

December 2011

KINGFISHER



**READING
& DISTRICT**

**TABLE
TENNIS
ASSOCIATION**

NEWSLETTER

Editor: DEREK WAVELL



Christmas Edition

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A merry Christmas to all. The players you see in action in these pages were snapped at the Berkshire Closed competition. On this cover page are Michael Houghton and Daniel Grover; Maria Tsaptinos and Bradley King.

There is also an article about Reading as a table tennis nirvana. What made it so? Of course the talent of many young players did, and their years of hard work in nourishing it. That means the dedication of their parents too. But even more irreplaceable - the visionary coaches and administrators, who donate so much of their time with no thought of reward. Adam McTiernan has an article in praise of these diffident figures.

Sadly, one table tennis figure died in the last year: Bert Foster. Many will remember him - and Derek Harrison has written a tribute. Don't forget to look at the Key Facts section. The next half of the season doesn't start till 9th Jan - the Handbook is wrong. And look at the Letters page - and please write in too.

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!!

Derek



Announcements from our Chairman, Nigel Maltby

1. Table Tennis New Year Fixtures

All players are reminded that the second half of the league season gets under way during the week commencing 9th January, not 2nd January as is stated in the handbooks.

2. Individual Handicap Competition

This season's event will take place on **Sunday 8th January 2012** at the Kingfisher Club. Entry forms were issued to Club Secretaries for distribution at the start of the season and they are also available on the website or from Nigel Maltby. Entries should be sent to Duncan Abbott at 39 Warborough Avenue, Tilehurst, Reading RG31 5LB by the closing date of Friday 30th December, or you can e-mail him at dungerabb@live.co.uk

3. Reading Closed Championships

Entry forms are now available for the **Reading Closed Championships** which are to be held at the Kingfisher Club over the weekends of **11/12 Feb (Senior & Veterans)** and **25/26 Feb (Juniors)**. Entry forms are available from Club Secretaries, via the website or by contacting Reading Association secretary, Nigel Maltby, and completed forms should be sent to Charlie Goddard at 30 Noel Close, Hopton on Sea, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 9RT, to arrive no later than Friday 20th January 2012. Please try to support this worthwhile event. Entry remains free.

4. IMPACT Challenge Shield

This competition is by invitation only from among teams competing in Divisions 1 or 2. The draw for Rounds 1 and 2 has recently been made as follows:

1st Round

Match A: Kingfisher 'F' v Kingfisher 'D'

Match B: Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' v OLOP 'D'

Match C: Kingfisher 'C' v Kingfisher 'B'

Quarter Finals

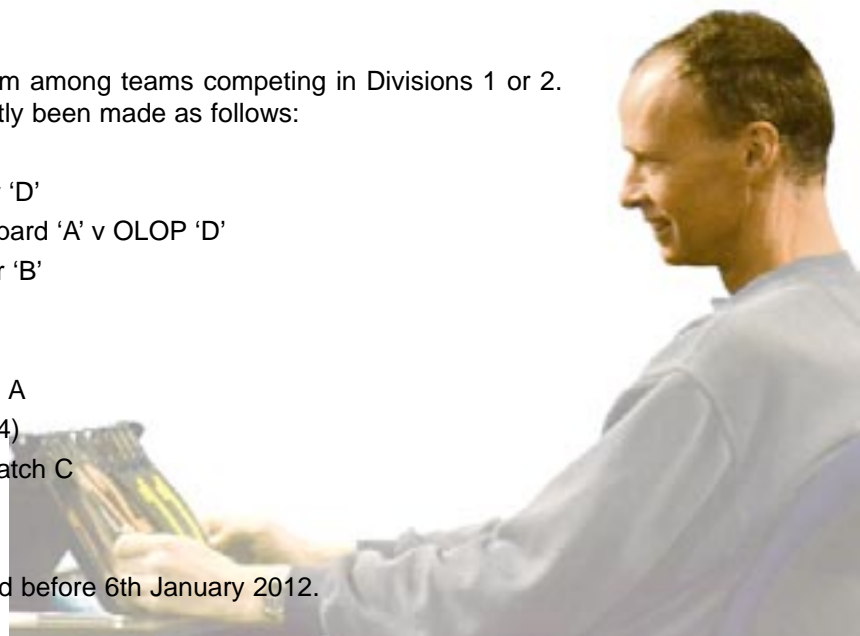
QF1 OLOP 'A' (S1) v Winner Match A

QF2 Winner Match B v YMCA B (S4)

QF3 Kingfisher 'A' (S3) v Winner Match C

QF4 OLOP B v YMCA 'A' (S2)

All above ties are scheduled to be played before 6th January 2012.



Reading on the TT Map

by Adam McTiernan

How strong has table tennis historically been in Reading?

Anyone who has read **Matthew Syed's** excellent book 'Bounce' (which makes an great Christmas present for anyone still looking) will know that the average sized unassuming southern English town that we call home has over the years produced an unusually large number of wonderful table tennis players.

Indeed the Reading area has produced many national champions and international players and several European/Commonwealth champions and even Olympians in a sport where our nation has fallen a long way behind our European neighbours, let alone the Far East.

Matthew himself is probably the greatest player the town has ever produced but there are plenty of other good examples – **David Barr, Alison Gordon, Mandy**

Sainsbury, Gareth Herbert, Jimmy Stokes, Andrew Syed, Simon Heaps, Karen Witt, Terry Young, Martin Adams and Lisa Calcutt.

Why has Reading been a hotbed for so many years?

The common theme over the years has been the tireless work of a small band of enthusiastic volunteers (almost entirely unpaid) who have dedicated many hours of their time to the sport. These volunteers are the real heroes, whether they be coaches or administrators.

We are very fortunate that some of the most committed, forward thinking and innovative volunteer coaches the sport has ever seen in this country have plied their trade in Reading.

Coaches like the vastly experienced **Alan Dines**, who is now in his 41st year as an IMPACT coach and still actively

works in four local schools a week in addition to the tireless work he does at the OLOP and Sonning Common Clubs plus organising the thriving local youth league. Alan is also responsible for junior development on the Reading League committee.

Another local legend, **Peter Charters**, can still be seen providing multi-ball sessions to aspiring young players thirty years after he stated coaching a youthful Matt and older brother **Andrew Syed**. He is also the President of Kingfisher TTC and holds an important position at the English Table Tennis Association.

Brian Halliday has just coached his latest local protégée, **Maria Tsaptsinos**, to the national Cadet title, one of numerous major awards won by the players he has coached over a long and distinguished career.

To name just a few of many other top quality coaches, **Allan Bruton**, **Graham Outrim**, **Mal Collis**, **John Taylor** and more recently **Nick Heaps** all currently run club and/or school training sessions weekly and have done for many years.

A new breed of volunteer coach, such as **Wendy Porter** and **Bradley King**, are slowly starting to take over from the old guard, again giving freely of their time to assist juniors in running weekly training sessions and coaching the Reading national junior and cadet league teams.

With regard to enthusiastic administrators, they don't come much greater than the late **John Cunningham**. He brought enjoyment and aspiration to generations of young players in the town he adopted. John's energy and generosity knew no bounds as he built the OLOP Club up from scratch and ran it for over 30 years. He is also the reason we now have four permanent tables in Palmer and Prospect Parks – his last major project before he prematurely passed away.

The effervescent **Colin Dyke** is another fine administrator and one of the top over 60s players in the country. Colin has multiple skills which are put to excellent use on the many committees he serves.

Reading League Chairman **Nigel Maltby**, who also plays in the top division for Sonning Common & Peppard TTC, is another who, along with a very loyal long-serving committee, has for many years unselfishly guided the Reading league to a position of considerable strength and respectability.

West Reading's **Peter Bradley** is currently the Deputy Chairman of the English Table Tennis Association. Such is his enthusiasm for the sport that he still regularly plays for YMCA in Division 1.

John Freeman JP has now served continuously for 50 years on the Royal Berkshire TTA committee. The incumbent President gives many hours of his time every year to ensure the smooth running of table tennis in the County

and has set most of its rules over the years too.

These are just some of the fantastic volunteers who have put Reading on the national and international table tennis map and it is little wonder that the town has the sixth biggest league in the country and is gaining in strength whilst other local leagues are struggling – only last year the Slough league disbanded.

How do the current crop of young players compare?

Set to this background, it is clear to see why the town currently boasts no fewer than six top ten nationally ranked players in their age groups – **Richard Andrews**, **Tom Maynard**, **Liam & Daniel McTiernan**, **Maria Tsaptsinos** and **Megan Knowles**. These players have all played for England at either Full International or Schools International level multiple times.

In addition there is precocious local talent such as **Daniel Moses** (current Reading Closed Champion), **Jarred Knowles** (England Schools International) and **Jon Abbott** (Reading Most Improved Junior).

All of these players are still under 21 years old and are now inspiring an even younger generation, which under the auspicious of Regional Coach **Alison Broe**, train at the Kingfisher Club every Wednesday evening.

For the first time ever, this season the County is represented at Premier League level of the County Championships at every age group – Junior, Senior, Veterans and Over 60s. This aptly demonstrates the strength in depth of our local players of all ages.

What does the future hold?

The future certainly looks bright for the town but what it lacks is a large purpose built centre of excellence for the entire local table tennis community to share.

Three years ago a local team of volunteers, many of whom are mentioned above, set out to rectify that through the Reading Table Tennis Centre Project (www.readingtabletenniscentre.co.uk) but frustratingly have not yet been able to get past the planning stage due to the bureaucracy involved.

The Project Team will however not give up easily on their common dream of one day having a world class facility the town can be proud to call their own and for its many players to enjoy for years to come.

How can you help?

If you wish to show your support for this project please email Peter Bradley on peter@forehandsmash.co.uk. This will greatly assist the process at a critical time.

Let's all make this happen in the British Olympic Year!

Adam McTiernan

15.12.11



THE BERKSHIRE CLOSED

Fifteen year old Liam McTiernan from Woodley and fourteen year old Maria Tsapsinos from Caversham swept all before them at this season's Berkshire Closed Championships on 26-27 November, taking a total of six titles between them.

McTiernan became one of the youngest players to win the Berkshire Closed Men's title in its 62 year history and he did it in some style, dropping just a single end in the process.

In the semi final McTiernan faced the eight time winner, [Martin Adams](#). He quickly went one up but Adams fought back to level at 1 - 1. McTiernan kept up the pressure though and forced his experienced opponent to retreat away from the table where he was less effective. After four pulsating games, McTiernan took the match 3 - 1 to progress to his first Men's' Final.

In the final, McTiernan got the better of his Our Lady of Peace Club team mate and the defending champion [Daniel Moses](#), who had himself beaten [Ian Cole](#) 3 - 1 in the other semi.

The two had already met earlier in the evening in a totally enthralling Under 21s final, which McTiernan just won, but not before surviving five match points. Played in front of a captivated crowd of 30 plus, the match ebbed and flowed, punctuated by some extraordinary rallies containing seemingly impossible fetches and blistering winners. The event's co-organiser Allan Bruton described the match afterwards as one of the finest ever witnessed at the Championships.

So Liam took the Men's final in straight sets and with it a clean sweep of four events, including the Men's Doubles, where he partnered Moses to victory over Martin Adams and [Steve Ricks](#).

Maria Tsapsinos also had a stunning day, losing just once, to Moses in the semi final of the Under 21's, but only by a 3-2 score line. In the process she won the Ladies Singles and Ladies Doubles titles, the latter with seventeen year old Chinese player, Bijun Tang. McTiernan and Tsapsinos paired up to win the Mixed Doubles title, beating Moses and Wendy Porter 3 - 1 in an entertaining final.



BIJUN TANG

Other highlights of a busy weekend at the Kingfisher Club included the unseeded [Trevor Organ](#) winning the Veterans (over 40's) title. In a close final of contrasting styles, Organ beat Ian Cole 3 - 2, thus avenging an earlier defeat to Cole in the group stages.

And finally, it was a family affair in the Graded final where older brother [Danny Ricks](#) (17) beat younger brother Sam Ricks (15) by a 3 - 0 score line.

