



Kingfisher Table Tennis Club

KINGFISHER NEWS

Issue 59 Spring/Summer 2011



Advanced Premier Club



Reading League and Maidenhead League Winners 2010/11

Editor's Comments

My own dismal performance aside, it seems to have been a successful season for quite a few members. Apart from Kingfisher "A" (who's heads must be justifiably exploding by now), Kingfisher teams have also won the Maidenhead League, Division 1 in the Bracknell and Wokingham League, the John Howard Shield and Division 6 in the Reading League.

We have also had some near misses - 2nd in Division 2 Reading, 2nd and 3rd in the Bracknell Premier Division and runner up in the IMPACT Challenge Shield.

As for everybody else, I hope you enjoyed the season and are looking forward (already) to the next one. Before then, we have the usual Summer Season with the Grand Prix, Internal Super League and the Grouping Tournament as well as club nights on a Thursday.

I look forward to seeing you at the club so we can have a "friendly" game of ping pong, well, friendly before and after anyway.

Chris Pusey,

Editor

THE "A" TEAM OF KINGFISHER WIN THE READING LEAGUE by Mark Banks

Kingfisher 'A' are the Table Tennis Champions of Reading again after the most dramatic season finale seen for many, many years. They just needed a draw in the final game of the season with 2nd placed YMCA 'A' to clinch the title and just managed to achieve that with a win in the final match of the season when trailing 5-4.

The stage was set at a packed Kingfisher Clubhouse. I'm not kidding when I say there was standing room only. Supporters, photographers, video cameramen - the lot. The usual pre-match banter was taking place. Both teams had turned up and started warming up with full 4 man squads - who was going to play? what order would we be in? and was Ramesh just here for the Doubles and the Refreshments? And so, it was decided. Banks, Gehlot (H) and The Kid vs Misseldine, Reynolds and Chodounsky. The very same line up that had fought out the very first game of the season back in September at the YMCA - a game that had ended in a 5 all draw. The omens were already there!..... (continued on page 20).....

**KINGFISHER
TABLE TENNIS
CLUB**

**ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING**

**AT THE
CLUBHOUSE
8PM THURSDAY
19 MAY**



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE by Colin Dyke

Once again a sad note to start with. On 17th April Bert Foster sadly passed away at the age of 80. He was a member of our Club in its inaugural year of 1987-88 and after a year joined the committee and moved on to be our President for 5 years between 1991 and 1996 until he retired from the sport. His input to the success of the Club was immense, helping introduce systems and competitions that have survived right up to today. In the 1960's he was arguably the best defender/retriever in Berkshire and very hard to beat. His wife Eva and daughters Denise and Sue were also members of our Club and our thoughts are with them at this sad time.

I hope you had a good season and met with some success. Now we can all look forward to the various summer competitions in preparation for another season.

At last we are making a start on our new roof and the new windows are in manufacture. We shall carry on playing as usual but I hope the noise will not cause you too many problems. Once we are watertight we can start tidying up the decor inside. At the same time, Allen Pack's application for a grant for more refurbishment works from the ETTA Whole Sport Plan Capital Funding was accepted under stage 1 of the process and we were one of only 12 to go through to Stage 2 out of many applicants. He has submitted more details under Stage 2 but has been warned that there may be some delay in processing this, due to the amount of information to sift through and a change of personnel etc

With regard to individual membership of the ETTA, after further delays we have at last received information from the ETTA, albeit that it seems incomplete and inaccurate. However, your Membership Secretary Eric Van Looy and I are working hard on it and we hope to have our own systems in place for both new and existing members at the appropriate dates.

The committee have agreed to renew the sponsorship contract with Tees Sport and this is in my hands to action. Details of discounts and benefits available to members will be announced shortly.

Congratulations to Maria Tsaptsinos on becoming National Under 14 champion. A reward for all her hard work and a stepping stone for things to come.

I am delighted to advise that we have come to an agreement for our neighbours, Addington Special Needs School, to use our facility. This will be to our mutual benefit as it helps us tick boxes regarding our Premier Club and Clubmark status and at the same time we shall have some delightful youngsters having some fun playing here.

Finally may I remind you about our AGM at 8pm on Thursday 19th May 2011
If you have any questions or ideas to make the Club a better place, I trust you will come along or contact me either by email colindyke@waitrose.com or by phone 0118 9783770.

MARIA TSAPTSINOS GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

by Brian Halliday

Maria Tsaptsinos won her first major table tennis title at Doncaster last weekend when she beat the reigning champion, Tin Tin Ho in the final of the National under 14 Championships.

For Maria this was fifth time lucky at National Championships level. In the past she has found Tin Tin a very tough competitor, but on this occasion she powered her way to victory with a whole range of powerful attacking strokes to win the final by three games to one.

The Kingfisher player cruised through to the final without dropping a game and in a high standard field she beat Nicole Bird, Lara Esquivel, and Eurica Madina, at the group stage. Kayleigh Forster from Cleveland gave her a closer game in Round 2, but Letitia McMullen from Hampshire was also despatched by three games to love. The No 6 seed, Emily Bolton was expected to offer a sterner test at the semi-final stage, but by now the Abbey schoolgirl was in full flow and smashed her way to a conclusive victory.

Maria added a second medal when, with Chrissie Slot of Hampshire they were runners-up in the doubles losing out 3-1 to Tin Tin Ho and Emily Bolton.

What now for Reading's talented star? This week she will be rewarded with a playing kit and equipment sponsorship contract from Tees Sport who will supply her with the world's leading brand from the Butterfly Company of Japan. She has confirmed her position as the No 2 under 14 in England, and has given notice to the England selectors that she is now one of her country's major prospects. Her dynamic performance in Doncaster suggests that her prospective partnership with Tin Tin Ho at international level bodes well for England in the very near future.

MARIA TSAPTSINOS SELECTED FOR ENGLAND CADET SQUAD

by Brian Halliday

Maria Tsaptsinos has been selected for the England Cadet squad to travel to Dusseldorf for the European Six Nations Championships next month.

This is her first selection for the international team, and comes immediately after her success last weekend at Doncaster, when she became the Under 14 National Champion. The selectors have chosen a young team with an eye on the future. Tin Tin Ho, Lois Peake, Emily Bolton, and Maria will all be eligible for this event next year. The other five nations comprise Germany, France, Holland, Denmark, and Sweden.

Reading has a proud record in this event. Ayonija Sundararajan, also from the Abbey School, played with considerable success a few years ago, and before that Jimmy Stokes, Matt Syed, and Andrew Syed all played with distinction. It was in this event that Andy Syed beat the future World Champion, Gatien of France.

This tournament provides Maria with an opportunity of establishing herself on the international scene at this advanced European level. Her recognition by the England selectors is due to the regular practice, and advanced coaching she has received. Maria herself acknowledges the ongoing help and assistance, both from the Kingfisher and Polish Table Tennis Clubs.

ROGER'S RAMBLINGS : Hello again everyone!!



FIRST of all, I must apologise for the failure to conclude the NMG story in the last edition of Chris's wonderful *Newsletter*. I must have received at least twenty queries regarding the story, thereby showing that some of you actually read this rubbish. You're all very sad...

Even Peter Bennett, one of our more intelligent members, told me that he read the story half a dozen times, trying to discover its hidden meaning, before giving up. The truth, of course, is that the very last line (we were suffering technical problems at the time) had been omitted. And so, in order to put you out of your misery, here is the article again...

