

Edition 81, December 2014



Kingfisher Stars Shine at Junior Nationals

A Warm Welcome to Kingfisher News

The Festive Season is upon us and the table tennis season is in full swing, as you will see from the various reports from Seniors, Juniors and local league captains in this bumper edition. I've received lots of great articles and photos, so thank you, and keep 'em coming! There are also a few festive treats including some last minute gift ideas. So grab a mince pie and your favourite drink, sit back, relax and enjoy this edition of Kingfisher News.

Wishing you and your families a very Happy Christmas and a splendid New Year!

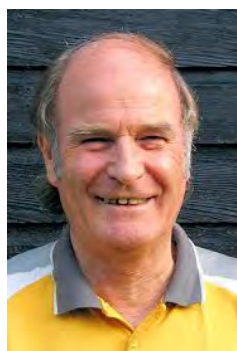
Gwynne Penny, Editor



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Introduction



“The Club has been a hive of activity since the last newsletter with play of all standards and lots of fierce but friendly competition alongside many strenuous and well attended coaching and training sessions. On top of that a number of attendances by top internationals. This is what makes all of your committee’s hard work worthwhile.

We have also staged a number of events on behalf of local organisations such as County matches, County Championships and a Grouping Tournament. All in attendance have been extremely complimentary about our facility. Don’t forget to consult the Club diary on our website to find the best times to train and practice outside of these events.

My congratulations to Maria on retaining her national Junior Girls title and to Marcus for coming so close in the equivalent Boys competition after a string of sensational wins. Very nearly a clean sweep by our Club.

We are still in discussion with the Council over a number of defects and I will keep you updated as we progress. Parking is another topic and all local parties are involved in talks.

About 30 members and friends thoroughly enjoyed our recent annual Xmas Dinner and my thanks go to Allan Bruton for setting up such a great evening.

Finally I take this opportunity to wish all our members and their families a Very Happy Xmas and New Year, with hopefully lots of success (and enjoyment) on the table.”

Colin Dyke, Chairman



Kingfisher Stars Shine at Junior Nationals

Maria is the Champion of England, again.



Peter Charters

Reading's Maria Tsaptsinos retained her English Junior title at the Sir Tom Finney Sports Centre in Preston last weekend with a final victory over senior international Tin Tin Ho from London.

Maria was seeded two behind Tin Tin but repeated her performance from last year with another hard fought encounter. At two games all, the battling Abbey School girl pulled away in the decider to take the title 11-7 in the final game.



This result for Maria is all the more remarkable because over the last year, Tin Tin has achieved so much at international level table tennis including being an important part of England's team to the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, winning silver medal in the Mixed Doubles. She has been involved in other World and European senior and junior competitions, coming fifth in the European Top 10 tournament.

Maria's success is a just reward for the intensity of her training over the last six months at her club Kingfisher in Woodley. She has worked hard to improve and trains with the top senior men players at the club. Her energy and competitive spirit ensures that all who face her in training will have to respond with the same work ethic.

Kingfisher Stars Shine at Junior Nationals

One of her practice partners is a junior who is a member of Kingfisher's Senior British league team who compete in the Premier Division -- Marcus Giles -- also had an outstanding weekend in Preston.

Marcus trains at least twice a week at Kingfisher. His attack on the junior boy's title from a ranking position of number six in the country, meant he needed to defeat at least two players ranked above him to get to the final. This he did with victories over both Luke Savill from Kent and the highly rated Tom Jarvis from Lincolnshire. In the final he came up against the number one seed and holder of the title Helshan Weersinghe, again from Kent. A further shock looked on the cards as Marcus took the first game 11-7 but Weersinghe is an experienced campaigner and clawed his way back to retain his title 3-1.



Helshan Weersinghe and Marcus Giles contest the final, picture by Steve Parkin

Both Kingfisher players did themselves and the club proud at the weekend.

Read More:

Table Tennis England Report from Junior Nationals in Preston:

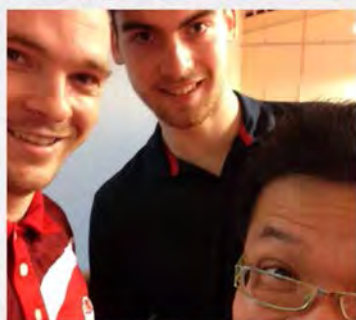
<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/featured-news/cadet-junior-nationals-under-way/>

Paul Drinkhall : A Fantastic Year

Congratulations to Paul Drinkhall current UK number 1 and officially number 45 in the world in the latest Ranking listings. Paul and wife Jo won the Gold Medal for mixed doubles this year at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Paul trained at Kingfisher a few Sundays ago with David McBeath (England number 8). Paul recently reached the final of the Russian Open, beating world number 6, Ovtcharov of Germany. Congratulations on a fantastic year Paul and Jo!

Paul Drinkhall & David McBeath

Nov 30, 2014



KingfisherTTC



Paul and Jo at the Sports Personality of the Year 2014 Awards



Paul and Jo at Kingfisher during the construction of the new clubhouse



Commonwealth Mixed Doubles Medal winners: Tin-Tin Ho, Liam Pitchford (Silver) Jo and Paul Drinkhall (Gold) and Daniel Reed and Kelly Sibley (Bronze).

Kingfisher Senior British League Premier Team

By Peter Charters



The Kingfisher Club first team, playing in the top flight of the British League, returned from Glasgow last weekend pointless from the four encounters against the elite of club table tennis in the country.

First up was an eight nil thrashing at the hands of the reigning champions Sycamore from Nottingham. Tom Maynard, Liam McTiernan, Marcus Giles and Federico Viterbo all failed to dent the champion's domination; the closest the Reading side came to breaking the duck was a 10-12 in the fifth and final game loss for Marcus Giles to England number 28 Sean Cullen.

Captain Dave Barr came into the team for the second match against London Academy that included Swedish players at numbers one and two. Although Maynard and Barr gave the scoreline more respectability by winning on one of their two visits each to the table, that was the only consolation. Maynard beat Swede Dexter St Louis and Barr was too consistent for Gabriel Achampong. The 2-6 match result left Kingfisher still in need of a team win to help them climb away from the threat of relegation.

However, it did not get any better. Next up on Sunday morning, when facing an Ormesby side from Middlesbrough another 0-8 reverse rocked Kingfisher. This Ormesby team was led by two internationals, Londoner Darius Knight and Enio Mendes from Portugal, which confirmed just how tough the table tennis competition is at this level.

It then got worse. Kingfisher's final match of the weekend was against fellow strugglers Bournemouth Sports.



Kingfisher Senior British League Premier Team

Tom Maynard had been troubled by a hip complaint all weekend by a problem that it seems will require specialist diagnosis and treatment. By the end of the weekend, having played in pain, the injury took its toll and a rest was needed. The 2-6 reverse was the most disappointing result of all over the weekend as the south coast team were the only outfit that Kingfisher out ranked on the English list. Both Barr and McTiernan took one win each from this match whilst Giles and Viterbo failed to score.

This leaves Kingfisher, although still above Bournemouth, with a mountain to climb to avoid relegation. With six matches yet to be played, some inspired performances are required to lift the team out of the drop zone. Tom and Dave have been the main scorers to the Kingfisher Premier campaign but in will need contributions from one or more of the other players in the squad to take the team out of the bottom two.



Tables > Seniors 2014-15 > Premier Division

#	Team	P	W	D	L	SF	SA	Points
1	Nottingham Sycamore I	8	7	1	0	51	13	15
2	Ormesby I	8	7	1	0	47	17	15
3	Drumchapel Glasgow I	8	5	0	3	37	27	10
4	LVA-London Academy I	8	4	0	4	36	28	8
5	Barrow Tornadoes I	8	4	0	4	32	32	8
6	Fusion I	8	2	0	6	28	36	4
7	Kingfisher I	8	1	0	7	15	49	2
8	Bournemouth Sports	8	1	0	7	10	54	2

Last Updated: 02 Nov 2014

An Interview with David Barr



During the second weekend of the Senior British League, Dave Barr was interviewed by Matt Shaw. Here's a transcript of the interview:

British League veteran David Barr speaks to Matt Shaw about Kingfisher, car crashes and British League.

Matt: "Welcome, first things first, you've just come off the court with a cracking win over Gabriel Achampong – just how pleased are you with your performance in that? "

David: "Yes, extremely pleased, the ball seemed to go back on the table a lot more than it usually does so very pleased that it all worked today – shame we weren't able to win the match – they still won 6-2 – we had two good wins but you need to get 4 to get a point in this so it's back to work tomorrow."

Matt: "As you say, one fantastic win does very little in the whole larger perspective of this competition it's a tough competition out there as you well know having played...."

David: "Yes it is very tough, the standard this year is extraordinary. The number ones when they went out on the court I believe there were 5 overseas players out of the 8 and it is very strong, and that's an excellent thing because the strength just pushes down the order as well, which makes every game really tough and what we're coming here for is to play good table tennis. We all like to win but we'd rather have good games than games that are easy."

Matt: "You mentioned before we started this interview that you played in the very first British League which is testament to your longevity more than anything else, but just tell us how different the British League was then compared to how it is now?"

David: "It had, at the time, very good sponsorship in the first year. I think it was 1982. We were called Mcleans Maidenhead - with an obvious sponsor there – and most of the other seven teams had commercial backing and it was played home and away at your own venue and we used to get a full hall to come and watch us play - all the local league players used to come and various other people who were interested in the game would come and watch, because it was local."

Matt: "Looking at Kingfisher as a whole, how do you feel the weekend has gone for the team?"

David: "Certainly, we've had an eventful weekend – because we started off in Newbury and we hadn't gone ten minutes before a car crashed into the back of me, so that was relatively interesting!"

Matt: "Really?! Was the whole team in the car as well?"

