



**READING  
& DISTRICT  
TABLE TENNIS  
ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER**  
Editor: **DEREK WAVELL**

**November 2018**

**Stimulating...**

**AUTUMN**

Please click on a heading or numbered ball to go where you require



[P2 Chairman](#)

[P2 Key Facts](#)

[P2 Sounds](#)

[P3 Team Handicap](#)

[P4 KO Cup](#)

[P5-7 Prizes](#)

[P24 In memory](#)



Click ALT + left arrow to return

*What's that sound?* Simply applause at the prize-giving day in May. The Newsletter has gone **audible!** But you won't hear the sound unless you are reading this with Adobe Reader on a PC. Our cover photo shows OLOP 'D', who won the Lower Divisions' KO Cup last season.

2018-19 is already quite a season, with a lot of challenging or stimulating changes. A new points system. Only four Divisions, of 12 teams each. Since Daniel Moses' departure, OLOP have no teams in Div 1. Kingfisher and Sonning Common have three each. OLOP has three in Division Two.



Right through the league, player mobility is increasing.

On the last page of this Newsletter there are tributes to three players who passed away this year.

Read now, and have a wonderful season!

Derek BW



## Notes from our Chairman

by **Derek Harrison**

Hello everyone and welcome to a brand new season.

I hope by now you have got used to the new points system. I had a look at the two previous seasons' league tables and I have to say there was not a lot of difference in the final places.



Since my notes back in April I have received a number of comments that some players did not thank the umpire after their set so I ask you please thank the umpire out of courtesy.

I would like to mention our splendid website which will keep you up to date on the Reading league and any breaking news.

All the best to you all

Derek

## Coming Tournaments

The **Individual Handicap** will be held at **Kingfisher** on **Sunday 6th January 2019**. I will be using the tournament software, as in the past years, and entry will be on line. Information will be sent out during November on how to enter. So watch out for the email.

The **Reading Closed** will be held at **Cippenham Table Tennis Club**. The **Seniors will be on Sunday 10th February 2019** and the **Juniors will be on Sunday 17th February 2019**. Again I will be using the tournament software, and further details will be sent out in December.

*Wendy Porter*

## Sounds, etc

Since the summer of 2018 you may notice the Newsletter is no longer performing in silence. Maybe it is even too loud! If so, do turn your PC's speaker down.

Or, for the full experience, find a PC on which to open this Newsletter!

Every page after the first also has a new animated button, like this:



Click on the white ball to go back to where you were in the document.

You only get animations and voices if you are using a PC, and have downloaded the Newsletter file onto your hard disk. Double clicking it will cause it to open in Adobe Reader.

If, however, you are on an android system, or opening the file on a browser page, virtually none of the enhancements will work.

However, just for you I have added a new stationary navigation panel with five live buttons, on page 1. Click on a button to go to the Divisional report of your choice.



## Photographs

Almost all the photos in this edition were taken at the Presentations evening on 1st May, when winners of table tennis honours were given a warm acclamation, and something solid and gleaming to remember it by. In our report on the occasion - on pages 5 to 7 - we include many of these photographs, but of course there is not room for all of them, so they have been distributed among the Divisional Reports, wherever those players are mentioned in the text. You'll find live links to the photos on the lists of prizes and winners.

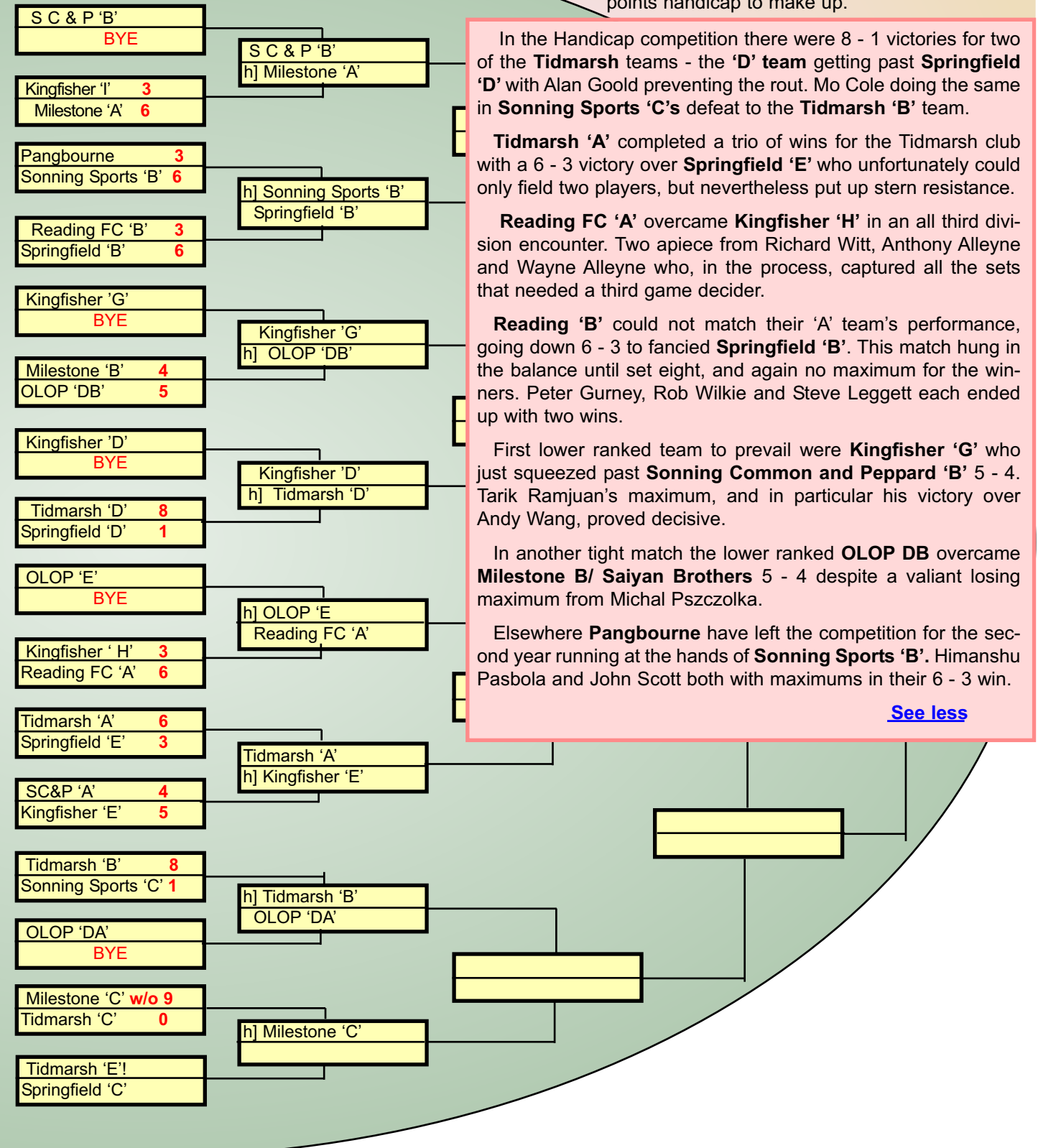
*Derek Wavell*



# Team Handicap Competition 2018-19

organised by Ray Webb

27 teams will be competing, two fewer than last season. The biggest change has seen Sonning Common and Peppard drop from six sides down to two, but in the process they still include over 90% of their registered players in teams of 15 and 16, making team selection challenging. Our Lady of Peace have gone the other way and disbanded last season's victorious 11 player team for three smaller ones. Abhay Gore, Pradeep Desh (of OLOP 'C') and Hari Laddunuri, who lifted the trophy last season, will find it a lot harder this time with an extra 18 points handicap to make up.



In the Handicap competition there were 8 - 1 victories for two of the **Tidmarsh** teams - the '**D**' team getting past **Springfield 'D'** with Alan Goold preventing the rout. Mo Cole doing the same in **Sonning Sports 'C'**'s defeat to the **Tidmarsh 'B'** team.

**Tidmarsh 'A'** completed a trio of wins for the Tidmarsh club with a 6 - 3 victory over **Springfield 'E'** who unfortunately could only field two players, but nevertheless put up stern resistance.

**Reading FC 'A'** overcame **Kingfisher 'H'** in an all third division encounter. Two apiece from Richard Witt, Anthony Alleyne and Wayne Alleyne who, in the process, captured all the sets that needed a third game decider.

**Reading 'B'** could not match their '**A**' team's performance, going down 6 - 3 to fancied **Springfield 'B'**'. This match hung in the balance until set eight, and again no maximum for the winners. Peter Gurney, Rob Wilkie and Steve Leggett each ended up with two wins.

First lower ranked team to prevail were **Kingfisher 'G'** who just squeezed past **Sonning Common and Peppard 'B'** 5 - 4. Tarik Ramjuan's maximum, and in particular his victory over Andy Wang, proved decisive.

In another tight match the lower ranked **OLOP DB** overcame **Milestone B/ Saiyan Brothers** 5 - 4 despite a valiant losing maximum from Michal Pszczolka.

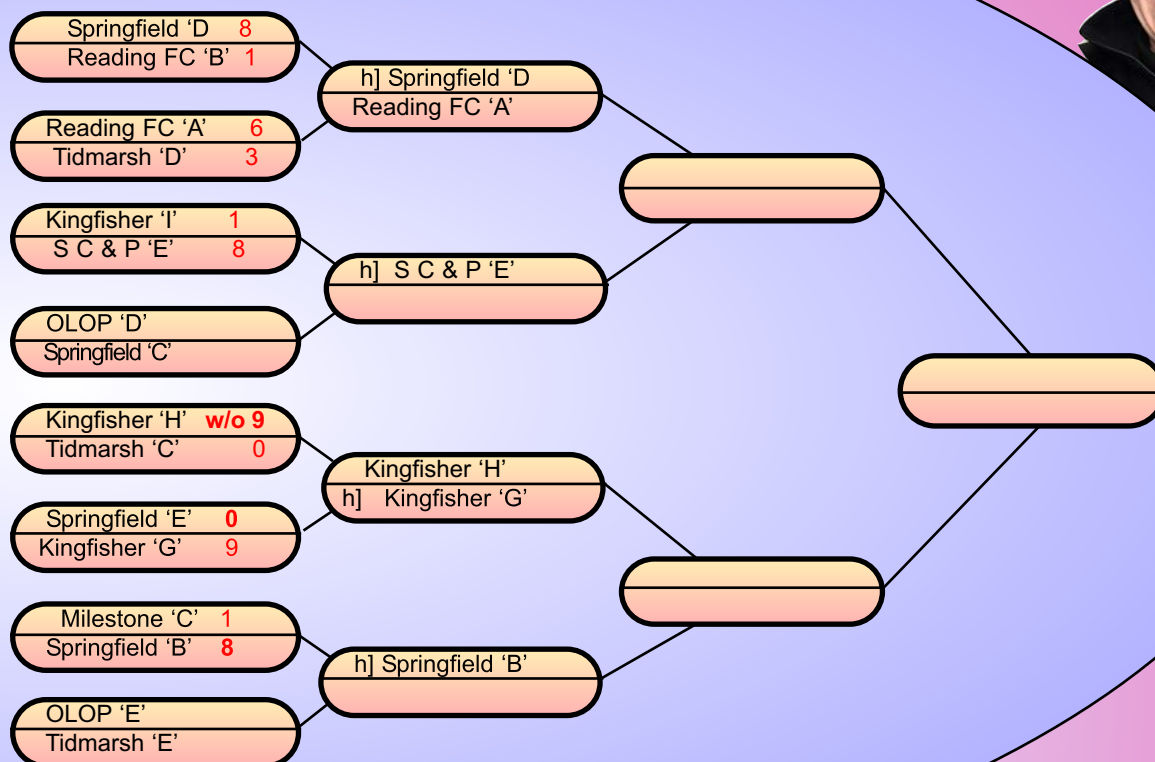
Elsewhere **Pangbourne** have left the competition for the second year running at the hands of **Sonning Sports 'B'**. Himanshu Pasbola and John Scott both with maximums in their 6 - 3 win.

