

READING & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Editor: DEREK WAVELL

December 2012



*Merry Christmas to all!
There's no editorial this month -
but the Key Facts from our Chairman are
on the front page instead.
The player (above) is Krasimir Ivanov.*

Happy Christmas!

Announcements from our Chairman, Nigel Maltby

All players are reminded that the second half of the season starts during the week commencing 7th January.

Individual Handicap Competition

This season's event will take place on **Sunday 6th January 2013 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 28th December, or you can e-mail him at dungerabb@live.co.uk



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 **9/10 Feb (Senior & Veterans)** and **23/24 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 25th January 2013. Please do try to support this worthwhile event. **Entry remains free.**

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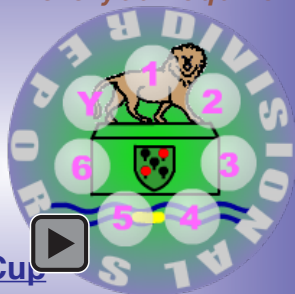
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THE BERKSHIRE CLOSED

by Derek Wavell

The Berkshire closed championships were held over the weekend on 24th & 25th November 2012 at the Kingfisher club. This season's championships attracted a larger entry than in some previous seasons and in the over 40s category the largest entry in the last decade. Entries were received from all the county's member leagues and attracted a number of newer players in the area.



As usual the brilliant lighting and décor of Kingfisher Club complemented the skills of players, guaranteeing some dramatic photographs - and most of the illustrations in this Newsletter's divisional reports were taken at this event.

After two days of struggles, some familiar magicians of the art rose to the top, and were there to take the prizes. **Daniel Moses** in particular. In the past he has particularly been known for his deep defence - but increasingly on this

occasion it was Daniel's full-arm smashes that pulverised the opposition. See him (above) receiving the Men's Doubles prize with **Steve Ricks**, awarded by RCBTTA Chairman **John Morris**.

But Daniel's advance was unexpectedly

THE WINNERS

Men's Singles	Winner	Daniel Moses	Runner up	Hari Gehlot
Ladies Singles	Winner	Wendy Porter	Runner up	Ka Lo Chiu
Veterans Singles	Winner	Hari Gehlot	Runner up	Ian Cole
Graded Singles	Winner	Lee Calcutt	Runner up	Sam Liu
Mixed Doubles	Winners	Hari Gehlot & Clare Woodham	Runners up	Daniel Moses & Wendy Porter
Men's Doubles	Winners	Steve Ricks & Daniel Moses	Runners up	Graham Outrim & Clive Banham
Ladies Doubles	Winners	Sharon Mitchell & Wendy Porter	Runners up	Gwynneth Penny & Clare Woodham
Under 21	Winner	Bradley King	Runner up	Daniel Moses



GRAHAM OUTRIM AND SHARON MITCHELL IN THE MIXED DOUBLES

checked when he was defeated in the Under 21 final by OLOP club mate Bradley King, in a sustained display of athleticism.

After so many events, was exhaustion taking its toll on Daniel? It appeared not, because he then went on to vanquish **Hari Gehlot** for the Men's Singles title.

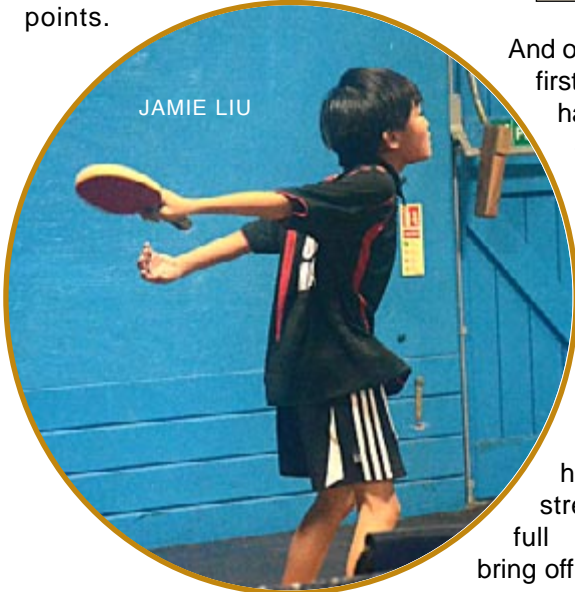


BRADLEY KING

The right hand photo shows a battle of veterans' skills - **Clive Banham** versus **Allan Bruton**. But the veterans did not have the floor to themselves, and cropping up everywhere were the tiny Liu brothers. 13-year-old **Sam Liu** managed to battle through to the final of the Graded Singles but was eventually defeated by **Lee Calcutt** - who pulled out a few special services to win the last couple of points.



CLIVE BANHAM vs ALLAN BRUTON



And one of Clive's first opponents had been the 8-year-old **Jamie Liu**, who kept unbelievably winning more and more points, even when he had to stretch to his full height to bring off a smash.



VETERANS CHAMPION HARI GEHLOT RECEIVES HIS CUP

John Freeman, who is President of the Royal County of Berkshire Table Tennis Association, is still absent due to sickness, and so his usual duty of presenting cups to the winners was taken over by John Morris, the Chairman of the Association.



MEN'S DOUBLES: DANIEL MOSES, STEVE RICKS, IAN BANHAM AND GRAHAM OUTRIM

The March of the High Veterans by Derek Wavell

'High Veterans' is my phrase for the over-80s in table tennis. Officially the oldest category is 'senior veterans', which refers to the over-60s. But now high veterans seem to be proliferating like rabbits.

Bob Woodmansee started me off on this tack, by writing that his friend Dave West had now reached 80 - and was he the last 80-year-old still playing? Well, no. I had done an article in 2008 about three other 80-year-olds at that time - Gordon Ayres, Dave Jones and Taffy Thomas - and it turns out that all three are still playing. And at least two more current players have seen 80 since then - Mike Dorrington and John Harland. Here are some details about these six remarkable men, in whose footsteps we must certainly try to follow!



DAVE WEST

Dave West, of Sonning Sports 'B', was 80 in September. Dave first played in the Reading League in 1948 - and represented Robert Cort before joining his present club more than 20 years ago.

He has played in as many as 9 matches so far this season, in Division Six.

Mike Dorrington, who is now 81, plays for Kingfisher 'F' in Division Two. He has played since 1946 - and with long pimples on both sides ever since those came out. He is always saying he is too old for table tennis - but never quits. One year he had a heart attack, and when he came home from hospital, could only crawl upstairs on hands and knees. But the lure of the Kingfisher Grand Prix had him on his feet, and soon the sport cured him.

In 2010 he was the winner of the Senior Veteran Singles at the Reading Closed tournament. In December 2012 he was again in

hospital with heart failure - but is now out, and will soon be at work on a new active cure!



JOHN HARLAND

John Harland is 80 years old and plays for Tidmarsh 'E' in Division Five. In fact he helped found Tidmarsh TT club in 1954, and he has played as high as Div 3. He has a reputation as a resourceful and skillful exponent of the game, who never gives up. In fact his average is 100% at the moment - though that is only on the strength of one match. With 8 players registered for the team, there is a lack of matches to go round!

Gordon Ayres is now 84 and plays for the BBC Club in Division 6. He started off with the Woodlands Club in Tilehurst, in about 1944 according to his son Ian who now plays in Division 3 for Sonning Common and Peppard.

Gordon played for a number of clubs until his long-time employer the BBC started up a team in the early 90s and he joined that.

At Woodlands he played as high as division three and for other clubs mostly division 4, 5 and then 6. For the BBC he regularly played in the Maidenhead league too. In the past he has served as divisional secretary, and has had positions on club committees.

Dave Jones is another 84-year-old, who now plays for Tilehurst Methodists 'D' in Division Six.

He too played for Woodlands in 1965, and progressed up to Division One.. Later he played for NIRD before joining Tilehurst Meths in about 2000.

Like Gordon Ayres, he passed on his enthusiasm for table tennis to another generation. All his four daughter took up the sport - Elaine, Alison, Deborah and Carole. Carole (Chard) until recently played for Kingfisher in Division Two.

In 1989-90, Dave won the John Freeman trophy for a 100% average throughout the season.

Colin 'Taffy' Thomas is 84 too. He has mostly played in the lower divisions at Pangbourne WMC; however, at present that club only has a team in Division 3 so, though he is a registered player for them, he plays only in the Team Handicap. However, he is described as a 'mainstay' player of the club, coming along to all home games and adding greatly to the cheery atmosphere.

Taffy only took up the game in 1963, playing originally for Purley, and then Kentwood and Tidmarsh before Pangbourne WMC 'B' in Division 5. He is a great ambassador for the sport.



GORDON AYRES



DAVE JONES



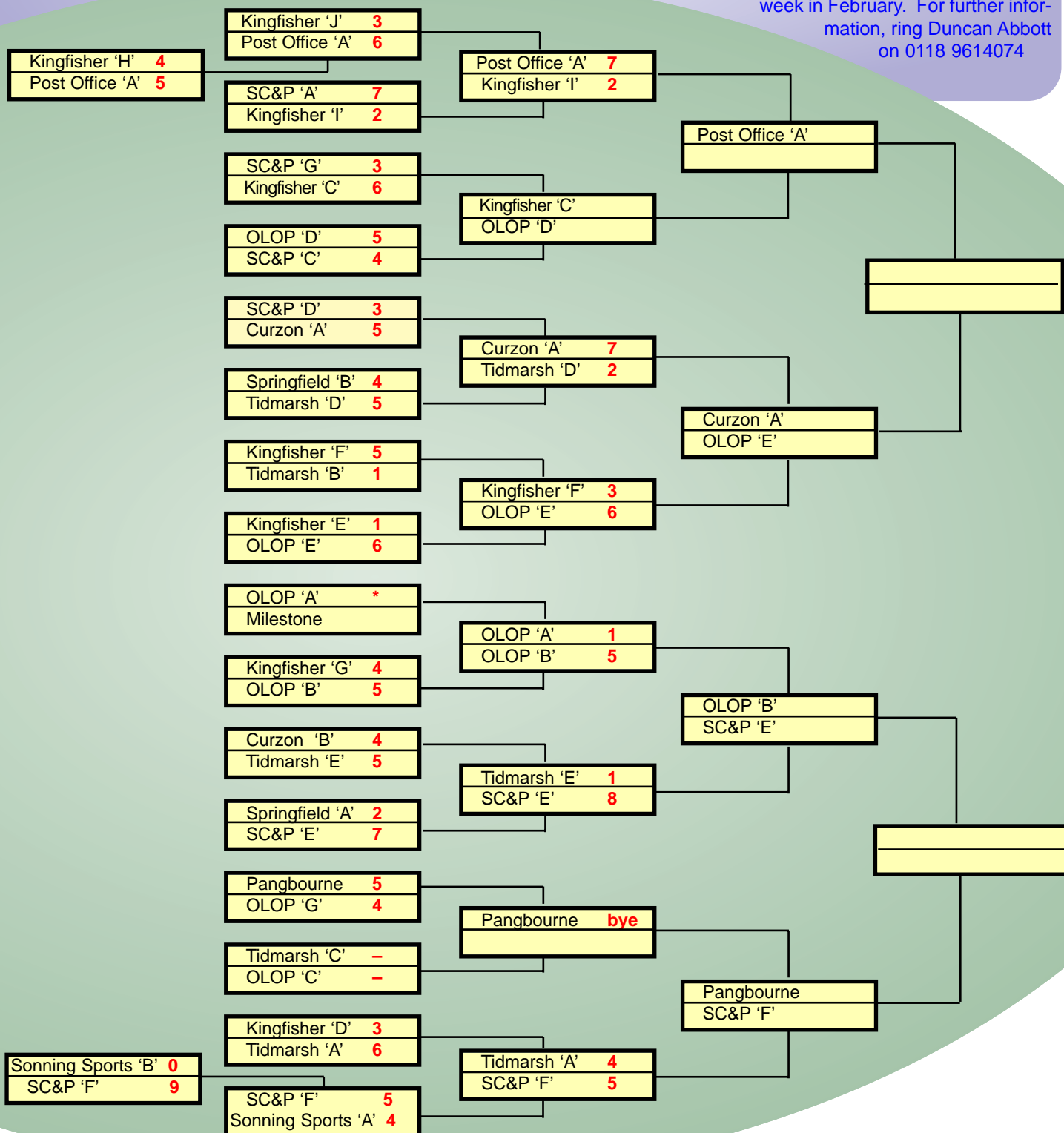
TAFFY THOMAS

Team Handicap Competition 2012-13

organised by Duncan Abbott

The Team Handicap is a knockout competition open to all teams in the Reading & District League. All players are given handicaps by the Handicap Committee based on their recent results. In a Team Handicap match the three players from one team play all players from the other team, 21-up, taking into account the relevant handicaps. There is no doubles contest.

