

Edition 83, May 2015



## Kingfisher - One Year On...

### Welcome to Kingfisher News

Can you believe it? It's already a year since we moved into our new premises. In this edition we bring you the end of season results from our 12 teams in the Reading league and 6 teams in Bracknell, as well as a final round-up for our British League teams. Life at Kingfisher has been very busy with Club Championships, Coaching, Morning Clubs, TV Crews (more on that later) and a visit from Paul Drinkhall and Liam Pitchford to train at our fantastic facilities just prior to their departure to China for the World Championships. Don't forget, it's the club AGM on Wednesday 20th May – please show your support for the club and your hard working committee members by attending if you can.

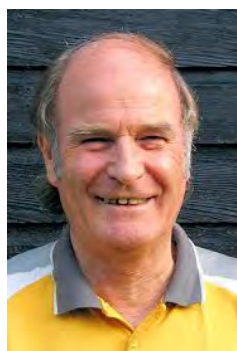
Gwynne Penny, Editor



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# Introduction



As I write this it is hard to believe that we have been in our new venue for almost a year – a whole season and a very successful one. The last AGM was held in the old building a few days before we moved, so on May 20th we shall hold the very first AGM in the new building (but 28th AGM overall). And everything seems to run like clockwork. But why is this? It is because of a few very hard working volunteers on our committee that make it appear that way. It is very similar to running a business but without any salaries being paid out. So I hope you will come along to the AGM and tell us what you think and maybe see if you could help out a bit yourself. I would like to set up a sort of shadow committee wherein I invite any member (or family member) to shadow any job they believe they are interested in but don't like to put their hand up at an AGM in case it involves a lot more than they realised. By being a shadow, you can be “attached” to someone on the committee in any way you want to follow what they do but without having any obligation whatsoever and being able to walk away at any time.

It has been agreed that a Site Users Group will be set up to discuss parking and any other problems (or benefits) on the campus. A couple of meetings have already been held and numerous issues discussed. So if you have any problems you wish us to raise, then please forward them to me.

Our Grand Prix commences on **Monday 18th May**, so I hope as many of you as possible will come along to this first class competition.

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

Enjoy our unique club

Colin Dyke, Chairman

# Kingfisher Grand Prix Returns

Hosted by Wendy Porter and Andrew Parker, with trophies and refreshments organized by Andy Yon, Kingfisher's popular Summer Grand Prix returns for 12 consecutive weeks from Monday 18 May (including Bank Holidays).



- Register on the night by 7:30pm.
- 50p entry fee per week payable on the night.
- Straight knock out competition with a random draw each round.
- Consolation event for first match losers, so everyone is guaranteed at least two matches.
- Points system for both winners and losers.
- Weekly league tables and regular write-ups.
- Losing players to umpire.
- Prizes for various categories of members.
- Friendly atmosphere with nibbles for all.

Good luck everyone, hope to see you there!



We are looking for volunteers to help with write-ups to help spread the workload – if you are willing to cover one or more sessions during the Grand Prix series, please contact Colin Dyke or Gwynne.

# Kingfisher Club Night: Thursdays from 7:30pm

By Gwynne Penny

Club Night is back for the summer season from 30 April, 2015 to the first week in September.

Club Night at Kingfisher gives club members of all levels the chance to meet and play table tennis in a sociable and friendly environment.



- Ideal for new and prospective members to experience the club – guests are welcome.
- Good for league players to keep their hand in during the off season.
- Players are encouraged to mix outside their regular practice group/team.

## How it works:

- When you arrive, add your name to the bottom of the list on the whiteboard (near table 5) to indicate that you're waiting to play.
- When your name reaches top of the list and a slot becomes free, remove it and go on to play.
- Have a general knock and then play a 'best of 3'.
- Winner stays on for up to two matches then rotates off.
- When you come off remember to add your name to the bottom of the list again, and let the next person waiting know which table to go onto.

## Guests:

- Guests are welcome but must be signed in by a Kingfisher member.
- A guest fee of £4 per guest, per visit, applies after the first visit.
- Guest fees paid during the month in which a member joins are refundable.

## Refreshments:

Tea and coffee available in the kitchen area. Please wash, dry and put away any mugs/cups/glasses that you use.

## Kingfisher Contact:

Gwynne Penny

[gwynnepenny@mac.com](mailto:gwynnepenny@mac.com)

Tel: 07884 020691

# Kingfisher Club Championships



By Allan Bruton, Organiser

Commencing on 18th April with the **Junior events:**

Plans were made to hold under 11,13,15 and 18 events plus a junior doubles.

There were a total of 4 , yes, 4 entrants in the entire competition but it was decided to continue with it as a thank you if nothing else for those who did bother to enter.

Unfortunately we had a drop out through illness so 3 boys contested all the events.

It cannot be stated in any other way than to say this was abysmal, disappointingly abysmal but nevertheless abysmal.

**Under 11** one match, the final, Jamie Liu beat Felix Thomis

**Under 13** one match, the final, Jamie Liu once again beat Felix Thomis

**Under 15** felix was awarded a walk over in semi final 1 and Jamie Liu took semi final 2 over Joe Barraclough to again meet and beat a more determined Felix Thomis.

**Under 18** Jamie Liu was awarded a walk over in semi final 1 and Joe beat Felix in semi final 2. Jamie then took the spirited final against Joe to take a clean sweep of all categories.

I have already thanked the participants for entering but I will reiterate those thanks again and add that although Felix came away without a winner's position, for one so young his head rarely dropped, a great example for others to follow.

Thanks also for the parents for sparing the time to bring the boys along.

**Junior doubles:** this event was cancelled on the day of the other events and instead played on finals night. There was only one entry and as one of the players had already had to withdraw a replacement was found to enable the final to be played, the match was won by Jamie Liu and Janosch Herrmann who beat Joe Barraclough and Gus Thomis.



# Kingfisher Club Championships

## Mens singles:

There were 20 entries in this competition and some hard fought matches were seen throughout. The early group stages threw up no surprises and the resulting quarter finals saw the top 4 seeds safely through.

In semi final 1 Federico Viterbo beat Mark Banks in 5 sets and in semi final 2 the only surprise on the night with Yeqin (Phillip) Zeng beating Hari Gehlot also in 5 sets.



The final was won by Federico in 3 sets but with a close 13-11 2nd set.



## Ladies singles:

Due to late withdrawals the ladies competition had only 4 entries so was played as a group of 4 so all players had several games and some hard fought matches ensued, the final match of the group would provide both winner and runner up in the group so this was played as a final on finals night with Gwynne Penny taking the win against Jenny Tanner.



## Handicap singles:

Another good entry initially of 20 players but 2 late withdrawals and 2 non shows on the night saw this down to 4 groups of 4 players. However there were some very good matches and eventually our top 2 players in this competition Ian Cole and Hari Gehlot found their handicaps too much to cope with. The second group round acting as semi finals saw Jeff Huggins and Hari Vennapusa through to the final. The final on finals night was won 2 sets to 1 by Hari Vennapusa.



# Kingfisher Club Championships

## Veterans singles:

With a start list of 19 players and the inevitable non-shows due to injury/sickness the competition was run with 16 doing battle in groups of 4.



During the group stages there were some hard but entertaining matches as one would expect from the old codgers, with 7 of the 8 anticipated quarter finalists going forward, the exception being one of the club's social players Roger Pritchard who had a very good evening.



The eventual semi finalists were Hari Gehlot against Ian Cole with Hari winning through and semi final 2 was Mark Banks winning against Trevor Organ.

The Final was convincingly won by Hari over Mark in 3 straight sets.



# Kingfisher Club Championships

## Drawn doubles:

This event where pairs are split into 2 seeded groups and then randomly picked into pairs one from each group provided some interesting and surprisingly steady pairs and some very good matches were played, all played as one group of 5 where all play all the end result was 2 pairs with the same win to loss ratio emerged so the countback system was needed to split them and this resulted in a win for Ivor Hardman and Gill Bennett over runners up Mick Mitcham and Allan Bruton (a late replacement for Ian Cole).

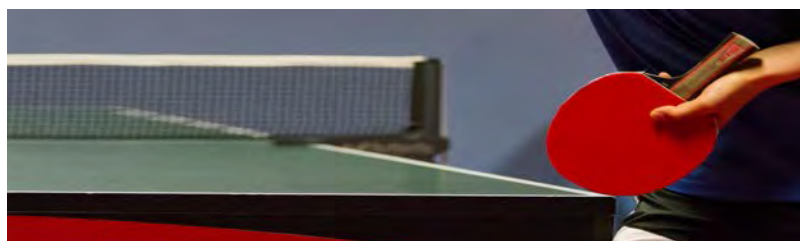


A big Thank You to Allan Bruton for organising and running the Club Championships – especially with so many last minute changes!

And thank you to Gill Bennett for arranging the lovely refreshments, a delicious interlude to Finals Night!

I for one thoroughly enjoyed participating in the Veterans, Doubles, Drawn Doubles and Ladies Singles Events. Let's hope we have more entries next time! Gwynne

# Kingfisher Club Championships in pictures



# Kingfisher Club Championships in pictures



# Kingfisher Club Championships in pictures



# Kingfisher Club Championships in pictures



# Peter Charters



(The amazing story of an amazing man, by Roger Woolven-Allen, with a lot of help from Matthew Syed and Peter himself)

On the flyleaf of Peter Charters's personal copy of Matt Syed's book *Bounce: How Champions Are Made*, there is a one-line inscription. It is short, simple, to the point and very, very sincere. *To Pete. With great respect, Matthew Syed, 2/6/10.*

And so, following on from that "one-liner", I am going to start this "profile" with an extract from Matt's impressive book:

*"Mr Charters was a teacher at the local primary school, a tall man with moustache, a twinkle in his eye, a disdain for conventional teaching methods, and a passion for sport that bordered on the fanatical. He was the coach of almost all the after-school sporting clubs, the manager of the school football team, the organizer of school sports day, custodian of the badminton equipment and inventor of a game called "Bucket Ball", a kind of improvised basketball.*

*"But Charters cared about one thing above all: table tennis. He was the nation's top coach and a senior figure in the English Table Tennis Association. The other sports were just a front, an opportunity to scout sporting talent wherever it emerged so he could focus it – ruthlessly and exclusively – upon table tennis. No child who passed through Aldryngton School in Reading was not given a try-out by Charters. And such was his zeal, energy and dedication to table tennis that anybody who showed potential was persuaded to take their skills forward at the local club, Omega.*

*"Charters invited me and my brother Andy to join Omega in 1980.*

*"My brother and I took full advantage (of Omega), training after school, before school, at weekends and during school holidays. We were also joined by other Aldryngton alumni who had been spotted and snapped up by Charters, so that by 1981 Omega was becoming something of a sensation. One street alone (Silverdale Road, on which the school was situated) contained an astonishing number of the nation's top players.*

*"At number 119 were the Syeds. Andrew, my brother, went on to become one of the most successful junior players in the history of British table tennis, winning three national titles before retiring due to injury in 1986. He was later described by Charters as the best young player to emerge from England for a quarter of a century. Matthew (that's me) also lived at 119 and became a long-serving England senior number one, a three-time Commonwealth champion, and a two-time Olympian.*



*"At number 274, just opposite Aldryngton, lived Karen Witt. She was one of the most brilliant female players of her generation. She won countless junior titles, the national senior title and the hugely prestigious Commonwealth championship."*

(Matthew Syed)

# Peter Charters

When I asked Peter Charters if he would become the subject of a Kingfisher News profile – to which he kindly agreed – I thought to myself, “Well, half an hour’s interview, take a picky or two, hightail it back home for an hour or so on my computer and, later this afternoon, lob the results off to Gwynne. Job sorted.

