonna do next year come the summer. 🤖

### MVP: Martin Adams

They were having a great time of it were **Sonning Common & Peppard 'A'** and then all of a sudden bang! packed up for Christmas 1 week too early methinks and had a surprise and quite heavy defeat at home to KFC. Before that all had been going well. So well in fact that JR was even being selected for the doubles such was his good form. Gary has been brilliant. Neil has had some good wins. JR was having the best season he's ever had in a Sonning shirt until he went for a KFC and Malcolm has been showing that he still has the odd good performance in him too with a couple of notable scalps.



MARTIN ADAMS



HARI GEHLOT

Still cruising through life are **Kingfisher 'A'** who are dead certs for the title now after narrowly edging out us in B. Hariiiiiiii has just lost the one to Martin Adams and is getting better with age. Those 57 year old legs of his still holding up. The other 4 Dimitry, Krasi, Sagar and Elson are all in tip top form too and players of that calibre don't lose many at this level so it's impossible to see them dropping enough points for us to catch them. The gits 😊. Have a great Xmas though guys!!!

### MVP: Hari Gehlot

Bah Humbug! We in **Kingfisher 'B'** (reigning champions by the way, in case you'd forgotten – I'm gonna keep writing that until it's mathematically impossible to catch A) have already settled for 2nd place this time around. **Martin** has been as brilliant as ever and Artur has been a great find but myself and Richie Rich have been blighted by injury all season and it's cost us a few points here and there that

Joe Joes has as always been mixing his good play with his studies and despite that KFC result they will still get 3rd. Have a good one boys!

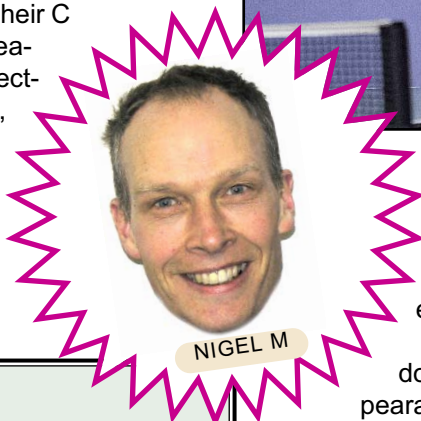
		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Kingfisher A	11	11	0	0	99	11	99
2	Kingfisher B	11	10	0	1	87	23	87
3	SC&P A	11	8	0	3	74	36	74
4	Kingfisher C	11	8	0	3	72	38	72
5	SC&P B	11	5	3	3	58	52	58
6	Tidmarsh B	11	5	2	4	51	59	51
7	Tidmarsh A	11	4	1	6	47	63	47
8	SC&P C	11	3	4	4	41	69	41
9	Curzon A	11	2	1	8	41	69	41
10	Kennet VFC A	11	2	0	9	38	72	38
11	Kingfisher D	11	2	0	9	28	82	28
12	Milestone A	11	0	1	10	24	86	24

**MVP: Gary Morgan**

So doing really well then are **KFC** who have been pretty much 4th all season a big gap opening up between them and 5th. Great away win at Sonning A without Nigel turning out and just goes to show the strength of this side. Alan has picked up some great wins, brilliant to see Richard back and playing well and Phil is as solid as ever. Pretty sure Ivor even got on the scoresheet the other week too!! Merry Christmas.

**MVP: Phil Mead**

I think I said last time that I couldn't split **Sonning Common & Peppard 'B'** from their C team but I certainly can now. What a season this lot are having. I know you're expecting it to be all about Andy Wang but wait, who is this other stunning player that they have? Nigel Maltby!!!! Usually when I'm writing the Xmas edition about Nigel's team he's barely won a leg at this stage but the man is having a **FANTASTIC** season. I'm actually quite



JOE BARRACLOUGH

with a slight advantage to B at the moment who have put together some really good results and they also got the crucial win and current bragging rights over A early in the season. Squirrel – right up there at the moment. Playing as good as he has done for a while and Lee too making a reappearance back in 1 after some years out. Simon seems to be holding his own and the Webbs will be both hoping to do more damage than they have so far esp. Chris bless him. It will come buddy!! Murgy is obviously the man for A. He ain't gonna be losing many at this level and will keep B in his sights if he plays regularly. And that's the thing with such a big squad. Duncan doing well still though and John, Mike, Dave, Bazza and François have all made contributions. Can they overtake B?? It's what we're all talking about you know! Happy Christmas to you all.

**MVP: Murgy & Squirrel**

LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	PL	W	
Martin Adams	Kingfisher B	27	27	100.00%
Artur Morar	Kingfisher B	15	15	100.00%
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher A	26	25	96.15%
Sagar Sawant	Kingfisher A	20	19	95.00%
Andy Wang	SC&PB	30	28	93.33%
Dmitry Khakhamov	Kingfisher A	15	14	93.33%
Krasi Ivanov	Kingfisher A	24	21	87.50%
Steve Murgatroyd	Tidmarsh A	15	13	86.67%
Gary Morgan	SC&PA	15	13	86.67%
Anthony Baker	Tidmarsh B	21	18	85.71%
Mark Banks	Kingfisher B	23	19	82.61%

glad he didn't play against us. The guy is on fire. Superb stuff. No maximums in Reading's top division for about 43 years then all of a sudden three of them come in the space of 4 weeks. Incredible scenes. And 5th place in the league. What is going on???? Jeremy and Brian have picked up in recent weeks too. Great to see and I hope they maintain these lofty heights in the 2nd half. Have a great Xmas.

**MVP: Nigel Maltby.** OK, OK I know it's Andy Wang but I'm banking on him not reading this and Nigel has been superb and this is my gig OK 😊

I still really can't split **Tidmarsh 'A'** and Tidmarsh 'B' and I do hope there is some in-club rivalry between the two sides as to who is going to come out on top this season. It's neck and neck between the 2



CATH VENNING



Nice to see **Sonning Common & Peppard 'C'** pretty clear of trouble at this halfway point. I predicted they would be fine and that was a MASSIVE win over KFD to put big daylight between the two sides. Denise Weller has been in good form for these and a stunning max against KFD was a real statement and great to see. The two Matts doing good too and Tim also made a vital contribution in that relegation match. Niall has only played 2 or 3 times but he still has that great touch of his around the table. They will definitely be OK and good to see. Have a great Christmas. **MVP: Denise Weller**

Another team who have been in good form of late are **Curzon 'A'** back in one this season and looking odds on to stay there too. John W has been out recently with injury but Jon & Pete have been keeping the Curzon flag flying high and I think they will be fine too given there are a couple of sides becoming detached at the bottom. Have a great Xmas guys.

**MVP: Jon Willis**

Hold on? What's going on here - **Kennet Valley Free Church 'A'**? I spent the whole of the last report bigging you up and now look. You've let me

down 😊. In all seriousness they had a fantastic start and the fixture computer was quite kind with the early matches for them. They are still in a position of strength and their destiny is very much in their own hands. Basically if they beat KFD I think it's done and dusted and D1 it will be secured for another season. Julian still very much leading the way in this side and they will be hoping that he can turn out in as many games as possible in the 2nd half. Mingshen, Cath and Masoud have all found it rather tough going of late but if they can rediscover their early form then all will be good again. Merry Christmas to you all!

**MVP: Julian Telford**

Perhaps not overly unexpectedly, it's all become a bit of a struggle for **Kingfisher 'D'** and they find themselves with



JULIAN TELFORD

a lot to do if they are to escape the drop to D2. Clive, Grant, Willis, Luca and Guy are all on the scoreboard though and I'm sure that they are all enjoying their experience but it's a tough old league sometimes and very difficult to regain momentum once defeats keep occurring. Have a great Xmas though guys and see you in the New Year.

**MVP: Grant Wheatley**

And finally then we have the big squad of **Milestone 'A'** who unfortunately look like their time in D1 is to be short-lived and the drop to D2 inevitable. Again. They all seem to be enjoying the experience though and fair play to you. Hope you all have a great Xmas. Cheers!

**MVP: Dave Sanket**





# DIVISION TWO

by John Willcocks

The division has settled down with two teams still setting the pace at the top and most of the others bunched fairly close together. Springfield 'A' and Milestone 'B' still look likely to fight it out for the title but the Springfield team look to be favourites at the moment. At the same time a bit of a gap has opened up between the mid table teams and the two at the bottom



My predictions about how the other teams will finish have changed quite a lot since the last newsletter and no doubt they will change again. There are still a lot of close scores but the two teams at the bottom have suffered some recent heavy defeats which have been costly with the new points system.

**Springfield 'A'** have won four times and have drawn once recently. Most of their wins have been by convincing margins so their three-man team continue to set the pace at the top of the division. Their only slight hiccup came when they could only draw against OLOP 'A' despite yet another Phil Burke maximum. Phil has only lost once since September and with Adam Sheen usually winning two or three and Ludovic Couillard winning a good percentage of his matches it is difficult to see them being caught at the top. If they stay injury free they should be crowned champions in March

**Prediction – 1st**

**Best Recent Performance – Phil Burke winning a very good contest with Keith Winter 11-9 in the fifth**



JOHN CROSLAND OF MILESTONE B

**Milestone 'B'** had some player availability problems for a few weeks so their recent results have been a bit mixed, winning four matches but losing twice. Most of their recent wins have been by a closer margin than their early season ones and that, coupled with defeats to OLOP 'A' and Tilehurst Meths 'A', has seen them drop quite a few points behind the league leaders. They are still fairly comfortably in second place and with most of their players now available again they could still mount a title challenge. Graham



ROGER PRITCHARD OF KINGFISHER 'F'

Mendick remained unbeaten until early December but he then surprisingly lost twice in the match at Tilehurst Meths 'A'.