YOU may be interested to know that Reading team captain Niall McGrane, in addition to being an IT expert and one of the finest table tennis players to come out of the Irish Republic, is also a top-notch SCUBA diver. He is somewhat appropriately PADI qualified. That is not a joke; PADI stands for "Professional Association of Diving Instructors". It's true, I tell you, it's true! Anyway, during the summer months, Niall often returns to the beautiful Galway Bay to instruct tourists in the art of disappearing beneath the waves.

One day last August, while Niall was donning his wet suit, one American tourist called him to one side and said: "Tell me, why do SCUBA divers always fall backwards into the water?"

To which Niall replied, "If they fell forwards, they'd still be in the bloody boat."



WHILE I'm on the subject of our beloved Irishman, you may be interested to know that some sceptical Doubting Thomases have suggested, rather unkindly, that the NMG stories are not entirely true. Some readers have actually gone as far as to say that they are complete works of fiction. Such suggestions are, of course, complete nonsense. Niall – and this has been well documented in many an edition of the *Irish Times* – has had dozens of varied and interesting jobs in his time, from cleaning sewage pipes in Bognor Regis to flying *Aer Lingus* Boeing 707 aircraft. He has played table tennis for the *St Dunstan's* fifth team at Wapping YMCA and, alongside *CYMS Terenure* team-mate Colum Slevin, has represented Ireland in both the Commonwealth Games and the Olympic Games. His life has been a kaleidoscope of exciting activity. And, if you don't believe me, ask the man himself. I assure you that he will back me up all the way.



BUT back to play at a more modest level. In the Bracknell League, Allan Bruton's team, of which I am a member, was recently involved in a handicap match. For those of you not familiar with the Bracknell handicapping system, please note that each individual match is played 11-up for four ends, and four ends only. The scores are added up and the handicap is only then taken into account. This means, of course, that the higher-ranked player could win all four games, thereby earning him- or herself 44 points, but still lose. OK so far? Read on...

Subsequent to the match, I sent an email to all of my team colleagues, especially those who had not played that evening.

The message ran as follows: “Anyone interested: We played WAMDSAD something-or-other last Thursday and I, for one, had a great time. I said that I wished my team were as full of fun as our opponents – thereby upsetting young Phil Mead immensely.

“We managed to lose 3-6 despite Phil's Herculean efforts. Phil got 2, Sharon got 1 and even the average house-brick could work out from those figures what my personal contribution was. In my own defence, I scored 44 in each match while the members of the opposing team scored 45, 45 and 47 respectively. Phil's single loss was by a similarly close margin.

“Opposition player Gill/Jill (I have no idea of her second name) asked for a cup of hot water at refreshment time. She is obviously barmy. I mention this because she very kindly took the score sheet away to scan and send as an email to the appropriate official. I just hope she didn't eat it as she walked to the car park.

“Looking forward to seeing you all soon, With best regards, Roger.”

Back came an immediate reply from John Willcocks:

“Roger: Gill/Jill presumably did not like coffee and must have heard about your tea.

“Regards, John.”



I was at the Club a few weeks ago and it so happened that our illustrious *Kingfisher A* team was also in action at the same time. Mark Banks (who does a superb job as Divisional Fixtures Secretary for Reading's Division 1) told the assembled company that he had nearly fallen out of his chair at breakfast that morning.

“Why was that?” asked Ramesh Gehlot.

“Some scorecards arrived in the mail today,” replied Banksy, “and, on one, it said that Roger W-A had achieved two wins in a Reading Division 1 match. Honestly, I nearly choked on my corn-flakes.”

Thanks a whole bunch, Mark.

NOW Club Chairman Colin Dyke likes to keep up with world news. If any snippets come his way that he thinks may interest others, he sends appropriate emails. I was among the recipients of his latest message but, because he only sent it to a few members, I thought I'd share it with everyone.



From Colin:

“Subject: LATEST FROM LIBYA

ما خیره چشم و داندیوار نمی دگر سایه نقش ما خیره چشم و دیوار نقش نیست پیدا سایه رفت اگر نور ر .سایه رفت اگر نور ما خیره چشم و دیوار نقش نیست پیدا سایه رفت اگر نور دان نمی دگر سایه نقش و دیوار نقش نیست رفتا اگر نور دان نمی دگر سایه نقش ما خیره چشم و دیوار نقش نیست پیدا سایه رفت ما خیره چشم

نقش نیست پیدا سایه رفت ر .سایه رفت اگر نور ما خیره چشم و دیوار نقش نیست پیدا سایه رفت گر دگر سایه نور دان نمی دگر سایه نقش ما خیره چشم و داندیوار نمی دگر سایه نقش ما خیره چشم و دیوار نقش نیست رفتا اگر نور دان نمی

ما خیره چشم و دیوار نقش نیست پیدا سایه ر اگر خیره چشم و دیوار

“If I hear anything else, I'll let you know.....”

THE Friday morning practice session of Friday 22nd April was over but, before we all departed for our separate destinations, Nick Heaps asked the assembled company: "Next Friday is the day of the Royal Wedding. I guess our usual practice session is off."

"I've got my morning suit ordered," I replied, "but, if I'm not invited to Westminster Abbey, I'd rather play a little ping."

"Me, too," said Dave Hilbeck, and Dave Crowley also said he would like to play table tennis on the morning of what, arguably, was to be the greatest British event of the decade.

Oh, and as a sort of *post scriptum* the session played on the morning of Friday 29th April had the best turn-out since I joined these illustrious ranks.

What a bunch of patriots we table tennis players are...



ALL of us must, somewhere in the recesses of our respective grey matters, have little snippets concerning our "best" table tennis wins. Someone (I diplomatically forget who) recently told me that he had beaten Matt Syed. Not many players can lay claim to that, of course, but, it so transpired, Matthew was aged six when the other player had his memorable victory.

But, when all is said and done, a win is a win...

Back in 1992, your friendly scribe was playing much more table tennis than was good for him. I managed to win the Maidenhead Vets that year and, at the Berkshire Championships, I beat Peter Bradley and Dave Streak. I had reached a personal peak as far as our wonderful sport was concerned, but I have to admit that wifey Lin did not see the funny side of my playing in four leagues.

And, as many of you will be able to verify, my standard of play has progressed steadily downwards ever since...

Have YOU any memorable victories you'd like to recount? Drop me a line!

AND why, you may ask, did I bring up the date of 1992? The answer is that, because I was playing relatively well at that time, I shortly afterwards had the good fortune to acquire a team-mate named Bert Foster. Now Bert was one of the very best defenders in the whole of England. Had he ever learned how to hit a ball, in my humble opinion, I genuinely think that he would have played for his country.



At the age of 80, poor old Bert recently passed away and one of Berkshire's greatest ever players has now been lost to us. Many of us will remember him with enormous affection. I am sure that a proper obituary will appear elsewhere in this edition of the *Newsletter* but, with no apologies whatsoever, I should like to get in my two penn'orth.

Many moons ago, Bert had a regular doubles partner called Pete Stafford, who hailed from Maidenhead. Sadly, a few years later, Pete passed away. Bert then partnered a wonderful player from Reading's *Post Office A* team – one Dave Jones. Sadly, a few years later, Dave passed away too.

Because of his incredible skill and associated reputation, I was enormously honoured when Bert asked me to become his next

regular doubles partner. But I thought of Pete Stafford and Dave Jones and went "Gulp..."

However, I said, "Yes, please" and Bert and I enjoyed several great years together before he abandoned table tennis in favour of fishing – another sport at which he excelled. I don't think that Bert and I ever won anything of note, although we reached the closing stages of several tournaments, but I unreservedly blame him for our spectacular lack of success. Bert may have been a superb player but, when it came to choosing his final doubles partner, he showed an amazing lack of foresight, judgment and skill.

