



Kingfisher Table Tennis Club

KINGFISHER NEWS



Issue 73 September 2013

Club Officers and Officials:



Treasurer, Senior British League Secretary, Veterans National League Contact, Team Kit Manager, Trustee. **Eric Van Looy** (pictured) – 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** – Premier Club Contact, Clubmark Contact. **David Barr** – Senior British League First Team Manager. **Brian Halliday** – Club Discount Scheme Co-ordinator. **Marion Dyke** – Cleaning Supervisor. **Dave Duncan** – Table Manager. **Nigel Lynch** – Auditor.

(Vacancies exist for Publicity Officer and Minutes Secretary)

Prologue

Welcome to Issue 73 of the world-famous *Kingfisher News*. If only...

First of all I shall go into “apology” mode. I have received, or been made aware of, so much stuff for this issue that I must surely have missed something! Probably more than one thing. If I have omitted a submission from one of our readers, please be aware that it was totally unintentional. I have almost certainly made mistakes; the quantity of material included simply has to have errors dotted about all over the place. Forgive me for these but, if the seriousness warrants it, please write in and complain! I get another story that way, you see...

To repeat what I have said in earlier issues, although the compilation of the magazine is becoming more and more time-consuming, I wouldn't have it any other way. Please keep those stories, articles and press snippets coming! I am very, very grateful for your collective input.

When (or if) you reach the appropriate section, you will find a newspaper story about one of our more famous players, going back quite a time. A little plea here. If YOU have any old press clippings concerning your friends, your old Clubs and, especially, your good selves, please leave them for me (by arrangement, preferably) in the Club's internal maildrop. I shall then copy them ready for future use and return the originals to you. Go on, you know you can't resist it! And the other members would just love to read about such things.

I am afraid that I have no picture of Dave Barr – undoubtedly one of Kingfisher's and England's very best players. Dave used to be my hero when it came to watching our sport – until some upstart named Matthew came along with an even better playing defence. Kingfisher's resident photographers – Didier Garçon and John Upham – cannot supply me with a photo of Dave and I do not have one in my own library. But, one way or another, I shall succeed in my quest.

Talking of our two top photographers, aren't they just wonderful? John and Dids have supplied me with quality pickies for this and previous issues of *Kingfisher News* and I think that they really spice up the magazine. Thank you, fellers!



I have heard on the grapevine (well, sort of) that Keith Newell and Eric Van Looy are shortly to become daddies! Congratulations, chaps. You and your good ladies will have a lifetime of work ahead of you but, rest assured, it will be worth it. And if you need any help with wetting the babies' heads, you know what my contact details are...

What has this issue got in store for you? Quite simply, loads. Colin has submitted his informative *Chairman's Report*; Cookie has sent in a superb story about the Junior British League and there is some great National Cadet League and National Junior League stuff from Nick. There are also some messages about our sadly-missed friends Sylvia Bruton and Geoff Davis.

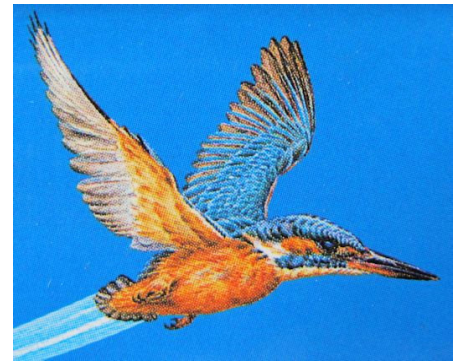
Peter Goatly has done a Lazarus on us and sent in a welcome report from Cambridge while there is a whole shedload of ETTA stuff from Eric Van Looy, Rob Sinclair, Alex Murdoch, Alan Ransome and Andy Seward.

We have details of the new Kingfisher table layout from Peter Charters and Gwynne Penny and an article about *Wunderkind* Jamie Liu. There is an IT puzzle aimed at Andy Parker (and other *Blue Nowhere* cyberspace whiz kids) and two golfing stories that are, believe it or not, table tennis-related. There is a VERY small quiz for you along with press extracts concerning our sport taken from newspapers published on both sides of the Atlantic.

There are write-ups concerning the final five *Grand Prix* tournaments, a tale concerning Derek Brooke-Wavell's triumph at the BBC and a fine picture showing "The Oldest and the Youngest". Intrigued? Some national rankings are included for your dubious pleasure, while Hari Gehlot's table-booking chart also makes another very important appearance. There is a plea about Club security and wasted electricity and another superb *Sneakles* cartoon created by Gwynne.

Last, but by no means least, we have the Captains' forecasts for the forthcoming season. The majority of Captains submitted reports this time. My thanks to you all.

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



Chairman's Report

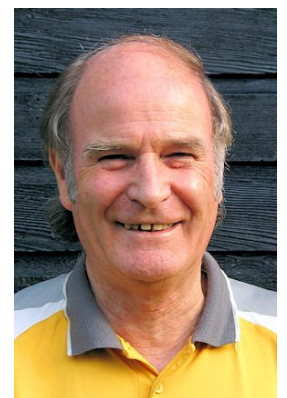
(By Colin Dyke,
Chairman, KFTTC,
06 September 2013)

Since the last issue, ten or eleven weeks ago, your management team have had a busy time preparing for the new season together with progressing the new clubhouse project. This has seen a lot of meetings and discussions and some terrific progress has been made. Our objective is to have a first class venue purpose built for table tennis in every respect and Allen, Peter and Nick have ensured that every aspect has been carefully considered. Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) have been a keen and imaginative partner in the project and together we have brought the scheme forward to a point where they are waiting to press the trigger to make a start on the construction.

One major step was for WBC to seek planning permission from their own Planning Department and yours truly had to speak and make our case in front of the Planning Committee. You can see the application (No F/2013/0851) on the Wokingham BC Website which includes plans, elevations, etc. I'm pleased to report that Planning permission was given and the Planning Committee chairman passed on his best wishes to the Club for the future.

However there are a couple of hurdles still to get over but we are confident that we should get some good news in this respect in the next few weeks. The programme has gone out a little and we may well find ourselves seeing out the season in our current premises. However clearer dates should emerge shortly. What is clear is that the transition from one building to the other should be seamless if all goes to plan.

Eric Van Looy has had his work cut out dealing with membership renewals and a steady flow of new enquiries. Gwynne has meticulously sorted out all of our local League teams whilst Hari has been enthusiastically grappling with the



difficulties of the diary. British League and National League entries have been sorted. The new table arrangements have been a keen topic. There has been quite a buzz around the place.

I trust that you will all have a successful and enjoyable season. Should you have any questions or ideas to make the Club a better place or have any ideas about what you would like to see in our new facility, I trust you will contact me either by email colindyke@waitrose.com or by 'phone 0118 9783770.

Junior British League

Kingfisher Qualify for Junior British League 2013-14

(I am indebted to Cookie Liu for the following article and also to Elly Perry for her assistance. Thanks, too, go to Wendy Porter and Sonia Gallen for the accompanying photographs. I have to admit that I am not too sure who took what! Ed.)

Team Kingfisher: Leo Long, Josh Gallen, Sam Liu, Jamie Liu. (Gus Thomis also travelled to support the squad.)

Kingfisher took a young squad of players with an average age of 13 to the Junior British League (JBL) Play-off Tournament at Grantham on Saturday 13 July. The Organisers admitted at the end of tournament that Kingfisher were pooled in a tough group comprising of some of the tournament favourites in Bankfield and an Irish team from Dublin, with only the top two teams in each pool to progress to the knock-out stages. The prize at stake was one of seven places for promotion to the JBL. Leo, Josh and Sam played in all four preliminary rounds of the pool in that order.

Leading the charge was Leo who was on 100% after three rounds and had six sets of 3-2 victories, two of which



he had to claw back from a 2-0 deficit. Of the four sets that Sam lost during the day, three were 3-2 defeats. Josh and Leo only lost two sets each during the whole day. The playing order has been particularly favourable to Kingfisher, with an increasing level of difficulty in terms of opposition standard. All three players seemed very nervous in the first round but managed to take a maximum 6-0 win over Graham Spicers TTC and that helped steady the nerves. It followed by a comfortable 5-1 win over Draycott East.

Next up, a key match against one of the tournament favourites, UCD Dublin. Kingfisher took a slender early lead of 2-1, followed by honours even with Leo and Sam winning and losing one apiece, setting up Josh to wrap up the match at 3-2 with the final set. That he did, but only after suffering a minor scare of losing his first game 11-1! Still, we were playing with confidence as we knew we had a superior set difference over UCD Dublin should we have drawn the match against them and, in the process, sending home one of the tournament favourites! On to our fourth and final pool round against Bankfield where we quickly went down 3-0. We could not win the pool due to our weaker set difference and eventually lost that match 5-1, though 4-2 would have been closer to what we deserved as Sam was winning in the fifth against Kin Chan. With hindsight, we could have played Jamie at number 3 for this match without affecting the actual outcome, though we didn't know at the time what could have happened in other pools that decided our knockout round opponents. On to the knockout round where we were drawn against the winners of Pool 1 (Waterside, a surprise winner, who overtook Urban TTC in their pool) with Daish, Cawston and Caltabiano. In a strange way, it was a good draw as we knew so much about our opponents and we knew we could beat them if everyone played well. All three sets were played simultaneously where Jamie, Gus and I were all umpiring the matches. Josh was on fire and totally dominated his match, giving absolutely nothing to Ben Cawston to play for and won his sets 2, 3, 3 in double-quick time. Josh was able to join in with the cheerleaders for Sam and Leo. Next up, Sam, having overturned a big deficit in his first game to win the

opener, went on to dominate his match and disposed of Artur Caltabiano cheaply at 9, 2, 6. By now everyone from the Kingfisher camp was able to come to Leo's table and support: Leo duly rushed to a 2-0 lead against Matthew Daish. As expected (!), Leo allowed Matthew to get back at him to level the match at 2-2 and we had to call time-out when Leo was 10-7 down in the fifth game. There was a lot of noise in the hall where other knockout rounds were also taking place. Leo, showing no signs of nerves, took five straight points to win 12-10 and wrapped up a thoroughly well-deserved 3-0 win over Waterside, taking up one of the seven berths at the JBL for 2013-14

The Kingfisher boys saved their best table tennis for when it mattered – during the knockout match – and they did it in style! While neither Jamie nor Gus played on Saturday, they managed to occupy themselves admirably by providing the squad with plenty of sparring practice and helping with most of the obligatory umpiring duties.

(Cookie Liu)

Results

KINGFISHER v GRAHAM SPICERS (6-0)

Leo Long bt James Corner 11-8 11-5 7-11 2-11 12-10; Josh Gallen bt Diego Freitas 11-9 8-11 11-9 5-11 11-9; Sam Liu bt Andrew Chapman 11-7 11-6 11-13 11-7; Josh Gallen bt James Corner 4-11 11-8 11-8 11-7; Leo long bt Andrew Chapman 12-14 5-11 11-9 11-4 11-9; Sam Liu bt Diego Freitas 11-7 8-11 11-6 11-7.

KINGFISHER v DRAYCOTT EAST (5-1)

Leo long bt Sam Testra 11-9 12-10 11-6; Josh Gallen bt Joe Abbott 11-6 11-8 11-9; Sam Liu bt lost to Callum Smedley 13-15 9-11 11-9 13-11 5-11; Josh Gallen bt Sam Testra 11-7 11-7 11-9; Leo Long bt Callum Smeley 9-11 9-11 11-7 11-5 12-10; Sam Liu bt Joe Abbott 11-7 10-12 11-9 11-7.

KINGFISHER v UCD DUBLIN (4-2)

Leo Long bt Geoffrey O'Conner 3-11 11-7 11-9 9-11 11-7; Josh Gallen bt Conor Gallagher 1-11 11-9 11-3 14-12; Sam Liu lost to Charlie Fitzgerald 7-11 11-6 11-6 5-11 9-11; Josh Gallen lost to Geoffrey O'Conner 11-9 3-11 7-11 14-16; Leo long bt Charlie Fitzgerald 11-7 6-11 11-4 8-11 11-8; Sam Liu bt Conor Gallagher 11-7 11-5 12-10.

KINGFISHER v BANKFIELD (1-5)

Leo long lost to James Chappell 6-11 8-11 14-12 5-11; Josh Gallen bt Ryan Lunn 11-4 11-5 10-12 11-7; Sam Liu lost to Kin Chan 7-11 12-10 11-5 5-11 9-11; Josh Gallen lost to James Chappell 11-6 10-12 7-11 5-11; Leo Long lost to Kin Chan 5-11 9-11 4-11; Sam Liu lost to Ryan Lunn 11-7 5-11 7-11 3-11.

KINGFISHER v WATERSIDE (3-0)

Leo Long bt Matthew Daish 11-7 11-9 8-11 9-11 12-10; Josh Gallen bt Ben Cawston 11-2 11-3 11-3; Sam Liu bt Artur Caltabiano 11-9 11-2 11-6.

Geoff Davis

The following information regarding poor old Geoff (pictured) was received from Derek Harrison (also pictured). Ed.

I first met Geoff in 1970 when he played in the Reading league Division 5B for the first time at Southcote 'B'. He used to cycle to my house with the score cards.



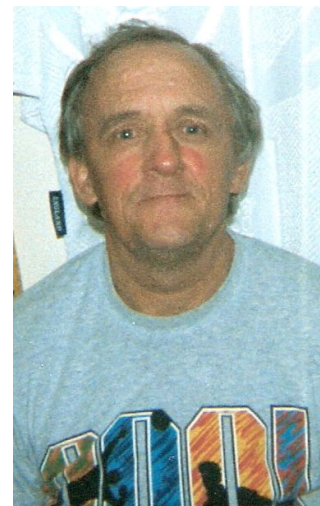
In that first season they finished runners-up having played 20 won 18 lost 2 which were against a very strong Blewis and Shaw team.

Geoff finished with an average of 69%. His team mates were Chris Stone 92%, Terry Spires 81% and younger brother Bob 20%.

