



Kingfisher Table Tennis Club

KINGFISHER



Here's wishing all Kingfisher TTC members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!



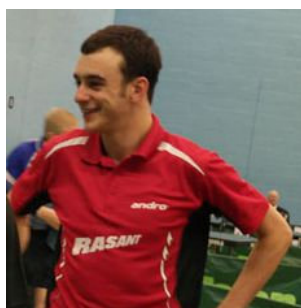
Issue 75

December 2013 / January 2014

Tom Wins At Nottingham!

'Tom Tom' navigates his way to maiden Grand Prix glory!! *Men's Singles*

(The following two articles have been extracted from the ETTA's website. They have been written by Russell Moore, but I fear that I cannot identify the photographer. Ed.)



Tom Maynard provided the shock of the season as he brilliantly battled his way to a maiden Grand Prix title at the Bribar Nottingham Grand Prix from the seventh seed position.

Maynard, who struggled to find his way to the venue earlier on, was much more confident on the table as he navigated his route through the groups and the early knockout rounds.

His fight began early with a group stage 3-2 (11-7, 12-14, 11-9, 7-11, 11-9) win over Craig Feargrieve



but he followed that result up with two more convincing victories in the knockout stages against Joe Pilkington (3-1) and Sam Mabey (3-0) to make the quarter-finals.

In the last eight he pulled off his first big victory by stunning the fourth seed Matt Ware in a pulsating encounter, ebbing and flowing one way and then the next before he could finally secure a 3-2 (11-7, 10-12, 5-11, 11-7, 11-5) win.



That match was Ware's last for a period of time as he prepares to undergo knee surgery in the week.

Following the win, Maynard had a long wait for his semi-final as a slow earlier group involving qualifiers Richard Andrews and Ernest Mpundu meant that the Men's Singles ran long past its schedule.

During the time the top half of the draw was delayed, second seed Gavin Rungay advanced to the final with 3-0 victories over Daniel Lawrence and Damien Nicholls before he produced an incredible recovery from 2-0 down against Kingfisher's Richard Andrews to win their semi-final clash.

Andrews was cruising at 2-0 (11-9, 11-5) up but missed a match point opportunity at 10-9, which proved more than costly as the Scotsman won the final three games 12-10, 11-8, 11-4.

When the top half of the draw caught up there were some spectacular results in the mix. Free-flowing Helshan Weerasinghe raced past Niall Cameron 3-0 before producing the biggest result of the tournament by knocking out Grand Prix King Ryan Jenkins 3-2 (13-15, 6-11, 11-9, 11-7, 11-5) in their quarter-final.

When Maynard and Weerasinghe met they produced another exhibition of excellent table tennis, the Sussex-born youngster was on fire but Kingfisher player Maynard showed real grit to recover from 2-1 down and win 3-2 (4-11, 11-3, 10-12, 13-11, 11-7)



That set up a final between two former Bristol Academy players with very differing grand prix experiences, Maynard hoping for a first Men's Singles title, while the Scotsman was hoping to further his long engrained record.

As it turned out it was the youth that triumphed over experience as Maynard won his maiden Men's Singles title with a 3-1 – securing the third game crucially 12-10. He led 8-0 in the fourth, but had to survive a nervy comeback from Rungay before he could finally celebrate with an 11-7 game.

Russell Moore (8th December 2013)

Open Doubles

Tom Maynard completed a perfect Sunday by sealing a late doubles triumph alongside partner Richard Andrews (*pictured, courtesy of John Upham*) against his Men's Singles final opponent Gavin Rungay and Scottish compatriot Niall Cameron.



With both pairs involving a player from the late-running Men's Singles final, the tournament went long into the evening and was the last event to finish by a distance.

In the group stages Andrews and Maynard beat Tony Stead/Richard Johnson 3-0 and Kev Dolder/Joe Pilkington 3-1 to win their group while Scots Rungay and Cameron beat Kevin Kan/Eddie Liu 3-0 and Adam Nutland/Luke Walsh 3-1 to secure their progress.

Both pairs were seeded into the semi-finals and both made sure of their place in the last stage with respective four-game wins. Top seeds Rungay and Cameron beat Matt Ware and Damien Nicholls 3-1 (9-11, 13-11, 15-13, 11-5) while Maynard and Andrews beat Daniel Lawrence and Jack Dempsey 3-1 (7-11, 11-5, 11-9, 11-7).

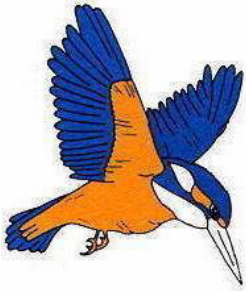
The final was loud and dramatic, due to both the calibre of the players and the character of the teams, in a full-distance battle that produced a lot of excellent rallies.

As the last match of the weekend, it spent its due course by heading to five ends before Maynard and Andrews closed the curtains on a successful campaign by clinching the final game 11-9.

Russell Moore

(Regarding Tom's magnificent singles performance, I should also like to include an extract from the Reading Post, written by Peter Charters. It gives one or two personal titbits which, although probably of little interest to the ETTA, will hopefully be of great interest to local Reading players – especially those who love The Beautiful Game! Ed.)

HARD WORK PAYS DIVIDENDS AS MAYNARD LIFTS GRAND PRIX TITLE



Tom Maynard produced the best result of his career when winning the prestigious Nottingham Grand Prix, one of England's major senior events.

The 22-year-old, who lives in Caversham and trains at the Kingfisher Club in Woodley, is the first Reading player to win a senior British Grand Prix.

It is proof that commitment and hard work pay off, as he puts in hours and hours of practice each week.

Royals fan Maynard travelled up to Nottingham after watching Reading lose to Bournemouth on Saturday.

And, being seeded seventh, he was not expected to be celebrating a win on Sunday, especially as the top seed, Welsh Number 1 Ryan Jenkins, was in the same half of the draw.

Maynard, however, had a day to remember!

Peter Charters

Club Officers and Officials:



Treasurer, Senior British League Secretary, Veterans National League Contact, Team Kit Manager, Trustee. **Eric Van Looy** – Membership Secretary, Welfare and Child Protection Officer, Events Organiser, Trophy Secretary, Senior British league Second Team Manager. **Nick Heaps** – Coaching Officer, Junior and Cadet National League Manager, Trustee. **Allen Pack** – Building and Equipment Officer, Website Manager, Robot Master, Committee Member. **Roger Woolven-Allen** (pictured) – Newsletter Editor. **Richard Fifield** (pictured) – Assistant Treasurer. **Andy Yon** –



Committee Member, Social 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. **David Barr** – Senior British League First Team Captain. **Marion Dyke** – Cleaning Supervisor. **Dave Duncan** – Table Manager. **Nigel Lynch** – Auditor. **John Upham** – British League and National League Photographer. **Didier Garçon** – Local League and General Club Photographer. **Sandra Shepherd** – Club Discount Scheme Co-ordinator, Committee Member.

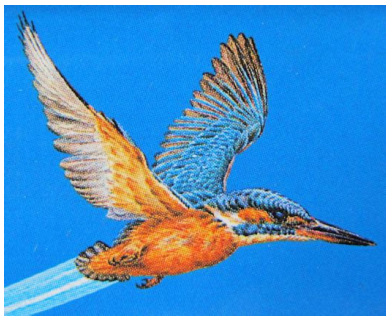
(Vacancies exist for Publicity Officer and Minutes Secretary)

(Note: As I am sure you realised many moons ago, I always take the liberty of attaching two photographs of Club officials to the above list. By the time I have "done the rounds", so to speak, there will, inevitably, be one or two changes. However, this time I am back to Richard Fifield and Yours Truly. The picture of your friendly Editor also shows my Railway Team Captain, Dave Fox from Nottingham. Some of you may well know him from the VETTS circuit. Ed.)

Prologue

So much has been happening at the very highest levels of our national sport, I fear that local stuff has, of necessity, been relegated to the realms of the "also ran", as far as the *Kingfisher News* is concerned. I say "I fear", because I am a great advocate of the ordinary league player – probably because I am one – but I make no apologies for putting Tom

Maynard's and Richard Andrews's performances into the lead article. I don't know about you, dear reader, but I was chuffed to bits when I heard about them! Many, many congratulations to both Tom and Richard! I send my thanks to Peter Charters, Adam McTiernan, Colin Dyke, Mick Maynard and, indirectly, Russell Moore of the ETTA, for pointing all this great stuff out to me.



This "Christmas" issue of your newsletter contains many other stories and snippets and I am, as always, indebted to the many contributors. There are tales about the exploits of Federico Viterbo, Tin-Tin Ho, Maria Tsaptsinos and Liam McTiernan; and also a couple concerning lesser table tennis mortals. Our beloved *Sneakles* makes another welcome appearance!

Kingfisher's Senior British League team has been in action again and, boy, what an all-round performance! Peter Charters's report on these activities appears immediately after this prologue. And Eric's very welcome Kingfisher II report follows a little later.

Sadly, there is always the downside to any publication that deals with people. Three of our most prestigious members are not well and, when you reach this part of the newsletter, I am sure that you will join with me in sending them all our best wishes. Tim Heaps, brother of Nick, has, as many of you will know, sadly passed away at his home in Wales. Tim, to the best of my knowledge, was never a member of Kingfisher TTC, but he was extremely well-known (and very popular) on the local Berkshire table tennis circuit. He will be sorely missed by the table tennis fraternity in general.

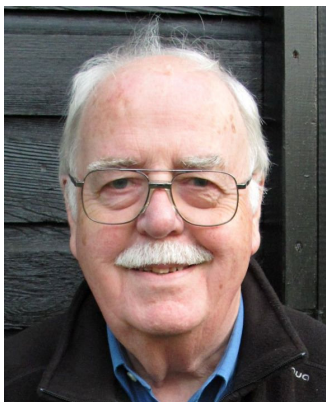
But on to brighter things! There are stories and letters regarding our new Clubhouse! Everyone would appear to be about as enthusiastic as it is possible to be! You will find a few pictures of a hole in the ground taken by Yours Truly (the photographs coming nowhere near the standard of John or Didier, I freely admit) somewhere in this issue. There are also details of the Ken Fellingham Tournament and a little write-up about Allan Bruton's fantastic Club dinner!

You should also find our Captains' reports, telling us all about their triumphs and woes in the Reading and Bracknell Leagues, together with personal League averages – a subject about which your friendly Editor has no particular desire to be reminded.

But, at this point, for fear of pre-empting just about everything, I shall leave it to you, should you so wish, to read on... (Ed.)

Kingfisher Senior British League

(By Peter Charters)



The Kingfisher Club's flagship team, playing in Division One of the British League, pulled clear at the top of the table over the weekend with four emphatic wins to give themselves a real chance of reaching the playoffs at the end of this season, for Premier status next.

