



READING & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

November 2011

Editor: DEREK WAVELL

2011-2012 Season

CONTENTS

Please click on a heading or white ball to go where you require

[Key Facts](#)

[Prize Photos](#)

[TT VIDEOS](#)

[Team Handicap](#)

[KO Cup](#)

[A Big Group Photo](#)

[More Youth Triumphs](#)

[ETTA Membership](#)



Click ALT + left arrow to return

A new season is under way, with new combinations in each Division. The brains of our DFS's have been buzzing, and their analysis infuses their **reports** with a special meaning:

As usual we also have **photos** of many of our brightest players, taken at the awards night in May. Some are from **Didier Garçon**, including the cover photo, which is of Daniel Moses and Liam McTiernan sharing the top award for the Best Junior Performance. Many thanks to Didier - whose photos are marked with a star. And for the first time you can also see embedded **VIDEOS** of Reading league players in action - two of these also filmed by Didier.



Let me applaud the new **achievements** of our Reading juniors - who have been making more and more of a name for themselves in the wider world. See "**More Youth Triumphs**".

Finally, does any of our players feel inspired to help out our **management team** as it organizes the season? If so, you'd be very welcome - see [HERE](#).

Good luck to all -

Derek

Announcements from our Chairman, Nigel Maltby

1. **Individual Handicap Competition** - This season's event will take place on **Sunday 8th January 2012** at the **Kingfisher Club**. Entry forms were issued to Club Secretaries for distribution at the start of the season and they are also available on the web site or from Nigel Maltby. Entries should be sent to Duncan Abbott, 39 Warborough Avenue, Tilehurst, Reading RG31 5LB by the closing date of Friday 30th December 2011.
2. **Reading Closed Championships** - Entry forms will be available on the web site shortly and a supply will also be sent to club secretaries. The championships will be staged over two week-ends and will be returning to Reading this year! **The Senior and Veteran events will be held on Saturday/Sunday 11/12 February 2012 at the Kingfisher Club. The Junior events will be held on Saturday/Sunday 25/26 February 2012, also at the Kingfisher Club.** Please do try to support this worthwhile event.
3. **IMPACT Challenge Shield** - This competition is by invitation only from teams competing in Divisions 1 or 2. The draw for the first round will be made shortly by our organiser for this season, Mark Banks. Details will be made available asap.
4. Finally I hope everyone has a fantastic season's table tennis this year. We continue to struggle to maintain team numbers with all divisions having at least one gap this year. But taking into account a number of knockout cup competitions, including a revamped 5th & Lower competition, we should all get more than enough games.



Kingfisher 'A' will be pushed hard again this year by YMCA 'A' and OLOP 'A' in Division 1. With only one team now being relegated from Division 1 due to the late withdrawal of OLOP 'C', the pressure may be off for some, but not for many of us in the lower half! In Division 2 Kingfisher 'F' and Wokingham 'A' have again started brightly and OLOP 'D' are swiftly moving through the ranks. In Division 3 it is looking good for Tidmarsh 'C' with two OLOP sides also in the running as well as Milestone 'A' who have had a good start to their season.

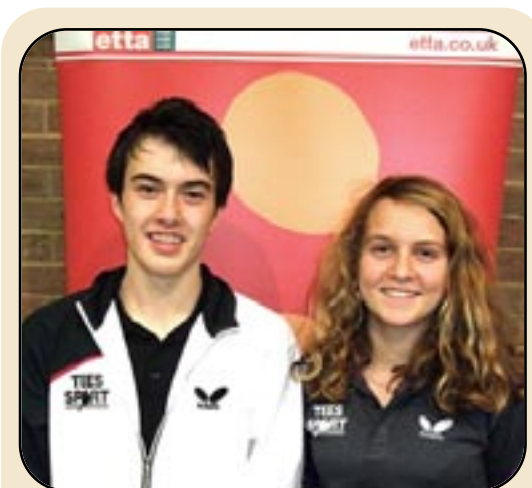
Polish 'B' and Wokingham 'B' lead the way in Division 4 in what looks like being a very tight division. Springfield 'B', Tilehurst 'C' and Kingfisher 'K' look the most likely promotion candidates in Division 5, with Milestone 'B' also in the running, while in Division 6 Polish 'D', Birch Copse 'C', Milestone 'C' and Tilehurst 'D' will be vying for the two promotion places.

From the Editor

1. **Coming Events** - On **Tuesday 15th November** there will be a Div One top-of-the-table clash between **YMCA 'A'** and **OLOP 'A'**. **All are welcome to witness the carnage**, at YMCA - though their captain, Bob Davis, advises you to bring a coat.
2. **Martin Wetherall** gave us all a scare by collapsing at a match on 19th October (OLOP 'H' v Tilehurst Meths 'B'). Team mate Richard Lownsbrough took on the first aid challenge, and fortunately Martin has since been well on the road to recovery in the Royal Berks. Even the two cracked ribs Martin sustained as a result of Richard's medical attentions will eventually heal, say doctors! Anyway, we all wish Martin the very best. Jane Turner (Martin's sister) has asked if a big 'thank you' can be passed onto all teams and staff present on that evening on behalf of Martin's family.
3. **Corrections to the Handbook:**
Lee Calcutt's telephone number should be **01635 516702 (Newbury)**
My email address should be **d.wavell@talktalk.net** (not ntlworld) - though for Newsletter contributions etc could you please use **derekwavell@hotmail.co.uk**
4. **Letters to the Editor**

Do let us know if the videos in this newsletter worked on your machine - or failed to work. If you can get no joy, let me know and I'll email you a copy of the newsletter. Even if the videos don't work in a browser, they should be fine once the newsletter is downloaded to your desktop and opened with the Adobe Reader.

And please let us know what you think about this year's TT scene - for instance, the **Lower Divisions Knock-Out** Competition, which this year for the first time is all **doubles matches**. What do you think of the change?



LIAM McTIERNAN & MARIA TSAPTSINOS - BOTH OF WHOM HAVE JUST WON IMPORTANT TITLES - SEE REPORT ON P 26.

R&DTTA Awards For 2010-2011

On 10th May this year, the Reading Association's President, John Freeman, presented our annual awards at the Curzon Club premises. Many of the photos which appear later in this Newsletter were taken at that event. Nigel Maltby, our Chairman, announced the prize-winners.

NB - [blue links](#) show page N° of photo.

LIST OF AWARDS:

READING CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS WINNERS:

Mens Singles **Daniel Moses** [P3](#), [P8](#)
Ladies Singles: **Diane Taylor**
Mens Doubles: **Liam McTiernan & Daniel Moses** [P1](#)
Mixed Doubles **Daniel Moses & Jade Fudge** [P4](#)
U21 Singles **Liam McTiernan** [P2](#), [P3](#), [P9](#)
U18 Boys Singles **Liam McTiernan** [P2](#), [P3](#), [P9](#)
U18 Girls Singles **Jade Fudge** [P4](#)



TREASURES TO BE WON *



DANIEL MOSES - WINNER OF READING CLOSED AND MANY OTHERS *

U15 Boys Singles **Daniel McTiernan** [P4](#), [P26](#)
U15 Girls Singles **Jodie Hayden** [P5](#)
U13 Boys Singles **Daniel McTiernan** [P4](#), [P26](#)
U13 Girls Singles **Jodie Hayden** [P5](#)
U11 Girls Singles **Jemma Stephens** [P4](#)
U11 Boys Singles **Chris Johnson** [P24](#)
Boys Doubles **Liam McTiernan & Daniel Moses** [P1](#)
Veteran Singles: **Norman Swift** ([video p6](#))
Senior Vet Singles: **Norman Swift** ("")
Over 60s Singles: **Colin Dyke** [P5](#), [P11](#)
Div 1 restricted: **Norman Swift** ([video p6](#))
Division 2 **Richard Fifield**
Division 3 **Jeremy Willis** [P4](#)



LIAM McTIERNAN - WINNER OF INDIVIDUAL HANDICAP AND MANY OTHERS *



DIV 3 RUNNERS UP: SONNING C & P 'C'-
PAUL TREADGOLD, IAN AYRES, TIM RABY & JEREMY WILLIS *

CHAMPION TEAMS OF THE SEASON

Division 1 Champions: **Kingfisher 'A'**
Runners-up: **YMCA 'A'**
Division 2 Champions: **Sonning C & P 'A'** [P10](#)
Runners-up: **Kingfisher 'D'**
Division 3 Champions: **Post Office 'B'** [P13](#)
Runners-up: **Sonning C & P 'C'** [P3](#)
Division 4 Champions: **St Laurence Church** [P15](#)
Runners-up: **Milestone 'A'**



MIXED DOUBLES WINNERS DANIEL MOSES AND JADE FUDGE

- Division 5 Champions: **Birch Copse 'A'** [P17](#)
- Runners-up: **OLOP 'H'** [P17](#)
- Division 6 Champions: **Kingfisher 'J'** [P19](#)
- Runners-up: **OLOP 'I'** [P20](#)
- Youth Div 1 winners: **OLOP Strikers**
- Runners-up: **OLOP Attackers**
- Youth Div 2 Winners: **Sonning C & P Spartans**
- Runners-up: **OLOP Lions**
- John Freeman Trophy Winner: **Daniel Moses** [P3](#), [P8](#)
- IMPACT Challenge Shield Winners: **YMCA 'A'**
- Runners-up: **Kingfisher 'A'**



DANIEL McTIERNAN - WINNER OF U15 AND U13 BOYS' SINGLES AND HAROLD LARCOMBE SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD *



JEMMA STEPHENS - WINNER OF U11 GIRLS SINGLES



DIVISION THREE CHAMPION JEREMY WILLIS



U11 BOYS SINGLES RUNNER UP
LORCAN GALLEN



U13 & U15 GIRLS SINGLES
WINNER JODIE HAYDEN



MOST IMPROVED JUNIOR
JONATHAN ABBOTT



U13 BOYS SINGLES RUNNER UP
ETC - LEO LONG

Team Handicap Winners

Runners-up:

Lower Divisions Knockout winners:

Runners-up:

Individual Handicap Winner

Runner-up:

Reading Senior Masters Winner:

Runner-up:

Reading Junior Masters Winner:

Runner-up:

Reading Chronicle Trophy Winner:

Standard Cup for the Most Improved Junior:

Best Junior Performance:

Harold Larcombe Sportsmanship Award: Daniel McTiernan [P4](#), [P26](#)

Sonning C & P 'A' [P10](#)

OLOP 'I' [P20](#)

Birch Copse 'A' [P17](#)

Tidmarsh 'F'

Liam McTiernan [P2](#), [P3](#), [P9](#)

Daniel Moses [P3](#), [P8](#)

Daniel Moses [P3](#), [P8](#)

Martin Adams

Sam Ricks [P5](#), [P25](#)

Hanson Xu

Norman Swift ([video p6](#))

Jonathan Abbott [P5](#),

Liam McTiernan &

Daniel Moses [P1](#)



YOUTH DIVISION AND JUNIOR MASTERS WINNER
SAM RICKS



OVER 60'S SINGLES WINNER
COLIN DYKE

TABLE TENNIS VIDEOS

YouTube for *PDF*

Streaming live from the Internet

When this player activates you will be asked to allow a number of connections to the YouTube servers

No personal data is sent

Select a new video to launch

LAUNCH IT

How to Play Videos

1. As soon as you arrive on this page, a video will be called up automatically from YouTube, and you just have to wait for it to play on the screen.
2. The video above shows Daniel Moses playing with Daniel McTiernan in the final of the Reading Open at the end of last season. The video was filmed by Didier Garçon.
3. You may have to click 'OK' a few times before it starts. You are agreeing to receive this material as safe (which it is).
4. There is a normal set of controls at the bottom of the player - you can start and stop the video, jump forward or backwards etc, change the volume, or make the video fill your whole screen.
5. If you are viewing the Newsletter in your browser, videos can be slow and patchy in performance at peak times. Simply download the newsletter to your hard disk and then double click on its icon - and you should experience a great improvement. (The Newsletter only takes up 1 megabyte of your disk space, which is very little by today's standards).
6. Rather than scatter different videos on different pages, I have given you a choice to watch in this one place. Simply use the pop-up menu labeled "**Select a New Video to Launch**", and choose one of the three other videos that are currently available. Then click "**LAUNCH IT**".
7. I can add more videos to the list on request!
8. Warning: this pop-up menu needs space in which to drop down, which it can't do if you have the video too big at the time. Simply reduce the size of the PDF page to about 75%; then use the pop-up menu. When you have the right video playing, you can increase the page size to what you like.
9. The other three videos here show a couple of sensational matches by Timo Boll against Chinese players, plus Norman Swift playing Ollie Shaw in the Div 1 Restricted final in the Reading Closed. (Thanks again to Didier Garçon for filming that).

