



Kingfisher Table Tennis Club

KINGFISHER NEWS



Issue 72 July 2013

Club Officers and Officials:

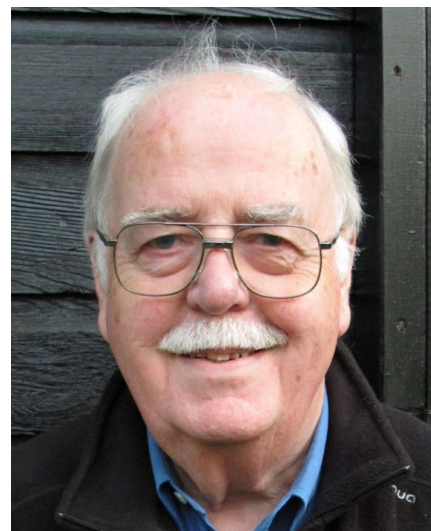


Event Co-ordinator, Lost Property Organiser. **Peter Bradley** – Committee Member. **Gwynne Penny** – League Play Co-ordinator, Reading League Secretary, Bracknell League Secretary, Committee Member. **Hari Gehlot** – Bookings Secretary. **Lisa Williams** – Premier Club Contact, Clubmark Contact. **Brian Halliday** – Club Discount Scheme Co-ordinator. **Marion Dyke** – Cleaning Supervisor. **Dave Duncan** – Table Manager. **Nigel Lynch** (pictured) – Auditor.

(Vacancies exist for Publicity Officer and Minutes Secretary)

Peter Charters (pictured) – President, Hon General Secretary, Trustee. **Colin Dyke** – Chairman, Hon Treasurer, Senior British League Manager, Veterans National League Manager, Team Kit Manager, Trustee. **Eric Van Looy** – Membership Secretary, Welfare and Child Protection Officer, Events

Organiser, Trophy Secretary. **Nick Heaps** – Coaching Officer, Junior British League Manager, Junior and Cadet National League Manager, Trustee. **Allen Pack** – Building and Equipment Officer, Website Manager, Robot Master, Committee Member. **Roger Woolven-Allen** – Newsletter Editor. **Richard Fifield** – Assistant Treasurer. **Andy Yon** – Committee Member, Social



Prologue

Hello again, everyone! First of all, please accept my apologies for the delay in publication. My deadline for contributions was well over two weeks ago and, since then, I fear that I have been busy. I have actually had to do some railway work (nasty shock to the system, that); I have been involved in other social activities (mainly big bat and ball and quiz compilation) and the French Tennis

Open, Queen's and Wimbledon have severely limited my free time. I know, I know, watching TV is not much of an excuse, but it is the best I've got!

Another "problem" is one that I am more than happy with. Many of you have sent in contributions that, to be honest, I have had trouble keeping up with. But I wouldn't have it any other way! Many thanks indeed to all the people (they are not ALL members!) concerned. Please, please keep it coming. This way, as you know, *Kingfisher News* becomes more and more YOUR newsletter and not simply a load of rubbish concocted by Yours Truly.

And so a really bumper edition lies ahead of you. Normally I would be pleased with this but, sadly, a large part of the newsletter's contents concerns three bereavements. Sylvia Bruton, Geoff Davis and Eva Foster have been taken from us and, while this is sad enough for the majority of the Kingfisher membership, it must be absolutely devastating for the

families so tragically affected. I am sure that I speak for all Club members when I say how much our three late friends will be missed.

But Eva, Geoff and Sylvie would want us to stop being morbid and get on with things. And so I shall do just that...

Inside this issue you will find many things, some of which will hopefully be of interest. Colin has submitted his *Chairman's Report*; there is an article about the Southern Region's Youth Table Tennis; there is a write-up about the Kingfisher Club Championships; there are detailed reports about the *Grand Prix* tournaments; there are articles from Brian Halliday and Niall McGrane; there are team listings for next season; there are details of Paul Beck's latest exploits; the weekday morning "Clubs" are explained; there is yet another wonderful *Sneakles* cartoon from Gwynne, and there is a résumé of the recent Kingfisher AGM complete with the all-important Coaching Report by Nick Heaps. You will find a quiz kindly sent in from Ipswich table tennis player Jim Farrow and also a wonderful photograph of a goose-stepping player from London. Intrigued yet? Please read on...

Last to be mentioned, but possibly the best of all, is a wonderfully humorous story by Mark Banks. This boy is wasted as a *Hibu* manager or even as a table tennis player. He is witty, man, witty! When you get to his stuff – enjoy!

But, sadly – and I make no apologies for this whatsoever – we start with the obituaries... Ed.

Sylvia Bruton

eulogies.

I have received three eulogies from Sylvia's funeral. They are all very poignant. Sylvie will be sadly missed by all of us – but especially by Allan.

I have also received a letter from Allan, addressed to all members of the Kingfisher TTC and this appears after the

From Allan

I have a few words which I hope I can deliver today. Please forgive me if I fail to make the grade; this is the hardest thing I have ever had to do.

Sylvia, my wife, so dreadfully missed already by us – her family and friends. I do suspect, however, that after giving over 50 years' administrative service to table tennis she just might be missed by a few of our colleagues and acquaintances within our sport.

I was never overtly affectionate and, like many men no doubt, never told her I loved her half as often as I could and should have done, but I so did.

Sylvia was a woman of the old school, strong, sometimes forthright, very often outspoken, but totally honest, caring and loyal to her family and friends. I had a somewhat chequered past when she took me on, but took me on she did and she has kept me in my place, cleverly, but firmly on occasion, for 36 years. A free rein could have perhaps have seen my downfall in those early days.

I have never been a believer, but such was the woman, my woman, I am sure that if there is a somewhere out there and she is there keeping an eye open, I shall not complain. Thank you.

From Andrew

(Andrew is Allan's son and Sylvie's stepson)

You will hear lots of words today that describe Sylvie, all of them together tell you how special a person Sylvie was to so many people. As I thought about what I would say today about Sarah, Mark and I arriving into a new family whether it was weekends or fulltime, going on holidays, sitting down to proper dinners every Sunday, Sylvie was always at the heart of everything.

As for me I was not the best of teenagers yet Sylvie was always there. She never asked me to leave, and she was always around as I got older and failed to learn from my mistakes.

So I thought about my last conversation with Sylvie which was to say "Happy Birthday Mum" and I realised that there it was – the one word that I could use to best describe Sylvie... Mum



From Ady

(Ady is Sylvie's son-in-law)

unexpected news. Not the best way to start your holiday, but we did have an impromptu afternoon to chat about, and raise a glass or three (or was that a bottle, Elaine?) to such a wonderful lady.

I know Sylvia would have appreciated so many of you being here to say your farewells and to support her family during this very sad time. For those of you who are still trying to work out who I am, I am Ady, the son-in-law soldier Sylvia warned Gill about all those years ago.

I promised Allan, Gill and Andrew that I would say a few words about a devoted wife and a loving mother, even though, I, as a mourner, will have a hard time doing so. I will muster all the strength I have to say those words the way she deserves to be remembered. I can hear Sylvia saying, "Allan are you really letting him do this?!!!!!"

To be honest the words I am going to say are not all mine, but are from her daughter Gill and son Andrew.

Our memories of Mum are almost all happy ones. When we were little our weekends consisted of running riot at table tennis tournaments (some of you may remember this) while Mum and Dad played the sport they loved, a sport she only stopped playing recently.



As we got older we remember numerous holidays abroad when she made sure fun was the number one priority for us. Some of those were in the old VW camper van and again some of you here will also have happy memories of her on those holidays.

When Andrew had his accident she was totally committed to caring for him but, while she was committed to his recovery 24/7, she still found the time to make me feel loved and never left out. She was so strong during that time.

During the unhappy time in our lives when our Dad passed away she hid her own grief and made sure we still felt loved and wanted. Again her strength pulled us through such a horrible time.

Then she met Allan, the unhappy Mum faded and she started smiling; she was happy again. So we have Allan to thank for bringing the Mum we knew and loved back to us.

She loved us, Allan, all her grandchildren, her extended family, table tennis and gardening, the latter keeping her busy most days.

She was strong, loving, caring and fun. I never met anyone who didn't like her and she was so kind that I never heard her say a bad word about anybody.

We didn't have many differences of opinion but when we did we had to agree to disagree because she always said I was stubborn and now I know who I inherited it from. Thanks. Mum!

She didn't always like the choices I made in my life but she never judged. She was just always there to support and be there for me if things fell apart.

More recently, when I was diagnosed with my illnesses, she was devastated but again she has been strong for me and always looked after me, being selfless and never showing her feelings in case she upset me. I love her for that.

Andrew and I both want to say thank you for being the best Mum; we love you and not a day will go by when we don't think of you.

Bye Mum x

Re :Sylvia Bruton

From Allan

This message is for the many Kingfisher members who have sent touching tributes by both post and email.

Many, many thanks from me and our family; they have been greatly appreciated and have brought a great deal of solace at this very difficult time.

We were so pleased to see so many of our table tennis friends at the crematorium; it showed the depth of affection that Sylvia was held in. We are sorry that we could not invite everyone afterwards to send her off, but with a large extended family it would have been impossible.

We can but say "thank you" for remembering and hope that a little of that remembrance stays with you as it will with us.

I have personally spent the time since Sylvia passed going through our many photo albums finding pictures to build up a gallery for our friends to look at. During this search it brought to mind a saying that older players would remember which is “punching above your weight”. Well, going through all those photo’s back to 1977 I discovered that I was well and truly “punching above my weight” when Sylvia and I got together. Sylvia was a very attractive widow when we first met; what she saw in me I have still to figure out, but we spent 36 happy years together and she will be missed so very much every single day.

In conclusion I repeat, my thanks for your tributes; they mean a lot.

Allan Bruton

From Gwynne

I was so saddened to hear about Sylvia. Although I have only known her a short while, she encouraged and inspired me at table tennis and made me feel very welcome at the club. She had a great sense of humour and I always enjoyed chatting with her. When we started our Bracknell league season last September Sylvia had just had an eye operation, but she played in our first match – the first ever league match for both me and David. Despite “seeing double” due to her eye problems, she won two of her matches, saving us from a whitewash at Broadmoor. I wish I had known her longer, but I am glad that I had the opportunity to meet her. She was an exceptional person, and will be hugely missed.

Gwynne

Geoff Davis

I have tried to find someone who knew Geoff well enough to write a fitting tribute about the ex-Reading Division 1 player but, so far, without success. I am hopeful, however, that someone may come forward in time for Issue 73 of the *Kingfisher News*.

And so the following is simply made up of my own thoughts about Geoff, with the help of Colin and (believe it or not) of one of my wife’s friends.

I still do not know the cause of Geoff’s demise. Rumours abound; I have heard that he died of a heart attack – and I have also heard a rumour that he injured himself in a bout of karate, resulting in a blood clot that hit somewhere fatal. The most likely story, though, is that he collapsed while acting as ground crew for a balloon flight and that his wife Carol, as far as we know the only female balloon pilot in Ireland, landed and tried to resuscitate him without success.



Which does, of course, mean that the first two possibilities are still possibilities. Whatever the cause, it is all very, very sad.

Having reached the age of 60 in January this year, Geoff was far, far too young to leave us. When someone as young and as fit as Geoff departs, it brings home thoughts of our own mortality. But I am being gloomy. Geoff, so full of life and fun, would not, I am sure, wish us to be morbid. And so I should like to dwell on the fun side of Geoff’s life – subject to my limited recollections.

I remember, when I played on the same Reading table tennis team as Geoff, that he had special T-shirts made for us all. On the back of each one, in large letters, was the word “NID” – an acronym, of course. NID stood for “Never In Doubt”, a phrase that Geoff often used when one of us had won by the closest of margins in the third end (those were the days of “21-up”). Above the letters “NID” were Geoff’s nicknames for us all. I’m afraid that I cannot remember the others’, but I do know that my own was “Roger Woolly-Armpit”! I don’t know what the weekly opposition made of us!

I remember going, with Cap’n Chris Basden and a whole bunch of idiotic Kingfisher members, to Sweeney Todds’s Pie Emporium in Reading’s Castle Street, to celebrate my own 50th birthday. I really don’t know how we weren’t slung out. Geoff had composed a song about Roger Woolly-Armpits, sung to the tune of “Good King Wenceslas” and this motley crew of table tennis players, who would only ever aspire to whispering when singing a hymn, bellowed out the words at the top of its collective voice! I have this sheet somewhere and I shall do my best to lay my hands on it for a future newsletter.

While we were imbibing at Sweeney Todds, someone noticed a beautiful picture of a kingfisher, hanging on the wall. While one of our members was away visiting the loo, the picture was discreetly (but not discreetly enough) removed from the wall and, upon this chap’s return, he was presented with the picture along with many congratulatory words for his performance in the previous season.

"I hope he's not running off with that," said the lady waitress, who had observed the whole thing.

Geoff was undoubtedly a "Mr Fix-It". He knew that my father had been killed when his Mosquito fighter-bomber was shot down during World War II – and he also knew that one of my ambitions was to take to the air in a two-seater aeroplane. Now one of Geoff's pals owned a 1929 Pietenpol Air Camper (to give it its full name) and he arranged for me to sit in this as passenger and fly from the airfield to Caversham Park (thereby seeing my own home from not much above roof-height!) and back. The experience was one of the very best of my life! I wore one of my dad's flying jackets – you know, the leather thing with woolly linings and more woolly bits around the collar (Woolly-Armpits, maybe?) that are often seen in war films – and off we went. The cost? I bought Geoff a beer and a baguette at a pub on the way home.



Quite a few years ago, Geoff moved from Reading to Okehampton in Devon and, I believe, he was instrumental in the setting up of a brand new and now well-known table tennis centre in that town. Later he moved to Ireland where, with his new wife Carol, he set up a bed-and-breakfast business in Crosserlough in Ireland's County Cavan.

Geoff loved sport of all sorts. I remember running in several Reading Half Marathons with him; he loved ballooning (owning two or three of these enormous things) and, of course, he was very partial to a game of table tennis!