Main man for Kingfisher was England Junior number eight, sixteen-year-old Marcus Giles (pictured) who, playing at Two in the team, remained undefeated, winning on all of his eight visits to the table.

The matches, played at Cippenham Table Tennis Centre over the weekend of 14/15 December, started brilliantly for Kingfisher with an 8-0 triumph over Godalming Coversure. With new signing Daniel Kolesnik making up a five man squad for this weekend, Captain and Number One Dave Barr, rested himself for this first of four matches.



Marcus Giles put his club one up before Daniel Moses destroyed the confidence of former England junior Michael Chan to give Kingfisher a two-nil lead. In this encounter the first game went to Chan but over the course of the next three games Moses's unorthodox but so effective style demoralised the opposition Number One.

Newly-crowned Berkshire Champion Federico Viterbo made it three for the Woodley Club and then Daniel Kolesnik took the fourth. There was no way back for Godalming at this stage and Kingfisher ran out comfortable winners.

Barr returned for the second match of the weekend against Fusion with Daniel Kolesnik rested. The now confident Kingfisher side ran out 7-1 winners; the only loss was Barr going down to the experienced John Dennison.

Sunday saw Kingfisher storm to two 6-2 victories. Barr fulfilled his captaincy role from the bench against Crusaders whilst the rest of the squad romped to a 6-0 lead. The two Dans, Moses and Kolesnik, then dropped two games to Mickel Miller and Liam Grant respectively, but the job was done.

The toughest match of the weekend was always likely to be the last on Sunday afternoon against Cippenham. The talented Mark Scutts led their team but they had signed the Swede Owe Karlsson to play at position Two. It was Karlsson who took the two for the Slough club beating Barr nine in the fifth game and Viterbo four in the fifth. Giles's demolition of Cippenham's Number 1 Scutts, 3, 10 and 9, was a convincing display. Barr also beat Scutts; Kolesnik took two and Viterbo one to round up a successful weekend for Kingfisher.

Peter

The Berkshire Closed

(I have unashamedly plagiarised the following story from the Berkshire TTA's website. Unfortunately, I would make a rotten Sherlock

Holmes. I would love to give credit to the author and photographer but, sadly, I know the identity of neither. But my sincere thanks to these anonymous people, nevertheless! The picture, below, shows, from left to right, Runner-Up Martin Adams, Champion Federico Viterbo and Berkshire TTA Secretary Eric Van Looy. Ed.)

BERKSHIRE CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS 2013 - 2014

Kingfisher's Viterbo wins maiden Berkshire Closed Title

The Berkshire Closed table tennis tournament took place over the first weekend of December and a number of new players made an impact with no fewer than seven new champions emerging from the eight events held.

With Berkshire's top three ranked players all away playing in the British League Premier Division, Italian player Federico Viterbo took maximum advantage to become the Berkshire Closed Men's Singles Champion at his very first attempt. The second seed beat the first seed and a multiple former winner Martin Adams in a very entertaining final by three sets to two.

In the first semi final Viterbo beat young Daniel McTiernan in straight sets. Sixth seed McTiernan enjoyed a terrific 3-1 win over the third seed Daniel Moses in the quarter finals. In the second semi final, Adams came through in a tight five set encounter with another newcomer, Chinese penholder Trung Tran, who was seeded fifth. Tran had earlier disposed of fourth seed Mark Banks in his quarter final.

In the Ladies' Singles, second seed Clare Woodham overcame top seed Wendy Porter 3-2 in a pulsating final in which Porter was 2-1 up before finally succumbing to Woodham's consistent attack. The semi finalists were Diane Taylor and Poonam Gaur, who took Woodham to five sets.

The Men's Doubles was won by the two Daniels (McTiernan and Moses) in some style with a 3-0 victory over top seeds Banks and Adams in the final, following another straight sets win over second seeds Viterbo and Tony Reynolds in the semi finals. The other semi finalists were the young pairing of Sam Liu and Gus Thomis.

The Ladies Doubles saw top seeds Porter and Woodham combine to win the title, beating Gwynne Penny and Poonam Gaur 3-1 in the final.

The Mixed Doubles was won by Woodham and Viterbo who beat Porter and Moses 3-0 in a final that including two deuce sets.

The Veterans event was well contested with fourteen entrants. The top two seeds met in the final and it was Tony Reynolds who overcame Ian Cole 3-1 in a well contested match to take his maiden Vets title.



The Under 21s' event was won by defending champion Daniel Moses in his last year in this age group. Moses overcame Daniel McTiernan 3-2 in a see-saw match having been two sets down at one point. The losing semi finalists were Danny Ricks and his younger brother Sam Ricks.

The Graded event (for players not playing in the first Division of their Leagues) was won for the first time by Chinaman Xiao Huang who beat a battling Michael Houghton 3-2 in the closest finish of the weekend.

The tournament was very well organised and run by committee members Eric Van Looy and Allan Bruton on behalf of the Royal County of Berkshire TTA and supported by a large and appreciative audience. The Kingfisher Club did a fine job of hosting the event again, which will be the last time at the current venue due to redevelopment at the site.

FINAL RESULTS

Men's Singles – Federico Viterbo beat Martin Adams 3-2 (1-11,11-9,11-7,7-11,11-6)

Ladies' Singles – Clare Woodham beat Wendy Porter 3-2 (11-8,9-11,7-11,11-5,11-9)

Under 21s' Singles – Daniel Moses beat Daniel McTiernan 3-2 (5-11,5-11,12-10,11-7,11-8)

Veterans' Singles – Tony Reynolds best Ian Cole 3-1 (11-4,9-11,12-10,11-9)

Graded Singles – Xiao Huang beat Michael Houghton 3-2 (11-7,8-11,8-11,11-8,12-10)

Men's Doubles – Daniel McTiernan and Daniel Moses beat Mark Banks and Martin Adams 3-0 (11-7, 13-11, 11-5)

Ladies' Doubles – Wendy Porter and Claire Woodham beat Penny Gwynne and Poonam Gaur 3-1 (11-8, 11-3, 9-11,11-4)

Mixed Doubles – Claire Woodham and Federico Viterbo beat Wendy Porter and Daniel Moses 3-0 (12-10, 14-12, 11-8)

Maria triumphs!

Reading has a new English junior table tennis champion.

16-year-old Maria Tsaptsinos, who trains at the Kingfisher Club in Woodley and attends the Abbey School, won this coveted title in Preston

over the weekend of 23/24 November. Maria, who was coached at this event by her father Dimitris, triumphed with a final victory over England's Number One Tin Tin Ho, winning 15-13 4-11 12-10 11-6.



These two players are well ahead of their English rivals and as one and two seeds the expected final was all but guaranteed. Maria's fighting qualities will always make it a close encounter against the girl who is now a regular in England's senior team.

On this occasion it was the Reading girl's determination to return everything that her friend and rival could throw at her that won the day. Maria and Tin Tin compete together for Kingfisher in the Junior British League.

The international duo emerged from their respective knockout matches without dropping an end.

The final started with an intensive battle for the lead.

The second seed started positively and established a 9-5 break, but Tin Tin managed to earn four consecutive points to

level at 9-9.

Tsaptsinos then created the first game point of the set but it wasn't until she had both spurned two and saved two game points that she finally took a 1-0 lead with a 15-13 game. That could have given the Berkshire teenager the early impetus but, with a dominant show of power, the top seed levelled in style.

An 8-1 lead in the second game quickly became an 11-4 win as Tin Tin didn't allow Tsaptsinos time to settle.

It looked as though the tide had turned early in the third end but, crucially at 6-7 down, Tsaptsinos delivered her most decisive move by showing she was up to the battle.

She won four straight points to lead 10-7, slipping briefly to 10-10, but holding on to secure a 2-1 lead with a 12-10 game.

The Sainsbury's School Games champion dominated the fourth game – something she has not done against her great rival in a long time – to cruise home 11-4 and seal a memorable achievement.

Tsaptsinos and Tin Tin Ho won the junior girls' doubles by beating Letitia McMullan and Lois Peake 3-2 (9-11 3-11 11-4 11-4 11-6).

Tsaptsinos also won a silver medal in the mixed doubles.

Peter Charters

The New Clubhouse

work will be able to tell me how much “invisible” work has been done – and I’m sure there’s lots and lots – but, from a



(The above two pictures were taken on 21 November 2013)

photographic point of view, there isn’t much to show. However, for whatever it is worth, I have trotted round to the site every few days and taken a pikky or two.

Above and below you will find the results of my efforts. I have also shoved in a couple of pictures of our present premises – because things around this area are changing too, as I’m sure you’ve all noticed.



Our new premises 21 November 2013



Our new premises 04 December 2013



Our new premises 04 December 2013



Our current premises 04 December 2013



Our current premises 08 December 2013



Our new premises 08 December 2013



Our current premises 08 December 2013



Our new premises 08 December 2013



Our current premises 08 December 2013



Our new premises 18 December 2013

I am confident that the next issue of *Kingfisher News* will bring you, the reader, something more photogenic. Once things start going up, rather than down, I think that the visible changes will occur very rapidly indeed. I shall try to keep on top of it all – but not too literally, mind!



Our new premises 18 December 2013



Our new premises 18 December 2013

SBL : Kingfisher II

Senior British League - Kingfisher II, 4th Div South & East

After a first weekend of “nil points” back in September, Kingfisher’s 2nd team had a lot of ground to make up.

Saturday’s (14 December’s) team of Keith Newell (pictured), Darren Palmer, Sanga Quamina and James Olsson performed far better than their last place in the table suggested, only losing 5-3 to co-leaders Horsham Spinners I, with James Olsson picking up a game against Steve Pound and Sanga beating both Steve and their Number 2 Rory Scott (Number 277 on latest ETTA ratings list).

They did even better in the afternoon’s game with their first win of the season, against Greenhouse III. Though Darren missed out closely on an individual win, Sanga (1 win), James (2 wins) and Keith (2 wins) secured the 2 points. Keith’s victory over Tony Wilkinson (Number 131) 11-9 in the fifth should be noted: a great win!

One change in Sunday’s team, with Joshua Gallen replacing Darren Palmer in the Number 2 position.

Great Stukeley, only one point behind the leaders in third place, proved too strong for Kingfisher, with a 7-1 loss as a result. Joshua provided good resistance against Number 227 Alex Facey, but had to let go in four sets. Sanga got the consolation win over Mirek Pazdzior (Number 288) – another good win that should put Sanga firmly on the ratings list next month.

Again, Kingfisher provided the goods during the afternoon session, beating Brighton City TTC 6-2. Man of the match James and also Keith were both undefeated, while Joshua’s and Sanga’s single wins contributed to a fully deserved 2 points.