In an immaculately well run tournament, much praise should be given to co-organisers, [Allan](#) and Sylvia [Bruton](#), for the fantastic job they did and have done for so many years now. Thanks also to the Royal County Berkshire Table Tennis Association President, John Freeman for presenting the trophies.



MARIA TSAPTSINOS



LIAM McTIERNAN

In Memory - **BERT FOSTER** by Derek Harrison

On behalf of the Reading Association I would like to pen this tribute to Bert Foster

Bert Foster died on the 17th April. Besides being a good TT player Bert was the model sportsman who always played the game in a fair and right manner and was liked by everyone who crossed his path.

Besides playing in the local leagues Bert played for Reading and also for the County. He won many titles including the Reading Closed once, the mens doubles five times and the mixed doubles twice, once with Eva in 1966/67. He also won the vets singles and the senior vets singles twice. He also won the mens doubles in the Berkshire closed five times and the vets singles once. And he served on the Reading committee for seven years, taking on divisional fixture secs jobs, inter town sec and the league registration sec.



The information in this part of this tribute was kindly given to me by Colin Dyke.

Bert first started playing in the Reading league when he played for Simmonds Brewery before moving to Woodlands when they won the first division title for eight years in a row. After that he joined the Post Office who at the time were a mid table team but he soon altered that by winning the championship in 1969/1970 and 1970/1971 and again in 1974/1975 (I was the Div one sec that season so I watched some of the matches).

Later he joined the new Kingfisher club but only played for one more season before retiring from the game. However he then joined their committee and was their president for five years giving much encouragement to the younger players. What a career!

Bert, you will be sadly missed

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Coaching Volunteers – putting something back into the game

How would you like to be involved in coaching at Kingfisher?

As part of our player development programme Kingfisher is looking to build a strong volunteer team, augmented by licensed coaches, who will help create the next generation of young players.

If you would like to become part of this team, then we would really like to hear from you.

From early in the New Year, we will be running beginner and intermediate classes for young players from 5 till 7pm across the week.

Whether you are an experienced competitor, a parent, a relative or just someone who loves watching table tennis, there are many ways you can contribute, for example:

- Organising sessions, communicating with young players and parents, setting up equipment and managing an attendance register
- Demonstrating basic strokes, advising on technique, setting and controlling on-the-table exercises
- Providing an on-the-table multi-ball feed to beginners so they can learn basic strokes and footwork
- Acting as a practice partner in training exercises that will help pupils to develop technique consistency and movement

- Organising exercises for warm-up and cool-down that will encourage physical development and good footwork

- Acting as team manager, transporting players to matches and tournaments, ensuring discipline and encouraging teamwork

Furthermore, for those who may be interested in developing their own coaching skills, the club provides mentoring and bursaries to assist in gaining UKCC coaching qualifications. These apply both to bridging from the ETTA qualification and in helping new coaches to gain UKCC Level 1 qualification.

If you'd like to be part of this initiative but are not sure how you can contribute, please call me to discuss.

Nick Heaps
Coaching Officer Kingfisher TTC,
nick.heaps@hotmail.co.uk
0790 969 1965

Embedded Videos in the Newsletter

Good initiative but I guess you know that a growing number of players (including me) view the newsletter on their smartphones or tablet computers and that the market leaders, Apple iPhone & iPad, do not accept videos in Adobe Flash.

HN

DIVISION ONE by Mark Banks

Good rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay. Remember, Christ, our Saviour, was born on Christmas day. To save us all from Satan's power, when we were gone astray. O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy. OK so I couldn't quite remember all of the lyrics and had to google them but I extend a big warm welcome then to all of you to what has now become the legendary festive edition of the D1



Report. And what a crazy time of year it is. You probably will already have heard that both of the Gehlot brothers are on far warmer shores. Hari is with the family in India whilst Rammy has had a change of career path and is now finally working for a living out in Dubai. Hari will be back in a few weeks or so but for Ramesh the long haul was not just about the flight and he won't be seen for many months, which brings both

its plusses and minuses. On the plus side of course with him away, Kingfisher 'A' instantly become a better side - Get In! On the minus side however, with him being away - my blimmin Christmas Tree has just cost me £49.99 this year which is about 5 times as much as I normally pay him down the Oxford Road - and that includes him asking me to go and get him his favourite bargain bucket KFC for the privilege!!! Grrrrrr. Actually and having said that - on the plus side again, at least it will still have more than 50% of its needles left by Christmas Day for once! Anyway, enough about those two. Let's crack (er) on with the action which just leaves me to say wherever you are and whatever you will be doing may I wish all of you, your families and friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Me? I'm off to get some last minute Xmas bargains in before Andy Yon and his beloved trolley get to the stores first.

Love & Peace

Mark x

Amazing isn't it that **OLOP 'A'** field in their side not one but TWO players who still believe in Father Christmas!! but enough about Norman & Mike it really has been all about the two boys (er, is Daniel still a boy Mark?) hasn't it and it's



DANIEL MOSES



LIAM McTIERNAN

impossible to split them on current form. I wasn't there but somebody commented that one of the two Berkshire Finals that they recently played out was the best match that had ever been seen at the Kingfisher Club EVER! and it's easy to understand why. Daniel remains unbeaten, whilst Liam currently holds the bragging rights between the two and ringers aside (I'll come on to that later) surely this is the year that the League Title falls out of the clutches of the previously all conquering 3 Kings from Woodley (did you like what I did there?). Brilliant stuff guys and I'm really proud of both of you. You can tell I'm an old dad these days can't you. Elsewhere, Norman has been playing the Captain's role brilliantly. Rotating himself, Ian King Cole and Mike (who's hoping for a George Foreman Grill from Santa) where necessary and ensuring that the side always has enough in reserve to back their two starlets up. Not sure anybody can see beyond them taking it and well deserved and not before time it would be. Well played all and a very Merry Christmas to you all.

MVP: Daniel Moses/Liam McTiernan - They can both have the accolade this time. Well it is Christmas after all!!!

Banksy's Christmas Cracker: What do you call a blind reindeer? No Eye Deer!!

There are a few lessons to be learnt in **Kingfisher 'A'**. Lesson number 1. If you're only gonna spend a tenner on a 7ft Christmas Tree, you've gotta expect the needles to drop weeks before the big day. Ha ha. OK. That's not really the lesson. The lesson is if you're gonna bring a ringer in, blimmin well make sure that you win the blimmin game or you're just gonna look blimmin silly aren't you!!! Too many blimmins? I apologise. It's kind of gone a bit wrong for us really. Still unbeaten of course but a couple of crucial doubles defeats have cost us two vital points and with the Gehlots being away it's always gonna be an uphill task from here in if we're gonna get our names on that coveted trophy again. Still - somebody tells me it isn't Santa Claus who's coming to town but our very own.....Tom Maynard!! LOL! We couldn't. We wouldn't would we? Nah. Would we?

MVP: Ramesh Gehlot. LOL Yeah right!!! It's meeeeeeee!

Banksy's Christmas Cracker: What's furry & minty? A polo bear!!

By the way guys, I have some sad news I'm afraid. Yep, Christmas isn't just all about joy & happiness but for reflection and consideration too and I'm afraid to say that a **YMCA 'A'** legend and I don't write that word lightly, will be leaving the Reading area for good this coming February after more than 4 decades at the top of the game. Have you worked out who it is yet? If I say to you that in all of those 4 decades not once has he said "Sorry" you'll know straight away that of course I'm talking about big bad BOB DAVIS who has accepted a new exciting position in Devon and will sadly no longer be part of this great League. Guttled. Great news for Bobby boy and his family though so I know you'll join me in wishing him all the best in his new life in what is a beautiful part of the World. Fair play to YM too, who are a tough, tough team to beat. Probably (and like us) will find OLOP too good this time around but a side with Choudounsky, Buck, Costa, Reynolds, Misseldine & Bobby himself would be winning titles in any other League. Just goes to show how good OLOP have become. Hey, even us with Andrews couldn't lower their colours. Fabulous stuff and have a great Christmas guys.

MVP Martin Choudounsky – a true Merry Gentleman
Banky's Christmas Cracker: What do you get when you cross a lion with a snowman? Frostbite!

So far this season and not quite the force of old are **Polish 'A'** but they are still a dangerous side and with new signing England star Ian Girdler on board, trust me, they are going to cause some damage in the 2nd half. A line up of Adams, Girdler & Dobbins??? You'd have to fancy them vs anybody and I mean ANYBODY!! WOW. Very, very interesting indeed. Nicky's still recovering from his hip operation which wasn't helped by his beloved Manchester City crashing out of the Champions League and then losing to Chelsea. Hard lines St Nicholas. Xmas refs everywhere hey! Get in. Martin (er, still the greatest we have) needs pull his finger out. I keep bigging him up and he keeps los-



MARTIN ADAMS OF POLISH 'A'

ing to Santa Believers. Come on matey. Lets have it in the 2nd half. Pleeeeease!! In Graham Diplock they've signed a good player but a poor umpire. Thanks for the Christmas card Andy by the way. Richard seems to spend more time away than here but can still have his day, Steve – say no more. Gotta be stronger after his injury 2nd half. Have a good one guys.

MVP Martin Adams - I know he can do it. I still believe. I just hope he still does.

Banky's Christmas Cracker: What did the fish say when it swam into a wall? Dam!

I guess there's a good chance that by default **YMCA 'B'** could become **YMCA 'A'** with the imminent departures of both Bob Davis and Martin Chod plus probably others at the end of the season. But let's not dwell too much on that for now. They're all in good form in their own right and well deserve their festive break. Probably the nicest team to play on the circuit and I have big respect for them all. David Streak bless him. All he wants for Christmas is the MVP but Neil keeps on winning to prevent him from having it. Keith Winter Wonderland has more than settled in and hasn't played this well since before he met Phil Prady and Dave Gilham & Pete Bradley the men with always the smiles on their faces. I dunno what else to write. Great guys. Great team. Great play. Have a GREAT Christmas!

MVP Neil Hurford – sorry David!!!

Banky's Christmas Cracker: What's got 6 eyes but can't see? 3 blind mice!

One team who keep just going about their business in a professional manner are OLOP 'B'. Individually they've all had their moments this year. Ollie will be thinking that his Reading Closed successes weren't that long ago and he's turned that tournament play into proper consistent D1 form too. Bradley's famous victory will long live in the memory for those who were there and both Raph and Julian are enjoying their fair share of success too. Comfortably mid table, nothing to worry about, can just go out and play, no pressure. Great place to be. Happy Christmas guys.

MVP Ollie Shaw – I think.

Banky's Christmas Cracker: What's the music capital of America? Sanfran Disco!

Award for the most interesting new signing certainly goes to Tidmarsh Integralis 'A'. With Lee still out of action their new Dutch player Sander de Van Barneveld Riemer is obviously some find. A little early to really establish just how good he is and whether in fact he's even better at darts Barney Army but he gave the OLOP boys a good game so



IAN COLE OF OLOP 'A'

gets the nod in my book and will undoubtedly ensure that Tidmarsh will be here again next season. John is over his injury worries and Squirrel just loves this time of year where he can recover all his buried nuts. Duncan and David provide the backbone and they all continue to play very well. Merry Christmas guys.

MVP John Barclay

Banksy's Christmas Cracker: Why did Nick Clegg cross the road? Because he said he wouldn't!

By the way, thanks to Bob Woodmansee for a funny story about KFC and I don't mean the time that Ramesh managed to do 2 of their Bargain Buckets at the same meal! So Bob's sat there waiting for his Sonning Sports team mates & opponents to pitch up when in walked Keith Newell & James Olsson. Bob didn't know them and they didn't know Bob but they proceeded to start knocking up on the table. Bob was thinking they looked a bit tasty for D3 and it wasn't until the rest of the players turned up that Keith & James realised their mistake and that they were of course at the wrong venue. Ha Ha. Love it. Going along quite nicely then are KFC with Eric & Richard also playing their parts and they can be pretty pleased with their half term report. Merry Christmas.

MVP Keith Newell

Banksy's Christmas Cracker: What did the policeman say to his tummy? You're under a vest!

