

Edition 79, August 2014



## We Are Officially Open!!

### A Warm Welcome to Kingfisher News

Firstly a huge thank you to Roger Woolven-Allen for his great work on Kingfisher News editions 62 through 78. With his flair for editorial and keen ear for a good story, Roger has produced no fewer than 19 editions over the past 2 years, and will be a very tough act to follow! When I volunteered to take on the Newsletter Editor's role, Roger sent me two huge folders crammed with copies of all the back-issues, right back to the very first one. The Kingfisher story is amazing, and it really highlighted to me just how special our club is. Our story was celebrated at the Grand Opening Ceremony of the new building, on 18 June, 2014, and has entered a new chapter as we settle into our fantastic new facility.

Gwynne Penny,  
Editor



### In this Edition:

- Kingfisher Opening Ceremony
- Kingfisher Juniors
- Success for England at Glasgow 2014
- Update on the new Polyball
- Umpire Course
- A Serving of Sneakles
- Your Committee
- Newsletter Noticeboard
- Now and Then
- Table Tennis England – a new brand
- Looking Forward to the League
- Kingfisher 2014 Grand Prix
- Roger's Ramblings
- From Around the Net

# Introduction

“May I offer a warm welcome to all our members who have joined (or in most cases rejoined) for this very first season in our new clubhouse. Despite our teething troubles with the humidity, I am sure this will be a venue we shall all be proud of for many many years to come. You can be assured that our committee are working hard to resolve the outstanding issues and to carefully prepare our ongoing programme. Thanks for bearing with us. We are extremely fortunate to have the full backing of our landlord Wokingham Borough Council, The Bulmershe School and Table Tennis England.

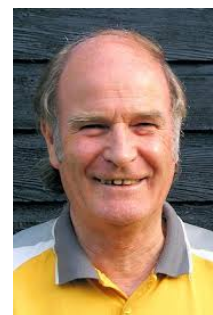
Our playing conditions and in particular the floor and lighting are second to none. I am pleased to note that our members have taken clear note of our requests to treat the floor with great respect. That is very much appreciated.

I would like to thank everybody who gave up their own time in helping us to decorate the social areas and dismantle and move all of our fittings, fixtures and equipment from the old building to the new one. After this, much work was done in the new building in making and fixing various fittings, shelving, etc . I have not named names as there were many and I would hate to leave anybody out but THANKYOU ALL AGAIN. Everybody worked so hard but in a typically friendly Kingfisher spirit.

I would also like to thank Peter Charters and his brilliant team for doing us so proud with our opening ceremony. That was such an important event to get us off to the best possible start and I am pleased to say that I have only had positive feedback from all quarters.

May I wish you all an enjoyable and successful season. “

Colin Dyke, Chairman





# Kingfisher Opening Ceremony

**Wednesday, 18 June**

Kingfisher's new facility officially opened with a ribbon and cake-cutting ceremony attended by past and present members of the club.

Guests of honour included former England number one and international table tennis champion, Matthew Syed, Wokingham Borough Mayor Cllr UllaKarin Clark, Colin Wilson from the board of directors at Table Tennis England and Emma Reynolds, Head Teacher at The Bulmershe School.

Kingfisher members from beginner through to top-level standard demonstrated their playing skills throughout the evening.

Visitors were shown a TV interview with Matthew Syed as a teenager, filmed inside the Omega club's converted pre-fab bungalow. Matthew shared his memories of those early days and then went on to say "This is a terrific facility, well lit, with good head clearance and flooring. But much more important are the people in the building. Success, however defined, and in whatever field, is the product of teamwork."



# Presentation by Peter Charters, Club President

## How did we get to this point?

It all began when my Omega Co-Founder Reg. Hart, whom I'm so pleased to see here after his years in South Africa, and I started to coach four young players.

We quickly realised that the four players were not going to succeed in table tennis without the facility to spend more time working at their sport.



Thus was born the Omega Club, a one table converted 2<sup>nd</sup> World War Prefab in which young players, who wanted to improve, had their own key and could spend the number of practice hours that was needed each week.

Some fifteen years after Omega was built on the grounds of Alfred Sutton School in east Reading, we were told by the then Berkshire County Council that the site was going to be used for housing and they would be knocking Omega down. However, they did offer a grassed piece of land on the site of Bulmershe School on which we could build.



At the same time, a Second World War residential school for evacuees, owned by Essex County Council was being demolished in Sonning Common, north of Reading.

An old school dormitory at this school was purchased by Omega for £600 and finally with some major alterations, erected on the Bulmershe School site. The task for the parents of the fifteen young members of Omega, to get beyond floor level was just too great and the thriving local Woodley Club came to the rescue to help with man (and woman) power to complete the task of building a magnificent four table venue, just for table tennis.

As with Reg and Omega, this building project needed a construction leader for the newly named Kingfisher Club.