In 1971/72 Geoff was in 4B and had an average of 72% but in 1972/3 he was playing for Telephones 'A' in Division 3 and had an average of 74%.

In 1972/73 Geoff won the Division 3 Singles title and, in 1981/82 the Individual Handicap.

I am sorry I do not have any further information regarding Geoff's table tennis. This was because he was going up the league while I stayed where I was in between the 3rd and the 4th Divisions...



Back in 1972 when Geoff was only 19 he worked in a carpet shop in Caversham Road. One day Val my wife and I were in the store when Val did not feel very well (she was expecting at the time) so a concerned Geoff found a chair for her to sit on and then got a glass of water and he did not leave till she was OK.

A few days later he rang right in the middle of the cup final to see how she was!

One other comment that when he was at Woodland, Geoff and I arranged cricket matches between his club and Rabson. They were always well-contested and were very enjoyable. Geoff was a reasonable batsman while brother Bob could bowl a bit.

In closing I have to say that whenever I saw Geoff over the years he had not changed a bit and was still the great chap I first met. He will be greatly missed.

Oh, and finally one bit of extra information:

Geoff served on the R&DTTA Committee doing the following jobs:

1973/74 and 1975/77: Divisional Fixtures Secretary.

1980/81: General Secretary.

1981/82: Handbook Secretary.

1983/84: Development Officer.

Derek

(From Allan Bruton)

Sylvia Bruton

I would like to reaffirm my thanks to all of Sylvia's extended circle of table tennis friends who

have been there for me this past few months; it has made times a bit easier.

In case I missed anyone from the email sent out thanking for donations instead of flowers, my thanks and I am pleased to announce that the princely sum of £550 was sent to the RBH intensive care unit charity fund.

Donations can still be sent but will need to be sent direct.

My thanks to all once again

Allan



Letter From Cambridge

(By Peter Goatly)

year, I promised to send in an item for the *Kingfisher News*. As there's always a shortage of news at the start of each new season, I guessed this would be a good time to submit something to help pad the magazine out – so here goes ...

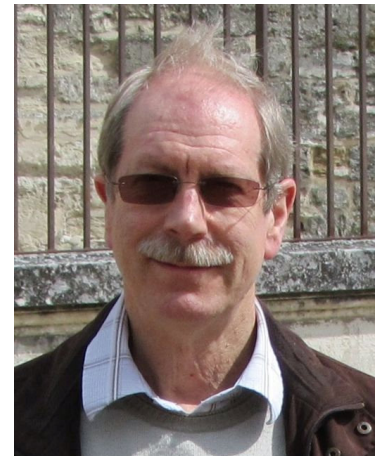


When we moved into our new house in Cambourne, I attempted to get a place in a Cambridge 2nd Division TT team for the 2012/13 season. This was because my daughter, Caroline, suggested that I wouldn't enjoy playing in the 1st Division due to the likelihood of me suffering frequent drubbings.

All seemed well when I found a TT club with 24/7 access that wasn't too far from me that had a vacancy in its 2nd Division team. Unfortunately, as the start of the season came closer, the vacancy that had been promised to me was filled by a player from that club

who'd recovered from injury earlier than expected. Consequently I was forced to join a team in a different club that had a vacancy in one of its 1st Division teams. Luckily two of the players in the team were very good and were able to "carry" me. I scraped together a 30% average and we finished in 4th place (out of 12 in the division). This was a bit flattering to me as a lot of my wins came from beating reserves!

In spite of my poor average, I enjoyed the season and took the odd game off the top players (such as Simon Pryke – who I'm told may be familiar to Hari). I also played in the Ely League 1st Division, where our team came second in spite of my moderate average of 52%. I've just managed to swap teams with an up-and-coming youngster, so I'll be playing for a Cambridge 2nd Division team this season to, hopefully, get an easier ride!



They're very hi-tech here! The club that I play for in the Cambridge League (Impington) uses *Facebook* for its communications and all Impington team captains are encouraged to post a write-up of each of their matches on *Facebook*. The clubs also send in their teams' write-ups to the league and these are summarised in a weekly e-mail that is sent to all of the league's players. We're certainly not short of news here!

Peter

NCL & NJL

(By Nick Heaps)

In the forthcoming season we have entered two teams in the National Cadet League (under-15 competition). All matches will be played at Cippenham (starting at 09:00) with Isaac Farnworth, Kieran Warre, Katie Shepherd, Alex Squire, Bertie Coombes, Jamie Lomax, Zak Squire, Johnny Coombes and Felix Thomis looking for selection on Sunday 13th October, Sunday 1st December, Sunday 2nd February and Sunday 23rd March.

Our National Junior League team (under-18) will also play at Cippenham on the following Saturdays: 16th November, 7th December, 25th January and 1st March. The team will be selected from: Mike Jones, James Ellicott, Isaac Farnworth, Joseph Cornmell, Kevin Gurung and Kieran Warre.

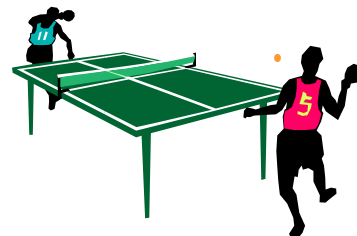
We're seeking a Team Manager for the National Junior League side. The role involves co-ordinating player availability, team selection and transport arrangements prior to each of the four weekends, getting the team to the right table at the right time, completing match scoresheets and organising umpiring on the day and, finally, posting results to our Facebook Group (Kingfisher Juniors) after each weekend.

Nick

New Kingfisher Club Table Layout

The following has been received from Club Secretary Peter Charters:

As it is intended that, for the most part, there will be just two league matches an evening for the coming season, the Committee wishes to try a new table format. This format acknowledges that not only is our club used for league and competitive play but it is a practice and training facility. **There will be two 'courted' tables for match play: Tables 1 and 2. Tables 3, 4 and 5 will remain up for practice and training activity without barriers.** Obviously, there will be occasions, such as weekend competitions, when it will revert to a fully-courted, four-table venue but, for the most part, the Kingfisher Club will become a five table venue. The situation will be monitored to see if any serious difficulties arise because of this change.



Peter

(Note: Because of this, even though four tables have quite often been "booked", there should, in theory, still be a free table available for practice purposes AT MOST TIMES. Please refer to Hari's Table Diary later on in this newsletter.

Thanks. Ed.)

Coaching Course

The following has been received from Eric Van Looy in an email dated 02 September.

The ETTA is running a course for the UKCC Level 1 coaching qualification in October and November this year. The course takes place over three Sundays on October 6th, October 13th and November 24th at Kidlington Table Tennis Centre, Oxford.

Course details can be found at <http://etta.co.uk/news/coaching-courses-2/>; further information can be provided by the ETTA's regional coach, Aled Howell (ahowell@etta.co.uk).

Kingfisher will provide mentoring, financial support and the opportunity to practise coaching skills to any member wishing to take this qualification. Please contact Nick Heaps to discuss.

Eric / Nick



**As I hurtled through space, one thought kept crossing my mind –
every part of this rocket was supplied by the lowest bidder.**

(John Glenn)

IT Puzzle

Gwynne Penny kindly forwarded me a couple of Law changes that the ITTF has recently introduced. As always, in order to save time, when I receive data from other people, I try to “block, copy and paste” the required information.

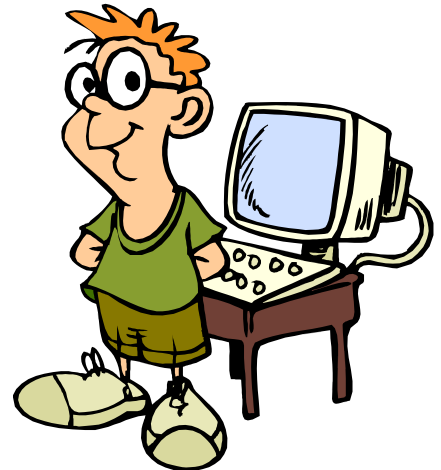


But, when I did this to the pdf document concerned, the following appeared! When I have time, I may try to think more about it but, at the moment, I have absolutely no idea what happened. And I tried three times! If any of our IT-knowledgeable members (and there are quite a few of you, I believe) have any idea about how this occurred, I'd be very interested in your theories. “Curiouser and curiouser”, as Alice once so famously said... (PS: The little geek, whom I affectionately call Andy, was NOT part of the corruption! Ed.)

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But on to the decoded version, painstakingly typed out by hand...

Approved Laws of Table Tennis 2013/14

I give you notice under ETTA Rule (2012/13) 55.7 that, at its Annual General Meeting held on 15 May 2013, the International Table Tennis Federation made changes to the Laws of Table Tennis.

The final wording of changes to Laws is not yet available, but the effect of the changes will be as follows:



2.2.4: The ends of the net must be attached from top to bottom of the net-post.

2.8.3: When a doubles pair consists of a standing player and one in a wheelchair, after the return of service either player can make returns (as for a pair consisting of two wheelchair players), but if any part of the wheelchair or the foot of the standing player crosses an imaginary extension of the centre line the opposing pair will score a point.

They will take effect from 01 September 2013.

Rob (Rob Sinclair, General Secretary, ETTA)

Jamie Liu

JAMIE KICK-STARTS THE NEW SEASON WITH A WIN AT HUNTS 2-STAR!!

Jamie Liu has spent many sessions this summer training very hard with his Junior British League team-mates from Kingfisher, working on a number of technical drills under the auspices of Peter Charters.

Nine-year-old Jamie travelled to St Ives, Cambridgeshire, on Saturday 31 August for the Hunts 2-Star Under-11 and Under-13 tournaments. It's a strong field boasting three of the Top-12 Under-13 players in England. Jamie, currently 19th on the Under-13 ETTA rankings, tried to put some of those skills into practice and focused particularly on his consistency.

Top-seed Jamie began the Under-11 competition confidently, reaching the final without dropping a single end. He faced a much stiffer opposition in the final in Ritchie Bailey, who is ranked 21st on the ETTA Under-13. It was a competitive match as we witnessed the first game going the distance, which Jamie eventually took 22-20. He then had to regain his composure after losing the second game before securing the title by winning 3-1 (22-20, 6-11, 11-1, 11-7).



The Under-13 competition in the afternoon was more of an experiment for Jamie, with a number of very strong players involved: James Smith (#1 Under-13 in England), Naphat Boonyapraya (#11) and Joe Saxton (#12). Jamie defeated Ritchie Bailey comfortably 3-0 in the quarter-final and set up a semi-final meeting with James Smith, where he could not outplay a very polished and experienced player in James, losing in straight sets (-8, -4, -9).

The real positives that Jamie could take from the tournaments at Hunts included his significantly improved consistency and application: he dropped only two ends from 11 matches before losing his Under-13 semi-final encounter. Jamie can now look to extend that consistency as he stretches himself with some high quality Cadet and Junior competitions.

Jamie prefers the Mayor's gold medal!

(Cookie Liu, 31 August 2013)

SBL & JBL

KINGFISHER SENIOR BRITISH LEAGUE AND JUNIOR BRITISH LEAGUE TEAMS FOR THE SEASON 2013/2014

The Senior British League (SBL) first team, which has come down from the Premier Division, will try to regain its place in the top division for the 14/15 season, although escaping from Division One South will be no easy task.

Evergreen Dave Barr will be the Squad Captain and will hold the Number One ranked spot in the team. Federico Viterbo, the Italian working in Maidenhead until May next year, will play at Two whilst England ranked Number 6 Junior Marcus Giles from Surrey will play at Three. This follows the England Ranking list and this policy continues with Hari Gehlot at Four whilst Daniel Moses will compete at Five. The reliable Mark Banks brings up the rear at Number Six in the squad.

Fortunately, all the matches for the Kingfisher 1st Team will be at Cippenham starting over the weekend of 14th and 15th September. Support from Kingfisher members will be welcome; a notice



about times of matches will be displayed at the Club.

The 2nd team will this season play in the 4th Division South & East, to be played at the London Academy in Edgware. Though the team has lost Chris Haines and Paul Savage, they have found reinforcements in Darren Palmer and Sanga Quamina, who are both from the Wycombe area. Player ranking will be 1. Andy Misseldine (pictured on the previous page), 2. Keith Newell, 3. Darren Palmer, 4. Sanga Quamina, 5. Eric Van Looy, 6. James Olsson. Finally, they have also added Joshua Gallen as a 'ringer', in case they struggle to get a full team. With Keith and Eric about to fulfil paternal duties later this season, he'll surely get a chance at some point. He would slot in behind Keith.

KINGFISHER JUNIOR BRITISH LEAGUE (JBL) TEAMS

Our Girls' team for the coming season is strong. So strong in fact that we lose our Number One Tin-Tin Ho, for the first round of matches. This is because she has been selected for the England Senior team to compete in the European Championships. These will be played at the same time as the JBL weekend; namely the 12th and 13th October. The JBL will be played at Lilleshall National Sports Centre.

At Number Two for Kingfisher will be Maria Tsaptsinos, who is also England's Number Two Junior. At Number Three will be the England Number 5 Emily Bolton. Congratulations to Tin Tin and we have confidence that Maria and Emily will still be able 'to do the business' for Kingfisher until Tin-Tin's return for the second weekend in February! As this competition is a three-girl team, another player will be signed for the team in the next couple of weeks.



A report on the Boys' team which won a place in the JBL at the playoffs in July is provided elsewhere in this magazine by Cookie Liu. At the same stage last year, Kingfisher missed out on a winning place on this occasion – a very young team battled their way through.

In a competition for the Under 18s, three of Kingfisher's squad of five boys are still Cadets (under 15) whilst two are first year juniors (under 16). One of the three Cadets is only nine years old.

Cadet Josh Gallen (pictured) will start at Number One for the team, Leo Long Number 2, Sam Liu Number 3, Phil Koehler Number 4 and nine-year-old Jamie Liu at Number 5. Phil is a German boy who will start as a boarder at Leighton Park School this month.

