



**February 2013**

**Shaking, not stirring!** *It is the Reading Closed. Daniel Moses and Danny Ricks have just beaten Mark Banks and Paul Jarvis. Xcellent! Richard Fifield was the umpire. Photo by Didier Garçon*

**READING  
& DISTRICT  
TABLE TENNIS  
ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER**

**Editor: DEREK WAVELL**

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*Nerves are starting to fray as the end of the season approaches. Check here to see the broad picture of how your team is standing - and plan the final moves.*

*Once again here are plenty of photos and videos for you. As I promised, I have rewarded participants in the Reading Closed by showing them in all their splendour, somewhere in these pages - photos captured by Didier Garçon. He has also made five videos, of the finals.*



*Spring is in the air, and Malcolm Gregory leads the way in disclosing some unexpected Rip van Winkles in our midst - goodness knows what April 1st will do to him! But this makes me think of why we all play. Some people want to maintain a fine tradition. Others want to rise through the rankings. For others, it is the abstract search for perfection - or at least, physical fitness. Myself, I have to learn something new every week.*

*Now, how do we improve the sport if everyone wants something different from it? There's a question!*

*Have a good last lap!*

*Derek*

**Click ALT + left arrow to return**

# THE READING CLOSED

by Nigel Maltby

The Senior events of the Reading Closed Championships were held over the weekend of the 9/10th February at the Kingfisher Club, Woodley. There was a disappointing entry but those who did play enjoyed a good tournament. Daniel Moses retained his Mens Singles title with an 11-9 11-8 5-11 11-3 victory over Ian Cole in the final and he also went on to gain success in both the Mens Doubles and Mixed Doubles.

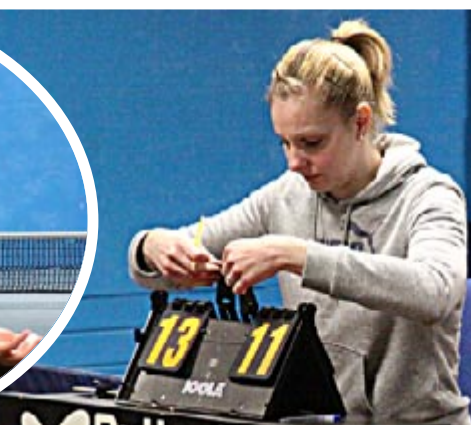
In the early rounds of the Mens Singles Siad Cole enjoyed an excellent 10-12 11-5 5-11 11-6 11-5 success over Jon Willis and Paul Treadgold battled to an 11-9 fifth game victory against Krysz Szczygiel. Gus Thomis overcame Derek Wavell 11-6 11-3 11-5 while Ian Cole held off a



MEN'S SINGLES: DANIEL MOSES (L) TRIUMPHED OVER IAN COLE



SAM LIU



LISA WILLIAMS



DANIEL MOSES



UMPIRE/ORGANIZER CHARLES GODDARD AND IAN COLE

good challenge from Sam Ricks to win 11-9 7-11 11-7 11-5.

In the Quarter Finals Daniel Moses beat his doubles partner Danny Ricks 11-5 8-11 11-9 11-0, Jeremy Willis edged through by beating Siad Cole 11-4 11-7 8-11 11-9, Mark Banks proved too much for Gus Thomis and Ian Cole won through against Stephen Yon. The semi-finals were very closely fought. Daniel Moses held off division 2 player Jeremy Willis 12-14 11-9 11-4 11-6 while the other semi final was a real thriller with Ian Cole beating Mark Banks 10-12 13-11 4-11 11-9 12-10.

Lisa Williams beat Wendy Porter to lift the Ladies Singles crown, Lisa winning 11-5 11-7 8-11 12-10. In the Veteran Singles Mark Banks defeated Andy Stephens 11-6 9-11 11-5 11-3 to reach the final where he faced Ian Cole, a 11-4 8-11 11-6 11-7 winner against Malcolm Gregory. In the final it was Banks who won another classic match up with Cole 11-6 11-13 10-12 12-10 12-10. The Senior Veterans event was won by Richard Fifield who beat Malcolm Gregory 11-8 11-8 7-11 11-3 in the final, while Colin Dyke triumphed in the over 60's event against Derek Wavell and Mike Dorrington, Derek picked up the runners-up award by beating Mike 11-6 11-6 9-11 11-9.

Daniel Moses and Danny Ricks picked up the Mens Doubles title, beating Mark Banks and Paul Jarvis 9-11 11-5 11-5 11-7 in the final. Moses was also successful in the Mixed Doubles where he teamed up with Wendy Porter to defeat Mark Banks and Lisa Williams 8-11 11-8 11-6 12-10.



MIXED DOUBLES FINALISTS WENDY PORTER, LISA WILLIAMS, DANIEL MOSES AND MARK BANKS

The Division 1 Restricted singles was won by Ian Cole after wins over both Lisa Williams and Danny Ricks. Ricks finished runner-up after beating Lisa 11-6 11-9 11-4. The Division 2 event saw Lee Calcutt hold off Sam Ricks 11-8 9-11 11-9 11-9 to reach the final where he faced Jon Willis, 11-9 11-6 11-6 winner against his brother Jeremy. Jon went on to take the title, winning a marathon encounter with Lee 11-7 9-11 12-10 6-11 13-11. Young Sam Liu picked up the Division 3 title, beating Nigel Rowland in the final 11-6 11-1 10-12 11-6. Finally Gus Thomis was the Division 5 winner after he managed a good 11-5 11-8 11-13 11-6 success against Stephen Yon.

**(MOST OF THE PHOTOS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE NEWSLETTER WERE TAKEN AT THIS COMPETITION)  
 CLICK TO VIEW THE FOLLOWING VIDEOS BY DIDIER GARÇON...**



Video of the [Men's Singles Final](#)



Video of the [Ladies Singles Final](#)



Video of the [Men's Doubles Final](#)



Video of the [Mixed Doubles Final](#)



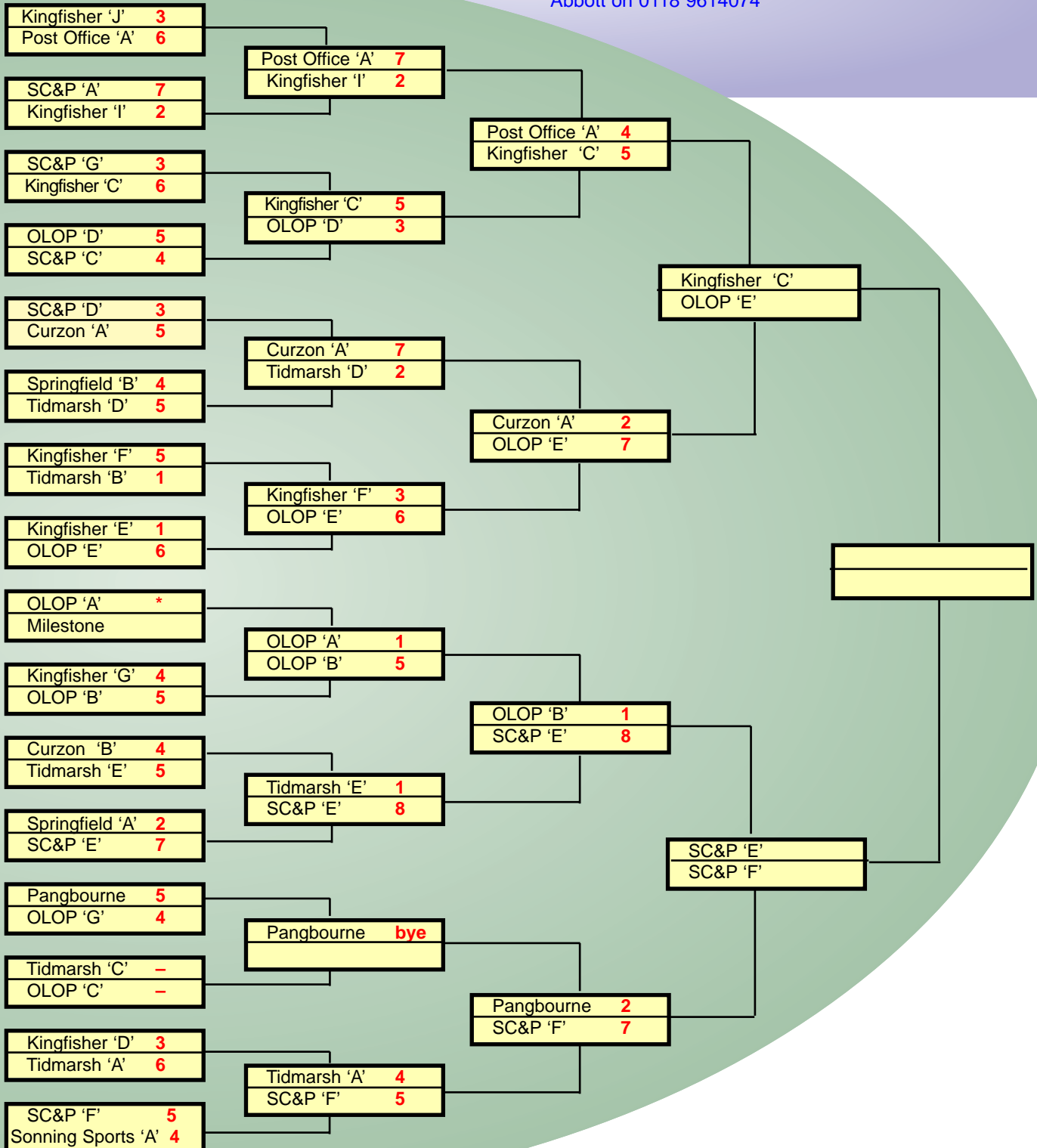
Video of the [Veteran Singles Final](#)

# 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*

Not a lot has happened since my last report. It seems that in Division One, if we get half an inch of snow, it is impossible to fulfil our fixtures. We therefore have a number of postponements. One of these is the mouth watering delectation of a fixture that is Kingfisher 'A' versus OLOP 'A'. Now call me old fashioned, but this is an event which I for one, would like to go and witness. Most of the players likely to be involved appear in the top ten of the division one averages. If I may be so bold as to make a prediction - this will be a championship decider!! One can see how this will indeed be a spectacle to behold. **Hari and Daniel, please find a way to communicate the date of the match to all and sundry. We know it will be at OLOP – we just need to know when.**



Also, before I start, can I congratulate Charlie Goddard and Paul Jarvis for a very well run **Reading Closed Tournament**. I remember that in the early 70s when I started playing

this event was massive – we used to take over the whole Meadway sports centre. This time I only played on the Saturday in the veterans' events but there was a nice atmosphere. It was good to see Division One well represented, with Mark Banks taking the veterans' title with a very tight win over Ian Cole. Even more entertaining was Mark's victory celebration which seemed to include individual recognition for everyone in the crowd!! I went along to defend my senior veterans' title from last year but was well beaten in the final by Richard Fifield. Well done Richard – I'll give the trophy a spit and pol-

I will get started in a minute I promise, but before I do, here is an amazing statistic. In our game v. Kingfisher 'B', the venerable Roger Woolven-Allen pointed out that during the course of the evening, every player had called "tails" and every single spin resulted in tails!! Ten spins out of ten!!! Now what odds would William Hill have given on that happening?!!