I shall end with an extract from a letter written to wifey Lin by one of her old office friends. This friend, Jan Stubbs, moved away to Sheffield three years ago but, by sheer coincidence, when she lived in Reading, she was Geoff's next door neighbour.

"Dear Linda, I was shocked and saddened to hear the news of Geoff's death. Do you know the reason yet? He was such a good neighbour and looked after communal things when he was a member of our residents' committee.

"I recall the time we were having problems with motorists parking their cars in our private parking area and then going off to work in town. Geoff had printed, on VERY sticky paper, a notice informing the offenders that they were on private property and not to park there again. They never did once Geoff had stuck the A4 notices on the each windscreen – on the driver's side! The car owners were obliged to spend about two hours trying to scrape off the offending notices before they could see where they were going! I did say that it was VERY sticky paper!

"Geoff had a daughter who was a talented singer – he once played me a tape of her singing – did she go on to make it a career? Love Jan."

The daughter that Jan refers to is Hannah and, I agree, she was and is very talented. Geoff's elder daughter Laura got married last year in Bristol Cathedral (yup, really!) and she was, and probably still is, a highly skilled tennis player. As most of you will know, Geoff's "ex", Linda, mother of Laura and Hannah, still plays table tennis in the Reading League.

And that, I'm afraid, is about all that I can come up with. I do know that Geoff's brother Bob (whom many of you will also know) is now in Dartmoor Prison at Princetown, Devon. But no, no! Bob is not a felon; I believe that he works there as a fitness instructor.

Goodbye, o fun-loving Geoff; the table tennis world will miss you enormously, but it will also remember you with great affection. (Roger)

Eva Foster

I never played with or against Eva Foster, but I do know that, despite having such a famous exponent in her husband Bert, she was a highly-skilled and successful table tennis player in her own right. Derek Harrison has kindly supplied me with some statistics that support this, without a doubt. Eva and Bert have two wonderful daughters and, although I rarely meet Denise nowadays, I sometimes come into contact with Sue. Sue is a nurse at the Royal Berkshire hospital and we bump into each other in the course of her work. Here I have to confess to being the patient that she could probably well do without!

I was honoured to become Bert's last regular doubles partner. Bert won many doubles titles with his previous partners Pete Stafford and Dave Jones, but the Bert/Roger partnership, as far as I can remember, failed to win anything. I can't for the life of me work out where the weakness lay... But, if you will allow me to blow my own trumpet, with just a tiny bit of help from Bert, I did manage to take quite a few unexpected scalps. All right, all right, Bert managed to take quite a few unexpected scalps, despite his partner...

At Eva's funeral, before we entered the service area, Trevor Organ said to me, "I can hear magpies and blackbirds. It sounds as though they're actually inside the building."

Trevor was right – to an extent. There were no actual birds jumping around the pews but, as we made our way to the our seats, background “music” of birdsong was being played. Later on I asked Sue the reason for this and she told me that her Mum just loved her garden and the birds that came with the territory.

Below you will find the eulogy read out by the vicar at the funeral, a few extra comments from Derek Harrison about Eva and, at the end, the article written for the R&DTTA newsletter about Bert, written by Derek.



Both Eva and Bert were wonderful ambassadors for our sport and, even though today’s youngsters are unlikely to remember them, we old-timers most certainly do. They will long be remembered – with great affection. Ed.

Eva's Eulogy

Eva was born in 1934 in Eltham, London, one of eleven children. She was mother to

Denise and Sue, grandmother to Alex and Richard and great-grandmother to Lewis & Marcus.

Eva was a sporty type of girl; she ran for London Borough (White City) and she was an all rounder when it came to sport.

At the age of 17 she was a seamstress down the Old Kent Road, which came in handy when her children arrived as she made many of the clothes for the girls.

Eva’s evenings were taken up with teaching gymnastics at night school. She met Bert, her future husband, at Kings Park School’s Evening Institution where Eva was played tennis and Bert played both table tennis and tennis. Eva and Bert also enjoyed ballroom dancing together as Bert was training to be a dance teacher.

Eva and Bert were married in 1954 and moved to Reading, where she joined her husband in playing table tennis and tennis at the Woodlands Club in Tilehurst.

Eva’s best season was 1966-67 when she made a clean sweep at the Reading & District Championships winning the Ladies’ Singles, the Ladies’ Doubles and the Mixed Doubles with Bert.

Eva also had many happy evenings when she indulged in Tenpin Bowling with Bert and Denise playing in the same team.

Eva was a keen angler and with daughter Denise won the first ever Ladies’ team competition held by the NFA,. Following in the family tradition Eva’s younger daughter Sue took up fishing again after taking a long break and Sue has now replaced Eva in the fishing team. Eva fished for many years, only giving up in 2008 to look after Bert.

Eva was in her element when Alex gave birth to Lewis, her first great-grandson, spending many happy hours watching his antics as he started to walk and talk. Eva’s second great-grandson Marcus, was born to Richard and Ali eight months ago and the process started all over again, making her last few months very happy ones.



From Derek Harrison

FURTHER TABLE TENNIS STATISTICS

As far as Eva is concerned I gave Sue the information read out at the service. I should, however, like to both confirm and to enlarge on this.

During the 1966/67 season Eva won the ladies’ singles and the mixed doubles with Bert. She also won the ladies’ doubles with Vera Harmsworth. The two girls repeated this the following season.

In 1969/70 Eva finished with an average of 59% in Reading’s Division 3 and, in 1977/78 she finished with an average of 73% in Division 4B.

But her best season was in 1978/79 when she finished top of the averages in 4A with a wonderful 85%.

I have to say that both Bert and Eva were great and, back in the 70s, I had the great honour to play in the same team as Bert in the Newbury League’s Division 1. In one particular match, with Colin Finden also on the team, I actually managed to win one match and this resulted in our winning 6-4.

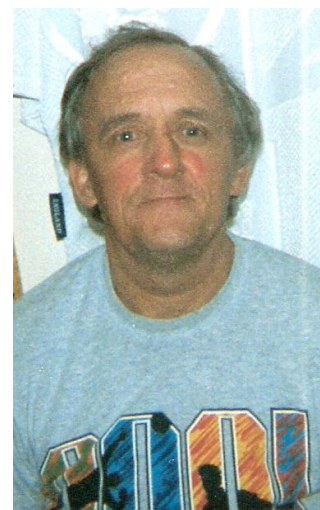
From Derek Harrison

(The following has been extracted from the R&DTTA newsletter, issue dated December 2011. The author is Derek Harrison [pictured], whom many of you will know. Derek has been a stalwart table tennis administrator for many years now and he is still DFS for Division 4 of the Reading League. Ed.)

On behalf of the Reading Association I would like to pen this tribute to Bert Foster (pictured below). Bert Foster died on the 17th April 2011. Besides being a good TT player Bert was the model sportsman who always played the game in a fair and correct manner and he was liked by everyone who crossed his path. Besides playing in the local leagues, Bert played for Reading and also for the County. He won many titles including the Reading



Closed once, the men's doubles five times and the mixed doubles twice, once with Eva in 1966/67. He also won the veterans' singles and the senior veterans' singles twice. He won the men's doubles in the Berkshire closed five times and the veterans' singles once. He served on the Reading committee for seven years, taking on Divisional Fixtures Secretaries' jobs, Intertown Secretary and League Registration Secretary. The information in this part of this tribute was kindly given to me by Colin Dyke. Bert first started playing in the Reading League when he played for Simmonds Brewery before moving to Woodlands when his team won the Division 1 title eight years in a row. After that he joined the Post Office which, at the time, was a mid-table team but Bert soon altered that by helping his new squad win the Championship in 1969/1970 and 1970/1971 – and again in 1974/1975. I was the Division 1 DFS that season and so I watched some of the matches. Later Bert joined the new Kingfisher Club but only played for one more season before retiring from the sport. However Bert then joined the Kingfisher Committee and was the Club's President for five years – giving much encouragement to the

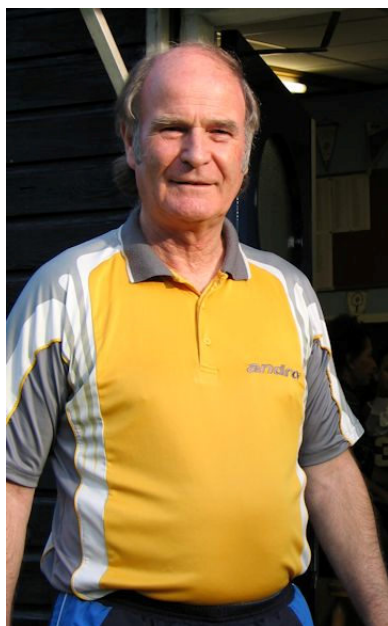


younger players. What a career! Bert, you will be sadly missed.

Chairman's Report

the news that our clubhouse was to be re-located and since then we have been “busy-busy” – to say the least. More of that later though.

I have to hold my hand up and apologise for not giving a report since the December 2012 Issue (No 68). It was a few days after that issue was published that we received



Firstly our thoughts are with the families of Sylvia Bruton, Geoff Davis and Eva Foster, whose untimely passings have been a shock to us all. Geoff and Eva were club members for many years and were always cheerful and had a good word for everybody. Sylvia, however, was more than a playing member. She worked tirelessly for this Club right up to the end of last season and, even then, until a few weeks ago, was handing on her special knowledge to people who were taking over some of her jobs. I'm sure Roger will have done them justice elsewhere in this issue but for the sake of repeating him, we shall all badly miss them.

Sylvia first came on to the committee as Hon General Secretary in 1998 a task which she carried out for nine years. After that she was instrumental in getting us established as a Premier Club and did a massive amount of work and research to get us the Club Mark Accreditation. After that she worked outside the committee fulfilling many important tasks such as Local League Play Co-ordinator, Contact for Premier Club and Club Mark, Reading League Contact and Volunteer Co-ordinator. And all of this on top of her many tasks for RCBTTA and Bracknell Association.

Following on from this we have been fortunate to have some excellent volunteers to take over those jobs for the Club and I am most grateful to Gwynne and Lisa for volunteering. I'm sure Roger will have mentioned this elsewhere in somewhat more detail.

Now back to our re-location. It is all still going really well at the moment and hopefully there will be a lot more information in the next newsletter. The last bulletin I issued in March still summarises the position except that many of the details have been progressed quite substantially. We anticipate that the transition will be seamless and our expectation should be to move during the first half of the season rather than the second half. I have had one or two queries as to whether the new venue will still be value for the subs we pay. From the information we have at the moment the answer is a resounding yes. I would like to record my thanks to Peter, Nick and Allen who have worked really hard with me to bring all of this together with the full backing of the committee.

In anticipation of our move the Committee have agreed some changes with a view to making us a more streamlined Club. Local League matches will now be limited to two tables each night, with the remaining tables available for practice. Our Hon General Secretary reports on this elsewhere.

We are currently sorting out all the British and National League entries and have agreed some different criteria on which selection is based. More news on teams later.

On the subject of local league teams, it was good to see our Reading A team wearing their team kit when representing the Club in their winning season. I hope more members will encourage their team to obtain Club Shirts and thus promote the club good name and image. They certainly seem to be of good quality and everyone I have spoken to is pleased with them. More details of these later.

Finally, if you have any questions or ideas to make the Club a better place or have any ideas about what you would like to see in our new facility, I trust you will come along or contact me either by email colindyke@waitrose.com or by phone 0118 9783770.

(Colin Dyke, Chairman, Kingfisher TTC, 23rd June 2013)

Southern Region

YOUTH TABLE TENNIS HARD WORK IS PAYING OFF...

It was the first Regional Squads Championships for the Southern Region Coach, Aled Howell, but he was up for it!

On the 21st April the annual Regional Squad Championships took place in Doncaster at the Dome. The event saw all ten regions of England come together and battle it out for the title. For the very first time the Eastern Region won the event and were crowned regional champions of England for 2013.

The Southern Region Team, playing in a strong group against East Midlands, Eastern, London and North East, was trying to finish in a better position than last year's seventh place. With the help of coaches Charlie Childs, Alison Broe, Rod and Sara McMullan, and Bradley King, the team started well with a draw against East Midlands. Next opponents, and eventual winners of the competition, Eastern region, did not give the Southern team many chances and closed the match with a strong 8-4 win. Despite these two results, both matches could have gone the Southern Region way. It was time for some motivational speech! With a break in our hands, Aled gathered the group and let everybody know that he believed they could do better; it was just a question of the right preparation before the matches! Allegedly, there were tears from some of the other coaches and players after this inspirational talk! And the team did not disappoint: a very good performance against last year's champions, London, and a 7-5 win, which would prove crucial. The last match against North East could see us through in second place in the group. We ended the match with a draw and tied in second place with London. But that good win put us ahead of them. We were going for third place! The match was against North West but despite a brave effort from all Southern players, we could not match their quality and finished overall in an excellent 4th place. A big thank you goes to all coaches and parents for the support during the day, but particularly to all players, for their behaviour, team spirit and, more importantly, good effort!

In these prestigious championships, the following players represented the Southern Region:

UNDER-15 BOYS: Jimmy Yeung, Leo Long and Joshua Gallen.

UNDER-15 GIRLS: Letitia McMullan and Kristelle Brook.

UNDER-13 BOYS: Matthew Daish, Artur Caltabiano and Jonathan McMullan.

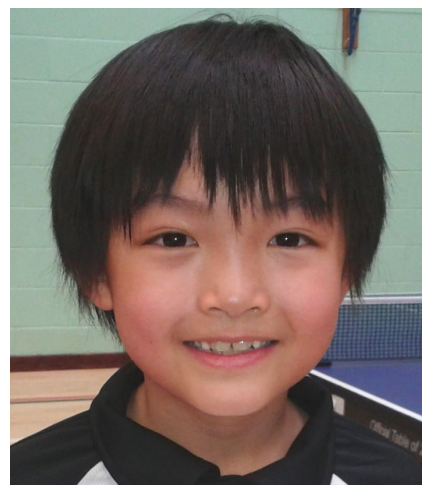
UNDER-13 GIRLS: Amy Blagbrough and Shristi Gosh.