Team Handicap Competition 2011-12

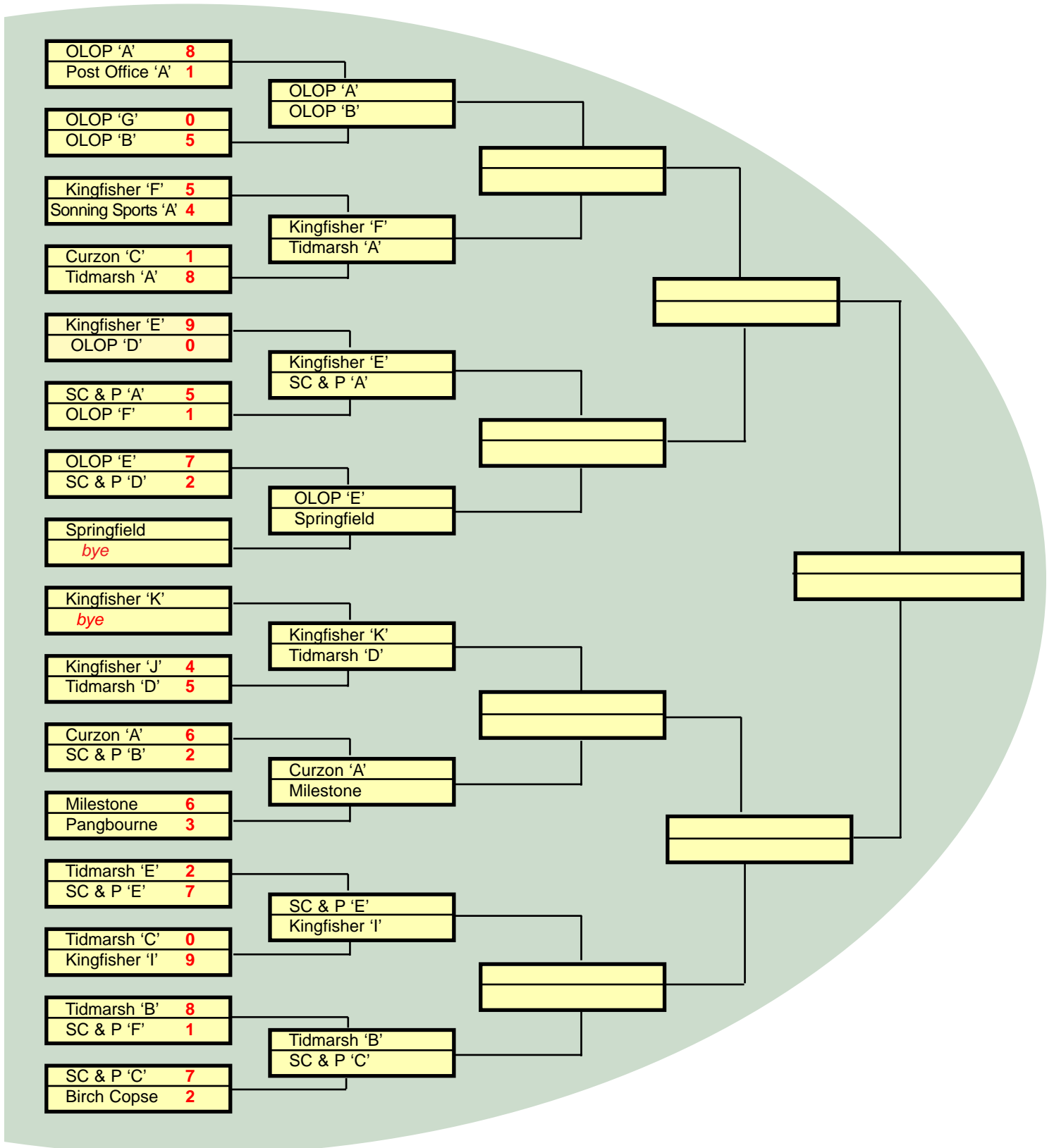
organised by Duncan Abbott

w/c 24 Oct 2011
Round 1

w/c 21 Nov 2011
Round 2

Quarter Final

Semi-Final



DIVISION ONE by Mark Banks

Right! So here we go again then. Another fantastic season lies ahead for us all in the top Division of one of the country's top local leagues.

And I get to write for you in this – what must certainly be THE Top Newsletter for Local League Table Tennis. Anybody know of a better one? No? Didn't think so. Superb! So how have you all been then? Good summer? I did my usual take 3 months off and didn't want to renew my membership or come back to routine. But now I must admit I've fallen in love with it all over again and flying. It's got to the stage where Hari & Ramesh are even turning down my practice requests, I'm nagging them so much. Who would believe that? These guys knock for England (India) but they can't keep up with me. So anyway this season we have one or two new faces to keep the League nice and fresh and one or two older worn out faces too - just to keep the balance about right. Obviously disappointing that OLOP 'C' couldn't fulfil their commitments and sadly had to pull out – sadly for you lot that is - but great for me – 1 less team I have to write about! Get in! But what that does mean for all you teams down there fighting to stay up is that the very excellent RDTTA Management Committee have ruled that there will only be ONE team relegated from D1 this season. Game on I say. At the top, the OLOP Club have finally decided to do what everybody else outside of the club said they should have done last season and have combined the very excellent Daniel Moses & Liam McTiernan in the same team! Makes them odds on in my book but you just never know do you. I like it though. It's exciting and in all my years of doing this, it has to be the best line up at the very top that there's been with YM even stronger too. Before I go I hope you'll join me in passing on your best wishes to Nicky Hips (ha ha) who is recovering after his recent op and who we therefore won't see playing down at the Polish Club for some time. Some people will do anything to finish up on 100% hey! And for everybody else I hope you're enjoying the season so far and I wish you all the very best of luck in your coming matches. Some people need that just a little bit less than others don't they Hari.

Love & Peace
Mark x

I was gonna call **OLOP 'A'** the New Kids on the Block but then I heard Mike Childs was still locked in his own personal battle with George Foreman about who could come out of retirement in their respective sports the most and it kind of ruined it a bit. For those who are interested it's about 7 - 6 to George at the mo but after Mike undoubtedly quits again at the end of this season you've gotta be looking at him evening it up by the end of next summer! Talking of George Foreman it seems as though Daniel has swapped his pizza loving diet for a more healthy option straight off a George Foreman Grill in fact (did you see what I did there) and it's paying dividends. His 3rd win over Martin Adams in a matter of months has propelled him



to the very top of this League and he's now very much the man to beat. Will he be able to handle the pressure of being number one as Martin has done for so many years? We'll see but he's out there on his own in pole position at the mo and it's nice to see. Junior commitments mean that Liam won't be playing as many games as Daniel but his contribution will be equally vital when he pitches up against us and the YM boys – the games that will ultimately decide where the title is heading. He too had his own recent personal triumph over Martin. Fabulous stuff and it will be a major shock if they don't pull it off. Not just about those two though! With Liam playing only 6 games all season the opportunities are there for the other squad members to show what they can do. Mike's obviously smelt the silverware and come back in good form – playing much better than most of his other comebacks and we all know what a good player he has been and still is. Norman was a great signing last year for OLOP and now he's more familiar with the opponents that he'll be facing he's going to be an even bigger force this season. OLOP 'C's loss has been OLOP 'A's gain. Sean Pickin & Ian Cole have come into the squad. Good players the pair of them and we all know that they'll do a fine job in supporting the other members. Oh and was that Peter Martin's name I saw pop up on a scorecard too??? Bit like Man City this lot. Massive squad, all very good players, one or two outstanding players. All the ingredients are there - aren't they?



DANIEL MOSES

M.V.P. Daniel Moses – Probably joint with Liam when it comes to the crunch games but he plays every game for OLOP 'A' so pizza boy rightfully gets the MVP nod

A predictably impressive start too from **YMCA 'A'** who will be hoping to put the heartbreak of losing out the title last year firmly behind them by going one better this time around. They've firmed up the side again this year by signing newly turned Vet

Steve Buck and he won't be losing too many at this level I wouldn't think. Elsewhere Martin is in tip top form once again and he, above all of his team mates, will be the key to whether they can lower the colours of OLOP 'A'. He's beaten both Daniel & Liam many times but to beat both of them on the same night in the same match is some ask. Definitely not beyond the Czech superstar though and it will be a fascinating spectacle if you can get yourselves down there to watch. Work commitments will possibly prevent Tony from playing as many as he normally does but rest assured he'll be out for the big ones and Andy and his pimples are guaranteed 80% and above for every time they turn out. And what about big bad Bob? Yep – he's still there, playing just as good as ever. Probably won't get a look in when the big ones come around but he plays a pivotal role in supporting the side for the other matches and is enjoying it as much as ever. Have they got the ammunition to take down Kingfisher & OLOP? Yes, I



LIAM McTIERNAN

think they have. Will they do it though is another matter!

M.V.P. Martin Chodounsky – Gonna have to take both Daniel & Liam out though and another Martin in this Division has already failed that particular challenge don't you know

Let's not forget that multiple winners and Defending Champions **Kingfisher 'A'** are still here you know. It's not all about OLOP & YM thank you very much. We still believe we're the best there is and it's going to take an almighty effort by another side to rip our trophy away from us. Remember that on paper at least we have the strongest lineup for matches up to 6 and fair play to any team that lowers our colours. Hari has started as well as ever – when you're as good as him plus you get at least a 3 love lead every game with the nets and edges you're always going to be tough to beat but that's what Daniel & Liam are going to have to do! Good luck boys. Ramesh bless him has unusually started the season well too but has recently been overseas and may be spending more time out of the UK which could hamper our chances (I know, I know. You're thinking surely Ramesh being away is a GOOD thing for your team Mark!) but when you only have The Kid as back up it's almost like come back Ramesh all is forgiven!! Ha Ha. Look, we ain't stupid. We know that reputations count for nothing especially when you've got 2 hotshots down at OLOP snapping at your heels and they are very much the favourites and rightly so. But favourites get beaten – just ask Dave & Lee Calcutt and we're hoping that will be the case this time.

M.V.P. Hari Gehlot. Hari Gehlot??? Hold on ed, haven't I won more so far??!! Grrrrrr

A double ouch! then for **Polish 'A'** and top dog Martin Adams as his long, long standing invincibility at the top of our League seems, for the time being at least, to have been eroded somewhat by Daniel & Liam. End of an era? Really? Is it? Are you sure? I personally don't think so. For somebody who doesn't practice, has a job and young family he's still right up there with

the very best. These boys are young, they're practising all the time and they have the time to do so. I know if the roles were reversed who my money would be on.

Scorecards don't lie though and he's certainly got an uphill battle on his hands to prove those nagging doubters wrong. Steve Dobbins is nursing himself back after injury and will be much better in the 2nd half of the season and Richard too has had a slow start by his standards but is better than that and the form will no doubt return soon. Nick, as I say is now out for a long time after the hip op so any flagging title aspirations are already sunk I'm afraid. Should still come 4th though if Martin plays a lot.

M.V.P. Martin Adams – Will be a little bit bruised but the sign of a great champion is how he bounces back. Watch this space!

Everybody's old favourites **YMCA 'B'** are still very much in the thick of things. Funny how Keith Winter is a much better

player now that Fenwick Prady isn't constantly yapping in his ear and I think that he could have found himself a right nice little position there in YMB. David will still be kicking himself for blowing an 8-3 lead in the 5th against Ramesh but not as much as Neil Hurford will after he blew a 9-3 lead in the 5th against the very same player in the very same match. Blimey Ramesh fair play buddy. More comebacks than Mike Childs & George Foreman put together! David & Neil proved in that match though that despite defeat they are still very much on top of their game and are always going to be a handful. And nice to see Pete Bradley free from injury and playing very well again. Oh and Dave Gilham popped up recently too. He loves playing against us don't you Dave!! OK, so they've already worked out where they're going to finish. They'd very much like 4th but will probably have to settle for 5th - unless Polish self capitulate.

M.V.P. Neil Hurford - Top 15 in Oxford he tells me. I reckon he's kidding me. Top 12 at least!

Another side who have started well are the Friday night gang of **Tidmarsh 'A'**. And this despite Lee "Jackpot" Calcutt being frustratingly sidelined with injury for much of the season. Oh well – gives him more time to study the dog form though hey! Injury has also plagued John Barclay but he's back now and playing pretty well too. Yes, the nets are still going against him, yes the edges too but take those away and he's doing alright actually with some good wins and has contributed massively to the 4 points that they've picked up so far. Squirrel has swapped from B to A – he's way too good for D2 so it's a sensible move and has settled in well with crucial wins against the teams below them in the table. Duncan Groves tells me they're in a relegation battle but I'm not so sure. With 4 points already and only one team going down – you'd argue that they probably have enough points already to beat the drop! OK Tidmarsh so don't be going on your holidays just yet but it's a solid start and certainly one to build on if poss

M.V.P. John Barclay – definitely the unluckiest MVP we've ever had

A pretty good start too from **OLOP 'B'** who fought gallantly against their 'A' team and who on another night may have just snatched a point you know. As expected Ollie Shaw leads the way for these boys. Already has wins over the likes of Childs & Swift to his name and that's top play by anybody's standards. Bradley King too. Out of luck against the 'A' team for sure but a good player who will be causing one or two upsets as the season progresses. And what about Julian "The Windmill" Telford – not my description I assure you. Great win over Norman in the derby game. Shows he can still do it from time to time at the top level – as always consistency has been the key to his success and Raphael's practising ensures that he is getting better and better at this level. Safely in mid table with some lowly teams still to play so no troubles here whatsoever. They're way too good for those shenanigans.