How wrong I was...

With hindsight, it would be simpler (although not as satisfying to either the writer or the reader) were I to write down the things that Peter has NOT done for our sport. A biographical book could, and almost certainly should, be written about him. I freely admit that I am not the man for such a task but, one day, it may just come about. Peter would deserve such an accolade. His story is truly amazing.

With just a couple of exceptions, the accompanying pictures are my own (although I admit to having taken quite a few “photos-of-photos”, as it were. The originals are all mementos and souvenirs from Peter’s private collection. I have extracted snippets from newspapers, magazines, football programmes (yup, you read that correctly) and books. I have taken the unashamed liberty of quoting Matthew Syed on more than one occasion and, indeed, in no small quantities. I am sure that Matt won’t mind (it’s too late now, anyway) but he is a far more accomplished writer than I am and, to re-write his material, would, to me at least, be nothing far short of an insult. And so there is no plagiarism as such, but quite a bit of literary theft! I have digressed...

Peter Charters was born in Portsmouth in 1939 round about the time that we weren’t exactly seeing eye-to-eye with Germany. But, although no-one knew it at the time, the city that can lay claim to being uppermost in our naval heritage is also the birthplace of one of the most important people ever to become involved in the sport of table tennis.

The years rolled by and, in 1967, Peter came to Reading to train as a teacher at The Bulmershe College of Education. Here he initiated the Bulmershe College Table Tennis Club and, in due course, a team was entered into the Reading League. This team consisted of John Freeman (no, not the same one!), Brian Palmer, Shirley Dark and a young lady named Judi. Although Peter left college in order to start teaching in 1970, he and Judi were married a year later. The couple eventually became the proud parents of four boys who, in common with most young lads, wanted to play football. But more about the beautiful game later on!

# Peter Charters

Before long the ever-enthusiastic Peter Charters was not satisfied with running just one table tennis club and he joined the Reading & District Association's Committee as Coaching Officer and Press Secretary. Many of the now older fraternity will remember Peter's coaching sessions held every Sunday at Bulmershe College. Peter ran these for a year before handing over the reins to another table tennis stalwart, the late Alan Dines. Peter himself took on the same Coaching Officer role for Berkshire. Under his guidance, in the mid-1970s, the County Junior Team excelled by winning the Junior Premier Division. The accompanying picture shows the members of this successful squad: Mary Johnson, Simon Douglas, Kara Mashford, Caroline Reeves, Alan Hicks, Paul Trott and Dave Reeves. You may also recognise the chap standing at the back!



Even though it was completely unknown to anyone at the time, it was more or less at this point that Kingfisher made an unwitting, and as yet unidentified, entrance on to the world stage. Since 1970, when Simon Heaps won the European Cadet (Under-14) title, table tennis has been one of Reading's most successful sports for international recognition.

Simon's success inspired Peter Charters and his friend Reg Hart to found the Omega TTC – a club destined for great fame. After using a number of premises, Peter negotiated and was granted a lease by Berkshire County Council for a WWII prefabricated bungalow in Reading's Green Road. He and Reg converted this into a one-table venue for the use of predominantly junior players.

Peter and Judi took six Omega players to train and compete in Germany and this developed into an exchange programme. With the help of Tony Reeves (Dave Reeves's Dad), a minibus-load of young players would make its bi-annual way to Germany while, every other year, a team of *Westdeutscher Tischtennis-Verband* (WTTV) youngsters would come to Berkshire.

At one stage, Omega, with only 15 members (who were all juniors) provided England with its entire junior girls' team entered into the European Youth Championships. This team was comprised of England's Numbers 1, 2 and 3, Karen Witt, Alison Gordon and Mandy Smith respectively, supported by Jill Purslow and Jo Douglas.

# Peter Charters

The list of Omega players (most of whom lived in or very near Silverdale Road) included such names as Paul Trott, Keith Hodder, Jimmy Stokes Jr, Paul Savins, Alison Gordon, Paul Andrews and Sue Collier. Many Kingfisher members – both past and present – will remember these players with respect and admiration. It is truly an awesome list but, what you, dear reader, must bear in mind is that it wouldn't have existed at all were it not for the outstanding work and commitment of just one man – our very own President.

Peter's list of coaching successes reads like a "Who's Who" of table tennis. He personally coached Karen and Mandy from when they were of primary school age, and Alison for two years after Reg Hart left Reading for South Africa. Other players coached to success included Dave Barr, Sue Collier and the Syed brothers.



At about this time, Omega staged a table tennis exhibition at what was then known as "The Butts' Centre" (now the Reading Broad Street Mall). One of England's greatest ever table tennis players – Desmond Douglas – agreed to take part and the accompanying photograph shows Desmond in action against a local

youngster. Can you name him? The lad's stance, to me at least, is unmistakable. Mystified? Oh, all right; I'll let you in on the secret. The boy was – and still is, of course – our very own Martin Adams.

At about this time, Peter was appointed the ETTA's National Councillor for Berkshire and he was elected on to the England Selection Committee rising, in due course, to become the Chairman of this august body. In 1983, for the very first time in English table tennis – and this was Peter's brainchild – a computer program replaced the card index system to produce the national ranking list. Named Lentec (after the IT company that was prepared to back the venture), the new system was designed on a firm mathematical basis rather than a mixture of statistics and the sometimes dubious opinions of officials. The details are incredibly complex – way beyond the understanding of your friendly scribe. Not bad from a mathematical point of view – especially for a primary school teacher who had studied history at college!

15 years later, Peter was told by Berkshire County Council that the site on which Omega stood was to be used for housing and the club would have to be knocked down. However, Omega's success warranted the Council offering a piece of land on the site of Bulmershe School.

# Peter Charters

A partnership was formed between Omega and the Woodley Table Tennis Club. The Omega committee included Peter Charters, Reg Hart, Brian Halliday, John Witt and Mike West, while the Woodley officials were Mike Bullock, Colin Dyke, John Fenton and Derek Crombie. Jim Hodder was on both committees.

The outcome of this amalgamation is both well-known and well-documented and is beyond the remit of this article. However, you know, I know – indeed we all know – that the result was the birth, in 1988, of our very own Kingfisher Table Tennis Club. Peter Charters was the first Chairman. In his own words, “Kingfisher continues to successfully combine Omega’s philosophy of youth development with Woodley’s approach to ‘table tennis for all’.”

Kingfisher was officially opened by a gentleman who went by the name of Johnny Leach MBE (you may just have heard of him) and a photograph of the official opening ceremony was on display at the “old” premises for many years. I am sure that most of you will have seen it, but I unashamedly reproduce it here anyway! It shows top lady players Mandy Smith and Alison Gordon along with Jim and Jean Hodder, the MP for Wokingham John Redwood and, of course, England’s very own two-times World Champion. Peter tells me that Jim Hodder was the architect, the builder and a good proportion of the labour force needed to get the clubhouse erected. Literally, without Jim’s input, there would have been no Kingfisher Club premises.



Peter did not get on terribly well with a certain gentleman from the Isle of Wight and, in the late '80s, he decided to finish with national table tennis. Accompanied by his four boys, he went into football with a club called Westwood Wanderers.

Always a brilliant administrator, Peter took over the management of one of Reading Schools' District teams as well as other teams for Reading Schoolboys. On retirement from teaching Peter was invited to become a part-time employee of Reading Football Club. His job was to be the Club's Academy Chief Youth Scout, a position he held for two years.

# Peter Charters



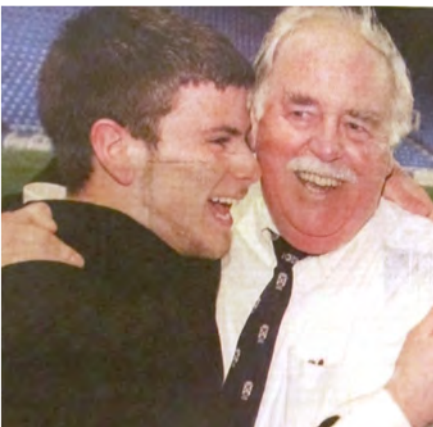
The Torch Trophy is awarded annually to volunteers who have made a significant contribution to their sport in England. In 2002, Peter was awarded the Torch Trophy for his services to table tennis. To quote the citation for this prestigious award, “Peter has provided the leadership that makes things happen.” Peter’s Torch Trophy award was presented by Sir Bobby Charlton at an Old Trafford ceremony during the Manchester Commonwealth Games. The

wonderful accompanying photograph shows Peter and Sir Bobby and it is with tremendous pleasure that I reproduce it here. As an aside it is interesting to note that



three-fifths of the England Men’s Table Tennis Team at these Games were, and still are, Kingfisher Club members – Gareth Herbert from Slough and Terry Young from Maidenhead (both coached by Jim Stokes Sr) joining Matthew Syed on the gold medal rostrum. Out of devilment, if nothing else, I

have taken the liberty of including an interesting picture of “Big Jim”. Does he remind you a little of Aidan Turner’s Ross Poldark?



Peter’s football fame was not yet over. He continued to manage Reading Schoolboys (sponsored by Porsche Cars GB Ltd) up and until the time when, on 25 April 2005, his team won the English Schools’ Trophy (the FA Cup of schoolboys’ football), by beating the Liverpool Sefton team in the final at Madjeski Stadium. Prior to this, Reading had not won this trophy for some 85 years. The accompanying photograph shows Reading Schools’ U15 skipper Nobby Theo thanking his team manager Peter Charters for all the hard work he had put into building the successful squad.

