



*December 2019*



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*My thanks to the Divisional Fixture Secretaries for writing their reports so brilliantly and in such good time - so I'll be able to have a really nice Christmas.*

*As this newsletter came together, I have noticed their photos growing in size. This must be Parkinson's Law: "Divisional Fixture Secretaries expand to fill the space available".*

*Well, the fact is we couldn't fill these pages with photos of our players in action, which would normally have come from the Berkshire Closed tournament.*

*But what we also have is a Christmas cover photo (above) from Angela Liu in Surrey - mother of geniuses Sam and Jamie.*

*She writes, "**Christmas wishes to you and all at Reading TTA from all the Lius xxx Have a good one .**"*

*Anyway, have fun!  
Derek*



### Notes from our Chairman

Hello Everyone.

I hope that your season is going well.

Firstly I hope that you all have a great Christmas but more important a Happy and Healthy 2020.

For those of you who are playing in the Individual Handicap run by Wendy at Kingfisher on the 5th January I hope

that you will enjoy it.

Also do not forget that the Reading Closed are being held at Cippenham at the beginning of March

Finally now we are approaching the half way stage there are still plenty to play for so good luck to you all

All the best

*Derek*



### Youth League - from Wendy Porter

I have been informed the sports hall at Blue Coat School is going to have a resurface during the half term week, so at the moment it looks like we won't be having a session on February 14th. This would have been when we run the Alan Dines Memorial Handicap Competition for the

Youth League players, but I am sure we will be able to fit it in somewhere.

Emma will give a brief report on how Youth League is going.

All the best

*Wendy Porter*

### Individual Handicap Competition

To be held at Kingfisher Table Tennis Club on Sunday, January 5, 2020

Entries are via the 'Tournament Software' application, and details of how to enter and the link are on the Reading Website.

The online Entries opened yesterday, and we already have 14 players entered (within 48 hours) so looking good, hope it continues.

Anyone who has not used

Tournament Software before, will need to set up an account. It is Free, and means your details are ready for all competitions you enter through this method. This is the link if anyone needs it.

**CLICK HERE**

Again this software will be used for the Reading Closed, and will be available anon.

*Wendy Porter*





# DIVISION ONE

by Mark Banks

Welcome everybody to the eagerly anticipated, special Xmas edition of the world's greatest table tennis newsletter. Full of all your festive favourites and lots more. Great stuff once again DBW. Not much change in the D1 placings since we last met. My own beloved KFA still lead the way by the narrowest of margins over OP and it's any 2 from 3 in the big relegation battle at the bottom. Elsewhere has anybody seen or heard from Julian Telford? Last seen commenting that he was only 2 places behind me in the averages and bigging up his team's chances before spectacularly crashing down against OLOP. Hope you're OK Julian, I'm sure it's safe to come out of that dark room now. Anyway, hope you lot all have a great Xmas & New Year. Not sure what 2020 has in store. Will I finally manage to actually stick to a plan and lose some weight? Will OLOP pull out all the stops to pip KFA to the title? Will Neil Hurford finally stop talking about his victories over Andy Wang? Will Graham Mendick ever stop shouting? and will Nigel Keedy finally send a scorecard in on time? Who knows but have a good one!!

Love & Peace x

I still love moaning about the new points system by the way but just like last year it might just actually favour my Kingfisher 'A' who came unstuck against an inspired Liam Mc and OP but because the score was 6-4 then no real damage done in the overall scheme of things and actually OP handed that advantage straight back by turning up with only 2 at Springfield. We are having a good time of it though in KFA. Actually having quite a good laugh with the new recruits Dan, Ben, Ross and Steady and they're pretty good players too. Even Hariiiiiii seems happier and maybe one day we will see Dmitry again. So we are gonna keep pushing and just see where that takes us. OLOP are probably still narrow favourites but it's going to be oh so close.

**MVP: Mark Banks. Sorry Hariiiiiii stats don't lie**

Great win for **OLOP PREMIER** over KFA then but is it going to be enough to wrestle the championship back to the church for the first time in many years? On paper they have the best team but that team clearly isn't going to be playing every week so it's just handing back a bit of an advantage to their main rivals. Obviously still doing really well though with Coley and Murgy the main men ably supported by ever improving Johnson. Murgy in particular is looking very much like the Murgy of old and has already put right a couple of unexpected defeats from last season. Liam and the Ricks twins have all been used sparingly and it just makes you wonder how much they really want it? We shall see.

**MVP: Liam "Big Mc" McTiernan**

Still flying high then are **Sonning Common & Peppard 'B'** who are looking forward to finishing above their A Team for the first time in the club's history. To be fair The A team have narrowed the gap significantly since the last report but they still weren't able to lower the B Team colours as they battled out an entertaining local derby draw. Top man is still Mr Wang although somebody is going to have to take him to one side and explain how to beat Neil Hurford – maybe that could be Jez Willis who had a great win over the Oxfordshire Veteran. Elsewhere Nigel is continuing to enjoy his Div 1 resurgence with some of his best form in his whole career and Brian too is starting to get his name on the scorecard more often than not. Great stuff from this team. 3rd place and no sign of letting up!

**MVP: Andy "Hurford's off the Xmas Card list" Wang**

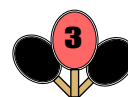
Looks like KFC took my words on board and are much improved this past month or two. They have raced up to 4th in the table and are once again playing some good stuff. Leading the way for them is Phil Mead who has been a major player in Bracknell for years but who is now mixing up with the best that Reading has to offer. Nigel is also back playing better again and with Alan and Grant and even the man who loves to chat - and not just while he's playing - Ivor they have the basis of a really solid outfit and it wouldn't surprise me to see them having an improved 2nd half and finishing 4th overall – maybe even 3rd!

**MVP: Phil "Mr Bracknell" Mead**

Not before time **Sonning Common & Peppard 'A'** have soared up the table into 5th and have the B Team firmly in their sights although they still have it all to do to catch them in the 2nd half. A great opportunity to put a dent in the B team lead but they could only manage a draw in the derby match. It was bad enough last year when Neil beat Wang with the Oxford man telling literally everybody how he did it and now he's done it again it's going to be complete agony for us all haha! Well played Neil what a player. Joe Joes not back on holiday from Uni and Gazza still busy coaching so just a 3 man team which is great for JR as he gets to play a more prominent role in the side. Doesn't mean he wins anymore - he just gets to play more matches 😊 Malcolm plodding along on 33%. Now they are over their dodgy start expect more from this lot in the New Year. B are deffo looking over their shoulders.

**MVP: Neil "Did I tell you I beat Wang – twice" Hurford**

Nice work for **Kingfisher 'B'** who are just enjoying their nights out without any expectations or aspirations for bigger things this season. Definitely expect



Emma & Lily to improve in the 2nd half from their experiences of the 1st half. Lily has now gotten off the mark and is playing with much more confidence now and Emma the same. Martin obviously is still far too good for us mere mortals and he'll make sure that the team carries on having fun with some scalps along the way. Richard as I said before is back on track this season and Justin is doing a good job when called upon. Mid table then for KFB but they won't mind about that. All about having a laugh with this lot.

#### **MVP: Martin "Simply The Best" Adams**

Mid table specialists **Tidmarsh 'A'** are still going about their business, not troubling the top sides but equally too good for the teams below them. By the way, I saw results from another League the other day and there is another Squirrel. And he's actually called Squirrel. Phil Squirrel or somebody. Couldn't believe it. I wonder who would win if they played. I've never heard of the other bloke so my money would be firmly on our own little tree rodent. Lee's form seems to have slipped a bit since his bright early start and team Webb are now in double figures for number of combined wins with Ray winning that particular battle. Simon still plays his supporting role. Mid table is where they are and mid table is where they will end up and they'll be fine with that.

#### **MVP: Our Squirrel**

Wellwellwell **Kennet Valley Free Church 'A'**. Nobody practises more than these guys and clearly they need it after talking the talk but not quite er, walking the walk in recent times. You can tell things haven't quite gone according to plan as Julian now doesn't even bother commenting on every result as soon as it hits the website. It even got to the stage where I had to get my missus to text me just to check my phone was still working. The one shining light has been the much improved form of Jordan. He's starting to look a proper player at this level with some notable wins already and will only be better in the 2nd half. Graham is finding out that it takes more than a loud voice to be a top player but will be keen to get at least one big scalp in the 2nd half that his hard work and dedication deserves. Julian bless him. One minute he's 2 places behind me in the averages giving it large, the next minute I'm having to buy him a pair of binoculars for Xmas so he can use them to find his name all the way down the list. Actually I may even have to use them myself to try and find him if he doesn't emerge from that dark room anytime soon. So much promise in this side but so far it's not quite happened. We expect more in the New Year!