M.V.P. Ollie Shaw – proper D1 player these days

So a fresh new healthy look to **KFC** then. You'll obviously recognise our very own International Korfball Star Eric Van Looy but some of the other faces may be less familiar to you but very good players they are too. Keith Newell comes in from over High Wycombe way and is a very good player who'll be looking at 70% at least for his season's work. Already a couple of notable scalps to his name he's very much one to watch. James Olsson too. From the same neck of the woods. Very capable. Should have had Mike Childs done & dusted in their particular encounter and then there's the much improved Richard Fifield with those dastardly pimples who will be winning many games this season. Eric himself has by his own admission started slower than he normally does but watch him come back with a vengeance in the 2nd half. Rather like OLOP 'B' they are a good all round side and you just might wanna watch out when you play them. Tricky customers all round.

M.V.P. Keith Newell. Plays good table tennis and runs marathons you know!

Hold on, what's this then? **Sonning Common & Peppard 'A'** already on 3 points? No Way! Get the chap who's in charge of

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
OLOP 'A'	6	6	0	0	54	6	12
YMCA 'A'	5	5	0	0	48	2	10
Kingfisher 'A'	4	4	0	0	37	3	8
Polish 'A'	5	3	0	2	25	25	6
YMCA 'B'	6	3	0	3	29	31	6
Tidmarsh 'A'	4	2	0	2	13	27	4
OLOP 'B'	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Kingfisher 'C'	6	1	1	4	18	42	3
Sonning C&P 'A'	6	1	1	4	14	46	3
Kingfisher 'B'	5	0	1	4	13	37	1
Kingfisher 'D'	5	0	0	5	11	39	0
OLOP 'C' -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

this Div to check those scorecards I say. Nope, it's true and rather like Tidmarsh above them you'd have to say that even at this early stage 3 points may already be enough! So why the big turnaround from last time then? Surely the teams at the bottom aren't THAT much weaker than a couple of seasons ago are they? Well, maybe they are or maybe they aren't but certainly Simon Berry is a major influence on the results of this team. Get him playing regularly and his results coupled with those of Jason will guarantee you points against the lesser sides – leave him out and they will always struggle. Our very own Chairman Nigel keeps battling away with a couple of victories already to his



NIGEL MALTBY & PAUL JARVIS OF SC&P 'A' *

name none more so than a point clinching vital win against Kingfisher 'B' – nice work and Jarv is actually playing pretty well too – just not been getting the rub of the green when it matters most. His luck will change though and by the looks of things they're gonna get another whole season after this one for that to happen!!

M.V.P. Simon Berry – If he turned out more they'd be mid-table – FACT!

In any other season **Kingfisher 'B'** would be really up against it in their fight for survival but this isn't any other season and they're definitely thinking we only need to beat the 'D' team to guarantee D1 ping pong for another year and despite their poor

LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	PL	W	%
Daniel Moses	OLOP 'A'	18	18	100
Martin Chodounsky	YMCA 'A'	15	15	100
Mark Banks	Kingfisher 'A'	12	12	100
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher 'A'	9	9	100
Ramesh Gehlot	Kingfisher 'A'	9	9	100
Nicky Heaps	Polish 'A'	6	6	100
Andy Misseldine	YMCA 'A'	6	6	100
Steve Buck	YMCA 'A'	6	6	100
Tony Reynolds	YMCA 'A'	6	6	100
Liam McTiernan	OLOP 'A'	3	3	100
Mike Childs	OLOP 'A'	12	11	91.67
Norman Swift	OLOP 'A'	12	10	83.33
Bob Davis	YMCA 'A'	11	9	81.82
Martin Adams	Polish 'A'	9	7	77.78
Ollie Shaw	OLOP 'B'	9	7	77.78

(ish) start you certainly wouldn't bet against them doing just that. Definitely a team where all players are so close in standard that it actually doesn't matter who they turn out. And they've had some notable successes too. Leading from the front is Hard hitting Geoff Civil. Smashed Streaky off the table. Great win Geoff. Roger Woolven-Allen (Yep – he still plays in D1 you know). 3 wins already. Incredible. I see and check a LOT of scorecards but my checking process is never more tested than when somebody's entered a victory for Roger on the card. In fact it usually involves me having to phone both captains to confirm that was definitely the case and the scores weren't just an error and entered incorrectly! Great too to see Cliff Putterford back and troubling the scorers once again; same goes for Colin 70 yrs old young and fresh from his Bronze medal triumph in the recent Vets European Championships in Prague. I feel that Dave Bishop is the key here. Playing very well last year – but hasn't quite found that level of form this. If he does though then 4 points vs 'D' and more importantly than that – ultimate survival - is pretty much nailed on.

M.V.P. Geoff Civil – I bet he smashes that Golf ball for miles and miles and miles and....

OK, so no real surprise to see **Kingfisher 'D'** bringing up the rear. Already the defeat to Sonning means that they have a MASSIVE battle on their hands to beat the drop and it's hard to make a case for them doing just that. I tell

you what though, even in defeat, boy do they enjoy it and whilst not getting the results as a team there are certainly some decent individual successes of note. Johnny Morris. Nice guy. Tough tough player. OK so not as mobile as in years gone by but still does a job for the team. I watched his game against John Barclay and it was brutal. A proper game of table tennis that had everything. Neither deserved to lose and proof that age isn't necessarily a handicap. Ivor Hardman. His son came up to watch and was actually quite impressed with his dad's never say die attitude. He's picked up some good wins to date also and would much rather I feel be slugging it out in 1 than 2 even if it's a whole different ball game up here. Trevor. Love it. Nobody tries harder in the knock up. It's a sight to behold. Playing well too is Trev. Same as Ivor. 4 wins and only 5 games in. Dave Gostellow hasn't quite got it together yet whilst playing well in defeat but it's a tough League and we all want to win. Can't see them staying up if I'm honest but it's an enjoyable game against



COLIN DYKE

them and fair play for effort guys.

M.V.P. Johnny Morris – still talking to those animals!

DIVISION TWO *by Barry Carter*

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2011/2012 season. It looks like it will be a really close season as at this stage there is only one point separating first to fifth. There have already been six draws which proves there is not much between any of the teams. I'm going to tip OLOP 'D' for champions and Kingfisher 'E' for runners up but there are several teams that if they put their full strength side out each week would certainly challenge. Good luck to all of you and have a good season.

Kingfisher 'F' - it's no real surprise that they lead the way considering they were runners up last season. Niall McGrane is yet to be beaten having won twelve out of twelve, the second of his maximums came in the derby night draw against Kingfisher 'E' with wins over Peter Bennett, Allan Bruton and Daniel Grover. Lisa Williams returned her first treble of the season in the 7 – 3 win at Post Office 'A' with wins over John Simmonds, Simon Hopkins and a tight battle with Ray Webb where she finally ran out 13-11 in the fifth. Carole Chard has managed two braces in the 6 – 4 opening day victory at Curzon Club and the 7 – 3 win over OLOP 'E' where she defeated Hanson Xu and Wendy Porter. Doubles : 75%

Player stat : Niall is the only player in the averages not to have gone to five sets.

Team stat : They are the only unbeaten team.



Curzon Club 'A' have started the season particularly well with only the one defeat in five matches and that came on opening night in a tight battle against the current leaders Kingfisher 'F', Mick Maynard and John Willcocks both went home with wins over Carole Chard and Lisa Williams. The two wins have come against Kingfisher 'E' thanks to three from Mick Maynard, two from Jon Willis and a fine John Walker win over the talented Daniel Grover, the other more recent win was a comfortable 10 – 0 victory over Post Office 'A'. Jon Willis returned his first maximum of the season with wins over Ray Webb, Denise Weller and Simon Hopkins. Their other point was a close affair with Tidmarsh 'B' where six of the matches went to five with Curzon winning half of them. John Willcocks was involved in two of them and won both 11 – 9 against Chris Webb and 11-5 against François Durand. Doubles : 60%

Player stat : Mick Maynard has played the most matches - 15, winning 12 losing 3

Team stat : The only team to have won 10 - 0

Wokingham 'A' seemed to have got over the disappointment of narrowly missing out on promotion last season as they have won three out of the four matches they have played. Old habits are hard to shift as, for the match against Kingfisher 'E' which is their only defeat to date, the scorecard referred to them as Longfield 'A'. Brian Chinneck, Daryl Griffith and Martin Pugh all

won one each but it wasn't enough as they lost 7 – 3. The first win of the season came at OLOP 'E' as they went away with a 6 – 4 win as Martin Pugh and Jim Spencer won two each. Jim won his match v Pu Zhang 13–11, 10-12, 11-8, 20-18. Daryl Griffith achieved his first maximum for Longfield/Wokingham as he won all three in the 8 – 2 win over Post Office 'A'. Brian finally got his first maximum of the season at the fourth attempt with comfortable wins over the Sonning C & P 'C' trio of Tim Raby, Paul Treadgold and Matt Stone Doubles : 75%

Player stat : Jim Spencer was involved in the longest deuce v Pu Zhang 20 – 18

Team stat : Have the joint best doubles average – 75%

Kingfisher 'E' have a good chance of promotion with the calibre of their squad, they started off well by winning both of their opening matches against OLOP 'D' 6 – 4 with three from Phil Mead and then away at Wokingham 'A' where both Phil and Daniel Grover returned trebles, the latter his first in division two this season. They have since gone three matches without a win, having drawn two against Kingfisher 'F' and Tidmarsh 'B'. Allan Bruton found some form after an indifferent start to win two against Carole Chard 11-5, 13-11, 11-3 and then he followed it up against Lisa Williams 11-5, 11-5, 6-11, 11-8. Daniel also starred as he came back from 4-11, 5-11 to defeat Lisa on his way to another brace. The other point came against Tidmarsh 'B' where despite leading 3 – 0 and 5 – 3 they couldn't quite get over the line. Daniel had wins over Barry Carter and Steve Calladine, whilst Allan had success over Mike Aistrop and Eric Holmes over Steve Calladine. Doubles : 40%

Player stat : Allan Bruton has played in all five matches.

Team stat : Only team to have drawn twice at home.

OLOP 'D' look a good bet for promotion and as mentioned above are my tip to be champions (sorry guys). They started the season by drawing and losing their first two games.. The loss came against Kingfisher 'E'. Celia Chauvis debuted with a fine brace with wins over Allan Bruton and Eric Holmes, Neil Bird also won twice with wins over Allan and Eric as well. Clive Perry seemed unlucky as he lost two of his three matches in five sets,

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingfisher 'F'	4	3	1	0	25	15	7
Curzon Club 'A'	5	2	2	1	31	19	6
Wokingham 'A'	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Kingfisher 'E'	5	2	2	1	26	24	6
OLOP 'D'	4	2	1	1	24	16	5
Tidmarsh 'B'	4	1	2	1	22	18	4
S C & P 'B'	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
OLOP 'E'	4	0	2	2	17	23	2
Post Office 'A'	4	1	0	3	12	28	2
S C & P 'C'	5	0	1	4	12	38	1

11-13 against Eric and 8-11 against Allan. Clive found the winning formula as he won two in the draw against OLOP 'E' and Neil sealed the draw with an 11-7, 11-5, 11-4 win over Wendy Porter in game ten. Their first win came at the expense of Sonning C & P 'B' where three from Clive which included a great 11-3, 11-6, 4-11, 11-6 win over Keith Swain. Neil won two and Harry Brough who was playing up from division three was narrowly beaten in all three matches. Clive made it two maximums in a row with comfortable wins in the 9 – 1 victory over Sonning C & P 'C' and Steve Purchase who made his season debut returned home with two wins. Doubles : 50%

Player stat : Neil Bird has won the most matches by the 3 – 2 scoreline, 3 occasions.

Team stat : Have won both matches in which Clive Perry has won maximums.

Tidmarsh 'B' look like they have built on the success of last season's consolidation as they have only lost one of their first five matches. It started with a 4 - 6 defeat at Sonning C & P 'B' where I managed to lose after being 2 - 0 and 8-4 up against Keith Swain. Mike Aistrop won two against Jonathan Abbott and Brian Meheux and Chris Webb played well to beat Jonathan 11-5, 11-4, 11-9. A Steve Calladine brace helped them to their first point in the 5 - 5 draw against Curzon Club 'A'. François Durand defeated Mick Maynard 8-11, 11-7, 11-9, 11-5 but was narrowly beaten by John Willcocks in five. Chris Webb won the point as he beat

Nick Lean 11-6, 11-6, 11-8 in game ten. Steve Calladine was once more the star with a maximum in the 8 - 2 win over Sonning C&P 'B'. François & Mike also won two on the night. We battled well from 0 - 3 and 3 - 5 down to claim a point against Kingfisher 'E' thanks to two each from Mike and me.

