

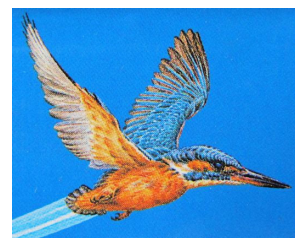
# Kingfisher Table Tennis Club

## KINGFISHER NEWS



Issue 78

May / June 2014



## Prologue

I find myself in a state of complete indecision. Two major subjects simply scream themselves hoarse as being “top story” and, if there weren’t two of ‘em, there would be no problem.

Talk of the new premises is on everyone’s lips nowadays and, because we are ALL affected by this momentous happening, the latest news on our brand new clubhouse should take priority. But our Kingfisher SBL team, because it has so brilliantly gained

promotion into the Premier Division, also merits being featured in the lead article.

And so I have compromised by putting neither story into pride of place. Instead, I have opted for my own “Prologue” (no false



© John Upham





modesty there, you'll notice). Readers will say, "Well, the new premises are fairly interesting and Dave Barr's team performed reasonably well, but did you SEE that prologue? Now there was something..."

But, being totally serious, by the time you read this newsletter, we will possibly be playing in our wonderful brand-new building adjacent to the *Goals* clubhouse. Along with all you others, undoubtedly, I can't wait to get at it! Coverage of this major story starts on Page 6.

But I do not want to take any *kudos* away from the Kingfisher SBL squad. I went to see one match at the Cippenham TTC and I am so, so glad that I did. My slightly tongue-in-cheek report will follow Peter Charters's infinitely superior write-up on the whole proceedings, starting further down on this page.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find another fine *Sneakles* cartoon. Elly Perry has written to me and Diane Taylor has sent me a snippet about the very important subject of defibrillators. Plus one BIG update!! There are somewhat out-of-date stories concerning Maria Tsaptsinos and Federico Viterbo and the latest version of Hari's table diary.

But the majority of this issue features photographs. As always, I am indebted to John and Dids as well as Peter and Gwynne. Good stuff for the club's (and possibly your own) archives! And, talking of archives, there should be a few more snippets taken from earlier issues of the *Kingfisher News*.

But, for now, please read on... (Ed.)

## Club Officers and Officials:

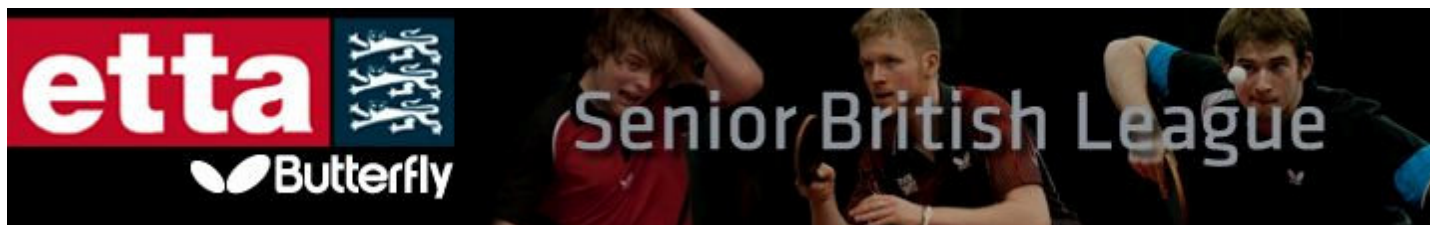


**Colin Dyke** – Chairman, Hon Treasurer, Senior British League Secretary, Veterans National League Contact, Team Kit Manager, Trustee. **Eric Van Looy** – Membership Secretary, Welfare and Child Protection Officer, Events Organiser, Trophy Secretary, Senior British league Second Team Manager. **Nick Heaps** – Coaching Officer, Junior and Cadet National League Manager, Trustee. **Allen Pack** – Building and Equipment Officer, Website Manager, Robot Master, Committee Member. **Roger Woolven-Allen** – Newsletter Editor. **Richard Fifield** – Assistant Treasurer. **Andy Yon** – Committee Member, Social Event Co-ordinator, Lost Property Organiser. **Peter**



**Bradley** – Committee Member. **Gwynne Penny** – League Play Co-ordinator, Reading League Secretary, Bracknell League Secretary, Committee Member. **Hari Gehlot** – Bookings Secretary. **Lisa Williams** (pictured) – Premier Club Contact, Clubmark Contact. **David Barr** (pictured) – Senior British League First Team Captain. **Marion Dyke** – Cleaning Supervisor. **Dave Duncan** – Table Manager. **Nigel Lynch** – Auditor. **John Upham** – British League and National League Photographer. **Didier Garçon** – Local League and General Club Photographer. **Sandra Shepherd** – Club Discount Scheme Co-ordinator, Committee Member.

(At the time of writing, vacancies exist for Publicity Officer and Minutes Secretary. However, by the time you read this, the AGM may well be a thing of the past and this information superseded. Ed.)



## KINGFISHER FLY HIGH!!

they will face the strongest club teams from the British Isles – including Scotland. On this occasion, the Woodley-based club had the shortest journey of all the teams taking part last weekend in Slough.

Kingfisher, winners of the Southern Division had to come through against the top two teams from the North and Midlands divisions as well as repeat their victories over the Southern division's second team Bournemouth.

The Kingfisher Club will be performing in the top flight of British table tennis next season. After battling their way to first place in the six-team playoff for one of two places in the Premier Division of the British League where

On Saturday Kingfisher's first opponents were Woodfield from Birmingham and Marcus Giles (pictured) got Kingfisher off to the best possible start with an 11-4 in-the-fifth victory over Adam Nutland – the highest England ranked player taking part over the weekend.



The next three results all went Kingfisher's way, each close in the final game. Dave Barr beat Amann Ubhi; Daniel Kolesnik beat Jimmy Walsh, and Berkshire Champion Federico Viterbo got the better of Anthony Barella. Nutland was just too strong for Barr's defensive style to get one back for Woodfield. Ubhi beat Viterbo in five before Giles steadied the ship with a three-straight win over Walsh. Kolesnik finished the job with victory over Barella.

It was Bournemouth next up for Kingfisher. The 7-1 final scoreline belies the tenseness of the first hour as each of the first four matches were won by Kingfisher very closely in the fifth and final game. Daniel Moses came in to the team for Viterbo and his two wins over the Swede Niklas Meijer Garmstad and Stephen Foster were crucial to the team's result.

Captain Barr is an inspiration to the team with his battling, physical performances and, in the match against Bournemouth, his determination to overcome two players who had good results over him this season kept his team in the match and set the tone for a hard-fought victory.

The pre-play-off favourites were Kingfisher's next opponents. London Academy boasted two more top Swedish players leading the team at one and two positions. Sebastian Loso and Jesper Berglund put the Londoners two up with wins over Giles and Barr but it was Moses and Kolesnik who levelled it for Kingfisher with results against Ryan Maynard and Gabriel Achampong respectively. The two Swedes put the Academy side two in front again with victories over Barr and Moses but a Giles win over Achampong and a Kolesnik triumph over Maynard sealed the draw and a point for Kingfisher.

This draw was to prove decisive towards the final table. Both teams would be promoted but, with Kingfisher having the superior games difference and the London Academy losing their final match to Bournemouth after fielding two younger players, Kingfisher finished two points clear at the top.

Hari Gehlot came into the Kingfisher team on Sunday morning against Derwent with Barr rested after his extreme exertions during the three matches on the previous day. The 6-2 victory over Derwent guaranteed Kingfisher promotion and a final match win against Burton, also by six games to two, pushed Kingfisher into the winner's spot.

Only six players have represented Kingfisher throughout this season including during this Premier Playoff weekend. The outstanding fighting spirit and togetherness of the squad made the difference to this success.

**SQUAD: David Barr, Marcus Giles, Federico Viterbo, Daniel Moses, Daniel Kolesnik and Hari Gehlot.**

*Peter Charters*

## [Tables](#) > [Senior Play-Offs 2014](#) > [Senior Play Offs 2013-14](#)

| # | Team                               | P | W | D | L | SF | SA | Points |
|---|------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|--------|
| 1 | <a href="#">Kingfisher 1</a>       | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 29 | 11 | 9      |
| 2 | <a href="#">London Academy 1</a>   | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 26 | 14 | 7      |
| 3 | <a href="#">Bournemouth Sports</a> | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 19 | 21 | 5      |
| 4 | <a href="#">Woodfield 1</a>        | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 17 | 23 | 3      |
| 5 | <a href="#">Burton Uxbridge</a>    | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 15 | 25 | 3      |
| 6 | <a href="#">Derwent 1</a>          | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 14 | 26 | 3      |



## AND THE SAME STORY FROM THE ETTA'S PERSPECTIVE:



© John Upham



© John Upham



© John Upham

Kingfisher and London Academy have been promoted to the British League, Premier Division via the play-offs. Kingfisher topped the group of six clubs in the series, played at Cippenham TTC, having won four matches and drawn 4-4 against their nearest rivals to finish with nine points.

Both sides started with back-to-back victories, Kingfisher beating Woodfield 6-2 and Bournemouth Sports 7-1, while London Academy saw off Derwent 7-1 and Woodfield 5-3.

The key meeting between the two top sides in Match 3 saw Kingfisher twice come from two down to claim a 4-4 draw.

Jesper Berglund beat David Barr (pictured above, centre) in five and Sebastian Loso made it 2-0 by beating Marcus Giles in straight games, only for Daniel Moses (pictured above, left) and Daniel Kolesnik (pictured above, right) to emerge victorious against Ryan Maynard and Gabriel Achampong respectively.

Barr then lost in five again, this time to Loso, who went on to finish with a 100% record from his 10 matches. And when player-of-the-match Berglund beat Moses 3-0, it looked as if London were on course.

But Kingfisher came back again, Giles beating Gabriel Achampong 3-1 (11-8, 12-14, 11-9, 11-9) and Daniel Kolesnik then leveling matters with a 3-1 defeat of Ryan Maynard (12-10, 6-11, 11-5, 11-9).



**Federico  
Viterbo**



**Hari  
Gehlot**

Both teams won their fourth encounter – London triumphing 7-1 over Burton Uxbridge and Kingfisher 6-2 over Derwent.