UNDER-11 BOYS: Jamie Liu (pictured) and Reece Chamdal.

UNDER-11 GIRLS: Katie Holt and Habina Seo.

RESULTS:

1. Eastern
2. Yorkshire
3. North West
4. **Southern**
5. London
6. South East
7. East Midlands
8. West Midlands
9. North East
10. South West



(I am indebted to Aled Howell, Antonio Caltabiano and Lisa Williams for their help in compiling the above article. Ed.)

Club Championships

At the end of April and the beginning of May this year, the Club held its annual championships. These were organised and run by Eric Van Looy – and an excellent job he made of it, too! I am sure that I can speak for the vast majority of the participants when I say that a great time was had by all.

Unfortunately, some of the results subsequently “went missing” but, between us, Eric and I have managed to cobble together the following data. Congratulations to all the winners and “jolly hard luck” to the rest of us... (Ed.)

OPEN SINGLES:

Quarter-Finals: Hari Gehlot bt Geoff Civil 12-10 11-9 11-1; Eric Van Looy bt Leo Long 11-8 11-7 11-8; Daniel Moses bt Andy Parker 11-9 11-3 11-6; Roger Woolven-Allen bt Stuart Williams 11-8 11-8 12-14 10-12 11-8.

Semi-Finals: Gehlot bt Van Looy 10-12 11-5 11-5 11-4; Moses bt Woolven-Allen 11-3 11-0 13-11.

Final: Moses bt Gehlot 11-5 11-8 8-11 11-7.

HANDICAP:

Quarter-Finals: Tony Reynolds (-15) bt Bradley King (-12) 21-16 20-22 24-22; Eric Van Looy (-12) bt Dave Duncan (-3) 21-16 21-19; Sandra Shepherd (+8) bt Roger Woolven-Allen (-7) 17-21 21-17 21-19; Leo Long (-7) bt Andy Yon (-7) 19-21 21-11 21-17.

Semi-Finals: Reynolds(-15) bt Van Looy (-12) 19-21 21-18 21-13; Long (-7) bt Shepherd (+8) 21-16 21-16.

Final: Long (-7) bt Reynolds (-15) 2-0 (details unknown).

RESTRICTED SINGLES:

Quarter-Finals: Trevor Organ bt Michael Houghton 12-10 11-9 11-8; Wendy Porter bt Allen Pack 11-4 7-11 11-7 4-11 11-9; Ivor Hardman bt Clare Woodham 11-8 11-6 11-6; Leo Long bt Dave Gostelow 11-3 11-1 (remaining details unknown).

Semi-Finals: Organ bt Porter 3-0 (details unknown); Long bt Hardman 3-0 (details unknown).

Final: Long bt Organ 3-1 (details unknown).

VETERANS' SINGLES: (two “round robin” events):

Group 1: Hari Gehlot, Trevor Organ, Colin Dyke and Geoff Civil. The players finished in that order.

Group 2: Nick Heaps, Richard Fifield and Peter Bradley. The players finished in that order.

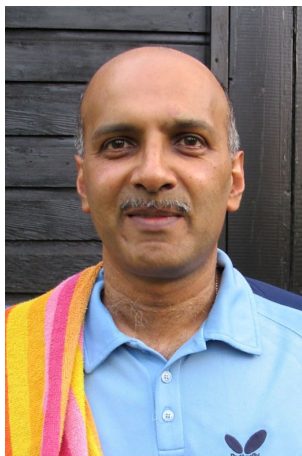


Semi-Finals: Gehlot bt Organ 3-0; Heaps bt Fifield.

Final: Gehlot bt Heaps 3-1.

LADIES' SINGLES: (one "round robin" event):

Wendy Porter, Lisa Williams and Clare Woodham. The players finished in that order.



From Peter Charters

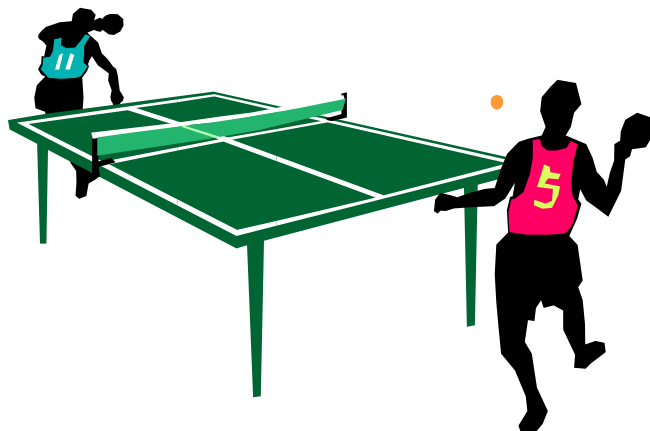
League and Practice at Kingfisher

It was agreed at a recent Committee Meeting that, as of the start of next league season, Reading and Bracknell League matches will be played on five days a week (Monday to Friday) but on two tables only. This will always leave the other two (or three) tables free for any member to practise on those five evenings.

As there will now be two (or three) tables available for practice on five evenings a week, the 20-minute play period, whilst other players are waiting, will be increased to 40 minutes.

I hope that this new arrangement works out well for all members.

Peter Charters (Secretary)



New Club Officials

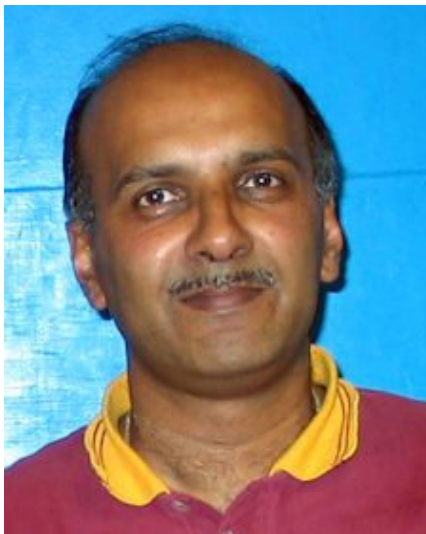
announced, there were quite a few vacancies that simply had to be filled. No League Co-ordinator, no league positions, no table tennis. That sort of thing. As simple as that.

It was therefore quite wonderful when Colin managed to find three volunteers to fill many of the gaps. Whether our Chairman had something on them, or whether he threatened to send the boys round, I do not know. Suffice it that their arrival is very, very welcome and I am sure that I speak for everyone "wot does fings" when I offer a huge heartfelt welcome to the gang.

Gwynne Penny has taken on the roles of League Play Co-ordinator, Reading League Secretary, Bracknell League Secretary and Committee Member, while Hari Gehlot is the new Bookings Secretary. Lisa Williams is the Club's new Premier Club Contact and Clubmark Contact.

Allan and Sylvia Bruton had decided to stand down from their massive (and highly appreciated) combined administrative work for the Kingfisher Club before tragedy struck. And so, at the AGM, when the Brutons' forthcoming departure was

Sincere thanks to all three of you! I am sure that the entire membership appreciates, and will appreciate, both your help and your hard work. (Ed.)



(A thorn between two roses, if ever I saw one... Ed.)

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS FOR KINGFISHER MEMBERS

(By Brian Halliday)

Maria Tsaptinos of the Kingfisher Table Tennis Club has been selected to represent England in the European Youth Championships in Ostrava, Czech Republic. She will link up with Tin Tin Ho, Lois Peake, and Emily Bolton for the Junior Team event which runs from 12th to 16th July. She will then compete in the Individual Championships which are scheduled from 17th to 21st July.



Maria, who is busy with exams at the Abbey School at present, will be in action for England in the Schools Invitation event in the Isle of Man from 28th to 30th June. She will be Number 1 for the Girls' Under 16s alongside Emily Bolton, Amy Humphreys, and Yuki Wat. They will compete against teams from Guernsey, Jersey, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. There is massive incentive for all the players as first rate performances could lead to selection for the forthcoming World School Games in France.

Preparations are already in hand for the major events for the new season starting in September and Maria has accepted an invitation to play in the Men's British League for the OLOP Club of Reading. She may also play for the Middlesbrough based club, Ormesby, in the Women's British League, as well as

her own Kingfisher Club in the Junior British League. Here she will team up with her close friend, and England Junior Number 1, Tin Tin Ho (pictured here with Maria).

Liam McTiernan, who plays for the OLOP club in the Reading League, has been selected to represent England in the Isle of Man event.



(Note: The second picture shows Liam, Maria and some chap that I go shopping with in Tesco. Ed.)

From Niall

thought I would share. Each week, at the same venue, the two-man teams are paired up and play two singles and then a possible deciding doubles. If you cannot commit to a team for the duration you can register as a sub to be used by any team on an “as and when” basis. There is a big gap in capability but inevitably the cream rises to the top!! Maybe it's something to look at for Reading, hosted by the wonderful facilities of Kingfisher?

Best regards, *Niall*

Hey, everyone! In the unlikely event that you're interested, I had a chat with Niall about the pronunciation of his Christian name. And, as a self-proclaimed “good Catholic boy”, Niall should know!

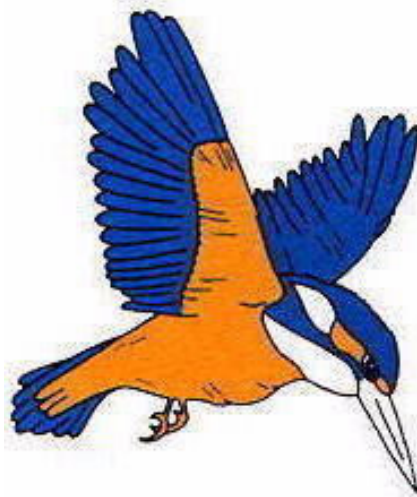
“Niall” is pronounced “Kneel” – without exception. You and I, however, probably know, or have heard of, many Nialls whose names are pronounced “Nile” (as in the Egyptian River). Where did this come from? you may ask.

According to Niall, who understands these things, it was the English that invented the pronunciation “Nile”. Everyone on the other side of the Irish Sea was quite happy with “Kneel” but the English, who possessed their own “Neil” already, thought that “Niall” should be pronounced differently – and subsequently invented the pronunciation “Nile”, which stuck!

And so it is OUR fault! All “Nialls” are “Kneels” and if you call any of them “Nile”, you are completely wrong!

Of course, this could be a load of old Blarney. Niall is an Irishman, without doubt, and he could be having me on! But what do YOU think? (Ed.)

PS: If Niall finds the *Grands Prix* “a little bit hot”, please spare a thought for the participants who, like me, are a million miles below Niall, let alone the even better players! (Ed.)



KINGFISHER TABLE TENNIS CLUB

THE KINGFISHER
2013

GRAND PRIX

Sponsored by:

TEES SPORT
Specialists in Table Tennis Since 1976

The *Kingfisher Grand Prix* series, sponsored by *Tees Sport*, started on **Monday 13th May**. The tournaments will take place every Monday until, and including, **Monday 29th July**.

The entry fee per session is 50p per player.

The **Grand Prix** sessions are open to ALL playing members of the Kingfisher TTC .

Monetary prizes and trophies will be awarded to the players who finish the series in overall first, second and third places. Trophies will also be awarded to those who finish top in various other categories.

- - - - -
You will find, below, various *Grand Prix* articles that I have submitted to the *Reading Post*. The actual printed stories may not be quite the same as those shown; sometimes, due to space considerations and restrictions, the newspaper's Sports Editor, David Wright, has to edit! I can't argue with that – it is his job, after all...
- - - - -

Tournament 1

In a virtual carbon copy of both the 2011 and 2012 first Kingfisher *Grand Prix* tournaments, the final match of the inaugural 2013 evening saw Hari Gehlot again defeat the 19-year-old superstar, Daniel Moses.

But, in both previous years, Moses went on to win the overall Championships. Gehlot is determined not to let this happen for a third year in a row!

Gehlot, from Reading's Hamilton Road, came back from two ends down to win the match by three games to two. The fifth and deciding end could not have been any closer, with Gehlot ending up victorious by 12 points to 10.

The 2013 Kingfisher *Grand Prix* Championships, arguably the greatest and most prestigious out-of-season table tennis event in the South of England, are under way. The series was created by the Kingfisher Chairman, Colin Dyke, some 22 years ago – and is still going from strength to strength.

It is interesting to note that some of the competitors – and some of the very best competitors at that – were not even born when Dyke started the Championships back in 1991. And these youngsters are defeating the older, County-class veterans more and more frequently.

Woodley's 14-year-old Daniel McTiernan beat one of Lancashire's very best players, Steve Dobbins, 12-10 11-6 11-7, while 13-year-old Gus Thomis defeated the Tilehurst veteran Trevor Organ in a five-end thriller 6-11 11-7 11-7 9-11 11-5. Organ, renowned for his lob defence played from some thirty feet behind the table, could not completely control the teenager's awesome attacking play.

14-year-old Daniel McTiernan took out the top Belgian player, Eric Van Looy, in three straight games 12-10 11-8 11-9, while Wokingham's Josh Gallen, also aged 14, beat the Polish star Richard Rosinski in four ends 11-6 11-8 9-11 11-9 before going on to despatch Basingstoke's top player Tony Reynolds, again in four ends, at the quarter-final stage.

Another 14-year-old, Leo Long from Newbury, defeated Caversham Park veteran Roger Woolven-Allen 11-8 11-9 11-7 before dishing out similar treatment to the top Tilehurst lady player Wendy Porter. The youngster took out his female opponent by the scoreline of 11-7 11-7 11-7.

But Hari Gehlot is in another league and the youngsters are not yet quite ready to challenge the Indian star. But, as time marches on, so the teenagers' abilities increase – and not even Gehlot is immortal.

The final of the first consolation event was won by Stockport's Steve Dobbins, who defeated Basingstoke's Andy Parker in three straight games 14-12 11-7 11-5.



Results of Tournament 1:

Quarter Finals: Joshua Gallen bt Tony Reynolds 12-10 4-11 11-4 12-10; Daniel Moses bt Leo Long 11-4 11-7 11-5; Daniel McTiernan bt Lisa Williams 11-8 11-9 11-7; Hari Gehlot bt Gus Thomis 11-9 11-4 11-6.