Not Sonning Sports then but our very own Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' who continue to make good accounts of themselves without quite getting the results to go their way. Will just need to avoid defeat in the 2nd half against KFD to make absolutely sure but it would be a big shock if they went down from the position they are in. Simon Berry has been turning out a little more regularly which is obviously great news for them and with him and Jason playing in the same side they're always going to have half a chance of getting something. I can never work out whether Nigel prefers playing in One or Two? I'll take a stab at One and he does OK up here. Jarv too has finally got on the scoresheet and they're gonna be fine aren't they. Have a great one guys.

MVP Simon Berry

Banksy's Christmas Cracker: Why are Pirates Pirates? Because they Arrrrrrgggggh!

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
OLOP 'A'	9	9	0	0	79	11	18
Kingfisher 'A'	9	7	2	0	75	15	16
Reading YMCA 'A'	9	7	1	1	76	14	15
Polish 'A'	8	5	1	2	48	32	11
Kingfisher 'C'	10	5	1	4	48	52	11
Reading YMCA 'B'	9	5	0	4	47	43	10
OLOP 'B'	9	4	1	4	45	45	9
Tidmarsh 'A'	10	3	0	7	29	71	6
Sonning C&P 'A'	9	1	1	7	25	65	3
Kingfisher 'B'	10	1	1	8	19	81	3
Kingfisher 'D'	10	0	0	10	19	81	0

Playing much better now than they were earlier in the season are **Kingfisher 'B'**, and much like Sonning Common got a vital win against KFD and will only have to avoid slipping up against the same side in the 2nd half to cement their top flight status for another season – even though half of them wanna drop to two – don't they Roger!! One stat that I found fascinating was the recent game between Colin Dyke and D's Johnny Morris that had a combined age of over 150. Got to be a record for a D1 game surely?? I told my wife Lisa and she just turned around and said well no wonder you're one of the best players if they're all that age!! Women hey! Great bunch of guys these. Rog, Geoff, Colin, Dave, good to see Cliff playing well again too and I'm certain despite their internal protests that they'll be back again next time. Happy Christmas guys.

MVP Geoff Civil

Banksy's Christmas Cracker: Why did the scarecrow get an award? Because he was out standing in his field!

Still bringing up the rear then are **Kingfisher 'D'** but it's not for want of trying and individually they've all had their moments. Trevor is in cracking form – he really is. Those fist pumps have been working overtime he's winning so many! Great to see Johnny Morris playing well too. 150 years – WOW! Ivor's form has been up and down and Dave is yet to trouble the scorer. Can't see them doing it to be fair but with YM probably reducing to one team next season there may well just be another opportunity for them again. You just never know!!!! Merry Christmas guys.

LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	PL	W	%
Daniel Moses	OLOP 'A'	27	27	100
Andy Misseldine	Reading YMCA 'A'	9	9	100
Ramesh Gehlot	Kingfisher 'A'	21	20	95.24
Mark Banks	Kingfisher 'A'	18	17	94.44
Martin Chodounsky	Reading YMCA 'A'	27	25	92.59
Mike Childs	OLOP 'A'	12	11	91.67
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher 'A'	18	16	88.89
Liam McTieman	OLOP 'A'	9	8	88.89
Martin Adams	Polish 'A'	15	13	86.67
Tony Reynolds	Reading YMCA 'A'	14	12	85.71
Bob Davis	Reading YMCA 'A'	14	11	78.57
Steve Buck	Reading YMCA 'A'	9	7	77.78
Ian Cole	OLOP 'A'	9	7	77.78
Norman Swift	OLOP 'A'	17	13	76.47



TREVOR ORGAN

MVP Trevor Organ

Banksy's Christmas Cracker: What's yellow & dangerous? Shark infested custard!!!



DIVISION TWO *by Barry Carter*

Welcome to the Christmas newsletter for the 2011/2012 season. The table seems to be settling down into two halves, the top five are separated by just three points with OLOP 'D' leading the way on 'goal difference' from my pre-season favourites Kingfisher 'F'. The bottom half is separated by seven points, it is looking bad for Sonning C & P 'C' who have been cast three points adrift at the bottom but the other four teams are separated by just four points with Post Office 'A' currently occupying the second relegation place. A couple of general stats for the really bored are that 44% of the results have ended 6 - 4 or 5 - 5 with the home team generally ending up on the winning side with 46% home wins and 39% away wins. The most popular scoreline is 7 - 3 and that has occurred 15 times whilst the two least popular are 10 - 0 and 9 - 1 as they have happened only twice each (sounds like the lottery stats so must stop!).

Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'D' are the current leaders of both the table and current form with six wins in a row. The latest three were 6 - 4 victories over Wokingham 'A', Tidmarsh 'B' and Curzon 'A'. Each time they went into the final game 5 - 4 up and went home with the points as Clive Perry on two occasions against Jim Spencer 6-11, 4-11, 11-5, 11-8, 11-6 and John Walker 11-6, 11-9, 11-6 and then Neil Bird did the same trick against Steve Callidine 12-10, 11-8, 11-9. They now have a settled side and have used only three players in the last six matches. Steve Purchase is the other member of the trio and he has won 5 of the last 9 with the most impressive victory against Jon Willis (Curzon) where he won 9-11, 11-8, 11-7, 4-11, 11-4 to set up the victory which Clive finished off. If they can keep the squad available they should now make the promised land! Doubles : 63%

Team Stat: Have won the most matches by the 6 - 4 scoreline (4 times).

Player Stat: The same three players have played in the last 5 matches, is that a record for an OLOP team?

Kingfisher 'F' have lost a bit of momentum in recent weeks as they have slipped to two defeats in their last three matches. The first came in a 8 - 2 defeat against OLOP 'D' and the more recent was a 7 - 3 defeat against Wokingham 'A'. They have won two matches since the last newsletter and they were a 7 - 3 win over struggling Sonning Common and Peppard 'C' which saw a return to the fray for Sharon Mitchell and she wasted no time as she won two against Ian Ayres 6-11, 12-10, 11-4, 7-11, 11-2 and then Matt Stone 11-9, 11-5, 11-8 although she did succumb to Paul Treadgold. Lisa Williams has been consistent in her performances and has so far contributed in every match this season with two in the match against Sonning Common and Peppard 'B' thanks to 11-7, 11-8, 11-4 and 11-4, 11-3, 11-9 wins over Malcolm Gregory and Brian Meheux. Niall McGrane is once again close to the top of the averages although he has managed to lose a couple of games recently. Carole Chard seems to be going through a barren spell at the moment with only 2 wins in her last 15 matches with one of them against Paul Treadgold 11-8, 11-6, 11-13, 11-7. I would still think they would be favourites for promotion but they will need to perform a bit better in the second half

to justify my prediction. Doubles: 78%

Team Stat: Have the best away record with 4 wins and a draw from 5 away matches.

Player Stat: Niall McGrane is the only eligible player not to have been to 5 sets.

Wokingham 'A' are still in the mix for promotion and will be there or thereabouts come next March. They have won five of their last six matches to find themselves in third spot but only on game difference. The only defeat came against the leaders OLOP 'D' where despite Brian Chinneck winning three they slipped to a 6 - 4 defeat. The two latest wins have

come against Tidmarsh 'B' and Kingfisher 'F': they won 7 - 3 at Tidmarsh 'B' thanks to a Brian Chinneck treble and two from Martin Pugh plus a good 12-10, 11-4, 11-9 win by Jim Spencer over Mike Aistrop. The other win came against OLOP 'D'. The 7 - 3 win over one of their promotion rivals certainly boosted confidence, Brian recorded yet another maximum which included a very impressive win over the previously unbeaten Niall McGrane

of Kingfisher 'F'. Daryl Griffith has come into the team and has performed well as he won two in the match against Kingfisher 'F'. It depends on team selection and the desire to go for promotion as to their final position but at this moment I think they will finish 4th, which would probably please them. Doubles : 57%

Team Stat: Have won 50% of the total number of 8 - 2 and 9 - 1 scorelines (1 of each).

Player Stat: Daryl Griffith has won 8 out of his 9 matches in three straight.

Curzon Club 'A' find themselves in a very healthy fifth position, challenging for promotion and relatively safe from the spectre of relegation. They have won two and lost one of the three matches since the last newsletter. The two wins have come against Sonning Common and Peppard 'B', John Willcocks won

three and was well supported by Jon Willis who won a comfortable brace. The other victory came against Sonning Common and Peppard 'C' where it was Jon Willis's turn to return a treble with wins over his brother Jeremy 11-9, 10-12, 12-10, 11-9 (bet that was a tense match), Paul Treadgold 11-6, 11-3, 11-9 and Tim Raby 11-4, 14-12, 12-10. Mick Maynard is also having a great season with 10 wins from his last 12 matches. In the match against Sonning 'C' he narrowly defeated Paul Treadgold 8-11, 11-6, 9-11, 11-4, 11-8 and Tim Raby 11-3, 11-8, 13-11 but fell to a defeat by Jeremy 11-7, 7-11, 8-11, 11-8, 6-11. John Walker seems to be unlucky to judge by his results as he can't quite get over the finishing line and record wins that he deserves, the latest was a 6-11, 11-7, 7-11, 5-11 defeat to Neil Bird who is flying high in the averages. My prediction for their final position is 5th and once again I would guess that this would suit them too. Doubles : 75%

Team Stat: Have won their last six doubles matches.

Player Stat: John Willcocks has won 11 of his 15 matches by the 3 - 0 scoreline.

Kingfisher 'E' have had mixed fortunes since the last newsletter as they have won two and lost two. The two victories have



STEVE PURCHASE

come at the expense of the two bottom teams, Post Office 'A' (10 - 0) and Sonning Common and Peppard 'C' (7 - 3). In the rather comfortable 10 - 0 win Phil Mead returned to the side after four weeks out and soon got back into his stride with wins over John Simmonds (6-11, 11-5, 11-5, 11-5), Simon Hopkins (11-5, 11-8, 11-6) and Ray Webb (11-8, 11-13, 11-7, 11-9). Daniel Grover recorded his second maximum of the season and Allan Bruton also returned a maximum. The match against Sonning 'C' was a bit more difficult but they still ran out 7 - 3 winners with three from Peter Goatly, two from Allan and a single victory by Daniel. The two defeats came against Sonning Common and Peppard 'A' (4 - 6) and OLOP 'E' (3 - 7). Dan won two against Malcolm Gregory and Brian Meheux but couldn't quite defeat Keith Swain although it went to five before he lost 6-11, 5-11, 15-13, 11-7, 4-11. Peter Bennett was the only individual winner in the 7 - 3 defeat to OLOP 'E' as he beat both Hanson Xu and Wendy Porter. Peter Bennett was unlucky to lose 3-11, 11-6, 12-10, 6-11, 3-11 to Hanson whilst Eric Holmes narrowly missed out 7-11, 11-5, 11-5, 10-12, 8-11 to Wendy. My prediction if they can get their strongest team out would be 3rd. Doubles : 67%

Team Stat: Allan Bruton and Daniel Grover have each won two games whenever they have drawn..

Player Stat: Phil Mead is the only player with a 100% record, albeit he has only played thrice.



ALLAN BRUTON

Tidmarsh 'B' have only won twice in the last four matches and one came against Post Office 'A'. François Durand finally won a maximum with good wins over Denise Weller, Simon Hopkins and Ray Webb and he was well supported by both Mike Aistrop

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
OLOP 'D'	8	6	1	1	50	30	13
Kingfisher 'F'	9	6	1	2	50	40	13
Wokingham 'A'	7	5	0	2	44	26	10
Curzon Club 'A' *	8	4	2	2	49	31	10
Kingfisher 'E'	9	4	2	3	50	40	10
Tidmarsh 'B'	9	3	2	4	47	43	8
OLOP 'E'	9	3	2	4	43	47	8
Sonning C&P 'B'	7	2	1	4	32	38	5
Post Office 'A'	7	2	0	5	22	48	4
Sonning C&P 'C'	9	0	1	8	23	67	1



DANIEL GROVER

and Chris Webb who also won two each. One of Chris's was against brother Ray although it was a tight affair with Chris just edging it 6-11, 11-13, 11-7, 11-7, 11-7. The other win came against OLOP 'E' thanks mainly to a Steve Calladine hat trick of wins over Pu Zhang, Hanson Xu and Wendy Porter. Mike Aistrop also recorded a hat trick that night. The first defeat of this newsletter period came against Wokingham 'A' where the trio of François, Mike and Chris each won one match with François and Chris defeating Jim Spencer whilst Mike enjoyed a good 11-8, 13-11, 11-9 win over Martin Pugh. Their latest result ended in a narrow defeat of Kingfisher 'F'. They did extremely well to battle back from 0 - 4 down thanks to a Steve Calladine 5-11, 11-7, 13-11, 11-7 win over Niall McGrane and a 8-11, 12-10, 11-9, 11-6 win over Lisa Williams then a 9-11, 11-9, 11-9, 9-11, 11-9 Chris Webb win over Sharon Mitchell made the score 4 - 5 but unfortunately François Durand who had already beaten Sharon 11-5, 11-7, 8-11, 11-9 couldn't reproduce the form against Lisa Williams and he lost 7-11, 7-11, 9-11. I'm going to go for them to finish 7th at the end of the season, which is one place lower than their current position. Doubles : 44%

Team Stat: Have lost 7 - 3 on the joint most occasions (3 times).

