



Kingfisher Table Tennis Club

KINGFISHER NEWS

Issue 57 Autumn 2010



Advanced Premier Club



Reading League and Cup Winners and Maidenhead League Winners 2009/10

Editor's Comments

The new season is well under way but before we look forwards this issue also has reports on the many tournaments held at Kingfisher during the summer months. Daniel Moses claimed the first Super League title as well as the Grand Prix and the Grouping Tournament. Well done Daniel. My apologies if you get fed up with looking at the pictures of him!

It's also a time of reflection with the sad news that John Fenton has passed away and there are some tributes in this issue. Personally, I joined the club too late to know John that well but I do remember that it was John who gave me my first knock at the club not having played for about 10 years. He was very patient with me as I could hardly serve at first - not much change there then some would say!

Anyway, I hope you enjoy this bumper issue - the biggest yet. Please remember if you have any contributions to make including photographs, e-mail me at:

chris.pusey@ukgateway.net

Chris Pusey,

Editor

BRITISH LEAGUE 2010-2011 Division 1 South and Midlands

by Colin Dyke, Team Manager

PROMISING START TO THE SEASON FOR KINGFISHER I

Although our team started with yet another defeat to OLOP at this level, it was by the closest of margins and so easily could have been a point or two. This was followed by a good win over Cippenham II to get some early points on the board with everyone contributing well.

Our team welcomed for the first time both Daniel O'Connell (Welsh No 1 junior) and compatriots Nathan Thomas and Alan Monks alongside Lloyd Gregory. It was a bright start and all of these players will definitely have some more good results in them, so all looks good for the season.

Daniel was particularly unfortunate to have to play four experienced pimpled rubber players in his four sets, not the sort of games for a junior to get his eye in but he stuck to it and soon picked up the thread in his performance in the second match, winning Man of the Match. Nathan got away well and with 3 out of four is going to be a tough man to beat at No 4.

Day 2 proved another successful day for the Kingfisher I team although a draw and a win could easily have been two wins. All players again contributed and at the end of the day the team is laying in a creditable third position, three points behind the leaders having already played them.

Full details of both days play can be found on page 12.

CELEBRITIES PLAYING TABLE TENNIS - LAST ISSUE

In case you were still wondering who the celebrities were in the last issue they were:

Tom Hanks; Wayne Rooney; Marylyn Munroe; Bob Marley; Jeri Ryan; Fidel Castro; Popeye; David Cameron; Paul O'Grady; Bruce Lee; Mike Myers and Christopher Walken

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE by Colin Dyke

I start with a sad note in advising the death of one of our Honorary Members John Fenton. John was very much to the forefront when the Kingfisher Club was inaugurated and before that a leading light in the formation and running of the Woodley Club, a co-creator of our current Club. A tribute is contained elsewhere in this newsletter. He will be sadly missed.

Hopefully you have made a good start to the new season and are enjoying your table tennis. The Club's membership goes from strength to strength and the tables are getting well used. That's what we want to see. I am delighted to say that the grant for the new roof has been secured and we are trying to arrange the works. This in itself is not easy as we are trying not to expose the Trustees of the Club to any more risk than we need to. However, I hope we can make progress soon and that we have good news for the next edition. In the meantime, Allen Pack's team's handywork on the temporary cover is holding out pretty well apart from one small problem in the committee room. Once the roof is done, we shall be able to move on with a number of upgrades.



You may be wondering what is happening as far as your membership of the ETTA is concerned. Well, our hardworking Membership Secretary, Eric, has submitted all the applications with payments to the ETTA and hopefully you will receive your Membership Card together with your membership number before very long. This inaugural year of this system is a headache to the ETTA because of the volume of initial work to be done but bear with them and you will eventually get your card and information. There are no concerns as far as the competitions you play in as all local leagues, counties and tournament organisers are aware of the situation and will be tolerant of the situation initially. Those who need a licence for playing ETTA events however do need to be "paid up" but these have been given priority. For new Club members, easily the best way forward is to obtain your ETTA membership online and Eric can advise you on this.

Eventually our Club Membership list will show everybody including the non-playing members as having ETTA Membership. That is what is required of us as a Premier Club. In the following seasons it will be up to you all to renew your ETTA memberships yourselves when the time comes, which for those online will be relatively simple process.

I hope you will agree that Eric's new Internal Super League was a great success and enjoyed by all who took part. It gave Summer Members a bit more for their money and a number of them took part. My thanks to Eric for making this so enjoyable and also to Peter Goatly for his follow up efforts with the Grouping Tournament.



Finally I understand that the new Wednesday night coaching arrangement is flourishing and I wish the coaching side well with this new arrangement.

If you have any questions or ideas to make the Club a better place, I trust you won't hesitate to contact me either by email colindyke@waitrose.com or by phone 0118 9783770.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN FENTON by Colin Dyke, Chairman

It was sad to hear that John Fenton passed away in early July this year aged 80. He was an Honorary Member of our Club and was a key figure on the Woodley side of the Woodley/Omega team that started the Kingfisher Club in 1987. He had been Chairman of the Woodley Club for many years and was also Chairman of the Sub-Committee amalgamating the two clubs. He was President of our Club for the first three years of its existence and for many years took the beginners' coaching classes.

Our current President Peter Charters said that Judi and he both remembered John as the nicest, most pleasant of men. He also remembered him as one of the best 'starter coaches'. He gave young players the balance and rhythm within movement so necessary to go on to higher levels of play.

Brian Halliday described him as one of those unsung heroes of our sport.

John's wife Molly was also a keen member for a while and enjoyed social play. They also both enjoyed tennis and were keen fell walkers. Sadly she predeceased him some long time ago.