[See less](#)



# Lower Divisions KO Cup 2018-2019

organised by Ray Webb



The draw for this season's competition was made by Abhay Gore and Pradeep Desh, members of the current holders, Our Lady of Peace 'D'. 16 teams entered, split nine / seven in favour of division three. Having gained promotion to league Division Two, OLOP will unfortunately be unable to defend the trophy but this bodes well for yet another keenly contested competition.

As the first week started, having yet to lose a set in the league, Kingfisher 'G' started as favourites, although I expect them to be pushed hard by Reading FC 'A'. Exactly sixteen teams have entered this season, so the competition will be a straight knock-out and there will be no re-entering of teams with 'best' losing result .

This week saw the first rounds of both team competitions.

The match of the round in the Lower Divisions knock out brought the 2016-17 finalists back together, and it was Reading FC 'A' who triumphed this time. Tidmarsh 'D' were unable to recover from a 4 - 0 deficit, having lost three of those opening sets to a third game decider.

Elsewhere, pre-competition favourites Kingfisher 'G' were ruthless in their 9 - 0 drubbing of Springfield 'E', where only three sets required a deciding game. Sonning Common and Peppard 'E' moved up a gear to take the final six sets in an 8 - 1 win at Kingfisher 'I', Miguel Caballero / Meriel Low took the consolation set for Kingfisher.

In an almost identical match Springfield 'B' also took the final six sets in their 8 - 1 win at Milestone 'C'. This time Michal Pszczolka / John Evans won the consolation set. Springfield 'D' also triumphed 8 - 1 but in a much tighter match against Reading FC 'B'. Here the first four sets all required a deciding game and all went to Springfield, three by a slim 11 - 9 score-line.

## R&DTTA Awards For 2017-2018

On Tuesday 1st May, the Reading Association's annual awards were presented at the premises of the Curzon Club.. Many of the photos which appear later in this Newsletter were taken at that event. Paul Treadgold, our Trophy Secretary, announced the prize-winners, and Derek Harrison our Chairman presented the prizes.

NB - [blue links](#) show page N° of photo.

### LIST OF AWARDS:

#### READING CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS WINNERS:

Mens Singles	<b>Daniel Moses</b> <a href="#">P6</a>
Ladies Singles:	<b>Wendy Porter</b> <a href="#">P6</a>
Mens Doubles:	<b>Daniel Moses &amp; Danny Ricks</b>
Mixed Doubles	<b>Daniel Moses &amp; Wendy Porter</b>



JAMIE BARLOW

U18 Boys Singles	<b>Harry Munro</b>
U15 Boys Singles	<b>Johnson Xu</b>
U13 Boys Singles	<b>Jamie Barlow</b> <a href="#">P5</a>
U11 Mixed Singles	<b>Om Gore</b> <a href="#">P5</a>
Boys Doubles	<b>Jamie Barlow &amp; Ralph Philips</b>
U18 Girls Singles	<b>Rishika Desai</b> <a href="#">P7</a>
U15 Girls Singles	<b>Holly Ranson</b> <a href="#">P5</a>
U13 Girls Singles	<b>Emma Ranson</b> <a href="#">P5</a>
Junior Mixed Doubles	<b>Emma Ranson &amp; Mo Cook</b>
Youth Division:	<b>Rayaan Asghar</b> <a href="#">P7</a>
Veteran Singles:	<b>Hari Gehlot</b> <a href="#">P6</a>
Senior Vet Singles:	<b>Hari Gehlot</b>
Over 60s Singles:	<b>John Willcocks</b>
Div 1 restricted:	<b>Daniel Moses</b> <a href="#">P6</a>
Division 2	<b>Andy Wang</b> <a href="#">P7, P8</a>
Division 3	<b>Zoltan Kelemen</b> <a href="#">P10</a>
Division 4	<b>Alex Horscroft</b> <a href="#">P5</a>
Division 5	<b>Jan Polnik</b>
Ping Pong	<b>Daniel Moses</b> <a href="#">P6</a>



EMMA AND HOLLY RANSON



ALEX HORSCROFT

#### CHAMPION TEAMS OF THE SEASON

Division 1 Champions:	<b>Kingfisher 'A'</b> <a href="#">P8</a>
Runners-up:	<b>Kingfisher 'B'</b>
Division 2 Champions:	<b>Curzon Club 'A'</b> <a href="#">P10</a>
Runners-up:	<b>SC&amp;P 'B'</b>
Division 3 Champions:	<b>Milestone 'B'</b> <a href="#">P10</a>
Runners-up:	<b>Springfield 'A'</b>
Division 4 Champions:	<b>Saiyan Brothers</b> <a href="#">P6</a>
Runners-up:	<b>OLOP 'D'</b> <a href="#">P1, P12</a>



OM GORE





WENDY PORTER

Division 5 Champions: **Sonning Sports 'B' [P20](#)**  
Runners-up: **OLOP 'F'**  
Youth Div 1 winners: **Spartans**  
Runners-up: **Lions**  
Youth Div 2 Winners: **Trojans [P24](#)**  
Runners-up: **Raiders**  
Reading Chronicle Trophy Winner: **Wendy Porter [P7](#)**  
Evening Post Trophy Winner: **Jonathan Cross**  
John Freeman Trophy Winner: **Daniel Moses [P7](#)**



DANIEL MOSES



HARI GEHLOT (R) WITH DEREK HARRISON



SAIYAN BROTHERS: VIDHU RAVINATH, ALEX HORSCROFT, KAAAN KITAY, EMMA BLACHFORD AND MICHAL PSZCZOLKA





EMMA BARRACLOUGH (R) WITH KEVIN DINES



RAYAAN ASGHAR

Team Handicap Winners	OLOP 'B'
Runners-up:	Reading FCA
Lower Divisions Cup winners:	OLOP 'D' <a href="#">P1</a> , <a href="#">P12</a>
Runners-up:	Curzon 'C'
Individual Handicap Winner	Andy Wang <a href="#">P7</a> , <a href="#">P8</a>
Runner-up:	Clive Gold
Reading Senior Masters Winner:	Daniel Moses <a href="#">P6</a>
Runner-up:	Hari Gehlot <a href="#">P6</a>
Reading Junior Masters Winner:	Joe Barraclough <a href="#">P8</a>
Runner-up:	Rayaan Asghar <a href="#">P7</a>
Standard Cup for the Most Improved Junior:	Harry Bullock <a href="#">P24</a>
Best Junior Performance:	Mo Cook <a href="#">P24</a>
Alan Dines Memorial Trophy:	Emma Barraclough <a href="#">P7</a>
Harold Larcombe Sportsmanship Award:	Ray Webb <a href="#">P7</a>



RISHIKA DESAI



ANDY WANG



RAY WEBB





# DIVISION ONE

by Mark Banks

**H**i Guys. Here we go again then with an all new look Div 1 – many new faces and a new points system to go with it. The action so far has been fast and furious and we have a new sensation in the Division. Just who is Andy Wang? What a start he has made to life



ANDY WANG

idea hey!!!!??? and Milestone will finish at the bottom. You heard it here first.  
Love & Peace

		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Kingfisher A	5	5	0	0	48	2	48
2	Kingfisher B	5	5	0	0	42	8	42
3	SC & PA	5	4	0	1	35	15	35
4	Kingfisher C	5	3	0	2	28	22	28
5	Kennet VFC A	5	2	0	3	19	31	19
6	Tidmarsh B	5	1	2	2	19	31	19
7	Tidmarsh A	5	1	1	3	19	31	19
8	SC & PC	4	1	2	1	17	23	17
9	SC & PB	4	1	1	2	17	23	17
10	Kingfisher D	5	2	0	3	17	33	17
11	Curzon A	5	1	0	4	16	34	16
12	Milestone A	5	0	0	5	13	37	13

in One! Some old faces are back too though – aren't they Pete Bradley? And this year he's actually winning some too. Incredible scenes. Kingfisher 'A' will win the League – favoured by the change in points system – basically Kingfisher 'B' could win all their matches and not finish Champions – just who came up with that

Nice almost perfect start then for **Kingfisher 'A'** who will win the League at a canter as their strength in depth outweighs all other teams. Hariiiiiiii has been leading from the front and



LAST SEASON'S DIV 1-WINNING KINGFISHER A - DANIEL MOSES, MARTIN ADAMS, RICHARD ROSINSKI AND JUSTIN MEAD



## LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	PL	W	%
Martin Adams	Kingfisher B	12	12	100.
Mark Banks	Kingfisher B	12	12	100
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher A	11	11	100
Artur Morar	Kingfisher B	9	9	100
Dmitry Khakhamov	Kingfisher A	6	6	100
Krasimir Ivanov	Kingfisher A	12	11	91.67
Andy Wang	S C & P B	12	11	91.67
Sagar Sawant	Kingfisher A	11	10	90.91
Julian Telford	Kennet VFCA	9	8	88.89
Steve Murgatroyd	Tidmarsh A	6	5	83.33
Duncan Groves	Tidmarsh A	6	5	83.33
Neil Hurford	S C & P A	6	5	83.33
Anthony Baker	Tidmarsh B	12	9	75.00
Jason Roberts	S C & P A	15	10	66.67

remains unbeaten and so he should along with Dimitry. Krasi and Sagar came up against an inspired Andy Wang, however, to put the only blot on their copybook. New signing Elson won't lose more than 1 or 2 all season either.

**MVP: Hari Gehlot**

Whoever came up with the "let's change the points system" needs to have a serious word. Can't believe I missed that meeting 😞 and it means that we in **Kingfisher 'B'** (reigning champions by the way, in case you'd forgotten) have been put at a serious disadvantage before a ball has even been hit. Crazy idea. Reading had the best points system of any local league in the country. Why change it now after all these years???? And it's not sour grapes. OK so maybe it is hahahaha. 😞

**MVP: Martin Adams**

Solid start for the first of 3 (yes 3) Sonning teams and **Sonning Common & Peppard 'A'** are showing just why they are the A team as they head that particular trio. Same team as last year pretty much and **Malcolm Gregory** comes back in and has even won a



JULIAN TELFORD

few matches too. Gary and Neil are always gonna win more than they lose. Joe Joes as good as ever and JR has even been trusted in a couple of doubles matches – unheard of.