Player Stat: Mike Aistrop has a 100% record against the OLOP teams (6 out of 6).

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Phil Mead	Kingfisher 'E'	9	9	100
Niall McGrane	Kingfisher 'F'	20	18	90
Neil Bird	OLOP 'D'	24	20	83.33
John Willcocks	Curzon Club 'A' *	21	17	80.95
Andy Johnson	OLOP 'E'	12	9	75
Jon Willis	Curzon Club 'A' *	15	11	73.33
Mick Maynard	Curzon Club 'A' *	18	13	72.22
Keith Swain	Sonning C&P 'B'	18	13	72.22
Brian Chinneck	Wokingham 'A'	21	15	71.43
Mike Aistrop	Tidmarsh 'B'	21	15	71.43
Jeremy Willis	Sonning C&P 'C'	21	15	71.43
Daryl Griffith	Wokingham 'A'	15	10	66.67
Peter Goatly	Kingfisher 'E'	9	6	66.67
Andy Walker	Post Office 'A'	6	4	66.67

Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'E' have won two and lost two of their last four matches and find themselves in 7th place at the moment. The two wins have come against Sonning 'B' and Kingfisher 'E' with 6 - 4 and 7 - 3 results respectively. Andy Johnson was man of the match against Kingfisher 'E' with three wins over Peter Bennett, Eric Holmes and Peter Goatly but he was well supported by braces from Hanson Xu and Wendy Porter. Andy hasn't played since that match as I believe he is currently in Australia. The win against Sonning 'B' was a surprise one and Hanson produced his best result of the season with a 11-8, 11-7, 15-13 win over Keith Swain. Wendy got the better of both Malcolm Gregory and Brian Meheux but not Keith. Pu Zhang's victory over Brian Meheux sealed the points for them by the narrowest of margins. The two defeats came against Post Office 'A' and Tidmarsh 'B'. It was a bit of a surprise that they lost 3 - 7 against Post Office 'A' but they only came away with two Wendy wins over Simon Hopkins and Denise Weller and a Pu win over Simon Hopkins to show for their efforts. When Andy returns from Oz it might increase their chances of promotion but at the moment I'm going to say that they will finish 8th. Doubles : 33%

Team Stat: Have won all the times Wendy Porter has won a brace (3 times)

Player Stat: 23 of Pu Zhang's 24 matches has been by the 3 - 0 or 3 - 1 result.

Sonning Common and Peppard 'B' have had a nightmare start to the season and find themselves in the very unaccustomed position of 8th and hovering dangerously above the relegation zone. Their only win since the last newsletter came at the expense of Kingfisher 'E' in what would/should have been a promotion challenging match. Keith Swain found some form and won all three against Peter Bennett, Daniel Grover and



HANSON XU

Peter Goatly whilst Malcolm Gregory found the going a little harder and only won two, he lost to Daniel and Brian found it even harder still as he only managed to beat Peter Bennett 11-6, 11-6, 16-14. The other two results have seen them lose 4 - 6 on both occasions. Keith lost two on an evening for the first time in a while...I think against Curzon with his only win coming against John Walker. Brian had probably his best night as he went home with two victories over John Walker and Jon Willis whilst Malcolm also beat John Walker. The game was already over at 2 - 6 before Keith defeated Wendy Porter 11-6, 11-9, 12-10 and Malcolm beat Pu 11-8, 9-11, 11-4, 11-6 to make it sound

close at 4 - 6. In spite of their poor start to the season I still feel that they will rise up the table although promotion is probably a distant dream (a bit like my dream of Wolves qualifying for Europe) so think they will finish top of the bottom section of teams in 6th. Doubles : 43%

Team Stat: Have won both of the matches by the 6 - 4 scoreline

Player Stat: Keith Swain has won all of his matches that have gone to 5-sets (including against me) (4 times).

Post Office 'A' have only played three times since the last newsletter and have won one and lost twice. The win came against OLOP 'E' where Andy Walker won all three in fine style. Denise had her best night of the season with wins over Hanson Xu 11-7, 11-5, 11-5 and Pu Zhang 11-7, 12-10, 11-6. Simon Hopkins contributed with a single win over Hanson 11-8, 11-4, 12-10. The outcome was a good 7 - 3 win to lift their spirits. Their spirits weren't lifted for long as they slipped to a rather disappointing 0 - 10 defeat to mid table Kingfisher 'E'. John Simmonds came the closest to stopping the whitewash as he took Allan Bruton to five before he lost 11-8, 4-11, 11-5, 3-11, 5-11. Simon was their player of the match in the 3 - 7 defeat to Tidmarsh 'B' as he beat both Mike Aistrop and Chris Webb in five sets. It's not looking good for them at the moment. If they can get John and Andy playing together regularly then they might avoid the potential drop but I think they will finish 9th (sorry gents & Denise). Doubles : 43%

Team Stat: Have won their two matches this season at home.

Player Stat: Simon Hopkins has won all the 5-setters he has played in (5 times).

Sonning Common and Peppard 'C' have continued to find the step up from division three tough but it looks like they might be turning the corner after some close battles in recent weeks. Their last three results have seen them lose 3 - 7 on two occasions and 2 - 8 on one. The two 3 - 7 scores came against Kingfisher 'E' and Kingfisher 'F' and the 2 - 8 against Curzon 'A'. Jeremy Willis led the way with a brace against Kingfisher 'F' with five set wins over Allan Bruton 3-11, 11-5, 5-11, 11-9, 11-8 and Daniel Grover 10-12, 7-11, 14-12, 11-8, 11-8. Matt Stone was the other winner on that night as he won 11-9, 11-3, 11-8 against Daniel. It was Paul Treadgold's turn to win two at home to Kingfisher 'F' as he won against Lisa Williams and Sharon Mitchell whilst Matt squeezed past Carole Chard 13-11, 9-11, 14-16, 11-8, 11-4. Ian Ayres was unlucky to lose in five to Sharon Mitchell. Tim Raby ran Jon Willis close in the Curzon match but couldn't get over the line as he lost 4-11, 12-14, 10-12. Jeremy was once again the man in form with wins over John Willcocks 12-10, 12-10, 13-11 and Mick Maynard. It's going to be a difficult second half of the season for them and I'm sorry to say that I don't think they will avoid the dreaded drop but hope they do pick up more points as looking at the weekly scores they certainly deserve it. Doubles : 11%

Team Stat: Have lost by the 7 - 3 scoreline on the most occasions (4 times).

Player Stat: Jeremy Willis has been involved in the most 5-setters (7 times).

I think I've probably rambled on for too long anyway so all that's left for me to say is to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a happy and peaceful 2012.

DIVISION THREE *by Nick Lean*

Only 18 matches have been played since my earlier report, with three outstanding fixtures to be played in the coming weeks. The league table shows four teams at the top in a mini league of their own, with the six other teams having their own separate battle and so close to each other that in theory any of them could finish in the bottom two come the end of the season.

OLOP 'F' currently top the table having dropped just one point. They continued their push for promotion with a win over their club-mates, but although they rushed into a 4 - 0 lead, they only won the match 6 - 4 in the end. Harry Brough



OLOP 'F', there seems little to prevent Barry's team from promotion and even the Division 3 title - although the OLOP players may have something to say about that.

OLOP 'G' left it a bit late in their match with OLOP 'F', as Alex Fear, Mark Kirton and Dan West could only win one each, although they did win the doubles. They followed that defeat with four wins in a row. Firstly they came away from Tilehurst with a good win, as Mark won all three, Dan two and Alex one, plus a close doubles victory 17-15 in the decider. Then a comprehensive win over Kingfisher 'H' as Dan and Chris West both hit maximums, supported by Mark winning two. A comfortable win at Springfield as Dan won three while Chris and Alex won two each and they beat a two-man Pangbourne team 4 - 3, plus the 3 conceded sets. This all puts them in with an outside chance of challenging for promotion in the second half of the season, although I think they've dropped too many points already.



SAMI ALMBROK

won his three and Richard Skellett put in his first appearance of the season and won two, but Sami Almbrok had an off night, losing to Alex Fear and then Mark Kirton 9-11 in the fifth. Harry won three again, as did Richard, when they trounced Tilehurst Meths 9 - 1, with Sami winning two. Kingfisher 'H' were then put to the sword as Harry, Sami and Richard only lost 1 end each as the doubles was their only defeat of the evening. Their clash with Tidmarsh is being re-arranged and that result, together with the return fixture, will clearly influence not only the promotion places but probably determine the Champions as well.

Tidmarsh 'C' sit in second place with a match in hand and their 100% record still intact despite having fielded 8 different players to date. They continued their winning run with an 8 - 2 defeat of Pangbourne as Barry Carter and Dave Reynolds Snr won 3 apiece. Steve Barnes made his first appearance of the season and did well to finally overcome Roger Stevens 13-11 in the fifth game of the last set of the night. Their next run of fixtures turned out to be a "blank" sandwiched between two postponements, which didn't bring them many points. But just before the Christmas break they went to Sonning Sports and collected a couple of points. Barry won his three without too much trouble but his "new" team-mates are worth a mention as they won two apiece. Steve Ricks put in his first appearance of the season, brushed away the cobwebs and was unlucky not to win all three, while Dave Edwards (playing up from Div.4) beat Bob Snellgrove and then Nigel Goodman in five games. Great performance Dave. With a 100% record, a large squad to choose from and two matches in hand, including that clash with

Milestone 'A' only started with three scheduled fixtures this session, then their match with Tidmarsh had to be postponed, so there are only two matches to report. John Crosfield, supposedly their number 3 player (according to Hugh) proved the unlikely hero at Sonning Sports with a really good maximum, twice coming from two games down to defeat Nigel Goodman and then Bob Woodmansee, while John Tucker and Hugh Crosfield (could only) win two each in a 7 - 3 win. They were unable to take both points at Kingfisher 'G', despite a maximum for Hugh, as John Crosfield this time lost all three and JT lost the deciding set of the night. Critically, Hugh rested himself in the doubles and had to watch as his team-mates lost in five games. It looks like Hugh's team will remain just outside the top three and already seem set to retain 4th place.

The second mini league in the Division currently has just 4 points separating six teams.

Topping this mini league are **Kingfisher 'H'** for whom Steve Woolnough and Pat Burns both took maximums from their



STEVE RICKS

match with Kingfisher 'G' to seal an 8 - 2 win. Steve came from 2 games down to beat Dave Duncan in the tightest game of the season in this Division to date; 12-14, 8-11, 15-13, 12-10, 12-10 (only 1 point between them out of 117 played). But they suffered their worst defeat of the season (so far) with a 1 - 9 reverse at the hands of OLOP 'G', as only Mike Dorrington troubled the scorer. A good win over Tilehurst Meths keeps them a healthy distance from the relegation tussle, as Pat won all three, Mike two and Steve one.