Latest results are now on the new web site. Fourth round matches are to be played during the cup week in February. For further information, ring Duncan Abbott on 0118 9614074



DIVISION ONE *by Malcolm Gregory*

Welcome to my second report and may I take this opportunity to say Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to my reader. If there does happen to be more than one reader out there, then seasonal greetings to you all as well!

Let me start with an interesting fact – the gestation period of the Indian palm squirrel is 34 days which by some strange quirk of coincidence, on average, happens to be roughly the same amount of time it takes for Daniel Moses to send me a scorecard!

And here's a bit of insight into the world of Division One table tennis. Our team was on the end of a damn good thrashing from one of the Kingfisher teams. Having finished by 10.30 pm, me and Keefy decided to pop down the pub for a swift half. The oppos declined an invitation to join us. Two of them, quite reasonably, said they had work the next day and needed to get back. But the third person declined because he was going down to Kingfisher **for a knock up!!** So there you have it – this is the kind of dedication needed if you want to get good (and believe me, the person in question is very good indeed)!!

Anyway enough of that; the league table is telling an interesting story: We have 3 teams at the top looking to win the title. We have 4 teams at the bottom looking to avoid the drop. I have to say the gulf in standard between top and bottom from my perspective is very wide.

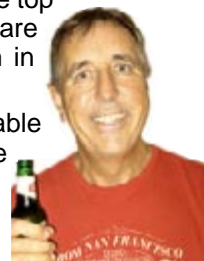
Since the last report, **Kingfisher 'A'** suffered their first loss 4 – 6 at home to Polish. This only goes to prove if Martin Adams was to play more regularly, Polish would be in con-



DANIEL MOSES

tention for the title. The crunch game of this particular evening was a glittering encounter between Martin and Hari Gehlot, which effectively decided the match. Martin ran out a 11-4 5-11 11-13 11-9 11-9 winner. A good doubles win for Polish and great backup from Steve Dobbins and Graham Diplock gave Polish the win, which keeps the top of the table looking interesting!! Polish are clearly well capable of upsetting any team in the division if Martin plays.

At the time of writing, **OLOP 'A'** top the table by 2 points but they have played one more game than second-placed Kingfisher. OLOP's only loss this season was at the hands of Kingfisher 'A' where once again, the stand-out game of the evening involved Mr Hari Gehlot against Daniel Moses. Daniel came back from 2 games down and did just enough to run out the winner in another 5 game thriller: 5-11, 12-14, 11-3, 13-11, 12-10. However Mike Childs was the only other winner for OLOP that evening as Hari and Elson Costa with 2 sets apiece and Mark Banks chipping in with one plus a good doubles win, saw Kingfisher home 6 - 4. Incidentally, having



HARI GEHLOT OF KINGFISHER 'A'

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
OLOP 'A'	11	10	0	1	88	22	20
Kingfisher 'A'	10	9	0	1	82	18	18
Tidmarsh 'A'	11	8	0	3	75	35	16
OLOP 'B'	11	6	2	3	62	48	14
Polish 'A'	11	6	0	5	63	47	12
Reading YMCA	11	5	2	4	50	60	12
OLOP 'C'	11	5	1	5	54	56	11
Kingfisher 'C'	10	3	1	6	41	59	7
SC&P 'B'	11	3	0	8	30	80	6
SC&P 'A'	10	0	1	9	24	76	1
Kingfisher 'B'	11	0	1	10	21	89	1



ELSON COSTA

done a very thorough and detailed analysis of how many games Daniel Moses has won by an 11-9 scoreline or "more" (e.g. 12-10, 13-11 etc) I would now like to announce the results: Well, it's quite a lot.

Tidmarsh are lurking in 3rd place and are another team which is capable of beating the best. In Sander De Riemer they have found not only a very talented ping pong player but also a very pleasant gentleman from whom it is a pleasure to receive a damn good thrashing. And I'm speaking from personal experience here. Having lost to both Kingfisher 'A' and Polish earlier in the season, Tidmarsh's most recent encounter with one of the top teams was a loss to OLOP 'A' 7 - 3. Top billing in this match was the contest between Sander and Daniel Moses which Daniel won 11-7, 14-12, 11-13, 6-11, 12-10. Tidmarsh have good strength in depth. Peter Matthews and John Barclay are both featuring strongly in the averages and it seems as though the team just needs to win a few more of the close games and they'll be right up there. Their losses to Kingfisher 'A' and Polish were both 6 - 4. Like I said, they are capable of upsetting the teams at the top. Watch this space.

OLOP 'B' currently head the mid table section of Division 1. A recent result shows that they are good value for this position: a 7 - 3 victory over an - albeit Adamsless - Polish. Krasi Ivanov was the star of this show with a brilliant 3-straight maximum against a slightly weaker Polish team consisting of Steve Dobbins, Nicky Heaps and Andy Yon. Krasi received good support from his team mates Bradley King (2) and John Millward. A four set doubles win completed a good looking team performance.

Polish have featured quite strongly in this report so far. They have a rather large squad (6 players!!) and should they find a way of playing suitably strong teams in their remaining fixtures, they could be unbeaten in the second half. Obviously this is strongly dependent on the availability of a certain Mr. Adams. With the likes of Steve Dobbins, Nicky Heaps and Richard Rosinski to call upon they definitely have an opportunity to climb up the table but it's probably too late for them to make a title challenge.

YMCA sit comfortably in mid table. A recent 9 - 1 defeat at the hands of OLOP 'A' saw our favourite old veteran

Dave Streak beat Ian Cole 3 straight to keep his team from a whitewash. And by all accounts, Dave achieved this even though he is suffering from a hernia! Well done Dave old boy!! Apparently (so Pete Bradley tells me) Dave got his hernia laughing at Keith Winters' haircut. When I saw Keith, I nearly got one as well!! But seriously, after a rather inauspicious start to the season the YMCA result against Polish made me sit up and take notice. Keith went out there and beat Richard Rosinski, Steve Dobbins and Graham Diplock to record a fabulous maximum and help his team to a fine 6 - 4 victory which included 2 wins for Neil Hurford and a good doubles win for Keith and Neil over Graham and Steve.

Daniel McTiernan is having a tidy season with **OLOP 'C'**. In their narrow 6 - 4 defeat to Tidmarsh he scored a good double over John Barclay and Antony Baker as did the other Danny - of the Ricks variety. Both Danny's succumbed to the exotic Sander De Riemer which is nothing to be ashamed of. The big surprise with this team for me is the continued struggle which Neil Bird seems to be having after such a fantastic season in division two last year when he swept aside all before him. He's still too good for yours truly however, as are most people in this division!! The

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	PL	W	%
M.Adams	Polish 'A'	18	18	100.00
D.Moses	OLOP 'A'	33	32	96.97
S.De Riemer	Tidmarsh 'A'	27	24	88.89
H.Gehlot	Kingfisher 'A'	24	21	87.50
S.Williams	Kingfisher 'A'	18	15	83.33
K.Ivanov	OLOP 'B'	18	15	83.33
P.Matthews	Tidmarsh 'A'	18	15	83.33
E.Costa	Kingfisher 'A'	15	12	80.00
D.McTiernan	OLOP 'C'	24	19	79.17
M.Childs	OLOP 'A'	33	26	78.79
M.Banks	Kingfisher 'A'	18	14	77.78
S.Dobbins	Polish 'A'	21	16	76.19
N.Heaps	Polish 'A'	12	9	75.00

highlight of their game with Tidmarsh was Danny Ricks's defeat to Sander in 5 games: 6-11, 11-9, 6-11, 11-8, 5-11. Nearly made a name for yourself there Danny!

And so to my personal favourite team - good old **Kingfisher 'C'**. Niall is another player who I always



TIDMARSH 'A' - DUNCAN GROVES, PETER MATTHEWS AND SANDER DE RIEMER

believed belonged in Division One. Fantastically talented but with a Mosesesque approach to the game in that he seems to want to do just enough to win games. Maybe he just needed a period of adjustment as from recent results he seems to be finding his level. He's still too good for yours truly however, as are most people in this division!! In the crunch game with their 'B' Team, Niall secured a good maximum to help secure a vital 6 - 4 victory in which he had good support from Andrew Parker with a brace and Lisa with one. Lisa is having a good season and I was particularly impressed with her win over the vastly experienced Nicky Heaps of Polish. It was a 4-game win 11-5, 8-11, 11-6, 11-7 and shows the progress Lisa is making with her game. Andrew – I understand you may be the same person who played golf at Mapledurham? If so, greetings mate, I didn't know you played ping pong! If you're as good at ping as you are at golf, you'll be too good for yours truly, as are most people in this division!!

And so to my beautiful team **Sonning Common and Peppard 'B'**. I have a rule that if I score a maxi, I can have a large single malt when I get home. I never thought my bottle of Glen turret would get touched this year but low and behold, we only went and beat our 'A' team 6 - 4 and my maxi included wins against both Jason Roberts and Simon Berry which I was very pleased about. It was "business as usual" in our game against Kingfisher 'B'. Keith only lost one game all night and walked away with a lovely maxi which gives us a bit of a "cushion" in respect of our league position. The crucial game in this match was Brian Meheux's defeat of Roger Woolven-Allen. A 5 game thriller in which it has to be said the standard of play was not the best I have ever seen but Brian emerged victorious in a very gutsy display. For me this encounter typified what our sport is all about – two good guys going at it hammer and tongs, neither playing particularly well but both giving 100% for their teams. (It does annoy me when commentators say "such and such gave 110%" as I can never understand how this is possible!!).

Our 'A' team is clearly struggling this year. Their single point was gained, predictably in view of their predicament, against Kingfisher 'B'. Jason Roberts starred with a good maximum against Richard Fifield, Geoff Civil and then a 5-game thriller against the ever improving Daniel Grover. Jason won this one 2-11, 12-10, 14-12, 9-11, 11-2. Every score line tells a story and this one tells me that Daniel got off to one of his flying starts, looping everything in sight but gradually the more experienced Roberts exerted his authority and romped home in the 5th. If SC&P 'A' are to survive, Jason will need better support from



IAN COLE

this point. Daniel Grover, who for my money is their most talented player, drew a blank in this match. This may give us a clue as to how they could fare in the second half: if Daniel can achieve more consistency and the others can continue to pick up odd games, they could gain some more points and maybe even claw their way to safety. Just like Reading FC!!

In summary, this is an interesting league table. Team selections will have a massive say in who wins the title. And whilst the two teams at the bottom look doomed, the teams above them are beatable and I wouldn't be surprised to see some movement.