I guess a good place to start is the fixture between **Kingfisher 'A'** and **Tidmarsh**. Mainly because the very first



RICHARD FIFIELD

game of the evening looked like a corker. Hari Gehlot suffered a rare defeat at the hands of Sander De Riemer 11-7 5-11, 11-9, 6-11, 6-11. The sheer strength of the Kingfisher team was too much for Tidmarsh and despite a truly fabulous maximum from Sander, braces from Hari, Tony Reynolds and Stuart Williams plus a good doubles win secured a 7 - 3 win.

The local derby between **OLOP's 'A' & 'B'** also caught my eye: A slightly weakened OLOP 'A' did eventually run out 6 - 4 winners but it wasn't plain sailing. Needless to say Daniel Moses secured his usual maximum, supported well by that consistent, and may I say particularly pleasant gentleman, Michael Childs who bagged two wins. This together with a predictable doubles win secured the points over Bradley King's all stars where Krasimir Ivanov with a brace and one win each for Bradley and Joshua Gallen was just not quite enough

by the thinnest of thin margins. In the tenth game Michael faced Bradley in what looks like the game of the evening that resulted in a nail biting, butt clenchingly close victory for Michael 19-17, 9-11, 11-2, 8-11, 11-9.



IAN COLE'S TUSSELE WITH MARK BANKS

ish before I hand it over. But my message is that the Reading Closed deserves more support from our ranks. Maybe next year?



DANIEL MOSES AND MARK BANKS - WITH CHARLIE GODDARD BEHIND.

**Polish** continue to have a strange season. As I've stated before, their strongest team is capable of beating any team in the division and generally speaking they continue to win most of their games: 8-2 over Tidmarsh, 10 - 0 over Kingfisher 'B', 7 - 3 over Kingfisher 'C'. Easy peasy lemon squeezy. But then along comes Andy Yon, Graham Diplock and Nicky Heaps to Sonning Common 'B'. An inspired Keith Swain maximum with a good bit of back up from yours truly and the reinvented Brian Meheux saw Sonning home to a memorable 6 - 4 win. Graham had a little word in my shell like that I had failed to mention any of his performances so far this year. It just so happens that he was involved in the closest and most crucial game of this particular evening. Yes folks, you guessed it, I beat Graham 11-6, 6-11, 11-8, 6-11, 13-11. There you go Graham - happy now?!!

At this stage I feel I must apologise, but the fact is **my team** has been involved in some of the most surprising results in this segment of the season. Take our match with YMCA: at 8.29 pm, we are 4 - 0 down. The fat lady hasn't exactly started singing, but she has had a gargle and done a few scales and is definitely ready. Keith makes it 4 - 1. Oh well at least its not a whitewash and should be OK for a swift half. Then up steps Brian Meheux with his newly found zest and defeats the never ageing Mr. Peter Bradley 16-14, 11-7, 5-11, 11-7. After a good doubles win and then another win we found ourselves at 4 all, which seemed unbelievable. The fat lady was back in her dressing room and getting a bit frustrated! It has to be said Keith Winter has found some great form lately and he hit a superb maximum. His win over Brian in the 9th game 2-11, 4-11, 4-11 was actually shorter than his hair cut!! Then came the final "game of the evening" which it certainly was. Keith versus Pete resulted in a win for Keith: 11-9, 10-12, 3-11, 12-10, 12-10 and secured a 5 - 5 draw for Sonning. It seems amazing that Peter first played in the Reading league in 1933 and yet here he is still giving absolutely everything for his team, but by all accounts not getting an awful lot of luck. Pete remains one of our loveable stalwarts and I for one salute his gritty and never say die attitude to our sport.

So lets move away from Sonning 'B' to **Sonning 'A'**. Their game against OLOP 'B' was a humdinger. Simon Berry had a good evening, coming away with a brace which included a very impressive win over Bradley King 12-10, 6-11, 11-6, 11-5. A good doubles win for Jason Roberts and Simon over Bradley and John Millward saw Sonning go into a 4 - 3 lead. Alas that final win to secure a point proved evasive as Bradley overcame Jason in a 5 game thriller, Simon succumbed to John Millward and Paul Jarvis just lost out to the talented

but pleasantly bonkers Raphael Jack 9-11, 11-7, 12-10, 5-11, 7-11 . Unfortunately Sonning 'A' now look doomed for the drop.

Shortly after my last newsletter report the two **Kingfishers** 'B' & 'C' had a close encounter of the Woodley kind. Considering the B team is sitting uncomfortably in a 100% certain relegation spot and the C team is comfortably assured of safety albeit 4th from bottom of the table, one would be forgiven for thinking this would be an easyish victory for the C team. But one would be wrong. Their line ups were Andrew Parker, Lisa Williams and Niall McGrane against Geoff Civil, Roger WA and Richard Fifield (Senior Veterans Champion 2012/13).



LISA WILLIAMS



DANNY RICKS

Talk about a ding dong battle. Richard beat Andrew 11-7, 6-11, 11-8, 4-11, 9-11 to go 3 – 2 up. Niall beat Geoff 7-11, 11-9, 11-7, 8-11, 11-8 to take it to 3 – 3. Geoff and Richard then teamed up to beat Andrew and Niall 11-5, 9-11, 9-11, 11-6, 7-11 to go 4 – 3. At this point, the old boys must have thought their first win of the season was a distinct proberpossibility. But as we know, ping pong can be a cruel mistress and the B team came through strongly with Lisa, Niall and Andrew beating Richard Roger and Geoff respectively. In the last game of the evening Andrew defeated Geoff 11-6, 11-6, 9-11, 7-11, 13-11. Could it have been any closer?!!

The only team I haven't mentioned so far is **OLOP 'C'**. So here goes. They lost a very close mid table match against YMCA 6 – 4. They have beaten both Kingfishers 'B' & 'C' by an 8 – 2 margin. They suffered another narrow defeat to Tidmarsh 6 – 4. And yet another 6 - 4 defeat to their B team and a comfortable 7 – 3 victory over Sonning 'A'. So in OLOP 'C' we have a team that by all accounts, with a bit more luck could easily be 3rd in the table behind their A team instead of languishing in 6th place. They have Sean Pickin and Daniel McTiernan featuring very strongly in the averages with Danny Ricks also doing well and Neil Bird now finding his division one bearings. If this team stays together, I predict they will do a lot better next year.

|                | PL | W  | D | L  | F   | A   | Pts |
|----------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Kingfisher 'A' | 14 | 13 | 0 | 1  | 116 | 24  | 26  |
| OLOP 'A'       | 13 | 12 | 0 | 1  | 103 | 27  | 24  |
| Tidmarsh 'A'   | 14 | 9  | 0 | 5  | 88  | 52  | 18  |
| Polish 'A'     | 15 | 9  | 0 | 6  | 92  | 58  | 18  |
| OLOP 'C'       | 15 | 8  | 1 | 6  | 83  | 67  | 17  |
| YMCA           | 15 | 7  | 3 | 5  | 73  | 77  | 17  |
| OLOP 'B'       | 15 | 7  | 2 | 6  | 75  | 75  | 16  |
| Kingfisher 'C' | 15 | 5  | 1 | 9  | 63  | 87  | 11  |
| SC&P 'B'       | 15 | 4  | 1 | 10 | 44  | 106 | 9   |
| SC&P 'A'       | 13 | 1  | 1 | 11 | 35  | 95  | 3   |
| Kingfisher 'B' | 16 | 0  | 1 | 15 | 28  | 132 | 1   |

In summary, I have somehow managed to waffle on quite well considering not an awful lot has happened since the last newsletter. We are at the business end of the season and the relegation issues seem to be already sorted with Kingfisher 'B' and Sonning 'A' pretty much as certain as QPR of making the drop. But at the top end it's a very different story. We look forward to this encounter between Kingfisher 'A' and OLOP 'A' with great expectations.

Well I have to go now, but before I do, here is a riddle for you:

Q: How many ping pong players does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Four: One to complain that it's "table tennis" not "ping pong". One to change the light bulb, one to protest about the type of glue being used to fix the light bulb into place. The fourth one has the catalogue from which to chose an appropriate light bulb with the right combination of characteristics.



MALCOLM GREGORY

### LEADING AVERAGES

| Player           | Team           | PL | W  | %      |
|------------------|----------------|----|----|--------|
| Martin Adams     | Polish 'A'     | 21 | 21 | 100.00 |
| Daniel Moses     | OLOP 'A'       | 39 | 38 | 97.44  |
| Sander De Riemer | Tidmarsh 'A'   | 33 | 30 | 90.91  |
| Hari Gehlot      | Kingfisher 'A' | 29 | 25 | 86.21  |
| Steve Dobbins    | Polish 'A'     | 30 | 25 | 83.33  |
| Elson Costa      | Kingfisher 'A' | 23 | 19 | 82.61  |
| Mark Banks       | Kingfisher 'A' | 21 | 17 | 80.95  |
| Tony Reynolds    | Kingfisher 'A' | 26 | 21 | 80.77  |
| Michael Childs   | OLOP 'A'       | 39 | 31 | 79.49  |
| Stuart Williams  | Kingfisher 'A' | 24 | 19 | 79.17  |
| Daniel McTiernan | OLOP 'C'       | 33 | 26 | 78.79  |
| Sean Pickin      | OLOP 'C'       | 21 | 16 | 76.19  |
| Nick Heaps       | Polish 'A'     | 18 | 13 | 72.22  |

# DIVISION TWO

by Barry Carter

Welcome to the next to last newsletter of the season. It's looking like a two-horse race for the championship and a four-horse race for survival. At the top, Tidmarsh 'C' look on course to make it back-to-back promotions as they only need two points from their remain-



ANDY STEPHENS - WITH JEREMY WILLIS SCORING

ing games to be promoted. Curzon Club 'A' are now only four points away from a long awaited place in division one after some near misses in recent seasons. At the bottom, Kingfisher 'F' head the mini league of four teams with nine points ahead of Wokingham 'A' (I know you can never be too good to go down...just ask Wolves!) on eight points and currently and even more surprisingly occupying the bottom two are Kingfisher 'E' on seven points and Sonning C & P 'C' on six points. I would like to take the opportunity to wish Steve Woolnough a speedy recovery.

On with the waffle...

Tidmarsh 'C' have strung together four successive wins since Christmas and unless they catch a crab on the home straight will be in division one next season after a two season absence. The wins have

come against Post Office 'A' (8 - 2), Sonning C & P 'C' (9 - 1), Kingfisher 'F' (7 - 3) and Kingfisher 'D' (6 - 4). Andy Stephens once again won all three in the trip to Sonning C & P 'C' and Sam Ricks joined him in the maximum club but unfortunately my defeat by Matt Stone prevented me from joining. I did, however join the maximum club for only the third time this season in the 8 - 2 win over Post Office 'A'. Steve Rollason had a bit of a nightmare and only won once against Denise Weller. We had a fun evening at Kingfisher against Ivor, Trevor and Sharon in which we got the better of them...just in a 6 - 4 win. The crowds flocked to see Trevor and me play our exciting match and I believe they all went home happy in the knowledge that it didn't go to five as I won 3 - 1! Andy won all three and Steve Ricks making his 2013 debut went home with a win over Sharon.