John was a medic in a London Hospital and had that calming confident air about him that endeared us all to his views. He retired to live in Dorset some years ago and his other great love, photography, came to the fore. You can find many website references to John's work if you do a bit of surfing.

John leaves two daughters, Sarah and Bidy and their families. Sarah was once a playing member at the old Woodley Club and Bidy and her family now live in Australia. Our thoughts are with them.

John, you will be sorely missed but I know that your vision of how our club would develop was near to "spot on" and its continued success is a tribute to you in itself.

COUNTY BALLS GONE AWOL!

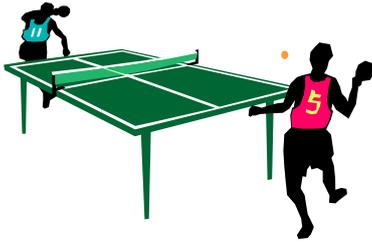
A number of envelopes were placed in the office at the club to be collected by county team captains many of whom are Kingfisher members. These packages contained paperwork and balls supplied by the ETTA to the COUNTY ASSOCIATION for the county match season. Two of the envelopes were not collected by Thursday 7th and still remained at the club but the match balls had been removed from them while in the office.



Four boxes of 3 balls, 1 dozen in all, have therefore gone missing. These TT balls do not belong to the club or the person that took them and I would ask that they are returned packaged and marked for my attention ASAP.

Allan Bruton

ROGER'S RAMBLINGS : Hello again everyone!!



SUMMER is over; we have a great new *Grand Prix* Champion in a young chap named Daniel Moses and we have the first ever *Super League* Champion in a young chap named Daniel Moses. I think we may hear more about this young chap named Daniel Moses!

Daniel is a credit to our Club and I am sure you join with me when I wish him all the best for more wonderful achievements in the future. Mind you, he's only beaten me once in the past twelve months. Yes, yes, I know; if we have to drag the number of times we've played into the equation, you're spot on...

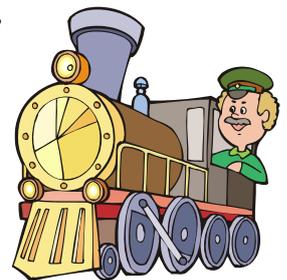
This is my first ever report written without the Membership Secretary's hat sitting atop my puerile brain. As you know, I have passed this weather-beaten titter on to young Eric van Looy and he is making a fine job of things. In fact, Eric is doing a fine job with an incredible number of tasks at the Kingfisher Club.

I am fully aware that many other members are also responsible for a great deal of work – and I cannot over-stress my thanks to these people – but, in my eyes if no-one else's, Eric stands tall. Well done, young sir! Combine Eric with the others I have not mentioned by name (mainly for fear of omission!) and I think that Colin has a superb team working alongside him. Long may it continue.

At great risk of boring you, I should be grateful if Editor Chris Pusey would allow me to mention the Rail Industry's recent World Championships. Below is a slightly edited article taken from that world-famous magazine *First Great Western Gazette*:

“Roger Woolven-Allen, Reading Station Controller, has returned from the USIC World Railway Table Tennis Championships, held in Russia's third largest city, Nishny Novgorod.

At first it was touch and go as to whether the British squad would ever reach its destination. Eyjafjallajökull was in full flow at the time of departure and many airlines were suffering total disruption.



“Eventually, however, the flights between London Heathrow and Moscow Domodedovo were resumed and the British team, along with many other European representatives, arrived in Nishny two days late.

“But the playing schedule was hastily rearranged and the complete championships were played out to both the host nation's and their guests' total satisfaction and enjoyment.

“The British men's team finished the championships in a creditable 13th place, while the ladies performed even better to finish in 10th position. But, while no-one from the British rail industry brought home any trophies, the tough competition was both challenging and immensely enjoyable.

(Note: You will observe that I have cleverly omitted the number of entrants. I leave you to puzzle that one out...)

“The ultimate men's champions represented India, with France in second place and Russia in third. The host nation took the top honours in the ladies' event, with Belarus in silver medal position. The Indian ladies each went home with a bronze medal.

“The opening and closing ceremonies which, with a little imagination, were not far short of full Olympic Games’ standards, were complete with percussion bands, singing groups, acrobatic acts, dancing girls, arena parades and speeches from top Russian sporting and political personalities. One of the accompanying photographs was taken at the opening ceremony while the other shows the members of the British team.”



THE OPENING CEREMONY



THE GB RAILSPOET TEAM

I am sure that some members of Kingfisher who take part in the various British and National League competitions may know one or two of the featured players. From the left: Roger, Trevor Kerry, Wayne Glossop, Reuben Okai, Keith le Millière, Linda Sanderson, Dave Fox and Jenny Hemsley.

With the exception of Reuben, we are all veterans. Trevor is ranked 36 in England, just one above our own Hari Gehlot, while Wayne appears at 148, two places behind Dave Hilbeck. Linda weighs in at 48 with Jenny at 72, well behind Kingfisher’s Sharon Mitchell at 40.

I can’t find Dave or Keith in the list, although I am sure they must be there somewhere. Finding individual names in a long printed list is not the easiest of tasks. I am personally ranked at 356 and I am not too sure how I managed even that lowly feat. Everyone else on the list has a county after his or her name but, for some reason, I don’t. Perhaps this is Allan Bruton’s subtle way of disowning me...

During the above railway event, Linda lost the first end against one of the Bulgarian girls. She came away from the table, looking puzzled.

“What’s up?” I asked.

“I don’t know what’s on her serve,” replied Linda. “There’s definitely something on it. It might be float.”