DANNY RICKS

Well, that's all folks – I have to go as I've got to re-set my password. For security I'm told its best to use eight characters so I think I'll set it as snow white and the seven dwarfs just to be safe.

DIVISION TWO

by Barry Carter

Welcome to the second newsletter of the 2012/2013 and the last one of 2012. I am really chuffed with my predictions so far because as soon as I predicted Kingfisher 'D' and Tidmarsh 'C' to be promoted they promptly lost three games and one game respectively. Tidmarsh 'C' have remained top and are joined by perennial pace-setters Curzon Club 'A', and when the two met in week 12 it has to be my highlight of not just this season but many a season.. Kingfisher 'D' have continued to be in the hunt but the biggest movers have been Tidmarsh 'B' who now sit only four points off a promotion spot (A possible Tidmarsh double promotion and three teams in division one is a possibility). At the bottom it's currently a six way bet with only three points separating the bottom six.

Week 7 :

Curzon Club 'A' survived a comeback against Kingfisher 'D', at one stage they led 4 - 0 through wins by John Willcocks 2 twice and John Walker and Jon Willis but the fightback was started with an Ivor Hardman 11-7, 13-11, 11-5 win over Jon Willis and continued with wins for Colin Dyke over John Walker and then a Ivor and Colin doubles victory. The points were finally made secure as John Willcocks overcame Colin Dyke 8-11, 11-7, 11-8, 12-14, 11-9. Kingfisher

'F's slide down the table has come as fast as Wolves down the championship as they were well beaten at home, 9 - 1 by Sonning Common & Peppard 'C'. Leo Long was the only winner for them as he beat Matt Stone 11-9, 12-10, 13-11.

Martyn Fenner & Jeremy Willis were the maximum winners for Sonning with wins over Steve Woolnough, Mike Dorrington and young Leo. Tidmarsh 'B' continued their rise up the table

with an emphatic 9 - 1 win over Kingfisher 'E'. Lee Calcutt won all three and he was well supported by Mike Aistrop and François Durand who won two each. The only winner on the night for Kingfisher came courtesy of a Peter Bennett 11-7, 7-



LEE CALCUTT

11, 13-11, 6-11, 11-7 win over François.

Week 8 :

Tidmarsh 'C' got the better of Tidmarsh 'B' in the first derby match of the season, thankfully there wasn't a big crowd in to cause any trouble and throw the odd coin about. Lee Calcutt won all three for the 'B' team and that was about as good as it got for them. Steve Calladine had me on the ropes (and there I was saying there was no trouble) but I managed to escape to record a 11-4, 7-11, 11-3, 5-11, 11-4 win. Steve Ricks ran Lee really close as did Duncan Groves as they both lost in five. Steve, Duncan and I all won two and Steve & Duncan teamed up to win the doubles. Post Office 'A' had a brief encounter with Kingfisher 'F' where a muck up meant that only Steve Woolnough turned up. Well done to Steve for agreeing to play the match and he was rewarded with an 11-6, 11-8, 11-5 win over Simon Hopkins. OLOP 'D' won their first match of the season at Kingfisher 'E' with three from Dan West, two from Sami Almagbrok and a Pu Zhang 11-4, 12-10, 5-11, 5-11, 11-5 win over Dave Gostelow. Earlier Allan Bruton had beaten both Pu and Sami relatively easy. Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' inflicted a surprise defeat upon my tip for promotion as they won 6 - 4 against Kingfisher 'D'. Colin Dyke had given Kingfisher a 1 - 0 lead with a fine 13 -15, 11-6, 9-11, 11-6, 11-7 win over Jeremy Willis and they were never behind until Tim Raby defeated Colin to give Sonning a 5 - 4 lead and the points were wrapped up with a Jeremy Willis win over Sharon Mitchell. Trevor Organ made his way home with a solitary single win over Tim, whilst Matt Stone went home with two for Sonning.



SAM RICKS - PLAYING BRADLEY KING IN A TOURNAMENT

Week 9 :

OLOP 'D's first win of the season was soon followed by their second as they blew away previously unbeaten Tidmarsh 'C'. Sami Almbrok led the way with three and there were two each from Dan West and Pu Zhang. In a tightly fought match that saw five of the games go to a decider, OLOP 'D' raced into a 5 - 0 lead but were pegged back to 5 - 3 before they finally won the last two games to clinch a 6 - 4 victory. Kingfisher 'D' finally got back to winning ways after the curse of Barry had struck, they won 8 - 2 against Post Office 'A'. Sharon Mitchell returned with her first division two maximum in a long time and she also teamed up with Ivor to win the doubles. Sharon's treble came against John Simmonds, George White and Simon Hopkins. Trevor Organ and Ivor both won two each. John Simmonds enjoyed a 11-8, 6-11, 11-7, 6-11, 11-6 win over Ivor and George defeated Trevor 11-9, 11-6, 11-7. Wokingham 'A' entertained Kingfisher 'E' but despite leading 1 - 0, 2 - 1 and 3 - 2 they slipped to a 4 - 6 defeat. Brian Chinneck had an impressive win over Phil Mead and also beat Dave Gostelow but suffered defeat against John Morris. Jim Spencer also beat Dave as did Daryl Griffiths. John Morris won all three...just as it needed an 11-9 decider against Brian and 11-5 decider against Jim. Curzon looked to have the points sowed up and therefore take advantage of the slip up by Tidmarsh 'C' as they led 5 - 3 against Tidmarsh 'B' but were thwarted as Mike Aistrop defeated Mick Maynard 11-5, 13-11, 7-11, 11-5 and then Lee Calcutt completed his maximum with an 11-7, 11-7, 8-11, 12-10 win over John Willcocks to snatch a 5 - 5 draw. Earlier in the match Lee had also defeated Mick and Jon Willis. John Willcocks and John Willis both won two and Mick Maynard one as he overcame Dave Wise.

Week 10 :

Curzon Club kept their unbeaten record going as they won 8 - 2 against OLOP 'D', therefore not making the same mistake that Tidmarsh 'C' had made the week before. John Willcocks and Jon Willis both won three and John Walker one to put them top. The game was a very close affair with four of the sets going to five games and Curzon claiming them all. Kingfisher 'F' moved off the bottom and subsequently dumped Wokingham 'A' there after their 8 - 2 win over them. It didn't help the Wokingham cause to have to play someone up from division 4 and Jim Spencer going down with the flu. Ashish Bahuguna won both of his

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tidmarsh 'C'	10	8	1	1	64	36	17
Curzon 'A'	10	6	3	1	59	41	15
Kingfisher 'D'	9	6	0	3	53	37	12
Tidmarsh 'B'	9	4	3	2	52	38	11
OLOP 'D'	8	4	0	4	36	44	8
Post Office 'A'	9	3	1	5	42	48	7
Kingfisher 'E'	10	3	1	6	44	56	7
SC&P 'C'	10	2	2	6	44	56	6
Kingfisher 'F'	9	2	1	6	33	57	5
Wokingham 'A'	8	1	2	5	33	47	4



CAROL CHIU

games as did Leo Long but Michael Houghton lost to Brian Chinneck in five. Tidmarsh 'B's promotion push gathered momentum with a 7 - 3 win over Sonning Common & Peppard 'C'. It was welcome back to Chris Webb in his first outing of the season and it was if he had never been away as he won two against Tim Raby and Carol Chiu. Lee got his customary maximum and Mike won two as well. Jeremy Willis won two and narrowly lost to Lee 11-9 in the decider. Tidmarsh 'C' returned to winning ways with a good 8 - 2 win over Kingfisher 'E'. It looked dicey at one stage but Tidmarsh reeled off the last 6 sets to claim the points. I managed to go home to Tilehurst with my first maximum of the season, whilst Andy went home with his fifth! Steve Ricks did well to beat Dave Gostelow.

Week 11 :

Kingfisher 'D' maintained their third position as they over-



PETER BENNETT

came Kingfisher 'F' in the derby match. Colin Dyke had a fine 10-12, 11-5, 11-8, 7-11, 11-9 win over Leo on his way to a treble whilst Ivor and Sharon both won two each. Leo was the sole winner for Kingfisher on the evening with the two wins over Ivor and Sharon. Curzon Club 'A' kept up the pressure on leaders Tidmarsh 'C' with a 7 - 3 win over Kingfisher 'E'. Another fine maximum by John Willcocks was achieved with wins over Phil Mead 11-6, 11-5, 9-11, 5-11, 11-7; Allan Bruton 11-7, 9-11, 11-8, 12-10 and Dave Gostelow 11-3, 11-4, 11-6. Jon Willis won two; his only defeat was against Phil Mead whilst Mick won one of his three matches that went to five. Tidmarsh 'B' moved into their highest position of the season as they overcame Post Office 'A' 8 - 2 thanks to yet another Lee Calcutt maximum and two each from Dave Wise and François Durand. George White and John Simmonds were the winners for Post Office 'A'. In the final match of the week we travelled to Wokingham for the first time at their new venue, very impressive setup. I'll look forward to playing on the square next season! Wokingham got off to a flyer and it looked like we could lose to the 'bottom club' for the second time as they led 2 - 0 and 3 - 1 but another Andy Stephens tre-



TREVOR ORGAN

Week 12 :

I can only start with one match this week and that was the top of the table clash between Tidmarsh 'C' and Curzon Club 'A'. As I have already mentioned this has to be one of the best matches I have ever been involved in apart from the ridiculously late finish of 12:05 on Tuesday morning. The standard, sportsmanship, tension and excitement was there in abundance. The tone was set in the first set of the evening as Peter Galea and Mick Maynard battled until Peter finally ran out a 14-12, 20-18, 7-11, 10-12, 11-7 winner. I narrowly lost to John Willcocks again in five. Andy Stephens restored our lead with a win over Jon Willis (one of only three not to go to five!) I defeated Mick Maynard 5-11, 11-6, 11-13, 11-8, 11-6 but Jon responded with a 11-9, 7-11, 9-11, 11-9, 11-7 win over Peter. Andy then played John Willcocks and made it 4 - 2 with a 13-11, 9-11, 11-6, 5-11, 14-12 win and we had a chance to clinch a point as Andy and I were 1 - 0 and 10-4 up in the doubles but the two John's (well one Jon and a John) came back to win 8-11, 12-10, 13-11, 8-11,

11-9. Jon made it 4 - 4 with a comfortable win over me before Andy made it 5 - 4 with a win over Mick. It was left to the last game of the evening to decide the match. John Willcocks won the first two 11-7, 11-8 but back came Peter to win the next two 14-12 and 11-8 and as the clock turned midnight (which meant it was Peter's birthday... I won't say how old) he got his birthday present from the table tennis guru as he won courtesy of a net, edge and a rather dodgy bounce to win 11-6 and clinch a 6 - 4 win for us. (Apologies for the rather self-indulgent report). OLOP 'D' enhanced their outside promotion hopes with a comfortable 7 - 3 win over Post Office 'A'. OLOP 'D' raced into a 5 - 1 lead thanks to two each from Sami Almbrok and Dan West. The only Post Office win in the first six came courtesy of a John Simmonds 11-8, 11-6, 11-5 victory against Chris West. Dan West went on to complete his maximum with a 15-13, 11-9, 12-10 win against John Simmonds. Simon Hopkins had a really good win over Sami thanks to a 6-11, 11-7, 3-11, 13-11, 11-4 scoreline whilst John and Simon also won the doubles. The other match of the week saw Kingfisher 'E' and Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' share the points in a 5 - 5 draw. Kingfisher only led once at 1 - 0 through a Phil Mead win over Carol Chiu but they battled back from 1 - 2, 2 - 3, 3 - 4 and 4 - 5 to win a point thanks to Phil's three straight victory over Jeremy Willis.