Eric Van Looy

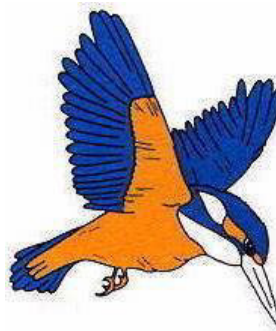
Table after 8 matches

#	Team	P	W	D	L	SF	SA	Points
1	Aldworth	8	7	0	1	53	11	14
2	Horsham Spinners I	8	7	0	1	46	18	14
3	Great Stukeley	8	6	1	1	38	26	13
4	Greenhouse III	8	2	1	5	25	39	5
5	Survey Initiative Rowhedge	8	1	3	4	24	40	5
6	London Academy III	8	2	1	5	22	42	5
7	Kingfisher II	8	2	0	6	25	39	4
8	Brighton City TTC	8	2	0	6	23	41	4



Individual averages

Player	Played	Won	% Win
Sanga Quamina	16	8	50%
Keith Newell	8	4	50%
James Olsson	16	7	43.75%
Andy Misseldine	8	3	37.50%
Joshua Gallen	4	1	25%
Darren Palmer	12	2	16.67%



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 newly-appointed agent is Sandra Shepherd. Sandra may be contacted on (0118) 947 6089, via email at sandra.shepherd@tiscali.co.uk or by Royal Mail at 5 Orwell Close, Caversham, RG4 7PU.

Tees Sport has agreed to supply Butterfly, Karlsson, Andro and Adidas equipment via Sandra 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. Sandra Shepherd is the agent for *Tees Sport* in the Kingfisher Club and can place orders on members' behalf, or provide advice, if required.



Ken Fellingham Tournament Report – Season 2013-2014

What an enjoyable day of table tennis! The Ken Fellingham Grouping Tournament was held on 8th December 2013 at the Kingfisher Club and it provided an opportunity for players to compete with others from all three divisions of the Bracknell League. In the initial rounds the less able could and were drawn against the better players and experienced the many different styles of play. As the grouping developed players eventually competed at their own level.



Players were drawn into groups of four and each competed against each other. In the next round, players were put into different groups for a second round of matches. For the third and final round, the winners of the second round grouping all competed, as did those placed second, third and fourth. Each player was then ranked. Fifteen entrants competed in the tournament with one commenting that he could remember the first Ken Fellingham grouping being held around forty years ago! If anyone can remember the precise year

please let me know.

As in previous years the grouping tournament was a test of endurance over nine matches of table tennis. Right from the start there were hard fought matches, with several going to five games and little between the players. The competitiveness was maintained throughout the day. Whilst there was a strong desire to win, the spirit in which the matches were played was outstanding. Congratulations go to Ian Cole, for topping the rankings,

The final rankings were as follows: 1st Ian Cole. 2nd Ivor Hardman. 3rd Pu Zhang. 4th Roger Woolven-Allen. 5th Nigel Bliss. 6th Siad Cole. 7th Allan Bruton. 8th David Holt (pictured). 9th Michael Houghton. 10th Colin Dyke. 11th Mick Mitcham. 12th Alan Yeung. 13th Diane Taylor. 14th Gwynne Penny. 15th Moto Mitcham.

David Holt



PERSONAL THOUGHTS

A great but exhausting day of table tennis was enjoyed by all! Many thanks indeed to David for running the show so efficiently. It was superb fun! However, I say “exhausting” because one or two of us “oldies” could hardly stand up at the end of the day! I asked Colin Dyke if he would carry me to my car and he replied that he was about to ask me the same question! Meanwhile, young Michael Horton-Howton-Huffton, at the end of the proceedings, was still leaping about hoping for more! *Tempus fugit*, as the scribe once said...

While we experienced table tennis players were demonstrating our undeniable skills, one or two youngsters turned up and played their own variation of our sport in the kitchen area. The photographic evidence can be seen below. But these kids are promising! I don’t think it will be too long before they manage to play the game properly. Of course, it has to be borne in mind that everyone has to start somewhere... (Ed.)



Club Access

I am sure that most players are now aware of the amended Club access, but there is no harm in repeating Gwynne Penny’s message on the subject. Perhaps Kingfisher Team Captains would be kind enough to make sure that visiting opponents are aware of the situation? Thanks in anticipation. Ed.

“As from 2nd December 2013 Kingfisher TTC will have a slightly amended access route in to their clubhouse. Parking is in the usual area but the access footpath will pass to the left hand side of the Sixth Form block rather than to the right hand side. Clear signs have been erected to ensure it is quite clear and that there are no problems.”

Letter from Calcot

Hello Roger.

Many thanks for including me in the *Kingfisher News*. It is a pleasure to read it and in view of your premises change I hope your club goes from strength to strength. Regards,

(The following has been received from Derek Harrison, a table tennis player well-known to many. Some of us have known him for quite a few decades now! Derek is currently the R&DTTA Fixtures Secretary for Division 3. Ed.)

Derek

Carta de España

(The following has been received from Christine Williams (previously Basden) who, as many of you know, now lives in Alicante in Sunny Spain. Christine, along with Sue Stoute, was co-Editor of the very first issue of Kingfisher News. But more of that later... Ed.)

Hi! I have been meaning to e-mail you for the past couple of weeks – in fact since I received the last *Kingfisher News* – to congratulate you on the very exciting news about the Club – and that certainly deserves a capital "C"!



Absolutely wonderful to read about all the work the members concerned have given their time to achieve. I know there is still a way to go to completion, but I hope the time scale is not too far out, and that the dream will become reality in March next year. I will be watching progress closely!

It is also great to see familiar faces appearing on the *Kingfisher News* pages – but there are now a lot that are not familiar to me!

Please also pass on my congratulations to Eric on becoming a Dad – I am sure he will be excellent in his new role!

Sadly, I must also say how sorry I was to learn that Brian is not at all well – how he has suffered over a number of years. Please pass on my best wishes.

Once again, congratulations to all concerned with the Club. Best regards,

Christine

Letter from Wokingham

(The following has been received from Cliff Putterford who, in his time, was one of Kingfisher's best players. Sadly, however, medical problems forced Cliff into early "retirement" from our sport. But it is good to hear from him! Ed.)

Hi Roger

Thanks for continuing to send me the *Kingfisher News*, which is always an interesting and informative read. Whilst I have no current intention of returning to the Table Tennis fold it is great to supplement my occasional updates with Geoff (on the golf course) with the excellent journal you publish.

I do not have any contact details for Eric and Eeva so I wonder if you could pass on congratulations and best wishes from Helen and myself. We too have the patter of tiny feet around the house at the moment. Noooooo!, don't be silly; it's our great niece who is staying with us during half term. What were you thinking??

Congratulations too regarding the progress on the new clubhouse. Colin should be rightfully proud of his achievements. I know he has been working diligently on this for many years.

I hope to pop along to a match at some point. It would be great to catch up.

Meantime, Helen joins with me in wishing everyone in the greater Kingfisher 'family' all the best

Cliff



Wishing You Well

It has been brought to my attention that, at the time of writing, three



of our most stalwart and best-known members are currently in hospital. Brian Halliday, Ron Vickers and Mike Dorrington are all rather poorly.

Colin tells me that, by coincidence, Ron and Brian are both in the Emmer Green Ward of the Royal Berkshire Hospital, albeit in different side rooms, along with another old chap who apparently used to play for the Polish TTC.

Everyone at Kingfisher, I am absolutely sure, wishes Mike, Brian and Ron all the very best for a speedy recovery. If they haven't yet escaped from the clutches of the RBH, let's hope that it won't be long before they do. Get well quickly, chaps! (Ed.)



Tim Heaps



THE BRITISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Many Kingfisher members – especially those who play or have played on the Veterans' circuits –

will remember

Tim Heaps, who sadly passed away on 19 November this year. Tim was both well-known and very well-liked in the Berkshire table tennis world.

Tim was diagnosed with a brain tumour in late September and passed away peacefully at his home in West Wales.

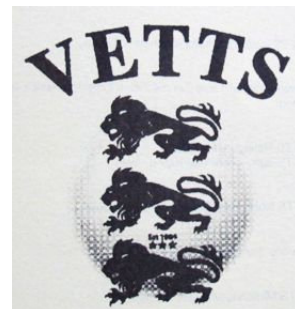
Tim competed in many VETTS tournaments; represented Berkshire as a veteran and played with his brother Nick, Johnny Clarke and Steve Eades in the Veterans' British League.

As a disabled player, Tim achieved a Top-10 World Ranking in the Class 10 (amputee) category, competing in national and international tournaments and representing Great Britain at the 1996 Atlanta Paralympics. He also won a bronze medal at the European Championships in Class 10 Individual.

In recent years he had moved to Wales and coached table tennis at grass roots level and upwards.

I am sure that everyone will join in with the following sentiments expressed in the December issue of the VETTS' newsletter:

"Our sincere condolences to Tim's family and friends, including his sister Judy and his brother Nick who is a good friend of many people in the VETTS."



TIN TIN HO

*(Original text by Russell Moore;
picture courtesy of John Upham)*

Women's Singles



Fifteen-year-old Tin-Tin Ho secured her maiden Grand Prix title in her first full appearance after seeing off the defensive pair of Sarah Berge and Hannah Hicks in the Guildford Spectrum, played over the weekend of 7/8 September this year.



The Kingfisher and English prodigy was in spectacular form throughout the tournament in which her abilities against defence were put to the sternest test in her dramatic last two performances.

She came through her group unscathed early on with five successive straight games victories in order to seal a quarter-final berth against Megan Phillips.

The Welsh girl gave Tin-Tin her first challenge by stretching her to the full five games. At 2-1 down her singles campaign could have ended early but she recovered her form and composure well to win a stylish attacking match 3-2 (9-11, 11-4, 9-11, 11-8, 11-6).

After that she met the indomitable Sarah Berge who, after winning the Women's Singles and Band 1 in Liverpool, had already won the Band 1 in Guildford on Saturday.

However, the French girl met a completely different prospect in the form of the English Junior No. 1 who forced their encounter into a deciding end after a brilliant tactical timeout.

Called by her father Charles at 2-1 and 8-5 down, she recovered to 10-8 up before saving a match point at 11-10 and taking her own game point on 14-12.

The final game was more one-sided as the youngster won through 11-7 to meet Hannah Hicks who had dropped just one game in beating Yolanda King and Maria Tsaptsinos to make the final. By that time, however, Tin-Tin was on full throttle and held her nerve for a tight 13-11 opening game before moving further ahead by taking the second game 11-8.

The gutsy Hicks managed to win six consecutive points in the third game to keep her dreams alive, but she was kicking herself in game four for failing to convert a game point at 10-9 which let Tin-Tin eventually win her first title 16-14.

Women's Under-21s

Tin-Tin Ho secured a double success from the Briar Guildford Grand Prix after strolling to the Women's Under-21 title.

