



READING & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Editor: **DEREK WAVELL**

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Little Jamie Liu is too young to play in the Reading League. But never mind, because now he has joined the England squad. See note on P2. All photos are from Didier Garçon - except this one, which is ETTA.

End of the Season

The end of the season - and resolution of all the cliff-hangers in the different divisions! And in case you find these accounts too speeded up and remote, we also have a commentary on a real single match, with all its thrills and spills. Plus one tournament - the Reading Masters - and that event has also provided a wealth of photos of today's talented players.

Normally most of the action photos in these Newsletters are of adults - but this time we make amends because the photos came from the junior Reading Closed and Junior Masters. Well, the juniors are now making their mark at every level - all credit to their brilliance and that of their coaches.

In November, our front cover showed tiny Jamie Liu, who was 'waiting his moment' according to the caption. Well, that came sooner than I expected. This 9-year-old is now already Under-11 and Under-13 champion at the Reading Closed - and at the Horsham open tournament too - and has played his first international match! You can also see his colourful style on video (P5)

IMPORTANT: TWO KEY JOBS ARE GOING - RDTTA Chairman and Division One Fixture Secretary - see P2.

Have a good summer -

Derek



From our Chairman - Nigel Rowland

I would like to thank your committee for their hard work and dedication this season. I also thank Nigel Maltby for stepping in to carry out the presentations on the 6th May as I have a family commitment on that date.



This is also my final opportunity to appeal for a volunteer to come forward as Chairman for next season. I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM on Wednesday 4th June, please come and support your committee and have your say.

Have a great summer.

Timely Words from the RDTTA Secretary

1. **The Awards Night** - will be at Curzon Club on 6th May.
2. **The AGM** - will be on Wednesday 4th June at OLOP from 7.30pm. Every club has to send at least one representative but it would be good if plenty more players came along.
3. **Candidates are sought for two important jobs** - the **RDTTA Chairman**, and **Divisional Fixture Secretary for Division One** of the Reading League.
4. Nigel Rowland has been **RDTTA Chairman** for the past year; before that, I did the job. Now it is someone else's turn! The Chairman chairs all Management Committee meetings - about 6 of them a year. He also chairs the Annual General Meeting; and he is normally the host at Awards Night.
5. **Division One** is the flagship of the Reading League, and the report on it is the keystone of each Newsletter. So the job of Fixture Secretary offers considerable scope to a Div One player with a power over words; but he also needs the patience to deal with the big names in Reading table tennis every week, as Malcolm Gregory describes in his report in this issue!



Nigel Maltby



WHO'S THAT BOY?

In the photo on the front cover, **Jamie Liu** is shown with his team mates in the England Primary Schools team. On either side are the Irish and Scottish teams that they have just beaten!

Unlike his big brother Sam, Jamie does not play in Reading league matches, because he is only 9 and his parents don't want him to stay up too late. But Jamie has been tagging along with Sam all the way, and showing ferocious talent for one so young. In March he won both the Under-11 and Under-13 titles in the Reading Closed. And since then he has repeated this feat at an open tournament in Horsham.

It is the dream of every player to represent his country. How fantastic for Jamie to do it at such an early age! You can see his lightning reactions and fearless style in one of the videos on p5.

In Memory - John Fuller

Sonning Sports (formerly Berks Sports) are sad to report the recent passing of their former player, John Fuller, at the age of 84 - almost certainly the Club's longest serving player ever.

Unfortunately the Club's records do not go back far enough to trace John's entire career with Berks Sports TT Club - but we know it must be well over 40 years (probably nearer 50) - all of these spent in the lower divisions of the Reading League prior to his retirement due to failing health in 2010.

John was a talented sportsman and also played tennis to a high standard but, most importantly, he was a true gentleman and a real sportsman - as evidenced by his winning of the Harold Larcombe Sportsmanship Award from the Reading TT League at the end of the 2003/4 season.

In his time at Berks Sports he was a team captain and committee member for many years - and the Club's Treasurer for at least 35 seasons.

He leaves his wife, Valerie - also a stalwart member of Berks Sports for many years.

Bob Woodmansee

THE READING MASTERS by Nigel Maltby

The Reading Senior and Junior Masters competitions were held at the Kingfisher Club on Sunday 13th April. Both events saw some absolutely terrific table tennis with some really close contests full of amazing counter hitting rallies and stunning shots throughout.

The senior event saw 2 groups of five. As group 1 assembled, Daniel Moses, Hari Gehlot and Ian Cole were expected to do battle for its two qualifying places. Daniel started sluggishly before knuckling down to beat Ian Cole in his opener 4-11, 5-11, 11-8, 11-6, 11-5. Steve Murgatroyd then pulled off a couple of



DANIEL MOSES v IAN COLE

notable successes, beating Ian 11-6, 5-11, 11-8, 11-5, before scoring a sensational 12-10, 7-11, 6-11, 11-9, 11-4 victory over Hari Gehlot. This result put Steve in with a great chance of progressing to the semi-finals, leaving Hari needing nothing less than a win over Daniel Moses in his final match, after Hari ended Ian's chances by beating him with some neat controlled table tennis 11-8, 11-4, 8-11, 11-9.

Steve completed a win over the fifth player in the group, Danny Ricks, 7-11, 11-6, 11-3, 11-8. A gripping contest between Hari and Daniel then followed, with Hari edging the first two games 12-10. Daniel hit back to win the third but a determined Hari claimed the fourth again by a narrow 12-10 margin. With that win Hari, Daniel and Steve tied at the top with three wins each so the result went to a games countback between these three. Hari topped the group with a 5-3 games average, with Daniel 2nd on 4-3 and Steve unluckily missed out with his average of 3-5.

In Group two, favourite Federico Viterbo won all his matches, including an 11-5, 11-9, 7-11, 11-3 victory over Sam Ricks and a tense 11-5, 11-9, 8-11, 11-5 win against Trung Tran. Trung qualified as runner-up with a crucial win over Tony Reynolds 11-13, 11-9, 11-7, 11-4, having earlier beaten Sam Ricks and Division 2 representative Steve Miller. Sam scored a fine 12-10, 11-5, 11-7 success over Tony to finish third in the group.

Both semi-finals saw some absolutely amazing table tennis with all four players doing great credit to the sport. The Federico Viterbo v Daniel Moses semi-final went one way then the other with some incredible counter hitting points from both, from way back from the table.

Federico took the first 11-9, Daniel hit back to win the next 11-8. Federico then stunned Danny 11-0 in the next, but far from being beaten Daniel hit back to level at 2-games all by winning the fourth 11-9. In a gripping finale Federico triumphed 11-8.

The other semi-final also went to a fifth game decider. Trung Tran looked to have gained a crucial 2-1 advantage, after winning the third 12-10, but Hari responded to win the next 11-6. In the decider Hari got off to a brilliant start, leaving Trung with too much to do to recover as Hari went on to win 11-8, 9-11, 10-12, 11-6, 11-3. Trung went on to win a gripping 3rd/4th place decider by beating Daniel 10-12, 23-21, 13-11, 7-11, 11-2.

In the final Federico looked to have all the answers against Hari, easing to



HARI GEHLOT v FEDERICO VITERBO (& TRUNG TRAN v DANIEL MOSES)

a first game win 11-4. Never-say-die Hari wasn't throwing in the towel just yet and he looked the likely winner in the second only for Federico to battle back and clinch it 14-12. The next game was equally close, but again Federico just had the edge as he clinched his first Reading Masters title 11-4, 14-12, 11-9.

In the Junior Masters 9 players accepted the invitation to compete. Pre tournament favourites Josh Gallen and Siad



ALL THE JUNIOR MASTERS: JOSEPH CORNMELL, JIM McALLISTER, SAID COLE, JOSH GALLEN, MICHAEL McALLISTER, JAMES ELLICOTT, AND (FRONT) THOMAS PERKINS AND JOE BARRACLOUGH

Cole both qualified from Group 1, ahead of Joseph Cornmell and Joe Barracloough. Michael McAllister finished top of group 2, while the runners-up spot went right to the wire with James Ellicot just edging out Jim McAllister 7-11, 11-5, 11-9, 11-13, 14-12.

In the semi finals Josh Gallen proved just too good for James, winning 11-9, 11-6, 11-7, while Siad Cole just held off a fine challenge from Michael McAllister to win 15-13, 13-11,, 16-14. James Ellicot won a marathon match to decide third place, beating Michael 11-9, 3-11, 7-11, 11-8, 12-10. Josh



JOSEPH CORNMELL FACES JOE BARRACLOUGH



THOMAS PERKINS AND KATIE SHEPHERD

and Siad faced each other in the final and it was Josh who went on to clinch his first Junior Masters title by winning 11-9, 11-6, 11-6 with some stylish play against a battling opponent.

All the Juniors received medals (provided by Andy Yon) at the end of the event, with both the Senior and Junior trophies to be awarded at the Reading Presentation evening on Tuesday 6th May at the Curzon Club.



ANDY YON PRESENTS THE JUNIOR MASTERS WINNER'S CUP - TO JOSH GALLEN

Junior Reading Closed (on 22nd February):

Jamie Liu was the winner of the under-11 event, beating his only opponent Felix Thomis 13-11, 11-6, 11-3.

In the U13 event, again it was Jamie Liu who proved to be top dog, beating Thomas Perkins 13-11, 11-5, 11-3 in the final.

In the Cadet girls event Scarlett Jones beat Katie Shepherd in a tight 5-gamer (11-5, 11-9, 8-11, 4-11, 11-5).



TWO READING STARS FROM THE SAME FAMILY: SAM LIU (15), WHO PLAYS FOR DIVISION ONE'S TOP TEAM OLOP 'A' - AND HIS BROTHER JAMIE (9) WHO HAS ALREADY PLAYED FOR ENGLAND



DANIEL McTIERNAN

The 10 Cadet boys featured some high-quality matches and it was 3rd seed Gus Thomis

who got the better of top seed Joshua Gallen in a nail biting match that went to the wire. Gus beat Sam Liu in the semis, whilst Joshua managed to get past Sam's brother Jamie.

The last event on the Saturday was the Youth Division, with Joseph Barraclough repeating his 3rd place victory in the U13 event over Leo Thomis. Leo's brother Felix played his socks off to place himself in 3rd place against Scarlett Jones.

On Sunday, Daniel McTiernan justified his top seeding by beating Sam Ricks in 5 games in the final of the Junior event. Daniel came safely through his semi-final against Danny Dockree in 3 sets (11-3, 11-9, 11-7), while Sam controlled his match against Adam Winterbottom (11-2, 11-3, 11-6).

The final event was the high-quality Under-21 division, with top seeds Daniel Moses and Daniel McTiernan meeting each other in the final. Daniel McTiernan got his second title of the day by beating Moses in 3 games (11-9, 11-7, 11-8). Danny and Sam Ricks, who lost out to Daniel Moses and McTiernan respectively in the semis, battled it out in a fierce contest for 3rd place, with younger brother Sam getting the better of Danny (11-1, 5-11, 11-7, 11-8).

THE VIDEOS ARE FROM THE JUNIOR READING CLOSED

CLICK THUMBNAIL



Daniel Moses v Daniel McTiernan
[Boys Under-21 Singles Final](#)

Jamie Liu v Thomas Perkins
[Under 13 Final](#)



Sam Ricks v Daniel McTiernan
[Junior Boys Singles Final](#)

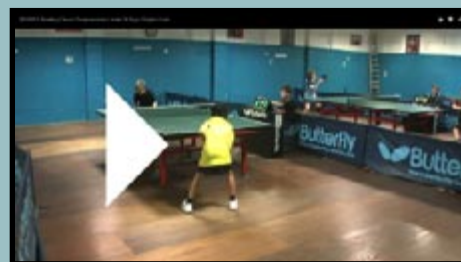
Jim McAllister v Harry Munro
[Boys Consolation Final](#)



Sam Ricks v Danny Ricks
[Boys Runners Up](#)

Gus Thomis v Joshua Gallen
[Cadet Singles Final](#)

TO PLAY VIDEO



DIVISION ONE *by Malcolm Gregory*

Welcome to my final ever report and it promises to be a good one! Yes folks, the fat bloke with the big nose is hanging up his quill pen and passing on this wonderful privilege to be able to report on the goings on of our top echelon. But before I start, I would like to offer out to my successor, my DFS survival kit as I won't be needing it any more. This is available free of charge and includes the following items which have become essential:

1. One Crystal Ball – slightly scratched through over use but comes in very handy when working out the blank spaces on a score card like which teams played and when and who played in the doubles etc.
2. One Magnifying Glass – the handle is a bit loose from being picked up and put down countless times but useful when deciphering illegible entries.
3. One Neck Brace – a little bit grubby round the edges from frequent wearing due to cricked necks caused by having to read upside down scans.