Player stat : Chris Webb has won both his matches by the 3 – 0 scoreline

Team stat: Have not lost when Steve Calladine played.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'B' have started slowly this time around, and find themselves in the bottom half albeit that they have only played three matches. In the first they gave a division 2 debut for young Jonathan Abbott and he responded well and managed to beat yours truly with some great hitting 11-8, 15-13, 5-11, 11-8. Keith registered his customary treble after beating me and Chris Webb he won game ten against Mike Aistrop 11-1, 11-5, 9-11, 10-12, 11-4 to clinch both points. Keith and Brian both won two and Jonathan one in the 5 - 5 draw with Sonning C&P

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	L	%
Niall McGrane	Kingfisher 'F'	12	12	0	100.0%
Phil Mead	Kingfisher 'E'	6	6	0	100.0%
Neil Bird	OLOP 'D'	12	10	2	83.3%
John Willcocks	Curzon Club 'A'	12	10	2	83.3%
Jon Willis	Curzon Club 'A'	6	5	1	83.3%
Keith Swain	Sonning C & P 'B'	9	7	2	77.8%
Daryl Griffith	Wokingham 'A'	9	7	2	77.8%
Mick Maynard	Curzon Club 'A'	15	11	4	73.3%
Jeremy Willis	Sonning C & P 'C'	12	8	4	66.7%
Clive Perry	OLOP 'D'	12	8	4	66.7%
Andrew Johnson	OLOP 'E'	9	6	3	66.7%
Mike Aistrop	Tidmarsh 'B'	9	6	3	66.7%
Jim Spencer	Wokingham 'A'	9	6	3	66.7%
John Simmonds	Post Office 'A'	6	4	2	66.7%

'C'. Their only defeat came in the 6 - 4 loss at OLOP 'D', Malcolm Gregory returned to the team and came back with a single win against Harry Brough 11-9, 9-11, 12-14, 11-3, 11-4 whilst Keith won two and Brian one. Doubles : 33%

Player stat : Brian Meheux is yet to lose a five setter

Team stat : Haven't lost when Jonathan Abbott has played.

OLOP 'E' although currently just above the relegation zone should be top half come the end of the season and might just sneak that second promotion place if things go their way. Andy Johnson won two in their opening match and with Wendy Porter and Pu Zhang both defeating Celia Chauvis they managed to claim a draw in the OLOP derby match. Pu won two against Brian Chinneck (8-11, 11-5, 11-5, 8-11, 11-8) and Martin Pugh (11-8, 11-7, 11-1) but lost the marathon deuce match with Jim Spencer 18-20 to lose the chance of a maximum. Andy defeated Brian for his only win of the night whilst Hanson Xu overcame Jim Spencer 5-11, 11-3, 11-7, 12-10 in game ten but it only made the final result 4 - 6 to Wokingham 'A'. They then suffered another reverse, this time a 7 - 3 at Kingfisher 'F'. Hanson and Pu both won one each and then Hanson teamed up with Wendy Porter to win the doubles 7-11, 11-9, 6-11, 11-8, 11-6 against Niall McGrane & Lisa Williams. Andy won his first treble of the season with impressive three straight wins over John Willcocks, John Walker and Mick Maynard. This happened in the 5 - 5 draw with Curzon Club 'A'. Wendy got back to winning ways with a 12-10, 11-8, 11-8 win over John Walker. Doubles : 50%

Player stat : Andrew Johnson has won all of his six matches by the 3 - 0 scoreline

Team stat : Only won when Hanson Xu hasn't been playing

Post Office 'A' managed to do a "Wolves" (the first of many Wolves references throughout the season) and sneak out of the relegation places in the last week of last season. They now find themselves in another relegation dogfight à la Wolves! It all started so brightly with a 7 - 3 win over Sonning C & P 'C' although it was an incredibly tight affair as seven of the games went to five with Post Office coming out on top in five of them.



GEORGE WHITE AND DENISE WELLER OF POST OFFICE 'A'

John Simmonds was the star man with a maximum and he was well supported by Simon Hopkins who won two and Denise Weller who won one of the five setters 11-8, 8-11, 6-11, 11-6, 11-7 earlier though she had been on the receiving end of two five set losses. They then came up against a resurgent Wokingham 'A' and were comfortably beaten 8 - 2 with only an Andy Walker's 15-13, 11-8, 11-9 win over Brian Chinneck and a Simon Hopkins 12-10, 5-11, 11-7, 8-11, 11-6 win over Jim Spencer to show for their efforts. John, Simon and Ray Webb all beat Carole Chard in the 7 - 3 defeat against the leaders Kingfisher 'F' although Ray almost defeated Lisa Williams but ended losing 11-13 in the fifth. It was a disastrous night at the Curzon Club as they were soundly beaten 0 - 10 and its probably best to leave it at that. Doubles : 25%



SC&P 'C' - PAUL TREADGOLD, IAN AYRES, TIM RABY & JEREMY WILLIS

Player stat : Simon Hopkins has won all three of his five setters

Team stat : The only time they have won the doubles, they won the match.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' are still trying to find their feet after promotion last season, its been a real baptism of fire as they only have the 5 - 5 draw with Sonning C&P 'B' to show for all their troubles. As mentioned above they lost five of the seven matches that went to five against Post Office 'A'. Matt Stone won one of them against Denise and Jeremy Willis did the same. Jeremy then overcame Simon Hopkins in four. Paul Treadgold was the unlucky man on the night as he lost two of the five setters as well. Jeremy inspired them to a point against Sonning C&P 'B' and this included ending Keith Swain's 100% record in an 8-11, 11-5, 11-9, 11-7 win. Tim Raby won the other singles with a win over Jonathan Abbott and then Matt & Jeremy won the doubles. Jeremy was the only victor in the 8 - 2 defeat at Tidmarsh 'B' although Ian Ayres took François Durand to five before losing 11-5 in the fifth. There then followed two successive 1 - 9 defeats against OLOP 'D' and Wokingham 'A'. Jeremy was the only winner as he beat Steve Purchase in the OLOP match and Matt Stone was the only winner in the Wokingham match as he defeated Jim Spencer 6-11, 11-7, 5-11, 11-7, 11-8. It might be a long season for them this year. Doubles : 20%

Player stat : Matthew Stone has been involved in the most five-setters, 5

Team stat : The only maximum by a player resulted in their only point, Jeremy Willis.

DIVISION THREE by Nick Lean

Six weeks into the season and with the first 24 matches all played as scheduled, the Division 3 table has a slightly wonky look to it with teams having played 4, 5 or 6 matches, due to the two blanks in the Division. At the moment, there's a spread of seven teams with between 1 and 5 points to their names, then there's the top three who are already starting to pull away from the rest. So let's have a look at the teams, starting with those who have been struggling.

Results to date

Having been relegated from Division 2, and despite losing their star player, I would still have expected **Sonning Sports 'A'** to be pushing most teams every week. But they've had a calamitous start to the season, losing to both OLOP teams (1 - 9) and to Kingfisher 'G' and Tilehurst Meths (both 3 - 7). Captain Bob Woodmansee reckons they must be the bookies' favourites for relegation and suggests there's a lack of confidence in his team - particularly when it comes to the key points of the games. The stats seem to agree, as in the match at OLOP 'G' of the 13 games that went to deuce or 11-9, they lost 10 of them. (I'm sure Bob's team-mates will be delighted to see these stats in print!) Dave Chard had their only win in the match against OLOP 'F', while Nigel Goodman started the match at OLOP 'G' with a win. Dave & Cap'n Bob both had wins against Kingfisher 'G' and teamed up to take the doubles. New signing Robert (Bob) Snellgrove has had a tough baptism in the Reading league, but seems to be improving and only lost out to Allen Pack in the deciding game. Against Tilehurst, Cap'n Bob battled well to win two while Dave notched another win, but Bob S was thwarted by Jan Wright despite taking a 2-game lead. Sports' first point of the season finally arrived at Kingfisher 'H' as Nigel found some form to win three, Bob S overcame Mike Dorrington in their decider to claim his first win and Cap'n Bob held his nerve to come from 4-8 down in the fifth to defeat Steve Woolnough and seal the draw.

Springfield 'A' christened their new premises with a good

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tidmarsh 'C'	5	5	0	0	41	9	10
OLOP 'F'	5	4	1	0	34	16	9
Milestone 'A'	6	3	2	1	35	25	8
OLOP 'G'	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Tilehurst Meths 'A'	4	2	1	1	20	20	5
Kingfisher 'H'	5	1	1	3	23	27	3
Pangbourne WMC	5	1	1	3	21	29	3
Kingfisher 'G'	4	1	0	3	14	26	2
Springfield 'A'	5	1	0	4	17	33	2
Sonning Sports 'A'	5	0	1	4	13	37	1

win over Kingfisher 'H'. Phil Burke was too good for the opposition and hit a 3-straight maximum, while Des Hele had to work a little harder to remain unbeaten. But their good start didn't last long as they then lost 3 matches in a row, all 3 - 7. At OLOP 'F', there were some close matches, including Des losing out 12-14 in the fifth to Harry Brough, but Phil only won two and Des one. Des had two good wins at Pangbourne, but Phil missed that match and their only other win was in the doubles. Phil returned to win two against Milestone, with Seth Martin unlucky not to win more than the one he did, losing out 9-11 in the decider to Hugh Crosfield. Ian Boaden narrowly failed to chalk up his first win of the season, losing out in 5 games to John Crosfield. Their poor run of results continued with the visit of Tidmarsh 'C' who were too strong and left 8 - 2 winners. Phil did beat Barry Carter and seemed unlucky to lose both his other two contests in the decider.



Having had fixtures against the two 'blanks' in the Division, **Kingfisher 'G'** got off to a slow start.. When they did play, they came up against a very strong Tidmarsh side and won just eight ends all evening. Allen Pack did well to beat Peter Galea, but Dave Duncan and John Creighton started their season with ducks. But at Sonning Sports (not Berks Sports, Harry) Dave D won three while John and Allen won two apiece in a good 7 - 3 win. Their match at OLOP 'F' proved more of a challenge as Dave, Allen and Chris Pusey, in his first match of the season, could only win one each in a 3 - 7 defeat. Their match at OLOP 'G' had the same scoreline, as Dave and John won one apiece plus the doubles, although they did lose 3 other sets in the deciding game.

It's difficult to tell how **Pangbourne WMC** will fare this season. They lost 3 - 7 to Tilehurst Meths in their first match, with Pete Welch and Howard Taylor both losing narrowly to John Virgo in the deciding game each time and

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Chris West	OLOP 'G'	6	6	100.0%
Harry Brough	OLOP 'F'	15	14	93.3%
Peter Galea	Tidmarsh 'C'	9	8	88.9%
Barry Carter	Tidmarsh 'C'	15	13	86.7%
Sami Almabrok	OLOP 'F'	15	13	86.7%
Phil Jones	Tilehurst Meths 'A'	6	5	83.3%
Dave Reynolds Snr	Tidmarsh 'C'	15	12	80.0%
Patrick Burns	Kingfisher 'H'	9	7	77.8%
John Tucker	Milestone 'A'	18	12	66.7%
Dan West	OLOP 'G'	12	8	66.7%
Phil Burke	Springfield 'A'	12	8	66.7%
John Virgo	Tilehurst Meths 'A'	9	6	66.7%

they did the same in the doubles. However, they did win a set each, as did Roger Stevens. A similar defeat followed at Kingfisher 'H' where good hitting from Clive Taylor helped him defeat Carol Byers 11-9 in the fifth, while Howard had the same ending to his win over Steve Woolnough. Leroy Wilson started his season in this match with a rare doughnut, but teamed up with Clive to win the doubles. Pangbourne recorded their first win as they battled to a 5 - 1 lead which they converted to a 7 - 3 win over Springfield. Five contests went the distance, as Leroy took 14 games to win his maximum while Clive and Roger won two sets each. Another good result followed as they drew with OLOP 'H', although at 5 - 3 up I daresay Leroy & Co might have been looking to take both points. At Milestone, Howard started by taking Hugh Crosfield to a decider, but lost that 10-12, then lost to John Tucker in five before losing easily to Jon Crosfield. Clive won two, including a 3-straight defeat of Hugh, and Pete defeated Crosfield Snr as they slipped to a 3 - 7 defeat.

Kingfisher 'H' worked hard to stay in their first match at Springfield up to 4 - 4, but in the end only won a set each plus the doubles, losing the match 4 - 6. This was Carol Byers' return to the Reading league which started with a battling five game win over Seth Martin, but like the rest of her team (Steve Woolnough & Mike Dorrington) that was her only singles win of the match. They bounced straight back with a 7 - 3 win over Pangbourne, as Patrick Burns started his season with a straight maximum, while Steve and Carol both won twice. Their match at Milestone proved a tougher challenge, with Patrick losing out to Hugh Crosfield and being taken to a deciding game by both John Crosfield and John Tucker. The final member of their squad, Ken Robb beat Crosfield senior, but Mike had a duck. A really tight match followed at Tidmarsh 'C' which could have gone either way. Pat impressed by beating Barry Carter and Reynolds Jnr, while Steve was unlucky to lose to Reynolds Jnr but got the better of Reynolds Snr 16-14, 10-12, 11-9, 6-11 10-12 and they joined up to win the doubles, but despite these heroics they still came away at the wrong end of a 4 - 6 scoreline. Reports suggest it was a great evening's table tennis between two sociable teams - just as it should be.