DURING the recent Club Championships, several of us were standing in the spectator area watching Trevor Organ work his magic on a poor, unsuspecting fellow veteran. This latter player who, for the sake of discretion, shall remain anonymous, constantly berated himself as he progressed further and further into the Organ mire. His language and sportsmanship dropped in direct proportion to the self-abasement.

"He's very intense," said Allan Bruton, with an amazingly out-of-character display of charity.

"More intense than a whole troop of Boy Scouts," I countered. Of the assembled company, Richard Fifield alone laughed at my dubious wit.

"Why, thank you, Richard," I beamed.

"I don't think the others heard you," he replied.

"Oh, yes they did," I said. "Oh, yes they did."

ONE day at the Club, Brian Halliday's daughter Kathy arrived, complete with kiddies. Brian and I were on court at the time.

"Do your best to make me look good," whispered Brian.

"Make YOU look good?" I echoed somewhat incredulously. "That's a tall order, Brian. Couldn't you give me a simpler task, such as beating Richard Andrews or Dave Barr three-straight, or something?"

After he's read this, I don't suppose Brian will ever speak to me again...

AT one recent *Friday Club* session Hari was practising his forehand drive and I was practising my backhand defence. After ten minutes of this, boy, was I knackered. A great deal of Monica Seles-type grunting on my part ensued. Peter Bradley, playing against Dave Crowley on an adjacent table, asked if it were Maria Sharapova playing. "If I were Sharapova," I said, "first of all you would not be complaining about the grunting and, secondly, rather than playing with Dave, you would be sitting on a chair very close by, ogling me."

Pete could only agree.

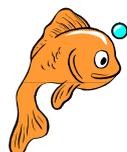


I was chatting with Dave Gostelow the other day and he told me that he had just bought a top-of-the-range tracksuit. It was of superb quality but, at first, Dave was disappointed. I asked him why.

"The problem was with the bottoms," he said. "Every time I wanted to take them off, I had to take my table tennis shoes off first. But then, after a few weeks, everything was fine."

"Why?" I asked again. "What changed?"

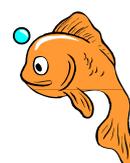
"I discovered the zips at the bottom of each leg," Dave explained.



ANDY Yon recently told me all about his pet goldfish.

"I had two goldfish," he explained. "I called one Wun and the other Too. One day Wun died but I still had Too left."

Thank you, Andy.



AT a recent low-level County match, which was being staged at Ashford TTC, I chatted to Jim Perry, who sort of runs that famous Club.

"Are you related to the famous table tennis Perrys of Devon?" I asked.

"No," he said, "but my Dad was Fred Perry." I was VERY impressed!

Later: You've probably guessed; it wasn't the same Fred Perry.

SUPER-FIT table tennis star Richard Andrews demonstrated the strength of his leg muscles by rising from a sitting position with just one foot on the ground.

"Can YOU do that?" Paul Beck asked me.

"I can't do that using TWO legs," I replied.

WHEN I was about 20 years of age and unmarried, old aunts would come up to me at weddings, poke me in the ribs and cackle, "You're next."

They stopped this after I started doing the same thing to them at funerals.

IT was refreshment time at the Club and we (Ivor Hardman's *Kingfisher C* team) had already lost to Geoff Civil's *Kingfisher B* squad. The following conversation took place:

Cliff Putterford to Ivor: "How about Roger coming back to us for next season? Maybe a transfer fee? How does £100 sound?"

Ivor: "Too much. Make it £20."

Cliff: "We'll go with £50."

Ivor: "£30."

"Hang on," I interrupted. The bidding's going the wrong way!"

"No, it's not," explained Cliff, "We're haggling over what Ivor pays US to take you back..."

Hmmph...



IN the Bracknell League, our *Kingfisher A* team recently played *Wokingham A* and Phil Mead and I found ourselves paired up in the doubles. Before we started, we quickly discussed tactics.

"The strategy's simple," I said. "Being the defender, I'll keep the ball in play until you, being the attacker, can put it away. No problem."

One of the opposing players served to me and I promptly put the ball into the net. 1-0 to them. More by good luck than good judgment, I managed to return the next serve which then came back to us. Phil performed an amazing, if totally inaccurate, topspin loop, missing the table by a couple of yards. 2-0

to them.

"So much for that theory," Phil said. "Do we have a Plan B?"

MY good friend Niall McGrane (you may have heard of him) recently went shopping in a huge store, but couldn't find what he wanted. He managed to collar an assistant and asked, "In what aisle could I find the Irish sausage?"

The assistant asked, "Are you Irish?"

Niall, normally the most affable and friendly of people, was a bit put out by this. Trying not to appear too miffed, he replied, "Yes I am. But let me ask you something:

"If I had asked for Italian sausage, would you ask me if I was Italian?"

"Or if I had asked for German Bratwurst, would you ask me if I was German?"

"Or if I asked for a kosher hot dog would you ask me if I was Jewish?"

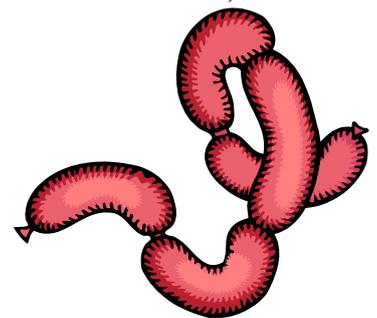
"Or if I had asked for a Taco, would you ask if I was Mexican?"

"Or if I asked for Polish sausage, would you ask if I was Polish?"

The clerk answered, "No, I probably wouldn't."

Of his own admission, Niall puffed out his chest a little, and demanded, "Well then, because I asked for Irish sausage, why did you ask me if I'm Irish?"

The assistant replied, "Because you're in Halfords."



IN the veterans' section of the recent Club Championships, Ramesh was pitted against Mark Banks. At the end of one game, Hari gave Ramesh some advice. So that Mark couldn't earwig on this advice, Hari spoke in Rajasthani. "Gan table matai raak," he told Ramesh.

Ramesh nodded in agreement but poor old Mark was a bit miffed.

"We play on the same Reading team, Hari," he complained. "What about giving ME some advice, too?"

"OK," said Hari. "Gan table matai raak."

"Thanks a whole bunch," replied Mark.

Oh, and in case you're interested, "Gan table matai raak" is Rajasthani for "Keep the ball on the table."

So now you know.

MANY years ago, Peter Goatly was the official Kingfisher *Purveyor of Soap*. Then, for a brief period of time, I took over from him. The post has since fallen vacant.

A few weeks ago, Geoff Civil mentioned that the bar of soap in the gents' changing area had been there for years. It was as hard as a lump of flint and produced just about as much lather.

"If we agreed to a subscription increase," suggested Geoff, "do you think we could have a new bar?"

The old bar of soap has recently been condemned to one of the gents' urinals where it now resides, glaring up at its numerous customers, unaffected, undaunted and defiant in its rock-hard extreme.

And so there is a task up for grabs – one that probably requires less than eight or ten hours' work a week. If anyone wishes to volunteer for the senior position of *Purveyor of Soap*, please contact any Committee member.



I recently trotted into the Outlet Village at Swindon in the hope of buying a new pair of shoes suitable for playing table tennis. In one shop, the young lady assistant told me that I was lucky.

"Sports shoes are three for the price of two at the moment," she informed me.

"Why on earth would anyone want three shoes?" I asked, with feigned innocence.

Jonathan Samuel would have been proud of me.