Semi Finals: Gehlot bt McTiernan 11-5 11-7 11-6; Moses bt Gallen 11-4 11-8 11-7.

Final: Gehlot bt Moses 10-12 9-11 11-3 11-7 12-10.

Grand Prix Points after Tournament 1: Gehlot 138, Moses 99, McTiernan 70, Gallen 66, Dobbins 64, Reynolds 53, Parker 51, Long 49, Thomis 45, L Williams 42, Rosinski 41, Van Looy 31, Fifield 31, Porter 30, King 30, Bennett 28, Caliman 26, Organ 25, Yon 24, Woolven-Allen 21, Duncan 20, Heaps 20, McGrane 20, Gostelow 18, S Williams 17, Taylor 15, Dorrington 15, Wedi 0.

(Roger Woolven-Allen, for the Reading Post, 17th May 2013)

(The above photograph, taken by Didier Garçon, shows Hari Gehlot performing a high-toss serve.)

Personal Thoughts

and operation. Apart from (and because of) these two chaps, everyone else had a clear run and could concentrate completely on playing table tennis. And, from a personal point of view, all the calculations needed for my press and newsletter reports were done for me. Great stuff, fellers!

I am sure that the other players (the youngsters in particular) will agree with me when I say “many thanks indeed” to Andy Yon for providing such superb refreshments while these tournaments are in progress.

It is also a pleasant task to say “welcome” to the following members who have joined in the *Grand Prix* competitions for the very first time: Gus Thomis, Andy Parker and Eduard Caliman.

I must admit that I felt a little upset when I lost to Leo Long. The fact that he is a better player than I am is, in my opinion, totally irrelevant. I was playing *ping* more than 50 years before he was born! Mind you, there is a knock-on financial advantage; Frank and Ellie are now off my Christmas card list.

While I was watching the final of the consolation event between the attacker Andy Parker and the defender Steve Dobbins, it was interesting to see how Andy struggled against Steve’s dogged yet brilliant returns. But Andy is a great player, too, and, occasionally, he managed to break through. After one such point, Steve came out with an interesting expletive. I raised a quizzical eyebrow and Hari, sitting next to me, noticed my reaction.

“That’s Manchester-speak for ‘good shot’,” he explained.

Firstly, I am VERY impressed with Andy Parker’s new *Excel* gizmo. Andy (pictured), ably assisted by Eric Van Looy, made light work of the first session’s running



Tournament 2

Sport, 14-year-old Daniel McTiernan swept all aside as he romped home to victory. Indeed, throughout the event, the Woodley teenager did not concede a single game – and that included his final match of the evening against chart-topper Hari Gehlot.

To reach this latest final, McTiernan first of all met and defeated Reading veteran Dave Gostelow 11-5 11-6 11-7, before beating the top Tilehurst lady player, Wendy Porter. The youngster won this match 11-7 11-9 11-2 before going on to dish out similar treatment to Charvil and Berkshire veteran Nick Heaps at the quarter-final stage and to Ealing’s Bradley King in their semi-final clash.

In the final itself McTiernan, matched against Gehlot, took the first two ends by the closest of margins before running away with the third game and thereby securing overall victory.

Gehlot, however, remains on top of the leaderboard but only by 32 points – a mere bagatelle by Grand Prix standards. The future is uncertain and therefore exciting; anything could happen and it probably will.

Erstwhile second-placed man Daniel Moses fell by the wayside this week. Being obliged to play with a strange racket the teenager was easily beaten, in his quarter-final match, by the Indian star from Reading’s Hamilton Road.

The current leader in the ladies’ section of the tournament is Caversham’s Lisa Williams who, with 68 points, leads her Tilehurst rival Wendy Porter by just six points.

Having won two consolation events in a row, Stockport’s Steve Dobbins now finds himself in a potentially prize-winning third position on the leaderboard. In this latest “plate” final, Dobbins beat Wokingham’s Richard Fifield in three straight games 11-8 14-12 11-7.

The old order changeth. Well, it certainly does when it comes to the sport of table tennis.

In the second of the Kingfisher Grand Prix tournaments, sponsored by table tennis retailer *Tees*



Results of Tournament 2:

Quarter Finals: Hari Gehlot bt Daniel Moses 11-2 11-3 11-6; Leo Long bt Josh Gallen 6-11 11-8 11-7 11-5; Daniel McTiernan bt Nick Heaps 12-10 11-5 11-5; Bradley King bt Trevor Organ 12-14 11-3 8-11 11-6 11-6.

Semi Finals: Gehlot bt Long 11-6 11-3 11-6; McTiernan bt King 11-1 11-7 11-8.

Final: McTiernan bt Gehlot 13-11 11-9 11-3.

Grand Prix Points after Tournament 2: Gehlot 240, McTiernan 208, Dobbins 142, Moses 138, King 104, Long 103, Gallen 102, Parker 82, Fifield 82, Van Looy 81, Rosinski 77, L Williams 68, Porter 62, Heaps 60, Organ 57, Bennett 56, Duncan 55, Yon 55, Reynolds 53, Thomis 45, Gostelow 35, Caliman 27, Woolven-Allen 21, McGrane 20, Upham 20, S Williams 17, Dorrington 15, Taylor 15, Wedi 13.

(Roger Woolven-Allen, for the Reading Post, 26th May 2013)

(The photograph, taken by Didier Garçon, shows Daniel McTiernan about to receive service.)

Personal Thoughts

old Dave Gostelow kindly told me all about it afterwards.

By his own high standards, Daniel Moses played badly. However, Wendy Porter later told me that his performance was below par because he played with a strange bat. For some weird reason (although I have no doubt that the analysis is correct), this was all Andy Yon's fault.

Young Daniel McTiernan is going from strength to strength. I wonder if he can repeat his fine performance in the next and subsequent tournaments.

One or two of you may have noticed (although I doubt it) that there have been a few slight anomalies in the *Grand Prix* points scoring system. They made no difference whatsoever to any of the prize-winning positions and Andy Parker has now fixed things. All should be peachy-pie from now on...

Tournament 3

Well, three Grand Prix tournaments have taken place to date – and there have now been three winners. This bodes well for the anticipated excitement of the series.

Hari Gehlot from Reading's Hamilton Road won the first event; Woodley's 14-year-old boy wonder Daniel McTiernan secured the second and – in the third and latest tournament – Earley's Daniel Moses took the honours. This victory moves Moses (who won both the 2011 and 2012 overall championships) from fourth to second place on the leaderboard, some 69 points behind current chart-topper Gehlot. McTiernan has dropped from second to third place.

In the final of this third tournament, 19-year-old Moses lost the first game to his veteran opponent, Hari Gehlot, but took the second and third ends with comparative ease. Gehlot rallied to take the fourth game but the fifth and deciding end ultimately went the way of the teenager.

To reach this latest final, Moses was first of all drawn against top Frimley table tennis coach Graham Outrim. Outrim knows every aspect of the sport, and put up a spirited fight, but Moses emerged victorious by the close scoreline of 11-9 11-8 14-12. At the quarter-final stage, Moses defeated Woodley's 14-year-old rising star Joshua Gallen in three straight games before dishing out similar treatment to the veteran Polish player Andy Yon. And so to the show-down with Gehlot...

But perhaps the most interesting aspect of this third tournament was the inclusion of two youngsters from Caversham – Sam and Jamie Liu. 13-year-old Sam produced some outstanding table tennis to beat top Basingstoke and Reading Division 1 player Andy Parker. Parker could not contain the speed and agility of his young opponent and, despite a determined fight back, allowed Liu through to the next round in three straight games 12-10 11-2 16-14.



At the quarter-final stage, nine-year-old Jamie Liu took the first game away from his elder brother, but experience eventually told and Sam defeated his sibling opponent in four ends

The final of the third consolation event produced some of the best table tennis of the evening when Basingstoke's Andy Parker was matched against Frimley's Graham Outrim. The match went to the wire, with Parker eventually emerging victorious by the extremely close scoreline of 8-11 14-12 11-7 11-13 11-8.



Results of Tournament 3:

Quarter Finals: Daniel Moses bt Joshua Gallen 11-5 11-9 11-8; Andy Yon bt Sharon Mitchell 11-9 11-4 11-2; Hari Gehlot bt Leo Long 15-13 11-7 11-5; Sam Liu bt Jamie Liu 7-11 11-4 11-7 11-7.

Semi Finals: Moses bt Yon 11-5 11-5 11-3; Gehlot bt S Liu 11-8 11-7 11-2.

Final: Moses bt Gehlot 9-11 11-5 11-3 8-11 11-7.

Grand Prix Points after Tournament 3: Gehlot 33, Moses 263, McTiernan 208, Parker 158, Dobbins 147, Long 143, Gallen 141, Van Looy 122, Yon 118, L Williams 106, King 104, Rosinski 82, Fifield 82, Gostelow 71, Woolven-Allen 68, Bennett 66, S Liu 64, Porter 62, Organ 62, Heaps 60, Outrim 59, Duncan 55, Reynolds 53, Dorrington 46, Thomis 45, J Liu 40, Mitchell 34, Caliman 31, O'Keeffe 30, Upham 25, McGrane 20, Wedi 18, S Williams 17, Taylor 15.

(Roger Woolven-Allen, for the Reading Post, 1st June 2013)

(The photograph, taken by Didier Garçon, shows Daniel Moses about to serve.)

Personal Thoughts

As mentioned in the press report above, I was really impressed with the way the two Liu youngsters from Caversham played in this tournament. These two lads, Sam and Jamie,

are definitely going places!

Now no-one (if they're being honest) particularly enjoys losing and, despite my incessant tom-foolery, I am very much the same as everyone else. But who are we old timers losing to? And why do we not mind too much?

Hari Gehlot who, for many years, was (and still arguably is) top of the Kingfisher pile is finding it harder and harder to maintain his position. And it is not the veteran contingent that is troubling Hari – far from it – it is the constant stream of up-and-coming youngsters! And this is how it should be. While I still enjoy our sport immensely and, hopefully, will continue to do so for many years to come, it is also wonderful to see our kids – Kingfisher kids – doing so very, very well.

I was also very pleased to meet David O'Keeffe for the first time. David is a relative beginner but he is as keen as mustard and this is great to see. I umpired the last match of the evening (mainly 'cos that nasty Andy Parker had just stuffed me three straight in the semi-finals of the consolation event) and I couldn't help but notice that David was still there, watching intently. Wonderful enthusiasm!

Tournament 4

Kingfisher Grand Prix tournament. As it turned out, Moses did indeed win the latest event, but the 19-year-old from Earley certainly did not have things all his own way.

In his first match, Moses easily took out the promising Newbury youngster, Leo Long, 11-1 11-8 11-2 before successfully defeating top Stockport player Steve Dobbins 11-5 11-2 15-13.

At the quarter-final stage, Moses was drawn against Frimley County veteran Graham Outrim and this match also resulted in a three-straight win for the youngster. But the scores were becoming tighter...

In his semi-final match, Woodley's 14-year-old Daniel McTiernan showed that he has already become a force to be reckoned with. The younger lad pushed Moses all the way before eventually succumbing in the fifth deciding end.

In the final itself, Moses battled for the latest title against Basingstoke star Andy Parker. Moses won this match in four ends – although the last game was won by only the closest of margins – and, with it, the latest title.

With Hari Gehlot away on holiday, Daniel Moses would seem to be the odds-on favourite to take the fourth Tees Sport-sponsored



For his part, Parker first of all met and defeated Woodley's 19-year-old Michael Houghton 11-4 11-9 11-6 before also taking out Reading's Dave Gostelow in three straight games 11-4 11-3 12-10.

At the quarter-final stage, Parker was stretched to the limit by Tilehurst's Trevor Organ before going through in five exciting ends.

13-year-old Gus Thomis was Parker's challenger at the semi-final stage and this youngster is also someone to watch for the future. Thomas had already beaten the Polish star Richard Rosinski in their semi-final clash, albeit by the closest of margins, and he also took an end from Parker before allowing the Basingstoke player through to the final.

On the leaderboard, Moses's second win has pushed him well clear of Gehlot and the Earley youngster now finds himself some 59 points ahead of his Indian rival. Daniel McTiernan continues to occupy the third potential prize-winning position, but Parker, Dobbins, Van Looy, Long and Rosinski also remain well in contention.

Interest along the way saw Reading's septuagenarian Dave Gostelow defeat Caversham's top lady player, Lisa Williams, in five ends 11-6 3-11 12-10 10-12 11-9.

The final of the fourth consolation event turned out to be a victory for Basingstoke's Tony Reynolds, who beat Woodley's 14-year-old Josh Gallen in four ends 9-11 11-6 11-3 11-5.



Results of Tournament 4:

Quarter Finals: Daniel Moses bt Graham Outtrim 11-6 11-7 11-9; Daniel McTiernan bt Jamie Liu 11-9 11-8 8-11 11-5; Gus Thomis bt Richard Rosinski 10-12 11-9 11-13 11-3 11-9; Andy Parker bt Trevor Organ 11-5 12-14 6-11 12-10 11-5.

Semi Finals: Moses bt McTiernan 11-9 6-11 11-6 5-11 11-6; Parker bt Thomis 11-7 8-11 11-7 11-9.

Final: Moses bt Parker 11-4 9-11 11-9 12-10.

Grand Prix Points after Tournament 4: Moses 391, Gehlot 332, McTiernan 275, Parker 255, Gallen 197, Dobbins 174, Van Looy 166, Long 158, Rosinski 134, King 132, L Williams 131, Reynolds 125, Yon 118, Thomis 116, Gostelow 105, Organ 102, Outtrim 102, Fifield 100, S Liu 98, Bennett 98, J Liu 89, Porter 85, Duncan 80, Woolven-Allen 68, Dorrington 61, Heaps 60, Mitchell 49, Dyke 47, Caliman 31, O'Keefe 30, Upham 25, Houghton 25, McGrane 20, Wedi 18, S Williams 17, Taylor 15.