Curzon Club 'A' look to have the momentum to join Tidmarsh 'C' in the promised land next season as they too have won four in a row.

Wokingham 'A' (6 - 4), Sonning C & P 'C' (6 - 4), Post Office 'A' (6 - 4) and Kingfisher 'F' (8 - 2). John Walker won the tenth game of the season against Ken Park 13-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-7 to give the two points in the 6 - 4 win over Wokingham 'A'. John Willcocks had earlier won all three and Jon Willis one. They were made to work hard by the bottom side Sonning C & P 'C' but showed championship qualities to come through with another 6 - 4 win thanks to three once again from John Willcocks and one each from both Mick Maynard and Jon Willis. Jon Willis finally got his maximum in the 6 - 4 win over Post Office 'A'.



SAM RICKS PLAYS MICHAEL HOUGHTON





LEE CALCUTT AND JON WILLIS

**Tidmarsh 'B'** are still in with an outside chance of promotion, but their bid faltered in their last outing as they lost 7 - 3 to rapidly improving OLOP 'D'. Prior to that match they had won against Kingfisher 'F' (8 - 2), Kingfisher 'D' (7 - 3) and Wokingham 'A' (7 - 3). A Dave Wise treble and braces from Mike Aistrop and Chris Webb saw them to an 8 - 2 win over Kingfisher 'F'. They followed that up with a 7 - 3 win over Kingfisher 'D', a result that saw them leapfrog into third. Lee Calcutt and Dave Wise both won all three and François Durand finished with a flourish to record a good victory over Ivor Hardman 11-2, 6-11, 3-11, 11-9, 11-2.

**Kingfisher 'D's'** hopes of promotion have all but ended for another season as they lost to two of their main rivals Tidmarsh 'C' (4 - 6) and Tidmarsh 'B' (3 - 7), they did however defeat struggling Kingfisher 'E' (7 - 3). The trip to Tidmarsh 'B' proved fruitless as they returned home with a 3 - 7 defeat and only wins for Sharon Mitchell and Trevor Organ to show for their efforts, although Trevor & Ivor teamed up to record an impressive 8-11, 13-11, 11-7, 8-11, 12-10 doubles victory over Lee Calcutt and Dave Wise. A 6 - 4 defeat at home to OLOP 'D' followed as Trevor managed a treble with wins over Pu Zhang, Dan West and Chris West. Ivor unfortunately had to concede the last match due to injury. Their only win in 2013 to date came at the expense of Kingfisher 'E' as it was Ivor's turn to record a treble but this time Trevor joined in too to make it a 7 - 3 win. The latest match saw their championship hopes end as Tidmarsh 'C' came to town and went away

with a 6 - 4 win. Ivor started well with a comprehensive win over me and finished it off with a 11-7, 9-11, 11-9, 7-11, 11-6 win over Steve, in the sandwich was a defeat by Andy Stephens.

**OLOP 'D'** have just got their timing wrong for a promotion push, they are still mathematically in with a chance of both winning the championship and promotion but results now need to go their way. They have had wins over Kingfisher 'D' (6 - 4) and Tidmarsh 'B' (7 - 3) in recent weeks to boost their promotion hopes. Sami Almbrok's last game for OLOP came in the surprise 4 - 6 defeat to Kingfisher 'F' and he signed off with a double which included wins over Michael Houghton and Ashish Bahuguna. Pu Zhang won all three in the narrow win over Kingfisher 'D', Chris West contributed a brace as well. Chris went one better to claim a maximum in the win over Tidmarsh 'B' whilst brother Dan finished with only a win over Terry Hardie.



TREVOR ORGAN

**Post Office 'A'** are almost safe for another season despite only winning two of their post-Christmas matches and that was a 6 - 4 victory over Kingfisher 'E' just as the decorations came down where John Simmonds came through a tight battle with Dave Gostelow 5-11, 14-12, 13-11, 10-12, 11 - 9 and then a comfortable 11-6, 11-4, 11-4 to win the points. Their other win was a 6 - 4 against Sonning C & P 'C' on the 30th January with George White winning two against Jeremy Willis and Matt Stone. The defeats have come against Tidmarsh 'C' (2 - 8), Curzon 'A' (4 - 6) and Wokingham 'A' (1 - 9).

**Kingfisher 'F'** are struggling for fit players and will need boosting if they are to avoid the drop. It was good to see Mike Dorrington back the other night after missing a few weeks, Steve Woolnough is probably out for the season and Ashish Bahuguna was injured

|                 | PL | W  | D | L  | F  | A  | Pts |
|-----------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Tidmarsh 'C'    | 14 | 12 | 1 | 1  | 94 | 46 | 25  |
| Curzon Club 'A' | 14 | 10 | 3 | 1  | 85 | 55 | 23  |
| Tidmarsh 'B'    | 13 | 7  | 3 | 3  | 77 | 53 | 17  |
| Kingfisher 'D'  | 14 | 8  | 0 | 6  | 77 | 63 | 16  |
| OLOP 'D'        | 11 | 6  | 0 | 5  | 53 | 57 | 12  |
| Post Office 'A' | 14 | 5  | 1 | 8  | 61 | 79 | 11  |
| Kingfisher 'F'  | 14 | 4  | 1 | 9  | 52 | 88 | 9   |
| Wokingham 'A'   | 13 | 3  | 2 | 8  | 62 | 68 | 8   |
| Kingfisher 'E'  | 13 | 3  | 1 | 9  | 55 | 75 | 7   |
| SC&P 'C'        | 14 | 2  | 2 | 10 | 54 | 86 | 6   |

when we played them a couple of weeks ago (which sportingly I took advantage of otherwise I might have struggled). They will need to pick up points in the forthcoming matches against Post Office 'A' and Wokingham 'A' if they are to stay up. Leo Long has performed really well and in the match against Tidmarsh 'C' he won all three. Michael Houghton continues to improve and he won two in the 6 - 4 win over Kingfisher 'E'.

**Wokingham 'A'**, after several seasons of pushing for promotion, are now suffering from tenth season syndrome and staring the trapdoor of relegation firmly in the face. Isn't it amazing you spend all that money on a new "stand" only to be relegated the following season.

Brian, Jim and Daryl shouldn't be in this position, they should be safely entrenched in mid-table but for some reason they haven't been able to string wins together this season. Their latest outcome saw them win comprehensively 9 - 1 against Post Office 'A'. Daryl Griffiths and Brian Chinneck both won three, Daryl battled back from 0 - 2 to defeat Simon Hopkins 10-12, 11-13, 11-5, 11-2, 11-8 to give them a 3 - 1 lead. Jim Spencer made it 5 - 1 with a win over John Simmonds and both points were claimed in the doubles as Brian & Daryl were victorious over John & Simon 11-4, 12-10, 11-9.

**Kingfisher 'E'** need to get Phil Mead playing in all of their remaining matches except their match against Tidmarsh 'C' to boost their chances of survival as he is their number one in the averages with 81%. The four-pointer against Wokingham 'A' will be key to their survival hopes. 2013 started with a 4 - 6 defeat against Post Office 'A', Allan Bruton won two of the four as he beat John Simmonds and George White and it carried on as they then lost 4 - 6 to Kingfisher 'F' as Phil won two and Peter Bennett one.



MIKE DORRINGTON

Dave Gostelow got the better of Sharon Mitchell 10-12, 11-9, 11-6, 11-6 but that was as good as it got as they lost 3 - 7.

**Sonning Common & Peppard 'C'** have slid down the table with Wolves-like aptitude to find themselves at the bottom of the table. It's been a disaster that they haven't been able to field their potentially strongest three more often as I'm sure they could be challenging for promotion if they had done. Sonning lost 1 - 9 at home to Tidmarsh 'C' where their only bright spot was a Matt Stone 11-6, 16-14, 4-11, 5-11, 11-7 win over me. The match saw young Danny Dockree make his division two debut and he did well to take games off both Andy Stephens and Sam Ricks. They pushed promotion bound Curzon 'A' all the way as

Jeremy Willis and Martyn Fenner both won two but Tim Raby fell just short as he lost game ten 5-11, 2-11, 3-11 and the match 4 - 6. Wokingham also proved too strong as they only had Kei Chau win over Brian Chinneck to show for their efforts.

That's it from me for this report, sorry it's been a bit briefer than normal (although some of you are probably cheering!). Hopefully in the end of season bonanza the "love-hate" stats package will be back. In the meantime a final prediction. Curzon Club to be champions with Tidmarsh 'C' to join them in division one and at the bottom it will be Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' to be joined by Kingfisher 'F' in division three. Enjoy the last few weeks of the season.

Barry



PETER BENNETT

### LEADING AVERAGES

| Player          | Team           | P  | W  | %  |
|-----------------|----------------|----|----|----|
| Lee Calcutt     | Tidmarsh 'B'   | 33 | 32 | 97 |
| Andy Stephens   | Tidmarsh 'C'   | 33 | 31 | 94 |
| John Willcocks  | Curzon 'A'     | 39 | 33 | 85 |
| Leo Long        | Kingfisher 'F' | 32 | 26 | 81 |
| Phil Mead       | Kingfisher 'E' | 21 | 17 | 81 |
| Daryl Griffiths | Wokingham 'A'  | 27 | 19 | 70 |
| Sami Almbrok    | OLOP 'D'       | 24 | 16 | 67 |
| Jeremy Willis   | Sonning 'C'    | 24 | 16 | 67 |
| Jon Willis      | Curzon 'A'     | 39 | 25 | 64 |
| Ivor Hardman    | Kingfisher 'D' | 33 | 21 | 64 |
| Dave Wise       | Tidmarsh 'B'   | 24 | 15 | 63 |

# DIVISION THREE *by Nick Lean*

It's hard to believe there are just five more weeks of scheduled matches to the end of the season and while some teams have little left to play for, others will be fighting hard in the remaining matches to achieve the goals that are still within their grasp.

This must have been a shock for **Milestone**, who had won all 13 of their matches up until then with John Tucker and Robin Benwell in sparkling form, but they remain in pole position for promotion with a 3 point lead. However, with matches to come against the teams in 2nd, 4th and 5th (Polish, Tilehurst Meths 'A' & OLOP 'F') they should not take anything for granted.



SAM LIU AND PAUL TREADGOLD

Meanwhile, Wendy Porter has encouraged and assisted the younger members of her team, Sam, Josh and Siad to this terrific result against Milestone as part of an unbeaten start to the year. This places **OLOP 'E'** just one point adrift of second placed Polish 'B' with matches to come against 3 of the bottom 4 teams, plus Tilehurst Meths 'A' (who beat them in the first half) and OLOP 'F'. But even if they were to win their remaining five matches, OLOP 'E' would not be guaranteed promotion, for that would need Polish to drop at least one point during the run-in.