AND so, dear reader, if you've managed to stay the course, thank you for bearing with me. That's it for another four months. I shall close by saying that I hope you will all rejoin for the coming Club year. Remember, a year's subscription at *Kingfisher* would pay for just a few weeks at your average golf or tennis club. Real value for money!



If, like Cliff Putterford, you are talented enough to hang up your bats for the summer months but still beat everyone when you come back in September, then I should like to wish you well until next we meet. If you're going away on holiday, have a great time!

If you are a mere mortal (like me) and need a bit of practice in the summer months, then how about joining in with the various Club activities? There are regular sessions on Tuesday and Friday mornings and also on Sunday afternoons. And, of course, by the

time you read this, the *Grand Prix* Championships will be in full swing. The entry cost to one of these events has risen to 50p but, it must be remembered, in an average pub this would pay for about one-sixth of a pint of beer. Once again superb value for a great session of *ping*!

Whatever your plans may be, I look forward to bumping into you before long. Have fun!

Roger

BRITISH LEAGUE - Division 1 South and Midlands by Colin Dyke Team Manager

A VERY SATISFACTORY CAMPAIGN SEES KINGFISHER I END UP IN FOURTH PLACE

Considering a number of our top players were unavailable, the final weekend of this season's campaign turned out to be a highly successful one with one win, two draws and a defeat. This put us in fourth place, a vast improvement on the previous season. If just some of the total of 6 draws throughout the season could have been turned in to wins, we would have been challenging for a promotion place to the Premier Division.

Saturday – 19th February 2011

Kingfisher 4 Brighton City 4

This was an unfortunate point dropped against the bottom team who only had three players due to one being ineligible. The first two sets were lost at 10 and 9 in the fifth respectively and it was always going to be an uphill battle from thereon. Nathan lost a 10-8 lead v Wen and then had the misfortune to have a feint snicked edge against him. Mark Scutts was outstanding for Brighton, so Dean's 9 in the fifth was a great effort. Jarred fought hard but in vain against an inspired Mark Forder and at 1-4 down we looked out of it. But a good win for Martin over Wen and then Dean over Forder gave us a deserved point.

Match details

Nathan Thomas lost to Wen Wei Xu -7 2 6 -4 -10	Nathan Thomas lost to Mark Scutts -10 -5 -8
Dean Cundy lost to Mark Scutts 9 -3 -15 6 -9	Martin Chodounsky beat Wen Wei Xu 10 -6 6 6
Martin Chodounsky walkover	Dean Cundy beat Mark Forder 5 -5 7 4
Jarred Knowles lost to Mark Forder -4 -8 8 -12	Jarred Knowles walkover

Man of the match Mark Scutts

Fusion II 4 Kingfisher 4

A draw here was an improvement on our first half defeat. We hung on to their coattails and never got in front but a final flurry from Martin and Jarred secured the draw. Martin got man of the match for his wins over Farhat Rasul and Martin Smith whilst Jarred played well to also beat Rasul. Nathan also beat Smith but was unlucky to lose to Dennison in five after being 2-1 ahead in probably the best set of the match.

Match details

Dean Cundy lost to John Dennison -8 9 -4 -12	Nathan Thomas lost to John Dennison 7 -7 4 -7 -8
Nathan Thomas beat Martin Smith 5 3 6	Dean Cundy lost to David Williams -7 8 -12 -8
Jarred Knowles lost to David Williams -5 -6 -9	Martin Chodounsky beat Martin Smith -8 7-10 3 6
Martin Chodounsky beat Farhat Rasul 9 9 12	Jarred Knowles beat Farhat Rasul -7 10 7 8

Man of the match Martin Chodounsky

BRITISH LEAGUE - Division 1 South and Midlands by Colin Dyke Team Manager

Sunday - 20th February 2011

Kingfisher 2 Mossford 6

This was a hard fought match with only one set being three straight. This was Nathan's best match he has played for the Club so far, starting with a terrific win over Didier Ngoma at 6 in the fifth. This was followed by a fantastic match against defender Euan Liddle where he pulled back from 2 games down only to see his efforts dissipate at 11 in the fifth. A great effort. Dean added our only other success with a good win over Matt Spero whilst Jarred and Martin had some close games but couldn't quite hang on.

Match details

Nathan Thomas beat Didier Ngoma 6 6 -8 -8 6	Nathan Thomas lost to Euan Liddle -4 -9 4 9 -11
Dean Cundy lost to Euan Liddle -5 7 -3 -6	Martin Chodounsky lost to Didier Ngoma -8 -7 9 -7
Martin Chodounsky lost to Keith Lesser -5 12 -7 -7	Dean Cundy beat Matt Spero -9 4 9 9
Jarred Knowles lost to Matt Spero -5 8 -10 -8	Jarred Knowles lost to Keith Lesser -7 -6 -3

Man of the match Euan Liddle

Ashford 2 Kingfisher 6

Another two wins for Nathan in this match but both had to be won in 5. This included a great win against highly rated Matt Pernet. Martin also gave good back up with wins over both Dave Crowley and John Robinson whilst Jarred absolutely annihilated Ramesh Bhalla. A good way to finish a successful season.

Match details

Dean Cundy lost to Matt Pernet -10 -3 9 -6	Nathan Thomas beat Matt Pernet -8 7 7 -9 8
Nathan Thomas beat John Robinson 9 -6 -5 8 4	Dean Cundy beat Ramesh Bhalla -7 10 7 6
Jarred Knowles beat Ramesh Bhalla 2 1 2	Martin Chodounsky beat John Robinson 5 14 -9 5
Martin Chodounsky beat Dave Crowley -9 7 3 6	Jarred Knowles lost to Dave Crowley 2 9 10

Man of the match Nathan Thomas

Players Records for the season:

Lloyd Gregory	12/20
Daniel O'Connell	9/16
Nathan Thomas	13/20
Dean Cundy	11/20
Martin Chodounsky	8/11
Aled Howell	5/8
Jarred Knowles	2/7
Alan Monks	3/8
Walkovers	2/2

BRITISH LEAGUE - Division 1 South and Midlands by Colin Dyke Team Manager

It has been a great season and my thanks go to all the players for their great efforts in achieving our fourth place. The team spirit has been fantastic and it has been good to see lower order players get their chance and prove that they can win games at this level. We have certainly had strength in depth.

DIVISION 1 SOUTH AND MIDLANDS TABLE

	<u>P</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>Pts</u>
OLOP IMPACT	14	11	2	1	80	32	24
Sportingbet Guernsey I	14	9	3	2	74	38	21
Mossford	14	9	3	2	70	42	21
Kingfisher 1	14	5	6	3	65	47	16
Fusion II	14	5	5	4	59	53	15
Ashford I	14	2	1	11	37	75	5
Brighton City I	14	2	1	11	32	80	5
Cippenham II	14	2	1	11	31	81	5

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

We achieved an unexpected 5th place in our first year in the British League 4th Division, and all players played out of their socks to get some great results! Eric Van Looy and Keith Newell were the team's top performers looking at the averages, but it was James Olsson who exceeded his own expectations with some star performances. Also Steve Murgatroyd, Paul Savage and Chris Haines made this first season a great success.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Played</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Drawn</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	ELGRE NOTINGHAM III	14	10	3	1	23
2	WESTBURY	14	9	1	4	19
3	WOODFIELD IV - UK DEAF	14	8	2	4	18
4	YORK GARDENS IV	14	7	4	3	18
5	<u>KINGFISHER II</u>	14	6	1	7	13
6	WATERSIDE	14	5	1	8	11
7	ILFRACOMBE PIRATES	14	2	3	9	7
8	WESTFIELD III	14	0	3	11	3

The ETTA now have a dedicated website for the whole of the British League and you can find reports, scores, averages and tables for all divisions on:

<http://www.tabletennis365.com/SBL>

KINGFISHER TTC 2011 GRAND PRIX

Once again this ever popular Summer Tournament will be run this year on Monday nights from:

9th MAY to 1st AUGUST
(except 30th May – Spring Bank Holiday)

Now bigger and better than ever. As well as the usual (increased) money prizes for the first three and the grand trophy at the end of the 12 competitions, there will also be permanent trophies for the top three, top junior boy, top junior girl and top lady, thanks to additional sponsorship by Andy Yon and the Club.