Tilehurst Methodists 'A' have had a mixed bunch of results and look set to be on the edge of the promotion battle or maybe even part of it. They started with a win at Pangbourne, thanks to a hard-fought maximum from John Virgo who narrowly defeated Pete Welch 13-11 in the fifth and Howard Taylor 11-9 in their decider. They then had a good draw with Milestone, as John Virgo and

Phil Jones won two each, while new signing Melvin Lovegrove won one. After a blank fixture, they came up against a rampant Tidmarsh and only avoided a whitewash when one of the opposition had to concede the last set of the night. Ian Cockling did take Barry Carter to a decider, but that & the doubles were the only real challenges offered. Their trip to Sonning Sports was a different matter as Phil stepped in to win three with relative ease, while Jan won two and Ian one.



CHRIS WEST, CAPTAIN OF LAST YEAR'S DIV 4 CHAMPIONS ST LAURENCE CHURCH, IS NOW PLAYING IN OLOP 'G', WITH HIS BROTHER DAN

OLOP 'G' started the season with a draw at Milestone thanks to new signing Dan West winning all three and Alex Fear winning two. After a blank fixture they then drew a blank at Tidmarsh, almost literally, with Alex Fear's superb win over Dave Reynolds Snr saving a whitewash: 16-14, 9-11, 11-9, 9-11, 9-11. Mark Kirton battled back well from 0 - 2 down to take Barry Carter to five only to lose 9-11 in the fifth. Against Sonning Sports fortunes were reversed as Chris and Dan West both hit

maximums and Alex won two in a 9 - 1 win. Chris had another max in a 7 - 3 win over Kingfisher 'G' while Dan and Mark also won two each. Having already played two of the top three, this team could well challenge for one of the promotion places themselves.

Milestone 'A' started with a draw against OLOP 'G' as John Tucker won two and Hugh Crosfield one, plus the doubles, but their point came thanks to an outstanding win for Oliver Bonser, playing up from Division 5 who beat Mark Kirton in 4 games. Another draw came at Tilehurst as this time Hugh won two, JT one and once again Olly's win, this time over Melvin Lovegrove, helped seal a point. There followed three wins on the trot, all 7 - 3, over Kingfisher 'H', Springfield and Pangbourne. Hugh hit a maximum in the first of these, with JT following suit the next two matches, with Jon Crosfield winning one each time. In what could be classed as an early promotion clash against OLOP 'F', the first game set the tone for the match. Hugh went 2 games to nil up against Sami Almbrok by winning the second game 17-15 and was 8-6 up in the third, but then lost that 9-11 and was outplayed in the 4th and 5th games. Hugh, Jon and JT did win one apiece, but the match was lost 4 - 6.

Sometimes the headlines just write themselves (in other words, don't blame me for this), but for **OLOP 'F'** it's all been about .. *when Harry met Sami*. I'm not sure if the earth moved, but there may well have been whoops of delight as these two experienced an almost perfect start to the season. To date they have won all bar three of the 30 singles contests, to help their team beat Sonning Sports 9 - 1, Springfield & Kingfisher 'G' 7 - 3 and Milestone 6 - 4. (Initially Sami was playing up from Division 4, but he has now been registered for OLOP 'F' which is probably a better level for him.) In the middle of

this run they were held to a draw at Pangbourne, the one time (so far) when neither Harry nor Sami experienced maximum delight. Lets not forget Pat Daniels, who won two at Sonning Sports and Cedric Dias, who was unlucky to only win one against Springfield. Captain Mark Bullion has hardly had a look-in, turning out for his first match of the season at Milestone. It was the win at Milestone that took OLOP 'F' into second place and to me they seem good contenders for promotion.

Before the season started, I was under the impression that **Tidmarsh 'C'** would have player availability problems, but having re-jigged their side and made some late signings it already seems as though they are destined to win promotion, with five wins out of five to date. Barry Carter and Dave Reynolds Snr have been the main-stays winning 13 and 12 respectively of their 15 contests, in a run of three 9 - 1's a 6 - 4 and an 8 - 2. Peter Galea also won 8 out of 9 in the first three matches, with Dave Reynolds Jnr winning two and Steve Rollason three in their individual appearances.

Strange but true

This season is the 25th consecutive season that Dave Chard, Nigel Goodman and Bob Woodmansee have played

together in the same team - a feat bettered only by Derek Harrison, Jim Brent & Geoff Johnson, I believe.

Notices

Sonning Sports play at Beech Lodge in Sonning - see Handbook or website for directions

Their first opponents of the season went to the "old" venue, which applied to their previous incarnation (as Berks Sports) from two seasons ago, waited outside until about 7.45 before ringing the home captain and had to be directed to the new and correct venue. Lesson 1: read your Handbooks!!

Springfield are now playing at Polehampton Junior School - see Handbook or RDTTA website for directions.

Volunteers Needed

I have a serious request for anyone that reads this Newsletter. We are in need of 'new blood' on the RDTTA Committee, specifically to take some of the load from Nigel, who is having to do three jobs because of the lack of volunteers. The work to be done is not onerous in any one of these jobs, and any volunteer would be encouraged to start by assisting Nigel while learning the ropes. So if you would be willing to give it a go, please let me (or Nigel) know.

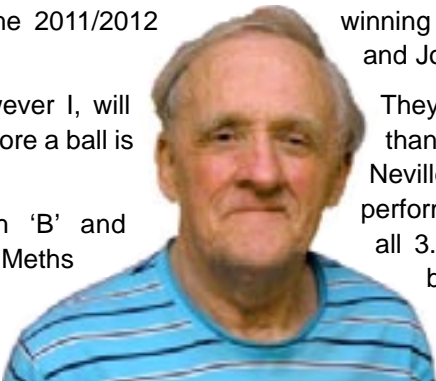
DIVISION FOUR by *Derek Harrison*

Hello everyone and welcome to the 2011/2012 season especially the new teams.

This season is hard to judge - however I, will take a stab at giving my predictions before a ball is hit.

At the top I believe that Polish 'B' and Wokingham 'B' and possible Tilehurst Meths 'B' will fight it out.

At the bottom I feel it will be Tidmarsh 'D' and sadly Curzon Club 'C' to go down. Sorry Dave & Linda - now prove me wrong!! However Kingfisher 'I' could have problems unless they can play some of their better players.



winning all three but Sandy Shore could only win one and John Belcher failed to score.

They then bounced back by beating Tidmarsh 2 - 8 thanks to trebles from Tony Eames and Richard Neville. Ken helped out with a double. A good team performance saw them beat OLOP 6 - 4. Tony won all 3. John Beardmore playing in his first match beat Chris Moses as did Richard. In their big clash with Polish 'B' Tony and Ken won two each to help them gain a draw. Against Sonning the big guns came out and as a result they won 8 - 2 with Tony winning all 3. Richard and Sandy played their part by obtaining doubles.

Before you read my notes I am sorry to inform you that Martin Wetherell of Tilehurst Meths collapsed while playing at OLOP on Wed the 19th and was taken to the RBH and at the time of writing this on Sat the 22nd he is still there so on behalf of you all I wish him well and a speedy recovery. Nigel Rowland, the Tilehurst captain, has asked me to thank Richard Lownsborough his team mate, who helped Martin before the ambulance arrived and the other players at OLOP who gave support on the night.

Wokingham 'B' in their first match have let me down as far as my predictions go because they have just lost 4 - 6 to Birch Copse 'A'. Ken Park carried on as he left last season by

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Polish 'B'	5	3	2	0	31	19	8
Wokingham 'B'	5	3	1	1	31	19	7
Birch Copse 'A'	6	2	3	1	30	30	7
Tilehurst Meths 'B'	4	2	1	1	25	15	5
Curzon 'B'	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
OLOP 'H'	5	2	1	2	27	23	5
SC&P 'D'	5	2	1	2	24	26	5
Tidmarsh 'D'	6	2	1	3	25	35	5
Polish 'C'	5	1	1	3	19	31	3
Curzon 'C'	4	0	2	2	15	25	2
Kingfisher 'I'	5	0	2	3	20	30	2

Polish 'B' gained a good point at Birch Copse thanks to doubles from Darek Kaminski and Jacek Krzyzanowski and that important single from Marcin Kolat. They then entertained Tidmarsh and Darek and Jacek both helped themselves to hat tricks in a 7 - 3 victory. At O.L.O.P they came away with a fine 4 - 6 win with Jacek winning all three and Darek gaining a double and the two of them winning the doubles. At home to Wokingham a 11-5, 4-11, 11-6, 15-13 win in game 10 from Marcin over John Beardmore gave them a good point. Earlier Darek and

thanks mainly to a great treble obtained from Nigel with Richard winning one Nigel and Richard also had a three straight doubles win over Jes and Richard. Against Tidmarsh 'D' they surprisingly went down 4 - 6. Nigel won two and Martin and Chris won one each.

Last season's div 5 champions **Birch Copse 'A'** had a great 4 - 6 victory at favourites Wokingham 'B' with Jes Eassom and reserve Duncan Abbott winning 2 each and also teaming up to win the doubles. George Sandford played his part by winning that important single. At home to Polish 'B' Richard Green came into the side and won all 3. Jes won one and also teamed up with Richard to win the doubles 3-straight to give them a point.

At Sonning only Jes was able to trouble the scorers by winning two, after beating Derek and Anthony. At home to Tilehurst Meths they shared the spoils with Jes and Richard winning two each. Mike Williams did his bit by beating Chris. In their match at Kingfisher Richard and Jes won two each with Mike gaining that important single which gave them a draw. They then were hosts to Curzon 'C' and beat them 7 - 3 with Richard winning all three and Jes winning one by beating Oli. Duncan playing up won two by beating Oli and Terry.



ALISTAIR RICHARDSON AND CHRIS MOSES OF OLOP 'H' - THEY WERE DIV 5 RUNNERS UP LAST YEAR. *

Jacek won two each. Jacek was on top form against Curzon 'B' by winning all three. Darek and Marcin gave him good support by gaining doubles which helped them to a 8 - 2 victory.

OLOP 'H' started their season by beating Tidmarsh 'D' 7 - 3 with Alistair Richardson and Sami Almabrak both hitting trebles with Dave Godfrey winning one.

At Curzon 'B' they drew, with Dave and new signing Neil Havard winning two each. Alistair won one by beating Jim Brent. At Wokingham Alistair and Neil won two each in a 6 - 4 defeat. In their home game with Polish 'B' they went down 4 - 6 with Neil winning two and Dave and Alistair one each. They then had a fine 3 - 7 win at Sonning mainly thanks to a fine treble by Dave but Alistair and Neil gave him good support with doubles.

Tilehurst Meths 'B' I am sure will be in with a shout and they kicked off with a 2 - 8 win at Polish 'C'. Nigel Rowland as ever was the star with a good hat trick. Richard Lownsborough and Martin Wetherell did their part with doubles.

At home to Curzon 'C' they romped home 8 - 2 with Martin hitting a 3 straight treble. Nigel and Chris Taylor both obtained doubles.

In their local derby with Birch Copse they gained a draw

Curzon 'B' started the season well by winning 2 - 8 at Kingfisher 'I' with Geoff Johnson gaining a good maximum. Nick Lean and Derek Harrison both obtained doubles. Nick and Derek won the doubles over 4 games. At home to OLOP 'H' we came from 3 - 5 down to gain a draw. Geoff beat Alistair in game 9 and Derek beat Neil Havard in game 10 to give both of us 2 wins each. We also won the doubles. We then played Polish 'C' and what a great night against a very sporting and friendly team who played the game with a nice attitude despite losing 8 - 2. You all are a credit to the game so take a bow Kris, Stephen, and Grant. Also thank you for scoring



BIRCH COPSE 'A' - LAST YEAR'S DIV 5 CHAMPS - JES EASSOM, MIKE WILLIAMS & DUNCAN ABBOTT *

5 games. Anyway re that win Geoff did the business by winning all 3 with Nick and Derek gaining doubles. At Polish 'B' we crashed to an 8 - 2 defeat with Jim Brent and Nick both picking up singles. For Jim by beating Darek he gained his 1000th league win. Because you're a mate I will not mention how many you have lost Jim. As for me I am now only two short from playing 1000 league matches.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'D' had a fine 6 - 4 win over Polish 'C' thanks to a great hat trick by Mark Corbett. Jon Abbott showed his improvement by winning two and only lost to Grant 14-16 in the 5th! Jim McClure played his part by gaining a very important single. Mark's good form continued against Birch Copse by winning all three. Derek Brooke-Wavell and Anthony Reeve gave him good support by gaining doubles which helped to an 8 - 2 victory. At Tidmarsh young Jon hit a great maximum and with Derek and Simon Blake winning one each this gave them a draw. They then lost their unbeaten record when going down 3 - 7 to OLOP with Jon and Mark picking up singles besides the two of them winning the doubles. At Wokingham they lost 8 - 2 with Jon and Anthony winning the games.