This year, all players who compete for Kingfisher in the British League will be members of the Club. The philosophy that 'Players who compete together as a team, train together as a team' is something that I believe in and hopefully others will also

come to embrace.



The above article was mostly written by Peter Charters – my thanks to him – but it also includes an input from Eric Van Looy – my thanks to him, too! (Ed.)

Tin-Tin to challenge in Europe Top 10



Table Tennis English Cadet Number 1, Tin-Tin Ho (pictured), has become the latest home-grown player to be selected for the Europe Youth Top 10 tournament, which takes place in Terni, Italy, on 20-22 September 2013.

The 14-year-old, who will turn 15 shortly before the tournament begins, has become the first female qualifier since Joanna Parker finished sixth in Mulgetta, Italy, in 2005.

Her selection is no real surprise after spending the entire season in the European Top 10, even leading the rankings for a short period of time earlier in the year.

Her three medals at the recent European Youth Championships (Singles bronze, Doubles silver and Mixed silver) were a further reminder of her prodigious talent that has

seen her triumph twice on the International Table Tennis Federations Cadet Singles' circuit in the Portuguese Youth Open 2011 as well as a convincing win over the World Number 1 Cadet to win the French Youth Open in 2012.

She starts the round-robin as the fourth seed behind firm favourite Marie Migot of France and her fellow European team-mates Adina Diaconu from Romania and Maria Malanina from Russia.

Tin-Tin, from Paddington, London, started playing table tennis at the age of five and is currently the Cadet, Junior and Under-21 National Champion as well as being ranked Number 4 in Europe in the Cadet rankings.

She said, "I am very happy to have been selected for the European Top 10. I am always really excited to represent my country, especially as this will be my last European Cadet tournament – where I will be facing the best competition that Europe has to offer."

Stop Press!

For ages, I've been dying to use that sub-headline! And, at last, here it is! The following has just been received from Club Secretary Peter Charters. (Ed.)

It is worth mentioning that new Kingfisher member Tin-Tin Ho won the Senior *Grand Prix* at Guildford over the weekend (07/08 September) from Number 3 Seed position beating two top international defenders (Numbers 1 and 2 Seeds) after practising with Dave Barr at Kingfisher last Thursday.

Peter

Are you a subscriber?

I know that I am probably delving into the realms of fantasy, but perhaps you would like to

receive this newsletter but are not actually on my mailing list. It is very tempting to write "If you are not reading this newsletter but would like to do so, then please...etc, etc..." However, you could be reading a hard copy (several are always left at the Club) or maybe a friend has forwarded it to you.

And so, if you are not on my mailing list, but would like to be, then please give me a quick nod. My address is roger.woolven-allen@virginmedia.com and I would be delighted to hear from you.

Subscription rates? Yup, you've got it. Roughly zero. Half a pint of beer if we happen to bump into one another at some dodgy alcohol-selling emporium. And, even then, I'll buy you one back!

Ping is not always Ping

And there is a dreadful pun there if you know anything at all about golf –

which I don't... The following has been extracted from the *GetReading* newspaper, issued sometime in July. I have the article in front of me, but some fool has cut off the date. The story is headed "Warke Sisters are County Champions", closely followed by "Bearwood" and, with some slight editing by Yours Truly, runs as follows:

"Junior captain Nathalie Warke and her sister Julia enjoyed success on the lightning-quick greens at Sonning GC in the Berkshire Girls' Championships.

"Julia (15 handicap) won the Championship with a gross 81, while Natalie won the handicap prize with a net 73. Both girls have been cut to 13.

"The top fifteen players in the Club's coveted Charity Cup all carded better-than-par rounds.

"Richard Andrews (8 handicap) rolled in four birdies on his way to victory, scoring a very impressive 41 points."

"Who is this Richard Andrews?" you may ask. The accompanying photograph is, perhaps, a subtle giveaway...

Is there anything that this young Kingfisher member is not good at? I doubt it, although I am prepared to bet that I could beat him in a beer-drinking contest. (Ed.)



The best cure for sea sickness is to sit under a tree.

(Spike Milligan)

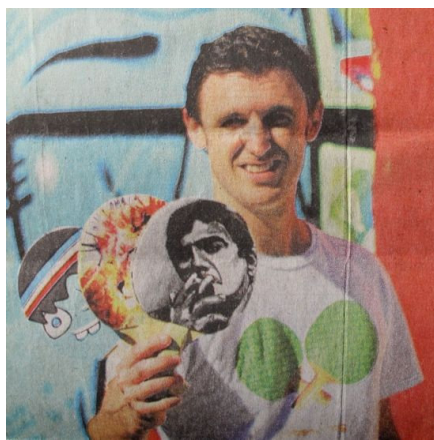
A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kickboxing.

(Emo Philips)

Austin Company Makes Ping-Pong Paddles Stylish

Austin American-Statesman

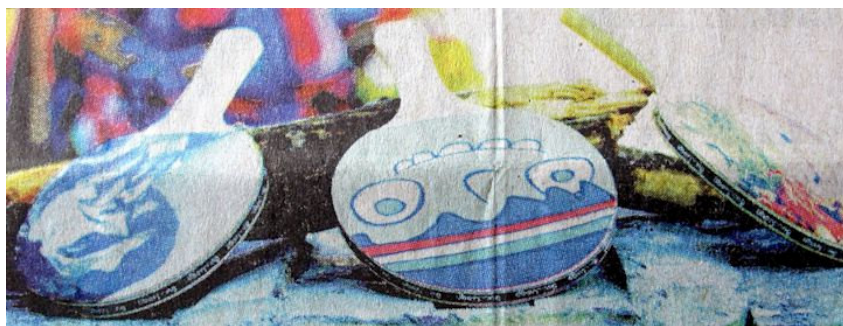
*The following has been
extracted from a recent issue
of the
Austin American-Statesman
newspaper:*



Want to add some style to your Ping-Pong game? Austin-based company *Uberpong* has enlisted local and international graphic designers, fine artists and illustrators to create uniquely-designed Ping-Pong paddles to personalize the sport.

Earlier this year *Uberpong* added custom Ping-Pong paddles to their services, and quickly gained national clients like *Extra TV* and *Nickelodeon*. They created custom-designed paddles for *Extra TV* hosts Mario Lopez and Maria Menounos. *Uberpong* prints the designs on to the rubber of the handcrafted paddles, which sell for \$39.99 and \$79.99 for a customized paddle.

Uberpong founder David Lowe, who moved to Austin from England, has a self-proclaimed obsession with the game of Ping-Pong. He launched the online store in November 2012 after a successful Kickstarted campaign, and now the company also partners with local businesses to bring Ping-Pong events around Austin.



To check out the designs and find out more information, visit uberpong.com.

(Note: So founder David Lowe is, or was, an English table tennis player? Interesting. I see that one blade shows a chap having a nicotine fix – well, he's smoking something, anyway – and others have various initials and colour schemes. I am not too sure what the USTTA (or the ITTF, for that matter) would make of these novel rubbers, but I have a slight suspicion that

they may be illegal – and not because of the smoking, either. But what a great idea! If only we all used identical rubbers, I am sure that this would take off. What would you have on your blade? I'd opt for the face of my good friend Andy Yon, if only for the satisfaction of continually whacking him on the nose. But I digress. I fear, for the time being at least, that we'll have to abide by red-on-one-side and black-on-the-other. Ed.)

FRED : A PLAYER OF REAL BEAUTY



The following has been extracted from the *Metro* newspaper, issue dated July 9th 2013:

Fred Perry would have liked Andy Murray. Fred (pictured) was a maverick and never a comfortable part of the tennis establishment. For Murray to be considered Perry's equal though, he is going to have to win the world **TABLE TENNIS** championship just as Fred did in 1929... unlikely. You could call Fred a player in every way as in his younger days he was as comfortable with a Hollywood A-list beauty on his arm as he was down the pub with the boys.



Golf & Probability



They instinctively knew the safest place when he was about to play his shot

something strange had happened. The choice of ends was, as is so often the case, decided by the toss of a coin. But what was quite amazing was that every single toss had resulted in a “tail”. What are the odds against that happening?, we all wondered.

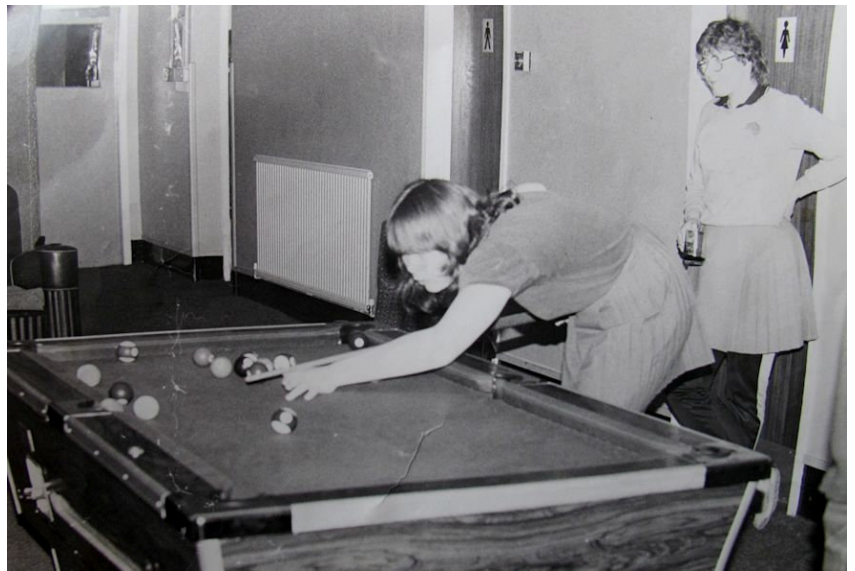
A million years ago, I half-heartedly studied the basic laws of mathematical probabilities (I vaguely remember some chap named Boole had something to do with it) but, I have to admit, it has all long since been consigned to the realms of senile forgetfulness. However, during that same evening, another fact also defied those same laws that have so often sent gamblers to their doom. The second fact? Four of the six table tennis players also played golf. And, guess what? During the halftime tea-break, the talk was all about bogies falling out of nostrils, players achieving little dicky-birdies, eagles, albatrosses and the like – and nothing whatsoever to do with table tennis.

Malcolm Gregory, Keith Swain, Geoff Civil and Daniel Grover relived just about every putt and drive they could think of; they discussed handicaps together with the merits and drawbacks of all the local clubs. Brian Meheux and I felt quite left out of things...

And so here, by way of retaliation, is a little cartoon (originally drawn by a fine artist named Bestie) which I unashamedly dedicate to all the golfers at Kingfisher TTC. And there are quite a few of 'em! (Ed.)

Quiz

Hi everyone! There's just one question in this issue's quiz. Quite simply, please name the lady playing pool on the right. Easy, eh? But maybe not... The answer will appear at the very end of the newsletter. Ed.



Fred Perry



Fred Perry, tennis champion from a bygone age, was renowned for putting doubts into his colleagues' minds. Quite often, in the locker room, and in a voice designed to be heard by his next opponent, he would say, “I'm really glad that I'm not up against me today.”

BBC TOURNAMENT

Wednesday 28 August 2013:

The BBC Club's annual handicap table tennis tournament has just taken place and the ultimate honours went to the retired BBC Overseas Editor Derek Brooke-Wavell (pictured). Brooke-Wavell has entered the vast majority of the previous BBC tournaments – a series spanning well over two decades – and this is the first time that the Caversham veteran has emerged triumphant. And a well-deserved victory, it was, too!

The competitors were divided into two groups, with the knowledge that only the top two in each section would progress to the semi-final stage. After three hours of determined play, the semi-finalists were decided.

The following article was submitted to the Reading Post and subsequently printed on



In Group One, broadcasting engineer John Scott finished in top place with 77 points, while two BBC Monitoring editors, Andy Von Glehn and Mohamed Madi, finished their group in joint second place with 70 points apiece. A single game shoot-out resulted in victory for Madi by the incredibly close score of 11-9. In Group Two, the overall winner was Caversham's Brooke-Wavell, who finished with 76 points. The



runner-up in this section was BBC Monitoring Editor Shayan Sardarizadeh with a total of 71 points.

At this stage, the winner of Group One was matched against the runner-up of Group Two and the winner of Group Two against the runner-up of Group One. Scott won his semi-final match against Sardarizadeh in three exciting ends 8-11 11-9 11-8, while Brooke-Wavell took out Madi in two straight games 11-6 11-9.

The final itself, with Brooke-Wavell pitched against Scott, resulted in a two-straight victory for the BBC retiree by the scoreline of 11-7 11-9. It goes without saying that this fine performance by Brooke-Wavell earned him the well-deserved title of 2013 BBC Club Table Tennis Champion.

Event co-organiser Roger Woolven-Allen, with the help of outgoing ETTA Vice-Chairman Peter Bradley, presented prizes to all four semi-finalists, while Brooke-Wavell also received the coveted BBC Club trophy.



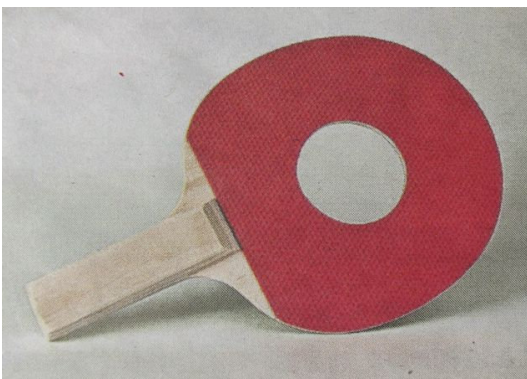
POINTS AFTER THE PRELIMINARY ROUNDS: John Scott (+7) 77, Derek Brooke-Wavell (+4) 76, Shayan Sardarizadeh (+10) 71, Mohamed Madi (+12) 70, Reza Amini (+5) 70, Andy Von Glehn (+7) 70, Richard Woolven-Allen (+2) 68, Wendy Porter (-1) 65, Santosh Sinha (+12) 64, Linda Davis (+4) 64, Peter Bradley (-5) 64, Mike Dorrington (+1) 63, Manny Khalid (+12) 62, Abdallah Al-Salmi (+10) 55, Waleed Marzouk (+12) 47 and Arash Azizi (+12) 45.

