

Edition 82, March 2015



## Kingfisher Remembers Brian Halliday

### Welcome to Kingfisher News

In January we received the very sad news that Brian Halliday had passed away. Brian was one of the founder members of the club and gave so much of his time to both Kingfisher, and to Table Tennis. He was Chairman for over 20 years at the club, served on the national Council and was editor of the Vets newsletter for many years.

In this issue we remember Brian, our very own 'Supremo' and honour him for his many years of service to the club and to our sport.

Rest in Peace Brian, and thank you, for helping to make our club the fantastic place it is today.

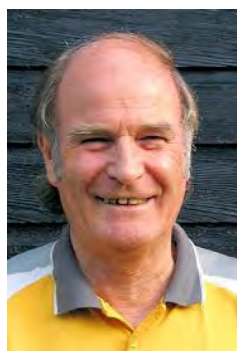
Gwynne Penny, Editor



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# Introduction



Firstly our thoughts are with the family of our ex-Chairman Brian Halliday who sadly passed away recently. He put so much work and ideas in to our Club to help get us where we are today. His biggest regret was that he never was able to visit our new Clubhouse and I know he would have been so proud to see it. His final accolade was to get fantastic coverage of his life and massive publicity for Kingfisher in the sports section of The Times national paper, written by Matt Syed. There will be lots more in this issue about his achievements.

It's unbelievable that we have been in our new super venue for over 9 months now. Your committee are working hard to resolve all the outstanding issues which a new venue brings but we are gradually getting on top of things. In the meantime our representative teams at all levels are representing the Club in the right way with degrees of success. We also have recent success at top level and congratulations once again to Maria on becoming English Ladies Doubles champion.

We recently staged the Reading Closed championships over 2 weekends, this being for the first time at our new venue. A lot of good it ensued and we had many compliments regarding the playing conditions.

We are having further talks shortly with all local parties regarding parking but we are currently back to the arrangement we had at the old Club ie no parking in the school car park during school hours. At the moment we are to keep out of the parking spaces within the fence outside of our Club except anyone with special permission. It appears to work ok except when there is a big competition at Goals, usually weekend mornings. More on this later.

I wish all our teams a happy conclusion to their season.

If you feel that you can help as a volunteer in any way, or if you have any questions or ideas to make the Club a better place I trust that you will come along or contact me either by email [colindyke@waitrose.com](mailto:colindyke@waitrose.com) or by phone 0118 9783770. There is no harm in having a chat.

Colin Dyke, Chairman

# Obituary: Brian Halliday, 1936-2015



Brian and his wife, Christine Halliday, at the English Contingent 2007 - photo Robert Palgon - See more at: <http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/obituary-brian-halliday/#sthash.OMjP61gw.dpuf>

One of the country's greatest table tennis enthusiasts, Brian Halliday, sadly passed away aged 79 on 20th January after suffering from cancer.

Brian, who was at his most passionate when he was just talking about the sport, made a major impact at national level when he took on the role of Vice Chairman Public Relations in 1995 in a period which covered the time of the World Championships and the Commonwealth Games, both in Manchester. Brian led the public relations and publicity aspects of table tennis throughout the whole of that period. In this capacity Brian was one of the lead figures in the publication of Table Tennis News and played a key role within the Management Committee during that period.

Brian's interest in table tennis blossomed in his younger days when he worked for one of Britain's leading insurers, Prudential. Brian ran and played for the Prudential club in the London Business Houses League and, in addition, organised many tournaments for the club in central London around that time. Brian was transferred to the Prudential's Reading office and became one of the major drivers in the famous Kingfisher Club where he was the club's Chairman for approximately 20 years.

Brian was also a very keen player and a tremendous competitor. He was a defender and was noted for his determination to win – many of his matches were marathons with some of the league matches going on until the early hours of the morning. He was an enthusiastic veteran and had played more than 100 times for Berkshire in the Veterans County Championships and was the Berkshire Veterans singles champion in 1977/78.

Brian was a close friend of the former Kingfisher youngster, Matthew Syed, and Brian helped Matthew with the organisation of some of his televised invitation tournaments. For the tournament played in Croydon approximately ten years ago, Matthew asked Brian to pick up the former Swedish World and Olympic Champion, Jan Ove Waldner from Heathrow and take him to Croydon for the event. Brian loved every minute of the two hour nonstop conversation – that was Brian!

In addition to his involvement in the ETTA, in Berkshire and with Kingfisher, Brian was also one of the leaders of the Vets Society serving on their Management Committee for many years. He was the editor of the Vets magazine and in that capacity produced more than 100 issues.

Brian's passion for the sport took him to many major championships, not just in the UK but throughout the world. In order to help the British presence within the ITTF, he attended the AGM's of the Federation as the representative for Guernsey as the Channel Island did not have one of their own members at the time to take on the role.

Brian was also very interested in coaching and liked working with individual players. His biggest success was with the current English Junior champion, Maria Tsaptsinos, whom Brian helped from a near beginner up to her current standard. Brian spent many many hours working with Maria and helped her not just with her technical game, but also with the mental aspects of being a top player.

Although Brian was a tremendous team player in his work within the Management Committee of the association, he was never frightened to speak his mind and made many useful contributions, including in his later role as National Councillor for Berkshire and then for the Isle of Wight at the ETTA National Council meetings, the AGM and other similar gatherings. If he felt something was wrong, he would never fear to say so but always with the interest of the sport very much in mind.

In addition to table tennis, Brian had a terrific passion for the football team that he supported, Wimbledon, who did remarkably well in the "Crazy Gang" days when they produced some incredible performances for such a small club. They reached the 1st Division (the Premier League of that time) of the Football League and beat Liverpool 1 – 0 in the FA final in 1988. Brian was irate when Wimbledon was taken over and moved to Milton Keynes, but continued his loyalty to football in the Wimbledon area and was a great supporter of the club that rose from the ashes and more recently formed AFC Wimbledon whom he used to watch on a regular basis.

Brian was also a great music lover and liked everything from country and western to opera.

Brian was strongly supported by his wife, Christine, who accompanied him to table tennis functions both in this country and abroad. Brian also had a daughter, Cathy, with two grandchildren. Brian's son, Paul, who also played table tennis, has passed away.

Brian was honoured by the English Table Tennis Association with a Vice Presidency in the year 2000. He was also honoured by the VETTS and was made one of their Life Members in 2003 and was awarded the Mike Watts Memorial Trophy for his services to the VETTS Society in 2010.

Brian's funeral took place at Reading Crematorium & Henley Road Cemetery, on Thursday, 5th February, 2015.

**Alan Ransome, O.B.E, January 23, 2015.**

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/obituary-brian-halliday/#sthash.OMjP61gw.dpuf>



# Remembering Brian Halliday

Play by the rules,  
but Be Ruthless!



Posting things close to my heart is not the way I usually do it but today I lost one of the most inspiring and encouraging people I have ever had enter my life! Brian Halliday was not only the first coach I ever had but he was the one who taught me to never give up on my dreams! He's the man who made every training session worth turning up for! He didn't have the best life, but there would never be anything but a smile on his face and by his action and words he taught me to be a better person! Anyone who came across his path would know what a kind and thoughtful guy Brian was and it definitely wasn't his time to go. He was a mentor and a friend that I will never forget! Don't worry Brian, I'll never forget to be ruthless. Rest in Peace. Maria Tsaptsinos, 20 January, 2015.

From Roger's Ramblings: Issue 7, 1992:

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BRIAN'S LAST DAY AT THE PRUDENTIAL was in early August this year. Jonathan and I were having a little chat about our mutual friend and playing colleague.

"He's pleased to be leaving," said Jonathan.

"I'm sure you're right," I said, "I expect that Brian will be quite happy now to devote the rest of his life to table tennis."

"What do you mean, the REST of his life?" queried young Jon.

"Well, he must have done SOME work for the Pru in all those decades," I persisted.

Jon thought carefully about this.

"He arranged some house and car insurance once," he said, "and I believe the player concerned was quite happy with it..."

I have known Brian over twenty five years most likely a lot longer. We first met playing for the county I was playing for Middlesex, Brian for Berkshire. Brian was one of the best defenders in the world of Table Tennis. He had the ability to make you play each point as he wanted it to be played. He was totally dedicated to winning. Off the table Brian was a gentleman he always discussed tactics and how you would play against the opposition.

Brian held many high positions of office in Table Tennis and was well respected as a coach and as a player.

John Morris

A Collection Page has been opened on Memory Giving in Brian's memory for donations to Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research. The link is [http://www.memorygiving.com/tribute.aspx?id=9969&donation\\_id=53487](http://www.memorygiving.com/tribute.aspx?id=9969&donation_id=53487) If anyone needs help with this please contact a member of the Committee.

## From Edition 1 of Kingfisher News, Autumn 1990

BRIAN — ON THE OTHER SIDE OF BALTIMORE '90  
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The English veterans visit to the U.S.A. last June received quite a lot of publicity. Some good, some bad. Baltimore '90 was an extraordinary tournament — quite unique in my experience.

The table tennis, both in the Vets 'Worlds' and the U.S. Open that followed was of course quite superb. The best players in the world in abundance — who could ask for more? England did very well indeed with a quite exceptional medal tally, and who will forget the exploits of our own Matt Syed who lifted his game to new heights to take the Under 22 title at the U.S. Open? All quite memorable.

The one blot, if you can call it that, on both competitions was the incredibly inept organization. Two years ago in Zagreb we had been promised by the U.S. that the 1990 championships would be a superbly run event. Well they lived up to their reputation as hospitable hosts but let themselves down when it came to tournament know how.

It was obvious from day one that things were going to get out of hand. They had a computer that seemed to have a mind of its own and almost immediately slowed the tournament down to a snails pace. It decided that it could not churn out the next round matches before the previous round matches had been fully completed, with the result that there were literally dozens of tables free but no 'match' ready to be played. Imagine the scene. A very long control table, harassed officials and dozens and dozens of players all trying to find out who they were playing — and when. Result — complete and utter chaos. At one stage the computer went completely bezerk and put all the losers through to the next round and scratched all the winners! With so many events, and there were over 60 in the U.S. Open, you can imagine that tempers were a little bit frayed.

Having said all that it did have its funny side. I have seen what can happen in our own local tournaments and decided early on not to get involved but to step back, take a detached view, and watch it all happen. The poor old American officials tried so hard to please everybody but with so many languages to copy with and a computer that was running amok they were on a real loser.

An example of universal frustration came in the Over 40 event in the U.S. Open. I was drawn with two Americans in a preliminary group, and was fortunate enough to beat them both. As I am now too many years past 40 I did not expect to get past a Brazilian in Round 1. However, he probably got frustrated at the long match delays and did not turn up. I consulted the draw and saw I had to play either a guy from Singapore or a Japanese in Round 2. Oh well, at least I could say I went out to an Asian star! But surprise, surprise, both scratched. This left me in Round 3. I hurry off to the draw to see who I have to play – perhaps a top star? Complete dejection as it is none other than Essex man Stan Battrick. I have never beaten Stan the Bat so I prepared myself for another inevitable defeat. Now Stan always travels to tournaments with his wife (a dreadful mistake I feel) and on the morning of our match (we were to play in the afternoon) his wife said enough was enough. It was either table tennis or her – one had to go. Poor Stan realizing that for the sake of future harmony the forfeiture of one tournament would be a relationship healing gesture and scratched from the event. And that folks is how I reached the 4<sup>th</sup> Round of this premier event. Quarter final and it looked like a Who's Who of the sport. Last 8 – Dragutin Surbek (Yugoslavia), Domingo Rey (U.S.A), Wilfred Leick (W. Germany), Liang Ge Liang (China), Jaques Secretin (France), Kunz (Czechoslovakia), Anto Stipancic (Yugoslavia) all world beaters – and me! This time there was no escape. I played ex World Doubles Champion Stipancic. He was reasonably kind and I managed double figures (just) – retreated gracefully with some great memories and a few photographs to prove it all really happened.