Tilehurst Meths 'A' have dropped into the danger zone after a series of bad results. They squeaked a draw at Kingfisher 'H' with Phil Jones, Jan Wright and Melvin Lovegrove all winning crucial deciding games and doing the same in the doubles. Tilehurst kept their sequence of alternating results going (W, D, L, W, D L) with a home defeat to OLOP 'G' in which Phil won two and Jan Wright one, but messed up this sequence with two more defeats, 1 - 9 at OLOP 'F' and 3 - 7 at Kingfisher 'H'. At OLOP 'F' they found the going tough although Catherine Venning, playing up from Division 5, was unlucky to lose to both Sami Almabrok and Harry Brough in the deciding game. Their important fixture with Springfield has been delayed but when it's played the result could be crucial to both teams.

Kingfisher 'G' have had a mixed bag of results but taken 4 points from five matches and have strengthened their position. A good draw with Tilehurst Meths in a match which ebbed & flowed & could have finished with any result. Allen Pack only just lost out to Phil Jones, while Dave Duncan lost in 5 to Jan Wright but beat Phil in 3 straight and John Creighton won the last contest of the match in 5 against Melvin Lovegrove. But they were no contest for their Club-mates, going down 2 - 8 as Chris Pusey and Allen only won one each while Dave Duncan surprisingly lost all three.

What was only their second win to date came as Dave, Chris and Allen won two each to beat fellow strugglers Springfield 6 - 4, but they then lost by the same score at Pangbourne. They finished the first half with a good draw with Milestone, sealed by Allen Pack's excellent 3-straight defeat of John Tucker.

Pangbourne WMC lost at Tidmarsh with Leroy Wilson and Roger Stevens winning one each, although Leroy was really

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
OLOP 'F'	8	7	1	0	58	22	15
Tidmarsh 'C'	7	7	0	0	56	14	14
OLOP 'G'	9	6	1	2	57	33	13
Milestone 'A'	8	4	3	1	47	33	11
Kingfisher 'H'	9	3	1	5	40	50	7
Tilehurst Meths 'A'	8	2	2	4	32	48	6
Kingfisher 'G'	9	2	2	5	36	54	6
Pangbourne WMC	9	2	1	6	34	56	5
Springfield 'A'	8	2	0	6	29	51	4
Sonning Sports 'A'	9	1	1	7	31	59	3

unlucky in both his other singles contests, against Dave Reynolds Snr and Barry Carter, as he came from 0 - 2 down to draw level at 2 - 2 only to lose in the 5th each time. Their bleak run continued with a home defeat to Sonning Sports, but they recorded their second win of the season with a 6 - 4 victory over Kingfisher 'G'. Roger led the way with a much needed maximum, while Clive Taylor won two and Leroy one. Pangbourne could only field two players at OLOP 'G' and although Leroy fought hard to win two and Pete Welch was unlucky not to win a set, they couldn't avoid defeat. This leaves them still in a relegation battle which may go to the wire.

Phil Burke won all three for **Springfield 'A'** at Sonning Sports to help his team to a 6 - 4 win and two vital points. But despite Phil again winning all three at Kingfisher 'G', they went down 4 - 6 in another potentially crucial match. There were two more wins for Phil against OLOP 'G' and he inflicted a first defeat of the season on Chris West, but that was their only return from the match against an opposition who were just too strong for them. It looks like Phil will need more support in the second half of the season if his team are to avoid relegation.

Sonning Sports 'A' (aka Berks Sports and occasionally mistaken for Sonning C&P) remain lodged at the bottom the table - and you know what they say about the team which is bottom at Christmas!! In a key match against Springfield they were unable to come away with any points, despite Bob and Nigel winning two each. Nigel battled hard to bring the match level to 3 - 3 by defeating Des Hele 12-10 in the fifth, but it wasn't enough as they lost the doubles and the next two singles to go down 4 - 6. But Sports finally recorded their first win of the season as Nigel and Cap'n Bob won three apiece with Bob Snellgrove also defeating Howard Taylor to come away from Pangbourne with an 8 - 2 result. The match included a marathon doubles contest which went to five games and included a 20-18 scoreline in one game! But their good form didn't last as they lost an epic battle with Milestone 3 - 7 in which six sets went to the deciding game and overall there were seven deuces with nine other games finishing 11-9 in what was clearly a very close match. Despite fearing a whitewash from a visiting Tidmarsh side, Cap'n Bob won two as Sports only lost 3 - 7. They must now look forward to and hope for a better second half if Sports are to avoid the dreaded drop for the second season running.

And on that cheery note, I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	P	W	%
Harry Brough	OLOP 'F'	24	23	95.8
Barry Carter	Tidmarsh 'C'	21	19	90.5
Peter Galea	Tidmarsh 'C'	9	8	88.9
Richard Skellett	OLOP 'F'	9	8	88.9
Patrick Burns	Kingfisher 'H'	15	13	86.7
Chris West	OLOP 'G'	13	11	84.6
Dave Reynolds Snr	Tidmarsh 'C'	18	15	83.3
Sami Almabrok	OLOP 'F'	24	19	79.2
Phil Burke	Springfield 'A'	21	16	76.2
Dan West	OLOP 'G'	23	16	69.6
Hugh Crosfield	Milestone 'A'	24	16	66.7
John Tucker	Milestone 'A'	24	16	66.7
John Virgo	Tilehurst Meths 'A'	12	8	66.7
Phil Jones	Tilehurst Meths 'A'	18	11	61.1

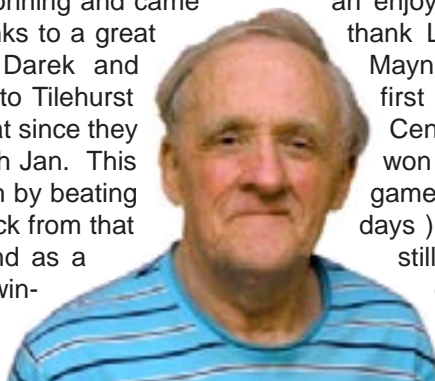
DIVISION FOUR *by Derek Harrison*

Polish 'B' faced a tricky game at Sonning and came away with a fine 3 – 7 victory thanks to a great team performance from Jacek, Darek and Marcin who all won two each. At home to Tilehurst Meths 'B' they crashed to their worst defeat since they lost 10 – 0 against St Lawrence on the 4th Jan. This time Darek Kaminski saved the whitewash by beating Richard Lownsborough. They bounced back from that defeat by winning 3 – 7 at Kingfisher and as a result went top. Jacek was in fine form, winning his 3 three straight. Darek gave him good backing by winning two while Marcin picked up a single. In their next match it took a game ten win for Darek over Terry to give them a 6 – 4 victory. This completed his hat trick. Jacek obtained a double and Marcin won one by beating Oliver. Against their 'C' team they showed no mercy, winning 1 – 9 with Jacek and Darek both obtaining trebles. Marcin won two

Wokingham 'B' crashed to a 3 – 7 defeat at Tilehurst Meths despite Richard winning all three. They returned to winning ways by beating Kingfisher 7 – 3 with Tony winning all three. John Beardmore did well by winning two and there was a first win of the season for John Belcher who beat Diane Taylor 12-10 in the 5th end. At Curzon 'C' they crashed to a 7 – 3 defeat with Tony and Richard winning the singles games by beating Mike. They entertained Polish 'C' in their last game before Christmas and won 9 – 1 with Mike and Richard both gaining trebles. John Beardmore managed a double.

Tilehurst Meths had that fine 7 – 3 win over Wokingham with Nigel, Richard and Chris all gaining doubles. At Polish 'B' they had a great 1 – 9 win with Nigel Rowland and new signing Nick Barnes both obtaining maximums. Richard Lownsborough did very well to win two. At home to Sonning as ever Nigel again won all three with Richard gaining a double. Chris did well to beat Simon, which helped them to a 7 – 3 victory. Richard was in top form against Curzon 'B', gaining a three straight treble and Chris played well to win two. Nick won one besides teaming up with Nigel to win the doubles and record a 7 – 3 win. Away to Kingfisher they romped to a 1 – 9 win with Nigel and Richard both gaining hat tricks. Nick won two. There were 3 eleven-nil wins during the evening, two for Tilehurst and one for Kingfisher. Shame on you.

Curzon Club 'B' had a good 3 – 7 win at Sonning with Geoff maintaining his form by winning all three. Nick and Jim did their bit by obtaining doubles. We then beat Birch Copse 7 – 3 with Geoff, Jim and Derek all winning two each. For Derek he beat Mike 9-11, 8-11, 11-6, 11-8, 11-5 after being 3-8 down in that 4th end. Against our 'C' team I played in my 1000th league match for my team and what



an enjoyable evening it was! So I would like to thank Linda, Terry, Oliver, Nick, Jim and Tracy Maynard for their support. When I played in my first match for South Reading Community Centre Youth Club on the 5th Oct 1959 and I won all three at Woodland 'F' in a 5th division game which we won 4 – 5 (no doubles in those days) I did not think that 52 years later I would still be playing. In fact I have played more if I count cup games and playing up. On the 'C' team match I managed to gain a double as did Nick, and with Jim winning one, the match ended all square. Thank you Tracy for scoring a lot of the games.

At Tilehurst Meths we went down 7 – 3 in quite cold conditions. I hope that when it really gets cold they can put a shilling in the meter because you should not have to play in the cold. On saying that Nick coped well by winning two and Derek came away with a single by beating Nick Barnes.

Birch Copse 'A' went to Polish 'C' and came away with a 4 – 6 victory thanks to a three straight treble from Richard Green and a good double from Mike Williams. I presume the two of them played in the winning doubles but who knows because it was not on the card! Richard was on top form against Curzon 'B', winning all three fairly easily, but this was all in vain because they lost 7 – 3. They then bounced back by winning 3 – 7 at Tidmarsh thanks to a great maximum from Mike which was his first of the season and a good double from reserve Duncan Abbott plus a single from Jes. They also won the doubles. At home to OLOP they went down 4 – 6 with Jes winning two and Richard and Mike both picking up singles.

OLOP 'H' are starting to show some form by winning 1 – 9 at Kingfisher. Alistair and Neil both hit hat tricks with Dave getting a good double. In their next match Neil and Dave both hit hat tricks to give them a 6 – 4 win against Curzon 'C'. At Polish 'C' yet two more trebles from Alistair and Neil

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tilehurst Meths 'B'	10	8	1	1	72	28	17
Polish 'B'	10	7	2	1	61	39	16
OLOP 'H'	10	6	1	3	58	62	13
Curzon Club 'B' *	9	5	2	2	53	37	12
Wokingham 'B'	9	5	1	3	53	37	11
Birch Copse 'A'	10	4	3	3	50	50	11
Curzon Club 'C' *	10	2	4	4	46	54	8
Tidmarsh 'D'	10	3	2	5	41	59	8
Sonning C&P 'D'	10	2	2	6	42	58	6
Kingfisher 'I' *	10	0	3	7	33	67	3
Polish 'C'	10	1	1	8	31	69	3

helped them to a 2 – 8 victory. Macleon de Guzman playing up from 5 won one by beating Stephen. Next came a trip to Birch Copse and they came away with a 4 – 6 victory thanks to a great maximum from Neil and a good double from Dave plus the important doubles.

Sonning 'D' lost at home to leaders Polish 'B' with Mark winning two and Jon gaining a single. They then went down 3 – 7 to Curzon 'B' with Derek and Jon both picking up singles. Jon and Simon had a nice doubles win over Jim and Nick. By losing 7 – 3 at Tilehurst Meths the team suffered their 5th defeat in a row. Jon played really well by beating Richard and Chris. Anthony also beat Chris. Against Kingfisher they ended their losing run by sharing the spoils, with Mark and Derek both winning twice and Jon picking up a single by beating Derek. In their vital game against Curzon 'C' they were without Mark and went down 4 – 6 with Derek, Anthony and reserve Phil Turton all beating Mike.

Tidmarsh 'D' without Terry Hardie were held to a draw by Curzon Club 'C'. Dave Edwards played well by winning two with Dave Smith and Mick Osborne both gaining singles. They also maintained their 100% doubles record. At home to Polish 'C', Terry returned to the side and promptly won all three and with Dave E winning two it was a normal doubles win that gave them a 6 – 4 victory. Again without Terry they not only surrendered their 100% doubles record but they lost 3 – 7 to Birch Copse. Dave E won two and Dave S won one.