#### **MVP: Graham "Trevor" Mendick**

I'm assuming Graham has been working away as he hasn't been seen in a **Springfield 'A'** shirt since the last time we spoke. Even without him they've

		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Kingfisher A	10	9	0	1	78	22	78
2	OLOP Premier	9	8	1	0	66	24	66
3	SC&P B	10	5	5	0	60	40	60
4	Kingfisher B	10	4	4	2	55	45	55
5	Kingfisher C	9	5	1	3	52	38	52
6	SC&P A	9	4	3	2	52	38	52
7	Tidmarsh A	10	3	2	5	44	56	44
8	Springfield A	10	2	3	5	43	57	43
9	Kennet Valley A	9	3	2	4	42	48	42
10	Tidmarsh B	9	0	3	6	27	63	27
11	Curzon Club A	10	1	0	9	26	74	26
12	SC&P C	9	1	0	8	25	65	25

been picking enough points just to keep them ahead of the big battle below them. Phil has been the main driving force for the side with a respectable average in his first season at this level and with Adam picking up almost 1 in 3 and Ludovic 1 in 5 it's just about been OK. Hope the Dip is back in the New Year for them

#### **MVP: Graham "The Dip" Diplock**

And so to the big relegation battle and first up are **Tidmarsh 'B'** who have actually improved their position these past 6 weeks and have given themselves an outside chance even though I was basically saying they were destined to drop. They will have been boosted by the return of Duncan who is now back and hopefully fighting fit again and with John winning loads and if Barry and François can pick up some vital wins – every point definitely counts. Talking of Barry. He even tried to nab a free dinner off me the other day – the cheeky git!! So can they defy the odds and beat the drop? Still a tough ask but given themselves a real chance tbf.

#### **MVP: John "The Nugget" Golding**

I know I shouldn't have favourites OK. I know I'm meant to remain impartial. I get that. But when **Curzon 'A'** are providing world class refreshments like that then there is only one team I would love see remain in the top flight of Reading Table Tennis. I couldn't believe it. OK so it took a few subtle hints to finally get Pete to get his wallet out but when he finally did it was incredible. Pints, crisps, peanuts but that was just the start. We were then offered pizzas from a local take away establishment on the Oxford Road and then when we thought we couldn't eat anymore, Lockwood and Barnsey brought over some of their left over Monday Night Picnic Pork pies and Scotch eggs. Fabulous stuff. And this is after we'd beaten them 10 nil. What would we have got if we'd let them have a couple and won 8-2 for example? Fried chicken too? Fantastic evening. I don't care how Pete, John and Jon play. I'm voting for them to stay up - so there!!

#### **MVP: Jon "Never been to Old Trafford" Willis**

## LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Ian Cole	OLOP Premier	18	17	94.44%
Mark Banks	Kingfisher A	15	14	93.33%
Andy Wang	SC&P B	23	21	91.30%
Graham Mendick	Kennet Valley A	18	15	83.33%
Philip Mead	Kingfisher C	18	15	83.33%
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher A	15	12	80.00%
Ross Saxby	Kingfisher A	15	12	80.00%
Anthony Baker	Tidmarsh A	24	18	75.00%
Neil Hurford	SC&P A	24	18	75.00%
Graham Diplock	Springfield A	12	9	75.00%
Daniel Wills	Kingfisher A	15	11	73.33%
Steve Murgatroyd	OLOP Premier	24	17	70.83%
Jason Roberts	SC&P A	27	18	66.67%
Nigel Maltby	SC&P B	15	10	66.67%
Alan Cummings	Kingfisher C	15	10	66.67%
Justin Mead	Kingfisher B	9	6	66.67%

And finally we have **Sonning Common & Peppard 'C'** who started OK but a tough run of fixtures have seen them dragged right into it and they now have a proper battle on their hands if they are to be the one of the three that stays up. My dinner partner Denise has been the star performer but in truth there isn't a lot between them all with Tim and Matt S both having notable wins in their locker although Matt Isherwood is falling below that 1 in 3 mark that they will need to get it done in the 2nd half. I was confident at the start that these would be OK and they still could be but it will be a proper battle. Quite exciting as it goes but please do not swear 😊

**MVP: Denise "Mark I've heard all your stories before" Weller**



## DIVISION TWO

by John Willcocks

Four teams have pulled away at the top of the division with the title race looking like it will be between three of them, OLOP 'A', Tilehurst Meths 'A' and Sonning Sports 'A'. At the bottom despite some improved results OLOP 'D' look certain to be relegated with a number of other teams fighting to avoid the other relegation spot. It could be that the promotion and relegation issues will not be decided until the last week of the season. **Tilehurst Meths 'A'** have won their last five matches including three comprehensive wins and two much closer ones. The closest was a 6 - 4 victory over fourth placed SC&P 'D' thanks to a three straight Eric Van Looy maximum. In their top of the table clash with OLOP 'A' they ran out 7 - 3 winners with yet another maximum from Eric. This match featured an epic set between Keith Winter and Chris West with Keith just winning in five despite only dropping four points in the first two games. As with one of their rivals, team selection strategy may decide if they end up finishing in the top two or not.

### Prediction – 2nd

**Best Recent Performance – Eric Van Looy with a three-straight maximum in their top of the table clash with OLOP 'A'**

**OLOP 'A'** have maintained their position in the

top two having recorded two heavy wins and two close defeats against their promotion rivals. Against table toppers Tilehurst Meths 'A' Darek Kaminski had a fine win against Keith Winter but despite a number of hard-fought sets they went down 7 - 3. Then in the match against third placed Sonning Sports 'A' there were a number of very close sets before Sonning just edged a 6 - 4 win. In this match Ben Carless's winning sequence which went back to 23rd September came to an end in spectacular fashion when he lost all of his sets. Despite the two close defeats to their promotion rivals their strong all-round squad still puts them as slight favourites for the title

### Prediction – 1st

**Best Recent Performance- Two wins in four by Darek Kaminski against Nick Sears and Keith Winter**

**Sonning Sports 'A'** have had a mixed period with two wins, a draw and a surprising defeat against Kingfisher 'E'. The dropped points in the loss to the Kingfisher team and a draw against Springfield 'B' means that a gap has opened up between them and the top two although they are still well in the hunt for a promotion place. Paul Savage and Nick Sears have continued with their good form and both have only lost once recently. With Bob



Woodmansee and Keith Machin, who is back from injury, offering good support they could still finish in the top two.

#### **Prediction – 3rd**

**Best Recent Performance – Paul Savage inflicting a rare defeat on Darek Kaminski in a close set which went to five.**

**SC&P 'D'** are on a good run and have won four of their last five matches. Their only recent defeat was 6 - 4 to leaders Tilehurst Meths 'A' and their best win was 8 - 2 against Kingfisher 'D' helped by a Jon Abbott maximum. They are still reliant on the same three players as Mark Jones has only played in one match, but with Jon Abbott and Alan Mollett averaging around 80% and Angus Jones giving good support they are a hard team to beat. They are comfortably in fourth place and they will probably stay in that position but they are not far behind third placed Sonning Sports 'A'

#### **Prediction – 4th**

**Best Recent Performance – Alan Mollett with an excellent maximum against OLOP 'B'**

**OLOP 'B'** have had four 6 - 4 wins or defeats in their last five matches and are unsurprisingly comfortably in mid table and in a battle for who finishes in fifth spot. Their other

#### **Prediction – 5th**

**OLOP 'C'** have only won twice but four draws and only one heavy defeat sees them in a mid table position. Their one poor result recently was a 9 - 1 reverse to Sonning Sports 'A' but their other recent matches have all been very close. Their three players are all winning sets consistently and it is a long time since any of them did not win at least one set in a match. They are still having to play reserves at times but their three players are doing enough to maintain their mid table position. As long as Alistair, Dave and David are able to play in most of the matches they will stay in mid table

#### **Prediction – 8th**

**Best Recent Performance – David Holt with a good maximum against OLOP 'B'**

**Kingfisher 'D'** have lost four out of their last five matches although a number of the defeats were against teams at the top of the division. This run could have seen them drop close to the relegation zone but a 10 - 0 win over OLOP 'D' has ensured that they remain in a comfortable mid table position. With three players averaging over 60% they should remain in mid table and they could finish as high as fifth.

#### **Prediction – 6th**

**Best Recent Performance – David Wells with a very good win over Alan Mollett**

**Kingfisher 'E'** have continued with their mid table form having two recent wins and the same number of defeats. Their wins were against Springfield 'B' and high-flying Sonning Sports 'A' while one of their defeats was a surprising 8 - 2 reverse to Pangbourne WMC. Roger Pritchard has an average of over 90% but he has only played in four matches. Savva

Christodoulou is also playing well and after a slow start to the season Gwynne Penny got a welcome maximum in the win over Springfield 'B'. They should finish in mid table but the gap between them and the teams in 10th and 11th is fairly small so they will need to pick up points consistently to ensure the gap is maintained.

		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Tilehurst Meths A	10	9	1	0	77	23	77
2	OLOP A	10	7	0	3	72	28	72
3	Sonning Sports A	10	7	1	2	65	35	65
4	SC&P D	10	7	1	2	61	39	61
5	OLOP B	11	6	0	5	57	53	57
6	Kingfisher D	10	4	0	6	47	53	47
7	OLOP C	10	2	4	4	46	54	46
8	Kingfisher E	10	4	1	5	44	56	44
9	Milestone A	10	2	2	6	42	58	42
10	Pangbourne WMC	9	2	2	5	36	54	36
11	Springfield B	10	2	3	5	36	64	36
12	OLOP D	10	0	1	9	17	83	17

recent result was a heavy defeat to their 'A' team. Tom Lewis has the highest average in the team but he has only played four times, their other players are all usually winning once or twice a match so their close results are likely to continue

**Best Recent Performance – Abhay Gore with an impressive three straight win over Clive Perry**

### **Prediction – 7th**

**Best Recent Performance – Savva Christodoulou with a three-straight maximum against Springfield 'B'**

**Milestone 'A'** have only won once recently but apart from a 9 - 1 defeat to promotion chasing OLOP 'A' their other matches have all been very close. Their best result was a 6 - 4 win over Kingfisher 'D' despite having to play a reserve, in this match Zoltan Keleman got his first maximum of the season. Their close results mean that they are picking up enough points to stay clear of the relegation zone but the gap is fairly small so they need to be careful not to get dragged into a relegation fight. Dave Sanket sustained an injury during their match against SC&P 'D' and they will need him to recover and get back to playing as soon as possible.