At a recent match at OLOP, when I told Rafael Jack that I was retiring in a few months’ time at the age of 67, he said “You surprise me. I thought you were only 57 or 58.”

“You’re wonderful to say so, Raf,” I replied, “but, if you are ever curious as to why you’re not winning as many matches as you think you ought to, perhaps a visit to *SpecSavers* would be in order...”

I am sure that Colin and Chris will go into much greater detail elsewhere in this *Newsletter*, but I should like to say how sad it was to hear about the passing away of John Fenton. Only a small percentage of current members will remember him and, to most young players, his is just a mysterious name that appears in the list of Honorary Members. But John was paramount in the creation of the Kingfisher Club and he will be affectionately remembered by many of the old-timers amongst our ranks.

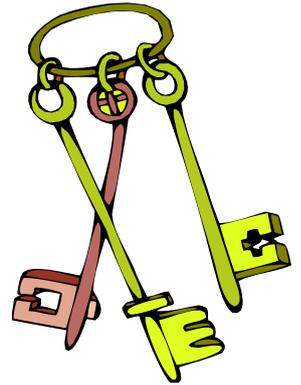
At this point, I should like to mention Club security. A few weeks ago, on two separate occasions, I arrived at an unoccupied Club to find that the mortise lock had not been locked and that some of the table lights were blazing away. On one of these two occasions, every window that could be opened had been left open.

I know that I often have a silly, puerile sense of humour (witness these *Ramblings* for a start!) but, with my serious hat firmly in place, our Club means a great deal to me – as I'm sure it does to most of you.

Fortunately, there does not seem to have been a recurrence and I am hoping that the people responsible have since become aware of what they did and that a tiny bit of guilt and perhaps a pang of conscience may have crept in.

The Kingfisher Table Tennis Club is a wonderful institution; let's all do our little bit to keep it that way! We can't pay too much attention to security.

As Larry Grayson used to say, "Shut that door."



At one recent *Grand Prix* session, brothers Hari and Ramesh were knocking up, ready to do battle against each another. Nick Heaps was staring at the score-sheet on the umpire's table.



"Who's playing on this table?" he asked. (This was a fair question because, as in many competitions, any people practising are not necessarily those scheduled to play the next match.)

"It's Hari versus Ramesh," I said. Nick continued to stare at the score-sheet.

"I can't see without my glasses," he explained.

"Hari's the thin one," I said.

My grandfather was very ill recently and my brother Colin and I knew that he had left all his money to the two of us. Very selfishly, we hoped that he wouldn't take too long about shuffling off this mortal coil. We were both a bit skint, you see.

In an attempt to quickly get his hands on some of the filthy lucre, Colin put some lard on the poor old man's back. From then on he went downhill very quickly.

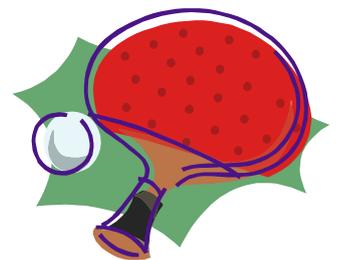
Out of the mouths of babes... The following extract from a youngster's school essay, printed recently in the *Daily Mail*, really tickled my warped sense of humour:

"On our activity holiday, Dad wanted to ride the hores, but Mum said they were too ekspensiv."

Well, everyone, that's it from me for another four months. I have hardly played recently; hence the lack of material. However, I retire at the end of the year and (unfortunately from everyone else's point of view) the Club will see a lot more of me after that. Humblest apologies.

I hope that you all have a great season, win or lose. Remember that it's not about winning or losing, but about taking part. Mind you, I am convinced that whoever first wrote that had just won something!

Keep happy and here's to seeing you all at the Club before too long.



Roger

Kingfisher Grand Prix glory for Moses by Roger Woolven-Allen

Daniel Moses has won the Kingfisher Grand Prix despite failing to reach the 12th and last final of the series. He was knocked out by 14-year-old Liam McTiernan, who went on to beat 2009 champion Hari Gehlot in the final.

McTiernan had an extra incentive. He was lying fourth at the start of play and was keen to make the first three in order to earn a cash prize. The youngster thrilled the audience by winning the match in four nail-biting ends.

He finished third overall with 699 points, moving above Czech ace Martin Chodounsky who missed the final event as he was away on business.

Moses was well clear on 886 points, with Gehlot having to settle for second place with 791.

In his semi-final, Gehlot defeated Reading's Stuart Williams in three relatively comfortable straight games.

In the final of the 12th consolation event, Caversham Park's Roger Woolven-Allen managed to get his name on the roll of honour by beating Reading's Ramesh Gehlot. In a nail-biting five-game match the Berkshire veteran snatched victory by the incredibly close scoreline of 9-11, 10-12, 11-6, 11-1, 11-9.

Kingfisher TTC chairman Colin Dyke, who was pleased with the success of the championships, presented the winner's trophy to Moses and there were also cash awards for Gehlot and McTiernan.



Kingfisher Closed Championships by Steve Barnes

Hari Gehlot gave a masterful display of table tennis in the Singles Final against Liam McTiernan winning in 3 straight sets 5,6,and 8. Hari dominated the table and refused to let Liam gain any advantage despite his sometimes brilliant attack and defence.

Hari had won his place in the final by beating Colin Dyke in the quarters (5,3,and8) and Stuart Williams in the semi final which was a fast hitting encounter with the offensive player usually winning the rally. This suited Hari's up to the table style and won 4, 6, and 7.