Curzon Club 'C' drew with Tidmarsh 'D' thanks to a very good hat trick from Terry Spice and a fine double from Linda King. At OLOP 'H' they went down 6 – 4 with Oliver, Linda and Terry all beating Chris. Terry and Linda also won the doubles. They then had the best result of the season so far by beating Wokingham 7 – 3 thanks to brilliant hat tricks obtained by Linda and Terry plus a nice single from Mike. Very well done to you all. They then gained a good point against their 'B' team with Terry again in top form by winning all three. Linda played her part by beating Jim and also teamed up with Terry to win the doubles three straight. At Polish 'B' Linda played very well by beating Jacek and

DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Nigel Rowland	Tilehurst Meths 'B'	27	24	88.89
Geoff Johnson	Curzon Club 'B' *	18	15	83.33
Tony Eames	Wokingham 'B'	18	15	83.33
Neil Havard	OLOP	27	22	81.48
Richard Green	Birch Copse 'A'	21	17	80.95
Jacek Krzyzanowski	Polish 'B'	30	23	76.67
Terry Spice	Curzon Club 'C' *	30	22	73.33
Darek Kaminski	Polish 'B'	30	22	73.33
Mark Corbett	Sonning C&P 'D'	15	11	73.33
Richard Neville	Wokingham 'B'	18	13	72.22
Richard Lownsbrough	Tilehurst Meths 'B'	24	17	70.83
Michael Houghton	Kingfisher 'I' *	27	19	70.37
Dave Godfrey	OLOP 'H'	21	14	66.67
Nick Lean	Curzon Club 'B' *	21	14	66.67
Terry Hardie	Tidmarsh 'D'	24	15	62.5

Marcin and also teamed up with Terry to win the doubles. For his part Terry also beat Marcin but alas they went down 6 – 4. At home to Sonning they won 6 – 4. Hat Tricks from Linda and Terry did the business which gives them 8 points which is one more point than the whole of last season.

Polish 'C' only just went down to Birch Copse 'A' 4 – 6. Stephen Yon did well to win two. Grant Wheatley and Krys Szczygiel won one each. For Krys it broke his duck. At Tidmarsh they just went down 6 – 4 with Grant winning two and Krys and Stephen both picking up singles. Grant and Krys were the only scorers in their 2 – 8 defeat at home to OLOP 'C'. At Wokingham Stephen won the only game by beating John Beardmore in a 9 – 1 defeat. Against their 'B' team Grant was the only scorer, beating Marcin in a 1 – 9 defeat. I must remind the team they must put a first class stamp on the score card.

Kingfisher are having a bad run with Michael Houghton winning the only game in a 1 – 9 defeat at home to OLOP. At Wokingham they went down 7 – 3. George Dodd won two by beating the two John's. Derek won the other game. At home to Polish 'B' they lost 3 – 7 with Michael winning two by beating Darek and Marcin. George also beat Marcin. Away to Sonning they came away with a very good point. Michael had a great night by winning all three with George winning one and the two of them winning the doubles against Mark and Derek. They then crashed 1 – 9 to Tilehurst with Michael saving the whitewash by beating Nick.

Finally I hope you have a great Christmas and wish you all a HAPPY and HEALTHY 2012.

Cheers

Derek



MICHAEL HOUGHTON

DIVISION FIVE *by Duncan Abbott*

We've now reached the half-way stage of the season and things are starting to take shape.

Pre-season favourites **Tilehurst Methodists 'C'** have now hit a rich vein of form and sit proudly on top of the table. Since the last break they have romped to four convincing wins; 9 - 1 against Tidmarsh 'E', 8 - 2 against Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' and OLOP 'I' and 7 - 3 against Milestone 'B'.



In Bob Winter and Catherine Venning they have easily the most potent spearhead in this division.

Both have played in all four fixtures and had their colours lowered only once – Bob lost to Milestone's Oliver Bonser and Catherine to Sonning Common's Tony House. Catherine has improved massively since her last stint in this division a few years ago and Bob is as steady as ever. Dave Jones has also performed well, winning two against Tidmarsh 'E' and Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' and one against Milestone 'B' and OLOP 'I'. Skipper Mal Collis has not played since October and on the team's current form will find it hard to break into the side.

Early pacesetters **Springfield 'B'** continued their winning ways by triumphing in their re-arranged game with Milestone 'B' 7 - 3, John Burke winning all three, Chris Speight two and a single from captain Paul Jenkins.

In November they commenced with a 6 - 4 win at OLOP 'I', with Chris, Paul and Dan Mortimer all winning two games; and they ended the month in similarly impressive fashion with a 7 - 3 win at Birch Copse 'B', John hitting an impressive treble and doubles for Chris & Paul.

Sandwiched in between however was the team's lowest point of the season to date, an 8 - 2 home defeat to the experienced Post Office 'B' side – a surprise result perhaps but on the other hand the Post Office trio of Ted Cripps, Feliks Ziembra and Mick Grantham are on their day a match for anyone in this division.

Just outside the promotion places are Didier Garçon's **Kingfisher 'K'** who like Springfield 'B' were walloped 8 - 2 at home by Post Office 'B' despite a brace from Nils Wedi, but they recovered with a 7 - 3 win over struggling Tidmarsh 'E' thanks to a superb treble from Gabor Radnoti, a double from Nils and a single from Joaquin Sabater; and a hard fought 6 - 4 win at Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' courtesy of a Jean-Noel Thepaut treble and vital singles from Gabor and Joaquin.

The team of the moment are undoubtedly **Post Office 'B'** who have won their last three matches to pull themselves away from the lower reaches up to fourth place and just outside the promotion places. Their two 8 - 2 victories against promotion chasers Kingfisher 'K' and Springfield 'B'

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tilehurst Meths 'C'	9	7	1	1	65	25	15
Springfield 'B'	9	7	0	2	54	36	14
Kingfisher 'K'	8	6	0	2	42	38	12
Post Office 'B'	9	4	2	3	50	40	10
Milestone 'B'	7	4	1	2	41	29	9
OLOP 'I'	9	3	3	3	46	44	9
Sonning C&P 'E'	8	2	3	3	37	43	7
Birch Copse 'B'	9	2	2	5	39	51	6
Kingfisher 'J'	9	0	3	6	29	61	3
Tidmarsh 'E'	9	0	1	8	27	63	1

were particularly impressive. They were led superbly by captain Ted Cripps who led by example with two maximums, and he was ably supported by doubles from Mick Grantham in both matches, from Linda Davis at Kingfisher 'K' and Feliks Ziembra at Springfield 'B'. Their final match against lowly Tidmarsh 'E' surprisingly proved more of a struggle. They were 4 - 3 down before Feliks, Ted and Mick gained crucial wins to finish with 2 wins apiece in their dramatic 6 - 4 win.

Milestone 'B''s results in the last month have been mixed. Wins have come against struggling sides Birch Copse 'B' (7 - 3) and Kingfisher 'J' (9 - 1); but they have found it tough going against the top sides, losing 7 - 3 against both Springfield 'B' and Tilehurst Methodists 'C'. Their other result was a 5 - 5 draw against mid-table OLOP 'I'.

They have a three man squad and their home fixtures clash with their 'C' team which means there are few opportunities for squad members Gerard Thorp, Oliver Bonser and John Simpson to have a rest. However Oliver probably doesn't want time out right now because he's having a fantastic season. His latest scores include trebles against Birch Copse 'B' and Kingfisher 'I' and doubles against the other three sides mentioned above. Skipper Gerard has scored three doubles and two singles and John impressed with a superb treble against Kingfisher 'J'.

Their doubles form which was their Achilles heel last season has improved a lot, a point Gerard emphasised to me after a convincing win by their pairing against Birch Copse 'B'!!

A youthful **OLOP 'I'** have adapted well to this division since their last gasp promotion from Division 6 last season. However they have recorded only one win in their last five matches, a 6 - 4 success at Birch Copse 'B'. Draws have come against Milestone 'B' and lowly Kingfisher 'J' and defeats against Springfield 'B' (6 - 4) and table toppers Tilehurst Methodists 'C' (8 - 2).

Siad Cole produced a full score at Birch Copse 'B' and was backed by a Phil Saunders double. Siad scored two doubles and a single and Phil two singles in the other four matches. Mac De Guzman scored three doubles in those



SIAD COLE

fixtures but perhaps their biggest concern has been the lean spell suffered by Daniel Thorne who played in all five of these fixtures yet his only success was against Kingfisher 'J's Phil Cunnington. It is to Daniel's credit that he has not dropped himself and has kept plugging away – having seen him play there is nothing wrong with his game that a few wins won't put right.

Draw specialists **Sonning Common & Peppard 'E'** continued the trend with a 5 - 5 draw at Birch Copse 'B', a double from Dave Aust and singles from Tony House and Mike Casserley doing the damage; but then decided to break with tradition by beating Kingfisher 'J' 7 - 3 and then losing 8 - 2 to Tilehurst Methodists 'C' and 6 - 4 to Kingfisher 'K'. Both Dave and Phil Turton hit doubles against both of the Kingfisher sides, Tony did the same at Tilehurst Methodists 'C' and Mike did likewise against Kingfisher 'J'. The ever-green Derek Maltby made a rare appearance against Kingfisher 'K'.

After a respectable opening two months new team **Birch Copse 'B'** have found the last five weeks very tough going. They started and finished the period with draws against Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' and Kingfisher 'J' respectively but sandwiched in between were reverses against Milestone 'B', OLOP 'I' and Springfield 'B', which leaves the team just outside the bottom two places in the table.

Duncan Abbott was unable to play against Sonning Common due to work commitments but his replacement Andras Ardanhazi from the 'C' team put in a sensational performance scoring a superb maximum in his first ever match at this level. Duncan scored doubles in the next three fixtures and finished with a treble at Kingfisher 'J' thanks to a hard fought 13-11 in the fifth set against Andrew Talaga. Skipper Melanie Griffiths' double against Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' secured a share of the spoils and she scored wins against OLOP 'I' and Kingfisher 'J'. Her son Jack has found the going very tough recently with only a win over OLOP 'I's Daniel Thorne to show for his efforts. In the final match he was replaced by Andras who has now signed permanently from the 'C' team and his single at Kingfisher 'J' secured a share of the spoils. Peter Sheppard made a rare appearance at Milestone 'B' and secured a hard-fought win over John Simpson.

Kingfisher 'J' have continued to struggle, losing 7 - 3 to Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' and 9 - 1 to Milestone 'B'; but draws against fellow strugglers Tidmarsh 'E' and Birch Copse 'B' and more impres-

sively at OLOP 'I' have somewhat eased the situation. The return to form of Andrew Talaga has certainly helped and his treble against OLOP 'I' including wins over both Siad Cole and Mac De Guzman has to be one of the performances of the season so far. He also scored maximum points against Tidmarsh 'E', doubles against Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' and Birch Copse 'B' and his win over Gerard Thorp prevented the whitewash against Milestone 'B'. Skipper Derek Crombie scored two against Birch Copse 'B' and hit singles against Sonning Common & OLOP; Helen Sparks hit an impressive double against Tidmarsh 'E', her first points of the season; both Phil Cunnington and Gill Bennett have found the going tough but have the ability to turn things around.

For **Tidmarsh 'E'** the nightmare season continues, with their only point to date being a draw away to Kingfisher 'J', the team directly above them in the table. They did threaten to break their hoodoo in the final match when on-form Steve Andrews inspired them to a 4 - 3 lead, but sadly this proved a false dawn as losses in the final three games consigned them to another defeat to follow on from the reversals at the hands of promotion chasing sides Tilehurst Methodists 'C' and Kingfisher 'K'.

In the Kingfisher 'J' match a double from captain Bob Sunerton and singles from Steve and Dave Humphrey ensured a share of the spoils; at Kingfisher 'K' Mike Bundy top scored with a double and Steve's double at Post Office 'B' was not quite enough to yield a point. John Harland made a rare appearance at Kingfisher 'K' where his only reward was a win over Joaquin Sabater.

Under "**Any other business**", Ted Cripps of Post Office 'B' remarked that Kingfisher 'K' were the nicest team he has met for a long time. Well done Didier, keep up the good work!

In the first half of the season there were no 10 - 0 scorelines – long may that continue!