When I look back at the day in Baltimore I will particularly remember that special, for me anyway, over 40 event and the two mixed double matches we played against Liang Ge Liang and his partner.

How could one get too upset about a tournament where an enormous list of sponsors included:

Balls the All American Sports Bar	Calvert Street Café
Talk'n Turkey Stuff'n Turkey	Doc's Liquor Store
Mr. Bs BBQ House	Aqua Clean Janitorial Service
Gene Franklin's Pier Five Jazz Band	Hershey Ice Cream Co.
Inches Away	Mikes Pizzeria
Maximum Potential Counselling Centre	Limo's For Less
Pargos – Prime Rib is our Speciality	Resistor Tie and Muffler Company
The Seven Dwarfs Day Nursery	TCBY Yogurt
Wee Kare Day Centre Nursery	Donald Tubins Village Frame Shop

I rest my case – but can hardly wait for Dublin 1992.

BRIAN HALLIDAY

# Unpaid heroes perform priceless service

From The Times Sport Comment, Wednesday 4 February, 2015  
by Matthew Syed, Sports Columnist and Feature Writer of the Year

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/sport/columnists/matthewsyed/article4343329.ece>

**B**rian Halliday will be familiar to a handful of readers. He was a quiet but determined man, but he rarely featured in newspapers, not even in his home town of Reading. But Halliday, and others like him, are, to my mind, the most important people in British sport, indeed in British society. Halliday was a volunteer.

Lots of words are aspirational in sport, Champion, victor, icon, legend, hero, to name a few. But volunteer, although a word with less effusive connotations, should command similar prestige. Halliday was the chairman of the Kingfisher table tennis club for more than 20 years. He worked for the English Table Tennis Association for a decade. He wrote the newsletter for the seniors (over-40s, 50s and 60s) for so long that he became an institution.

Marx was wrong about many things but on one issue he wrote with haunting clarity. He recognized that, while money has lots of uses, it can undermine many important things. Love is corrupted by money.

Friendship is too. These things are precious precisely because they are not about money. The moment you pay someone to be a friend is the moment that the friendship ends.

Halliday was never paid for his tireless work. I remember seeing him at our local club (I have been a member of Kingfisher for most of my life), sitting at a table in a corner patiently going through sheaves of paperwork. We caught each other's eye and he smiled, before carrying on.

He wasn't working for money; indeed, to have been paid would have compromised the very act he was undertaking. He did it, like so many volunteers in sport and beyond, out of love.

He loved table tennis. He loved the fellow members of his club, just as we loved him. He loved to be a part of an institution that helped people to grow, to share, to be together. These relationships were anchored not by money, but something with a deeper power. It is the power that David Cameron sought to harness in his idea of a Big Society. But Cameron didn't realise that the beauty and the mystique of this power is precisely why it is not amenable to political manipulation.

Halliday gave up weekend after weekend to build the club that we shared together. All of us did. In the cold winter of 1986, when the idea of a new table tennis club in a small plot of land in suburban Reading was first proposed, about 30 of us undertook the spadework. We didn't have the money to pay a professional builder, so we built it ourselves.

First we dismantled a prefab in north Reading. Then we transported it over to a place called Woodley, where we had been granted the land. Then under the auspices of Jim Hodder, a builder and table tennis player for whom the construction of the club became a personal act of devotion, we started to reassemble it.

The weekends were long. They were cold. Gloves were vital. But the collective endeavor, the sense of camaraderie and mutual support, will never leave me. Over the past 30 years, pride in the club has never wavered.

Halliday became one of the longest-serving volunteers, but he was not alone. Colin Dyke, a bearded defensive player with an impressive forehand slide, has acted as an officer for more than two decades. Hodder is still an honorary vice-president.





Today (the club has moved a hundred yards to a new location because the initial plot was required by a local school) a new generation of volunteers are assisting in the work.

Dozens of local young people are members. They do not see the behind-the-scenes work that makes it all tick, but they do see the welcoming faces, the willing coaches, the sense of inclusion.

This is what great volunteers create. It is not about the majesty of the venue (Kingfisher is functional and rather small), rather, it is about the sense of purpose, fun and adventure. This is the real meaning of sport.

I sat down while writing this column and wrote the names of all the people who had shaped my life for the better. To my surprise, almost all were unpaid.

My parents, my siblings, my friends, my wife: they go without saying. But I also noted a group who gave up their time out of what I can only describe as a sense of duty and humanity. I suspect that Peter Charters, my coach, spent more than 5,000 hours nurturing me and other aspiring players at the Kingfisher club and its precursor. He is still the coaching officer today. The notion of volunteering often sounds twee.

The Unsung Hero award at the BBC Sports personality of the Year can (entirely unintentionally) feel a bit worthy, and more than a little lachrymose. But volunteerism has a moral force that endures. And it evokes a vital imperative for if those of us who have benefited from the actions of others do not offer that kindness to the next generation, these beautiful ecosystems of mutual support and friendship will wither and die.

Kingfisher is just one club that anchors this urgent truth. Ormesby in Cleveland, Cippenham in Slough, and a hundred more clubs up and down the country — in cricket, swimming, dance and everything in between — also capture the magic that emerges when people come together in a shared cause.

Table tennis may be the proximate reason for the association at Kingfisher, but it is, at bottom, about the human instinct for sharing and mutual support.

According to a think-tank, 971 million people volunteer in a typical year across the globe either through organisations or directly to persons outside their household. The estimated monetary value of their time is estimated at \$1.5 trillion (about £1 trillion). But this is the least important dimension of volunteering. What these people contribute to a nation is not measured in money, but in soul. It is in these acts of solidarity and love, both making and receiving them, that life finds meaning.

Halliday, who was 79, passed away last month. His funeral will take place tomorrow morning. I noted on Twitter that Maria Tsapsinos, who he nurtured to the top of the junior rankings (I had almost forgotten that Halliday found time, even after the onset of cancer, to coach one of the nation's most promising youngsters) wrote: "Rest in Peace Mr Brian Halliday #number1coach."

But I leave the final word to Tom Maynard, another top player who not only captured Halliday, but hundreds of thousands like him: the men and women who, quietly but emphatically make this country great.

"Very sad to hear of the passing away of Brian Halliday, such a kind and gentle man. He will be remembered fondly by so many. RIP."

# Jamie Liu: Success in Hungary

Congratulations to Jamie Liu from Caversham on winning the under-11 boys' table-tennis singles at the Hungarian Mini Cadet Open championships in Budapest in January.

Some 149 competitors from 15 European countries took part.

The 10-year-old Kingfisher player began his gruelling three-day tournament with the under-13 team competition, alongside 12-year-old Reece Chamdal from Bicester, a fellow club-mate from the Kingfisher table-tennis club in Woodley.

The English pair won their qualification group thanks to victories over teams from the Czech Republic and Greece. They then brushed aside oppositions from Hungary and Romania in the first two rounds of knock-out matches before their run ended in the quarter-finals, where they were beaten 3-0 by a German team.

Jamie Liu began his quest in the singles in earnest on the second day of the championships. The Kingfisher player won all three of his group matches convincingly 3-0, against opponents from Slovakia, Austria and Hungary, to advance to the main draw on the final day.

He received a bye in the first round and then faced a strong opponent in round 2. It looked as if his run would end when his Romanian counterpart took the first two sets comfortably. Staring in the face of defeat with the match score at 2-0 and 11-11 in the third set, Liu battled back to win a reprieve by winning the third before taking the next two to complete a 3-2 comeback.

He faced another very strong opponent in the quarter-finals, a Romanian who was a semi-finalist last year, and again had to come from behind to win 3-1.

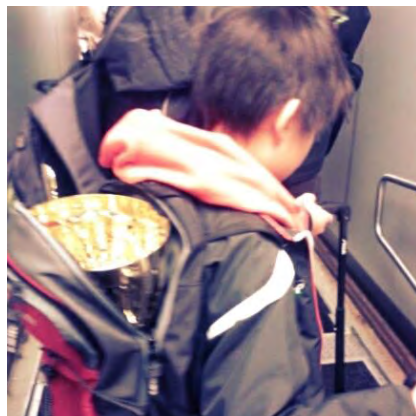
In the semi-finals, the host nation's top player awaited and Liu this time only needed three sets to sweep aside the Hungarian as he booked a place in the final with an impressive display of shots. This was aided in part by the vocal support from the small contingent of English players and travelling parents.

His final opponent was another boy from Romania, to whom he has lost 3-0 previously in the team competition. Liu conceded an evenly matched first set before regaining his composure and coming back strongly to win 3-1 to take the singles title.

"I am extremely proud of Jamie, not just in winning his first international title but in the way that he kept his head throughout the tournament and fought back with such maturity and determination," said Angela, who accompanied her son to Budapest.



# Jamie Liu: Success in Hungary





# Liam's Nottingham Grand Prix Win

**By Adam McTiernan**

## **Nottingham Uni Student Liam celebrates Grand Prix victory**

7th December 2014

It might not have been a traditional Saturday night in Nottingham, but local student Liam McTiernan was given a reason to party after taking the big prize on the first day of the Nottingham Grand Prix.

### **Men's Band 1**

A staggeringly long day came to a close with Liam McTiernan stood at the top of the mountain after clinching the Band 1 title.

A mammoth day, lasting an astonishing 13-and-a-

half hours, came to a conclusion with McTiernan beating the brave Jon Hall in the final.

McTiernan, playing at his home venue in the shape of the University of Nottingham, proved to have the superior stamina as he played through the night, finishing precisely at 22:21, to take the day's major gong.

He had already disposed of Matt Outhwaite and Gabriel Achampong before taking on Hall, who he had previously defeated in five in the group stages. Hall had done superbly to reach the final, beating Callum Evans and Steve Beerling to make the showpiece.

With time dragging on, and with the hall only available until 22:30, those left in attendance were fearing the worst after their earlier meeting. However, McTiernan had it slightly easier this time around, taking the match in four, with nine minutes remaining, to seal a Grand Prix crown.





# Kingfisher Senior British League

By Peter Charters



## KF Premier SBL

The Kingfisher first team in the Premier Division of the British League were in action on Sunday 25th January at the London Academy, Edgware. They played two matches, the first against top of the table Nottingham Sycamore and then against the East London team, Fusion.

Kingfisher's squad was led by number one Tom Maynard with Liam McTiernan at two, Dave Barr, Marcus Giles and Maria Tsaptsinos at three, four and five. This was Maria's first outing with our Premier team.

Tom got Kingfisher off to the best possible start with a win over Sycamore's number two Matt Ware but the Division leaders were back level as Liam succumbed to Kenichi Matsubuchi from Japan who later proved to be too much for Tom as well.

Marcus lost to Daniel Lowe three straight but had a closer encounter with Ware losing 8-11 in the fifth. Liam gave Kingfisher a second with a 3-1 win over Adam Harrison and a third victory came from Maria who fought her way to a 3-2 win over Lowe.

A 3-5 loss with Kingfisher in with a good chance of a draw with the divisional leaders.

A draw was achieved in the second match against Fusion.

Tom first on, went down 0-3 to Lorestas Trupauskas whilst Liam managed to take Michael O'Driscoll close in the fifth.