**Prediction – Runners Up**

**Best Recent Performance – Arun Rajagopal with a three-straight maximum against Kingfisher 'F'**

**OLOP 'C'** have won six matches in a row to move up the table. However, most of the wins have been by small margins so the new points system is working against them a bit; if the old points system was still being used they would be in a title challenging position. They look to be a team on the up as their players have all improved their win ratios recently and new signing Tom Lewis looks to be a good player, so they have now got a stronger squad than they started the season with. Their only two defeats so far were against the top two and with their strengthened squad they have got a chance of really challenging Milestone 'B' for the second promotion spot

**Prediction – 3rd**

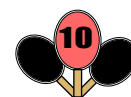
**Best Recent Performance – Pradeep Desh with a very good three straight win over the in-form John Simmonds**

**Kingfisher 'F'** have had three defeats since the last Newsletter plus two wins and a draw. The defeats came against the top three but they had a 9 - 1 win against SC&P 'D' and won the Kingfisher local derby against their 'E' team who could only field two players. They are part of the pack challenging for third place but how well they end up doing may depend on team selection. Roger Pritchard is still their star player and he has only lost once since the opening match of the season, and that was 11 - 9 in the fifth to John Simmonds. Rick Leachmann has been in good form recently and a rare appearance by Carol Byers saw her record a fine maximum against SC&P 'D'

**Prediction – 5th**

**Best Recent Performance – Carol Byers beating Adam Sheen 18-16 in the fifth in a marathon set.**

**Tilehurst Meths 'A'** had been continuing with the pattern from earlier in the season where all of their matches are fair-





		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Springfield A	10	8	1	1	76	24	76
2	Milestone B	11	9	0	2	72	38	72
3	OLOP C	11	8	1	2	65	45	65
4	Kingfisher F	11	6	1	4	58	52	58
5	Tilehurst Meths A	11	5	2	4	55	55	55
6	OLOP A	10	3	2	5	52	48	52
7	SC&P D	11	4	3	4	52	58	52
8	OLOP B	11	3	3	5	52	58	52
9	Pangbourne	10	2	3	5	43	57	43
10	Sonning Sports A	9	2	2	5	42	48	42
11	Curzon B	11	1	2	8	35	75	35
12	Kingfisher E	10	1	2	7	28	72	28

ly close but in their final match before Christmas they suffered a heavy defeat at Sonning C&P 'D'. Their recent form has shown three wins and three defeats but one of the defeats was away to Springfield 'A' and one of the wins was a very good one against Milestone 'B'. Apart from the blip when they lost at Sonning C&P 'D' they appear to be an improving team with Keith Winter playing better and better and Michael Williams finding his feet in this division after a slow start to the season. They should finish in the top five but may have too much to do to challenge for third

**Prediction – 4th**

**Best Recent Performance – Michael Williams with an amazing three straight win over Graham Mendick**

**SC&P 'D'** have had a succession of close results punctuated by a surprising 9 - 1 defeat of Kingfisher 'F', but in their last match before Christmas they hit top form to beat Tilehurst Meths 'A' 8 - 2. Allan Mollett has been winning consistently and had a great maximum against Tilehurst Meths 'A' including inflicting a rare defeat onto Keith Winter. With all of their other players picking up ones and twos, almost every time they play they are a team that will probably continue to have lots of close results which should keep them comfortably in mid table

**Prediction 8th**

**Best Recent Performance Allan Mollett a great win in five against Keith Winter**

**OLOP 'B'** had a great 10 - 0 win over Curzon 'B' but since then they have had two draws and three defeats; two of the defeats were against the top two with the other a surprising one to Kingfisher 'E'. They have four players averaging over 50% so they are unlikely to lose matches heavily and they could be a team who will benefit from the new points system. Johnson Xu is their leading player but their other players have had some really good wins recently

**Prediction - 7th**

**Best Recent Performance – Johnson Xu with a great three straight win over Phil Burke, Phil's only defeat since September.**

**OLOP 'A'** have shown improved form apart from a bit of a hiccup at SC&P 'D'. A couple of big wins, including one against Milestone 'B', has helped to put them in a comfortable mid table position. They are still having to play reserves in some of their matches which has not helped

them but when their top three players play they are a match for anyone. This was shown when they beat Milestone 'B' 8 - 2 and drew at Springfield 'A' when reserve Ben Carless had two really good wins.

**Prediction – 6th**

**Best Recent Performance – Ben Carless recovering from 2 - 1 down to beat Adam Sheen in five.**

**Sonning Sports 'A'** have only won once recently, an 8 - 2 win over Curzon 'B', but they have picked up a reasonable number of points in their other matches. So like Pangbourne WMC although they are only just clear of the relegation zone their matches in hand should allow them to open up a significant gap between themselves and the bottom

two. They are very reliant on Paul Savage who has been in excellent form, so as long as he plays in the majority of the matches they should be OK.

**Prediction – 10th**

**Best Recent Performance Paul Savage with a three-straight maximum against OLOP 'B'**

**Pangbourne WMC** have only won once since the last newsletter although all of their results have been 6 - 4 or 5 - 5 so the points they have got have seen them move up the table a bit. John Simmonds has been in excellent form and Leroy Wilson and Clive Taylor have had improved results so things are looking good for them to defy my earlier prediction that they might get relegated. Although they are only just outside the bottom two their matches in hand should see them open up a bit of a gap between themselves and the teams occupying the relegation positions.

**Prediction 9th**

**Best Recent Performance – John Simmonds with a very impressive maximum against a strong Milestone 'B' line up.**

**Curzon 'B'** have lost six matches in a row, with four of the defeats being by wide margins, and this has seen them slip



'JORDAN' JINGSHUN HUANG OF MILESTONE B

into the relegation zone. Their best performance recently was to run Tilehurst Meths 'A' very close before losing 6 - 4. Their team has been hit by a couple of illnesses which have not helped them and they will need to get everyone fit and healthy for the start of the second half of the season if they are to close the gap on the teams above them. Charlotte Binley has been their most consistent player and if she and Nick Lean can play regularly together they could still pull off an escape.

**Prediction – 11th**

**Best Recent Performance John Walker recovering from losing the third game 11-0 to beat Phil Jones in five**

**Kingfisher 'E'** had a run of seven defeats in a row which saw them cast adrift at the bottom of the division. However, despite fielding two reserves, they stopped the losing streak by defying the odds to beat OLOP 'B' 7 - 3, helped by a very good maximum from reserve Gwynne Penny. They have been struggling to field teams on occasions and have had to play reserves quite a few times and have also had to play with only two players. Despite their encouraging recent win it is difficult to see how they can pick up enough points to get out of their current predicament.

**Prediction 12th**

**Best Recent Performance –John Liddle with a tight four game victory over Binit Bhaskar**

LEADING AVERAGES					
Player	Team	P	W	%	
Graham Mendick	Milestone B	24	22	91.67%	
Phillip Burke	Springfield A	30	27	90.00%	
Roger Pritchard	Kingfisher F	21	18	85.71%	
Paul Savage	Sonning Sports A	27	23	85.19%	
Keith Winter	Tilehurst Meths A	24	20	83.33%	
Daniel Wills	Milestone B	12	10	83.33%	
Johnson Xu	OLOP B	18	14	77.78%	
Adam Sheen	Springfield A	30	23	76.67%	
Alan Mollett	SC&PD	21	16	76.19%	
Arun Rajagopal	Milestone B	15	11	73.33%	
Clive Perry	OLOP A	15	11	73.33%	
Kaan Kitay	Milestone B	15	11	73.33%	
Pradeep Desh	OLOP C	27	19	70.37%	
Chris West	OLOP A	27	19	70.37%	
John Simmonds	Pangbourne WMC	30	20	66.67%	
Charlotte Binley	Curzon Club B	18	12	66.67%	

# DIVISION THREE *by Derek Harrison*

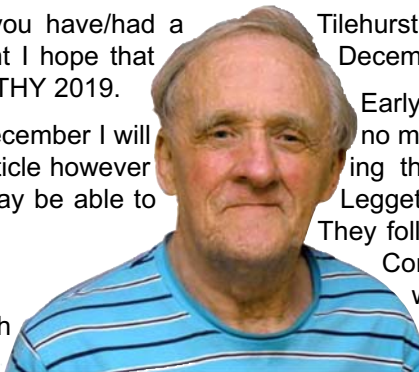
Hello everyone, firstly I hope that you have/had a good Christmas but more important I hope that you all have a HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2019.

Sadly, matches played after the 12th December I will not be able to include in my Christmas article however depending on the Editor's deadline he may be able to update the league table.