David: "Yeah, the whole team were in the car, and so the usual exchanging of addresses and insurance and a bit of a rest, and we all had slightly stiff necks for a bit, it's no excuse for today, but of course that and the atrocious traffic on a Friday night meant that the early part of the journey was exhausting, and meant we didn't get here until 11:30 last night, and I know some others had difficulty getting up here as well."

Matt: "What's the goal for you in table tennis at this stage of your career?"

David: "I think I know my place, I think somebody said once who was a bit shorter than the other two, and the position is I have had an excellent career playing table tennis. I still enjoy it immensely, I like to support the rest of the team, If I can win a few games as well then it keeps me going and I still thoroughly enjoy it and so to keep getting some good wins and to keep playing, keep fit and keep enjoying it."

Matt: "Tell us about some of your career highlights."

David: "I think they were mainly about 30 years ago, there was an under 21 international and I beat a chap called Andrzej Grubba, and Scandinavian Junior – I beat a chap called Erik Lindh, usually before they get too good, but Andre Gruber was good at the time, for some reason he had a particular off-day so I cherish that one the most."

Matt: "I'm sure you're being very harsh to yourself there."

David: "I don't know (laughing) possibly."

Matt: "But of course having done that, and you look at the younger players who are in this division now, this is a perfect platform for them to go on and achieve the sort of accomplishments that you've gone on to achieve."

David: "I think you're absolutely right, and it's good to see some juniors and younger players playing and fighting to get there and it's almost like a graduation that they need to get through me and some of the other s at my level and then they move on to the next level and it's excellent to see them here and grafting and not shaking their heads and looking at the floor which all too many juniors do sometimes."

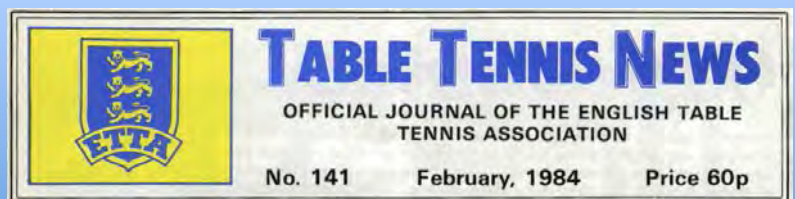
Matt: "And you're not uncomfortable knowing that you've been there where they are and they're thinking you're the one that they're eyeing up as "I've got to get past this guy to step up to that next level" and you're happy with that?"

David: "No, I don't mind at all. I think there is only one junior I played where I did play his Grandad as well. Usually there may be two generations that I've played but there's only one good one that I played three generations."

Matt: "Who was that?"

David: "Shaun Marples".

I had a dig through the archives, and the following article featuring David was printed in ETTA Table Tennis News Edition 141, February



SPOTLIGHTON.... DAVID BARR

By John Oakley (of the Press Association)

David Barr, an impeccable sportsman, ever cheerful, and highly intelligent, has not yet aspired to the dizzy heights of England's Top Ten. Yet the 22-year-old Newbury defender could be truthfully described as the most surprising player of the season.

Here was a player who, according to the pessimists last summer, would be zooming down the computer to the ranks of near obscurity following the passing of the new rules at the world championships in Tokyo last year.

Surely, said the voices of doom, Barr, with his black bat of tackiness and long pimples, would be struggling once the two colour rule came into force on January 1. How could he continue to deceive his rivals? Poor old Dave, it would be one big ton king after another.

Unfortunately for these gloom-laden prophets Barr refused to lie down and die. In fact he became positively perky.

Using his brains, one of the great features of his game, Barr did not wait until January 1 to move into two colours. He stripped off his tackiness last June, pionked a red Shriver rubber on his forehand side and went into severe practice sessions.

When he began the season he was ranked 19. Since then he has been 13 and 15, hardly a case of going backwards.

"When I first changed to red at the start of the summer I wasn't sure what to expect" said Barr. "But by the time the summer had finished it had made no difference.

"Then in the first National League match of the season I was surprised when I was 12-10 up against Preat in the third and I realised I was playing better than I had last season.

"In June if I had been asked I would not have expected to be ranked 13 or 15 but I think the reason I didn't go back was because I didn't depend quite so much on deception as some people with funny bats.

"My game is based on getting the ball back with varying spin. I can float and chop and there aren't that many balls that I can't reach."

His opponents will certainly agree with that assessment. The new Barr took Preat to 17 in the third in that opening League match and then a week later had his first big win of the season when he beat Donald Parker two straight.

"I hadn't beaten Don for at least three years and it was a big boost for me" said Barr. "But it got even better when we played Soham because I beat Paul Day for the first time. Under the circumstances that was probably my best win of the season.

"I know Paul has dropped down the rankings a bit recently but he was still about number six when I played him."

Since then among Barr's victims have been Dave Wells twice, Ian Kenyon, Alan Fletcher, Richard Jermy, who has always given him trouble in the past, and Nigel Eckersley, whom he had never beaten before.

Barr believes the new rules have helped in his success because he says: "They have made me more positive. I now have to win points rather than my opponent lose them.

"I have improved my hitting and my chop is more aggressive. I think I'm overcoming my greatest weakness of not hitting the ball when it is up to be hit. I used to take the easy way out if the ball popped up and just played it back down the table. Now I club it.

"Mind you it is very difficult to change habits after chopping for so long. Sometimes I push when I should hit, probably because I'm nervous I shall miss it.

"I might have been the first to have beaten Henk Van Spanje in the National League this season if I'd been a bit more positive. I led him 13-9 in the third but I was less aggressive at the end than I should have been. But I'm improving that part of my game and my defence has not suffered because of the new rules."

Barr has never been higher than 13 on the ranking list, a figure he has reached three times, but he still has hopes of getting into the England squad. And not without reason.

"I want to be the top defender in the country and if I could achieve that I think I have a chance of making the England team" he says. "It doesn't matter if there are ten attackers ahead of me in the rankings. The selectors might consider me because I am different."

That has happened to Barr in the past. In his last year as a junior in 1979 he was ranked only fifth in England yet he made the four-strong squad that went to the European Youth championships in Rome because of his style.

The only defensive players above Barr at present are John Hilton and Douggie Johnson. Hilton is now in his middle thirties and though still a fine player can hardly stay at the top much longer. Johnson has virtually retired from tournament play.

So Barr's chance is obvious if he can just improve a shade more. As he says: "I need another couple of points on my game and then I must have a chance of breaking through".

If he does it will be quite a performance. After all, he did not take up the game until he was 14 - swimming had been his first love - yet at 16 for a few heady months he was England Junior number one.

Then he spent three years at University where he obtained a degree in economics and accountancy. But that hardly helped his table tennis



David Barr by Brian Ashton of Blatchley

career.

Now he is playing almost full time to see how far he can go. In his youth he once beat Sweden's Erik Lindh who has been known to hit a few balls over the net.

Barr would just love to record victories like that in the senior game. And take a tip. Don't back against it. He might surprise you.

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Senior British League : Kingfisher II

Senior British League Division 3 Midlands



By Peter Charters

Last weekend two of the three Kingfisher Senior British League teams were in action, the second team of Federico Viterbo, Maria Tsaptsinos, Hari Gehlot and Takumi Uchihara in Wolverhampton playing in Division three.

Kingfisher II returned from the midlands undefeated. Up until the last match of the weekend on Sunday afternoon, both Federico and Maria had 100% record. This match was against top of the table, unbeaten Whitworth Academy led by England ranked No. 52 Sam Perry who himself had 100% winning record over the two weekends played. A 4-4 draw was a commendable result for Kingfisher with all four players contributing one win. Maria lost a close encounter to Perry 8-11 in the fifth whilst Federico had an outstanding result to beat the same player 11-7 in the fifth. But Whitworth's number two David Arrowsmith spoilt the party by beating both Federico and Hari to give his side the draw for Whitworth to stay top of the table with Kingfisher in second place. Federico and Maria won seven out of eight visits to the table over the weekend playing at one and two in the team whilst Hari is on a 81 % win rate. Reading University Student Takumi achieved 50% in his first competitive event in England.



Senior British League : Kingfisher III

Division 5 South 13 / 14 December 2014

By Peter Charters

Kingfisher III travelled to Southampton to compete in SBL Division five; the team being made up of Eduard Caliman, Josh Gallen, Gus Thomis, Sam Liu, Jamie Liu and Hari Vennapusa. The extra players were needed to rotate because this Kingfisher team were only granted a place in the SBL after the first weekend set of matches had been played and they were having to catch up on the missed fixtures. Eduard Caliman, led Kingfisher 3. This team fared well on the south coast finishing



in third place in the table but with two matches in hand on their opponents. After a 1-7 reverse to Waterside in the first match with Josh Gallen the scorer, the team completed the weekend with four victories out of the six played. A 5-3 win over LVA London Academy followed with

Eduard (2), Gus, Sam and Jamie providing one each. The second loss of the weekend came on Saturday evening against Cardiff City. Scorers for Kingfisher were Gus (2) and Josh in the 3-5 scoreline. Three matches on Sunday all resulted in victories for Kingfisher. An 8-0 demolition of London Greenhouse, Eduard, Gus, Sam and Hari scoring two each was followed by a 5-3 win over Fusion (Josh 2, Jamie 2 and Sam). The final match against Foresters promised to be tough but Kingfisher fought out an impressive 6-2 result with Eduard and Josh taking two each whilst Gus and Jamie contributed one apiece. After a long weekend's table tennis, Eduard, Josh and Gus had a 75% win rate, Sam and Jamie 50% and Hari 25%.

The spirit was good in both Kingfisher squads, at both venues with all the players supporting and 'fighting' for the club.

Kingfisher Juniors: National Junior League

Kingfisher Team:

Dauan Choi
Kevin Gurung
Chris Franks
Bertie Coombes
Oliver Hatch

Report by Hern Choi

The Kingfisher junior team with Dauan Choi, Chris Franks, Kevin Gurung, Bertie Coombes returned from the National Junior League in Slough on Saturday 6/12/2014.

They had matches with three teams and our overall percentage of winning games was about 45%.