TRUNG TRAN (OLOP 'A') PLAYS SAM RICKS (TIDMARSH 'B')

my hat off to you Derek. We owe it to our DFSs to make their jobs as easy as possible so nuff said on that.

4. One pack of playing cards – to have a nice game of patience while waiting for scorecards to arrive.
5. One calendar with extra large spaces to write down all the postponed matches.

In all seriousness, I would like to take this opportunity to big up all of our DFSs who do this job voluntarily. Having done the job myself for just 2 years I feel nothing but respect for the likes of Derek Harrison. Derek in particular has done this job for many more years than I can remember – going back to the pre computer age when all league tables and statistics had to be kept manually! I take

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
OLOP A	22	20	2	0	177	43	42
Kingfisher A	22	20	0	2	168	52	40
Kingfisher B	22	17	2	3	160	60	36
OLOP B	22	13	3	6	136	84	29
Kingfisher D	22	12	1	9	118	102	25
Tidmarsh A	22	9	3	10	116	104	21
Kingfisher C	22	7	4	11	98	122	18
Tidmarsh B	22	8	1	13	98	122	17
Reading YMCA	22	8	1	13	92	128	17
SC&P A	22	5	2	15	71	149	12
SC&P B	22	2	1	19	46	174	5
Curzon Club A	22	1	0	21	40	180	2

This report will take a slightly different tack. We all love a local derby; Liverpool v Everton, Utd v. City, Arsenal v Spurs, Reading v QPR. So in this report I will focus in some of the local derbies as I feel there is always a little bit of extra spice when an A team plays a B team and the latter want to prove that they should be called the former.

It would be very remiss of me not to start with a big shout out to **OLOP 'A'**, and in particular their team captain and spin ball

wizard who is Daniel Moses. When the burning bush spake unto Moses and said that his team would emerge victorious he led his people through the wilderness to the top of the table where they stayed to the end of the season. With 5 players in the top 20 div one averages, Daniel has had talent and strength in depth to call upon. Daniel himself won 95% of his matches and is officially the best player in the league this season. Ian Cole has had a rock solid season with an 82% win ratio. Young Sam Liu was not far behind on 80% then with Trung Tran and Krasimir Ivanov into the 70%'s, it's easy to see how the eggs all ended up in Moses' basket. On top of all this, the statistics show that Daniel is one hell of a doubles player.

Congratulations OLOP 'A' – fantastic season.

And so to our first derby; The postponed fixture between **Kingfisher 'A' and 'B'** finally took place on 31 March. After the A team succumbed to OLOP 'A', I had a sneaky feeling Kingfisher 'B' could compound the agony for the A Team. Martin Adams showed his sheer class by returning a fantas-



DANIEL MOSES (CENTRE) WITH IAN COLE, AND NIGEL MALTBY AS UMPIRE



HARI GEHLOT

tic maximum – beating Hari Gehlot and Federico Viterbo 11-7 and 11-8 in the fourth for each respectively. But could Martin's game against Mark Banks have been any closer? That power merchant Banks went 2 - 0 up and threatened to make Adams grizzly but Martin wanted to stay cheerful so he came back to win; 8-11, 9-11, 11-4, 11-5, 13-11. It turned out that neither Steve Dobbins nor Phil Kohler could muster a win between them, which surprised me especially bearing in mind Steve had played every single match in the B team's campaign and registered a fantastic win percentage of 85%. And so the A team proved their worth by running out 7 - 3 winners and cementing their runners-up spot. At the same time, Kingfisher 'B' (or "old Polish" as I must stop calling them) sealed their 3rd place position.

These top 3 teams really are something special and if their players all stay where they are, I think we can look forward to another intriguing battle for the top honours next season.

I would have loved to have written a full and detailed report about the home and away fixtures between **OLOP 'B'** and Sonning Common and Peppard 'B'. But I can't. Neither fixture was played – both matches conceded by Sonning. Saves me a job. Daniel McTiernan of OLOP 'B' played exactly the same number of sets this season as Hari Gehlot (48). Furthermore, Daniel WON exactly the same number of sets as Hari (41). Tremendous little statistic for Daniel to take note of. OLOP 'B' really need a stronger number two to support Daniel if they are to challenge the teams above them next season. Sean Pickin gave Daniel some good support but only played in 6 matches. OLOP 'B's match against Kingfisher 'C' was probably typical of their season. Daniel weighed in with a maximum with comfortable-looking wins over Andrew Parker, Lisa Williams and Steve Murgatroyd. Gus Thomis won two, losing to Steve, and Phillip Zeng beat

Lisa 3 straight to help secure a 6-4 win.

Here's another local derby – **Kingfisher 'D' v. Kingfisher 'C'**. As Snagglepuss (out of Yogi Bear) may have said "heavens to Murgatroyd, what a corker". The C team ran out 7 - 3 winners, showing the progress this team is making. Captain Niall McGrane reported about his team as follows "Great result guys, reversing the 6 - 4 from earlier in the season with the same team – it must have been the away venue". I keep telling Niall to leave the gags to me, and you can probably see why! Steve Murgs starred in this match with a fabulous maximum, beating Trevor Organ, Joshua Gallen and Eduard Caliman all in the 4th 11-6, 11-3 and (?) 11-7 respectively (magnifying glass needed). The hard hitting Andrew Parker weighed in with two wins against Trevor and Josh – both close encounters over 5 games, and Lisa Williams notched one of her best wins of the season over Josh Gallen 11-6, 4-11, 11-7, 15-13. A good doubles win by Steve and Andrew over Josh and Eduard completed the 7 - 3. victory. Kingfisher 'C' slightly improved on their 8th position last year to finish 7th this season. Steve Murgatroyd won two thirds of his matches and was well supported by Andrew Parker who won over half of his matches. I believe Niall has suffered a few injuries this year but still managed 33% and Lisa has



SAM LIU



GUS THOMIS (TOP) v JOSH GALLAN

weighed in with some great wins this year. More importantly, Kingfisher 'C' always look to me like a team that enjoys their ping pong and they are always a lot of fun to play against.

The young lads in the D team can feel justifiably proud of their season. Eduard won three quarters of his matches and Josh achieved 60%. They had some good support from their mentors. The always awkward and ever youthful Trevor Organ takes unorthodoxy to higher and higher levels and Richard Fifield looks like he has had a very successful season finishing on a very creditable 46%.

The very last match of the season was a postponed local derby between **Tidmarsh 'A'** and **Tidmarsh 'B'**. Tidmarsh 'A' had home advantage (thanks for the gag Niall) and in the words of Duncan Groves it was an "entertaining match played in excellent spirit. Young Sam Ricks proved that he is Tidmarsh's best player". (Duncan doesn't do gags). Tidmarsh 'A' are not quite the team they once were, now that Sander De Reimer has departed these shores. Having played both of the Ricks boys this season – Danny and Sam – I have to say what a couple of lovely lads they are – good tempered, well mannered and a credit to their proud father Steve, who also featured in this match. Sam had a good night against the A team, beating Duncan Groves 11-4 in the 4th, Tony Brown 11-5 in the 5th and John Barclay 11-7 also in the 5th. On the other hand, dad Steve came away with a bagel but he did take Duncan to a 4th game which he lost 11-6, and Tony to a 5th 11-6. Not too shabby Steve. The A team can usually bank on John Barclay to win one or two every week and in this match he had good wins over Steve in 3 and Antony Baker in 4 but succumbed to Sam 7-11 in the 5th. 5 x 5 gamers, 4 x 4 gamers, me thinks that the Greyhound probably did not get the pleasure of these coun-

try folk on this particular evening! What is noticeable is that the A team finished in 3rd place last year and slipped to 6th this year which is a statement about their Sanderlessness. Ian Packford has only really featured in the "big games" hence his misleading 42% average. If Tidmarsh can persuade Ian to play more often, then I'm sure last season's dizzy heights can be achieved once more.

YMCA won exactly the same number of matches as last year – 8, but due to more losses and less drawn matches they slipped down the final table from 7th last year to 9th this year. Dave Streak, Neil Hurford and that seasoned campaigner Keith Winter all won around 50% of their matches with Sir Peter of Bradley giving good support with a "one a week" contribution. OLOP 'A' took a risk in fielding a weakened team against YMCA. But it turned out that neither Sir Peter, Neil, or Dave Gilham could overcome Krasi Ivanov and Trung Trang with only Neil taking a game off Trung. All other matches being completed in 3 ends. That hard working and committed supporter of our youngsters - Wendy Porter – filled in as the OLOP number 3 but came away with a doughnut, taking just one game from Dave Gilham. In the words of Sir Peter, YMCA "submitted to the wiles of Krasi and Trung to gift the title to OLOP".

Back to the local derby scenario: **Sonning Common and Peppard 'B'** had home advantage (thanks again Niall) over **Sonning Common and Peppard 'A'**. Over the past couple of seasons, I think it's fair to say there has been a smidgeon of needle between these two teams. Not always played in the best of sporting manner and bordering on being over competitive. But this match was different. From the outset, it was clear to see that table tennis was going to be the winner with a lot of mutual respect being shown by both sides.



STEVE MURGATROYD

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	PL	W	%
Daniel Moses	OLOP A	54	51	94.44 %
Martin Adams	Kingfisher B	42	39	92.86 %
Mark Banks	Kingfisher A	48	41	85.42 %
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher A	48	41	85.42 %
Daniel McTiernan	OLOP B	48	41	85.42 %
Sander De Riemer	Tidmarsh A	20	17	85.00 %
Steve Dobbins	Kingfisher B	66	56	84.85 %
Ian Cole	OLOP A	33	27	81.82 %
Federico Viterbo	Kingfisher A	21	17	80.95 %
Sam Liu	OLOP A	36	29	80.56 %
Trung Tran	OLOP A	27	21	77.78 %
Eduard Caliman	Kingfisher D	39	29	74.36 %
Graham Diplock	Kingfisher B	27	20	74.07 %

The A team's number one - Jason Roberts - radioed in on a nice maximum, which sealed a tidy end of season run for Jason who finished on 45%. The B team fielded their strongest team for this fixture: Paul Jarvis, Jez Willis and Simon Berry. The A team was the usual ever-present threesome, of Jason, Keith Swain and yours truly. Keith opened the batting with a thrilling 5 game battle against Paul. At 2 - 1 up Paul seemed to have found his timing. And let's face it, when Paul finds his timing he is an awesome sight. But somehow Keith managed to scramble back into the match and took the last two games 11-8 11-8. Jason and I then beat Jez and Simon respectively in 4 games each to go into a comfortable 3 - 0 lead in the match. But then Jez enjoyed a great win against Keith 11-9 in the 5th and Paul continued his hot form against MG to record an 11-4 win once again in the 5th. At 3 - 2 the A team experienced a little bum squeakiness but Jason once again settled the ship by crushing Berry 11-6 in the 4th. An amazing doubles match saw Paul

and Jez have match point in the third, only to snatch defeat out of the jaws of victory to lose 11-3 in the 5th to a never-say-die Jason and Keith. At 5 - 2 the A team needed just one more for the win and Keith sealed it with another epic match against Simon in which Keith emerged a 12-10 in the fifth winner. Jason completed the evening with a 12-10 in the 3rd win against Paul to secure a 7 - 3 win. Phew!

I'm guessing that it must have seemed like a long hard season for **Curzon Club**. Their 4 man squad consisted of Andy Fakeerjan, Jon Willis, John Willcocks and John Walker. If they were on the picture board of "Have I Got News for You" even I could spot the odd man out on that one! Andy led the teams' averages on 27% having played 57 sets and this probably sums up the reason why they stayed rooted to the bottom of the table. Their final match of the season was against Tidmarsh 'A' where they lost 7 - 3. Andy beat Lee Calcutt in 3 and Duncan Groves 11-8 in the 5th then Andy and Jon teamed up to beat Lee and John Barclay in the doubles 11-8 in the 3rd to complete the Curzon contribution. According to skipper John Willcocks "Andy played very well and was unlucky not to get a maximum and John Walker hit some crisp shots, despite coming away with a frisbee" (John please leave the gags to me - Walkers crisp shots indeed, its just not funny). John also said (and this one is actually true) "Division 2 Champions next year". Big talk.