The other matches involved are:

Sonning Sports 'B' vs Tidmarsh 'C' 13th December (which I am sure will be included in the league table)

Springfield 'B' vs Sonning Sports 'B' on the 19th December



Tilehurst Meths 'B' vs Tidmarsh 'D' on the 20th December

Early season favourites **Springfield 'B'** showed no mercy to clubmates the 'C' team by hammering them 10 – 0 with Robert Wilkie, Stephen Leggett and Seth Martin all recording maximums. They followed this up by winning 3 – 7 at Sonning Com & P 'E', Steve gained another hat trick with Rob winning two. Peter Gurney gained a single. In an epic match against Kingfisher 'G' they just went down 4 – 6 with Rob winning two and Peter winning one. Rob and Steve had a superb doubles win over David Wells and Gwynne Penny. Peter had a great set against Nils Wedi coming back from 1-2 games down and coming back from 6-10 down in the fourth game to win 12-10 and then going on to win the 5th game 11-4. Against Gwynne it was similar because he came back from 4-10 down to win 12-10 in the fourth game, but this time lost the final game 6-11. Peter told me that it seemed like a win and I can see where he is coming from with the new points system. At bottom side Kingfisher 'H' they stormed to a 1 – 9 win which at the time of writing put them clear at the top. Peter and Steve both hit trebles and for Steve they were all 3 straight. I cannot forget Seth who won two. In Peter's set against Peter Bennett he was two games to one down and had to save two match points in the fourth to win 12-14, then full of confidence he won the fifth end 7-11. In an entertaining match at O.L.O.P 'D' they came away with a 2 – 8 win which had a lot of

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Tidmarsh C	11	7	3	1	72	38	72
2 Kingfisher G	11	6	5	0	71	39	71
3 Springfield B	10	7	0	3	68	32	68
4 Tilehurst Meths B9	7	1	1	65	25	65	65
5 Reading FC A	11	7	1	3	57	53	57
6 OLOP D	11	6	1	4	57	53	57
7 Tidmarsh D	10	4	3	3	52	48	52
8 Curzon C	10	2	4	4	46	54	46
9 Springfield C	11	2	2	7	39	71	39
10 SC&P E	11	2	1	8	39	71	39
11 Sonning Sports B	8	0	2	6	28	52	28
12 Kingfisher H	11	0	1	10	26	84	26





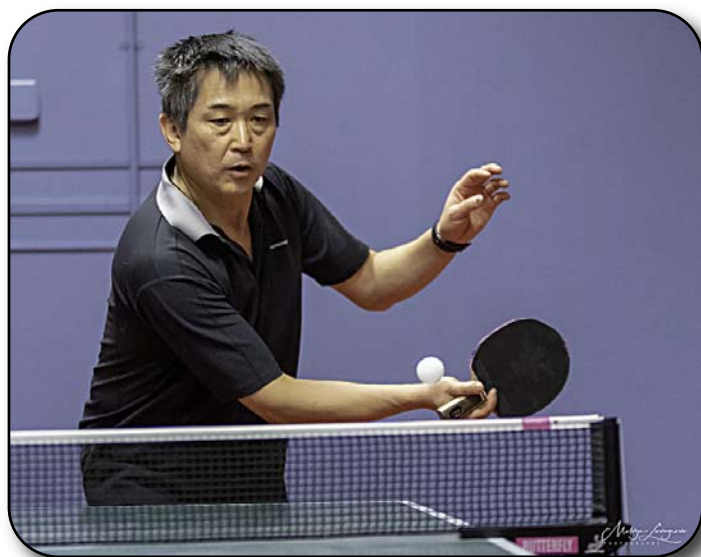
hit/counter hit rallies. Rob and Peter did very well to both gain trebles. Peter clinched his win over Paul Treadgold by beating him 11-8, 7-11, 6-11, 10-12 after being 9-3 down. I gather it was an excellent evening's table tennis.

**Kingfisher 'G'** maintained their unbeaten record by winning at Kingfisher 'H' 2 – 8 with Gwynne Penny and Nils Wedi both gaining trebles besides teaming up to win the doubles. Gabor Radnoti won his first set of the season by beating Ania Pytka. Another win followed by beating Sonning Sports 'B' 7 – 3. Nils hit a three straight maximum which sadly included an 11-0 win over Sally James. I have to report that Nils was very sorry for doing this but in the heat of the game he lost track of the score. Joaquin won two and there was a rare win for Didier Garçon who beat Himanshu Pasbola 11-5, 11-8, 2-11, 4-11, 14-12. At Springfield 'B' David Wells, Gwynne and Nils all won two each to give them a 4 – 6 win. At home to Tidmarsh 'C' David put in a great performance by winning all three and with Gwynne and Gabor both winning one each this gave

ing which made it very entertaining. Martin won two which included a win over Geoff Johnson and gave him revenge after losing to him last season. He beat him 9-11 after getting 5 nets/edges, 9-11 after getting 2 nets/edges then he lost 14-12 after being 4-10 up then won the final game 8-11. Patrick O'Sullivan managed a single by beating Phil Cottrell which gave them a 4 – 6 win. At Springfield 'C' Patrick put in a Player of the Match performance by winning all three for the first time this season. Nigel also hit a treble while Martin managed a double besides teaming up with Nigel to win the doubles set to give them a 1 – 9 win. Next came Sonning Com & P 'E' and again they won 9 – 1 with Eric and player of the match Martin both gaining three straight trebles. Patrick played his part by winning two. At Kingfisher 'G' they came away with a draw with Eric hitting a maximum. Martin managed a single by beating Gwynne Penny and also teamed up with Eric to win a vital doubles.

**Tidmarsh 'C'** shared the spoils with their 'D' team with Ian Wu and Richard Hudson winning two each and Spencer Harvey who gained a single, which completed the comeback after being 2 – 5 down. At Springfield 'C' they came away with a 2 – 8 victory. Richard had a good night by winning all three. David Sheppard and new signing Simon Craig both won two each. For the first time this season David played in the doubles and with Richard they beat Jason King and Chris Taylor 6-11, 11-4, 14-12, 7-11, 10-12. At home to Sonning Com & P 'E' they gained 8 points; Simon Craig was the star by gaining a three straight maximum. Spencer hit a treble for the first time this season. At Kingfisher 'G' a good team performance saw them share the spoils with Simon winning two and Richard and Spencer both obtaining singles. Richard and Simon also won the doubles. They then faced bottom side Kingfisher 'H' and hit top form by winning 9 – 1. Ian and Simon both obtained trebles besides teaming up to win the doubles. Richard played his part by winning two.

**Reading F C 'A'** came back to form by beating Curzon 'C' 7 – 3 with Richard Witt, Anthony Alleyne and Wayne Alleyne winning two each. Wayne and Richard also won the doubles. At Tidmarsh 'D' Anthony hit a good maximum all taking 4 games. In his set against Terry Hardie he won 15-17, 11-13, 11-8, 8-11. Wayne and Paul Brown both



IAN WU OF TIDMARSH C

them five good points. At Reading FC 'A' they put up a sensational performance by winning 0 – 10 with Nils, Gwynne and David all hitting hat tricks. Gwynne and Nils also won the doubles. At home to Tilehurst Meths 'B' David and Nils both won two each. Gwynne played her part by winning one, against Patrick O'Sullivan. Against Eric Van Looy Gwynne did well to take a game from him.

**Tilehurst Meths 'B'** continue to do well with Eric Van Looy in their side. Against O.L.O.P 'D' he hit another hat trick, but against Ben Carless he was two games up and at the start of the third game when it was thought that Ben had given up Eric did a high service which hit the ceiling. This seemed to encourage Ben who then took the next two games, however Eric then sorted himself out to win the final game, helped by the fact that Ben foul served a few times. Nigel Rowland also gained a maximum and Martin Wetherell managed a single. Against Paul Treadgold he came back from two games down to win 12-10 in the final game. He was helped by having a fluky service which Paul could not return. Against Curzon 'C' Eric was in breathtaking form and won all three. His set against Nick Lean was great to see with both players defending and attack-



BEN CARLESS OF OLOP D

managed singles in a match that ended in a draw. Next came Springfield 'C' and they managed to win 8 – 2. Anthony was again in top form by winning all three and Wayne and Richard gave him good backing by winning two each. At Sonning C&P 'E' Richard hit his first hat trick for a long time and with Anthony winning two and also teaming up to win the doubles they came away with a 4 – 6 win. At home to a very classy Kingfisher 'G' they lost 0 – 10. I feel that the only comment to make it is the team's worst ever defeat. At Kingfisher 'H' they won 3 – 7

With Anthony winning three Wayne two and Paul a single.

**Tidmarsh 'D'** drew with their 'C' team. Terry Hardie and Thereasa Watson both won two each. Dave Edwards and Terry had a nice doubles win over Ian and Spencer. Against Reading FC Terry won two while Dave Smith and Thereasa gained singles. Thereasa and Dave also won the doubles to help them to a draw. I have to say I was rather puzzled with the score in the set between Dave and Paul Brown 11-9, 13-11, 11-0!. I have since found out that Dave was 4-10 down in that second game and it seemed to demoralize Paul. At home to Curzon 'C' Dave E and Thereasa both gained doubles with Terry winning one. He had a great comeback against Jim Brent by beating him 5-11, 11-5, 12-10, 15-13 after being 2-10 down which gave them a share of the spoils. At home to O.L.O.P. 'D' they crashed to a 1 – 9 defeat with Terry beating Ben Carless 11-9, 11-7, 11-4. They then bounced back by beating Springfield 'C' away 3 – 7 with Terry gaining a hat trick. Thereasa managed a double while Dave S won one.

