KINGFISHER NEWS

Edition 80, October 2014



Kingfisher at the British League

A Warm Welcome to Kingfisher News

Hello again. Chilly mornings and shorter days can only mean one thing…. Table Tennis Season is upon us!! In this edition we catch up with the news from Kingfisher's British League teams, and hear from our local league captains after their first matches of the season. We also take a trip to China with Maria Tsaptsinos and find out what happened when Table Tennis Legends Jan-Ove Waldner and Jorgen Persson met Daniel McTiernan.

Thank you to everyone that took time to write to me after the last edition – it was lovely to have so much positive feedback!

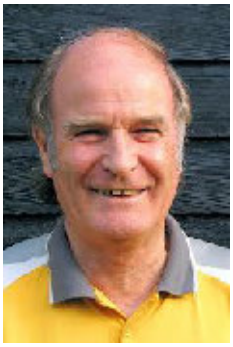
Gwynne Penny,
Editor



In this Edition:

- News from the British League
- A month in Shanghai by Maria Tsaptsinos
- Table Tennis England – Youth Squad Selection
- Kingfisher Juniors
- Jamie Liu at the Euro Mini's
- A Good Start to the Season for Daniel McTiernan
- Coaching at Kingfisher
- A Serving of Sneakles
- Your Committee
- Newsletter Noticeboard
- Now and Then
- Local League News
- Roger's Ramblings
- From Around the Net

Introduction



“It’s a couple of months since the last newsletter and there has been a great concentration in getting all the teams finally sorted for all local and national competitions, getting the new coaching and training programmes underway, getting the school programmes integrated and club competitions and matches underway. The bigger we get and the more successful we get, means there is more work for all our volunteers. Thanks to them all, we are moving very much in the right direction. I hope you are all enjoying your new season’s table tennis.

The success of our newsletter is a massive plus for our Club and I hope all our captains and press men give lots of material to Gwynne throughout the season in order that the success continues. It would be good to see a full house of local league reports each issue as this shows that you are approaching the challenge with enthusiasm. My congratulations go to Gwynne on such a fantastic first issue. When you compare this with what we used to produce in our formative years (with old fashioned equipment and techniques of course), you find it hard to believe.

Dehumidification has ended at the moment and with the cooler weather playing conditions are a lot better. However, we are still pursuing a solution so that we have the right conditions all year round. Numerous other items are yet to be resolved but we will get there before very long.

Finally I would like to remind members that we negotiated a special deal with Tees Sport for our Club Shirts which look rather good and details of which you can find on the website. It would be a great advert for our Club to see more teams turning out in them and for players wearing them at tournaments etc advertising with pride our great Club. Enjoy.”

Colin Dyke, Chairman

Senior British League Premier Team

Kingfisher in the Premier Division of British Table Tennis



By Peter Charters

Tom Maynard showed why he has become the Kingfisher Club's and Berkshire's number one player at the weekend when he scored in every one of the four matches in the top division of British team competition.

Kingfisher's first weekend in this seasons British League Premier Division campaign proved just how tough it is at the top of the sport in this country.

Played at the Ormesby Club in Middlesbrough, the two matches played on Saturday against the Kent side Fusion and the top Scottish side Drumchapel Glasgow, gave an insight into the task ahead. The Glasgow outfit had recently signed two top Chinese players. Maynard from Caversham and ranked thirteen in England, playing at one for Kingfisher and having to play the opposition numbers one and two, faced a massive task. The Glasgow number one Xu Ruifeng was just too strong for Tom and remained undefeated over the whole weekend. Maynard did secure a victory over Sung Meng Chen in Kingfisher's 2-6 loss. Marcus Giles, England's number five junior, took Kingfisher's second with a result over Scotland's Scott Barton.

Another 2-6 reverse against Fusion with contributions from Maynard and team captain Dave Barr completed the first day.

Kingfisher started on a winning note on Sunday with a 5-3 victory over Bournemouth. Maynard took his two whilst Barr, Liam McTiernan and Dan Kolesnik contributed one each.

The weekend finished with a 2-6 defeat to Barrow, Maynard again taking one of his matches and Giles the other.

With Bournemouth filling the bottom spot, Kingfisher sit just above them sharing the relegation threatened position with Barrow.

With even tougher matches to come over the second weekend of Premier action, this time in Glasgow in November, the other Kingfisher players will need to step up and support Maynard with consistent contributions to every match.

Senior British League in Pictures













Photographs by John Upham. Daniel Kolesnik, Tom Maynard, Liam McTiernan, David Barr, Marcus Giles, SBL Teams at Ormesby.

Kingfisher Senior British League B Team

By Peter Charters



Veteran Hari Gehlot led the way as the Kingfisher Second team in the Senior British League started their season with two team victories out of the four matches played at the Woodfield Club in Wolverhampton last weekend.

With support from two juniors, Josh Gallen and Sam Liu, Gehlot used his experience to win on seven of his eight visits to the table, losing only to Sam Perry from Whitworth Academy.

The fourth player in the Kingfisher team was the second of the two Hari's who was drafted in at the last minute due to other players being unavailable through injury or England junior call ups. Hari Vennapusa, predictably fought for the whole weekend and was rewarded with one important win.

Gallen performed well, with great control to finish with a 50% win rate whilst Liu won three of his eight matches. These two 15 year olds will benefit from competing at senior level and represent the future of the Kingfisher Club.

Kingfisher second team's two wins keeps them in contention for promotion with ten more matches before the end of the campaign.



One Month In Shanghai

By Maria Tsaptsinos



This summer I spent, what felt like an eternity, hitting a small white plastic ball back and forth in front of some unimpressed Chinese table tennis players. Four England Junior players journeyed to the east side of China, Shanghai, for a series of Chinese lessons, calligraphy, paper cutting and of course the main reason, table tennis practice.