If a league table were produced of the matches played so far in the second half of the season all teams would be in the same position in the table they are currently; Milestone & Polish would be in the top two with OLOP 'E' on their heels, while Pangbourne and Tilehurst Methodists 'B' would be in the relegation places. This suggests recent results have gone to form, and so they have, apart from maybe one...

The main headline for Division 3 is: **OLOP 'E' have removed Milestone 'A's 100% record**

The OLOP youngsters won 7 - 3 to put themselves in with a chance of promotion. Josh Gallen and Sam Liu won all three of their singles contests, with both of them defeating John Tucker and Robin Benwell in the process, as they dropped only three ends between them during the match.



S I A D C O L E

| Team                | P  | W  | D | L  | F   | A   | Pts |
|---------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Milestone 'A'       | 14 | 13 | 0 | 1  | 100 | 40  | 26  |
| Polish 'B'          | 14 | 10 | 3 | 1  | 96  | 44  | 23  |
| OLOP 'E'            | 14 | 10 | 2 | 2  | 100 | 40  | 22  |
| Tilehurst Meths 'A' | 11 | 6  | 3 | 2  | 62  | 48  | 15  |
| OLOP 'F'            | 11 | 6  | 1 | 4  | 59  | 51  | 13  |
| Kingfisher 'G'      | 14 | 5  | 1 | 8  | 68  | 72  | 11  |
| Springfield 'A'     | 13 | 5  | 0 | 8  | 54  | 76  | 10  |
| Sonning C&P 'D'     | 13 | 2  | 3 | 8  | 44  | 86  | 7   |
| Tilehurst Meths 'B' | 14 | 0  | 2 | 12 | 35  | 105 | 2   |
| Pangbourne          | 12 | 0  | 1 | 11 | 32  | 88  | 1   |

So let's look at **Polish 'B'**, who remain in second place after three successive 8 - 2 wins. Previously I said "I couldn't see anyone preventing them from gaining promotion come the end of the season", but I also said "if they can field the two Jaceks for most of their remaining matches, they should end the season in second place". But against Tilehurst Meths 'A' they played with only one Jacek and although Mr. Borysiuk won all three, the other team members could only win one each and they were held to a draw. Their remaining matches include what is now the crunch match of their season - in the penultimate



NIGEL ROWLAND

week they face the return fixture against Milestone, which although it will be at home, could be equally critical for the visitors.

I don't want to say this too loud or rub it in, but it looks as though the relegation places have already been decided. Pangbourne are still struggling to gain a second point while Tilehurst Methodists 'B' are struggling to field a team for their remaining fixtures.

**Pangbourne** came close to taking a point from their recent match against Springfield when Clive Taylor won two and Pete Welch and Leroy Wilson one each in a 4 - 6 defeat. Pete also lost narrowly to Des Hele 11-9, 10-12, 15-13, 10-12, 8-11. With a couple of postponed matches to re-arrange they have more left to play than any other team, but realistically I still don't see them performing a great escape.

Richard Lownsborough is in an impossible position. Due to the other members of his **Tilehurst Methodists 'B'** team being incapacitated or otherwise unavailable he is reliant on playing up whoever is available from the other TM teams in Divisions 4 and 6, but having already done this 11 times his options are now becoming limited. However, when the two Tilehurst Methodists teams played each other Catherine Venning put in an excellent performance beating Ian Cockling and Nigel Rowland, then teaming up with Chris Taylor to win the doubles too.

But with his team having suffered 9 defeats on the trot I think Richard has accepted the inevitable and may simply be looking forward to the end of the season and fresh start next September.

**Sonning C&P 'D'** are the only other team that might be concerned about the threat of relegation, but their recent 8 - 2 win over Tilehurst Meths 'B' will have allayed their fears. In that match Paul Treadgold led the way winning all three for his team, which included two others playing up from Div. 5, Danny Dockree who also won three and Derek Brooke-Wavell who won two.

The remaining four teams have all won a further 4, 5 or 6 points in their matches since the turn of the year, to keep them all mid table.

**Tilehurst Meths 'A'** had a good draw with promotion chasing Polish 'B' thanks to two wins apiece for Nigel Rowland and Phil Jones. The Tilehurst team came close to taking both points as Nigel Rowland pushed the Polish No. 1, Jacek Borysiuk all the way before losing out 9-11 in the deciding game. Two other wins followed this and with 7 matches left to play they might still seem to have an outside chance of promotion, but this includes fixtures at Milestone and OLOP 'E' so they will probably have to be content with fourth place.

**Springfield 'A'** have taken 4 points for their last 4 matches (2 points less than they did in the first half), thanks to wins over the bottom two teams. Despite Phil Burke being in the top half dozen or so in the individual averages, they may struggle to pick up many further points this season.

**Kingfisher 'G'** have taken 4 points from their 5 matches this year, losing to three of the top four teams but beating Springfield 6 - 4 and Sonning C&P 10 - 0. In their defeat to Tilehurst Meths 'A' Carol Byers was unlucky not to win more than once as having beaten Phil Jones she then had a crackling contest with Ian Cockling in which she eventually lost out 16-18 in the fifth game.

They should be aiming to finish the season in the top half of the table, if they can come up with a few more wins.

**OLOP 'F'** have won 3 of their recent 5 matches, although this was against the bottom three teams, and had defeats to two of the top three. Harry Brough & Pat Daniels remain the backbone of this team, who have 4 scheduled matches and three others still to re-arrange. (Pat - please let me know when you have some dates for these)



WENDY PORTER WITH HER TEAM MEMBER, SIAD COLE

Thanks to everyone for emailing the result cards so promptly, but please remember to check all details are present - especially the doubles pairings.

**STOP PRESS:** Sonning C&P 'D' 0 OLOP 'E' 10.

### LEADING AVERAGES

| Player             | Team                | P  | W  | %    |
|--------------------|---------------------|----|----|------|
| Jacek Borysiuk     | Polish 'B'          | 41 | 38 | 92.7 |
| Steve Miller       | OLOP 'F'            | 12 | 11 | 91.7 |
| Robin Benwell      | Milestone 'A'       | 42 | 38 | 90.5 |
| Sam Liu            | OLOP 'E'            | 35 | 31 | 88.6 |
| Joshua Gallen      | OLOP 'E'            | 29 | 25 | 86.2 |
| Nigel Rowland      | Tilehurst Meths 'A' | 27 | 22 | 81.5 |
| Phil Burke         | Springfield 'A'     | 36 | 28 | 77.8 |
| John Tucker        | Milestone 'A'       | 42 | 32 | 76.2 |
| Jacek Krzyzanowski | Polish 'B'          | 32 | 23 | 71.9 |
| Allen Pack         | Kingfisher 'G'      | 36 | 25 | 69.4 |
| Phil Jones         | Tilehurst Meths 'A' | 30 | 20 | 66.7 |
| Wendy Porter       | OLOP 'E'            | 21 | 14 | 66.7 |

# DIVISION FOUR *by Derek Harrison*

**B**efore I start my next lot of notes I have a few matches to comment on that were not included in my previous report.

Firstly Kingfisher 'I' won their first match of the season by winning 4 - 6 at Tidmarsh 'D' with John Creighton and Andrew Talaga both picking up doubles. Derek Crombie had a great 7-11 5-11 7-11 win over Steve Barnes who lost all three. For Tidmarsh Dave Reynolds obtained a fine maximum. Also Tilehurst Meths drew with Birch Copse, with Bob Winter gaining a double for the Meths and Jes Eassom hitting a fine treble for Birch Copse.

**Wokingham** maintained their lead at the top by beating Curzon 'B' 7 - 3 with Mike Shore returning to form by winning all three. Dan did well to win two and Ken picked up a single. They followed this by beating OLOP 9 - 1 with Tony and Richard both obtaining very easy trebles besides teaming up to win the doubles. Mike Shore managed a double. In the big top of the table clash with Sonning Sports, Tony and Richard both won two each with Dan getting a vital single. They took a chance by not playing Richard or Ken at Birch Copse but still came away with a 2 - 8 victory. Tony and Dan both obtained trebles with Aiden picking up a good double.

**Sonning Sports** were without Bob W against Tidmarsh and nearly paid the penalty by having to rely on a hat trick from Nigel who beat Dave Smith in set ten to give them a 6 - 4 victory. Dave and Bob S managed to obtain important singles. In their big top of the table clash at Kingfisher 'H' they came away with a great 2 - 8 victory. Bob W and Nigel were in superb form, winning all three with only Nils taking a game from them. Dave played his part by winning one. At home to second from bottom Kingfisher 'I' they won 7 - 3 with Bob W getting his 6th maximum in a row. Dave and Nigel both won two each.



I have to say that after the doubles they were worried because they were only 4 - 3 up. Bob was full of praise for Ken on his good play and Andrew and Phil Cunnington for the way that they performed. At Wokingham Nigel hit a superb treble. In the game against Dan he was 2 - 1 up and 9-2 up in the 4th only to lose 9-11, but of course he won the 5th end. Against Richard he won one end 16-14 on an edge! In the doubles Nigel and Bob W lost the first two ends 14-12 after being 8-10 up in both and then just got home 10-12 in the 5th end. Real nail biting stuff. The other win came from Bob

W who beat Dan. Thank You Bob for your great report. Next came OLOP. who they lost to first time round but this time they just got home 6 - 4 with Bob S winning the 10th set against Cedric which gave him a double. As ever Nigel did the business by winning all three but had to come back from two games down against Cedric. Bob W had a mare but did pick up a vital single. Despite his fine average Bob only picked up singles in both of his matches against them

**Kingfisher 'H'** were without Jean-Noel against Sonning Sports and as a result they suffered a 2 - 8 defeat with Joaquin and Gabor winning one each by beating Dave. At Birch Copse Jean-Noel came back into the side and won all three with Nils gaining a vital single and the two of them winning the doubles. At home to Tilehurst Meths it was a great team performance that gave them a 6 - 4 victory. Gabor, Joaquin and Nils all managed doubles. They then went to Curzon 'C' and came away with a 4 - 6 win with Nils on top form, gaining a maximum besides teaming up with Gabor to win the doubles. Gianpaolo and Gabor both won one each by beating Oli.

**Birch Copse** had a good match with Kingfisher 'H' which ended in a draw. Jes and Simon both won two each. Jes went very close to being the first one to take an end off Jean-Noel, only going down 4-11 9-11 9-11. Mike won the other set by beating Gianpaolo. At Kingfisher 'I' a two man team lost 6 - 4. Simon had a good night by winning all three besides teaming up with Mike to win the doubles. Back to full strength against Wokingham they went down 2 - 8 with Simon picking up the only single by beating Aiden. They did have a good doubles win when Simon and Mike beat Dan and Aiden 11-9 11-6 11- 6.