**O.L.O.P. 'D'** went down 8 – 2 at Tilehurst Meths 'B' with Ben Carless and Graham Stark both beating Martin Wetherell. As I mentioned earlier Ben gave Eric and also

who also teamed up to win the doubles set. There was also a first ever win for Mark Carless who beat Jim Brent 7-11, 8-11, 11-9, 11-8, 8-11. The highlight of the evening was the



MARK CARLESS of OLOP D

set between Nick Lean and Ben which I had the privilege to umpire. I have to say it was played in a great sporting manner with both players hitting great shots and defending well. The set went like this. First game to Nick 11-3, then Nick again in an epic 23-21 after being 8-2 up. Third game Ben 7-11, then Ben again 13-15, then finally Ben 11-13. Both players deserved the round of applause. At home to Sonning Sports 'B' they just got home 6 – 4. At the start of set 4 they were 1 - 2 down then Graham played Florin and lost 4-11 and thought I am in trouble, but he came back to win 13-11, 11-9, 11-6. A bit tight that could have gone the other way. In set six Mark beat Sally 11-8, 9-11, 5-11, 12-10, how crucial that was then 11-6. So at the doubles it was 4 – 2 then Paul and Graham just beat Sally and Himanshu in five to put them into a 5 – 2 lead, so in the last set Paul played Sally and won 11-5, 9-11, 11-3, 11-1. It would seem that Paul was hitting some great forehands right in the corner which Sally found difficult. At Tidmarsh 'D' Paul and Graham were in top form by both gaining trebles. Young Ben had a nice double which helped them to a 1 – 9 victory. At home to Springfield 'B' they went down 2 – 8 with Paul and Simon both beating Steve Leggett. Paul took Rob Wilkie to the wire in set ten only just going down 11-4, 9-11, 11-7, 7-11, 9-11. Simon must have been exhausted because he had 7 deuce games. It seems that perhaps they were hard done by only gaining two points 7 .

**Sonning Com & P 'E'** have won two in a row and now are out of the bottom two. They beat Sonning Sports 'B' 3 – 7 with Melvyn Lovegrove obtaining a hat trick. Derek Brooke Wavell hit a double while Jamie Legg gained a single. At home to Springfield 'B' they lost 3 – 7. After gaining two maximums in a row Melvyn only won two (if only I could win one). Jamie obtained a single. At Tidmarsh 'C' they lost 8 – 2 with both Jamie and Melvyn beating Richard Hudson. At home to Reading FC 'A' Melvyn did well to beat Anthony and Wayne. Jamie and Oliver Sayer also beat Wayne in a 4 – 6 defeat. At Tilehurst Meths 'B' they went down 9 – 1 with



GRAHAM STARK of OLOP D

Nigel a good game. At home to Kingfisher 'H' they stormed to a 8 – 2 victory. Ben hit a very good treble as did Paul Treadgold. In Paul's set against Peter Bennett he came from 1-7 down in the 5th game to level at 8 all but the went 10-8 up but Peter came back to level at 10-10 before Paul went on to clinch the set at 15-13. Simon Brookes managed a single but at the moment is having a fitness problem. At Curzon 'C' they came away with a 3 – 7 win thanks to a splendid hat trick from Ben, a double from Graham Stark



Derek beating Patrick 6-11, 7-11, 16-18. At home to Curzon 'C' Derek and Jamie both gained singles by beating Jim, they also teamed up to win the doubles in a 3 – 7 defeat.

Despite a great hat trick from Geoff Johnson **Curzon 'C'** lost 7 - 3 at Reading F C 'A'. Geoff beat Anthony 11-13, 13-11, 11-9, 8-11, 9-11 then Richard 7-11, 9-11, 2-11 and Wayne 8-11, 11-7, 4-11, 4-11. At home to Tilehurst Meths 'B' we found Eric too good; however Nick Lean played well by winning two and also teamed up with Geoff to win the doubles. Geoff also won one by beating

Patrick. Phil Cottrell who only played in his third ever match found the going tough but still enjoyed himself. At home to O.L.O.P 'D' we went down 3 - 7 with Nick winning two in his last match for us this season. Thanks for playing, Nick. I won the other set by beating Mark Carless. At Tidmarsh 'D' Geoff hit a very good hat trick by beating Terry 9-11, 8-11. 6-11 then Thereasa 9-11, 10-12, 3-11 and Dave E 11-9, 6-11, 4-11, 14-16. He also teamed up with me to win the doubles. Derek Harrison had a rare win by beating Terry and perhaps should have beaten Thereasa when I was two games to one up and led 6-9 and also had 2 set points but lost 13-11. At home to Springfield 'C' we shared the spoils with Geoff winning two. He also teamed up with Derek to win the doubles. Derek and Jim Brent both won one each. For Jim it was his first win since his first match of the season by beating Jason King 12-10, 13-11, 4-11, 11-9. At Sonning C&P 'E' we came away with a 3 - 7 victory thanks to maximums from Geoff and Derek. For me, it was my first triple since the 16th Sept 2016. Jim managed a single.

**Springfield 'C'** had a bad night at club mates against their 'B' team by going down 10 – 0 but I have to say most of the close games went against them. At home to Tidmarsh 'C' Jason King was the only scorer, beating David Sheppard 8-11, 8-11, 11-8, 12-10, 11-4 and Simon Craig 11-3, 11-8, 9-11, 11-13, 11-7 in a 2 – 8 defeat. At Reading FC they went down 8 – 2. Chris Taylor and Jason won one each. At home to Tilehurst Meths 'B' it took a Jason win over Martin to save a whitewash. Jason won 5-11, 11-5, 11-9, 11-9. At Curzon 'C' Adrian Wegrzynowski was the star, gaining a great treble and with Chris and Jason both picking up singles; this gave them 5 points. Adrian then won two against Tidmarsh 'D' but with Chris only winning one they lost 3 – 7.

**Sonning Sports 'B'** lost at home to Sonning Com & P 'E' 3 - 7. Florin Dimofte, Sally James and Himanshu Pasbola all won one each. The third division roving reporter Cris Reynolds informed me about their clash at Kingfisher 'G' where they lost 7 – 3. In the first set of the evening Cris played Didier Garçon and lost the first game 11-7 because he could not handle his service but then sorted it out by taking the next three games to put his side one up. Sally then had a great 4-11, 8-11, 7-11 win over Joaquin Sabater to put them

## LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Eric Van Looy	Tilehurst Meths B	18	18	100.00
Nigel Rowland	Tilehurst Meths B	18	17	94.44
Nils Wedi	Kingfisher G	24	20	83.33
David Wells	Kingfisher G	24	20	83.33
Ian Wu	Tidmarsh C	18	15	83.33
Rob Wilkie	Springfield B	18	15	83.33
Simon Craig	Tidmarsh C	12	10	83.33
Nick Lean (S)	Curzon Club C	15	12	80.00
Tony Alleyne	Reading FC A	30	22	73.33
Benedict Carless	OLOP D	24	17	70.83
Geoff Johnson	Curzon Club C	27	19	70.37
Stephen Leggett	Springfield B	27	19	70.37
Richard Hudson	Tidmarsh C	24	16	66.67
Graham Stark	OLOP D	21	14	66.67
A Wegrzynowski	Springfield C	15	10	66.67
Peter Gurney	Springfield B	27	17	62.96

two up but wins for Nils over Himanshu, Joaquin over Cris brought the scores level. In set five with Himanshu against Didier it was two games all and in the 5th end Himanshu went 1-5 up only for Didier to come back to lead 10-6, but then Himanshu won the next 4 points to level at 10-10 before Didier eventually won 14-12. At the doubles Kingfisher led the match 4 - 2 but this set proved to be the best set of the night with the home pairing of Nils and Joaquin beating Cris and Himanshu 11-9, 13-15, 12-10, 11-9. In that second game Sonning were 10-6 down. In the final set of the evening Sally beat Didier 4-11, 6-11, 10-

12 after being 10-6 down. So Sally had two great wins on the night. At home to Kingfisher 'H' they had to settle for a draw. In the set three Himanshu took on Maksym and lost the first two games 6-11 but came back to win the third game but again lost the fourth game 6-11. Next was a crucial set between reserve John Scott and Ania which was won by John 11-6, 7-11, 11-13, 11-9, 11-5. Cris then took on Maksym and lost the first game 8-11 after being 8-4 up however he then won the next two games but Maksym then won the fourth game 4-11 then Cris just got home in the fifth game 11-9. In the doubles Kingfisher just got home in five so at this stage it was 4 – 3 to Sonning. In the 8th set John lost to Maksym to make it 4 – 4 then Himanshu beat Ania to put Sonning 5 – 4 up however in set ten Cris faced Ken Robb whom he has never beaten and lost in 4 games to make the match score 5 – 5. At O.L.O.P 'D' they just got touched off 6 - 4. With Florin and Himanshu both winning two.

**Kingfisher 'H'** continue to struggle and at home to their 'G' team went down 2 – 8 with Dmitry Merziyakov and Maksym Schipka both beating Gabor. At O.L.O.P 'D' Peter Bennett and Dmitry both won one each in a 8 – 2 defeat. After losing 7 in a row they managed a draw against Sonning Sports 'B' with Ken Robb and Maksym both winning two each. Maksym and Ania Pytka had a nice doubles win over Cris and Himanshu. At home to Springfield 'B' they went down 1 – 9 with Peter beating Seth 11-9, 12-10, 11-3. Against Tidmarsh 'C' Peter was the only scorer by beating Richard Hudson 7-11, 7-11, 7-11 in a 9 - 1 defeat. Against Reading F C Peter won two and teamed up with Ken to win the doubles.