SEMI-FINALS: John Scott (+7) bt Shayan Sardarizadeh (+10) 8-11 11-9 11-8; Derek Brooke-Wavell ((+4) bt Mohamed Madi (+12) 11-6 11-9.

FINAL: Brooke-Wavell bt Scott 11-7 11-9.

Holy Bat?

the article from *Metro* dated 26 June 2013.



Well, I've heard of *The Mint With The Hole*, but I've never heard of *The Bat With The Hole* – although I do have to admit that tennis rackets have lots of holes in them.

This latest idea must be about as batty as they come... I think that even Daniel Moses would struggle playing with this one! I have extracted

TO MAKE US THINK ABOUT GOOD DESIGN, PHOTOGRAPHER LOOKS AT RATHER BAD DESIGN

NOW, SOME USELESS ART...

Today's philosophical teaser for *Metro* readers is as follows: could there ever be a good reason to design a dice with no spots, a fork with a floppy handle or a sink with no plug hole?

No, you all chorus, and fair enough. But, according to the creator of all of the above, Giuseppe Colarusso, there is a perfectly logical reason

for creating the series illustrating utterly useless objects.

The 49-year-old artist produced these images using photo manipulation techniques, to turn everyday items into impossible-to-use objects and made us think about good design. Of course, The Swiss-born Italian artist hopes his playful pictures, entitled *Improbabilia*, will make people question the functionality of the likes of cutlery, garden tools and office equipment.

Among this most useless creations are a rectangular rolling pin, coffee cups you open like a can and a door designed not to open. He also tempts viewers to consider playing ping-pong using a bat with a gaping hole or to use a key which won't fit into a keyhole.

'This is a collection that I would describe almost as like surreal still-life,' said the inventive Mr Colarusso, who took his first picture in 1985 with a hand-made pin-hole camera made from a shoe box. 'The series is a collection of imaginary objects which are unlikely but not totally impossible to use.'

The artist does see the funny side of his outlandish designs.

'My aim with these images is always to try and make people smile but think about what they are seeing at the same time,' he said.

KINGFISHER TABLE TENNIS CLUB

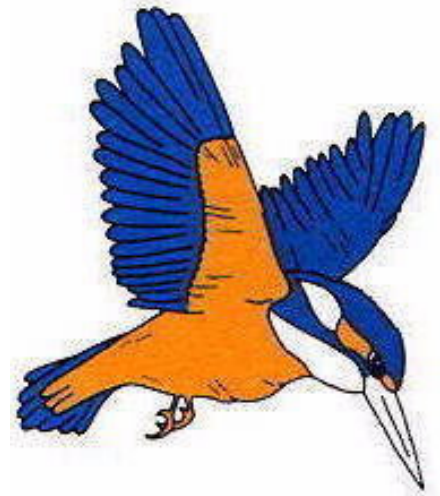
THE KINGFISHER
2013

GRAND PRIX

Sponsored by:



The *Kingfisher Grand Prix* series, sponsored by *Tees Sport*, ended on Monday 29th July. I, along with the other members of the *Grand Prix* sub-committee, am delighted that all the participants seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves throughout. Daniel Moses took the ultimate overall honours. But I am jumping to the back page of a "whodunit"! Please read on...



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

Tournament 8

Most of the table tennis players who take part in the *Tees Sport*-sponsored *Kingfisher Grand Prix* series happily assume that each and every tournament will be won by either Daniel Moses or Hari Gehlot – with the occasional upset being effected by one of the

McTiernan brothers. But then someone totally different comes along and upsets the applecart!

14-year-old Leo Long took the eighth Grand Prix tournament both by surprise and by storm. Long had to play incredibly well to reach the latest final – which he did – and then amazed everyone present by beating chart-topper Daniel Moses in the last match of the evening in five exciting ends.

But Newbury teenager Long did not win by good fortune; indeed, he played brilliantly throughout the whole tournament. In what, for much of the evening, was a battle between the region's youngsters, Long took out two of his young compatriots. Following a first-round bye, he was drawn against another promising teenager – 13-year-old Gus Thomis. Long won this match in three straight but extremely close games 16-14 12-10 11-8. At the



quarter-final stage he was pitted against Woodley's Josh Gallen – another 14-year-old – and this match went to the wire before Long emerged victorious by the closest of margins in the fifth and deciding game.

But not all the matches were restricted to the youngsters. Veteran Polish ace Richard Rosinski was beaten at the quarter-final stage by the Indian player Dakshin Subramanian. Newcomer Subramanian, recently moved to Reading, tore Rosinski apart, winning in three very comfortable straight games. It was therefore expected that Long, who was Subramanian's next opponent, would suffer a similar fate to that of the Polish player. But far from it...

Playing like a true champion, Long demolished Subramanian at the semi-final stage without dropping a single end.

The final itself was nail-biting to say the least. Earley's Moses took the first end; Long took the second, Moses took the third – and Long took the fourth. With the onlookers now on the edge of their seats, the fifth and deciding game swayed one way and the other – before Long managed to take it, and the 8th title, by 11 points to 9.

The outcome of this is that Long has moved from sixth to fourth place on the leaderboard, jumping over Josh Gallen and Tony Reynolds in the process, and now finds himself just 31 points behind Daniel McTiernan, who is currently in a potential third-place prize-winning position. It will be interesting indeed to see what happens in next week's ninth *Grand Prix*!

Interest along the way saw a close battle between Basingstoke's two top players – Andy Parker and Tony Reynolds. Parker won this particular encounter in four ends 12-10 11-1 5-11 11-9.

Parker went on to win the eighth consolation event, taking out Wokingham's Richard Fifield in the final match, again in four ends, 7-11 11-9 12-10 11-4.

Results of Tournament 8:

Quarter Finals: Dakshin Subramanian bt Richard Rosinski 11-1 11-6 11-7; Leo Long bt Josh Gallen 11-6 11-6 6-11 10-12 13-11; Daniel Moses bt Nick Heaps 11-9 11-6 16-14; Hari Gehlot bt Daniel McTiernan 14-12 9-11 11-6 11-9.

Semi Finals: Long bt Subramanian 11-3 11-4 11-6; Moses bt Gehlot 10-12 11-5 11-7 12-10.

Final: Long bt Moses 9-11 11-9 14-16 11-4 11-9.

Grand Prix Points after Tournament 8: Moses 837, Gehlot 646, D McTiernan 476, Long 444, Gallen 386, Parker 384, Reynolds 381, King 300, Fifield 295, Organ 276, Rosinski 255, Yon 235, Thomis 231, Van Looy 224, L Williams 223, Heaps 221, Porter 207, Woolven-Allen 187, Dobbins 184, Gostelow 176, Bennett 172, Outrim 163, Dorrington 159, L McTiernan 132, Dyke 123, O'Keeffe 120, Duncan 114, Mitchell 114, S Liu 98, J Liu 89, Diplock 74, Subramanian 72, Houghton 70, Penny 62, Caliman 31, Upham 25, McGrane 20, Wedi 18, S Williams 17, Taylor 15.

(The photograph, taken by Didier Garçon, shows Leo Long about to serve.)



Personal Thoughts

with my editorial hat on, it gave me “something different” to write about, but also because it is really great to see the youngsters coming through. This is exactly how it should be. Well done, young feller!

On a different subject, poor Gwynne had to umpire what I shall describe as an “interesting” match between Andy Yon and your friendly scribe. I think, between us, that we took table tennis idiocy to a new level. In retrospect, I think that Andy should have been yellow-carded and Yours Truly should have been red-carded. It was all in good fun, but it was very LOUD good fun. My apologies to umpire Gwynne and also to any players on adjacent tables who must have been put off by our shenanigans.

And, to make matters worse, Andy won! (Ed.)

Tournament 9

prize-winning position is still very much up for grabs.

At the moment, second place is held by Hamilton Road's Hari Gehlot with a points tally to date of 713. But 14-year-old Daniel McTiernan, having claimed victory in the ninth and latest event, now finds himself just 107 points behind

Although the previous tournament champions may possibly disagree with me here, I think it is absolutely wonderful that Leo Long won this eighth event. I say this partly because,

Daniel Moses, the player at the top of the *Kingfisher Grand Prix* leaderboard, could, in theory, lose his position over the next – and final – three tournaments. But, unless the Earley teenager fails to show up at all, this is unlikely. However, the second

his Indian rival. This is definitely an attainable target – especially for such a talented youngster as the 14-year-old from Woodley.

And Newbury's Leo Long; Woodley's Josh Gallen and the top two players from Basingstoke – Tony Reynolds and Andy Parker – are well in line for third place. The last three tournaments should prove exciting indeed!

In the first round of the latest event, McTiernan defeated another promising youngster – 13-year-old Gus Thomis from Caversham – in three straight games 11-4 11-9 12-10. With another year under his belt, Thomis could well prove to be a real threat in the 2014 series.

In Round 2, McTiernan despatched Caversham Park's veteran lady player, Sharon Mitchell, again in three straight ends 11-7 11-6 11-6.

At the quarter-final stage, McTiernan took out Andy Parker, again without dropping an end. It wasn't until his semi-final, when the youngster was matched against the Indian star, Hari Gehlot, that he finally conceded a single game. Gehlot really pushed his opponent all the way and it wasn't until the fifth and deciding game that the Indian player faltered and McTiernan earned himself a date with Daniel Moses in the final match of the evening.

Moses, who many think puts his enjoyment of table tennis ahead of actually winning, fought back from 2-0 down in the final to 2-2 but, in the last end, had to concede by the closest of margins to McTiernan's power-play.

The ladies' section, too, is proving incredibly exciting. Although the girls share the random draw with their male counterparts, there will be a special trophy for the ultimate top female. At the moment, this exalted potion is held by Caversham's Lisa Williams who currently stands in thirteenth overall position with 253 *Grand Prix* points. But, just 11 points behind her, in fourteenth position and with 242 points, Tilehurst's Wendy Porter is waiting to pounce. There could well be a change here at any time!

Interest along the way saw the Indian newcomer Dakshin Subramanian take out the veteran county player and Kingfisher Chairman Colin Dyke, in five games 9-11 5-11 11-7 11-3 11-2.

Young Josh Gallen from Woodley emerged victorious in his encounter with top Hampshire veteran Graham Outtrim. Gallen won this enthralling tussle in four ends 11-7 11-7 9-11 11-7.

The final of the ninth consolation event saw the previous week's champion, 14-year-old Leo Long from Newbury, defeat Outtrim in three straight games 15-13 11-6 11-6.

Results of Tournament 9:

Quarter Finals: Daniel Moses bt Roger Woolven-Allen 11-3 11-3 11-7; Tony Reynolds bt Josh Gallen 12-10 12-10 11-6; Hari Gehlot bt Trevor Organ 11-4 11-7 11-1; Daniel McTiernan bt Andy Parker 11-4 11-8 11-8.

Semi Finals: Moses bt Reynolds 14-12 11-5 6-11 11-2; McTiernan bt Gehlot 11-6 11-7 5-11 9-11 11-5

Final: McTiernan bt Moses 11-7 11-8 9-11 9-11 11-9.

Grand Prix Points after Tournament 9: Moses 994, Gehlot 713, D McTiernan 606, Long 506, Reynolds 444, Gallen 437, Parker 432, Organ 316, King 300, Fifield 295, Rosinski 294, Thomis 270, L Williams 253, Porter 242, Yon 235, Woolven-Allen 227, Van Looy 224, Heaps 221, Outtrim 217, Gostelow 201, Dorrington 189, Dobbins 184, Bennett 172, Mitchell 144, Dyke 141, Duncan 139, O'Keeffe 135, L McTiernan 132, Subramanian 102, S Liu 98, J Liu 89, Penny 87, Diplock 74, Houghton 70, Caliman 31, Upham 25, McGrane 20, Wedi 18, S Williams 17, Taylor 15.

(The photograph, taken by Didier Garçon, shows Daniel McTiernan performing a forehand drive)

Tournament 10

both Long and McTiernan to take the tenth title. Moses has now consolidated his top position on the leaderboard and has broken the 1000-point barrier in the process. With 1072 *Grand Prix* points under his belt, the ultimate championship title would seem to be undeniably his.

Hamilton Road's Hari Gehlot remains in second place but the Indian ace is now some 332 points behind Moses. By his own high standards, Gehlot suffered a poor tournament in the latest event, acquiring only 27 points. Finalist McTiernan, on the other hand, accumulated 101 points, a score that puts him only 33 points behind Gehlot and well in the



running to take second place. With only two tournaments remaining in the series, can Gehlot stop the Woodley teenager from overtaking him? Time will tell...

To reach this latest final, Moses was first of all pitted against the top Tilehurst lady player, Wendy Porter, and Moses did not find this match an easy one at all. Porter took a game from the youngster, allowing Moses through to the next round by the close scoreline of 11-9 11-4 8-11 13-11.

At the quarter-final stage, Moses took out Newbury's Leo Long, again in four close ends. In his semi-final, the Earley star played the Polish veteran Richard Rosinski, but age-versus-youth started to tell and Rosinski failed to win a single end.

The final itself, between Moses and McTiernan, was exciting to say the least. Moses won the first end 11-9 and McTiernan won the second by the same scoreline. However, Moses ran away with the third game before sneaking the fourth 13-11 to give him the latest title.

Interest along the way saw the top Basingstoke player Andy Parker defeat 13-year-old Gus Thomis. But what an exciting see-saw battle this was! While Parker eventually galloped away with the fifth and deciding end to take this semi-final match, the Caversham youngster deservedly earned a substantial share of the points.

Thomis had earlier achieved a great victory over Woodley teenager Josh Gallen. Gallen, nationally ranked well above his Caversham rival, struggled in a match of contrasting styles and Thomis went through by the scoreline of 5-11 11-3 11-9 6-11 11-5.