(Roger Woolven-Allen, for the *Reading Post*, 10th June 2013)

(The photograph, taken by Didier Garçon, shows Daniel Moses about to lob defend.)

Tournament 5

as recent years are concerned – seem to come down to personal battles between Daniel Moses and Hari Gehlot. Occasionally Gehlot emerges victorious but, more often than not, it is the Earley teenager who ends each competition undefeated. The evening of the fifth Grand Prix was no exception.

In a tournament where there are no seeds and the draw is random, Moses and Gehlot could meet each other at any stage. However, in the latest event, these two top players did not meet until the actual final. Moses won this last match in three straight games and, as a consequence, finds himself not only at the top of the leaderboard, but some 89 ahead of his Indian rival.

14-year-old Daniel McTiernan, who is capable of beating either of the two stars, did not play in the fifth event. The effect of this is that top Basingstoke player Andy Parker has leap-frogged the Woodley youngster. Parker now sits in the potential prize-winning third place, just 17 points ahead of McTiernan.

Caversham's Lisa Williams, situated in 14th place, is the current leader of the ladies' section, some 43 points ahead of Tilehurst's Wendy Porter, her nearest rival.

To reach this latest final, Moses first of all met and defeated Berkshire County player Nick Heaps. Moses won the first two ends easily, beating the Charvil veteran 11-5 11-4 but, in the third game, Heaps played like a man possessed and, to tumultuous applause, staved off defeat until eventually having to concede by 11 points to 13.

At the quarter-final stage, Moses had little problem against Ealing's Bradley King and the Londoner fell in three straight games.

Despite great efforts by some of the other top players, The Kingfisher Grand Prix tournaments always – or at least as far



In their semi-final, Basingstoke's Tony Reynolds took a game from the Earley teenager and only lost the fourth end by the closest of margins.

Interest along the way saw an amazing battle between two Caversham players. Top lady player Lisa Williams – still very much a youngster herself – was drawn against the octogenarian Mike Dorrington (pictured) and everyone expected to witness a comfortable victory for Williams. But the senior veteran fought every inch of the way and only succumbed in the fifth and deciding game. Williams managed to sneak victory by the scoreline of 6-11 11-6 11-2 10-12 11-7. An exhausted Dorrington left the court – and the competition – highly satisfied with his personal performance.

The final of the fifth consolation event was won by Tilehurst's Trevor Organ who defeated Polish player Andy Yon in four games 11-8 12-14 12-10 11-3.



Results of Tournament 5:

Quarter Finals: Tony Reynolds bt Josh Gallen 8-11 11-8 11-5 11-5; Daniel Moses bt Bradley King 11-6 11-0 13-11; Hari Gehlot bt Wendy Porter 11-8 11-9 11-4; Graham Outrim bt Richard Fifield 11-5 11-7 11-5.

Semi Finals: Moses bt Reynolds 11-7 6-11 11-8 12-10; Gehlot bt Outrim 11-4 7-11 11-9 11-3.

Final: Moses bt Gehlot 11-6 11-9 11-8.

Grand Prix Points after Tournament 5: Moses 513, Gehlot 424, Parker 293, McTiernan 275, Gallen 247, Long 212, Reynolds 195, Organ 179, King 179, Dobbins 174, Yon 170, Van Looy 166, Outrim 163, L Williams 161, Rosinski 155, Bennett 143, Fifield 141, Gostelow 122, Porter 118, Thomis 116, S Liu 98, Heaps 90, Woolven-Allen 90, J Liu 89, Dorrington 81, Duncan 80, Mitchell 69, O'Keeffe 55, Houghton 50, Dyke 47, Caliman 31, Upham 25, McGrane 20, Wedi 18, S Williams 17, Taylor 15.

(Roger Woolven-Allen, for the *Reading Post*, 16th June 2013)

Tournament 6

sixth TeesSport-sponsored event, Gehlot remains in second place.

Gehlot was unlucky to lose the final match of the evening, falling by the closest of margins in the first game and then taking the second with ease. But Moses hit back, taking the third end 11-8 and then the fourth by those two crucial points. This close result earned Gehlot a share of the spoils, but Moses was undoubtedly, and deservedly, the champion.

To be fair, Gehlot had the hardest draw. At the semi-final stage, he met the only player – Woodley's Daniel McTiernan – who could realistically be expected to beat either of the top two. This particular match went the distance, with Gehlot just pipping his 14-year-old opponent at the final post.

Moses had a relatively easy run to the final showdown, with perhaps his hardest match being that against Basingstoke's top player, Tony Reynolds, in one of the early rounds of the competition. Moses struggled in the first game, but ultimately went through by the scoreline of 9-11 11-6 11-7 11-8.

McTiernan has now retaken third place on the leaderboard, leap-frogging another talented Basingstoke player, Andy Parker, in the process. Because of work commitments, Parker did not attend this latest event and, as a consequence, has dropped from third to fifth place, just below another rising star – Josh Gallen. Woodley's 14-year-old Gallen reached the semi-finals before bowing out to Moses. The youngster, though, had previously taken out the top veteran Berkshire County player, Nick Heaps, in five exciting ends.

Interest along the way saw 81-year-old Mike Dorrington defeat the top Tilehurst lady player, Wendy Porter, 11-6 11-7 11-2. This was a great result for the senior veteran from Caversham.

Another particularly exciting match saw the up-and-coming Newbury youngster, Leo Long, defeat the Caversham Park veteran Roger Woolven-Allen in a tussle that went to the wire. 14-year-old Long emerged victorious by the scoreline of 11-2 9-11 11-8 8-11 11-9.

The final of the latest consolation event saw Tony Reynolds defeat Leo Long in four ends 11-5 9-11 11-8 11-7.



Results of Tournament 6:

Quarter Finals: Hari Gehlot bt Trevor Organ 11-6 11-1 11-4; Daniel McTiernan bt Bradley King 12-10 6-11 11-4 11-4; Josh Gallen bt Nick Heaps 11-2 10-12 11-5 9-11 11-7; Daniel Moses bt Gus

Thomis 11-3 8-11 11-1 14-12.

Semi Finals: Gehlot bt McTiernan 11-6 8-11 9-11 11-9 11-9; Moses bt Gallen 11-3 11-8 12-10.

Final: Moses bt Gehlot 15-13 5-11 11-8 12-10.

Grand Prix Points after Tournament 6: Moses 642, Gehlot 519, McTiernan 355, Gallen 311, Parker 293, Long 283, Reynolds 274, King 228, Organ 217, L Williams 193, Yon 190, Dobbins 184, Fifield 178, Bennett 172, Thomis 166, Van Looy 166, Outrim 163, Rosinski 155, Porter 143, Gostelow 142, Heaps 140, Woolven-Allen 121, Dorrington 109, Mitchell 99, S Liu 98, J Liu 89, Duncan 80, O'Keeffe 80, Dyke 63, Houghton 50, Caliman 31, Upham 25, Penny 25, McGrane 20, Wedi 18, S Williams 17, Taylor 15.

(Roger Woolven-Allen, for the *Reading Post*, 22nd June 2013)

(The photograph, taken by Didier Garçon, shows Basingstoke star Tony Reynolds in action.)

Tournament 7

England's Number 6 Junior table tennis star Liam McTiernan made his personal debut entrance into the Kingfisher Grand Prix Championships – and immediately took the seventh title.

But the 17-year-old Junior international did not have things all his own way. While he defeated chart-topper Daniel Moses in the latest final with apparent ease, he struggled against the veteran Hari Gehlot at the quarter-final stage. Gehlot no longer has the teenager's speed and agility, but the Indian player still possesses amazing skill. McTiernan triumphed as expected, but it took him four incredibly close games to succeed in his mission.

In his semi-final, McTiernan had to face Basingstoke's top player, Tony Reynolds, but the Hampshire star had no answer to the youngster's ferocious play and fell in three straight games.

In the final itself, where McTiernan was matched against chart-topper Daniel Moses, the spectators were hopeful for an exciting and close contest. They were disappointed; once again the Woodley youngster brushed his slightly older opponent aside.

With just one solitary tournament under his belt, McTiernan finds himself almost halfway up the leaderboard; just another couple of appearances could well change the entire table!

Earley's Daniel Moses retains his top place in the charts, some 166 Grand Prix points ahead of Hari Gehlot.

Caversham's Lisa Williams has dropped from 10th to 13th place on the leaderboard, but still remains at the top of the ladies' section and in line for the "Best Lady" award. However, Tilehurst's Wendy Porter, currently in 17th position, is only 26 points behind her rival and these two top lady players could swap positions at any time. Exciting times ahead!

Interest along the way saw the 14-year-old Woodley player, Josh Gallen, push chart-topper Moses all the way, before allowing his rival to win their personal battle 9-11 9-11 11-3 11-6 11-8. Gallen, however, remains in fourth position and, without doubt, poses a major threat to the three stars above him.

Young Gus Thomis who, at 13, is the youngest player in the championships, pushed the top Belgian player Eric Van Looy all the way before letting his opponent through by the scoreline of 11-9 12-10 9-11 11-13 11-7. How the old order changeth!

The final of the seventh consolation event was won by Liam McTiernan's younger brother Daniel, who defeated Van Looy in four ends 11-4 11-6 8-11 11-4.



Results of Tournament 7:

Quarter Finals: Liam McTiernan bt Hari Gehlot 11-8 7-11 11-9 11-8; Tony Reynolds bt Leo Long 11-6 11-4 11-9; Daniel Moses bt Trevor Organ 11-8 11-7 10-12 11-7; Bradley King bt Richard Rosinski 9-11 11-5 9-11 11-7

11-2.

Semi Finals: McTiernan bt Tony Reynolds 11-2 11-8 11-4; Moses bt King 8-11 16-14 13-15 11-4 11-7.

Final: McTiernan bt Moses 11-7 11-5 11-7.

Grand Prix Points after Tournament 7: Moses 741, Gehlot 575, D McTiernan 424, Gallen 341, Reynolds 334, Long 327, Parker 308, King 300, Organ 256, Fifield 229, Van Looy 224, Yon 213, L Williams 208, Rosinski 205, Thomis 198, Dobbins 184, Porter 182, Bennett 172, Heaps 170, Outtrim 163, Gostelow 157, Woolven-Allen 151, L McTiernan 132, Dorrington 131, O'Keeffe 100, Mitchell 99, Dyke 98, S Liu 98, Duncan 97, J Liu 89, Houghton 70, Penny 40, Diplock 34, Caliman 31, Upham 25, McGrane 20, Wedi 18, S Williams 17, Taylor 15.

(Roger Woolven-Allen, for the Reading Post, 29th June 2013)

(The photograph, taken by John Upham, shows Liam McTiernan in action.)

Personal Thoughts

Just after I'd arrived at the Club, computer wizard and master of the Blue Nowhere, Andy Parker, told me that he had been drawn against Hari Gehlot in the main event.

"I reckon that this draw makes Hari an

absolute certainty for winning the consolation event," said Andy.

At that point, from Andy's point of view, it has to be said that things went steadily downhill...

I had the honour and privilege of umpiring the quarter-final match between Hari and Liam. I did warn them both, before we started, that I had never umpired an 11-up expedite match in my life and, if we were going to be dogged by a "Colin-Dyke-versus-Peter-Bennett" type of performance, then I was going to walk out.

With that moot point settled to my own, if no-one else's, satisfaction, we settled down to the serious stuff. And what a match it was!

I will probably be shot down in flames for saying this but, in my opinion, Hari is as skilful as, if not more so than, his young rival. But Hari, poor old feller, is now a senior veteran and the old joints and muscles tend to be a little unforgiving. Liam, of course, possesses much more speed and agility and, dare I say it, power, than the Indian star. But, to repeat myself, what a match it was! Both players have my undisguised admiration.

I have discovered that good old Andy Yon is not the only player to drag along edible goodies to the *Grand Prix* tournaments. I personally have donated a couple of *Boost* bars, taken out of their wrappers and chopped up so that no-one could tell that they were totally out of date but, that aside, Frank and Ellie Perry have kindly provided all sorts of lovely stuff. I just love their dark chocolate but, unfortunately, so does Frank. And so, very reluctantly, I have accepted that we have to share (mumble, mumble...). (Ed.)

National Rankings

(The following names and associated rankings have been extracted from the latest (as at June 2013) ETTA / VETTS lists. If I have omitted players who feel they should have been included, I hope they will accept my apologies. Nick has kindly provided our youngsters'

rankings and so I shall just deal with the adults. But even here there is a problem or two, I'm afraid. For some reason, I can only find Senior lists up to Number 30 and even the VETTS website can't display the Men's Over-50s. I shall try to do better in the next issue! Apologies. Ed)

SENIOR MEN: 12 Richard Andrews. 18 Tom Maynard.

SENIOR WOMEN: 13 Maria Tsaptsinos. 14 Sue Collier.

VETERAN MEN: 24 Dave Barr.

VETERAN WOMEN: 1 Sue Collier.



OVER-50 MEN: *Not available – being updated.*

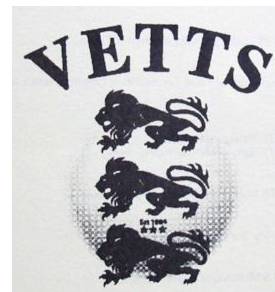
OVER-50 WOMEN: 33 Sharon Mitchell. 37 Denise Weller. 47 Gill Knightley. 59 Janet Dawson. 81 Diane Taylor.

OVER-60 MEN: 14 Paul Beck. 17 Dave Crowley. 19 Eddie Herrity. 35 Graham Outrim. 47 John Barclay. 56 Nick Heaps. 57 Derek Wood. 66 Tony Brown. 87 John Milward. 103 Peter Bradley. 106 Colin Dyke. 132 Clive Dawson. 141 Dave Gostelow. 170 Mike Dorrington.

OVER-60 WOMEN: 20 Gill Knightley. 59 Diane Taylor.

OVER-70 MEN: 1 Dave Crowley. 2 Tony Brown. 16 Peter Bradley. 28 Colin Dyke. 60 Dave Gostelow. 69 Mike Dorrington.

OVER-80 MIXED: 20 Mike Dorrington.