Our winning points were the results of Chris's stable way of managing each game, Dauan's active play, Kevin's consistency and Bertie's good control. Particularly, it was impressive when I saw Chris's mature mental control to enable himself to utilise all of his skills even after he desperately lost the first a couple of games, resulted in winning the match.

All players had a good day and valuable time to improve their techniques and good experiences in managing games, and to find room to have practice more in our club for the next competition.

Next Fixture: 8 February, 2015 at Cippenham.



Oliver Hatch, Dauan Choi, Chris Franks

Kingfisher Juniors: Leeds 2 Star

Congratulations to Jamie, Gus and Felix for a great haul of medals at the Leeds 2-star tournament on Saturday 20 December. U18 Gold for Gus, U15 Gold and U13 Silver for Jamie and U11 Gold for Felix.

Very well done lads!

(photo by Andy Thomis)



Kingfisher Juniors: Junior Cadet League

Report by Chris Squire:

Sunday 9 November

Kingfisher have 2 teams in this season's National Cadet League with 9 boys and girls to represent the club over 4 dates in November 2014 and in February and March 2015.

Both teams played their first matches on Sunday 9th November and started in the 2nd of 4 divisions - a little challenging for Kingfisher B. The first match saw the 2 Kingfisher teams placed against each other and despite some tight matches, Kingfisher A ran out 9-0 winners.

In the second round of matches, Kingfisher A played a strong Chiltern A and despite some excellent table tennis with many closely matched games, Chiltern finished 7-2 winners. Kingfisher B played Dacorum A and also finished up on the wrong end of a 7-2 scoreline and fears of the team being placed in too high a division seemed to be being realised.

The third and final round of matches of the day saw Kingfisher A play Ashford A and Kingfisher B play Crusaders B. Both matches ending 8-1 with Kingfisher A winning and B losing.

So at the end of the day Kingfisher A sit in a strong position in the division with 19 of 27 available points and Kingfisher B with 3 points. Overall though despite some difficult scorelines, all boys and girls in both teams acquitted themselves and the club well. There are 2 more rounds of matches in this group on 30th November after which teams will be promoted and relegated between the leagues.

The individual player results were as follows:-

Alex Squire - 7/9 (78%)

Katie Shepherd - 6/9 (67%)

Chris Franks - 6/9 (67%)

Jamie Lomax - 2/9 (22%)

Felix Thomis - 1/6 (17%)

Jonny Coomber - 0/6 (0%)



Kingfisher A Team:

Katie Shepherd

Scarlett Jones

Chris Franks

Alex Squire

Kingfisher B Team:

Felix Thomis

Zak Squire

Johnny Coombes

Jamie Lomax

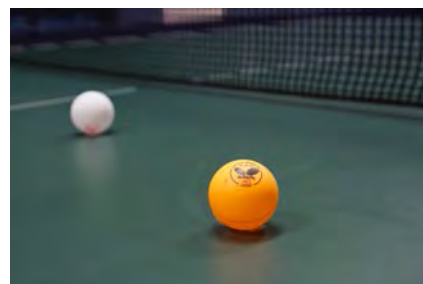
Nicolas Bowker

Kingfisher Juniors: Junior Cadet League

Report by Chris Squire:

Sunday 30 November

Kingfisher's 2 NCL teams played the second day of matches in this season's National Cadet League on Sunday 30 November, finishing of round 1 with their 2 matches and starting round 2.



Kingfisher A had a good start, beating Dacorum A 8-1 but then came up against the eventual winners of division 2 in round 1, Chiltern A, falling 7-2.

Kingfisher B started the day second bottom and secretly hoping to be relegated into a more competitive division for them. Their first match against Ashford who were the bottom team ended in a 5-4 defeat. Then then played Crusaders B and went down 8-1. Shout out here for Felix who having won all his games in the first match won one here and ran the other 2 close.

So Kingfisher A finished 3rd behind Chiltern and Crusaders and Kingfisher B finished bottom but only one point off Ashford.

Each team then played one match in the second round...

Kingfisher A played Warren Spring A who were promoted from division 3 and they ran out 6-3 winners with each player (Alex, Scarlett and Chris) winning 2 matches.

Kingfisher B played Oxford C and won 5-4 with Felix again winning all his games. Jamie won 2 and Nick who had been improving all day, put in a very impressive final match and almost pulled off a win against Oxford's best player.

Today's result percentages were:

Kingfisher A

Scarlett Jones - 6/9 (67%)

Alex Squire - 5/9 (56%)

Chris Franks - 5/9 (56%)

Kingfisher B

Felix Thomis - 7/9 (78%)

Jamie Lomax - 2/6 (33%)

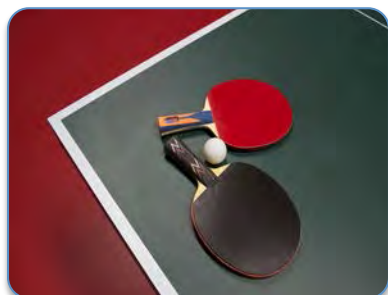
Jonny Coombes - 1/6 (17%)

Nick Bowker 0/6 (0%)

Overall results

Player	Round 1	Round 2
Alex Squire	10/15 (67%)	2/3 (67%)
Scarlett Jones	4/6 (67%)	2/3 (67%)
Chris Franks	9/15 (60%)	2/3 (67%)
Katie Shepherd	6/9 (67%)	
Felix Thomis	5/12 (42%)	3/3 (100%)
Jamie Lomax	2/12 (17%)	2/3 (67%)
Jonny Coombes	1/12 (8%)	
Nick Bowker	0/9 (0%)	0/3 (0%)

Coaching at Kingfisher



Coaching Sessions:

Late afternoon from 5pm to 7pm, coaching and training sessions for juniors take place every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Those young players who represent Kingfisher in either the National Cadet or National Junior Leagues attend on Tuesday and Wednesday. The four players who compete in the Junior British League attend on Wednesday and Thursday; the latter day includes players in the Kingfisher Senior British League Squads.

Three tables have been allocated to free junior practice on Fridays, also between 5pm and 7pm.

Congratulations to our newest level 1 coaches, Diane Taylor and Gwynne Penny (pictured below with Alison Broe). Both passed their final assessments at the Graham Spicer Table Tennis Centre on Saturday 25th October. The final assessment included delivery of a 15 minute section of an hour's planned session and an interview with the assessor.



Coaching at Kingfisher

Graham Outrim continues to run the Monday Coaching Group and **Andrew ‘Mully’ Smith** is the Tuesday coach. **Peter Charters** leads on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Andrew (UKCC Level 1) and Graham (UKCC Level 2) are professional coaches and as such are paid by Kingfisher for the sessions that they run. The players, or more accurately the parents of the players attending the sessions, pay the club for this service.

Both these coaches and **Alison Broe** (UKCC Level 3) are available for paid one-to-one coaching sessions by arrangement individually with them – you can always get better!



Andrew ‘Mully’ Smith

UKCC Level 1 Coach
smith.andrew@hotmail.co.uk
Picture courtesy of
Michael Loveder Photography



Graham Outrim

UKCC Level 2 Coach
goutrim@live.co.uk
Photo by John Upham



Alison Broe

UKCC Level 3 Coach
alison@cleandistribution.com
Photo by John Upham



Ready for Tuesday's Footwork Drill
photo by Andrew Smith



End of Term: A Game of Big Doubles
follow kingfisherttc on instagram for the video

Table Tennis Training Camps

By Gwynne Penny

Soon it will be that time of the year for New Year's Resolutions.

Table Tennis training camps are a great way to improve your game, by learning some new practice drills that you can take home with you, and by giving you the opportunity to train with different people. In the past year I have been on several camps in Bristol and in Northamptonshire.



The Bristol camp is run by the Bristol Table Tennis Academy and typically takes place for 2-3 weekdays during the school half-term. The next training camp is scheduled for 17th and 19th February, 2015 and costs £15 per day.

Westfields Table Tennis camp is run by Tim and Greg Yarnall and takes place at the Weavers Leisure Centre in Westfields, Northants. Coaches have regularly included 11X National Champion Desmond Douglas, current England number 1 Paul Drinkhall, Commonwealth medallists Jo Parker, Andrew Rushton and Alex Perry, as well as many other top English players and coaches. Each participant has a one-to-one session with one of the coaches per day, plus a multi-ball session. The next Westfields table tennis training camp takes place from 28-30 December, and costs £45 per day.

Both camps are open to all ages and abilities, so why not give it a try?

Contact Details:

Bristol:

Choi Sze To – email: choisze.to@sgscol.ac.uk Phone: 0117 9192 616

Bristol Table Tennis Academy Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/BristolTableTennisAcademy>

Westfields:

Greg Yarnall - email: gvttabletennis@gmail.com Phone: 07889152342

Website: <http://gvttabletennis.co.uk/>

A Serving of Sneakles

SNEAKLES CELEBRATES THE FESTIVE SEASON



.....WITH SOME TOP TABLE

SNEAKLES

Kingfisher Facebook Page

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

Use Facebook? Want all the latest news and information about upcoming events at the club delivered straight to your smart phone or tablet?

Simply like our Facebook page and you'll receive the updates in your timeline.



Sneakles' Table Tennis Crossword Puzzle

And now for a bit of festive fun, Sneakles invites you to complete his Table Tennis Crossword Puzzle. The first 3 correctly completed puzzles to be received by the editor will win a mini copy of Sneakles' Guide to Table Tennis, so sharpen your pencils and get solving!

Send your completed entry along with your name and address to Gwynne Penny, 15 Walnut Tree Road, Charlton Village, Shepperton Middlesex TW17 0RW.

Good Luck!!