From a female perspective, it is interesting to note that Tilehurst's Wendy Porter has leap-frogged Caversham's Lisa Williams and is now in prime position for the special ladies' trophy. But Williams is only 21 points behind Porter and things could change at any time!

The final of the tenth consolation event was won by Basingstoke's Tony Reynolds, who defeated Tilehurst's Trevor Organ in three straight games 11-7 11-9 11-4.

Results of Tournament 10:

Quarter Finals: Richard Rosinski bt Peter Bennett 10-12 14-12 5-11 11-6 11-8; Daniel Moses bt Leo Long 11-9 11-8 10-12 11-8; Andy Parker bt Gus Thomis 11-9 3-11 11-7 9-11 11-2; Daniel McTiernan bt Richard Fifield 11-4 11-4 11-8.

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

Final: Moses bt McTiernan 11-9 9-11 11-7 13-11.

Grand Prix Points after Tournament 10: Moses 1072, Gehlot 740, D McTiernan 707, Long 550, Reynolds 526, Parker 486, Gallen 472, Organ 376, Rosinski 348, Fifield 345, Thomis 310, King 300, Yon 281, Porter 274, Van Looy 254, L Williams 253, Woolven-Allen 244, Bennett 230, Heaps 221, Outrim 217, Gostelow 216, Dyke 190, Dorrington 189, Dobbins 184, Duncan 159, O'Keeffe 155, Mitchell 144, L McTiernan 132, Subramanian 102, Penny 102, S Liu 98, Houghton 95, J Liu 89, Diplock 74, Caliman 34, Upham 25, McGrane 20, Wedi 18, S Williams 17, Taylor 15.

(The above photograph, taken by Didier Garçon, shows Daniel Moses driving a forehand topspin towards Hari Gehlot)



Tournament 11

Due to work commitments, chart-topper Daniel Moses was unable to take part in the eleventh *Kingfisher Grand Prix* tournament. Despite this set-back, though, the Earley teenager has maintained his position at the top of the leaderboard – albeit by a narrower margin.

Hamilton Road's Hari Gehlot, who reached the final in this latest event, amassed some 93 points and is now 239 points behind his young rival. Although all the contestants are expected to take part in the twelfth and final double-bubble tournament, attendance could prove absolutely crucial. The *Tees Sport*-sponsored Championship title is expected to go to Moses, but anything could happen at the last moment.

Woodley's Daniel McTiernan took victory in the latest tournament, defeating Gehlot in the final, and, although he remains in third position, the 14-year-old is only six points behind his veteran Indian rival.

On paper, it would seem that Moses, Gehlot and McTiernan, between them, will take the three top honours and the associated prize money – but the order in which they finish remains to be seen.

To reach this latest title, McTiernan, following a first round bye, was drawn against an even younger opponent – Caversham's 13-year-old Gus Thomis. McTiernan won this particular tussle in three straight games and, by progressing to the quarter-final stage, found himself up against Tilehurst's veteran baseline lob master, Trevor Organ. No matter

where McTiernan hit the ball, Organ returned it virtually without exception, sometimes playing from 30 feet away from the table. A spectacle rarely encountered elsewhere.



But youth eventually told and, while Organ lost in three straight ends, each and every one was surrendered by the closest possible margin.

McTiernan had no such trouble against his semi-final opponent. Top Basingstoke player Andy Parker could not match the youngster's speed and agility and was virtually torn apart by the England-ranked Junior.

In the final itself, McTiernan took the first game 11-8 and Gehlot took the second by the same scoreline. The teenager won the third end by the closest of margins but took the fourth end – and with it the title – fairly comfortably.

Interest along the way saw Gratwicke Road's Trevor Organ defeat the nationally-ranked Austrian player Bernhard Schederle in a nail-biting encounter. The Austrian star went two games up 11-7 11-8, but the Tilehurst man fought back to take the next three ends 11-9 11-7 11-4. This was arguably the most spectacular fight of the evening and it was enjoyed immensely by all the spectators.

The final of the eleventh consolation event was won by the Caversham youngster Gus Thomis, who beat Wokingham's Richard Fifield in three straight ends 11-4 11-8 11-6.

Results of Tournament 11:

Quarter Finals: Hari Gehlot bt Steve Dobbins 12-10 11-4 11-7; Dakshin Subramanian bt Eric Van Looy 11-6 11-7 18-16; Daniel McTiernan bt Trevor Organ 12-10 11-9 11-9; Andy Parker bt Richard Rosinski 11-9 9-11 4-11 11-4 11-7.

Semi Finals: Gehlot bt Subramanian 11-7 9-11 11-5 9-11 11-6; McTiernan bt Parker 11-6 11-4 11-4.

Final: McTiernan bt Gehlot 11-8 8-11 11-9 11-7.

Grand Prix Points after Tournament 11: Moses 1072, Gehlot 833, D McTiernan 827, Long 550, Parker 545, Reynolds 526, Gallen 503, Organ 416, Rosinski 404, Fifield 391, Thomis 379, Yon 324, King 300, Porter 299, Van Looy 294, Woolven-Allen 289, Bennett 260, L Williams 253, Gostelow 246, Dobbins 234, Dyke 225, Heaps 221, Outrim 217, Dorrington 189, Subramanian 176, Duncan 159, O'Keeffe 155, Mitchell 144, L McTiernan 132, Houghton 120, Penny 102, S Liu 98, J Liu 89, Diplock 74, Schederle 34, Caliman 31, Taylor 30, Upham 25, McGrane 20, Wedi 18, S Williams 17, Creighton 10.

(The above photograph shows the winner of the consolation event, Gus Thomis of Caversham)

Tournament 12

The Tees Sport-sponsored Kingfisher Grand Prix Championships are over for another year and all participants enjoyed the challenges immensely.

But the times they are a-changing. For the best part of two decades, the Indian star Hari Gehlot was virtually the undisputed master of these events and very few players could even come close to challenging his phenomenal talent. But Gehlot, now a senior veteran, is rapidly being overtaken by the Club's – and England's – nationally-ranked youngsters. And rightly so...



Fairly early in the proceedings, Gehlot found himself matched against top England Junior Liam McTiernan and, while the Berkshire veteran gave a good account of himself, the teenager went through in three straight games 11-7 11-8 11-6.

Due to national and international – as well as educational – commitments, this final event was only the second that McTiernan had entered, and he swept all opposition aside. As a consequence the 17-year-old Woodley player finished the series in 13th place out of 42 – an incredible performance considering his number of appearances.

Due to holidaying with his parents, McTiernan's younger brother Daniel did not take part in this final session but, nevertheless, managed to retain his third and prize-winning position on the leaderboard.

Despite Gehlot's unlucky draw, the Hamilton Road player succeeded in staying in second position. Chart-topper Daniel Moses was drawn against McTiernan at the semi-final stage and their match was incredibly close, despite only lasting three games. However it was the young international that went through to the final, where he met the up-and-coming 14-year-old from Woodley, Joshua Gallen. Gallen actually took the second end in this match and the watching spectators thought that they might witness the most amazing upset. However, McTiernan moved up a gear and won the final two games with consummate ease.

The "Top Lady" section of the Championships was won by Tilehurst's Wendy Porter but, boy, was this close! Caversham's Lisa Williams scored 92 points in this final tournament which resulted in her finishing the series just two *Grand Prix* points behind her rival. How fate can be so kind to one player and yet so cruel to another!

Williams's exit was at the hands of Caversham Park veteran Roger Woolven-Allen, who defeated his young lady opponent 11-8 11-2 11-4. Feeling a certain amount of undeniable guilt, your friendly *Reading Post* correspondent went through to the next round!

The final of the twelfth consolation event was won by Caversham's 13-year-old Gus Thomis, who defeated Woolven-Allen in three straight games 11-9 11-8 11-8.

At the conclusion of the proceedings local sponsor Andy Yon, who had kindly provided the trophies, also presented them.

Club Chairman Colin Dyke said that there was "a buzz about the place" as the awards were made. In addition to series' winners Moses, Gehlot, Daniel McTiernan and Wendy Porter, trophies were presented to Newbury's Leo Long as "Best Performer" and to Caversham's Gus Thomis as "Most Sporting Player". Additional medals were also presented to players who finished as runners'-up in the various categories.

And so the 2013 Kingfisher Table Tennis Club's *Grand Prix* Championships have come to a close. Already the players and officials are trying to forecast the results of the 2014 event. As always, time will prove them either right or wrong...



Results of Tournament 12:

Quarter Finals: Liam McTiernan bt Leo Long 11-5 11-4 11-7; Daniel Moses bt Nick Heaps 11-4 11-3 11-3; Josh Gallen bt Bernhard Schederle 11-9 11-4 11-5; Sam Liu bt Richard Rosinski 11-9 11-5 14-12.

Semi Finals: McTiernan bt Moses 11-8 11-8 12-10; Gallen bt Liu 13-11 6-11 11-8 11-3.

Final: McTiernan bt Gallen 11-8 10-12 11-4 11-1.

Grand Prix Points after Final Tournament 12: Moses 1196, Gehlot 893, D McTiernan 827, Gallen 679, Long 650, Parker 619, Reynolds 526, Thomis 503, Rosinski 490, Organ 483, Fifield 451, Woolven-Allen 383, L McTiernan 380, Yon 370, Van Looy 354, Porter 347, L Williams 345, Heaps 317, Bennett 312, King 300, Gostelow 295, Dyke 273, Dorrington 259, Dobbins 234, S Liu 228, Outrim 217, Mitchell 200, Duncan 195, Subramanian 176, O'Keeffe 165, Houghton 162, Penny 132, J Liu 130, Schederle 114, Diplock 74, Taylor 65, Caliman 31, Upham 25, McGrane 20, Wedi 18, S Williams 17, Creighton 10.

(The three pictures, above, were all were taken at the final Grand Prix session by photographer and table tennis player Didier Garçon. In order, they show (a) Caversham's 13-year-old Gus Thomis on his way to victory over veteran Roger Woolven-Allen, (b) the youngest competitor in the series, Caversham's 9-year-old Jamie Liu, in action and (c) the ultimate prize being presented to Grand Prix Champion Daniel Moses by sponsor Andy Yon.)

We are here on earth to do good unto others. What the others are here for, I have no idea.

(WH Auden)

If God had intended us to fly He would have made it easier to get to the airport

(Jonathan Winters)

The first piece of luggage on the carousel never belongs to anyone.

(George Roberts)

(especially the youngsters) will know, Ted Allpress was a Kingfisher member last season. I was both surprised and delighted to read the article below. My thanks to Colin Dyke for pointing it out to me. The author is Claire Saul. (Ed.)

TED IN ROYAL TV ROLE

SCHOOLBOY IS PRINCE IN HISTORICAL DRAMA



A schoolboy who has already appeared on stage and screen is starring in the BBC's latest Sunday night drama *The White Queen*.

Teenager Ted Allpress has played a Norse god, a young Leonardo Da Vinci and is now one of the princes in the tower in the series, which began in June.

Ted plays Richard, son of The White Queen and King Edward IV, one of the two young princes who famously disappeared from the Tower of London under the protection of their uncle, Richard III, although the drama plays out a conspiracy theory about the fate of the young prince.

Ted, of Wokingham, said: "This is what makes it really interesting.

"It was also quite funny during production, hearing the bones of the real Richard III, 'my uncle', had been uncovered in a Leicester car park."

The 10-part drama, which was first broadcast on Sunday 16 June, is based around the War of the Roses in 1464, when two sides of the same family fought over who was the rightful King of England.

The 13-year-old made several trips to Belgium during January and February this year to film his role and made many friends among the cast.

He said: "You think everyone is going to be kind of aloof, but actually they are good fun and nice to have a conversation with. Me and mum, who travelled with me for filming, had the best time."

He added: "We were going there and back twice a week for several weeks to do my scenes, but I was happy because of all that Belgian chocolate."

The White Queen is not Ted's first time in front of the camera, having starred in *Thor* and spent his Easter holiday filming the second series on *Da Vinci's Demons*, where he plays a young Leonardo.

Ted, who attends Ranelagh School in Bracknell, made his professional stage debut aged nine in *The Dolls House* opposite actress Gillian Anderson.

Ted's episodes as Richard in *The White Queen* was set to air in August.

Thanking his mum Nicky, a Guildhall School of Music and Drama graduate and a regular performer and director at Wokingham Theatre, he said: "I see myself carrying on with acting and I will give it my best shot, although I will ensure I have other things I can fall back on if that doesn't work.

"I'm really happy I've had these parts to give me a fantastic head start."

Also received was this sort of post scriptum from Nick: Ted Allpress was not the only celebrity junior member – Adam Wilson had major roles in two TV drama series that have been broadcast within the last year. Mr Selfridge (where Adam played the title role's son) and Broadchurch (where Adam played the deceased's best friend).

National Rankings

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

The photograph, taken by Kingfisher member John Upham, shows top England-ranked Junior and Senior Maria Tsaptsinos. Ed.)

UNDER-13 BOYS: 1 Alex Ramsden (NP). 2 James Smith (K). 3 Harry Dai (Y). 19 Jamie Liu (KF). 171 Joe Barraclough (KF).



UNDER-13 GIRLS: 1 Denise Payet (MI). 2 Kate Cheer (SX). 3 Bhavika Mistry (NP).

CADET BOYS: 1 Tom Jarvis (LI). 2 Marcus Giles (SY). 3 Luke Savill (K). 24 Daniel McTiernan (BK). 26 Josh Gallen (KF). 44 Gus Thomis (KF). 48 Sam Liu (KF). 83 Jamie Liu (KF). 265 Alex Squire (KF). 566 Kieran Warre (KF). 582 Joe Barraclough (KF).



CADET GIRLS: 1 Tin-Tin Ho (MI). 2 Emily Bolton (CU). 3 Denise Payet (MI). 81 Katie Shepherd (KF).