This was Jim Hodder, who I am glad to say is also with us today.

The Kingfisher Club was opened in January 1988. This club building lasted for over a quarter of a century - until two weeks ago.







In December 2012, Colin Dyke, our Chairman and I were given the bad news by Wokingham Borough Council that they were going to have to knock our Kingfisher building down to make way for a new school block.

The good news was that with the support of the then headteacher Peter Lewis, they would continue with their backing for Kingfisher with a new building elsewhere on the Bulmershe School site - this one.

The first two parts of this story came about because volunteers with

initiative, imagination and commitment to the enormous task, made it happen.

This third and last phase of the story was due to the farsightedness of a local council who had the vision to see that the provision of sporting facilities, for the young and for the active not so young, was an investment in the future.

This time, as you can see, we have a professionally built facility and state of the art playing conditions for the sport of table tennis.

Not only will this facility be used by the club members, but by Bulmershe School pupils and also pupils from the other education establishment on the site, Addington Special School.

Our grateful thanks go to our funding partners, Wokingham Borough Council and Sport England who, via Table Tennis England contributed to this project.

Also to Emma Reynolds the new Headteacher of The Bulmershe School for her continued support.

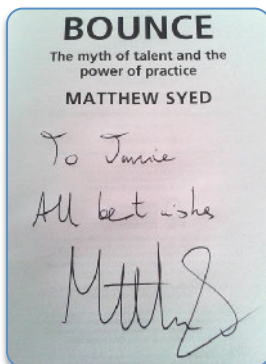


---

As in all these situations, there are so many Club members to acknowledge as having contributed to this building today, that I can't name them all in case I leave one out. However, two of our members have gone well beyond the call of duty over the last year and a half – Colin Dyke, our Chairman and Allen Pack in charge of our Building programmes. We have a small token of our appreciation for each from the club.



# Opening Ceremony in Pictures





# Visitor comments

“Very nice event, best of luck for the future”

— Councillor UllaKarin Clark, Wokingham Borough Mayor.

“Looking forward to a successful unity with Bulmershe School. Good Luck!”

— Chris Coniam, Vice Chair, The Bulmershe School Board of Governors

“Delighted to be able to support your club which gives so many opportunities for young people.”

—Emma Reynolds, Head Teacher at The Bulmershe School

“The greatest table tennis venue on earth”

— Matthew Syed, former player



“V proud to have been part of the council's project board for this new building. It's fabulous!”

—Louise Page, Wokingham Borough Council PR & Comms

“Congratulations on a great club, with great people. All the best in the future.”

— Aled Howell, Table Tennis England

“Welcome to your new home - excellent!”

—Richard Tyndall, Chair of the Governors, The Bulmershe School

“Much better than the first building that I helped to build”

—Jim Hodder, builder of original clubhouse

“Excellent facility and look forward to the next generation of England Players.”

—Jill Parker, former player

“Great to see so many old friends – wonderful memories!”

—John Jenkins, SportsAble

“The new club is amazing, so happy to be able to train in this facility, really appreciate the effort gone into make Kingfisher.”

—Maria Tsaptsinos, current player

“Congratulations on your new venue, and thanks for your continued hard work.”

—Chris Brown, Table Tennis England

“Great. Good luck in the future. The best sport to play for young and old. Thanks for all the work and effort.”

—Jeff Huggins, Current Vet Member



Kingfisher Club Ready to Fly in New Premises – Table Tennis England:

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/kingfisher-club-ready-to-fly-in-new-premises/>

Game on for new clubhouse – Wokingham Borough Council:

<http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/news/index/june2014/gameonnewclubhouse/>

# Kingfisher Juniors



Jamie Liu vs Ethan Walsh in the U12 Nationals Final, Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2014.

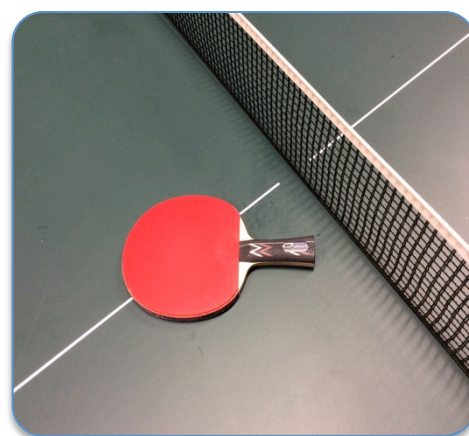
Jamie put on a spirited fight in the final against top seed Ethan, losing 3-1 and had to settle for the silver medal.

Read the full story here:

<http://www.gsam.co.uk/blog/2014/06/jamie-liu-impressing-at-table-tennis-junior-nationals/>

## Coaching Update:

Late afternoon coaching sessions (5pm to 7pm) finished for the summer break on Thursday 17 July and will resume on 1<sup>st</sup> September.