But it was Kingfisher who took top spot as they beat Burton Uxbridge 6-2 in their final match, as the Academy were beaten 5-3 by Bournemouth Sports.



It was 3-3 going into the final pairings. Stephen Foster's 3-1 win over Hiba Feredj (11-5, 11-3, 9-11, 11-6) put the south coast side in front, and player-of-the-match Niklas Meijer Garmstad then completed victory by beating Eren Gozcu 3-2 (11-6, 9-11, 11-6, 7-11, 11-8).

It meant London had to settle for second spot in the final standings with seven points.

Bournemouth finished third on five, with Woodfield, Burton Uxbridge and Derwent each picking up three points.

***Paul Stimpson***

# AND THE SAME STORY FROM THE EDITOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

Well, there I was, somewhere in the middle of Slough, when my satnav went dead-byes. "Oo-er," I said to no-one in particular. Not that it mattered; I was quite alone.

After about fifteen minutes' aimless driving, and feeling rather lost, I thought I'd better ask someone.

"Sorry to trouble you," I said to this unfortunate pedestrian, "but I'm looking for the Cippenham Table Tennis Club. It's situated in the grounds of a school, but I've forgotten what the school's called." I fully expected a sorrowful shake of the head, but, no, I was in luck!

"It's that building over there, mate," said my Good Samaritan.

Once inside, I found Colin Dyke, Peter Charters, John Upham, Dimitris Tsaptsinos, Mick Maynard and Gwynne Penny – as well as the Kingfisher squad. I felt at home! I was also quite pleased that I was dressed in my Kingfisher track suit and not in my casual "civvies".

At 1630 the all-important match – the one against London Academy – started. I managed to find a seat between Hari Gehlot and Gwynne Penny and watched the action. And how nail-biting it turned out to be! Nothing at all was a foregone conclusion until the winning point had been played. I was like a five-year-old waiting for Father Christmas to come down the chimney.

Win or lose, Dave Barr's defence is out of this world. Since Matthew Syed shoved off to make the tea for everyone in the office of *The Times*, I am confident that Dave is the best defender in England. Well, he certainly was BEFORE Matt came on the scene! With all due respect to the nation's attackers, the presence of a top-class defender makes any match so much more interesting. And exciting. And, as mentioned, nail-biting. Phew...

Marcus and Danny K played both brilliantly and I have nothing but praise for them. I did not watch Federico in action but, by all accounts, his play was just as superb. But when it comes to doing something different from the norm, there is only one Danny M. I think Peter Charters summed things up beautifully when he described our lad from Earley as "the table tennis enigma that is Daniel Moses". The one thing that you can expect from Daniel is the unexpected. And he did not disappoint.

I thoroughly enjoyed watching that one team match and I wish I could have seen more. But, at that point, they all decided to pack up their bags and go home. And then I remembered my useless satnav. But here I shall revert to two emails. One was from Captain David to me – and I really appreciated his writing it. The second was my reply which, I hope, will be self-explanatory.

Hi Roger,

Good of you to come and support at the weekend. We are all most grateful, and of course, slightly chuffed that we got promotion.

Cheers, David

Hi David

I am HIGHLY chuffed that you got promotion! I did not know this – although I had optimistically guessed as much. I have written to Peter Charters for a report which I am sure will be forthcoming, along with some excellent pickies from John Upham.

I am sorry that I could only watch the one match, but time always seems to be at a premium – and my time management skills seem to get poorer each year that passes. But I saw your amazing defensive skills (although you were unlucky in the matches I witnessed) and I saw Daniel Moses's style of play that has never, ever featured on any coaching course! What more could a spectator ask for? Great stuff!

All the very best, Roger.

PS: Because of my knackered satnav, as you know, I followed Colin home. How does the 77-year-old Colin still drive like Lewis Hamilton? A rhetorical question... R.

## **KINGFISHER: PLAYERS' AVERAGES:**

Daniel Kolesnik 7/8 = 87.50%. Daniel Moses 5/6 = 83.33%.

Marcus Giles 7/10 = 70.00%. Federico Viterbo 4/6 = 66.67%. David Barr 5/8 = 62.50%. Hari Gehlot 1/2 = 50%.

Among the many superb photographs taken over the course of the weekend by John Upham, I simply have to include one of the ETTA umpire shown. Does anyone recognise him? The answer appears at the very end of this newsletter.





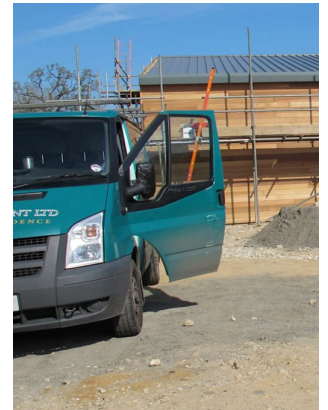
# The New Clubhouse

pointed out that Neil is responsible for the whole of the £6 million Bulmershe School campus project. An enormous task, of course, and what a responsibility!

But, in answer to my own question above, I shall start where I left off in the last issue with chronologically-ordered pictures of the new Clubhouse as it nears completion.



*(The above two pictures were taken on 11 April 2014)*



*(The above three pictures were taken on 16 April 2014)*



*(The above two pictures were taken on 19 April 2014)*



*(The above two pictures were taken on 23 April 2014)*





*(The above two pictures were taken on 30 April 2014)*



*(The above two pictures were taken on 07 May 2014)*



*(The above two pictures were taken on 10 May 2014)*



*(The above two pictures were taken on 14 May 2014)*

*(Please see the general note in the Epilogue. Ed.)*

Well, that's about it as far as the outside building work is concerned. Many more pictures will undoubtedly be taken when the Club is officially opened and as the exterior changes cosmetically. For example, the last picture (immediately above, right) shows a wonderful new building – but that is all! How are people going to know that this is the famous Kingfisher Table Tennis Club? You'll just have to wait and see...

Just before the last few pictures were taken, Peter Charters was allowed into the building (it was still a construction site at the time and so hard hats were obligatory) and he took a photograph of two of the construction



workers. As you can see, they are obviously eager to have a bash at the outstanding tasks. But do you recognise them? This is almost like a quiz now! The answer will appear at the very end of the newsletter.



But, to return to the start of this article. The front page showed a picture of Peter and Neil Jones, just to whet your appetite. Now, below our famous construction workers, you will see more pictures taken on the day that the keys were handed over. You will make out the Kingfisher Club's "Big Three" (I am sure that all you other members will forgive me for calling them that) as well as various workers, technicians, engineers and, of course, Neil Jones himself.



There will be many changes to come as far as the interior of the building is concerned, but doesn't it look just great? I had a little jump

up and down on the beautiful red flooring and I can tell you that this is of truly international table tennis standard.

You will see Neil handing over the keys for a second time (I leapt in with the old Box Brownie each time he moved!) and you will see what will eventually become the rest area, the utility room and the Committee Room.



The main hall was almost barren when the photographs were taken, but can you imagine how it will appear when the tables and surrounds have been installed? Peter tells me that, for lighting reasons, the courts will be a mirror-image of the present set-up. In other words, the three practice courts will, on entry, be found to the left, while the two league match courts will be situated to the right.

And that, dear reader, is virtually that. I hope I get this issue at least as far as the Internet subscribers before The Move. At the time of writing, this major event is scheduled for next weekend – 24/25 May. Please see Allen Pack's note (Page11) on the subject for further details. I am sure that any assistance the general membership can give will be very much

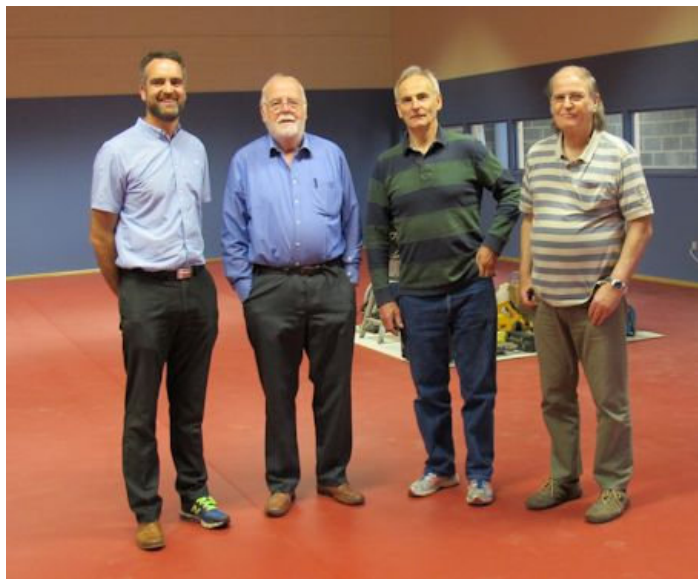


appreciated. I believe that Didier will be there, complete with his "proper" camera, and so you may just be caught doing some work! Immortality looms, eh?

Oh, and you will probably have noticed that Neil is wearing rather an odd selection of shoes. The reason for this is that the poor chap dropped a bowl (the 10-pin variety) on his foot and this did not do the bones any good! Ouch! (Ed.)





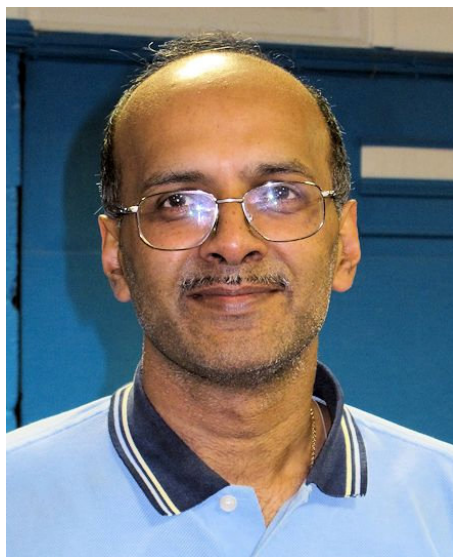


## Kingfisher Table Diary

**MAY 2014:** Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> 1900-late **KINGFISHER AGM** in the main hall. Please note that there will be NO Club Night facilities available. Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> 1000-1230 Friday Club. **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>: CLUB CLOSED DUE TO PREMISES TRANSFER : WORKING PARTY.** **(THE NEW CLUBHOUSE WILL BE IN USE AS FROM AND INCLUDING MONDAY 26 MAY)** Monday 26<sup>th</sup> 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). 19-30-late Kingfisher Grand Prix Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> 1000-1230 Tuesday Social Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads.