### **Prediction – 9th**

**Best Recent Performance – Arun Rajagopal with a hard-fought win in five against Alan Mollett**

**Pangbourne WMC** have had a good run of results which has seen them climb out of the bottom two and close the gap on some of the teams above them. Although their recent run has only included one win, 8 - 2 against Kingfisher 'E', they have also had two draws and a close defeat as well as an 8 - 2 defeat to Tilehurst Meths 'A'. All of their three-man squad have been picking up wins consistently and in particular Clive Taylor's form has been impressive. If they can keep up their current form they could pull themselves clear of the relegation fight.

### **Prediction 10th**

**Best Recent Performance – Clive Taylor with a great maximum against Kingfisher 'E'**

**Springfield 'B'** had a run of very close results before slightly surprisingly losing heavily to Kingfisher 'E', their first poor result since early October. They are in the fight to avoid the second relegation place although their current rivals to avoid that spot, Pangbourne WMC, have a match in hand. They have a tough start to the second half of the season and if they can pick up a reasonable number of points in those match-

## **LEADING AVERAGES**

Player	Team	P	W	%
Eric Van Looy	Tilehurst Meths A	26	25	96.15%
Keith Winter	Tilehurst Meths A	19	18	94.74%
Thomas Lewis	OLOP B	15	14	93.33%
Roger Pritchard	Kingfisher E	12	11	91.67%
Paul Savage	Sonning Sports A	30	27	90.00%
Darek Kaminski	OLOP A	24	21	87.50%
Nick Sears	Sonning Sports A	24	20	83.33%
Jonathan Abbott	SC&P D	26	21	80.77%
Benedict Carless	OLOP A	24	19	79.17%
Alan Mollett	SC&P D	27	21	77.78%
Ralph Philips	OLOP A	12	8	66.67%
Clive Gold	Kingfisher D	23	15	65.22%
Savva Christodoulou	Kingfisher E	24	15	62.50%
Clive Perry	OLOP A	18	11	61.11%
David Wells	Kingfisher D	20	12	60.00%
Luca Bianchi	Kingfisher D	15	9	60.00%

es they will be in with a good chance of avoiding relegation.

### **Prediction 11th**

**Best Recent Performance – Peter Gurney with a very good maximum in their win over Pangbourne WMC**

**OLOP 'D'** look destined to finish bottom. They managed their first draw of the campaign against Pangbourne WMC but have lost three times since then although only by 6 - 4 in the match against Springfield 'B'. In the match against Pangbourne WMC Graham Stark had two good three straight wins and Morgan Sykes also won twice. Morgan also played well against Springfield 'B' again winning twice and just missing out on a maximum. Their performances are improving and they should have a better second half of the season but they have too much to do to stand any chance of avoiding relegation.

### **Prediction 12th**

**Best Recent Performance – Graham Stark with a three-straight win over John Simmonds**

## TEAM HANDICAP TOURNAMENT *by Ray Webb*

With Sonning Common and Peppard 'A' having to concede their first round match to Our Lady of Peace 'E', only one match was left to play in this round. Here **Sonning Sports 'B'** put out **Kingfisher 'H'** 6 - 3 thanks to a Himanshu Pasbola hat-trick and a remarkable Paul Savage double having started from 0 - 16 and 0 - 15. Paul's only loss coming at the hands of Haris Munir.

And so on to Round Two where with one match yet to play, all the others ended either 5 - 4 or 6 - 3 showing yet again how close this competition is proving to be.

Another 6 - 3 scoreline saw **Sonning Sports 'B'** win again, this time at **Sonning Common and Peppard 'E'**. Captain Cris Reynolds coming in to replace Paul Savage, but it would be Keith Machin replacing Nick Sears who provided the maximum with only a double from Himanshu this time. From 0 - 4 down Anthony Reeve, Jim Warren and Ian Davenport each winning a set looked to have turned the match around for Sonning Common, but a 21-17, 18-21, 14-21 win for Himanshu over Jim secured the match for Sports.

Most unfortunate team must be **Kingfisher 'D'** who could only field two players yet still only went down 5 - 4 to Tidmarsh 'A', Clive Gold's two straight maximum proving to be in vain. Lee Calcutt's 22 -20, 10-21, 23-21 opening win against Luca Bianchi, vital for the villagers.

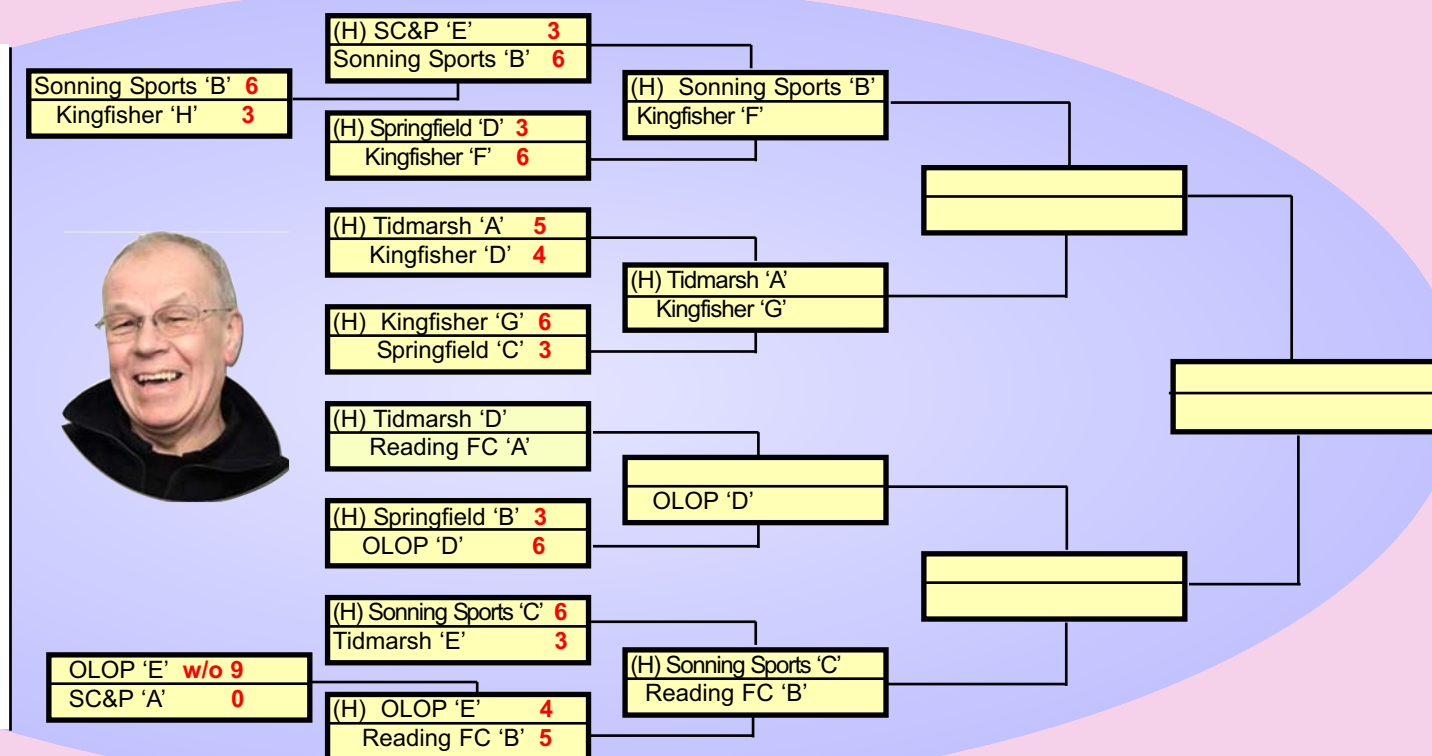
Two sets apiece from Eric Holmes, Ruben Hernandez and Peter Bennett were enough to see off Springfield 'D' and keep **Kingfisher 'F'** on track for the team competition double. Colin Taylor with a pair for Springfield was not enough to prevent Kingfisher reeling off five sets on the trot to seal the match by set six.

**Does lightning strike twice?** Well it might seem that way with another Kingfisher side - 'G' beating another Springfield side - 'C' by another 6 - 3 scoreline and again due to all three players winning twice. This time it was Nils Wedi, Andrew Adair and Ken Robb. Oliver Delas was on top form for Springfield with an unrewarded two straight maximum.

In what would prove to be a miserable round for the **Springfield club, their third side, the 'B' team** also exited the competition at this stage in another 6 - 3 defeat, this time to **Our Lady of Peace 'D'**. A single each from Peter Gurney, Seth Martin and Rob Wilkie were not enough to stop OLOP, fielding two players from the current holders, progressing. At three sets all Mark Carless took set seven 20-22, 12-21 to complete his maximum, setting up Morgan Sykes to take the match and a well earned double in set eight. Unusually for a handicap match, none of the sets required a third game decider.