**Tilehurst Meths** beat Curzon 'C' 7 - 3 thanks to a good team performance with Catherine, Bob and Alex all winning two each. They entertained

| Team              | P  | W  | D | L  | F   | A  | Pts |
|-------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|----|-----|
| Wokingham B       | 14 | 11 | 2 | 1  | 101 | 39 | 24  |
| Sonning Sports    | 14 | 10 | 2 | 2  | 92  | 48 | 22  |
| Kingfisher H      | 14 | 9  | 3 | 2  | 81  | 59 | 21  |
| Tilehurst Meths C | 14 | 7  | 1 | 6  | 68  | 72 | 15  |
| Birch Copse A     | 13 | 5  | 4 | 4  | 69  | 61 | 14  |
| Curzon B          | 12 | 5  | 0 | 7  | 54  | 66 | 10  |
| Tidmarsh D        | 11 | 4  | 1 | 6  | 51  | 59 | 9   |
| OLOP G            | 13 | 3  | 1 | 9  | 54  | 76 | 7   |
| Kingfisher I      | 14 | 2  | 2 | 10 | 43  | 97 | 6   |
| Curzon C          | 13 | 1  | 2 | 10 | 47  | 83 | 4   |

Tidmarsh and won the local derby 6 - 4 with Catherine winning all three. Bob and Alex both picked up a single by beating Mick. Bob also teamed up with Catherine to win the doubles. At Kingfisher 'H' they went down 6 - 4 with Bob winning two and Alex picking up a single. Alex and Bob also won the doubles by beating Didier and Gabor. Against Kingfisher 'I' Bob obtained his second maximum of the season and with Catherine winning two and Alex gaining a single they took both points in a 7 - 3 victory.

**Tidmarsh** only went down 6 - 4 at Sonning Sports with Terry and Dave E both getting doubles. At Tilehurst Meths they went down 6 - 4 with Terry and Dave E both obtaining doubles. At home to Curzon 'C' they drew with Terry winning two and Dave E and Dave S winning one each. The doubles was vital with them winning 8-11 11-9 15-13 11-9 on a sneaky edge!

**Curzon 'B'** lost 7 - 3 at Wokingham with Derek, Jim and Nick all picking up singles. At home to OLOP. they won 7 - 3 mainly thanks to a Nick treble. Geoff won two and Derek obtained a single. As a result of a postponed match plus two blank weeks these are the only matches we have played.

**OLOP** had a very close 6 - 4 win over Kingfisher 'I' despite Mark having to concede two of his sets due to illness, however a great treble from Dave and a double from Alistair saw them home. They then went down 9 - 1 at Wokingham with reserve Nigel Antell beating Mike Shore. At Curzon 'B' Alistair did well by winning two in their 7 - 3 defeat. Cedric played well by beating me 8- 11 in the 5th end. They then gave Sonning Sports a fright and only went down 6 - 4 with Dave winning two and Alistair one when he beat Bob W for the second time after losing the first two games 11-5 11-3. He also teamed up with Dave to win the doubles when at one point they were 2 games to one down and 7 -2 down in the fourth.

**Kingfisher 'I'** went down 6 - 4 at OLOP with Ken winning two by beating Mark and Alistair. At Sonning Sports they lost 7 - 3 with Ken winning two by beating Nigel and Dave. They then beat a two man Birch Copse 6 - 4 with Ken, Andrew and reserve Leigh Mahoney all beating Mike Williams. At Tilehurst Meths they lost 7 - 3. Andrew did well, beating Catherine and Alex with Ken also beating Alex.

Linda King won twice for **Curzon 'C'** at Tilehurst Meths which included a fine win over an in-form Catherine. Terry was the other scorer by beating Bob but this was not enough in a 7 - 3 defeat. Against Tidmarsh Terry hit his first hat trick of the season and all three-straight, beating Terry Hardie 9-11 7-11 10-12, Dave E 3-11 3-11 9-11 and Dave S 11-13 6-11 13-15 and with Linda winning two this gave them a share of the spoils. At home to Kingfisher 'H' they went down 4 - 6 with Linda and Terry both winning two.

The run in is going to be very interesting at the top and it is hard to predict the outcome. Sonning Sports has the easiest run in so with the right team selection I expect

them to take maximum points although Tilehurst Meths could give them a problem. Promotion could very well rest on the final match of the season when Wokingham play at home to Kingfisher 'H' but I expect by then that they would have clinched promotion, but on saying that I am sure there could be a few twists and turns before that. At the bottom it will take a massive change in fortunes for Kingfisher 'I' and Curzon 'C' to survive.

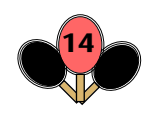
As this is such a short report, due to postponed matches and blank weeks, I would like to make a comment regarding games that are won by an 11-0 margin. I have to ask; is it necessary or sporting that a player should do this to an opponent? I remember back in 2003/4 season when I was Div Sec of the 3rd Division, one player beat someone from OLOP 11-0 11-0 11-1 and put on the score card he was hoping to obtain a record by winning all three games 11-0!! I contacted him and asked what satisfaction did he get from beating a reserve by that margin? That team on the night played three players who were registered in the 6th

| DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES |                     |    |    |       |
|------------------------|---------------------|----|----|-------|
| Player                 | Team                | P  | W  | %     |
| Jean-Noel Thepaut      | Kingfisher 'H'      | 23 | 23 | 100.0 |
| Nigel Goodman          | Sonning Sports      | 30 | 28 | 93.3  |
| Tony Eames             | Wokingham 'B'       | 39 | 34 | 87.2  |
| Richard Neville        | Wokingham 'B'       | 27 | 23 | 85.2  |
| Bob Woodmansee         | Sonning Sports      | 39 | 31 | 79.5  |
| Terry Hardie           | Tidmarsh 'D'        | 24 | 19 | 79.2  |
| Catherine Venning      | Tilehurst Meths 'C' | 30 | 23 | 76.7  |
| Simon Clarke           | Birch Copse 'A'     | 33 | 24 | 72.7  |
| Dave Godfrey           | OLOP 'G'            | 24 | 17 | 70.8  |
| Jes Eassom             | Birch Copse 'A'     | 36 | 23 | 63.9  |
| Linda King             | Curzon 'C'          | 33 | 21 | 63.6  |
| Mark Bullion           | OLOP 'G'            | 19 | 12 | 63.2  |
| Ken Park               | Wokingham 'B'       | 24 | 15 | 62.5  |

division and the player he beat was playing to bring up the numbers and had hardly played the game before. Needless to say he could not give me an answer. I must say I do wonder that over the years since we having been playing up to 11 what would the players that won 11-0 say if it happened to them!

Finally in my previous notes I said I wonder if any player will take an end from Jean-Noel. Well I must have had a senior moment because Dave Godfrey did take an end by beating him 11-8 in Sept.

Cheers  
Derek



# DIVISION FIVE *by Duncan Abbott*

The most exciting part of the season, the final run-in, is now upon us. And there is so much still to play for. There are four teams chasing the two available promotion places and three battling it out to avoid the bottom two places at the other end of the table. And the other three teams will all have a say in how those two battles pan out.

**Springfield 'B'** were top at Christmas and have held on to that position thanks to three wins and a draw. First up were Polish 'D' and a 6 - 4 win thanks to an excellent team effort from John Burke, Chris Speight and Dan Mortimer. Chris struggled badly in the first half of the season but he has bounced right back to form with a superb treble against Tidmarsh 'E'. Two wins apiece from John and captain Paul Jenkins gave them a 7 - 3 success. Two-man OLOP 'H' gave them a scare before succumbing 6 - 4, two from Dan and one from Chris bringing home the bacon. Surprisingly John was left out of the team that faced Post Office 'B' for a promotion crunch match, but Chris and Dan didn't disappoint as both beat the prolific Mick Grantham to earn two wins apiece and they combined to take the doubles and a share of the spoils.

Remaining matches: Birch Copse 'B' (a), SC&P 'F' (h), Milestone 'B' (h), Polish 'C' (a).

Although currently in second place **Post Office 'B'** have stuttered a bit lately, with six points out of a possible ten. They succumbed once again to bogey team SC&P 'E' by a 7 - 3 margin, Ray Webb winning two and Mick Grantham one. Big summer signing Pete Sinclair made his first



appearance of the season in that match but sadly failed to trouble the scorers. They also dropped points by drawing with Polish 'D' and Springfield 'B'. In the former Ray won all three and Linda Davis and captain Ted Cripps one apiece, and at Springfield Ray was again undefeated with Ted and Mick chipping in with one apiece. Their only triumph was an emphatic one, 9 - 1 at Tidmarsh 'E' thanks to trebles from Ray & Mick and a brace from Linda. Two points also came by way of a 10 - 0 walkover against OLOP 'H'.

Remaining matches : Birch Copse 'B' (h), SC&P 'F'(a), Milestone 'B'(a).

| Team          | P  | W  | D | L  | F  | A  | Pts |
|---------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Springfield B | 14 | 10 | 2 | 2  | 90 | 50 | 22  |
| Post Office B | 15 | 8  | 5 | 2  | 98 | 52 | 21  |
| SC&P E        | 14 | 9  | 2 | 3  | 92 | 48 | 20  |
| Polish C      | 12 | 7  | 3 | 2  | 69 | 51 | 17  |
| Polish D      | 13 | 5  | 4 | 4  | 65 | 65 | 14  |
| Tidmarsh E    | 14 | 6  | 2 | 6  | 59 | 81 | 14  |
| Milestone B   | 14 | 5  | 0 | 9  | 65 | 75 | 10  |
| Birch Copse B | 14 | 2  | 3 | 9  | 55 | 85 | 7   |
| OLOP H        | 14 | 1  | 5 | 8  | 47 | 93 | 7   |
| SC&P 'F'      | 14 | 2  | 2 | 10 | 50 | 90 | 6   |

Without doubt the form team right now are **Sonning Common & Peppard 'E'**. Two quickfire 10 - 0 wins over strugglers Birch Copse 'B' launched Derek Brooke-Wavell's team back into the promotion picture, while Post Office 'B' (7 - 3), SC&P 'F' (8 - 2) and Milestone 'B' (6 - 4) also found them too hot to handle. Derek, Mike Legg and Jim McClure combined for the first clean sweep against Birch Copse while Danny Dockree, Anthony Reeve and Jim combined for the return fixture. Three from Danny, two from Jim and one from Derek saw off Post Office while trebles from Danny and Anthony saw off their club rivals. Jim's superb form came to a grinding halt against Milestone, but a treble from Danny and a brace from Derek saw them home.

Remaining matches : Polish 'C' (a), Polish 'D'(h), Tidmarsh 'E'(a), OLOP 'H'(h).

Dark horses for a quick return to Division 4 are **Polish 'C'**. They are currently four places off second place but have three matches in hand. While points in the bag are often better than matches in hand the fact that Jan Polnik's side have six matches to play makes life very interesting. Only two matches have been played since the last report. SC&P 'F' were convincingly beaten



DEREK BROOKE-WAVELL, WITH HIS TRADEMARK SQUARE BAT

8 - 2, Grant Wheatley and Stephen Yon both hitting trebles and Jan a single, but they surprisingly came unstuck against Milestone 'B' where they went down 6 - 4 despite another superb maximum from Grant.

Remaining matches : Birch Copse 'B'(h), SC&P 'E'(h), Polish 'D'(a), Tidmarsh 'E'(h), OLOP H (a), Springfield 'B'(h).