At the Madjeski Stadium presentation dinner Peter gave a retirement speech, concluding with what, in my view, was a brave but incredibly honest statement: “This (victory) is a wonderful way to finish my career in football administration. But I am now going back to my first love – table tennis.” And he did just that...

# Peter Charters

Following a 12-year absence, the hierarchy at the ETTA had changed. Peter was asked to work in the ETTA's coaching department and later, when asked to do so by the new Chairman Alex Murdoch, he took up the roles of Vice Chairman (Coaching) and Vice Chairman (Selection). In 2010 he became Chairman of the British Table Tennis Federation (BTTF) Selection Panel for the British team to the 2012 Olympic Games on London.

The following year, Reading Borough Council awarded Peter with the Reading Sports Awards' Commitment to Sport for services to table tennis and football. He was presented with this award at a presentation dinner held at the Hilton Hotel in Reading's Rosekilm Lane.

As most of you will know, Peter is currently Kingfisher's Coaching Officer and President. Peter tells me that he does not regard himself as a player – but he does regard himself as a coach. Running five or more sessions a week, his coaching duties are onerous and they all involve youngsters. He tells me that, unless they are beginners, adult players tend to be almost impossible to coach because of their pre-conceived ideas. (Please note that I am referring to the “teaching”-type coach – not to be confused with the manager chap who advises national or international players during their matches – although I am certain that Peter has been, and would be, pretty damned good at that side of things, too!)

I asked Peter what table tennis roles he hoped to maintain and he admitted that, although dear old tempus fugit will inevitably one day play a part in his coaching demise, he sincerely hopes that the Kingfisher membership will want him to remain as President – a role that he thinks he can manage well into his dotage. I don't think there will be any problem on that score, Peter!



“Does Peter have any message for Kingfisher's general membership?” I asked.

“Yes,” he replied. “It is a simple but very important one: that we all promote respect for table tennis as a sport played by young and old alike.” Speaking as one of the latter, I can only say “Amen” to that...

At the AGM of Table Tennis England (the ETTA as was), to be held in June 2015, Peter is to be made an honorary life member. This is a great honour but, as I am sure that you will all agree, the honour could not be bestowed on a more deserving man.



# Peter Charters

I close this fascinating narrative by leaving you, as indeed I began, with words from the man who ranks as the greatest Kingfisher player of all time, Matthew Syed:



*“Whenever I am inclined to think that I am unique and special, I remind myself that had I lived one door further down the road, I would have been in a different school catchment area; I would not have attended Aldryngton; I would never have met Peter Charters, and I would never have joined Omega. During the early years of my future table tennis career, I worked with the undoubted top coach in the country – Peter Charters.” (Matt Syed)*

(Roger Woolven-Allen)

# Local League News: Reading

Kingfisher entered 12 teams in the Reading League:

For full details of the season's results visit the web site here:

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

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

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

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

# Local League News: Reading Roundup



Thank you to those of you who have submitted a report for your team.

A huge thank you to all our team captains, and team members for representing Kingfisher this season. In Division 1 Kingfisher A finished just one point behind a strong OLOP A team, and B, D and C all finished in the top half of the table. Division 2 proved tough for the G team, but E and F managed to place within the top 3<sup>rd</sup> of the table. In Division 3, promotion is on the cards for Willis Ma's Kingfisher H team who finished 1 point ahead of rivals Tilehurst Methodists A, in runner up position. In Division 4 and 5, our teams all finished in respectable top-half positions.

I hope you have enjoyed the season and are already looking ahead to the next one. Keep an eye on your email inboxes in early June to start the process of signing up for next season. In the meantime, I hope to see many of you at the Kingfisher Grand Prix – an excellent opportunity for some competitive match play during the summer season.

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

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

The Reading and District Table Tennis Association AGM will take place at Our Lady of Peace, on Wednesday 3rd June 2015 at 7:30pm.

# Local League News: Reading Roundup

Kingfisher A  
Hari Gehlot

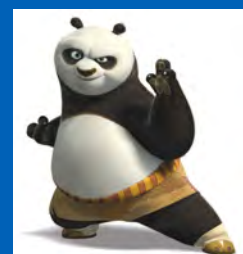
Kingfisher 'A' managed to hold onto 2nd place till the end of season. Though not the first place finish we had hoped for it was still a good result. We managed to play most of our postponed games (collected from when I was away on holidays) by the end of the season. We were conceded the points against YMCA after they couldn't put a team together to play the postponed match against them. The team all finished quite high up in the averages - led by Federico who played in all the crucial matches against the top teams. No doubt these averages will still serve as baseline for improvement next season.



Good luck to all for the oncoming Kingfisher GP.

Kingfisher B  
Steve Murgy aka Kung-Fu Panda (KFP)

This season has been a tough one for Kingfisher C; lengthy injuries to three out of the four squad players somewhat hampered our progress, however, despite that we still finished in a respectable position. The strength in the top teams is Reading means there is a clear divide in the division and our view is that we essentially came runners up in the sub-league we felt we were playing in, which was satisfying given the constraints we faced. Highlights have been Parks improving all the time and Lisa finding some form and confidence towards the end of the season. Both Niall and I have struggled this season for different reasons, hopefully we can all come back stronger for the new season and perhaps find a fifth player that we all agree fits our team philosophy of fun and fair play to cover us against injuries. There was a common concern in the team about the committee's view of us turning out in several games with two players - the lack of interest in the wellbeing of the injured players was particularly disappointing; no player gets injured or misses games intentionally and we felt the communication should have been handled in a more consultative manner.



*My sincere apologies to Steve and the team for any mis-understanding or mis-communication regarding the team cover in this case. For any team having issues with fielding a full team for fixtures, please do contact the league secretary or any member of the committee and we will do our best to help. -- Gwynne*

Kingfisher E  
Geoff Civil, Captain



With a 9-1 win in our much postponed match with Polish A played in the middle of April, we finally completed the season's fixtures. With Bernhard's expertise (finishing top in the division averages on 95%) we initially were flying high, but after OLOP started playing Djordje Milovanovic (who finished on 91%) and Bernhard returned to Austria at the end of January, we inevitably slipped down the table finishing in third place just behind OLOP C. The overall consistency of John Willcocks' Curzon Club led them to the top of the table.

Many thanks to all who played for the E team this season. This included John Morris, Bernhard Schnederle, and Roger Woolven-Allen (with myself), forming the core of the squad; and those who played up from Div 3 - Colin Dyke, Willis Ma and Rick Leachman (I hope I haven't forgotten anyone!)

Kingfisher F  
Allan Bruton, Captain



Finishing in 4th place has been as good a season as we could have hoped, some injuries and sickness hampered us for the mid season period but a strong finish achieved the 4th place.

Kingfisher J  
Derek Crombie, Captain  
(Writeup by Gwynne)



With a chance of promotion on the cards, Derek's team had everything to play for, but in the end were held back by two draws (at Sonning Common and Peppard F, and OLOP E) and a loss at Pangbourne. Congratulations to Melvyn Lovegrove, who was awarded the Berkshire Chronicle Trophy at this year's Reading Awards Evening.

The team had to settle in the end for 4<sup>th</sup> position, but with only 5 points between them and the leaders, OLOP E, next season should be interesting! Melvyn led the team averages with 85%, followed by John Creighton (71%), John Upham (65%) and Kenneth Robb (43%).

# Local League News: Reading Roundup

Kingfisher K  
Gill Bennett, Captain



Kingfisher K enjoyed a successful start to the season and, for a short time, were lying second in our division. By Christmas, we had settled comfortably into third place, but had lost Gwynne to injury, essentially for the rest of the season. But we were a team of six.

Then we hit difficult times because the unavailability of Gwynne was followed by the loss of Diane and Sandra, for similar reasons. Sandra's daughter, Katie, played very well for us on several occasions, but was not a regular team member.

That left David and Gill, which wasn't a team! David had been playing well all season, eventually winning all three matches in one evening against the top team, OLOP "F". But he did need more team support!

It was Bill Hundley who came to our rescue. We managed to enlist him in early January, just before the cut off date for new team members. He had not played at all in recent years, but back in the 1970s had been a top division player.

Fortunately for us, he proved a keen and reliable member of the team, and as the old shots came back to him, he improved week by week, and hopefully enjoyed his return to table tennis.

So, we had a team again! Gwynne made it back for the last few weeks and managed to retain her 88 per cent average.

Surprisingly, perhaps, we held on to third place in our division, with particular thanks to David and his consistently high scores. David finished the season, like Gwynne, with a place on the leading averages table, with a similar score of 88 per cent.

Hopefully, next season will be equally, or more enjoyable and successful for everyone, with injuries left in the past.

# Local League News: Reading Roundup

Kingfisher L

Hilary Husbands (Captain)

Write up by Gwynne

Newly formed team Kingfisher 'L' started the season on the back foot with 4 consecutive losses which saw them sink to the bottom of the table, but as the season progressed they steadily worked their way up, with help from new recruits Adam McTiernan(70%) and David O'Keeffe(58%). A 4th position looked possible but in the end Milestone 'C' just overtook them by 2 points at the finishing post. Sadly team captain, Hilary Husbands, was taken ill and had to leave the team in October and we wish her all the best with her recovery. Colin Mercer(17%) and Ania Pytka(38%) both with the team from the start have put in spirited performances throughout and strongest member of the team has been Ruben Hernandez(75%) who has consistently delivered good results and proved an excellent doubles partner for Adam, Ania and David. This could be one of the teams to watch out for next season.