Entry fee now 50p per night.

Registration must be no later than 7.30pm each Monday in order to ensure a 7.40pm start and a reasonably timed finish. These times must be strictly adhered to.

Put the dates in your diary

NOW !

And come along and enjoy the friendly rivalry of the

KINGFISHER TTC GRAND PRIX

KINGFISHER CHAMPIONSHIPS A GREAT SUCCESS

The finals night was organised by Sylvia Bruton this year and what a great job she did. I'm sure everybody involved throughout the tournament send their thanks. The event involved no fewer than 18 different players and with quite a few spectators the half time buffet provided by Gillian Bennett was demolished in style and may well have effected those players involved in the second half. I'm sure there was some tactical encouragement to have that "extra" piece of cake to try and slow down players mobility...

And so to the play.

Drawn Doubles: Chris Pusey/Michael Houghton v Peter Bennett/Derek Crombie

Chris and Michael got off to a steady start concentrating on keeping the ball on the table and not letting Peter get his terrific back hand going. This worked and they won the first and second games and looked to be cruising to a 3 straight victory and that's when it went started to go wrong. Without realising it, Chris and Michael had relaxed a bit too much and started enjoying themselves too much and Peter and Derek took full advantage. Both Peter and Derek played some good attacking shots and some terrific angles to have their opponents running to retrieve the ball. However, Chris and Michael gave themselves a talking to at the end of game 3 and resumed their controlled play and won the 4th game comfortably.

Club Doubles: Hari Gehlot/Ramesh Gehlot v Stuart Williams/Mark Banks

A very tight first game. No player got into their full stride until the 2nd half of the game and it was neck and neck until 11-11. Both sides played some good points but despite Stuart/Mark getting to 12-11 the Gehlots fought back to 12-12 and eventually took it 14-12 with some forceful play. In the second game, Mark and Stuart were very quick to get into their stride and by the middle of the game had pulled out a 3 point lead. This was too much for Hari and Ramesh to pull back and Stuart/Mark won the game 11-8. This continued into the next game with Stuart and Mark pulling out a good lead with some great attacking play and showing more speed than their opponents. Hari and Ramesh didn't seem to have any answers and lost the game 11-3. The Gehlots needed to pick their game up and their speed around the table. That's exactly what they did in the 4th game matching their opponents in every department. The score was neck and neck at 6-6 and 8-8 but then some terrific play from Mark and Stuart made it 10-8. The pressure was definitely on and Ramesh went for a difficult serve but fouled giving Mark and Stuart the match.

Vets Singles: Mark Banks v Ramesh Gehlot

Next up was the vets singles and Mark Banks continued where he left off with some deceptive play forcing Ramesh into making errors. Ramesh pulled back to 7-8 but Mark would have none of it and won the first game 11-8. Hari seemed to give Mark some advice in Hindu and immediately pulled out a 3-0 lead. There then was some scrappy play with nets and misses bringing Ramesh back to 6-5 before he found his touch to lead 10-7 and finally taking the game 11-9. One game all. Hindu advice didn't work!

In the 3rd game Ramesh started well but quickly faded to Marks commanding play to take a 9-3 lead and eventually winning the game 11-4. 2-1 to Mark.

This time it was Hindu advice from Hari to Ramesh. Whatever he said it worked! Ramesh played some good top spin attacking shots and leapt into an 8-1 lead and took the game 11-2 making it 2 games apiece.

In the final game, Ramesh continued where he left off with some good top spin attacking shots to move into a small 6-4 lead but Mark has some good shots of his own to level it at 6-6. It seemed to be anyones game now but Ramesh had other ideas and fired off some more top spins taking the game 11-6 and the match. Ramesh was too strong for Mark at the end.

I asked Hari what his Hindu advice was after the game expecting some technical stuff but he said "I just told him to keep the ball on the table" Sound advice!

Club Singles: Hari Gehlot v Ramesh Gehlot

These two must know each others play backwards. This was Ramesh' 3rd match on the trot and it showed. Hari came on fresh and leapt into the lead winning some quick fire rallies and took the first game 11-3 before Ramesh knew what had hit him. Ramesh dug deep into his reserves and got off to a good start in the 2nd game to lead Hari 6-4 before Hari levels it at 6-6. Some more quick fire rallies with both players winning their share made it 10-10 but Hari was too strong at the end and took the game 12-10. 2-0 to Hari. Ramesh was now looking jaded. If he had taken that 2nd game it may have been a different story but Ramesh just couldn't match Hari's speed who took a 5-1 lead. Despite some good play from Ramesh, Hari moved on to an 8-1 lead. Ramesh served off the table. 2-9. Then Hari played a top spin back hand winner to go 10-3 before he took the 3rd and final game 11-5.



KINGFISHER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Handicapped Singles: Trevor Organ v Roger Woolven-Allen (best of 3 - 21 up)

Roger got off to slow start but Trevor was like grease lightning and won the first game by some good attacking shots on the back hand and forehand. Has Trevor found a new style! Was this a substitute look alike?!

Roger got his act together in the second realising that it would be a good idea to move a bit and try some attacking of his own. They traded attacking points but Rogers attack was better, forcing Trevor back to defend in his customary role. Roger was too strong and took the 2nd game. 1-1.

Roger then seemed to have some sort of attack seizure (senior moment) and went down 2-7 but he eventually dug into his reserves and pulled it back to 9-10 at the change of ends. Play continued neck and neck with some typical Organ plays (a fugue). Then Roger seemed to want a breather (another senior moment) and changed strategy with some patient play before he made a powerful attacking shot. This worked well and he took the lead 16-12. Then Roger opened up with some more good attacking shots and took the last game 21-13 and won the match 2-1.



Restricted Singles: Allan Bruton v Steve Barnes

A close fought match by 2 players who had played each other many times before. Steve started the better with some good attacking play and his trade mark back hand was firing well and he took the first. Allen seemed to grit his teeth (or was he just wincing from his knee operation!) but whatever it was it did the trick because Steve never got back into it. Allan won the next 3 games and took the match.

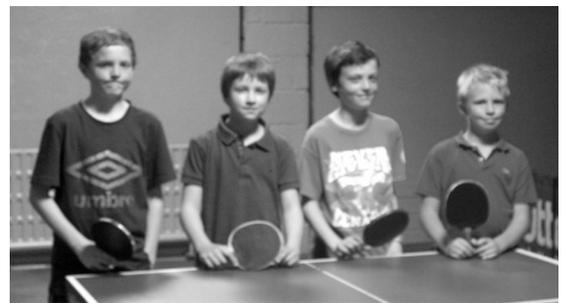
Ladies Singles: Wendy Porter; Gill Bennett; Diane Taylor

This was a group final so three matches decided the winner. The first match was between Wendy and Gill and as expected, Wendy looked comfortable winning 3-0. The second match between Gill and Diane looked like easy going for Diane in the first two games winning 5 and 3 but the 3rd game was very close before Diane took it 13-11. So, fittingly, the final match was between the two players who had a chance of winning the event. Whilst Wendy won it 3 straight she didn't have it all her own way as the score line showed it was a very close match. Wendy won 12-10; 11-9; 11-9.