Their club mates **Polish 'D'** have despite their early season team problems had a fine season and have adapted to this division very well following last season's promotion. Much of this is down to the excellent form of Daniel Dzieciol who has lost only one set since mid-November. He has played in all four matches since Christmas recording trebles against Springfield 'B', Birch Copse 'B' and SC&P 'F', and losing only to Ray Webb of Post Office 'B'. In the first of these fixtures Daniel's efforts proved in vain as his only support in a 4 - 6 defeat was a single from Italian defender Luca Bianchi. Against Post Office Szymon Szor and Luca contributed with singles in a 5 - 5 draw, and against Birch Copse Luca's brace helped secure a 6 - 4 win, Grzegorz Romek played in this fixture and just missed out in a pulsating five-gamer against Melanie Griffiths. Another brace from Luca and single from Szymon clinched another 6 - 4 win against SC&P 'F'.



STEPHEN YON OF POLISH 'C'

with another brace in a 7 - 3 defeat. Their draw came against OLOP 'H' who unusually fielded three players. Dave scored two and singles came from Steve and Mike Bundy.

Remaining matches: Milestone 'B'(h), Polish 'C'(a), SC&P 'E'(h), Polish 'D'(a).

After their early season trials and tribulations **Milestone 'B'** seem to have pulled clear of trouble but may still need a couple of decent results to make sure. They have won two and lost one of their three matches since Christmas, all of them by a 6 - 4 margin. Wins came against SC&P 'F' and surprisingly against Polish 'C'. In the former captain Gerard Thorp starred with a maximum and was backed by singles from John Simpson and reserve Arun Rajagopal, and in the latter Gerard, Oliver Bonser and Chris Collins all weighed in with two wins apiece. In their defeat at SC&P 'E' Chris won two and Gerard & Oliver one apiece. Remaining matches : Polish 'D'(h), Tidmarsh 'E'(a), Springfield 'B'(a), Post Office 'B'(h).

I'd like to take this opportunity to say what a pleasure it has been to play alongside my team-mates Andy Cook and captain Melanie Griffiths for **Birch Copse 'B'**. They have struggled for wins all season but carry on playing in a cheerful and sporting manner, and that's what I believe the game is all about. We have certainly got no change out of SC&P 'E' suffering the indignity of two 10 - 0 reversals. Against Tidmarsh 'E' and Polish 'D' we came close but ended up on the wrong side of a 6 - 4 scoreline, in each match my two wins were backed up by singles from Andy & Melanie. We did pick up our first away point of the season at OLOP 'H' but were helped by the home side turning up with only two players.

Remaining matches : Polish 'C'(a), Springfield 'B'(h), Post Office 'B'(a), SC&P 'F'(h).

### DIV 5 LEADING AVERAGES

| Player             | Team         | P  | W  | %     |
|--------------------|--------------|----|----|-------|
| Grant Wheatley     | Polish 'C'   | 35 | 30 | 85.71 |
| Dave Reynolds      | Tidmarsh 'E' | 21 | 18 | 85.71 |
| Ray Webb           | Post 'B'     | 33 | 28 | 84.85 |
| Danny Dockree      | SC & P 'E'   | 33 | 28 | 84.85 |
| Daniel Dzieciol    | Polish 'D'   | 42 | 35 | 83.33 |
| Nigel Antell       | OLOP 'H'     | 18 | 15 | 83.33 |
| Michael McAllister | OLOP 'H'     | 6  | 5  | 83.33 |
| John Burke         | Spring 'B'   | 27 | 22 | 81.48 |
| Mick Grantham      | Post 'B'     | 36 | 28 | 77.78 |
| Chris Collins      | M'stone 'B'  | 18 | 13 | 72.22 |
| Daniel Mortimer    | Spring 'B'   | 29 | 20 | 68.97 |
| Duncan Abbott      | B.Copse 'B'  | 30 | 20 | 66.67 |

Remaining matches : Milestone 'B'(a), Polish 'C'(h), SC&P 'E'(a), Tidmarsh 'E'(h).

Considering the size and calibre of their squad **Tidmarsh 'E'** have perhaps underachieved a little but at least they haven't suffered the histrionics of last season's unexpected relegation battle. Wins have come against Birch Copse 'B' (6 - 4) and SC&P 'F' (7 - 3). In the former Dave Reynolds starred with a treble including a thrilling five-gamer against yours truly, with captain Bob Sunerton backing him with a brace. Dave and Bob did likewise in the latter and this time they were supported by a Steve Andrews single. Reverses came against Post Office 'B', Bob defeating Linda Davis for their solitary point, and at Springfield 'B' where Bob starred

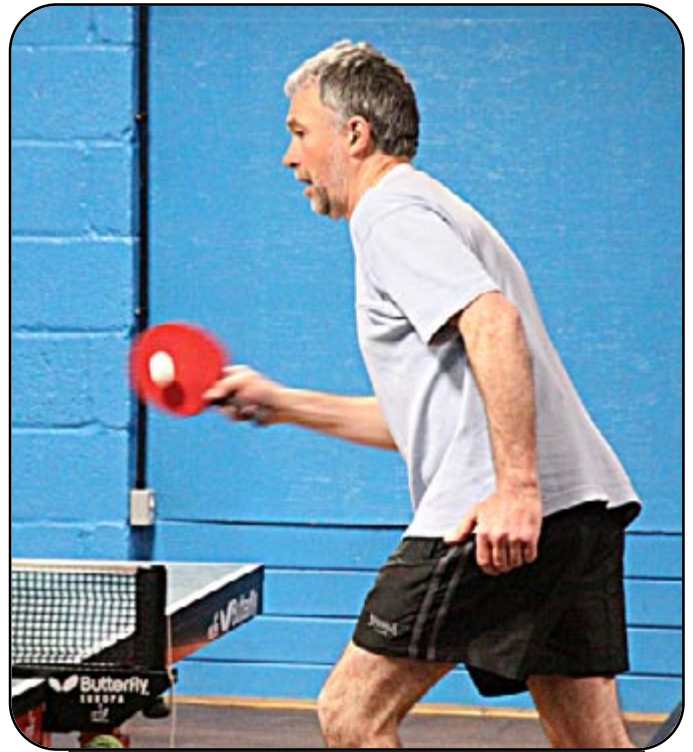


I'm certain that had they been able to field three players on a regular basis then **OLOP 'H'** would be up in mid-table. Since Christmas they have picked up two draws. Nigel Antell's treble and captain Kamran Samdani's brace gave them a share of the spoils at Tidmarsh 'E'; Paul Tuson was the third player but he failed to score. At home to Birch Copse 'B' Kamran and Chris Bunn both beat Andy & Melanie and combined to win the doubles but there was no third player. Against Springfield 'B' again only two took to the table, Nigel scored two and Kamran one in a 6 - 4 defeat. The match against Post Office 'B' was conceded.

Remaining matches : Polish 'D'(h), Milestone 'B'(a), Polish 'C'(h), SC&P 'E'(a).

It's looking like a case of déjà vu for **Sonning Common & Peppard 'F'** who like last season have hit a rocky patch at just the wrong time. They have lost all five matches since the turn of the year and have hit the bottom of the league. Closest matches were 6 - 4 against Milestone 'B' and Polish 'D'. In the former Mike Casserley won two and Tony House and Dave Aust one apiece. In the latter Mike, Dave & Phil Turton won one each and Mike & Dave the doubles. In their 7 - 3 defeat at Tidmarsh 'E' Dave won two and Mike one. The other two defeats were by an 8 - 2 margin; against Polish 'C' Tony and Phil both beat Jan, and at SC&P 'E' Tony and Mike both beat Derek.

Remaining matches : OLOP 'H'(h), Springfield 'B'(a), Post Office 'B'(h), Birch Copse 'B'(a).



POLISH 'C' STALWART KRZYS SZCZYGIEL

### TITANIC TUSSELES

|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Danny Dockree (SC&P 'E') v Ray Webb (Post Off)        | 11-4, 10-12, 4-11, 11-4, 12-10. |
| Gerard Thorp (Mile) v Tony House (SC&P 'F')           | 11-7, 11-5, 7-11, 4-11, 11-9.   |
| Arun Rajagopal (Mile) v Mike Casserley (SC&P 'F')     | 6-11, 11-5, 4-11, 11-8, 9-11.   |
| Steve Andrews (Tid) v Kamran Samdani (OLOP)           | 7-11, 11-7, 12-10, 2-11, 10-12. |
| Ted Cripps (Post Off) v Luca Bianchi (Pol 'D')        | 11-8, 11-7, 9-11, 9-11, 13-11.  |
| John Harland (Tid) v Linda Davis (Post Off)           | 5-11, 11-7, 12-10, 7-11, 10-12. |
| Nigel Antell (OLOP) v Chris Speight (Spring)          | 10-12, 11-7, 11-7, 9-11, 12-10. |
| Kamran Samdani (OLOP) v Paul Jenkins (Spring)         | 3-11, 11-9, 11-8, 8-11, 14-12.  |
| Melanie Griffiths (B Copse) v John Liddle (Tid)       | 12-14, 7-11, 12-10, 11-8, 11-9. |
| Duncan Abbott(B Copse) v John Liddle (Tid)            | 10-12, 14-12, 11-4, 8-11, 11-9. |
| Oliver Bonser (Mile) v Stephen Yon (Pol 'C')          | 12-10, 6-11, 11-9, 6-11, 11-9.  |
| Steve Andrews (Tid) v Phil Turton (SC&P 'F')          | 4-11, 11-5, 9-11, 11-9, 11-9.   |
| Derek Brooke-Wavell (SC&P 'E') v Oliver Bonser (Mile) | 3-11, 11-5, 16-14, 2-11, 13-11. |
| Chris Speight (Spring) v Mick Grantham (Post Off)     | 14-16, 7-11, 11-9, 12-10, 11-9. |

# DIV 5-6 CUP

by Duncan Abbott

## Pool A

(W) SC&P 'E' 17

Springfield 'C' 7

Milestone 'C' 3

## Pool B

(W) Springfield 'B' 15

SC&P 'F' 3

Sonning Sports 'B' 0

## Pool C

(W) Post Office 'B' 17

SC&P 'G' 8

Kingfisher 'K' 2

## Pool D

(W) Tidmarsh 'E' 21

Milestone 'B' 20

Springfield 'D' 11

Kingfisher 'J' 2

## 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' 2 v Springfield 'C' 7

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

SC&P 'G' 1 v Post Office 'B' 8

Springfield 'D' 9 v Kingfisher 'J' 0

Tidmarsh 'E' 6 v Milestone 'B' 3

## SEMI FINALS:

Tidmarsh 'E' 6 v SCP 'E' 3

Springfield 'B' v Post Office 'B'

## FINAL:

Tidmarsh 'E' v

# DIVISION SIX

by Nigel Rowland

**O**LOP 'I' are running away with the title, with Kingfisher 'J' just hanging onto second place. SC&P 'G' are in hot pursuit of second spot and are relying on Kingfisher 'J' making further slip ups like losing to Tilehurst Methodists 'D'. I think the gap between

Kingfisher 'J' and Springfield 'C' is too great but miracles can happen. Tilehurst

Methodists 'D' sit all alone mid table followed by Birch Copse 'C'. What is really fascinating is the battle for places between Springfield 'D', Sonning Sports 'B', BBC, Kingfisher 'K' and Milestone 'C' as two points separate all of these teams.