Finally I list the leading Players of the Match: Ian Wu 5, Eric Van Looy 5, Anthony Alleyne 5, Geoff Johnson 4, Rob Wilkie 4.

Cheers

Derek

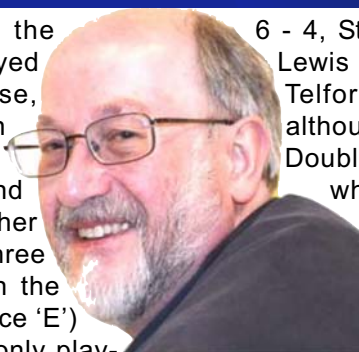


# DIVISION FOUR

by Martin Wetherell

Well, we are now half-way through the Season and most teams have now played each other. As 2018 comes to a close, Tilehurst Methodists 'C' sits top of Division 4, with Our Lady of Peace 'E' in second place, Reading FC 'B' four points behind them, in third place, and Tidmarsh 'E' a further four points back, in fourth place, with all three teams having played one less match than the Methodists. Ralph Philips (Our Lady of Peace 'E') and Oliver Bonser (Milestone 'C') are the only players still undefeated, having played in 4 and 3 matches, respectively. Of the more frequently selected players, Derek Anderson (Reading FC 'B') and Chris Bunn (Our Lady of Peace 'E') are tied at 86.96%, each having played in 8 matches. On the Doubles front, there are many undefeated pairings, but Roy Hull & Steve Wood (Tilehurst Methodists 'C') are currently top, having played together 6 times. As regards PoM awards, there are a number of candidates vying for the top spot, which is currently held by Roy Hull (Tilehurst Methodists 'C'), with 6 awards. Excluding the newly registered and those yet to play a match, Derek Maltby (Sonning Common & Peppard 'F') is the only player who has still to win a singles set, although he is a member of his team's most successful Doubles pair. However, since he has already been very close to victory, I am sure he will win a set soon. So, my final few words are a plea to ensure you send your scorecards in, in a timely manner, to save me stress, and to wish you all a Happy Christmas (if you celebrate it) and Best Wishes for the New Year.

After 5 matches, **Kennet Valley Free Church 'B'** were in 11th place and one of my predictions was that they could achieve 9th place. Well, so far, they are on track and after a further six matches have climbed to 9th, winning three and losing three. So far they have not fielded the same team in consecutive matches, with everyone playing their part. Their first trip was away to Our Lady of Peace 'E', which they lost 7 - 3, Steve Christelow picking up a double while Russell Moores recorded a single. They then entertained **Sonning Common & Peppard 'F'**, winning a closely contested match



6 - 4, Steve contributing a further double, as did Lewis Oke with his first double, while Jamie Li-Telford was only able to record one win, although he also partnered Steve to a crucial Doubles win. Next up was a trip to Kingfisher 'I' which they won 8 - 2, notching their first back-to-back win, courtesy of a treble from Steve, and doubles from both Russell and Jamie, this being Jamie's first double. Following on from their success the previous week, Steve and Jamie again partnered up to win the Doubles. However, the following week, **Sonning Common & Peppard 'G'** were the visitors and even though the Commoners could only field two players, they won all their sets and thus left as 7 - 3 victors. Tidmarsh 'E' were the next opponents, and one could truly argue that this was a match of boys versus men, in fact quite old men, with the youngest registered group of players in the Division facing a team whose average age was approximately five times their own. However, although Toby Barter recorded his first win, in defeating John Harland, and Jamie defeated Pete Sinclair, the youngsters suffered the same fate, as many of us have over the years, of underestimating "experience".

The last match before the Christmas break, saw **Kennet Valley** travel to Springfield 'E', where Christmas had come early, since Springfield could only field two opponents. Steve won both his matches, to scoop the PoM award, while Russell beat Colin Jones and Toby partnered Steve to a Doubles win, resulting in an 8 - 2 victory.

Steve Christelow has retained his position as their number 1, with two more trebles and PoMs. Two new Doubles pairings have been tried, with Toby Barter & Steve playing together twice and winning once, while Russell Moores & Lewis Oke were defeated by OLOP 'E'. However, top of their pairings are Jamie Li-Telford

& Steve who, despite losing their first outing together, have been victorious in their last two matches.

**Kingfisher 'I'** have not won a further match and consequently have dropped from 10th, to 11th. To bolster their squad, they have registered a new player, Sandeep Burande, although this has not helped on two recent occasions where only two of their squad were available

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tilehurst Meths C	11	10	1	0	81	29	81
OLOP E	10	7	2	1	71	29	71
Reading FC B	10	7	1	2	67	33	67
Tidmarsh E	10	6	1	3	63	37	63
SC&P F	11	5	1	5	58	52	58
Milestone C	10	5	1	4	56	44	56
Springfield E	11	5	1	5	52	58	52
SC&P G	10	4	2	4	49	51	49
Kennet VFC B	11	4	0	7	42	68	42
Springfield D	11	3	1	7	36	74	36
Kingfisher I	11	1	0	10	28	82	28
Sonning Sports C	10	0	1	9	27	73	27



and fit to play. Gill Bennett and Derek Crombie have been ever present during these 6 matches, joined intermittently by other members of their squad. For the visit of Tidmarsh 'E', Meriel Low made her most recent appearance and beat John Harland in the 8th set to save the whitewash, Gill losing 5 of her 10 singles games by the minimum 2 points. In fact Kingfisher lost all 10 games that went to the wire ! Despite the 1 - 9 scoreline, it was a competitive septuagenarian (and over) match, and Tidmarsh had to work hard for their victory. The following week Kingfisher travelled to play Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' and Miguel Caballero was the third man, losing out to Anthony Reeve in the 10th Set, which determined who would end the night undefeated, Miguel having earlier beaten Arran Reeve 12-10 14-12 11-7 and David Pearson 7-11 11-0 10-12 11-8 11-8. Anthony's victory meant that Kingfisher lost the match 7 - 3, with Gill beating David Pearson 11-9 11-9 5-11 11-9 to earn an additional point. The next match, against Kennet Valley Free Church 'B', was Sandeep's debut, Gill getting Kingfisher off to a good start, when she defeated Jamie Li-Telford in straight sets, but the team then lost the next four sets, before Sandeep got the better of Russell Moores. Sandeep partnered Gill in the Doubles, losing in 5 games, and then had a close match against Jamie Li-Telford, eventually losing 9-11 11-8 12-14 11-13. Kingfisher could only muster two players against Springfield 'E' as their third player was delayed abroad and, despite their valiant efforts, Gill and Derek ended up losing 10 - 0, Paul Martin beating Gill 11-9 5-11 12-10 11-8, Julian Lancaster beating Derek 11-3 9-21 14-12 11-4 and Gill & Derek losing the Doubles 9-11 6-11 10-12. Sandeep made his second appearance, against Milestone 'C', picking up a win over Tony Hayden and coming close to beating John Evans, before losing 16-14 8-11 12-14 9-11. Gill & Sandeep won the Doubles 12-10 9-11 11-8 4-11 11-5, beating Carl Edlind & John, which meant the final result was 2 - 8. However, in their final match before Christmas, a late injury to their third player meant that they arrived at Tilehurst Methodists 'C' with only two players and proceeded to lose 10 - 0.

Miguel Caballero leads Kingfisher's averages, with 75%, followed by Meriel Low on 53%. If they are able to play together more often, Kingfisher would have more opportunities to avoid the wooden spoon. Gill has been ever present in the Doubles pairings, winning one and losing one with Sandeep Burande, which means they top the Kingfisher averages.

**Milestone 'C'** are in 6th place, although having played one less match they could climb as high as 4th, which is where they were positioned when the last Newsletter was published. Since then, from their match results, they have won two, drawn one and lost two. They started off with 5 - 5 draw, away at Sonning Sports 'C', thanks to a John Evans hat trick, John ensuring his maximum when he defeated John Scott 11-9 15-13 6-11 11-9, and a double from Michal Pszczolka, Michal losing to John Scott 6-11 6-11 11-8 12-14, before winning the final set, against Michael Byrne, to ensure the



MICHAL PSZCZOLKA OF MILESTONE C

draw. The following week, Milestone welcomed Springfield 'D' who, due to illness, were only able to field two players, which meant that Milestone eventually ran out 9 - 1 winners, Ollie Bonser and Carl Edlind remaining undefeated, Carl beating Chris Speight 11-7 12-14 8-11 11-6 11-7, while Colin Phillips beat Dave Parkin but lost to Chris. For Week 9, Milestone travelled to leaders Our Lady of Peace 'E', who fielded a very strong team, with Carl and John both beating Jan Polnik, Carl winning 13-11 11-2 11-5 and John winning 9-11 11-9 11-7 13-11, Tony Hayden having no joy all night. In Week 11, despite Ollie Bonser recording another maximum, Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' won all the other games and left as 3 - 7 winners. Milestone then travelled to Kingfisher 'I', where John Evans and Carl Edlind both recorded trebles, while Tony Hayden was beaten by Sandeep Burande, thus ending the evening with two wins and a match score of 8 - 2.