Tidmarsh 'D' lost 7 - 3 at OLOP 'H'. Dave Edwards and Terry Hardie were the singles scorers, both beating Dave. At home to Wokingham they lost 2 - 8 with Dave E beating Ken and then teamed up with Terry to win the doubles. Against Polish 'B' they went down 3 - 7 with Terry and Dave E both beating Marcin. They then played 100% Sonning and held them to a draw with Terry winning two and Dave E and Dave Smith winning one each. Terry and Dave E maintained their unbeaten doubles record by beating Derek and Jon. At Tilehurst Meths they put in the performance of the season so far by winning 4 - 6 thanks to a brilliant maximum from Terry and a fine double from Dave E. They also maintained their doubles record. At home to Kingfisher the in-form Terry obtained yet another maximum with Dave E and reserve John Harland winning one. As ever they also won the doubles.

Polish 'C' who finished 3rd last season in Div 5 only went down 6 - 4 at Sonning 'D'. Grant Wheatley played well by winning two while Stephen Yon picked up a single. I expect this team to do well as the season goes on. At home to Tilehurst Meths they crashed to a 2 - 8 defeat with Stephen beating Richard and Martin. They then won their first match by winning 4 - 6 at Kingfisher. Grant and Stephen won two each besides teaming up to win the doubles. Jan Polnik won his first game of the season by beating Derek Crombie. At home to Curzon 'C' Stephen and Grant won two each and also teamed up to win the doubles 11 - 9 in the 5th to give them a draw. They then lost 8 - 2 at Curzon 'B' with Grant beating Derek and Stephen beating Nick. Kris Szczygiel enjoyed himself despite not winning.

Kingfisher 'I' started life in div 4 with a 2 - 8 defeat to Curzon 'B'. Young Michael Houghton did very well by win-

DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Tony Eames	Wokingham 'B'	12	11	91.7
Geoff Johnson	Curzon 'B'	9	8	88.9
Jacek Krzyzanowski	Polish 'B'	15	13	86.7
Nigel Rowland	Tilehurst Meths 'B'	12	10	83.3
Richard Green	Birch Copse 'A'	12	10	83.3
Michael Houghton	Kingfisher 'I'	15	12	80.0
Ken Park	Wokingham 'B'	9	7	77.8
Mark Corbett	Sonning C&P 'D'	9	7	77.8
Darek Kaminski	Polish 'B'	15	11	73.3
Neil Havard	OLOP 'H'	12	8	66.7
Terry Spice	Curzon 'C'	12	8	66.7
George Dodd	Kingfisher 'I'	9	6	66.7
Martin Wetherell	Tilehurst Meths 'B'	9	6	66.7
Richard Neville	Wokingham 'B'	9	6	66.7
Alistair Richardson	OLOP 'H'	15	9	60.0

ning 2 and only going down to Geoff 11-13 in the fifth.

By the way, Michael. we were all impressed with your sportsmanship. Well done. In their next match Michael came up trumps by hitting a great maximum and with George Dodd winning two this gave them a draw at Curzon 'C'. At home to Polish 'C' they lost 4 - 6 despite Michael getting a very good treble. Derek Spicer got off the mark by beating Jan. They then shared the spoils with Birch Copse. Michael and George won two each besides them teaming up to win the doubles. At Tidmarsh they went down 6 - 4. Michael and George both picked up doubles.

Curzon 'C' started their season by drawing with Kingfisher. Terry Spice did well to win two but could have won all 3 because he had 4 match points against Michael in game 5 after being 1 - 7 down! Linda King and Oliver Lister won one each. For Oliver it was his first ever match in the Reading League and in his first game. At Tilehurst Meths they went down 8 - 2. Terry played well by beating Nigel and Chris. At Polish 'C' Terry came up trumps by winning all three and with Linda and Mick Gillard winning one each, this was enough to share the points. Next came their trip to Birch Copse and they went down 7 - 3 with Linda returning to form by winning two. Terry was the other scorer by beating Jes.

To sum up the first set of matches I believe there will be quite a few surprises to come so at the moment I am not confident my predictions will be correct especially with the form that Terry Hardie is in.

Finally, please can I ask captains to give me some match comments. This does help me with my article. At the moment only 3 captains do this.

DIVISION FIVE *by Duncan Abbott*

Welcome to a new season of Division 5 table tennis. Already we have witnessed some unexpected results, certainly by last season's standards.

Six months ago I was wishing **Springfield 'B'** all the very best in Division 6 as they had endured a torrid campaign in Division 5 and finished bottom of the pile. Yet incredibly the same team sits proudly on top of this division with 4 wins out of 5. They have added the vastly experienced John Burke and replaced Colin Jones with Paul Jenkins, but even so few could have envisaged the transformation that has taken place.

They started the season with an emphatic 8 - 2 win at Kingfisher 'J', with John and Chris 'Spike' Speight scoring trebles, a feat no Springfield player managed last season; newcomer Paul Jenkins weighed in with a useful brace. Spike repeated the feat against Tidmarsh 'E', Paul and Dan Mortimer weighed in with two apiece. Then came an impressive 6 - 4 win over title favourites Tilehurst Meths 'C', John hitting another treble; and a 7 - 3 win at Sonning C&P 'E' confirmed this side as a real force in this division. Their only blip came at home to Kingfisher 'K' as they went down 7 - 3.



KINGFISHER 'K' CAPTAIN DIDIER GARÇON, WHO ALSO TOOK OUR COVER PHOTO, COLLECTS HIS TEAM'S AWARDS.

Which was no real surprise as Div 6 champions **Kingfisher 'K'** have taken this division by storm too with 4 wins from 5. Their star player Jean-Noel Thepaut is unbeaten to date and clearly a class above everyone else in the division. However he is not without decent support.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Springfield 'B'	5	4	0	1	32	18	8
Kingfisher 'K'	5	4	0	1	27	23	8
Tilehurst Meths 'C'	5	3	1	1	33	17	7
OLOP 'I'	4	2	1	1	24	16	5
Milestone 'B'	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Sonning C&P 'E'	4	1	2	1	19	21	4
Birch Copse 'B'	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Post Office 'B'	6	1	2	3	28	32	4
Kingfisher 'J'	4	0	0	4	10	30	0
Tidmarsh 'E'	5	0	0	5	14	36	0

Newcomer Nils Wedi scored a treble against Kingfisher 'J' and a double against Birch Copse 'B'; Gabor Radnoti has chipped in with doubles against OLOP 'I', Kingfisher 'J' and Springfield 'B'; Stuart Mitchell scored a useful single against Kingfisher 'J'; and Joaquin Munoz-Sabater scored their only point in a 9 - 1 thrashing by Tilehurst Meths 'C', beating Catherine Venning. Only captain Didier Garçon has yet to trouble the scorers but I'm sure he'll put that right soon.

My pre-season tip for the title was **Tilehurst Meths 'C'** and their form has not disappointed. Bob Winter led the way with a maximum in the opening day 8 - 2 demolition of Birch Copse 'B'. This match featured the only appearance of Chris Taylor who also returned a full score before going on to bigger and better things in Div 4. His replacement, Catherine Venning, has returned after a few years absence in fine form. She and Bob hit fine trebles in the 7 - 3 win over Kingfisher 'J', and she also hit a double in the 9 - 1 thumping of a weakened Kingfisher 'K' and in the 5 - 5 draw at Post Office 'B'. Bob has played in all 5 fixtures and has had his colours lowered only twice - by John Burke in the 6 - 4 defeat at Springfield 'B' and Mick Grantham of Post Office 'C'. The evergreen Dave Jones has also been in fine form, hitting a treble against Kingfisher 'K' and a double at Springfield 'B'.

The only surprise has been the poor form of captain Mal Collis who after a season in the higher echelons of Division 4 has failed to record a win in his opening three fixtures. Mal tells me he's changed his bat from long pimples to a conventional attacking bat. A risky move but fair play to Mal, who is technically a very skillful player and I believe far more suited to an attacking style of play, while his old pimples bat was designed more to stop the opponent playing. Once he gets used to his new bat I've no doubt he'll be well and truly back among the points.

OLOP 'I' have also taken the step up from Division 6 in their stride with 5 points from their opening 4 matches. Star man has been new signing Mac DeGuzman with maximums against Post Office 'B' and Tidmarsh 'E'; only Jean-Noel Thepaut has lowered his colours so far. Siad Cole has also impressed with trebles against Tidmarsh 'E' and SC&P



OLOP 'I' -PHIL SAUNDERS, JADE FUDGE AND DANIEL THORNE

'E'; Philip Saunders hit a nice double against Post Office 'B' and captain Daniel Thorne has chipped in with wins Kingfisher 'K' and Tidmarsh 'E'.

Despite having played only two matches because of postponements, **Milestone 'B'** find themselves in mid-table having won their opening two matches against Post Office 'B' and Tidmarsh 'E' both by a 7 - 3 margin. The unbeaten Oliver Bonser has been a revelation so far, he has also been among the points when playing up for the 'A' team in Division 3. Gerard Thorp has hit doubles in both matches, John Simpson did the same at Tidmarsh 'E' and they won their doubles game against last season's doubles specialists Post Office 'B'.

Last season's draw specialists **Sonning Common & Peppard 'E'** are at it again, with honours even in two of their opening four matches, against Post Office 'B' and OLOP 'I'. Phil Turton hit a treble in the 6 - 4 win against Tidmarsh 'E'. Doubles have come from Tony House and Dave Aust against Post Office 'B', Dave did the same in their 7 - 3 reverse against Springfield 'B', and he teamed up with Mike Casserley with doubles in the draw against OLOP 'I'. The other squad member Derek Maltby played against Springfield 'B'.

Birch Copse 'B' were my pre-season tip for a relegation battle. With Melanie & Jack Griffiths just up from Div 6 and Duncan Abbott not the most prolific scorer at this level a struggle would appear to be on the cards.

They started life in Div 5 with a predictable 8 - 2 hammering at the hands of Tilehurst Methodists 'C', with only wins by Melanie and Duncan over Dave Jones to show for their efforts. Their match at Kingfisher 'K' was a tighter affair – all succumbed to the wizardry of French maestro Jean-Noel Thepaut and all managed to defeat Stuart Mitchell. However only Duncan managed to beat Nils Wedi so a 6 - 4 loss was the final outcome.

Then came two priceless wins. In the first an inspired treble from Duncan and singles from Jack and George Sandford, plus a superb doubles win from Duncan and Jack after being 2 sets down gave them a 6 - 4 win away to Post Office 'B'. At Tidmarsh 'D' with Melanie absent once again they were able to call on

the services of reserve Roy Hull who responded with a superb treble plus a doubles win with Duncan. A brace from Duncan and a ninth game win for Jack over Dave Humphrey completed an amazing recovery from 3 - 1 down for an unlikely 7 - 3 triumph.

Post Office 'B' were reinstated in this division after suffering relegation last season but unlike leaders Springfield 'B' they have made a slowish start to the season. They drew the first at SC&P 'E', then suffered defeats at the hands of Milestone 'B', OLOP 'I' and Birch Copse 'B' before getting an emphatic 8 - 2 win at Kingfisher 'J' which was followed by an excellent draw with high-flying Tilehurst Meths 'B'.

Returning to the table this season is old stager Felix Ziembra who has played in all six matches, hitting doubles in four of them and singles in the other two. Mick Grantham made a slow start by his high standards with two doubles and a single; Ted Cripps won all three against Kingfisher 'J' and hit a double against Birch Copse 'B'; Linda Davis hit a double at Kingfisher 'J' plus three singles, and is still specialising in hard-fought five setters. Barbara Gatward featured against Milestone 'B' and Birch Copse 'B'.

Last season **Kingfisher 'J'** just avoided the drop but it looks like they have another battle on to stay in the division as they have lost their opening four fixtures. Last season's top man Andrew Talaga was their sole singles winner in an 8 - 2 defeat against Springfield 'B', although captain Derek Crombie finished on the wrong end of two very close five-setters. In the next match, a 7 - 3 defeat at Tilehurst Meths 'C', Andrew, Derek and Gill Bennett all got the better of home captain Mal Collis. Their clash with club-mates Kingfisher 'K' finished with the same scoreline, Phil Cunnington winning two and Gill Bennett beating Stuart Mitchell. Derek & Phil scored singles against Post Office 'B' but couldn't prevent an 8 - 2 defeat. The other squad member Helen Sparks has yet to get off the mark.

In my opinion **Tidmarsh 'D'** are in a false position. Their captain Bob Sunerton tells me they are traditionally slow starters but I doubt they were expecting to lose their opening five games.

Their opening 8 - 2 defeat to a John Burke-less

DIV 5 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Jean-Noel Thepaut	Kingfisher 'K'	9	9	100
Oliver Bonser	Milestone 'B'	6	6	100
John Burke	Springfield 'B'	12	11	91.67
Siad Cole	OLOP 'I'	9	8	88.89
Mac de Guzman	OLOP 'I'	9	8	88.89
Bob Winter	Tilehurst Meths 'C'	15	13	86.67
Catherine Venning	Tilehurst Meths 'C'	9	7	77.78
Chris Speight	Springfield 'B'	12	9	75
Duncan Abbott	Birch Copse 'B'	12	8	66.67
Dave Jones	Tilehurst Meths 'C'	9	6	66.67
Nils Wedi	Kingfisher 'K'	9	6	66.67
Gerard Thorp	Milestone 'B'	6	4	66.67
Tony House	Sonning C&P 'E'	3	2	66.67

Springfield 'B' was something of a surprise, with only John Harland giving any resistance. They followed this up with a more respectable 6 - 4 loss at SC&P 'E' with Dave Humphrey taking the plaudits with a brace. Next up were Milestone 'B' and Mike Bundy's brace was not enough to prevent a 7 - 3 defeat. They found OLOP 'I's youngsters far too sharp and suffered a heavy 8 - 2 defeat. Bob re-discovered his form with a brace against Birch Copse 'B' and Mike had a convincing win over Jack Griffiths, but sadly Dave was unable to convert either of his five setters against Jack and Duncan Abbott into wins and they went down 7 - 3.