Liam place in the final saw a fine 5 set win against Daniel Moses (9, 10, -10, -6 and 9) in a very entertaining back from the table but still attacking flat out contest after which the young Daniel retired to a chair at the back of the playing area looking like a tired old man. I'm sure Daniel will get his revenge sometime. The semi final was against Ramesh Gehlot that resulted in a 4 set win (-5, 6, 11 and 9). If it had gone to 5 who knows what might have been.....

The restricted singles saw Ivor Hardman beat Steve Barnes in 3 straight sets. Ivor sailed through to the final with straight wins. Steve overcome Dave Reynolds in a close match finally coming through 6, 6, -10 and 11.

In the Handicapped Singles final Gill Bennett beat Steve Barnes in an epic (well in Steve's head anyway) or possibly a dour struggle. Gill just edged out Steve 2 games to 1 winning 19 in the deciding set.

Kingfisher Closed Championships (continued from page 7)

The Vets Singles title was won by Hari Gehlot against Ramesh in there usual mix of spin, speed and power (6, 9, 9).

In the remaining events Leo Long won the Juniors title against Alex Gurney (9, 7, 5), Dianne Taylor beat Gill Bennett in the Ladies final (11, 4, 6), the Doubles final was won by Hari and Ramesh against Stuart and Liam (7, 11, 6) and the Drawn Doubles final was won by Gill and Liam against Peter Bennett and Steve Barnes.

As usual at this event, the half time highlight was provided by way of a buffet courtesy of Gill Bennett. Thanks once again to Gill.

KINGFISHER SUPER LEAGUE

Supersub seals victory for Moses by Roger Woolven-Allen

The weird but highly successful Kingfisher Super League has come to a satisfying close.

It was successful because everyone who took part thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of the top-level competition and weird because players, who are unavailable on any particular evening, were allowed to field a substitute. And so England-ranked junior Daniel Moses won this first series without even attending the final event.



The 16-year-old from Earley, who was away playing in the UK School Games, nominated 11-year-old Daniel McTiernan to take his place. Although the Woodley boy had only one win – against hard-hitting Andy Yon who, in turn, was substituting for Richard Fifield – this was sufficient to give Moses a total of 13 points and, with it, the Super League trophy.

In the top division on this final evening, Reading's Stuart Williams remained undefeated with wins over Tony Reynolds, Daniel McTiernan, Andy Yon and Eric van Looy. Williams pushed himself into equal second place with an overall total of 11 points. He was joined by Reynolds, who managed three wins in the top flight, and Tilehurst's Trevor Organ, playing in Division 3, who scored a maximum four points. On a games and points countback, Basingstoke's Reynolds was declared the runner-up of the overall series. Belgian player Eric van Looy, along with county veteran Geoff Civil, finished the series in equal fifth position with nine points apiece.

The Kingfisher Super League was the brainchild of van Looy, adapted into total practicality by club chairman Colin Dyke.

All the competitors and spectators voted the series an enormous success and they are already looking forward to next year's championships.

Final standings after tournament 4: Daniel Moses 13, Tony Reynolds 11, Stuart Williams 11, Trevor Organ 11, Eric van Looy 9, Geoff Civil 9, Nick Heaps 8, Wendy Porter 8, Daniel Mortimer 8, Diane Taylor 7, Richard Fifield 6, Raphael Jack 6, Allen Pack 6, Stuart Wall 4, Didier Garcon 3.

Kingfisher TTC Grouping Tournament by Peter Goatly



This year's grouping tournament had representatives of all of the echelons of the club, but it was finally won by this year's Grand Prix champion, Daniel Moses, as he beat both Raphael Jack and Eric Van Looy 12-10 in the 4th on the final evening.

In the initial groups, most of the results were pretty clear cut and only 2 matches went to the deciding game. In these matches Raphael Jack beat Allan Bruton and Eric Van Looy scraped home against Wendy Porter at 11-8 in the 5th. Wendy had a further tough loss as Eric Holmes edged their 4-game match 9-11, 11-9, 17-15, 13-11.

In initial group D, Peter Bennett did well to beat Colin Dyke 11-7 in the 4th game, but he lost all of his matches in Group 1 on the final evening to finish in 4th place in the tournament. On the other hand, Colin went on to win all his matches in Group 2 to finish in 5th place overall.

On the final evening, all of the groups had close matches, but Group 2 was the hardest-fought, with 4 of the 6 matches being decided in the 5th game! This was particularly tough for Allan Bruton as he played in 3 of the matches that went to the deciding game. The determination shown by Allan to keep fighting to the final point was an example to us all, given that he has only recently put away his crutches following knee surgery.

Dave Gostelow also got his money's worth. In Group 3 he beat Wendy Porter and Dave Duncan in 4 close games and then held his nerve to edge out Michael Houghton at 12-10 in the 5th.

The "crunch matches" in Group 4 were between Gill Bennett and Sue Macdonald and between Chris Pusey and Diane Taylor. Gill won her match in 4 close games: 9-11, 15-13, 11-8, 11-8, while Diane starred in a fine victory at 11-9 in the 5th.

The final tournament order was: 1. Daniel Moses 2. Raphael Jack 3. Eric Van Looy 4. Peter Bennett 5. Colin Dyke 6. Peter Goatly 7. Allan Bruton 8. Eric Holmes 9. Dave Gostelow 10. Wendy Porter 11. Michael Houghton 12. Dave Duncan 13. Diane Taylor 14. Chris Pusey 15. Gill Bennett 16. Sue Macdonald.