Well that's it from me for 2012, I know I said there would be a bumper stats edition at Christmas but sorry it will have to be in the next newsletter (altogether now...). I'd like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all best wishes for 2013.

LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	P	W	%
L.Calcutt	Tidmarsh 'B'	27	26	96.30
A.Stephens	Tidmarsh 'C'	21	20	95.24
P.Mead	Kingfisher 'E'	18	15	83.33
M.Fenner	SC&P 'C'	6	5	83.33
J.Willcocks	Curzon 'A'	27	22	81.48
J.Morris	Kingfisher 'E'	9	7	77.78
L.Long	Kingfisher 'F'	17	13	76.47
I.Hardman	Kingfisher 'D'	20	15	75.00
J.Willis	SC&P 'C'	18	13	72.22
J.Willis	Curzon 'A'	27	18	66.67
S.Almbrok	OLOP 'D'	21	14	66.67
P.Galea	Tidmarsh 'C'	9	6	66.67
K.Chau	SC&P 'C'	9	6	66.67
D.Groves	Tidmarsh 'C'	6	4	66.6

DIVISION THREE *by Nick Lean*

We are now past the half-way point of the season and the Division 3 table is already showing several teams settling into a position that I believe they will occupy for a further 3 months.

There follows a summary of the current status of all teams in this Division, but remember there are full details of all fixtures, results and match scorecards on the new RDTTA website.

Top of the tree are **Milestone 'A'** who have beaten all comers to complete the first half of the season with a 100% record. They started the second half with a 9 - 1 win at Tilehurst Meths 'B' and in doing so broke their own Club record with a marvellous run of 10 wins from 10 matches. The critical fixture for them was their last match of the first half, against unbeaten Polish 'B'. For this clash of the titans Polish fielded their strongest team, but left licking their wounds having suffered their first defeat of the season. John Tucker started the match by removing Jacek Borysiuk's 100% record and went on to win all three. Tucker's heavy backspin serves, sound defence and counter top-spins were too much for the attacking left hander. Robin Benwell then beat Jacek Krzyzanowski in 3 straight and also went on to defeat the previously unbeaten Borysiuk to record his own maximum. John Crosfield also beat Darek Kaminski over five games to put Milestone 3 - 0 up on the way to an impressive 7 - 3 win.

That result puts Milestone in an almost unassailable position as far as promotion is concerned, and until they face Polish again it seems a fair bet they will extend their run for several more matches, especially as they have their captain waiting in the wings who must be itching to play again.

Polish 'B' are clear in second place and I don't see anyone preventing them from gaining promotion come the end of the season. The two Jaceks are the mainstay of their team and recently helped the team secure wins over Tilehurst Meths 'B', Kingfisher 'G' and Springfield, but they were evidently surprised and I believe shocked by their defeat at Milestone. They have started the second half of the season as they had the first, with a draw against OLOP 'E', who are currently their closest challengers. The Polish #1, Jacek Borysiuk was made to battle hard by Josh Gallen and Sam Liu who both took him to a deciding fifth game, while their #2 Jacek Krzyzanowski had an off night losing all three of his singles contests. But if they can field the two Jaceks for most of their remaining matches, this Polish team should end the season where they are now, in second place.

Third place seems to be a fight between OLOP 'E' and Tilehurst Methodists 'A', although OLOP 'F', with matches in

hand could crash the party.

In their six most recent matches **OLOP 'E'** have won 3, drawn 1, lost 1 and for good measure postponed one match. They comprehensively defeated Springfield 'A' 10 - 0 then despite a brave fight from Pangbourne, who were only able to field two players, won by the narrowest of margins. But they went down 4 - 6 at Tilehurst Meths 'A' where the result was decided by the doubles which Tilehurst won in the deciding set. OLOP 'E' bounced back with a comfortable 8 - 2 win over Sonning C&P 'D' as Josh Gallen hit a 3 straight maximum for the home side, with Sam Liu and Siad Cole also winning two each. The young lads started the second half with that excellent draw at Polish and under Wendy's guidance could challenge for second spot if they keep up their good form.

Tilehurst Methodists 'A' have picked up 7 points from their last five matches, starting with a defeat to Milestone, but followed by three wins and a draw. At Springfield Nigel Rowland won an un-answered maximum with John Virgo and Phil Jones winning two each. Another maximum from



SAM LIU OF OLOP 'E'

Nigel helped the team to a narrow win over OLOP 'E' to move his team up to fourth place in the table. John Virgo and Phil Jones also won one apiece, but the result was decided by the doubles which Phil & Nigel won in the deciding game. They were too strong for Pangbourne as Nigel Rowland and Phil Jones both won all three. At Sonning C&P Phil Jones secured a good maximum and was assisted by John Virgo who had a vital 5 game win over Paul

Treadgold and the two of them teamed up to win the ever critical doubles.

OLOP 'F' have played just 3 matches in the last 6 weeks, with two of their fixtures unfulfilled due to the opposition being unavailable. Their match with Kingfisher 'G' also didn't take place on the scheduled date due to the visiting team being unaware of OLOP's late change of home night & team placing which means the Handbook is wrong and so were their diaries.

(All team captains should already be aware: OLOP 'F' have moved from Position 9 to 11 and their home night is now Wednesday NOT Tuesday. The information on the website is correct.)

This match was re-arranged, but OLOP's Pat Daniels hadn't realised he had fixed it for a date on which they already had a match - so his team played two matches on the same night, switching between their opponents on two tables!!! Despite this marathon feat, OLOP 'F' came close to being the first team to take points off Milestone, as new signing Steve Miller and Harry Brough won two each, while Pat Daniels lost all three of his singles contests in the deciding game, as did Harry Brough against Robin Benwell, so they lost out 4 - 6.

Amazingly, in the parallel match with Kingfisher 'G' Pat Daniels also lost all three of his singles contests in the deciding game, which included losing out 15-17 in the fifth to Dave Duncan. Fortunately Steve Miller is no "Joker" (*does anyone get the reference?*) and he won all three of his singles which, with one win from Harry Brough and the doubles helped them to a draw. Surely Pat has set some kind of record, not just to play two matches on the same night (even I have done that, in my youth) but to lose all 6 contests in the deciding game! Harry Brough and Steve Miller both hit maximums as they left Springfield with a 9 - 1 win.

Two teams have yet to win a match and find themselves at the bottom of the table - Pangbourne and Tilehurst Methodists 'B'. Neither team is that far short of mid-table mediocrity, but they will need to beat at least one of the

teams immediately above them if they are to put in a challenge for safety.

Pangbourne have played only 3 matches since the previous Newsletter, but lost them all. They lost 4 - 6 at OLOP 'E' despite a brave fight-back and only being able to field two players. Of the contests played, Pangbourne actually won 4 - 3 with Leroy Wilson winning two, Howard Taylor one and the two of them pairing up to win the doubles. That missing third player could have what they needed to take a point that evening. At Tilehurst Meths 'A' Leroy Wilson won the first set of the match and took his other two opponents to a deciding game, while Howard Taylor won the last set for the visitors, but Tilehurst were too strong for them and they went down 8 - 2. Against Kingfisher 'G' Leroy won two and there were some close games which could have gone their way, but Pangbourne lost 2 - 8, their sixth straight defeat and they remain at the bottom of the table.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milestone 'A'	10	10	0	0	73	27	20
Polish 'B'	10	7	2	1	67	33	16
OLOP 'E'	9	5	2	2	57	33	12
Tilehurst Meths 'A'	8	4	2	2	43	37	10
Kingfisher 'G'	9	3	1	5	47	43	7
OLOP 'F'	6	3	1	2	32	28	7
Springfield 'A'	9	3	0	6	33	57	6
Sonning C&P 'D'	8	1	3	4	31	49	5
Tilehurst Meths 'B'	9	0	2	7	25	65	2
Pangbourne	8	0	1	7	22	58	1

Tilehurst Meths 'B' have also played just 3 recent matches and lost them all. At Polish only Melvin Lovegrove provided some resistance for the visitors, winning two and narrowly losing out to Jacek Borysiuk in the deciding game of their contest. In a bid to avoid relegation they put up a fight in the middle of their match at Kingfisher 'G' as Richard Lownsborough battled to beat Dave Duncan over five games and Melvin beat Eric Holmes in five. But Richard and Melvyn both lost out in the fifth game of their contests with Allen Pack and Eric Holmes respectively and they eventually lost the match 8 - 2. The second half of the season started with a visit from Milestone which ended badly as the only victory was in the doubles.

This leaves three teams who are fighting for nothing but their pride, unless they come a cropper against one (or both) of the dog-fighting duo.

Kingfisher 'G' continued their sequence of matches with 6 - 4 or 4 - 6 results with the narrowest of defeats to Polish where they came close to taking a surprise point. Allen Pack won two while Carol Byers and Eric Holmes won one apiece, but Eric and Carol both lost out to Jacek Krzyzanowski in the deciding game of their matches with him and they lost the doubles 9-11 in the fifth. In the marathon night at OLOP 'F' Eric Holmes and Dave Duncan won two apiece with Allen winning one to get them a point in what was surely an opportunity to take both points from tiring opponents. They finished the half with two comprehensive 8 - 2 wins over the bottom teams, the points from which have moved them up to 5th place in the table. Allen



SIAD COLE OF OLOP 'E'

took a maximum from the visit of Tilehurst Meths 'B' while Dave won all three at Pangbourne.

Springfield 'A' have dropped from 3rd place to 7th having endured 5 defeats in a row. They were whitewashed by the youngsters of OLOP 'E', then a below-strength team (missing Phil Burke) went down 2 - 8 at home to Tilehurst 'A' despite two wins for Des Hele. Phil returned to win two in their match at Sonning C&P, but Seth Martin picked up the only other win in a 3 - 7 defeat. Phil's win over Pat Daniels was the only one for the hosts as OLOP 'F' went away 9 - 1 winners and he won 2 more at Polish where they lost 3 - 7.

Sonning C&P 'D' are still not clear of the threat of relegation despite picking up 3 points from their last four matches. Jon Abbott had the only win when SC&P lost 1 - 9 at Milestone, but there was an excellent treble from Mark Corbett, plus two wins for Jon and one for Paul Treadgold when the team recorded their first win of the season 7 - 3 over Springfield. Another defeat this time at OLOP 'E' saw Paul & Mark win one each, while Jon suffered his only duck of the season to date. In their last match of the year SC&P won a valuable point in a hard fought draw with Tilehurst 'A' as Mark and Jon won two each with Paul Treadgold winning one and only losing out 8-11 in the fifth to John Virgo.

Doubles

The team with the best doubles record are Polish 'B' with 9/10 and they have the best doubles pairing in their Jaceks, Krzyzanowski and Borysiuk who have won 8/8. While there are other pairings with a 100% record (Virgo & Rowland 3/3) the next best doubles pairing is Milestone's Benwell & Tucker with 8/9. (See the website for further details)

Six scheduled matches have not been played - I have emailed the relevant team captains to ask that they are re-arranged as soon as possible.

The final word

My thanks to those of you who have been emailing a scanned version of the scorecards to me. This method is working well and quickly gets the results onto the website for everyone to see.

One request though - please could everyone ensure the scorecards are fully completed, with all scores clearly written and names of doubles pairings included (or "1 & 3" will do). All team captains should check the scorecard before they sign it - including the captain of the away team.