**Tidmarsh 'E'** were another side going down 6 - 3 where each of their players picked up a single set. This time it was Steve Andrews, John Harland and Mike Bundy unable to prevent a **Sonning Sports 'C'** victory. John Scott, undefeated for Sports, was assisted by a fine double from Mo Cole.

**The final match in round two saw a close tit for tat affair between Our Lady of Peace 'E' and Reading FC 'B'** with the match going set for set until a Joe Bull 14-21, 21-17, 21-9 win over Wendy Porter in set eight took the match for Reading. Harry Bullock held off Freedom Agindotan 18-21, 21-7, 21-14 to secure a well deserved maximum - the highlight for OLOP.







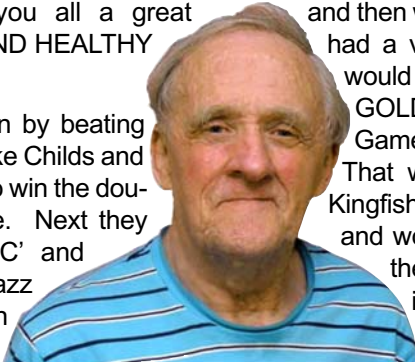
# DIVISION THREE

by Derek Harrison

**H**ello Everyone,  
First I would like to wish you all a great Christmas and also a HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2020.

**Reading FC 'A'** continue to march on by beating Milestone 'B' 2 – 8 with hat tricks from Mike Childs and Anthony Alleyne. They also teamed up to win the doubles. Wayne Alleyne recorded a single. Next they played second-in-the-table Tidmarsh 'C' and won 7 – 3 with Mike gaining three and Jazz Dhillon a double. Wayne had a nice win over Spencer Harvey. Mike and Jazz also won the doubles. At Tidmarsh 'D' they won 3 – 7 with Mike hitting a three straight maximum. Anthony hit a double and Wayne managed a single. Dave Edwards told me he witnessed some tremendous rallies from Anthony. At home to Kingfisher 'G' it was business as usual for Mike who hit a three straight treble and with Anthony and Wayne both winning two this helped to a 8 – 2 win.

**Tidmarsh 'C'** entertained Curzon 'B' in what looks a great match. Ian Wu won two besides teaming up to win the doubles with Simon Craig who gained a single. Richard Hudson also won one to share the spoils. At Reading FC 'A' Richard had a good night by beating Jazz and Wayne but Ian only won one so they lost 7 – 3. They then beat O.L.O.P. 'E' 7 – 3 with Ian winning all three. David Sheppard had a good night by winning two and teaming up with Ian to win the doubles. Spencer Harvey played his part by gaining a single.



was twice 8-4 up against Dave Smith but only took one point and then was 10-8 up only to lose but after saying that she had a very good win over Thereasa. At this stage I would like to congratulate Charlotte on winning a GOLD MEDAL in the singles at the World Transplant Games and in the women's doubles won the Silver. That was Brilliant Charlotte so very well done. At Kingfisher 'G' they won 3 – 7 with Kate playing great TT and won all three. John Walker had his best night of the season by winning two as did Nick but then injured himself and had to concede his final set. At home to Tilehurst Meths 'B' Kate was in great form by gaining a hat trick however it was all in vain as the team lost 3 – 7.

**Milestone 'B'** lost to Reading F C 'A' 2 – 8 with Shawnik Thakur and Oliver Bonser both beating Wayne Alleyne. They then bounced back by beating O.L.O.P. 'E' 6 – 4. Chris Collins and Shawnik both won two each and Oliver picked up a single. At home to Sonning Sports 'B' John Crosfield was in brilliant form by winning all three and also teaming up with Oliver to win the doubles. Oliver himself managed a double while reserve John Evans weighed in with a single. At Kingfisher 'G' they came away with a 2 – 8 victory with Oliver putting in a player of the match performance by winning all which included a thrilling 11-6, 12-14, 7-11, 11-6, 9-11 win over Nils Wedi. John and Chris both obtained doubles. At Kingfisher 'F' they won a close match 4 – 6 with Chris on top form winning all three besides teaming up with John to win the doubles. John Crosfield also won two

**Tidmarsh 'D'** beat a two man Tilehurst Meths 'B' 6 – 4 with Terry Hardie winning his two sets and also teaming up with Dave Smith to win the doubles. Thanks to a fine team performance they next drew at Curzon 'B' with Dave Edwards winning two besides teaming up with Thereasa Watson to win the doubles. Thereasa and Dave S also won one each. Against Reading FC 'A' Terry did well to beat Anthony and Wayne. Dave E also beat Wayne in a 3 – 7 defeat. At O.L.O.P 'E' they won 4 – 6 with Terry and Dave E both gaining doubles and Dave S winning one.

**Kingfisher 'F'** faced a one player Sonning Sports 'B' and won 10 – 0 with Eric Holmes and Ruben Hernandez both beating Brett Hastings. I feel that I should list the time table of events. At 8.15 under rule 12.9.1 Alan Yeung the captain asked for the match to be awarded to his team because Sonning Sports had not turned up and then went home. The other players decided to stay to have a practice. At 8.25 Brett turned up and as a courtesy Eric and Ruben decided that they would play him and as it happens both beat him. Now despite Alan going home but bearing in mind he had already claimed the match I decided to award his set against Brett as a walk over for Alan instead of a forfeit as it would have been. They then beat Curzon 'B' 7 – 3 with Peter Bennett and Eric Holmes both gaining trebles. Sandeep Burande won one. They are now on a roll by beating Springfield 'B' 2 – 8. Ruben

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Reading FC A	10	10	0	0	82	18	82
2 Milestone B	11	9	0	2	67	43	67
3 Tidmarsh C	9	6	1	2	63	27	63
4 Curzon Club B	11	6	3	2	63	47	63
5 Tidmarsh D	11	6	1	4	58	52	58
6 Kingfisher F	11	5	1	5	57	53	57
7 Tilehurst Meths B	11	5	1	5	56	54	56
8 OLOP E	11	3	1	7	51	59	51
9 Kingfisher G	11	5	0	6	42	68	42
10 Curzon Club C	9	1	0	8	31	59	31
11 Springfield C	10	2	0	8	30	70	30
12 Sonning Sports B	9	0	0	9	20	70	20

**Curzon 'B'** drew at Tidmarsh 'C' with Nick Lean putting on the performance of the season so far. He gained a hat trick by beating Ian Wu 9-11, 14-16 ( this after being 8-4 down), 11-6, 8-11 then Simon Craig 11-13, 9-11, 11-8, 11-7, 8-11 and Richard Hudson 11-8, 4-11, 9-11, 10-12. Kate Maksimenko helped the cause by obtaining a double. In the doubles Nick and Kate played well and just lost 11-6 in the fifth end. Next they shared the spoils with Tidmarsh 'D'. Despite struggling with a cold Charlotte Binley won two as did Carine Bey who this season is playing with more confidence with lots of her hits well timed. Linda King had a mixed night because she



## LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Mike Childs	Reading FC A	30	30	100.00%
Mo Cook	OLOP E	21	20	95.24%
Tony Alleyne	Reading FC A	27	24	88.89%
Kate Maksimenko	Curzon Club B	24	21	87.50%
Christopher Collins	Milestone B	21	18	85.71%
Nick Lean	Curzon Club B	20	17	85.00%
Ian Wu	Tidmarsh C	18	15	83.33%
Nils Wedi	Kingfisher G	21	16	76.19%
Eric Holmes	Kingfisher F	16	12	75.00%
Ruben Hernandez	Kingfisher F	15	11	73.33%
Terry Hardie	Tidmarsh D	22	15	68.18%
Jason King	Springfield C	24	16	66.67%
Louise Forster	OLOP E	21	14	66.67%
Simon Craig	Tidmarsh C	15	10	66.67%
Spencer Harvey	Tidmarsh C	20	13	65.00%
Richard Hudson	Tidmarsh C	14	9	64.29%

was the player of the match by winning all three but giving him good support was Eric and Muharrem Aydin who both won two. Their winning run came to an end when losing to Milestone 'B' 4 – 6. Sandeep hit a double while Alan and Ruben both obtained singles.

**O.L.O.P. 'E'** did not play Mo Cook or Wendy Porter at Springfield 'C' and as a result lost 6 – 4 with Harry Bullock and Louise Forster both gaining doubles. Against Milestone 'B' despite a hat trick from Mo they lost 4 – 6. Wendy won the other set. Mo was again missing when they played Tidmarsh 'C' which was lost 7 – 3. Louise had two nice wins over Spencer and David while Wendy also beat Spencer. At home to Tidmarsh 'D' Mo was in great form by winning all three in straight sets with no one getting more than 7 points. He beat Dave Edwards 11-2, 11-5, 11-7 then Dave Smith 11-4, 11-5, 11-7 and Terry Hardie 11-3, 11-3, 11-4. Wendy also beat Dave S in a 4 – 6 defeat.