## Success for Kingfisher Boys at Horsham Spinners 2 Star on July 20<sup>th</sup>

86 players participated in the fourth Horsham Spinners 2 Star of the season. There were five boys age categories and also five girls age categories.

Felix Thomis – u10 Bronze  
Jamie Liu – u12 Gold  
Jamie Liu – u14 Bronze  
Gus Thomis – u16 Silver  
Joshua Gallen – u16 Bronze  
Sam Liu – u18 Gold

Well done lads!





# English Success at Commonwealth Games

English Table Tennis saw it's own 'Super Saturday' on 2<sup>nd</sup> August with a historic all-England podium in the Mixed Doubles Event.

Congratulations to Paul and Joanna Drinkall who took the gold, Tin-Tin Ho and Liam Pitchford for the Silver and to Kelly Sibley and Daniel Reed for the Bronze.

Read the full story here:

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/england-complete-historic-mixed-doubles-1-2-3/>



Earlier in the competition, England achieved Silver in the Men's Team final against Singapore. The team comprised Liam Pitchford, Paul Drinkhall, Andrew Baggaley, Sam Walker and Daniel Reed.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/glasgow2014/article/?item=50344>

Liam Pitchford also won a Bronze Medal in the Men's Singles, bringing the team's total medals to 5 overall.

Well done Team England!

## Latest News on the new plastic ball

Table Tennis England has postponed the introduction of the new plastic ball because of a lack of widespread availability.

Consequently, the celluloid ball will be used at the first two Grand Prix events of the season – at Liverpool on August 16-17 and at Medway on September 6-7.

The ITTF had previously decided that the new plastic ball would be introduced in ITTF competitions from July 1, 2014, and Table Tennis England confirmed that it would be used at the three National Championships and all Grand Prix events next season.

However, with stocks running low, it has now been agreed by the Table Tennis England Board to postpone its introduction.

Table Tennis England CEO Sara Sutcliffe said: “We always recognised this would be a transitional year and that there may be practical difficulties to address, particularly concerning supplies of the new ball.

“We feel it is important to take a common-sense approach and also to make an early decision to avoid any confusion as the events draw closer.”

It is still intended to introduce the plastic ball at the National Championships and later Grand Prix events, though Table Tennis England will continue to adopt a watching brief concerning supplies of the new ball and may issue further guidance in due course.

Apart from the above events, those responsible for all other aspects of Competitive Table Tennis (as defined in the Regulations) will be able to choose either celluloid or plastic balls until July 1, 2015 when use of the plastic ball will become mandatory for all Competitive Table Tennis in England.

8 July 2014





# Umpires Course: 15 June 2014

Kingfisher hosted a Table Tennis England run Umpires Course at the club on Sunday 15 June, which included several members of Kingfisher.

The course was delivered by a team of 3 experienced umpires, who have all umpired up to Olympic final level.

The morning session comprised theory, with the main focus on table tennis regulations, and the afternoon session was practical, giving each participant the opportunity to practice their umpiring skills in several scenarios, including a simulated expedite match.



Those that passed the course will be invited to go onto the next stage, which is to umpire a real match with an observer.

Kingfisher's new facility proved to be a great venue to host the course, with both the social area and the playing area being used during the day.



# A Serving of Sneakles



## Happy Birthday Sneakles!

Our resident cartoon character, Sneakles, celebrated his 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, with some chocolate and plain cupcakes which were eagerly devoured by Thursday Club Nite players.

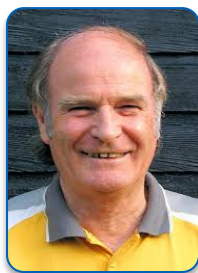




# Introducing your committee



President and  
Coaching Officer:  
Peter Charters



Chairman and  
Treasurer:  
Colin Dyke



General Secretary:  
Peter Bradley



Facilities Officer &  
Web Site Manager:  
Allen Pack



Membership  
Secretary:  
Sandra Shepherd



Assistant  
Treasurer: Richard  
Fifield



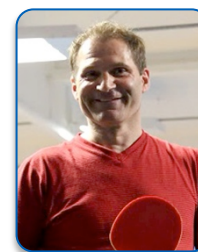
Welfare Officer,  
Premier and  
Clubmark Contact:  
Lisa Williams



Bookings Officer:  
Mick Mitcham



Newsletter Editor  
and Local League  
Co-Ordinator  
Gwynne Penny



Committee Member &  
Trophy Secretary:  
Andy Yon



Committee Member:  
Krys Szczygiel



Committee Member:  
Ck Liu



Committee Member:  
Carol Byers

## Additional Club Roles:

Team Kit Manager: Peter Charters

Robot Manager: Allen Pack

Table Manager: Dave Duncan

Lost Property: Andy Yon

Kingfisher Agent, Tees Sport  
discount scheme: Sandra Shepherd

Supporting the Events Co-ordinator:

Grand Prix :

Andy Parker  
Wendy Porter  
Roger Woolven-Allen  
Andy Yon

Club Championships & Grouping  
Tournament :  
Allan Bruton

Morning Club Contacts:

Diane Taylor (Tues)  
Roger Woolven-Allen (Wed)  
Allan Bruton (Fri)

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

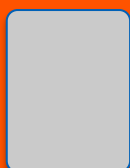
At the moment we have the following vacancies. If you are interested or want to know more about a vacancy, contact any member of the committee.