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> 1900-late Club Night. Friday 30<sup>th</sup> 1000-1230 Friday Club.

**JUNE 2014:** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). 1930-late Kingfisher Grand Prix. Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> 1900-late Club Night. Friday 6<sup>th</sup> 1000-1230 Friday Club. Monday 9<sup>th</sup> 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). 1930-late Kingfisher Grand Prix. Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> 1000-1230 Tuesday



Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> 1900-late Club Night. Friday 13<sup>th</sup> (oo-er missus) 1000-1230 Friday Club. Monday 16<sup>th</sup> 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). 1930-late Kingfisher Grand Prix. Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 1900-late Club Night. Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 1000-1230 Friday Club. Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 1000-1800 England Training Camp (all tables). Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). 1930-late Kingfisher Grand Prix. Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> 1900-late Club Night. Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 1000-1230 Friday Club. Monday 30<sup>th</sup> 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). 1930-late Kingfisher Grand Prix.





**JULY 2014:** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> 1900-late Club Night. Friday 4<sup>th</sup> 1000-1230 Friday Club. Monday 7<sup>th</sup> 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). 1930-late Kingfisher Grand Prix. Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> 1030-1230 Wednesday Club.. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> 1900-late Club Night. Friday 11<sup>th</sup> 1000-1230 Friday Club. Monday 14<sup>th</sup> 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). 1930-late Kingfisher Grand Prix. Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> 1900-late Club Night. Friday 18<sup>th</sup> 1000-1230 Friday Club. Monday 21<sup>st</sup> 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). 1930-late Kingfisher Grand Prix. Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> 1900-late Club Night. Friday 25<sup>th</sup> 1000-1230 Friday Club. Monday 28<sup>th</sup> 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). 1930-late Kingfisher Grand Prix. Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> 1900-late Club Night.

*(Note: Please note that the **Wednesday and Friday Clubs** will only be allocated two tables on each day. The **Tuesday Social Club** will continue on five tables but agreement for any special requests for practice or coaching during these hours may be sought from Diane Taylor on 0118 942 8384.*

*As always, I am indebted to Hari for all of the above information. Thank you. Ed.)*

## Maria earns bronze medal with England

*(The following was submitted to the Reading Post, issue dated 23 April 2014, by Peter Charters)*



The ISF World Schools Championships were held in Clermont-Ferrant in France last week.

The England girls' team included Abbey School girl Maria Tsaptsinos who helped her team win the Bronze medal in the Team Event behind China and Chinese Taipei, by far the strongest two teams involved. The England squad, which include Maria's Kingfisher club mate Tin Tin Ho, had beaten France (4-3), Turkey ((6-1), Bulgaria (5-2) and Greece (5-2) to win Bronze but lost to both of the top two sides 1-6 and 0-7.

In the Individual Girls' Singles event, Maria beat Maria Yovkova of Russia 3-2 in the group stage but missed out 3-0 to China's Shiting Chen in the first round.

This event provided Maria with more valuable experience of international table tennis heading towards the major junior event of the season the European Youth Championships in Italy during July.

Another Kingfisher player selected by the English Schools' Association for the World Schools' event was Marcus Giles.

Playing in the team event, the England boys' team also found the presence of the Chinese and Chinese Taipei teams intimidating. The England team beat Turkey with Marcus winning one but losing in five to Sahin Zihni.

England then lost to Chinese Taipei but again Marcus took one of his visits to the table with victory over Huang Yang in five.

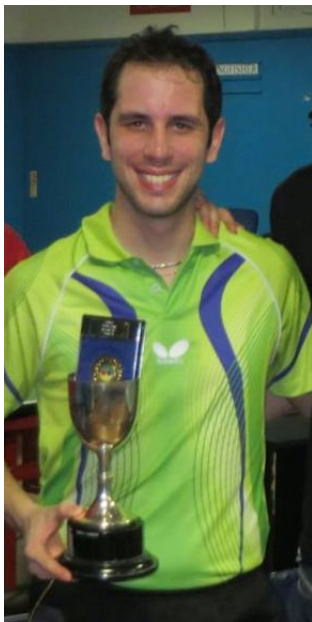
In the individual event, Marcus came runner-up in his group, losing to a Chinese team player but beating players from Chinese Taipei and Greece. He beat Omar Khassal from England in the first knock-out round but then faced the European number one, David Reitspies from the Czech Republic and went out three straight.



*Peter Charters*



*(The following has been extracted from the Reading Post, issue dated 16 April 2014, the author being Nigel Maltby)*



Federico Viterbo (pictured) clinched his first Reading Masters title by beating Hari Gehlot in the final.

He won 11-4 14-12 11-9 in the decider played at the Kingfisher Club.

The tournament was split into two groups of five and produced some tremendous table tennis, with close contests full of amazing counter-hitting and stunning shots.

**Reading Evening Post**

In Group 1, Gehlot, Daniel Moses and Steve

Murgatroyd all finished with three wins apiece, so the placings were decided on a games countback involving the three. Gehlot took top spot with a 5-3 average, followed by Moses on 4-2 and Murgatroyd 3-5.

In Group 2, Viterbo won all his matches with Trung Tran runner-up.

The Viterbo versus Moses semi-final went one way then the other with some incredible counter hitting.

Viterbo won 11-9 8-11 11-0 9-11 11-8.

The other semi-final also went to a fifth game decider, with Gehlot edging out Trun 11-8 9-11 10-12 11-6 11-03.

Trung beat Moses in the third/fourth place decider 10-12 23-21 (yikes! Ed.) 13-11 7-11 11-2.

The Reading Junior Masters was also played on Sunday with nine players being invited to compete.

Pre-tournament favourites Josh Gallen (also pictured) and Siad Cole both qualified from Group 1 with Michael McAllister and James Ellicott also going through to the semi-finals.

Gallen edged out Ellicott 11-9 11-6 11-7, while Cole defeated McAllister 15-13 13-11 16-14. Ellicott won a marathon match to decide third place, beating Michael 11-9 3-11 7-11 11-8 12-10.

In the final, Gallen clinched his first Junior Masters title by winning 11-9 11-6 11-6 with some stylish play against a battling opponent.

All the Juniors received medals, provided by Andy Yon.

The senior and junior trophies were awarded at the Reading & District TTA presentation evening held on 06 May at the Curzon Club.



## *It's happening in May!*

*(The following [now amended as some dates have passed] was received from Allen Pack. If you feel that you can help with The Move next weekend, please use the link below to update the schedule of work. Any help you can offer will be very much appreciated. Ed.)*

*(Please also see the general note in the Epilogue.)*

We have set a move date of 24/25 May for transfer of playing facilities, so between 17 May and 23 May we have the opportunity to complete outstanding internal decorations and move any non-essential items. Any building 'snagging' items will also be addressed by the builder during this period.

The main playing area will be fully fitted out for us with new lighting, sprung flooring, competition standard floor surface and all walls finished and painted to our required colours.

Included below is a link for the scheduling of resources for the move of equipment, fixtures and fittings on 24/ 25 May. This will consist of tables, chairs and cupboards so it should not take too much time to complete. The contractors are expected to knock down our existing building between 26 and 30 May, so we need to clear the building of all required items by Sun 25 May.

Moving resource schedule: **SATURDAY 24 and SUNDAY 25 MAY:**

<http://doodle.com/dm74vzfxgmtcmtc3>

If anyone has problems using the above link just drop me an email advising if you can assist. I'll issue a final rota later this week.

Thanks in advance for your help

*Allen Pack*



# Leo Long

*(I was discussing Grand Prix refreshments with Andy Yon and I thought that, as Frank and Elly Perry had helped out in previous years, they ought to be included in the email correspondence. Once I'd done that, Elly replied straight away. I am sure that you all join with me in wishing Leo [pictured] the best of luck both medically and educationally and that we all hope to see him before long. Ed.)*

Hi Roger

Unfortunately Leo will not be entering the *Grands Prix* at the moment as he is still suffering with his back problem. He is undergoing Physio each week and we are waiting to see an orthopaedic specialist in order for him to have an MRI scan to try to find out what the problem actually is. In the meantime he has been advised to not take part in any sporting activities, including table tennis.

But not only this, he is at present in the middle of his GCSE exams and is now on study leave to revise for these exams and does not really require late nights.

Wishing you good luck in the *Grand Prix*.series,

*Elly*



# Defibrillators

*I think that just about everyone has heard of a defibrillator and how this device can save lives. But what exactly is it and how does it work? Well, I had a squint on the old 'net and discovered the following:*

A defibrillator is an electrical device that provides a shock to the heart when there is a life-threatening arrhythmia present. The arrhythmia that we worry about is called ventricular fibrillation. This is a very rapid erratic beating of the heart. Multiple parts of pacemakers in the heart start sort of beating erratically and the heart can't rhythmically contract. And what the defibrillator does, it provides a shock that basically shocks the heart to stop so that it can start rhythmically contracting again. So now you know! Regarding defibrillators at a local level, Diane Taylor kindly sent me the following information:

Please inform members that the only defibrillator at present on the schools' sites is in the Medical Room at Addington School.

There are proposals for another one but not until the September term.

*Diane*



*But I DO have an update on Diane's story – and a really wonderful update it is. The following is the text of a message sent by Yours Truly to the Kingfisher Committee Members:*

Hello all

Dave Gostelow (pictured) has just telephoned me to say that he has purchased a defibrillator for the Club. He would like this act of sponsorship to be in memory of the late, incomparable Ian (Irwin) Schwartz who, apparently, did a lot to help Dave during his early years of table tennis. The machine should arrive at Dave's home some time in the next week.

I think that this is an incredibly generous act by Dave, and I am sure that you will join with me when I send him heartfelt gratitude. It is a truly wonderful gesture.

In addition to the machine itself, Dave has purchased a four-hour course for eight members. He wondered if he should bring this up at the AGM and ask for volunteers. I suggested that perhaps this side of things should be run past the Committee first and best left in their (your) hands as to how to proceed. Dave was more than happy with this.