**MVP: Gary Morgan**



HARI GEHLOT

A new look **KFC** are up to 4th with some good players making up the numbers. Phil, Nigel, Alan and even Ivor have all been on the scoresheet and with the strength of this line up vs other teams in the Division then a top half position is pretty much in the bag.

**MVP: Phil Mead**



JOE BARRACLOUGH

Good start too from **Kennet Valley Free Church 'A'**. I know this mainly because Julian tells me every 5 minutes 😊. Good personal start from Julian – his British league experiences should stand him in good stead him this season and has been ably backed up by Mingshen, Cath and Masoud with Oliver still looking to get off the mark. Solid side and can't see them anywhere near a relegation battle.

**MVP: Julian Telford**

Can't split **Tidmarsh 'A'** and **Tidmarsh 'B'** at the minute so I'll mention them together. A have already used 7 players this season and you never know who you're gonna get. One week they are winning 10 nil and the next they are losing 10 nil such is the gulf in class in the division this season. With the likes of Murgy and Duncan and John to call on they will obviously be fine with the backup of Mike, Dave, François and Barry to pick up important games here and there. B also have used a load of players – must be something in the water over Tidmarsh way and are so far matching their A team point for point.

Squirrel right at the top. Loves this time of year and is nuts about his table tennis as always. Ray, Simon and Chris have had less success but are all capable and Lee came in for one match only to be denied by Andy Wang. No relegation issues for either of these teams. Mid table all the way.

**MVP: Murgy & Squirrel**

I also can't split **Sonning Common & Peppard 'B'** or **Sonning Common & Peppard 'C'** at this

early stage. The one thing I can do is mention the stunning start to his Div 1 career for Andy Wang who has already got some notable wins under his belt. Incredible stuff from Andy and can't wait to see him in action first hand. With him

playing and winning virtually every match then B will be safe for sure. No question. Nigel & Brian in the supporting roles and have started the season in good form and Jeremy not off the mark at time of writing. C don't necessarily have a superstar but are strong all the way through their big squad. Matthew Stone leading from the front but Matt Isherwood, Denise, Tim, Niall and Alan all off the mark in another big squad. They will also be fine this season (just).

**MVP: Andy Wang & Matthew Stone**

A lot of players making their Division 1 debut this season and none more so than in **Kingfisher 'D'** who have started OK but will deffo be in a scrap at the bottom with Curzon. All players pretty much the same standard in this team. Clive, Grant, Willis, Luca and Guy are all on the scoreboard and they will enjoy themselves this year for sure.

**MVP: Grant Wheatley**

I thought they were gone forever but nice to see



PETER BRADLEY (R) WITH TEAM CAPTAIN JOHN WILLCOCKS

**Curzon 'A'** back in one this season. Small squad but lots of talent. Pete Bradley bless – he even won 3/3 one match. Bet even he thought those glory days were behind him and John and Jon as steady as ever will deffo cause lots of problems for some players. They are in a dog-fight – yes but I wouldn't bet on them going down with Bradley on fire!!!

**MVP: Peter Bradley**

Now there are some big squads in D1 as previously said but none bigger than Milestone 'A' who have used a whopping 9 players already in the 5 matches they have played. This may be an issue and why they are currently at the foot of the table but they are certainly enjoying their nights out and the club is buzzing. Nice to see.

**MVP: Dave Sanket**



MILESTONE 'A' - SACHIN MUNDRA, SANKET DAVE, OLLIE BONSER, ZOLTAN KELEMEN





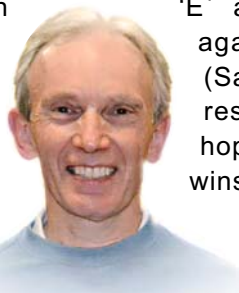
# DIVISION TWO

by John Willcocks

Welcome to the all-new Division 2 with lots of new teams and a new points system, in fact about the only thing that has not changed is your DFS. The division looks like it is going to be very interesting with two teams setting the pace at the top and most of the others bunched together. A lot of the matches played so far have been very close and with the new points system it's almost inevitable that there are very few points between many of the teams. Results so far suggest that Milestone 'B' (Saiyan Brothers) and Springfield 'A' are the favourites to fight it out for the title and they are already opening up quite a gap from the teams below them. There is a big contrast between these two teams with Milestone 'B' (Saiyan Brothers) having eight registered players whereas Springfield 'A' only have three. So, it will be interesting to see if having a large squad to select from is an advantage or not. I have given my predictions on where each team will finish at the end of the season but with the new points system this is far more difficult than last year. Apart from the top two is not an easy division to call so I would not be surprised if some of my predictions turn out to be quite wide of the mark.

Could I please remind all Team Captains that they need to contact me if a match has to be postponed or brought forward. Could I also please request that score cards are sent to me as soon as possible after a match as a few have taken a while to get to me.

**Springfield 'A'** have had four comprehensive wins plus a close defeat. They have beaten OLOP 'C' 8 - 2 and have had 9 - 1 wins against SC&P 'D', Kingfisher



'E' and Pangbourne WMC. Their defeat came against likely title contenders Milestone 'B' (Saiyan Brothers), but as they only lost 6 - 4 the result did not do too much damage to their title hopes. All of their players have had a lot of good wins with Phil Burke leading the way with four maximums and both he and Adam Sheen, who has three maximums, have only lost twice. Ludovic Couillard has contributed consistently and also has a maximum to his name. If they continue in their current form they will be serious contenders for the title.

**Prediction - 2nd**

**Best Recent Performance - Adam Sheen came back from 2 - 1 down to beat Vidu Ravinath 11-9 in the fifth**

**Milestone 'B' (Saiyan Brothers)** have only played four matches but with the exception of the close encounter with Springfield 'A' they have won them all 8 - 2 or 9 - 1. Their eight-man squad is the largest in the division but so far only five of the eight have played. Graham Mendick looks likely to be their star player and he is unbeaten, having had four maximums. He has won most of his matches three straight and is yet to be taken to five. Daniel Wills is also unbeaten



VIDHU RAVINATH

although he had to recover from losing the first two games before beating Binit Bhaskar 12-10 in the fifth against OLOP 'C'. Their other players have all contributed useful wins and so far nobody has failed to win at least once in any of their matches. Their title chances may depend on how they use their squad and with three of their players yet to play it's difficult to judge how playing without one or two of their better players may affect them

**Prediction - Champions**

**Best Recent Performance - Graham Mendick with a three-straight win against Phil Burke**

**Kingfisher 'F'** have won four out of their five matches with their only defeat coming in the first match of the season at OLOP 'A'. Their



SPRINGFIELD 'A' - ADAM SHEEN, PHIL BURKE AND SETH MARTIN,

		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Springfield A	5	4	0	1	39	11	39
2	Milestone B - Saiyan B	4	4	0	0	32	8	32
3	Kingfisher F	5	4	0	1	29	21	29
4	Tilehurst Meths A	5	2	2	1	26	24	26
5	OLOP B	5	2	1	2	24	26	24
5	OLOP C	5	2	1	2	24	26	24
7	Curzon Club B	5	1	2	2	23	27	23
8	Sonning Sports A	5	1	1	3	22	28	22
9	OLOP A	5	1	0	4	21	29	21
10	Pangbourne WMC	5	1	1	3	19	31	19
11	S C & P D	4	1	2	1	17	23	17
12	Kingfisher E	5	0	2	3	14	36	14

star player is Roger Pritchard who has won four maximums in a row and their other players have been getting one's and two's. Carol Byers also got a very good maximum against Tilehurst Meths 'A' which included wins in five against Keith Winter and Jes Eassom. All of their results have been 6 – 4 or 7 – 3 and it will be interesting to see how they get on when they play the top two.

**Prediction – 4th**

**Best Recent Performance – Roger Pritchard with a three-straight win over Keith Winter.**

Tilehurst Meths 'A' have had a succession of close matches and have had just the one defeat, but they are yet to play either of the top two. Jes Eassom has had a good start to the season and it could have been even better as his three defeats were either 9-11 or 10-12 in the fifth. Phil Jones and star summer signing Keith Winter have also won regularly and Michael Williams has chipped in with some useful wins. With Keith Winter unlikely to lose very often once he has settled back into league table tennis they should finish high up in the table but they are probably not quite strong enough to challenge the top two.

**Prediction – 3rd**

**Best Recent Performance – Jes Eassom with a 13-11 win in the fifth over Clive Perry**

OLOP 'B' have had two wins, two defeats and a recent draw with Tilehurst Meths 'A' and they look like another team who will have a lot of close results. Johnson Xu has had two maximums already and he will only improve as the season goes on so he should finish with a very high average. Alistair Richardson, Dave Holt and Dave Godfrey have won at least once every time they have played so this team will prove hard to beat and they should finish in the top half of the division.

**Prediction - 5th**

**Best Recent Performance – Dave Godfrey with an 11-9 in the fifth win over Chris West**

OLOP 'C' have suffered 8 -2 defeats against the top two but have had good wins in the local derbies

against their OLOP 'A' and OLOP 'B' teams. They also had a hard fought draw against SC&P 'C'. Pradeep Desh has been their best player and he had a very good maximum against OLOP 'A'. Abhay Gore has contributed well and got a maximum against OLOP 'B'. Pat Daniels and Binit Bhaskar have also picked up some useful wins and the team could challenge for a place in the top three or four.

**Prediction – 6th**

**Best Recent Performance – Pradeep Desh, excellent win in five against Clive Perry.**

Curzon 'A' have only won once but like some other teams all of their results have been very close, so the new points system sees them in fourth. Charlotte Binley and Nick Lean have picked up the most wins for them. Nick Lean and John Walker have been playing up but the intention is that they will both re-register for this team. Charlotte has only lost one set, and that was against the difficult-to-beat Roger Pritchard, and she has some impressive wins to her name. Nick has just two defeats and one of those was deuce in the fifth and all of his wins have gone to four or five games. John Walker and Linda King have given good support and Carine Bey should start winning matches soon. Team selection is likely to play a big part in deciding how well they will do in the rest of the season.

**Prediction – 8th**

**Best Recent Performance Nick Lean with a good four game win over Chris West**

Sonning Sports 'A' had a heavy defeat to Milestone



ABHAY GORE AND BINIT BHASKAR OF OLOP 'C' - WITH SHIVI BHASKAR



'B' (Saiyan Brothers) and a good win over Kingfisher 'E' but their other matches have been very close. Paul Savage has played in all of the matches and has played very well, losing only three. His only defeats were to Milestone 'B' (Saiyan Brothers)'s best two players and Roger Pritchard. Bob Woodmansee and Keith Machin have given some good support. Keith has only played twice but he did get a maximum against Kingfisher 'E'. Dave Chard has not quite managed to find a win yet but I am sure he will soon.