Sneakles' Table Tennis Crossword Clues

ACROSS

- 1) 300 year-old name for table tennis. (4,4)
- 5) Left-handed Kingfisher player, part of Senior British League Team and plays in Reading Division 1. (4,5)
- 9) Part of the assembly that horizontally divides a table tennis table. (3)
- 10) Type of spin which causes the ball to 'kick' when it contacts the opponents side of the table. (3)
- 11) Item of equipment normally used to hit the ball. (3)
- 13) Official responsible for keeping score and ensuring the rules are upheld during a match. (6)
- 15) What the umpire calls to stop play when a ball comes in from another court. (3)
- 17) A word sometimes used to describe pimped-out type of rubber, which can be long, short or medium. (4)
- 18) What should you keep your eye on during the game? (4)
- 19) General term for a type of modern rubber, used to produce spin and speed. (7)
- 22) Surname of male player currently at number 45 in the world according to December ITTF Ranking. (9)
- 23) Popular but expensive series of rubber, by well known Chinese manufacturer. (9)
- 24) Type of serve which mimics the throwing action of a weapon. (8)
- 25) What is the new ball, introduced in July 2014, made of? (7)

DOWN

- 2) Type of serve with little or no spin. (5)
- 3) Former English Number One player and guest of honour at the Kingfisher Opening Ceremony in June 2014. (7,4)
- 4) Type of shot, popular with defenders, often played away from the table. (4)
- 6) Original UK maker of table tennis tables, since 1901. (6)
- 7) Olympic silver medal winner, top ranked Japanese female player (2, 8)
- 8) Global governing body of table tennis, initially. (1,1,1,1)
- 11) Popular manufacturer of table tennis equipment, used by Kingfisher. (9)
- 12) Surname of the winner of Kingfisher Grand Prix, Summer 2014.
- 14) A type of grip. (3)
- 16) One technique used to return a short serve which lands close to the net on the receiver's side. (5)
- 20) Name the system which is automatically invoked if a game is unfinished after 10 minutes' play.(8)
- 21) Alternative name for the sport of table tennis which divides opinion amongst players. (4,4)

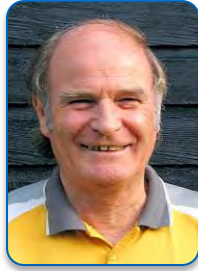
This crossword was generated using the ESL Activities.com Crossword Generator (<http://www.eslactivities.com>). © 2014 ESL Activities.com

Answers and winners names will be printed in the next edition of Kingfisher News.

Your Committee



President and
Coaching Officer:
Peter Charters



Chairman and
Treasurer:
Colin Dyke



General Secretary:
Peter Bradley



Facilities Officer &
Web Site Manager:
Allen Pack



Membership
Secretary:
Sandra Shepherd



Assistant
Treasurer: Richard
Fifield



Welfare Officer,
Premier and
Clubmark Contact:
Lisa Williams



Bookings Officer:
Mick Mitcham



Newsletter Editor
and Local League
Co-Ordinator
Gwynne Penny



Committee Member &
Trophy Secretary:
Andy Yon



Committee Member:
Allan Bruton



Committee Member:
Krys Szczygiel



Committee Member:
Ck Liu



Committee Member:
Carol Byers



Coach and Publicity
Officer: Andrew
Smith

Additional Club Roles:

Team Kit Manager: Peter Charters
Robot Manager: Allen Pack
Table Manager: Dave Duncan
Lost Property: Andy Yon

Kingfisher Agent, Tees Sport discount
scheme: Sandra Shepherd

Club Championships & Grouping Tournament
Allan Bruton

Cleaning: Feargal Gallen

Morning Club Contacts:

Contact the Morning Club leaders below for
more information about Tuesday, Wednesday
or Friday Club.



Tuesdays:
Diane Taylor



Wednesdays:
Roger
Woolven-Allen



Fridays:
Allan Bruton

Automated External Defibrillator (AED)



Allen Pack, Facilities Officer

A defibrillator has been generously donated to the club by one of our members. This is in memory of Ian Schwartz who suddenly collapsed and died following a table tennis match in 2003.

The thought of being in a situation where someone collapses and it's you that has the opportunity to take some action, is not one that most people welcome. However the introduction of a defibrillator along with some basic primary lifesaving knowledge means we all have the potential to help someone who has suffered a cardiac arrest.

A defibrillator commonly known as a AED is designed for use by persons with limited or no training and guides the operator using voice prompts on its use and instructs them if necessary to apply an electric shock to try and restore the hearts normal rhythm and also when to carry out CPR. So it's like having a knowledgeable first aider next to you.

If you have attended a basic first aid course, you would be familiar with the primary assessment phase which are noted by the letters **DR ABC** , this being used to help remember the steps:

Danger
Response
Airway
Breathing
Circulation.

These steps along with the basic CPR technique are the skills that we can all learn to help to reduce the anxiety and fear of dealing with a situation of person who has collapsed.

Two new pages have been created on the Kingfisher website to support the implementation of the AED. One page covers the use of the AED with supporting video and the second one, primary first aid assessment and CPR, again with supporting video. These new pages are located under facilities, see direct links below.

Link to AED introduction: <https://www.tabletennis365.com/Kingfisher/Pages/AED>

Link to primary assessment :

https://www.tabletennis365.com/Kingfisher/Pages/First_Aid_-_DR_ABC

We will shortly be arranging a short demonstration of the AED so look out for the invite if you are interested in learning more.



Newsletter Noticeboard

40-Minute Session Rule

There are times when practice facilities are at a premium and members are waiting to play. All members are reminded that, whenever the playing hall or individual tables are not pre-booked, table use must be limited to sessions of 40 minutes maximum (whether for 1-to-1 coaching, training or practice), if other members are waiting to play.



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.



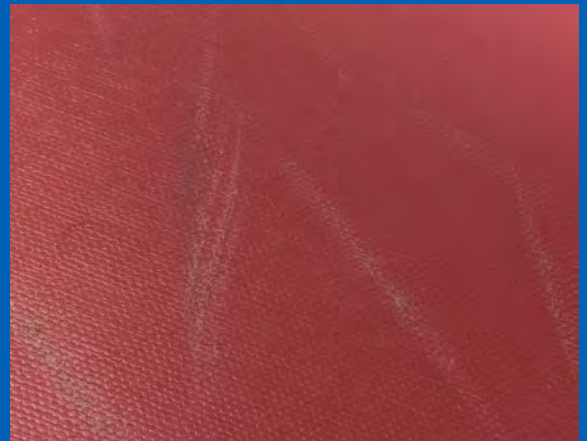
Vacancy:
Cleaning
Supervisor



Vacancy:
Events
Co-ordinator

Playing Area Floor

The committee would like to remind members to ensure that they use footwear with non-marking soles at all times in the playing hall, and avoid wearing them outdoors to prevent mud being brought into the hall and marking the floor (see below).



Important Security Reminder

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

Club Discount Scheme with Tees Sport

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



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

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

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

Discounts off the catalogue prices are as follows:

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

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

Donic products – less 20%

All other Tees Sport products – less 15%

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

OR

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

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

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

AND

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

https://www.tabletennis365.com/Kingfisher/Pages/Club_T_shirt

Now and Then: Jeffrey Huggins



2014



1975

Premier Club Affiliation renewed 2014/15



Kingfisher Table Tennis Club is registered with Table Tennis England as a Premier Club, with registration number: 1129.

Reminder: **all** members of Kingfisher must have a Table Tennis England Subscription. It is the responsibility of individual members to maintain an appropriate level of subscription (Associate Member for non-league playing members, Player Membership for local league play and Licensed Player for members who compete in licensed table tennis events, such as Table Tennis England Grand Prix.)

For more information visit the Table Tennis England Membership page:

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/membership/>

Berkshire Closed Championships 2014/15



By Allan Bruton, (Organiser)
photographs by Didier Garcon



Over the weekend of 6th and 7th December some 44 competitors took part in this season's closed championships in the 8 categories on offer at the Kingfisher Table Tennis Club, this is an increase in numbers on the last few seasons and hopefully will act as an incentive for the next few seasons. There were several new faces among the competitors who thoroughly enjoyed their weekend and we hope that this will encourage them to enter again next time round and bring with them some more new faces.



Veterans singles

This event attracted 20 entries and while several of our higher ranked veterans did not enter there were, however, enough to provide seeds. This event was well supported from the players in lower divisions of the local leagues and with the event played at the start in groups of 5 all the players had at least 4 games before elimination. The top seed in each group went through to the quarter finals with Hari Gehlot, Steve Miller, John Barclay and Ian Cole winning through to the semi finals both of these matches provided some good competitive table tennis with Hari and Ian coming through to the final. The final was another match showing great skill and tenacity with Hari just proving too strong in the end.



Berkshire Closed Championships 2014/15

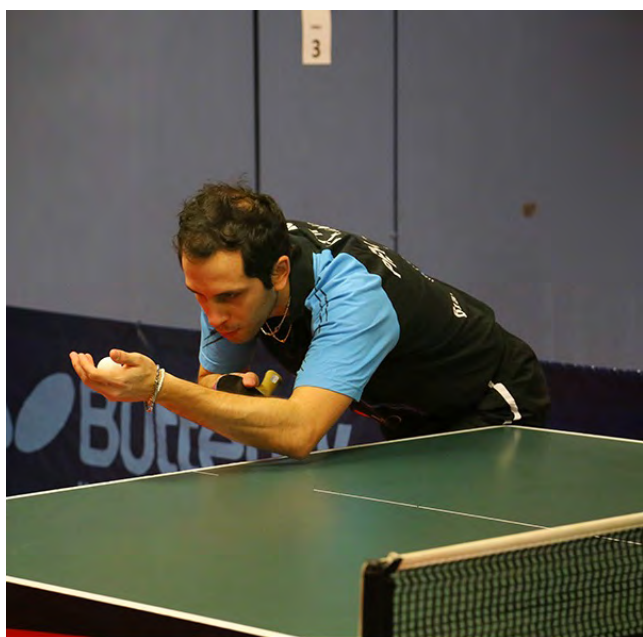
Mens singles



This event attracted 26 entries of which 12 were some of the highest rated Reading division 1 players these provided the seeds and over the course of the competition they did not disappoint. A fair sprinkling of our lower division players again entered and with groups, this time of 3 and 4 players, all got a minimum of 2 matches. The winner of each group going through to the quarter finals which was almost the Reading division 1 top 8.