I await your comments in due course, but I close by more or less repeating myself when I say what an impressive and selfless act this is. Good old Dave!

With best wishes to you all

*Roger*





*One particular reply was swiftly forthcoming:*

Hey Roger

I think we should set up a GoddamnHelluvaguy Club and induct Dave as the third member. Yes, siree ...

Cheers

*Andy Yon*

*(Andy's sense of humour is nearly as puerile as my own, but the sentiment is there! And I totally agree with Andy's sentiments, if not his proposed action! Chairman Colin sent a more "correct", but just as sincere, message of thanks to Dave. But who do you think Andy's FIRST two members should be? I really can't imagine. Ed.)*

---

# The British Army

*(Colin received the following email from the British Army. It is a great idea but, whether anything comes of it from a Kingfisher point of view, remains to be seen. I am sure that it will be considered. But what really amused me were Allen Pack's comments, which immediately follow. I had a little chuckle, I did... However, please also see the general note in the Epilogue. Ed.)*

The British Army Table Tennis Association is currently going through a transition phase, with a new Chairman Nicola Frail and Secretary Dawn Buxton-Berry. We are looking to drive the sport forward within the British Army and develop our current squad. We are looking to play eight fixtures throughout the year with four away fixtures nationally and four home fixtures in and around the Aldershot Garrison Area. After looking on the ETTA website, I believe that I have captured all the relevant personnel that are within travelling distance from Aldershot, that we could possibly liaise with to arrange a friendly fixture, either with their club or a club within their district. Just so you know what sort of standard the British Army is at the men's team has two or three national league standard players and the females, being of a good standard, are currently developing the squad. The females have just won the Inter Services Championships against the RAF and the NAVY so as a squad we are getting there.

If your club or district could help with fixtures throughout the year this would be fantastic for Army Table Tennis and supporting the Forces.

I look forward to hearing from you

Thank you.

(Dawn Buxton-Berry, Corporal, REME)



---

And from Allen...

Damn, if the army had been on board earlier they could have just moved our current building! Still, maybe they could help with the demolition instead; with its blue roof, the old clubhouse should be an easy target...

*Allen*



---

## A couple of interesting photographs...





When I took my lad John to take part in the Marlow Half Marathon, I spotted the van (pictured on the previous page) in the car park. The thought crossed my mind that maybe Colin had come up with a brilliant new wheeze in the way of fund-raising! We could start with the new clubhouse! Er, actually no, we couldn't; our new building doesn't have any windows...

A couple of weeks ago, while I was trotting round the new building taking a pikky or three, I left wifey Lin in the car. When I returned, she pointed through the Addington School perimeter fence and said to me, "Have you seen that table tennis table over there?" I have lost count of the number of times I've been up and down that road that leads to the *Goals* facility but, I have to admit, I had never previously noticed the table. It is in a strange figure-of-eight design and, if you can make the wording out, you will see that it was manufactured by Butterfly. I guess it is part of this new "ping pong" venture that is all the rage. At least the figure-of-eight makes it fair for both players. If someone had come up with the idea of a "6" or a "9" it might have been a different kettle of fish!

## A word from our sponsor...

### 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:

|  |   |           |
|--|---|-----------|
| <i>Butterfly</i> , <i>Karlsson</i> , <i>Andro</i> and <i>Adidas</i> products | – | less 25%. |
| Some <i>Tees Sport</i> products such as cleaners, rollers etc                | – | less 25%. |
| <i>Donic</i> products  | – | less 20%  |
| All other <i>Tees Sport</i> 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.

<http://www.tabletennis365.com/kingfisher/MediaLibrary/Download/iL7ljWX-KUa-lW88pM9swg/4112>





# Sneakles by Gwynne

*(I think the latest – and highly topical – Sneakles cartoon is simply brilliant! We have a very talented young lady in Gwynne Penny! She manages to bash out one of these great works-of-art for every issue of Kingfisher News and I, for one, really appreciate it. Ed.)*

## SNEAKLES AND GANG ARRIVED AT THEIR NEW HOME



SNEAKLES

*(I have just received the following note, accompanied by some superb photographs, from the ever-enthusiastic Gwynne Penny. I think that the workers [of whom I was not one, I hasten to add] should be justly proud of themselves... Ed.)*

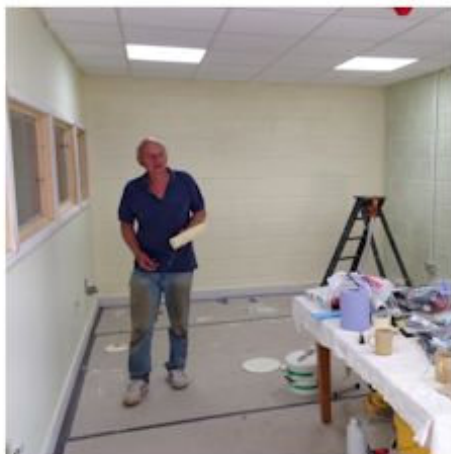
A small but dedicated team of Kingfisher members gave up their time and turned their backs on the glorious sunshine this weekend to start decorating the social area, bathroom facilities and store room of the new club. Organised and led by Allen Pack, the team included Colin and Marion Dyke, Pete Charters, Mick Maynard, Hilary Husbands, John Morris, Geoff Civil, Kryszczygiel, Ivor Hardman, Gwynne Penny and Hari Gehlot.

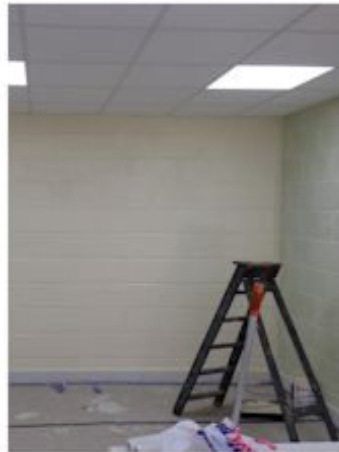
Our first job was to move some of the smaller items across from the old club, most importantly ensuring we had the facilities for a brew up! Colin gave us the guided tour and we witnessed the very first test of bouncing a ball on the new flooring.

We then got on with tidying, washing the walls to remove dust and masking to minimise paint on the fittings. By mid-morning we were painting and finding out just how difficult it really is to work paint on to breeze-blocks, but the plastered walls were thankfully easy by comparison.

By the end of Day Two we managed to get the social area and most of the kitchen done; completed work in the storeroom, and completed at least one coat in most of the toilet facilities. At the time of writing there is still one official decorating day to go, but with most of us having to do our day jobs, it is likely to be manned by a much smaller team.











With just a few days to go until the Big Move time is short but, hopefully, we will get enough done to enable us to move and start enjoying our new home.

Normally I would prefer to be holding a bat than a paintbrush, but the team were great company, and we worked well together. It was rewarding to see how much our efforts have brightened up the social area and I can't wait to move in and start playing.

*Gwynne*

# And even more from Gwynne...

## Club Nite

Kingfisher Club Nite is back for the summer season and provides players with the opportunity to meet and play with others outside their normal practice groups in a sociable and friendly environment, every Thursday evening until the beginning of September.

### HOW IT WORKS:

- 1) Add your name at the bottom of the list
- 2) When a slot is free go on and play
- 3) Play a 'best of 3'
- 4) Winner stays on for up to two pairings
- 5) 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 on to, and take them off the list.

Ideal for new and prospective members to experience the club as 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.



Hope to see you at Club Nite soon!

*Gwynne*

# National Rankings

### Following are the latest ETTA and VETTS National Rankings:

**UNDER-13 BOYS:** 10 Jamie Liu. 62 Thomas Perkins. 87 Angus Whittam. 107 Leo Thomis.

108 Joe Barraclough. 129 Felix Thomis. 150 Leo Thomis. 174 Chris Franks. 275 Johnny Coombes. 282 Kian Evans. 284 Zak Squire.

**UNDER-13 GIRLS:** 42 Scarlett Jones.



**CADET BOYS:** 47 Josh Gallen. 52 Gus Thomis. 53 Sam Liu. 55 Jamie Liu (pictured). 204 Christopher Johnson. 216 Harry Munro. 222 Thomas Perkins. 258 Isaac Farnworth. 290 Alex Squire. 308 Angus Whittam. 327 Kieran Warre. 344 Gareth Wheatley. 376 Joe Barraclough. 427 Felix Thomis. 452 Dauan Choi. 479 Leo Thomis. 522 Chris Franks. 528 Alex Duggan. 544 James Lomax. 644 Bertie Coombes. 676 Jason McCaugherty. 694 Zak Squire. 706 Bill Hayden. 721 Johnny Coombes. 732 Kian Evans. 738 Zak Squire. 886 Adam Winterbottom. 889 George Strong. 912 Saif Maher.

**CADET GIRLS:** 93 Scarlett Jones. 99 Katie Shepherd.

**JUNIOR BOYS:** 5 Marcus Giles. 32 Daniel McTiernan. 93 Sam Ricks. 97 Gus Thomis. 115 Joshua Gallen. 126 Sam Liu. 251 Jamie Liu (pictured). 259 Michael McAllister. 323 Kavan Warrender. 334 Danny Dockree. 355 Siad Cole. 384 James Ellicott. 472 Harry Munro. 526 Thomas Perkins. 548 Christopher Johnson. 549 Dauan Choi. 588 Joseph Cornmell. 624 Kian Evans. 649 Isaac Farnworth. 721 Joe Barraclough. 750 Kevin Gurung.

**JUNIOR GIRLS:** 1 Tin-Tin Ho. 2 Maria Tsaptsinos. 6 Emily Bolton. 8 Megan Knowles. 70 Shristi Ghosh.

**SENIOR MEN:** 12 Tom Maynard. 16 Richard Andrews. 32 Liam McTiernan. 42 David Barr. 98 Daniel Moses. 104 Martin Adams. 120 Hari Gehlot. 315 Ross Saxby. 317 Daniel McTiernan. 390 Mike Rhodes. 505 Eric Van Looy. 610 Hari Vennapusa. 612 Edy Caliman.