Vacancy:  
Publicity Officer



Vacancy:  
Cleaning  
Supervisor



Vacancy:  
Events  
Co-ordinator

# Newsletter Noticeboard

## Heat and Humidity:

As anyone who attended the first Grand Prix in the new building in May will know, we have had some issues with high humidity. This is a direct result of having had one of the wettest winters on record, during which the materials used to build our new club house became saturated. It will take time for the building to dry out, but in order to help this process, the club has engaged the services of a specialist company who have provided 2 dehumidifiers for an initial period of 6 weeks, which will conclude on 12 August.

The committee is monitoring progress closely and will keep members advised as next steps are taken.

Since moving in we have also been having a lovely summer, however, this has contributed to very warm temperatures within the building.

Advice to members practicing during the summer is to ensure that you keep hydrated and take regular breaks during training sessions.

Rest assured, your committee is working hard to resolve these issues so that we can all get the maximum benefit from our new clubhouse.

## Cleaning:

We are pleased to announce that we have engaged the services of a cleaner on an initial trial basis until the end of September. Cleaning will take place on Monday's and Thursday's.

### Chewing Gum Alert!:

During a recent clean of the playing hall area, chewing gum was found on the floor near the fire exit door.

Polite reminder: Outdoor shoes must not be worn in the playing area, and food must not be consumed in the playing area. If you do need to exit the building in your playing shoes, please make sure that you check the soles and remove any gum/stones etc before re-entering the hall.

## Bag Storage:

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

## ITTF Approved Rubbers:

The latest list can be found online here:

[http://www.ittf.com/\\_front\\_page/ittf1.asp?category=rubber](http://www.ittf.com/_front_page/ittf1.asp?category=rubber)

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

## Kitchen Etiquette:

As a courtesy to other members at the club, please remember to wash and dry up kitchen utensils after use and to sweep up after any spillages/food.

## Lost Property:

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

## Now and Then

### Now and Then

1977



2014



David Barr

## ETTA becomes Table Tennis England



As you may have noticed, in May 2014 The ETTA has rebranded to become Table Tennis England.

Read all about it here:

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/featured-news/blog-our-new-brand/>



# Local League News: Reading

Kingfisher entered 12 teams in the Reading League, which commences on 15 September.

KINGFISHER A DIVISION 1 HOME: MONDAY	KINGFISHER B DIVISION 1 HOME: WEDNESDAY	KINGFISHER C DIVISION 1 HOME: MONDAY	KINGFISHER D DIVISION 1 HOME: WEDNESDAY	KINGFISHER E DIVISION 2 HOME: WEDNESDAY	KINGFISHER F DIVISION 2 HOME: TUESDAY
<b>Hari Gehlot</b> Captain Availability: 75%	<b>Richard Rosinski</b> Captain Availability: 90%	<b>Steve Murgatroyd</b> Captain	<b>Yeqin Zeng</b> Captain Availability: 90%	<b>Geoff Civil</b> Captain Availability: 75%	<b>Allan Bruton</b> Captain Availability: 100%
<b>Tony Reynolds</b> Availability: 50%	<b>Martin Adams</b> Availability: 80%	<b>Niall McGrane</b> Availability: 90%	<b>Richard Fifield</b> Availability: Reserve	<b>John Morris</b> Availability: 50%	<b>Peter Bennett</b> Availability: 100%
<b>Federico Viterbo</b> Availability: 50%	<b>John Barclay</b> Availability: 100%	<b>Andrew Parker</b> Availability: 80%	<b>Trevor Organ</b> Availability: 80%	<b>Roger Woolven-Allen</b> Availability: 60%	<b>Ivor Hardman</b> Availability: 90%
<b>Stuart Williams</b> Availability: 70%	<b>Ian Girdler</b> Availability: 40%	<b>Lisa Williams</b> Availability: 100%	<b>Yuan Zhuang</b>	<b>Bernhard Schnederle</b> Availability: 95%	<b>Michael Houghton</b> Availability: 100%
	<b>Andy Smith</b> Availability: 75%		<b>Eduard Caliman*</b>		<b>Allen Pack</b> Availability: 70%

**Version 6.0 - 30 July 2014.**

(\*note: Eduard Caliman expected to join Kingfisher D, subject to rejoining the club when he returns in October).