With main rival Sarah Berge deciding to play the Open Doubles instead, Tin-Tin was left to dominate the proceedings in the under-21s where she won every match en route to the final without dropping an end. She won all four in her group before beating Yolanda King 3-0 in a repeat of the National Championships Under-21s final from 2012.

In the final she met Naomi Jackson, who finished runner-up in Group 3 to King, before beating Daniella Gray 3-0 and receiving a bye against Ashley Givan in the semi-final after the Irish girl had to fly home.

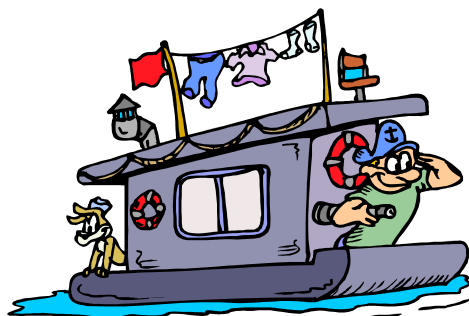
Unfortunately for Jackson, the classy Middlesex girl remained in top form to take the first two games. To her credit she battled her way to winning the third game 12-10 but she was unable to stop Tin-Tin from taking the fourth game 11-5, and with it, the title.

Russell Moore

From The Looney

one took me seriously – except dear old Jonathan Samuel. Before the ink had dried on my computer screen, back came the following reply:

Roger, amazing, I may be out of the Ping-Pong scene, but you have asked for a subject about which I have a perfectly true and I think amusing story. I walk down by the prison each morning on my way to work, and enjoy walking along the tow path, watching the swans and ducks, the wind brushing against the horse chestnuts, the canal boats gently bobbing by the bank, perhaps catching the glint of a Tesco trolley showing just below the rippling surface, seasons of mists and mellow fruitfulness....sorry, where was I?



Ah yes, while walking past a boat in the summer an occupant of one of the canal barges made the mistake of engaging me in conversation. His boat had come down from London, and he was not very happy as he was due to have his boat checked over for what is I assume the equivalent of a boat "MOT".

"Oh dear," I commiserated, "I think your boat will fail the safety inspection."

"Why is that?" asked the man, now looking a bit concerned.

I replied, "You have a lot of logs on your roof, and I notice they are piled around your stove pipe. One spark there and your boat will go up." He did not reply, but did look a little quizzical.

The following day I noted with some satisfaction that he had in fact cleared the logs from around the stove pipe.

As Roger can confirm, in a general knowledge quiz I am an ignoramus. But let me talk about a subject about which I know absolutely nothing, and I am an expert! This is all true, with no frills.

(Thank you, Jonathan. Kingfisher News would be so much the poorer without you... Ed.)

Speeding??

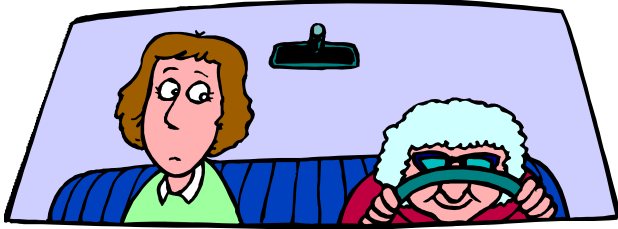
Waiting in Croydon to catch speeding drivers a Police Officer sees a car puttering along at 22 mph.

Says he to himself: "This driver is just as dangerous as a speeder!"

So he turns on his lights and pulls the driver over.

Approaching the car, he notices that there are five old ladies, two in the front seats and three in the back – wide-eyed and as white as ghosts.

The driver, obviously confused, says to him "Officer, I don't understand, I was doing exactly the speed limit! What seems to be the problem?"



"Ma'am," the officer replies, "you weren't speeding, but you should know that driving slower than the speed limit can also be a danger to other drivers."

"Slower than the speed limit? No sir, I was doing the speed limit exactly. Twenty-two miles an hour!" says the old woman a bit proudly.

The Police officer, trying to contain a chuckle explains to her that A22 is the road number, not the speed limit. A bit embarrassed, the woman grins and thanks the officer for pointing out her error.

"But before I let you go, Ma'am," the police officer says, "I have to ask.... Is everyone in this car OK? These women seem awfully shaken, and they haven't made a sound this whole time."

"Oh, they'll be all right in a minute, officer. We've just come off the A120."

Christmas Dinner

turned up for the Big Feast. Apart from the abundant food and drink, there was some wonderful entertainment, including a fascinating cryptic quiz which was immense fun. Mind you, my team of wifey Lin, Geoff Civil and Yours Truly was cheated out of the first prize (not that I know what the first prize was) because one of our correct answers was incorrect. Mind you, I took it like a man and sulked for a while.

There was an amusing game, devised by organiser Allan Bruton, in which you either sat on your hands or put your hands on your head. A coin was tossed and, if you were clutching the wrong part of your anatomy, you were out. However, in only the second round, everyone remaining decided to put their hands on their heads. The coin flipped to "tails" and everyone was out! "Good," I thought, "There'll be a re-start." Wrong...

"Everyone's lost," declared Allan. "The entire entry fee will go into Kingfisher's coffers."

There was much booing and shouting of "Swizz!", but Allan was adamant. For some reason, the one other person present who seemed happy with the outcome was Club Treasurer Colin Dyke.

There was also a fun raffle with good prizes and plenty of winners.

To finish where I started, the evening was a great success. If you weren't there, you missed a real treat. Many thanks are due to organiser Allan Bruton. The boy dun good... (Ed.)

The Kingfisher Christmas Dinner, held at the Toby Carvery in Lower Earley on the evening of Friday 13 December was a great success. A huge crowd of Kingfisher members and their partners



The following statements have been attributed to Confucius but, I have to admit, I have my doubts...

Man who drives like hell is bound to get there.

Man who stands on toilet is high on pot.

Once again, the following snippets have all been extracted from Nigel Maltby's great weekly *Reading Post* articles. Enjoy!

6th November 2013: In Division 1 of the R&DTTA's

league, Eduard Caliman and Leo Long both got maximums as Kingfisher D maintained their excellent start to the season by beating Sonning Common & Peppard A 8-2.

With the top five teams having lost no more than one match to date, the title race is wide open. However, OLOP A must be favourites after their victory over Kingfisher A.

Richard Rosinski and Steve Dobbins both got trebles as Kingfisher B won 9-1 at Curzon Club A. Jon Willis secured Curzon's consolation by beating Graham Diplock 12-10 5-11 11-4 10-12 12-10.

In Division 2, Kingfisher E beat a two-man Kingfisher G side 9-1 to stay third, with Geoff Civil holding off Allen Pack 11-2 7-11 11-6 7-11 14-12, who had earlier beaten Colin Dyke.

Ivor Hardman and Allan Bruton both edged home against young Jonathan Abbott as Kingfisher F won 6-4 at Sonning Common & Peppard C, for whom Brian Meheux won twice.

Bottom Clubs Kingfisher G and Tilehurst Methodists A look to have most to do to avoid the drop; however, Polish A are just a point ahead and Post Office A continue to slide down the table after a promising start.

In a tough Division 3, there are a number of teams in with a chance of promotion. Tilehurst Methodists B and Kingfisher H are both doing well, as are the juniors in the Our Lady of Peace team who have drawn four of their opening six matches.

Promoted Springfield B have yet to secure a point and they lie four points adrift of Curzon Club B, Pangbourne WMC and Kingfisher I.



IVANOV'S VITAL WIN TAKES UNBEATEN OLOP A TO THE TOP OF THE TABLE

13th November 2013: Krasimer Ivanov snatched a last-gasp win to take Our Lady of Peace to the top of the Reading and District League Division 1. He defeated Richard Fifield 5-11 11-8 11-5 8-11 11-9 to earn his unbeaten side a 6-4 victory over Kingfisher D.

Kingfisher B cruised to a 9-1 win at Sonning Common & Peppard B with hat-tricks from Graham Diplock and Steve Dobbins.

YMCA edged home 6-4 against Kingfisher C with Keith Winter and Neil Hurford winning the vital doubles against Steve Murgatroyd and Andrew Parker 13-11 9-11 11-9 12-14 11-7.

In Division 2, Ben Huang recorded a treble for OLOP D in their 5-5 draw with Kingfisher F.

In Division 3, Kingfisher H had a fine 8-2 win at Springfield B with Eric Holmes and Steve Woolnough both gaining trebles.

Jean-Noël Thepaut's treble gave Kingfisher I a welcome 7-3 win at Birch Copse A.

In Division 5, Leigh Mahoney scored a good treble as Kingfisher K beat BBC Club 6-4.

20th November 2013: In Division 2, OLOP C won 7-3 at home to Kingfisher F following an impressive three-straight treble from Steven Miller.

Sonning Common & Peppard C hit back from 3-5 down to draw 5-5 with Kingfisher E. Matt Stone won twice, while Danny Dockree just held off Roger Woolven-Allen 4-11 12-10 13-11 5-11 11-9 for their point. Johnathan Abbot also managed a good win over the same opponent.

In Division 3, Kingfisher H defeated Wokingham B 8-2 to go top of the table. Carol Byers clinched her treble with a fine 11-5 12-10 9-11 11-8 victory over Dan Buckle, having earlier recovered from two games down to beat Tony Eames. There were also two wins apiece for Steve Woolnough and Eric Holmes.

Kingfisher I won 6-4 against Springfield B thanks mainly to a great treble from Nils Wedi, while Gabor Radnoti did well to win two. Adam Sheen had two fine wins for Springfield.

In Division 5, Springfield C inflicted a 9-1 defeat on Kingfisher K with Adam Sheen and Jason Ren recording maximums.



KINGFISHER A FLY BACK TO TOP OF THE TABLE

27th November 2012: Kingfisher A enjoyed comprehensive wins over Sonning Common & Peppard A and YMCA to go back to the top of the Division 1 table.

Mark Banks, Federico Viterbo and Tony Reynolds all got maximums in their 10-0 whitewash of Sonning

Kingfisher B won 8-2 against Tidmarsh B following a Steve Dobbins maximum, while Our Lady of Peace B won 6-4 against Kingfisher D. Daniel McTiernan notched a treble and Gus Thomis beat Joshua Gallen 11-8 11-5 8-11 11-9 for OLOP. Leo Long won twice for Kingfisher, including a 12-10 11-6 7-11 5-11 11-9 victory over Thomis.

Tidmarsh A won 7-3 at Kingfisher D mainly thanks to a maximum from Sander De Reimer.

In Division 3, OLOP E beat Kingfisher H 6-4 with Harry Brough and Michael McAllister both gaining doubles and Phil Saunders winning a vital single.