**SENIOR WOMEN:** 3 Tin-Tin Ho. 6 Maria Tsaptsinos. 37 Megan Knowles. 103 Denise Weller.

**VETERAN MEN:** 31 David Barr. 38 Hari Gehlot. 63 Martin Adams. 125 Mark Banks. 176 David Crowley. 243 Mike Rhodes. 250 Ian Cole. 265 David Streak. 279 Derek Wood. 311 Mark Handcock. 365 Keith Winter. 373 Graham Diplock. 407 Alan Cummings. 417 Richard Fifield. 420 Ivor Hardman. 421 Colin Dyke. 431 Peter Bradley. 448 Paul Jarvis. 454 Allan Bruton. 455 Graham Trimming. 457 Trevor Organ (pictured).

**VETERAN WOMEN:** 1 Sue Collier. 29 Rachel Smith. 41 Denise Weller. 77 Wendy Porter. 79 Gill Knightley. 102 Denise Rolfe. 118 Carol Byers.

**OVER 50s MEN:** 92 Nick Heaps. 99 Graham Outrim. 107 John Barclay. 115 Derek Wood. 124 Hari Gehlot. 176 Clive Dawson. 196 Peter Bradley. 260 Dave Gostelow. 272 Syd Montgomery.

**OVER 50s WOMEN:** 29 Sharon Mitchell. 42 Gill Knightley. 69 Janet Dawson.

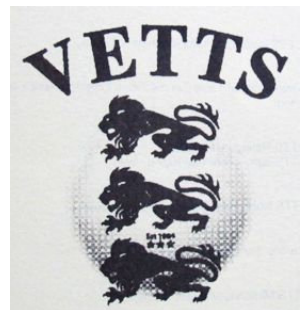
**OVER 60s MEN:** 52 John Barclay. 56

Graham Outrim. 62 Derek Wood. 72 Nick Heaps. 96 Peter Bradley. 110 Colin Dyke. 139 Clive Dawson. 142 Dave Gostelow. 169 Syd Montgomery.

**OVER 60s WOMEN:** 21 Gill Knightley.

**OVER 70s MEN:** 1 Dave Crowley. 3 Tony Brown. 19 Peter Bradley. 35 Colin Dyke. 59 Dave Gostelow. 72 Syd Montgomery.

**OVER 70s WOMEN:** 9 Gill Knightley.



## KINGFISHER TUESDAY SOCIAL CLUB

Contact: Diane Taylor ☎ 0118 942 8384 or by email at [dianetaylor777@hotmail.com](mailto:dianetaylor777@hotmail.com)

A reminder that the renamed *Tuesday Social Club* will continue until further notice.

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

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

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

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

Happy hitting and smashing!

Regards,

*Diane*





## KINGFISHER WEDNESDAY CLUB



Contact: Roger Woolven-Allen ☎ 0118 947 8833 or 07771668881 or by email at [roger.woolven-allen@virginmedia.com](mailto:roger.woolven-allen@virginmedia.com)

The *Wednesday Club* is much the same as the *Tuesday Social Club* or the *Friday Club*, except that it takes place on a Wednesday. You'd never have guessed, would you? The Club meets every Wednesday morning 1030-1230 and the sessions are open to all members.

At the moment, only seven or eight members regularly attend these sessions and so only the two main playing courts are allocated to the Club. The three "practice" courts may be used for other purposes.

If you decide to join in these sessions, you will definitely find them great fun!

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

All the best, *Roger*

## KINGFISHER FRIDAY CLUB

Contact: Allan Bruton ☎ (0118) 901 9119 or by email at [brutonallan@gmail.com](mailto:brutonallan@gmail.com)

The *Friday Club* (hours 1000-1230) is open to all. Because of the limited attendance to date, it may be a good idea to make sure that other players will be there. Please give Allan (the new Friday Club co-ordinator) a tinkle before attending; he will be more than happy to let you know the state of play. As with the Wednesday Club, only the two main tables have been officially allocated to the Club. But a fun morning is assured!

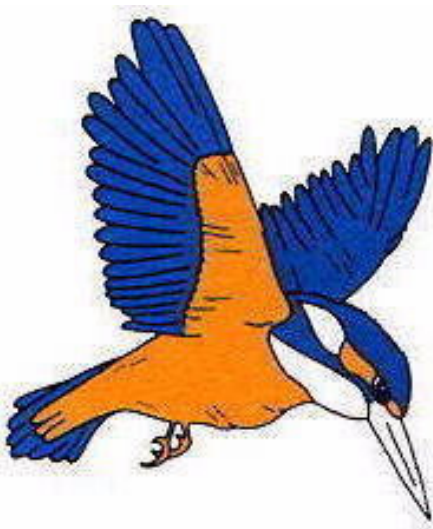


# The Kingfisher Summer Grand Prix

If you are not already aware, please note that the highly-popular Grand Prix series has already started. If you want to get some points next to your name on the results table (as well as enjoying a fine evening of table tennis, of course!) please make your way to the Club each Monday evening.

I say "make your way to the Club" but, of course, you are probably wondering which one! By the time you read this, the first two events will have been held at the original premises, but it is anticipated that the third event will take place in the new clubhouse. And if that doesn't get you down to the Bulmershe complex, nothing will!

As usual, the series will consist of twelve events, the first one having started on Monday 12 May and these will continue, without a break, each Monday until 28 July. The original flyer below is self-explanatory.



## KINGFISHER TABLE TENNIS CLUB

*THE KINGFISHER*  
*2014*

*GRANDPRIX*

The *Kingfisher Grand Prix* series, sponsored by *Tees Sport*, will start on



**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May**, at 7.30 pm prompt. The series will run for 12 weeks, the last session taking place on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July**. There WILL be a session on the Spring Bank Holiday of **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May**.

The entry fee per session will be 50p per player.

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

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

# TOURNAMENT 1

top level British League commitments, the first tournament produced some interesting results.

Kingfisher TTC has nearly 200 members – quite something for a single club anywhere in the world, let alone in Reading – and quite a few of these players turned up for the inaugural event. Many more are bound to follow as the series progresses...

The first final was contested between the up-and-coming teenage star Joshua Gallen and the experienced Chinese player Yeqin Zeng (pictured). This match was nail-biting to say the least. Zeng (known as Philip on the table tennis circuit) took the first two ends from the 15-year-old Wokingham player, before Gallen bounced back to level the match at two games all. Play on every other court was voluntarily suspended as the fifth game swung to and fro. Finally, experience showed and, to great applause, Philip took the deciding end 11-8.

Zeng, of course, now heads the Grand Prix table but there are many players who will wish to topple him. Stars such as Hari Gehlot, Daniel Moses and Daniel McTiernan will almost certainly make an appearance before long. The second tournament may therefore well produce a few changes!

Following a first round bye, Zeng was drawn against Lower Earley's 15-



year-old Jim McAllister, a match that the Chinese player won in three straight games 11-5 11-5 11-5. Zeng then played Reading senior veteran Dave Gostelow and again marched through without conceding a game 11-5 11-2 11-3.

In his quarter-final match, Zeng defeated Jim McAllister's elder brother, Michael, 11-5 11-2 11-9 before going on to play one of Basingstoke's top players, Andy Parker, at the semi-final stage. Somewhat unexpectedly Parker struggled and he, too, failed to win a game, losing out 9-11 6-11 6-11. And so to the exciting final itself...

Before the final showdown, Gallen (pictured) was again involved in a tense and extremely close match, this time against another top Basingstoke player, Tony Reynolds. This semi-final match was another see-saw affair, with both players taking two games apiece. But the Wokingham youngster moved up a gear to take the final game 11-5, thereby earning himself a meeting with Zeng in the first final.

Because of the complete restructuring of the Bulmershe School buildings, Kingfisher is shortly to move into brand new premises adjacent to Woodley's "Goals" clubhouse, but the table tennis club will remain part of the School campus. The new premises are nearing completion and the Grand Prix tournaments will shortly take place at a new and exciting venue. Nearly 200 members can hardly bear to wait!

The final of the first consolation event – in which all first-round losers have a second bite of the cherry – was contested between Caversham Park's Roger Woolven-Allen and the Italian player Luca Bianchi. Woolven-Allen managed to take the match 11-1 11-9 11-8, thereby earning himself lots of points (much to the chagrin of Colin Dyke, who foolishly won a couple of matches in the main event) and placing himself in fourth place on the table and some three satisfying points above Andy Parker – a position that it is almost guaranteed he will be unable to retain.

*(Note: The above transcript was sent to the Reading Post for hopeful publication*

*– all bar the last paragraph, that is! Ed.)*





## RESULTS OF TOURNAMENT 1:

Quarter Finals: Andy Parker bt Hari Vennapusa 7-11 11-3 11-4 11-9; Josh Gallen bt Wendy Porter 11-3 11-3 11-8; Tony Reynolds bt Colin Dyke 11-5 11-8 11-5; Yeqin Zeng bt Michael McAllister 11-5 11-2 11-9.

Semi Finals: Zeng bt Parker 11-9 11-6 11-6; Gallen bt Reynolds 9-11 11-9 8-11 11-9 11-5.

Final: Zeng bt Gallen 11-9 11-6 7-11 11-13 11-8.

**GRAND PRIX POINTS AFTER TOURNAMENT 1:** Zeng 132, Gallen 100, Reynolds 69, Woolven-Allen 67, Parker 64, Bianchi 59, Joyce 42, M McAllister 40, Vennapusa 40, Sczyziegal 38, Upham 36, Bennett 36, Penny 35, Dyke 34, Porter 32, Gostelow 27, Pack 26, O'Keeffe 25, Stanners 20, J McAllister 20.

# Nostalgia

We are moving ever onwards and upwards but, for many of us – the more mature members especially – it is pleasant to delve into the history of the Kingfisher Club.

Once again, I have extracted one or two items from the early issues of *Kingfisher News* but, before I put these in front of you, I though I'd bung down a list of the very first 50 Kingfisher members. I was personally there at the very start but, I have to admit, one or two

of the names now mean very little to me. Others I remember with affection and, of course, quite a few are members to this very day. Ed.