Thank you to all captains for getting scorecards to me quickly and keeping me informed of postponements etc.

A very happy Christmas and prosperous new year to everyone!!!

DIV 5 LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	P	W	%
Jean-Noel Thepaut	Kingfisher 'K'	12	12	100
John Burke	Springfield 'B'	18	17	94.44
Bob Winter	Tilehurst Meths 'C'	27	24	88.89
Oliver Bonser	Milestone 'B'	21	18	85.71
Catherine Venning	Tilehurst Meths 'C'	21	18	85.71
Mac de Guzman	OLOP 'I'	18	14	77.78
Siad Cole	OLOP 'I'	21	16	76.19
Ted Cripps	Post Office 'B'	18	13	72.22
Duncan Abbott	Birch Copse 'B'	24	17	70.83
Chris Speight	Springfield 'B'	24	16	66.67
Nils Wedi	Kingfisher 'K'	15	10	66.67

Five set thrillers for November & December :

Andras Ardanhazi (Birch Copse 'B') v Mike Casserley (SC&P 'E') 4-11,11-9,9-11,11-9,11-9.

Melanie Griffiths (Birch Copse 'B') v Mike Casserley (SC&P 'E') 11-5,11-4,11-13,6-11,11-9.

Daniel Thorne (OLOP 'I') v Paul Jenkins (Springfield 'B') 11-9,9-11,8-11,11-9,10-12.

John Simpson (Milestone 'B') v Peter Sheppard (Birch Copse 'B') 3-11,9-11,11-6,11-8,10-12.

Helen Sparks (Kingfisher 'J') v Gerard Thorp (Milestone 'B') 4-11,9-11,11-6,11-9,11-13.

Andrew Talaga (Kingfisher 'J') v John Simpson (Milestone 'B') 8-11,11-4,12-10,10-12,10-12.

Joaquin Sabater (Kingfisher 'K') v Bob Sunerton (Tidmarsh 'E') 11-9,11-8,9-11,7-11,14-12.

Nils Wedi (Kingfisher 'K') v Bob Sunerton (Tidmarsh 'E') 6-11,10-12,11-6,11-6,11-9.

Siad Cole (OLOP 'I') v Andrew Talaga (Kingfisher 'J') 11-6,12-10,9-11,9-11,11-13.

Andrew Talaga (Kingfisher 'J') v Duncan Abbott (Birch Copse 'B') 9-11,11-8,6-11,11-8,11-13.

DIVISIONS 5-6 KNOCKOUT CUP 2011-2012

Perhaps the title of this tournament should be changed as we are still in the group stages of a competition whose format is more akin to the UEFA Champions League. Any suggestions for a new name will be gratefully received.

For the first time in the history of RDTTA (I believe) this competition consists entirely of doubles matches. I would certainly appreciate feedback from others but in my opinion it is a lot of fun and adds an extra dimension to competitive table tennis in Reading and the surrounding area. The evenings are shorter than usual but at the same time players generally spend more time at the table!

The group matches are generally up to date but one or two teams are struggling to arrange matches. For those teams who are struggling I am happy to extend the deadline for group matches to 15 January, by which time I will have completed my first stint of organising the Individual Handicap. The group tables' placings at that date will be final and winners will progress to the semi-finals when the competition becomes strictly knock-out.

Duncan Abbott

Pool A

- 1 Post Office 'B' **11**
- 2 OLOP 'J' **5**
- 3 Tidmarsh 'E' **2**

Pool B

- 1 Kingfisher 'K' **16**
- 2 OLOP 'I' **9**
- 3 SC&P 'F' **2**
- 4 Milestone 'C' **0**

Pool C

- 1 SC&P 'E' **9**
- 1 Birch Copse 'B' **9**
- 3 Sonning Sports 'B' **5**
- 4 Springfield 'C' **4**

Pool D

- 1 Milestone 'B' **9**
- 1 Kingfisher 'J' **9**
- 3 Springfield 'D' **6**
- 4 Birch Copse 'C' **3**

Matches w/c 24 October

Tidmarsh E **2** Post Office B **7**
Kingfisher K **7** v OLOP I **2**
SC&P F v Milestone C P/P
SC&P E **9** Springfield C **0**
Sonning Sports B **0** Birch Copse B **9**
Milestone B **9** Kingfisher J **0**
Birch Copse C **3** Springfield D **6**

Matches w/c 21 November

Post Office B **4** OLOP J **5**
OLOP I **7** SC&P F **2**
Milestone C **0** Kingfisher K **9**
Springfield C **4** Sonning Sports B **5**
Birch Copse B v SC&P E P/P
Kingfisher J **9** Birch Copse C **0**
Springfield D v Milestone B

Matches w/c 12 December

OLOP J v Tidmarsh E
Kingfisher K v SC&P F
OLOP I v Milestone C
SC&P E v Sonning Sports B
Springfield C v Birch Copse B
Milestone B v Birch Copse C
Kingfisher J v Springfield D

DIVISION SIX *by Nigel Rowland*

We are now half way through the season with promotion contenders Polish 'D' and Birch Copse 'C' sharing the top spot, Polish 'D' just leading on points difference. Birch Copse 'C' are currently the only team left with a 100% doubles record. My other promotion prediction team, BBC, have recently waned to slip down the table. OLOP 'J' are the 'on form' side and have put together a run of five successive wins to climb from a lower position to mount a title challenge. At the other end of the table Sonning Sports 'B' currently reside as the basement club. Then come five other teams: Springfield 'C', Milestone 'C', Springfield 'D', SC&P 'F' and BBC all within two points of each other.



On an individual basis I should like to congratulate Roy Hull and John Evans who currently reside at the top of the individual table.

Please can I ask you to keep e-mailing scorecards to rowland53@hotmail.com.

Have a great Christmas and New Year.

Polish 'D' jump to top spot on points difference after hammering Sonning Sports 10 - 0, Szymon Szor, Jakub and Szymon Kubinski all getting trebles. Then came a fortunate draw against a weakened Tilehurst Meths 'D', Szymon Szor and Maciej recording wins. A close 6 - 4 win followed against Springfield 'D', Maciej scoring a brilliant treble with support from Szymon Szor, who recorded a double and Grzegorz, a single. Piotr, Jakub and Grzegorz all recorded doubles to defeat Milestone 'C' 7 - 3. Jakub came close to defeating John Evans but just lost out in a five setter. In the top of the table clash they shared the points with Birch Copse 'C'. Grzegorz and Jakub got doubles with Szymon Szor getting an all-important single. Szymon Szor 10/17 including 1 treble, Piotr Wilczak 4/6 including 1 treble, Grzegorz Romek 9/15, Maciej Sianos 7/11 including 1 treble, Alexandr Mikalcivc 6/6 including 2 trebles, Szymon Kubinski 4/8 including 1 treble, Jakub Langowski 11/15. Doubles 4/9.

Birch Copse 'C' slip to second spot on points difference. They started with a 7 - 3 win over Milestone 'C', Roy scoring a treble, double from Andras and a first single win of the season from Trevor. Roy had a tight four set win over John Evans. Then followed a close 6 - 4 win over Springfield 'C', Roy scored an important treble with a double from Andras. The decisive doubles win by Roy and Andras secured both points. The game against SC&P 'F' resulted in a 7 - 3 win, Andras recorded a brilliant treble including a five set win over Danny Dockree with Roy a double. Roy lost his 100% record, losing to Danny Dockree in a five set thriller. Elizabeth stepped up to the mark to win an important single against Ka Lo Chiu. In the top of the table clash

against Polish 'D' the points were shared; Roy got another treble but the hero was Elizabeth who won an important five set game against Szymon Szor. Chris worked hard but could only take a game off Gregorz Romek. Roy and Elizabeth paired up to win the doubles. Roy Hull 26/27 including 8 trebles, Andras Ardanhazi 15/21 including 2 trebles, Chris Dummett 1/9, Elizabeth Hull 3/15, Trevor Stanter 1/9. Doubles 9/9.

OLOP 'J' have moved up to third spot following a run of five consecutive wins, to within 1 point of the joint leaders. They defeated Springfield 'C' 7 - 3, Kamran and Josh scoring trebles and teaming up to win the doubles. Sonia fought hard but left empty handed. Trebles from Kamran, Joshua and new signing Nigel gave them an easy 10 - 0 win over Sonning Sports 'B'. Then followed an 8 - 2 win over SC&P 'F'; Joshua scored a brilliant treble including a good win over Danny Dockree with doubles from Kamran and Nigel. Then followed the 9 - 1 demolition of Springfield 'D', Joshua and Nigel scoring trebles with a double from Kamran. They signed off with an early Christmas present crushing Tilehurst Meths 'D' 9 - 1. Kamran and Joshua getting trebles with a double from Nigel. Joshua Gallen 23/27 including 5 trebles, Kamran Samdani 18/24 including 4 trebles, Lorcan Gallen 1/6, Sonia Gallen 0/12, Nigel Antell 19/12 including 2 trebles. Doubles 8/9.

Tilehurst Methodists 'D' have struggled to maintain their form recently, therefore have lost key matches and points. They defeated Springfield 'D' 7 - 3, Patrick scoring a well earned treble, Chas with a double and Ryan with a hard fought five set win over Alan Gould. Then followed a surprise 2 - 8 loss against SC&P 'F', Patrick getting a double including a five set win over Danny Dockree. Chas just lost out to Danny in a close five setter. Then came a crucial 5 - 5 draw against Polish 'D', Patrick getting a treble, Chas and Patrick winning the doubles and Chas winning a last game

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Polish 'D'	9	6	2	1	58	32	14
Birch Copse 'C'	9	6	2	1	55	35	14
OLOP 'J'	9	6	1	2	60	30	13
Tilehurst Meths 'D'	9	4	2	3	42	48	10
BBC Club	9	3	2	4	44	46	8
Sonning C&P 'F'	8	3	1	4	40	40	7
Springfield 'D'	9	3	1	5	40	50	7
Milestone 'C'	9	2	2	5	40	50	6
Springfield 'C'	9	2	2	5	36	54	6
Sonning Sports 'B'	8	1	1	6	25	55	3

five setter against Szymon Kubinski to snatch a point. They returned to winning ways defeating BBC in a tight game 6 - 4. Patrick won a treble including a tight five setter against John Scott, Tim won a single but just lost out in a five setter against Jack Mitchell. Chas won a crucial single against Gordon Ayres. Then came a complete collapse losing 1 - 9 to 'on form' OLOP 'J', Patrick getting a single win against Nigel Antell. Patrick O'Sullivan 21/27 including 5 trebles, Tim Kendall 7/18 including 1 treble, Chas Dean 7/21, Ryan Arch 2/9. Doubles 5/9.

BBC Caversham continue with their mid table form having achieved one win, two draws and a loss. John S turned in a fine treble with Dave a supporting double to share the points against Sonning Sports 'B'. Dave won the decisive game with a close five set win over Sue Brownhill. Gordon battled hard but walked away empty handed. Then followed another draw against Springfield 'D', Kyrill showing his class on the night recording a treble with John L getting an all important five set win over Dave French. Kyrill and John L teamed up for a close doubles win. Then followed a close 4 - 6 loss to Tilehurst Meths 'D'. Jack and John S each recorded doubles. John S just lost out in five setter against Patrick O'Sullivan. They then returned to winning ways recording a good 7 - 3 win over Milestone 'C' thanks to doubles from Dave, Phil and Reza. Reza just lost out in a five setter against John Evans. Reza Amini 8/9 including 2 trebles, Kyrill Dissanayke 6/9 including 1 treble, John Lancashire 3/9, Phil Peat 3/9, Dave Pearson 8/12, Gordon Ayres 2/12, John Scott 8/9,



JOHN SCOTT OF BBC CLUB

Jack Mitchell 2/9. Doubles 4/9.