The semi finalists after some gripping matches were Federico Viterbo, Krasi Ivanov, Daniel Moses and Ian Cole. Federico overcame Krasi in 4 sets and Daniel swept aside Ian in 3 straight sets.

Then to the final, now we have seen some good finals over the years but with the 1st set going to Federico 11-1 we were not expecting one this season, but, how wrong can you be, with the next 2 sets going to Daniel 13-11 and the 4th also Daniel Moses became the 2014 champion but the deposed holder did not go without a fight, a super final, (unless you are Federico). And well done to Daniel, (it's amazing what you can achieve when you wake up!!!)



Berkshire Closed Championships 2014/15

Graded singles

This event is one which excludes the top playing local players so giving us mere mortals a chance at a bit of glory. This event attracted 12 entries including a number of new faces which was most welcome. Played once again in groups with the top 2 players in each group progressing to the semi final stage.

Djordje Milovanovic and Angus Jones winning through after some tough encounters Angus winning in 4 sets against Celia Hooker of which 3 were 11-9 and Djordje beating David Tant in 5 very tight sets, Djordje winning the final in 3 straight sets. A good competition enjoyed by all.

Ladies singles

We managed to attract 8 ladies this season which is up on previous years and this was played in 2 groups of 4 so plenty of matches before the top 2 went through to the semi final stage, Katie Shepherd, Celia Hooker, Wendy Porter and Sue Purton taking these spots, Celia and Sue progressing to the highly absorbing and hard fought final. Celia took a 2 set lead only for Sue to fight back to 2-2 the final set was a corker with Celia comfortably winning 15-13!! A match worthy of a final, many thanks ladies !!!



Berkshire Closed Championships 2014/15

Mens doubles

This event brought 12 pairs together some top pairings and some from the lower ranks with the odd scratch pairing as well, a good mix, but with a fairly predictable semi final line up.

No 1 seeds Hari Gehlot and Federico Viterbo were however pushed all the way by scratch pair Phillip Zeng and Steve Miller and Trung Tran and Daniel Moses needed 4 sets to dispose of another scratch pair Krasi Ivanov and Hari Vennapusa. The final was however a little one sided with Hari and Federico winning in 3 straight sets.

Mixed doubles

There were 8 pairs in this event with 2 of these being scratch pairings, this was a straight knockout competition with the final contested between Wendy Porter and Daniel Moses who faced scratch pair Sue Purton and Hari Vennapusa Wendy and Daniel winning through in 4 sets, there was a good showing from a "junior" pairing of Katie Shepherd and Joe Barraclough.



Ladies doubles

This event enabled all 8 ladies to participate and was played as 1 group of 4, all pairs getting 3 matches, the event was won by Wendy Porter and Sue Purton who beat Celia Hooker and Jenny Tanner.

Under 21 singles

This was our most disappointing event with only 5 original entries and one of those eventually a no show, only 4 competitors. The event was played as 1 group of 4 giving all three matches, the overall winner was Siad Cole and the runner up Joe Barraclough.



A Big Thank You to Allan for a super report, and for hosting this excellent event. Thank you to Didier for a lovely set of photos. I was very sorry to miss it this year, but look forward to the next one. Gwynne

Berkshire Closed Championships in Pictures



Local League News: Reading

Kingfisher entered 12 teams in the Reading League:

For fixtures and latest results visit the web site here: <https://www.tabletennis365.com/reading>

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
Hari Gehlot Captain Availability: 75%	Richard Rosinski Captain Availability: 90%	Steve Murgatroyd Captain	Yeqin (Philip) Zeng Captain Availability: 90%	Geoff Civil Captain Availability: 75%	Allan Bruton Captain Availability: 100%
Tony Reynolds Availability: 50%	Martin Adams Availability: 80%	Niall McGrane Availability: 90%	Richard Fifield Availability: Reserve	John Morris Availability: 50%	Peter Bennett Availability: 100%
Federico Viterbo Availability: 50%	John Barclay Availability: 100%	Andrew Parker Availability: 80%	Trevor Organ Availability: 80%	Roger Woolven-Allen Availability: 60%	Ivor Hardman Availability: 90%
Stuart Williams Availability: 70%	Andy Smith Availability: 75%	Lisa Williams Availability: 100%	Yuan Zhuang	Bernhard Schneiderle Availability: 95%	Michael Houghton Availability: 100%
Mark Banks			Eduard Caliman		
			Hari Vennapusa Availability: Reserve		Allen Pack Availability: 70%

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
Eric Holmes Captain Availability: 90%	Willis Ma Captain Availability: 85%	Didier Garcon Captain Availability: 60%	Derek Crombie Captain Availability: 100%	Gill Bennett Captain Availability: 90%	Hilary Husbands Captain Availability: 50%
Carol Byers Availability: 80%	Leigh Mahoney Availability: 90%	Gianpaolo Balsamo Availability: 60%	Melvyn Lovegrove Availability: 80%	Gwynne Penny Availability: 60%	Colin Mercer Availability: 50%
Mick Mitcham Availability: 100%	Rick Leachman Availability: 100%	Gabor Radnoti Availability: 60%	Ken Robb Availability: 75%	Sandra Shepherd Availability: 40%	Ania Pytka Availability: 50%
Steven Woolnough Availability: 75%	Colin Dyke Availability: 80%	Joaquin Sabater Availability: 60%	John Upham Availability: 70%	Diane Taylor Availability: 100%	Mike Dorrington Availability: Reserve
Dave Duncan Availability: 80%	Dave Gostelow Availability: 100%	Jean-Noel Thepaut Availability: 60%	John Creighton Availability: 50%	David Wells Availability: 70%	Ruben Hernandez Availability: 50%
		Nils Wedi Availability: 60%		Katie Shepherd Availability: Reserve	

Local League News: Reading Roundup



Thank you to those of you who have submitted a report for your team, those who haven't there's still half a season left in which to scribble something down, so I shall expect to hear from you very soon!

Looking at the individual player averages, Federico Viterbo is last man standing at 100% for Kingfisher, in Division 1, Kingfisher A. Well done Federico, keep up the good work!

Kingfisher A are currently leading the first division, Kingfisher B and D not far behind in 3rd and 4th positions. Kingfisher C are currently sitting mid table. In Division 2 Kingfisher E currently lead the way with Curzon Club A nipping at their heels. Division 3 sees Kingfisher H currently sitting in second place behind Tidmarsh D and Kingfisher I currently in 11th place. Kingfisher J are sitting mid-table in Division 4 but with only a few points separating them from the 3 teams above, it is all to play for. Division 5 finds my team, Kingfisher K currently in third place with Kingfisher L hot on our heels – the next half will be interesting for sure!

Good luck to you all in the coming weeks, I hope you enjoy your matches and remember to keep those reports coming!

Kingfisher A Hari Gehlot

Kingfisher A hasn't slipped up yet and are still in contention for the league title. The match against OLOP A yielded a draw (Federico - a deserved 3, Hari (me) -1 and doubles). Against Kingfisher B we won 6-4 (Federico - another deserved 3, me - 1, Mark - 1 and doubles).

In the second half of the season we need to beat OLOP A and KF B and not slip up against any of the other teams to ensure we bring home the title. KF A most valuable player - Federico Viterbo - to his credit he has turned up for some of the less strong matches when there have been player shortages. Currently we are struggling with player availability and this has resulted in me playing in every match to date. One more player signed on for the team would help with player shortage. Keep it up Fede - me, Mark, Tony and Stuart will support you as best we can - we want to see you on 100% at the end of the season.



Local League News: Reading Roundup

Kingfisher D
Yeqin Zeng, Captain



KF D ranked the 5th after the first half season. We lost to KF A, KF D, OLOP A and Tidmarsh A. Eduard Caliman did not play the first two matches so we struggled a little in the beginning of the season.

Eduard Caliman has achieved 91.3% winning percentage in the first half season, solid performance! With the help from Yuan Zhuang, Trevor Organ, Hari Vennapusa and Richard Fifield, our team will fight for the 4th place in the second half season.

Kingfisher E
Geoff Civil, Captain



Geoff Civil (capt.), Bernhard Schnederle, John Morris, Roger Woolven-Allen, Colin Dyke (played up 3 times).

We're currently sitting top of Division 2 with 20 points. Curzon are 2 points behind, but with a game in hand against Wokingham 'B' who are in the bottom half of the table. If Curzon win that one, they will push us down into 2nd place on individual games won. Third and fourth places are held by Pangbourne and Milestone (the latter with a game in hand) on 13 points, so we have a healthy looking lead over those positions.

The season could become more dynamic than it appears though. Our top scorer, Bernhard, is on a 93% win average, but will be returning to Austria at the end of January, so subsequent matches could become more challenging. However, we have a strong core to the team, with anyone on their night able to hold their own against almost anyone else in the division. Our second top scorer is that shy wallflower Roger on 71%, followed by John on 67%, Geoff (58%), and Colin, who will be able to play up for us one more time, on 56%. We're also grateful to have offers from others in our 'H' team in Div 3, to play up for us when needed, and we look forward to Willis Ma and Rick Leachman joining us for some matches. Watch this space!

Local League News: Reading Roundup

Kingfisher F
Allan Bruton, Captain



Holding our own in the middle of the division, a position we will be happy to retain, some illness and injury problems to overcome but a reasonable position at this time.

Kingfisher G
Eric Holmes, Captain



With half the season gone we are matching our start of season forecast. Having been 'pushed' up a Division to fill a blank space we were always going to struggle. Although the previous season we finished 3rd, such was the closeness of the of the teams we drew 4 and lost 6 matches. Hardly the strength for a higher Division?

We are next to the bottom currently with 5 points, 3 of them through the 'kindness' of the opposition who came with only 2 players for one match (we won 6-4) and the other when an Opponent decide he could not stay beyond 9.30 pm and conceded his last game! The latter match was one where I exceeded expectations by winning all three thus we won 6-4.