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

**Version 6.0 30 July 2014.** (\*Note: Eric Holmes' team was submitted for Division 3, but we have been advised by the Reading league that they have been placed in Division 2, to balance out the teams.).

Reading handbooks will be distributed to team captains w/c 8 September. In the meantime, check the Reading Website for fixtures as they become available: <https://www.tabletennis365.com/reading>

# Local League News: Bracknell

Kingfisher entered 5 teams into the Bracknell league this coming season, which starts in September. In order to help balance the divisions, an additional Premier Team is currently proposed – this is still subject to review and confirmation at the time of writing. Teams will be kept informed as the situation develops.

Visit the Bracknell Web Site for latest details and fixtures as they become available:

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

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

Version 7.0 31 July 2014. (Note: re-worked to create an additional premier team at request of the Bracknell League.)

## Reminder:

Player Registration fees are due by 15 August and you must renew your Table Tennis England Membership for the upcoming season. Only players that have paid their fees and renewed their memberships will be registered for the leagues, so if you have not done so already, get your fees and renewals in to secure your place!

# Kingfisher Grand Prix, 2014

The ever-popular Kingfisher Grand Prix saw good attendance this summer with a range of players from Reading division 5 standard through to Division 1 and beyond.



## Write up by Roger Woolven-Allen:

By reaching the final of the twelfth and ultimate Kingfisher Grand Prix, Caversham-based Andy Smith has pushed himself from sixth position to a prize-winning third place on the leaderboard. In doing so, the Bristol player has denied any possibility of reward to his three main rivals – Hari Gehlot from Reading and the two top Basingstoke players Andy Parker and Tony Reynolds. Smith finished the competition a mere 12 points ahead of fourth-placed man, Hamilton Road's Hari Gehlot.

Earley's Chinese star Yeqin Zeng hung steadfastly on to his second place, while the Boy Wonder from Woodley, Daniel McTiernan, maintained his position at the very top of the leaderboard.

The fifteen-year-old Waingels Copse student, however, did not win the latest Grand Prix event; he conceded victory to his elder brother Liam in a five-game semi-final thriller. Liam McTiernan, despite having played in only three of the twelve Grands Prix, finished the series in tenth position – a truly remarkable achievement.



# Kingfisher Grand Prix, 2014



But Daniel's glory cannot be denied, and the younger sibling could hardly contain his pleasure and excitement as he was presented with the champion's trophy by the series' main sponsor, Andy Yon of Woodley. Yon, a local player of Polish descent, finished the championships himself in fourteenth position – an achievement that most table tennis players must surely envy.

With the solitary exception of his younger brother, the twelfth event winner Liam McTiernan was in no way challenged in the final tournament. The scorelines were almost derisory as the eighteen-year-old tore his victims apart. Following a first round bye, Liam was drawn against the Italian player

Luca Bianchi. Bianchi, who lives in Earley, was totally outclassed, allowing McTiernan through in three straight games 11-1 11-1 11-4.

Another Earley player, the teenager Michael McAllister, also fell to McTiernan in three straight games 5-11 5-11 6-11. At the quarter-final stage, McTiernan defeated Slough's Hari Vennapusa, again in three relatively easy straight ends.

The McTiernan brothers were drawn against each other at the semi-final stage, with Liam defeating Daniel in an extremely exciting five-game match. In the final itself, however, Bristol's Andy Smith had no answer to his opponent's awesome skills, conceding the final match of the series in three straight games.

The final of the very last consolation event was won by Basingstoke's Andy Parker, who defeated Reading's Gratwicke Road sidespin maestro Trevor Organ in a five-game thriller 6-11 12-10 11-9 8-11 14-12. A close call indeed!

And so, with a total tally of 970 points, Daniel McTiernan took the ultimate honours and became the 2014 Kingfisher Grand Prix table tennis champion. In second place, with 758 points, came Yeqin (known in the table tennis world as Philip) Zeng while 719 points secured third place for Andy Smith.

The top lady player of the series, with 378 points, was Tilehurst's Wendy Porter, while the highest-placed Junior Boy, with 682 points, was Woodley's Joshua Gallen.

Sponsor Andy Yon also presented trophies to the various winners of other categories. Earley youngster Jim McAllister earned the title of "Most Sporting Junior" while his elder brother Michael was awarded a trophy for the "Best Junior Performance".

The championships' "Most Improved Player" deservedly went to Shepperton's Gwynne Penny, while the award for "Top Junior Girl" was awarded to Caversham's Katie Shepherd.

Everyone, from administrators to players, and on to the many relatives, friends and other spectators, were thrilled with this summer's Kingfisher Grand Prix Championships and all are agreed that the 2015 tournaments are already eagerly awaited!

## Results of Tournament 12:

Quarter Finals: Liam McTiernan bt Hari Vennapusa 11-2 11-3 11-8; Daniel McTiernan bt Hari Gehlot 8-11 9-11 13-11 11-9 14-12; Andy Smith bt Tony Reynolds 9-11 12-10 11-8 11-9; Yeqin Zeng bt Krasimir Ivanov 9-11 9-11 12-10 11-2 11-9.