JUNIOR BOYS: 1 Sam Walker (NG). 2 Igor Morais (MI). 3 Helshan Weerasinghe (SX). 6 Liam McTiernan (BK). 29 Daniel McTiernan (KF). 65 Josh Gallen (KF). 101 Leo Long (KF). 143 Gus Thomis (KF). 148 Sam Liu (KF). 386 James Ellicott (KF). 604 Isaac Farnworth (KF). 691 Kevin Gurung (KF).

JUNIOR GIRLS: 1 Tin-Tin Ho (MI). 2 Maria Tsaptsinos (BK). 3 Lois Peake (SX). 4 Megan Knowles (BK). 5 Emily Bolton (KF).

SENIOR MEN: 1 Liam Pitchford (DY). 2 Paul Drinkhall (CV). 3 Andrew Baggaley (BU). 12 Richard Andrews (BK). 18 Tom Maynard (BK).

SENIOR WOMEN: 1 Joanna Parker (SY). 2 Kelly Sibley (WA). 3 Hannah Hicks (HA). 13

Maria Tsaptsinos (BK).

VETERAN MEN: 1 Lawrence Trumpauskas (E). 2 Mike O'Driscoll (HE). 3 Keith Williams (LA). 20 David Barr (BK). 27 Hari Gehlot (BK).

VETERAN WOMEN: 1 Sue Collier (CH). 2 Sanya Clements (DO). 3 Rosemary Rainton (SX). 24 Rachel Smith (BK). 29 Denise Weller (BK).

OVER-50 MEN: 1 Keith Williams (LA). 2 Nigel Eckersley (SX). 3 Brian Johns (CH). 86 Nick Heaps (BK). 89 Graham Outrim (HA). 105 John Barclay (BU). 108 Derek Wood (BK). 119 Hari Gehlot (BK). 179 Peter Bradley (BK). 185 Clive Dawson (BK). 240 Dave Gostelow (BK).

OVER-50 WOMEN: 1 Regina Grech (WAL). Teresa Devaney (IRL). 3 Janet Johns (CH). 33 Sharon Mitchell (BK). 37 Denise Weller (BK). 47 Gill Knightley (BK). 59 Janet Dawson (BK). 81 Diane Taylor (BK).

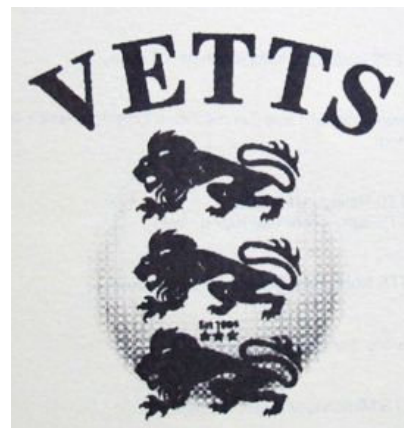
OVER-60 MEN: 1 Maurice Newman (LE). 2 Geoff Salter (ND). 3 Phil Biggs (CH). 35 Graham Outrim (HA). 47 John Barclay (BU). 56 Nick Heaps (BK). 57 Derek Wood (BK). 66 Tony Brown (BK). 103 Peter Bradley (BK). 106 Colin Dyke (BK). 132 Clive Dawson (BK). 141 Dave Gostelow (BK). 170 Mike Dorrington (BK).

OVER-60 WOMEN: 1 Teresa Devaney (IRL). 2 Maggie Welsman (NP). 3 Penny Perry (DV). 20 Gill Knightley (BK). 59 Diane Taylor (BK).

OVER-70 MEN: 1 Dave Crowley (BK). 2 Tony Brown (BK). 3 George Evans (WAL). 16 Peter Bradley (BK). 28 Colin Dyke (BK). 60 Dave Gostelow (BK). 69 Mike Dorrington (BK).

OVER-70 WOMEN: 1 Margaret Dignum (WO). 2 Doreen Schofield (CH). 3 Sally Bax (HE).

OVER-80 MIXED: 1 Fred Lockwood (E). 2 Geoff Brooke (Y). 3 Geoff Bax (HE). 20 Mike Dorrington (BK).



Note: My thanks to Nick for his help with the above listings. Please note that, where I am not completely sure of an appropriate county but the player concerned is a member of our Club, I have used the initials "KF". Ed.)

A Word About Our Sponsor : Tees Sport

This is just a reminder that Kingfisher has a contract with Tees Sport up to the end of 2015. Tees Sport provides kit for our British League and National League teams and provides members with generous discounts on all clothing and equipment. We are continuing to work with Tees Sport on special projects and, if anyone has any ideas, Chairman Colin would be pleased to hear from you.

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

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

Tees Sport is a leading supplier of specialist table tennis equipment in the United Kingdom, offering a wide range of most of the leading brands. *Tees Sport* is the largest retailers of *Butterfly* specialist equipment and *Butterfly* is the leading brand of blades and rubber.

World Champion Zhang Jike, European Champion Timo Boll, and most of the England Team use *Butterfly* blades and rubbers.

You will find *Tees Sport* staff knowledgeable and helpful. All of their sales staff have been involved in table tennis for many years and have played the game to at least British League standard. The Company offers a same day shipment service for orders placed by telephone, internet or mail. Brian Halliday is the agent for *Tees Sport* in the Kingfisher Club and can place orders on members' behalf, or provide advice, if required.



KINGFISHER TUESDAY CLUB

Contact: Diane Taylor ☎ 0118 942 8384

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

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

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

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

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

Happy hitting and smashing! Regards, *Diane*



KINGFISHER WEDNESDAY CLUB

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

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

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

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

All the best, *Roger*

KINGFISHER FRIDAY CLUB

Contact: Dave Gostelow ☎ 07754532286

The new "Friday Club" (hours 1000-1230) is open to all. As with the "Wednesday Club", it might be a good idea to make sure that other players will be there. Please give Dave Gostelow a tinkle before attending; he will be more than happy to let you know the state of play. (Ed.)

I suffer from kleptomania but, when it becomes really bad, I take something for it.
(*Robert Benchley*)

The Oldest and the Youngest



The Wednesday Club session was coming to a close and Kingfisher's old-timers were just about to get the old Zimmer-frames stoked up and put into gear, when Peter Charters arrived, together with Jamie Liu and Jamie's Dad Cookie.

What a photographic opportunity! Peter suggested that Mike Dorrington (at 82 years of age the oldest member in the Club) and Jamie (at nine the youngest) would make a fantastic combined photograph. But, by that well-known law, my own camera was safely at home and poor old Mike still thinks that a Kodak Box Brownie is a marvellously innovative work of black art.

But Cookie came to the rescue! He whipped out one of these new-fangled telephones that can do virtually everything with the possible exception of changing a car tyre, and the result can be seen on the left.

Many of us think that one of these two chaps is destined to play for England and will, one day, achieve a top World ranking. Time will tell, of course, but your job is to decide which of our two heroes will make it. No, there's no need to write in... (Ed.)

Golden success for McTiernan

(The following has been extracted from the Reading Post of 24th July 2013. The newspaper's Editor actually credited me with the story, but this was in error. I am fairly sure that Adam was the culprit but, of course, I cannot be totally sure. Ed.)

Our Lady of Peace (and Kingfisher!! Ed.) player Daniel McTiernan won the Under-18 boys' singles event at the TeesSport K2 Sussex Open in Crawley on Sunday

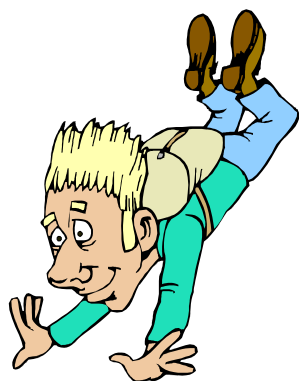
The 14-year-old Waingels College student played Tom Windram (Kent) in the final, having beaten him earlier in the group stages.

He went on to win his group and later beat top seed Jack Merton (Kent) in the semi-final 3-1.

McTiernan won his title at precisely the same time as England's Number 1 Liam Pitchford won his against Scotland's Number 1 Gavin Rumgay – and by the same scoreline of three sets to one.

Daniel's elder brother Liam finished as a silver medalist in the Under-21 men's singles event, losing to top seed Lewis Gray (Kent) in the final.

Another OLOP Reading & District League player Sam Liu, aged 14, was knocked out in the semi-finals of the boys' Under-18 event.



I am reliably informed by one reader that the wording on the right is taken from a genuine postcard advertisement, placed in the window of the Wargrave Post Office. The contact telephone number is as stated on the card, but I must admit that I have personally not been brave enough to ring it!

* * * * *

FOR SALE

**Parachute. Unopened.
Used once. Small stain.**

Tel: 07710131010

* * * * *

(The following text has been extracted from The Courier magazine, issue dated June 1983. This was the in-house



magazine of what was then known as the Post Office. The paper, sadly, no longer exists – certainly in its original form – and neither, per se, does the Post Office. Something named the Royal Mail has long since taken over. But the story, extracted from the then paper's South Eastern Sports section is, in my opinion, definitely of great interest to the general Kingfisher membership. Please read on... Ed.)



“There were numerous postal victories in South Eastern Region's winter finals day at Crawley Leisure Centre.

“Two new events – cribbage and an individual chess competition – brought the total number played to 19.

“The events had involved thousands of competitors in preliminary rounds, quarter-finals and semi-finals throughout the winter.”

Table Tennis

“The father and daughter team of Wally and Wendy Godfrey took their

share of glory back to Reading HPO, the only office to challenge Telecom's Crayford Supplies' grip on the competition.

“Wendy retained her women's singles title by first beating Crayford's Susan King 21-5 21-6 in her semi-final and then knocking out their Elaine Hall 21-17 21-12 in the final.

“The Godfreys next joined forces for the mixed doubles event and successfully fought off the Crayford duo of Susan King and Ken Morris to win a close final 21-18 21-17.

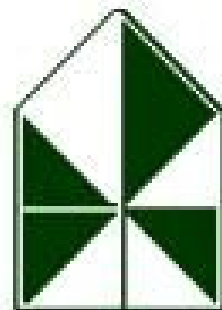
“Crayford's Bob Brown retained his men's singles title for the fifth year running.”

(The picture shows Reading HPO's father and daughter team Wally and Wendy Godfrey who won the table tennis mixed doubles trophy. Wendy also retained her women's singles title.)

Milestone TTC

The following, written by Gerard Thorp, has been extracted from the August/September issue of Caversham Park's Village

Voice: I include it simply to give you an example of what is going on in the rest of the local table tennis world. And, of course, to give one of my two favourite table tennis ladies a quick mention! Ed.)



It is now the close season but our Milestone A team are still basking in the light of their success of winning Reading League's Division 3.

The Summer Fete on Saturday 15 June was indeed a wet one. We held a Senior's and a Junior's knock-out tournament with Joshua becoming the Junior Champion and Derek taking the honours for the adults.

With the Club benefiting from an increase in membership – no doubt partly due to the *Village Voice* circulation – we hold weekly practice sessions on a Wednesday night at 8pm. If you are at all interested at giving the game a try, or perhaps are thinking of returning, then now is the time. These practice sessions will run until Wednesday 4th September with the season starting a week later. We will also be fielding a fourth team in the 2013/2014 season – a first for the Club.

For juniors we have re-started the Thursday coaching evenings at 8pm for an hour, following the success of last year's programme. These sessions will run until Thursday 29th August with help from our accredited ETTA coach Wendy Porter. If you would like your children to take part in a fun way to play table tennis, then send them along. It will cost less than a pint of beer! Do give Wendy

a call on 07745331743 if you are interested.

(The picture, courtesy of Didier Garçon, but taken at another Club, shows Wendy Porter in action)



Well, I asked my American friend Peter Knightes (who sent me this cartoon) if there were any hidden meaning to the picture – and he couldn't think of one. He only sent it to me because the player was called Roger. I guess we have to take it at face value.

A volley is a volley on either side of The Pond. I don't think the cartoon creator knows much about racket sports! We'll take it that he/she meant "rally"! But I do thank Peter for thinking of me. (Ed.)

Kingfisher Table Diary

Here are the major table bookings, looking forward until the end of November

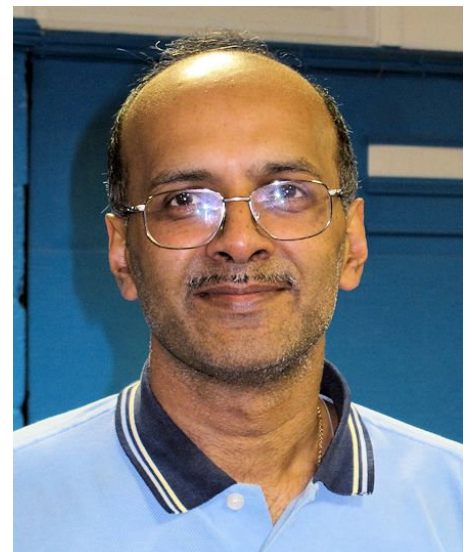
2013. To quote an old adage, these should be correct at the time of going to press. However and rather obviously, bookings can and do change as time goes by, so please double-check with either the website or the hard-copy list posted at the Club before trotting down for a practice! Please also be aware that, generally speaking, a maximum of two league matches are scheduled to take place during any one weekday evening.



SEPTEMBER 2013: **Monday 16th** 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). **Tuesday 17th** 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Wednesday 18th** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Thursday 19th**

1630-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Training on two tables. (Note: There will also be two league matches during the evening). **Friday 20th** 1000-1230 Friday Club. 1630-1900 Junior Coaching. **Tuesday 24th** 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Wednesday 25th** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Thursday 26th** 1630-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Training on two tables. (Note: There will also be two league matches during the evening). **Friday 27th** 1000-1230 Friday Club. 1630-1900 Junior Coaching. **Monday 30th** 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). 1900-2100 SBL Training on two tables. (Note: There will also be two league matches during the evening).