**Tilehurst Meths 'B'** could only field two players against Tidmarsh 'D' due to a last minute problem. Jes Eassom and Patrick O'Sullivan both won two each by beating Dave Smith and Thereasa Watson. But this was not enough in a 6 – 4 defeat. The set played by Thereasa and Patrick was a bit tight with Patrick winning 13-11, 13-15, 11-9, 9-11, 14-16. My guess is there will not be a longer set in the whole Reading leagues this season. Against Kingfisher 'G' they won 9 – 1 with Jes and Martin both gaining trebles with Patrick picking up a double. In the last set Jes and Andrew were at two games all, then at 9-8 Jes hit the ball and it fell on top of the net to fall on Andrew's side which he could not get to. Re my comment above on the longest set, Patrick was at it again against Andrew with the scores as follows, Patrick scores first, 10-12, 13-15, 15-13, 17-15, 5-11 making it 4 points more. At Curzon 'C' Martin, Jes, and Patrick all won two each to help them to a 3 – 7 win. Again at Curzon this time against the 'B' team they won 3 – 7 with again Martin, Jes and Patrick all winning two each.

**Kingfisher 'G'** lost 9 – 1 at Tilehurst Meths 'B' with Andrew Adair beating Patrick 10-12, 13-15, 15-13, 17-15, 5-11. Nils came back into the team against Curzon 'C' and promptly won all three in straight games. He always plays against us. Andrew played well and won twice. What a sporting man. The two of them also won the doubles to give them a 4 – 6

win. The next night they lost to Curzon 'B' 3 – 7. Nils won one besides teaming up with Andrew to win the doubles. At home to Milestone 'B' Nils managed a double in a 2 – 8 defeat. At Reading FC 'A' Nils managed a double in an 8 – 2 defeat.

**Curzon 'C'** went to improving Kingfisher 'F' and lost 7 – 3 with Peter Hillier and Paul Treadgold both beating Sandeep. Peter and Jim Brent had a fine doubles win over Eric and Peter beating them 8-11, 11-5, 5-11, 11-7, 9-11. At home to Kingfisher 'G' I made my first appearance of the season after not hitting a ball for over 6 months. Some will say that I did not hit many anyway. I did manage a single as did Peter while Paul hit a double in a 4 – 6 defeat. At home to Tilehurst Meths 'B' Paul was in great form and hit a well deserved maximum. Sadly Jim and Peter are continuing to struggle. At Springfield 'C' it was a nightmare, losing 8 – 2. Paul and Jim both gained singles.

**Sonning Sports 'B'** only turned up with Brett Hastings and as a result lost 10 – 0 to Kingfisher 'F' however I have to report that Brett came straight to the match after landing at Heathrow at 7p.m. coming from Australia but before he could leave the airport discovered he had a flat tyre which delayed him and then on the way to Kingfisher he had to stop 3 times to pump up the tyre but as reported above he did not arrive until 8.25pm. What a man for making the effort! Sadly if the other team members had turned up there would not have been a problem. Next at Milestone 'B' they lost 7 – 3 after being 5 nil down. Brett stopped the rot by beating John Evans. In game 7 the doubles Brett and Himanshu Pasbola were two games up before losing the next three games. In set nine Cris just got home against John Evans by winning 9-11 in the fifth after being 5-2 down and in set ten Brett beat Oliver Bonser 11-8, 9-11, 9-11, 10-12. At this point I on behalf of you all wish the best of luck to Mike Gautrey who had a high risk operation at the Princess Grace Hospital on the 20th November.

**Springfield 'C'** moved off the bottom by beating O.L.O.P. 'E' 6 – 4 with Jason King and Johnny Worrall both winning two each besides teaming up to win the doubles. Marcello Caramma played his part by winning one. At home to Kingfisher 'F' they lost 2 – 8 with Jason winning two. He could have had a hat trick, only going down 9-11 in the 5th game in set ten. Next came a vital 8 – 2 win against Curzon 'C' where Jason hit a brilliant three straight treble. Giving him great support were Ollie Delas and Marcello who won two each

I now list the leading **Player Of The Match** players:

Mike Childs	7
Mo Cook	5
Chris Collins	4
Kate Maksimenko	4
Ian Wu	3
Nils Wedi	3
Nick Lean	3
Paul Treadgold	3

Finally I cannot include in my article or the tables which it includes the matches commencing the 9th of December. Please look at the web site to bring yourself up to date..

All the best,

Derek.

## LOWER DIVISIONS KNOCKOUT TOURNAMENT *by Ray Webb*

With three matches conceded, two decided by a 9 - 0 scoreline and two at 8 - 1, the pick of the first round matches has to be the 5 - 4 defeat of **Our Lady of Peace 'D'** by **Kingfisher 'G'**. With the game scores, for some reason, played up to 21 instead of the normal 11 points, Kingfisher took the opening two sets 21-17, 16-21, 26-24 and 22-20, 14-21, 21-18 with OLOP taking set three two straight, and that's how the match played out. Kingfisher would win a set in three, OLOP would reply two straight. In the end OLOP actually won 57% of the sets, but lost the match. Nils Wedi / Andrew Adair were to remain unbeaten for Kingfisher, with Mo Cook / Louise Forster picking up a good double for OLOP.

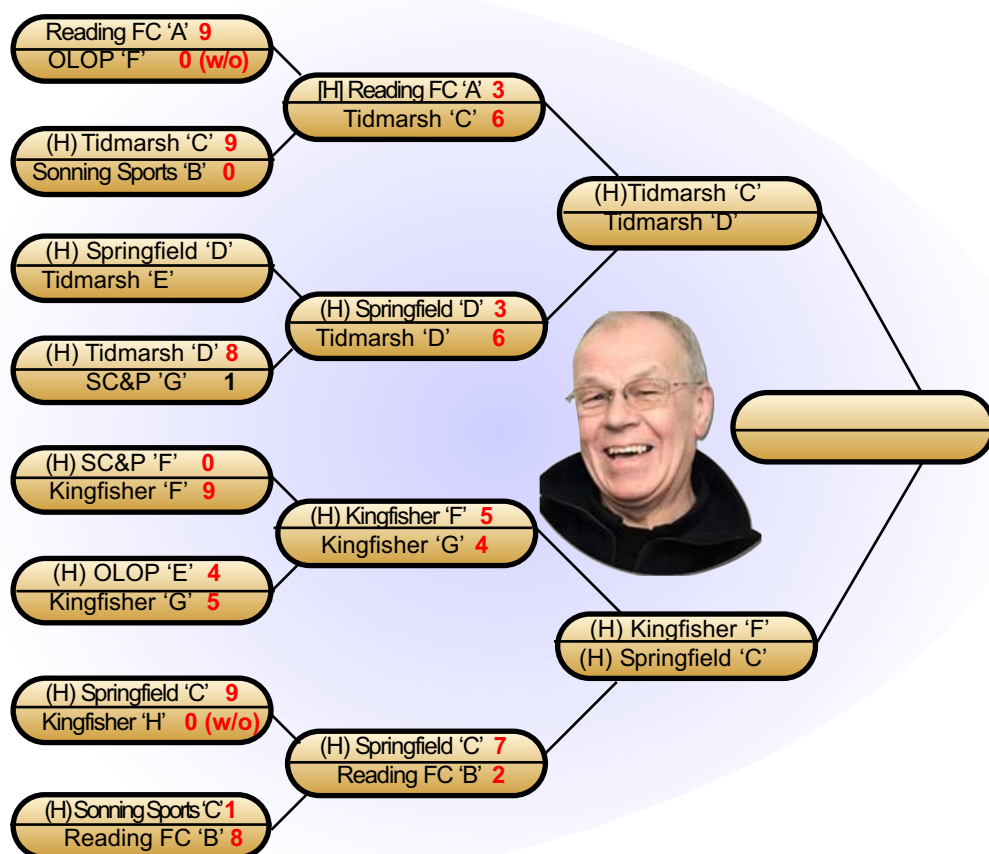
Through to the Quarter-Final and this time **Kingfisher** ended up on the wrong side of another 5 - 4 scoreline, going down to club-mates Kingfisher 'F'. Bringing in Didier Garçon in place of last season's Harold Larcombe award winner Ken Robb, Kingfisher 'G' were initially cruising at three sets to nil, before the 'F' team moved into top gear. Five sets later and it was all over bar Nils' team picking up a consolation set nine. Peter Bennett, Eric Holmes and Ruben Hernandez were all on form for the 'F' team.

Previously in Round One, with captain Alan Yeung playing in place of Peter, Kingfisher 'F' had comfortably dismantled Sonning Common and Peppard 'F' 9 - 0. Derek Maltby / Derek Brooke-Wavell offering some spirited resistance for Sonning, just losing their three sets 6-11, 10-12 : 11-8, 8-11, 10-12 and 12-14, 11-4, 10-12.

In the Semi-Final, Kingfisher 'F' will play host to **Springfield 'C'** who saw off Reading FC 'B' in their Quarter-Final match. With the match nicely poised at two sets apiece, Springfield broke free and took all the remaining sets to finally seal a 7 - 2 victory, in a match where all sets were decided two straight, and with not a single deuce in sight. Captain Jason King with Oliver Delas picked up a fine maximum. Springfield had earlier benefited by a concession in Round One, whereas Reading had come through 8 - 1 at Sonning Sports 'C'. Here John Scott / Stephen Reader had put the Sports side up 1 - 0, but could then do nothing as Reading reeled off the next eight sets, albeit with five needing a deciding game. Harry Edwards, Freedom Agindotan and Derek Anderson did the business for Reading.