Semi Finals: L McTiernan bt D McTiernan 7-11 11-4 11-8 5-11 11-6; Smith bt Zeng 10-12 12-10 11-5 11-9.

Final: L McTiernan bt Smith 11-2 11-3 11-8.

# Kingfisher Grand Prix Final Standings, 2014

The last round was played on Monday 28 July and was followed in the early hours of Tuesday morning by the Grand Prix Awards ceremony.

Grand Prix Points after final Tournament 12:

1<sup>st</sup>: D McTiernan with 970 points,  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Zeng with 758 points,  
3<sup>rd</sup>: Smith with 719 points,

Gehlot 707, Parker 688, Reynolds 683, Gallen 682, Ivanov 612, Vennapusa 520, L McTiernan 509, Organ 493, Dyke 402, Porter 378, Yon 371, Rosinski 367, Woolven-Allen 356, Miller 354, Joyce 353, Heaps 326, M McAllister 279, J McAllister 255, Lovegrove 251, Bennett 250, Pack 240, Gostelow 230, Penny 230, Bianchi 220, O'Keeffe 190, Viterbo 189, S Ricks 187, Sczyziegal 178, Moses 177, Upham 168, D Ricks 145, Duncan 99, Girdler 91, Cole 90, Caliman 80, K Shepherd 47, Husbands 30, Dobbins 30, Williams 24, Stanners 20, S Shepherd 20, Woodham 18, Garçon 15.





# Roger's Ramblings

**YUP**, it's me! Now that I have given up editing this fine newsletter, I have to announce that, due to a total lack of popular demand, the dreaded *Ramblings* have returned.



First of all, I should like to wish Gwynne Penny all the very best in this her new editorial venture. Actually, it's only one of several table tennis-related ventures. Gwynne has turned into a sort of female Eric Van Looy (only infinitely better looking) and is turning her hand to just about anything that Kingfisher needs. Of course, she is just one of many people on the Committee, all of whom are doing a wonderful job. I just thought that if I gave her a special mention, she might even print this rubbish. (haha, Roger, wish I could play as well as Eric!! Ed.)

What do you think of our wonderful new clubhouse? I know that there are one or two teething problems but, in general, isn't it absolutely marvellous? Colin and his team of workers should rightly be very proud of their accomplishments. Super stuff!

A few weeks ago, because I was carrying only a few *Grand Prix* notices (no bags of any description), I decided to cycle to Kingfisher and back. On the return journey I had to travel the short distance on the A4 between Shepherd's Hill Roundabout and the Sonning turn-off. I illegally cycled on the footpath, mainly because of those nasty road-hog car drivers, and my route took me close to a Shepherd's Hill shop that was, by the look of it, closing down. The owners obviously wanted to sell everything before the business was completely wound up and they enticed prospective customers with the notice: "Hurry! Limited Stock!" No-one could disagree with them! As can clearly be seen from this picture of their "limited stock"!



I've just been in touch with Brian Halliday, and he sends his best regards to all members of the Kingfisher TTC. Brian is very upbeat about his condition and for that he must be applauded. He is frustrated, however, with his lack of mobility but he tells me that, in about six weeks' time, he will become the proud owner of an electric wheelchair. Sonning Common's motoring fraternity had better beware! He is also looking into finding a suitably-adapted motor-car. The rest of the world's motoring fraternity had better beware!

On a more serious note, Brian tells me that his one big regret is that he has yet to see the new clubhouse. Rest assured, Brian, that when you do get there, you are in for a big treat!

For more decades than we both care to remember, Brian and I have been friends (well, sort of) with a chap who, in his time, was one of the best table tennis players in Berkshire. Sadly, Jonathan Samuel (*aka* The Looney) hung up his bat a few years ago, but we still talk about him, usually in a somewhat derogatory fashion. You are possibly aware that Jon and I (along with Eric Holmes) are keen philatelists.

Now Jonathan has taken it upon himself to tell the philatelic world that Brian is also a collector – one who seriously specialises in the Vatican City. Poor old Brian (whose interest in philately is somewhere slightly below zero) has been inundated with calls from unknown stamp collectors, wishing to talk to him about the various issues of the Vatican City. One chap wanted to know what price Brian would accept for his collection!

Brian very rudely told this last unknown gentleman to "go away", or words to that effect...

# Roger's Ramblings

In a recent Grand Prix event, I was drawn against Krazzi Ivanov, who made absolute mincemeat of me, winning 11-2 11-8 11-6. Much to my delight, Krazzi was drawn against my pal Colin Dyke in the next round and, as I was the previous loser, it was my turn to umpire.

"I scored a total of 16 against Krazzi," I told Colin, "I bet you that you don't score as many."