BRITISH LEAGUE - Division 4 South and Midlands by Eric Van Looy

Mixed Results for Kingfisher II

Saturday results

A great 6-2 win over Ilfracombe Pirates, where all players (Keith Newell 2x, Chris Haines 1x, James Olsson 2x, Paul Savage 1x) had earned positive results, and we were off to a great start. However, leaders Elgre Nottingham II beat us 7-1 with only Paul getting us on the scoresheet.

Sunday results

Chris made way for Eric Van Looy, and we drew our first match 4-4 against Westfield III, with all players winning once.

The second match against Woodfield IV – who produced the National UK Deaf Team players – was lost 6-2, with Keith and Eric saving Kingfisher's honour.

Three points out of eight, an encouraging start to the new season!

SENIOR SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL

International medals for Four Reading Juniors by Adam McTiernan

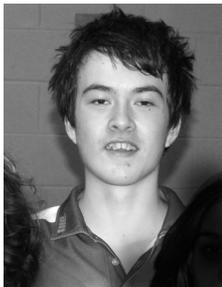
Four players from Reading (Tom Maynard, Liam McTiernan, Jarred and Megan Knowles) represented England Schools with pride as part of a 24 strong squad which travelled over to Limerick for the three day Senior Schools International. With six other national squads taking part and more than 150 competitors, this was the largest table tennis event held in Ireland this year.



Our players performed superbly, between them taking home six medals in three different age groups. Tom Maynard, playing in his last ever junior tournament, took gold with his England A team mate, Scott Crawford, in the Boys Under18 team event.

The final saw them defeat home nation, Ireland, and in the deciding match Tom unexpectedly beat the Irish No 1 junior and senior player, Paul McCreery by a 3-2 score line to take the title in style. He followed this up with a silver medal in the Individual event the following day, with McCreery this time finishing on top.

Jarred Knowles helped England A to runners-up spot in the Boys Under 16 event, beating a strong Welsh team in the semi final, before narrowly losing out to top seeds, Ireland A, by a 3-2 score line in a very close final. He then went on to win a well deserved bronze medal in the Individual event, battling his way to the semi finals, where he was beaten by team mate, Ping Ho.



His sister, Megan, secured a bronze medal in the Girls Under 14 event with England B, beating Scotland A in the third place play-off match. This was an all the more remarkable achievement as her 12 year old partner was a late replacement and had little experience playing at this level.



Liam McTiernan fought hard with his 12 year old partner, Tyrone Wells, for England B in a very competitive Boys Under 14 event, which included 12 teams. Having earlier lost to Wales, they picked up bronze medals after a close 3-2 victory over Ireland A in the third place play-off. This was the very last team match to finish after a 10 hour day.

Both Liam and Megan lost out in the quarter finals of the Individual Under 14 events. For them and Jarred this was the first time they had experienced international competition so to come home with medals was extremely pleasing. Tom is already making big strides in the senior game and his victory over McCreery will only enhance his reputation further.

NATIONAL VETERANS LEAGUE by Colin Dyke

Squad: Derek Wood, Colin Dyke, Ivor Hardman and Eric Holmes

The first half of this season's National Veterans League will be played at Blackpool on 6th and 7th November 2010 and the second half on the very late dates of 7th and 8th May 2011 in Bristol. Our squad has lost Alan Cummings but has secured the services (!) of Derek Wood who will be a great asset to the team. Let's hope we can at last improve on our performances over the last few seasons.



Get them out of here - they're crazy!



NEW SEASON TEAM REPORTS



Bracknell Wokingham and District League (contact Peter Goatly on 0118 9782632)

Kingfisher "A" - Premier Division



Allan Bruton
(Capt.)

Not a good start but average, this is going to be a tough season I fear, even with the old Wokingham "A" disbanded the rest of the division looks good, the team will need to begin to perform and then we can expect a good finishing position, there are still good teams there but we do have the fire power to be the best of the rest.

J. Willcocks; R. Woolven-Allen; J. Morris; G. Civil; P. Mead

Kingfisher "B" - Premier Division



Peter Goatly
(Capt.)

Things are looking good so far! We've played 3 and won 3, but we have yet to play some of the stronger teams, so I don't expect us to finish much above the half way spot in the league table.

T. Organ; P. Bennett; R. Fifield; C. Dyke;
S. Mitchell

Kingfisher "C" - Premier Division



Chris Pusey
(Capt.)

The season is clearly going to be a tough one although on paper the Division looks a bit more evenly balanced than last season. I would like to welcome new boy Tom Cannon who despite not having played for over a decade is starting to show some form winning 2 against Wokingham A. With 3 points from 3 matches clearly the only way to go is up! On the positive side our first 3 matches included the top 2 teams.

D. Duncan; J. Creighton; T. Cannon; M. Dorrington (res)

Kingfisher "D" - First Division

It has not been a great start so far this season, drawn one lost 2. Our star player Jeff has taken extended leave for a visit to far off lands. Allan Bruton has covered for one match and just survived, his knees letting him down in his final match against OLOP 'C'. Allen Pack is playing his usual steady self, winning 7 of his 9 games, not had too many 5 set games which is usual for Allen. I have had a poor start to the season, I think I might have lost my table tennis mojo!! Struggling this year with only one win so far, still it's a long way to go yet so hanging on to some hope.

N. Lynch (Capt.); J. Huggins; A. Pack; D. Grover

Kingfisher "E" - Second Division

After the first match things are looking good with both Derek Crombie and Diane Taylor scoring maximums and well supported by Derek Spicer winning 2. The doubles made it a 9-1 victory. A good start to the season.

Editor.