OCTOBER 2013: **Tuesday 1st** 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1500-1645 Bulmershe After-School Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Wednesday 2nd** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Thursday 3rd** 1630-1900 JBL Team Training. **Friday 4th** 1630-1900 Junior Coaching. **Saturday 5th** 1100-1600 JBL Team practice. 1900 onwards JBL Practice on two tables. **Sunday 6th** 1000-1430 JBL Team practice. 1900 onwards JBL Practice on two tables. **Monday 7th** 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). **Tuesday 8th** 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1500-1645 Bulmershe After-School Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Wednesday 9th** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Thursday 10th** 1630-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Training on two tables. (Note: There will also be two league matches during the evening). **Friday 11th** 1000-1230 Friday Club. 1630-1900 Junior Coaching. 1900-2100 JBL Team Practice. **Monday 14th** 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). **Tuesday 15th** 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1500-1645 Bulmershe After-School Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Wednesday 16th** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Thursday 17th** 1630-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Team Training. **Friday 18th** 1000-1230 Friday Club. 1630-1900 Junior Coaching. **Monday 21st** 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). **Tuesday 22nd** 100-1230 Tuesday Club. 1500-1645 Bulmershe After-School Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Wednesday 23rd** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Thursday 24th** 1630-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Training on two tables. (Note: There will also be two league matches during the evening). **Friday 25th** 1000-1230 Friday Club. 1630-1900 Junior Coaching. **Saturday 26th** 0930-1900 Berks County Vets 5. **Monday 28th** 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). **Tuesday 29th** 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Wednesday 30th** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900



Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Thursday 31st** 1630-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Training on two tables.

NOVEMBER 2013: **Friday 1st** 1000-1230 Friday Club. 1630-1900 Junior Coaching. **Monday 4th** 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). **Tuesday 5th** 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1500-1645 Bulmershe After-School Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Wednesday 6th** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Thursday 7th** 1630-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Training on two tables. (Note: There will also be two league matches during the evening). **Friday 8th** 1000-1230 Friday Club. 1630-1900 Junior Coaching. **Monday 11th** 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). **Tuesday 12th** 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1500-1645 Bulmershe After-School Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Wednesday 13th** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Thursday 14th** 1630-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Training on two tables. **Friday 15th** 1000-1230 Friday Club. 1630-1900 Junior Coaching. **Monday 18th** 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). **Tuesday 19th** 0850-0950 Bulmershe School. 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1500-1645 Bulmershe After-School Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Wednesday 20th** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Thursday 21st** 1630-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Training on two tables. (Note: There will also be two league matches during the evening). **Friday 22nd** 1000-1220 Friday Club. 1220-1325 Bulmershe School. 1630-1900 Junior Coaching. **Monday 25th** 1700-1900 Junior Coaching (beginners). **Tuesday 26th** 0850-0950 Bulmershe School. 1000-1230 Tuesday Club. 1500-1645 Bulmershe After-School Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Wednesday 27th** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Thursday 28th** 1630-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Training on two tables. **Friday 29th** 1000-1220 Friday Club. 1220-1325 Bulmershe School. 1630-1900 Junior Coaching. **Saturday 30th** (and also **Sunday 1st** December) 0900-2100 Berkshire Closed Championships, occupying the entire playing area.

Note

(The following note, on behalf of the Committee, has been received from Gwynne Penny. Ed.)

Team captains should consult the Table Diary and propose rearranged matches for Tables 1 or 2 only:

- during 'free' weeks in the league schedule
- when either Table 1 or 2 not allocated
- over the Christmas period
- at end of season when scheduled league fixtures are complete

The proposed date should then be agreed and confirmed with Bookings Secretary.

From the ETTA

(Although this letter was written two months ago, much of it has yet to happen and is, therefore, still relevant. Those of you that are interested in the serious side of our sport, please have a read. Ed.)

Dear Members

During the discussions in December 2012 with Sport England regarding funding of £11M for table tennis over the 2013 to 2017 cycle, the first year award of £2.5M was agreed and the balance was subject to three conditions. The main condition agreed was for our sport to conduct a Strategic, Governance and Staffing review by the end of June 2013.

Agreement was reached with Sport England to finance the review and discussions took place with Portas Consultancy regarding its scope.

The ETTA Board felt it was essential after the Election that the new Board should be involved in the process and accept its recommendations, which was confirmed by Sport England.

Over the last four months this review has taken place involving staff, volunteers and others to obtain inputs, recommendations and thoughts covering Programmes, People, Places and Partnerships. These focused on Vision, Strategy, Governance, Organisation, Operations and Outcomes.

The final recommendations have been presented to Sport England via the Chair and Chair Elect following agreement with the relevant Boards and Senior Staff and were based upon a "clean sheet design for the ETTA".

The Boards have taken ownership of this review and the following key areas are taken from the 10 Summary recommendations of the review that will be implemented by the new Board in conjunction with the membership.

- A New Staffing Structure consisting of four Departments which, as part of the Executive with the CEO, will be responsible for the delivery and day to day operations of the ETTA.
- A New Board structure will be put in place consisting of the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Treasurer who will be elected and announced at an AGM, Four Board members will be appointed from the membership, Three Non Executive Directors will be recruited and the CEO. All Board members will have voting rights and be responsible



for the Strategy, Policies and Direction of the ETTA. No Board member (except the CEO) will have any line management of the Departments.

- National Council will not be the overall decision making Body of the ETTA or have the rights to overrule the Board. They will remain at this time as the focal point for the membership and hence have a responsibility to the Members but as a monitoring and inputting body to the Board. A review will take place regarding how the Council will be constituted in the future under clear Terms of Reference.
- A comprehensive review of the Company Memorandum and Articles (Rules) will take place to ensure the membership rights remain in areas such as Affiliation Fees, Playing Rules and Voting rights at an AGM. The present process that the AGM has the responsibility to change any "word" in the rules will no longer apply and separate regulations/bye laws will be set up.
- A number of Advisory Boards will be set up with Volunteers/staff to support the Board's decision making process.
- The priority strategies for the ETTA over the coming years will be to focus on 6 to 16 age group participation, attract more recreational players into Clubs and Local Leagues, improve our Performance area in all age groups, increase places for people to play, review membership and benefits and increase direct communications to our membership.
- A potential HQ move or relocation will take place.
- Build the profile of the sport including a new brand identity.
- A presentation is to be made at the National Council Meeting on 27th July with the Executive Summary of the report.
- Transformation of the Committee structure.

These will involve significant changes in the way the ETTA operates. A new staffing structure and responsibilities are to be put in place and many of these will require AGM approval to ETTA Rules in July 2014. This is a real cultural change for Table Tennis and will require the need for absolute and total commitment to achieving radical change from the table tennis fraternity and its stakeholders.

The new Interim CEO appointment has been made. Sara Sutcliffe has an excellent background covering many areas of sport and was Director of Legal and HR at the British Olympic Association from 2001 to 2012. She will be a great asset to the ETTA and will work with the new Board, Staff and Volunteers on the implementation of these changes and to meet the final Sport England requirement of new Budgets and costed Delivery Plans for 2014 to 2017 to ensure that the balance of the £11M allocated to Table Tennis is secured for the ETTA at the Sport England Board meeting in January 2014.

Further information will be circulated over the coming months.

On behalf of the ETTA thanks go to all the Staff and Volunteers for their contribution during this review and to Sport England for the support they have given us. Last but not least to David Portas and Katy Tuncer from Portas Consulting whose detailed report and understanding of our sport has been outstanding.

Regards, Alex Murdoch (Chairman) and Andy Seward (Chairman Elect). (04 July 2013)

From Adam McTiernan

worthwhile printing! The first is on Reading's performance in this season's *Carter Cup* Finals. The other is Liam and Maria's brilliant performances at the British Isles Senior Schools International Tournament this weekend where they won two gold medals each.

The following two stories were received from Adam (pictured) quite a while ago, but they are still very much

Reading Juniors win Bronze Medal in Carter Cup

The Reading & District Table Tennis Association was represented in the Junior Boys' event (Carter Cup) at the annual English Leagues Cup Competitions Finals at the Westfield Table Tennis Club in Wellingborough.

Having successfully negotiated their way through regional qualifying rounds earlier in the season with Daniel McTiernan, Sam Ricks and Josh Gallen all contributing with wins, the Reading juniors were keen to make their mark on the national stage.

Having won the Carter Cup twice in the last five years, brothers Liam and Daniel McTiernan plus Sam Ricks took up the challenge on behalf of Reading this year.



Following a great start with a 5-0 victory over Leamington Spa B, Reading won a hard fought but narrow 3-2 win over Bournemouth A, where the doubles proved critical. The team fell just short of making the final suffering a close defeat to Wembley & Harrow by three sets to two in their final group match.

However Reading were successful in their quest for a medal against a team from Hull, as they took the bronze following a 3-0 victory which featured all three players (Sam joining Liam in the doubles). To take home a medal was rewarding for the boys and again proves that the Reading league continues to produce some fine young players.

Reading duo are double gold medallists at Schools International

Reading based duo Liam McTiernan and Maria Tsaptsinos won two gold medals each at the Senior Schools International tournament on The Isle of Man at the weekend.

Liam leads the way in Boys Under 18s

On the Friday evening and Saturday, Waingels College sixth former McTiernan (pictured) played for England A at Under 18 level in the Team event alongside team mate Luke Walsh.



In the semi finals, they beat an experienced Jersey team consisting of Hugo Tupper and Jack Mills. In the final they played an in-form Wales A team. Top Welsh junior Conor Edwards was in sparkling form in beating Liam, but he bounced back to beat Chris Griffiths in the reserve singles match. The doubles match proved crucial and England won it in the deciding fifth set.

In Sunday's singles event, current English Schools Champion McTiernan was second seed. He reached the final with relative ease following wins

over Sepehr Bidari (Scotland) 3-0 in the quarters and Hugo Tupper (Jersey) in the semis. His final opponent was Chris Griffiths (Wales) who he had already beaten in the team event the day before. Liam managed to repeat this result winning 3-0 (11-4, 12-10, 11-5) to take his second gold medal of a highly successful weekend.



Maria dominates the Girls Under 16s

Abbey school girl Maria Tsaptsinos (pictured) joined forces with Hong Kong-born Yuki Wat to win for England A in the Girls Under 16 team event.

Their record was impressive, not dropping a set in reaching the semi-final where they beat Scotland A 3-1. In the final the girls comprehensively beat Ireland A 3-0 to secure the team title.

In the singles event, Maria made short work of her group matches before playing beating Ireland's Emma Ludlow 3-0 in her quarter final and Lucy Elliot (Scotland) 3-1 in the semis.

Her final opponent was team mate Yuki and a titanic struggle ensued in which Maria recovered from 9-5 down in the fifth and deciding set only to reel off 6 points in a row to win 11-9 and take her second title of the weekend.

The resurgence of table tennis in Reading continues and with two new British Isles Senior Schools International Champions this will surely inspire the current crop of young juniors to reach their full potential.

Adam : 01 July 2013

Security!!!

Waste!!!

On more than one occasion recently, some members have turned up for coaching sessions, practice sessions and even matches to find that previous occupants had not left the Club as they should have done. Lights had been left on; taps had been left running; windows had been left open, and the main door had not been double-locked. I hasten to add that these sort of things are isolated instances, and certainly do not all occur simultaneously, but please give our

Club building a little thought before you shove off homeward-bound.

It goes without saying that the money lost on wasted electricity would be much better spent elsewhere. And a security risk is always a security risk. I haven't got my "holier-than-thou" hat on; I am certainly just as guilty as anyone else when it comes to checking and double-checking before departure. My thanks to you all (including me!) in anticipation. Ed.



Kingfisher Shop

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

Club Lapel Badges

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



Club Shirts

Please be advised that the Club Shirt is no longer available in certain sizes as it is gradually being withdrawn. We are currently negotiating an agreement with Tees Sport

for a different style of shirt to become the Club Shirt and as soon as negotiations are completed, we shall be able to advise all members of the new details. We recommend holding back any orders until this time but, in the meantime, if you find that Tees Sport still have your size in the old style shirt and that is what you want, then by all means go ahead.

Colin

TEES SPORT
Specialists in Table Tennis Since 1976

Sneakles by Gwynne



(The above cartoon has been unashamedly plagiarised from Saga magazine. Ed.)

TEES SPORT
Specialists in Table Tennis Since 1976

(The following has been received from Tees Sport)

The English Table Tennis Association (ETTA) has announced a new four-year sponsorship agreement with the world's leading equipment manufacturer Butterfly for the provision of the English National Team kits at the senior, junior and cadet levels.

In a deal worth more than £100,000 it will see Butterfly once again supply the England kit for most major international events including World Championships, European Championships, Home Internationals and all junior and cadet events.

Representatives from the ETTA, Butterfly and Tees Sport met at *Bounce*, the home of “ping pong” (where the game was created and patented in 1901) to make the announcement and release the first glimpses of the new England kit, which was modelled by current English National Champions Liam Pitchford and Kelly Sibley.

“We would like to welcome Butterfly on board as the ETTA’s official clothing supplier for the next four years,” said ETTA Chairman Andy Seward.



“All the England teams will be wearing the Butterfly clothing when on duty and I think that is excellent for the sport and for English table tennis in particular.

“It’s a good time for us, a good time for table tennis and I hope we will see positive results for England wearing the kit.”

The new deal will further the relationship between English table tennis and Butterfly who also already sponsor 18 of the leading English players and 15 major clubs who compete in the British League.

Sebastian Rangs, Export Sales Director for Butterfly Europe, said: “We at Butterfly are very pleased that the England team will be wearing our brand again as we have done in the past.

“We have a lot of very good players already in England like Kelly [Sibley] and Liam [Pitchford] that have been using our equipment and of course we are more than happy to see them in Butterfly National Team clothing again.”

A key partner in this agreement is Ransome Sporting Goods, the Butterfly distributors for the United Kingdom and Ireland, who have played a major role in the development and progress of the Butterfly brand in recent years.