001 Derek Wilson. 002 Ben Johnson. 003 Robert Sym. 004 Mike Bullock. 005 Brian Halliday. 006 Roger Woolven-Allen. 007 Daniel Craig. 008 Christine Basden. 009 John Glew. 010 Marion Dyke. 011 Andrew Dyke. 012 Colin Dyke. 013 John Fenton. 014 Susan Stoute. 015 Keith Hodder. 016 Derek Crombie. 017 Shane Kirton. 018 Stephen Hodder. 019 Colin Church. 020 Ron Vickers. 021 Gareth Evans. 022 John Morris. 023 Graham Kemp. 024 Nicola Cracknell. 025 Roger Cracknell. 026 Sean Toman. 027 Linda Toman. 028 Paul Savins. 029 Mal Collis. 030 Syd Montgomery. 031 Martin Adams. 032 Malcolm Hayes. 033 Dave Duncan. 034 Lisa Crick. 035 Bert Foster. 036 Mark Oakley. 037 Alison Broe. 038 Didier Garçon. 039 Ruth Champion. 040 Peter Harris. 041 Marc Priddle. 042 Rod Gameson. 043 Andy Wellman. 044 Dave Barr. 045 Chris Oldfield. 046 Bela Hegedus. 047 Tony Duffield. 048 Robin Withers. 049 Ade Dixon. 050 Sean Gibson.



The following pieces have been taken from *Kingfisher News*, Issue 3, dated Spring 1991. The first, written by one Brian Halliday, is all about two of Kingfisher's most famous players – Matthew Syed and Alison Broe (née Gordon).

Towards the end of this issue, there is a snippet concerning Yours Truly when he was a reasonable player, and also a lovely story about Ian Schwartz. Finally, there is a superb home-made cartoon but, I regret to say, I have no idea who the artist was. But please read on...

## Matt and Alison An Appreciation

I first heard about the Syed brothers from Peter Charters (pictured, below, with author Brian). Both Andy and Matt were pupils in his class at school and Peter explained that he introduced them to table tennis as both lads seemed to him to have a desire to succeed in anything they did. All this before they had lifted a bat!

Of course, there is more to any major success story than just a God-given talent, but it was Peter who recognised, nurtured and developed the two players. Not an easy route – much hard work, long hours of practice and training night after night with the stars of the Omega Club. At that dilapidated hut in Green Road a host of top line players (some of them pictured below!) had been produced by a man for whom coming second meant failure. The environment that the Syed brothers found themselves in bred success and it was not long before Andy was developing an attacking



game to trouble the best in England. Matt at this time potted along in the shadow of his brother's achievements but in his dedicated way he was himself carving out a special niche in the English game.

The loss to our sport of Andy's fine all-round game has been compensated by Matt who had developed into one of the most exciting players in England. He is, apart from his mentor Chen Xin Hua, the supreme exponent of the defensive arts, although his game has progressed to include lightning attacks when the opportunity arises.



I make no secret of the fact that the type of Game Matt plays is more akin to Sonning Common than Kingfisher and a special rapport has grown from kindred spirits more attuned to the third-ball push than the second-ball attack.

As I write these notes, Matt is playing for England in the World Championships in Japan. This is his second "Worlds" and is the climax to an unforgettable season for our Club's Number 1 player. It is an extremely rare event for an English player to win a foreign Open but Matt did just this in Czechoslovakia recently – an achievement which has culminated in his being awarded the Viktor Barna award for the outstanding performance by an Englishman this season.

Successes – and there have been so very many – have not turned his head. He was particularly helpful to the Berkshire veterans last year before their visit to Baltimore, with practice and training that helped us to compete with some of the world's best and ensured that we played at the peak of our own performance. Matt himself (pictured recently, right) played devastatingly well in the States, so much so that he was offered, and accepted, a contract to play in Sweden.

His record of unbroken success is unbelievable and very soon he will have to make the difficult decision as to his future within the game. It came as no surprise that he has been accepted for a place at Oxford University and the inevitable study must impose a restriction on top-class sporting activity.

Still there is one record yet to crack. When he was very young, Matt took some real beatings from the Sonning Common trio. As he got older the standards got closer. Several times he managed to win two – usually losing out to Wally Allanson – and then came the great day. He beat Wally and then, believe it or not, lost to your scribe. A couple of years ago we were involved in a play-off with Kingfisher. Here, surely, was his chance to win three. But, no! We craftily ensured that we lost 6-0 (playing to a result only) to make sure that rather special record was maintained and that Matt has yet to achieve his entire life's ambition and get a coveted maximum against the three players who appreciate his special talents to the full.



In more years than I care to remember, I have known all of England's top star players, certainly since the early 1950s. Names like Di and Ros Rowe (pictured), Mary Shannon, Jill Hammersley and Karenza Matthews. Alison Gordon deserves to be in this bracket of star names. Her long list of supreme achievements deserve comparison with those of the aforementioned. The game has developed enormously since D Rowe was at her peak. Di and the others were very great players in their time but Alison has had to cope with major technological breakthroughs by way of super rubbers – and super glue. It is amazing how she has managed to keep her place at the pinnacle of the game in this country. Certainly the men's game is more attack-focussed and it is easier to get results quickly if you are an attacker. The converse is true with the women's game where it is easier to achieve honours by combination-bat expertise.

Like Matt, Alison has had to demonstrate a dedication second to none. She has developed into the complete professional table tennis player with a will to win that is always evident wherever she plays throughout the world.

I had not been in Reading very long when, one night, I went over to the Bulmershe Sports Centre hoping to find someone to practise with. The main hall was deserted but I managed to track down the distant sounds of a table tennis ball. In the back room, on the far table, in semi-darkness, Alison was playing against Reg Hart, her coach at that time. She was playing with an intensity that had to be seen to be believed. With the sort of motivation so well demonstrated on that night so many years ago, she could not help but become a top star.

I hope these few notes can bring it home to those that aspire to stardom (Make a note, Josh! Ed.) that the road is long and it is hard. The rewards for the superstars of our sport are reasonable but not great in monetary terms. The rewards that the game offers in the development of human beings are beyond price.

I, for one, am proud that both Matt and Alison are members of our Club.

*Brian Halliday*



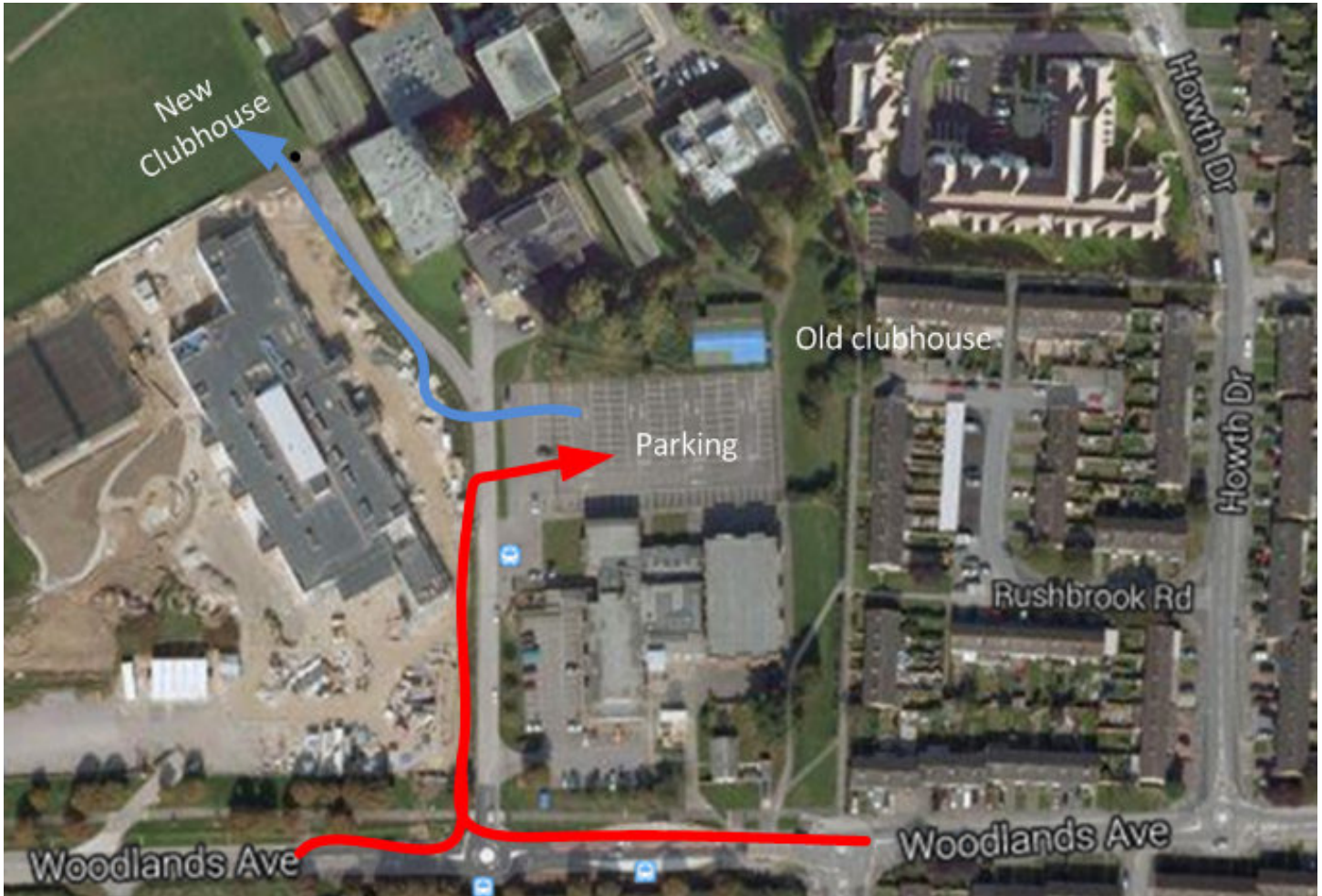
# ***THE CLUBHOUSE – NEW EVERYTHING (well almost)***

*(Please see the general note in the Epilogue. Ed.)*

The move date for the club is 24 and 25 May and no access to the existing building will be possible from Monday 26 May as the site will be handed over to the contractors for demolition. Please ensure any personal effects are removed from the club by Sunday 25 May at the latest.