Junior Boys Singles: Alex Squire; Adam Fasth; Isaac Farnworth; David Fifield

This was another group final that was closely fought by the 4 players. By the end of the 3rd match Alex had beaten Adam (5 sets), David had beaten Isaac (5 sets) and Isaac had beaten Alex (4 sets). This close contest continued between these three players with David, Alex and Isaac all recording more victories – David in 4 sets; Alex in 5 sets and Isaac in 4 sets. The number of sets won and lost proved to be decisive as Alex, David and Isaac had all recorded 2 wins with Adam losing his matches although he should take some comfort that he took the eventual group winner to 4 sets in a closely fought match. The group winner on sets counts back was Isaac whose sets for and against was plus 3 whereas David and Isaac were plus 2 and evens respectively. It's worth noting that David actually beat the group winner in 5 sets in the 2nd match of the group but Isaac beat the other 2 players in 4 sets which made the difference in winning the group.



Some of the winners: Roger Woolven-Allen; Hari Gehlot; Ramesh Gehlot; Allan Bruton; Wendy Porter; Chris Pusey; Michael Houghton



END OF SEASON TEAM REPORTS



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

Kingfisher "A" - Premier Division



Allan Bruton
(Capt.)

I am pleased to be able to report that the "A" team have achieved runners up spot in the premier division with all players in the top 12 of the averages, while we were a good few points behind the winners we were comfortably ahead our our own "B" team in third place. Having taken a non playing role this season due to a new knee I wonder if there is in fact any way back for yours truly, they obviously don't "KNEE'd " me in the team. Well done team John Willcocks, Geoff Civil, John Morris, Roger Woolven-Allen and Phil Mead.

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

Kingfisher "B" - Premier Division



Peter Goatly
(Capt.)

We finished 3rd again this season, although it was very hard work! Our position was secured as a result of solid performances by most of our team, although Richard Fifield and Trevor Organ deserve special mention. Richard recorded the best average of all of our Kingfisher players in the Premier Division this season (86.7%) and Trevor scored the most wins (34).

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

Kingfisher "D" - First Division

Following a slow start to the season, having lost 4 games by Christmas and looking like we will have an average season, everything went better and better as the season progressed. We only lost 1 further game to the end of the season and once we headed the league table we were never caught. We ended up winning the division and are now promoted to the Premier division. Star performances from Daniel, Jeff & Allen who were in the top 8 averages for the division. Nigel & Allen amassed 15 points which were the decisive points that enabled us to win the division by 9 points!!!!

Averages

Daniel Grover - Won 35, Average =89.74%
(top average in the division)

Jeff Huggins – Won 39 Average = 86.67%

Allen Pack – Won 41 Average = 71.93%

Nigel Lynch – Won 11 Average = 28.21%

Allan Bruton – Won 4 Average = 66.67%

To top this the League and Cup Double was on as we reached the semi-final against Broadmoor 'A'. This was a very tight match and although we won 7-2 the games were very close. In the final we played Premier Division side Nomads 'B' and ended up winners by 5-2 and the John Howard Shield Handicap cup was ours. A very satisfying season as League & Cup winners

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



Kingfisher "C" - Premier Division



Chris Pusey

We're the yo-yo team. We bounce from Division 1 to the Premier and back again and this season was no different. We seem to swap places with the "D" team every season!

D. Duncan; J. Creighton; T. Cannon; M. Dorrington

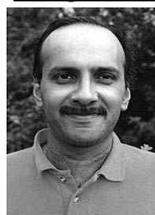
Kingfisher "E" - Second Division

No report. Finished 6th. Editor.

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

Reading League (contact Sylvia Bruton 0118 901 9119)

Kingfisher "A" - First Division



Winners.

See separate report by
Mark Banks

Editor

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

Kingfisher "C" - First Division

No report. Finished 11th.
Relegated. Editor.

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

Kingfisher "B" - First Division

We had, in our terms, a successful season avoiding relegation by finishing 9th out of 12 on 15 points. This may not sound too exhilarating, but we were 6 points clear of 10th place. Eric was our most successful player averaging over 61%, with Cliff not too far behind. Our real star though was young Megan who averaged over 35% in her first season in Reading Div 1, beating both Colin and myself in the averages. She helped earn us some very useful points, not least in gaining a maximum against Tidmarsh 'B', while Cliff and Colin netted one each in an overall 6-4 win. Thanks go to Niall McGrane for playing up for us vs YMCA 'A', and also to Richard Fifield who played up for us a couple of times. He really showed Colin and myself up against OLOP 'A', in recording our only win after we both blobbed. It was very much a season of two lots of two halves... all our points came from the first 5 scheduled matches of the first half, and the first 4 matches of the second half. In the other matches we ran up against the 'A' teams!

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

Reading League (contact Sylvia Bruton 0118 901 9119)

Kingfisher "D" - Second Division



N. McGraine
(Capt.);

Well what a year for us. We lost poor Sharon to serious illness right at the start of the season and thankfully had her back almost to full fitness by the end of the season, so first off, well done to Sharon for making such a great recovery. We were also very lucky to be able to call on Richard Fifield, particularly in the first half of the season and Richard delivered an amazing 80% average over the games he played and is probably the key factor is us achieving second spot this season, a result we have never achieved before !! so a huge thank you to Richard for his massive contribution to our season.

Then onto the rest of my harem.....I mean girls. Both Carole and Lisa played brilliantly throughout the season with both enjoying some amazing highs. Both girls increased their averages by more than 10% over the previous season and both suffered a lot of losses in 5 close games which had they gone our way would have improved these figures even more so well done to both. Overall , it was an incredible season for us and we even managed to socialise as a team going to a Christmas dinner to celebrate that we were not in the bottom two at Christmas as we usually are.

We also got the best doubles record in the league, with myself and Lisa teaching those young upstarts at SC&P "B" a lesson in what was described by some as the best doubles they have seen in many a long year, and all of this on the last game of the season which proved to be well worth the admission fee Malcolm was charging at the door!!

Overall a great season and lots of plans to improve even further in the coming year.

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

Kingfisher "F" - Second Division



Chris Pusey
(Capt.)

Well we were relegated - no surprise there then. I think we all knew that when we were shoved up into Div 2 from Div 3, when we had only finished mid table in the previous season was going to be tough. Having said that we all got stronger as the season progressed and had we played the first half as well as the second we may well have avoided relegation. Should be easy next season in 3!!!

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

Kingfisher "I" - Fifth Division

No report. Finished 8th but stay up. Editor.

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

Kingfisher "E" - Second Division



A. Bruton(Captain)

The team this season dare I say missed me, the last time I went off for a month they gained a promotion spot in my absence. This season I have been restricted due to the knee and they have not made the promotion spot, I have to say that this in some perverse way

Pleasing. Joking aside, this division, as always is no picnic and the team have finished safe with a good few more points than the relegated teams, whether or not I can make a return next season though is doubtful, with a settled team of Peter Bennett, Peter Goatly, Phil Mead and Eric Holmes I doubt there will be room even for a full fit yours truly.