**Prediction – 9th**

**Best Recent Performance Keith Machin with a three straight win over Eric Holmes**

**OLOP 'A'** have surprisingly lost four of their first five matches although they have struggled at times to field teams and have had to play reserves in some of the matches. Chris West has started the season well and he has had some very good wins to his name. Clive Perry is a good player at this level but he has lost more sets than expected, although most were very close. I would expect him to finish fairly high up in the averages at the end of the season. If they can play with their strongest side regularly they will be a hard team to beat. However, if they continue to struggle to field teams they could lose more matches than they should.

**Prediction – 7th**

**Best Recent Performance - Chris West, a very good 11-9 in the fifth win over Roger Pritchard**

suggest they are likely to finish roughly where they are in the table at the moment.

**Prediction 11th**

**Best Recent Performance – John Simmonds three straight win over Nick Lean**

**S C & P** 'D' have only played four times and one of those matches was a gainst Springfield 'A' so they are probably in a bit of a false position. As with many of the other teams most of their matches have been very close,



ERIC HOLMES

the exception being their 9-1 defeat to Springfield 'A'. Their players all have averages of between 33% and 55% which suggests there are likely to be many more close matches. Mark Jones has their one maximum to date, achieved against OLOP 'C', but all of their players have been picking up wins regularly

**Prediction 10th**

**Best Recent Performance – Angus Jones coming back from 2 games down to beat Abhay Gore 11-9 in the fifth**

**Kingfisher 'E'** have played most of the stronger teams in the division including both Milestone 'B' (Saiyan Brothers) and Springfield 'A' so they may be in a bit of a false position. Their two draws came against Curzon 'B' and Tilehurst Meths 'A', but as well as losing to the top two they lost heavily to Sonning Sports 'A'. Eric Holmes has been their mainstay and he has had some notable wins including Adam Sheen from Springfield 'A' and Jingshun Huang from Milestone 'B' (Saiyan Brothers). It's a bit hard to say how they will fare during the rest of the season. All of their other players have picked up some good wins but they may struggle a bit as a team, as it's difficult to see where any maximums will come from.

**Prediction 12th**

**Best Recent Performance – Eric Holmes, a three-straight win against Adam Sheen.**

LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	P	W	%
Graham Mendick	Milestone B - Saiyan	12	12	100.00
Daniel Wills	Milestone B - Saiyan	6	6	100.00
Charlotte Binley	Curzon Club B	9	8	88.89
Adam Sheen	Springfield A	15	13	86.67
Phillip Burke	Springfield A	15	13	86.67
Roger Pritchard	Kingfisher F	15	13	86.67
Vidhu Ravinath	Milestone B - Saiyan	6	5	83.33
Paul Savage	Sonning Sports A	15	12	80.00
Nick Lean (S)	Curzon Club B	9	7	77.78
Keith Winter	Tilehurst Meths A	9	7	77.78
Jes Eassom	Tilehurst Meths A	12	9	75.00
Johnson Xu	OLOP B	12	9	75.00

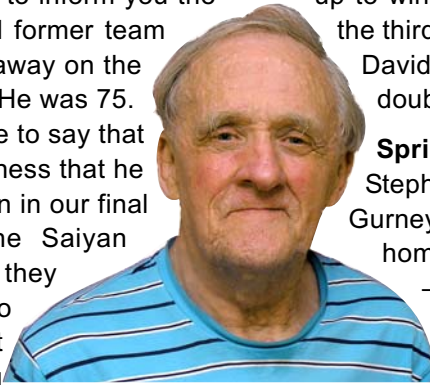
**Pangbourne WMC** are two points above the relegation zone but only five points behind the fifth placed team. They have had four close matches plus a heavy defeat to Springfield 'A'. Their best result was a 6 - 4 win at Curzon 'B' which featured a John Simmonds maximum. John has been their best player, appearing in all of the matches and winning at least one set every time. Leroy Wilson and Clive Taylor have been picking up ones and the odd two but the team's scores



# DIVISION THREE

by Derek Harrison

**B**efore I start my report I have to inform you the sad news that my friend and former team mate Mike Maynard passed away on the 8th September after a long illness. He was 75. He fought hard to the end and I have to say that he was so determined to beat his illness that he played in our doubles with Nick Lean in our final match of last season against the Saiyan Brothers on the 19th March and they won the set. My thoughts go out to Tracy, Rachel, Tom and Charlotte at this sad time. R I P my friend, you will be missed.



Now I will make my predictions before the season starts ... At the top I think that Reading FC 'A' and Springfield 'B' to be near the top, but depending on team selection Tidmarsh 'C' could run them close. At the bottom it pains me to say I feel that Curzon 'C' will fill that role and think that Kingfisher 'H', Sonning Com & P 'E' could also struggle. So I will leave it to you all to prove me wrong. Anyway I hope that you have a great season win or lose.

One other bit of information - can you please note that Tilehurst Meths 'B' cannot get into their premises until 7:30pm and hope to commence matches ASAP after that.

I have also got to mention that I am very disappointed in the lack of good match comments. I have had a few with a small comment which does not help me a lot. I have to give top marks to Patrick O'Sullivan and especially Cris Reynolds who have provided me with good comments. It does help me with my report if I have some comments about the match, otherwise I can only try to interpret what happened from the scores on the card.

Nils Wedi and Joaquin Sabater both won two each besides teaming up to win the doubles to enable **Kingfisher 'G'** to gain 5 points at Curzon 'C'. They next had a fine 6 - 4 win over Tidmarsh 'D' with Nils picking up a maximum. David Wells managed to win two and also teamed up with Nils to win the doubles. Gwynne Penny, David Wells and Joaquin all obtained maximums to help them beat Springfield 'C' 1 - 9. A maximum from David helped them gain a draw at home to Sonning Com & P 'E'. Gwynne hit a single and teamed



GWYNNE PENNY

up to win the doubles with David. They then drew for the third time in their match with O.L.O.P 'D'. Nils and David both won two each and they also won the doubles.

**Springfield 'B'** just lost 6 - 4 at Tidmarsh 'C'. Stephen Leggett managed a double while Peter Gurney and Seth Martin both obtained singles. At home to Reading FC they suffered yet another 4 - 6 defeat with Steve winning two and Peter and Seth both picking up singles. At last, a win at Tilehurst Meths 'B' by a 4 - 6 score line. Peter hit a very good hat trick while Steve managed a double and Seth gained a single. They then thrashed Curzon 'C' 9 - 1. Peter and Steve both won all three and Rob Wilkie, playing in his first match of the

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Springfield B	5	3	0	2	31	19	31
2 Kingfisher G	5	2	3	0	30	20	30
3 Tidmarsh C	5	3	1	1	29	21	29
4 Tilehurst Meths B	4	3	0	1	28	12	28
5 Tidmarsh D	5	3	0	2	28	22	28
6 Springfield C	5	2	1	2	26	24	26
7 Reading FCA	5	3	0	2	24	26	24
8 OLOP D	5	2	1	2	23	27	23
9 Curzon Club C	4	1	2	1	19	21	19
10 SC & PE	5	1	1	3	19	31	19
11 Kingfisher H	5	0	0	5	12	38	12
12 Sonning Sports B	3	0	1	2	11	19	11

season, won two. At last the team is coming good after a slow start by winning three in a row. Rob and Seth both hit trebles and I suspect for Seth it is a very long time since he had his last one. Peter won the other set in their 3 - 7 win at Tidmarsh 'D'.

A new look **Tidmarsh 'C'** beat promotion contenders Springfield 'B' 6 - 4 thanks to a good team performance with Richard Hudson and Spencer Harvey both winning two. The skipper, David Sheppard played his part by winning one. Richard and Spencer also won the doubles. At O.L.O.P 'D' they came away with a 2 - 8 victory with new signing Ian Wu winning all three in straight sets by beating Mark Carless 4-11, 5-11, 4-11, Simon Brookes 9-11, 5-11, 3-11 and Paul Treadgold 8-11, 7-11, 11-6, 2-11. Both Spencer and Richard won two each. At Reading FC they came away with 7 well earned points with Ian hitting another hat trick. David played a



captain's part by winning two while Spencer managed a single. They then came up against a very strong Tilehurst Meths 'B' and lost 3 – 7 with David, Ian and Spencer all beating Martin Wetherell. Ian came back to form against Curzon 'C' by winning all three and with Spencer and David obtaining singles which gave them 5 points.

**Tidmarsh 'D'** started with a fine 8 – 2 win over Sonning Com & P 'E' with Dave Edwards starting with a hat trick. Giving him good support were Theresa Watson and Roger Stevens who both gained doubles. For Roger it was his first match since March 2016. Theresa, in your set against Derek were you going back to the old days? 11-7, 11-3, 23-21!! At Kingfisher 'G' they gained four points with Terry Hardie making a welcome return to table tennis after a hip op by winning two. Dave E and Theresa both picked up singles. At home to Kingfisher 'H' Theresa was in top form by obtaining a fine treble. Dave E played his part by winning two while Dave Smith managed a single which helped them to 7 points. At Sonning Sports 'B' they came away with a 3 – 7 victory with Terry and Dave E both gaining trebles besides teaming up to win the doubles. At home to Springfield 'B' Theresa and Terry both beat Peter Gurney in a 3 – 7 defeat. They also teamed up to win the doubles.

**Tilehurst Meths 'B'** with Nigel Rowland in their team look good and they started with a fine 8 – 2 win over Kingfisher 'H'. Nigel showed his class by gaining a three straight maximum with Patrick O'Sullivan and Martin Wetherell winning two each. Patrick said in his match report that Maksym and Dmitry did well considering they were playing in the 5th division last season. At home to Springfield 'B' they just went down 4 – 6 after being 0 – 4 down. Nigel managed a double and Martin hit a single. Nigel and Patrick also won the doubles. At Tidmarsh 'C' they played the classy Eric Van Looy and he straight away hit a three straight maximum. If he plays often then I cannot see anyone who could beat them. Nigel also gained a treble. I have to say I am not aware of the circumstances of Eric playing in this division bearing in mind that in 2010/11 he was playing in the first division with an average of 61% and was ranked 22nd in Reading. On saying that no rules have been broken because any team could sign on any player, even an international player if they wanted. At home to Reading FC 'A' they romped to a 9 – 1 victory with Eric and Nigel gaining trebles and Patrick a double.

**Springfield 'C'** went down 4 – 6 to O.L.O.P 'D' with Adrian Wegrzynowski and Jason King both winning two each.

At Sonning Com & P 'E' they came away with a 0 - 10 victory. Jason, Adrian and Chris Taylor were the hat trick men. Then what a big let down because they lost 1 - 9 to an in-form Kingfisher 'G'. The doubles saved them from a whitewash with Rob Atack and Chris beating Gwynne

and Joaquin 12-10, 9-11, 11-5, 5-11, 11-7. At Kingfisher 'H' they came away with 6 points. Chris Taylor was player of the match by winning all three. Rob and reserve Marcello Caramma both gained singles. Chris and Rob had a nice doubles win over Ania and Peter. At home to Sonning Sports 'B' Jason hit a double with Rob and Chris both winning one each. Jason and Chris also won the doubles to give them 5 points.