Reading and Bracknell Leagues

KINGFISHER TEAMS : 2013-2014 : PROVISIONAL LISTINGS

The following listings (which have already been circulated to all members) are provisional; they are subject to negotiation (for a brief while at least) and the Club's requested requirements are still very much in the hands of the two Associations concerned. Kingfisher, as in last season, will not be represented in the Maidenhead League.

Gwynne Penny has taken this task over from the late and sadly-missed Sylvia Bruton. I have seen the effort and enthusiasm that Gwynne has put into this job (and others) and she deserves the thanks of all members – even if one or two didn't get quite what they wanted! Ed.

Reading League

KINGFISHER A (Division 1):

Mark Banks (Captain), Hari Gehlot, Stuart Williams and Tony Reynolds.

KINGFISHER B (Division 1) (ex-Polish TTC): Nick Heaps (Captain), Steve Dobbins, Martin Adams, Richard Rosinski and Graham Diplock.

KINGFISHER C (Division 1): Steve Murgatroyd (Captain), Niall McGrane, Lisa Williams and Andy Parker.

KINGFISHER D (Division 2, but Division 1 requested): Richard Fifield (Captain), Trevor Organ, Eduard Caliman, Josh Gallen and Leo Long.

KINGFISHER E (Division 2): Geoff Civil (Captain), Roger Woolven-Allen, Colin Dyke and John Morris.

KINGFISHER F (Division 3, but Division 2 requested): Ivor Hardman (Captain), Clare Woodham, Michael Houghton and Peter Bennett.

KINGFISHER G (Division 3, but Division 2 requested): Allen Pack (Captain), Dave Gostelow, John Upham, Sharon Mitchell and Rick Leachman.

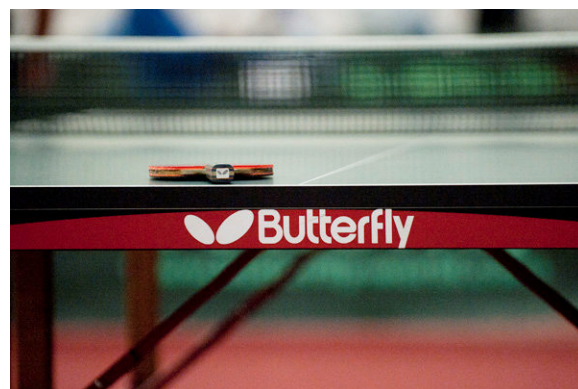
KINGFISHER H (Division 3): Carol Byers (Captain), Rogerio Albelo, Eric Holmes, Steve Woolnough and Dave Duncan.

KINGFISHER I (Division

4): Didier Garçon (Captain), Jean-Noël Thepaut, Joaquin Sabater, Gabor Radnoti, Nils Wedi and Gianpaolo Balsamo.

KINGFISHER J (Division 5): Derek Crombie (Captain), John Creighton, Ken Robb and Mike Dorrington.

KINGFISHER K (Division 6): Gill Bennett (Captain), Diane Taylor, André Bartlett, Leigh Mahoney and Gwynne Penny.



Bracknell League

KINGFISHER A (Premier Division): John Willcocks, Geoff Civil, Roger Woolven-Allen, John Morris and Phil Mead.



KINGFISHER B (Division 1): Allen Pack (Captain), Ivor Hardman, Michael Houghton and Trevor Organ.

KINGFISHER C (Premier Division): Richard Fifield (Captain), Peter Bennett, Colin Dyke, Dave Gostelow and Jeff Huggins.

KINGFISHER D (Division 1): Derek Crombie (Captain), Ken Robb, Mike Dorrington, Dave Duncan and John Upham.

KINGFISHER E (Division 2): Gwynne Penny (Captain), Gill Bennett, David Wells, Diane Taylor and Helen Sparks.



The following is an extract from the Reading Post dated 1st May 2013. The author is unidentified.

Daniel McTiernan won the Reading Junior Masters title for the first time by beating Sam Ricks in the final on

Sunday.

Ten players were involved, all invited to play on account of their commitment to the league and results through the season.

They were split into two groups, and McTiernan won Group 1, ahead of Gus Thomis, Josh Gallen, James Ellicott and Harry Munro.

The other section was headed by Ricks, with Sam Liu runner-up. They were followed by Leo Long, Michael MacAllister and Jim MacAllister.

In the semi-finals, McTiernan defeated Liu 3-1 (11-5 12-10 7-11 11-9), while Ricks beat Thomis 3-2 (9-11 11-1 10-12 11-6 12-10) after trailing 7-10 in the decider.

McTiernan, who had lost to Ricks in the semi-finals last year, started well and took the opening game 11-7.

Ricks hit back to win the second 11-9, but McTiernan was always on top in the third game, winning 11-7 with some blistering forehand winners down the line.

But Ricks again fought back with some great counter attacking shots and a fearless backhand punch to win the fourth game 11-8.

The final game was a close affair, but McTiernan was always just ahead and he shaded it 11-8 to win the title for the first time and become the youngest winner since 2009.

The third-place play-off match saw Liu beat Thomis 3-1 (11-7 11-3 8-11 11-8).



Paul Beck

I haven't seen too much of Paul Beck lately (I guess our paths simply haven't crossed) but he has certainly been up to a thing or two!

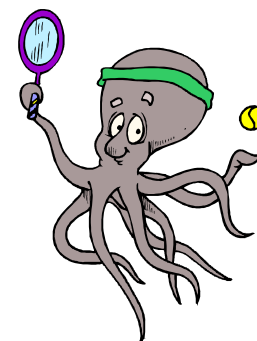
Paul took part in the VETTS Southern Masters Championships held recently in Crawley

and our man certainly excelled himself! And not for the first time either...

In the first round Paul beat George Evans, the ex-Welsh Number 1 and the VETTS ex-World Singles Champion by the scoreline of 11-2 11-8 9-11 11-9.

In Round 2, Paul was drawn against Maurice Newman, the England Number 1 and the top seed. Paul won this encounter 6-11 9-11 12-10 11-9 12-10. As you can see, Newman had taken the first two games and was leading 10-6 in the third. The fact that Paul won this third end and then went on to take the entire match is truly remarkable!

In the third round, Paul beat Tony Clayton – and the Octopus rates this as the best singles win of his life. Clayton had previously reached the final of the Senior section of the English Closed, beating the then Number 1 player Denis Neale. Clayton had also beaten Stephan Kollarovits, a Czech player who had won the English Open two years in succession.



To put into context how good a win this was for Paul, some years ago the Octopus had beaten the England Number 1 John Hilton in two straight games (these were the days of 21-up) and then went on to defeat Brian Burn, ex-England Number 4, for the first time ever. In the next round of the same competition, Clayton inflicted the biggest thrashing Paul had ever received, taking out the Octopus 21-6 21-2. But how the tables have been turned now!



However, let's go back to Crawley! Paul nearly ran a lap of honour when he took the first game against Clayton, while nevertheless thinking that he was still going to lose the match in four ends. At the time, Paul tells me, it was unthinkable that he should win a single end, let alone the match! He kept thinking that he was shortly going to wake up to find that it had all been a dream!

Paul was now through to the semi-finals and found himself drawn against Terry Parkins, a player who had beaten him in their one and only previous encounter. But Paul won through, again in five, by the scoreline of 9-11 13-11 7-11 11-9 11-6.

In the final, Paul had to play Dave Welsman and won the first end 11-7. He had his chances to go two games up but Welsman managed an unreturnable net-cord shot at the worst possible time to take the second 15-13. The next two ends went Welsman's way, winning them 11-8 11-3 and, in the process, denying our man the title.

But Welsman has twice been the VETTS National Champion and, as a senior player representing Wales, has beaten a couple of players ranking in the World's top 50. So there was certainly no disgrace in losing that one, Mr Octopus!

A few days after the Championships, Paul discovered that the rubber had gone on his backhand. He tells me that he must have played a lot of forehands that day at Crawley. Had he realised at the time that his bat was almost incapable of playing backhand shots, he feels he probably wouldn't have won a single game!

Congratulations, Mr Octopus! Quite a performance! (Ed.)

A Word About Our Sponsor : Tees Sport

This is just a reminder that Kingfisher has a contract with Tees Sport 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.

Our appointed agent is Brian Halliday. Brian may be contacted on (0118) 972 2421, via email at brianhalliday2@aol.com or by Royal Mail at 2 Rowan Close, Sonning Common RG4 9LD.

Tees Sport has agreed to supply Butterfly, Karlsson, Andro and Adidas equipment via Brian with a 25% discount. Donic equipment is available with a 20% discount while the remainder of *Tees Sport's* merchandise (with the exception of tables) attracts a 15% discount.

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 retailers 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.

You will find *Tees Sport* staff knowledgeable and helpful. 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. The Company offers

a same day shipment service for orders placed by telephone, internet or mail. Brian Halliday is the agent for *Tees Sport* in the Kingfisher Club and can place orders on members' behalf, or provide advice, if required.

TEES SPORT
Specialists in Table Tennis Since 1976

KINGFISHER TUESDAY CLUB

Contact: Diane Taylor ☎ 0118 942 8384

A reminder that the “Tuesday Club” will continue until further notice.

We meet every Tuesday morning 1000-1230 and the Club’s sessions are open to all ages and abilities.

Family and friends are welcome, with a small fee per session to cover a visitor's insurance.

The activities include practice, some training, singles and doubles.

Fun and enjoyment is had by all with keeping fit a bonus!

Happy hitting and smashing! Regards, *Diane*



KINGFISHER WEDNESDAY CLUB

Contact: Roger Woolven-Allen ☎ 0118 947 8833 or 07771668881 or roger.woolven-allen@virginmedia.com.

The new “Wednesday Club” is much the same as the Tuesday Club or the Friday Club, except that it takes place on a Wednesday. The Club meets every Wednesday morning 1030-1230 and the sessions are open to all members.

At the moment, because we are new and this is the first advert, there are only about four of us who regularly attend. It would make sense, therefore, until we are really established, that you give Roger a quick tinkle before you trot along for a session. Once you get there, though, you will definitely find it a fun morning!

Suitable for everyone who is free at that time of day; *ie* pensioners, shift workers and possibly the very rich who don’t have to work for a living. Students in their breaks as well, of course!

All the best, *Roger*



KINGFISHER FRIDAY CLUB

Contact: Dave Gostelow ☎ 07754532286

The “Friday Club” used to be run by Dave Crowley and tended to be patronized by the very best players in Kingfisher. Dave Hilbeck, Hari Gehlot and Mark Scott among quite a few others were regular participants. Then, for some reason, the attendance figures dropped dramatically and, in recent weeks, Dave Gostelow has done his best to keep things going.

So this is really a new “Friday Club” (hours 1000-1230) and we are hoping that the attendance will numerically return to its previous level. As with the “Wednesday Club”, it might be a good idea in the early weeks to make sure that other players will be there. Please give Dave Gostelow a tinkle before attending; he will be more than happy to let you know the state of play. (Ed.)



KINGFISHER CLUB NIGHT : THURSDAY

I’m afraid that I don’t know too much about this, but I believe that the evenings are well attended and that all a playing member has to do is to turn up on a Thursday evening (probably at about 7.30). A chalk board can be found just inside the door and new arrivals write their names at the bottom of the list. This, of course, is only necessary if all four tables are occupied. When a member is called upon to play, his or her name should be removed from the list.

I believe that the system is one of “winner stays on”, with each loser re-entering on the list, but the winner is then restricted to two (maybe three?) wins before also coming off and rejoining the list.

I expect I haven't got that quite right; please feel free to have a moan at me! (Ed.)

From Gwynne

me that she had a trophy for me from the Bracknell AGM – for Sportsmanship. I was absolutely gobsmacked and really excited to receive the 'William G F Hill Table Tennis Trophy'. I'd love to know more about its history; the first name on the cup dates back to 1978 – but I was delighted to see the names of some of the players that I encountered in the league this season: Ian Donovan and Walley Godfrey from *Sportsable*, Doug Sell from *Broadmoor D*, *Wokingham Methodist Church A* team – I feel very privileged to have my name on there with those guys! It's a very nice way to round off my first season, and it's been great fun – now I can't wait for the next season to start!

Gwynne

(Note: Can any reader throw some light on the origins of the “William GF Hill” trophy? Gwynne would love to know – and so would I! And many congratulations to our young lady, while I'm at it! A thoroughly well-deserved award! Ed.)



"Sneakles" by Gwynne



"Dog" by the WWW

Kingfisher Table Diary

Here are the major table bookings, looking forward until the end of August 2013.

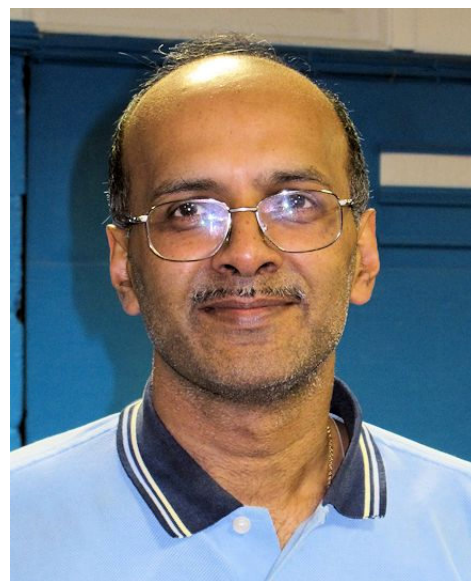
Rather obviously, bookings can and do change as time goes by, so please double-check with the website before trotting down for a practice!

JULY 2013: **Monday 1st** 0900-1100 Addington School use. 1700-1900 Junior Coaching. 1900-2300 Grand Prix. **Tuesday 2nd** 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Coaching. **Wednesday 3rd** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Coaching and Practice. **Thursday 4th** 1700-1900 Junior Training and Practice. 1900-2300 Club Night.