Kingfisher K vs Kingfisher L in January 2015  
David Wells and Gill Bennett vs Ania Pytka and Adam McTiernan

# Local League: Reading - Results

## Tables > Senior 2014-15 > Division 1

| #  | Team                         | P  | W  | D | L  | SF  | SA  | Points    |
|----|------------------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|-----------|
| 1  | Our Lady Of Peace A          | 22 | 20 | 2 | 0  | 185 | 35  | <b>42</b> |
| 2  | Kingfisher A                 | 22 | 20 | 1 | 1  | 178 | 42  | <b>41</b> |
| 3  | Kingfisher B                 | 22 | 17 | 1 | 4  | 157 | 62  | <b>35</b> |
| 4  | Tidmarsh A                   | 22 | 14 | 2 | 6  | 132 | 88  | <b>30</b> |
| 5  | Kingfisher D                 | 22 | 15 | 0 | 7  | 131 | 89  | <b>30</b> |
| 6  | Kingfisher C                 | 22 | 9  | 1 | 12 | 97  | 122 | <b>19</b> |
| 7  | Reading YMCA                 | 22 | 7  | 2 | 13 | 92  | 128 | <b>16</b> |
| 8  | Wokingham A                  | 22 | 5  | 4 | 13 | 92  | 126 | <b>14</b> |
| 9  | Our Lady Of Peace B          | 22 | 5  | 2 | 15 | 62  | 158 | <b>12</b> |
| 10 | Sonning Common and Peppard A | 22 | 4  | 1 | 17 | 71  | 149 | <b>9</b>  |
| 11 | Tidmarsh B                   | 22 | 3  | 3 | 16 | 65  | 155 | <b>9</b>  |
| 12 | Sonning Common and Peppard B | 22 | 3  | 1 | 18 | 56  | 164 | <b>7</b>  |

Last Updated: 21 Apr 2015

## Tables > Senior 2014-15 > Division 2

| #  | Team                         | P  | W  | D | L  | SF  | SA  | Points    |
|----|------------------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|-----------|
| 1  | Curzon Club A                | 22 | 19 | 2 | 1  | 154 | 66  | <b>40</b> |
| 2  | Our Lady Of Peace C          | 22 | 17 | 0 | 5  | 145 | 75  | <b>34</b> |
| 3  | Kingfisher E                 | 22 | 16 | 0 | 6  | 144 | 76  | <b>32</b> |
| 4  | Kingfisher F                 | 22 | 13 | 0 | 9  | 129 | 91  | <b>26</b> |
| 5  | Tidmarsh C                   | 22 | 10 | 3 | 9  | 106 | 114 | <b>23</b> |
| 6  | Milestone A                  | 22 | 10 | 2 | 10 | 108 | 111 | <b>22</b> |
| 7  | Pangbourne WMC A             | 22 | 9  | 4 | 9  | 108 | 112 | <b>22</b> |
| 8  | Wokingham B                  | 22 | 8  | 4 | 10 | 110 | 109 | <b>20</b> |
| 9  | Polish A                     | 22 | 8  | 1 | 13 | 91  | 129 | <b>17</b> |
| 10 | Sonning Common and Peppard C | 22 | 6  | 4 | 12 | 98  | 122 | <b>16</b> |
| 11 | Kingfisher G                 | 22 | 4  | 1 | 17 | 58  | 162 | <b>9</b>  |
| 12 | Springfield A                | 22 | 1  | 1 | 20 | 68  | 152 | <b>3</b>  |

Last Updated: 16 Apr 2015

# Local League: Reading - Results

## Tables > Senior 2014-15 > Division 3

| #  | Team                         | P  | W  | D | L  | SF  | SA  | Points    |
|----|------------------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|-----------|
| 1  | Tidmarsh D                   | 22 | 20 | 2 | 0  | 165 | 55  | <b>42</b> |
| 2  | Kingfisher H                 | 22 | 15 | 2 | 5  | 136 | 84  | <b>32</b> |
| 3  | Tilehurst Methodists A       | 22 | 15 | 1 | 6  | 134 | 86  | <b>31</b> |
| 4  | Pangbourne WMC B             | 22 | 10 | 4 | 8  | 107 | 113 | <b>24</b> |
| 5  | Curzon Club B                | 22 | 11 | 1 | 10 | 115 | 105 | <b>23</b> |
| 7  | Our Lady Of Peace D          | 22 | 7  | 4 | 11 | 99  | 121 | <b>18</b> |
| 7  | Polish B                     | 22 | 7  | 4 | 11 | 99  | 121 | <b>18</b> |
| 8  | Birch Copse A                | 22 | 6  | 5 | 11 | 105 | 115 | <b>17</b> |
| 9  | Sonning Common and Peppard D | 22 | 6  | 5 | 11 | 97  | 123 | <b>17</b> |
| 10 | Kingfisher I                 | 22 | 8  | 1 | 13 | 92  | 128 | <b>17</b> |
| 11 | Tilehurst Methodists B       | 22 | 5  | 4 | 13 | 89  | 131 | <b>14</b> |
| 12 | Sonning Sports A             | 22 | 4  | 3 | 15 | 82  | 138 | <b>11</b> |

Last Updated: 01 Apr 2015

## Tables > Senior 2014-15 > Division 4

| #  | Team                         | P  | W  | D | L  | SF  | SA  | Points    |
|----|------------------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|-----------|
| 1  | Our Lady Of Peace E          | 22 | 15 | 4 | 3  | 141 | 79  | <b>34</b> |
| 2  | Milestone B                  | 22 | 16 | 1 | 5  | 145 | 75  | <b>33</b> |
| 3  | Pangbourne WMC C             | 22 | 14 | 4 | 4  | 142 | 78  | <b>32</b> |
| 4  | Kingfisher J                 | 22 | 13 | 3 | 6  | 138 | 82  | <b>29</b> |
| 5  | Tidmarsh E                   | 22 | 11 | 3 | 8  | 121 | 99  | <b>25</b> |
| 6  | Sonning Common and Peppard F | 22 | 11 | 2 | 9  | 113 | 107 | <b>24</b> |
| 7  | Sonning Common and Peppard E | 22 | 9  | 5 | 8  | 108 | 112 | <b>23</b> |
| 8  | Springfield B                | 22 | 9  | 4 | 9  | 109 | 111 | <b>22</b> |
| 9  | Tilehurst Methodists C       | 22 | 7  | 4 | 11 | 105 | 115 | <b>18</b> |
| 10 | Curzon Club C                | 22 | 6  | 3 | 13 | 92  | 128 | <b>15</b> |
| 11 | Springfield C                | 22 | 3  | 0 | 19 | 58  | 162 | <b>6</b>  |
| 12 | Tilehurst Methodists D       | 22 | 1  | 1 | 20 | 48  | 172 | <b>3</b>  |

Last Updated: 02 Apr 2015

# Local League: Reading - Results

## Tables > Senior 2014-15 > Division 5

| #  | Team                         | P  | W  | D | L  | SF  | SA  | Points    |
|----|------------------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|-----------|
| 1  | Our Lady of Peace F          | 22 | 20 | 1 | 1  | 172 | 48  | <b>41</b> |
| 2  | Tidmarsh F                   | 22 | 18 | 1 | 3  | 146 | 74  | <b>37</b> |
| 3  | Kingfisher K                 | 22 | 12 | 4 | 6  | 135 | 85  | <b>28</b> |
| 4  | Milestone C                  | 22 | 13 | 1 | 8  | 113 | 107 | <b>27</b> |
| 5  | Kingfisher L                 | 22 | 12 | 1 | 9  | 119 | 101 | <b>25</b> |
| 6  | Sonning Common and Peppard G | 22 | 10 | 4 | 8  | 120 | 100 | <b>24</b> |
| 7  | Milestone D                  | 22 | 10 | 2 | 10 | 121 | 99  | <b>22</b> |
| 8  | Birch Copse B                | 22 | 5  | 7 | 10 | 92  | 128 | <b>17</b> |
| 9  | Sonning Common and Peppard H | 22 | 7  | 2 | 13 | 86  | 134 | <b>16</b> |
| 10 | BBC Club                     | 22 | 6  | 3 | 13 | 83  | 136 | <b>15</b> |
| 11 | Sonning Sports B             | 22 | 3  | 2 | 17 | 70  | 149 | <b>8</b>  |
| 12 | Springfield D                | 22 | 2  | 0 | 20 | 62  | 158 | <b>4</b>  |

Last Updated: 05 Apr 2015

## Top Kingfisher Individual Averages:

Individual Averages > Senior 2014-15 > All Divisions  
(players who participated in 10% or more of matches, and scored 75% or over)

| Player                | Team         | Played | Won | % Win |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------|-----|-------|
| Jean-Noel Thepaut     | Kingfisher I | 39     | 38  | 97%   |
| Bernhard Schnederle   | Kingfisher E | 42     | 40  | 95%   |
| Martin Adams          | Kingfisher B | 59     | 56  | 95%   |
| Federico Viterbo      | Kingfisher A | 21     | 19  | 90%   |
| Eduard Caliman        | Kingfisher D | 47     | 42  | 89%   |
| Gwynne Penny          | Kingfisher K | 36     | 32  | 89%   |
| David Wells           | Kingfisher K | 50     | 44  | 88%   |
| Philip Zeng           | Kingfisher D | 56     | 49  | 88%   |
| Hari Gehlot           | Kingfisher A | 52     | 45  | 87%   |
| Melvyn Lovegrove      | Kingfisher J | 54     | 46  | 85%   |
| Mark Banks            | Kingfisher A | 43     | 34  | 79%   |
| Bernhard Schnederle   | Kingfisher A | 9      | 7   | 78%   |
| Colin Dyke            | Kingfisher H | 53     | 40  | 75%   |
| Ruben Dario Hernandez | Kingfisher L | 51     | 38  | 75%   |

# Local League News: Bracknell Roundup



## Bracknell Summary Gwynne Penny

A huge thank you to all our team captains, and team members for representing Kingfisher this season. Congratulations to Kingfisher B, clear winners of the Premier division ahead of club rivals Kingfisher A by 21 points. Commiserations to Kingfisher C, who finished up in the relegation zone after a tough season. Next season should see some good competition in Division 1 as Kingfisher should be entitled to two places in the division.

I hope you enjoyed the season. Keep an eye on your email inboxes in early June for details on how to sign up for next season, and in the meantime I hope you will take the opportunity to take part in the Kingfisher Grand Prix and Club night Thursdays.

The Bracknell and Wokingham League AGM will take place at Our Lady of Peace, Carl Barton Room on Thursday 21st May 2015 at 8pm. This will be followed by a presentation of trophies for the current season 2014/15.

Kingfisher entered 6 teams into the Bracknell League.

Visit the Bracknell Web Site for full match results:

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

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

# Local League News: Bracknell Roundup

Kingfisher A  
John Willcocks, Captain



We were unable to defend the Premier Division title we won in 2013/14 but the team put up a good fight to finish second. We won 13 of our 18 matches with our only defeats coming against our B Team who were the eventual champions. However we never really looked like threatening them for the title and in the end we finished 21 points behind. However, we did manage to put an even larger margin between us and Wokingham A who finished third.

Phil was again our most consistent player ending the season with an excellent 85% average with everyone else contributed well during the season.

We also had the longest run we have ever had in the Howard Shield before we just lost out at the semi final stage.

Kingfisher B  
Allan Bruton, Captain



A tremendous season with strong performances from all players the inclusion of John Barclay did make a world of difference but he is a good team member and his manner at matches brought out the best in others. A division winners medal is just rewards for all team members.