**Reading F C 'A'** started with a nice 7 – 3 win over Sonning Sports 'B'. Tony Alleyne did well to win all three which included an 11-8, 5-11, 11-8, 14-12 victory over Florin Dimofte who had a 100% record in the 5th division last season. Paul Brown hit a double and Wayne Alleyne gained a single. At Springfield 'B' Tony continued his good form by winning all three and was ably backed by Wayne who hit a double. They also teamed up to win the doubles to give them 6 points. They then lost for the first time when going down 3 – 7 to Tidmarsh 'C'. Tony did well by winning two and Wayne picked up a single. At home to O.L.O.P 'D' Paul gained a great treble but it was a bit tight against Ben Carless beating him 7-11, 11-8, 13-11, 7-11, 16-14. Richard managed a double while Wayne obtained a single. They then crashed to a 9 – 1 defeat at Tilehurst Meths 'B' with Anthony beating Patrick O'Sullivan.

**O.L.O.P 'D'** had a close 4 – 6 victory at Springfield 'C' thanks to a good team performance. Graham Stark and Ben Carless both obtained doubles while Paul Treadgold gained that vital single. Ben and Graham won a close doubles 13-11, 11-7, 11-13, 5-11, 10-12. At home to Tidmarsh 'D' Mark Carless played in his very first league match but alas he lost all three sets but I have to say as the evening wore on he did improve. The two sets they won were by Simon Brookes and Paul. Graham and Ben



GRAHAM STARK

## LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Eric Van Looy	Tilehurst Meths B	6	6	100.00
Nigel Rowland	Tilehurst Meths B	12	11	91.67
Nick Lean	Curzon Club C	9	8	88.89
David Wells	Kingfisher G	12	10	83.33
Ian Wu	Tidmarsh C	12	10	83.33
Adrian Wegrzynowski	Springfield C	6	5	83.33
Joaquin Munoz Sabater	Kingfisher G	6	5	83.33
Rob Wilkie	Springfield B	6	5	83.33
Jason King	Springfield C	9	7	77.78
Nils Wedi	Kingfisher G	9	7	77.78
Dave Edwards	Tidmarsh D	12	9	75.00
Tony Alleyne	Reading FC A	12	9	75.00
Stephen Leggett	Springfield B	12	9	75.00
Benedict Carless	OLOP D	12	8	66.67

were in top form gaining hat tricks against Sonning Com & P 'E'. Despite an injury Simon managed a single which gave them 7 points. At Reading F C Ben did well to win two with Graham picking up a single. Paul came back into the side and according to Simon he played out of his skin and hit a great hat trick by beating Didier Garçon 11-5, 11-3, 11-4 then David Wells 11-9, 4-11, 11-9, 11-6 and Nils Wedi 4-11, 11-5, 11-7, 11-5. Simon and Ben gave him good backing by gaining singles to give them 5 points. In the set between Simon and David Wells it was a bit tight with the scores as follows: 11-9, 11-9, 9-11, 8-11, 10-12 after Simon had game point at 10-9.

**Curzon 'C'** entertained Kingfisher 'G' in the first match of the season and gained 5 points thanks to a very good hat trick from Nick Lean and singles from Geoff Johnson and Derek Harrison. Trebles from Nick and Geoff helped us to a 2 – 8 win at Kingfisher 'H'. They also won the doubles. Jim Brent, after a hip op, played in his first match and beat Ania Pytka. At Springfield 'B' Geoff was the only scorer in a 9 – 1 defeat by beating Rob. At home to Tidmarsh 'C' it was the Nick and Geoff show as they won two each besides teaming up to win the doubles to gain us 5 points.

**Sonning Com & P 'E'** had a bad night by going down 8 – 2 at Tidmarsh 'D'. Derek Wavell and Melvyn Lovegrove won the sets. It then got worse in the next match going down 0 – 10 to Springfield 'C'. No names needed. At O.L.O.P 'D', they managed 3 points with Derek and Melvyn both beating Simon. They also teamed up to win the doubles. At Kingfisher 'G', they gained a good five points with Melvyn and Derek both obtaining doubles. Jamie Legg won his first set of the season by beating Didier Garçon. They then won their first match of the season by beating Kingfisher 'H' 9 – 1 with Melvin and Jamie both gaining maximums. For Jamie it was a player of the match performance. Oliver Sayer played his part by winning two and teamed up with Melvyn to win the doubles.

Despite having Peter Bennett in their side **Kingfisher 'H'** lost 8 – 2 at Tilehurst Meths 'B'. Peter and Maksym

Schipka won one each. Next came Curzon 'C' and they obtained two points with Ken Robb and Maksym both beating Jim Brent. At Tidmarsh 'D' the team came away with two points with Maksym and Dmitry Merziyakov winning the sets. At home to Springfield 'C' Ania Pytka played her best match for a long time by winning two as did Peter Bennett to give them 4 points. At Sonning Com & P 'E' Peter was the only scorer in a 9 – 1 defeat.

**Sonning Sports 'B'** went down 7 – 3 at Reading FC with Florin Dimofte winning two and Sally James picking up a single. At home to Tidmarsh 'D' Sally, Cris Reynolds and Himanshu Pasbola all beat Dave Smith in a 3 – 7 defeat.

For Sally, despite suffering from a heavy cold she played with a good spirit and had a nice 11-9, 11-9, 13-11 win in set two of the evening while Himanshu managed his first ever win by also beating Dave S 11-3, 11-6, 14-12.

Himanshu was a game down against Terry and lost the next set 2-11 but he did not get upset and won the next game 11-9 but Terry came back to win the next 5-11. In the set between Cris and Terry it went as follows: Terry led the first game 2-10 and the next 3 points took as long as the previous 12 before Terry won 4-11. Terry then was 8-3 down but came back to win the next game 9-11. Cris responded by then winning 11-7 but then Terry came back to win 10-12 after being 10-9 down. Cris told me that Tidmarsh were a great sporting team.

At Springfield 'C' Cris informed me that his opening match against a youthful Jason King saw Jason win the first game with ease 11-5 but he came back to win the next game 9-11 after being 9-5 down, Jason then took game three before Cris won the next two games. In the second set Himanshu had a fine win over Robert but the performance of the evening saw Sally beat Chris Taylor 11-5, 7-11, 8-11, 11-9, 7-11. In game five Sally said it was the most enjoyable game she has played in despite losing to Robert. Himanshu then beat Chris after being two games down. In that 5th game he stormed into a 0-6 lead but held on to win 8-11. The doubles went to Springfield so at that stage Sonning were 3 – 4 up, then Sally beat Robert 3 straight before Chris beat Cris and Jason beat Himanshu for the two sides to gain 5 points each. In that final set the two sides that were playing on the other table stayed to watch and both players got a great ovation for putting in a fine display of table tennis.

I have just been informed that Mike Gaufrey of Sonning Sports 'B' is in intensive care and has been since the 31st August, so on behalf of you all I wish him a good recovery.

Cheers

Derek



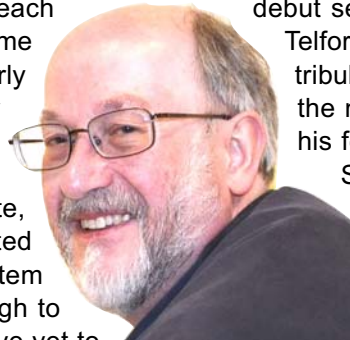


# DIVISION FOUR

by Martin Wetherell

Welcome to the Division 4 report, which includes some initial predictions about how each team will fare. However, I expect time will show that these include some spectacularly incorrect guesses, since there have already been some surprising results (at least to me!), and I presently believe that this will be the most competitive season for a while. To date, only Tilehurst Methodists 'C' are undefeated although, with the new points scoring system operating this season, that is no longer enough to warrant top spot. In addition, the top three have yet to play against each other, so team tactics may yet play their part.

**Kennet Valley Free Church 'B'** are a newly formed Club, although three of their players - Steve Christelow, Jamie Li-Telford and Lewis Oke - gained experience playing their debut season for Tilehurst Methodists, last year. They have been joined this season by newcomers Toby Barter and Russ Moores. After a torrid start, losing their first match against Milestone 'C' 10 - 0, the following week saw Lewis, Steve and Toby return to a familiar venue, playing away at Tilehurst Methodists 'C', and although they lost 8 - 2, Steve was within touching distance of a treble, before losing to Steve Wood 11-7 11-9 10-12 10-12 4-11, and he also participated in the high scoring "game of the week", against Rob James, winning 18-16 8-11 11-4 12-10. Week 3 brought no respite, as Kennet Valley entertained the high-flying Reading FC 'B', losing 9 - 1 after only being able to field two players, just avoiding the whitewash when Steve beat Harry Edwards, Steve having come close to beating Joe Bull, earlier in the evening, before losing 11-9 11-8 4-11 12-14 10-12. However, the following week saw a turnaround in their fortunes, when Kennet Valley travelled to fellow strugglers Sonning Sports 'C', winning 7 - 3, Steve recording his first maximum of the season, Russ getting off the mark with a double and Jamie recording his first win, by beating Stephen Edwards 7-11 11-9 13-11 11-9. However, the vagaries of the new points scoring system meant that even with this victory, over their nearest rivals, Kennet Valley were still rooted to the bottom of the table. However, although they lost their next match 3 - 7, at home to Springfield 'D', the three points gained, thanks to Lewis and Jamie both beating Dave Parkin, plus Lewis and Toby winning the Doubles, was enough to lift them off the bottom of the table. Toby is still to record his first singles win, although he was almost there in his set against Chris Speight, eventually losing 7-11 13-11 13-11 6-11 9-11.



As reported above, Toby Barter is still to win a set, in his debut season, but can look to his mates Jamie Li-Telford and Lewis Oke, who suffered the same tribulations last season, and are already both off the mark. Russ Moores has also started to find his feet and now has a double to his name, but Steve Christelow is currently their only player with a treble. They are likely to be fighting at the bottom of the table, for most of the season, but I believe they can achieve 9th or 10th spot.

As regards their Doubles partnerships, Kennet Valley Free Church have tried 4 combinations with Lewis & Toby currently leading their averages, with a 100% success rate, while Steve & Russ are second, with 50%.