Dave Barr started the recovery with a 3-0 win over Aaron Smith before Marcus levelled the match scoreline with a three straight victory over Jamal Dennison. The match continued in the same manner, Fusions top two beating Kingfishers one and two whilst Kingfisher levelled by beating Fusions three and four.

A point helps but the Kingfisher team have to get wins in the last four matches over the final weekend of the season in March in order to get out of the relegation positions.



Liam, Maria and Marcus at London Academy.  
Photo by Tom Maynard.

# Kingfisher Junior British League

By Cookie Liu

## Kingfisher Juniors: Junior British League (Boys Division 3A) – Final Weekend

With all top four teams in the division separated by a solitary point from the first weekend, the Kingfisher Juniors travelled back to RAF Cosford near Wolverhampton in search of a promotion spot. The squad was boosted by the addition of Janosch Herrmann, our 13-year old guest from Germany who is spending a year studying locally.

The weekend began badly for the squad, having been caught up in the wake of the 33-vehicle pile-up on M40. Our players arrived late and Sam Liu had to default on the first set. Janosch helped Kingfisher regain some composure by posting his first win, but Joshua Gallen's defeat to the in-form George Hazell had ruled out our chance of picking up two points against Sussex Blades. Sam and Janosch's respective wins levelled the match at 3-3.



Janosch Herrmann.  
Photo courtesy of Alan Man.

Round 2 saw a much improved performance against Greenhouse 2 with Kingfisher winning comfortably 5-1 with Gus Thomis and Sam picking up a brace each. Unfortunately Jamie Liu's foot injury had ruled him out of the rest of the tournament.

The final round on Day 1 pitched us against the league leaders, Rasen Racers.

Desperate to keep our promotion hopes alive, we fielded as strong a team as we could in Josh, Sam and Gus. It started promisingly with Sam pitted his wit against Carl Baldry, reversing a 2-0 deficit to claim a victory in the 5th. Unfortunately that was the last of the wins we managed against a team that has been superbly consistent throughout the tournament.



Sam Liu.  
Photo courtesy of Alan Man.

# Kingfisher Junior British League

We began Day 2 buoyed by the possibility that match wins against our final two opponents would still be enough to secure promotion – it also meant that we had to put together a very strong performance against Ulster. Gus was very unlucky to come out at the losing end of the 5th against the Ulster number 1, Ryan McConkey, having more than his fair share of nets and edges against. At 10-9 up, Gus needed just one of those nets and edges to go his way but alas it was not to be. Once again, Janosch put together another unassuming bordering serene performance to put some respectability to the final score of 4-2 to Ulster.

Kingfisher finished the tournament with a good performance against Bankfield, winning 5-1, with Janosch picking up his second Player of the Match award and his 100% record kept intact from six. The team finished in 4th place with the following player statistics:

Name	Played	Win %	POM
Sam Liu	17	70.59 %	2
Gus Thomis	16	50.00 %	0
Joshua Gallen	12	33.33 %	1
Jamie Liu	8	37.50 %	1
Janosch Herrmann	6	100.00 %	2



Sam Liu.  
Photo courtesy of Alan Man.



# Kingfisher Juniors

Report by Yasmin Thomis

The Kingfisher team comprising of Felix Thomis, Jamie Lomax and Ollie Hatch travelled to Cippenham on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February for the last day of the 2014/15 season of the National Junior League. In the absence of more experienced players like Douan Choi and Chris Franks due to school commitments, our boys knew that it was going to be a challenging day playing in Division Two.



Felix Thomis, Chris Franks, Dauan Choi and Oliver Hatch, at Cippenham, 24 January 2015

In his matches Felix Thomis managed 5 wins out of 8. Jamie Lomax did well in winning his last match and was close to winning another earlier had it not been for some dubious umpiring. His ability to cast aside that previous disappointment and to stay focused and calm for the next match was commendable. His accurate forehand and fluid backhand shots kept hitting the other side of the table resulted in a well deserved victory.

With Ollie it was a case of watching his play improving each time as the competition went on. It was really pleasing to see him fighting on even when the chips are down. His never give up attitude resulted him in getting a set off his opponent and nearly getting a few others as well. At the end of the day the team drew one and lost three. It was a good learning experience for the Kingfisher boys and they left there feeling confident that with continued commitment to training they will always improve.

## Felix Thomis: 2x 2\* Wins!

Congratulations to Felix Thomis:  
Winner of the U10  
Horsham Spinner's  
2\* event and U13  
winner at Fusion 2\*!

Well done Felix,  
keep up the good  
work!





# Kingfisher Cadets

Report by Chris Squire:  
Sunday 8 February

## Kingfisher A

The day started against Oxford B who were relegated from division 1 in the 1st round and the result was 3-3 with each of the players (Scarlett, Alex & Christopher) winning one and losing one game.



The second game was against Ashford A, with Kingfisher running out 6-0 winners.

The third game was against Dacorum A and again Kingfisher came out 6-0 winners. Their final game of the day was against Crusaders B who had also won their previous two games 6-0 and a good, closely fought game ended in another 3-3 draw for Kingfisher, again with each player winning one and losing one game. So Scarlett, Alex and Christopher ended the day with 6 wins and 2 losses and team will be close to the top of division 2.

## Kingfisher B

Kingfisher B's squad was Felix, Zak and Jonny. Felix had a great day, winning 7 of his 8 games. Jonny and Zak battled well but won 1 of their games.

The team started against Chiltern C and drew the match 3-3 with Felix picking up 2 wins and Jonny 1.

They then played Chiltern B and lost 5-1 with Felix winning the 1 game.

Their 3rd game was against Guildford B, with Kingfisher losing 4-2. Felix taking the 2 games.

The final game was against Reading B with Felix's brother Leo in the opposing team. Again Felix won both his games, including against his brother. Zak came good in the winning his final game of the day and the result was 3-3.

## Junior Masters: Practice Pays Off!



Maria Tsaptsinos and Marcus Giles achieved impressive results at the Junior Masters event held at the beginning of January.

Maria won all her matches in 3-straight, including Tin-Tin Ho and Marcus took third which was a good achievement as the boys event was strong.

It's good to see all their hard work and practice at the club paying off!



# Kingfisher Players at the Nationals

By Gwynne Penny

Kingfisher has been well represented at the Senior National Championships at Redbridge Leisure Centre in Essex this weekend (27 February – 1<sup>st</sup> March) with members Maria Tsaptsinos, Tom Maynard, Marcus Giles, Liam McTiernan, Daniel McTiernan, Josh Gallen, Sam Liu, Mark Banks, Megan Knowles and Paul Drinkhall competing.

There were 126 men, 34 women registered to compete across the three-day event which included Men's and Ladies Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, Mixed Doubles, Veterans and Under 21 events.

Maria Tsaptsinos and Tin-Tin Ho beat Karina Le Fevre and Emma Vickers to win the Ladies Doubles National Champions Title. In the ladies singles Maria made it to the semi-final, beating Hannah Hicks in a close 7-set match, but then went out to Kelly Sibley in 4, who went on to win the title.



Paul Drinkhall and Liam Pitchford, Men's Doubles Champions. Photograph courtesy of Michael Loveder: <https://www.facebook.com/MichaelLovederPhotography>

Tom made it to the semi-finals in the Men's doubles with Matt Ware, losing out to Paul Drinkhall and Liam Pitchford. Tom and Maria also made it to the Semi-Finals in the mixed doubles but lost out to Tin-Tin Ho and Sam Walker.

Paul Drinkhall and Liam Pitchford won the Men's doubles championship title.

Marcus Giles beat Ian Musk in six to set up a tie against Chris Doran.

In Under 21s Liam McTiernan won his group and first knock out round (against James Smith) to make it through to Last 16 where he lost to 5th seed Tom Jarvis.

In Men's Singles, Liam McTiernan, Daniel McTiernan and Josh Gallen all qualified through their groups but lost to seeded players in the Last 32 Round.



# Kingfisher Players at the Nationals: In Pictures



Tom Maynard & Matt Ware



Maria Tsaptsinos



Maria Tsaptsinos & Tin-Tin Ho



Paul Drinkhall & Liam Pitchford



Marcus Giles



Tom Maynard

Photos courtesy of Michael Loveder:  
<https://www.facebook.com/MichaelLovederPhotography>



# A Galore of Medals: Maria Tsaptsinos

At the Senior Nationals (Redbridge Sports and Leisure Centre, Friday to Sunday 1st of March) Maria participated at four events and managed to get a medal in all of them. For the Mixed Doubles with her Kingfisher partner reached the semi-finals, for the Under21s reached the final, for the Women's Singles lost in the semi-final to Kelly Sibley (the number one seed) with a notable win over Hannah Hicks (higher in the rankings and a member of the senior squad).

The crown though came when Maria with her partner Tin Tin Ho won the Women's Doubles beating Karina Le Fevre and Emma Vickers 3-1.

The young combination started positively in thought and deed, taking the first 11-5. The second was closer, two good points at 9-9 winning it for Ho and Tsaptsinos.

It seemed as if the power base had shifted as greater experience told in the third and errors began to creep in to the young pair's play as Le Fevre and Vickers took it 11-4.

The fourth was well matched and the key point came at 9-8 to Ho and Tsaptsinos. They won that one to bring up two championship points, and needed only one to get their name on the trophy.

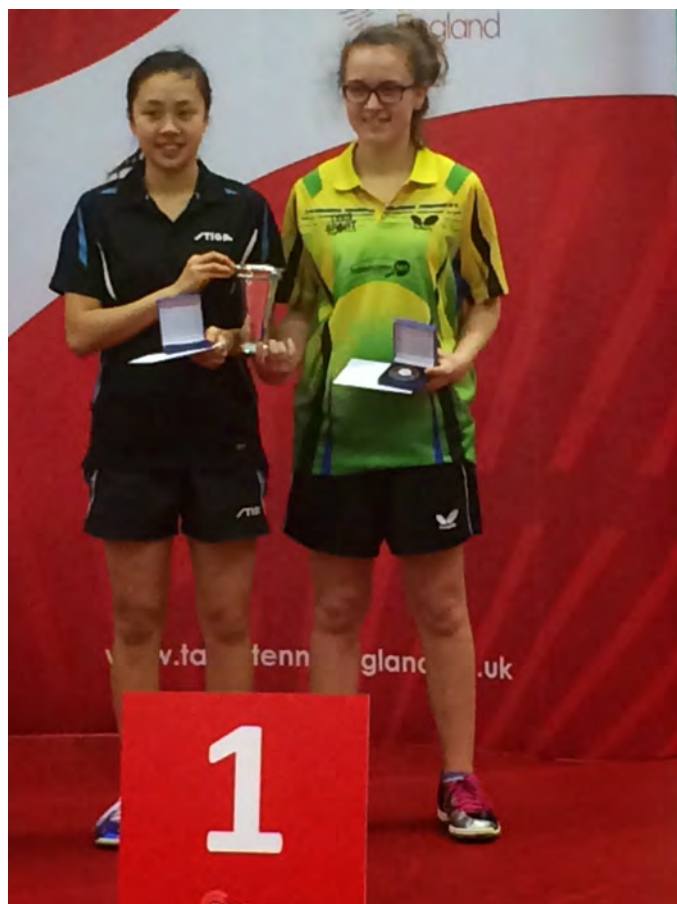
Afterwards Maria commented: "It's really good. Hopefully we can do it for many more years to come and it's not just a one-off. Last year we beat them in the semi-finals, so we had one up on them already. We felt we had to play our own game and dominate from the beginning. We made too many unforced errors in the third and they got on top of us, but we relaxed in the fourth.