REYNOLDS MAKES AN INSTANT IMPACT FOR KINGFISHER A IN SHIELD MATCH

4th December 2013: Tony Reynolds recorded a surprise 11-7 7-11 14-12 11-8 win over Sander De Reimer in the opening set to put Kingfisher A on their way to a fine 5-1 victory at Tidmarsh A in the first round of the Impact Shield.

De Sander recovered to defeat Federico Viterbo 6-11 11-9 11-7 11-7, but two wins each from Reynolds and Mark Banks, plus a Viterbo single, saw Kingfisher safely through following a high-quality match.

REYNOLDS INSPIRES KINGFISHER RECOVERY AFTER EARLY SCARE FROM OLOP

11th December 2013: Division 1 leaders Kingfisher A came from 3-4 down to beat Our Lady of Peace B 6-4 in the Reading League.

Tony Reynolds (pictured) led the recovery by defeating Sean Pickin 10-12 11-3 3-11 11-2 11-6, while Federico Viterbo beat Daniel McTiernan 11-7 12-10 8-11 11-9.

Viterbo, Reynolds and Mark Banks were again in good form as they trounced Sonning Common & Peppard A 10-0.

Unbeaten OLOP A just held off Kingfisher B 6-4 with Krasimir Ivanov enjoying a fine opening victory against Martin Adams 11-9 3-11 7-11 11-9 13-11. Adams recovered to beat Danny Moses 11-7 10-12 11-7 11-9.

Andy Parker and Steve Murgatroyd starred with trebles as Kingfisher C won 8-2 at Sonning Common & Peppard A.

Kingfisher C also drew 5-5 with OLOP B, for whom Daniel McTiernan notched a treble. There was also an excellent doubles from Lisa Williams, who beat Danny Ricks 15-13 11-8 5-11 11-5 and Neil Bird 11-8 11-9 7-11 8-11 11-9.

There were trebles for Steve Dobbins and Martin Adams in Kingfisher B's 7-3 win over Tidmarsh A.

Kingfisher D won their derby with Kingfisher C, thanks to an Eduard Caliman maximum.

In Division 2, Lee Calcutt, François Durand and Mike Aistrop all scored maximums for Tidmarsh C as they cantered to a 10-0 win over Kingfisher F.

In Division 3, OLOP E won 7-3 at Kingfisher I with Michael McAlister winning all three of his contests.

Sonning Sports A were hammered 7-3 by Kingfisher H, for whom Carol Byers and Eric Holmes recorded hat-tricks.

In Division 5, Nigel Antell and Willis Ma both got trebles as OLOP G went to the top of the leaderboard by beating Kingfisher K 8-2.

VITERBO BAGS HAT-TRICK OF WINS AS LEADERS KINGFISHER WIN THEIR CLUB DERBY

18th December 2013: Federico Viterbo notched a hat-trick as Division 1 leaders Kingfisher A defeated their club's C team 7-3.

There were also two wins for Stuart Williams, while the C team's Steve Murgatroyd and Andrew Parker both earned good wins against Tony Reynolds.

Steve Dobbins was in brilliant form for second-placed Kingfisher B with a three-straight treble as they won their club derby with Kingfisher D 7-3.

Tilehurst Methodists A beat fellow Division 2 strugglers Kingfisher G 7-3, with Nigel Rowland starring with a maximum and good support coming from Paul Treadgold and Catherine Venning.



In Division 3, Jean-Noël Thepaut (pictured) hit a three-straight maximum to help Kingfisher I gain a draw at Sonning Sports A.

Kingfisher H came back from 3-4 down to win at Curzon Club B following doubles from Eric Holmes, Carol Byers and Steve Woolnough.

Sneakles

by Gwynne

Ping Pong Merrily

by John Freeman



Player Averages

Please find, below, the player averages for both the Reading and the Bracknell Leagues, as at 20 December 2013:

READING DIVISION 1: Mark Banks (Kingfisher A) 18/21 = 86%. Hari Gehlot (Kingfisher A) 18/21 = 86%. Steve Dobbins (Kingfisher B) 28/33 = 85%. Federico Viterbo (Kingfisher A) 12/15 = 80%. Martin Adams (Kingfisher B) 12/15 = 80%. Graham Diplock (Kingfisher B) 9/12 = 75%. Eduard Caliman (Kingfisher D) 13/18 = 72%. Tony Reynolds (Kingfisher A) 17/24 = 71%. Steve Murgatroyd (Kingfisher C) 19/27 = 70%. Joshua Gallen (Kingfisher D) 16/24 = 67%. Andrew Parker (Kingfisher C) 13/24 = 54%. Leo Long (Kingfisher D) 13/24 = 54%. Stuart Williams (Kingfisher A) 8/15 = 53%. Richard Rosinski (Kingfisher B) 12/24 = 50%. Niall McGrane (Kingfisher C) 7/15 = 47%. Trevor Organ (Kingfisher D) 6/15 = 40%. Richard Fifield (Kingfisher D) 6/18 = 33%. Phil Koehler (Kingfisher B) 4/15 = 27%. Lisa Williams (Kingfisher C) 6/30 = 20%.

READING DIVISION 2: Jean-Noël Thepaut (Kingfisher G) 3/3 = 100%. Ivor Hardman (Kingfisher F) 19/24 = 79%. Allan Bruton (Kingfisher F) 13/18 = 72%. Geoff Civil (Kingfisher E) 13/20 = 65%. John Morris (Kingfisher E) 16/26 = 62%. Colin Dyke (Kingfisher E) 14/26 = 54%. Roger Woolven-Allen (Kingfisher E) 11/24 = 46%. Allen Pack (Kingfisher G) 11/27 = 41%. Peter Bennett (Kingfisher F) 7/21 = 33%. Clare Woodham (Kingfisher F) 6/18 = 33%. Michael Houghton (Kingfisher F) 5/18 = 28%. Dave Gostelow (Kingfisher G) 2/21 = 10%. John Upham (Kingfisher G) 1/18 = 6%. Sharon Mitchell (Kingfisher G) 0/12 = 0%. Didier Garçon (Kingfisher G) 0/9 = 0%. Joaquin Munoz Sabater (Kingfisher G) 0/3 = 0%. Gianpaolo Balsamo (Kingfisher G) 0/3 = 0%.



READING DIVISION 3: Jean-Noël Thepaut (Kingfisher I) 18/18 = 100%. Carol Byers (Kingfisher H) 14/18 = 78%. Eric Holmes (Kingfisher H) 22/30 = 73%. Steve Woolnough (Kingfisher H) 15/27 = 56%. Rogerio Albello (Kingfisher H) 7/15 = 47%. Nils Wedi (Kingfisher I) 11/24 = 46%. Joaquin Munoz Sabater (Kingfisher I) 6/21 = 29%. Gabor Radnoti (Kingfisher I) 3/15 = 20%. Gianpaolo Balsamo (Kingfisher I) 0/12 = 0%. Didier Garçon (Kingfisher I) 0/9 = 0%. Diane Taylor (Kingfisher H) 0/3 = 0%. Gwynne Penny (Kingfisher H) 0/3 = 0%.

READING DIVISION 4: John Creighton (Kingfisher J) 26/29 = 90%. Kenneth Robb (Kingfisher J) 15/23 = 65%. Mike Dorrington (Kingfisher J) 1/3 = 33%. Derek Crombie (Kingfisher J) 4/17 = 24%. Jean-François Guegantou 2/15 = 33%.

READING DIVISION 5: Leigh Mahoney (Kingfisher K) 19/21 = 90%. Diane Taylor (Kingfisher K) 11/18 = 61%. Gwynne Penny (Kingfisher K) 11/21 = 52%. André Bartlett (Kingfisher K) 8/21 = 38%. Gillian Bennett (Kingfisher K) 3/12 = 25%. Sandra Shepherd (Kingfisher K) 1/6 = 17%.

BRACKNELL PREMIER DIVISION: Trevor Organ (Kingfisher B) 15/18 = 83%. Philip Mead (Kingfisher A) 15/18 = 83%. John Morris (Kingfisher A) 5/6 = 83%. Allen Pack (Kingfisher B) 9/12 = 75%. Ivor Hardman (Kingfisher B) 13/18 = 72%. Richard Fifield (Kingfisher C) 15/21 = 71%. Geoff Civil (Kingfisher A) 15/21 = 71%. John Willcocks (Kingfisher A) 10/15 = 67%. Jeffery Huggins (Kingfisher C) 13/21 = 62%. Allan Bruton (Kingfisher B) 5/9 = 56%. Roger Woolven-Allen (Kingfisher A) 2/6 = 33%. Michael Houghton (Kingfisher B) 7/21 = 33%. Allan Bruton (Kingfisher A) 2/6 = 33%. Peter Bennett (Kingfisher C) 3/15 = 20%. David Gostelow (Kingfisher C) 1/12 = 8%. Colin Dyke (Kingfisher C) 1/12 = 8%.



BRACKNELL DIVISION 1: John Upham (Kingfisher D) 3/8 = 38%. Kenneth Robb (Kingfisher D) 6/26 = 23%. Gwynne Penny (Kingfisher D) 2/9 = 22%. Derek Crombie (Kingfisher D) 1/23 = 4%.

BRACKNELL DIVISION 2: Diane Taylor (Kingfisher E) 8/12 = 67%. David Wells (Kingfisher E) 14/24 = 58%. Gwynne Penny (Kingfisher E) 8/20 = 40%. Helen Sparks (Kingfisher E) 2/8 = 25%. Gillian Bennett (Kingfisher E) 2/11 = 18%.

Kingfisher Table Diary

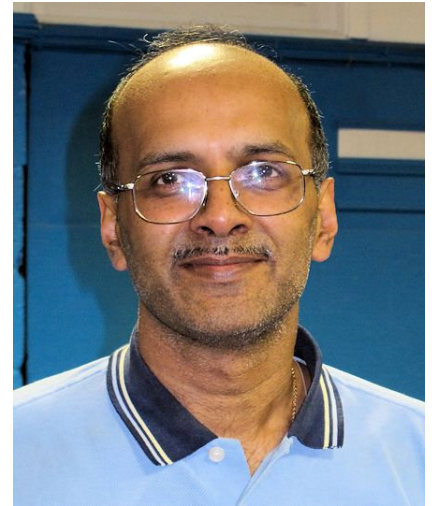
Coaching. **Monday 30th** 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). **Tuesday 31st** 100-1230 Tuesday Club. 1800-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL.