Kingfisher C  
Mick Mitcham, Captain



Played 15 won 2 lost 13 40 points.

Denise 8/33 27%, Carol 11/42 26%, Peter 14/42 33%, Mick 8/42 19%

We had an enjoyable but unlucky season.

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

Kingfisher D  
Allen Pack, Captain



With three teams above and three teams below, that means we finished middle table this season with 88 points. Like others we found Kingfisher B tough going, we did get close to Kingfisher A at 6-4, maybe next time.

Top ranking for our team this season goes to Richard Fifield with a 75.56% win rate. A great asset to our team and if we were not already in the premier league I would say this score rate should see him promoted to the next level.

Trevor was not too far behind at 61.54% and it goes without saying, we are all amazed at his ability to return balls, with Trevor the harder you hit the balls the better he seems to like it. Trevor is also the only person I know who gets excited about getting a match to expedite. Michael had little table time this season with a foot injury causing him to miss most of the season. Dave was not at his best and struggled to get a decent win rate.

Me, could do better and after investing in some quality rubbers at the end of the season I feel my best is yet to come (ever the optimist) .

'Till next time, thanks to all for an enjoyable season.

Kingfisher E  
Derek Crombie, Captain  
(writeup by Gwynne)



The team comprising Dave Duncan, John Upham, Melvyn Lovegrove and Kenn Robb with reserves John Creighton and Bernhard Schnederle finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place, just 8 points behind 3<sup>rd</sup>-placed OLOP. Bernhard retained 100% across the 3 matches that he played. Melvyn led the individual averages (76%), followed by Dave Duncan (61%) and John Upham (50%).

Kingfisher F  
Gwynne Penny, Captain



Our best result this season came in January, with Gill Bennett, David Wells and David O'Keeffe representing the team at home to Wokingham C. Although we lost 4-6, there were some very close games. David Wells picked up 3 of the 4 points, with Gill taking the other via a closely fought 5-setter with Nigel Kempton.

In total, by the end of the season we trailed 38 points behind Wokingham C, at the bottom of the table. It really does feel like a big jump in standard between the two divisions, however, it has still been an enjoyable season with some close games, and some good performances from everyone on the team. We always did our best to give the opposition a good match, and as a team we have gained valuable experience to take back to division 2 with us next season.

David Wells led the individual averages in the team with 29%, and has steadily improved throughout the season.

# Local League: Bracknell - Results

## Tables > Season 2014-15 > Premier

| # | Team         | P  | W  | D | L  | SF  | SA  | Points     |
|---|--------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|------------|
| 1 | Kingfisher B | 18 | 14 | 4 | 0  | 143 | 37  | <b>143</b> |
| 2 | Kingfisher A | 18 | 13 | 3 | 2  | 122 | 58  | <b>122</b> |
| 3 | Wokingham A  | 18 | 9  | 2 | 7  | 100 | 80  | <b>100</b> |
| 4 | Kingfisher D | 18 | 8  | 1 | 9  | 88  | 92  | <b>88</b>  |
| 5 | Broadmoor B  | 18 | 5  | 3 | 10 | 74  | 106 | <b>74</b>  |
| 6 | Broadmoor A  | 18 | 5  | 1 | 12 | 59  | 121 | <b>59</b>  |
| 7 | Kingfisher C | 18 | 2  | 0 | 16 | 44  | 136 | <b>44</b>  |

Last Updated: 20 Apr 2015

## Tables > Season 2014-15 > Division 1

| # | Team         | P  | W  | D | L  | SF  | SA  | Points     |
|---|--------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|------------|
| 1 | Nomads A     | 18 | 16 | 1 | 1  | 148 | 32  | <b>148</b> |
| 2 | OLOP TTC     | 18 | 14 | 1 | 3  | 129 | 51  | <b>129</b> |
| 3 | Wokingham B  | 18 | 8  | 4 | 6  | 101 | 79  | <b>101</b> |
| 4 | Kingfisher E | 18 | 8  | 3 | 7  | 93  | 87  | <b>93</b>  |
| 5 | Broadmoor C  | 18 | 7  | 3 | 8  | 89  | 91  | <b>89</b>  |
| 6 | Wokingham C  | 18 | 3  | 2 | 13 | 54  | 126 | <b>54</b>  |
| 7 | Kingfisher F | 18 | 0  | 0 | 18 | 16  | 164 | <b>16</b>  |

Last Updated: 30 Mar 2015

## Tables > Season 2014-15 > Division 2

| # | Team                         | P  | W  | D | L  | SF  | SA  | Points     |
|---|------------------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|------------|
| 1 | Wokingham D                  | 18 | 15 | 2 | 1  | 146 | 34  | <b>146</b> |
| 2 | Nomads B                     | 18 | 16 | 2 | 0  | 136 | 44  | <b>136</b> |
| 3 | Wokingham Methodist Church A | 18 | 11 | 1 | 6  | 103 | 75  | <b>103</b> |
| 4 | Sportsable A                 | 18 | 7  | 2 | 9  | 85  | 95  | <b>85</b>  |
| 5 | Wokingham Methodist Church B | 18 | 5  | 1 | 12 | 71  | 107 | <b>71</b>  |
| 6 | Broadmoor D                  | 18 | 2  | 1 | 15 | 48  | 132 | <b>48</b>  |
| 7 | Sportsable B                 | 18 | 2  | 1 | 15 | 39  | 141 | <b>39</b>  |

Last Updated: 24 Apr 2015

# Top Kingfisher Individual Averages:

Individual Averages > Season 2014-15 > All Divisions  
Kingfisher Players who played 10% or more and scored 50% or more

| Player              | Team         | Played | Won | % Win |
|---------------------|--------------|--------|-----|-------|
| Bernhard Schnederle | Kingfisher E | 9      | 9   | 100%  |
| John Barclay        | Kingfisher B | 42     | 40  | 95%   |
| Philip Mead         | Kingfisher A | 39     | 33  | 85%   |
| John Willcocks      | Kingfisher A | 42     | 34  | 81%   |
| Ivor Hardman        | Kingfisher B | 50     | 40  | 80%   |
| Melvyn Lovegrove    | Kingfisher E | 33     | 25  | 76%   |
| Richard Fifield     | Kingfisher D | 45     | 34  | 76%   |
| Allan Bruton        | Kingfisher B | 35     | 26  | 74%   |
| Jeffrey Huggins     | Kingfisher B | 32     | 21  | 66%   |
| Trevor Organ        | Kingfisher D | 39     | 24  | 62%   |
| Dave Duncan         | Kingfisher E | 36     | 22  | 61%   |
| Geoff Civil         | Kingfisher A | 36     | 22  | 61%   |
| John Morris         | Kingfisher A | 21     | 12  | 57%   |
| John Upham          | Kingfisher E | 36     | 18  | 50%   |
| John Creighton      | Kingfisher E | 6      | 3   | 50%   |

# Audrey Hardy Hard Bat Tournament

By David Holt, Tournament Organiser

Steve King returns to the Audrey Hardy Tournament to reclaim the title. The Hard Bat competition was held on Sunday 26th April 2015 at Kingfisher Table Tennis Club and, despite the low number of entries, it provided an enjoyable day of table tennis.



Steve King vs David Wells

The play started in groups with all players having a minimum of six matches. There were some closely fought games throughout the day with edges and nets also playing their part.

The players finishing top of the groupings, Allan Bruton, Ivor Hardman, Steve King and Mark Kirton, went forward to the semi-finals with Steve and Mark meeting in the final.

Whilst Steve eventually triumphed, he was beaten by both Ivor and Allan in the early rounds.

All in all a great days table tennis.



David Holt vs Ivor Hardman



Mick Mitcham and Mark Kirton on table 2 and Allan Bruton and David Wells on table 1

# British League and National League Roundup

By Peter Charters

Now that the British League season has finished, it is time to evaluate the importance to the club of being part of the top table tennis team competition in the country. Kingfisher's teams made an impression across the widest range of Senior British League (SBL) standard; one team in the Premier Division, one in the middle Division 3 and another one in the lowest Division 5.

Players who took part for the second and third teams noticed little difference in the overall standard of play. The Premier team of Tom Maynard, Liam McTiernan, Dave Barr and Marcus Giles finished the season second from bottom and were relegated. Federico Viterbo, Daniel Kolesnik, and Maria Tsaptsinos contributed to one round of matches each. Tom Maynard's hip injury, for which he has recently undergone an operation, did inhibit him at times but the standard in the Premier Division is high as can be seen from the individual results table below.

Mention must be made here of Dave Barr and his role as captain. His cheerful disposition and tactical knowledge have kept the team going under extreme pressure; and he can still play a bit as well.



Both the 2nd and 3rd teams did well to finish as runners up in their respective divisions. The 3rd team was predominately young players 15 and younger, with one 11 year old who remained unbeaten over the five matches played over the last weekend. So we have a bright looking future but for the time being the Premier Division looks to be so much stronger than the rest of the SBL with the best clubs 'buying in' top players to compete for their team. The principle that 'players who compete together as a team/squad, also train together as a team' will last as long as I look after these Kingfisher activities.

| <b>First Team:</b> | Played: | Won: | <b>Second Team:</b> | P  | W  | <b>Third Team:</b> | P  | W  |
|--------------------|---------|------|---------------------|----|----|--------------------|----|----|
| Tom Maynard        | 26      | 8    | Federico Viterbo    | 12 | 11 | Eduard Caliman     | 8  | 6  |
| Liam McTiernan     | 26      | 6    | Hari Gehlot         | 24 | 20 | Joshua Gallen      | 24 | 15 |
| Dave Barr          | 22      | 7    | Maria Tsaptsinos    | 8  | 7  | Gus Thomis         | 22 | 16 |
| Marcus Giles       | 25      | 4    | Takumi Uchihara     | 20 | 13 | Sam Liu            | 18 | 10 |
| Federico Viterbo   | 6       | 0    | Eduard Caliman      | 12 | 9  | Jamie Liu          | 14 | 10 |
| Maria Tsaptsinos   | 2       | 1    | Joshua Gallen       | 8  | 4  | Hari Vennapusa     | 8  | 2  |
| Dan Kolesnik       | 4       | 1    | Sam Liu             | 8  | 3  | Janosch Herrmann   | 14 | 10 |
|                    |         |      | Hari Vennapusa      | 20 | 7  |                    |    |    |

Individual Player Performance (Team, Played, Won)

# British League and National League Roundup

The final weekend of the Junior British League (JBL) produced a disappointing result. From being in a strong position for promotion, the team dropped down to finish in 4th place in division three. Jamie suffered an injury but our German visitor, Janosch remained unbeaten. The pressure of expectation and the need for the older junior players to take responsibility seems to have been too much for some to handle. The situation with JBL for next season has to be reviewed.