The practice included sessions running from 8.30-11.30 with a short 15 minute break halfway through and the afternoon sessions ran from 2.30 to 5.30. The exercises set by the head coach out in Shanghai University of sport were originally challenging and pushed us to our limits but throughout the time there we grew stronger and they didn't seem so tough at the end. Many exercises such as free play to backhand block, serve then free and relooping exercises were frequently set and with each exercise battling on for 10-15 minutes, you can imagine the amount of sweat dripping off each England player. Five to six litres of water were being drunk by us every day due to the intense training and heat. The humidity out in China exceeded our expectations for the 3 of us who had never been before; we often craved to be inside where the air conditioning could reach us.

Compulsory physical exercise was set by the England Coach, Matt Stanforth, every morning which consisted of 2km runs and core circuits, on occasions we were joined by some of the other European players who were also at the training camp in Shanghai.



As well as the training we managed to venture out into central Shanghai: on one day we went up the third tallest tower in the world and overlooked the whole of Shanghai. On another day we went to the ancient town of Shanghai followed by a trip to a traditional acrobatics show. The scariest day for many of us was the adventure to the underground markets, where the shop assistants would grab us and follow us around the market bargaining for the best price of the ‘real’ electronic items.

Lessons in Chinese (mandarin), calligraphy and paper cutting also broadened our knowledge of Chinese culture. Overall my time in Shanghai was worthwhile as I think my fitness, table tennis performance and ability has increased which was the primary purpose of going out there.

I think another trip to China is on the cards.





Kingfisher Players Selected for England Youth Squad

Congratulations to Maria Tsaptsinos, Tin-Tin Ho, Marcus Giles and Jamie Liu who have all been named as part of England's 28-strong Youth Squad.

Tin-Tin, Marcus and Maria are in the 13-player Performance section of the squad, whilst Jamie is in the Development Squad.

The players were selected following an assessment day at the National Sports Centre in Lilleshall.

On the day, players took part in a series of fitness tests, on-the-table practice, and a short interview to look at and talk about their current training, results and table tennis ambitions.

All of the squad will attend 10 regular training camps and work closely with England coaches in between the camps.

England's national talent development coach, Matt Stanforth said: "The standard of the players on the assessment day was very high. It was clear that everyone had been working hard both on and off the table to give themselves the best chance to be selected"



Kingfisher Juniors

National Junior League:

One Kingfisher team is competing in the national junior league at Cippenham this season:

Kingfisher Team:
- Dauan Choi
- Kevin Gurung
- Chris Franks
- Bertie Coombes
- Oliver Hatch



Oliver Hatch, Dauan Choi, Chris Franks

The first match took place on Saturday 11 October. Team members were Dauan Choi, Chris Franks and Ollie Hatch:

“We played Kiddlington, Ashford B Team and Cippenham. We all tried really hard against tough opponents. We managed to win a few games off Ashford B with Dauan' s strong forehand and Chris's backhand.

With each team that we played throughout the day we became stronger. A few of our games went to 5 against Cippenham and were extremely close.

We all improved during the day with Ollie getting valuable match experience in his first tournament, and would like to thank Choi for coaching us between matches.”

Writeup courtesy of Sally and Chris Franks.

The next match is on Saturday 6 December.

National Cadet League:



Two Kingfisher teams will be competing in the national cadet league at Cippenham this season:

Kingfisher A Team:
- Katie Shepherd
- Scarlett Jones
- Chris Franks
- Alex Squire

Kingfisher B Team:
- Felix Thomis
- Zak Squire
- Johnny Coombes
- Jamie Lomax
- Nicolas Bowker

The first match takes place on Sunday 9 November.

Jamie Liu at The Euro Mini's

By Peter Charters



Jamie Liu prepares at Kingfisher for European Mini-Cadet Tournament with England Coach, Nick Jarvis.

Jamie Liu's first venture into international competition at the age of ten turned out to be the valuable experience hoped for.

Jamie learned much from this table tennis experience at the Euro Mini Championship in Strasbourg, France in September.

Any expectation that this would be an easy ride for a young boy who is regarded as the best player in the under eleven age group in England, were quickly dashed in his first group stage. Jamie had a good, if close start against a Romanian boy but then found the need to constantly raise his game for the rest of the group matches very difficult. He eventually finished fourth out of five in the group, missing out of third place on count back with a player he had actually beaten.



Jamie had to learn things the hard way with regards to the sustained level of concentration required to compete on the European stage with his next two matches that saw him going out of the main event on count-back. The experience was chastising yet, in many respect, played a critical part in developing Jamie's mental approach: that he has to refocus quickly and react positively and be ready for his next challenge.

Day two saw Jamie winning all six pool matches of the consolation tournament before securing a berth in the knock-out with two further victories. The highly charged tournament atmosphere was another new experience that could easily intimidate those who weren't fully prepared for the show of raw passion from the packed crowd of spectators. Jamie handled well the pressure of the knock-out stages and came through his Last-32 test comfortably with a 3-1 win. Jamie's Last-16 bout against another French player ended his run at the Euro Minis this year but the whole experience will hopefully better equip him for future international competitions.

A good start to the season: Daniel McTiernan

Daniel McTiernan wins first title of new season and plays a legend

Fifteen year old Woodley based Daniel McTiernan won the first open junior tournament of the new season in England – the Topspin Donic Legends Table Tennis Championships held at Fusion TTC in South Bermondsey.

Attracting over 20 entrants, McTiernan was seeded second due to his national top 25 ranking. He proceeded to win his four boy group without losing a set and continued in this rich vein of form during the knock out rounds, beating a top French Cadet player in the quarter finals and London based Curtis Walsh (third seed) in the semi finals, both in straight sets.