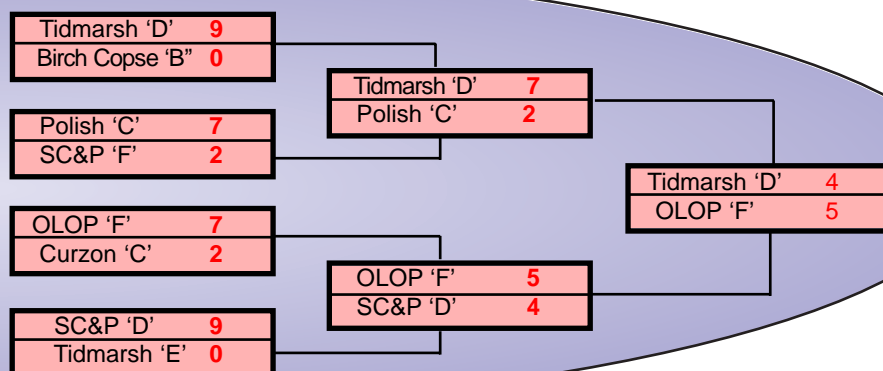
Finally, despite my earlier jesting about silly DFS kits, I would like to thank all of the team captains from division one over the past two years. You are a fine bunch of gentleman, if a trifle disorganised at times but it has been a pleasure to pontificate over your avocations. Its been emotional.

Anyway, for the final time I have to go: Just off to the funeral of a friend. He was a massive steam train enthusiast and when he finally got run over by one of them he was chuffed to bits. It's what he would have wanted.

Lower Divisions Knockout Cup

organised by Duncan Abbott

The tournament follows last year's format, with all 9 games in each match being doubles games featuring 3 players on each side. Initially there were 5 groups of four teams. The 8 starters on the right were the best-scoring of those 20 teams. Here are the last three rounds as they have been played, on a knock-out basis. **Congratulations to the winners: OLOP 'F'!**

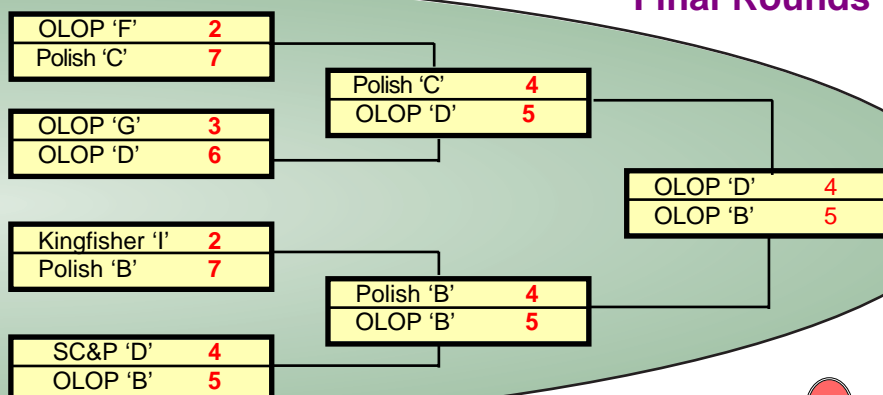


Special Competitions Final Rounds

Team Handicap Competition 2013-14

organised by Duncan Abbott

The Team Handicap is a knockout competition open to all teams in the R&DTTA. All players are given handicaps by the Handicap Committee based on their recent results. In a Team Handicap match the three players from one team play all players from the other team, 21-up, taking into account the relevant handicaps. There is no doubles. **Congratulations to the winners: OLOP 'B'!**



DIVISION TWO *by Nigel Rowland*

Congratulations go to Tidmarsh 'C' as they crawled over the line in dramatic style to snatch the title from Wokingham 'A'. Tidmarsh 'C' led the table from the start of the season, only for Wokingham 'A' to make up the points difference to eventually take a one point advantage with one match to play. So, it came down to Wokingham 'A' having to beat a very strong and determined OLOP 'D'. On the night OLOP 'D' failed to read the script and punished a weary Wokingham 'A' team by beating them 3 - 7. Brian Chinneck acknowledged that if Ben Huang, Phillip Zeng and Steve Ng had been available all season it could have been OLOP 'D' going up, not Wokingham 'A'. This gave Tidmarsh 'C' the chance to leapfrog Wokingham 'A' if they could beat Post Office 'A'. Denise Weller, John Simmonds and George White made life difficult for Lee Calcutt, Barry Carter and Chris Webb. Not until the final set of the season did Barry Carter get the win over John Simmonds for Tidmarsh 'C' to win 6 - 4 and the title with it. Who could script an end of the season like it? Well done to all teams and players for doing their bit.

As predicted, basement clubs Kingfisher 'G' and Tilehurst Meths 'A' return to Division 3 next season.

Philip Zeng ended up top of the averages with 27 out of 28. Graham Outrim came second with Steve Miller in third place.

Dave Wise and Lee Calcutt deserved to be top of the doubles averages with eight wins out of eight followed in second place by Brian Chinneck and James Spencer with one loss in nine.

Tidmarsh 'C' A treble from Lee Calcutt and a single from François Durand could not stop a first defeat inflicted by SC&P 'C' 6 - 4. A double from Barry Carter and singles from Mike Aistrop and Dave Wise resulted in a further 4 - 6 loss to Wokingham 'A'. The only highlight

was a five game win by Mike Aistrop over previously unbeaten Graham Outrim. A treble from Lee Calcutt with support from Chris Webb and Dave Wise returned them to winning ways 7 - 3 against Kingfisher 'F'. In a 'Great Escape' of their own, a treble from Lee Calcutt, a double from Mike Aistrop and single from Barry Carter clawed them from 3 - 4 down to win 6 - 4 against Kingfisher 'E'. The headlines have to go to Barry beating Colin Dyke in five to get them back to 4 - 4. In their final game of the season against Post Office 'A' Lee Calcutt had to dig deep to get his hard-earned treble including a five-game win over Denise Weller. Chris Webb battled but got nothing in an evening except for blood sweat and tears,



STEVE MILLER

especially playing against Denise losing 11-9, 13-11, 16-18, 5-11, 14-12 for Post Office to level at 4 - 4. Lee was clinical in his game against George White to put them 4 - 5 up. Once again Barry Carter was the hero getting a dramatic 11-13, 10-12, 10-12 win over John Simmonds in the final set of the final match of the season to win the title for Tidmarsh.

Wokingham 'A' Daryl Griffith won a brilliant treble including a superb win over previously undefeated Steve Miller to defeat promotion rivals OLOP 'C' 6 - 4. Along with a double from Brian Chinneck and single for Jim Spencer this win put them back into a promotion spot. Brian just lost in five to Steve Miller. Doubles from Brian Chinneck and Graham Outrim

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tidmarsh C	22	19	1	2	154	66	39
Wokingham A	22	19	0	3	156	64	38
OLOP D	22	15	2	5	139	81	32
OLOP C	22	13	2	7	138	82	28
Kingfisher E	22	12	3	7	126	94	27
Milestone A	22	12	0	10	104	116	24
SC&P C	22	10	1	11	111	109	21
Kingfisher F	22	9	3	10	110	110	21
Post Office A	22	8	1	13	99	121	17
Polish A	22	4	2	16	71	149	10
Tilehurst Meths A	22	3	0	19	73	147	6
Kingfisher G	22	0	1	21	39	181	1

with a single from Jim Spencer along with the all-important doubles win gave them a very important 4 - 6 win over title rivals Tidmarsh 'C'. This win gave them the opportunity to steal the title from Tidmarsh. Brian Chinneck, Daryl Griffith and Jim Spencer were in terrific form to defeat Kingfisher 'E' 9 - 1. Brian Chinneck, Graham Outrim and Daryl Griffith then ground out a 3 - 7 win at Milestone 'A'. Brian, Daryl and Jim maintained their form beating Polish 'A' 8 - 2 to give them the chance of the title. Up stepped a very strong OLOP 'D' who had not read the script and took advantage of a weary performance from Brian, Daryl and Jim going down 3 - 7 in the process. However, they still fully deserved to get the second promotion spot.

OLOP 'D' had a great end to the season finishing third, Brian Chinneck of Wokingham 'A' acknowledged the strength of the team which could have made the second promotion. Trebles from Ben Huang and Philip Zeng with a single from Wendy Porter gave them a good 8 - 2 win against Kingfisher 'F'. Wendy had a good five game win over Ivor Hardman winning 12-10 in the fifth. Trebles from Philip Zeng and Pat Daniels with a double from Steve Ng gave them an 8 - 2 win over Tilehurst Meths 'A'. Ben Huang, Philip Zeng and Pat Daniels teamed up to inflict a 1 - 9 win over a weakened Post Office 'A'. Philip Zeng, Pat Daniels and Wendy Porter beat Kingfisher 'G' 8 - 2. Their best match of the season was left to last where Ben Huang, Philip Zeng and Steve Ng tore into promoted Wokingham 'A' defeating them 3 - 7 in the process.

OLOP 'C' finish the season in a very creditable fourth place being unable to maintain their early season form. Two wins from Steve Miller and one from Dan West could not prevent a 6 - 4 loss to promotion rivals Wokingham 'A'. Steve lost his 100% record to Daryl Griffith and Dan just lost in five to Brian Chinneck. Chris West came away empty handed; his closest loss was in five to Jim Spencer. A brilliant treble from Steve Miller including a set ten win over Ivor Hardman gave them a close 4 - 6 win over Kingfisher 'F'. Siad Cole had three five gamers winning against Clare Woodham and losing against Ivor Hardman and Alan Bruton, Dan West had a good five game win over Clare Woodham and just lost in five to Ivor Hardman. Clive Perry, Siad Cole and guest Jim McAllister could not handle Tidmarsh 'C', going down 3 - 7. The highlight of the evening was a

fantastic win by guest Jim McAllister over Lee Calcutt; Wendy Porter was very proud of the achievement. Dan West, Clive Perry and Siad Cole then met an improving Milestone 'A', going down 4 - 6. In the final set Dan had to beat an in-form Robin Benwell to save a point.

Kingfisher 'E' A treble from Geoff Civil, doubles from John Morris and Roger Woolven-Allen gave them a good 2 - 8 win over Kingfisher 'G'. Roger just won one five gamer against Dave Gostellow and lost in five against Allen Pack. John won in five against Dave Gostellow. Doubles from Geoff Civil, Colin Dyke and Roger Woolven-Allen gave them a close 6 - 4 win over SC&P 'C'. Both Geoff and Colin just lost five gamers against Matt Stone. Geoff Civil, John Morris and Roger Woolven-Allen teamed up to get a close 6 - 4 win over OLOP 'C'. The key game was a Geoff five game win over Siad Cole. Geoff Civil, John Morris and Colin Dyke faced their biggest challenge having a say on the title outcome against Tidmarsh 'C'. They came very close to nicking a point but went down 6 - 4 in the end. John got a close five-game win over Barry Carter.



SIAD COLE

Milestone 'A' ended the season on a high, finishing a creditable sixth. A Robin Benwell treble with two from John Tucker and a doubles resulted in a close 4 - 6 win over Post Office 'A'. John had to win five gamers against Simon Hopkins and Denise Weller to ensure victory. Hugh Crosfield came close but lost 12-14, 12-14, 9-11 against Denise. Hugh and John Crosfield and John Tucker lost 8 - 2 against SC&P 'C'. Hugh got a good win over Brian Meheux and John Crosfield a win over Mark Corbett. Hugh and John Crosfield and Robin Benwell went down

3 - 7 against Wokingham 'A'.

Hugh and Robin got wins over Brian Chinneck. To finish the season Hugh Crosfield, Robin Benwell and John Tucker got a good 7 - 3 win over OLOP 'C'.