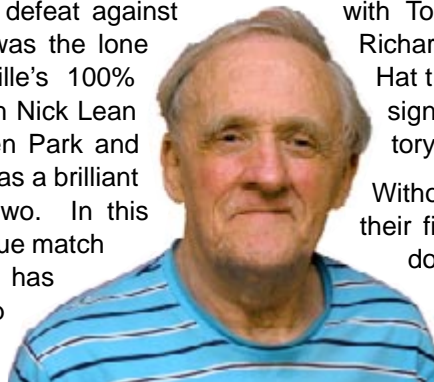
And finally, may I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a healthy & successful New Year.

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Robin Benwell	Milestone 'A'	30	29	96.7%
Jacek Borysiuk	Polish 'B'	30	28	93.3%
Steve Miller	OLOP 'F'	9	8	88.9%
Nigel Rowland	Tilehurst Meths 'A'	18	15	83.3%
Joshua Gallen	OLOP 'E'	20	16	80.0%
Sam Liu	OLOP 'E'	20	16	80.0%
Jacek Krzyzanowski	Polish 'B'	24	16	66.7%
Allen Pack	Kingfisher 'G'	24	18	75.0%
Phil Burke	Springfield 'A'	24	17	70.8%
John Tucker	Milestone 'A'	30	22	73.3%
Dave Duncan	Kingfisher 'G'	12	8	66.7%

DIVISION FOUR by Derek Harrison

The one match left over from my first notes saw Curzon Club 'B' crash to a 2 - 8 defeat against Wokingham 'B'. Geoff Johnson was the lone singles winner by taking Richard Neville's 100% record from him. He also teamed up with Nick Lean to win the doubles. For Wokingham Ken Park and Tony Eames both hit trebles. For Ken it was a brilliant performance. Richard of course won two. In this match Jim Brent played in his 1000th league match for our team and like me last season he has played many more if you include cup games and playing up. So congratulations mate.



Wokingham 'B' won their third match in a row by beating Tilehurst Meths 'C' 1 - 9 with Richard and Tony both gaining trebles. Ken did well by winning two. In the set against Bob, Richard beat him 7-11 8-11 13-11 and 20-22 so I have to say did they play up to 21 by mistake? At home to Curzon 'C' they won 8 - 2. Richard won all three and Tony and Aiden both gained doubles. In the big top of the table clash played on the 20th Nov (brought forward from the 4th December) they drew with Kingfisher 'H' with Tony and Richard winning two each and Aiden getting that important

single. At home to Tidmarsh 'D' they got home 8 - 2 with Tony hitting a great maximum. Ken and Richard played their part by winning two each. Hat tricks from Ken Park, Tony Eames and new signing Dan Buckle helped them to a 0 - 10 victory over Kingfisher 'I'.

Without Jean-Noel, Kingfisher 'H' crashed to their first defeat of the season when they went down 3 - 7 to Tidmarsh 'D'. Nils did well by winning two and Gianpaolo picked up the other victory. Jean-Noel came back into the side against Curzon 'B' and promptly hit a three straight maximum, Nils and Joaquin both picked up singles. To complete the scoring Jean-Noel and Nils won the doubles. At home to Wokingham Jean-Noel hit yet another three straight maximum besides teaming up with Nils to win the doubles. Nils won the other game by beating Aiden. In their final match of the first half they won 2 - 8 away at Kingfisher 'I' with Nils hitting his first maximum of the season. Gabor and Joaquin gave him good support with doubles. They then completed the double over OLOP by beating them 8 - 2 with yet another three-straight treble from Jean-Noel. I wonder if any

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wokingham 'B'	10	8	1	1	72	28	17
Kingfisher 'H'	10	7	2	1	62	38	16
Sonning Sports	9	6	1	2	60	30	13
Birch Copse 'A'	9	5	2	2	53	37	12
Tidmarsh 'D'	7	4	0	3	34	36	8
Curzon 'B'	10	4	0	6	44	56	8
Tilehurst Meths 'C'	9	4	0	5	39	51	8
OLOP 'G'	9	2	1	6	40	50	5
Curzon 'C'	10	1	1	8	35	65	3
Kingfisher 'I'	9	0	2	7	21	69	2

player will take an end from him? Nils also won three and Gabor picked up a single. Didier played in his first match of the season, winning the doubles with Jean-Noel.

Sonning Sports entertained Curzon 'B' and beat them 9 - 1 with Bob W and Nigel both obtaining maximums. Bob had to work hard against Jim because he was 0 - 6 down in the first game before winning it 12 - 10. Dave played his part by winning two. At Birch Copse Bob W had a brilliant match with only Simon taking an end from him and with Bob S winning two this was enough to give them a share of the spoils. For Bob S his win over Jes has to be noted.

It then took a game ten win for Nigel over Alex Zheng to give them a 6 - 4 victory over Tilehurst Meths. Bob W was again the star with a great three-straight treble. Bob S and Nigel both defeated Martin to give them both points. At Curzon 'C' they came away with a 1 - 9 victory with Bob W and Nigel winning three each. Bob's were three straight. Dave did his bit by winning two.

Birch Copse had a nice 7 - 3 victory over OLOP. A good team performance saw Simon win all three at a canter with Jes winning two and Mike gaining a single. I reckon Jes was in a hurry to get home in set ten because he showed no mercy to Cedric, beating him 11-5 11-1 11-0! Against Sonning, Simon won two with Jes and Mike both winning one each besides Jes and Simon winning the doubles. From 3 - 4 down they then beat Curzon 'B' 6 - 4 with Jes hitting a great hat trick. Simon did well to win two and Mike got that important single by beating Geoff. Due to a lash up they were only able to put out two players against Curzon 'C' but still came away with a 4 - 6 win thanks to a treble gained by Simon and a double from Jes. The two of them won the doubles by beating Terry and Mike.

OLOP after winning two in a row went down 7 - 3 at Birch Copse with Mark winning two and Alistair one. They then lost to Tilehurst Meths 4 - 6. Dave Godfrey won two and Alistair and reserve Jim McAlister both obtained singles. At Curzon 'C' Mark won two and Alistair and Cedric both obtained singles in a 6 - 4 defeat. Cedric asked me to say that it was a great night played in a great sporting way. At Kingfisher 'H' they lost their fourth match in a row by losing 8 - 2 with Dave and Mark both beating Gabor.

After two defeats in a row Curzon 'B' had a win by beating Tidmarsh 'D' 6 - 4. Nick and Derek both won two by beating Dave Reynolds and Dave Edwards. Geoff obtained a vital single by also beating Dave E besides teaming up with Nick to win the doubles. I have to say Nick got his money's worth by playing in three five setters. In the Dave R game he won 17-15 in the fifth and against Dave E he won 12-10 again in the fifth. As a result and with Geoff having long games we finished very late. Against our mates at Sonning Sports we went down 9 - 1 with Jim saving the white wash by beating Dave. At home to Kingfisher 'H' we lost 4 - 6 with Nick winning two and Jim and Derek both picking up one each. I have to say it was a very enjoyable evening played in a very friendly manner. At

Birch Copse we went down 6 - 4 with Nick winning two and Jim one. Nick and Geoff won the doubles to make that pairing 3 out of 3. We then entertained Kingfisher 'I' and stopped our losing run by winning 8 - 2 with Derek obtaining a three-straight treble. Nick and Jim weighed in with doubles besides Jim and Derek winning the doubles. We then went down to Tilehurst Meths 4 - 6 with Jim getting a good double and Geoff and Derek both picking up singles.

New signing Alex Zheng won Tilehurst Meths 'C's only set by beating Ken Park in their 1 - 9 defeat against Wokingham 'B'. They then bounced back by winning 4 - 6 at OLOP thanks to a very good team performance with Bob and Catherine both winning two and Alex picking up a single. Catherine and Bob also won the doubles

Catherine did well at Sonning Sports by taking Nigel's 100% record from him in their 6 - 4 defeat. Alex won one by beating Bob S and also teamed up with Catherine to win the doubles. At Curzon 'B' Catherine was on top form, winning all three besides teaming up with Bob to win the doubles. Bob and Alex both won one each to give them a 4 - 6 victory.

DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Jean-Noel Thepaut	Kingfisher 'H'	20	20	100.0%
Nigel Goodman	Sonning Sports	15	14	93.3%
Tony Eames	Wokingham 'B'	30	26	86.7%
Terry Hardie	Tidmarsh 'D'	15	13	86.7%
Richard Neville	Wokingham 'B'	21	18	85.7%
Bob Woodmansee	Sonning Sports	27	23	85.2%
Catherine Venning	Tilehurst Meths 'C'	21	16	76.2%
Simon Clarke	Birch Copse 'A'	24	18	75.0%
Jes Eassom	Birch Copse 'A'	27	18	66.7%
Ken Park	Wokingham 'B'	21	14	66.7%
Dave Godfrey	OLOP 'G'	18	12	66.7%
Mark Bullion	OLOP 'G'	18	12	66.7%
Linda King	Curzon 'C'	24	15	62.5%
Nils Wedi	Kingfisher 'H'	21	13	61.9%

Tidmarsh 'D' went down 6 - 4 at Curzon 'B' with Terry again on top form by winning all three. Dave Reynolds had a nice win over Geoff. They then bounced back by winning 3 - 7 at Kingfisher 'H' thanks mainly to yet another maximum from Terry; however Dave E did well to win two and Dave S played his part by winning one. At Wokingham Terry played really well by beating Ken and Richard in their 8 - 2 defeat.

Kingfisher 'I' gained their second point of the season by drawing at Curzon 'C' with John Creighton obtaining a good hat trick. Ken Robb gave him good support by winning the other two. At home to their 'H' team they went down 2 - 8 with Ken winning the two. At Curzon 'B' they went down 8 - 2 with Andrew beating Nick and Derek C beating Jim. At home to Wokingham they crashed to a 0 - 10 defeat.

Oli Lister was the star for Curzon 'C', winning two by beating Ken Robb and Derek Crombie. These two wins were the first for a year, so well done Oli! Linda and Terry won

one each besides teaming up to win the doubles which gave them a point against Kingfisher 'I'. At Wokingham Terry beat Tony and Linda beat Aiden in their 8 - 2 defeat. Against Tony, Linda went very close going down 12-10, 9-11,13-11,11-8. In that second leg she was 8-4 down!! Against OLOP at last a victory, mainly thanks to a great Linda treble although I am told Linda beat Alistair on an edge. Terry played well to win two and only just lost to Mark Bullion 9-11 in the 5th end. The doubles was vital which was won by Linda and Terry to give them a 6 - 4 victory. At home to Sonning Sports they went down 1 - 9 with Terry beating Dave. They ended the year by going down to a two man Birch Copse 4 - 6 with Terry beating Jes.

Finally I would like to wish you all a great Christmas and a Very Happy and Healthy 2013.

Cheers,

Derek



LIAM McTIERNAN, JAMIE AND SAM LIU AND DANIEL MOSES WITH THE READING LION

DIVISION FIVE by *Duncan Abbott*

Before giving my Division 5 report I'd like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

In the October issue I boldly predicted the four teams that I thought would occupy the top four places at the end of the season. However it seems that one team that wasn't amongst that quartet took great exception to my prediction and has since taken it out on me by winning six matches on the bounce and now sit proudly on top of the table.

That team is **Springfield 'B'** who have not only won those matches but have won them emphatically, winning 47 sets against 13 lost.

First heads up on the Springfield guillotine were Birch Copse 'B' who were beaten 8 - 2 thanks to a maximum from veteran John Burke and braces from Jim Lappin and captain Paul Jenkins. Next up were Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' who were beaten 9 - 1 on their own patch, Dan Mortimer joining John on the maximum trail and Paul with another brace. Club rivals SC&P 'E' fared better but still went down 6 - 4, John & Paul repeating their achievements in the previous two games. Milestone 'B' also gave a good account of themselves but John was irrepensible as ever and this time a brace from Dan and single from Jim secured the points. The 8 - 2 drubbing of promotion chasing Polish 'C' was something of a surprise but with Chris Speight winning his first two sets of the season



matching Dan's superb effort, John got just the support he needed. Unfortunately OLOP 'H' failed to show for the second time this season, handing Springfield the points on a plate.