We managed to 'shoot ourselves in the foot' by only having two players against the bottom team, through a mix up over a rescheduled match, thereby giving away both points.

Highlights have been my comeback in the 5th set from 1-8 to win it 12-10 at Curzon and an interesting game I had against Alan Pack (the 'F' team) where the 3rd set went from 1-8 to 11-8.

I don't think either of us 'believed it'. We have lost count of the number of games where Steve has lost 9-11 or at deuce, and on quiet a number of occasions in the 5th set! Here's hoping he can turn it around in the 2nd half of the season.

Performances so far:

Eric	P.	23.	W	10	%	43.5.	Steve.	P.	21.	W.	3.	%.	14.3
Carol.	P.	18.	W.	3.	%.	13.3.	Dave.	P.	11.	W.	1.	%.	9.0
Mick.	P.	16.	W.	2.	%.	12.5.	Doubles.	P	11.	W.	3.	%.	27.3

Local League News: Reading Roundup

Kingfisher H
Willis Ma, Captain



On behalf of Kingfisher H, I can say we have done well in this first half of the season. We always keeping in the top four on the division 3 table. We won 7 games, draw 1 and lost 2, which included a heavy defeat by the leaders. We are currently in second place with 6 points behind the leaders but 1 point clear from the third place with one game in hand. Hopefully, we can consolidate the runner-up position with good use of the game in hand before Christmas.

We are aiming to finish at runner-up position. It will be difficult to catch up the leaders unless they drop points unexpectedly. The few teams behind us are also quite strong teams. Hence, we have some works to do in order to keep on track for promotion.

Kingfisher K
Gill Bennett, Captain



It has proved an enjoyable and mostly successful season for us so far. We started well, or as our divisional fixtures secretary, Duncan Abbott, put it , "exploded into the season with a 10-0 win over BBC Club". Since then, we have continued to win 9 out of the 11 matches, only losing to stronger teams OLOP F and Tidmarsh F. Gwynne Penny and David Wells have played particularly well, winning most of their individual match sets, with Diane Taylor, Sandra and Gill averaging 2 sets in each match. Our junior member, Katie Shepherd, has played in two matches in her first league season and did very well to win 2 sets against Milestone D.

Unfortunately, we shall miss Gwynne for a while as her knee heals, following a recent operation, and wish her a comfortable and speedy recovery. In the meantime we expect to register a new Kingfisher member who is willing to take her place for the second half of the season.

Local League News: Reading Roundup

Kingfisher L
Hilary Husbands (Captain)
Write up by Gwynne



Hilary, captain of Kingfisher L, was unfortunately taken ill during the first half of the season so I am caretaking the team on her behalf. We wish you a speedy recovery Hilary!

In October we signed on Adam McTiernan and David O'Keeffe to join the team. Following 4 narrow defeats at the start of the first half the team have got into their stride with 6 consecutive wins, which puts them into 4th position in the table, just behind Kingfisher K.

The team have also been competing in the lower divisions knock out cup and the handicap cup which has all been good experience.

This should make for an exciting second half, and I wish Colin, Ania, Ruben, Adam, David and Mike well for the rest of the season. I shall be rooting for you (except perhaps when you play against Kingfisher K!).

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

https://www.tabletennis365.com/Reading/Tables/Senior_2014-15/All_Divisions

Local League News: Bracknell

Kingfisher entered 5 teams into the Bracknell League.

Visit the new Bracknell Web Site for latest match results and fixtures:
<https://www.tabletennis365.com/BracknellAndWokingham>

KINGFISHER A PREMIER HOME NIGHT THURSDAY	KINGFISHER B PREMIER HOME NIGHT THURSDAY	KINGFISHER C PREMIER HOME NIGHT FRIDAY	KINGFISHER D PREMIER HOME NIGHT - THURSDAY	KINGFISHER E DIVISION 1 HOME NIGHT - FRIDAY	KINGFISHER F 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%	
				Bernhard Schnederle Availability: Reserve	David Wells Availability: 70%
				Kenneth Robb Availability: Reserve	

Kingfisher F in Division 1 are urgently looking to recruit an additional player to help the team fulfill its fixtures for the second half whilst Gwynne is out of action. If you are interested in joining a great team, please contact me before the cut off point (31st January) so that we can register you for the league. Matches take place at Kingfisher, Pinewood Leisure Centre and Broadmoor.

Local League News: Bracknell Roundup

Bracknell Summary
Gwynne Penny



Congratulations to John Barclay, currently the last Kingfisher player left standing at 100% average, having played and won 18 games. Well done John!

In the Premier Division Kingfisher teams B, A and D currently sit in the top 3 slots, which spells out BAD – but I think it's rather good. Kingfisher C is currently sitting in 6th place, a couple of points above bottom placed Broadmoor A.

In Division 1, my own Kingfisher F team appear to have secured last place, whilst Kingfisher E are faring better – currently in 5th position and only a couple of points behind Broadmoor C.

No Kingfisher teams in Division 2 this year, but at the moment Wokingham D lead the way ahead of Nomads B, so next year's Division 1 could see another pinewood based team in the mix.

Good luck for the second half everyone! Keep those reports coming.

Kingfisher A
John Willcocks, Captain



We have finished the first half of the season with a pretty good record of seven wins, one draw and two defeats. This has left us well clear in second place in the division but trailing our B team, who have been bolstered by their big summer signing, by quite a margin.

Unfortunately our two defeats have both come against our B team, one match being very close and the other not so close, so it looks almost certain that they will take our title from us.

Phil and myself lead the way with averages close to 80% with good support from Geoff, John and Roger who have averages between 45% and 67%.

Unusually for us we have also done well in the Howard Shield winning all three matches for the first time for many years.

Local League News: Bracknell Roundup

Kingfisher B
Allan Bruton, Captain



A superb start to the season all 4 players are performing well and while the division is missing the usually difficult OLOP and highly rated Wokingham players, we have earned our current top spot by taking good points from, among others, our "A" team.

Kingfisher C
Mick Mitcham, Captain



Our last game of the year ended in a 7-3 win.

Denise having a great evening with 3 wins and Carol and Mick 2 wins. Results played 8 won 2 lost 6 with 26 points.

Players results are as follows
Carol 8/18 44.4 %, Denise 7/18 38.8%, Peter 4/12 33.3%
and Mick 7/24 29.1%

We are also in the last 8 of the Howard Shield.

Kingfisher D
Allen Pack, Captain



A good first half season for Kingfisher D with a current 3rd place slot. Topping the average percentage chart is Trevor Organ with 80% with Richard Field only 2% behind at 78%. Team captain at 68% I think is my best result to date but maybe this is because I have missed the matches against Kingfisher B:-)

John Barclay from Kingfisher B tops the percentage chart at 100% and after coming up against him in the recent Ken Fellingham Tournament, I realise he knows how to use a hard bat to great effect, very frustrating for us reverse rubber players.

Speaking of frustrating, Michael Houghton has had some close matches but not quite managed to get the wins, also Dave's form is not up to his best. In the JHS we have taken a bit of a pasting for the first two matches but we have a final match before the end of the year to redeem ourselves.

Wishing all, health and happiness for Christmas and the New Year.

Local League News: Bracknell Roundup

Kingfisher E
Derek Crombie, Captain



I am very happy with the way that the team has performed so far this season. We are currently sitting mid-table in Bracknell Division 1. We've had some injury in the team – Kenn Robb is out at the moment and was missed at the Christmas Dinner -- we wish him a quick recovery.

Melvyn tops our averages with 80% followed up by Dave Duncan and John Upham who are both around 55%.

My prediction for the next half is that we will probably end up around half way in the table.

(Report written by Gwynne following a phonecall with Derek)

Kingfisher F
Gwynne Penny, Captain



F is for Fighting Spirit. As predicted, it has been a tough first half for us but we are gaining great experience as a team that we can take back to Division 2 next season. Everyone on the team has played well and fought hard. David Wells has led the way in individual averages in the team and went beyond the call of duty to win a point over at Pinewood, sacrificing a good blade in the process and coming away with a fairly deep cut on his hand. We have had some closely fought games but division 1 is a big leap from division 2.

Right now we are urgently looking to recruit an additional player to help the team fulfill its fixtures for the second half whilst I am out of action recuperating from a knee op. If you are interested in joining a great team, please contact me before the cut off point (31st January) so that we can register you for the league. Matches take place at Kingfisher, Pinewood Leisure Centre and Broadmoor.

Reading Closed Championships



The Reading & District Table Tennis Association Closed Championships will be held at Kingfisher

on **14th & 15th February** 2015 (Senior & Veteran)
and **21st & 22nd February** 2015 (Junior)

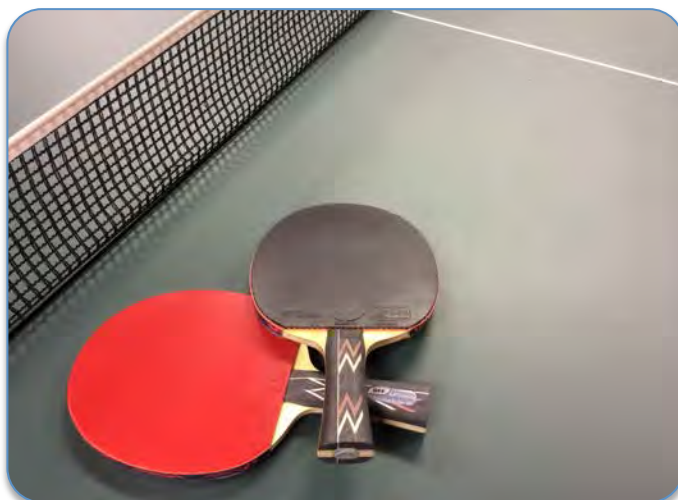
Entries may be accepted from any person who, in the current season, has played at least 4 league matches prior to the closing date for entries.