SC&P 'C' Hero Danny Dockree got the final set ten, game five 12-10 win over Mike Aistrop to inflict a first 6 - 4 defeat on Tidmarsh 'C'. Brian Meheux and Matt Stone both got two wins apiece over Mike Aistrop and François Durand in what is easily their best performance of the season. Brian and Danny got a brilliant doubles win over Lee and François. Matt Stone had a hard fought treble in their 6 - 4 loss to Kingfisher 'E'. Danny Dockree and Jon Abbott battled away but lost in four and

five gamers. Brian Meheux, Danny Dockree and Mark Corbett teamed up to inflict a good 8 - 2 win over Milestone 'A'. Hero Matt Stone got a set ten win over Jacek Krzyzanowski to secure a close 4 - 6 win over Polish 'A'. Danny Dockree and Mark Corbett also supported with wins.

Kingfisher 'F'

Fortunately their early season form got enough wins on the board to keep them safe from trouble. There were singles from Ivor Hardman and Peter Bennett as they lost 8 - 2 to OLOP 'D'. A gutsy performance resulted in a hard fought doubles from Ivor Hardman and Allan Bruton with hard fought losses from Clare Woodham as they went down 4 - 6 to promotion contenders OLOP 'C'. Allan Bruton, Mike Houghton and Peter Bennett faced an in-form Wokingham 'A', going down 1 - 9 in the process. Allan got the only win over Jim Spencer. Allan Bruton, Peter Bennett and Ivor Hardman were on the receiving end of an 8 - 2 loss to OLOP 'D', Allan and Peter got the only wins. Then followed a surprise 2 - 8 loss to Tilehurst Meths 'A', Peter and Clare got the only two wins. Ivor Hardman, Clare Woodham and Michael Houghton lost 3 - 7 to title chasers Tidmarsh 'C'. Ivor and Michael got the wins. Clare just lost out in a five gamer against Chris Webb. They ended the season with another 8 - 2 loss against Post Office 'A'.

Post Office 'A' A John Simmonds double along with singles from Simon Hopkins and Denise Weller could not prevent a 4 - 6 loss to Milestone 'A'. Both Simon and Denise had close five game defeats against John Tucker. Trebles from Denise Weller and John Simmonds with a double from Simon Hopkins gave them a good 1 - 9 win over Polish 'A'. The sets were closer than the score suggests with five sets going to four or more games. Simon Hopkins got the only win in a punishing 1 - 9 loss to OLOP 'D'. Denise Weller, John Simmonds and George White got back to winning ways to crush Tilehurst Meths 'A' 1 - 9. In their final game of the season John Simmonds, Denise Weller and George White showed tremendous resilience coming so close to nicking a point off champions Tidmarsh 'C'. Seven sets went to four or more games but just lost out 4 - 6 in the end.

Polish 'A' had just enough points to keep away from being sucked into a relegation fight. Guest Grant Wheatley scored a great treble with a double from Jacek Krzyzanowski and single from Darek Kaminski to defeat Tilehurst Meths 'C' 3 - 7. Jacek Krzyzanowski

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Philip Zeng	OLOP D	28	27	96.43 %
Graham Outrim	Wokingham A	20	19	95.00 %
Steven Miller	OLOP C	47	44	93.62 %
Lee Calcutt	Tidmarsh C	54	50	92.59 %
Robin Benwell	Milestone A	45	40	88.89 %
Daryl Griffith	Wokingham A	42	35	83.33 %
Xiao Huang	OLOP D	46	37	80.43 %
Ivor Hardman	Kingfisher F	42	31	73.81 %
Brian Chinneck	Wokingham A	65	46	70.77 %
Dave Wise	Tidmarsh C	33	23	69.70 %
Mike Aistrop	Tidmarsh C	42	29	69.05 %

got the only win over Simon Hopkins in their 1 - 9 defeat to Post Office 'A'. Mac de Guzman had a close five gamer against Denise Weller and Darek Kaminski close five gamer against Simon Hopkins. Jacek Krzyzanowski Darek Kaminski and guest Zdzislaw Jerzmanski got an important 0 - 10 win over basement club Kingfisher 'G'. Jacek Krzyzanowski, Darek

Kaminski and guest Zdzislaw Jerzmanski just lost out 4 - 6 against SC&P 'C'. Darek was in blistering form getting a treble with Jacek a single. Guest Grant Wheatley and Jacek Krzyzanowski got the only wins in an 8 - 2 loss to Wokingham 'A'.

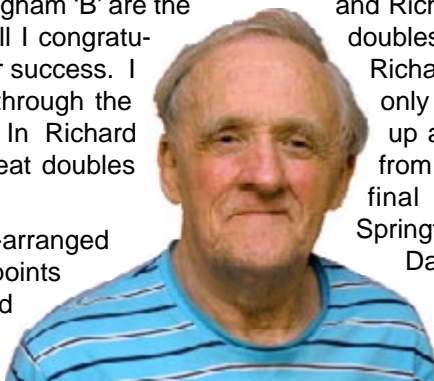
Tilehurst Methodists 'A' A double from Phil Jones and single from Paul Treadgold could not stop a 3 - 7 defeat against Polish 'A'. Cath Venning managed game wins only. Nigel Rowland got the only win with a Nigel Rowland and Phil Jones doubles win in their 8 - 2 loss to OLOP 'D'. Phil just lost in five to Steve Ng. Again Cath managed game wins only. A hard fought treble from Nigel Rowland with doubles from Phil Jones and Cath Venning gave them an unexpected 8 - 2 win over Kingfisher 'F'. Nigel Rowland and Paul Treadgold teamed up for a rare doubles win in their 1 - 9 loss to Post Office 'A'. In their final game of the season against Kingfisher 'G' Nigel Rowland, Paul Treadgold and Phil Jones teamed up to get a 9 - 1 win. Phil got his first treble of the season.

Kingfisher 'G' Allen Pack got a hard-fought double in their 2 - 8 defeat to Kingfisher 'E'. Dave Gostellow fought hard but lost in five against John Morris and Roger Woolven-Allen. Rick Leachman lost in five to Geoff Civil. John Upham, Rick Leachman and Allen Pack were all on the receiving end of their 0 - 10 loss to Polish 'A'. Guest Nils Wedi and Rick Leachman got the only wins in their 8 - 2 loss to OLOP 'D'. Nils's win was over Wendy Porter. In their final match of the season Allen Pack, Dave Gostellow and Rick Leachman all found themselves in set winning positions but Tilehurst Meths 'A' would not give in, resulting in a late night and still losing 1 - 9. Allen Pack got the single win over Paul Treadgold.

DIVISION THREE *by Derek Harrison*

As predicted in my first notes Wokingham 'B' are the champions so on behalf of you all I congratulate Ken Park and his lads on their success. I have to say they were very steady all through the season and well deserved the title. In Richard Neville and Tony Eames they had a great doubles record remaining on 100%.

When **Wokingham 'B'** played their re-arranged match away at Curzon 'B', they went 7 points clear by winning 4 - 6. Tony Eames and Richard Neville both managed to win two each besides teaming up to win the doubles. Dan Buckle gained that vital single by beating Jim Brent. At Sonning Sports 'A' they came away with a 2 - 8 win thanks to a treble from Richard and doubles from Mike Shore and Dan. They then clinched the title by hammering Kingfisher 'H' 10 - 0 with Tony, Dan and Richard all getting trebles which was a great result when you consider they lost their first encounter 8 - 2. Tony



and Richard maintained their unbeaten record in the doubles by beating Eric and Steve. At Kingfisher 'I' Richard was in top form by winning all three with only Gabor taking an end from him. Dan picked up a double and there was a return to the side from Ken Park who picked up a single. In their final home match they beat second place Springfield 'A' 6 - 4 thanks to doubles from Tony and Dan and an important single from Richard. As ever they won the doubles with Dan and Richard beating Phil and Des. They then lost at Polish 6 - 4 where Dan, Tony and Aiden Killian all won one each by beating different players. At Pangbourne they came away with a 3 - 7 victory with Richard winning all three. Tony did well to win two and Ken won one by beating Howard.

TONY 37/51=72.5% -
6 MAXIMUMS, 9 DOUBLES, BEST WIN ERIC HOLMES

RICHARD 33/45=73.3% -
6 MAXIMUMS, 6 DOUBLES, BEST WIN ERIC HOLMES

KEN 11/24=45.8% -
1 MAXIMUM, 3 DOUBLES, BEST WIN NILS WEDI

MIKE 6/9=66.7% -
1 MAXIMUM, 1 DOUBLE, BEST WIN JES EASSOM

DAN 44/60=73.3% -
6 MAXIMUMS, 12 DOUBLES, BEST WIN ERIC HOLMES

AIDEN 6/9=66.7% -
1 MAXIMUM, 1 DOUBLE, BEST WIN NILS WEDI

19 points first half, 20 points second half

OLOP 'E' and Sonning Sports 'A' ended all square. Michael McAllister won all three in great style with Phil Saunders hitting a double. Then they maintained their second place by beating Curzon 'B' at home 7 - 3. Harry and Jim both gained trebles. They then went down 6 - 4 at Kingfisher 'H'. Michael did well to beat Eric and Carol while Harry defeated Steve. Harry and Michael had a nice doubles win over Eric and Carol. They then gave them a slim chance of the runners up spot by beating a weakened Kingfisher 'I' 8 - 2 with Michael winning all three in straight games. Phil and Jim did their bit by gaining doubles. In that very important clash with Springfield they came away with both points to gain the second spot. So on behalf of you all I congratulate them. In the match Michael won all three which included Phil Burke. Harry managed a double and Phil obtained a single besides teaming up with Michael to win the doubles.

MICHAEL 48/54= 88.9% -
12 MAXIMUMS, 6 DOUBLES, BEST WIN PHIL BURKE

PHIL 24/47= 51.1% -
2 MAX, 6 DOUBLES, 6 SINGLES, BEST WIN RICHARD NEVILLE

JIM 13/45= 28.9% -
1 MAXIMUM, 3 DOUBLES, 4 SINGLES, BEST WIN NICK LEAN

HARRY 36/48= 75.0% -
7 MAX, 5 DOUBLES, 3 SINGLES, BEST WIN TONY EAMES

14 points first half, 15 points second half

Springfield 'A' kept in touch with the runners-up spot by beating Tilehurst Meths 'B' 6 - 4 with the usual maximum



MICHAEL McALLISTER

from Phil Burke. Des Hele and Ian Boaden both obtained singles. The vital doubles was won by Phil and Ian beating John Virgo and Ian Cockling 6-11, 12-10, 9-11, 11-8, 11-7. They then moved into second place by winning 4 - 6 at Birch Copse 'A' with Phil picking up a maximum. Des managed a double and came back from two games behind to beat Jes. Seth picked up that important single by beating Mike. At home to their club mates they won 7 - 3 with Phil, Des and Seth all winning two each. Next came a trip to Wokingham but sadly for them they lost 6 - 6 despite a brilliant treble from Phil and a single from Des. This leaves them 1 point in front of OLOP, whom they will meet in their final match next week. I am not sure if the side wants to go up so I wonder if Phil will play. Well Phil did play against OLOP and won two but Des only managed a single so they lost 3 - 7.

PHIL 48/53=90.6% -

12 MAXIMUMS, 6 DOUBLES, BEST WIN MIKE MAYNARD

DES 29/50=58.0% -

3 MAX, 6 DOUBLES, 8 SINGLES, BEST WIN TONY EAMES

SETH 15/47=31.9% -

1 MAX, 3 DOUBLES, 6 SINGLES, BEST WIN ERIC HOLMES

IAN 16/41=31.9% -

1 MAX, 3 DOUBLES, 7 SINGLES, BEST WIN BOB WOODMANSEE

15 points first half, 13 points second half

Kingfisher 'H' had a tight 4 - 6 win at Pangbourne to maintain their promotion challenge. Eric Holmes and Dave Duncan both gained doubles and Steve Woolnough managed that important single besides teaming up with Eric to win the doubles. They then beat bottom side Springfield 'B' 7 - 3 with Steve and Eric both hitting maximums. Dave managed a single by beating Paul. Their promotions took a tumble when they lost 10 - 0 at Wokingham 'B'. They then bounced back by winning 4 - 6 at OLOP 'E' with Eric, Carol Byers and Steve all winning two each to put them back into the promotion race. Steve's win over Michael deserves a mention for beating him 11-8 in the fifth end. At Sonning

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wokingham B	22	19	1	2	158	62	39
OLOP E	22	12	5	5	134	86	29
Kingfisher H	22	12	4	6	122	98	28
Springfield A	22	13	2	7	121	99	28
Polish B	22	10	5	7	123	97	25
Sonning Sports A	22	10	4	8	119	101	24
Curzon Club B	22	9	3	10	105	115	21
Tilehurst Meths B	22	8	5	9	105	115	21
Kingfisher I	22	7	5	10	97	123	19
Birch Copse A	22	5	5	12	98	122	15
Pangbourne WMC	22	4	7	11	97	123	15
Springfield B	22	0	0	22	41	179	0

Sports Eric was in fine form by hitting a great treble, mind you he had to work hard against Nigel to beat him 10-12 in the 5th end. Dave weighed in with a double and Steve managed a single. At home to Curzon Carol and Dave both hit trebles and Steve a double in their 8 - 2 victory.