JANUARY 2014: **Wednesday 1st** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Thursday 2nd** 1700-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Team Training. **Friday 3rd** 1330-1600 Friday Club. 1600-1900 Junior Coaching. **Sunday 5th** 0900-1500 R&DTTA Individual Handicap Competition. (Note: The entire playing area would appear to have been booked for the 1900-2300 period). **Monday 6th** 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). **Tuesday 7th** 0850-0950 Bulmershe School. 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Wednesday 8th** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Thursday 9th** 1700-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Team Training. **Friday 10th** 1115-1325 Bulmershe School. 1330-1600 Friday Club. 1630-1900 Junior Coaching. **Monday 13th** 1220-1325 Bulmershe School. 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). **Tuesday 14th** 0850-0950 Bulmershe School. 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Wednesday 15th** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Thursday 16th** 1700-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Team Training. **Friday 17th** 1115-1325 Bulmershe School. 1330-1600 Friday Club. 1630-1900 Junior Coaching. 1900-2100 SBL Team Practice. **Saturday 18th** 1900-2100 SBL Team Practice. **Monday 20th** 1220-1325 Bulmershe School. 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). **Tuesday 21st** 0850-0950 Bulmershe School. 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Wednesday 22nd** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Thursday 23rd** 1700-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Team Training. **Friday 24th** 1115-1325 Bulmershe School. 1330-1630 Friday Club. 1630-1900 Junior Coaching. **Monday 27th** 0950-1055 Bulmershe School. 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). **Tuesday 28th** 0950-1055 Bulmershe School. 1100-1330 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads.



Wednesday 29th 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1400-1500 Bulmershe School. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Thursday 30th** 0950-1055 Bulmershe School. 1700-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Team Training. **Friday 31st** 0950-1055 Bulmershe School. 1100-1330 Friday Club. 1630-1900 Junior Coaching.

FEBRUARY 2014: **Saturday 1st** 0930-1330 Berks County Vets 4. **Sunday 2nd** 0900-1700 Berkshire Intertown Competition. (Note: The entire playing area would appear to have been booked for the 1900-2300 period). **Monday 3rd** 0950-1055 Bulmershe School. 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). **Tuesday 4th** 0950-1055 Bulmershe School. 1100-1330 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Wednesday 5th** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1400-1500 Bulmershe School. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Thursday 6th** 0950-1055 Bulmershe School. 1700-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Team Training. **Friday 7th** 0950-1055 Bulmershe School. 1100-1330 Friday Club. 1630-1900 Junior Coaching. 1900-2100 JBL Team Practice. **Monday 10th** 0950-1055 Bulmershe School. 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). **Tuesday 11th** 0950-1055 Bulmershe School. 1100-1330 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Wednesday 12th** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1400-1500 Bulmershe School. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Thursday 13th** 1700-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Team Training. **Friday 14th** 0950-1055 Bulmershe School. 1100-1330 Friday Club. 1630-1900 Junior Coaching. **Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th** 0900-1700 R&DTTA Closed Championships. (Note: The entire playing area would appear to have been booked for the 1900-2300 period on both days). **Monday 17th** 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). **Tuesday 18th** 1100-1330 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Wednesday 19th** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Thursday 20th** 1700-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Team Training. **Friday 21st** 1100-1330 Friday Club. 1630-1900 Junior Coaching. **Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd** 0900-1700 R&DTTA Closed Championships. (Note: The entire playing area would appear to have been booked for the 1900-2300 period on both days). **Monday 24th** 0950-1055 Bulmershe School. 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). **Tuesday 25th** 0950-1055 Bulmershe School. 1100-1330 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Wednesday 26th** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1400-1500 Bulmershe School. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Thursday 27th** 0950-1055 Bulmershe School. 1700-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Team Training. **Friday 28th** 1100-1330 Friday Club. 1630-1900 Junior Coaching.

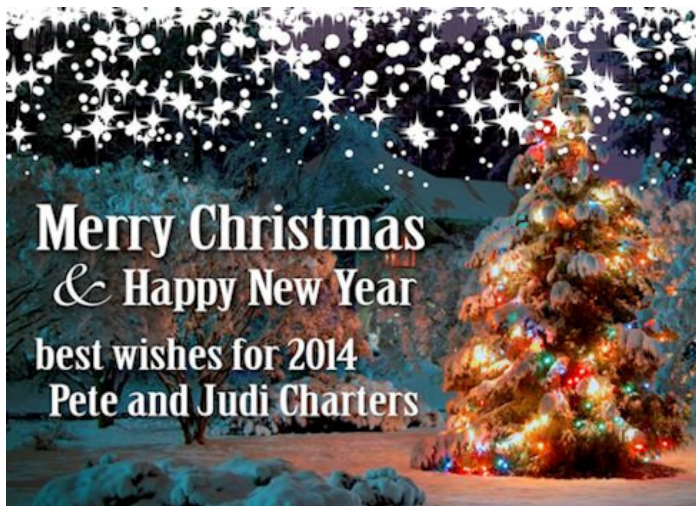


(Note: In addition to the above, Kingfisher's scheduled Reading and Bracknell League home matches will also take place. Please also note that the Wednesday and Friday Clubs will only be allocated two tables on each day. The Tuesday Club will continue on five tables but agreement for any special requests for practice or coaching during these hours may be sought from Diane Taylor on 0118 942 8384.

As always, I am indebted to Hari for this information. Thank you. Ed.)

From our President

From EVL



The two pictures on the previous page are fun! The thoughtful Christmas card was emailed by our President – although I expect you’ve already worked that out!!

The photo on the right was taken by Eric Van Looy when he saw a Kingfisher bus on the Bath Road, just before it turned into the road that leads to Sonning. Eric wondered if the world-famous Kingfisher Table Tennis Club had started its own shuttle bus service!



But here let me explain. Many of our more mature members will know this, of course, but some newcomers may not. The original monochrome Kingfisher logo, as used on letterheads and newsletters and also shown here, depicted a very smart bird indeed but, as technology improved, I thought it about time that we moved with the times.

On many an occasion I had seen a Kingfisher coach (just like the one in Eric’s picture) and I thought what a great logo it would make. With the Committee’s approval (I hasten to add!) I wrote to Kingfisher Coaches, explaining that our Club was non-profit-making and could we use their logo, pretty please? I pointed out that it could do the coaching company no harm; indeed, to the more intelligent Reading people, it was a tiny

bit of advertising. A “win-win” situation!

The Managing Director of Kingfisher Coaches (a Mr Pope) wrote back, giving his whole-hearted approval and enclosing one of his letterheads. And here we are! Robert’s your avuncular relative!

I now think, with the advent of the new Clubhouse, that it is time we moved on yet again. I have dropped some very unsubtle hints to one highly artistic Kingfisher member for a few possible ideas. I push my luck, don’t I...

Having said all the above, I think it was very brave of Eric to stand in the middle of the Bath Road, taking photographs... (Ed.)

Oracle Ping...

Oracle Team : Taste of Table Tennis

Early in December I arranged for a small group of my Web Team colleagues from Oracle to visit the club for an introductory session to table tennis. We started with a warm up and those who were still standing after that were given a hard bat and ball and partnered up to try out their skills.

At first everyone struggled to keep the ball on the table but it didn’t take long for rallies to start. I demonstrated the basics of serving and basic forehand and backhand stroke and how to score and we played a few games and finished off with some Top Table, which was hotly contested.

The team thoroughly enjoyed the experience and I practically had to drag them out of the club when it was time to go back to work!

Gwynne Penny

(The photo montage shown was taken and compiled by one of

Gwynne’s work colleagues – Diana Dimitrova. The original picture is far better than my reproduction; my skills with photo suites are highly limited, to say the least! But you can get an idea of how talented Diana is. She is on a par with Didier Garçon and John Upham, without a doubt! And if our two resident photographers will forgive me, she is a darned sight better looking! Ed.)

ARAPROSDOKIANS

(No, I’d never heard of the word before, either! But Allan Bruton has kindly sent me a few! Here are a couple of them. Enjoy! Ed.)

If I agreed with you, we’d both be wrong.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

National Cadet League



league and Kingfisher missing top spot by only five points – just one extra game won per match would have seen them finish top!

Round 2 started with a match against Ashford A, with Kingfisher running out 5-4 winners in another tight match with all three players scoring points for the team.

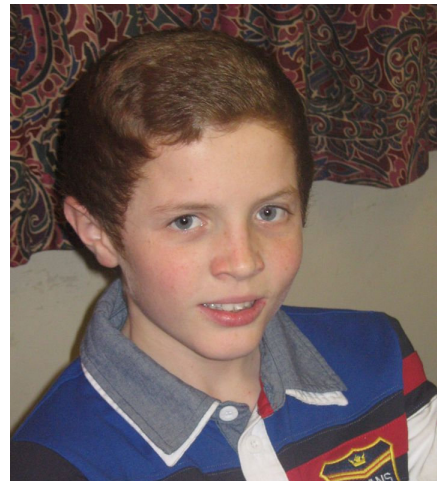
Averages on the day were: Kieran and Alex 62.5% and Bertie 50%.

Combining both weekends together the averages for all five players are: Isaac Farnworth (pictured) 78%. Alex Squire 62.5%. Kieran Warre 59%. Bertie Coombes 50%. Katie Shepherd 11% (pictured). Well played everybody!

Kieran Warre, Alex Squire and Bertie Coombes all played for Kingfisher A on 1st December in "Weekend 2" of the NCL Division 2.

They started well by beating Hillingdon B 8-1 with Kieran and Bertie winning all their matches.

They then played a tough Reading B team, narrowly losing 5-4, with Alex beating Reading's top player 3-0 - that being the Reading player's first defeat of the competition! The Reading game concluded the 1st round of matches with Kingfisher finishing 4th out of the six teams in what was a very tight



Andy Warre

YouTube

There are some great *YouTube* videos on table tennis currently – which may be of interest over Christmas. Just do a search for 'Table tennis on YouTube'.

Or if you haven't the time try the following:

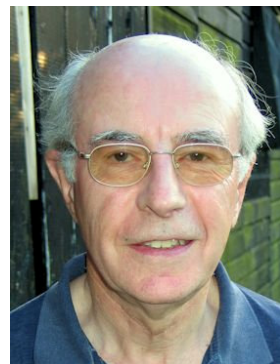
www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8IVASo0umU Table tennis Spectacular

www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLA76V-e2TM Top 10 shots at 2013 Worlds Champs

www.youtube.com/user/TableTennisMaster Improve your backhand.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEF7caeOBwY

Have a great Christmas!!



Peter Bennett

Team Reports

READING LEAGUE

DIVISION 1

KINGFISHER D (by Richard Fifield)

What a pleasure to be part of a relatively young and optimistic side! Yes, the team has come unstuck a couple of times when we fancied that a better result was in the offing.



However, the team is doing commendably, when it is remembered that all the younger players are participating in a division of this quality for the first time. The first half sees KFD sitting just above half way with 12 points.

Up and coming juniors Josh and Leo have both enjoyed real successes. Josh gained triples against YMCA and Tidmarsh B with notable doubles against OLOP A and KFB, whilst Leo won three against SCPA and a notable double against a strong OLOP B team. Eddy Caliman, the Reading University student has been the other star of the team with the highest overall percentage, but arguably earned against slightly easier opposition. Notable successes for Eddy have been triples against KFC, SCPA and Tidmarsh B and a double against OLOP A.