Entries must be sent to the Championships Secretary Wendy Porter, c/o Our Lady of Peace TTC, 338 Wokingham Road, Earley, Reading RG6 7DA or email wendyasporter@gmail.com. The CLOSING DATE for receipt of entries is **Friday 31st January 2015**. The DRAW will take place on Wednesday 4th February 2015. The BALLS to be used will be White 3 Star.

Entry Forms and full details including the rules of the competition are available to download from the [Reading & District Table Tennis Association web site](#).

Entry is FREE.

Sign up now to secure your place.



Berkshire County Schools Qualifiers

Berkshire County Schools Individual Table Tennis Championships 2015

Date: **Saturday 25th January 2015** at Kingfisher Table Tennis Club

Deadline for Entries: **15th January 2015 (5pm)**. **Entries only by email**. No late entries accepted.

Entry Cost: £3.00 payable in cash to the organiser on the day before your first match.



Organiser: **Dimitris Tsaptsinos, Berkshire Schools Secretary**
Email: dtsaptsinos@gmail.com

Key Notes (please read carefully)

- Maximum of four players per school per age group.
- A player can only enter one age group (but can enter an age group one higher if they wish).
- There is no requirement to be licensed by the ETTA to take part in this event.
- There will be no ETTA ranking points awarded but the organiser reserves the right to rank players based on the ETTA ranking list applicable on deadline date.
- The competition will be either group based and then knock-out rounds or straight knock-out depending upon number of entries. Wherever possible all players will play at least three matches (best of five games).
- Balls will be provided but bats will not so bring your own.
- Entrants may be required to umpire matches when asked to by the Referee.
- There will be tea, coffee, squash and biscuits available but no other refreshments.
- Winners will be given the opportunity of representing the County of Berkshire at the English Schools TTA National Finals on Saturday 25th April 2015 at their own expense. More information will be provided by the organiser immediately after the event.

See the next page for entry form.

Berkshire County Schools Qualifiers

Entry Form

Please complete and email this Entry Form to dtsaptsinos@gmail.com before the deadline.

Please use as the Subject Line: ESTTA Berkshire

Players Full Name: _____

Players Date of Birth and School Year: _____

Players School/College: _____

(Player must be attending a Berkshire based School/College at date of entry)

National Ranking: _____

Parent/Guardian/Coach/ Teacher Contact Name (if under 18):

(A responsible parent, guardian, coach or teacher must be present on the day of the tournament if u18)

Contact Phone Number on day: _____

Contact E-mail: _____

(If no Email address, please supply phone number instead)

Event (please mark appropriate event with a X):

U11 Boys (Years 6 and Under) ____

U11 Girls (Year 6 and Under) ____

U13 Boys (Years 7 & 8) ____

U13 Girls (Years 7 & 8) ____

U16 Boys (Years 9, 10 & 11) ____

U16 Girls (Years 9, 10 & 11) ____

U19 Boys (Years 12 & 13) ____

U19 Girls (Years 12 & 13) ____

Upcoming Events: Heritage Oil Cup 2015

Photos: Michael Loverde and the ITTF

**Come and watch
16 men and 16 women
competing for the**

Heritage Oil Cup 2015



TICKETS

Saturday 4th July

Adults - £15

Concessions - £10

(over 65, U18 and students)

Family ticket - £41

(2 Adults & 2 children U18)

Sunday 5th July

Adults - £15

Concessions - £10

(over 65, U18 and students)

Family ticket - £41

(2 Adults & 2 children U18)

**10% discount on orders
over £200**

£2 booking fee per order

**The top 10 British male and female
table tennis players will be up
against five top international
standard overseas competitors,
along with one lucky qualifier!**

**Sat 4th & Sun 5th July 2015
K2, Crawley, Sussex**

**Please support us.
Your sport needs you!**

Visit Heritage Oil Cup on Facebook for updates

Email stevepound9177@yahoo.co.uk for tickets



Around the Net: Last Minute Gift Ideas

Under £10

Joola Triple Bat and ball set.

Challenge yourself and the family with the mini, midi and regular sized bats in this handy set from Joola.



£50-60

Jaques Original Ping Pong

Go back in time and experience the origins of our sport with this set. All you need is a dining room table!



Around £50

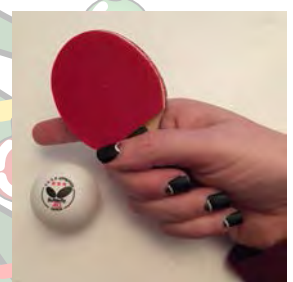
Nintendo Wii Table Tennis Bat

Perfect for the avid video gamer.



Under £5

Miniature Keyring TT bats from Global Table Tennis:



Feeling a bit squiffy after too much seasonal indulgence? Then you might want to avoid these tables:

Undeniably cute, these keyrings make great stocking fillers and yes, you can actually play with them... just about!



Around the Net: Last Minute Gift Ideas

£18-£31

Sneakles Guide to Table Tennis

Available in soft and hard cover formats, this book will tell you everything you never needed to know about table tennis!



<http://www.blurb.co.uk/b/5273112-sneakles-guide-to-table-tennis>

£Free

Ping Pong Masters For Windows Phone



A great looking app to keep your eye in whilst not at the table.

£undisclosed

Omron's Ping Pong Robot



Looking rather like something from War of the Worlds, this Japanese robot can actually hold a basic rally with you, but it's probably a bit large for most people's living rooms!

Around \$350

Killerspin Stilo SVR Ping Pong Paddle

The world's first carbon fibre racket, limited edition.



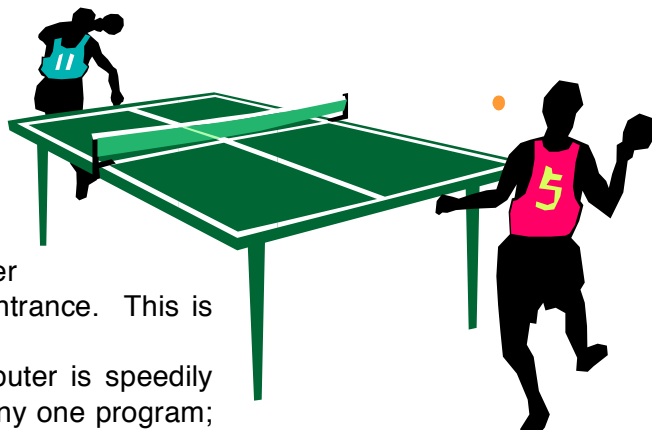
Roger's Ramblings: Hello again everyone!!

Prologue

WELL, the good news is that this particular dose of the dreaded *Ramblings* will not be a large dose at all. The main reason for this is that I have very little material this time. For reasons that I don't quite understand, members who are happily chatting away to each other choose to abruptly stop talking whenever I make an entrance. This is quite hurtful, I do have to say.

The second reason is that my antiquated computer is speedily going dead-byes. It takes about ten minutes to load any one program; a charming little facet that makes me want to throw a house-brick through the screen. And so I shall buy a new PC but, as I am sure you will agree, two weeks before Christmas is NOT the ideal time to buy electronic goodies! However, I shall hopefully be properly up-and-running before Gwynne's next deadline. So you haven't heard the last of me just yet. Sorry about that...

I shall end this little prologue with a question for you. Have you ever heard of Amstetten? No? Well, read on...



So Long, Farewell, Auf Wiedersehen, Adieu

I first met Bernhard at the last Kingfisher Grouping Tournament where we battled to decide who should finish the event in seventh position and who in eighth. I finished eighth.



The fact that we met at all in such circumstances has since surprised me. In my opinion Bernhard is of a good Reading Division 1 standard and should have finished in the top four or so. I do not know who he lost to that day but, to repeat myself, I am surprised at his final position.

As most of you will know, Bernhard hails from Austria. He lives in the town of Amstetten which, he tells me, is about 60 km from the city of Linz (go on, tell me you've never heard of that, either!) and it lies near the River Danube. The trip to Vienna by train would take about an hour.

Bernhard started playing our sport when he was six years old, which is something he has in common with the German player Timo Boll. However, although Bernhard plays to a high standard, he is not quite on a par with Timo! Bernhard's father has played table tennis for over thirty years. Actually, that's not too much to brag about when you think of the likes of Allan Bruton, John Morris, Colin Dyke, Derek Crombie, Mike Dorrington and Yours Truly! But I have digressed...

Back home, Bernhard plays for the *SG Amstetten Tisch-Tennis* first team which, in 2013, was promoted from the national Division 5 to Division 4. I think (and I stress the word "think") that this is something like our own British League set-up. Bernhard also told me that he plays in Lower Austria's Division 2. At this point, your friendly scribe became totally confused and the old brain started to hurt a bit. So I gave up. Bernhard has been in the UK studying Business and Economics at Regent's University in London. He has already completed two semesters back home; is doing this current third one on an exchange basis and then will return to Austria for the final three. He hopes to graduate in June 2016.

Roger's Ramblings

When dear old Colin Dyke decided to go pot-hunting in Reading's Division 3, a space appeared in Geoff Civil's Division 2 squad and Bernhard was duly appointed. The direct result of this is that Geoff's team (perhaps I should say "our" team) is now sitting happily at the top of the divisional table. As I write this, Bernhard has lost only two matches – those against Phil Burke and Ivor Hardman – giving him a Division 2 playing percentage well into the nineties. When Bernhard leaves us I have a feeling that our team results will be quite different! However, our aim is to accrue sufficient points to avoid relegation, but also to make sure that we do not finish up in that dreaded Division 1! If you take Bernhard out of the equation, we are all far too old for such high-flying shenanigans! I have watched our top youngsters (people under 50) and, on many an occasion, I like to think that I would have known exactly how to deal with any particular shot. If only I could have seen it, that is...



Before he came to England, Bernhard had a squint on the Internet to find a suitable table tennis club. Residing in Bracknell as he currently does, Kingfisher was ideal! Having read all about us, Bernhard went on to say that, in his opinion, Kingfisher is set to become the country's Number One club. Who was I to disagree?