D. Crombie (Capt.); G. Bennett; D. Taylor; P. Cunningham; D. Spicer.

Reading League (contact Sylvia Bruton 0118 901 9119)

Kingfisher "A" - First Division



Whilst still at the top of the table things have got off to a slow start with a draw against YMCA but then followed this with 2 victories with Hari yet to be beaten in 3 matches. Polish A have only played 2 but are only a point behind so the season is looking like a close one.

Editor.

H. Gehlot (Capt.); R. Gehlot; M. Banks; S. Williams

Kingfisher "B" - First Division Our season might flatter us a bit for a while as we play nearly all the other 'B' and 'C' teams in our first 5 matches, then run into 5 'A' team matches in a row. So far though we have made a sparkling start, kicking off with an excellent win over YMCA 'B'. This included a great maximum from Eric, and a super win for young Megan over Peter Bradley. We looked forward to trying to build on that start in the second week when we were due to play our Kingfisher 'C' team. Unfortunately, due to illness, they were unable to field a side, so that match will be played later in the season. Undaunted, we forged ahead in week 3 and trampled Tidmarsh 'B' to a 9-1 defeat. The last time I looked, we were top of Division 1, but hold on, guys and gals, we know that is not going to last. However, we have 4 precious points on the table, and if we can maintain this form, we have a realistic chance of staying in the top division for next season.

G. Civil (Capt.); C. Putterford; C. Dyke; E. Van Looy; M. Knowles

Reading League (contact Sylvia Bruton 0118 901 9119)

Kingfisher "C" - First Division

With 2 postponements the season has hardly got underway yet. The one that has been played against OLOP "C" resulted in a 7-3 loss with wins by Trevor and John matched by a win in the doubles. Dave Gostellow kindly played up but couldn't manage a win. When things finally get under way hopefully the team will show its true form.

Editor

I. Hardman (Capt.); T. Organ;
R. Woolven-Allen; J. Morris; D Bishop

Kingfisher "D" - Second Division



N. McGraine
(Capt);

start to our season this year than normal. In fact we were in the top two after our first game so fortunately we are now a bit further down from those heady heights. We won our first two matches but then lost to Curzon "A" 6-4. Highlights so far has been the start that Carole has made winning 5 out of 9 so far. If she keeps that ratio up till the end of the season that will be her best in 4+ years. Also the impact Richard Fifield has made in the team. With Sharon out until the end of this year, Richard has stepped up to the plate including playing three in a row as a latecomer in one of the matches. so well done to both of them. Also I am very pleased to report that Sharon is doing very well and is coming to the end of her treatment phase and hopes to start playing again in small sessions soon, so we all miss her and hope to see her back really soon.

Also it was widely known in Div 2 last year, that the best sandwiches were available when we played at home and Carole has continued this very high tradition and throws down a challenge to the other teams to match her culinary capabilities. I would also like to thank Dave Gostelow on two counts. 1. for the lesson in foul serves and 2 for the delicious fruity biscuits he gave us at the match. They were something like garibaldi's but I would put them in second place in terms of offerings received so far this season.

C. Chard; L. Williams; R. Fifield; S. Mitchell

Kingfisher "E" - Second Division



A. Bruton(Captain)

Results have not gone the teams way so far, as a non playing captain mainly this season it will be difficult to assess the division without being involved but it looks like being a very competitive division and points are not going to be easy to get. Having said that I hope that when my team players have played themselves in the points will begin to assemble.

P. Goatly; P. Bennett; P. Mead; E Holmes

Kingfisher "F" - Second Division



Chris Pusey
(Capt.)

Despite finishing in the bottom half of Division 3 last season we have been elevated to the second division filling a vacant slot. Another tough season then! Our first goal is to score a point and then move up from there. We came close on Tuesday being 4-2 up before tea but Dave must have slipped the Micky in the wrong cups because after that we didn't win a match losing 6-4. A double from Dave was a welcome sight showing that he is beginning to get back to some form. Finally, welcome to Tom and Dave G who hopefully will provide some much needed help!

D. Duncan; A. Pack; J. Creighton; D. Gostellow; T. Cannon

Kingfisher "G" - Third Division

It looks like it will a tough season for this year, with three of the team having been relegated from division 4 last year. The season hasn't started brilliantly with a 9-1 defeat at Springfield and an 8-2 defeat at Tidmarsh. The Springfield match was closer than the score line suggested with many games going the distance but a bit of early season rustiness showed and only Mike was able to win a game. The Tidmarsh game was played in good spirits and wins for Mike and Steve and a close loss in the 5th for Diane against a team who will probably be near the top come the end of the season suggests that all is not lost.

S. Woolnough (Capt.); M. Dorrington; D. Taylor; K. Robb

Kingfisher "H" - Third Division

Moving up 3 divisions is never going to be easy so its pleasing to see that Michael and Leo have already opened their account winning a set each but so far the team have lost both matches they have played. However, the teams they have lost to are the top 2 clubs in the division so shouldn't be too disheartened. I suspect that by the end of the season they will be winning a lot more. Editor

M. Houghton (Captain); G. Dodd; L. Long; A. Bruton (res.)

Kingfisher "T" - Fifth Division Played 3 lost 3 is not a good sign but with 3 players registering their first win things could improve. They have also played 3 of the top 4 clubs.

Editor

D. Crombie (Capt.); D. Spicer; A. Talaga; P. Cunnington

Kingfisher "J" Sixth Division With 2 convincing wins already partly thanks to 2 maximums from Gabor the team is looking good for the season even at this early stage. Keep it up guys! Editor.

D. Garcon (Capt.); S Mitchell; G. Radnoti; J. Thepaut; J. Sabater

Kingfisher "K" - Sixth Division

Results so far 4-6; 5-5 and 7-3. Looks like the next one should be 8-2! Good performances from Derek, Gill and Alex with support from Sue. Could be their year. Editor.