Alan Ransome, the Managing Director of Ransome Sporting Goods, said, “We are delighted to partner with Sebastian and with the ETTA to support this programme. Much of the service of the clothing and equipment for the England

teams will be provided by Tees Sport. We are already providing the equipment for many of the England players. We have provided the clothing for the England team in the past and are very keen to do so again.

“We are passionate about English table tennis and want the England teams to do really well and would like to be part of that success.”

The announcement was made at the *Bounce* Club in London. Butterfly and Tees Sport have supported *Bounce* since their opening last October and have provided all the equipment used in the club which has 18 tables and close on 1,000 participants each night.

Liam Pitchford and Kelly Sibley (both pictured above) stayed on after the announcement to give some coaching to youngsters from the Greenhouse organisation who were guests of Butterfly and Tees Sport at the launch.

Team Captains' Forecasts

Well, this is the section of the newsletter that, although it is featured towards the end of the magazine, should really be at the front. Steve Murgatroyd’s literary ability rivals that of either Niall or Banksy, while Allen Pack’s two clever submissions are certainly very different from the norm! But, in general, what do our captains think about the forthcoming season? Will their forecasts be right or wrong? Time alone will tell, of course, but, for now, please read on...

Reading League Kingfisher C

**News from
Kingfisher C just in...
By Steve Murgy
(pictured – twice)**

(DIVISION 1)

KFC have been rather quiet in this transfer window having opted to consolidate our squad, despite us having ignored voicemail messages from several agents trying to offer us a new Brazilian playmaker for stupid money. The team line-up this year has myself taking over the captaincy (Kung-Fu Panda – KFP), Niall Mcgrane (Vice-Captain Croc – VCC – and our squad’s overseas player), Andrew Parker (The Bat Whisperer – TBW) and, last but not never least, Lisa Williams (Five-Set Fairy – 5SF), who this season has been unanimously voted to remain as Director of Team Catering. The main change this season is the change of captaincy, with me taking on the role and attempting to fill the large shoes vacated by the ping-ponger formerly know as Captain Croc. I have risen



to the challenge by adopting a 'tough love' strategy that includes instigating a fining system for fault serves and a double fine if serving off at game point for or against. Early calculations have suggested that, under this new regime, 5SF and TBW will have contributed enough to the team kitty for us to enjoy our end of season bash in Hawaii... In response to this news the squad is revolting, but that's nothing they can fix without cosmetic surgery. In addition to the fining system, we



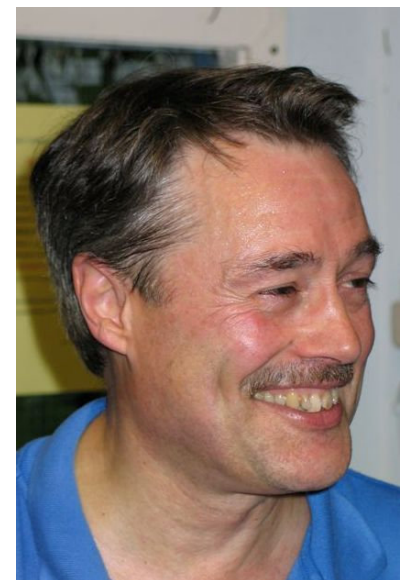
have taken a further step towards team unity by investing in some brand new Kingfisher tops from *Tees Sports* with each of our *alter ego* initials on them, so the squad will also be pleased to hear that a further fine will be imposed for anyone forgetting to wear theirs on a match night! The squad have been extremely active in our pre-season preparation with regular practice sessions being organised (and attended), making this summer the most ping pong I have ever played in the off-season, but that isn't really saying too much ☺. Like



past seasons, our primary goal is to finish above at least two other teams and secure our place in the league's elite division for next season – we know we can't expect to challenge the very top teams (well, apart from my hat-trick last season against OLOP A, sorry, just had to get that in), so we need to be realistic about our expectations and then aim to exceed them. Looking at last year's individual performances I am expecting to see improvements from everyone – last season VCC and 5SF were claiming being relatively new to the division and needing some time to settle into the faster pace, so there will be no such excuses tolerated this time around. So, with our first game fast approaching and VCC remaining injury-free (fingers crossed), we are looking forward to the coming season.

Steve Murgy (*aka Kung-Fu Panda*), Captain, Kingfisher C

(The “human” picture of Steve was, in his own words, taken “four stone ago”. Whether he has taken this vast amount off or put it on, I do not know. Assuming it is “off” (and well done, Steve!), I imagine he will soon be taking part in Kingfisher’s world-famous “Trevor Organ Look-alike Contest”. Ed.)



Reading League Kingfisher D

(By Richard Fifield)
(DIVISION 1)

Should be an exciting first full season in Division One for Kingfishers new young stars – Leo Long, Josh Gallen and Eduard Calliman. Leo and Josh have been part of the Kingfisher coaching programme for a while now, whilst Eduard is a second year at Reading University and hails from Romania. Trevor Organ and I will be making up the numbers as

required, but expect some shock successes, because Leo and Josh have already ruffled some feathers during the summer Grand Prix series. (*He means they both beat me – easily. Feathers duly ruffled. Ed.*)

Prediction for the season – comfortable mid-table position.

Richard (pictured on previous page)

Reading League Kingfisher E

(By Geoff Civil)

(DIVISION 2)

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

Well, this season we foray into the second division following relegation of the B team from Division 1 last year. The squad is small, but, as they say, beautifully formed! What we lack in numbers and, maybe, youthful exuberance, we more than make up for with years, nay decades, of experience. Many of the teams we will face this season are unknown to me, but I'm sure that with a combination of cunning, guile, and brilliant bikkies, we will give a good account of ourselves. Bring it on!

Geoff (pictured on previous page)

Reading League Kingfisher G

(By Allen Pack)

(DIVISION 2)

Everyone likes to put their money on a winner and with Kingfisher G under new management, the prospect of a raising share price looks promising. John Upham and Richard Leachman are two new prospects with great potential and could provide a gold mine of opportunity. Sharon and Dave G are solid investments and are sure to provide regular high dividends. With a tax free return this is an opportunity destined for growth in the short term.

As with all investments do your own research and discuss with your financial advisor.

Here's to a good season

Allen (pictured on previous page)

Reading League Kingfisher H

(By Eric Holmes)

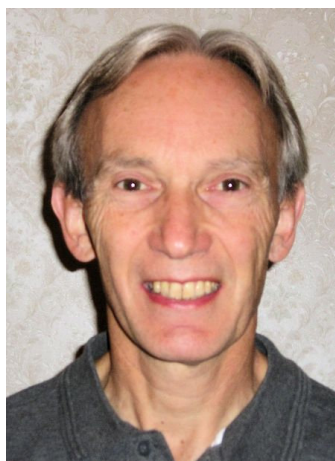
(DIVISION 3)

Roger: I attach a copy of "Old Mother Shipton's Prophecy" for the Kingfisher 'H' team!!! Regards, Eric.

We could be in for a struggle this coming season having lost our Captain and No 1 Allen Pack (68%) deservedly to the 2nd Division.

Our No 2 Dave Duncan (52%) has a knee problem and has indicated that he would only be available in extreme circumstances. The remainder of last year's team, Carol Byers (48%); Eric Holmes (46%), now team Captain, and Rogerio Albelo (33%) have been joined by Steven Woolnough from the 2nd Division (11%). My forecast is eighth place but improvements all-round could see us in sixth.

Eric



Bracknell League Kingfisher A

(By John Willcocks)

(PREMIER
DIVISION)

After months of scouring the transfer market we have ended up a bit like Arsenal with fielding the same squad as last season. If we do not have problems with injuries we should be able to challenge for second place but it's doubtful we can challenge OLOP A for the top spot.

John (pictured on previous page)

Bracknell League Kingfisher B

(By Allen Pack)

(PREMIER
DIVISION)

Our new team line up for 2013/14 **ivor**, **Michael**, **Allen**, **Trevor** or **iMAT** looks all set to wipe the floor clean of any opposition this season. The dual processing power of Ivor and Trevor with plus 60% win rates are certain to take the shine off any big boots, while Michael and Allen with plus 30% win rates are eager to brush aside any thoughts they could be walked over. Our first match is against the oLOP A, not sure what device this is but expect that any team members with 100% utilisation will burn out before the start of the season.

The **iMAT** team are plugged in and switched on ready for the season.

Allen (pictured on previous page)

Bracknell League Kingfisher C

(By Richard Fifield)

(PREMIER
DIVISION)

The core of this team remains last year's B team (Richard, Colin and Peter) which finished second from bottom, so perhaps expectations should not be too high. However, this team started to get its act together in the second half of last season and with new signings – Jeff Huggins and Dave Gostelow, we should be a force to be reckoned with.

Prediction for the season – comfortable mid table position.

Richard

Bracknell League Kingfisher E

(By Gwynne Penny)

(DIVISION 2)

Once again this season the team comprises of Gill Bennett, David Wells, Helen Sparks and Gwynne Penny (Captain) and we welcome the addition of Diane Taylor to the team. This season kicks off with a key match against SportsAble C at home – last season they were our key rivals for bottom place in the table, the dubious honor finally fell to us after they took the very last match – so this season we will be looking to turn that around from the outset. Otherwise our goals remain the same: get that first team win under our belt, and stay off the bottom of the table.

Gwynne (pictured on previous page)

From the ETTA

As the new Chairman of the ETTA, I am sending you the first newsletter of what will become a channel of communication for news about table tennis in general and developments within the ETTA in particular. We will keep the content of the newsletter quite short, but will point to where further information on each article can be found on the ETTA's website.



This issue contains:

- The changes and challenges facing English table tennis
- Renewal of ETTA membership
- Ping!

- Congratulations

THE CHANGES AND CHALLENGES FACING ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS

It is just over a month since I took up the post of Chairman of the ETTA, together with a new Board and a new CEO, Sara Sutcliffe. A challenging period of change lies ahead for our sport and the way it is administered. Last year table tennis was one of the six sports out of 46 where Sport England withheld funding. We were only guaranteed a year's funding and were left in no doubt that changes and improvements had to be made in order for financial support to be available beyond next April.

That process of change has already started. There has been a wide-reaching independent review of table tennis and the way the ETTA operates. This report, known as the Portas Review, produced a number of recommendations. We will have to demonstrate to Sport England that we are putting improvements and changes in place in order to hopefully secure further funding and, subsequently, our future. The areas particularly highlighted are *strategy, governance, decision-making and staffing*.

The process for change began in earnest at the recent National Council meeting, who voted 44 to nil to accept the Board's recommendation to pass over the policy making role to the Board. The National Council will remain in an advisory capacity and as a necessary link to the local leagues and county organisations.

We had to begin this process of change immediately to ensure table tennis receives the £8million funding, which will be available, if we achieve the objectives we have been set. We only have a few months to demonstrate to Sport England that table tennis is back on track. Full report [here](#).

RENEWAL OF ETTA MEMBERSHIP

You are invited to renew your ETTA Individual Membership in preparation for the 2013/14 season.

Membership Fees for season 2013/14 are:

£30.00 for Senior Licenced Members (e.g. national competitions)

£15.00 for Junior/Cadet Licenced Members (e.g. national competitions)

£8.00 for Seniors (local leagues)

£4.00 for Juniors/Cadets or younger

£4.00 for Associate members

You can renew your ETTA Membership online [here](#) or you can telephone the ETTA on 0845 0500 388 for assistance.

PING!

There has been a summer of table tennis activity in shopping centres and the High Street with the Ping! initiative. This innovative programme has brought social table tennis to many venues and cities including London, Hull, Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool, Brighton, Sheffield, Leicester, Middlesbrough, Oxford and the New Forest, as tables were placed in a range of public locations.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

England's number one cadet and junior girl, Tin-Tin Ho on winning three medals at the recent European Youth Championship and who has now been selected for the Europe Youth Top 10 tournament, which takes place in Italy in September. Full report [here](#).

Four-time English National Senior Men's Champion, Paul Drinkhall, and twice English National Senior Women's Champion, Joanna Parker, on their recent marriage.

However you are involved with table tennis, whether as a player, coach or volunteer; whether at club, league, county or national level, I would like to wish you all an enjoyable and successful table tennis season.

Andy Seward, Chairman, ETTA, August 2013

Epilogue

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

As I write this, I am not too sure when *Kingfisher News* Number 74 will be published, but this will certainly happen before Christmas.

Before the (as yet unknown) next issue date, Team Captains will again be invited to write about their teams' performances. This will be a grand opportunity to either celebrate or to have a darned good moan!

Until then, I shall sign off, wishing every one of you a really enjoyable 2013/14 season and, with luck and your undeniable skills (cough), a successful one!

Thank you for reading *Kingfisher News*!

Roger

The Kingfisher Club

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

It is an accredited FOUR-STAR PREMIER

CLUB bringing great benefits to the Club and its members. The Club also has SPORT ENGLAND CLUBMARK status.



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

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

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

For members old enough (or lucky enough!) to have some free time on midweek mornings, *The Tuesday Club*, the *Wednesday Club* and *The Friday Club* offer some great practice opportunities. All three Clubs start their sessions at around 1000, unless rare school bookings call for minor *ad hoc* amendments.

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

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

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

CLUB OFFICERS and OFFICIALS:

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

Finally, remember the web! Kingfisher's website is in the hands of some real experts (mainly Allen Pack and Nick Heaps) and is always worth having a squint at. The address is www.kingfisherttc.co.uk. Another website (which I

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

Q: How do you keep cool at a football match?

A: Stand next to a fan...

QUIZ ANSWER: The girl playing pool, admittedly a couple of years ago now, is our very own **Wendy Porter!**

Stop Press 2 !!

FROM COLIN, 11 SEPTEMBER 2013: All members should be aware that the holes that have recently arrived in the walls and ceiling of the Club do NOT herald the start of the demolition work! They are the work of investigating surveyors and Wokingham Borough Council will arrange to have them filled and repaired in the very new future. There is absolutely no need for any concern.