A special mention has to go to Sonning Sports 'B' as they are having one of their best seasons for many a year, well done to Tom, Dave, Ken and Sue.

Michael McAllister and Gus Thomis of OLOP 'I' are still sitting top of the individual averages and currently remain unbeaten. Who can take their scalps?

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

Good luck for the rest of the season.



GUS THOMIS OF OLOP 'I'

**OLOP 'I'** Jim, Michael and Gus all scored maximums in their 10 - 0 win over Sonning Sports 'B'. Jim, Michael and Phil then teamed up to inflict a 10 - 0 win against Kingfisher 'K'.

**Kingfisher 'J'** Two games apiece from André, Phil and Gill gave them a close 6 - 4 win against Birch Copse 'C'. A Leigh treble, Diane double and vital André single win over Tom Berryman, fighting back from two down, gave them a close 6 - 4 win over then third placed Springfield 'C'. Doubles wins from Phil, Diane and Gill saw off the challenge from Sonning Sports 'B' to win 7 - 3. Gill won a five game thriller against Sue Brownhill. There was a solitary single from André as they crashed 1 - 9 to a determined Tilehurst Meths 'D', despite a 15-13 win by Gill over Sam Will. There were trebles from Leigh, Diane and André as they bounced back to win 10 - 0 over a weakened Kingfisher 'K'.

**SC&P 'G'** have got back to winning ways as trebles from Matt and Angus with a double from Steve gave them a solid 9 - 1 win at Birch Copse 'C'. Matt and Angus had good wins over Roy Hull. A Matt treble and doubles from Angus and Derek gave them a good 8 - 2 win over strugglers Milestone 'C'. Angus and Matt trebles with a hard earned single from Steve over Tom Berryman gave them a hard earned 2 - 8 win at Springfield 'C' to keep their promotion hopes alive.

**Springfield 'C'** Singles from Alan, Colin and Tom could not stop a shock 4 - 6 defeat against the then basement club BBC. They then disappointingly just lost out 4 - 6 in their encounter with second placed Kingfisher 'J'. Colin came back from two down to win in five against André Bartlett, Alan just lost out 15-17 to Diane Taylor in one game and Tom just lost out in five against André Bartlett. They bounced back with a 3 - 7 win over Birch Copse 'C' thanks to doubles from Ashley, Colin and Ludo. Ashley had a close 13-11, 16-14, 11-8 loss to Roy Hull and Ludo a close 11-6, 11-7, 10-12, 5-11, 11-9 loss also to Roy Hull. Singles from Colin and Alan

did not reflect the blood sweat and tears in their 2 - 8 loss to SC&P 'G'. This result effectively removes them from the promotion chase. Tom had a five game battle against Steve Knott losing 22-24 in the fifth. There were trebles from Alan and Ludo and a double from Tom as they powered to a 9 - 1 win over Sonning Sports 'B'.

**Tilehurst Methodists 'D'** A double from David with a single from Tim could not stop them going down 3 - 7 against Sonning Sports 'B'. Chas just lost out in two five-game sets against Dave West and Ken Stevens. Doubles from Patrick O'Sullivan, Sam and David saw off the challenge from



PATRICK O'SULLIVAN

Milestone 'C' with a 6 - 4 win. Trebles from Patrick and Sam with a single from David gave them a good 8 - 2 win over Springfield 'D'. Sam had to come from 2 games down to win in five against Adam Sheen. A hard earned treble from Patrick, double from Sam along with the all-important doubles win gave them a close 6 - 4 win over BBC. Chas had game wins over John Scott and John Lancashire. There were trebles from Patrick and Sam with a double from David as they powered their way to a 1 - 9 win over promotion hopefuls Kingfisher 'J'. This was only Kingfisher 'J's second defeat of the season.

**Birch Copse 'C'** Roy scored another treble and had a doubles win with Elizabeth to just lose out 4 - 6 against Kingfisher 'J'. Roy, Elizabeth and Jason struggled to match an on-form SC&P 'G' losing 1 - 9 on the night, Roy getting the only win. Anchor man Roy scored another treble in their 3 - 7 loss to Springfield 'C'. Elizabeth started brightly winning her first game 11-7 against Ashley Jones but lost the next three. Chris lost in straight sets. Roy's treble, a doubles win from Roy and Elizabeth, and a hard earned single from Chris over Elizabeth Hull gave them a share of the spoils with Sonning Sports 'B'. Roy and Chris trebles with a double from Elizabeth resulted in a good 8 - 2 win over Kingfisher 'K'.

| Team                | P  | W  | D | L  | F   | A   | Pts |
|---------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|-----|
| OLOP 'I'            | 15 | 15 | 0 | 0  | 142 | 8   | 30  |
| Kingfisher 'J'      | 15 | 11 | 2 | 2  | 98  | 52  | 24  |
| SC&P 'G'            | 15 | 10 | 3 | 2  | 97  | 53  | 23  |
| Springfield 'C'     | 16 | 9  | 2 | 5  | 87  | 73  | 20  |
| Tilehurst Meths 'D' | 15 | 8  | 1 | 6  | 84  | 66  | 17  |
| Birch Copse 'C'     | 16 | 5  | 3 | 8  | 72  | 88  | 13  |
| Springfield 'D'     | 15 | 4  | 1 | 10 | 58  | 92  | 9   |
| Sonning Sports 'B'  | 16 | 3  | 3 | 10 | 51  | 109 | 9   |
| BBC Club            | 15 | 2  | 4 | 9  | 62  | 88  | 8   |
| Kingfisher 'K'      | 15 | 4  | 0 | 11 | 45  | 105 | 8   |
| Milestone 'C'       | 15 | 3  | 1 | 11 | 44  | 106 | 7   |

## LEADING AVERAGES

| Player             | Team           | P  | W  | %      |
|--------------------|----------------|----|----|--------|
| Gus Thomis         | OLOP 'I'       | 33 | 33 | 100.00 |
| Michael McAllister | OLOP 'I'       | 33 | 33 | 100.00 |
| Phillip Saunders   | OLOP 'I'       | 30 | 29 | 96.67  |
| Jim McAllister     | OLOP 'I'       | 36 | 33 | 91.67  |
| Roy Hull           | B.Copse 'C'    | 48 | 43 | 89.58  |
| Matthew Tarrant    | SC & P 'G'     | 38 | 34 | 89.47  |
| John Scott         | BBC            | 15 | 13 | 86.67  |
| Pratik Kothari     | M'stone 'C'    | 15 | 13 | 86.67  |
| Leigh Mahoney      | Kingfisher 'J' | 29 | 25 | 86.21  |
| Ashley Jones       | Spring 'C'     | 18 | 15 | 83.33  |
| Patrick OSullivan  | T.Meths 'D'    | 34 | 26 | 76.47  |
| Gheorghe Milea     | Kingfisher 'K' | 17 | 13 | 76.47  |
| Ludovic Couillard  | Spring 'C'     | 21 | 16 | 76.19  |
| Angus Jones        | SC & P 'G'     | 30 | 22 | 73.33  |

**Springfield 'D'** Adam, Nigel and Derek battled away to try and get something out of the game but ended up on the wrong side of a 2 - 8 defeat to Tilehurst Meths 'D'. Adam got a win over David Jones as did Derek just winning in five. A well earned treble from Adam with doubles from Tim and Nigel resulted in a good 8 - 2 win over Kingfisher 'K'. A double from Adam with singles from Tim and Nigel could not stop a surprise 4 - 6 loss to bottom placed Milestone 'C'.

**Sonning Sports 'B'** A Tom treble with a hard fought double from Dave and single from Ken gave them a fabulous 7 - 3 victory against Tilehurst Meths 'D'. They came down with a bump in their 0 - 10 defeat against leaders OLOP 'I'. The only highlight was Sue taking a game off Jim McAllister and Ken against Michael. Doubles from Dave and Tom with a single from Ken gave them a well earned draw against BBC. Dave had a very close encounter with John Lancashire just squeezing through in five. Tom proved to be a thorn in the side of promotion chasing Kingfisher 'J' as he completed a superb treble in their 3 - 7 loss. Doubles from Dave and Ken with a well earned single by Sue over Elizabeth Hull 11-6, 1-11, 11-9, 13-15, 13-11 gave them a well earned draw. Tom was the only winner in their 1 - 9 defeat to Springfield 'C'. Dave and Sue had a number of close games, but just lost out in all.

**BBC Caversham** A good team effort from Kyrill, Jack and John S recorded a momentous 6 - 4 win over promotion hopefuls Springfield 'C'. Jack had two important five game wins over Alan Goold and Tom Berryman which made the difference. A fight back from 3 - 5 down gave John S, Jack and John L a well earned draw against Sonning Sports 'B'. Trebles from Kyrill and Dave with a double from Jack gave an emphatic 9 - 1 win over Kingfisher 'K'. This win pulled them off the bottom of the table dumping Kingfisher 'K' in their place. Both Kyrill and Dave came back from two games down against Simon Lang to win in five. A double from John S and singles from

Jack and John L could not quite catch Tilehurst Meths 'D' in their 4 - 6 loss. John S had a good 5-game win over Sam Will.

**Kingfisher 'K'** A Simon and Stuart double could not stop them losing 4 - 6 against Milestone 'C'. Stuart had a close five-game win over Ian Strong 11-6, 11-8, 3-11, 10-12, 11-7. Jeff won five gamers against Tim Carr and Nigel Outhwaite in their 2 - 8 loss to Springfield 'D'. Stuart just lost out in five to Tim Carr and Glenn to Tim 18-16 in the third. Their run of losses continued with a 1 - 9 loss to the then basement club BBC. Simon had the only win of the night against Jack Mitchell and just lost out in two close five gamers. They suffered a 0 - 10 defeat in their match against OLOP 'I', the only chink of sunshine was a Simon and Jeff doubles contest just losing 11-8, 7-11, 11-7, 13-11, 12-14. As a result of fielding a weakened team they lost badly 0 - 10 to rivals Kingfisher 'J'. Stuart earned the only singles game in their 2 - 8 loss to Birch Copse 'B'. Jeff had a close five gamer just losing out to Chris Dummett.

**Milestone 'C'** A brilliant treble from Arun Rajagopal with singles from Ian and Tony gave them a precious 6 - 4 win over Kingfisher 'K'. Team spirit saw them fight back from 3



ARUN RAJAGOPAL

- 1 down to clinch victory. Pratik scored a well earned treble but could not stop them sinking to a 4 - 6 defeat against Tilehurst Methodists 'D'. A Pratik double was the only highlight as they lost 2 - 8 to SC&P 'G'. Ian managed to take a game off Matt Tarrant but Tony lost three straight. A hard earned treble from Pratik, double from Arun and the all important doubles win gave them a brilliant 6 - 4 win over Springfield 'D'.

# John Cunningham Youth Division

Time caught up with us so we are sorry - we don't have the usual report for you on Youth League activities. However, the Youth League has been busy all the same (which is why there is no time ;-)) The statistics themselves tell the story for those with an interest.