As for her performance for the singles Maria said: "I'm really happy to have beaten Hannah Hicks, I wasn't expected to get beyond the quarter-final. I had no chance against Kelly. She was one shot ahead of me every time, but next year I'll come back and we'll see."

The Kingfisher club player added: "I'd like to dedicate my win to the late Brian Halliday (who died earlier this year), he was inspiration to me and drove me to what I am today! No other man would have made me love the sport as much as him, and I'm ever so grateful."

In previous rounds Maria and Tin beat Lois Peake / Emma Tovey 3-1 (9 10 -5 4) and Abbie Milwain / Natalie Slater 3-0 (7 5 10).

On Friday for the Under21s Maria faced at the group stage Isobel Ashley and Kate Cheer (who only last weekend had won the Cadet Masters) and finished top with two 3-0 wins (vs Isobel 7 5 7 and vs Kate 4 8 5).



# A Galore of Medals: Maria Tsaptsinos

Then Maria had a bye round and for the Quarter Final she met another Kingfisher player Megan Knowles with Maria winning 3-0 (3 4 4). Next round it was against Emily Bolton, a game that went to five sets since Emily managed to push Maria away from the table and winning a considerable number of rallies. Maria though kept her concentration and won on the fifth (5 8 - 11 -5 8). On the final an exhausted and mentally tired Maria lost to Tin Tin 3-0 (- 6 -5 -9) therefore unable to repeat last year's result. For the Women's singles because of



Maria Tsaptsinos at the National Championships.

Photo courtesy of Michael Loveder:

<https://www.facebook.com/MichaelLovederPhotography>

Maria's seeding the group stage was avoided but this meant she had to meet Lois Peake without any real game preparation and Lois won the first set

11-9 but a strong Maria emerged to win the next four 3 5 8 and 9. Maria's next opponent was Hannah Hicks, a rare chopper, and a recent Commonwealth squad member. All the training at Kingfisher versus David Barr paid off eventually since Maria recorded her first win against Hannah in a game that it was an advert for the game of table tennis.

The contrast between styles and the pendulum of points made it a very entertaining game for the spectators but not perhaps for the coaches. Hannah won the first set 11-9 but Maria went 3-1 up with 11-6 11-6 11-2 and whereas most people thought it was over and despite that Hannah was 4-0 down on the sixth game she managed after a time out to win the fifth set 11-7 and with the same score on the next set to equalise to 3-3.

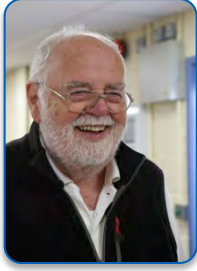
Again people would now bet in favour of Hannah since psychologically had the upper hand Maria managed to show patience once more and taking the right shot at the right time to win 11-8 and reach for the first time the semi finals.

At the semi finals she faced Kelly Sibley, the number 1 seed, who proved very strong and very determined not to let Maria into the game.

Surprisingly this was the first time Kelly and Maria had met in a competition therefore the inexperience playing against Kelly showed as well. For the record Kelly won 4-0 (6 2 5 4). At the mixed doubles on Friday Maria and Tom won 3-1 versus Joe Pilkington and Kate Cheer and then on Saturday they beat Chris Dorrard and Abbie Milwain with the same score (8 -2 7 11) to reach the semifinal against Sam Walker and Tin Tin Ho (last year's winners and eventual winners). Maria and Tom lost 3-0 (9 5 9).

By Dimitris Tsaptsinos

# Your Committee



President and  
Coaching Officer:  
Peter Charters



Chairman and  
Treasurer:  
Colin Dyke



General Secretary:  
Peter Bradley



Facilities Officer &  
Web Site Manager:  
Allen Pack



Membership  
Secretary:  
Sandra Shepherd



Assistant  
Treasurer: Richard  
Fifield



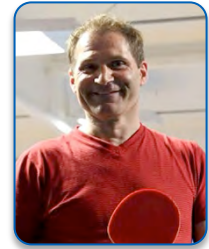
Welfare Officer,  
Premier and  
Clubmark Contact:  
Lisa Williams



Bookings Officer:  
Mick Mitcham



Newsletter Editor  
and Local League  
Co-Ordinator  
Gwynne Penny



Committee Member &  
Trophy Secretary:  
Andy Yon



Committee Member:  
Allan Bruton



Committee Member:  
Krys Szczygiel



Committee Member:  
Ck Liu



Committee Member:  
Carol Byers



Coach and Publicity  
Officer: Andrew  
Smith

## Additional Club Roles:

Team Kit Manager: Peter Charters  
Robot Manager: Allen Pack  
Table Manager: Dave Duncan  
Lost Property: Andy Yon

Kingfisher Agent, Tees Sport discount  
scheme: Sandra Shepherd

Club Championships & Grouping Tournament  
Allan Bruton

Cleaning: Feargal Gallen

## Morning Club Contacts:

Contact the Morning Club leaders below for  
more information about Tuesday, Wednesday  
or Friday Club.



Tuesdays:  
Diane Taylor



Wednesdays:  
Roger  
Woolven-Allen



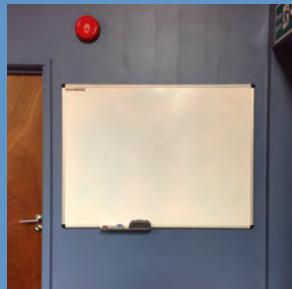
Fridays:  
Allan Bruton



# Newsletter Noticeboard

## 40-Minute Session Rule

There are times when practice facilities are at a premium and members are waiting to play. All members are reminded that, whenever the playing hall or individual tables are not pre-booked, table use must be limited to sessions of 40 minutes maximum (whether for 1-to-1 coaching, training or practice), if other members are waiting to play. To help manage this a whiteboard has been added near table 4/5. When you arrive and want to play, add your name and the time to the board.



## Social Area

The committee would like to remind members to keep the chairs in the social area clear for people to sit. Bags and clothes should be left either in the changing rooms, or stowed underneath the chairs in the playing area.



## Lost Property

Left something behind at the club?  
The lost property cupboard is located below the kitchen worktop.  
Contact the Lost Property Manager, Andy Yon for more information.

## Always Bring Your Key + Fob

Please ensure that if you are the last person to leave the building you check that the building is empty, the emergency exit doors in the playing area are securely shut, the lights are switched off and the front door is closed **and locked** with the mortice key.

## Non-Marking Playing Shoes

To reduce the amount of dirt being brought into the playing area, members are reminded to change into clean, non-marking playing shoes before entering the playing area.



# Newsletter Noticeboard

## Reminder: Guests

Members may sign in up to 2 guests at a time – the member must be present at the club while their guests are at the club.

A guest may visit up to 4 times before they need to decide whether to apply for membership.

The first visit is free, but the subsequent visits are chargeable at £4 per guest, per visit.

### Payment of Guest Fees:

The member signing in the guests is responsible for ensuring that the guest fees are paid to the treasurer (Colin Dyke).

Guests must be signed into the guest book (located near the front door) **BEFORE** they enter the playing area.

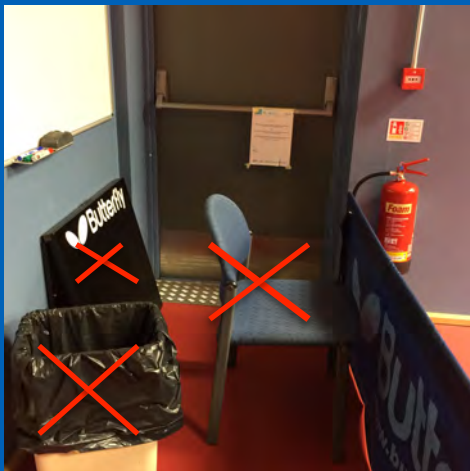
## First Aid

There is a First Aid kit and AED/Defibrillator inside the playing area near the main door. The accident record book is stored in the social area at the far end on/in one of the green cupboards at the far end. All accidents must be recorded in the book, and if any first aid supplies are used, please remember to inform a member of the committee so that they may be replenished.



## Emergency Exits

Please ensure that the emergency exits are left clear at all times with no chairs, scoreboards, bags or rubbish bins blocking the way to the exit.



## Parking Arrangements

As Colin has mentioned in the introduction, we have been asked not to park inside the school parking zone during school hours (area after the leisure centre, to the right, through barrier). Also off-limits is the area beyond the green fence which is adjacent to Goals and the club (except by special arrangement).

# Club Discount Scheme with Tees Sport

Kingfisher has a contract with Tees Sport which runs up to the end of 2015. Tees Sport provides kit for our British League and National League teams and provides members with generous discounts on all clothing and equipment.



We are continuing to work with Tees Sport on special projects and, if anyone has any ideas, Chairman Colin would be pleased to hear from you.

Tees Sport is a leading supplier of specialist table tennis equipment in the United Kingdom, offering a wide range of most of the leading brands. Tees Sport is the largest retailer of Butterfly specialist equipment and Butterfly is the leading brand of blades and rubber. World Champion, Zhang Jike, European Champion, Timo Boll, and most of the England Team use Butterfly blades and rubbers. If you wish to obtain technical advice prior to ordering you will find Tees Sport staff knowledgeable and helpful and all of their sales staff have been involved in table tennis for many years and have played the game to at least British League standard. You can contact Tees Sport on 0800 458 4141 (freephone) or 01642 217844 / 249000 (standard).

Members wishing to take advantage of the generous discounts offered should place all orders via Sandra Shepherd, who can also provide advice, if required.

Discounts off the catalogue prices are as follows:

Butterfly, Karlsson, Andro and Adidas products – less 25%.

Some Tees Sport products such as cleaners, rollers etc – less 25%.

Donic products – less 20%

All other Tees Sport products – less 15%

(The above discounts exclude tables which can be quoted for separately.)

OR

If the online, website price works out to be lower, even after the above discount has been applied, then Tees Sport will allow a 5% discount off the online price!

Orders through our Kingfisher Agent, Sandra Shepherd, should be made either by email at [sandra.shepherd@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sandra.shepherd@tiscali.co.uk) or by post at 5 Orwell Close, Caversham, Reading RG4 7PU. Any queries please contact Sandra as above or by telephone: 0118 947 6089 (or text 07759 479977).

Tees Sport offers a same day shipment service for orders placed by telephone, internet or mail with a great saving on postage when ordered through our agent, Sandra.

AND

We are delighted to have negotiated a deal with Tees to offer members the opportunity of ordering a Kingfisher Club Shirt. For details of this offer please follow the link below or go to the Kingfisher TTC website.

[https://www.tabletennis365.com/Kingfisher/Pages/Club\\_T\\_shirt](https://www.tabletennis365.com/Kingfisher/Pages/Club_T_shirt)

# Kingfisher Club Championships

This year Kingfisher Club Championships will be held across a number of evenings in April, with a finals night and presentation of awards on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Allan Bruton has agreed to organize the event, which will be FREE to enter.

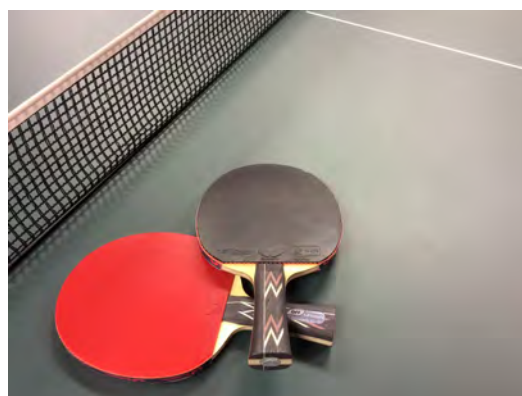
Gill Bennett has volunteered to arrange refreshments for the finals night, which will be a great opportunity to watch some super table tennis and socialize with other club members.