Kingfisher had two teams in the National Cadet League (NCL) and one team in the National Junior League (NJL). It was, for some players, an introduction to table tennis competition outside the club but only a few responded to the challenge. This was one of the factors that contributed to the decision to restructure the coaching programme.



Janosch Herrmann and Jamie Liu

## Tables > Junior Boys 2014-15 > Boys Division 3A

| # | Team                | P  | W | D | L | SF | SA | GF  | GA  | Points |
|---|---------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|--------|
| 1 | Rasen Racers        | 10 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 45 | 15 | 150 | 82  | 17     |
| 2 | Ulster              | 10 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 37 | 23 | 138 | 103 | 13     |
| 3 | Sussex Blades       | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 34 | 26 | 131 | 100 | 13     |
| 4 | Kingfisher TTC Boys | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 33 | 27 | 124 | 107 | 11     |
| 5 | Greenhouse 2        | 10 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 17 | 43 | 84  | 148 | 4      |
| 6 | Bankfield           | 10 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 14 | 46 | 70  | 157 | 2      |

Last Updated: 15 Feb 2015

# British League Senior Tables

## Tables > Seniors 2014-15 > Division 5 South

| # | Team                       | P  | W  | D | L  | SR   | GR   | Points |
|---|----------------------------|----|----|---|----|------|------|--------|
| 1 | Waterside                  | 14 | 13 | 1 | 0  | 6    | 3.22 | 27     |
| 2 | Kingfisher III             | 14 | 10 | 1 | 3  | 1.87 | 1.5  | 21     |
| 3 | Cardiff City TTC II        | 14 | 9  | 2 | 3  | 1.49 | 1.33 | 20     |
| 4 | LVA-London Academy IV      | 14 | 6  | 2 | 6  | 1.04 | 0.97 | 14     |
| 5 | Foresters II               | 14 | 4  | 3 | 7  | 0.76 | 0.84 | 11     |
| 6 | Survey Initiative Rowhedge | 14 | 3  | 4 | 7  | 0.62 | 0.72 | 10     |
| 7 | Greenhouse IV              | 14 | 1  | 5 | 8  | 0.49 | 0.61 | 7      |
| 8 | Fusion IV                  | 14 | 0  | 2 | 12 | 0.31 | 0.48 | 2      |

Last Updated: 29 Mar 2015

## Tables > Seniors 2014-15 > Division 3 Midlands

| # | Team                   | P  | W  | D | L  | SR   | GR   | Points |
|---|------------------------|----|----|---|----|------|------|--------|
| 1 | Whitworth Academy I    | 14 | 13 | 1 | 0  | 4.33 | 2.59 | 27     |
| 2 | Kingfisher II          | 14 | 10 | 2 | 2  | 1.95 | 1.69 | 22     |
| 3 | Wood Green             | 14 | 7  | 3 | 4  | 1.2  | 1.13 | 17     |
| 4 | Elgre Draycott IV      | 14 | 6  | 3 | 5  | 1.15 | 1.12 | 15     |
| 5 | 23 Technology          | 14 | 5  | 4 | 5  | 1.07 | 1    | 14     |
| 6 | Nottingham Sycamore IV | 14 | 5  | 1 | 8  | 0.67 | 0.76 | 11     |
| 7 | Woodfield IV           | 14 | 1  | 1 | 12 | 0.37 | 0.53 | 3      |
| 8 | Cliffedale Chandlers   | 14 | 1  | 1 | 12 | 0.35 | 0.45 | 3      |

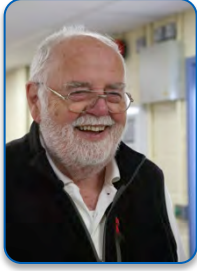
Last Updated: 29 Mar 2015

## Tables > Seniors 2014-15 > Premier Division

| # | Team                  | P  | W  | D | L  | SR   | GR   | Points |
|---|-----------------------|----|----|---|----|------|------|--------|
| 1 | Ormesby I             | 14 | 12 | 2 | 0  | 4.09 | 2.62 | 26     |
| 2 | Nottingham Sycamore I | 14 | 11 | 2 | 1  | 2.73 | 1.91 | 24     |
| 3 | Drumchapel Glasgow I  | 14 | 9  | 0 | 5  | 1.49 | 1.25 | 18     |
| 4 | Fusion I              | 14 | 6  | 1 | 7  | 1.11 | 1.01 | 13     |
| 5 | Barrow Tornadoes I    | 14 | 6  | 1 | 7  | 0.81 | 0.92 | 13     |
| 6 | LVA-London Academy I  | 14 | 6  | 0 | 8  | 0.96 | 0.97 | 12     |
| 7 | Kingfisher I          | 14 | 1  | 2 | 11 | 0.33 | 0.54 | 4      |
| 8 | Bournemouth Sports    | 14 | 1  | 0 | 13 | 0.18 | 0.31 | 2      |

Last Updated: 15 Mar 2015

# 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



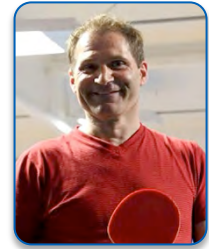
Welfare Officer,  
Premier and  
Clubmark Contact:  
Lisa Williams



Bookings Officer:  
Mick Mitcham



Newsletter Editor  
and Local League  
Co-Ordinator  
Gwynne Penny



Committee Member &  
Trophy Secretary:  
Andy Yon



Committee Member:  
Allan Bruton



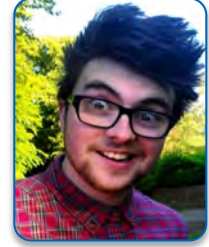
Committee Member:  
Krys Szczygiel



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

# Kingfisher AGM: Wednesday 20 May

Come and show your support for your club by attending the club's Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 20 May, 2015 from 8:00pm at the Clubhouse. Reports and agenda (below) have been circulated to members via email.

## Agenda:

- 1) Apologies for absence.
- 2) Presentation of awards.
- 3) Minutes of the last meeting.
- 4) Matters arising.
- 5) Chairman's Report.
- 6) Secretary's Report.
- 7) Membership Secretary's Report.
- 8) Treasurer's Report.
  - 8.1) Financial Report.
  - 8.2) Resolution of Fees.
- 9) Coaching Officer's Report.
- 10) Proposed amendments to constitution and/or rules.
- 11) Election of officers and committee members.
  - 11.1) President.
  - 11.2) Chairman.
  - 11.3) Treasurer.
  - 11.4) General Secretary.
  - 11.5) Coaching Officer.
  - 11.6) Membership Secretary.
  - 11.7) Club Welfare Officer.
  - 11.8) Committee Members (6).
  - 11.9) Trustees (4).
  - 11.10) Auditor.
- 12) Any Other Business.
  - 12.1) Any other competent business.
  - 12.2) Date of first committee meeting.



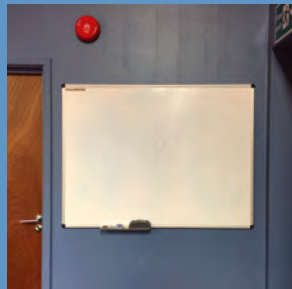
Please note: the playing area will not be available for play from 7:00pm.

Any queries and/or apologies for absence should be sent to Peter Bradley, General Secretary ([peter@forehandsmash.co.uk](mailto:peter@forehandsmash.co.uk)).

# Newsletter Noticeboard

## 40-Minute Session Rule

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



## Social Area

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



## Lost Property

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

## Always Bring Your Key + Fob

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

## Non-Marking Playing Shoes

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

# Newsletter Noticeboard

## Reminder: Guests

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

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

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

### Payment of Guest Fees:

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

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

## First Aid

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



## Emergency Exits

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



## Pre-European Youth Training Camp

On Tue 26th, Wed 27th and Thu 28th May at the Kingfisher Club, there will be a Pre-European Youth Championships Training Camp staged for Table Tennis England involving England's top Juniors (Under 18) and Cadets (Under 15). Our own Maria Tsaptsinos will be one of the players training.

This will be an opportunity for our players to observe the training methods used at the highest level of English junior table tennis.

Training will be from 10am to 4pm each day.

# Club Discount Scheme with Tees Sport

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



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

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

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

Discounts off the catalogue prices are as follows:

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

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

Donic products – less 20%

All other Tees Sport products – less 15%

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

OR

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

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

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

AND

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

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

# Kingfisher in the spotlight



If you were at the club on Wednesday 20 April in the morning you were playing alongside two of our top ranked England players! Paul Drinkhall and Liam Pitchford dropped into the club prior to departing for China and the World Championships for a practice session and were impressed with the quality of our facilities. The rest of us were impressed by their accuracy and pace!



## BBC South at the Club

Our Club's outstanding facility featured again last week when reporter Ben Moore and cameraman Mark Slemmings from BBC South came to interview Jamie Liu. They also interviewed Maria and Jamie's brother Sam, for a programme to be screened on BBC South Today some time in June. Both producer and cameraman were full of praise for what we have to showcase our sport.



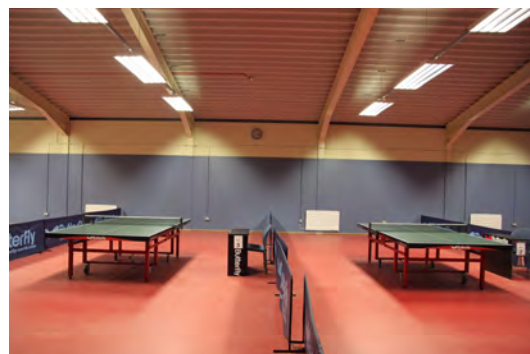
Jamie Liu with sparring partner Takumi Uchihara  
Photographed by Cookie Liu



Maria Tsaptsinos during filming. Photographed by Cookie Liu.

# Coaching at Kingfisher

This term, the daily 5pm to 7pm Coaching and Training sessions have been restructured from the Easter school holidays onwards. These sessions continue to run on five days a week, plus a one and a half hour session on Saturday mornings; 10.30am to 12noon.



The restructure is an attempt to improve the quality of the performance level of the young players at the club and a major part of this is to increase the quantity of weekly table time for those players that are committed to improve.

Graham Outrim continues to coach the Monday session and will take on the Saturday if the numbers warrant us running it. Peter Charters leads on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Alison Broe coaches the Wednesday group and Gwynne takes a group on Fridays.