In the final he faced regular adversary and number 1 seed, Matthew Lette from Grantham in Lincolnshire. Daniel lost twice to Matthew last season in the Junior British league but this time however he was not to be denied, taking a one and then two set lead, the second in a deuce game. He was always up in the final set and closed it out 11-8 for yet another 3-0 victory and the title. He was a deserved winner having not dropped a single set over the six matches he played in the event.



McTiernan was presented with a lovely trophy and his £50 prize money by the Mayor of Lewisham. His main prize however was a place amongst the six qualifiers in the Legends Competition, featuring former World and Olympic champions, Swedish pair Jan-Ove Waldner and Jorgen Persson, who are on a Donic Legends World tour and came to officially help open the club at its new premises.



Daniel was drawn against Waldner, a legend in the game who many consider to be the greatest player of all time. At 48 years old, he has retired from international competition but still plays some truly amazing shots – during his illustrious career, his skills earned him the nick name 'Mozart of Table Tennis' and his huge popularity around the World has not dwindled over time.

Fresh from victory in the Junior competition, and with Waldner clearly fighting a back injury which would later force him out of the tournament, it was a close contest throughout with McTiernan mainly playing the role of the aggressor and Waldner content sitting back and counter attacking.

In a closely fought best of three set match, Waldner took the first 13-11 but Daniel bounced back to win the second set 11-9. This set up a deciding set which witnessed some of the best rallies of the match. It was however Waldner that won through to the semi finals by an 11-5 scoreline.

McTiernan played his part in a thoroughly entertaining match which had the 300 plus strong crowd thoroughly enthralled.



The Waingels College pupil said after his 'once in a lifetime' experience, 'Waldner has been a hero of mine for many years and I watch old clips of him on the internet to learn from, so to play him was so surreal. I was pleased with the way I played today and glad I was able to help entertain the large crowd. I'd like to thank the Fusion Club for putting on such a prestigious event and also my long term sponsors, Tees Sport.'.

By Adam McTiernan, 11 August 2014

Coaching at Kingfisher



Coaching Sessions:

Late afternoon from 5pm to 7pm, coaching and training sessions for juniors take place every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Those young players who represent Kingfisher in either the National Cadet or National Junior Leagues attend on Tuesday and Wednesday. The four players who compete in the Junior British League attend on Wednesday and Thursday; the latter day includes players in the Kingfisher Senior British League Squads.

Three tables have been allocated to free junior practice on Fridays, also between 5pm and 7pm.

As you may know, **Nick Heaps** will soon be relocating to the Derby area and **Peter Charters** has taken over as Coaching Officer.



Nick has made an enormous contribution to the club in this role and will be greatly missed. His legacy to the club will be structure and a framework to Kingfisher's Coaching Programme. We wish him well.

Coaching at Kingfisher

Graham Outrim continues to run the Monday Coaching Group and **Andrew 'Mully' Smith** is the Tuesday coach. **Peter Charters** leads on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Andrew (UKCC Level 1) and Graham (UKCC Level 2) are professional coaches and as such are paid by Kingfisher for the sessions that they run. The players, or more accurately the parents of the players attending the sessions, pay the club for this service.

Both these coaches and **Alison Broe** (UKCC Level 3) are available for paid one-to-one coaching sessions by arrangement individually with them – you can always get better!



Andrew 'Mully' Smith
UKCC Level 1 Coach
smith.andrew@hotmail.co.uk
Picture courtesy of
Michael Loveder Photography



Graham Outrim
UKCC Level 2 Coach
goutrim@live.co.uk



Alison Broe
UKCC Level 3 Coach
alison@cleandistribution.com

UKCC Level 1

Diane Taylor and Gwynne Penny are currently working towards their Level 1 Coach License at the Graham Spicer Table Tennis Centre in New Malden, and have been assisting Graham and Andrew with the Monday and Tuesday groups as part of their assessment.

James Ellicott is already a level 1 coach and is working towards his Level 2 and is assisting Andrew with the Tuesday Group.

A Serving of Sneakles



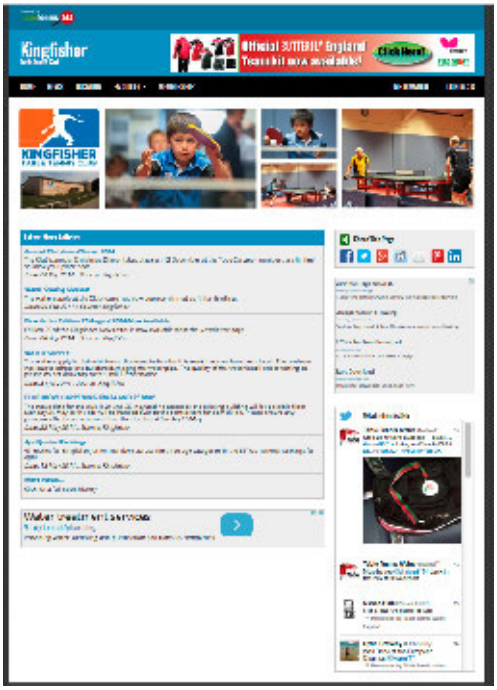
Kingfisher Web Site

If you have visited the Kingfisher Website recently you may have noticed a few changes.

Table Tennis 365 who provide the framework for managing the site have made some upgrades and we have also been bringing the content more up to date to reflect our new premises.

It is still a work in progress, so if you do see anything on it that you think is out of date, please let me know.