ERIC 42/57= 73.7% -

7 MAX, 10 DOUBLES, 1 SINGLE, BEST WIN TONY EAMES

ROGER 7/15=46.7% -

2 DOUBLES, 3 SINGLES, BEST WIN IAN BOADEN

CAROL 25/39=64.1% -

3 MAX, 7 DOUBLES, 2 SINGLES, BEST WIN HARRY BROUGH

STEVE 26/51=51.0% -

3 MAX 5 DOUBLES, 7 SINGLES, BEST WIN MICHAEL MCALLISTER

DAVE 11/18=61.1% -

1 MAX, 3 DOUBLES, 2 SINGLES, BEST WIN CLIVE TAYLOR

15 points first half 13 points second half

Polish 'B' were held to a draw by Pangbourne 'A' with div 3 title winner Grant Wheatley and reserve Zdzislaw Jerzmanski both gaining doubles besides the two of them winning the doubles set. Next they went to Tilehurst Meths 'B' and came away empty handed by going down 6 - 4 with Grant winning two and Daniel Dzieciol and Stephen both picking up singles. They then drew at home to Birch Copse with Grant and Dan winning two each besides teaming up to win the doubles. At bottom of the table Springfield 'B' Dan won all three and with Grant and Stephen both hitting doubles; this helped them win 2 - 8. In their next match they beat the champions Wokingham 6 - 4 with Grant, Stephen and Dan all winning two each.

GRANT 40/60= 66.7% - 6 MAXIMUMS, 8 DOUBLES, 6 SINGLES, BEST WIN DAN BUCKLE

DAN 39/63=61.9% - 4 MAXIMUMS, 11 DOUBLES, 5 SINGLES, BEST WIN DAN BUCKLE

STEPHEN 29/66=43.9% - 3 MAXIMUMS, 4 DOUBLES, 12 SINGLES, BEST WIN TONY EAMES

15 points first half, 10 points second half

Sonning Sports 'A' gained a good draw at OLOP 'E' with Nigel Goodman winning two and Bob Woodmansee and Dave Chard both obtaining singles. Dave and Nigel had a good doubles win over Michael and Phil. At home to Birch Copse 'A' they won 8 - 2 with Nigel winning all his three. Bob W and Bob S both obtained doubles. I have to mention Bob W's win over Roy Hull, his former physics teacher at Bulmershe School in the early 1970's. He won 10-12, 11-



JIM McALLISTER

5, 11-13, 24-22 (yes that was the right score), 11-7. At Wokingham 'B' they were without Bob W and went down 2 - 8 with Nigel winning the two by beating Dan and Mike. Against Curzon 'B' Nigel won two and Dave and Bob S picked up singles by beating Jim. Nigel and Dave also won the doubles by beating Mike and Derek. Bob W returned to the side against Kingfisher 'H' and promptly gained a double which included a rare win over Dave Duncan. Dave had a nice win over Steve while Nigel had a rare off night and did not pick up a set. Dave, Nigel and Bob W brought the curtain down on their 27th season together by winning 3 - 7 at Kingfisher 'I' with all of them gaining doubles. I have to say that Nigel may be moving to Devon so this could be his last season however the lads are trying to persuade him to play some matches next season, so good luck mate. You will note that Bob W finished top of their averages for the very first time, so well done Bob. Also thank you Bob for your kind comments on my role as Div Sec, it is nice to get some thanks.

BOB W 34/54=63.0% -

3 MAX, 10 DOUBLES, 5 SINGLES, BEST WIN LEROY WILSON

NIGEL 30/51=58.8% -

3 MAX, 9 DOUBLES, 3 SINGLES, BEST WIN DAN BUCKLE

DAVE 23/51=45.1% -

3 MAX, 3 DOUBLES, 8 SINGLES, BEST WIN PHIL BURKE

BOB S 18/39=46.2% -

2 MAX, 2 DOUBLES, 8 SINGLES, BEST WIN NICK BARNES

10 points first half, 14 points second half.

Tilehurst Meths 'B' had a close match at Springfield 'A' when they went down 6 - 4 with John Virgo winning two and Ian Cockling and Richard Lownsborough both obtaining singles. A good team performance saw them defeat Polish 'B' 6 - 4 thanks to doubles from Richard and Ian and a good win for John over Grant. John also teamed up with Richard to win the doubles. At Pangbourne Ian Cockling had a great night by winning all three and also teamed up to win the doubles with Nick Barnes. Nick himself won one by beating Howard Taylor. In a very entertaining match they then lost 6 - 4 at Curzon 'B'. Richard won two and Ian and John both picked up singles by beating Geoff. In a very vital match against Birch Copse they went down 4 - 6 with Ian winning two and John a single. Ian and John won the doubles by beating Jes and Simon.

RICHARD 25/44= 56.8% -

3 MAX, 6 DOUBLES, 4 SINGLES, BEST WIN RICHARD NEVILLE

NICK 10/21=47.6% -

2 MAXIMUMS, 4 DOUBLES, BEST WIN NICK LEAN

JOHN 20/49=40.8% -

1 MAX 5 DOUBLES, 7 SINGLES, BEST WIN ERIC HOMES

IAN 31/55=56.4% -

4 MAX, 6 DOUBLES, 7 SINGLES, BEST WIN TONY EAMES

13 points first half, 8 points second half.

Kingfisher 'I' without their two star players lost at home to Birch Copse 'A' 4 - 6 with Joaquin Sabater winning two and a first win of the season by Gianpaolo Balsamo over Mike Williams was good. Then by beating Springfield 'B' they made certain of staying up. Nils returned to the side and won all three, with Gabor Radnoti gaining a double.

Gianpaolo then won his second win of the season by beating Paul Jenkins. At home to Wokingham they went down 3 - 7 with Joaquin winning two which included a fine 8-11, 9-11, 11-8, 11-7, 11-9 victory over Dan, Gabor won the other set by beating Ken. At OLOP. 'I' they crashed to an 8 - 2 defeat with Gabor beating Jim and Phil. Again they were without Jean-Noel against Sonning Sports. Because

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Michael Maynard	Curzon Club B	37	34	91.89 %
Philip Burke	Springfield A	53	48	90.57 %
Michael McAllister	OLOP E	54	48	88.89 %
Harry Brough	OLOP E	48	36	75.00 %
Simon Clarke	Birch Copse A	50	37	74.00 %
Eric Holmes	Kingfisher H	57	42	73.68 %
Daniel Buckle	Wokingham B	60	44	73.33 %
Richard Neville	Wokingham B	45	33	73.33 %
Tony Eames	Wokingham B	51	37	72.55 %
Leroy Wilson	Pangbourne WMC	54	38	70.37 %
Nils Wedi	Kingfisher I	45	31	68.89 %
Grant Wheatley	Polish B	60	40	66.67 %

of playing in only 9 matches he does not qualify for the end of season averages but did have an influence on the promotion and relegation because he missed both of the OLOP matches but did play twice against Pangbourne. However in their match against Sonning Sports Nils was the star, hitting a great hat trick in a 3 - 7 defeat.

JEAN-NOEL 27/27=100% -

9 MAXIMUMS, BEST WIN PHIL BURKE

DIDIER 0/21

JOAQUIN 11/36=30.6% -

4 DOUBLES, 3 SINGLES, BEST WIN DAN BUCKLE

GABOR 14/39=35.9% -

5 DOUBLES, 4 SINGLES, BEST WIN DES HELE

NILS 31/45=68.9% -

7 MAX, 3 DOUBLES, 4 SINGLES, BEST WIN CAROL BYERS

GIANPAOLO 2/30= 6.7% - 2 SINGLES, BEST WIN MIKE WILLIAMS

9 points first half, 10 points second half

Mike Maynard hit a superb treble all three-straight but could not prevent **Curzon 'B'** losing 4 - 6 at home to leaders Wokingham 'B'. He beat Dan 11-4, 11-4, 11-5, Tony 11-8, 11-9, 11-7 and Richard 11-8, 11-6, 11-9. Geoff Johnson picked up a very good single by beating Dan. At OLOP 'E' we went down 7 - 3 with Nick, Jim and Derek all beating Phil. By beating Pangbourne 9 - 1 we have secured our third division place. Mike and Geoff both hit splendid maximums while Nick managed a double. At Sonning Sports 'A' we came away with a point thanks as ever to a Mike treble and a good double from yours truly. In my set against Dave I was 2 games to 1 up and 0-5 up and then lost 9 points in a row; however I came back to win 11-13! Much to Dave's annoyance I had got a net to put me 11-12 up and won the next point to clinch the win. At home to our mates from Tilehurst Meths 'B' it was yet another hat trick from Mike which set us on our way however I did my bit by

beating Ian and John. Mike and I also won the doubles. We then crashed to an 8 - 2 defeat at Kingfisher 'H' with Geoff beating Steve and Jim and Derek beating Carol and Eric in the doubles.

MIKE 34/37= 91.9% -
9 MAXIMUMS, 3 DOUBLES, BEST WIN TONY EAMES

NICK 23/46= 50.0% -
2 MAXIMUMS, 5 DOUBLES, 7 SINGLES, BEST WIN NILS WEDI

GEOFF 6/17= 35.3% -
1 MAXIMUM, 3 SINGLES, BEST WIN DAN BUCKLE

DEREK 15/44= 34.1% -
3 DOUBLES, 9 SINGLES, BEST WIN ERIC HOLMES

JIM 8/48= 16.7% -
1 MAXIMUM, 5 SINGLES, BEST WIN DES HELE

8 points first half 13 points second half

Jes Eassom of **Birch Copse 'A'** had a good night by winning two at Sonning Sports, beating both Bobs, but the side went down 8 - 2. Duncan Abbott was the star in their vital 4 - 6 win at Kingfisher 'I' by gaining a great hat trick. Jes weighed in with a double and Mike hit that very important single. At home to Springfield 'A' they went down 4 - 6 with Simon winning two and Jes won one. Simon and Jes won the doubles by beating Phil and Des. As a result it is a straight fight between them and Pangbourne who will go down. They then gained a vital point by drawing at Polish. Simon was the star by hitting a great hat trick and with Jes and Mike both picking up singles; this was enough for them to share the spoils. In the vital match against Pangbourne Jes had a brilliant night by winning all three and with Simon and Mike both picking up singles; this gave them a share of the spoils. It means in their final match they will need to beat Tilehurst Meths to survive. They did defeat Tilehurst Meths 4 - 6 thanks to a Simon hat trick, a double from Jes and that important single from Mike who beat Nick Barnes in the 5th end. However if Pangbourne gain a point from Wokingham in their final fixture it will send them down.

JES 33/65=50.77% -
1 MAX, 11 DOUBLES, 8 SINGLES, BEST WIN LEROY WILSON

MIKE 14/62=22.6% -
1 MAXIMUM, 1 DOUBLE, 9 SINGLES, BEST WIN NICK LEAN

SIMON 37/50=74.0% -
8 MAX, 5 DOUBLES, 3 SINGLES, BEST WIN DAN BUCKLE

DUNCAN 4/12=33.3% -
1 MAXIMUM, 1 SINGLE, BEST WIN GABOR RADNOTI

6 points first half, 9 points second half

Pangbourne lost a close match at home to Kingfisher 'H' despite a superb hat trick from Leroy Wilson. Clive Taylor won the other set by beating Steve in their 4 - 6 defeat. They then gained a vital point at Polish 'B' with Clive and Leroy both winning two each. Roger Stevens hit that important single by beating Stephen. At Curzon 'B' they went down 9 - 1 with Leroy beating Nick. The next day they played their re-arranged match at Springfield 'B' and came away with two vital points by winning 3 - 7 with Leroy picking up all three with Clive obtaining a double. Howard managed a single by beating Paul Donovan playing up from div 5. A tenth set win for Howard over John Virgo rescued a vital point against Tilehurst Meths 'B'. Clive and Leroy both won two each. At Birch Copse two each from Leroy and Clive plus a doubles win helped them to a point. For Clive

he beat Mike in set ten 12-14, 9-11, 12-14. What a finish. At home to Springfield 'B' they did what they had to do to give them a chance of staying up by winning 10 - 0 with Leroy, Clive and Howard all obtaining trebles. In their final match they need to get at least a point against Wokingham to stay up. At the worst 4 sets will force a playoff with Birch Copse. Sadly for the team they went down 3 - 7 and as a result were relegated by one set. In the match Leroy won two which included a win over Tony Eames and Clive won one. Thank you Clive for your kind comments. I have to say it makes my job worth doing when I get nice feedback.