Amongst a strong squad with a number of match winners, Ollie Bonser is currently on 100%, Michal Pszczolka is on 83%, Carl Edlind is on 80% and John Evans is on 66%. On the Doubles front, two new pairings have been tried, neither winning, while the one winner has been the existing pairing of Ollie Bonser & Carl Edlind, which now has two wins from two outings.

Top of the Division for five weeks, **Our Lady of Peace 'E'** have now dropped to second place, although they have a game in hand on the new leaders. They started this second session brightly, with a 7 - 3 victory over Kennet Valley Free Church 'B', Chris Bunn's 9-11 11-9 11-13 11-6 11-8 win over Steve Christelow and Mariusz Paluszkiwicz's 5-11 11-9 11-9 8-11 12-10 win over Toby Barter, proving to be pivotal, Chris ending with a treble, Anna Slobodskoy recording a double and Mariusz a single. For the next match, away at Springfield 'E', Ralph Philips replaced Mariusz and subsequently recorded a treble, Chris and Alona both narrowly losing to Marcello Caramma, Marcello beating Chris 12-10 11-9 10-12 11-8 and Alona 11-9 14-12 11-9. The following week, Jan Polnik returned from holiday, to replace Anna in the starting line-up, against

Milestone 'C'. Another imperious display from Ralph, winning in straight sets for the third time, a hard fought maximum from Chris and a single for Jan Polnik, who defeated Tony Hayden, meant that OLOP won 8 - 2. Week 11 saw Chris, Jan and Andrew Adair travel to Tilehurst Methodists 'C', where the points were shared in a 5 - 5 draw, with Chris and Andrew beating both Andrew Stone and Steve Wood, Steve losing to Chris 16-14 11-13 7-11 6-11 and to Andrew 11-13 6-11 11-7 6-11, while Jan beat Andrew 9-11 11-7 11-6 12-10. This match saw OLOP lose their first Doubles, Roy Hull & Steve Wood beating Jan & Chris 14-16 11-5 11-8 13-11, although they still have a number of undefeated pairings. The following week, the same OLOP team also drew 5 - 5 with their other title rivals, Reading FC 'B'. Chris recorded a further double, beating Derek Anderson and Harry Edwards, but lost the final set, against Joe Bull, 11-5 11-6 7-11 7-11 9-11, while Jan and Andrew both recorded singles, Jan beating Joe 11-9 11-7 16-18 6-11 12-10 and Andrew defeating Harry, with Chris & Andrew winning the Doubles to secure the draw.

Ralph Philips is still their number 1 and is undefeated, but the Division is currently having some respite while he is taking his mock exams. He has only played in 4 matches but, having dropped two games in his first match, he has subsequently won 9 sets without dropping a single game. Although this team has lost their undefeated Doubles tag, which stretches back to the start of last season (and possibly beyond), OLOP currently have five other unbeaten partnerships.

When the last Newsletter was published, **Reading FC 'B'** were sitting in 3rd place and now, having played a further five matches, they are still in 3rd place and remain in contention for the title. For four of these matches they have fielded the same group of three players. Due to postponements, it was four weeks after their last match that Reading FC entertained second placed Tilehurst Methodists 'C'. Methodists took an early lead, before Derek Anderson beat Rob James, to pull one back, following which Methodists responded with a further two wins, before Derek beat Steve Wood. Tony Edwards & Derek then took on Roy Hull & Steve Wood, in the Doubles, losing 9-11 12-10 11-6 8-11 8-11 to be 2 - 5 down, in the match. However, Joe Bull beat Rob to pull one back and Derek then beat Roy 8-11 11-6 6-11 13-11 11-6, to complete his treble. However, Harry Edwards was unable to get the better of Steve, in the final set, and therefore the match finished 4 - 6. A few days later, Reading FC 'B' travelled to Sonning Sports 'C', where they secured a 7 - 3 win, Joe Bull and Harry Edwards both recording trebles, while Tony Edwards recorded his first win of the season, when he beat Stephen Edwards 9-11 12-10 11-7 11-9. This was followed by an emphatic 10 - 0 home win over Springfield 'D', with Joe Bull, Derek Anderson and Harry Edwards all recording trebles, Harry working hard for his wins, none more so than the 7-11 14-12 11-9 10-12 11-9 win over Tom Berryman, Tony Edwards & Derek also clinching the Doubles 13-11 11-8 11-9.

Reading FC then travelled to leaders Our Lady of Peace 'E', where a most competitive match ensued, with 6 sets going to 5 games each and Reading winning the last three sets to snatch a dramatic draw. The fight-back started with Harry beating Jan Polnik 11-9 3-11 11-9 6-11 11-7, continued with Derek beating Andrew Adair 11-5 11-13 9-11 11-9 11-8 and was completed when Joe beat Chris Bunn 5-11 6-11 11-7 11-7 11-9, to draw the match and deny Chris a maximum. Their final match was at home, to Sonning Common & Peppard 'F', which was won 6 - 4, Derek and Joe both back to winning ways, each recording a treble.

Derek remains their number 1, but is closely trailed by Joe, with Harry in third place. The strength of this squad is demonstrated by the fact that even though they have only won three of the five matches played, one of their players has won the PoM award, each time. On the Doubles front, Reading have still only played three combinations, but their main pairing of Derek & Tony Edwards has only won one more match, Joe stepping up to partner Tony when Derek was unavailable, but with no better luck.

#### DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Ralph Philips	OLOP E	12	12	100.00%
Derek Anderson	Reading FC B	23	20	86.96%
Christopher Bunn	OLOP E	23	20	86.96%
Roy Hull	Tilehurst Meths C	29	25	86.21%
Joe Bull	Reading FC B	26	21	80.77%
Carl Edlind	Milestone C	20	16	80.00%
Steve Wood	Tilehurst Meths C	29	23	79.31%
Anthony Reeve	SC&P G	24	19	79.17%
Miguel Caballero	Kingfisher I	12	9	75.00%
Alona Slobodskoy	OLOP E	12	9	75.00%
Peter Sinclair	Tidmarsh E	15	11	73.33%

**Sonning Common & Peppard 'F'** started the second round of matches in 6th place and immediately faced their own Club, in the shape of their 'G' team. Gerry Bacon was undefeated, while Julian James and Mike Casserley both recorded doubles, which meant that the 'F' team not only won 7 - 3, but have bragging rights for the next few months. The following week, SC&P 'F' travelled to Kennet Valley Free Church 'B' where, despite Mike Casserley recording his third treble, they lost 6 - 4, Steve Knott beating Jamie Li-Telford 12-14 11-8 11-6 11-9 for his second single. Gerry, Julian and Mike were selected for the postponed game against Springfield 'E' and they came up trumps, Gerry and Julian both recording maximums, while Mike recorded a double, to help win the match 9 - 1. The same team travelled to Milestone 'C' where they won 7 - 3, despite Ollie Bonser recording a maximum, thanks to doubles from Gerry, Mike and Julian. Mike, Gerry and Derek Maltby were selected to face visitors Tilehurst Methodists 'C', losing 3 - 7 despite Mike Casserley recording a further treble, with Gerry having no luck,



losing all his sets in 4 games. For their 6th match, Julian, Gerry and Mike travelled to Reading FC 'B', where they each beat Harry Edwards but lost to Derek Anderson and Joe Bull, Mike & Julian picking up a further point by winning the Doubles.

Mike Casserley has been their stalwart, playing in every match so far and tops their rankings, closely followed by Julian James and Gerry Bacon. When called upon Steve Knott can usually be relied upon for a point, while Derek Maltby is still looking for his first singles win. SC&P 'F' are another team that fields a regular doubles pairing, in this case Mike & Derek. Although they have only won two of their most recent five matches, their 11-9 4-11 12-10 7-11 5-11 loss to Kennet Valley's Steve Christelow & Jamie Li-Telford could, on another day, have been a third win. In Derek's absence, Julian partnered Mike to a Doubles victory, over Reading FC 'B', which means that they currently have a 100% record.

**Sonning Common & Peppard 'G'** were in 9th place, after the first free week. They started with an "away" trip to their 'F' team, which was lost 7 - 3, their points courtesy of Arran Reeve's 10-12 12-10 11-9 8-11 11-9 win over Julian James, Simon Blake's win over Mike Casserley and Anthony Reeve's & Simon's Doubles win. For the first time this season, Anthony did not record a singles win, which is always a possibility when you play against club mates who know your game so well. However, Anthony was back with a vengeance recording a maximum in each of the next four matches, taking the PoM award each time, while dropping only 3 games. First up was a home match against Kingfisher 'I', which with Arran winning two, including an 11-9 10-12 11-6 11-9 victory over Gill Bennett as well as an 11-4 11-9 11-9 win against Derek Crombie, and David Pearson also beating Derek Crombie, along with the Doubles, meant that a 7 - 3 win was secured. The following week, Anthony, Arran and David hosted Tidmarsh 'E' and with only the Doubles and Arran's victory over Mike Bundy to add to Anthony's wins, the match was drawn 5 - 5. After the second "free" week, Anthony and David were the sole travellers to Kennet Valley Free Church 'B' where, despite a close call when David beat Russell Moores 11-9 12-10 11-8, they were undefeated and thus won 7 - 3. Springfield 'E' were the next visitors, when Anthony and David were once again a team of two. Thanks to a win for David, who beat Paul Martin, along with the Doubles and a treble from Anthony, a 5 - 5 draw was achieved.