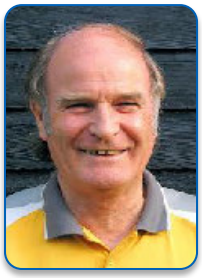
Gwynne



Your Committee



President and Coaching Officer: Peter Charters



Chairman and Treasurer: Colin Dyke



General Secretary: Peter Bradley



Facilities Officer & Web Site Manager: Allen Pack



Membership Secretary: Sandra Shepherd



Assistant Treasurer: Richard Fifield



Welfare Officer, Premier and Clubmark Contact: Lisa Williams



Bookings Officer: Mick Mitcham



Newsletter Editor and Local League Co-Ordinator Gwynne Penny



Committee Member & Trophy Secretary: Andy Yon



Committee Member: Allan Bruton



Committee Member: Krys Szczygiel



Committee Member: Ck Liu



Committee Member: Carol Byers



Coach and Publicity Officer: Andrew Smith

Additional Club Roles:

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

Kingfisher Agent, Tees Sport discount scheme: Sandra Shepherd

Club Championships & Grouping Tournament Allan Bruton

Cleaning: Feargal Gallen

Morning Club Contacts:

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



Tuesdays: Diane Taylor



Wednesdays: Roger Woolven-Allen



Fridays: Allan Bruton

Newsletter Noticeboard

Bag Storage:

Space has been reserved in the left hand storage units which are situated at the far end of the social area for storing bags. If this area is full, please use the space underneath the chairs in the social area or playing hall. Please avoid leaving bags on seats.

ITTF Approved Rubbers:

The latest list can be found online here:

http://www.ittf.com/_front_page/ittf1.asp?category=rubber

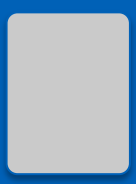
There is also a printed list available for reference in the social area in the folder marked "Important Information'.

Important Notice:

Recently there was an unfortunate incident which resulted in a member receiving a burn to the arm. This was due to the urn being left on after the building was vacated. It is important that members who use any equipment in the club should ensure that it is either **switched off** or put away after use. It is also important that the last people to leave the building should try to ensure that everything is **switched off** before leaving. It has also been noted that on several occasions the door has not been deadlocked when the building is empty. If you are the last to leave please ensure that you **deadlock** the door. Your committee would appreciate your cooperation in these matters.

Kingfisher is run by it's members, for it's members and it takes a lot of work to keep a club like ours running smoothly, so we are always looking for additional help.

At the moment we have the following vacancies. If you are interested or want to know more about a vacancy, contact any member of the committee.



Vacancy: Cleaning Supervisor



Vacancy: Events Co-ordinator

Kitchen Etiquette:

As a courtesy to other members at the club, please remember to wash and dry up kitchen utensils after use and to sweep up after any spillages/food. Please avoid leaving any food out on the counter – this is to prevent attracting unwelcome wildlife into our club.

Lost Property:

Left something behind at the club? Check the lost property cupboard situated below the kitchen worktop or contact lost property manager Andy Yon.

Kingfisher Grouping Tournament, 2014



By Allan Bruton, (Organiser)

The grouping tournament was held on 27th August and 1st September. A total of 18 players of varying standards entered and an enjoyable tournament was had by all.

The first 2 rounds were played on a best of three basis and this pushed some to get up to speed earlier than they might have wished and this possibly resulted in one or two unexpected results.

Round three and the final one on one matches were all played under the normal best of five system. There were some good performances over the course of the tournament along with some expected ones.

The overall result is detailed below:

1 Hari Gehlot,
2 Yeqin (Phillip) Zeng,
3 John Barclay,
4 Allan Bruton,
5 Yuan Zhuang,
6 N Heaps (Dave Duncan),
7 Bernhard Schnederle,
8 Roger Woolven-Allen,
9 Hari Venapusa,
10 Wendy Porter,
11David Joyce,
12 Melvyn Lovegrove,
13 Eric Holmes,
14 John Upham,
15 Gwynne Penny,
16 David O'Keeffe,
17 Chris Franks,
18 Dauan Choi.

A final word of thanks to Dave Duncan and David O'Keeffe who stood in at the last minute.

Now and Then: Martin Adams



Premier Club Affiliation renewed 2014/15

Kingfisher Table Tennis Club is registered with Table Tennis England as a Premier Club, with registration number: 1129.

Please note: **all** members of Kingfisher must have a Table Tennis England Subscription. It is the responsibility of individual members to maintain an appropriate level of subscription (Associate Member for non-league playing members, Player Membership for local league play and Licensed Player for members who compete in licensed table tennis events, such as Table Tennis England Grand Prix.)

For more information visit the Table Tennis England Membership page:

http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/membership/

Local League News: Reading

Kingfisher entered 12 teams in the Reading League:
For fixtures and latest results visit the web site here: https://www.tabletennis365.com/reading

KINGFISHER A DIVISION 1 HOME: MONDAY
Hari Gehlot Captain Availability: 75%
Tony Reynolds Availability: 50%
Federico Viterbo Availability: 50%
Stuart Williams Availability: 70%
Mark Banks

KINGFISHER B DIVISION 1 HOME: WEDNESDAY
Richard Rosinski Captain Availability: 90%
Martin Adams Availability: 80%
John Barclay Availability: 100%
Andy Smith Availability: 75%

KINGFISHER C DIVISION 1 HOME: MONDAY
Steve Murgatroyd Captain
Niall McGrane Availability: 90%
Andrew Parker Availability: 80%
Lisa Williams Availability: 100%

KINGFISHER D DIVISION 1 HOME: WEDNESDAY
Yeqin (Philip) Zeng Captain Availability: 90%
Richard Fifield Availability: Reserve
Trevor Organ Availability: 80%
Yuan Zhuang
Eduard Caliman
Hari Vennapusa Availability: Reserve

KINGFISHER E DIVISION 2 HOME: WEDNESDAY
Geoff Civil Captain Availability: 75%
John Morris Availability: 50%
Roger Woolven-Allen Availability: 60%
Bernhard Schnederle Availability: 95%