Closing date for Entry: **7 April, 2015**

<b>SENIOR EVENTS:</b>	<b>JUNIOR EVENTS:</b> Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> April
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> April Mens singles	Under 11 singles
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> April Ladies singles	Under 13 singles
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> April Handicap singles	Under 15 singles
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> April Veterans singles	Under 18 singles
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> April Senior doubles	
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> April Junior doubles	
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup> April Drawn doubles	

## Finals night programme Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015:

7.00 pm Junior Doubles  
7.20 pm Drawn Doubles  
7.40 pm Presentations  
7.55 pm Club doubles  
8.15 pm Handicap Singles  
8.35 pm Presentations and Interval  
9.30 pm Ladies Singles  
9.50 pm Veterans Singles  
10.10 pm Mens Singles  
10.30 pm Presentations



How to Enter: Complete the entry form overleaf and send to Allan Bruton by post, or leave in the club drop-box to arrive no later than 7 April 2015.



# Kingfisher Table Tennis Club Closed Championships 2014/2015

Entry fee per event entered £ **FREE**

Please enter me for the events indicated below (X)

Name

Date of birth (Vets)

(X)

Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> April Mens singles
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> April Ladies singles
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> April Handicap singles
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> April Veterans singles
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> April Senior doubles
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> April Junior doubles
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup> April Drawn doubles

Finals night will be on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May

Age criteria

Veterans born before 01.01.1975

Postal entries to

Allan Bruton

11 Wilson Court

Winnersh

Wokingham

RG41 5HS

Entries may also be left in the club post box in the social area.

Final entries will be collected from the club on 7<sup>th</sup> April, entries after this date will not be accepted as I will be out of the country until 17<sup>th</sup> April.

# Kingfisher Table Tennis Club Closed Championships 2014/2015

Junior singles age group competitions Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April

Entry fee per event entered £ **FREE**

Please enter me for the events as indicated below. (X)

Name

Date of birth

(X)

Under 11 singles
Under 13 singles
Under 15 singles
Under 18 singles

## Age criteria

Under 11 born on or after 01.01.2004

Under 13 born on or after 01.01.2002

Under 15 born on or after 01.01.2000

Under 18 born on or after 01.01.1997

Postal entries to

Allan Bruton

11 Wilson Court

Winnersh

Wokingham

RG41 5HS

Entries can also be left in the club post box in the social area.

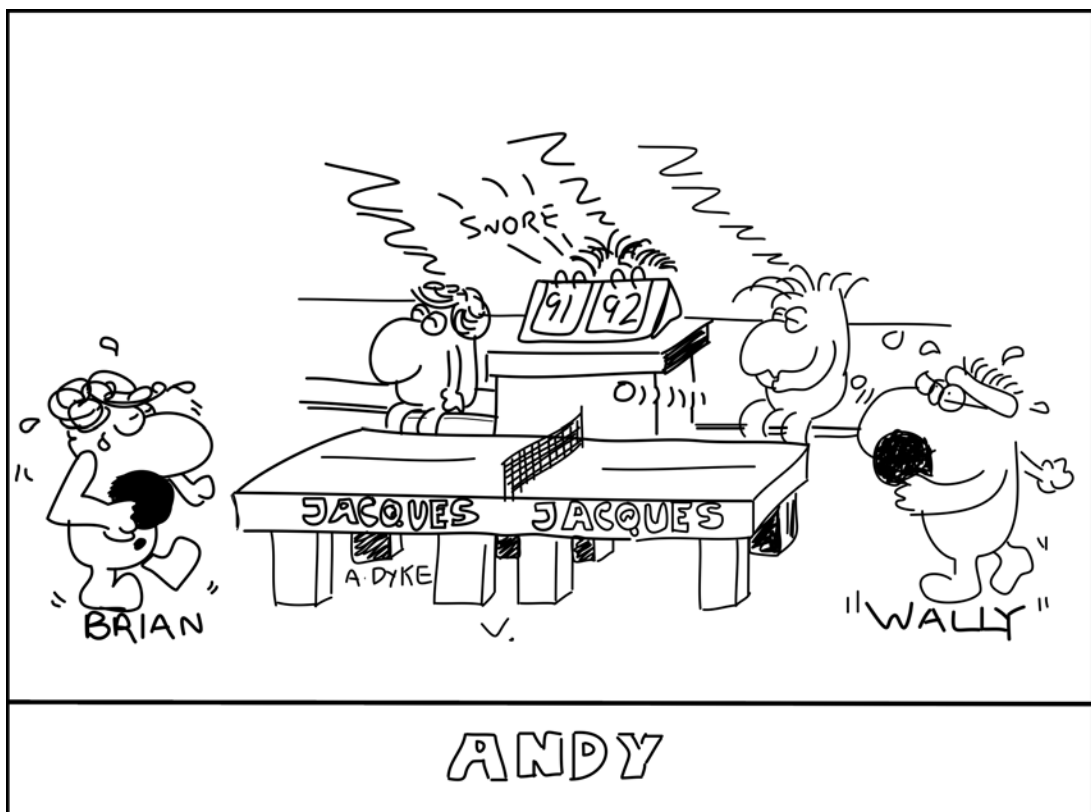
Closing date for entries 6<sup>th</sup> April

Final entries will be collected from the club on 7<sup>th</sup> April, entries after this date will not be accepted as I will be out of the country until 17<sup>th</sup> April.

# A Serving of Sneakles



The cartoon below first appeared in edition 1 of Kingfisher News, and is reproduced here in memory of Brian Halliday:





# Reading Closed Championships

Kingfisher hosted the Reading Closed Championships in February. Wendy Porter organized the tournament and provided the following write-up which appeared in the Reading Newsletter:

This year the senior half of the Reading Closed tournament was held on the weekend of 14th-15th February, at Kingfisher club.

Once again, Daniel Moses managed to regain the Men's Singles title - after an exciting final with Sam Ricks.



On Saturday, we ran the 60+, senior veterans, veterans and men's doubles. The ladies doubles did not run due to lack of female entries. As only 2 ladies entered, myself and Ania Pytka, the mixed doubles were straight to the final and played on Sunday.

On Sunday we ran the divisional championships in groups, the men's singles and staged finals of mixed doubles, men's doubles, ladies singles and men's singles.

Throughout the weekend, we saw a lot of persistent play from the more experienced players. So much energy and stamina (wish I had it myself!)

The performer of the weekend had to be Melvyn Lovegrove, who played out of his skin throughout the weekend. Beating players ranked higher than him, and pushing division 1 players, Melvyn won both the 60+ and Division 4 titles.

Wally Allanson also had a good result in the men's singles, beating Steve Miller, before losing to Joe Barraclough in a hard fought 5 games.

Yeqin (Philip) Zeng, comfortably beat Sam Ricks to take the title of the Division 1 restricted. He also had a very good win against Daniel McTiernan in the quarter final of the Men's Singles, before Sam got his revenge in the semi finals.

Sam then faced Daniel Moses in the Final, and took the first game, before Daniel came back to win the next 3.

It was a good tournament and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

WELL PLAYED EVERYONE.

Thank you to Sam Ricks for your help in setting up and clearing away, and to Didier for taking the photos and videos.

# Reading Closed Championships

Category:	Winner:	Runner up:
<b>Men's Singles</b>	Daniel Moses	Sam Ricks
<b>Ladies Singles</b>	Wendy Porter	Ania Pytka
<b>Veterans Singles</b>	Ian Cole	Trevor Organ
<b>Mixed Doubles</b>	Daniel Moses & Wendy Porter	Luca Bianchi & Ania Pytka
<b>Men's Doubles</b>	Daniel Moses & Daniel McTiernan	Danny and Sam Ricks
<b>Senior Vets Singles</b>	Trevor Organ	Colin Dyke
<b>Over 60s Singles</b>	Melvyn Lovegrove	Paul Treadgold
<b>Div 1</b>	Yeqin Zeng	Sam Ricks
<b>Div 2</b>	D Milovanovic	Siad Cole
<b>Div 3</b>	Krys Szczygiel	Paul Treadgold
<b>Div 4</b>	Melvyn Lovegrove	Giuliano Ghidini
<b>Div 5</b>	Jazz Dhillon	John Evans



Trevor Organ and Eric Holmes, Ian and Siad Cole vs Daniel McTiernan and Daniel Moses,  
Daniel McTiernan and Daniel Moses, Danny and Sam Ricks.  
Photos by Didier Garcon.



# Reading Closed Championships: In Pictures



Colin Dyke vs Krys Szczygiel,  
Ian and Siad Cole vs Steve Miller and Eric Holmes,  
Melvyn Lovegrove vs Trevor Organ.  
Photos by Didier Garcon.



# Local League News: Reading

Kingfisher entered 12 teams in the Reading League:

For fixtures and latest results visit the web site here: <https://www.tabletennis365.com/reading>

KINGFISHER A DIVISION 1 HOME: MONDAY	KINGFISHER B DIVISION 1 HOME: WEDNESDAY	KINGFISHER C DIVISION 1 HOME: MONDAY	KINGFISHER D DIVISION 1 HOME: WEDNESDAY	KINGFISHER E DIVISION 2 HOME: WEDNESDAY	KINGFISHER F DIVISION 2 HOME: TUESDAY
Hari Gehlot Captain Availability: 75%	Richard Rosinski Captain Availability: 90%	Steve Murgatroyd Captain	Yeqin (Philip) Zeng Captain Availability: 90%	Geoff Civil Captain Availability: 75%	Allan Bruton Captain Availability: 100%
Tony Reynolds Availability: 50%	Martin Adams Availability: 80%	Niall McGrane Availability: 90%	Richard Fifield Availability: Reserve	John Morris Availability: 50%	Peter Bennett Availability: 100%
Federico Viterbo Availability: 50%	John Barclay Availability: 100%	Andrew Parker Availability: 80%	Trevor Organ Availability: 80%	Roger Woolven-Allen Availability: 60%	Ivor Hardman Availability: 90%
Stuart Williams Availability: 70%	Andy Smith Availability: 75%	Lisa Williams Availability: 100%	Yuan Zhuang	Bernhard Schnederle Availability: 95%	Michael Houghton Availability: 100%
Mark Banks			Eduard Caliman		Allen Pack Availability: 70%
			Hari Vennapusa Availability: Reserve		

KINGFISHER G DIVISION 2* HOME: MONDAY	KINGFISHER H DIVISION 3 HOME: MONDAY	KINGFISHER I DIVISION 3 HOME: TUESDAY	KINGFISHER J DIVISION 4 HOME: TUESDAY	KINGFISHER K DIVISION 5 HOME: TUESDAY	KINGFISHER L DIVISION 5 HOME: WEDNESDAY
Eric Holmes Captain Availability: 90%	Willis Ma Captain Availability: 85%	Didier Garcon Captain Availability: 60%	Derek Crombie Captain Availability: 100%	Gill Bennett Captain Availability: 90%	Hilary Husbands Captain Availability: 50%
Carol Byers Availability: 80%	Leigh Mahoney Availability: 90%	Gianpaolo Balsamo Availability: 60%	Melvyn Lovegrove Availability: 80%	Gwynne Penny Availability: 60%	Colin Mercer Availability: 50%
Mick Mitcham Availability: 100%	Rick Leachman Availability: 100%	Gabor Radnoti Availability: 60%	Ken Robb Availability: 75%	Sandra Shepherd Availability: 40%	Ania Pytko Availability: 50%
Steven Woolnough Availability: 75%	Colin Dyke Availability: 80%	Joaquin Sabater Availability: 60%	John Upham Availability: 70%	Diane Taylor Availability: 100%	Mike Dorrington Availability: Reserve
Dave Duncan Availability: 80%	Dave Gostelow Availability: 100%	Jean-Noel Thepaut Availability: 60%	John Creighton Availability: 50%	David Wells Availability: 70%	Ruben Hernandez Availability: 50%
		Nils Wedi Availability: 60%		Katie Shepherd Availability: Reserve	David O'Keeffe Availability: Reserve
				Bill Hundley	Adam McTiernan

Version 9.0 27 Feb 2015. (\*Note: Bill Hundley joined Kingfisher K).