**Kingfisher 'I'** are basically last season's 'L' team, Gill Bennett, Meriel Low and Derek Crombie welcoming newcomer Miguel Caballero, while saying adieu to Tom Allen and Dmitry Merzlyakov, Dmitry having been promoted to

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 OLOP E	5	4	0	1	38	12	38
2 Tilehurst Meths C	5	5	0	0	37	13	37
3 Reading FC B	5	4	0	1	35	15	35
4 Milestone C	5	3	0	2	29	21	29
5 Springfield E	5	3	0	2	24	26	24
6 S C & P F	5	2	1	2	24	26	24
7 Tidmarsh E	5	2	0	3	23	27	23
8 Springfield D	5	2	1	2	22	28	22
9 S C & P G	5	2	0	3	22	28	22
10 Kingfisher I	5	1	0	4	20	30	20
11 Kennet VFC B	5	1	0	4	13	37	13
12 Sonning Sports C	5	0	0	5	13	37	13

their 'H' team. In their first match, Kingfisher lost 3 - 7 to visitors Reading FC 'B' with Gill, Meriel and Derek each winning one set apiece, Derek beating Tony Edwards 15-13 6-11 11-6 11-9, to share the glory in winning "high scoring game of the week". Week 2 saw Kingfisher travel to Sonning Sports, the team winning 6 - 4, with Miguel recording a treble and PoM, on his debut. Meriel was denied her own treble after she lost her final set, in a titanic struggle with John Scott, 11-9 10-12 13-15 11-9 9-11 and Derek was also unfortunate to end the evening with no wins, losing his final set, to Stephen Edwards 9-11 17-15 11-4 9-11 10-12. The following week, Kingfisher were narrowly beaten 4 - 6, by Springfield 'D', despite Meriel recording a treble, the match starting with Gill Bennett losing to Tom Berryman in a nail biting 25-23 12-14 9-11 8-11 which, even at this early stage, may well have included the highest scoring game of the season. Week 4 saw

Kingfisher travel to Our Lady of Peace 'E', where they lost 7 - 3, Miguel being denied the opportunity of a consecutive treble after losing to Chris Bunn, in his first set of the evening, with Gill Bennett defeating Mariusz Paluszkiwicz in the first set of the match, to help Kingfisher climb to 7th place. In the following match, against Sonning Common & Peppard 'F', with the score tied at 4 - 4, Gill had to concede her final set, due to illness, meaning that the final result was in the balance, with both Miguel and opponent Mike Casserley undefeated. However, Miguel was unable to beat Mike and Kingfisher therefore lost the match 4 - 6, dropping back down to 9th place, their other wins courtesy of singles from Gill and Meriel, who both beat Steve Knott.

With a squad of only four players, I fear that Kingfisher 'I' are going to struggle and, realistically, 9th place may be the best they can achieve. Both Meriel Low and Miguel Caballero have recorded maximums, with Gill Bennett

beat Colin Jones in the final set, to record his treble and deny Colin his maximum, it was not enough to avoid defeat, Tony's win over Julian Lancaster earning Milestone another point. The following week, Milestone travelled to Tidmarsh 'E' leaving as 6 - 4 winners, thanks to John's maximum, John losing only one game all evening, and Carl's double, John & Carl also combining to win the Doubles. Next up was the visit to Tilehurst Methodists 'C' which Milestone lost 7 - 3, Tony, Colin and John each beating Andrew Stone, to win one apiece. The following week Milestone welcomed Reading FC 'B' and, after a pulsating contest, Michal and Joe Bull, who had each won both of their previous sets, met in the final set to determine the outcome of the match. Michal won 12-10 11-8 11-9 to record a maximum in his first outing, in the process helping to win the match 6 - 4, Carl assisting with a double, as well as partnering Michal to a Doubles win. John was the other participant in the match, his closest set being the 9-11 11-9 11-9 8-11 8-11 defeat by Harry Edwards.

After topping the table in the first week, thanks to the Division's only 10 - 0 win, so far, Milestone's fortunes have fluctuated and they are currently in 4th place. However, they are well situated for the task ahead, with every player in their team winning at least one set, with four players having achieved maximums and both Ollie and Michal on 100%, having each played in only one match. I would expect to see them both play many more matches and, if so, Milestone 'C' are my wildcard to win the Division.

As regards their Doubles partnerships, five different pairings have been tried, one per match, with the results going the same way as the match, which means that the last two wins were crucial in winning both matches 6 - 4. Carl has played with four different partners and he has been involved in all three wins.

**Our Lady of Peace 'E'** are another team that has retained most of their players from last season, with Jan Polnik again teaming up with Mariusz Paluszkiwicz, Chris Bunn and Alona Slobodskoy, Andrew Adair rejoining his ex-teammates after a year playing in a higher division, with Ralph Philips joining as a replacement for Graham Stark, who has been promoted to their 'D' team. Our Lady of Peace won their first game, against Springfield 'D' 9 - 1, Chris and Jan recording trebles, with Andrew only able to record two wins, after losing 10-12 11-7 8-11 7-11 to Alan Goid. Our Lady of Peace then travelled to Tidmarsh 'E', where they lost 6 - 4, with Mariusz beating Steve Andrews 11-5 8-11 8-11 11-9 13-11, Jan beating both Steve and Roger Stevens to record a double and then partnering Andrew to a Doubles victory, beating John Harland and Steve Andrews 13-15 13-11 12-10 11-6. The following week they were back in form, beating Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' 9 - 1, thanks to a treble from Ralph, on his senior debut, doubles from both Andrew and Chris, the Doubles and a conceded set. However, the sets were much tighter than the match score would indicate, with 40 games being played, 9 being won by the minimum two

<b>DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES</b>				
<b>Player</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>%</b>
Steve Wood	Tilehurst Meths C	12	12	100.00
Christopher Bunn	OLOP E	8	8	100.00
Ralph Philips	OLOP E	6	6	100.00
Carl Edlind	Milestone C	12	10	83.33
Roy Hull	Tilehurst Meths C	12	10	83.33
John Harland	Tidmarsh E	6	5	83.33
Alona Slobodskoy	OLOP E	6	5	83.33
Derek Anderson	Reading FC B	11	9	81.82
Joe Bull	Reading FC B	11	9	81.82
Anthony Reeve	S C & P G	9	7	77.78
Jan Polnik	OLOP E	9	7	77.78
Miguel Caballero	Kingfisher I	9	7	77.78
Rob James	Tilehurst Meths C	12	9	75.00
Mike Casserley	S C & P F	15	11	73.33

consistently chipping in with singles, Derek Crombie also getting off the mark, with his victory over Tony Edwards. Their one match win coincides with a Doubles victory, although this season, every set won puts points on the board.

As regards their Doubles partnerships, Kingfisher have tried three combinations, with two pairings averaging 50%. Meriel has played in both wins and in the recent match with Sonning Common & Peppard 'F', Meriel & Miguel lost in a closely contested 9-11 9-11 11-5 13-15, against Derek Maltby & Mike Casserley.

**Milestone 'C'** have retained the core of their team from last season, which means that Tony Hayden, John Evans, Carl Edlind and Colin Phillips are still around, and although they have lost Maksym Schipka to Kingfisher, they have inherited Michal Pszczolka following their merger with the Saiyan Brothers and Ollie Bonser from their 'B' team. Milestone got off to a great start, beating Kennet Valley Free Church 'B' 10 - 0, Carl, Ollie and John leading Milestone to victory. Week 2 saw Springfield 'E' visiting Milestone, Springfield winning 6 - 4, and although Carl



points. Week 4 saw Our Lady of Peace beating visitors Kingfisher 'I' 7 - 3, Chris recording a maximum, Alona a double, Mariusz a single, along with Jan & Chris winning the Doubles. The following week, Our Lady of Peace travelled to Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', winning 9 - 1, Ralph recording his second maximum, Alona recording her first maximum and Jan chipping in with another double, as well as partnering Ralph to another Doubles win.

Although they dropped to 5th place, after losing to Tidmarsh 'C', Our Lady of Peace are usually to be found in the top three and are currently in 1st place. The core of this team have been together for a number of years and Ralph Philips looks to be a brilliant replacement for Graham. Ralph, along with Chris Bunn, is one of five Division 4 players still on 100%, and since both Jan Polnik and Alona Slobodskoy have also recorded trebles, Andrew Adair has recorded multiple doubles and Mariusz Paluszkiwicz has recorded multiple singles, I believe that this is the strongest squad and is therefore my tip for Champions.

As regards their Doubles partnerships, Our Lady of Peace have continued on from last season and are yet to lose a Doubles match, although Andrew & Jan were pushed close by John Harland & Steve Andrews, before winning 13-15 13-11 12-10 11-6. Altogether, four pairings have been tried, with Jan & Ralph playing together twice, which means they are currently Our Lady of Peace 'E's most successful combination.

**Reading FC 'B's** team comprises Derek Anderson, Harry Edwards, Mark Edwards, Tony Edwards and Keith Greene, from last season's 'B' team, bolstered by the inclusion of Joe Bull, who played for their 'A' team, last season. For their first match, Reading FC had an away day to Kingfisher 'I', winning 7 - 3, thanks to maximums from Harry and Derek, with Tony losing out to Derek Crombie 13-15 11-6 6-11 9-11. The following week, Reading FC defeated visitors Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' 6 - 4, Joe Bull recording a maximum on his first outing, Harry being denied his own maximum when he lost the final set, to Anthony Reeve, 10-12 5-11 11-6 12-10 10-12, with Tony again ending the evening with nothing to show for his efforts, his best chance possibly being the 9-11 8-11 9-11 defeat by Simon Blake. In Week 3, Kennet Valley Free Church 'B' could only field two players, although they went down fighting, eventually losing 1 - 9, Derek beating Russ Moores 12-10 14-12 11-3 and Steve Christelow over 5 games, Joe also beating Steve 9-11 8-11 11-4 14-12 12-10 to remain unbeaten on the night, with Harry securing another point by beating Russ. The following week, Springfield 'E' were the unlucky visitors as Reading remained in the zone and again won 9 - 1, Joe winning PoM for his maximum, Derek being denied his maximum when he lost to Paul Martin in his final set and Harry overcoming all his opponents, starting with his 11-8 11-9 11-9 victory over Paul Martin, followed by an 11-13 11-9 14-12 11-4 win over Colin Jones and finishing with a

10-12 11-9 4-11 12-10 13-11 win over Julian Lancaster. In Week 5, Reading FC travelled to Milestone 'C' and had their first upset, losing 4 - 6, as Michal Pszczolka beat Harry, Derek and Joe on his way to winning his first PoM, Harry and Joe each earning a single by beating John Evans, Harry just coming out on top in a pulsating 11-9 9-11 9-11 11-8 11-8 encounter, while Derek recorded a double by also beating Carl Edlind.

Tony Edwards is still to get off the mark, having played twice, but Derek Anderson, Joe Bull and Harry Edwards have all recorded multiple maximums, earning them their current 3rd place. Keith Greene and Mark Edwards are yet to make an appearance although their stats from last season indicate how strong a squad this is and I fully expect this team to finish in the top four.

As regards their Doubles partnerships, three pairings have been tried, with Derek & Tony being the best pairing, until last week's defeat by Carl Edlind & Michal Pszczolka, which has dropped them down the averages, meaning that the Joe & Tony and Joe & Harry pairings are now vying for top spot, both pairs being undefeated from one match played.