KINGFISHER F DIVISION 2 HOME: TUESDAY
Allan Bruton Captain Availability: 100%
Peter Bennett Availability: 100%
Ivor Hardman Availability: 90%
Michael Houghton Availability: 100%
Allen Pack Availability: 70%

KINGFISHER G DIVISION 2* HOME: MONDAY
Eric Holmes Captain Availability: 90%
Carol Byers Availability: 80%
Mick Mitcham Availability: 100%
Steven Woolnough Availability: 75%
Dave Duncan Availability: 80%

KINGFISHER H DIVISION 3 HOME: MONDAY
Willis Ma Captain Availability: 85%
Leigh Mahoney Availability: 90%
Rick Leachman Availability: 100%
Colin Dyke Availability: 80%
Dave Gostelow Availability: 100%

KINGFISHER I DIVISION 3 HOME: TUESDAY
Didier Garcon Captain Availability: 60%
Gianpaolo Balsamo Availability: 60%
Gabor Radnoti Availability: 60%
Joaquin Sabater Availability: 60%
Jean-Noel Thepaut Availability: 60%
Nils Wedi Availability: 60%

KINGFISHER J DIVISION 4 HOME: TUESDAY
Derek Crombie Captain Availability: 100%
Melvyn Lovegrove Availability: 80%
Ken Robb Availability: 75%
John Upham Availability: 70%
John Creighton Availability: 50%

KINGFISHER K DIVISION 5 HOME: TUESDAY
Gill Bennett Captain Availability: 90%
Gwynne Penny Availability: 60%
Sandra Shepherd Availability: 40%
Diane Taylor Availability: 100%
David Wells Availability: 70%
Katie Shepherd Availability: Reserve

KINGFISHER L DIVISION 5 HOME: WEDNESDAY
Hilary Husbands Captain Availability: 50%
Colin Mercer Availability: 50%
Ania Pytka Availability: 50%
Mike Dorrington Availability: Reserve
Ruben Hernandez Availability: 50%

Local League News: Reading Roundup



Thank you to those of you who have submitted a report for your team, those who haven't please remember to send me something for the next newsletter if you can!

Overall Kingfisher has started well this season, with our teams currently topping the tables for Division 1, 2 and 5.

Martin Adams currently leads the individual averages table with a solid 100% after 12 games – well done Martin!

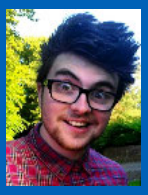
Reminder: Please encourage your team and your guests to knock up on your nominated league match table, and avoid using the member's practice tables when there are members waiting to use them.

For those of you playing in the Reading league, the league organisers are currently seeking a volunteer to run the Reading Closed Senior event 14/15 February at Kingfisher – if you can help please contact Nigel Maltby via the Reading web site.

Good luck to you all in the coming weeks, and remember to keep those reports coming!

Gwynne (League Play Co-ordinator)

Kingfisher B
Andrew Smith



Kingfisher B have started the season well, picking up 3 consecutive victories, 10-0 vs Tidmarsh B, 7-3 vs Kingfisher C and 9-1 against Sonning Common and Peppard A, Martin Adams and Andrew Smith remaining unbeaten throughout. Tougher challenges lie in wait in the coming weeks, but if the early form continues, we will be up challenging for honours by the season's end.

Kingfisher D
Yeqin Zeng, Captain



We lost to Tidmarsh A last night. Their team is better than I expected. They have Sam Ricks, Danny Ricks, and Lee. I beat three of them and won the double with Yuan Zhuang. But Yuan and Hari lost their singles. Yuan had two close games against Sam and Lee though. I can see his potential in the games last night.

Our team will be better after Edi joins in two weeks. We will fight for the forth place in Division. 1 this season.

Local League News: Reading Roundup



Kingfisher E
Geoff Civil, Captain

On behalf of Kingfisher 'E' in Reading Div 2, I can say that we have 2 points on the board after our first match with a 9-1 win over Pangbourne Working Men's Club 'A'. We welcomed Bernhard to his first match in the Reading League and he rewarded us with a fine maximum. Colin played up from Div 3 and provided 2 wins, narrowly losing out to tricky Denise Weller. I surprised myself by also getting a maximum. The other two members of the squad, John and Roger, will join in when they return from their holidays!

I know better than to make predictions, but I suspect we will be comfortably in the top half (or even third) of the table at the end of the season.

Geoff



Kingfisher F
Allan Bruton, Captain

A Bruton, P Bennett, M Houghton A had good start to the season with an 8-2 win albeit against one of last season's div 3 teams however the opponents were not a walkover and our team performed well, tougher matches will follow but I suggest a mid table finish at the end of the season.



Kingfisher K
Gill Bennett, Captain

Gwynne Penny, David Wells and Gill Bennett started the season well for Kingfisher K with a 10-0 victory over the visiting BBC team. David was hero of the day, beginning it at 5am in Italy. He flew back to England, drove his wife to Cambridge, then returned to Reading in time for a pre-match warm-up and a great result! A truly noble effort!

Wanted: Additional Player for Kingfisher L, Division 5

Are you new to the club and looking to play some league table tennis? Perhaps it is your first season, or maybe you are returning to the sport after a break? Kingfisher L would love to hear from you as they are currently seeking an additional player to assist with providing cover. Matches take place in the Reading area at start at 7:30pm. The team's home night is Wednesday. If you are interested, please contact the league play co-ordinator: Gwynne Penny (gwynnepenny@mac.com) for more details.

Local League News: Bracknell

Kingfisher entered 5 teams into the Bracknell League.