Trevor and Richard have made up the numbers, but I must say that Trevor has often contributed a valuable win and had a fine triple against SCPB. The team could climb one or two places if Eddy, Josh and Leo played every match, but hopefully that is not the point – for this season at least!

I am sure that the team will continue to enjoy some notable successes in the second half.

Richard

DIVISION 2

KINGFISHER E (by Geoff Civil)

Team: Colin Dyke, John Morris, Roger Woolven-Allen and Geoff Civil



As the first half of the season draws to a close we've demonstrated that we can hold our own in the Division, but that it is very competitive. We've lost three out of the ten matches: our most recent to the run-away leaders Tidmarsh 3-7; the other two only by the narrowest of margins (4-6), to OLOP D and Wokingham A. Evidence we cannot be complacent though is that another three matches have been drawn. Apart from a close 6-4 win over Polish A, the other wins have been relatively comfortable.

All the team has contributed well, with myself currently on 65%, John on 62%, Colin 54%, and Roger 46%. Honestly chaps, I didn't volunteer to play in our Bracknell team just to avoid meeting Tidmarsh so I maintained my average! ***

With over half our matches so far being draws or narrow(ish) defeats the second half could go either way. A little extra edge here or net there in our favour could see us moving up the table from our current top half position, while if these go against us, or we run into some poor form, we could find ourselves slipping behind those currently nipping at our heels.

*** Yeah, right... Ed.

Geoff

DIVISION 2

KINGFISHER F (by Ivor Hardman)

Team: Ivor Hardman, Allan Bruton, Peter Bennett, Michael Houghton, and Clare Woodham.

At the start of the season I predicted that we would finish 6th to 8th by the end of the season. Well, we are half way through and currently in 5th place! Well done team! We have only lost three matches and those were against Tidmarsh C, Wokingham A and OLOP C, who are currently first, second and third in the divisional table. We drew three matches against Polish A, OLOP D and Kingfisher E, but we won the rest, giving us 13 points to date. We should be safe for another year in Division 2 next season!

Percentages so far: Ivor 79%. Allan 72%. Peter 33%. Clare 33%. Michael 27%.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and let's hope the New Year brings "ping pong cheer" to us all!

From your Captain

Ivor

DIVISION 2

KINGFISHER G (by Allen Pack)

How are we doing? Well put it like this, things can't get any worse. Halfway through the season and we are still looking for our first win. On a positive note we are playing better so hopes are raised of a better 2014. Our best result

was away at Polish with 5-5 draw; this I have to admit was thanks to Didier for the loan of one of his talented team.

Currently we are managing with three players with both Sharon and Rick out due to injury and other health reasons. Again I have to thank Didier for the loan of many of his players during the first half; I hope they enjoyed the experience of Division 2. Happy Christmas everyone – health and happiness for 2014!

Allen

DIVISION 3

KINGFISHER H (by Eric Holmes)

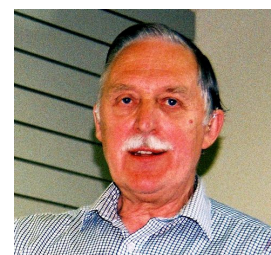
Team: Eric Holmes, Rogerio Albelo, Carol Byers, Steve Woolnough and Dave Duncan.

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th or 6th, the position in the Division we could finish in. So far we have occupied all these positions and currently lie 2nd. The top 6 teams have very little to choose between them and the top of the Table is one of the most congested that I have played in for many years.

Our biggest achievement was in week 8 when we played the then only unbeaten team (Wokingham 'B') and ran out 8-2 winners thanks to a maximum by Carol Byers (14/18; 77.8%). Unfortunately the following week the same team slumped to a 4-6 defeat at the hands of OLOP 'E'.

The first half of the season has seen us struggle to put out a team and on two occasions we fielded reserves from the 5th Division and on the other fielded only 2 players. Dave Duncan has been unavailable for all matches; Steve Woolnough (15/27; 55.5%) and Rogerio Albelo (7/16; 46.7%) had business commitments that took them away from the area and resulted in missed matches. Carol was on holiday for the first four matches, when we lost one and drew two matches, her return strengthening the team.

I have managed 22/30; 73.3% and our Doubles pairings have proven to be quiet strong winning 8 out of 11. If we can avoid fielding reserves we could yet push for a place in the top 3 in the second half of the season.



Eric

As a sort-of post scriptum to Eric's report above, I take great pleasure in reproducing the following wonderful letter received from Derek Harrison. (Ed.)

With my Curzon Club hat on and my R&DTTA Divisional Secretary's hat on I would like to comment on Kingfisher 'H' in Division 3.

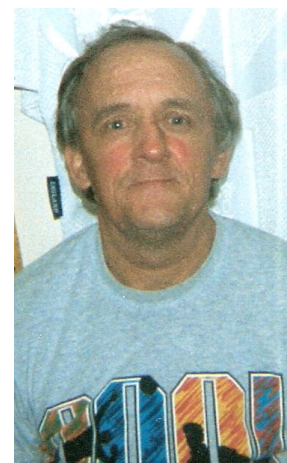
We recently played them and found what an enjoyable team they were with their sportsmanship and friendly manner besides doing their fair share of the umpiring.

When I did my October notes for the Reading newsletter I said I felt they would do well. However Eric Holmes said in your splendid *Kingfisher News* that they would struggle. In our match at one time we were 4-3 up and at that point I thought we could gain a point or even win but, sadly for us, they won the last 3 sets to win 6-4 and at that point went to the top of the table. But following the other matches that were played that week they were joined by three other teams at the top on 15 points. So who will go up is anyone's guess!

So well done Eric, Carol Byers and Steve Woolnough who played the game in the right way and were a credit to your club.

Finally I would like to wish all members of the Kingfisher club a HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2014.

All the best



Derek

DIVISION 5

KINGFISHER K (by Gillian Bennett)

The first half of the season has brought us six wins and five losses. Leigh Mahoney has scored well throughout, only dropping a full score when faced with OLOP G and Polish C, top teams in our division. He is in sixth place in the averages, with 90.48 per cent. Gwynne Penny has reached a table tennis milestone, finally winning all three games in one evening!

We have a new team member, Sandra Shepherd, who has practised at Kingfisher's Tuesday Club, but only joined the League recently. She won a game in her first match, and has enjoyed playing in the Reading round robin doubles competition.

Averages: Leigh Mahoney 90.48. (won 19 of 21 games). Diane Taylor 61.11. (won 11 of 18 games). Gwynne Penny 52.38. (won 11 of 21 games). André Bartlett 38.1 (won 8 of 21 games). Gill Bennett 25 (won 3 of 12). Sandra Shepherd 16.67 (1 of 6).

At present we lie close to mid table, in seventh place, and look forward to the second part of the season.

Gillian

BRACKNELL LEAGUE

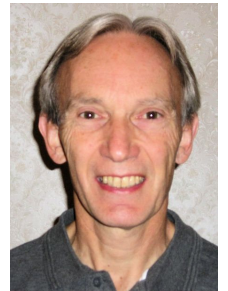
PREMIER DIVISION

KINGFISHER A (by John Willcocks)

We have finished the first half of the season in first place in what is proving to be a very competitive division which could be won by any one of four teams. After a flying start to the season with three big wins we have been slightly more inconsistent since then but we ended with a good away win at Wokingham A which included both Phil and myself beating Daryl Griffith who had only lost once up to that time.

We have won six matches, drawn one and lost two which gives us sixty points and a slender lead going into the second half of the season. Phil and Geoff have played the most matches and have consistently produced good results with Phil having the highest average in the team of 86%. John Morris and Roger have not played as much as they would have liked but have contributed well when they have done; hopefully they will be able to play more matches in the second half.

An odd team statistic, Roger did not lose his 100% record until about 2100 on 21st November having been on 100% for about an hour; Phil also lost his 100% record on 21st November having held it for nine weeks!



John

PREMIER DIVISION

KINGFISHER B (by Allen Pack)

Great performance from all the team this first half and this has resulted in a second place position just one point behind Kingfisher A.

Trevor and Ivor continue to prove difficult to beat with Trevor topping the averages board at just over 83%. A bit surprised to find that I have 75%. Michael seems to be struggling to find his form this first half but he has the potential and "can do better". However, the biggest news this year was the straight match win for Allan Bruton over Graham Outrim! As Allan put it, "I've waited 30 years for that win and, boy, does it feel good!" No better way to finish this year's report! Happy Christmas everyone; health and happiness for 2014!

Allen

(Note: I did NOT know about Allan's victory until Allen [note difference in spelling] sent me his report. And I have played in a couple of matches with Allan since this happened! But what a victory! While Graham must undoubtedly have been disappointed, it should be remembered that our Frimley man is one of the very best players in Kingfisher, in Berkshire and, indeed, on the national veterans' circuit. How on earth did you DO it, Allan? Ed.)

PREMIER DIVISION

KINGFISHER C (by Richard Fifield)

This is a lovely team to play in. Everyone is easy going, flexible and good company.

I must admit to being slightly surprised that the team is second from bottom of the Premier. We have enjoyed some good results, including a notable 6-4 win against the reigning champions OLOP A. However, in general the team has struggled to find its true form.



The league's point-scoring format, which awards a point for each of the ten matches played each evening, puts a premium on all three players contributing. Jeff has been consistent all season and what a fighter he is – never beaten until the final point is played! Peter showed signs of a return to form with a fine double against our B team last week. Colin and Dave will have their moments, I am sure, in the second half.

My theory is that we generally play on a Thursday and our older team members are struggling at this stage of the week following earlier matches in the Reading league. Please team, can we try to be fresh for the Bracknell matches in the second half of the season?

Looking at the league table, we can only improve because the bottom team are so far behind, but the main thing is to enjoy some fun table tennis with opposition teams who tend to be really sporting in this league.

Richard

DIVISION 2

KINGFISHER E (by Gwynne Penny)

We started the season on a high, beating one of our key rivals from last season, SportsAble C, 8-2.

This was followed by a string of losses until we reached week 5, when we managed an 8-2 win against Wokingham Methodist Church B.

Helen picked up a win on her first outing at Broadmoor, despite not having touched a bat since the end of last season!

Diane and David have both been in great form, having both achieved three wins at least once.

Gill demonstrated an awesome comeback in the match over at SportsAble, rallying from 10-2 down in the 4th to take the game in a great battle with Bob Walker. That same evening saw an epic 20-18 scoreline between Gill and Jack in their second leg, which tested my concentration as I was umpiring at the time!

I have started winning some matches, although the magic three wins still eludes me in Bracknell.

We have also welcomed a new player to the team: David O'Keefe, who managed a win in his first match against Broadmoor D.