LEROY 38/54=70.4% -
6 MAX, 8 DOUBLES, 4 SINGLES, BEST WIN TONY EAMES

ROGER 4/39=10.3% -
4 SINGLES, BEST WIN BOB SNELGROVE

HOWARD 13/37=35.1% -
1 MAXIMUM, 2 DOUBLES, 6 SINGLES, BEST WIN BOB WOODMANSEE

CLIVE 33/63=52.4% -
2 MAX, 11 DOUBLES, 5 SINGLES, BEST WIN PHIL BURKE

8 points first half, 7 points second half.

Springfield 'B' went down 7 - 3 at Kingfisher 'H' with Dan Mortimer and Ludo Couillard both beating Dave Duncan. At home to Pangbourne they lost 3 - 7. Ludo did well to beat Clive Taylor and Howard Taylor. The next day they went down 3 - 7 to Kingfisher 'I' with Dan winning two by beating Gabor and Gianpaolo. Against their club mates they were forced to play two reserves and one of them Colin Jones won one by beating Des. Ludo had a great night by winning two which included a fine victory over Phil Burke. At home to Polish 'B' Ludo and Dan won one each in their 2 - 8 defeat. At Pangbourne they went down 10 - 0 but I have to say a very big thank you to you all for keeping going when a lot of the time you were forced to play reserves.

PAUL 3/38= 7.9% -
3 SINGLES, BEST WIN MIKE WILLIAMS

DAN 8/50=16.0% -
1 DOUBLE, 6 SINGLES, BEST WIN ROGER ALBELO

JIM 1/15=6.7% -
1 SINGLE, BEST WIN CHRIS TAYLOR

LUDO 16/47=34.0% -
4 DOUBLES, 8 SINGLES, BEST WIN PHIL BURKE

ANDREW 4/18=22.2% -
4 SINGLES BEST WIN JIM MCALLISTER

Regarding the team captains, thank you for the mostly prompt return of the score cards and a special thanks to Bob Woodmansee and Leroy Wilson for the match comments, which help me a lot.

A couple of stats - only Jes Eassom and Stephen Yon played in all of the matches this season. Well done to you both

Finally, a few further thanks to Derek for his fine newsletter, Nigel for the great press reports and to Nick for doing a splendid job as the Web Site Co-ordinator.

Hope to see you all next season

Cheers

Derek

DIVISION FOUR *by Barry Carter*

We have arrived all too quickly at the end of another season. Sonning Common & Peppard 'D' deserved their promotion and to win the championship as they were in the top two for all but four weeks of the season and two of those were the first two weeks of all, so congratulations to Derek, Alan and Anthony. Congratulations to OLOP 'F' on a run of results that saw them overtake Tidmarsh 'D' (the parallels to Wolves and Orient spring to mind) to claim second spot by seven points and promotion to division 3, well done to Alistair, Mark, Dave and Cedric. At the bottom it's both Milestone 'C' and Tidmarsh 'E' that were relegated after long seasons for both of them so commiserations to them both. It's also the end of an era as we say goodbye to Post Office TTC after 60 years, hopefully they will find new



some success against Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' as he overcame Julian James 11-3, 11-6, 9-11, 7-11, 11-5 and he was well supported by Alan & Anthony who returned a maximum each as they won 8 - 2. Their final game of the season saw them at home to Milestone 'B', where a 7 - 3 victory took them to the championship title. I'm sure they will survive in division three but like Wolves they might need to invest if a promotion push is sought after that.

Our Lady of Peace 'F' also won their last four matches to claim the runners-up spot and promotion to division three. Captain Alistair Richardson won all three against Curzon Club, as did Mark Bullion whilst Cedric Dias managed a brace in the 9 - 1 win. Next up were the chaps from Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' where a good all round team performance saw them to a 10 - 0 victory with trebles for Mark, Cedric and Alistair although Cedric was made to battle for his 11-5, 15-13, 13-15, 11-6 win over Dave Aust. Alistair was the only other person to drop a set as he defeated Dave Aust 11-9, 11-3, 6-11, 11-7. In contrast to the relative ease of the encounter with SCP 'E', six of the ten games against Post Office 'B' went to five in what seemed to be an epic battle; of the six games five were won by OLOP 'F'. At the end of the evening OLOP had triumphed 7 - 3 and had clinched promotion. The last match of the season saw them entertain Milestone 'C' where they ran out 8 - 2 winners with Dave Godfrey attaining a maximum. OLOP have the potential to go out and win the division three title next season with their pool of players; no doubt some wheeling and dealing during the summer is on the cards.



SC&P 'D' - ANTHONY REEVE, ALAN MOLLET AND DEREK WAVELL

premises to continue playing in the future and to Gerard Thorp, captain of Milestone 'B' who after nearly 50 years of playing in the Reading League for Mushroom and Milestone is relocating to Salisbury, good luck and best wishes for the future.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'D' finished the season in style as they won their last four matches to clinch the championship trophy. The match at Post Office was a tight affair from which they came away with a 6 - 4 courtesy of two each from Alan & Anthony plus the crucial game ten win by Derek over Mick Grantham 11-9, 11-7, 11-9. That put them within touching distance of promotion and it was secured by means of a second narrow 6 - 4 win in a row, this time over Milestone 'C' on the 11th March as both Alan Mollett and Anthony Reeve won trebles, Derek Wavell battled hard but lost all three in four sets. The first two games of the doubles were close as Alan & Anthony eventually ran out 10-12, 20-18, 11-4, 11-3 winners. Derek enjoyed

Tidmarsh 'D' had a disastrous end of season that saw

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SC&P D	22	17	4	1	150	70	38
OLOP F	22	18	1	3	162	58	37
Tidmarsh D	22	14	2	6	131	89	30
Post Office B	22	13	3	6	141	79	29
Kingfisher J	22	14	1	7	119	101	29
Tilehurst Meths C	22	9	7	6	121	99	25
Milestone B	22	8	4	10	104	116	20
Curzon Club C	22	8	3	11	98	122	19
SC&P F	22	5	3	14	91	129	13
SC&P E	22	6	0	16	79	141	12
Milestone C	22	2	2	18	63	157	6
Tidmarsh E	22	1	4	17	61	159	6

them slip from promotion candidates to finishing third and seven points adrift as they only won two of their last four matches (sounds a bit like Reading, Terry). The two wins came against Curzon Club 'C' (6 - 4) and Tilehurst Meths 'C' (7 - 3) whilst the two defeats occurred against Milestone 'B' (4 - 6) and Kingfisher 'J' (4 - 6). In the match with Curzon 'C', Terry Hardie and John Liddle won two each, Dave Edwards one and then Terry & Dave teamed up to win the doubles 11-3, 6-11, 13-11, 11-4. The second win came against Tilehurst Meths 'C' in the last match of the season as Terry won all three in straight sets and he was well supported by Dave Edwards with two and John Liddle one in a 7 - 3 scoreline. Dave Smith battled well in his three games against Kingfisher 'J' and was unlucky to lose in five to Derek Crombie 6-11, 6-11, 11 -8, 11-6, 10-12. Terry won two and lost in a close match to John Creighton, whilst John Liddle beat Derek 11-7, 11-6, 9-11, 14-12. Milestone 'B' was the hammer blow to their promotion hopes where, despite Terry winning three, they could only muster a Dave Smith 11-5, 11-4, 11-7 win over Pratik Kothari as they were surprisingly beaten 6 - 4.

Post Office 'B' only won once in the last four matches but still did well to finish fourth overall. The only win came in the last match to be played at Post Office TTC as they defeated Milestone 'B' 10 - 0, where three from Mick Grantham, Ray Webb and Ted Cripps saw them home on an emotional evening. Ted had the honour to play the last set after 60 years with the club and he overcame Chris Collins 11-6, 11-8, 11-3. The two defeats came against the promoted sides in Sonning Common & Peppard 'D' (4 - 6) and OLOP 'F' (3 - 7). Ray Webb has had a brilliant season and he had another good evening in the 4 - 6 defeat to SCP 'D' as he beat Alan Mollett 11-9, 12-10, 12-10 and Anthony Reeve 11-8, 6-11, 11-6, 11-8. Ted won once against Derek whilst it was an off-night for Mick as he lost all three. Ray also won two of the three sets in the 3 - 7 defeat to runners-up OLOP 'F' as he defeated Alistair Richardson and Mark Bullion, Mick recorded a good 5-11, 12-10, 11-8, 11-3 win over Mark, whilst it was Ted's turn to have a night off as he lost all three but two of them were in five.

Kingfisher 'J' had a great finish to the season that nearly saw them take third place; they won the last five in total but since the last newsletter four. The most impressive win was over Tidmarsh 'D' (6 - 4) but they also defeated Curzon (6 - 4), Milestone 'B' (8 - 2) and Sonning C & P 'F'

(7 - 3). John Creighton has been their man of the season and finished top of the averages as he won 51 out of 58 for an average of 87.93%. In the Tidmarsh match he enjoyed straight sets wins over Terry Hardie and John Liddle and he was supported by one each from Derek Crombie and Ken Robb. The doubles proved the winner as John & Ken defeated Terry and John 15-13, 11-4, 12-10. Ken won two in the 7 - 3 win over Sonning C & P 'F' as he beat Matt Tarrant 11-9, 11-5, 9-11, 7-11, 12-10 and Derek Maltby 11-9, 11-8, 11-8. In the battle of the Derek's, Crombie overcame Maltby 11-8, 11-7, 5-11, 11-9. In their last match of the season they welcomed Curzon and ran out 6 - 4 winners thanks to two from John and Ken and one from Derek.

Tilehurst Methodists 'C' were the draw specialists of the division having drawn seven of their matches. The last four matches of the season saw them win three and lose once to finish in a good sixth place. The trio of Bob Winter, Alex Zheng and Martin Wetherell overcame Milestone 'C' as they all won two each in a 7 - 3 victory. Chris Taylor won two against Angus Jones 6-11, 11-8, 11-6, 11-7 and Steve Knott 11-5, 10-12, 11-4, 11-6 in the 7-3 win over Sonning C & P 'F' and he was well backed up by braces from both Alex and Bob. The only dropped point in the last four

matches was away at Milestone 'B' where Masoud Ghabachi played up from division five and performed well despite losing all three, he lost narrowly in five to both Viliam Andrascik and Gerard Thorp. Martin and Bob both won two and then combined to win the doubles 11-8, 11-7, 9-11, 9-11, 11-6 against Pratik and Viliam. The last match of the season was against Tidmarsh 'D' where they lost 7 - 3 as only Alex and Martin enjoyed success on the evening.