Where possible, a sparring partner will be added to a session. A charge is made for the players attending the Monday and Saturday sessions; the rest are required to be paid up members of Kingfisher.

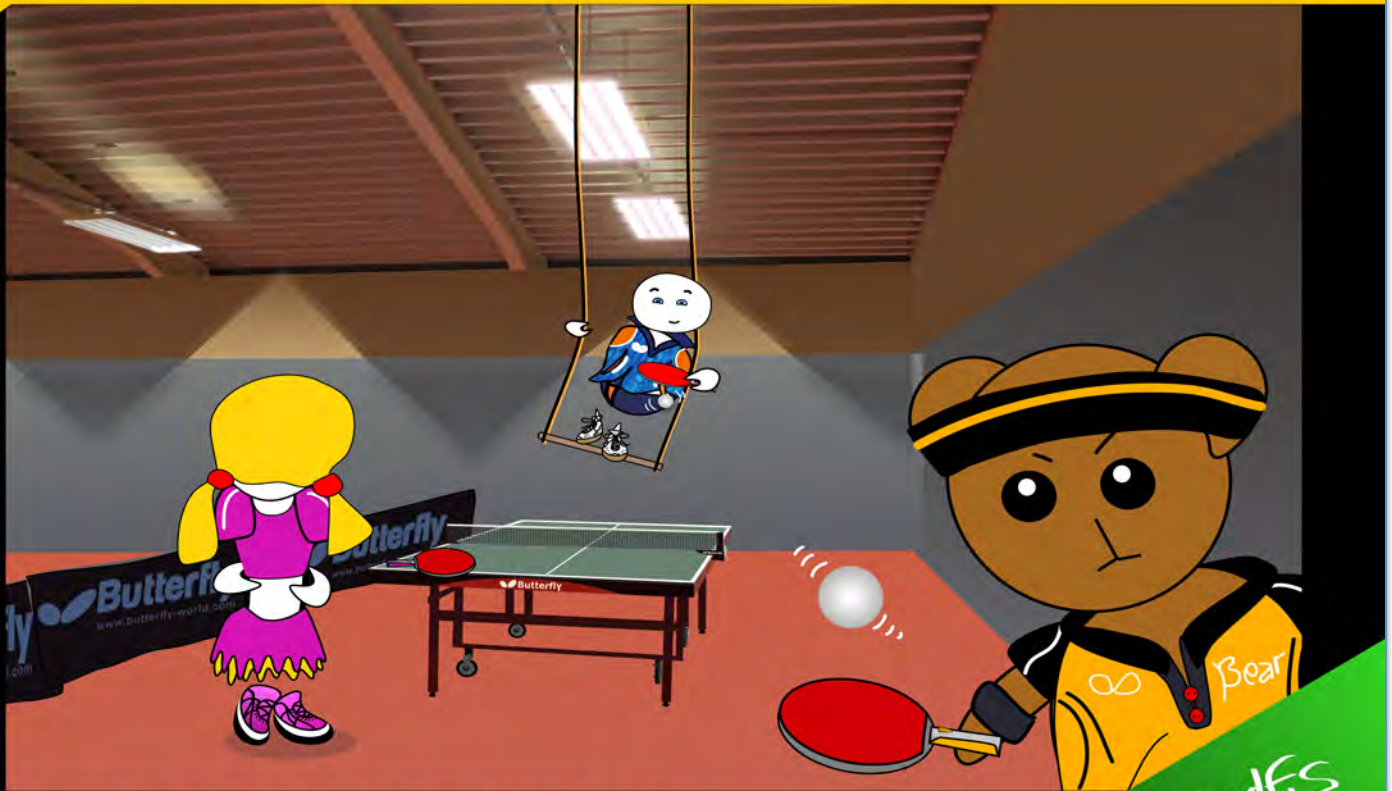
Looking for coaching?

Do you want to improve your technique? Are you returning to table tennis after a break and want to brush up on your skills? Do you want to get more out of your practice sessions? Looking for a practice partner? Contact a member of the coaching team for more information about one-to-one sessions and practice tips to help you reach your full potential.

Have you ever considered becoming a coach? Kingfisher has plenty of opportunity for one-to-one and group coaching at all levels of player ability, age and experience. The Table Tennis England website publishes dates for UKCC Level 1 and 2 coaching courses. To become a licensed coach you must pass the course, and complete First Aid and Safeguarding courses (certification is renewable every 3 years) and complete a CRB check. If you are interested in finding out more, contact a member of the coaching team.

# A Serving of Sneakles

**SNEAKLES WILL TRY ANYTHING.....**



**.....TO GET MORE TOPSPIN**

*SNEAKLES*

Sneakles and Bear have had themselves immortalized on a table tennis bat from USA-based Überpong. The bats (or paddles as they call them over the pond) are not legal for match play under ITTF rules, but great for casual play with a personalized twist! The blade is nicely put together. The rubbers themselves feature short pimples with a generous sponge backing. For more details visit Überpong's website:

<https://www.uberpong.com/>



# Brian Halliday – Happy Memories

By Jon Samuel

After Brian Halliday's sad death in January, I was pleased to see so many tributes in the last Kingfisher News.

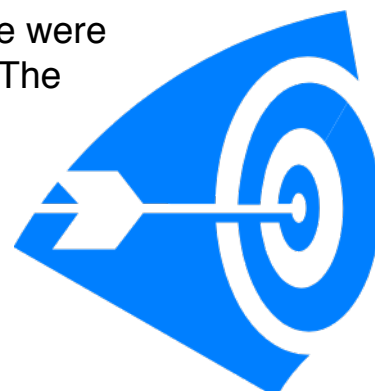
Although no longer a member, I knew Brian for over 40 years (by coincidence, he knew me for around the same period) so I thought a few reminiscences might not go astray. Like Roger, I too will attempt to focus on the happy times, and there were many.

But firstly I must start on a serious note. I visited Brian just a few days before he died, and I bumped into the elegant and dapper Ron Langheim and his good wife. For all of us, it was a very difficult and emotional visit, and I suspect we were all thinking along the lines that perhaps Brian would prefer not to suffer and to be at peace. For me, this made his passing just a little easier to cope with, but not much.

At Brian's funeral, Ron read out an excellent tribute, during which he recalled a match played at Sonning Common during a power cut, and which was subsequently, at Brian's insistence, played by candle light. I remember thinking to myself what sort of a prize pratt would have made up such a ridiculous farfetched story? Then I remembered.....it was me! Sadly, I even recall at the time, shortly after the article appeared in the Kingfisher News, that one player approached me and suggested Sonning Common should lodge a formal complaint and demand the match be replayed. I remember mumbling something about both captains having agreed to the match, there was nothing I could do, and trotting off. Oh..the tangled webs we weave, even in the dark.



I must correct a few inaccuracies in Rogers's otherwise excellent ramblings in the last issue. Firstly, the reference to the archery range on Brian Halliday's estate is only partially true. Yes, there was an archery range in place, but it was removed after just three short weeks at the insistence of the health and safety inspectors. They were very unhappy as they feared it would pose a threat to the polo matches on the adjacent field. Plans to move the archery to the west of the estate were also scuppered due to the risk to traffic on the A34 at Abingdon. The north side of the estate was obviously out of bounds due to incoming helicopter flights, and as Brian pointed out at the time, revenue to the estate from the archery range would have been minimal anyway, so it was no great loss, and was replaced shortly thereafter with a third all weather tennis court.



# Brian Halliday – Happy Memories

Roger accuses me of not using any attacking shots when I used to play, an accusation I refute wholeheartedly. I would often take any opportunity I could to attack, although none of my attempts ever went on. I might hit the lights if I was lucky, or perhaps my shot might go out the window, but I did try to attack.

Roger also makes mention of the infamous Sonning Common & Peppard A team, with Brian, Wally Allanson and myself, and our late night finishes. Brian was a stoic defender, whose determination was legendary. Wally at his best was able to retrieve from ridiculous situations, as many top attackers in Reading can testify. And I tried to support these two whenever possible. And yes, one game did finish at 1.45 am, against Post Office, with Bert Foster, Dave Jones and Bob Holliday.

However, no better illustration of what a (A)nightmare or (B)pleasure it must have been to face Sonning Common can I think of than the night we played Polish A at home. I still recall vividly the moment Dave Wise asked Brian if it was OK for him to play his 3 games straight off as he “wanted to leave early”. This to Sonning was an alien concept, and one we did not really understand. It is a little like trying to link the word “truth” with the word “politician”, it just does not fit. Anyway, Brian agreed to this outlandish request and Dave Wise did indeed play his 3 straight off. We started the match promptly at 7.00pm to ensure no delay occurred, and Dave Wise duly played his three matches with no break. Dave left our venue, very early, at 9.50pm, muttering a few expletives under his breath as we gave him a cheery wave on the way out. I can still remember the look of utter despair on the face of Dave’s remaining team’s mates as they realised there was still 7 games to go! (And yes, we did have a practice after the game was over)

Finally, a totally true but unusual event that occurred at Sonning during a home game. Brian had gone to get the table out, and yelled out, “Jon, in here, quick” I ran in, to see a large tawny owl hanging on the curtains.

“Look”, I said “There is ring on his leg, and there is a name on it...he’s called Jolson” Brian looked at me, and walked straight into it by saying “what an odd name that was”.

“Well” I replied, “I guess he must be Owl Jolson....”

Brian’s reply cannot be repeated here, due to the tender years of some of the Kingfisher membership.

Regards to everyone  
Jon (Samuel)

# Prologue



Before I start to pen (what a daft word that is) these Ramblings, I have to let you know that there are unlikely to be too many of them. My recent free time, from a Kingfisher point of view, has mostly been taken up with a profile of our President, Peter Charters. I am optimistic in hoping that you will find this article elsewhere in the newsletter. In my humble opinion – solely because of the subject – I regard it as a highly worthwhile task. Having said that, I freely admit that there may well be

errors in the transcript; both Peter and I have reached the age where we tend to forget exactly what happened where and, more to the point, when. But, between us, we gave it our best shot. I KNOW that there are many omissions in the story; there just isn't room in Gwynne's newsletter to give Peter the space he so richly deserves. And so, on both fronts, I'd be grateful if you would accept my apologies. But on to other, lesser, things...



# Balls

**Have** you noticed, when it comes to providing balls, how generous everyone has suddenly become? A highly cynical me has a vague feeling that the introduction of the new plastic ball may have something to do with this. The present celluloid balls, if things go according to plan, will be worthless come the start of the 2015/16 season. I personally possess a couple of dozen of the "old" balls and I am sure that I am not alone.