Five wins and a draw have pushed my title tip **Post Office 'B'** right into contention. Their scorecard from the OLOP 'H' game played in early October arrived late but showed a 9 - 1 win for Ted Cripps' side, Mick Grantham & Ray Webb undefeated and Linda Davis scoring two. A superb maximum from Linda and braces from Mick and captain Ted accounted for a young Polish 'D' side. SC&P 'F' were thumped 9 - 1, Mick joining Linda with a max and Ted winning two. Strugglers Birch Copse 'B' put up a strong fight but found Mick too hot to handle, his maximum supported by a brace from Ray and a single from Linda. Milestone 'B' also put up strong resistance but braces from Ray & Mick, a single from Linda and a doubles success gave them a slender 6 - 4 win. Polish 'C' put up the expected challenge but Ray proved too good for them winning all three with Mick winning two. However, there's still no sign of their big summer signing Pete Sinclair.

The third team tied on 15 points are **Polish 'C'** who have won four and drawn one of their six matches. Promotion rivals SC&P 'E' were beaten 7 - 3, Grant Wheatley maintaining his fine early season form with a maximum, with a brace from Stephen Yon and single from Kris Szczygiel giving them a 7 - 3 win. They squeezed



JAN POLNIK OF POLISH 'C'

DIV 5 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
R.Green	Birch Copse 'B'	3	3	100.00
P.Kothari	Milestone 'B'	3	3	100.00
J.Harland	Tidmarsh 'E'	3	3	100.00
J.Burke	Springfield 'B'	21	18	85.71
M.Grantham	Post Office 'B'	27	23	85.19
D.Reynolds	Tidmarsh 'E'	12	10	83.33
N.Antell	OLOP 'H'	12	10	83.33
M.McAllister	OLOP 'H'	6	5	83.33
D.Dzieciol	Polish 'D'	27	22	81.48
R.Webb	Post Office 'B'	21	17	80.95
G.Wheatley	Polish 'C'	26	21	80.77
D.Dockree	SC&P 'E'	21	16	76.19

home 6 - 4 in their inter-club clash with the 'D' team, Grant scoring three, Kris two and Stephen one. Another promotion clash was won 8 - 2 at Tidmarsh 'E', this time Kris was the maximum man claiming the scalp of Dave Reynolds, and he was ably supported by braces from Grant & Steve. They made heavy weather of a two-man OLOP 'H' side winning 6 - 4 thanks to single wins from Stephen & Grant who crucially teamed up to win the doubles. A heavy 8 - 2 defeat at Springfield 'B' followed, Stephen and Kris winning one each and a 5 - 5 draw wrapped matters up before Christmas, Grant winning two, Kris & Stephen one each and the doubles.

These three teams are the ones currently in contention because fourth place **Sonning Common & Peppard 'E'** are five points adrift. They seem to have lost their way a bit recently winning only one of their last five matches, a 9 - 1 thumping of Tidmarsh 'E' thanks to maximums from Danny Dockree and Anthony Reeve and a brace from captain Derek Brooke-Wavell. Draws have come against Polish 'D' and OLOP 'H'; in the former Jim McClure won all three with Anthony and Mike Legg chipping in with one each, and in the latter Jim and Danny scored braces and Anthony a single. Against fellow Div 4 (from last season) side Polish 'C' a brace from Danny and single from Jim could not prevent a 7 - 3 loss, and at Springfield 'B' Jim scored two, Derek and Danny one apiece but they still went down 6 - 4.

Into mid-table and **Polish 'D'** have made great strides this season. Wins have come against Milestone (6 - 4) and Tidmarsh 'E' (8 - 2), draws against OLOP 'H' and SC&P 'E', and losses against Post Office 'B' and club mates Polish 'D'. Danny Dzieciol scored maximums against OLOP 'H', Milestone 'B' and Tidmarsh 'E' and braces in the others; Szymon Szor scored braces against OLOP 'H', Milestone 'B' and SC&P 'E' and singles against Polish 'C' and Tidmarsh 'E'; Grzegorz Romek secured his first win against John Simpson of Milestone 'B' and Luca Bianchi struck gold in his third match with a treble against Tidmarsh 'E'.

Tidmarsh 'E' led the table by three points in late October but heavy defeats against Polish 'C' (2 - 8),

SC&P 'E' (1 - 9) and Polish 'D' (2 - 8) brought them down to earth with a bump. Dave Reynolds beat Grant and Stephen of Polish 'C', captain Bob Sunerton beat Derek of SC&P 'E', Steve Andrews and John Little both beat Szymon of Polish 'D'.

Into the relegation dogfight and **Birch Copse 'B'** are surprisingly as high as seventh. After a run of four defeats their one win since last time was a 7 - 3 win against two-man Milestone 'B', Duncan Abbott winning his two and Andy Cook and captain Melanie Griffiths both beat John Simpson. Andy won his first set of the season against Linda Davis of Post Office 'B' straight after teaming up with Duncan to win the doubles. In that match Duncan had an impressive win over Ray but couldn't lower Mick's colours. Melanie had probably her best performance of the season at Springfield 'B' with an impressive win over Paul. At SC&P 'F' Duncan won two and teamed up with Melanie for the doubles, and in the re-arranged match at Milestone 'B' Roy Hull played up from the 'C' team winning two and teaming up with Melanie for the doubles.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' had their one success against Birch Copse 'B', Tony House winning all three and Mike Casserley & Dave Aust scoring two apiece. Two wins from Tony & Mike and one from Pete Harman gave them a 5 - 5 draw with OLOP 'H'. However their other two matches were 9 - 1 defeats, Phil Turton beating Paul of Springfield 'B' and Mike beating Ted of Post Office 'B'.

Milestone 'B' have won two and lost four of their last six matches. Captain Gerard Thorp scored his first maximum of the season against Birch Copse 'B', Oliver and Arun Rajagopal from the 'C' team scoring two apiece, and against OLOP 'H' three from Chris Collins, two from Arun and one from Gerard gave them a 6 - 4 win. Indeed 6 - 4 was the margin of three of their four defeats, against Polish 'D' (two for Gerard one for Oliver), Springfield 'B' (same scorers) and against Post Office 'B' (three from

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Springfield 'B'	10	7	1	2	66	34	15
Post Office 'B'	10	6	3	1	66	34	15
Polish 'C'	10	6	3	1	57	43	15
SC&P 'E'	9	4	2	3	51	39	10
Polish 'D'	9	3	3	3	44	46	9
Tidmarsh 'E'	9	4	1	4	37	53	9
Birch Copse 'B'	9	2	2	5	42	48	6
SC&P 'F'	9	2	2	5	35	55	6
Milestone 'B'	11	3	0	8	49	61	6
OLOP 'H'	10	1	3	6	33	67	5

Chris and one from Oliver). At Birch Copse 'B' they only had Gerard and John, Gerard beat Melanie & Andy and Gerard & John teamed up for the doubles in a 7 - 3 defeat.

OLOP 'H' haven't won since the last report but they have drawn against Polish 'D' and the two Sonning Common & Peppard teams. Nigel Antell has been very impressive with a maximum against Polish 'C' and braces against Milestone 'B' and SC&P 'E'. Chris Bunn beat Linda in a 9 - 1 defeat against Post Office 'B', then beat Szymon of Polish 'D' and Gerard of Milestone 'B'. Captain Kamran Samdani beat Peter of SC&P 'F' and

Jan of Polish 'C'. Mike McAllister won 5 out of his six sets against the Sonning Common & Peppard teams, losing only to Danny of the 'E' team.

TITANIC TUSSELES

Gerard Thorp (Milestone 'B') v Roy Hull (Birch Copse 'B')	9-11,14-12,11-9,8-11,11-9.
Dave Reynolds (Tidmarsh 'E') v Kris Szczygiel (Polish 'C')	12-10,23-21,7-11,9-11,12-14.
Szymon Szor (Polish 'D') v Anthony Reeve (SC&P 'E')	10-12,11-5,11-8,3-11,11-9.
Kamran Samdani (OLOP 'H') v Chris Collins (Milestone 'B')	11-9,12-10,8-11,4-11,10-12.
Ted Cripps (Post Office 'B') v Mike Casserley (SC&P 'F')	11-8,10-12,11-9,8-11,10-12.
Paul Jenkins (Springfield 'B') v Derek Wavell (SC&P 'E')	9-11,11-8,3-11,11-7,13-11.
Oliver Bonser (Milestone 'B') v Dan Mortimer (Springfield 'B')	19-17,12-14,4-11,11-7,10-12.
Mike McAllister (OLOP 'H') v Danny Dockree (SC&P 'E')	4-11,11-4,2-11,11-9,11-13.
Chris Bunn (OLOP 'H') v Anthony Reeve (SC&P 'E')	11-9,11-8,11-13,11-13,10-12.
Nigel Antell (OLOP 'H') v Danny Dockree (SC&P 'E')	11-13,9-11,11-5,12-10,11-9.
Mike McAllister (OLOP 'H') v Anthony Reeve (SC&P 'E')	9-11,11-7,11-7,7-11,13-11.

DIV 5-6 CUP

by Duncan Abbott

Introduction

The Lower Divisions Knockout Cup is open to all teams registered in Divisions 5 and 6.

This tournament follows last season's format, with all 9 sets in each match being doubles contests featuring three players on each side. Please note that each set is the best of 3 (not 5) with games being up to 11 points as in the league.

The teams have been split into four different pools and matches played on a round robin basis. League points in each pool will be based on sets won - i.e. if Team A beats Team B 6 - 3, Team A will get 6 league points and Team B 3 league points. Each team will play each other once within the pool and at the end of three rounds of matches the winners of each pool will progress to the semi-finals to be played in February, and the winners of each semi-final will meet in the final. If two or more teams are tied at the top of the pool, the team that has won the most games will progress (same as last season).

Pool A

Springfield 'C'
SC&P 'E'
Milestone 'C'

Pool B

SC&P 'F'
Springfield 'B'
Sonning Sports 'B'

Pool C

Post Office 'B'
Kingfisher 'K'
SC&P 'G'

Pool D

Springfield 'D'
Tidmarsh 'E'
Kingfisher 'J'
Milestone 'B'

Matches w/c 22 October:

Springfield 'C' **0** v SC&P 'E' **9**
SC&P 'F' **3** v Springfield 'B' **6**
Post Office 'B' **9** v Kingfisher 'K' **0**
Springfield 'D' **2** v Tidmarsh 'E' **7**
Kingfisher 'J' **1** v Milestone 'B' **8**

Matches w/c 19 November


SC&P 'E' **8** v Milestone 'C' **1**
Springfield 'B' **9** v Sonning Sports 'B' **0**
Kingfisher 'K' **2** v SC&P 'G' **7**
Tidmarsh 'E' **8** v Kingfisher 'J' **1**
Milestone 'B' **9** v Springfield 'D' **0**

Matches w/c 17 December

(now extended to 18 January)

Milestone 'C' v Springfield 'C'
Sonning Sports 'B' v SC&P 'F'
SC&P 'G' v Post Office 'B'
Springfield 'D' v Kingfisher 'J'
Tidmarsh 'E' v Milestone 'B'

DIVISION SIX *by Nigel Rowland*

 OLOP 'I' are currently running away with the title with Kingfisher 'J' in second place. In the top of the table clash Kingfisher were no match, losing 8 - 2. Springfield 'C' and SC&P 'G' are in hot pursuit of second spot but will have to rely on a Kingfisher 'J' slip up in order to make up the points. A gap has emerged between the top four in the table leaving Birch Copse 'C', Kingfisher 'K', Tilehurst Meths 'D' and Springfield 'D' mid table. A welcome



clash Jim, Michael and Gus outclassed fellow promotion contenders Kingfisher 'J' beating them 8 - 2 in the process. Michael was made to work hard for his treble just defeating Leigh Mahoney 11-6, 6-11, 2-11, 11-9, 11-9. Gus and Phil breezed through their games in their 8 - 2 win over Birch Copse 'C', however, Jim was made to work harder and could only manage one win on the night.