Milestone 'B' can be pleased with the final placing of 7th and although they are losing the services of Gerard next season they can look forward to a potential promotion push if they can get additional players. They have hovered around mid-table most of the season with a highest position of 6th and a lowest of 10th. Milestone finished their campaign with only one win from their last four matches and that was really surprising victory over promotion chasing Tidmarsh 'D'. Chris Collins and Gerard Thorp both won two each against John Liddle and Dave Smith whilst Pratik Kothari overcame John 11-7, 11-6, 12-10 to claim the two points. The other point came in the 5 - 5 draw with Tilehurst Meths 'C' as both Viliam Andrascik and Pratik won

DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
John Creighton	Kingfisher J	58	51	87.93 %
Alan Mollett	SC&P D	63	55	87.30 %
Ray Webb	Post Office B	53	45	84.91 %
Dave Reynolds	Tidmarsh D	30	25	83.33 %
Alistair Richardson	OLOP F	59	49	83.05 %
Dave Godfrey	OLOP F	50	41	82.00 %
Terry Hardie	Tidmarsh D	48	38	79.17 %
Anthony Reeve	SC&P D	66	52	78.79 %
Terry Spice	Curzon Club C	60	46	76.67 %
Mark Bullion	OLOP F	45	33	73.33 %
Angus Jones	SC&P F	54	36	66.67 %
Christopher Collins	Milestone B	48	30	62.50 %
Bob Winter	Tilehurst Meths C	53	33	62.26 %

two each and then Gerard won a titanic battle with Masoud Ghabachi before winning 7-11, 11-3, 11-2, 8-11, 11-5. The two defeats came against Kingfisher 'J' where they lost 2 - 8 with only Gerard and Pratik winning a set and then a 3 - 7 reverse to the champions although Gerard, Chris and Viliam all did well to master the wily Derek Wavell.

Curzon Club 'C' have had a disappointing campaign, I thought they would be challenging for promotion at the start of the season but it wasn't to be and they have finished 8th with eight wins all season. Their only victory in the final month of the season came against Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' where three from Terry Spice and Linda Davis saw them on their way to a 7 - 3 win. The three defeats were against OLOP 'F' (1 - 9) where the only winner on the night was a Linda 11-4, 11-5, 11-7 win over Cedric Dias, Tidmarsh 'D' (4 - 6) as Terry's three against Terry Hardie (11-9, 11-7, 11-5), Dave Edwards (3-11, 11-6, 11-6, 11-3) and John Liddle (11-8, 11-6, 6-11, 11-2) wasn't enough for a point as Linda could only defeat Dave and unfortunately Oli Lister had an off-night and lost all three. Their last match of the season was once again a narrow 4 - 6 defeat, this time to Kingfisher 'J' as Terry and Linda

Chris but succumbed in four. The home match against the champions saw only Angus and Matt beat Derek Wavell in a 2 - 8 defeat.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' also flirted with the bottom two places all season but never slipped into one of them. Dave Aust was their player with the best average, 46.03%. Their only victory since the last newsletter was a win over the bottom side, Tidmarsh 'E'. There were some tight games but three from Mike Casserley, two from Dave Aust and a Pete Harman 11-5, 8-11, 7-11, 11-9, 11-5 win over Mike Bundy meant that they won 7 - 3. They suffered a 0 - 10 defeat at OLOP 'F' where the nearest they came to a victory was Dave's 5-11, 13-15, 15-13, 6-11 defeat to Cedric, seven of the other nine were lost in three straight. The only other match they played came against Curzon where they lost 3 - 7 with Dave, Pete and Mike all beating Oli Lister.

Milestone 'C' have been in the bottom two for all but three weeks of the season. They have struggled to find three players sometimes this season. Their only point in the last four matches was the four-pointer with Tidmarsh 'E' that would decide who finished bottom. Arun Rajagopal won three which included a 23-21 win over Bob Sunerton and Oli Bonser two. The match finally ended 5 - 5 which meant that it would be Milestone who would finish next to bottom. Their best result of the season was when they gave the champions a real fright as Arun won twice against Anthony Reeve 9-11, 11-6, 11-8, 11-7 and Derek Wavell, whilst John Evans and Oli also won once each but in the end they slipped to a 6 - 4 defeat. Arun has been their best performing player of the season and this is reflected by his 60%.

Tidmarsh 'E' hit the dizzy heights of sixth place after week one of the season but unfortunately their star has gone downhill since then and they have occupied 11th or 12th since Christmas. Steve Andrews had the best average with 37%. The only point gained since Christmas came against Milestone 'C' and that was courtesy of Theresa Watson, Bob Sunerton and Mike Bundy all winning against John Evans. Bob also had success over Oli Bonser 11-5, 3-11, 11-7, 4-11, 11-9. Steve Andrews and Theresa both beat Jan Polnik 6-11, 1 1-7, 11-4, 7-11, 11-6 & 11-8, 11-3, 8-11, 11-8 respectively in the 3 - 7 defeat to OLOP 'F'. Bob also claimed a game off Alistair Richardson but eventually lost in four. Theresa and Bob both beat Julian James in the 2 - 8 defeat to Sonning Common & Peppard 'F'.

That's all from me for this season, hope you have enjoyed the ramblings once again. It is traditional at this time for me to wish you all a great summer and here's to England bringing the World Cup home from Brazil and for Purley on Thames CC to have a good season. See you in the Autumn for another dose of ramblings...



SCP 'F': JULIAN JAMES, MATT TARRANT AND ANGUS JONES

both won two each and narrowly lost the doubles 8-11 in the fifth.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' have flirted with the relegation places most of the season but in the end finished 9th and six points clear of the drop despite only winning once in their last five matches. The only win came in the last match of the season as they played already relegated Tidmarsh 'E'. Matt Tarrant and Angus Jones both went home with maximums, with wins over Steve Andrews, Theresa Watson and Bob Sunerton, whilst Julian James had a good win over Steve Andrews 11-7, 11-5, 6-11, 11-7. The other results since the last newsletter were a 3 - 7 defeat to Kingfisher 'J' as Angus beat both Derek Crombie and Ken Robb. Tilehurst Meths 'C' where they lost 3 - 7 where Matt had a great win over Alex Zheng 5-11, 11-8, 7-11, 11-8, 11-9 and Angus defeated Chris Taylor 11-6, 17-15, 11-8. Steve Knott also took a game off

DIVISION FIVE by Duncan Abbott

One of the first questions I asked myself following the reconstruction of the league last summer was – how does Division 5 compare to Division 6 of last season?

In my opinion it is a stronger league. There is a healthy mix of stronger players who are probably more suited to the higher divisions; players who have performed at this level for a number of years; and new and up-and-coming players (including some very talented youngsters) some of who effectively use this division as a springboard for a career in the higher divisions and possibly beyond.

A number of those in the former category were to be found in the top two teams, **Polish 'C'** and **OLOP 'G'** who were streets ahead of the competition. Each side had dropped only three points up until the title showdown on 31 March, which will be covered elsewhere in this newsletter in the form of a match report.

Polish 'C' had three players in the top five of the averages, Luca Bianchi (94%), captain Krzysztof Szczygiel (92%) and Zdzislaw Jerzmanski (89%) Their two other players were rookie Ania Pytko (23%) and Edwin Holweger (21%).

OLOP 'G' had the only unbeaten player in Willis Ma who missed the first few weeks with a wrist injury but then took



victories and only four defeats, three of which were at the hands of the top two. Chris Speight who stepped down from the 'B' team finished with 64%, and among his successes was an incredible 11-2, 11-0, 11-8 win over Roy Hull of Birch Copse 'B' in his final match, Roy having been unbeaten up until the end of February. Newcomer Jason Ren also finished with 64%, Alan Goold with 52% and captain Bob Sibun 25%. Bob has come back from a bad injury he suffered two years ago, but he finished well with a brace against Milestone 'D'

Tilehurst Methodists 'D' finished strongly in fourth place. They were a very well balanced team led by captain Patrick O'Sullivan (83%) and well supported by up and coming youngster Sam Will (71%), newcomer Masoud Ghabachi (62%), the not-so-young Dave Jones (57%) and Mal Collis (55%). The team finished strongly winning 8 of its last 11 matches and dropping points only to the top three teams. It will be interesting to see who forms this team next season as the club often switches its personnel around between teams. But were this team to stay together they would be an excellent bet for the Div 5 title next time around.



LUCA BIANCHI OF POLISH 'C'

The next four teams form the mid-table section.

Kingfisher 'K' lost twice to all top four teams and slipped up against SC&P 'G' and bottom club Sonning Sports 'B' after turning up short-handed, but won all their other matches. Their star player was Leigh Mahoney (85%), and he was supported by Gwynne Penny (55%), Diane Taylor (53%), newcomer Sandra Sheppard (42%), Andre Bartlett (40%) and captain Gillian Bennett (40%).

Springfield 'E' started the season like the proverbial train and looked as if they would be in the mix for honours. However they were unable to maintain their blis-



WILLIS MA OF OLOP 'G'

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Polish C	22	20	1	1	167	53	41
OLOP G	22	19	1	2	164	56	39
Springfield C	22	14	4	4	145	75	32
Tilehurst Meths D	22	15	1	6	145	75	31
Kingfisher K	22	12	0	10	113	107	24
Springfield E	22	11	2	9	103	117	24
SC&P G	22	8	4	10	113	107	20
BBC Club	22	8	1	13	86	134	17
Birch Copse B	22	5	1	16	86	134	11
Milestone D	22	4	1	17	75	145	9
Springfield D	22	4	1	17	71	149	9
Sonning Sports B	22	3	1	18	52	168	7

the division by storm. Nigel Antell (88%) and Chris Bunn (79%) both had good seasons and captain Jan Polnik (60%) also made great strides during the season. Rookie Rob Pelley (40%) also had a good first season.

For me the most improved player this season was Adam Sheen of **Springfield 'C'**. His 64% average from last season's Div 6 campaign was well and truly surpassed by his 87% this time around. He was indeed the inspiration behind his team's third place this season. Although seven points off the promotion places their 32 points included 14



THOMAS PERKINS OF SC&P 'G'

tering start and ended up losing out on fifth place by virtue of points difference. Paul Donovan's 93% came from only five matches, Ashley Jones' 82% was from eleven. Captain Colin Jones missed only one game for his 46%, Tom Berryman achieved 28% and debutant Matthew Widdup played 16 matches for his 21%.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' decided to give the youngsters a go. They had a mixed bag of results throughout the season and their best results were draws against OLOP 'G' (which included a fine maximum from youngster Thomas Perkins) and Springfield 'C'. Thomas was second in the team's average with 73%, just behind the evergreen captain Phil Turton (79%). Joseph Barraclough finished with very creditable 64%, Marko Madzar 44%, Harry Sayer 27% and Oliver Sayer 19%. Youngsters generally tend to improve very quickly so I'd expect Thomas & Joseph to be playing at a higher level next season, which will no doubt pave the way for more new talent. Very exciting times indeed.

BBC Club operate with a very large squad and their results depend on who is selected. Without doubt the highlight of their season was the 6 - 4 win over Polish 'C' in November, and their early season wins over Springfield 'C' and Tilehurst Methodists 'D' were also very creditable. The team scored 13 points in the first half of the season but only four in the second. There were no big stars in this team, John Scott being top of their averages with 71%. Kyrill Dissanayake was second with 67%, then came David Pearson (48%), captain Phil Peat (37%), Jack Mitchell (37%), John Lancashire (20%) while Gordon Ayres failed to trouble the scorers in his seven appearances.

Despite a disastrous run of seven straight defeats at the end of the season, **Birch Copse 'B'** occupied the same position (ninth) at the end of the season as they did before that run started in early February. Top man Roy Hull (80%) tended to play only away matches earlier in the season and this is where they gained most of their successes. Without

Roy they generally struggled and managed only two home wins (against BBC Club and Sonning Sports 'B') all season. Youngster Thomas Snape (62%) did well in the seven matches he played, captain Melanie Griffiths finished with 48%, then came Chris Dummett (36%), Oliver Rachpaul (33%), debutant Trevor Davis (27%) and Elizabeth Hull (15%).

This was undoubtedly a season of two halves for **Milestone 'D'**. Pointless after the first thirteen matches they took nine points from the last nine games to haul themselves off the bottom and up to tenth place. They made the brave decision to start the season with most of their squad new to league table tennis, but the mid-season introduction of experienced campaigner John Evans (85%) proved to be the catalyst rather than the sole reason for the upturn in fortunes. Their initial 6 - 4 win over struggling Sonning Sports 'B' was a close run thing, but the matches which yielded wins over Springfield 'D' (10 - 0), BBC Club (9 - 1) and Birch Copse 'B' (8 - 2) would probably have produced positive results without John's presence. In his second season Ian Strong (46%) showed a good improvement, while of the first season players George Strong (78%) was undoubtedly the pick of the bunch. Neil Kelly (33%), captain Tony Hayden (12%)



ANIA PYTKA OF POLISH 'C'

and Abhineet Prasad (5%) will all have benefited from the experience.