**Sonning Common & Peppard 'F's** team comprises the players who played last season as the 'G' team, with the exception of Marko Madzar, who was promoted mid-season. This means that this season's returning players are Derek Maltby, Mike Casserley, Gerry Bacon, Steve Knott and Julian James. SC&P 'F' started in fine style, with a 9 - 1 home win over Sonning Sports 'C', Mike, Gerry and Julian all recording trebles and only the Doubles being lost. The following week, SC&P 'F' travelled to Springfield 'D' where they drew 5 - 5 which, so far, is the only match where the points have been equally shared. Mike was the star, for SC&P 'F', winning the final set to earn his team the draw and to record his second maximum, abetted by Steve and Julian each winning one set. After such a good start, Week 3 was a tad disappointing as visitors Our Lady of Peace 'E' won 9 - 1, Gerry winning the final set, against Andrew Adair, to avoid the whitewash. However, it wasn't plain sailing for OLOP, since 37 games were played, over 9 sets, with 9 games being won by just two points, 8 of these in OLOP's favour. A postponed match meant that Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' had no opportunity to avenge this defeat until Week 5, when they beat Kingfisher 'I' 6 - 4, Derek & Mike beating Meriel Low & Miguel Caballero in the Doubles 11-9 11-9 5-11 15-13 to help ensure the win, Mike back to winning ways with his third maximum and Gerry recording the one win, plus a walkover when Gill Bennett was unable to continue. The postponed match, against Tidmarsh 'E', was rearranged for Week 6 when Derek made his first appearance and afterwards mentioned that he first played against John Harland, at Chiltern Edge School, some 50 years ago, though I'm not sure who won that first encounter! However, this match was lost 3 - 7, with Mike recording two wins and Mike & Derek combining to win the Doubles.



SONNING SPORTS 'C': FLORIN DIMOFTE, CRIS REYNOLDS, JOHN SCOTT, SALLY JAMES and JUDE O'HALLORAN

Gerry Bacon, Mike Casserley and Julian James have all recorded trebles, Mike multiple times, with Steve Knott having won once and Derek Maltby still to get off the mark. Due to the strength of their squad, Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' are currently in 6th place and I fully expect that they will be able to continue this form and finish the season in a similar position.

As regards their Doubles partnerships, Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' have only fielded two pairings, resulting in two wins for Derek & Mike after 4 outings, Steve & Julian losing the one set they have played together.

This season, Sonning Common & Peppard have entered two teams in Division 4, so there is likely to be an extra touch of frisson in the mix, especially as both sides appeared to be unsure as to who was playing in the 'G' team! However, the official records show that **Sonning Common & Peppard 'G'** comprises Anthony Reeve (who appeared briefly for their 'E' team last season), Arran Reeve (who is stepping up from the Youth Division), Marko Madzar (who played last season for the 'E', 'F' and 'G' teams!), David Pearson (who took a break last season, but had previously played for the BBC Club) and Simon Blake (who played for last season's 'F' team). In their first match, Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' entertained visitors Tilehurst Methodists 'C', but lost 3 - 7, Anthony being denied a treble after losing to Rob James 11-2 11-8 7-11 5-11 6-11 and Marko picking up a single in beating Andrew Stone 10-12 11-9 11-7 11-5. The following week, SC&P 'G' travelled to Reading FC 'B', narrowly losing 6 - 4, Anthony again being denied a maximum after losing to Joe Bull 4-11 8-11 11-9 12-10 7-11, Simon picking up a single in beating Tony Edwards 11-9 11-8 11-9, with David also beating Tony, to earn his team a further point. Sonning Sports 'C' were the visitors in Week 3, SC&P 'G' winning

7 - 3, Anthony losing his first singles game 10-12, but then going on to win 9 games on the trot, in the process earning himself a treble, with Arran and Simon both recording doubles. The following week, SC&P 'G' visited Springfield 'D' again, winning 7 - 3 with Marko turning up the heat for his first maximum, aided by a double from David, who was denied his own treble when he lost to Maggie Kellermann-Thornton 11-8 8-11 5-11 11-7 7-11, and a single from Arran, who beat Alan Goad 11-5 16-14 7-11 8-11 11-6. However, in Week 5 Our Lady of Peace 'E' were the visitors and, despite a number of close games, Simon's 11-5 12-10 9-11 10-12 8-11 loss to Jan Polnik being one example, OLOP left as 9 - 1 winners, David beating Jan 4-11 8-11 11-6 11-7 11-8 to help his team avoid the whitewash.

SC&P 'G' are currently in 9th place, with Anthony Reeve and Marko Madzar the two players to record both a maximum and a PoM award. However, David Pearson, Arran Reeve and Simon Blake are also contributing with doubles and singles, and I fully expect this team to climb the table, as the season progresses.

As regards their Doubles partnerships, Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' have tried four different pairings, with Marko & David being their sole winners. However, although they have lost twice, Simon & Anthony are potential future winners, since both losses were over 5 games.

**Sonning Sports 'C'** include five players from last season's Division 5 winning team who, due to the squad size of 9 players, had limited playing opportunities, with Michael Byrne, Jude O'Halloran and John Scott playing in 4, 5 and 6 matches, respectively, while Mo Cole and Phil Peat were selected to play together in the final Doubles match of the season. This season they are joined by newcomer Stephen Edwards. In their first match, they came up against an in-form Sonning Common & Peppard 'F',



who beat them 9 - 1, Mo losing to Mike Casserley 5-11 15-13 8-11 8-11, before partnering Michael to a 3 - 0 Doubles win, over Mike & Derek Maltby, to avoid the whitewash. The following week, Sonning Sports welcomed Kingfisher 'I', who subsequently left as 4 - 6 winners, despite a worthy attempt at rescuing a draw, Sonning Sports fighting back from 2 - 5 down, with three consecutive 5 game sets. John stepped up to the plate first, beating Meriel Low 9-11 12-10 15-13 9-11 11-9, and he was then followed by Stephen, who overcame Derek Crombie 11-9 15-17 4-11 11-9 12-10, before Michael narrowly lost the final set, to Miguel Caballero, 8-11 11-8 10-12 11-9 9-11, Miguel having previously beaten John 11-8 8-11 15-13 4-11 12-10 and Stephen 9-11 11-7 11-8 12-10. In Week 3, Sonning Sports travelled to Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' where they lost 3 - 7, Jude winning a double, in beating Simon Blake and Arran Reeve, and then partnering Mo to a 12-10 11-7 5-11 8-11 11-7 Doubles win, over Anthony Reeve and Simon Blake. The following week they met Kennet Valley Free Church 'B' who had also lost their first three matches. John started the match with a win, defeating Jamie Li-Telford, with Phil gaining his first win when he also defeated Jamie 15-17 11-6 11-6 12-10. Unfortunately results then tailed away, with Stephen narrowly losing to Jamie 11-7 9-11 11-13 9-11 before John beat Russ Moores, in the final set, to clinch another point for his team and crucially, despite losing the match 3 - 7, stay above Kennet Valley. However, this was to change in Week 5, following an 8 - 2 defeat to Springfield 'E', Jude again recording a double, with neither Michael nor Mo ending the evening with a win, despite a number of close games.

Sonning Sports are not far off converting some of these close defeats into wins, which will be essential if they want to avoid the wooden spoon. Jude O'Halloran and John Scott have already recorded doubles, with Michael Byrne, Stephen Edwards and Phil Peat all recording a single, while Mo Cole is still to get off the mark. Their results against Kennet Valley and Kingfisher will probably be pivotal, as to how their season unfolds.

As regards their Doubles partnerships, Sonning Sports have tried four pairings, resulting in two wins, with the averages showing Michael & Mo on 100% and Mo & Jude on 50%.

**Springfield 'D'** comprises Tom Berryman, Alan Goold and Chris 'Spike' Speight, who all played for Springfield 'C' last season, in Division 5, along with newcomers Maggie Kellermann-Thornton and Dave Parkin. Springfield 'D' had the misfortune to come up against Our Lady of Peace 'E', in their first game, and were beaten 9 - 1, Alan saving the team's blushes by winning his final set, against Andrew Adair, 12-10 7-11 11-8 11-7. The following week they drew 5 - 5 with Sonning Common & Peppard 'F', with Chris winning two, Tom and Maggie each picking up a single and Tom & Chris winning a crucial Doubles. In Week 3, Springfield 'D' travelled to Kingfisher 'I' where, despite Meriel Low recording a maximum for Kingfisher, the team won 6 - 4, thanks to doubles from each of Tom, Maggie

and Alan, one of Tom's wins being his 23-25 14-12 11-9 11-8 victory, over Gill Bennett. The following week, Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' were the visitors, who left after playing 39 games with a 3 - 7 victory, Maggie recording her second, consecutive double while Chris won his set against Arran Reeve. Week 5 saw Springfield 'D' victorious once more, with a 7 - 3 win over Kennet Valley Free Church 'B', Tom Berryman recording a straight sets treble, Chris being made to earn his treble against Toby Barter, eventually winning 11-7 11-13 11-13 11-6 11-9, with Dave also recording his first win.

New signing Maggie Kellermann-Thornton looks to be a great acquisition, winning sets in all the matches she has played, and Dave Parkin may be following in her footsteps, winning a set in his only appearance to date. Tom Berryman and Chris Speight appear to have rediscovered their form, both recently recording their first trebles, and with Alan Goold continuing his form from last season, I predict that Springfield 'D' will finish in 6th place.

As regards their Doubles partnerships, Springfield 'D' have tried four pairings, their only success being Tom & Chris's victory against Kingfisher. However, since Tom & Chris also lost against Our Lady of Peace, their average is currently 50%.

This season's **Springfield 'E'** team is effectively last season's 'D' team, with the omission of Adrian Wegrzynowski, who is now playing for their 'C' team. No replacement for Adrian has been announced, yet, so this season's squad currently comprises Marcello Caramma, Colin Jones, Julian Lancaster and Paul Martin. The season kicked off with a home match against a Tidmarsh 'E', which was won 6 - 4, thanks to a treble from Paul, a double from Marcello and a Doubles win, when Paul & Marcello beat Steve Andrews & Pete Sinclair. The following week, Springfield 'E' travelled to Milestone 'C' where, despite Carl Edlind recording a straight sets treble, they were again 6 - 4 winners, Marcello recording his second double, Colin kick starting his season with a double, Julian winning a single and another Doubles win, this time for Marcello & Colin, who beat Tony Hayden & Carl Edlind 12-10 11-9 7-11 8-11 11-7. In Week 3, table topping Tilehurst Methodists 'C' were the visitors, when Paul, Julian and Marcello were only able to beat Andrew Stone, eventually losing 3 - 7. The following week, Springfield 'E' travelled to new table toppers Reading FC 'B', losing 1 - 9, with Paul Martin winning his final set, against Derek Anderson, 11-8 5-11 11-5 14-12, to earn a point. In Week 5, Sonning Sports 'C' were the visitors, Springfield 'E' running out 8 - 2 winners, courtesy of Marcello's first maximum, doubles for Colin and Julian, who both lost to Jude O'Halloran, and a Doubles win.

So, after five matches, Marcello Caramma and Paul Martin have both recorded trebles, whilst Colin Jones and Julian Lancaster have both recorded doubles, which bodes well for the future. However, because of the small squad, although I fully expect an upper mid-table position, I believe that Springfield 'E' will probably finish in 5th

place.

As regards their Doubles partnerships, four different pairings have been tried, with three being successful. Marcello & Colin have played once and won once, as have Marcello & Julian, so both these combinations are on 100%. Just behind, with one win from two attempts are Marcello & Paul, on 50%, which means that Colin is the only player not to be on a losing side !