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

Kingfisher "G" - Third Division

After a tough season we finished pretty much where we expected to at the start of the season, next to bottom. With 3 of the 5 players in the team having been relegated from division 4 in the previous season we did well not to finish at the bottom. With a few weeks to go we still had a mathematical chance of staying up and in the end we we're only three points short. Looking back on the season it was the two 4-6 losses against Tilehurst Methodists and one against OLOP Falong with the doubles appearance by Allan Bruton for the 'H' team which helped them to a draw which made the difference. There were some good individual performances on occasions, Steve won over 50% with 4 maximums, but dropped crucial games in two of the close matches which cost us a couple of points. Diane had some excellent wins including beating Jan Wright and Ted Cripps for the first time and performed above her start of the season expectations (even if they weren't everyone else's).

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

Kingfisher "H" - Third Division

No report. Finished bottom - relegated. Editor. M. Houghton (Captain); G. Dodd; L. Long; A. Bruton (res.)

Kingfisher "J" Sixth Division

No report. Won by 4 points from OLOP I. Ed.

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

Kingfisher "K" - Sixth Division

Kingfisher "K" finished 8th in Division 6. We enjoyed our matches and the friendly competition with other teams. Being in the lowest division, we struggled, and sometimes failed, to put out a full team, with no-one to call on from a division below. We had a large team of 6 players, but availability was limited. However, of our 20 matches, we won 7, drew 3 and lost 10. In total, we won 85 of our 115 games. Derek Spicer was the mainstay of the team and contributed greatly to our point scoring. Often winning trebles and doubles, he won 32 out of his 38 games. He achieved a competitive 84.21% in the averages, placing him individually in 6th place overall. Sadly, we expect to lose him next year to a higher division. We had two players who were new to league competition. Alex Gurney played well, with increasing success, finishing with a 42.86% average. Helen Sparkes, only able to play since February, soon made a bold and confident impression, averaging 33.33% and is likely to play again next season. Thank you to Susan Macdonald who nobly joined our team, merely to stand in when needed. She definitely was, and averaged 29.41%. Gill Bennett (Capt) 36.59%; Derek Spicer 84.21%; Alex Gurney 42.86%; James Cummings 13.04%; Helen Sparkes 33.33%; Susan Macdonald 29.41%

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

Maidenhead League

(contact Eric Van Looy on 01628 621322)

Kingfisher "A" - Premier Division

The team of Alan Cummings, Trevor Organ, Richard Fifield, Ramesh Gehlot, Mark Banks and captain Eric Van Looy secured the Maidenhead league title on the final day of the competition by beating the then 1st placed Cippenham Saxons by a 7-3 scoreline, needing exactly this score to jump over Cippenham in the standings by 1 single point!

Mark Banks (100%) and Ramesh Gehlot (82%) were the star players of the team, with the remaining players contributing well towards another trophy for Kingfisher!

Final Standings:

Pos	Club	P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Kingfisher	16	12	0	4	103
2	Cippenham Saxons	16	9	2	5	102
3	Cippenham Spartans	16	9	3	4	92
4	Old Gords Vultures	16	5	1	10	59
5	NWCA Blue Jays	16	1	2	13	44

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

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SOME JOKES FROM ANDY YON

These are sentences exactly as typed by medical secretaries in NHS Greater Glasgow:

1. The patient has no previous history of suicide.
2. Patient has left her white blood cells at another hospital.
3. Discharge status: Alive, but without my permission.
4. Healthy, appearing decrepit 69-year old male, mentally alert but forgetful.
5. She is numb from her toes down.
6. While in ER, she was examined, x-rated and sent home.
7. The skin was moist and dry.
8. Occasional, constant infrequent headaches.
9. Patient was alert and unresponsive.
12. Patient has two teenage children, but no other abnormalities.

NATIONAL VETERANS LEAGUE by Colin Dyke

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

The second half of this season's National Veterans League was played at the University of the West of England in Bristol on 7th and 8th May 2011. In the first half we had exceeded all expectations by actually winning a match, the first for many years. At Bristol we went one better and won two of the five matches, thanks in many ways to the much improved form of Derek Wood. Ivor and Eric added good contributions as well to help us in to the dizzy heights of fourth place and only losing out on third place on games average. We are no longer the strongest team in the league holding everyone else up!

Results:

Lost 1-5 to Pitlane (Roy Norton, Peter Ballard, Dele Ayoola). Derek reversed his first half defeat by beating Ballard in 4 but again lost in 5 to Norton. Ivor lost some desperately close games against Ayoola eventually losing in 4.

Won 4-2 against Oakbank (Tom Sampson, Graham Manicom, Andrew Braithwaite). Derek continued his form with wins against Sampson and Manicom, albeit in a close 5 setter against the latter. Ivor beat Sampson in 3 and Eric beat Braithwaite at 9 in the fifth to give us the win.

Drew 3-3 with Redland Bats 3 (Phil Beresford, Dave Marsh, Dave Wilson). Eric and Ivor both beat Wilson, Ivor scraping through 9 in the fifth. Derek beat Marsh for our 3 but both Ivor and Derek found Beresford in sparkling form, each losing 3-0. Eric let a 2-0 lead slip when losing to Marsh.

Lost 1-5 to Deptford Rams (Alex Facey, Chris Beckley, Ray Lam). This was against the top team who were strong opposition. However Derek had an excellent win over Beckley to save us from the whitewash.

Won 5-1 against Ilfracombe Pirates (Phil Goulding, Peter Kneil, Keith Le Milliere). A great way to finish the weekend with only Ivor losing out to Goulding. Derek finished the competition with 10/20, Eric with 7/20 and Ivor and Colin on 3/10.

Anyone fancying their chances in this tough competition next season (particularly younger vets) should contact me to find out more (01189 783770)

WORLD INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS – KINGFISHER REPRESENTATION

The World Individual Championships are taking place in Rotterdam at the moment (May 7th to 15th). Did you know that a Kingfisher member is playing for his country in this elite event. It's Daniel O'Connell, our British League No 2 and Welsh Junior.

We wish Daniel every success at this tough level.

THE "A" TEAM OF KINGFISHER WIN THE READING LEAGUE (cont. from front page)

First up was Banks vs Misseldine. Andy started the brighter and should have won the first leg before Banks stormed back and robbed him at the end by 14 to 12. The 2nd went a similar way but this time with Andy coming back to win from miles back. 1 all. Banks won the 3rd close and then used all the luck in the world to win the 4th and put Kingfisher 1 up. Good start for the Champions.

KINGFISHER "A" 1 - YMCA "A" 0

Enter Hari Gehlot & Tony Reynolds. For pure quality this was to be the best match up of the evening. On all known form you would say this would be a shoo-in for Hari but Tony was having none of it. He came out of the traps absolutely firing. Backhands, forehands, smashes, the lot. He won the first easily and then held on valiantly to win the 2nd. 2 legs up, playing brilliantly and a shock was on the cards. Hari's a fighter though. He came storming back in the 3rd and then took a nail biting fourth at 11-9 to set up a 5th leg decider. Tony was still playing well. They changed with Tony at 5-4 up but Hari just upped the stakes and a great period of powerplay gave him the game and the miraculous comeback was complete. A good start for the Champions became a Great Start!

KINGFISHER "A" 2 - YMCA "A" 0

The Kid had been selected for his fine form in the fixture first time around and he was now up against the YM No. 1. Martin Chodounsky who had very generously bought a crate of the Finest Czech lager along for all to enjoy. We were rather hoping he'd sunk 4 or 5 of them before playing but he's way too professional for that and started brilliantly in the first leg giving the kid no chance. Been playing well recently though has the kid and he proved it by levelling at 1 all with some super shots from both wings. The 3rd and 4th legs were quite similar. Martin took the 3rd to put himself in a strong position but the kid was up for this one and took the match to another 5th leg decider. A win here for Kingfisher and I don't think YM would have recovered from 3 nil but it wasn't to be. Martin was never behind and another great game had this time gone to YM and they were back in it.