Pete Sinclair has yet to appear and Steve Andrews has yet to discover his best form. Somehow I think the results will come but with confidence suffering that needs to be sooner rather than later.

Five set thrillers

Here is a pick of the tightest five setters to date :

- Mike Casserley (SC&P 'E') v Linda Davis (Post Office 'B') 11-5, 7-11, 5-11, 11-8, 12-10.
- Derek Crombie (Kingfisher 'J') v Paul Jenkins (Springfield 'B') 11-9, 11-9, 9-11, 7-11, 11-13.
- Derek Crombie (Kingfisher 'J') v Chris Speight (Springfield 'B') 4-11, 13-11, 6-11, 11-8, 10-12.
- Nils Wedi (Kingfisher 'K') v Melanie Griffiths (Birch Copse 'B') 7-11, 6-11, 11-6, 11-5, 12-10.
- Mick Grantham (Post Office 'B') v Gerard Thorp (Milestone 'B') 11-6, 12-14, 8-11, 11-5, 11-9.
- Mike Casserley (SC&P 'E') v Dave Humphrey (Tidmarsh 'E') 9-11, 11-6, 7-11, 11-6, 9-11.
- Siad Cole (OLOP 'I') v Linda Davis (Post Office 'B') 11-8, 11-9, 7-11, 8-11, 9-11.
- Joaquin Munoz-Sabater (Kingfisher 'K') v Catherine Venning (T Meths 'C') 8-11, 11-8, 12-10, 10-12, 11-9.
- Phil Cunnington (Kingfisher 'J') v Feliks Ziembra (Post Office 'B') 3-11, 12-14, 12-10, 11-6, 15-13.
- Daniel Thorne (OLOP 'I') v Mike Bundy (Tidmarsh 'E') 11-6, 4-11, 11-7, 6-11, 11-13.
- Mike Casserley (SC&P 'E') v Daniel Thorne (OLOP 'I') 7-11, 11-7, 7-11, 11-6, 11-9.
- Dave Humphrey (Tidmarsh 'E') v Duncan Abbott (Birch Copse 'B') 4-11, 11-7, 2-11, 11-7, 9-11.

DIVISIONS 5-6 KNOCKOUT CUP 2011-2012

Introduction

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

There is a new format this season, with all 9 games in each match being doubles games featuring three players on each side. Please note that each game will be best of 3 (not 5) with games being up to 11 points as in league games.

The teams will be split into four different pools and matches played on a round robin basis. League points in each pool will be based on games 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 games 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.

This competition is run by **Duncan Abbott**, the Special Competitions Secretary.

Pool A

Tidmarsh 'E'
Post Office 'B'
OLOP 'J'

Pool B

Kingfisher 'K'
OLOP 'I'
SC&P 'F'
Milestone 'C'

Pool C

SC&P 'E'
Springfield 'C'
Sonning Sports 'B'
Birch Copse 'B'

Pool D

Milestone 'B'
Kingfisher 'J'
Birch Copse 'C'
Springfield 'D'

Matches w/c 24 October
Tidmarsh E 2 Post Office B 7
Kingfisher K 7 v OLOP I 2
SC&P F v Milestone C
SC&P E 9 Springfield C 0
Sonning Sports B 0 Birch Copse B 9
Milestone B 9 Kingfisher J 0
Birch Copse C 3 Springfield D 6

Matches w/c 21 November
Post Office B v OLOP J
OLOP I v SC&P F
Milestone C v Kingfisher K
Springfield C v Sonning Sports B
Birch Copse B v SC&P E
Kingfisher J v Birch Copse C
Springfield D v Milestone B

Matches w/c 12 December
OLOP J v Tidmarsh E
Kingfisher K v SC&P F
OLOP I v Milestone C
SC&P E v Sonning Sports B
Springfield C v Birch Copse B
Milestone B v Birch Copse C
Kingfisher J v Springfield D



DIVISION SIX *by Nigel Rowland*

Welcome to another season. It is refreshing to see we have new players joining us for the coming season, we extend a warm welcome and wish you all a good first season. I am going to put my neck on the block and predict my promotion candidates to be between Birch Copse 'C', Milestone 'C', BBC and Polish 'D'. My outside bet will be on Tilehurst Methodists 'D'. I am sure some of you would love to prove me wrong, again! The bottom end is a little harder to predict. I believe the outcome will depend on sides fielding their stronger players for strategic games. Last season's basement club Sonning Sports 'B' pulled off some good wins last season as top of the table Birch Copse 'C' have already found out.



Can I please ask captains to try and return match cards promptly as this gives me an opportunity to forward a match write-up to Nigel Maltby to get you some press airing. I would also appreciate comments on the cards, perhaps on an individual performance or crucial game which is not reflected in the score line. Just a reminder, please advise me if you postpone a match with both captains' agreement. Even better, also advise me when the game is to be replayed.

It is perfectly permissible to email your scorecards to rowland53@hotmail.com; it is not necessary to post them. This also speeds up the delivery process and saves on postage!

So far the front runners are Birch Copse 'C' closely followed by Polish 'D' and Milestone 'C'. At the bottom Sonning Sports 'B' and OLOP 'J' are currently the basement clubs. On an individual basis I should like to highlight Roy Hull 100%, John Evans 93% and Pratik Kothan 83%.

Have a great season and above all enjoy your table tennis.

Birch Copse 'C' have started the season well in top spot. Firstly they defeated BBC 8 - 2 thanks to trebles from Roy Hull and Andras Ardanhazi with a single from Elizabeth Hull. Then followed a 7 - 3 win over OLOP 'J', Roy scoring another treble with a double from Andras and a first win for Chris Dummett. The match against Sonning Sports 'B' turned the league table on its head, losing 4 - 6 despite another treble from Roy. Against Springfield 'D' they returned to winning ways in a close 6 - 4 win, Roy scoring another treble with Andras recording another double. The game against Tilehurst Methodists 'D' resulted in a share of the points drawing 5 - 5, once again Roy scoring a treble with Andras scoring a single. Roy Hull 15/15 including 5 trebles, Andras Ardanhazi 8/12 including 1 treble, Chris Dummett 1/6, Elizabeth Hull 1/6, Trevor Stanter 0/6. Doubles 5/5.

Polish 'D' started the season with a 6 - 4 win over SC&P 'F' thanks to Szymon Szor and Piotr Wilczak doubles and a single from Maciej Sianos. Szymon won a titanic 13-11 final game in a five setter against Michael Legg to snatch both points. In their next game they hammered Springfield 'C' 9 - 1 Jakub Langowski and Alexandr Mikalcivc scoring trebles with a double from Grzegorz Romek. Then followed a 3 - 7 loss to BBC, Szymon S, Maciej and Szymon Kubinski scored singles. Against OLOP 'J' they bounced back to win 7 - 3 Alexandr scoring another treble with doubles from Maciej and Grzegorz. Szymon Szor 3/6, Piotr Wilczak 2/3, Grzegorz Romek 4/6, Maciej Sianos 3/6, Alexandr Mikalcivc 6/6 including 2 trebles, Szymon Kubinski 1/3, Jakub Langowski 4/6. Doubles 4/4.

Milestone 'C' started with a good 5 - 5 draw against OLOP 'J' thanks to a John Evans treble and a double from Pratik Kothan. Then came a brilliant 8 - 2 win over Sonning Sports 'B' thanks to trebles from Pratik and John along with a good single from Sean Samashee. As a result of only fielding two players they lost 3 - 7 against Springfield 'D' despite John scoring another treble. They bounced back to trounce Tilehurst Meths 'D' 8 - 2 once again, Pratik and John recorded trebles with Sean a good single. A hard fought draw against Springfield 'C' ensued thanks to doubles from Pratik and John. John Evans 14/15 including 4 trebles, Pratik Kothan 10/12 including 2 trebles, Sean Samashee 2/15. Doubles 3/5.

Tilehurst Methodists 'D' opened their season with a close 6 - 4 win over Sonning Sports 'B', Patrick O'Sullivan opening his account with a treble with Chas Dean scoring a double. Then they had a good 8 - 2 win over Springfield 'C', Patrick and Tim Kendall scoring trebles with Chas getting a single. They were then brought down to earth by a 2 - 8 loss to Milestone 'C', Patrick and Tim recording singles. In the game against Birch Copse 'C' they shared the spoils 5 - 5,

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Birch Copse 'C'	5	3	1	1	30	20	7
Tilehurst Meths 'D'	5	3	1	1	28	22	7
Polish 'D'	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Milestone 'C'	5	2	2	1	29	21	6
Springfield 'D'	4	2	0	3	24	26	4
BBC Club	5	2	0	3	23	27	4
Springfield 'C'	6	1	2	3	23	37	4
Sonning C&P 'F'	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
OLOP 'J'	4	1	1	2	17	23	3
Sonning Sports 'B'	4	1	0	3	16	24	2

Patrick and Tim recording doubles and Ryan Arch getting a single. In the very last game Tim got an important 12-10 win in the fifth game to rescue a point. Patrick O'Sullivan 9/12 including 2 trebles, Tim Kendall 6/12 including 1 treble, Chas Dean 3/9, Ryan Arch 1/3. Doubles 2/4.

Springfield 'D' began their campaign with a 6 - 4 win over Sonning Sports 'B' thanks to a treble from Bob Siburn and double from Alan Gould. Then followed a 4 - 6 reversal against Springfield 'C', Bob getting a double, with singles from Alan and Derek Edney. A 7 - 3 win followed thanks to three conceded games against Milestone 'C', singles scored by Alan, Derek and David French. They then lost 4 - 6 to Birch Copse 'B', Alan scoring a double with singles from Bob and David. Alan Gould 6/11, Bob Sibun 6/9, David French 2/5, Peter Greatorox 0/3, Derek Edney 2/5 Doubles 2/4.

BBC Caversham started the season with a 2 - 8 loss against Birch Copse 'C' with Gordon Ayres and Kyrill Dissanayke recording wins. Then followed a close 4 - 6 reverse against SC&P 'F', David Pearson recording a double and Phil Peat a single. Then followed a first win 7 - 3 against Polish 'D', Rela Amni and John Scott scoring trebles. A second 6 - 4 win quickly followed against Springfield 'C', Reza recording his second successive treble, a double from Kyrill and an important single from John Lancashire. Then came a close 4 - 6 loss to OLOP 'J', David scoring a double with singles from John L and Gordon. Reza Amini 6/6 including 2 trebles, Kyrill Dissanayke 3/6, John Lancashire 2/6, Phil Peat 1/6, Dave Pearson 4/6, Gordon Ayres 2/6, John Scott 3/3, Jack Mitchell 0/3 Doubles 2/5.

Springfield 'C' started the season with a draw against SC&P 'F' thanks to a Colin Jones treble and double from Ashley Jones. Ashley got the vital game ten win in the fifth to nick a point. In the local derby against Springfield 'D' Colin scored another treble with Nigel Outhwaite getting a double. Colin's important

game ten win sealed the points with a close 6 - 4 win. Then followed a 1 - 9 hammering from Polish 'D', Colin getting the only single. The loss of form continued against Tilehurst Meths 'D' losing 2 - 8, Colin and Nigel getting on the score card. Tim Carr just lost out in a five setter with Tim Kendall. Then followed another 4 - 6 reversal against BBC, Colin getting a double, with singles from Ashley and Nigel. A treble and return to form by Colin (a fantastic win over John Evans to destroy his 100% record) reversed the loss of team form against Milestone 'C' drawing 5 - 5, Ashley and Adam Sheen getting important singles. Colin also rescued the vital point with a win in game ten. Colin Jones 13/18 including 3 trebles, Tim Carr 0/6, Ashley Jones 3/6, Nigel Outhwaite 4/15, Adam Sheen 1/9. Doubles 2/6.

SC&P 'F' got the season underway with a 5 - 5 draw against Springfield 'C', a double from Danny Dockree and important singles from Michael Legg and Steve Knott. Then came a close 4 - 6 loss against Polish 'D' despite a brilliant treble from Danny and a single from Michael. Following conceded games against BBC they recorded their first win 6 - 4, Michael recording a double with a single from Richard Legg. Steve Knott 1/6, Michael Legg 4/8, Danny Dockree 5/8 including 1 treble, Richard Legg 1/2. Doubles 1/3.

OLOP 'J' opened their account with a good 5 - 5 draw against Milestone 'C' a double from Josh Gallen and singles from Kamran Samdani and Lorcan Gallen. Josh scored an important game ten win to snatch a point. Then followed a 3 - 7 loss to Birch Copse 'C', Josh scoring a double and a single from Kamran. Against Polish 'D' they also lost 3 - 7, once again Josh scored a double. They then bounced back with a good 6 - 4 win over BBC, Kamran hitting top form with a treble, and a double from Josh. Josh also scored another important game ten win to grab the points. Joshua Gallen 8/12, Kamran Samdani 5/9 including 1 treble, Lorcan Gallen 1/6, Sonia Gallen 0/9. Doubles 3/4.