"How much?" asked Colin.

"A shilling," I replied and Colin agreed. We didn't say a word to Krazzi.

Colin lost the first two ends 5 and 6 and I was starting to get worried. This was big-time gambling and Colin only needed to score 5 to win the bet.

To my great pleasure (and despite Colin playing extremely well, making many superb returns), Krazzi won the third end 11-0.

As we shook hands, Colin asked, "Have you got change of half-a-crown?"



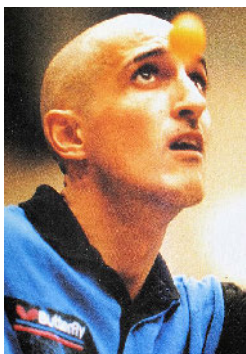
In the early days of the new club, Dave Gostelow and I were having a little practice when Peter Charters and Colin Dyke turned up with some local VIPs. I think (not sure) that they were the project manager of the Bulmershe School upgrade, the head-teacher and some important politician or other. Colin came across to see me and Dave.

"I'm glad that those people are witnessing two ace players in action," he said. I glowered at him.

When we'd finished, Dave and I made our way to the front door, only to bump into Allen Pack.

"I'm glad that those people witnessed two ace players in action," said Allen.

I shall leave my reply to your imagination...



**Due** to pre-booked holiday commitments, I was unable to attend the official opening of the new clubhouse. But, being ever the opportunist, I asked Colin if he, in turn, would ask Matthew Syed to scribble an insult or two inside the front cover of my copy of Matt's book *Bounce*.

The ceremony, as most of you will know, went extremely well; the dignitaries were impressed with the clubhouse and the members were impressed with the dignitaries.

When I got my book back from Colin, inside the flyleaf was the inscription, "To Roger: The greatest storyteller in table tennis. Matthew." Cor!!

This statement was, of course, a total exaggeration – if not a downright lie – but it didn't 'arf make me feel good!

I wrote to say "thank you" to Matt, my message being, "Hi Matt! Many thanks for the great inscription written inside my copy of *Bounce*. It was very kind of you – in fact, TOO kind! A total exaggeration. But I do appreciate it.

"Sorry we didn't meet up at the opening ceremony. Pre-booked holiday and all that.

"Good luck with the rest of your career. You are certainly making something of it! Whenever one of us sees or hears you, be it related to boat racing, table tennis, football or *What The Papers Say*, my wife Linda or I immediately calls out to the other!

"With best wishes and thanks again, Roger."

I wish that Matt still played. Although the following players are great chaps and I would describe one or two of them as personal friends, I would love to see Matthew stuff people like Krazzi, Hari, Tony, Liam, Federico and the two Daniels. Not that I'm biased, of course...



# Roger's Ramblings

I wish it had occurred in Harrods or Fortnum and Mason (just so's I could brag about it), but I have to admit that it happened in Tesco.

**TESCO** There I was, wheeling my trolley along and licking my lips as I looked at the bottles of *Old Speckled Hen* lying therein, when round the corner came Dimitris and Maria Tsaptsinos.

We had just started chatting (you'd never guess what about) when another trolley came up the aisle, with Sarah Knowles striding along behind it.

"It's like a Kingfisher table tennis convention," I said.

"I agree," said Dimitris. "Let's go to Customer Services and see if they've got a table we could use."

---

**Many** of you may well remember Roger Pritchard – a very good player from a couple of decades ago. He was also a darned good runner, if I remember aright. Any road up (as they say in Penzance), Roger has just started playing again and has regularly been turning up at our Wednesday sessions. One morning, in addition to the older generation, Tom Maynard and Richard Andrews were there, practising away at a slightly different level from our own. Roger was amazed.

"They just have to be Division 1 players," he said. "Tell me I'm not wrong."

"Actually, you ARE wrong," I replied. "They are pretty good, but I can assure you that they are NOT Division 1 standard. I think they DID play a match or two in Division I fairly recently, but such occasions were very few and far between."

A little later, I did let on, I have to confess... *(editor's note: I have it on reliable authority that Roger Pritchard was Club Secretary of Woodley Table Tennis Club some 27 years ago when they amalgamated with Omega to form Kingfisher)*

I recently marched into the spectator area of the Club in time for a *Grand Prix session* and, as is my norm, I exchanged banter with Sonia Gallen, made rude comments to Andy Parker and insulted Wendy Porter. I apologised. "I'm sorry, Wendy," I said, "I'm afraid that I'm still just a kid at heart." "I don't mind you behaving like a child," replied Wendy, "but you don't have to behave like a NAUGHTY child!"

---

**Now** this is absolutely true – and Dave Gostelow will undoubtedly back me up if you don't believe me. We had finished playing one Wednesday morning and, just before we left, I switched off the lights. They immediately switched themselves back on again!