Kingfisher 'J' retain their second spot, Diane, Leigh and Phil had to work hard but eventually outgunned Milestone 'C' 10 - 0. Trebles from Diane and Leigh along with a double from Andre resulted in an 8 - 2 win over Springfield 'D'. In their top-of-the-table clash Gillian, Diane and Leigh fought out a close contest but eventually lost out 2 - 8 to OLOP 'I'. Diane was the hero of the night snatching Set 10 against Jim McAllister 11-9, 9-11, 10-12, 11-8, 10-12 to inflict a rare defeat. Diane and Leigh also recorded a famous doubles victory against Jim McAllister and Gus Thomis 9-11, 11-8, 11-9, 9-11. 11-13, a first two set defeat against OLOP 'I'. Trebles from Leigh and Gillian with a single from Andre resulted in a good 7 - 3 win over BBC. Gillian had two hard 5 gamers against David Pearson and Kyrill Dissanayake.

Springfield 'C' remain close to the second promotion spot, a Colin treble and doubles from Alan and Tom gave them a solid 7 - 3 win over Kingfisher 'K'. Doubles from Alan, Colin and Ludo gave them a close 6 - 4 win against Tilehurst Meths 'D'. Colin, Alan and Tom battled but were overwhelmed 0 - 10 by OLOP 'I', Colin and Alan just lost out 9 - 11 in five-game sets against Michael McAllister and Phil Saunders respectively. Alan, Colin and Ashley all scored trebles in their 10 - 0 win against Milestone 'C'. In their local derby an Ashley treble along with doubles from Colin and Alan meant they powered their way to an 8 - 2 win over rivals Springfield 'D'. Ashley had a close five-game win over Adam Sheen 9-11, 11-8, 10-12, 11-7, 14-12. Also Colin had a five game win over Derek Edney 11-3, 11-8, 10-12, 9-11, 11-7.

SC&P 'G' have worked hard to remain with the promotion contenders. Trebles from Matt and Angus with a double from Derek gave them a resounding 9 - 1 win over then basement club Sonning Sports 'B'. Matt recorded a fine win over Phil Saunders in their 1 - 9 loss to OLOP 'I' so ending OLOP 'I's 100% game win record. Matt, Shep and Derek all had to work hard for their maximums, but eventually inflicted a 10 - 0 defeat on Kingfisher 'K'. Julian, Angus and Steve battled away to take a point at basement club BBC, Julian scored an 11-8, 5-11, 2-11, 11-8, 7-11 final set winner against Phil Peat to snatch a point. Matt scored a well earned treble with support from Angus and Derek to win 7 - 3 against Tilehurst Meths 'D'.

Birch Copse 'C' - A Roy treble and close five-game win by Elizabeth over Tim Kendall snatched a point against Tilehurst Meths 'D'. In a bottom-of-the-table clash a first tre-

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
OLOP 'I'	11	11	0	0	105	5	22
Kingfisher 'J'	11	8	2	1	78	32	18
Springfield 'C'	11	7	2	2	61	49	16
SC&P 'G'	11	6	3	2	64	46	15
Birch Copse 'C'	10	3	2	5	45	55	8
Kingfisher 'K'	10	4	0	6	36	64	8
Tilehurst Meths 'D'	8	3	1	4	41	39	7
Springfield 'D'	11	3	1	7	42	68	7
Sonning Sports 'B'	10	2	1	7	30	70	5
Milestone 'C'	9	1	1	7	24	66	3
BBC Club	10	0	3	7	34	66	3

surprise, Sonning Sports 'B' are not the Christmas basement club, followed by Milestone 'C' and BBC.

The match of the season so far has to go to SC&P 'G' who spoilt OLOP 'I's run of successive 10 - 0 wins, Matt Tarrant inflicting the damage. I believe Nigel Maltby was sweating as it was one of his teams that currently holds the record.

The game of the season has to go to Birch Copse 'C' Jason Taylor who beat OLOP 'I' Jim McAllister in five winning 11-9, 8-11, 8-11, 11-8, 14-12.

Michael McAllister and Gus Thomis of OLOP 'I' are sitting on top of the individual averages and currently remain unbeaten.

The doubles partnerships show Phil Saunders + Mike McAllister (OLOP 'I') as the best combinations so far this season.

Have a great Christmas and New Year.

OLOP 'I' Continued their winning ways at the top of the table by defeating SC&P 'G' 9 - 1, however, their run of successive 10 - 0 defeats has been stopped by Matt Tarrant. Gus, Phil and Michael scored trebles as they powered their way to a 10 - 0 win over BBC. They then went on to sweep aside Springfield 'C' 10 - 0; Michael and Phil were made to work hard in their set 7 doubles to win 11-9 in the fifth against Colin Jones and Alan Goold. In their top of the table

ble from Chris with support from Roy and Jason gave them a good 2 - 8 win against Springfield 'D'. Jason had a very close win over Derek Edney. Their clash with title contenders OLOP 'I' resulted in a 2 - 8 loss. Roy gave Jim McAllister a challenge and won in four. The game of the season was about to unfold, Jason beat Jim McAllister in five winning 11-9, 8-11, 8-11, 11-8, 14-12.

Kingfisher 'K' Gheorge gave fight to win a double in their 3 - 7 loss to Springfield 'C', the doubles combination of Stuart and Gheorge won a five-game thriller against Alan Goold and Tom Berryman 15-17, 10-12, 13-11, 11-7, 9-11. Gheorge and Simon were undefeated in their 8 - 2 win over a weakened Sonning Sports 'B'. Jeff and Stuart battled to try and save their blushes losing 0 - 10 to SC&P 'G' - this was partly due to fielding a weakened side. Half their sets went to five games but just could not find a winner on the evening. Stuart, Simon and Glenn met a very determined Tilehurst Meths 'D' resulting in a 1 - 9 loss, Simon got the only winner against Tim Kendall and had a close 12-14, 11-8, 7-11, 11-7, 13-11 loss against David Jones.

Tilehurst Methodists 'D' remain mid table, doubles from Sam and Patrick and a single from Tim shared the points in their game against Birch Copse 'C'. Sam scored a hard earned treble in their 4 - 6 defeat to Springfield 'C' including pairing up with Tim to record a close five-game doubles win. Trebles from Patrick and David with a double from Tim recorded a 9 - 1 win over Kingfisher 'K'. Patrick and Sam recorded wins in their 3 - 7 loss to SC&P 'G', the highlight being Sam's five game win over Derek Maltby.

Springfield 'D' Tim, Adam and David recorded a rare 6 - 4 win over BBC as a result of BBC fielding a weakened team. Adam had a good five game win over Phill Peat to seal the points. An Adam single along with effort from David and Derek as they tried hard against promotion candidates Kingfisher 'J', still resulted in a 2 - 8 loss. Singles from Tim and Nigel could not stop a 2 - 8 defeat to Birch Copse 'C', Derek and a five game thriller with Jason Taylor just losing out 11-13, 11-13, 11-3, 11-9, 9-11. In their fiercely contested local derby with Springfield 'D', Adam scored a well-earned double over Alan Goold and Ashley Jones, however, the team were overpowered 2 - 8 in the end. Derek and David fought hard, Derek just lost out in a five 'gamer' with Colin Jones. They made up for their last disappointment by inflicting a 2 - 8 defeat on Sonning Sports 'B'. Adam got a treble along with Derek who had to work his socks off to win five gamers over Dave West and Ken Stevens. Tim deserved his hard earned single against Sue Brownhill and just lost out against Dave West.

Sonning Sports 'B' Ken had a close win over Derek Maltby to save their blushes in their 1 - 9 loss to SC&P 'G'. Tom and Dave won one apiece to lose 2 - 8 against Kingfisher 'K', Dave just lost out in a five-game thriller against Simon Long. A solid team performance from Dave, Ken and Sue resulted in a hard-earned 7 - 3 win over a weakened BBC to lift them off bottom place. Following their success they followed up with a close 6 - 4 win over Milestone 'C' thanks to doubles from Dave

West, Tom Gordon and Ken Stevens. Having roared into a 5 - 1 lead they had to wait until set 9 to clinch both points, Ken being the hero of the night. Disappointment followed in their 2 - 8 loss against fellow strugglers Springfield 'D'. Dave, Ken and Sue showed their fighting spirit by not giving up, resulting in all but one set going to four or five games. Dave won against Tim Carr and Ken came back from two down to win in five against Tim Carr.

Milestone 'C' An important single from Ian Strong and an Arun treble, including a five game thriller against Kyrill Dissanayake earned a draw against BBC. George, Ian and Tony put up a good fight but eventually succumbed 0 - 10 to a determined Kingfisher 'J'. Ian just lost out in a five game thriller 10-12, 8-11, 13-11, 11-7, 7-11 against Colin Jones and 12-10, 10-12, 10-12, 11-13 against Alan Goold, but despite all this determination the team lost 0 - 10 to Springfield 'C'. In their bottom-of-the-table clash they just lost out 4 - 6 to Sonning Sports 'B'. Arun won two against Ken Stevens and Tom Gordon and just lost out in a five-game thriller 5-11, 13-11, 2-11, 11-6, 11-8 against Dave West. Ian just lost out to Ken Stevens 11-8, 11-5, 9-11, 11-13, 12-10 but made up for it by beating Dave West in four. Tony also just lost out in a four 'gamer' to Ken Stevens.

BBC Caversham Kyrill and Phil doubles and a single from Gordon earned a point against Milestone 'C'. Phil had to win set 10 to snatch a point. Phil and John had a battle to try and save the match due to fielding a weakened team in their 4 - 6 loss to Springfield 'D'. David, Kyrill and Jack tried hard but went down 0 - 10 to leaders OLOP 'I'. In the battle of the basement clubs Kyrill scored a well-earned treble but could not stop a 3 - 7 defeat to Sonning Sports 'B'. Following their disappointing loss they made good by taking a point against high-flying SC&P 'G' thanks to a John treble with support from Phil and Dave. David, Kyrill and Gordon battled to try and get something from their 3 - 7 loss to high flyers Kingfisher 'J'. Had Kyrill and David not lost out in tight 5-gamers to Leigh Mahoney and Gillian Bennett they could have nicked a point.

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
G.Thomis	OLOP 'I'	27	27	100.00
M.McAllister	OLOP 'I'	27	27	100.00
P.Kothari	Milestone 'C'	3	3	100.00
A.Shephard	SC&P 'G'	2	2	100.00
P.Saunders	OLOP 'I'	21	20	95.24
R.Hull	Birch Copse 'C'	30	27	90.00
J.Scott	BBC Club	9	8	88.89
J.McAllister	OLOP 'I'	24	21	87.50
A.Jones	Springfield 'C'	15	13	86.67
L.Mahoney	Kingfisher 'J'	26	22	84.62
M.Tarrant	SC&P 'G'	26	22	84.62
P.Cunnington	Kingfisher 'J'	14	11	78.57
G.Milea	Kingfisher 'K'	17	13	76.47
L.Couillard	Springfield 'C'	15	11	73.33

John Cunningham Youth Division

by Danny (son of Steve) Ricks

I'll start by wishing a very merry Christmas to all Reading table tennis players. With Christmas, comes a break from our weekly régime of going to matches, but while some people relish this break, I myself can't wait for it to all be over so we can get back to playing! I'm not usually a bah humbug kind of guy (that would be the old man!) but I just love my table tennis! When the season restarts, the youth division will split into two divisions. This will make it more competitive.