On a personal note, Bernhard taught your friendly scribe the mysterious vagaries of the under-table signalling employed by many top doubles partnerships. Unfortunately, it took me about two seconds to discover that, although reaching down to make a particular signal did not pose too much of a problem, getting back up again was another story!

As I am sure you know, the sub-headline above is taken from the lyrics of one of the songs in *The Sound of Music*. But, unlike the von Trapp family, Bernhard is travelling back to Austria and not away from it. He leaves us in early February. Maybe we'll see him again in the future and maybe we won't. Who knows? But, whatever happens, we wish him all the very best for the remainder of his studies and his future career.

Dave Who??

We turned up for our Reading Division 2 match to find that some top Division 1 players were already assembled on the adjacent table. Among them – and still playing brilliantly – was my old playing mate Dave.

"Hello, Dave," I said, "I haven't seen you for years. How are things with you?"

"Hi, Roger," replied Dave. "I'm fine, thanks. How are you keeping?"

"As well as can be expected," I replied. "Have you still maintained your record in the Reading Half Marathons?"

"I don't take part in the Reading Half Marathons," said Dave.

"Don't be daft," I said. "You held – and I'm pretty certain that you still do hold – the record for the number of Reading races run by anyone. I ran 21 events, but I think you must have completed 35 or 40 by now."

"Not me," insisted Dave.

"One of us is losing it," I muttered. "It is Dave, isn't it?"

"It certainly is," said Dave.

"Dave Wise?" I continued.

"No, I'm Dave Gilham."



End of story...

Roger's Ramblings

Our Youngsters

I recently turned up at the Club to meet Bernhard, by arrangement, so that we could travel together for our away match against

Polish A. While waiting for my Austrian team-mate, I watched the Club's youngsters, under the watchful eye of Coach Andy Smith, going through their paces. I hardly recognised any of them, apart from Katie Shepherd (pictured), and I only knew her because she had her name printed on the back of her playing shirt. But I was impressed!



These kids know no fear. They go for every shot and, the more they do it, the higher their percentage rates become. Not for them the pitter-pattering and pushing and poking about employed by such players as Colin Dyke, Yours Truly, Dave Barr and Matthew Syed. They all go for it big time! To repeat myself, and to be serious, I really was impressed!

Christmas Party

For those of you who did not attend the Christmas dinner-party held at Lower Earley's *Toby Carvery*, you really did miss a treat!

A great time was had by all! Allan Bruton (pictured) had arranged everything and, boy, what a grand job he'd made of things! The diners were all given tables each seating four or six people but we were all still within easy

range of calling out insults to each other. This table formation also provided the opportunity for the tables to compete against each other in one of Allan's fiendish cryptic quizzes. I mention this mainly (no false modesty here, you will notice) because my own table, consisting of Diane Taylor, Marion and Colin Dyke, Mike Dorrington, my wifey Lin and Yours Truly, finished up winning – although the competition did go down to an exciting tie-break. There was also a great raffle in which, or so it seemed to me, every couple won something!



But, if anyone had suggested beforehand that 10 o'clock would see six ostensibly intelligent adults playing with a plastic spinning top and timing each other to see who could keep the thing going the longest, I would have suggested that that person was barmy. But that was exactly what happened!

Eleven Years Ago

Talking of Christmas get-togethers set my mind wandering back some eleven years. At the time, Christine Basden was the non-playing skipper of our

Reading team and her squad consisted of Geoff Davis, Geoff Civil, Gareth Evans, Cliff Putterford and me. I know, I know, what a motley crew... Christine, at the time, was Editor of the *Kingfisher News* and I regularly submitted my *Roger's Ramblings* column to her otherwise fine publication. Our evening out, however, was not only a Christmas celebration; it also marked my own sixtieth birthday.

Now Geoff Davis (pictured) who, as most of you will know, sadly left us a couple of years ago, could not resist putting his lyrical brain into gear and came up with a verse or two, sung to the tune of *Good King Wenceslas*, that we bellowed out with such great gusto that we should all have been slung out of the *Sweeney Todd* pie-eating emporium. Fortunately, our neighbouring revellers were also celebrating noisily and so nobody complained. Geoff's song went something like this...



Roger's Ramblings

RAMBLING ROGER LAST WENT OUT

Rambling Roger last went out – to Sweeney Todd's one evening,
Along with all his ping pong pals – arranged by Captain Christine.
"I'll have pie," he said with glee – ('twas all was on the menu).
But 'cos he'd left his teeth at home – the meat he found he could not chew!

'Tis also Roger's sixtieth year – we celebrate tonight.
And though he's kept his head of hair – it's now turned snowy white.
Yes, sixty years and going strong – he still turns out each week.
He gives it everything he's got – though most is passed its peak.

With backhand chop and forehand slap – our Roger's oh so clever.
And though his shots might look quite good – they hit the table never.
But nonetheless he gives his best – he's a great man through and through.
He doesn't look his sixty years – but we remember when he used to.

Thank you, Geoff – I think.

A Christmas Story

As you know, there are many festive traditions this time of the year, such as kissing under the mistletoe, sending cards to our friends far away, eating goose or turkey and giving each other little gifts. However, the origins of some of these traditions have been obscured with the passing of time. It was with great interest, therefore, that I recently read how one particular Christmas tradition started. As you will discover, it all goes to show that Santa Claus is as human as the rest of us...

A long time ago, when four of Santa's elves fell sick with 'flu, the trainee elves did not produce toys as fast as the regular ones. Santa started to feel the pre-Christmas pressure.

Then Mrs Claus told Santa that her mother was coming to visit, which stressed Santa even more.

When he went to harness the reindeer, he found that Rudolph had torn one of his forelocks, one of the female reindeer was having a bad-hair day and two of the younger ones had jumped the fence and were nowhere to be seen.

Then, when Santa began to load the sleigh, one of the floorboards cracked, the bag of toys fell through to the ground and all the toys were scattered.

Frustrated Santa went into the house for a cup of apple cider and a shot of rum. When he got to the cupboard, he discovered that the elves had drunk all the cider and had made off with his liquor. In his frustration, Santa accidentally dropped the empty cider jug, and it broke into hundreds of little glass pieces all over the kitchen floor. Santa went to find a broom to sweep up the bits of glass only to find that the mice had eaten all the straw off the end of the broom.

Just then the doorbell rang and a highly frustrated Santa marched up to the door, yanked it open, and there stood a little fairy with a great big Christmas tree.

Very cheerfully, the fairy said, "Merry Christmas, Santa. Isn't it a lovely day? I have a beautiful tree for you. Where would you like me to stick it?"

And so began the tradition of the little fairy on top of the Christmas tree...



Roger's Ramblings

Epilogue

WELL, everyone, that's almost it for now. I have been having a wonderful time playing our fantastic sport – and I hope that you have, too. Now that I am one of the nation's useless unemployed, I often trot down to the Kingfisher Club's Wednesday morning sessions where we oldies battle against each other. If you haven't attended one of these mornings but are free to do so, why not give it a try? A couple of Reading Division 1 players turn out quite regularly but I would say, on average, that the standard is more that of Divisions 2 and 3. Everyone is friendly and, with one notable exception (try and guess who!), nobody cares too much about who wins or loses. Having a good time and getting in some really useful practice is what it's really all about. Give it some thought.

I very rarely put on a totally serious hat but, for a moment or two, please bear with me. For most of us, Christmas is a time when we all enjoy ourselves, we eat and drink to excess and we try not to think too much about going back to work when the fun's all over.

But it is also the time when, perhaps, we should spare a thought for one or two players for whom life is currently not such a bed of roses. 87-year-old John Freeman, who has done more work for table tennis than most of us put together and who is still President of the Reading Association, has been suffering major



health problems and is heavily reliant on carers and physios every day of the week. I have heard that Brian Halliday (Kingfisher Chairman for many years) is very up-beat about his health and he is doggedly soldiering on but he, too, is not having a wonderful time of things. I am sure that you join with me when I wish these two table tennis stalwarts all the very best for the future.

Our lady Editor, Gwynne Penny (pictured), has also suffered a misfortune, injuring her knee so badly that she can only walk with the aid of special equipment. Gwynne is arguably our most enthusiastic member and loves the sport to an extent that I have never seen elsewhere. I have been told that she will be out of action for the remainder of the season. But, if anyone is capable of pulling out all the stops, that person is Gwynne. Get better soon, young lady! And that is an order, not a request... As far as the rest of you are concerned, I sincerely hope that you have a great Christmas. I should also like to wish you a prosperous New Year and, with luck, I shall meet many of you "at the other end of the table" in the weeks and months that lie ahead.

(Roger)

Thanks Roger!

Great ramblings as ever. Thanks also for the get well wishes. Rest assured, I shall be back as soon as I can. In the meantime, I am taping a bat to the end of my crutches and working on my forehand topspin.....

Gwynne

Festive Fun: Name the Players

Here's a little challenge for you: how many of these Kingfisher players, past and present, can you name? The first correct answer received via email to gwynnepenney@mac.com will receive a set of 3 Nittaku plastic balls. Answers will be printed in the next edition. Good Luck!



And Finally....

I hope you've enjoyed reading this edition of Kingfisher News. As you probably know by now, I am currently recovering from an operation to repair my knee cartilage which puts me out for the rest of the season. It hasn't stopped me from playing mini-tt at home though, and I am currently champion of my own living room, -- but I can't wait to get back to the real thing.



Please keep the articles, match reports and photos coming and have a lovely Christmas and New Year!

Gwynne

Useful Links:

Kingfisher Web Site:

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

Kingfisher Facebook Page:

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

Kingfisher on Instagram (new)

<http://instagram.com/kingfisherttc>

Kingfisher on Twitter (new)

<https://twitter.com/kingfisherttc>

Table Diary:

https://www.tabletennis365.com/Kingfisher/Pages/Table_diary

Club Shirts:

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>

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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