KINGFISHER "A" 2 - YMCA "A" 1

The next 2 matches didn't live up to the previous 3. Andy looked as though the luck that had gone against him in the first was still on his mind and Hari didn't fancy another 5 set after his heroic comeback against Tony. Hari won it convincingly 3 zip meaning YM needed 5 out of the last 6 to take the title. Surely they couldn't win it from here?

KINGFISHER "A" 3 - YMCA "A" 1

Banks started confidently against Chodounsky. 8-2 up, was it 9-5 up? 10-6 I think? but credit to Martin - he kept on in there nicked it at deuce and never looked back after that .

KINGFISHER "A" 3 - YMCA "A" 2

The next game (Kid vs Reynolds) was one in particular that we had pinpointed as crucial to our chances and I guess YM had the same ideas. Both had played incredibly well earlier in 5 set defeats so something had to give and it was Tony who started the more confident as

KINGFISHER "A" CLINCH TITLE

he took the first 2 legs with relative comfort. Back came the kid though. He raced away with the 3rd and was doing well in the 4th before Tony played some stunning stuff at the end to seal the deal and it was game on.

KINGFISHER "A" 3 - YMCA "A" 3

Colin Dyke had provided some great refreshments and as it was evident that Martin hadn't touched a drop of his beer it was time for other people to help him out and players and supporters alike all took a much needed 15 minute break to enjoy the delights of what lay before us in the Kingfisher rest area. Sadly, non players like "hungry" Daniel Moses and Ramesh Gehlot had evidently put a dent in what was on offer but there was plenty to go round and much enjoyed by all. Thanks very much Colin & Martin.

Doubles next. In truth we had the opportunity to play Ramesh in it but against our better judgement decided to field me instead. It didn't work. Martin & Tony are a powerful combination and they were just too strong and won it with a routine 3 nil. And for the first time in the match YM were ahead 3-4. Ouch!!!

KINGFISHER "A" 3 - YMCA "A" 4

Clash of the titans next. Hari vs Martin. We knew it was on the line here. If Martin were to win then our dream of another title was probably going to slip through our fingers. And he started well. Coming back from 9-7 down to put himself 1 up. Hari stormed back to take the 2nd but the 3rd followed a similar pattern to the first with Martin winning it close at the end. He was now 2-1 up and I glanced across at a smiling Pete Bradley, I could hardly watch. OK so Hari had already pulled off one fantastic comeback on the night but could he do it again against super Chodounsky? Yes he jolly well could!! Super stuff Hari, Real Captain's performance. He took the 4th and 5th by the same wide margin 6 and 6. Brilliant maximum just when we needed it.

KINGFISHER "A" 4 - YMCA "A" 4

We were now 1 away from the title but from our perspective Hari could no longer play a part - he'd done his bit and the 2 games that were left had both gone YM's way in the first fixture. We were gonna have to do it the hard way. Could it be more dramatic???

Kid vs Misseldine. The kid had played well all night but it just hadn't gone his way. Andy, for him, had seemed a little out of sorts - and one thing's for sure - as table tennis goes this was real squeaky bum stuff. The kid started the better. Winning the first convincingly but Andy's record speaks for itself and he came back strongly with that lethal mix of pimples and spin to win the next 2. I sank lower and lower into my chair. Pete Bradley's grin got wider and wider. Good pep talk from Hari at the change of ends and the Kid was back on it. Super stuff Kid and yet another game had gone to the 5th and final leg. It was nip and tuck in the 5th. Nerves, great shots, nets, edges it had the lot. The Kid was 8-7 up and we were just 3 points away from glory, so close but so far. Fair play to Andy, he hung on in there and took it away from him. The kid had lost nothing in defeat but YM were now 5-4 up.

KINGFISHER "A" 4 - YMCA "A" 5

CONGRATULATIONS TO KINGFISHER "A"

This fantastic long 7 month season had come down to the final game. It was Banks vs Reynolds for the title. Dunno how Tony was feeling but I was sh****ing myself. Win, lose or draw I truly didn't want the season to end like this. The crowd did though - they were lapping it up. It had been a fantastic night and it was all or nothing time.

It was Colin Dyke who calmed me down. A couple of wise words in my ear that stayed with me throughout the entire game. Tony had been in fantastic form all night, could and perhaps should have beaten Hari and had seen off an in-form kid. It was going to be a tough one and I was quite rightly worried. I started well, in truth more to do with Tony missing rather than me playing exceptionally. And in about 3 minutes I was one up. Relax, stay focussed. The 2nd leg was similar to the first - a bit scrappy but there small were signs that Tony was just starting to settle down and play his game a bit more. However 2 nil up and we were 1 leg away. I couldn't have wished for a better start in the 3rd leg. 5 love up and storming away with it. The title was going to be ours. I could almost reach out and touch the trophy. But all credit to Tony. He came right back at me. 5 love was quickly wiped out, it was like he was playing Hari again and I couldn't cope with him anymore. He won, and in doing so let out a pumped up roar.

Grrrrrrrrr. 2 legs to 1. Hari and the Kid calmed me down again. They're good corner guys to have. Again, I built up a good lead in the 4th but again he kept on coming back. Fair play to Tony he never gives up. Crucially, however I got the luck at 8-6 and wasn't going to let it slip again. And I saw it home. We were Champions once again.

KINGFISHER "A" 5 - YMCA "A" 5

The relief and emotion was there for all to see. 7 months of hurt. 7 months of living with a big fat zero in the first fixture. 7 months of waiting for the opportunity to try to put that right. It had been a long 7 months. The "way over the top" celebration was not for Tony or for any of the YM players, their club mates or their supporters. It did not even necessarily reflect the emotions of my fellow Kingfisher A team mates. It was a massive personal self centred release of emotion that even I didn't realise was there. I couldn't control it. Yes, it's "only" the Reading League, yes there are much much much more important things than a game of ping. But for me, for that tiny little moment it was everything. Incredibly sad hey. And I fully admit it.

Bob, Tony, Martin, Andy, YMCA were a credit. You have been all season. What a night, What a competition. They can be comforted in the knowledge that whilst we are the champions, over 2 matches we couldn't beat them.

Essentially it may all have come down to the fact that they lost to Polish and we scraped a draw after Hari came back from 2 nil and 7-2 down against Tony Stead. As Martin Chodounsky said on his way out - it's all ifs, buts and maybes. And he's right you know. He's right.

Kingfisher 'A' 5 YMCA '5' (H Gehlot 3, Banks 2, Williams 0) (Chodounsky 2, Reynolds 1, Misseldine 1, Doubles)



Hari Gehlot, Stuart Williams, Mark Banks and Ramesh Gehlot



The Kingfisher Table Tennis Club

**We're on
the Web**

www.kingfisherttc.co.uk

*Website Manager:
Allen Pack*

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Colin Dyke on
0118 978 3770**

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.

CLUB OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:.....	PETER CHARTERS
CHAIRMAN:.....	COLIN DYKE
HON TREASURER:.....	CHRIS PUSEY
HON GEN SECRETARY:.....	LES ANDREWS
COACHING OFFICER:.....	JENNY ANDREWS
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:.....	ERIC VAN LOOY
ACTING MINUTE SECRETARY:.....	JENNY ANDREWS
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:.....	ANDY YON, PETER GOATLY and ALLEN PACK.