Anthony Reeve is the undoubted number one, with 79%, while Arran Reeve, David Pearson, Simon Blake and Marko Madzar are all achieving low 30% to low 40%. With SC&P 'G' only able to field 2 players over recent weeks, they have taken steps and signed a new player, Jim Warren. On the Doubles front, they have recorded victories in each of their recent matches and leading the pack, with three wins is the new pairing of Anthony & David, while another new pairing of Anthony

& Arran have one win.

**Sonning Sports 'C'** are another team who are sharing playing duties evenly throughout the squad and haven't fielded the same team in consecutive matches. They started this second tranche of matches at the foot of the table, with no wins under their belt. Although they are still awaiting their first win, they did secure a draw in their first match against Milestone 'C', with Michael Byrne and Phil Peat both defeating Colin Phillips, while John Scott not only beat Colin, but also defeated Michal Pszczolka 11-6 11-6 8-11 14-12 and then partnered Michael to a crucial 11-9 13-15 11-6 9-11 11-9 Doubles win, over John Evans and Michal. The following week, Michael, Jude O'Halloran and Mo Cole visited Tilehurst Methodists 'C' picking up 2 points, in an 8 - 2 loss, thanks to Jude's 7-11 4-11 12-10 12-10 11-9 win over Steve Wood and Mo's 11-6 12-10 2-11 1-11 12-10 win over Rob James. In Week 9, Sonning Sports 'C' faced another title contender, when Reading FC 'B' visited. Mo's place in the squad was taken by Stephen Edwards, who was unable to add to his earlier win, although he was close to beating namesake Tony Edwards, before eventually losing 11-9 10-12 7-11 9-11, while Michael and Jude both beat Tony and then combined to win the Doubles, ending the night with a 3 - 7 defeat. For the match against Springfield 'D', which was brought forward and played in the "free" week, Michael was rotated out and replaced in the team by Mo Cole. Stephen started the ball rolling, with a 13-11 11-8 10-12 11-5 win over Dave Parkin, which was followed by Jude's 21-19 11-1 11-13 8-11 11-6 win over Tom Berryman. Springfield won the next two sets, before Mo beat Dave Parkin to put Sonning Sports 3 - 2 up. However, the next four sets were won by Springfield and although Jude beat Dave, in the final set, to record a double, the match was lost 6 - 4. In what turned out to be their final match before Christmas, due to their match with OLOP 'E' being postponed and their match with Springfield being played early, Michael Byrne, John Scott and Mo Cole travelled to Tidmarsh 'E'. However, since it was still November, there was no Christmas spirit on offer and Tidmarsh won 10 - 0, although the match was closer than the scoreline would indicate, with Mo losing 9-11 10-12 11-7 10-12 to Roger Stevens, while John took Roger to a 5th game.

Jude O'Halloran and John Scott have the best averages, with Phil Peat third on the list. However, Phil has not played since early November and their statistically best side have not played together, yet. Although they are bottom, going into the New Year, they are only one point behind Kingfisher 'I', having still to play OLOP, so the fight to avoid the wooden spoon is still on. On the Doubles front, three new pairings have been tried, with Michael & Jude taking the spoils against Reading FC 'B'. Michael & John have also played together again, this time winning to help secure the draw with Milestone. All three wins have been courtesy of a pairing which includes Michael, although he has lost a Doubles match, when paired with John.

**Springfield 'D'** were in 8th place when the last Newsletter was published and after playing a further 6 matches, with just the one win, have dropped to 10th. Their next match was against their clubmates who play for the 'E' team and, as expected, there were a number of close contests, with Maggie Kellermann-Thornton and Chris Speight both getting the better of Colin Jones, while Chris was also victorious against Marcello Caramma, winning 11-9 10-12 11-9 10-12 11-2. However, their third player, Tom Berryman, was unable to add to the wins, with the match ending in a 3 - 7 defeat. Dave Parkin and Chris had to face Milestone 'C' on their own, after their third player was taken ill, and it proved to be a mountain too high to climb, Springfield losing 9 - 1, with Chris recording his side's only win, when he beat Colin Phillips. Tilehurst Methodists 'C' were their next visitors, Alan Goold making a rare appearance and taking the scalp of Rob James 11-9 3-11 9-11 11-9 11-9 before Maggie earned their second point, defeating Steve Wood in the final set 11-4 9-11 7-11 11-4 11-9, with the match finishing 2 - 8. Springfield's match with Sonning Sports 'C' was brought forward and played in the free week, with Chris Speight recording his second treble and Tom Berryman his double, after defeating Stephen Edwards and Mo Cole, Chris and Tom also victorious in a crucial Doubles, to win the match 6 - 4. The following week, the same Springfield side faced Reading FC 'B', with Chris, Tom and Dave Parkin leaving empty handed after a 10 - 0 defeat, although, on another day, the result may have been closer, Harry's 7-11 14-12 11-9 10-12 11-9 win over Tom being a prime example. For their final match before the Christmas break, Springfield fielded the same team for the third consecutive match, this time against Tidmarsh 'E'. Chris managed to record one win, beating Steve Andrews 11-8 7-11 2-11 11-6 11-7, as did Tom, in defeating John Harland, resulting in an 8 - 2 defeat.

Chris Speight is top of the averages, on 48%, with Maggie Kellermann-Thornton just behind on 46%, followed by Tom Berryman on 37%. Both Chris and Dave Parkin have played in five of the latest six games, with Tom having played in four. On the Doubles front, two new pairings have been tried, without success, with the only win courtesy of Chris & Tom, who now have two wins from four outings.

**Springfield 'E'** started this second phase of games in 5th place, ahead of Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' on matches won but, after 2 wins and a draw, they have now dropped to 7th and are behind the curve in regard to my earlier prediction. Their first game, after the Newsletter was published, was against their compatriots in Springfield 'D', which they won 7 - 3, thanks to the Doubles, a single for Colin Jones when he defeated Tom Berryman 10-12 11-8 11-5 12-10, a double for Marcello Caramma, and a treble for Paul Martin, who defeated Chris Speight 11-6 3-11 10-12 11-6 12-10, in the final set, to determine who went home undefeated. The following week, the same Springfield team faced Our Lady of Peace 'E', who arrived with a strong squad

comprising Ralph Phillips, Chris Bunn and Alona Slobodskoy. Marcello beat Alona 11-9 14-12 11-9 and then Chris 12-10 11-9 10-12 11-8, but was unable to beat Ralph, with the final score 2 - 8 in favour of OLOP. The match against Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' was postponed for a week, with Julian Lancaster replacing Paul in the starting line-up. However, this didn't help and the Commoners were heading for a clean sweep until Marcello beat Mike Casserley 11-9 10-12 11-5 9-11 11-9, to deny Mike his treble and save the whitewash. Their next opponents were Kingfisher 'I', who were only able to field two players, and they consequently suffered the backlash, with Paul, Julian and Marcello all remaining undefeated, resulting in a 10 - 0 victory. Paul, Julian and Marcello were again selected for the next match, which was away at Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', who could only field two players and those three defaulted points proved to be vital, as the Commoners' Anthony Reeve was in fine form, recording his maximum with Marcello the only player to take him to five games, Marcello and Julian gaining the wins over David Pearson to guarantee a share of the points in the 5 - 5 draw, Julian winning 9-11 12-10 8-11 11-2 11-5 and Marcello 11-6 11-7 12-10. For their final match before Christmas, they entertained Kennet Valley Free Church 'B', but this time the situation was reversed, in that only Colin Jones and Marcello were fit to play, Paul having gone down with the flu. Having conceded three points, before the match started, Springfield started well, with Marcello beating Russell Moores and Colin beating Toby Barter 6-11 12-10 5-11 11-8 11-9. However, once Steve Christelow beat Marcello and Russell beat Colin Jones 5-11 11-7 11-4 6-11 12-10, Marcello's defeat of Tony Barter, to record his second win, was not enough, Steve & Toby's 10-12 12-10 11-7 11-9 Doubles win ensuring a 3 - 7 result.

Marcello Caramma leads the averages, for Springfield 'E', on 64%, with Paul Martin on 52%, Julian Lancaster on 36% and Colin Jones on 25%. With the team relying on just 4 people, they have signed a new player, Johnny Worrall, who should make his appearance in the New Year. With regard to the Doubles, no new pairings have been tried, but two wins have been recorded, one for Marcello & Paul and one for Julian & Paul. These results mean that their most successful Doubles pairing is Marcello & Paul, with two wins from three outings.

**Tidmarsh 'E'** were in 7th place, after 5 matches were played, and now, after a further five matches have been played, resulting in four wins and one draw, they have climbed to 4th. There have been no additions to this squad and playing duties have generally been shared around, although Mike Bundy has only had one further outing, since the last Newsletter was published. Tidmarsh started the second phase with a bang, beating Kingfisher 'I' 1 - 9, Meriel Low winning her final set, against John Harland, to deny Tidmarsh a clean sweep, with Roger Stevens and Steve Andrews both recording maximums. With their scheduled match against Reading FC 'B' not taking place, it was two weeks later



that Tidmarsh travelled to Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', which ended in a 5 - 5 draw, Pete Sinclair defeating Arran Reeve 6-11 8-11 11-3 11-8 11-6 and David Pearson over 3 games, while Mike Bundy earned his single with an 12-10 5-11 5-11 15-13 11-8 win over David Pearson and John Harland chipped in with the other two wins, one an 11-7 11-9 9-11 11-8 victory over David and an equally impressive 11-9 11-8 4-11 15-17 13-11 victory over Arran.