The other half of the draw has a shock in store as holders **Reading FC 'A'** have not made at least the Semi-Finals for the first time on my watch. However it must be said that **Tidmarsh 'C'**, their victors in the Quarter-Finals, do look a strong outfit. With Captain Dave Sheppard yet to feature, Simon Craig stepped in for Richard Hudson from the first round, and partnered with Ian Wu, secured an all important two straight maximum for the village side. Richard Witt / Wayne Alleyne put up some resistance taking two sets, but in the end Tidmarsh were reasonably comfortable winners, wrapping up the match by set eight. In the earlier round Reading forfeited their match, while Tidmarsh put paid to **Sonning Sport 'B'** 9 - 0. Here all sets were decided two straight with only the Sports pairing of Brett Hastings / Cris Reynolds taking their opponents to deuce in two of the sets.

It will be an all Tidmarsh affair for the second Semi-Final with Tidmarsh 'D' also making it through. In Round One, Tidmarsh put out Sonning Common and Peppard 'G' 8 - 1, after they did not for some reason field either Melvyn Lovegrove or Simon Berry who are currently 9/9 in league doubles this season. The result might have been so different. As it was Andrew Stone / Marko Madzar could only pick up a consolation set for SC&P. Dave Edwards, Dave Smith and Theresa Watson getting Tidmarsh through. For their Quarter-Final, Tidmarsh brought in Terry Hardie in place of Dave Edwards and proceeded to put out another division four side in Springfield 'D', this time by a score of 6 - 3. After a reasonably balanced first half of the match, Tidmarsh took three of the last four sets to secure the victory. Terry Hardie / Dave Smith with a maximum for Tidmarsh and a well earned double from Tom Berryman / Chris Taylor for Springfield.







# DIVISION FOUR

by Martin Wetherell

Well, only a few weeks on from the last Newsletter and already it is time for the Christmas Issue. Not too much has changed apart from most of my pronouncements being proven wrong ! But, the New Year will undoubtedly bring further predictions so I may get one right by the end of the season. The Good News is that as fewer matches have been played (and the editorial deadlines are more rigorous!), my report will be a lot shorter than usual.

**Azaan Ali** (Kingfisher 'H') is currently top of the Divisional Averages with 95.24%, having lost just once in 7 matches, closely followed by **Simon Berry** (Sonning Common & Peppard 'G') on 95.00%, Simon also having only lost one set. **Joe Bull** (Reading FC 'B') on 93.33% makes up the top three. Of interest, six players in the current top ten all play for Sonning Common & Peppard, five of those playing for the teams in 1st and 2nd place. My latest prediction is that the current top two in this Division will be promoted. As expected, based on the Divisional Averages, Azaan Ali and Simon Berry are top of the Player of the Match (PoM) awards table, with 6 wins each, closely followed by Anthony Reeve with 5 wins, with Derek Wavell and Qing Wu completing the top five, with 4 wins each.

At this stage of the season there are still some players who have played in every match, namely Qing Wu (Our Lady of Peace 'F'), Freedom Agindotan (Reading FC 'B'), Simon Berry & Melvyn Lovegrove (Sonning Common & Peppard 'G') and John Harland (Tidmarsh 'E'). There are also some players still looking for their first win, although Andrew Stone (Sonning Common & Peppard 'G') and Tony Hayden (Milestone 'C') have both achieved this milestone since the last Newsletter. Hopefully the remaining few players will break their duck in the New Year.

There are still a number of Doubles pairs who are undefeated but top of the pile are **Simon Berry & Melvyn Lovegrove** (Sonning Common & Peppard 'G') with 9 wins from their 9 matches, followed by **Freedom Agindotan & Joe Bull** (Reading FC 'B') who have played together 4 times. On the flip side, Jan Polnik & Qing Wu (Our Lady of Peace 'F') have played together 4 times and are still looking for their first win, although they were within a whisker of defeating Simon & Melvyn.

**Kennet Valley Free Church 'B'** are one of seven teams that have played every week, since the last Newsletter, and have climbed one spot, from 6th to 5th. In the absence of their Captain, Steve Christelow, the youngsters have upped their game, scoring more points in these last four

matches than they did in their first five. They started with a 7 - 3 win over Sonning Sports 'C', with Jamie Li-Telford beating John Scott 11-6 11-5 10-12 20-18, in his final set, to record his first maximum, while Roshan Patel and Lewis Oke each won twice. The following week they played Sonning Common & Peppard 'E', who are vying for the title, and managed to draw 5 - 5, thanks to their opponents only fielding two players. However, Toby Barter beat Anthony Reeve 11-9 11-8 11-9 and Roshan beat Anthony 11-9 11-5 11-9 to secure the draw. In fact, Kennet Valley were not far off winning the match, with Lewis losing in 5 games to Anthony and only losing 8-11 11-13 10-12 against Jim Warren.

Steve Christelow felt sufficiently recovered from his accident to play the following week, away to Sonning Common & Peppard 'F'.

However, although he partnered Lewis to only their team's second Doubles win, in what was an untried combination, the team lost 3 - 7, Lewis defeating Mike Casserley in the opening set 11-4 9-11 11-8 11-7 to earn his team's first point, with Steve subsequently defeating Julian James 7-11 11-7 11-4 6-11 11-9 to earn their second point. Russell Moores lost all three but this wasn't through lack of effort, his best chance of a win probably his first set, against Julian, which he lost 9-11 9-11 12-14. Their final match was at home and Milestone 'C' were so unfortunate as to leave without a point, as Toby, Jamie and Roshan won every set to record their first 10 - 0 victory, a result especially notable as this was only the second time that opponent John Evans had gone home empty-handed. Roshan was in particularly fine form, not losing a game in any of his singles while also partnering Toby to their first Doubles win, at the third attempt. This match was also the first time that Toby had recorded a maximum, Jamie having to simply settle for recording consecutive trebles !

**Kingfisher 'H'** were undefeated when I wrote my last Newsletter article and although they are still in 4th place, they have lost twice since then, to the Sonning Common & Peppard teams in 1st and 2nd place. The good news is that they beat Reading FC 'B' who were in 3rd place so that the gap between 3rd and 4th is now down to a single point. Kingfisher lost to SC&P 'E' 2 - 8, with Haris Munir and Ania Pytka winning one set each, Roger Prew failing to record a win for the first time, although his best chance of a win was probably his opening set defeat by Ian Davenport 8-11 7-11 11-9 10-12. Haris & Ania were unable to win the Doubles on their first outing together, losing 9-11 9-11 8-11, but this combination obviously shows promise. The following week, away against Springfield 'D', Captain

Gill Bennett played for the first time, getting off the mark with one win. Haris recorded his first treble but was beaten to the PoM award by the returning Azaan Ali, who was playing his first match for three weeks. Haris & Gill made their Doubles debut but lost with the final match result a 7 - 3 win.

Azaan maintained his form the following week at home to Reading FC 'B', recording his fifth consecutive treble and PoM, the final 7 - 3 result was also thanks to doubles from both Haris and Ania with Haris & Ania losing their second outing as a Doubles pair. Their fourth match, against SC&P 'G' was not helped by only fielding two players, Haris and Roger both defeating Mark Berry, although Roger had opportunities in his opening set against Melvyn Lovegrove, eventually losing 11-13 6-11 13-11 7-11. They had no joy when they debuted in the Doubles either, losing 0 - 3, the match eventually finishing in a 2 - 8 loss. In the first five matches of the Season, there was only one Doubles loss, so a further four Doubles defeats is concerning. However, on the plus side, none of these losses affected the overall match result.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 SC&P E	9	7	2	0	67	23	67
2 SC&P G	9	6	1	2	61	29	61
3 Reading FC B	8	6	1	1	53	27	53
4 Kingfisher H	9	7	0	2	52	38	52
5 Kennet Valley B	9	4	1	4	48	42	48
6 OLOP F	9	5	1	3	47	43	47
7 SC&P F	9	3	0	6	38	52	38
8 Sonning Sports C	10	2	1	7	36	64	36
9 Springfield D	9	1	1	7	32	58	32
10 Tidmarsh E	8	2	0	6	30	50	30
11 Milestone C	9	2	0	7	26	64	26

**Milestone 'C'** have played four matches since the last Newsletter, winning just once, which has meant that they have dropped one place to the bottom of the table, despite scoring more points in these four matches than they did in their first five. They opened November with a 7 - 3 loss against the team at the top of the table, Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', thanks to John Evans winning twice and Carl Edlind winning once, with Colin Phillips unable to find the winning touch against such strong opponents, his best chance undoubtedly the 11-6 8-11 9-11 11-13 loss to Marko Madzar. They then lost 7 - 3 against Tidmarsh 'E', the team they had replaced at the bottom of the table, their cause not helped when they could only field Tony Hayden and John Evans which meant that John's efforts, in winning all three, were insufficient for the win although, on another day, Tony could so easily have been a hero since he lost 6-11 14-12 11-13 8-11 to Steve Andrews, 10-12 3-11 13-11 10-12 to Mike Bundy and 7-11 12-14 12-14 to John Harland. Tony & John also partnered up for their Doubles debut, which they lost 2 - 3.

The following week, they recorded their first win for over one month, a 6 - 4 victory over Sonning Sports 'C', another

team fighting to climb up the table. Carl returned to record his second treble, against spirited resistance, while Tony won twice to record his first wins for the season. Although Colin was unable to win any of his singles, he partnered Tony in the Doubles for the second time and this 3 - 0 win was crucial for the match win. Unfortunately the good times came to a crashing halt the following week, when they lost 10 - 0 at Kennet Valley 'B', with John, Tony and Colin all leaving empty-handed. However with 12 games being won by the minimum 2 points and Kennet Valley winning 9 of these, the match was much closer than the scoreline would indicate.