G. Bennett (Captain); D. Spicer; J. Cummings; A. Gurney; H. Sparks

Maidenhead League

(contact Eric Van Looy on 01628 621322)

Kingfisher "A" - Premier Division

Only two matches played. The first game was lost to Cippenham Spartans 2-8, with Kingfisher only managing to field two players (Eric Van Looy and Alan Cummings).

The second match saw a destruction of NWCA by Ramesh, Eric and Trevor Organ. A 10-0 win which probably brings us mid-table.

E. Van Looy (capt.); R. Gehlot; C. Dyke; A. Cummings; T. Organ (res.)



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BRITISH LEAGUE - Division 1 South and Midlands (cont. from page 1)

DAY 1 – 11th September 2010 OLOP Impact 5 Kingfisher 3

OLOP were probably the post-season favourites for this division, having been runners up last year with much the same squad. Daniel had to face their No 1 Dave Barr first and will have to put his defeat down to a learning process. It was not an easy initiation. Lloyd had his chances against Steve Gertson having led in the third when the match was level only to be pipped at 14-12 with Steve then seeing the match out brilliantly. 2-0 down. Nathan played exceptionally well to see off Neil Wright whilst Alan purred through three easy games to beat Chris Bush. We were level and pressing hard.

Then the clash of the number 1's brought about the best set of the match. Lloyd gave himself a lot to do when losing the first game easily whilst settling in. His team mates gathered round and instilled patience in to him and it turned in to a cracking match. In the fourth Barr had four match points but somehow Lloyd clawed back to snatch it at deuce and level it. But as happened last season, Dave proved too experienced in the decider tempting Lloyd to go for his shots and causing his own downfall. I'm sure it won't be long before Lloyd gets his first win against this opponent as he gets closer every time.

Daniel then had lots of chances and wasted leads to have beaten Wright losing in four extremely tight games. Alan had no answer to Gertson and that was match to OLOP. Nathan then picked up his second win easily seeing off the challenge of Bush. 3-5. It gets closer every time!

Match details:

Daniel O'Connell lost to Dave Barr -5 -4 -1
Lloyd Gregory lost to Steve Gertson 5 -9 -12 -7
Nathan Thomas beat Neil Wright 7 8 -9 6
Alan Monks beat Chris Bush 3 2 7

Lloyd Gregory lost to Dave Barr -5 9 -8 10 -4
Daniel O'Connell lost to Neil Wright -10 -9 10 -10
Alan Monks lost to Steve Gertson -4 -5 -8
Nathan Thomas beat Chris Bush 5 3 -5 8

Joint Man of the match Dave Barr and Steve Gertson.

BRITISH LEAGUE - Division 1 South and Midlands (continued from page 12)

DAY 1 – 11th September 2010 Kingfisher 6 Cippenham II 2

A good all round team performance got our first points of the season on the board with this good 6-2 win. Lloyd opened the account with a comfortable win over Nick Brown whilst Daniel played the right game to ensure a stroll over the pimples of Rafique Sahadi. Alan then had to extricate himself from being two down to a much improved Eddie Mitchell before winning in five and saving one match point. Nathan then found the game of Robert Hansell was too disturbing and made too many errors against the Feint Long tactics which Robert plays well.

3-1 down.

Lloyd had no problem against Sarhadi and our first point was on the board. Alan however looked off colour against Brown and found him a difficult opponent although it could have gone either way. (4-2) This brought Daniel out facing the in-form Hansell and it proved to be the best set of the match. Twice Daniel was a game down but with his team mates' advice clawed his way to a 6 in the fifth win. Two points were ours. Nathan then rounded the win off never looking like losing to Mitchell. This made three out of four in a satisfactory day for Nathan.

Match details:

Lloyd Gregory beat Nick Brown 8 -3 5 7

Daniel O'Connell beat Rafique Sarhadi 7 4 3

Alan Monks beat Eddie Mitchell -10 -9 6 11 7

Nathan Thomas lost to Robert Hansell -9 -6 -7

Lloyd Gregory beat Rafique Sarhadi 3 6 11

Alan Monks lost to Nick Brown 9 -9 -6 -9

Daniel O'Connell beat Robert Hansell -8 9 -11 9 6

Nathan Thomas beat Eddie Mitchell 9 -8 8 7

Man of the match Daniel O'Connell

It was great to see a good crowd of supporters there including many of our reserves urging on the team. It all helps to spur us on. Now on to Day 2.

DAY 2 – 12th September 2010 Kingfisher 4 Sportingbet Guernsey 4

We had to fight hard for a creditable draw in the end, having been 4-2 down. All four players had a win each but their No 1 Gary Dodd was the stumbling block beating Daniel and Lloyd comfortably. Lloyd did manage to take the first from him but he himself commented afterwards that he tried to preserve what he had rather than be more aggressive as he had been in the first.

15 Year old Alice Loveridge for Guernsey played extremely well and pushed Lloyd all the way over 4 games. She then beat Alan in five which takes some doing, leaving us at 4-2 down but Daniel and Nathan then had good three straight wins to earn us the point we richly deserved.