Visit the new Bracknell Web Site for latest match results and fixtures:
https://www.tabletennis365.com/BracknellAndWokingham

KINGFISHER A PREMIER HOME NIGHT THURSDAY
John Willcocks Captain Availability: 80%
Geoff Civil Availability: 75%
Phil Mead Availability: 75%
John Morris Availability: 70
Roger Woolven-Allen Availability: 60%

KINGFISHER B PREMIER HOME NIGHT THURSDAY
Allan Bruton Captain Availability: 100%
Ivor Hardman Availability: 90%
John Barclay Availability: 100%
Jeffrey Huggins Availability: 80%

KINGFISHER C PREMIER HOME NIGHT FRIDAY
Mick Mitcham Captain Availability: 100%
Carol Byers Availability: 80
Denise Rolfe Availability: 50%
Peter Bennett Availability: 100

KINGFISHER D PREMIER HOME NIGHT - THURSDAY
Allen Pack Captain Availability: 70%
Michael Houghton Availability: 50%
Trevor Organ Availability: 80%
Richard Fifield Availability: 75%
Dave Gostelow Availability: 75%

KINGFISHER E DIVISION 1 HOME NIGHT - FRIDAY
Derek Crombie Captain Availability: 100
Dave Duncan Availability: 80
John Upham Availability: 50%
Melvyn Lovegrove Availability: 50%
John Creighton Availability: 50%
Bernhard Schnederle Availability: Reserve
Kenneth Robb Availability: Reserve

KINGFISHER F DIVISION 1 HOME NIGHT - THURSDAY
Gwynne Penny Captain Availability: 100%
Gill Bennett Availability: 90%
David O'Keefe Availability: 100%
Diane Taylor Availability: 75%
David Wells Availability: 70%



Thank you to those of you who have submitted a report for your team, those who haven't please remember to send me something for the next newsletter if you can!

Kingfisher teams A and B currently top the table in the Premier Division.

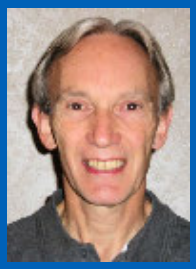
Several Kingfisher players are still on 100% - keep up the good work!

Reminder: Please encourage your team and your guests to knock up on your nominated league match table, and avoid using the member's practice tables when there are members waiting to use them.

Good luck to you all in the coming weeks, and remember to keep those reports coming!

Local League News: Bracknell Roundup

Kingfisher A
John Willcocks, Captain



After fending off a number of bids for Roger in the transfer window we will be defending our Premier Division title with the same squad as last season.

It is difficult to predict how the league will go this season, as there have been quite a few player and team changes, but everything points to there being a number of closely matched teams.

The unpredictable nature of the league was well illustrated in our first league match away to Broadmoor B which was played in sauna like conditions in their very hot hut. This was a match we would have expected to win but we ended up drawing 5-5 mainly because they fielded Mark Hancock, a very high standard player who had not played in the Bracknell League for a number of years. If we all stay fit we should be able to challenge for the top spot again but it's likely there will be little to chose between

Kingfisher B
Allan Bruton, Captain



Team this week A Bruton, I Hardman, J Huggins

Our first match was against a promoted team who will themselves do OK over the course of the season but unfortunately only had 2 players in their team. They still put up a good show with some individual games ending up around 14-12 and 16-14 with a couple or 5 gamers to boot so our 10-0 win was hard fought but a good start to the season. I would look to a top 3 finish this season all being well.

Kingfisher F
Gwynne Penny, Captain



It's a tough season ahead for Kingfisher F, but we are going to make the most of this opportunity to play in Division 1 this season.

Our first match drew us against the other Kingfisher team in this division, comprising Melvyn Lovegrove, John Upham and Dave Duncan.

We lost 10-0 but it was a good team effort and we look forward to our next match.

Berkshire Closed Championships

The Royal County of Berkshire Table Tennis Association Closed Championships will be held at Kingfisher

on **Saturday 6th December** 2014 from 12:00pm
and **Sunday 7th December** 2014 from 09:00am.

All finals will be held on Sunday.

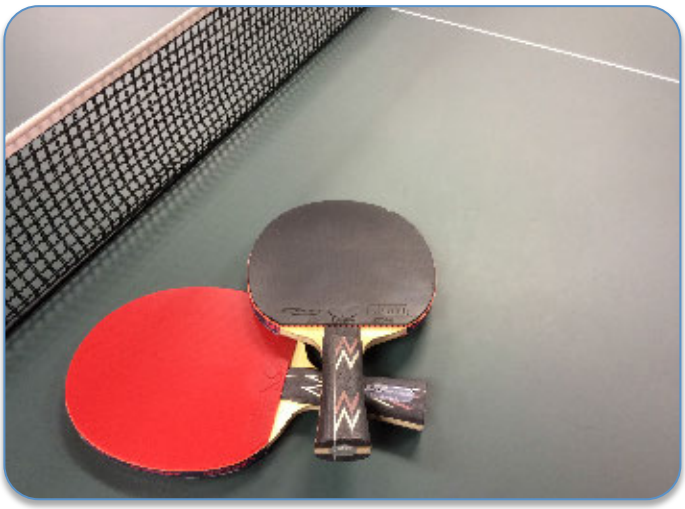
Entries may be accepted from any person who, in the current season, is a bona fide affiliated member of the Association. If any such person is not registered to play in a League affiliated to the Association he must be a Player Member of Table Tennis England and a supplemental fee shall be payable in addition to any entry fee.

Entries must be sent to the Tournament Secretary Allan Bruton, 11 Wilson Court, Winnersh, WOKINGHAM, Berks, RG41 5HS. The CLOSING DATE for receipt of entries is **Friday 21st November 2014**. The DRAW will take place on Wednesday 25th November 2014. The BALLS to be used will be White 3 Star.

Entry Forms and full details including the rules of the competition are available to download from the Kingfisher Web Site.