**Tidmarsh 'E'**'s squad comprises Steve Andrews, Mike Bundy, John Harland and Pete Sinclair, who all played for the 'E' team last season, and joining them is Roger Stevens, who played most recently for Pangbourne WMC. Tidmarsh kicked off their campaign with a visit to Springfield 'E', losing 6 - 4, with Pete winning twice while Mike and Steve both won once, although Steve was close to a double, just losing out to Marcello Caramma 9-11 12-14 14-16. The next week, Tidmarsh entertained Our Lady of Peace 'E' and I'll admit I was surprised to see that Tidmarsh had won 6 - 4, with John Harland turning in a Captain's performance and winning all three in straight sets, ably assisted by a double from Roger and a single from Steve. Checking the archives, this was John's first treble since October 2012 and in an exclusive, follow-up interview, this success was attributed to his bionics (OK, his new knee !) settling down, allowing him to be more mobile around the table. In Week 3, Milestone 'C' came to visit and this time Tidmarsh were on the losing end of a 6 - 4 scoreline and a John Evans hat trick with Pete only able to win two, while Roger and Mike could each only win one. The match scheduled for Week 4 was postponed until Week 6, which meant that their next match was at home to Tilehurst Methodists 'C', who won 2 - 8, Steve beating Rob James 4-11 11-9 12-10 10-12 11-9 and Roger beating Rob 11-2 11-7 5-11 7-11 11-9. Tidmarsh travelled to Sonning Common & Peppard 'F', for their rearranged match, ending the evening with a 3 - 7 win, thanks to a first treble for Steve and doubles for both Mike and John.

Both Steve Andrews and John Harland have already recorded maximums, with Mike Bundy, Pete Sinclair and Roger Stevens all recording multiple wins, including at least one double. I therefore believe that Tidmarsh will finish mid-Table, with 6th place within their grasp.

As regards their Doubles partnerships, Tidmarsh are another team which have used a different pairing in each match, with no success, losing each time, although the stats indicate that the loss is less when Steve is one half of the combo. However, I was most impressed by the fact that Steve & John were only defeated 15-13 11-13 10-12 6-11 by Andrew Adair & Jan Polnik.

This season's **Tilehurst Methodists 'C'** is a new combination, with Roy Hull dropping down a Division to bring his table tennis wisdom to the returning pair of Rob James and Steve Wood, the fourth member of the squad being newcomer Andrew Stone. Tilehurst Methodists travelled to Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' for the first match of the season, winning 7 - 3, Rob beating Arran Reeve 9-11 11-8 7-11 12-10 11-5, to set him on his way to a treble, with

Roy assisting with a double and Andy coming through a close encounter with Arran Reeve, 9-11 12-10 10-12 11-8 11-5, to win on his debut. Kennet Valley Free Church 'B' visited the following week and were beaten 8 - 2, Steve Christelow highlighting some wicked serves, on his return to his old stomping ground, in beating Rob 18-16 8-11 11-4 12-10 and Roy 9-11 11-3 13-11 11-5. In Week 3, they travelled to Springfield 'E', with Roy and Steve both recording maximums, leaving as 7 - 3 victors after they also paired up to win the Doubles. The following week, Milestone 'C' were the visitors and they were also beaten 7 - 3, with Rob and Steve both recording maximums, Rob & Steve also pairing up to win the Doubles, beating Tony Hayden & John Evans 12-10 12-10 11-7, while Andrew's best opportunity to add to his tally was in his defeat to Colin Phillips. In Week 5, Tilehurst Methodists travelled to Tidmarsh, winning 8 - 2, a scoreline which didn't truly reflect the match, with 39 games being played, 17 of which were won by the minimum 2 points. At the end of the match, Roy and Steve had both recorded maximums, Steve only just beating Roger Stevens in his first set, 12-10 9-11 10-12 11-9 11-6, while Rob won one, losing his other two matches in 5 games, his loss to Steve Andrews 11-4 9-11 10-12 12-10 9-11 being especially close.

Tilehurst Methodists were briefly top of the table and are currently lying in 2nd place. They are the only undefeated team in the Division, although they have yet to meet two of the other teams who have topped the table in these first few weeks. Roy Hull, Rob James and Steve Wood have all won multiple trebles, with Andrew Stone having just the one win to his name, so far. With only four players in the squad, I believe that this means Tilehurst Methodists will be competing with Reading FC 'B' and Milestone 'C' for the runners-up spot.

As regards their Doubles partnerships, Tilehurst Methodists are the only other team to have won all five of their matches, utilising three different pairings. Statistically, Roy & Steve are slightly better than Roy & Rob, both pairings having played together twice. However, once Rob & Steve play together a second time, they may well take over the number one spot.

In the preceding verbiage, you may have spotted that, unlike the other sections, there are no photographs. So, if you would like to see your image in print, in a subsequent Newsletter, please submit your photos to our Newsletter Editor.

In the meantime, your challenge for the next edition is to beat any of the following since, so far, the most games played in a set is 40, the highest game score is 25-23, the "closest" set (maybe quite arbitrary since I don't see the blood, sweat and tears) is John Scott's 9-11 12-10 15-13 9-11 11-9 victory over Meriel Low, the competitors with the longest history are Derek Crombie and John Harland, at about 50 years and, again open to interpretation, the "closest" match was Sonning Sports 'C' against Kingfisher 'I', when 18 games were won by the minimum two points.





# YOUTH DIVISION

by Emma Barraclough

The new season began for Youth Division on September 14th 2018 with a number of new faces among the players and some new adult volunteers, Louise Forster and Dan Cook, to help with the regular running of the evenings. September 14th was an introductory evening with players getting to know each other and meet some new faces and a chance for the organisers to finalise the team choices. The Division has thirty - three players and the decision was made to spread the players over ten teams. The teams will play as one Division until the Christmas break when, as usual, the Division will split into two with five teams in each for the remainder of the season.



MO COOK

September 21st saw the first evening of team play with a strong win for the Tigers against the Jaguars 10 - 0 and another for the Lions against the Strikers 10 - 0. The Panthers defeated the Spartans 7 - 3, the Pumas defeated the Raiders 6 - 4 and the Avengers beat the Trojans 6 - 4. The week following, September 28th, saw another great performance from the Lions with Mo Cook, Harry Bullock and Rudresh Desai again winning 10 - 0 – this time against the Spartans. The Raiders and the Panthers drew 5 - 5 with three wins for Rajat Sawant. The Tigers won again this week, this time 8 - 2 against the Avengers with three wins for Ryan Griffiths. The Strikers defeated the Jaguars 7 - 3 with three wins for Joseph Brooks



while the Pumas defeated the Trojans 7 - 3 with three wins for James Atherton.

October 5th saw the Lions win again, this time 9 - 1 against the Raiders. The Pumas won 8 - 2 against the Panthers with three wins for Prakhar Gandhi. The Spartans defeated the Jaguars 8 - 2 with three wins each for Josh Sandland and San Celik while the Tigers defeated the Trojans 6 - 4 and the Strikers defeated the Avengers 6 - 4. The week following, October 12th, the Lions continued their winning run beating the Pumas 9 - 1 with three wins each for Mo Cook and Rudresh Desai. The Trojans won against the Panthers 8 - 2 with three wins each for Tommy Woodward and Rushabh Dharamshi and the Raiders defeated the Jaguars 8 - 2 with three wins for Om Gore and Rajat Sawant. The Spartans and Avengers drew 5 - 5 with three wins for Arran Reeve and the Strikers defeated the Tigers 6 - 4 with three wins for Joseph Brooks.



HARRY BULLOCK

On October 19th Youth Division hosted a parent and child social with parents having a chance to play Top Table doubles and then Beat the Champion. On October 26th we will have the first stage of the Grouping Tournament which places the players in three age bands and which will be completed just before Christmas.



ANISH DESHPANDE, JOSH SANDLAND, SAN CELIK

## TEAM PLACINGS

	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Lions	4	4	0	0	38	2	38
2	Tigers	4	3	0	1	28	12	28
3	Pumas	4	3	0	1	22	18	22
4	Strikers	4	3	0	1	19	21	19
5	Trojans	4	1	0	3	19	21	19
6	Raiders	4	1	1	2	18	22	18
7	Avengers	4	1	1	2	17	23	17
8	Panthers	4	1	1	2	16	24	16
8	Spartans	4	1	1	2	16	24	16
10	Jaguars	4	0	0	4	7	33	7

## LEADING AVERAGES

Player	P	W	%
Rudresh Desai	12	12	100.00%
Mo Cook	12	12	100.00%
Arran Reeve	12	11	91.67%
San Celik	8	7	87.50%
Ryan Griffiths	12	10	83.33%
Harry Bullock	12	10	83.33%
Rushabh Dharamshi	9	7	77.78%
Rajat Sawant	12	9	75.00%
Alex Eaton	12	8	66.67%
Tommy Woodward	9	6	66.67%

## IN MEMORY - OF SOME WHO PASSED AWAY THIS YEAR

### Mike (Bill) Maynard.

Bill and I first entered a team in the Reading Junior league in 1957. We had first met in Battle School in 1948!

We joined the old YMCA in Friar St. and since I played a bit at school I taught him to play in a tiny room overlooking the old tennis court.

About that time he returned the compliment by teaching me how to drink Brakspears ordinary!

In the early 60's we both played occasionally for the Berkshire county side and indeed I recall playing doubles

at the Portsmouth Open and being drawn against Johnny Leach in the first round.....if memory serves me right I don't think we made the second round.

Bill and I had 70 years of friendship and I don't recall a cross word between us. He was the best of sportsmen - honest and always put the other guy first.

I'm proud he was my friend.

Geoff Johnson

### John Freeman

I am sad to announce that our President John Freeman passed away on the 2nd June aged 91

John played for the Woodland club and then Tilehurst Methodists. He won the Senior Vets championship in 1977/78, 1978/79 and 1982/83

He was an International Umpire and National Referee besides being a Justice of the Peace.

He first served on the RDTTA committee in 1962/63 as the inter town match secretary

In 1963/64 he was assistant general secretary.

From 1964/65 to 1969/70 he was league umpires secretary, and again from 1975/76 to 1993/94

He was our Chairman from 1966/67 to 1968/69 and again from 1975/76 to 1976/77.

In 1979 he was made a life member.

In 1989 John was awarded the E.T.T.A merit award.

He was handbook secretary from 1995/96 to 2005/06

Finally he was our president from 1984 onwards.

RIP John

Derek Harrison

### Colin Dyke 1936 - 2018

Many of us will have been saddened to have heard of the death of Colin Dyke in July this year. Colin was a long standing player in both the Reading and Bracknell Leagues who put a lot back into the sport we all love.

He was born in Kent in 1936. He moved to Reading in 1970 where he originally played for Woodley TTC. He held a number of posts on the Reading committee during the 1970's and 1980's including Division 1 DFS and Development Officer and he was Berkshire County's Treasurer and National Councillor for a number of years.

He was part of the Inauguration Committee when the Woodley and Omega Table Tennis Clubs amalgamated to form the Kingfisher Club and he was one of a small group of volunteers who physically built the new clubhouse from ground level. He was a founder member and the new club's first General Secretary. He also served as Chairman.

He was a keenly determined, mainly defensive player who proved a difficult opponent to all.

Colin will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Nigel Maltby