But be careful! The word on the street (which may or may not be accurate) is that things might just be delayed. The plastic balls are prone to breakage, or so I'm told, and, unless they've been really canny, the table tennis retailers must possess quite a stock of the old ones. What are they going to do with them?

Will the recent spate of generosity suddenly pall, I cynically wonder?

# Eric Gill

**The** following is an extract (as told to Moira Petty) from the April 2015 edition of *Saga* magazine, a copy of which was sitting on my granny's coffee table. I just happened to notice it, as you've probably guessed... But, being serious, how many of our more mature readers have heard of Eric? I confess that I haven't. He is now 92 years of age and hails from Thanet in Kent – which is not a million miles away. But on to his story...



"This table tennis bat cost 2/6 in 1937. I was 14 and saved my pocket money – 3d a week – to buy it. It seemed to fit my hand and the weight felt right. I cycled to tournaments, confounding opponents with my aggressive left-handed game and natural swing.

"In Italy with the RAF during the war, I found enthusiasts hanging around the ping-pong table in NAAFI canteens. Post-war, I met my late wife, Peggy, who had a good eye for faults I wasn't aware of.

## Roger's Ramblings



"My work as a radio communications engineer took us from Africa to the Middle East, Asia and Australia, the bat always in my briefcase. Travelling to Nigeria by ship in 1950, I demolished the competition in a tournament, so the purser asked me to play with an aluminium frying pan. I still won!

"In remote parts of Nigeria, I played on tables made of packing cases, planks and old doors. I set up a tournament in Lagos with the great champ, Viktor Barna, as the star turn; he could hit the ball on to a small coin on the far side of the table. I met my match with the Chinese, but it was the

Seventies and I was past my peak. I wore my shoulder out and, in pain, gave up table tennis at 64,

"The bat is travel-stained and has been resurfaced; sometimes I do a few movements in the air with it. The memories are all good. Playing table tennis has kept me fit. I weigh the same as I did at the age of 20. My doctor says it's the secret of a long life."

---

## Dave Barr

**Many** moons ago, John Barclay and I were of a similar playing standard. Nowadays, I have to confess that I stand absolutely no chance against him. At a recent Kingfisher match, he beat me 11-3 11-7 11-5 and, with my tail between my legs, I went off to apologise to my team-mates. I suddenly spotted Dave Barr, waiting to practice against other top-notch players, sitting at the far end of the hall. I took the liberty of going up to him and asking for his advice.

"It's difficult," said Dave. "John has an unusual bat and is highly adept at using it. Such players always give defenders like us a hard time. What I suggest is....."

Dave's advice is irrelevant. But the expression "defenders like us" hit me for six! I was smirking like a Cheshire cat all the way back to my own court. Can't you just love the man...

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## Wednesday Club

**On** a Wednesday morning recently, I was walking from the Bulmershe School car park towards the Club, when I spotted Dave Gostelow, sitting in his car, apparently doing nothing. I had a quick word with him before entering the Club's rest area. Allan Bruton and Roger Pritchard were already there, preparing to play.

"Hi," I said. "I've just passed Dave Gostelow, sitting in his car. He told me that he saw you two chaps arriving, but he was going to wait for some decent opposition."

"He's still waiting, then?" said Mr Bruton.

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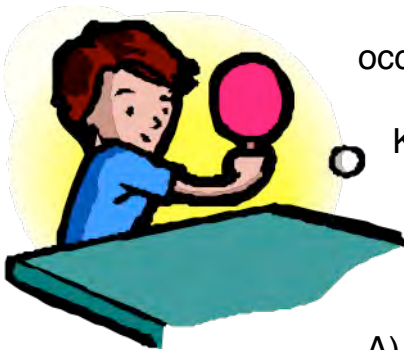
# Roger's Ramblings

## Two-Man Teams??

**During** my interview with Peter Charters, we occasionally digressed and changed the topic of conversation. At one point, Peter asked me, "What would you think of the local leagues incorporating a two-man team system?"

We talked about this at length and, I have to admit, as the discussion progressed, I found the idea more and more appealing. The more conservative among you will probably disagree but, before you tell me that I'm talking absolute tosh, please hear me out.

Peter's main interest lies with the youngsters who, without doubt, find the present three-man team structure difficult to cope with. Staying up possibly as late as midnight is a real off-putter when a youngster has homework to contend with and also has to rise bright-and-breezy for school the next morning. With a two-man team, an evening would be comprised of five matches (rather than the present ten) and it would be very likely that the entire proceedings would be over by (say) 10 pm at the latest. This would be good for the youngsters, of course, but what about the rest of us? Following are my answers to any arguments against such a change:



1) "Our matches are not just about table tennis; they are social occasions and we enjoy the chatting along with the tea-and-bikkies."

A) This would be a valid point at smaller clubs but, at Kingfisher, where several matches (especially with two-man teams!) would probably be in progress at the same time, there should be plenty of people to chat to. And the tea-and-bikkie scoffing could carry on regardless.

2) "We won't get as much table tennis."

A) Agreed, but the difference would be minimal. If you were part of a two-man team, you would have two singles and a doubles match to play – a guaranteed total of three. With the present three-man team system, you are only guaranteed three matches anyway, depending, of course, on who is selected for the doubles. So the additional table tennis under the present system may be as little as one extra match – or absolutely nothing at all!

3) "I like going to bed at one o'clock in the morning."

A) Well, you can still do that, if it's what turns you on. I personally would love to get home at (say) 10.30 pm, root around in my 'fridge for that ever-present can of beer – and still hit the sack at a civilized hour! I know that I am retired and can happily lie in until the crack of noon, but I don't particularly want to. And the vast majority of adult players are workers; do they really want to manage on six hours' sleep?

As an aside, one person who would agree with me is that loveable Geordie Phil Prady. Do you remember him from his Bracknell days before he beetled off back to Andy Capp land? Why, aye, man, of course... A couple of years ago, I remember Phil conceding his final match at 10.30 pm and belting out of the door so that he could get to the local pub before closing time! I admit that he is probably an extreme exception... But he is a darned good player, too!

I am in no position to bring this subject up at any Committee meeting (because I don't sit on any!) but Peter may just decide to give it a go. I believe that he tried once in the past, but failed. A Robert-the-Bruce jobbie coming up here, I can see!

All I'm asking you to do is to have a think about it. If you don't want it, so be it. However, if you DO want it, then please add your voice to Peter's and mine.

## Roger's Ramblings

### Mark Banks

**Mark** Banks made his way to Blackpool fairly recently, in order to take part in a major table tennis tournament. While he was there, he happened to bump into two of my railway team colleagues – ladies named Linda Sanderson and Lynne Thompson. When they heard that Mark hailed for the Reading area, Lynne asked, “Do you happen to know an old railwayman named Roger?”

“Oh, yes,” replied Mark.

“He’s ever such a nice chap,” said Linda. “friendly and full of fun.”

Mr Banks shook his head. “Can’t be the same Roger,” he concluded.



### Lost Property

**One** particular morning, as the Wednesday Club protagonists were preparing to pack up and go home to their beloveds, the front door unexpectedly opened and Andy Yon walked in. Andy, as I’m sure you know, looks after Kingfisher’s lost property.

“Hi,” he said. “I’ve come to sort out the lost property. I reckon that, once something’s been in the lost property cupboard for a year or so, we should allow any member who wants anything to take it away. If no-one wants it after that, then I am quite happy to take it to one of the charity shops. What do you think?”

“Sounds good to me,” replied Allan. “Let’s have a look at the goodies on offer.”

Andy pulled out a high-class and expensive Barbour-style jacket. “What do you think of that?” he asked.

Sadly, no-one present could find a use for the jacket and so, to the best of my knowledge, it has since made its way to the Sue Ryder home, or wherever. But, at this point, I spotted a pair of spectacles. “Coo,” I said, “Can I try these on?”

“By all means,” said Andy.

The glasses were absolutely perfect. I wear contact lenses when playing sport and these weak spectacles would make just the required difference for when I was umpiring. “I’ll take these home!” I said – and did just that.



Twenty minutes later, I walked through my own front door and saw wifey Lin.

“Hey, Lin” I said, “I’ve just acquired a new pair of specs from the Club. They’ve been in Andy’s lost property cupboard for ages and no-one’s claimed them. They are absolutely brilliant for when I’m wearing contact lenses.”

“Are they in a *Specsavers* case, together with an *Eyesite* cleaning cloth?” asked Lin.

“They are indeed!” I acknowledged in amazement. “How on earth did you know that?”

“Because you lost them about a year ago,” replied my lady wife.

# Roger's Ramblings

## Epilogue

**Well**, everyone, that's it from me. Subject to Gwynne's approval, I shall return next time. How 'bout that for a diabolical threat!

Unless you are one of those weirdos who put away their table tennis gear for the summer, I hope to see you at the Club in the near future. The Monday evening *Grand Prix* sessions are due to start soon (if they haven't already done so by the time you read this) and they are always great fun. If you haven't attended before, please give the idea some serious consideration. You won't regret it.



Hey, didn't Liam Pitchford do well in the World Championships? The young man from Derbyshire must be thrilled to bits to have reached the last 32 in the Men's singles. I just wish that I could reach the last 32 in the Men's singles section of the Chipping Sodbury Closed!

All the very best to you all

**(Roger)**

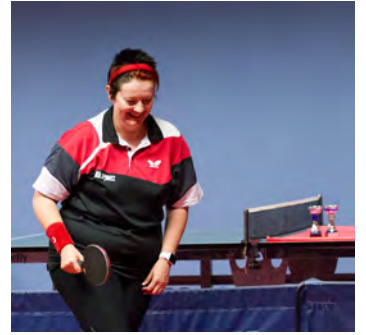


# And Finally....

I hope you've enjoyed reading this edition of Kingfisher News. A warm welcome to those of you who have recently joined the club either on a full or a summer membership.

Please keep the articles and photos coming and enjoy the summer season. Hope to see you at the club soon!

Gwynne



## Useful Links:

### Kingfisher Web Site:

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

### Kingfisher Facebook Page:

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

### Kingfisher on Instagram

<http://instagram.com/kingfisherttc>

### Kingfisher on Twitter

<https://twitter.com/kingfisherttc>

### Table Diary:

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

### Club Shirts:

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

## Related Sites:

### Table Tennis England Web Site:

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk>

### Reading League Web Site:

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

### Bracknell League Web Site:

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

# ????

## What do you think?

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

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

[gwynnepenny@mac.com](mailto:gwynnepenny@mac.com)