Events include:

Mens Singles
Ladies Singles
Veterans Singles (Male & Female)
Under 21 Singles (Male & Female)
Mens Doubles
Ladies Doubles
Mixed Doubles
Graded Event (Male & Female)



Sign up now to secure your place.

Roger's Ramblings

WELL, the league matches have finally started and I hope that you are enjoying things as much as I am. Having said that, as we enter our fourth week of the season and despite being registered in both leagues, I have made just one appearance.



The match concerned was a Reading away match against Springfield A and, because only Geoff Civil knew with any certainty how to reach the venue, we all met up at the *Goals* car-park. With Geoff navigating and me driving, we reached our destination without mishap.

Two of our opponents arguably weren't quite of Division 2 standard but their third player, Phil Burke, most certainly was! I don't think that Phil would disgrace himself in Division 1 and, as the fixtures come and go, I shall monitor his progress with great interest.

Phil defeated Geoff and Bernhard "three-straight" and, although I personally managed to push him, in vain, to a fifth-game decider, Phil beat me 11-0 in the second end. Afterwards, I said to Geoff, "I hope you don't intend to mention that game in your report to Colin Dyke and John Morris."

"I have to admit that it had crossed my mind," replied our Captain.

"Please remember who's driving tonight," I said. "Especially if you don't fancy the walk back to Kingfisher."

"My lips are sealed," said Geoff, with a look of such beatific innocence on his face that I almost believed him…

…almost…

THE above little tale reminds me of another similar occurrence. A few years ago, Mark Banks and Derek Wood (pictured) played on the same team for the same club – Springfield – and our Kingfisher squad duly travelled out for this particular away match. Halfway through the evening, I found myself up against



Derek who, at the time, was a far better player than I was. He probably still is, for that matter.

Anyway, Derek won the first two games quite convincingly 11-4 11-5 (or something like that) and Mark, the official umpire, watched us as we changed ends. I geared myself up for the first, very important serve.

"Third and final game," declared Mr Banks.

The real bummer, of course, was that he was dead right!

AT the recently-held 2014 Commonwealth Games, your keen-eyed scribe noticed that all the *Team England* players had stowed their kit in small suitcases, in much the same way as our own Allan Bruton does. Kingfisher's Tin Tin Ho, especially, looked quite fetching as she wheeled her little trolley along. A little later, I bumped into the team's skipper, Alan Cooke. I mentioned the smart suitcases.



"Yes," replied Cookie (pictured). "They make the squad look very professional indeed. But I can't claim much credit. Before we came to Glasgow, we had a team discussion and decided that if the suitcases were good enough for Allan Bruton, they were good enough for us."

Roger's Ramblings



MOST of you will remember erstwhile Kingfisher TTC member Jonathan Samuel with affection. Well, you will at least remember him. I don't see too much of The Looney nowadays because, apart from philately and the occasional trip to the Sue Ryder sales at Nettlebed, we share very few activities. He does, however, have an alarming habit of turning up on my doorstep at the most inconvenient times. When I mentioned this irritating failing of his, he looked at his shoes like a schoolboy being praised for something really wonderful and said, "Aw, shucks…"

I remember when *Sports Direct* first opened in Reading's Broad Street. Jonathan trotted down to the new store to buy a baseball cap. He found one that more-or-less suited him and then went off to find an assistant.

"This is the sort of cap that I'd like," said Jon. "But do you have one with the peak at the back?"

DID I ever tell you about the telephone conversation between my railway table tennis team captain Dave Fox and his bank manager? I fear that I can't remember. My apologies if you've already heard the story.



Now Dave (pictured), who hails from Nottingham and is a darned good table tennis player, tells me that his bank manager has an identical voice to my own. I know, I know, this is very difficult to believe, but it's true. The conversation between these two fine gentlemen went something like this:

Bank Manger: Hello Mr Fox.

Dave: Hello Roger.

Bank Manager: Sorry, Mr Fox, this is not Roger. This is Charles Edwards, Manager of the Nottingham branch of Lloyd's Bank. Have you a moment or two to chat, please?

Dave: Stop f*****g about, Roger. I've got better things to do."

Bank Manager: (now apparently quite offended): Mr Fox, I really have to insist…"

Dave: (*Absolute silence*).

AT the time of writing I have just returned from a week's holiday in the Cornish village of Looe. We had a great time.

One day, while wifey Lin and I had gone our separate ways for shopping reasons, I found myself behind a chap who was holding one of these newfangled tablet things – you know, the devices that are about a foot square and, amongst a myriad of other functions, have the capability of taking photographs. Anyway, this chap was obviously taking a picture and so I decided not to walk in front of him. After a couple of minutes he moved forward a few paces and lifted up his tablet again. I moved up behind him and again stopped.

Then the bloke moved sideways a few paces and I, being ever the thoughtful chappie, moved sideways and stood behind him again. Then, in my pea-brain, the penny finally dropped. He was trying to take what the kids of today call a "selfie", presumably with the aim of getting a good background view into the picture as well.



And this senile old git named Roger managed to keep getting into the frame! I explained the situation and apologised to him.

"Don't worry!" he laughed, "It was YOU that I really wanted a picture of, anyway!"

Roger's Ramblings



HE'S going to kill me for repeating this conversation but, with my warped mind currently at full throttle, I have very little choice… Andy Yon (pictured) telephoned me a week or so ago and the conversation went something like this:

Andy: Hello Roger.

Me: What-ho Andy! What can you do for me?

Andy: T'other way round, mate. I have to ask, is the job of Press Officer very difficult?

Me: Well, it's a sort of amalgamation of the press work that, between us, Peter Charters and I have done for quite a few years in the past. Why do you ask?