Friday 5th 1000-1230 Friday Club. **Monday 8th** 0900-1100 Addington School use. 1900-2300 Grand Prix. **Tuesday 9th** 100-1230 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Coaching. **Wednesday 10th** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Coaching and Practice. **Thursday 11th** 1700-1900 Junior Training and Practice. 1900-2300 Club Night. **Friday 12th** 1000-1230 Friday Club. **Monday 15th** 0900-1100 Addington School use. 1900-2300 Grand Prix. **Tuesday 16th** 100-1230 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Coaching. **Wednesday 17th** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Coaching and Practice. **Thursday 18th** 1700-1900 Junior Training and Practice. 1900-2300 Club Night. **Friday 19th** 1000-1230 Friday Club. **Monday 22nd** 0900-1100 Addington School use. 1900-2300 Grand Prix. **Tuesday 23rd** 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Coaching. **Wednesday 24th** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Coaching and Practice. **Thursday 25th** 1700-1900 Junior Training and Practice. 1900-2300 Club Night. **Friday 26th** 1000-1230 Friday Club. **Monday 29th** 1700-1900 Junior Coaching. 1900-2300 Grand Prix. **Tuesday 30th** 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Coaching. **Wednesday 31st** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Coaching and Practice.

AUGUST 2013: **Thursday 1st** 1700-1900 Junior Training and Practice. 1900-2300 Club Night. **Friday 2nd** 1000-1230 Friday Club. **Monday 5th** 1700-1900 Junior Coaching. **Tuesday 6th** 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Coaching. **Wednesday 7th** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Coaching and Practice. **Thursday 8th** 1700-1900 Junior Coaching and Practice. 1900-2300 Club Night. **Friday 9th** 1000-1230 Friday Club. **Monday 12th** 1700-1900 Junior Coaching. **Tuesday 13th** 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Coaching. **Wednesday 14th** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Coaching and Practice. **Thursday 15th** 1700-1900 Junior Training and Practice. 1900-2300 Club Night. **Friday 16th** 1000-1230 Friday Club. **Monday 19th** 1700-1900 Junior Coaching. **Tuesday 20th** 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Coaching. **Wednesday 21st** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Coaching and Practice. **Thursday 22nd** 1700-1900 Junior Training and Practice. 1900-2300 Club Night. **Friday 23rd** 1000-1230 Friday Club. **Monday 26th** 1700-1900 Junior Coaching. **Tuesday 27th** 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Coaching. **Wednesday 28th** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Coaching and Practice. **Thursday 29th** 1700-1900 Junior Training and Practice. 1900-2300 Club Night. **Friday 30th** 1000-1230 Friday Club.



(The following has been plagiarised [that's posh for "nicked"] from the Kingfisher website. The author is not specified, but I suspect that the credit goes to the ever-modest and hard-working Nick Heaps. Ed.)

2013 Kingfisher Junior Championships

The Kingfisher's Junior Championships were again a success with four events and 108 matches scheduled over six and a half hours of the late morning and afternoon of April 27th. For many of the entrants this was their first



tournament and, in some cases, the first time they had ever played a 'proper' match with an official umpire. Our thanks go to volunteer umpires Aled Howell, Lisa Williams, Peter Bradley, Darren Thomas, Tim Coombes, Sandra Shepherd, Chris Squire and Eric Van Looy without whom the tournament could not have taken place.

With only two contestants, Beechwood Primary School pupil Zak Squire won the Under-11 competition with a win over 8-year-old Johnny Coombes from Robert Piggott Primary in Wargrave.

One of the most closely contested events was the Under-13 singles where, on paper, the event could have been won by any one of four players. As it turned out,

unseeded Ben Thomas, having beaten Katie Shepherd in the semis, took the title with a five-game win over Number 1 seed Alex Squire.

The Cadet Singles (Under-15) competition finished very much as predicted with the top two seeds meeting in the final, and what a final it was! Having beaten Joseph Cornmell and Isaac Farnworth in the semis, last year's winner Leo Long and Sam Liu battled it out. Sam took the first game easily and Leo levelled only for Sam to take a 2-1 games lead before Leo won the fourth to take the match into a decider and then took the fifth game by the narrowest of margins 12-10.

The final event, Kingfisher's blue riband competition, the Junior Singles, was organised in groups of five players with four seeds (Leo Long, Sam Liu, James Ellicott and Isaac Farnworth) exempt until the last 16. Group winners Joseph Cornmell, Kieran Warre, Adam Gozzard and Alex Squire were joined in the main draw by the seeds and those players who had finished second and third in each group: Scarlett Jones, Jamie Lomax, Katie Shepherd, Bertie Coombes, Ben Thomas, Abdel Mukhtar, Kevin Gurung and Kian Kasler.

Of all the contestants, probably the most unfortunate was 13-year-old Bertie Coombes who, having lost 10-12 in the deciding game against Kieran Warre in the groups, then lost by exactly the same score against the Number 4 seed Isaac Farnworth in the last 16.

As it turned out, all four seeds reached their allotted positions in the semi-finals with last year's runner-up, Sam Liu, easily despatching Joseph Cornmell in the quarters and James Ellicott in the semis to book his place against Number 1 seed Leo Long in the final, Leo having won 3-0 against Adam Gozzard and Isaac Farnworth in the quarters and semi respectively.

The first game of the final was really tight with both players having game points before Leo finally clinched it with a nail-biting 16-14. When Sam won the second game it looked as if the contest could be as close as the Cadet Singles final between the same two players, finishing at deuce in the deciding game. However it wasn't to be. Leo's consistent counter-hitting allowed him to take the third and fourth games to win the title.



RESULTS

Under-11 Singles: Zak Squire bt Johnny Coombes 11-4 11-6 11-8.

Under-13 Singles: Ben Thomas bt Alex Squire 11-5 15-13 9-11 8-11 11-2.

Cadet Singles: Leo Long bt Sam Liu 2-11 11-7 8-11 11-7 12-10.

Junior Singles: Leo Long bt Sam Liu 16-14 7-11 11-4 11-9.

(The pictures show Zak Squire, Ben Thomas and Leo Long all with ETTA Vice-Chairman Peter Bradley. The fourth picture shows all the winners and runners-up. Ed.)

Kingfisher members to represent English Schools

April 22nd 2013: Congratulations are due to Kingfisher members Maria Tsaptsinos, Liam McTiernan and Amy Blagbrough on being selected to represent England schools at the International Schools competition being held in the Isle of Man.

All three took part in the recent ESTTA English Schools tournament in Doncaster and each walked away with a medal: Liam with gold in the Under-19s, Maria with silver in the Under-16s and Amy with silver in Under-13s.

(The following has been extracted from GetReading dated 14th June 2013)

£6m Revamp for Bulmershe



An ageing secondary school will experience a £6 million transformation later this year after plans were given the go-ahead.

Parts of The Bulmershe School in Woodley are decades beyond their life expectancy and will be

replaced when work starts in the autumn.

The major scheme, approved by Wokingham Borough Council's planning committee on Tuesday, will include a post-16 learning centre, a remodelled library and information centre, an improved dining hall and an on-site student inclusion centre.

The new facilities will also be available for community use.

Cllr Simon Weeks, chairman of the planning committee, spoke about the "poor state of a number of buildings" he saw on a site visit.

Headteacher Emma Reynolds said; "School environments send powerful messages about the value of education and the sense of pride students and wider communities should have in their schools."

She continued: "Our building stock is half a century old and is less than efficient and effective. New classrooms will replace life expired rooms which are not fit for purpose in the 21st Century.

"By life expired I refer to classrooms that regularly leak, where heating breaks down, where windows fall out – buildings designed to last 25 years that are now 50 years old."

A tendering process will now start to choose a contractor to carry out the works, which are being funded and managed by the borough council. Some of the refurbishment and priority work – such as new classroom doors – has already started because it did not need planning permission.

Czech Mates

Earlier this year your friendly editor, in the company of a group of railway table tennis players, trotted across to Prague to take part in a multi-nation competition. This, of course, is as close as any of us will ever get to being "internationals"! Our hosts, the Czech Railways, were absolutely wonderful, and, one afternoon when we weren't playing, they took us on a tour of their impressive city.

Just inside the castle grounds, three soldiers entered the square through



an open gate in the castle wall. They performed something akin to London's "changing of the guard" and this involved the soldiers kicking their legs high in the air.

Imagine our surprise when, through an adjacent open gate, one of our colleagues marched in, also kicking his legs high in the air! Unfortunately, from a photographic point of view, table tennis veteran Reuben Okai wasn't quite in step with the soldiers, but the effect was quite dramatic! Fortunately, the two policemen on duty, who were watching the whole thing, thought it was all a huge joke – as can be seen in the photograph. Otherwise, I could quite easily see Reuben (and possibly the rest of us) being dragged off to the nick! Actually, unsporting though it might seem, Reuben would quite probably have had to face the music totally on his own.



The rest of us had very quickly decided that we'd never seen him in our lives before...

Some of you may know Londoner Reuben from the vets' circuit, as indeed you may know the photographer Wayne (*The Wall*) Glossop, who hails from Long Eaton in Derbyshire.

KINGFISHER AGM

For those of you who were unable to attend the Kingfisher TTC Annual General Meeting, held on 22nd May, please find, below, a few notes that, hopefully, will let you know what happened. I am indebted to Eric Van

Looy, Nick Heaps, Colin Dyke and Richard Fifield for their very helpful input.

Speaking as Chairman, Colin gave the meeting an update on the Club's prospective move to new premises. He has dealt with this in his *Chairman's Report* earlier on in the newsletter.

Work on the new premises apart, Colin gave his thanks to various people, including Peter Bradley, Andy Yon and Eric Van Looy for their help as Committee Members, to Peter Charters as Secretary, Eric Van Looy as Membership Secretary and Child Welfare Officer, Richard Fifield for his part as Treasurer and general support, Allan and Sylvia Bruton for so many other tasks and Roger Woolven-Allen for his work with the newsletter.

Colin did, however, mention that the majority of the Club's work was being conducted by just a few members. (*Sadly, it was ever thus; and Kingfisher, in this respect, is little different from other voluntary organisations. However, events subsequent to the AGM have alleviated this problem considerably – and that is good news. Ed.*)

Colin reported that the British League First Team had been relegated from the Premier Division. The Second Team had been relegated from the Third Division.

Kingfisher had teams in The Junior British League, the Junior National League and the Cadet National league, players in the latter enjoying their first experience of competitive play.

Eric Van Looy, as Membership Secretary, reported that, as at 21st April 2013, the Club was comprised of 187 members – an increase of 19 over the same time last year.

(*The Treasurer's (Treasurers' ??) report was, quite rightly, extremely comprehensive, to the extent that I did not deem it appropriate to recreate in the newsletter. Hard copies were left at the Club for the information of members. Ed.*)

As you will all know by now, Richard Fifield proposed that the base subscription should remain at £115, with an "early payment discount" of £10. This was carried unanimously. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DEADLINE FOR THE DISCOUNT IS MONDAY 1st JULY.** Subscriptions received after that date will attract the full payment.



PRESENTATION OF AWARDS: The trophy for “Most Improved Player” was awarded to **JOSHUA GALLEN**. The “Best performance” award went to **MARIA TSAPTSINOS** and the “Colin Kemp” trophy, for the member who has contributed most to the Club in the last twelve months, went to **COLIN DYKE**.



(All three of these members are pictured above with, in two cases, Peter [El Presidente] Charters)

The election of Club Officers and officials then took place. These people, along with a few others who have volunteered since the AGM, appear on the front page of this newsletter.

(The picture of Colin and Peter is courtesy of Lisa Williams and that of Josh and Peter is courtesy of Sonia Gallen. Ed.)

Coaching Officer's Report

Kingfisher Coaching Report – 2012/13

The main thrust of our coaching activity has been with juniors. 89 youngsters have attended organised coaching classes during the year where Peter Charters, Eduard Caliman, Peter Bradley, Steve Dobbins and Nick Heaps have either led or assisted on a voluntary basis.

A further 40 pupils from Bulmershe and Addington Schools have received coaching from the club and approximately 150 Bulmershe pupils regularly use our facilities to play table tennis as a curriculum sport activity.

In many respects the club's unofficial junior section could be said to be thriving: junior membership is at an all-time high; our beginners and intermediate classes (Monday and Tuesday) are now at capacity; we have three girls (Maria Tsaptsinos, Megan Knowles and Amy Blagbrough) and one boy (Liam McTiernan) ranked among the country's top ten juniors; and we have ten members selected for ETTA Regional Development and Performance squads (Amy Blagbrough, Sam Wilson, Sam Liu, Jamie Liu, Leo Long, Josh Gallen, Daniel McTiernan, Liam McTiernan, Megan Knowles and Maria Tsaptsinos).

Taking all the above into account we appear well positioned for the next step in the development of a junior section, however:

- Most of the above 'elite' juniors are also members of other clubs, (though they still see Kingfisher as their primary practice venue).
- The club's junior section doesn't have an identity - it is both unofficial and informal. Junior members, whether beginner, intermediate or elite players, do not share a common identity or feel part of the same community. The only factors that link members together are attendance at Kingfisher or ETTA coaching groups and participation in JBL/NJL/NCL team events. There is no press coverage of successes, no playing kit, no newsletter, no social media community



- To deliver on a promise that *every member will be given the opportunity to achieve his or her potential in the sport*, we need more coaching resource. As a minimum, we need a young professional coach working within the club for at least 15 hours a week.
- To support the development of our 'intermediate' players, we need to provide them with tournament experience – advice on events, assistance with transport or accommodation, support and mentoring at the event.
- To grow the club's influence in the local community (KSDP), we need to assist with the purchase of equipment and to provide high quality coaching in a few schools within our immediate catchment area (8 to 10 hours a week).

In order to grow, as we would wish, we need more resources – specifically people and money. If we could create both an active volunteer committee and suitable financing, Kingfisher has every opportunity to become one of only two or three hot spots for junior table tennis in this country.

We desperately need more coaches and coaching volunteers

We will provide support and mentoring to any member wishing to qualify as a coach and become active in our coaching programme. We will pay for DBS (formally CRB) checks, we will assist in obtaining bursaries and (subject to remaining involved in Kingfisher's coaching) the club will credit any new UKCC coach with £100 against their next annual membership.