Once more I switched them off and, once again, the lights came on all by themselves. Suddenly, a little glow appeared on the refreshments table and this light morphed into a tiny fairy.

"You are both granted one wish," said the little creature.

"Gosh," said Dave. "Thank you. We'd like to live for ever."

"I'm sorry," said our personal Tinkerbell. "That sort of wish is not allowed."

"In which case," said I, "We'd both like to die on the day that England wins the World Cup."

"You crafty b\*\*\*\*\*d!" exclaimed the fairy.



# Roger's Ramblings

A couple of years ago, my railway table tennis friends and I beetled off to Nizhny Novgorod in Russia for the Railway Table Tennis World Championships. I remember that, out of the 44 countries that had entered, the Great Britain squad successfully managed to finish the tournament in 43<sup>rd</sup> position. We are eternally grateful to our friends from Holland who finished – yup, you've guessed it – one place below us.



Now when we go on these excursions we qualify for pretty good rates on the various railways of the world. But, because Nizhny is so far away, we had no choice but to travel by air and pay for our own fares. Our Captain Dave Fox managed to find us some extremely cheapo seats with *Flybuzz* or *Wannabee* (or some such airline) and even the poor old pensioners among us were happy with the rock-bottom prices. Now our best player Trevor Kerry (only a little feller) was the first to receive the attention of the air hostess.

"Would you like the in-flight meal?" she asked.

"That sounds good," said Trev. "What are the choices?"

"Yes or no," replied the hostess.

---

**Talking** of Dave Fox and Trevor Kerry, I am sure that many Kingfisher members will know these players from the various veterans' circuits. They both play for their respective counties and also in some sort of British League division.

In particular, Trevor, who hails from Nottingham, is an excellent player and he has often enjoyed closely-contested matches with our very own Hari Gehlot. So you can see the standard.



Recently, Trevor has been invited to play for England in the veterans' section of the imminent Six Nations' Championships. He is over the moon about it – and rightly so! Trev has already acquired his shirt displaying the famous three lions. Well done, young sir!

---

**Many** years ago, I overheard the following conversation between the wonderful and much lamented Ian Schwarz and good old Ted Cripps.

"When I die," said Ted, "I want my table tennis trophies placed in the coffin next to me."

"That's a great idea," said Ian. "I go along with that completely."

"No, hang on a minute," he immediately contradicted himself. "If they put all my trophies in the coffin, there won't be any room for me."



**Well**, everyone, that's it for now. If Gwynne retains her present dubious mental state, then I'll be back next issue. I already have more stuff for you!

At the time of writing, the *Grand Prix* series is still in progress and, although young Daniel McTiernan is favourite for the title, the championships are far from over. Things could well change.

I hope that you all have an enjoyable and a successful 2014-2015 League season – unless you are at the opposite end of the table from me, of course! Ours is a truly great sport! Enjoy!

**(Roger)**



## From Around the Net

### Awesome Apartment Designed with 25,000 Ping Pong Balls from My Modern Met ([www.mymodernmet.com](http://www.mymodernmet.com))

Living in New York can mean adapting to far smaller living spaces, but that's not to say that architectural design should have to suffer. Brooklyn-based designer Daniel Arsham of **Snarkitecture** has made sure that his 90-square-foot residence is nothing short of amazing. The experimental personal project known as *Box/Box* took approximately two months to complete, costing less than \$100 per square foot. The key ingredient in his tiny living quarters? Ping pong balls!

Using approximately 25,000 of the plastic white and grey spheres, Arsham lined the walls of his room, transforming it into a pixelated paradise. Despite the size of the compact room, which is essentially a bedroom attachment to the Snarkitecture offices that is entered through a ladder, it seems to boast a clean and sufficient amount of living space with an intriguingly textured and monochromatic home aesthetic. The designer even thought ahead and coated the balls, which are highly flammable on their own, with a fire retardant intumescent to prevent such disasters.



# And Finally....

I hope you've enjoyed reading the latest edition of Kingfisher News. It has certainly been a busy Summer for our club, and we can now look forward to the upcoming season which will be upon us in no time.

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

**Team captains**, sharpen your pencils and prepare your bats for the upcoming season as I shall be chasing you down for your early season team reports for the next edition of Kingfisher News which will hit the virtual presses in September.

Gwynne

## Useful Links:

### Kingfisher Web Site:

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

### Kingfisher Facebook Page:

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

### Table Diary:

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

### Club Shirts:

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

## Related Sites:

### Table Tennis England Web Site:

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk>

### Reading League Web Site:

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

### Bracknell League Web Site:

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

## Player Training Camps:

### Westfields (Northamptonshire) 29-31 August 2014:

<http://gvttabletennis.co.uk/-/westfield-camps/4546297158>

### Bristol – 19+21 August, 2014

<http://tabletennis.sgscol.ac.uk/2014/07/08/summer-training-camp-in-august-2014/>



# ????

## What do you think?

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

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

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