In the half term week (22nd February 2013), we are running for the second year the "Alan Dines Memorial Youth League Handicap Cup" Adam McTiernan kindly offered to be the organiser of the event, and we would like to thank him for it.

## AVERAGES (Div 1)

| Player             | P  | W  | %    |
|--------------------|----|----|------|
| Sam Liu            | 11 | 11 | 100% |
| Michael McAllister | 9  | 9  | 100% |
| Danny Dockree      | 8  | 8  | 100% |
| Jamie Liu          | 6  | 6  | 100% |
| Chris Johnson      | 14 | 12 | 86%  |
| Jim McAllister     | 14 | 12 | 86%  |
| Adam Gozzard       | 11 | 9  | 82%  |
| Harry Munro        | 14 | 8  | 57%  |
| Joe Barraclough    | 8  | 4  | 50%  |
| Ted Allpress       | 8  | 4  | 50%  |
| Alex Duggan        | 8  | 4  | 50%  |
| Scarlett Jones     | 3  | 1  | 33%  |
| Thomas Breslin     | 14 | 4  | 29%  |
| Balazs Horanyi     | 14 | 4  | 29%  |
| Thomas Perkins     | 9  | 2  | 22%  |
| Katie Shepherd     | 5  | 1  | 20%  |
| Gareth Wheatley    | 14 | 2  | 14%  |
| Tom Hobbs          | 14 | 1  | 7%   |
| John Sampson       | 14 | 1  | 7%   |
| Harry Sayer        | 4  | 0  | 0%   |
| Oli Sayer          | 4  | 0  | 0%   |

## AVERAGES (Div 2)

| Player          | P  | W  | %   |
|-----------------|----|----|-----|
| Joe Will        | 12 | 10 | 83% |
| George Strong   | 14 | 11 | 79% |
| Pranav S Prasad | 11 | 8  | 73% |
| Oliver Scott    | 11 | 8  | 73% |
| Nathan McCaughy | 14 | 10 | 71% |
| Jamie Filby     | 14 | 10 | 71% |
| Daniel Bernie   | 9  | 6  | 67% |
| Camran Nesari   | 14 | 9  | 64% |
| Bill Hayden     | 14 | 8  | 57% |
| Austin Ellerton | 8  | 4  | 50% |
| Amanvir Dhoot   | 8  | 3  | 38% |
| Aiden Collymore | 12 | 4  | 33% |
| Haasin Khan     | 6  | 2  | 33% |
| Callum Macleod  | 9  | 2  | 22% |
| Saif Maher      | 8  | 1  | 13% |
| Rosie Zhu       | 11 | 1  | 9%  |
| Raphael Thorn   | 11 | 1  | 9%  |
| Euan Macleod    | 11 | 0  | 0%  |

## Div 1 TABLE

| Team     | Won | Lost |
|----------|-----|------|
| Eagles   | 36  | 13   |
| Strikers | 35  | 14   |
| Tigers   | 21  | 29   |
| Raiders  | 18  | 11   |
| Trojans  | 16  | 33   |
| Panthers | 12  | 38   |

## Div 2 Table

| Team      | Won | Lost |
|-----------|-----|------|
| Knights   | 42  | 8    |
| Batmen    | 28  | 12   |
| Lions     | 24  | 16   |
| Spartans  | 24  | 25   |
| Attackers | 8   | 32   |
| Avengers  | 3   | 36   |

## NATIONAL JUNIOR LEAGUE AVERAGES

| Player             | P  | W | %     |
|--------------------|----|---|-------|
| Leo Long           | 8  | 5 | 62.50 |
| Sam Liu            | 10 | 5 | 50.00 |
| Said Cole          | 10 | 1 | 10.00 |
| Gus Thomis         | 10 | 6 | 60.00 |
| Danny Dockree      | 10 | 4 | 40.00 |
| Michael McAllister | 8  | 3 | 37.50 |

# WIDER REWARDS

by Adam McTiernan

## Reading Juniors win Carter Cup Regional Zone

A junior boys team consisting of Daniel McTiernan, Sam Ricks and Joshua Gallen represented the Reading & District Table Tennis Association at this season's Carter Cup - the national junior English leagues competition.

The boys travelled to Ashford TTC in Middlesex for the regional qualifying event to take on representative teams from the Staines and Aldershot Leagues with only the winners qualifying for the national finals at Wellingborough in June.

The day's play commenced with a match between Reading and Staines. It was Reading who got off to a flying start, winning both opening singles matches 3-1 with Daniel beating Anthony Egan and Sam defeating the far higher ranked David Rahbani. The doubles went the way of Staines and when Anthony then beat Sam 3-1, it was left to Daniel to produce his top form

in overcoming David. From one nil down Daniel never looked back in recording another 3-1 win to seal the match for Reading by three sets to two.



SAM RICKS, DANIEL McTIERNAN & JOSH GALLEN

The next match pitted Reading against an inexperienced Aldershot team. Joshua Gallen joined Sam (with Daniel rested) and they ran out comfortable winners by five sets to nil, losing just two ends in the process. Josh was making his debut at this level and showed the sort of form that had justified his selection.

By winning Zone 6, Reading qualified for the national finals later in the season, where Berkshire's number 1 Junior Liam McTiernan will join the squad in an attempt to win the competition for the second time in three years. Liam will also be playing in the ITTF Junior Swedish Open in February, having been entered by the English Table Tennis Association.

#### Results of Zone 6 Qualification Event:

|           |    |           |   |
|-----------|----|-----------|---|
| Reading 3 | vs | Staines   | 2 |
| Reading 5 | vs | Aldershot | 0 |
| Staines 5 | vs | Aldershot | 0 |

#### Berkshire Come Second in County Premier Division

The Royal County of Berkshire Table Tennis Association (RCBTTA) Senior Team finished as runners-up in this season's County Championships Premier Division.



MEGAN KNOWLES, MARIA TSAPTSINOS, BRADLEY KING, DAVE BARR AND LIAM McTIERNAN

Lying in second coming into the second and final weekend's play in Wood Green (West Midlands) the team enjoyed three more wins and a draw to finish level on points with Middlesex who retained their title courtesy of a superior sets difference by just three.

Berkshire enjoyed fine wins against Sussex (7-3), Yorkshire (7-3) and Essex 6-4) and the draw came against Derbyshire (5-5).

Captain David Barr led the way with seven victories and only one loss (to the Essex number one Martin Kubrt). The senior veteran's performance was mirrored by junior Liam McTiernan who also won seven of his eight matches with his loss coming against Yorkshire number one Simon Noutch. The form of both players was a major reason for Berkshire's highly placed finish.

All county sides must contain two women and Berkshire are lucky enough to have two of the finest young juniors in the country in Maria Tsaptsinos and Megan Knowles. Both girls played their part with some important wins including Maria's against Derbyshire's Abbie Milwain and Essex number one Evangeline Collier and Megan's victory over Yorkshire's Nicole Finn.

The fifth player making his Berkshire debut was Bradley King who is studying at Reading University and plays and coaches at Our Lady of Peace Table Tennis Club in Earley. Replacing Martin Adams who was unavailable, Bradley managed one win but came close to others and supported the team well throughout.

The team were thrilled to pick up their County Championships Runners-up trophies from organiser Ken Elliott.

#### Our Lady of Peace Juniors second best in Britain

The Earley based Our Lady of Peace Table Tennis Club has achieved the highest ever position in the British League in its 33 year history. Their Junior (Under 18) team finished as runners-up to Harefield based BBATT 1 in the Junior British League Premier Division this season. In their ten matches, OLOP IMPACT managed six wins and three draws with just one loss (to the eventual winners).

In terms of individual performances, the four boy OLOP IMPACT team all managed to secure averages of 50% or higher. In Danny Lawrence, they had the second best player in the League, winning 13 out of his 18 sets. Michael Ho won 11 and Liam McTiernan 10 sets, whilst younger brother Dan contributed a further three wins out of the six sets he played.

These performances won a total of six 'player of the match' awards as follows: Danny against Bournemouth Sports (Home) and Burton Uxbridge (Away); Liam against Bournemouth Sports (Away) and BBATT 1 (Away); Michael against St Marys Prem4Sport (Away); and Dan against Ellenborough (Home).

Our Lady of Peace Table Tennis Club Committee Member Ian Cole, who had trained with the players in the week before the final weekend, sent his congratulations to the team on behalf of the Club. Ian also thanked Team Manager Adam McTiernan and Coach Bradley King who had travelled up to Tipton twice with the team. He added that this result was an inspiration to the many talented young players already attending regular training sessions at the Wokingham Road premises under highly respected Head Coach Wendy Porter.



DAN McTIERNAN, DANNY LAWRENCE, MICHAEL HO AND LIAM McTIERNAN - WITH COACH BRADLEY KING (BEHIND)

# Alan Dines Handicap Cup

by Adam McTiernan

The Alan Dines Handicap Cup Tournament took place at Blue Coat School on Fri 22 Feb.

*It may sometimes seem that all we hear about is doom and gloom and the decline of local table tennis - but not this time I would like to bet that there isn't another League in the country that could field 24 players for an Under 18 Tournament on a cold Friday evening during half term week!*

## Harry Munro wins second Alan Dines Handicap Cup

Harry Munro beat Katie Shepherd to win the second running of the Alan Dines Memorial Handicap Cup, played by those registered for the Reading Youth League in memory of the man who used to run it and did so much for youth table tennis in the Reading area for over 40 years.

Twenty Four junior boys and girls took part in the tournament, organised into eight groups of three players. The top two went through to a straight knock-out. The third placed players went through to a consolation event.

After some well contested matches played in a marvellous spirit, the semi finals pitted Harry Munro against defending champion and most handicapped player Sam Liu. Giving away an eight point head start under the handicap system, Sam nonetheless put up a great show of determination before eventually going down 3 - 2. Katie had an easier time in beating Joe Barraclough 3 - 0 in the other semi final and really didn't need the two point handicap advantage. Joe himself had a titanic struggle in his quarter final against the fast improving Scarlett Jones, eventually winning 3 - 2.



KATIE SHEPHERD AND HARRY MUNRO

Giving away a two point advantage to Katie under the handicap system and watched by around thirty people, Harry started nervously in the final and could easily have lost the opening game, following some well positioned shots from young Katie who built a 10-7 lead, but he managed to steady himself to win 13-11. After that Harry gained in confidence and put his spinny forehand to good use in taking the next two games and running out a fairly comfortable 3 - 0 winner.

The consolation event was won by Gareth Wheatley with an entertaining 3-1 victory over Ted Allpress, who had lead 1-0 despite starting with a handicap disadvantage of five points.

Organiser Adam McTiernan went on to present the trophies and medals including one for Aman Dhoot for most sporting behaviour. Finally there was a well deserved round of applause for nine year old Jamie Liu who has just be selected for his first England training camp.

Adam was ably supported by the usual Youth League team of Wendy Porter, Jade Fudge and Phil Saunders. In addition Bradley King assisted throughout including umpiring both finals. Twenty year old King has just been awarded the ETTA Young Coach of the Year trophy for the Southern Region.



HARRY MUNRO RECEIVES HIS TROPHY