## **NEW ADDRESS:**

**KINGFISHER TABLE TENNIS CLUB, WOODLANDS AVENUE, WOODLEY, READING RG5 3EU**



## **NEW 'PHONE NUMBER:**

The new clubhouse will have a mobile phone in place of the current landline. The new number is **0743 4586 247** and is operational now.

## **NEW ACCESS ARRANGEMENT:**

All members will be issued with an access fob which will be needed to enter the new club house. This fob replaces your current small Yale key, which should be exchanged/returned to Sandra Shepherd the membership manager who, subject to AGM approval, is expected to take over from Eric. Sandra will advise members direct on date/time for exchange of key/fob.

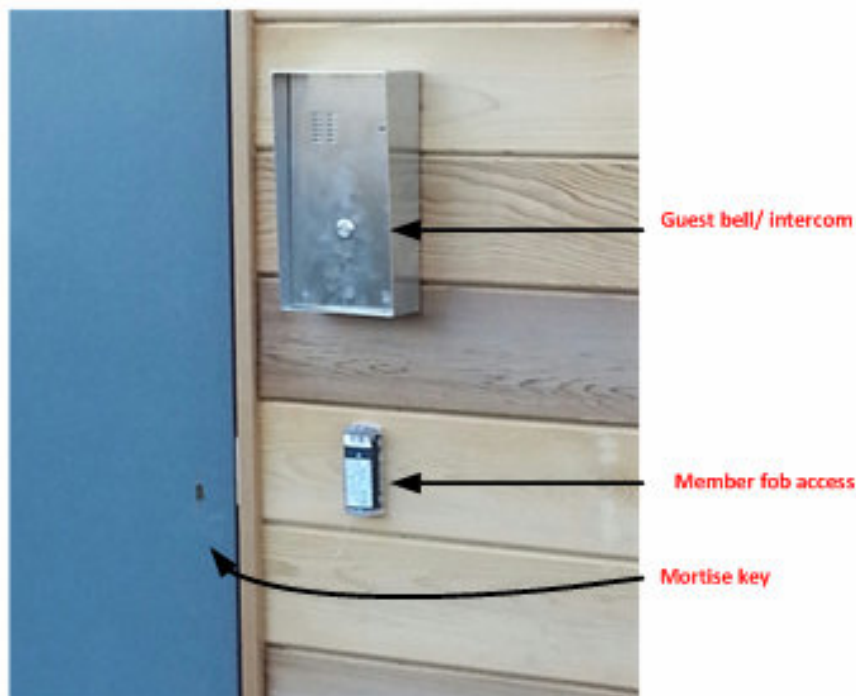
The existing large mortise key will still be valid for the new club house with its use exactly the same as the old building (last person leaving building locking up and first person in morning opening up). Subject to AGM approval it will be a requirement for all members to now have a key and fob and any member who does not currently subscribe for a key set will need to apply for one for the 2014-2015 season, paying the appropriate deposit.

The new fob has been introduced for a number of reasons;

- To increase security
- To avoid our current annual key change
- To manage temporary membership
- To help optimise the use of the club

- To help reduce the administrative work load of adding/ removing members

Each fob has a unique number which will be registered to a member. Family members can request additional key sets and then paying the appropriate deposit.



## **MEMBERS' ACCESS TO THE CLUB HOUSE:**

The new club house, being situated next to the *Goals* football centre and on the direct pathway to the school will mean that a lot more people will be in the vicinity. If the current open door policy was to remain in operation this could pose a security concern. For this reason the door should not be fixed open.

The first person entering the club will need to unlock the door using the mortise key and then present their fob against the access reader with the next person only needing to present their fob to the access reader. Please register your attendance at the club using the reader as this helps to understand utilisation of the club, *ie* don't tail gate!

## **NON-MEMBERS' ACCESS TO THE CLUB HOUSE:**

For visitors an intercom system has been installed to enable guests to identify themselves. Members just need to press the exit button to allow guests to enter. A door "spyhole" has also been requested to allow visual verification if required.

## **EXITING THE BUILDING:**

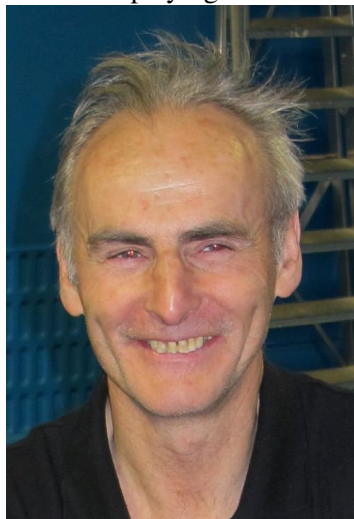
Just press the exit button. The last person leaving the building will need to lock the door using the mortise key.

## **PARKING ARRANGEMENTS:**

Car parking arrangements are being clarified but, in the meantime, we suggest you should park in the Goals/Bulmershe School car park on the right, follow sign shown below, or if this is full, one of the nearby spaces.

## **NEW FLOOR:**

The main playing area has a sprung floor with a top cover which is designed specifically for table tennis use. This high-standard flooring provides excellent playing conditions but it does require careful attention when tables, chairs or score tables are moved. Only sports shoes are allowed in the playing area – strictly NO stiletto heels. A daily sweep of floor will be required to keep the surface in top condition and avoid grit causing permanent scratching to the surface. Further information on the use and care/maintenance of the playing surface will be provided at the club.



## **NEW LIGHTS:**

New lights have been installed to provide consistent lighting levels for a four-table layout to competition standard. A fifth row of lights has been provided to cater for additional table(s) in practice layout.. The switching control system for the lighting is very similar to that of the old clubhouse. The last member leaving the club will need to ensure that the lights are switched off in the main playing area and that the master switch next to the exit door in the social area is switched off.

Lighting in the new stores room and ladies/accessible facility is automatic.



*Allen Pack*



# Key Fobs

## KINGFISHER TABLE TENNIS CLUB 20 May 2014

*(Please note that the following proposal was written BEFORE the AGM and is, therefore, very much subject to ratification. Please also see the general note in the Epilogue. Ed.)*

The following, proposed by Allen Pack/Colin Dyke, refers to the issuing of key fobs and deadlock keys:

### CURRENT SITUATION:

Existing members fall into two categories regarding the holding of keys to access the old club building. The first category have paid £9 and have a Yale key and a deadlock key. The second category chose not to pay the £9 and have no keys.

### NEW SITUATION:

For our new Club, if we are going to have the fullest security possible, it is essential that **all** members have an access fob so that we can track who has come through the door, etc. They will also need a deadlock key which is the same one that we have always issued (the lock mechanism was transferred). This is for “first in and last out” as was previously the case.

We are able not only to identify who has entered but will be able to block entry for any member who has defaulted in payment etc. The door will be magnetically locked at all times and not wedged open as happened at the old clubhouse.

For any member, guest or visitor turning up without a fob there is an audio entry system where they buzz and a door release button operated from the inside will let them in. We shall need to agree upon a way of recording their entry. Perhaps a visitors' book. Members already registered in will have to be educated that anyone let in on the audio system will need to sign the book even if they have just forgotten their fob.

We propose therefore as follows:

For existing members who have paid £9 for a set of keys, we shall exchange the Yale key for a fob.

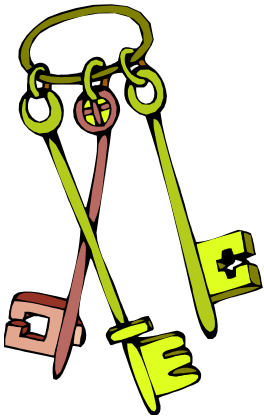
For existing members who do not have keys, we shall issue a fob and a deadlock key for a £9 deposit. This will be mandatory and will apply to all grades of members. This will be requested when they renew their membership. The exception will be where one family has more than one member and requires only one set. At least we know that one of the family members has accessed the Club and the family will be jointly responsible.

For new members we should make a £9 deposit mandatory as part of their joining procedure for a fob and deadlock key.

All deposits will be refundable when the member returns the fob and deadlock key. Lost fobs and keys will cost £9 to be replaced.

The School normally has two sets of keys. We should issue two fobs plus deadlock keys but explain that the party will have to arrive as a group as the door will close behind anyone arriving singly. This, in any case, will be a good discipline.

Until we get into an annual routine, Allen and the new Membership Secretary from the AGM will work out a system to ensure as many members have fobs and keys as quickly as possible collecting £9 from anyone not previously having held keys. We will have to offer the exchange of the Yale key for a fob by post for those members who can't fit in with these arrangements. Also to request non keyholders to pay a deposit quickly for a set. There will be a requirement to purchase a number of extra deadlock keys as soon as possible and Colin will source those.



## Your Editor remembers...

fourth that week.

“You men never think of your wives,” complained my wife Lin to both of us.

“I do, I do, I do!” declared Brian. “When I went out for the paper this morning, I also bought Christine a bar of Toblerone chocolate.”

“And what did she say to that?” pursued my spouse.

“She said that at least it would be something to talk to this afternoon,” said Brian.

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, Brian Halliday offered to give me a lift to an afternoon match of no particular importance, except that it was probably the

# Nostalgia

And again from Issue No 3 of *Kingfisher News*...

No table tennis magazine is complete without an Ian Schwartz story, as I'm sure you'll all agree. Do you remember the terrible storms we suffered a few months ago?

Well, Syd-with-a-why (Montgomery, to the uninitiated) had gone to pick up his daughters from a dancing class and, while rushing back to his car through torrential rain and a veritable gale, he heard the "toot" of another motor-car. Looking up, he saw Ian beckoning. Not wishing to be churlish, Syd dashed over to see what was so important in this ghastly weather.

"We had a good match last week," said Ian through his car window, "and I managed to win two close sets."

"Sorry, mate," said our Syd, "I'd love to hear the story but I'm getting drenched out here."

"OK," said Ian, "but, before you go, let me tell you very quickly. There we were at 17-all in the third, when I managed this fierce loop..."



## Paul Drinkhall

An incredible display from four-time English Champion Paul Drinkhall saw the 24-year-old become the first Englishman to win an ITTF World Tour Open since Carl Prean in 1996.