Several of us have played up into Division 1 to help Derek's team out which has been valuable experience for us.

Thus far we've managed to achieve our start of season goal of keeping off the bottom of the table, and we're currently sitting in position 4 out of 7.

So, I think it's time to revise our goal and to aim for top half by the end of the season – could be tough since we're trailing our nearest rival by 11 points.... so no pressure, team, but let's see what we can do!

Gwynne



New Vehicles

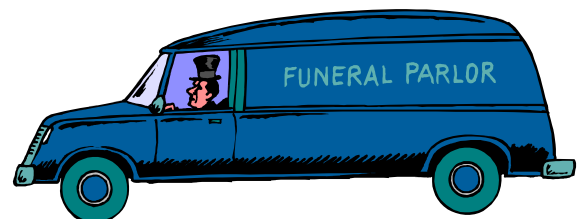
van, to shift his mother-in-law's belongings from one abode to another! Not only that, but his sparkling new motor was also used to take unwanted stuff from Mum-in-law's erstwhile house to the local rubbish tip! Sheesh...

Anyway, by sheer coincidence, I, too, have just ordered a new VW Golf. I can assure you highly-concerned readers that I shall NOT be using my new motor-car as a refuse truck!

"I'm damned near 70 years old now," I said to pal Geoff, "and, apart from now being skint, my age dictates that this will undoubtedly be my last ever car."

"I think you've forgotten the big black one," replied Master Civil.

Geoff Civil has just purchased a brand-new VW Golf motor-car and, I have to say, a very fine motor-car it is, too. But – and here's the incredible bit – Geoff drove his "pristine-condition" acquisition up to Newcastle-on-Tyne and used it, as a furniture removal



Nostalgia

will not. But, thumbing through it, I personally found it quite fascinating. I have extracted a few snippets for your hopeful interest and – or so it is my intention – more “Nostalgia” items will appear in the future. But please read on...

Issue 1 is dated “Autumn 1990” and was edited by Christine Basden and Sue Stoute. The front page included a “welcome” letter from the then Hon Gen Secretary, Colin Dyke, which include a note of thanks to the two lady Editors.

There was also the following extract from the *Daily Telegraph* dated 04 September 1990, written by John Woodford:



SYED LANDS A CONTRACT IN SWEDEN

“MATTHEW SYED, 19, from Reading, who recently won the Under-22 singles event at the US Open in Baltimore, has signed a professional contract with Stockholm Club Angby in the Swedish National League.



“He will play No 3 for Angby alongside European champion Mikael Appelgren and Johann Falby, who was beaten 21-12 24-22 by Syed in Baltimore.

“Syed, an outstanding exponent of backspin, has just returned from training in France and Sweden.. He has been chosen for England’s match against France at Brentwood on September 14 and will partner his coach Chen Xinhua for England B at the Brentwood international team event on September 16.”

(The accompanying picture shows Matthew, not aged 19)

1990 Kingfisher Club Championships

ROLL OF HONOUR: Club Singles Wally Allanson. Club Doubles Syd Montgomery and Marc Priddle. Ladies’ Singles Isabel Walker. Junior Singles Martin Adams. Veterans’ Singles Syd Montgomery. Restricted Singles Gareth Evans. Handicap Singles Wally Allanson. Drawn Doubles Chris Pusey and Brian Halliday.

1990 Grouping Tournament

RESULTS: 1st Marc Priddle. 2nd Colin Dyke. 3rd Hari Gehlot. 4th Roger Woolven-Allen. 5th Ben Johnson. 6th Kashif (Kosh) Subhan. 7th Gareth Evans. 8th Christine Basden. 9th Mike Lennon. 10th Steve Barnes. 11th Trevor Organ. 12th Danny Baxter. 13th Gemma Schwartz. 14th Peter Goatly. 15th Geoff Civil. 16th Maureen Allchurch. 17th Isabel Walker. 18th Ali Subhan. 19th Eva Foster. 20th Sue Arkell. 21st Richard Woolven-Allen. 22nd Andy Dyke. 23rd Helen Goatly. 24th Darren Smith.

(You will see, from the above two snippets, that several members, who are now quite elderly, were reasonably competent at table tennis a quarter of a century ago... Age creepeth ever on... Oo-er, missus... Ed.)

BUT BACK TO THE PRESENT...

Congratulations, Liam!

Kingfisher
TTC member Liam
McTiernan has
been presented

with the prestigious Wokingham District's Under-18 Sportsman of the Year Award – and well deserved it is, too! I am sure that all members will join with me in sending Liam our heartiest congratulations!

The accompanying picture, kindly sent in by Adam McTiernan, shows, from left to right, former Reading FC Captain Aide Williams, The Man-of-the-Moment and Angus Ross from Wokingham Borough Sports Council. Ed.



Scarlett Jones

The following has been extracted from the Reading Post, issue dated 11 December. Scarlett Jones, a member of the Kingfisher and OLOP Clubs, finished runner-up in the Cirencester 1-Star girls' Under-13 tournament on Sunday 8th December. The 12-year-old lost only once, and that was to the Number One seed and eventual winner.

Scarlett has already represented Berkshire at Under-15 level.



Adam McTiernan



(This article has been extracted from The [Plymouth] Herald, issue dated 14 November 2013. It has nothing to do with table tennis in our part of the world, but I personally found it of interest. I am sure that one or two of Kingfisher's younger members will know Vicky Smith; indeed, it is quite possible that our top players such as Tin Tin Ho, Maria Tsaptsinos and Megan Knowles may have played against either Vicky or her team-mate Rachel. If anyone can give me further information, I'd be delighted to receive it! Ed.)

Former England starlet Vicky Smith is carving her way towards a Plymouth and District

Table Tennis League crown.

The teenager, who gave up the chance of an international career to concentrate on her studies, is aiming to better her second-place finish last season.

Smith, who was chosen to carry the Olympic flame during part of its journey from Land's End to London last year, has joined forces with Marjon-based Rachel Trevorrow.

Both are playing for Woolwell B at local level and the side is currently top of the league.

Dad John Smith said his daughter has continued hitting table tennis balls as well as her books. But he said taking the international pressure off his daughter's shoulders has helped Smith enjoy her game more.

John said, "Vicky's teamed up with Rachel, who was Under-19 Schools' Champion, and they're doing very well in the league. Her team is unbeaten so far this season, which is something, as we are talking about teenagers in an adult league.

"Earlier in the season, they beat Woolwell's A team, which has been unbeaten for four years, 8-2."

Smith, 16, who also plays in the British League, decided to shelve her Great Britain career to concentrate on qualifying for medical school. Last year she was ranked Number 3 female junior in England, but she admitted that she did not play at her best for the England Juniors in the 2012 European Youth Championships in Austria.

Cippenham Team 2-Star Open

The above tournament (the eighth in a series) will take place at Cippenham TTC on Sunday 12 January 2014. Nick tells me, as he understands things, that it is not a team competition between clubs but, effectively, is a competition between individuals, entering privately and competing in pairs under the banner of a team name like 'Little and Large' or whatever.

Entry forms are available on Cippenham's website at www.cippenhamttc.co.uk but, if you haven't already entered but would like to do so, you'll have to be pretty quick! The closing date is 22 December.

Epilogue

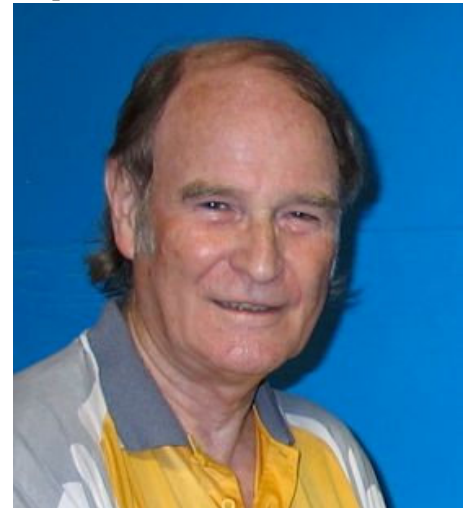
Hi! This time I am sharing the "epilogue" with Chairman Colin. Apart from my simply saying, "That's all, folks. See you next time.", I take pleasure in giving you our Chairman's latest information on the Club's building works. Colin's message is "hot off the press" (as they say) – indeed it only arrived a few hours ago – and

brings you right up to date.

"Glad to report that the new clubhouse is progressing well. After a short hiccup when the Contractor had to deal with some unidentified existing service pipes, the stanchion bases and strip footings are in place awaiting the arrival of the steel frame. A meeting has been held with the Council and the Contractor and a number of outstanding details have been resolved.



"You may wonder why some electrical work and plumbing work has recently taken place in our existing premises but this is explained by the fact that we are sharing electricity, water, telephone and drainage with our new neighbour, the building contractor Dawnus, who are responsible for the new school development works. Access to the Club has also been changed to suit them. Should any member experience any problems in any of these matters, please don't hesitate to contact me, Colin, on 07747



817495 or by email at colindyke@waitrose.com

"Finally, I hope your season is going well and I take this opportunity in wishing all members, parents and volunteers a Very Happy Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year."

Colin

But now back to me, your friendly Editor. Before I go, I should like to once again mention our wonderful resident photographers. I have given credit for the occasional single picture but, I'm afraid, now that I am approaching my senile years, I have to admit that I'm not too sure who exactly took what! But I send my heartfelt thanks to both Didier and John. You are real masters of your profession.

Well, that's all folks! I hope you enjoyed reading the magazine.

Roger

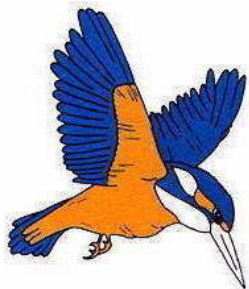
But, to finish where I began and where Colin finished, from both our Chairman and from me

Here's wishing all Kingfisher TTC members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

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.



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 summer *Grand Prix* evenings, a pre-season Grouping Tournament and the very popular out-of-season Thursday evening Club nights.

For members old enough (or lucky enough!) to have some free time on midweek mornings, *The Tuesday Club*, the *Wednesday Club* and *The Friday Club* offer some great practice opportunities. All three Clubs start their sessions at around 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 OFFICIALS:

Peter Charters, Colin Dyke, Eric Van Looy, Nick Heaps, Allen Pack, Roger Woolven-Allen, Richard Fifield, Andy Yon, Peter Bradley, Gwynne Penny, Hari Gehlot, Lisa Williams, David Barr, Marion Dyke, Dave Duncan, Didier Garçon, John Upham, Sandra Shepherd and Nigel Lynch.

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. Another website (which I don't profess to totally understand, but I am very impressed with) is www.tabletennis365.com/Kingfisher/... If all else fails, if you simply bung "kingfisher ttc" into any search engine, you are bound to find what you are looking for. Enjoy!