Match details:

Lloyd Gregory beat Alice Loveridge 8 -9 11 12

Daniel O'Connell lost to Gary Dodd -9 -9 -6

Alan Monks beat Phil Ogier 5 -4 10 3

Nathan Thomas lost to Oliver langlois -8 -9 -7

Lloyd Gregory lost to Gary Dodd 8 -8 -8 -5

Alan Monks lost to Alice loveridge -8 5 8 -2 -2

Daniel O'Connell beat Oliver Langlois 6 4 4

Nathan Thomas beat phil Ogier 10 8 9

Man of the match Gary Dodd

DAY 2 – 12th September 2010 Brighton City 2 Kingfisher 6

Maximums from Lloyd, Daniel and Nathan saw us through this one comfortably whilst Alan struggled to find his form. Nathan picked up the Man of the Match Award for a great fight back against Gary Wilson, coming back from 2-0 down to win in five. Alan contrived to lose to Wen Wei Xu when 10-6 up in the fifth whilst Daniel almost did a similar thing when letting Gary Wilson back from 10-4 up to 10-9 before sealing the last point.

Match details:

Daniel O'Connell beat Cedric Scrivani 8 -9 4 10

Lloyd Gregory beat Mark Scutts 9 7 9

Nathan Thomas beat Gary Wilson -10 -9 8 5 4

Alan Monks lost to Wen Wei Xu 3 7 -7 -9 -10

Lloyd Gregory beat Cedric Scrivani 8 5 7

Daniel O'Connell beat Gary Wilson -6 8 7 -7 9

Alan Monks lost to Mark Scutts 11 -5 -6 -5

Nathan Thomas beat Wen Wei Xu 10 -5 5 7

Man of the match Nathan Thomas

BRITISH LEAGUE - Division 1 South and Midlands (continued from page 14)

We now look forward to the next round of matches on 11th/12th December 2010 when we hope to keep pressure on the leading teams. The last match of that weekend will be against leaders OLOP and hopefully we can reverse the narrow score line suffered in the opening match.

Players Records for the weekend:

Daniel O'Connell	5/8
Lloyd Gregory	5/8
Nathan Thomas	6/8
Alan Monks	3/8

Current League Table for Division 1 South and Midlands:

OLOP IMPACT	4	4	0	0	24	8	8
Mossford I	4	2	2	0	22	10	6
Kingfisher I	4	2	1	1	19	13	5
Guernsey I	4	1	2	1	16	16	4
Brighton City I	4	2	0	2	14	18	4
Fusion II	4	1	1	2	15	17	3
Ashford I	4	1	0	3	11	21	2
Cippenham II	4	0	0	4	7	25	0

Boris Johnson batty about making London Ping Pong Central by Maurice Chittenden The Times Online

ANYONE for ping pong? Boris Johnson, the mayor of London, will turn the tables on China this summer by opening up the capital to one of Britain's "lost" sports.

Johnson, himself a master of spin and splice, teased the Chinese two years ago, when he was in Beijing to become the standard bearer for the 2012 London Olympics, by questioning the birthright of table tennis. He insisted the game was not Chinese but a descendant of whiff whaff, a game of the Victorian upper classes.

This summer he launches the two-year run-up to the Games with a cultural Olympiad in London. It will have 100 ping pong tables set up at open-air landmarks in the capital for matches played by celebrities and artists.

Ping London is the brainwave of Colette Hiller of the Sing London arts group, who last summer placed 30 pianos around the capital for anyone to play, each with the notice "Play me, I'm yours". This year's table tennis bats will say "Please put me back".

Johnson and Lord Coe, chairman of the London Games organising committee, will launch the ping pong festival with matches between them; there will also be games between Charles Saatchi, the art collector and keen table tennis player, and Nigella Lawson, his celebrity chef wife.

A High Speed 1 team will play against Eurostar in an international event at St Pancras International. The leading banks will compete, too, in a tournament called Smash the City which, like trading, involves strategy at high speed. John Varley, group chief executive at Barclays who plays table tennis in his office, and Michael Sherwood, co-chief executive at Goldman Sachs, who founded the charity Table Tennis For Kids, are both aficionados.

Other sites for the event will include Trafalgar Square, Heathrow's terminal 5 and the Albert Memorial in Hyde Park, while artists such as the Chapman brothers, Damien Hirst and Tracey Emin will put designs to the tables.

"We will even have surreal ping pong in which people use their feet as bats," said Hiller.





The Kingfisher Table Tennis Club

The Kingfisher Club was inaugurated on 19th March 1987.

The Club is an accredited ADVANCED PREMIER CLUB bringing great benefits to the Club and its members. We also have SPORT ENGLAND CLUBMARK status. More information can be obtained from Sylvia Bruton on 0118 901 9119.

The Club aims to cater for all standards of play but actively encourages and trains younger players and has good links with Bulmershe School where the clubhouse is situated. Any information regarding coaching at the Club can be obtained from Jenny Andrews on 0118 989 1209.

The playing Membership of the club currently stands at over 130.

Teams are entered for all local leagues (Reading, Bracknell and Maidenhead Leagues) as well as National Junior and Senior Leagues. League play starts in September and ends late April.

During off season (late April to early September) various events are organised. These include:

- the Grand Prix held on every Monday night from May to early August over 12 weeks the results of each being published in the local press (30p to enter - prizes for the top 3 performers). Starts 7.30pm.
- the Club Knockout Tournament held in early May
- The Kingfisher Super League in August
- a pre-season group tournament limited to the first 16 players who enter
- Club night every Thursday evening from 7.30 - just add you name to the board and play whoever comes next

Articles, ideas, views, etc. can be published in this Newsletter by contacting Chris Pusey on 0118 966 4947. Any amusing information or stories in connection with the Club would be appreciated by Roger Woolven-Allen on 0118 947 8833.

Any membership queries should be directed to Eric van Looy on 01628 621322.

Any other queries should be addressed to the Hon. General Secretary, Les Andrews on 0118 989 1209

The Club AGM is held in May each year.

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