Andy: Well, I think I've been lumbered with it. I've just had this email from Colin thanking me for volunteering to take up the position. To be honest, I don't remember ever having agreed to it but, if I have, I guess I'll have to go along with it.

Me: Why on earth do you think you've got this job?

(Slight pause at this point, combined with the rustling of paper and the click of computer keys)

Andy: Colin's email says: "Hi Andy. Thank you for volunteering, at the last committee meeting, to take up the position of Kingfisher Press Officer. This is very much appreciated." I find this a bit weird because I didn't even attend the last meeting.

Me; Are you taking the wee-wee?

Andy: No, it's straight up. What I don't understand is why it was addressed to me and also copied to me.

Me: What do you mean "copied to" and "addressed to"? Who exactly WAS the darned thing addressed to?

Andy: It was very definitely addressed to Andy….

(A minute's pause – a very LONG minute's pause – ensued at this point).

Andy: Oops, it was addressed to Andy Smith!! I think I've made a terrible mistake. Sorry, Roger, please forget that I ever rang you."

Me (under my breath): Not on your Nellie, my Polish friend….."



THIS snippet has absolutely no connection with table tennis whatsoever, but it really did amuse me. Having said that, I hope that my new Austrian team-mate Bernhard will forgive my light-hearted jibe at his neighbouring country. It happened on the BBC 2 quiz show *The Eggheads*.

David Vine was in the chair and the round was entitled "History". Egghead Barry Simmons (pictured) was asked the following question: "Tacitus, senator and historian of Ancient Rome, wrote an important document about one particular country which, at the time, was not part of the Roman Empire. Was that country France, Germany or Spain?"

"Germany," replied Barry.

"Germany is the correct answer," said the presenter but, to encourage a sort of verbal fill-in, he asked Barry for a little more information.

"What did Tacitus say about the Germans, Barry?"

"He said that they had no sense of humour," replied our Egghead.

Roger's Ramblings



THE ITTF Publications Editor and television presenter Ian Marshall (pictured) is well known to many of us. Ian often acts as commentator at many top level table tennis events, including the recent Commonwealth Games, and (with just one exception) his knowledge of our sport's players is second to none. Not only does Ian know all about our sport, but he knows all the players, what their rankings are, who they are married to or partnered with, where they live and how their second cousins once-removed earn good money at golf or tennis or whatever and what their shoe sizes are. His knowledge of table tennis trivia is absolutely amazing but, as previously mentioned, he is usurped by another Ian – our late beloved and lamented Kingfisher member Ian Schwartz.

The reason I mention this? Please read on…

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away there was a table tennis club situated in the middle of a field. Actually, it wasn't in a different galaxy, but somewhere a couple of miles off the main A4 between Reading and Newbury. I can't remember the name of the club, but I do recall that one of the players was called Darren Jones.

We were relatively young in those days and fairly reasonable at the old "ping". I think (although I'm not totally sure) that we played in Reading's Division 1 at that time. Ian Schwartz and I were on the same team and the match in question was an away fixture against Darren's squad.

Having tramped through various interesting fields that included many inspiring stinging nettles and cowpats, we arrived at our venue. In we marched.

"Hello, Darren!" said our intrepid Ian. "Long time no see. The last time we played, the match stood at one-game-all and 18-all. I hit a winner to make it 19-18 in my favour but you levelled with a lucky net-cord. Then you hit two brilliant forehand drives to win the game – and the match – 21-19."

"I'm sorry," said a mystified Darren, "but I don't even know who you are."



WELL, everyone, that's it for now. If Andy Yon hasn't employed a hit-man to get rid of me, or Bernhard hasn't taken me to court for non-PC comments, then I'll be back next issue.

As always, I hope that I shall meet as many of you as possible at away venues and also at our own superb club. As the years pass, having a good time becomes much more important than winning – although I still like that bit, too! Not that it happens too often! The social side of our sport – especially chatting to you, my Kingfisher friends and colleagues – makes each evening a thoroughly enjoyable occasion. I know, I know, what a creep…

(Roger)

From Around the Net

It's always interesting to see weird and wonderful table tennis tables. I'd love to see what this is really like to play on, but I don't see it replacing our traditional Butterfly tables any time soon.



This is the Stiga 'Waldner' product concept table with advanced computer system integration. The whole surface is a multi-touch sensitive screen, which is integrated with an Apple computer system to track the game. The net is a touch sensitive screen from Samsung with embedded touch sensors.

After and during the game, all kind of statistics can be found on the table. Players can for example compare the balls hit areas (where each hit have been visualized by a circle and contains information like speed and trajectory. All data is stored and can be visualized as real time 3D on devices as iPad and iPhones

Read more at: http://designchapel.com/blog/2012/02/09/waldner/

And Finally….

I hope you've enjoyed reading this edition of Kingfisher News. The season is well underway and as my hairdresser said to me the other day- only two more haircuts until Christmas!

Don't forget to check the club notice boards in the social area for latest information, club directory of contacts and table diary, or go online to the Kingfisher Web Site or Facebook page.

Team captains and players, please keep your reports coming so that I can include the news about your team in the December issue.

Gwynne

Useful Links:

Kingfisher Web Site:
https://www.tabletennis365.com/kingfisher

Kingfisher Facebook Page:
https://www.facebook.com/kingfisherttc

Table Diary:
https://www.tabletennis365.com/Kingfisher/Pages/Table_diary

Club Shirts:
https://www.tabletennis365.com/Kingfisher/Pages/Club_T_shirt

Related Sites:

Table Tennis England Web Site:
http://tabletennisengland.co.uk

Reading League Web Site:
https://www.tabletennis365.com/reading

Bracknell League Web Site:
http://www.bwdtta.co.uk



???

What do you think?

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

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

gwynnepenny@mac.com