# Local League News: Reading Roundup



Thank you to those of you who have submitted a report for your team. Kingfisher teams B, A and D continue to dominate the top half of the table in division 1, but OLOP A are still in the lead, with a couple of games in hand, so the next few weeks could be decisive!

In division 2 Kingfisher G will struggle now to get out of the bottom two, but hopefully the experience of playing in Division 2 will hold them in good stead for next season.

Kingfisher H in division 3 have a good chance of retaining a top 2 slot, which would see them in line for promotion, but the next team are only two points behind, with a game in hand, so it is all to play for.

Kingfisher J in division 4 are currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, but only one point shy of Pangbourne, so a continued good run could see them in a potential promotion slot.

Meanwhile in Division 5 my own Kingfisher K team are now too far behind 2<sup>nd</sup> place to contend for promotion this year, and Kingfisher L have closed the gap, so it will be a good battle between the two Kingfisher's for third place.

For all the most up to date information, visit the Reading Web site:

[https://www.tabletennis365.com/Reading/Tables/Senior\\_2014-15/All\\_Divisions](https://www.tabletennis365.com/Reading/Tables/Senior_2014-15/All_Divisions)

Kingfisher A  
Hari Gehlot

Kingfisher 'A' pretty much lost the chase to the league title in early January after losing to an in form Olop 'A' side. This match was played early as I was off on a long holiday (again !!!).

So we are now relying on our 'B' team to maybe do some damage to Olop A and rekindle our chances. We still have to play Kingfisher B the second time and hopefully can come out on top again.

Federico got injured earlier this week so hopefully will be recovered before we have to play KF B again. Other than that I have about 4 postponed matches to sort out before the end of the season.



# Local League News: Reading Roundup

Kingfisher E  
Geoff Civil, Captain



Geoff Civil (capt.), Bernhard Schnederle, John Morris, Roger Woolven-Allen, Colin Dyke (played up 3 times).

We're currently in second place, 4 points behind Curzon Club. Our nearest challenger for a promotion spot are OLOP 'C', a further 4 points behind us, but with a game in hand.

From the New Year restart we continued our winning ways and held the top position until the end of January when our strongest player, Bernhard, returned to Austria to continue his studies. He finished his season with us with an average of over 95%, losing only twice in 42 games. A highlight was his win over Milestone's previously unbeaten Robin Benwell in a well contested match of great quality which had Willis Ma and I on the edge of our seats!

We knew things would get interesting after Bernhard left and so far have suffered 3 narrow defeats, 3-7 to Wokingham, and 4-6 to both Curzon and Sonning Common & Peppard. This has resulted in us slipping to 2nd place in the division. Roger, John and I are not always all available for matches, but we've had terrific support from Willis (on 44% from 3 appearances), and Rick Leachman who has yet to record a win, but who gave a very good account of himself in his one appearance so far. I'm optimistic the losing streak will not continue for long, but we'll have to keep an eye on OLOP 'C'....

Kingfisher F  
Allan Bruton, Captain



Holding our own as anticipated we have had some manpower issues but it looks good for a mid table finish.

Kingfisher J  
Derek Crombie, Captain  
Writeup by Melvyn Lovegrove (pictured)



Kingfisher J have recovered from a bad start losing 5 matches and drawing 1.

We have won our last 8 matches and are now in with a chance of promotion.



# Local League News: Reading Roundup

Kingfisher K  
Gill Bennett, Captain



A tricky start to January saw our first two matches postponed, the first for lack of players, the second because the opposition failed to show!

With four of our team unable to play for various reasons, we were pleased to welcome a new member, Bill Hundley, and so had the necessary team of three for the next six matches!

Bill used to play at the top end of the Wokingham and Bracknell leagues but has not played for some years. After the long break he is really enjoying his return to table tennis.

It was good that Katie Shepherd could join us for a match against BBC, playing well and winning all three sets.

Gwynne has started to play again after her November knee operation, and it's really good to have her back to reinforce the team!

David Wells has been our star player, especially when he scored a maximum against OLOP in February, beating both Herbert Tang and Jazz Dhillon who lead the averages table!

This half of the season has brought us one win, three draws and three losses.

Kingfisher L  
Hilary Husbands (Captain)  
Write up by Ania Pytka (pictured)



Kingfisher L have been able to maintain the 4th position, with 4 wins, 1 draw and 2 defeats since Xmas and are slowly coming closer to their local rivals Kingfisher K that occupies the 3rd position.

Both Adam and Ruben have been playing particularly well winning usually at least 2 sets per night (with some trebles as well), well backed up by Ania who has brought 1 or 2 points most of the nights.

After a good beginning of the league back in September with two sets won, Colin has been looking to improve his form after recovering from sickness. Unfortunately he is still to win a match in 2015.

Interesting to mention is that the duo Ruben/Ania have played most of the teams doubles and have lost only one double match so far out of 8 played this season.

# Local League News: Bracknell

Kingfisher entered 5 teams into the Bracknell League.

Visit the new Bracknell Web Site for latest match results and fixtures:

<https://www.tabletennis365.com/BracknellAndWokingham>

KINGFISHER A PREMIER HOME NIGHT THURSDAY	KINGFISHER B PREMIER HOME NIGHT THURSDAY	KINGFISHER C PREMIER HOME NIGHT FRIDAY	KINGFISHER D PREMIER HOME NIGHT - THURSDAY	KINGFISHER E DIVISION 1 HOME NIGHT - FRIDAY	KINGFISHER F DIVISION 1 HOME NIGHT - THURSDAY
John Willcocks Captain Availability: 80%	Allan Bruton Captain Availability: 100%	Mick Mitcham Captain Availability: 100%	Allen Pack Captain Availability: 70%	Derek Crombie Captain Availability: 100	Gwynne Penny Captain Availability: 100%
Geoff Civil Availability: 75%	Ivor Hardman Availability: 90%	Carol Byers Availability: 80	Michael Houghton Availability: 50%	Dave Duncan Availability: 80	Gill Bennett Availability: 90%
Phil Mead Availability: 75%	John Barclay Availability: 100%	Denise Rolfe Availability: 50%	Trevor Organ Availability: 80%	John Upham Availability: 50%	David O'Keefe Availability: 100%
John Morris Availability: 70	Jeffrey Huggins Availability: 80%	Peter Bennett Availability: 100	Richard Fifield Availability: 75%	Melvyn Lovegrove Availability: 50%	Diane Taylor Availability: 75%
Roger Woolven- Allen Availability: 60%			Dave Gostelow Availability: 75%	John Creighton Availability: 50%	
				Bernhard Schnederle Availability: Reserve	David Wells Availability: 70%
				Kenneth Robb Availability: Reserve	

## Reminder: Audrey Hardy Hard Bat Competition

Bracknell league players can register to take part in the Audrey Hardy Hard Bat Competition which takes place at Kingfisher on Sunday 26 April.

Registration time: 09:00 - 09:20

Tournament Start time: 09:30

Expected finish: 15:00 - 16:00

To book your place contact David Holt ([drdavidholt@btinternet.com](mailto:drdavidholt@btinternet.com)) by 23 April, 2015 with your name and the club that you represent in the league.

### Rules

- 1) Entry to any tournament run by the above association is open to all players registered to play in the league in the current season.
- 2) In the event that entries have to be restricted the entries will be accepted on the basis of last in first out.
- 3) Entry to this tournament is free of charge.
- 4) The tournament shall be run by the tournament organiser elected at the previous AGM, who shall be responsible for all matters and who's decision shall be final on all points of law.
- 5) The tournament shall be played under the normal ITTF/ETTA laws of the sport of table tennis.
- 6) White balls on the current list of approved balls shall be used.

# Local League News: Bracknell Roundup



Bracknell Summary  
Gwynne Penny

In the Premier Division Kingfisher A and B currently sit at the top of the table, with D in mid-table position and Kingfisher C in the relegation zone, 4 points behind Broadmoor A.

In Division 1, Kingfisher E are currently sitting mid-table, and my own Kingfisher F team are trailing a long way behind in the relegation slot.

No Kingfisher teams this year in Division 2, but it looks like Wokingham D have secured their place at the top of the table, with Nomads B currently 9 points behind them.

Best of luck to all our teams for the remainder of the season, and Captains, I shall be looking for a final end of season report from each of you for the next newsletter, so sharpen those pencils!

Kingfisher A  
John Willcocks, Captain



We have been unbeaten since Christmas with four wins and two draws in the league plus a good win in the Howard Shield to maintain our 100% record in that competition.

Our league form has enabled us to consolidate our second place position but we will not be challenging our B team for the title. We did almost take the B team's unbeaten record as we led 5-3 in our recent match but we ended up having to settle for a draw.



# Local League News: Bracknell Roundup

Kingfisher B  
Allan Bruton, Captain



Going much better than hoped we are in a good position to have a 1 or 2 position finish dependant on outstanding fixture results but again with some manpower issues recently we are looking good.

Kingfisher C  
Mick Mitcham, Captain



Played 15 won 2 lost 13  
40 points.

Players.

Denise 9/27 33%

Carol 11/36 30%

Peter 10/33 30%

Mick 8/39 20%

We are having an enjoyable and unluckiness season.

We have lost 30 games in 5 (8 in the doubles 7 Mick, 6 Carol, 5 Peter and 4 Denise) with wins on these we would not be bottom

Kingfisher D  
Allen Pack, Captain



Bit of a swap round of our top players average's since the last report, with Richard Fifield moving up 2% to 80% to take the top slot. Trevor Organ surprising drops 8% down to 70%.

Unfortunately the team captain is not leading from the front, with his percentage dropping from 68% to 52%. The end result of this meaning we have dropped one place in the league to 4th position, smack bang middle position. 3rd position is held by Wokingham A, who we lost to heavily, this was a crucial match.

Looking forward, having attended the national championship this past weekend I feel fully charged and energised to hopefully end the season on a high note.

# Local League News: Bracknell Roundup

Kingfisher E  
Derek Crombie, Captain



Derek's team currently sit bang in the middle of the table with 1 draw, 2 wins and 1 loss since the beginning of the second half.

With only one point and a game in hand behind mid-table rivals, Wokingham B, a good run to the finish line could see them in the top half by the end of the season.

Kingfisher F  
Gwynne Penny, Captain



There are few certainties in this life, but one is that we will be relegated at the end of the season. Sadly we were unable to recruit another player, which has left the team short handed for some of our recent matches. The good news is that I am starting to play again, and at least this has meant we have been able to field a full team – although my own average is still a big fat Zero percent 😊

David continues to play well and picks up wins.