Nigel Outhwaite's **Springfield 'D'** found the whole season a struggle but managed to amass enough points to avoid bottom spot. Wins came against Milestone 'D', SC&P 'G', Birch Copse 'B' and BBC Club by a 10 - 0 margin! Their debutant player Robert Attack turned out to be their best performer, finishing with a 40% average. Aidan Simmons was next with 33%, Nigel scored 27%, Tim Carr 22% and David Hampshire 21%.

The wooden spoon went to **Sonning Sports 'B'**, despite the valiant efforts of Tom Gordon who finished the season with a creditable 63%. Their early season draw against Springfield 'D' was followed by a win in the



JOE BARRACLOUGH OF SC&P 'G'

DIV 5 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Willis Ma	OLOP G	36	36	100.00 %
Luca Bianchi	Polish C	54	51	94.44 %
Krys Szczygiel	Polish C	48	44	91.67 %
Zdzislaw Jerzmanski	Polish C	44	39	88.64 %
Nigel Antell	OLOP G	34	30	88.24 %
Adam Sheen	Springfield C	60	52	86.67 %
John Evans	Milestone D	20	17	85.00 %
Leigh Mahoney	Kingfisher K	33	28	84.85 %
Patrick O'sullivan	Tilehurst Meths D42	35	29	83.33 %
Ashley Jones	Springfield E	33	27	81.82 %
Roy Hull	Birch Copse B	30	24	80.00 %
Philip Turton	SC&P G	33	26	78.79 %

return fixture. Other wins came against Milestone 'D' and Kingfisher 'K' in their final match of the season. Making their league debuts were Meriel Low (21%), Martin Perry (13%) and Mo Cole (4%). Established regulars Dave West and captain Sue Brownhill both finished with 13%.

Overall it's been a very enjoyable season and it's been a real pleasure to be DFS of this division.

To those who have had a good season – well done and keep up the good work!

To those whose season was more of a challenge – keep your chin up and keep plugging away. Nearly 30 years ago I started playing league table tennis in the bottom division having played the game for only a few months. I went five months before winning my first set. The following season I was part of a promotion winning team finishing the season with a 70% average!

Have a great summer everyone and come back refreshed and ready for another exciting season of table tennis.

Match Report: Final of the Month

by Duncan Abbott

Polish 'C' v OLOP 'G' - Div 5 Title Decider

So here it was – on 31st March 2014 – the ultimate title shoot-out between two teams who were streets ahead of everyone else in this division. The fitting end to an exciting season if ever there was one. Played at the Polish venue.

Ironically the match should have been played on January 6th but apparently team selection problems decreed that this was not to be. The cynics among us may have their doubts about this but who cares? This was certainly the best possible end to the season.

The reverse fixture was played in the opening week of the season and Polish 'C' triumphed 9 - 1. OLOP 'G' were quite simply caught cold, but they recovered extremely well and prior to this fixture had dropped only one more point in the entire season. In fact both teams entered this fixture on the

same number of match points (39) but Polish 'C' had the slender advantage of having won one more set than their opponents, over 21 matches. In the few matches prior to this both sides had been at full strength picking up 10 - 0 and 9 - 1 victories to try and gain the upper hand for this clash. But the fact that Polish 'C' held the smallest possible lead meant they could afford to draw this fixture to win the title, whilst for OLOP 'G' it was win or bust.

In my mind Polish had the stronger top three and the contest was likely to be fierce, so much so that I envisaged having to umpire the last three games to ensure fair play!

I was actually wrong on both counts. Firstly Polish 'C' captain Krys Szczygiel was absent which seemed to indicate a massive swing towards OLOP 'G'. However most importantly I was both surprised and impressed by the friendliness of the occasion, the mutual respect from both teams



ANIA PYTKA (P), LUCA BIANCHI (P), WILLIS MA (O), JAN POLNIK (O), NIGEL ANTELL (O), ZIKO JERZMANSKI (P)

and their determination simply to enjoy the occasion.

The first set was between Luca Bianchi and Nigel Antell. Those who have watched or played against Luca will be familiar with his unorthodox style and in particular his wicked side spins. Nigel was having all sorts of trouble with this in the first game but he learned quickly, turning a 4-9 deficit to deuce before succumbing 10-12. In the second game Nigel seemed well in control winning 11-6 and was in front in the third game before tweaking his calf muscle. This seemed to give Luca the impetus to regain the advantage and he did so by winning 13-11. However Nigel was clearly struggling with his injury and after losing the last game and the set 11-7, was in so much agony he felt he had little choice but to retire from the match, despite efforts from his team mates and others to convince him to carry on. So disaster had struck for OLOP 'G' and they were effectively down to two players.

The second set was between Ania Pytka, a newcomer to league table tennis representing Polish 'C' and Willis Ma, a penholder player boasting a 100% record. Ania had a good solid all-round style but this proved no match for Willis's fast no-nonsense attacking game and it was the visiting player who won 11-7, 11-8, 11-4 to level the match score.

Next up was Ziko Jerzmanski against Jan Polnik, both of Polish origin but it was the former who was flying the flag for the Polish club. Like Willis before him Ziko is very steady but fast hitting whilst Jan opts for the unorthodox approach but with a "killer" backhand smash. This was a very friendly encounter but it was Ziko who came out on top winning 11-6, 11-7, 11-13, 12-10.

Because Nigel had retired, the sets that followed were played out of sequence to ensure that no player played con-

secutive sets. So next up was Luca v Willis and Luca had the unbeaten Willis in all sorts of trouble, winning the first two games 11-3 and 11-8 thanks to some excellent defensive play. However by this time Willis had figured that his pacey game was merely playing into Luca's hands so he opted for the slower approach, mixing slow top spin played to Luca's backhand with a fast smash with his opponent out of position. As a result Willis won the next two games 11-3 and 11-4 and held off a spirited fight from Luca to win the final game 11-8.

Ania was on next against Jan, but she found Jan's game very difficult to read (she's not the only one!) and went down 6-11, 3-11, 8-11.

Next was the clash of the night between two excellent players Ziko and Willis. It was Ziko who came out of the blocks like lightning going 8-3 up, but Willis staged a simply terrific fightback to win the first game 11-8. Back came Ziko to win the next game 11-7, then Willis 12-10, Ziko again 11-7 and Willis just edged the last game 11-9 to keep his unbeaten record intact. This was a game of scintillating table tennis, a real credit to Division 5.

With the match now tied up at 4 - 4 OLOP 'G' knew they had to win the doubles to win the match outright, which they would have to do if they were to hang on to their chance of the title. However Willis and Jan were simply blown away 11-5, 11-3, 11-4 by Luca and Ziko.

In the last set Luca overcame Jan 11-5, 5-11, 13-11, 11-5.

So it's congratulations to Polish 'C' on winning the title, but well done to both teams for producing a very friendly and entertaining evening.

John Cunningham Youth Division

by Danny Ricks

Welcome to the final news letter of the season and in fact my final newsletter ever. I'm sure all three of my devoted readers will be crying a river right now but no doubt my successor will be more than capable next season!

Anyway, to business, and a massive congratulations to the **Spartans**, who are crowned champions of Division



season, Spartans vs Tigers. A win by 6 points would have stolen the title for Tigers, but alas,

son, in particular during a fine 6 - 4 win against runners up Tigers.

The **Panthers** managed to avoid bottom spot by just four points. Bill Hayden and Camran Nesari were the



HARRY MUNRO OF PANTHERS

One.

They did this by the very closest of margins, overcoming **Tigers** by just 1 point. All was to play for heading into the last game of the



SCARLETT JONES OF TIGERS

they managed only a 7 - 3 win, thus losing out by the skin of their teeth. In this unbelievably close final, on at least two occasions Tigers were just one or two points from taking the title. Noticeably, Harry Munro's defeat of Katie Shepherd, 13-11 in the decider, or Leo Thomis beating Scarlett Jones

11-8, could both have gone either way, and changed the destination of the trophy.

Trojans took third place, finishing well below the top two, but well ahead of fourth place. Gareth Wheatley, Felix Thomis and John Sampson can all be relatively pleased with their efforts this sea-



CHRIS BRANT OF AVENGERS

main reasons for this, each achieving over 40%. Saif Maher found the going a little tougher, falling short of 20%.

Bringing up the rear in Division 1 were **Jaguars**. They remained competitive throughout and did manage two wins, including an impressive 8 - 2 victory against closest rivals the Panthers. Joe Will claimed an impressive maximum in this match, and ended just shy of 50%. Had he played more often, Jaguars might have finished a little higher. Daniel Bernie, Aidan Collymore and Oliver Scott all found the going a little tougher, but each had



FELIX THOMIS OF TROJANS



LUKAS DAHMANN OF ATTACKERS

high points in their campaigns.

Division Two was almost as closely contested as Division One, with just three points separating the top two. In

Div 1 TABLE

Team	Won	Pts
Spartans	6	54
Tigers	5	53
Trojans	5	39
Panthers	1	29
Jaguars	2	25

AVERAGES (Div 1)

Player	%
Harry Munro	92%
Thomas Perkins	92%
Joseph Barraclough	89%
Katie Shepherd	83%
Scarlett Jones	78%
Gareth Wheatley	59%
Leo Thomis	59%
Camran Nesari	50%

the end **Lions** came out on top, just pipping **Knights** to the title. This was largely due to Lions' 6 - 4 victory earlier in the season, but few could have predicted just how important that result would prove. A hat trick from Lions star, Balazs Horanyi, proved crucial and he himself finished on an impressive 80%. Ably backed up by Austin Ellerton and Haasin Khan, Lions proved worthy winners.

Knights had two impressive players, with Alex Duggan and Nathan McCaugherty each finishing on 72%. They are a team that has struggled to find a consistent third player, and have had to use stand-ins on many occasions. Had they had a third strong player on a consistent basis, they could well have taken the title.

Third place belonged to **Avengers**, as they managed four wins and four defeats. Jamie Legg was their star man, as

he won 65% of his matches including a terrific win against the impressive Balazs Horanyi. Chris Brant was Avengers' other main player, winning 35% of his matches. Avengers' result of the year was without a doubt their 9 - 1 drubbing of admittedly weakened champions, Lions. A fine result none the less.

Four points further back were **Raiders**, for whom Adam Winterbottom and Sachin Dougall achieved around 50%. One of their three wins came against Knights, a tightly-fought 6 - 4 victory, in which Sachin Dougall picked up an impressive treble.

Bottom of the pile in Division Two were the **Attackers**. Jack Hopkins, Daniel Knott and Lukas Dahmann all struggled, and each finished with below 30%. They will undoubtedly improve on their percentages next season, with a year's experience now behind them, and each did have high points in an otherwise disappointing season.

It must be said this was another wonderful year for Wendy Porter who has managed to seamlessly run the John Cunningham Youth Division whilst juggling all other commitments. A big thank you to Wendy, and all her helpers. You know who you are! And that's it for another season of table tennis. Please try to get as much practice as possible over the summer, and maybe those close losses will turn into victories next season! Have a great Summer!

Div 2 Table			AVERAGES (Div 2)	
Team	Won	Pts	Player	%
Lions	5	53	George Strong	100%
Knights	5	50	Balazs Horanyi	77%
Avengers	4	37	Alex Duggan	75%
Raiders	3	33	Austin Ellerton	73%
Attackers	1	27	Nathan McCaugherty	67%
			Jamie Legg	65%
			Adam Winterbottom	52%
			Haasin Khan	47%

Berkshire Cadets finish third in County Championships

The Berkshire Cadet Under 15 team finished third (out of ten) in this season's county championships division 1C.

Out of the nine counties played, Berkshire beat six - Dorset 2, Glamorgan, Somerset, Wiltshire, Hampshire 2 and Worcestershire. The team also drew with Dorset 1 but suffered narrow defeats to Gloucestershire and divisional winners Hampshire 1.

The successful Berkshire team consisted of Joshua Gallen, Gus Thomis, Sam Liu and his younger brother Jamie who was making his County debut plus the two girls, Katie Shepherd and Scarlett Jones, who showed a big improvement over last season and picked up some vital points for the team.

County Cadet Team Manager Sandra Shepherd was delighted with her team's efforts and said she was looking forward to next season when the team step up to junior (under-18) level.

Adam McTiernan Royal County Berkshire Table Tennis Association (RCBTTA) Press Secretary .



SAM, KATIE, GUS, JAMIE, SCARLETT AND JOSHUA.