Anyway, to business, and it remains amazingly close between the top two teams. After 10 weeks of matches, **Strikers** and **Eagles** each stand on 86 points. This means each team has lost only 4 sets all season. In fact, every member of Strikers remains on 100%. Michael McAllister (26/26), Sam Liu (26/26) and Danny Dockree (17/17) have been in fantastic form this year, and have also flourished in the adult leagues this season. The only dropped points for Strikers this year have come from conceded sets. They will be my tip to win the league in the second half of the season, assuming of course they get a full team out each week!

It is however, impossible to call at this moment in time. **Eagles** have been on a par with Strikers all season, and will I'm sure fancy their chances in the second half. Jim McAllister (26/26) and Chris Jonson (23/23) remain on 100%. You're probably wondering how 5 out of the 6 players from the top two teams remain on 100%. This is because they still haven't played! Frustratingly, one round of fixtures is still yet to be played at the time of writing, so we can but guess who will come out on top of that one. Jamie Liu has showed just how much junior players can improve over a short space of time. This time last year, Jamie was on 25%. This year, he has lost just one set, and sits on 96% (25/26), an incredible achievement for such a young player.

A long way behind in third place are the **Panthers**. They've had a terrific couple of months and have risen from seventh place to surely secure a top six finish, and a place in division one for the second half of the season. Two of their players, Kieran Morfill and Thomas Breslin, certainly justify their 'best of the rest' tag, as they are joint seventh in the averages (19/26), behind only the players from the top two teams. I've been informed that Kieran Morfill is



leaving us after Christmas, and we would all like to wish him well. Saif Maher has continued to struggle, winning just 3 out of his 20 sets, and will probably benefit from playing in division two in January.

In fourth place are the **Trojans**. Their star man has been Harry Munro who sits on 70%. He's been backed up by Gareth Wheatley, who gets just less than 50% (12/25). It will be interesting to see how he gets on in the second half of the season, when he will play only the top teams, and won't get those easier matches he's had in the first half. John Sampson ends with 8 wins from his 25 sets, and will probably struggle if he plays in division one in the new year.

The last team to have all but guaranteed division one status for the second half of the season are the **Raiders**. Adam Gozzard and Ted Allpress have both played well, and have achieved averages of 71% and 63% respectively. Pranav Shyam Prasad has found the going a little tougher, and finishes on 29%.

The sixth and final division one place is still up for grabs and it couldn't be closer between **Tigers** and **Attackers**, both of whom have 42 points. If Tigers had played their strongest side each week, I feel they could have been comfortably inside the top six. Joe Barraclough has been impressive when he's played, winning 12 of his 17 sets. Thomas Perkins has won

Team	Won	Lost
Strikers	86	4
Eagles	86	4
Panthers	49	41
Trojans	48	42
Raiders	47	43
Tigers	42	48
Attackers	42	48
Knights	38	52
Batmen	36	54
Lions	34	56
Spartans	26	64
Avengers	6	84

9 of 17 to keep himself above 50%. I feel that Tigers have paid the price for not having a settled team each week, and this could cost them their division one place. The Sayer brothers, Harry and Oliver, each end up on 33% and Katie Shepherd won two in her only match this season (2/3.) Scarlett Jones, the sixth player in the biggest team in the league won 2 of her 11 sets.

For **Attackers**, Balazs Horanyi has performed best, winning 16 of his 25 sets. Tom Hobbs ends on 40% (10/25) and Hassin Khan 25% (4/16.) We'll have to wait and see if this team manages a top six finish, but if they don't, they will start as clear favourites for the division 2 title.

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	P	W	%
Michael McAllister	26	26	100%
Sam Liu	26	26	100%
Jim McAllister	26	26	100%
Chris Johnson	23	23	100%
Danny Dockree	17	17	100%
Jamie Liu	26	25	96%
Kieran Morfill	26	19	73%
Thomas Breslin	26	19	73%
Adam Gozzard	24	17	71%
Joe Barraclough	17	12	71%
Harry Munro	23	16	70%
Alex Duggan	27	18	67%
Katie Shepherd	3	2	67%
Balazs Horanyi	25	16	64%
Ted Allpress	27	17	63%

In eighth place on 34 points are the **Batmen**, for whom Joe Will has performed best. Joe is one of those players stuck in the middle on 52% winning 14 of his 27 sets. It will be interesting to see which division he plays in, as division one may prove a little difficult, and division two may be too easy. Oliver Scott and Daniel Bernie ended on 39% and 37% respectively and will finish higher in the division 2 averages. Aiden Collymore has won 6 of his 24 sets, and is another player who will win a few more sets in division 2 then he is at present.

A point behind are the **Knights**. George Strong has played well, and could well be promoted into a division one team. An average of just under 60% suggests he is strong enough to compete, and although he may not win too many, he will find it more enjoyable than division two. Jamie Filby has also played well, claiming 13 wins from his 26 sets and a 50% average. He's another player who will either be low in the division one averages, or near the top of division two. Rosie Zhu seems to have improved since the start of the year, and although she's not winning many sets, she is far more competitive. She claimed 2 wins from her 20 sets.

In tenth come the **Lions** despite having a player on just under 70%. Alex Duggan has played very well, and has

claimed 18 of his team's 29 points. He will surely find himself playing in division one in the new year. Austin Ellorton has maintained his 50% average, whilst Amanvir Dhoot has struggled somewhat, winning 3 of his 21 games.

In eleventh are the **Spartans**. Bill Hayden (8/22) and Camran Nesari (10/25) each gained around 40% and can be pleased with their effort. Leo Johnson-Lay still awaits his first league win, losing all 9 of his sets.

Bringing up the rear, and well behind the rest are the **Avengers**. Two of their players, Euan Mcleod and Tristan Laurent, remain winless. Raphael Thorn has done slightly better, winning 3 of his 24 sets. Although results haven't been great, match experience will be vital to these young players, and we may see an improvement when the season restarts.

That's about it from me. I'll leave it by once again saying a big thank you to Wendy Porter for running the Youth division, and I know Wendy wants to thank Jade Fudge, Ian Cole, Steve Ricks (bah humbug,) Sam Ricks, Phil Saunders and Me(!) for helping out. She would also like to thank the parents for their help and support. A very merry Christmas to you, and we'll see you all again in the new year.



FINALISTS IN THE YOUTH LEAGUE TOURNAMENT - (Left to Right:) THOMAS BRESLIN, PRANAV SHYAM PRASAD, SAM LIU, JIM McALLISTER, TED ALLPRESS, JOE BARRACLOUGH, GEORGE STRONG, JAMIE LIU, DANNY DOCKREE, GARETH WHEATLEY, JAMIE FILBY AND CHRIS JOHNSON - WITH WENDY PORTER. (SEE NEXT PAGE)

FINALS AT THE YOUTH LEAGUE

The photograph on the page above shows all the John Cunningham Youth League finalists. Here are some details of how the competition went:

Group 1 Main:	Danny Dockree beat Jim McAllister	11-8, 15-13, 12-10
Group 1 Consolation	Jamie Filby beat Gareth Wheatley	7-11, 11-6, 11-7, 11-8
Group 2 Main	Sam Liu beat Ted Allpress	11-5, 11-5, 11-3
Group 2 Consolation	Thomas Breslin beat George Strong	14-12, 11-7, 10-12, 11-6
Group 3 Main	Jamie Liu Beat Chris Johnson	11-5, 11-7, 11-3
Group 3 Consolation	Joe Barraclough beat Pranav Shyam Presad	11-8, 11-1, 12-10

MORE YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS

Junior National Championships Success

Remarkably, three Reading Juniors Reached National Junior Finals on the same day (23 November), taking home much cherished medals.

Megan Knowles and **Maria Tsaptsinos** faced each other in the Girls Junior Final with their respective partners Tin Tin Ho and Emily Bates. **It was Maria and Tin Tin who came out 3-0 winners.** Both girls also made semi finals - Megan in the Mixed Doubles with Cadet Champion Marcus Giles, and Maria in the Girls Singles where she narrowly lost to Bates, deuce in the deciding set.

Following a tight semi final, **Liam McTiernan** made it to the **Boys Junior Final** with his partner Sam Walker. There they played Igor Morais and Danny Lawrence and in a roller coaster match in which they were one set up only to fall behind, they eventually succumbed 3-2. Liam's younger brother **Daniel McTiernan** also had a good weekend making it to the **Cadet Boys Singles** quarter final and Cadet Boys Doubles semi final with his partner Joshua Bennett.

Another Reading based player, **Joshua Gallen**, managed to win one match in his **Cadet Boys Singles** group matches having pre-qualified at Cippenham TTC. Rapidly improving Gallen has risen in the Cadet Boys rankings this season following a number of wins against higher ranked players.



LEO LONG, JON ABBOTT, DANIEL McTIERNAN, JOSHUA GALLEN, SCARLETT JONES, KATIE SHEPHERD

County Championships Opening Weekend

All five players featured for Berkshire in the County Championships on the weekend of 1-2 December. **Liam, Megan** and **Maria** played for the Senior Team in the Premier Division in Essex, whilst **Daniel** and **Joshua** played for the Cadet Team in Division 2 in Southampton.

The **County Cadets** played in Division 1C. The newly formed team also included **Leo Long, Jon Abbott, Katie Shepherd** and **Scarlett Jones**. They managed to beat Sussex Thirds 7-3 and draw against Sussex Seconds 5-5 with Daniel and Josh winning two each. Following some close matches which went the wrong way from a Berkshire point of view, they couldn't beat an inspired Surrey Firsts team who romped to a 9 - 1 win with just a Katie victory to show for their efforts. Considering the team average - just 13 years old - it was a terrific effort from all the players, especially the four who were making their debuts. The remaining matches against Hampshire, Dorset, Gloucestershire and Somerset will take place in March.

The **County Seniors** played in the elite Premier Division again. Berkshire stalwarts **Dave Barr** and **Martin Adams** gave valuable experience to the three talented juniors. In the first match the team faced Nottinghamshire and following a first class display ran out 8 - 2 winners including maximums from all three juniors **Liam, Megan** and **Maria**. On the Sunday Berkshire played Glamorgan and again emerged winners, this time by a narrower margin of six sets to four. Their last match was a tough one against current County Champions Middlesex. Despite losing 7-3, Barr, McTiernan and Tsaptsinos managed one win apiece. Senior Veteran Barr had a vintage weekend winning 4 out of his 6 matches whilst **fifteen year old Maria Tsaptsinos topped the Berkshire averages winning an incredible 5 out of 6** to continue her great form so far this season. The County are well placed at the halfway stage and look set for a top three finish.

Other Junior News

In other recent news involving local juniors players, **Liam McTiernan finished runner-up in the Under 21 Event at the Bristol Grand Prix. Daniel McTiernan won the Under 15 Event at the 2 Star Milton Keynes Open Tournament. Fellow thirteen year old Sam Liu won the Under 13 Event at the 1 Star Cirencester Open Tournament**, his maiden Open win. Eight year old brother **Jamie Liu won the Under 15 Consolation Event** at the 1 Star BATTs (Essex) Open Tournament. Finally **Joshua Bennett** finished runner-up in the Cadet Band 3 Event at the Sussex 4 Star Open Tournament.