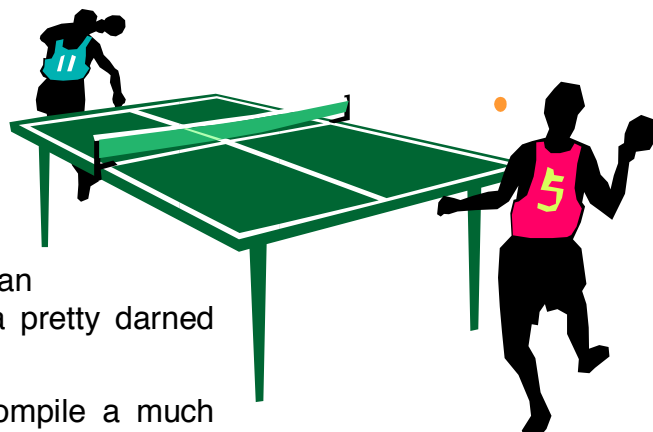
This week we played in Round 2 of the Howard Plate against Broadmoor C, which had some close games but saw us put out of the running with a 2-7 defeat.

Our aim for the remainder of the season will be to do our best to give a good account of ourselves, and as always, to enjoy our table tennis!

# Roger's Ramblings

## Prologue

**WELL**, as everyone in the Club knows by now, we have lost another member. But Brian Halliday wasn't just an ordinary "member"; he was one of the stalwarts of our game. Brian has probably held more administrative positions within our sport than most of us put together and, in his day, he was a pretty darned good player, too.



I am sure that Gwynne has managed to compile a much more fitting eulogy than anything I can come up with. I know for a fact that she has a copy of Matt Syed's wonderful "Times" article and, if she finds nothing else (which in itself is unlikely), Matt's story alone will do our erstwhile Chairman proud.

But, extremely sad though Brian's departure is, I intend to dwell on the happier, more amusing aspects of his varied table tennis career. I am sure that Brian would forgive me for this; indeed, I am hopeful that he would whole-heartedly approve.



Although I played with Brian in the Maidenhead League and we also trotted off together to far-flung places such as Malta, the Isle of Wight and Altwood School, I have few actual playing memories of the great man. However, I do know that the opposition lived in dread when they heard that they were playing us. Unlike top defenders Matthew Syed and Dave Barr, people such as Brian, Wally Allanson, Jonathan Samuel, Colin Dyke, Bert Foster, Peter Bennett and Yours Truly rarely, if ever, played an attacking shot. Matt and Dave would dash in and hit hard; indeed I felt sorry for any player who had the audacity to play a drop shot to either of these two fantastic players. Bang and it was over! But we less skilful defenders "stayed back" and Brian was probably better at "staying back" than the rest of us. His rallies seemed to go on for ever. Apart from groaning when one of the opposition stood up to do battle with our man from Sonning Common, the first thing anyone did was to ask, "Has someone got a watch?"

Brian's main team, though, was the incomparable *Sonning Common and Peppard A* outfit in the Reading League, consisting of Brian, Jon and Wally. I have heard that one of their home matches once ended at two o'clock in the morning, and then these three lunatics actually stayed on for a practice session!

Stories abound from the playing days of this infamous trio and they are all incredibly funny in their own right. I am hoping that Gwynne may be able to find some of Jon's original hilarious scripts; I can assure you that, if you read them, you will not be able to stop laughing out loud. These stories include the tale of when they took an hour-and-a-half to put the table away because they all kept pulling in opposite directions; of how Jon "drowned" his bat after it "let him down" against some powerful opposition, and how, during a local power failure, they played a match with a candle stuck to each of the four corners of the table.

Brian – and Brian alone – was allowed to call Jon Samuel "Samuels". It was quite common, following a particularly odious pun from The Looney, that "El Supremo" (as Brian was called by his younger Prudential workmate) would say, "P \*\*\* off, Samuels." But he did so with a laugh and a twinkle in his eye and you couldn't help but love him for it.



# Roger's Ramblings

Ron Langheim, at the funeral service, gave a wonderful eulogy and, terribly sad though the occasion was, it was difficult not to chuckle. Ron mentioned the time that he was matched against Brian and how he, Ron, played a completely unreturnable net cord shot. Brian was angry. A minute later, Ron repeated his diabolical fluke. Brian was absolutely furious and called poor old Ron all sorts of names.

"Brian," said Ron soothingly, "please don't be too upset. After all, we are still only having our knock-up."

Talking of Ron, I hope that he won't be too offended when I suggest that he is not renowned for his immaculate dress sense. Quite a few years ago, Brian and I, together with Christine and Linda, were in the departure lounge of some British airport, waiting for our flight to Malta, when I walked fellow player Mr Langheim. He had a split in his track-suit trouser leg that reached almost to his waist and he had obviously spilt something down the front of his shirt. Brian pointed to Ron and gave me a nudge.

"Just look at that for a picture of sartorial elegance," said Mr Halliday.

As some of you may recall, Brian possessed a huge estate in Southern Oxfordshire and, in order to boost his meagre Prudential salary, Jonathan worked most weekends as Brian's head gardener. This was an onerous position, because Brian's estate included several orchards, a tennis court, a huge chicken run, an orangery, a nine-hole golf course, an archery range and sufficient grazing land for his several hundred sheep. Jon worked practically all the hours God sent.



Actually, the foregoing is an absolute, unmitigated load of rubbish, but Jon perpetuated the myth *ad nauseum*. He would tell Kingfisher members that guided tours of the estate were available and how, if they were lucky and a word was dropped in the right place, the lucky member might even be offered a tour by Brian himself.

But things came to a head when, in just one week alone, Brian received several 'phone calls from Club members asking when they could come and have a look round the estate. I wasn't privy to the conversations, of course, but I have it on good authority that Brian was rather abrupt with the people making these enquiries. "Go away" was the gist of his response.



And yet Brian and Jon remained firm friends (I am probably not exaggerating when I say "best friends") throughout the decades.

Talking of sheep, I remember when Jon told his Prudential work colleagues that he and Brian, in their spare time, took part in the organisation and running of sheep dog trials. They were absolute experts when it came to judging the dogs' performances. No-one, of course, believed him.

Jon and Brian found out when the next local sheep dog trials were due to take place, drove out to the event and took various photographs that showed the sheep and their dogs together with Brian and Jon holding up score-cards. What the authentic trials' judges and officials made of this fiasco, I have no idea. But, when they saw the "photographic evidence", the people at the Pru swallowed it hook, line and sinker and, to the best of my knowledge, have never since been told the truth!

But here I shall close. Our hearts go out to Brian's wife Christine and her family at this sad time. And the table tennis world, of course, mourns a great player, a great administrator and a great friend. Rest in peace, old pal.

# Roger's Ramblings

## Age Difference

**AS** many of you will know, the Club's Wednesday morning practice sessions are usually attended by those of us whom I shall describe as "the more senior" amongst Kingfisher's membership. But this is not always the case! On New Year's Eve last year (yes, I know, we're all rather sad), we old-timers were joined by a few youngsters. To state the obvious, this was because we were in the middle of the Christmas school holidays.

One of the youngsters shall remain anonymous. I do not intend to disclose his identity for two reasons; one being that I have no wish to embarrass the kid, but also because I've forgotten his name. Yup, you're right, senility edgeth ever closer... But, boy, does this junior player have prospects!

Any road up (as they say in Woodley), I played a match against the young feller and, whenever I tried to play forehand-to-forehand attack rallies with him, there was no contest. He won every time. But, when I reverted to my usual defensive chopping mode, the poor chap had no idea what to do and I won easily.

Afterwards, as we chatted about different strokes, I said to him, "If you think I'm difficult to play, you ought to have a go against Dave Barr. Although you wouldn't stand a chance in the short term, it would do your future game a great deal of good."

"I think I've seen him," said the youngster. "Isn't he that old man who gets everything back?" At that point, if I'd been drinking a beer, I think I would have choked on it...

I spluttered a bit. Dave old?? I couldn't help but wonder what the young man made of ME! From sheer preservation, if nothing else, I didn't ask! I somehow managed to get the conversation back on track and continued, "And Dave, even at his best, did not match up to Matt Syed." The lad looked puzzled.

"I've never heard of Matt Syed," he said.

I explained who our great erstwhile international was and how much he had achieved in our sport.

To be fair, though, our up-and-coming youngster had never heard of Allan Bruton or Mike Dorrington, either...



## Beavers

**During** a recent home match, when we stopped for refreshments, the more tubby amongst us were discussing how we struggled with dieting, healthy foods and general well-being. Geoff Civil came in with a fascinating contribution.

"You may be interested to know," he said, "that my wife Margaret told me that one of the best dietary aids is beaver mince."

"Beaver mince?" said one of our company, with a certain amount of incredulity.

"That's what she inferred," continued Geoff. "One of the best dietary aids, apparently, is beaver mince. I said to her, 'Do you really mean that, in order to maintain a healthy lifestyle, you should eat the chopped-up flesh of a poor little beaver?'"

"'You should wash your lugs out,' Margaret replied. 'I didn't say "beaver mince". I said B VITAMINS!!'"

Suddenly, in an undisguised moment of panic, Geoff looked at me and said, "I forgot you were here, Roger. You won't mention this in your *Ramblings*, will you?"

"Of course not," I replied.



# Roger's Ramblings

## Barriers

**There** we were at our elderly gentlemen's Wednesday morning practice sessions, thoroughly enjoying the challenge of getting our Zimmer-frames over the barriers, when Eddie Cassidy crashed into them. The barriers, that is, not the Zimmer-frames. Dave Gostelow watched the scene in obvious alarm.

"Are you all right, Eddie?" he asked.

"I'm fine," replied our friend from the Ormesby TTC. "I didn't even fall over."

"I wouldn't take any chances if I were you," Dave continued. "I think you ought to pay a trip to your pharmacy."

"What on earth for?" asked Eddie.

"To see if they've got any barrier cream," replied the deadpan Mr Gostelow.



## Great Dads

**Actually**, the Dads aren't particularly great at all. But their kids certainly are...

A couple of weeks ago, I walked into the Kingfisher rest area and, looking through the viewing windows, I could see our very top juniors in practice action. They are all nationally-ranked – most of them at senior level. They are all absolutely brilliant at their sport. They are all young. They are all a million times better players than me and my table tennis cohorts. They also all have Dads.

Cookie Liu, Steve Giles and Dimitris Tsaptsinos (pictured) were half-heartedly watching their various offspring while enjoying a coffee and a chat together. Oh, and if you have to work out who their offspring are, you really don't know much about top level table tennis...



"Hi Roger," said Dimitris. "How are you?"

"Fine, thanks, Mr Lopolopolopolous," I replied. "What are you fellers chatting about?"

"We're seriously contemplating forming a 'Dads' team next season," said Dimitris. "Steve, Cookie and I think that we can live off the reputation of our kids."

"I think that's a wonderful idea," I said. "I'd just love to be part of a team that could lay claim to beating Tsaptsinos, Giles and Liu. Bring it on, I say. Oh, and you could invite Mick Maynard while you're at it."

"No, we couldn't," replied Dimitris. "Mick is far too good for the likes of us."

So now you know. Remember that you heard it here first!

But, before I leave this subject, you may be interested to know that Maria was listening to the entire conversation. I caught her eye.

"And don't you forget, young lady," I said. "The last time I played against you, I won. I recall that Brian Halliday told you off something rotten."

"I think I remember," smiled our champion lady player. "But how old was I at the time?"

"About three," I replied.



## Roger's Ramblings

### Wokingham TTC



**As** most of you will know (although I confess that I didn't until Geoff Civil and John Willcocks enlightened me a couple of weeks ago) Wokingham TTC, in the Reading League if nowhere else, plays its table tennis matches in the pavilion of the newly- and purpose-built Wokingham Tennis Club. And a very fine venue it is, too.