SC&P 'F' have shown signs of team improvement since the signing of Ka Lo with two wins and three losses. In a close 4 - 6 loss against Springfield 'D' Ka Lo won two with Steve and Albert winning one apiece. They then stunned Tilehurst Meths 'D', beating them 8 - 2 thanks to a Ka Lo maximum and wins from Michael and Danny. Ka Lo defeated Patrick O'Sullivan in three straight. Next came a 2 - 8 reversal against in-form OLOP 'J', Danny Dockree recording a hard earned double. Their next game was against promotion contenders Birch Copse 'C' losing 3 - 7. Danny got a double including a memorable win against the unbeaten Roy Hull to win 12-10 in the fifth. Michael had a good win against Elizabeth Hull. They bounced back to defeat Milestone 'C' 8 - 2 Danny and Ko Lo picking up trebles with Michael a single. Steve Knott 2/12, Michael Legg 8/19 including 1 treble, Danny Dockree 11/19 including 1 treble, Richard Legg 1/2. Albert Shephard 1/3, Ka Lo Chiu 7/11 including 1 treble. Doubles 3/8.

Springfield 'D' have managed to keep getting points on the board to retain a mid table position. They lost 3 - 7 to Tilehurst Meths 'D', Bob won a double with Derek a single defeating Ryan Arch. Alan fought well but just lost out in five to both Chas Dean and Ryan Arch.

Then followed a close 6 - 4 win against SC&P 'F' thanks to a brilliant treble from David, with important wins from Alan to beat Steve Knott and Tom to beat Albert Shephard. They drew against BBC thanks to doubles from Alan and Bob with a single from David. They fought hard in their 4 - 6 loss against promotion contenders Polish 'D', Alan getting a well earned double with David a single. Tom and Alan paired up with a close doubles win. In-form OLOP 'J' inflicted a crushing 1 - 9 loss, Bob getting the lone single. Alan Gould 11/26, Bob Sibun 11/18, David French 7/14, Peter Greatorex 0/3, Derek Edney 3/11, Tom Berryman 1/6. Doubles 4/9.

Milestone 'C' have faltered recently, recording four losses in succession. Firstly 3 - 7 against promotion contenders Birch Copse 'C'. John recorded a well earned double and managed to take a game off Roy Hull. Pratic fought well for his single against Trevor Stanter. Then came another 3 - 7 loss against promotion contenders Polish 'D', once again John recorded a treble with Santaram and Sean Samashee battling but unable to get on the score sheet. They lost 2 - 8 against SC&P 'F' both Pratik and Santaram getting singles, a first win for Santaram. They lost 3 - 7 to BBC, John recording another hard earned treble. John Evans 22/24 including 6 trebles, Pratik Kothan 12/18 including 2 trebles, Sean

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Alexandre Mikalcivc	Polish 'D'	6	6	100
Roy Hull	Birch Copse 'C'	27	26	96.3
John Evans	Milestone 'C'	24	22	91.67
John Scott	BBC Club	9	8	88.89
Rela Amini	BBC Club	9	8	88.89
Joshua Gallen	OLOP 'J'	27	23	85.19
Nigel Antell	OLOP 'J'	12	10	83.33
Patrick O	Tilehurst Meths 'D'	27	21	77.78
Kamran Samdani	OLOP 'J'	24	18	75
Jakub Langowski	Polish 'D'	15	11	73.33
Andras Ardanhazi	Birch Copse 'C'	21	15	71.43
Colin Jones	Springfield 'C'	27	18	66.67
Pratik Kothan	Milestone 'C'	18	12	66.67
David Pearson	BBC Club	12	8	66.67
Kyrill Dissanayke	BBC Club	9	6	66.67
Piotr Wilczak	Polish 'D'	6	4	66.67

Samashee 2/24, Santram Samashee 1/12. Doubles 3/9.

Springfield 'C' have recorded one win and two losses to remain at the bottom end of the division. They lost 3 - 7 against in-form OLOP 'J', Colin, Nigel and Tim getting one apiece. Colin and Tim fought hard in their other games but just lost out in four or five setters. They then met promotion contenders Birch Copse 'C' just losing out 4 - 6, Colin getting a double including a five set win over Andras Ardanhazi with Ashley and Tim getting singles. Then came a return to winning ways beating Sonning Sports 'B' 6 - 4 in a close game. Colin and Tim recorded doubles with Nigel a single. Key games won were five setters, Colin v Sue Brownhill and Nigel v Dave West. Colin Jones 18/27 including 3 trebles, Tim Carr 4/15, Ashley Jones 4/9, Nigel Outhwaite 6/21, Adam Sheen 1/9. Doubles 3/9.

Sonning Sports 'B' have not been able to build on their famous win over promotion contenders Birch Copse 'B', picking up only one point. They took a 0 - 10 hammering from promotion contenders Polish 'D', though Sue, Dave and Ken fought bravely. They showed good resilience to draw against BBC, Tom getting a double with Dave and Sue getting singles. Tom and Sue paired up for a rare doubles win to ensure a share of the points. A close game resulted in a 4 - 6 loss against Springfield 'C' despite a superb treble from Tom and a hard fought single from Sue to beat Nigel Outhwaite. Next they met in form OLOP 'J' who showed no mercy in inflicting a heavy 0 - 10 loss, Dave, Tom and Ken trying their best. Dave and Tom took the doubles game to five sets. Suzanne Brownhill 4/15, Dave West 4/18, Derek Somerville 3/6, Tom Gordon 9/18 including 1 treble, Ken Stevens 4/15. Doubles 1/8.

John Cunningham Youth Division

by Danny Ricks

So the first half of the season is now over, and the final standings are in. The second half of the season will be played in a different format, with the ten teams involved being split into two leagues of five. So it was up to these young players to try and secure a place in the top five, and a chance to compete for the Division 1 title after Christmas.



DANNY RICKS

Sitting comfortably at the top of the league on a maximum 18 points are the **OLOP Attackers**. This strong team of Philip Saunders, Siad Cole and Mike McAllister have swept aside all competition and have lost only two individual games all season.

The combination of impressive table tennis skill and having a full team every week is surely the reason for their success in this league. In fact, Phil and Siad have played the joint most number of games this season, and sit at the top of the averages on 100% each (18/18). They are being ably supported by the impressive young McAllister who has notched up 16 wins from 18 matches. Their most impressive win of the season remains their incredible 10 - 0 win over SCP Tigers earlier in the year, which effectively secured them top spot. Since the last newsletter, Attackers have won all of their games by a 10 - 0 score line, and they will be the favourites to win the league when the season restarts after Christmas.

Can anyone stop them? Well possibly the **SCP Tigers**. They were the Attackers' closest rivals with 14 points, and will be hoping to push them a little closer when the season restarts. This team of Jonny Abbot, Danny Dockree and Max Sweetman should give anyone a game on their day. Still, it must be said that they haven't been winning their games with quite the ease of their older opponents, tending to win their matches by a smaller margin. Their averages were nonetheless impressive with Jonny finishing on 12 from 15, Danny 14 from 19 and Max on 9 from 13. We again see the benefits of having regular players turning up, as Attackers have managed to leapfrog the OLOP Strikers by virtue of the fact Strikers can only turn up two players. The key fixture for this team was the narrow 6 - 3 win over Strikers, which allowed them to sneak second place. Jonny Abbot took a maximum in a match in which both teams were a player short.

Kingfisher Knights have moved up two places to a very impressive third in the table ahead of Strikers on game difference. They boast the biggest squad of all the teams, and as such always turn up with three players (well done them!). Isaac Farnworth is currently their most consistent player, losing just the once to take 8 wins from 9 matches. David Fifield has only played 5 games, but has managed 4 wins, and is a good prospect for the future. Tom Snape, Alex Leeming and Tim Kenyon are all loitering around the 50% mark, and are contributing well to their team. Gideon Lewis and Joe Barraclough have found it quite hard going in their first taste of league table tennis, but will only improve with experience.

OLOP Strikers were unable to hold on to second spot and have slipped two spots to fourth, (on game difference) despite having

To make a change, Divisional Fixture Secretary Steve Ricks asked his first son Danny (pictured at the recent Berkshire Closed) to write this piece.

two of the stronger players, Gus Thomis their star winning 10 out of 11 played. Chris Johnson was also in impressive form, taking 10 out of 14 and he will only improve over time. They are hindered by having only two consistent players, and will need a good third to compete in the second half. It is this lack of a third player that has cost them third spot, as their game difference falls well behind that of Kingfisher Knights, who consistently turn up with three players.

Finishing fifth, and thereby securing their place in division 1 next year are **OLOP Avengers**. They have scraped in by the skin of their teeth on game difference to pip SCP Raiders, both of whom finished on 8 points. Raiders' late 5 - 4 win over Avengers was not quite enough to force their way into the top five, and they will start next year in the second tier. For Avengers, Jim McAllister and Gareth Bird finished up on 47% and 42% respectively, having each played 19 matches. Adam Wilson, has only played 8 matches, and sits on 50%. I expect this team to struggle in the New Year, as they will be playing all the top teams, and won't be collecting easy points off the weaker teams anymore. They will need to turn out three players consistently, and produce some of their best table tennis, in order to compete in the top division.

Having just missed out on a spot in Division 1, it could be argued **SCP Raiders** will have a more enjoyable second half, with all of their fixtures potentially winnable. Adam Fearnside has been fairly impressive, winning 58% of his matches (12/21). Team mate Liam Ruiz has found the going a little tougher, and has won 20% of matches, against more experienced opposition. They are another team who have suffered without a third player to call on.

Next up taking positions 7, 8 and 9 are three more OLOP teams, all of whom finish up on 6 points. **OLOP Lions** take up seventh place. Kieran Morfill has been their most consistent player, finishing up on 42%. His desire to improve is clear to see, and he is another excellent prospect for the future. Both Austin Ellerton and Haasin Khan have struggled to maintain any true form, and will hope for some easier matches in Division 2, after the New Year.

In Eighth place, come **OLOP Eagles**. James Bridger and Jamie Liu finish on around 25%, a commendable effort when you look at the level of competition. They will undoubtedly get even higher averages in the second half of the season. Jamie Filby is still awaiting his first league win, in what has proved a tough season for the youngster.

Coming in ninth are the **OLOP Trojans**. They have suffered this year, and have often been unable to turn out a full side. Sam Ricks is probably their strongest player, and would be disappointed to lose too many when he plays in division two next year (hee hee). He sits a respectable third in the averages having won seven out of seven played, although he hasn't played against the stronger teams in the division. Sam Liu has done well when he's played, winning 3 out of 7 matches. Saif Maher has struggled thus far, and is yet to record a win in his nine matches.

Bringing up the rear in tenth place are the **Sonning Spartans**. They look a little isolated at the bottom on two points, their one win coming against Lions earlier in the year. However, Richard Lego has been in impressive form winning 10 out of a possible 18 matches. Daniel Jordan has managed 1 win from 15 played, in what has been a tough season for him. The lack of a third player has meant they are at an immediate disadvantage, no matter who they come up against.

As I wrote this Alan Dines was briefly back in hospital. I'm sure everyone will join me in wishing Alan a speedy recovery, and hope he stays home and in good health for Christmas. A big thank you must go out to Wendy Porter and Jade Fudge, who have worked tirelessly over the past few weeks to make the youth division run as smoothly as possible, in the absence of Alan. The youth division is very well run, and is nearly always up and running by 10 pm at the very latest (I joke Wendy, great job!).

That's about everything, so I'll leave it by saying merry Christmas to all players, and we hope to see you back nice and fresh in the New Year. Well done to all players.

Y TABLE							
Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
OLOP Attackers	9	9	0	0	88	2	18
SCP Tigers	9	7	2	0	61	27	14
Kingfisher Knights	9	7	2	0	54	34	12
OLOP Strikers	9	6	3	0	43	33	12
OLOP Avengers	9	4	5	0	39	42	8
SCP Raiders	9	4	5	0	35	50	8
OLOP Lions	9	3	6	0	44	53	6
OLOP Eagles	9	3	6	0	26	55	6
OLOP Trojans	9	3	6	0	23	58	6
SCP Spartans	9	1	8	0	19	66	2

Y AVERAGES			
	P	W	%
S Cole	18	18	100
P Saunders	18	18	100
S Ricks	7	7	100
G Thomis	11	10	91
M McAllister	18	16	89
I Farnworth	9	8	89
D Fifield	5	4	80
J Abbott	15	12	80
D Dockree	19	14	74
C Johnson	14	10	71
M Sweetman	13	9	69