**Our Lady of Peace 'F'** are one of only two teams to have not lost over the past 5 weeks, a string of results which has seen them only climb one place, to 6th. They started with a respectable 5 - 5 home draw with Reading FC 'B', Qing Wu recording his second maximum and Alona Slobodskoy securing two wins, though Jan Polnik ended up with nothing after a busy evening, including a 0 - 3 Doubles defeat. On another day, Jan may have taken the plaudits for assisting in a win, since he only lost 7-11 2-11 12-10 12-14 to Freedom Agindotan, 5-11 11-9 14-12 6-11 10-12 to Derek Anderson and 11-4 1-11 7-11 11-7 8-11 to Joe Bull. However, the Set of the Day must surely belong to the contest between Alona and Freedom, which Alona won 9-11 11-13 11-9 13-11 11-9.

The same team then travelled to leaders Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', where they won 6 - 4, a result which allowed the Commoners 'E' team to take top spot, on matches played. Jan, Alona and Qing each won twice, with Jan & Qing again having no joy in the Doubles. No-one went home undefeated, Jan joining the list of the few players to have defeated Melvyn Lovegrove but, in turn, being denied his maximum when he lost his final set to Andrew Stone. Alona was also close to achieving her maximum, but lost to Melvyn 9-11 10-12 11-9 11-8 6-11. Tidmarsh 'E' were the next visitors to play at OLOP 'F', but they had no joy, losing 3 - 7, with Qing recording his third treble. Jan picked up a further single in defeating John Harland but then lost 13-15 9-11 12-10 5-11 to Roger Stevens and 7-11 15-17 11-7 12-14 to Mike Bundy, while the returning Rudresh Desai won twice. In this match Jan & Rudresh not only debuted in the Doubles, but also recorded the team's first victory.

For their fourth match, it was OLOP's turn to travel, as they were playing away at Sonning Sports 'C' where they won 3 - 7, Qing again winning all three but losing out on the PoM to Alona, who won all three of her sets without dropping a game. Although Jan was unable to contribute to the scoreline with any singles victories, following narrow defeats to John Scott (11-8 7-11 11-6 11-13 10-12), Michael Byrne (3-11 11-6 11-9 7-11 8-11) and Stephen Reader (13-11 10-12 5-11 10-12), he did partner Alona, for the second time, to record their first Doubles victory.

**Reading FC 'B'** only played 3 times, recording one win, one draw and a loss, a sequence which has not affected their 3rd place although it has increased the gap between

1st and 2nd and reduced the gap to 4th. They opened the sequence with a 5 - 5 away draw at OLOP 'F', Freedom Agindotan and Derek Anderson both winning once while Joe Bull won twice, their fifth point courtesy of Freedom & Joe in the Doubles. On another day, Freedom might have denied Qing Wu his maximum, since he closely contested the final set against Qing, eventually losing 11-13 11-7 12-10 8-11 8-11.

Reading FC 'B' had a week off before travelling to Kingfisher 'H', where they lost 3 - 7, Freedom and Derek each winning once, Harry Edwards unable to affect the outcome by winning any singles, although he did make a winning Doubles debut with Derek. For their final match, Reading FC 'B' entertained Springfield 'D', winning 7 - 3, with Freedom and Joe both recording maximums, Harry losing to all three opponents over the course of 13 games. However, Harry was again part of a winning Doubles pair, this time partnering Joe to the win.

**Sonning Common & Peppard 'E'** needed two matches to take top spot, albeit by dint of having played one fewer match than their 'G' team. However, having now played the same number of matches, as their 'G' team they have stretched their lead to 6 points. After 9 matches, SC&P 'E' are still unbeaten. They started with an 8 - 2 win over Kingfisher 'H', Anthony Reeve recording a further treble, which included his 11-9 16-14 10-12 9-11 11-8 victory over Ania Pytka, while Ian Davenport and Jim Warren both won twice, the final point courtesy of the Doubles with Anthony & Ian winning 3 - 0 on their debut. They then travelled to Kennet Valley 'B' but were only able to field Anthony Reeve and Jim Warren, admittedly two of their strongest players. However, Kennet Valley played some exceptional table tennis and Anthony was only able to win once, his lowest tally this season, Jim winning his final set, to draw the match 5 - 5 thanks to their earlier Doubles win.

Anthony returned to form the following week, winning all three, as did the returning Ian Davenport and with David Pearson winning once and Anthony & Ian again combining to win the Doubles 3 - 0, they defeated Springfield 'D' 8 - 2. Their final match was another intra-club match, against their 'F' team, which was just won 6 - 4, the 'F' team's Captain, Mike Casserley, having to concede the final set against Anthony due to illness after winning the first game 11-7. This scoreline meant that Anthony went home undefeated, while Jim recorded two wins and David recorded one win. This result also meant that Anthony & Jim lost the Doubles, which was only the team's second loss and now means that the recent pairing of Anthony & Ian is their only undefeated combination.

**Sonning Common & Peppard 'F'** have not had the best of results, losing three of the four matches played. However, the teams around them have fared no better and they have actually climbed one place, from 8th to 7th. Unusually, for this stage of the season, SC&P 'F' have fielded a debut Doubles pairing in each of these four matches. They opened this sequence of matches with a 2 - 8 home loss against Tidmarsh 'E', Steve Knott and Alistair

Scott unable to defeat their opponents, leaving Mike Casserley to record both wins. Derek Wavell replaced Mike for the following match, against Sonning Sports 'C' but the outcome was similar to the previous week, the match being lost 3 - 7, despite Derek recording his second treble of the season.

Derek again rose to the challenge, winning all three against Kennet Valley 'B' and with Julian James & Mike

#### DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Azaan Ali	Kingfisher H	21	20	95.24%
Simon Berry	SC&P G	20	19	95.00%
Joe Bull	Reading FC	15	14	93.33%
Melvyn Lovegrove	SC&P G	26	23	88.46%
Anthony Reeve	SC&P E	24	21	87.50%
Ian Davenport	SC&P E	15	13	86.67%
Jim Warren	SC&P E	24	20	83.33%
Derek Wavell	SC&P F	24	18	75.00%
Roshan Patel	Kennet Valley B	16	12	75.00%
Jamie Li-Telford	Kennet Valley B	12	9	75.00%
Qing Wu	OLOP F	27	20	74.07%
Freedom Agindotan	Reading FC	24	17	70.83%

both winning twice, the team won the match 7 - 3. Having lost the opening set to Lewis Oke, the treble was no longer an option for Mike. However, he had to dig deep, in the final set against Steve Christelow, which he managed to win 12-10 9-11 12-10 11-9. The final match was another intra-club contest, this time against the table topping 'E' team. Despite Alistair & Derek recording a win on their Doubles debut, to tie the score at 4 - 4, the best they could hope for, after Jim Warren beat Alistair was a draw. The final set started promisingly, with Mike winning the first game 11-7 but he then had to concede the set due to illness, which meant that Anthony Reeve took the final match point and the match was lost 4 - 6.

**Sonning Common & Peppard 'G'** started in 1st place, two points clear after playing one more match than their clubmates in the 'E' team. However, having only won one of the three matches played since the start of November, they are now in 2nd place, adrift of 1st by six points. The first match resulted in a 7 - 3 win, away at Milestone 'C', Simon Berry again recording a maximum, while Melvyn Lovegrove was denied his maximum after he lost to John Evans 8-11 10-12 11-8 9-11, and Marko Madzar won once, a 6-11 11-8 11-9 13-11 victory over Colin Phillips. Melvyn & Simon also won the Doubles.

The following week, Our Lady of Peace 'F' were the visitors and they proved too strong for Melvyn, Mark Berry and Andy Stone, Melvyn winning twice, Andrew winning once and Melvyn & Simon retaining their undefeated Doubles mantle, by just defeating Jan Polnik & Qing Wu 16-14 11-9 11-9, to earn their points in the 4 - 6 defeat. After a week's rest the 'G' team welcomed visitors



Kingfisher 'H', especially since Kingfisher could only field two players. This meant that Simon recorded three wins, as did Melvyn, with Mark recording the one win. However, in winning the Doubles, Melvyn and Simon retained their 100% record and also helped their team to an 8 - 2 victory.

Despite losing three of the four matches they have played, **Sonning Sports 'C'** have climbed one spot, from 9th to 8th. They started November with a trip to Kennet Valley 'B', where they lost 7 - 3, Stephen Edwards leaving with nothing, while Stephen Reader & John Scott each won once, as well as joining forces to win the Doubles. The solitary win came in the next match against Sonning Common & Peppard 'F', which was won 7 - 3, Michael Byrne, Jude O'Halloran and Stephen Reader each winning twice, with Jude & Stephen also winning the Doubles, by defeating Derek Wavell & Steve Knott 10-12 11-13 11-6 12-10 12-10.

A narrow 6 - 4 defeat, away at Milestone 'C' followed, Mo Cole recording two wins on her first outing, Stephen Edwards and Jude earning the other two points by winning one match each. The final loss was against Our Lady of Peace 'F', a 3 - 7 defeat with Michael, Stephen and John each defeating Jan Polnik, although Michael was close to an upset before he lost 11-9 11-8 8-11 8-11 8-11 to Qing Wu.