Willis Ma, Rick Leachman and I were settling in for a good evening's thrashing when a familiar head poked itself above the court surrounds.

"Why don't you play a proper sport?" asked Michael Childs, waving his tennis racquet in the air. We were in the middle of a

match and so my introductions were somewhat hasty. Mike waved cheerio and disappeared.

Now I am willing to be corrected here, but I believe that Michael Childs is almost – if not completely – unique in the annals of Berkshire sporting history. Many moons ago, I was informed (and this has never been disputed) that Mike played for his county at table tennis, tennis and badminton, all in the same year. Quite something! The accompanying picture, by the way, shows Michael at the old Kingfisher premises, doing battle with Richard Rosinski.



But Wokingham Tennis Club (apart from having Michael Childs as a member) can also lay claim to something else quite unique. Its loos.

Instead of the words "Gents" and "Ladies" on the appropriate doors, they have pictures of Rafael Nadal and Maria Sharapova respectively. Maria, complete with those gorgeous legs, almost tempted me to go through the wrong door! But I somehow managed to resist...

### Eddie Cassidy

**Apart** from the antiquated members who attend the weekly Wednesday Club, not many current Kingfisher players will know Eddie Cassidy. One or two of the older ones among you may scratch the old cerebrals, thinking, "That name rings a bell from somewhere." And you would be right...



Eddie has joined our ranks for a couple of months, and a very welcome addition to the Wednesday Club he has proved to be. Unfortunately he will shortly be leaving us in order to return to his home in the Isle of Man.

In 1957, somewhere in the outskirts of Middlesbrough, a table tennis "hut" was erected in Alan Ransome's substantial back garden and a new club was born. That club was destined to become the now famous Ormesby TTC. The three stalwart founder members of this club were Alan himself, Denis Neale and Eddie Cassidy. I use

the word "substantial" without exaggeration. Alan's "garden" also boasted a tennis court (which the table tennis players used in the summer) and another hut that held two tables. Shortly after this, as the enthusiasm grew, a purpose-built brick building, with sufficient room for four tables, was erected.

# Roger's Ramblings

In the 1960s Alan, Denis and Eddie were chosen to represent Middlesbrough's town junior team, a squad managed by gentleman named Eddie Mann. Under Eddie Mann's guidance, Alan and Denis, as many of you will know, improved dramatically and eventually went on to play for England. Another famous name in our sport – Nicky Jarvis – played for Ormesby in the late '60s and early '70s and he, too, became a talented international. Eddie tells me that he knew from the start that Nicky would become a great player – especially when he discovered that Nicky went jogging in hobnailed boots in order to strengthen his leg muscles! Unfortunately, at this point and for personal reasons, “our” Eddie (as opposed to Mr Mann) started to drift away from the game.

Life went by and, seventeen years ago, Eddie's career took him to the Isle of Man where he worked in computer graphics. Following his retirement in early 2013, Eddie picked up a bat and, after a break of some 45 years, once again “caught the bug”. He visited some of his family in Middlesbrough last November and this gave him the opportunity to have a knock at Ormesby TTC, now situated in a converted school gymnasium. After a break of so many decades, Eddie's reunion with Alan and Denis must have been quite emotional!

At the beginning of January this year, Eddie travelled to Reading to meet up with other members of his family and, following a recommendation from Alan Ransome (the man's got taste, you have to admit!), Eddie introduced himself to the Kingfisher Club.

Next month will see Eddie back in the Isle of Man. Despite his brief time with us, he has fitted in brilliantly with the Wednesday morning crowd and he will be greatly missed.

Eddie tells me that, while playing at Kingfisher, he has met some really nice guys. I shall have to have a think to see if I can work out who they are!! A difficult one, that... Being serious, though, Eddie says that has found Kingfisher to be a very friendly and professional club. He was also highly impressed when he watched Tom Maynard and Maria Tsaptsinos practising together!

When he next returns to the area, Eddie says that he will be sure to look us up. I am confident that I speak for all the Wednesday Club players when I say, “Make sure that you do!”

*(The first picture that accompanies this little article shows Eddie, Alan and Denis at the Ormesby TTC, while the second shows Eddie and Nicky at Kingfisher)*



## Epilogue

**WELL**, everyone, that's it for now. As always, I hope that you're having a great playing season. From a personal perspective, I am having a lot of ups and, of course, a lot of downs. But, when all's said and done, isn't that what makes our sport both so interesting and so exciting?

In the next issue of *Kingfisher News*, I shall, subject to Gwynne's approval of course, have a truly wonderful story for you. It's in the pipeline. Are you intrigued? Well, please don't forget to tune in next time...

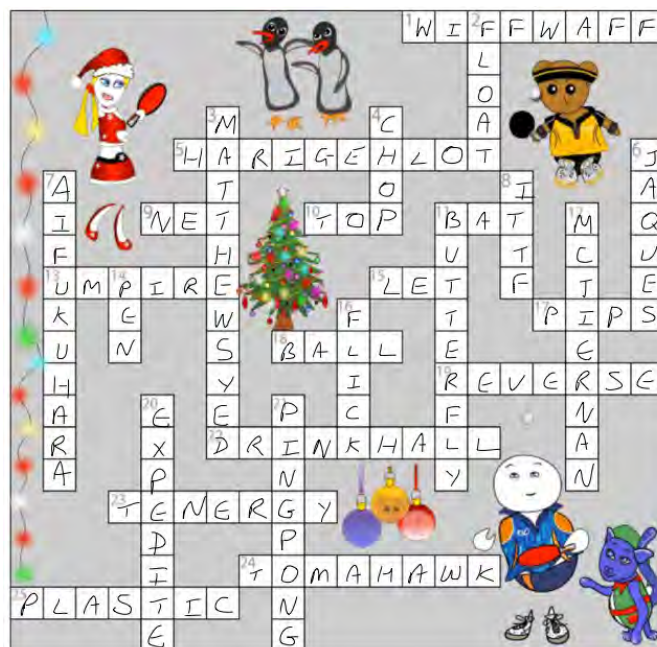
With very best wishes to you all

**(Roger)**



## December Edition: Crossword Puzzle Solution

Here's the solution to last edition's crossword puzzle. I didn't receive any entries, so I have to assume that everyone was too busy with the mince pies and turkey dinners or putting new rubbers on their bats in preparation for the second half of the season!



## ACROSS

- 1) 300 year-old name for table tennis. (4,4) [WIFF WAFF](#)
- 5) Left-handed Kingfisher player, part of Senior British League Team and plays in Reading Division 1. (4,5) [HARI GEHLOT](#)
- 9) Part of the assembly that horizontally divides a table tennis table. (3) [NET](#)
- 10) Type of spin which causes the ball to 'kick' when it contacts the opponents side of the table. (3) [TOP](#)
- 11) Item of equipment normally used to hit the ball. (3) [BAT](#)
- 13) Official responsible for keeping score and ensuring the rules are upheld during a match. (6) [UMPIRE](#)
- 15) What the umpire calls to stop play when a ball comes in from another court. (3) [LET](#)
- 17) A word sometimes used to describe pimped-out type of rubber, which can be long, short or medium. (4) [PIPS](#)
- 18) What should you keep your eye on during the game? (4) [BALL](#)
- 19) General term for a type of modern rubber, used to produce spin and speed. (7) [REVERSE](#)
- 22) Surname of male player currently at number 45 in the world according to December ITTF Ranking. (9) [DRINKHALL](#)
- 23) Popular but expensive series of rubber, by well known Chinese manufacturer. (7) [TENERGY](#)
- 24) Type of serve which mimics the throwing action of a weapon. (8) [TOMAHAWK](#)
- 25) What is the new ball, introduced in July 2014, made of? (7) [PLASTIC](#)

**DOWN**

- 2) Type of serve with little or no spin. (5) [FLOAT](#)
- 3) Former English Number One player and guest of honour at the Kingfisher Opening Ceremony in June 2014. (7,4) [MATTHEW SYED](#)
- 4) Type of shot, popular with defenders, often played away from the table. (4) [CHOP](#)
- 6) Original UK maker of table tennis tables, since 1901. (6) [JAQUES](#)
- 7) Olympic silver medal winner, top ranked Japanese female player (2, 8) [AI FUKUHARA](#)
- 8) Global governing body of table tennis, initially. (1,1,1,1) [ITTF](#)
- 11) Popular manufacturer of table tennis equipment, used by Kingfisher. (9) [BUTTERFLY](#)
- 12) Surname of the winner of Kingfisher Grand Prix, Summer 2014. [MCTIERNAN](#)
- 14) A type of grip. (3) [PEN](#)
- 16) One technique used to return a short serve which lands close to the net on the receiver's side. (5) [FLICK](#)
- 20) Name the system which is automatically invoked if a game is unfinished after 10 minutes' play.(8) [EXPEDITE](#)
- 21) Alternative name for the sport of table tennis which divides opinion amongst players. (4,4) [PING PONG](#)



# Solution: Name the Players

Here is the solution to the “Name the Players” competition from the last newsletter, from left to right. I didn’t receive any entries for the competition – so I can only assume you were all too busy playing Table Tennis!

Kingfisher Men: Peter Goatly, John Creighton, Dave Duncan, Steve Murgatroyd, Eric Holmes, Chris Pusey, Melvyn Lovegrove, Ramesh Gehlot, Mike Dorrington, David Wells, Peter Bennett, Jean-Noel Thepaut, Trevor Organ, Richard Rosinski, Jamie Liu, Leigh Mahoney, Eduard Caliman, Stuart Williams, John Willcocks, Allen Pack, David O’Keeffe, Richard Fifield, Brian Halliday, Roger Woolven-Allen, Niall McGrane, John Morris, Ivor Hardman.



Kingfisher Women: Marion Dyke, Clare Woodham, Lisa Williams, Wendy Porter, Katie and Sandra Shepherd, Alison Broe, Jo Drinkhall, Karen Witt, Tin-Tin Ho, Jenny Tanner, Christine Basden, Maria Tsaptsinos, Sharon Mitchell, Diane Taylor, Gwynne Penny, Gill Bennett, Carol Byers, Hilary Husbands.



# And Finally....

I hope you've enjoyed reading this edition of Kingfisher News. I'm pleased to report that I am on the mend following my knee op last November. I've started training again and played my first match at the end of February. Thanks for all the well-wishes, greatly appreciated.

Please keep the articles, match reports and photos coming and enjoy the end of the season and the spring! And don't forget to register for the Club Championships in April.

Gwynne



## Useful Links:

### Kingfisher Web Site:

<https://www.tabletennis365.com/kingfisher>

### Kingfisher Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/kingfisherttc>

### Kingfisher on Instagram

<http://instagram.com/kingfisherttc>

### Kingfisher on Twitter

<https://twitter.com/kingfisherttc>

### Table Diary:

[https://www.tabletennis365.com/Kingfisher/Pages/Table\\_diary](https://www.tabletennis365.com/Kingfisher/Pages/Table_diary)

### Club Shirts:

[https://www.tabletennis365.com/Kingfisher/Pages/Club\\_T\\_shirt](https://www.tabletennis365.com/Kingfisher/Pages/Club_T_shirt)

## Related Sites:

### Table Tennis England Web Site:

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk>

### Reading League Web Site:

<https://www.tabletennis365.com/reading>

### Bracknell League Web Site:

<http://www.bwdtta.co.uk>

# ????

## What do you think?

Remember, this is YOUR newsletter, so please do let me know if there is something that you would like to see included.

Please send any articles that you would like me to include in the next edition via email at:

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