Steve Andrews, Roger Stevens and Pete Sinclair recorded their team's best win so far when, in their next match, they defeated Sonning Sports 'C' 10-0, although Sonning Sports can consider themselves unlucky not to go home with at least one point, Roger in particular having to work hard for his two wins over John Scott and Mo Cole. The following week they travelled to Kennet Valley Free Church 'B' where, thanks to a Steve Andrews' treble and doubles for both John Harland and Pete Sinclair, they returned home as 2 - 8 winners. However, Steve had to work for his treble, defeating Jamie Li-Telford 11-5 9-11 12-10 13-11, Lewis Oke 11-7 11-8 13-11 and Toby Barter 8-11 9-11 11-8 11-9 11-7. In their final match before Christmas, Tidmarsh entertained Springfield 'D', Roger Stevens leading the way with a hard-fought treble, defeating Tom Berryman 12-10 7-11 10-12 11-9 11-8, Chris Speight 10-12 13-11 11-8 11-5 and Dave Parkin 13-11 11-6 11-3, while John and Steve both recorded two wins each, to help win the match 8 - 2.

The strength of this team is demonstrated by the fact that their whole team has a 70%+ average, with the exception of Mike Bundy, who has played fewer matches and has an average of 33%. Over the last five matches, Tidmarsh have won four of their Doubles, losing just once, the loss attributed to a new pairing of John Harland & Pete Sinclair, who subsequently improved their average by defeating Kennet Valley's Lewis Oke & Toby Barter, in a close affair, with the oldsters just edging out the younguns 13-11 11-9 12-10, a contest which is possibly a candidate for Doubles set of the season. In their very next match, Steve Andrews & John won out in another close affair, beating Springfield 'D's Chris Speight & Tom Berryman 11-9 11-13 3-11 11-5 12-10 a win which puts them top of their Doubles averages.

When the last Newsletter was published, **Tilehurst Methodists 'C'** were in 2nd place and were the only undefeated team. Six matches later, the Methodists are still undefeated and sit at the top of the table, albeit having played one more match than the chasing pack. Their first match was against Sonning Sports 'C', which was won 8 - 2, thanks to a Roy Hull treble and doubles for both Steve Wood and Rob James, Steve beating Michael Byrne 11-4 7-11 10-12 11-7 11-6 but losing to Jude O'Halloran 11-7 11-4 10-12 10-12 9-11, while Rob beat Jude 11-8 11-2 9-11 14-12 but lost to Mo Cole 6-11 10-12 11-2 11-1 10-12. Their postponed match against Reading FC 'B' was next on the schedule and the Methodists fielded the same players. It was a tense affair, Derek Anderson recording a maximum, and

Steve needed to keep his nerve, in the final set, as Reading had fought back from 2 - 5 down' to win the next two sets. However, Steve was successful in defeating Harry Edwards 13-11 10-12 6-11 11-7 11-8, which meant that the Methodists had won 6 - 4, the final result also thanks to Rob's single, as well as a crucial Doubles win, Roy & Steve defeating Derek Anderson & Tony Edwards 11-9 10-12 6-11 11-8 11-8. Later that same week, Roy, Steve and Rob travelled to Springfield 'D', leaving as 8 - 2 winners, thanks to another treble from Roy, and doubles from Steve and Rob, Steve obviously having problems with Alan Gould's style, before coming through 11-6 11-6 0-11 11-0, while Rob had to fight all the way before defeating Maggie Kellermann-Thornton 11-7 13-15 13-15 11-7 11-7. The following week, leaders Our Lady of Peace 'E' were the visitors and with neither side fielding their strongest selection, the result was not a foregone conclusion. During a pulsating contest, with both teams twice taking the lead, OLOP were ahead 5 - 4 with Roy and Jan Polnik facing off in the final set, which Roy won to tie the match at 5 - 5 and secure his maximum. Steve also beat Jan, to record one win, and then partnered Roy to a Doubles win, to ensure the Methodists a share of the points. In his first outing for over six weeks, against strong opponents, Andrew Stone was unable to secure a win, although he did take the first game against Jan, who subsequently recovered to win 9-11 11-7 11-6 12-10. The following week the Methodists travelled to Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' where, despite a maximum from Mike Casserley, Roy, Steve and Rob each beat Derek Maltby and Gerry Bacon, Gerry unlucky to get nothing for his efforts, losing each set in 4 games, the Methodists winning the match 7 - 3. In the final match of the year, Tilehurst Methodists welcomed Kingfisher 'I', who started at a disadvantage as one of their team had to drop out, due to illness. Showing a distinct lack of goodwill to all men (and women !), Roy Hull, Steve Wood and Rob James proceeded to win all the remaining sets, although Gill Bennett & Derek Crombie made Rob & Steve work hard for their Doubles victory.

Looking at the averages, Roy Hull is on 86%, Steve Wood is on 79%, Rob James is on 69% and Andrew Stone, with the one win under his belt, is on 8%. In the Doubles match against Our Lady of Peace 'E', with both teams' pairings all currently undefeated, Roy Hull & Steve Wood were eventually victorious over Jan Polnik and Chris Bunn, winning 14-16 11-5 11-8 13-11 and, with the team winning the Doubles in each of their remaining matches, all three doubles pairings are still undefeated, Roy & Steve now having played together 6 times.



# YOUTH DIVISION

by Emma Barraclough

October 26th, the half-term week, saw the first stage of the Grouping Tournament with the players divided into three age bands. The final stage will be played on the last session before Christmas along with the Party on December 14th.

League play resumed on November 2nd with Avengers defeating the Raiders 8 - 2 with three wins for Arran Reeve; the Pumas also won 8 - 2 against the Jaguars with three wins this time for Adrian Mitchell. Mo Cook scored three wins as the Lions defeated the Panthers and Anay Mistry also won three in a much closer win between the Tigers and the Spartans, with the Tigers winning 6 - 4. The Trojans defeated the Strikers 8 - 2 with three wins for Rushabh Dharamshi. Some closer matches on November 9th saw a draw for the Pumas and Avengers and a 6 - 4 win for the Raiders against



Desai.

The 16th November saw a wider gulf in the results with the Lions winning 10 - 0 against the Jaguars. A forfeit match gave the Raiders a 10 - 0 win and the Avengers defeated the Panthers 7 - 3 with three wins again for Arran Reeve. The Pumas defeated the Tigers 7 - 3 with three wins for James Atherton; the Spartans won 6 - 4 against the Trojans with three wins for San Celik. On the 23rd November the Lions continued to dominate with a 9 - 1 win against the Avengers while the Trojans defeated the Jaguars 10 - 0. The Raiders defeated the Spartans 7 - 3 and two closer matches saw the Tigers defeat the Panthers 6 - 4 while the Pumas won against the Strikers 6 - 4. The final evening of league saw both the Panthers and the Lions win forfeited matches against the Strikers and Tigers respectively while the Raiders won against the Trojans 6 - 4. The Pumas defeated the Spartans 6 - 4 and the Avengers defeated the Jaguars 8 - 2 with three wins for both Arran Reeve and Jake Melhuish.



MO COOK

the Tigers with three wins for Om Gore. The Strikers defeated the Spartans 7 - 3 with three wins for Thomas Durkin. The Panthers defeated the Jaguars 7 - 3 with three wins each for Adi Mali and James Cunningham.

These results meant that as the Division would now split into two Divisions for the remainder of the season. Division One will be the Lions, Pumas, Raiders, Tigers and Avengers and Division Two will consist of Trojans, Panthers, Spartans, Strikers and Jaguars. We look forward to more great competitive play in the New Year.

December 7th saw a social evening for players and family members and the 14th will see the Christmas Party and the finals of the Grouping Tournament. Many thanks as always to Wendy Porter and all the organisers.

The Lions registered another strong win, defeating the Trojans 9 - 1 with three wins each for Mo Cook and Rudresh

## TEAM PLACINGS

	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Lions	9	9	0	0	80	6	80
2	Pumas	9	7	1	1	54	36	54
3	Raiders	9	5	1	3	49	41	49
4	Tigers	9	5	0	4	47	40	47
5	Avengers	9	4	2	3	46	44	46
6	Trojans	9	3	0	6	46	44	46
7	Panthers	9	3	1	5	42	47	42
8	Spartans	9	2	1	6	36	54	36
9	Strikers	9	4	0	5	32	58	32
10	Jaguars	9	0	0	9	14	76	14

## LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Mo Cook	Lions	23	23	100.00%
Rudresh Desai	Lions	21	20	95.24%
Arran Reeve	Avengers	27	24	88.89%
Harry Bullock	Lions	23	20	86.96%
Rushabh Dharamshi	Trojans	21	17	80.95%
Adrian Mitchell	Pumas	20	16	80.00%
Rajat Sawant	Raiders	23	18	78.26%
Tejas Mungale	Trojans	9	7	77.78%
Ryan Griffiths	Tigers	21	16	76.19%
San Celik	Spartans	20	13	65.00%