**Springfield 'D'** were already on a torrid run of form, having lost every match in October. The fact that all their matches in November were against teams in the top four was not helpful and having started in 5th place, the team duly lost all three matches and now find themselves in 9th place, having played one more match than the team two points behind. Their first match was against Kingfisher 'H', which they lost 3 - 7, Chris Taylor and Tom Berryman winning one each, as well as combining to win the Doubles, maintaining their 100% record, Colin Jones unlucky not to take anything from this match.

Next up was a trip to leaders Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' which they lost 8 - 2, Chris and Tom again winning one each with Paul Martin having a seemingly bad day at the office, losing in straight sets. Chris hasn't quite hit the peaks of previous years yet, but went down fighting against Anthony Reeve 1-11 13-15 14-12 9-11 and Ian Davenport 13-11 11-6 10-12 8-11 9-11, while one of Paul's losses was a 9-11 9-11 10-12 defeat to David Pearson, losing three of his other six games by the minimum two point margin. The final match was against Reading FC 'B' which they lost 7 - 3, with Colin, Paul and Chris each defeating Harry Edwards, Chris also playing his part in an entertaining final set, eventually losing to Freedom Agindotan 8-11 10-12 11-9 11-5 11-13.

**Tidmarsh 'E'** were in last place at the end of October but started November with a bang, surprising Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' by winning 8 - 2, to leapfrog Milestone 'C' and take 10th spot. Roger Stevens scored his first treble of the Season in this match but was ably sup-

ported by Steve Andrews and John Harland, who each recorded two wins as well as partnering each other to a Doubles win. However, one of the highlights of this match must surely have been the Doubles, with John & Steve beating Mike Casserley & Alistair Scott 12-10 13-11 14-12. Coincidentally, Milestone 'C' were the next visitors, but they were only able to field two players, namely John Evans and Tony Hayden, thus forfeiting three points and with Steve, Mike Bundy and John Harland all beating Tony and John & Steve winning the Doubles, a 7 - 3 victory was secured, to increase the gap over 11th place.

Their third match was against Our Lady of Peace 'F', which ended in a 7 - 3 defeat, with Roger winning two sets and Mike one set, John ending the evening with no wins, for only the second time, losing in 4 games, then 5 games and finally 4 games. John & Mike also lost the Doubles and are still looking for their first win. Mike's win was a hard fought 11-7 17-15 7-11 14-12 victory over Jan Polnik in the final set, while Roger's double could have been a treble, if he hadn't lost his opening set, against Qing Wu, 11-13 11-5 18-20 7-11. However, John has maintained his record of playing in every match, although he is probably looking forward to Peter Sinclair returning from injury !

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*NATIONAL JUNIOR LEAGUE*

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We have 2 teams this year in the National Juniors, being played at Cippenham Table Tennis Club, and both were put into Div 2 (we expected this to be wrong for both teams, which the results proved)

The first 2 weekends have now been played and at the end of the first Round, Reading A were promoted and Reading B demoted

READING A	5	5		40
CHILTERN A	5	3	2	26
WARREN SPRING B	5	2	3	24
CIPPENHAM B	5	4	1	22
ASHFORD B	5	1	4	18
READING B	5		5	5

Well played to everyone though

All 4 players in the A team finished in the top 7 of the averages

Mo COOK	READING	12	12	0	100.00
Ralph PHILIPS	READING	9	9	0	100.00
George STANEV	ASHFORD	3	3	0	100.00
Ben CARLESS	READING	12	11	1	91.67
Alex VAN DER ZWART	CHILTERN	15	12	3	80.00
Douglas CLARIDGE-H	CIPPENHAM	15	11	4	73.33
Johnson XU	READING	12	8	4	66.67

Whilst the 5 players in the B team fought hard, but finished in the bottom 10 of the table

Rudresh DESAI	READING	3	1	2	33.33
Rishika DESAI	READING	3	1	2	33.33
Tanubhav SAHA	READING	12	3	9	25.00
Pranjal AWASTHI	ASHFORD	9	2	7	22.22
Daniel WINDERS	ASHFORD	12	2	10	16.67
Sam DERMONT	WARREN SPRING	6	1	5	16.67
James RUSSELL	CIPPENHAM	9	1	8	11.11
Tom BROWN	CIPPENHAM	6	0	6	0.00
Harry BULLOCK	READING	9	0	9	0.00
Tommy WOODWARD	READING	12	0	12	0.00

Here's hoping for better challenges in the next round. Next matches are Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

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### NATIONAL CADET LEAGUE

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Only one National Cadet Team this year for Reading and we have only played the first weekend, so 2 more games to finish the first round. The matches are again being played at Cippenham and we are in Division 3 which is quite strong this year.

<b>CHILTERN C</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>21</b>
<b>KINGFISHER</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>18</b>
<b>BOURNE END B</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>OXFORD</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>READING</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>ASHFORD B</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>

Next matches are on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

Our 2 new players have yet to find their wins, but are giving good performances, and the our experienced players are comfortably in the middle of the table.

Charlie COOK	BOURNE END	9	9	0	100.00
Aarav KOTESHWAR	CHILTERN	9	8	1	88.89
Yingke XU	OXFORD	9	8	1	88.89
Matt LEY	CHILTERN	9	7	2	77.78
Henry HARDING	CHILTERN	9	6	3	66.67
Seyaam BUDHKAR	KINGFISHER	6	4	2	66.67
Aditya MALI	KINGFISHER	9	6	3	66.67
Sam WOLFENDEN	KINGFISHER	6	4	2	66.67
Matthew GORBY	KINGFISHER	6	4	2	66.67
Tommy WOODWARD	READING	9	6	3	66.67
Emma RANSON	READING	6	4	2	66.67
Aarin BHATT	ASHFORD	6	4	2	66.67
Jason ANDREI	BOURNE END	9	4	5	44.44
Daniel GIFFORD	OXFORD	3	1	2	33.33
Marcus DOE	BOURNE END	9	3	6	33.33
Angad SINGH	ASHFORD	6	1	5	16.67
Ethan ZHANG	OXFORD	6	1	5	16.67
Sam BYRNE	OXFORD	6	1	5	16.67
Erin BONSALL	READING	6	0	6	0.00
Adi KAPOOR	READING	6	0	6	0.00
Amav SOURIRAJAN	ASHFORD	6	0	6	0.00

We may have a couple more players, for the next matches, but will see what happens.





# YOUTH DIVISION

by Emma Barraclough

Play resumed on November 8th with several close matches including a 6 - 4 win for the Lions against the Jaguars with three wins for Mo Cook while the Spartans won 6 - 4 against Blade with three wins for Aarush Sawant. The Attackers won 8 - 2 against the Avengers with three wins for Adrian Mitchell.

On November 15th the Division saw another evening of close play with a draw between the Spartans and Avengers while the Lions defeated the Attackers 6 - 4. Blade defeated the Jaguars 8 - 2.

The evening of 22nd November saw **three new players, Karan Baishkiyar, Jude Robinson and Adi Kapoor** join the Division for the remainder of the season. The Lions won 8 - 2 against Blade and the Avengers defeated the Jaguars 7 - 3 although Emma Ranson scored three wins for the Jaguars. The Attackers defeated the Spartans 7 - 3 with three wins for Adrian Mitchell.

November 29th saw a 10 - 0 defeat of the Jaguars by the Attackers, a draw between Blade and the Avengers and an 8 - 2 win by the Lions against the Spartans with three wins for Mo Cook and Harry Bullock. On December the Lions continued their winning ways with an 8 - 2 win against the Avengers, the Spartans defeated the Jaguars 9 - 1 with three wins for Aarush Sawant and San Celik. Newcomer

Jude Robinson scored three wins alongside Adrian Mitchell as the Attackers defeated Blade 8 - 2.

The final round of matches in the first part of the season on December 6th meant that the Lions top the table on 82 points with the Attackers in second on 74 points. The Avengers are in third place with 44 points followed by the Spartans with 42 points, Blade on 39 points and Jaguars on 19 points. Four players are on 100% in the averages: Mo Cook and Adrian Mitchell and two newcomers Karan and Jude.

The first part of the season will finish on December 13th with a Christmas Party and the Grouping Tournament in which the players are divided into three age bands to play. Thanks as ever to Wendy Porter and her helpers.

NB: On the original fixture list there was no play scheduled for November 15th as the venue was unavailable. The venue became available again and therefore the results appearing as November 22nd on the website were in fact played on November 15th and the same is true for the subsequent results. Going into the match card will show the correct playing date.



## TEAM PLACINGS

	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Lions	10	10	0	0	82	18	82
2	Attackers	10	8	0	2	74	26	74
3	Avengers	10	4	2	4	44	56	44
4	Spartans	10	3	2	5	42	58	42
5	Blade	10	2	2	6	39	61	39
6	Jaguars	10	0	0	10	19	81	19

## LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Mo Cook	Lions	26	26	100.00%
Adrian Mitchell	Attackers	23	23	100.00%
Harry Bullock	Lions	23	19	82.61%
Prakhar Gandhi	Attackers	26	21	80.77%
Rudresh Desai	Lions	26	18	69.23%
James Atherton	Attackers	20	13	65.00%
Aarush Sawant	Spartans	24	15	62.50%
Om Gore	Blade	26	16	61.54%
Arran Reeve	Avengers	29	17	58.62%
Emma Ranson	Jaguars	26	14	53.85%