Sonning Sports 'B' started with a 4 - 6 loss against Springfield 'D', Sue Brownhill scored a double with singles from Tom Gordon and Derek Somerville. Next came another close 4 - 6 loss against Tilehurst Meths 'D', Derek getting a double with singles from Dave West and Ken Stevens. Then came a heavy 2 - 8 loss against Milestone 'C', Tom and Ken recording wins. Following a disappointing start to the season they raised their game to inflict the only loss against top of the table Birch Copse 'C' by beating them 6 - 4. A great team effort from Dave, Tom and Ken as they all scored doubles, with a special mention to Ken for an important five set win over Elizabeth Hull to secure the points. Suzanne Brownhill 2/6, Dave West 3/6, Derek Somerville 3/6, Tom Gordon 4/9, Ken Stevens 4/9. Doubles 0/4.

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Roy Hull	Birch Copse 'C'	15	15	100
Rela Amini	BBC Club	6	6	100
A Mikalcivc	Polish 'D'	6	6	100
John Scott	BBC Club	3	3	100
John Evans	Milestone 'C'	15	14	93.33
Pratik Kothan	Milestone 'C'	12	10	83.33
Patrick O	Tilehurst Meths 'D'	12	9	75
Michael Legg	Sonning C&P 'F'	8	6	75
Colin Jones	Springfield 'C'	18	13	72.22
Joshua Gallen	OLOP 'J'	12	8	66.67
Andras Ardanhazi	Birch Copse 'C'	12	8	66.67
Bob Siburn	Springfield 'D'	9	6	66.67
Grzegorz Romek	Polish 'D'	6	4	66.67
Jakub Langowski	Polish 'D'	6	4	66.67
David Pearson	BBC Club	6	4	66.67
Piotr Wilczak	Polish 'D'	3	2	66.67

John Cunningham Youth Division

by Steve Ricks

Welcome to a new season and in particular a very warm welcome to all the new players, playing league table tennis for the first time.

Once again we are already suffering from poor attendance with many matches being decided by conceded games. Please try to ensure that having committed to play, you actually do your best to turn up.

Currently sitting on top of the league are **OLOP Attackers** who have seasoned players in the shape of Siad Cole and **Phil Saunders** (see over), well supported by Mike McAllister. This team are currently unbeaten and the other teams will have to be on top of their game to get anything out of them. Perhaps the biggest surprise of these first few matches of the season was the ease with which Attackers turned over



SCP Tigers. This was a team that I would have expected to give Attackers a scare, however Attackers triumphed 10 - 0 against a full strength Tigers team. Phil and Siad are both unbeaten to date, with Mike having won 10 out of 12.

In second place at this early stage are **OLOP Strikers**. This is in spite of only having two regular players, **Gus Thomis** and **Chris Johnson**.

They have only lost one game out of 5 so far with Gus currently unbeaten and Chris having won 78%. Although these two players will hold their own against most

teams, they will need a regular third player if they are to threaten the other top teams.

Tigers are currently in third place on goal difference and again have 3 of the more experienced players in their ranks - Jonny Abbott, Danny Dockree and Max Sweetman. This team will give anybody a tough match and I expect them to be in the mix at the end of the season. To date they have won 3 games out of the 5 played, only losing the first match of the season to Trojans and the last in the 10 - 0 mauling by Attackers. This last result has skewed the averages slightly, with Jon, Danny and Max all now hovering around the 60-65% mark. They will all finish higher than this.

In fourth place come

OLOP Avengers, made up of Jim McAllister, Adam Wilson and Gareth Bird who have also won 3 out of 5 starts. In the match versus Spartans they all found Richard Lego too good on the night, but still managed to triumph 7 - 3. A similar score line was gained against Lions with Adam and Jim finding Kieran Morfill too good, but Gareth gaining a maximum. So far all three players are on 50%, justifying their mid-table position.



CHRIS JOHNSON *



GUS THOMIS

Although these two players will hold their own against most

Welcome back to the league to Kingfisher in the form of **Kingfisher Knights**. This team has a large squad of 7 to call on, all of whom have contributed to getting them into fifth place. Potentially they could have been higher, as they

Y TABLE

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
OLOP Attackers	5	5	0	0	48	2	10
OLOP Strikers	5	4	1	0	27	19	8
SCP Tigers	5	3	2	0	30	20	6
OLOP Avengers	5	3	2	0	27	21	6
Kingfisher Knights	5	3	2	0	27	23	6
OLOP Eagles	5	3	2	0	17	26	6
SCP Raiders	5	2	3	0	19	29	4
OLOP Lions	5	1	4	1	21	29	2
Sonning Spartans	5	1	4	0	13	33	2
OLOP Trojans	5	1	4	0	9	36	2

Y AVERAGES

	P	W	%
S Cole	10	10	100
P Saunders	10	10	100
G Thomis	8	8	100
S Ricks	3	3	100
R Lego	7	6	86
M McAllister	10	8	80
C Johnson	9	7	78
I Farnworth	4	3	75
A Fearnside	13	9	69
J Abbott	9	6	66
D Fifield	3	2	66

have already played and been defeated by the top two in the division. That said, they have held their own well against the lower teams. Top of their averages so far are Isaac Farnworth on 75%, Alex Leeming and David Fifield, both on 66% and Tim Kenyon on 50%. Tom Snape, Gideon Lewis and Joe Barraclough are finding the going slightly tougher at the moment but will doubtless improve as the season progresses.



PHIL SAUNDERS

Next come **Eagles** who have benefited more than any other team from being drawn against teams with players missing or from walkovers. James Bridger has won 1 out of 3, the rest of their points have been conceded to them.

Raiders have actually won more games individually than the two teams above them, but due to quirks in the fixture list and not having a regular third player, find themselves in seventh place.

Adam Fearnside is a reliable player and will trouble any players outside of the top 2 or 3 teams He is currently on 69% and Liam Ruiz who continues to improve is on 25%.

The last three teams are all on 2 points. In eighth place currently are **Lions**. Austin Ellerton (33%) and Haasin Khan (14%), are finding the going tough so far, though Kieran Morfill has managed to win half of his games, including a creditable win against Richard Lego in the 4 - 6 defeat to Spartans.

Richard and **Spartans** take up the penultimate place in the division, a surprise considering Richard has only lost once and is on 86%. Richard will need some firm support if the team are to climb the table. Daniel Jordan has played a couple of times and won a game but is finding wins hard to come by at the moment.

Trojans are currently propping up the table, but are suffering from lack of a consistently available team. **Sam Ricks** is unlikely to lose at this level and is currently unbeaten, also Sam Wilson has shown that he is capable of putting in a good performance. Saif Maher has only played one game. With the players available at the right times this team could easily start to climb the table.



SAM RICKS

MORE YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS

Big news from back in July -

Reading Juniors Win Carter Cup

Berkshire's top two junior (under 18s) boys, Liam McTiernan and Daniel Moses, became national champions for the first time by winning the Carter Cup for the Reading & District Table Tennis Association at the English Leagues Cup Finals in Wellingborough. The Carter Cup is the National Junior Boys Team Competition played for annually by teams representing the many English Leagues.

In winning the trophy, Liam and Daniel emulated the achievement of Richard Andrews and Tom Maynard, who won it for Reading three years ago for the first time in its 45 year history and have since both gone on to play at International level.

Having helped Reading qualify for the finals earlier this year, 12 year old Daniel McTiernan made way for his older brother Liam (15) to team up with long time OLOP Club team mate Moses (17).



DANIEL MOSES WITH DANIEL AND LIAM McTIERNAN

Hull awaited Reading in the final having over performed in their semi final victory over top seeds Leamington Spa.

Liam felt in confident mood and wanted to play the opener. We soon saw why as he played some sublime table tennis on his way to a clinical 3-0 (11-9,11-3,11-5) win over the in-form Michael Fraser, who had been the hero of his team's semi final victory.

Daniel started nervously, but somehow found the inspiration to make a stirring comeback, taking the fourth set 13-11 and the fifth end 11-7 to record a remarkable victory and send Reading two up with three to play.

The doubles provided plenty of drama too but eventually the boys won through 3-0 (11-4,19-17,11-8) to clinch the title against a very sporting Hull team.

Result: Reading 3 Hull 0 (only played to a result)

Latest: OLOP IMPACT undefeated at half way mark in the Junior British League

It is rare for any of the Reading & District clubs to be represented in the élite Premier Division at national level. This honour was bestowed on Our Lady of Peace TTC Junior team by rights this season following their promotion from Division 1 of the Junior British League last term.

With the influential Daniel Moses no longer qualifying as a junior player, it was necessary to reinforce the team this summer to support the McTiernan brothers. One such recruit, **14 year old Danny Lawrence**, has already made a big impression at the Club, winning the third annual Cunningham Cup in September. The photo on the right shows him posing with Beryl Cunningham, who awarded him the winner's prize.

The young team headed up to Tipton with moderate expectations in their first year in Premier Division but returned undefeated, one of only two teams to do so.

As a result of four draws and a win, the OLOP IMPACT amassed 6 points to finish third (out of eight teams) at the half way mark, just a single point off the joint leaders, Burton Uxbridge 1 and Ellenborough.

The winning match remarkably came against the favourites, BBATT 1, a team which consisted of three top-6-ranked English juniors. Wins by Liam McTiernan (against Jarred Patel), Danny Lawrence (against Sam Mabey) and Michael Ho (over both Patel and Mabey) secured a surprise 4-2 win to delight team manager Adam McTiernan and coach Bradley King.

The second weekend takes place in February and OLOP IMPACT have their sights firmly fixed on trying to win the league and become British Junior club champions.

August: Daniel McTiernan Wins International Title

In August, 12-year-old Daniel McTiernan won the Boys Cadet (U15) Class at the F l a n d e r s International Tournament in Ostend, Belgium.

After working his way up through the rounds, he beat a six foot tall 14 year old French Cadet Aymeric Villette. But he only won victory after being two points from defeat in the third end.



Latest: OLOP IMPACT win Boys event at Stockton

The Earley based Our Lady of Peace (OLOP) Table Tennis Club won the prestigious Stockton-on-Tees Junior 4 Star Boys Team event at the weekend, emulating local Woodley rivals Kingfisher Table Tennis Club who won the same title in 2008.

Under the name of OLOP IMPACT, the Club were represented by two top six ranked English junior players, Liam McTiernan and Jared Patel, both of whom are still just fifteen years old.

Liam's 3-1 victory over Daryl Gee in the opening match looked all the more impressive as it was the only occasion Gee had lost all weekend, having himself won the Junior Singles title.

By now both Liam and Jared were playing fluently and looked unstoppable and so it proved in the final against Rugby Premier TTC, but not before a very close opening match in which Liam just edged out in-form Matthew Outhwaite in the deciding set for a narrow 3-2 win.

After this, Patel beat Laurence Sweeney in some style and together they then won the doubles match 3-1 to claim the first ever Junior 4 Star title for the 31 year old OLOP Club.

Kingfisher's [Maria Tsaptinos](#) followed up her recent victory at Sussex by taking another Junior 4 Star Cadet (Under 15) title. She beat Jared's sister Ella Patel in the final. Maria was also part of the Ormesby team (with Jessica Dawson) who finished as runners-up to top seeds Grantham Tornadoes in the Junior Girls team event.



A GROUP OF PRIZEWINNERS AT THE AWARDS PRESENTATION IN MAY

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP *by Nick Lean*

This has been the first full season of ETТА's new player database being available to record and renew membership for all player registrations, with direct online access now being provided for local leagues to monitor and update their players.

I think many of you have been shielded from this (and some of the teething difficulties) by your Club Secretary and I would like to thank all Club Secretaries in the Reading League who have helped me by understanding and following the player registration process this season.

Of course some Clubs chose to stick to the tried & trusted route of submitting paper forms and cheques to register all their players via their local league and that was fine. I registered their players on the ETТА database for them and in some respects that was simpler all round.

For me it's been "an experience", but not one I would like to repeat too often as it's taken many hours of chasing-up the Club Secretaries, the players and the ETТА to get everything finished. But I'm pleased to say that (almost) every player in the Reading league has now paid their ETТА Membership for the 2011/12 season, although the Youth Division has still to be completed.

For the two new Club Secretaries there was the added difficulty of not even knowing the old process. So thanks to Grant and Alistair for sticking with it until all the problems were resolved.

You may be interested to see the related stats for RDTТА players paying their ETТА membership:

61% paid direct to ETТА (online, phone or letter)

39% paid via RDTТА (using the old paper based process)

Most, if not all of you should have already received your ETТА Membership cards for the current season, somewhat earlier than last season's.

The ETТА will be encouraging players to use their online membership system to renew their memberships or player licenses from now on:

www.tabletennis365.com/etta/membership

Because don't forget ... we need to do it all again next season!

Nick Lean

RDTТА League Registrations Secretary