Whether an experienced player, a parent or family member with no previous playing experience, you could become a coaching volunteer and assist with our coaching sessions. Coaching is remarkably satisfying and neither youth nor high playing standard is a requirement for success, please contact the Coaching Officer to discuss helping to develop tomorrow's players.

COACHING FINANCES AND DEVELOPMENT

Kingfisher's 2012/13 income from coaching activities (Coaching Permits, Coaching Guest Fees, Kingfisher Schools Development Programme) was £1,781.50. This figure has been ring-fenced for future investment in junior development activities to be authorised by the committee.

Kingfisher's facilities, vibrant junior membership, schools community programme, elite junior players and reputation for player development are all attributes that could make the club an attractive partner for commercial sponsors at a time that table tennis is growing in popularity.

By harnessing the business skills of our members, if we could attract annual sponsorship in excess of £20k, we could formally create a junior section that:

- Employs a professional coach, working part-time for 15 hours per week
- Provides competition support (entries, transport and accommodation expenses)
- Enters 30 players in national competitions (JBL, NJL, and NCL)
- Provides sponsor-branded clothing for upwards of 100 pupils attending Kingfisher community coaching, 40 junior members in training and 30 players (+ coaches) representing Kingfisher in national competitions and tournaments
- Funds an Outreach programme where, by providing equipment and coaching in schools, 200 primary and secondary school children in Woodley, Earley, Twyford and Wargrave would be introduced to table tennis.

To achieve this goal we wish to recruit a small and energetic sub-committee that would work to attract and manage commercial sponsors and fund the development of Kingfisher's junior section. This will be an exciting phase in the club's development. If you feel you can contribute – whether a player, a parent or 'friend of the club' – please contact the Coaching Officer.

JUNIOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

A few years ago we had just one event and only five entrants. Now our junior championships, held in April, have become a serious tournament with 24 members competing in the Junior Singles alone. With 108 matches to be organised, the enthusiastic assistance of a small group of volunteers (Lisa Williams, Peter Bradley, Eric Van Looy, Aled Howell, Chris Squire and Tim Coombes) was crucial to the event taking place.

Winners and runners-up were as follows:

Under-11 Singles: Winner Zak Squire. Runner-up Johnny Coombes.

Under-13 Singles: Winner Ben Thomas. Runner-Up Alex Squire.

Cadet (Under-15) Singles: Winner Leo Long. Runner-Up Sam Liu.

Junior (Under-18) Singles: Winner Leo Long. Runner-Up Sam Liu.

SENIOR COACHING

Last summer we ran a short programme of adult coaching classes on Friday evenings and these were well attended. Gareth Herbert, Graham Outrim, Bradley King, Alison Broe and Nick Heaps held Kingfisher Coaching Permits to provide chargeable 1:1 coaching at the club.

JUNIOR TEAMS IN NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

- Leo Long, Josh Gallen, Isaac Farnworth and Kevin Gurung represented Kingfisher in the Junior British League qualifiers.
- Mike Jones, James Ellicott, Isaac Farnworth, Kevin Gurung and Antony Talbot represented Kingfisher in the National Junior League.
- Kieran Warre, Alex Squire, Joe Barraclough, Isaac Farnworth and Bertie Coombes represented Kingfisher in the National Cadet League.

JUNIOR RANKINGS

Kingfisher members were prominent in the latest ETTA Ratings List, published April 30th 2013:

UNDER-13 BOYS: 33 Sam Wilson. 41 Jamie Liu. 133 Alex Squire. 368 Joe Barraclough.

UNDER-13 GIRLS: 4 Amy Blagbrough. 49 Katie Shepherd.

CADET BOYS: 22 Daniel McTiernan. 58 Joshua Gallen. 59 Leo Long. 63 Sam Liu. 131 Sam Wilson. 150 Jamie Liu. 395 Alex Squire. 402 Ted Allpress. 530 Kieran Warre. 857 Joe Barraclough.

CADET GIRLS: 22 Amy Blagbrough. 112 Katie Shepherd.

JUNIOR BOYS: 6 Liam McTiernan. 43 Daniel McTiernan. 154 Leo Long. 244 Joshua Gallen. 306 Sam Liu. 313 Sam Wilson. 317 Mike Jones. 494 Antony Talbot. 522 James Ellicott. 840 Isaac Farnworth. 930 Adam Wilson.

JUNIOR GIRLS: 3 Maria Tsaptsinos. 9 Megan Knowles. 70 Amy Blagbrough.

Nick Heaps

From Mark Banks

National VETS Masters Tipton Sports Academy

Kingfisher members) recently competed in the National Vets Tournament at Tipton, West Midlands. In doing so we also decided to ease cost and share a room for the Saturday night (er, yes, just a room peeps) – which, given our obvious cultural differences (er, Hari doesn't drink much) was a bit of an issue on checking in to the Hotel where they insisted on providing us with only one key! More of that later but, as you'd expect, the competition itself was incredibly strong, so much so in fact that I wasn't even seeded (incredible eh?) – and neither was Hari for that matter. It was Hari's first over 50s' competition and, of course, at that age level he absolutely breezed through his group without even having to rely on his usual nets and edges in the process. Hari also qualified for the Over 40s' main event coming First place in his group too – not bad for an old boy and yes, the nets and edges were back with a vengeance to see him through in this one. I myself was drawn in the same

group as the hot favourite – Michael O'Driscoll – former International and European Junior Champion (I think). Anyway he's obviously a good player but I played well. Took a leg and blew a 10-7 lead to effectively take it to a fifth. Not bad for a fat bloke from Maidenhead! (*pictured, possibly twice. Ed.*) Michael was to go on and win the tournament the next day beating Lourestas Trumpuskas 3-0 in the final with the ETTA tweeting that he had won the whole tournament without dropping a leg. Er, yes, he blimmin well did! I had great pleasure in putting them right! Anyway, I qualified for the main event in second place by having to beat a mirror image (style-wise) of Trevor Organ in the second-place decider. Thought at the time it would be so funny watching Trevor play against this guy who was pretty much himself – basically lobbing lobs! After that, we got smashed in the doubles – Hari let me down – which actually I wasn't too bothered about because

it meant that I could get back to the hotel bar in time for the FA Cup Final which was due to kick off. Hari, being Hari, decided to stay at the sports centre for a knock.



Admittedly the rest of the evening is a bit of a blur. Thirsty work playing these old boys so the beers were going down well and Man City were about to lose the Cup Final (Sorry Nick!). Hari finally finished knocking and pitched up in the hotel bar just as Wigan Athletic were scoring their winner (Sorry Nick) and I bought him a celebratory lemonade. He told me that they had put the draw for the main event up in the sports hall and I naturally asked him who I'd been drawn against. A little grin came across his face as he said "ME! We're on at 9am." "You're joking??" Nope! Oh grrrrreat... So I pay about a hundred quid all in, come all the way to the Black Country just to play a Trevor Organ clone and my practice partner, doubles partner, team captain and room mate Hari Gehlot. Brilliant. "Sod that," I said. "No way am I going to take all of those precious ranking points off you; I'd feel so guilty." (clearly confident after about five pints at this stage that there would only be one outcome if we were to lock horns – after all it's only Hari, lol). My mind was therefore set. I'd already booked the £20 evening entertainment (a kinda dinner and dance with a band type thing) so that was me for the night. I now wouldn't have to worry about the alcohol consumption; I would simply drink to my heart's content and do the honourable thing and scratch in the morning and give Hari the bye through to the second round. Hari, didn't object at the time (why would he?); took the only room key off me and went and got some fish and chips. That was at around 7pm. It was the last I would see of Hari that weekend. As I say, a bit blurry the next bit. From what I remember the food was good and the band excellent. Vaguely remember talking to Nick (or Nick talking to me) about the future of the club at some stage, crashing some wedding reception in another part of the hotel and then staying up in the Hotel foyer with the band and Nick and a few others still drinking until God knows what time? Couldn't tell you. Got back to the room, fumbled around, just about realised Hari had taken the only key and then had to persuade security to let me in. Crashed out fully clothed on the bed and slept – until half 11am. Woke up, grabbed my phone, saw that it was half 11 and shouted across to Hari in the other bed "Er, I think we've overslept buddy." Of course Hari wasn't there. He'd been down at breakfast at probably around the same time I was getting in and had already played a number of matches at the centre. I got up; packed my bags and, feeling slightly worse for wear, checked out and headed for the nearest McDonalds! Can't wait until next year!

PS. Hari played well enough on the Sunday without troubling the latter stages of what was a very high quality tournament! M.

CLUB DOORS

Although the majority of the new Club building construction is far from being set in stone, Colin tells me that the doors have already been ordered. Pictures of them appear immediately below. Natty, eh? Ed.



Table Tennis Quiz

The following quiz has kindly been sent in by one of my "railway" table tennis pals. His name is Jim Farrow and he hails from Ipswich. I am sure that some readers will know him from the vets' circuit.

Please note that I haven't checked anything. I hope that Jim is right but, if he's not, please feel free to have a moan! Ed.

Q1: In 1902, this company was the first to produce a table tennis (or ping pong) set. Please name it.

Q2: The table tennis company Tamasu produces which brand of table tennis equipment?

Q3: A table tennis ball was changed from the old 38mm diameter to the current 40mm diameter by the ITTF – but in which year?

Q4: Where is the headquarters of the ITTF?

Q5: In which year did the scoring system change from 21-up "five serves" to 11-up "two serves"?

Q6: What, in grams, is the weight of a table tennis ball?

(Answers appear at the very end of the newsletter.)

Kingfisher Shop

Please be reminded that, if you would like to sell, buy, swap or donate something through these pages, do not hesitate to contact me. My address, as I'm sure you have worked out, is roger.woolven-allen@virginmedia.com.

Club Lapel Badges

lapels of your track suits. Let everyone know which club you are proud to play for! £2 each. Please contact Colin Dyke on 0118 978 3770 or via email at colindyke@waitrose.com.



Club Shirts

Has your team discussed the idea of playing in Club Shirts? Why not think about it for the forthcoming 2013/2014 season? You and your team-mates would look really, really smart in this top-quality merchandise and, at the same time, you would be showing pride in our great Club name. We are delighted to have negotiated a deal with *Tees Sport* to supply Kingfisher

members with a Club Shirt which should remain available for quite a period of time. This Tees 2 shirt is available in four colours – black, red, navy or light blue – and each comes with different colour features. It is made from 100% Micro Dry fit Polyester which allows air circulation and absorbs perspiration. It will have the Kingfisher name on the back plus the Butterfly and Tees Sport logos. We have negotiated a price of £21.25 each which is well below catalogue prices and includes all lettering, logos and postage. If you want to personalise them with your own name or team name on the back it would cost 25p per letter extra. The new Tees 2 shirt can be found on the *Tees Sport* Website – there is no catalogue available for the current



season as yet.



The shirts must be ordered direct by you from *Tees Sport* by post on the forms available in the Clubhouse. Alternatively Colin Dyke or Brian Halliday can email you a form by request or you can download one from our own website. Any queries on these shirts can be referred to Colin or Brian.

Tees Sport Website: www.teessport.com

Kingfisher Website: www.tabletennis365.com/Kingfisher

Epilogue

Well, everyone, that's it for another issue. As always, I hope that you found something interesting or amusing somewhere in one of the newsletter's nooks and crannies.

Kingfisher News Number 73 is not too far away – but I doubt it will match this one in size. However, I should be very grateful if all our team captains (experienced or otherwise) would already give a thought to writing their forecasts for the new season. The latter will soon be upon us and, from what I can gather, most members are already really looking forward to it! I know that I am...

Roger

The Kingfisher Club

The *Kingfisher Table Tennis Club* was inaugurated on 19th March 1987 and opened on 8th January 1988.

It is an accredited FOUR-STAR PREMIER

CLUB bringing great benefits to the Club and its members. The Club also has SPORT ENGLAND CLUBMARK status. More information can be obtained from Sylvia Bruton on 0118 901 9119.



The Club aims to cater for all standards of play but actively encourages and trains younger players and has good links with The Bulmershe School in whose grounds the clubhouse is situated. Any information regarding coaching at the Club can be obtained from Nick Heaps on 0118 901 7819.

The Club enters teams in the local Berkshire leagues as well as the National leagues. League play starts in September each year and tends to finish some time in April.

There are many internal events as well, including the Club Championships, the *Grand Prix* evenings, a pre-season Grouping Tournament and the very popular Thursday evening

Club nights.

For members old enough (or lucky enough!) to have some free time on midweek mornings, *The Tuesday Club* and *The Friday Club* offer some great practice opportunities. The Friday Club tends to consist of players of a slightly higher standard, but there are no rules. Apart from participants having to be Kingfisher members, that is! Both Clubs start their sessions at 1000, unless rare school bookings call for minor *ad hoc* amendments.

Any membership queries should be directed to Eric van Looy on 01628 621322, while other queries should be addressed to the Chairman, Colin Dyke, on 0118 978 3770.

And, of course, until they throw me out, please feel free to send your *Kingfisher News* stuff to me! My email address, in case you are unsure, is roger.woolven-allen@virginmedia.com and my telling-bone numbers are 0118 947 8833 and 07771668881.

Colin, I believe, still has one or two Kingfisher pin badges in his possession. At £2 a throw, these are a real snip!

CLUB OFFICERS and COMMITTEE:

President Peter Charters. Chairman Colin Dyke. Hon Treasurer Colin Dyke. Hon Gen Sec Peter Charters. Coaching Officer Nick Heaps. Membership Secretary Eric van Looy. Club Welfare Officer Eric van Looy. Committee Members Andy Yon, Allen Pack and Peter Bradley.

Finally, remember the web! Kingfisher's website is in the hands of some real experts (mainly Allen Pack and Nick Heaps) and is always worth having a squint at. The address is www.kingfisherttc.co.uk but, if you bung "kingfisher ttc" into any search engine, you are bound to find what you are looking for. Enjoy!



QUIZ ANSWERS: 1) Slazenger. 2) TSP. 3) 2000. 4) Lyon, France. 5) 2002. 6) 2.7 grams.