The man from Loftus, Cleveland was in sublime form throughout the GAC Group 2014 ITTF World Tour

Spanish Open in Almeria as he beat Dimitrij Prokopcov (Czech Republic, World Ranking 82), Yuto Muramatsu (Japan, 88) and Matasaka Morizono (JPN, 80) to claim a historic achievement for an English player.

Despite being only the 23rd seed for the tournament, the English No 2 stormed through the field to give English table tennis a major boost just months before the Commonwealth Games arrive in Glasgow later this year.

The new champion said: "I'm feeling tired but feeling amazing; it's a great achievement especially after the first match being a bit shaky. I could have gone out, but fought through it and got stronger as the tournament went on.

"It's definitely up there with anything I've achieved in my career – my first senior title. Hopefully there will be more to come. It's a big year, with going for promotion to the top level in the World Team Championships and then the Commonwealth Games."

Despite it being his first experience of a major final, Paul says he was able to keep his emotions under control so the situation was not too nerve-wracking.

"It was and it wasn't," he said. "I started to focus on each point and just to win that and I didn't really think too much about what was happening or what the score was.

"Obviously it does come in to your head when you get to 10, but I tried to get it out of my head straight away and focus on the next point.

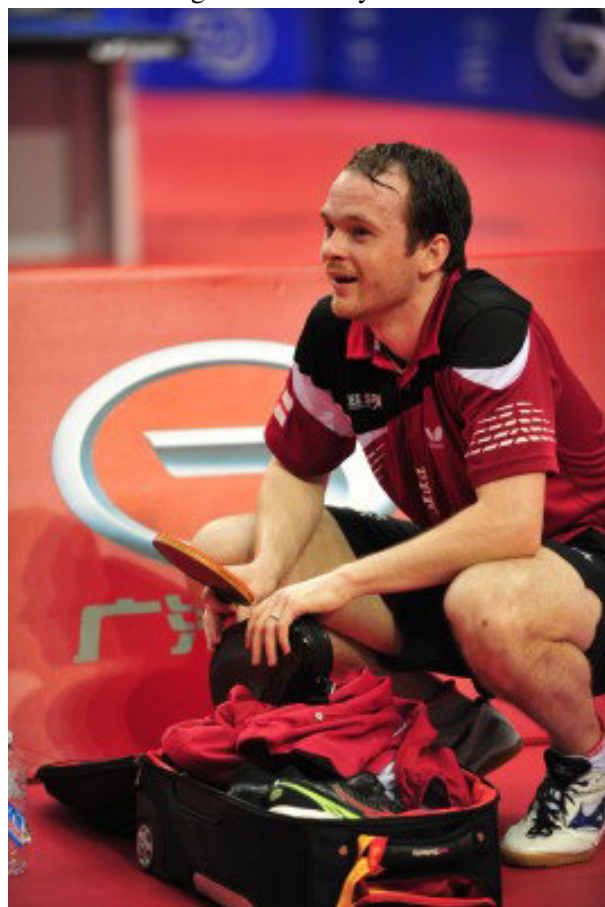
"This can give me a confidence boost towards the other tournaments and hopefully if we're in the medal matches or promotion matches I can use this experience to help."

Coach Nicky Jarvis said the achievement was made even greater by Paul having come back from an operation on his hip last summer.

He added: "He came back from the operation with a very strong mind. His preparation before every match was what it should be for a champion. He said when he beat the Czech player in the quarter-final it was the best table tennis he'd played in his life.

"He was focused and very professional, the epitome of a top sportsman."

And that even extended to Paul's post-tournament celebrations as he avoided alcohol in favour of water – although he did allow himself some ice cream!



*Russell Moore*



# Epilogue

## **GENERAL NOTE:**

Please be aware of the following information. I admit that it is partly aimed at protecting my own backside but it is also because I want to make sure that you know that some of the important information in this issue is very much subject to confirmation, ratification and, possibly, approval. All the articles that fall under this category have the attached

message: *Please see the general note in the Epilogue.* And here it is...

Because I want you to be as up-to-date as possible, and also because it is important that I issue the magazine before this weekend (the weekend of The Move), I have made several assumptions. These assumptions may, in due course, prove not to be totally correct. I hope this won't be the case (because it would make me look a trifle foolish!) but tonight's AGM (22 May) or, indeed, the Committee, could well over-turn one or two matters. I honestly don't think that this will happen but, to finish where I started, I am protecting my own backside. All the information appearing in this issue has been given in good faith. I can only apologise if there are any errors, be they factual, typographical or simple boo-boos. Thank you for bearing with me. But on to less formal matters...

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As I am sure you are aware, this issue will be the last with Yours Truly at the helm of *Kingfisher News*. You – boy at the back – stop cheering! I have been responsible (if that is the right word) for 19 issues and the time has come to hang up my electronic pen. It is more than likely that my successor will be Gwynne Penny (*please see the general note in the Epilogue!!*) and, as a consequence, I am confident that your newsletter can only improve. Gwynne is a whiz-kid at this IT stuff, whereas I am more at home with a quill pen and a piece of parchment. As far as table tennis is concerned, she is also as keen as mustard, to

a remarkable and a wonderful extent. Every time I go anywhere to see, or to play in, some kind of table tennis event – Gwynne is usually there. And, of course (yeah, I know this is a sexist remark, but it's undeniably true), she is a darned sight more attractive than I am.

I hope that I (and my many dozens of contributors, of course, as well as ace photographers John and Dids) have entertained you just a little bit along the way. I have really enjoyed the job but now, for reasons of antiquity if nothing else, it is time to let go. But I am not giving up our wonderful sport. Far from it! I shall undoubtedly see many of you at one table tennis event or another. And quite possibly at the other end of a table...

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One of my neighbours, a young feller named Howard, has gone swanning off to the antipodes, in order to tour both New Zealand and Australia. Well, he's not the only one to go abroad for a holiday; I'm going to North Wales in June...

I have digressed!

Now Howard's Mum lives with him and they are in regular contact by telephone. Imagine my surprise when Mum Valerie came round to see me. "Howard's in Auckland," she said. "And he says that his hotel is absolutely FULL of table tennis players! He said to let you know."

I thanked Valerie, of course, and then I thought, "How could that be?" On second thoughts, I'll bet that Peter Bradley knows the answer to THAT question exactly!!

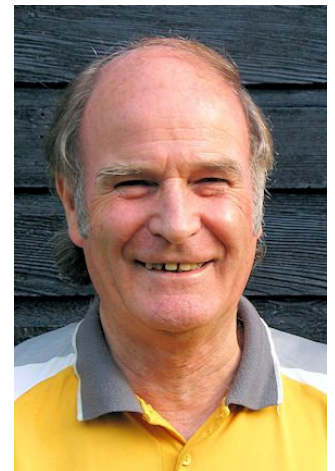
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I asked Colin if he were going to come up with a Chairman's Report for this my final issue. Poor old Colin; along with two or three others, has worked like a Trojan over the past heaven-knows-how long and I realised that I was pushing my luck. Colin's priorities have lain, and rightly so, with the new clubhouse and with the difficult move from one premises to another. A really formidable task that he has accomplished beautifully and without complaint.

Colin's response to my request was, "Tell them that I'm absolutely snowed. Just report that. Tell them that we are all delighted."

That must be the briefest Chairman's Report ever. But doesn't it just say it all!

But, of course, while he might be The Main Man, Colin is not the only man – or lady, for that matter. When we play in our brand-new premises, we might spare a thought for those whose work has made all these wonders possible. Colin, of course; Peter Charters unreservedly, and the quiet, unassuming but incredibly effective and hard-working Allen Pack. The ever-enthusiastic Gwynne has made an enormous contribution and I mustn't omit the remainder of the Committee Members, who have all done so much in their various ways. The people who turned



out over the past few days to whack a paint brush about should also be gratefully acknowledged – as well as those of you who will make an appearance as removal men this coming weekend. I am sure that I can speak for the entire membership when I say, “Thank you, everyone. Well done!”

Alongside this final write-up you will see another “last bash”. The picture reproduced here is of an ex-member who I am sure you will recognise. Ramesh features so largely in Kingfisher’s history that I make no apology for closing with my Indian friend. This is the very last image that I took in the old building. Such pictures can now, of course, never be repeated.

*Roger*



## The Kingfisher Club

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

It is an accredited FOUR-STAR PREMIER CLUB bringing great benefits to the Club and its members. The Club

also has SPORT ENGLAND CLUBMARK status.

The Club aims to cater for all standards of play but actively encourages and trains younger players and has good links with The Bulmershe School in whose general campus the clubhouse is situated. Any information regarding coaching at the Club can be obtained from Peter Charters (*please see the general note in the Epilogue!!*) on 0118 962 2721.

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



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

For members old enough (or lucky enough!) to have some free time on

midweek mornings, *The Tuesday Social Club*, the *Wednesday Club* and *The Friday Club* offer some great practice opportunities. All three Clubs start their sessions at around 1000, unless rare school bookings call for minor *ad hoc* amendments.

Any membership queries should be directed to Sandra Shepherd (*please see the general note in the Epilogue!!*) on 0118 947 6089, while other queries should be addressed to the Chairman, Colin Dyke, on 0118 978 3770.

And please feel free to send your *Kingfisher News* stuff to Gwynne (*please see the general note in the Epilogue!!*)! Her email address, in case you are unsure, is [gwynne.penny@btinternet.com](mailto:gwynne.penny@btinternet.com) and her telling-bone numbers are 01932 761540 and 07884020691.

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

FINALLY, please remember our website at [www.tabletennis365.com/Kingfisher/...](http://www.tabletennis365.com/Kingfisher/...)

WELL WORTH LOOKING AT!!

And that cartoon from way back when (1991 actually) appears on the left...

The ETTA umpire shown on Page 5 is Mick Reynolds, father of Kingfisher and Basingstoke star player Tony Reynolds.

The two building workers, photographed by Peter Charters and appearing on Page 8, are Paul Drinkhall and his lady wife Jo. You may just have heard of them... In fact, one of them appears in the ETTA article on Page 27. But I’ll bet you’ve never beaten either of them at the old “ping”!! (Ed.)

