

Kingfisher Table Tennis Club

KINGFISHER NEWS



Issue 76 February / March 2014



Congratulations!!

(Please see Page 5)

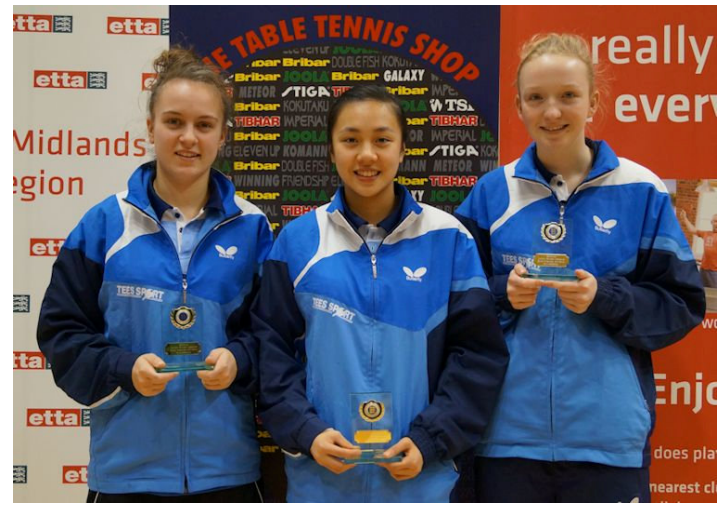
Kingfisher JBL

The following report, complete with some excellent pictures, concerning the Kingfisher Junior British League team's activities over the weekend of 8/9 February 2014, has been received from Peter Charters:

The Kingfisher Club's two teams in the Junior British League returned from the Lilleshall National Sports Centre with medals to show for a successful weekend's competition.

This is the largest team event in Britain, played on thirty tables in two halls. This was the second of the two competition weekends. The Kingfisher Girls' team (pictured) welcomed back England's Number One Junior Tin Tin Ho after missing the first weekend having been called up by England to compete in the European Senior Championships. With England's Number Two and Five Juniors, Maria Tsapsinos and Emily Bolton, making up the three-player

Kingfisher team, the result was predictable and they swept all before them. They comfortably won all five of their matches but had to settle for runners'- up medals having dropped points over the first weekend's competition in October. Burton Uxbridge, which included another Kingfisher player Megan Knowles, hung on to first place.



Kingfisher's very young Boys' team (pictured) also managed to win runners'-up medals. Playing in an Under-18 Junior event, Kingfisher turned out a team of two Cadets (Under 15) – Josh Gallen and Sam Liu – and one Under-10 – Jamie Liu. Playing Division Four, these boys showed their improvement by moving up from fourth place after the first weekend's competition to second with a win in their last two matches on Sunday afternoon. The strong Junior team from Guernsey topped the division but this was an impressive team effort by this Kingfisher Club side; the youngest of the forty-eight boys' teams on view at Lilleshall last weekend.

It must be noted the support for the young boys' team given by the Kingfisher girls, particularly Maria. Often, although playing in a different hall and, because the girls matches were usually over quickly, she had opportunity to show the spirit of togetherness that this club needs in our future.

Peter Charters

Club Officers and Officials:



Treasurer, Senior British League Secretary, Veterans National League Contact, Team Kit Manager, Trustee. **Eric Van Looy** – Membership Secretary, Welfare and Child Protection Officer, Events Organiser, Trophy Secretary, Senior British league Second Team Manager. **Nick Heaps** – Coaching Officer, Junior and Cadet National League Manager, Trustee. **Allen Pack** – Building and Equipment Officer, Website Manager, Robot Master, Committee Member. **Roger Woolven-Allen** – Newsletter Editor. **Richard Fifield** – Assistant Treasurer. **Andy Yon** (pictured) – Committee Member, Social Event Co-ordinator, Lost Property Organiser. **Peter Bradley** (pictured) – Committee Member. **Gwynne Penny** – League Play Co-ordinator, Reading League Secretary, Bracknell League Secretary, Committee Member. **Hari Gehlot** – Bookings

Peter Charters – President, Hon General Secretary, Junior British League Manager, Senior British League First Team Manager, Trustee.

Colin Dyke – Chairman, Hon Treasurer, Senior British League Secretary, Veterans National League Contact, Team



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

(Vacancies exist for Publicity Officer and Minutes Secretary)

Prologue

Hello again! Welcome to Issue 76 of the *Kingfisher News*!

But, despite the sincere welcome, first of all I have to mention the very sad passing away of founder member Ron Vickers. Immediately following this “prologue”, you will find a message from Ron’s son Adrian, together with a tribute written by the Rev Colin

Bass and an appropriate comment made by our Chairman.

However, sad though it is when life leaves us, so it joyfully arrives. Sincere congratulations are sent to Keith Newell on the latest addition to his family. Great news, Keith!

While I’m on the subject of new arrivals, Phil Mead (pictured) marched into the clubhouse recently and proudly announced that he was going to have a baby. With my extremely dubious wit, I suggested that this was possibly the closest thing to a miracle for 2,000 years.

But Phil, of course, meant that his partner Claudia was going to have the baby! The happy couple have already discovered that the forthcoming arrival will be a boy and that the young feller is due on 8th May. I am sure you will join with me in wishing Phil and his future family all the very best. Hopefully, in due course, there will be a pikkie or two coming the readers’ way. Watch this space!

Also in this edition you should find the latest Reading reports from Nigel Maltby, some league averages, letters from Peter Bennett and Christine Williams and reports from Peter Charters regarding the Senior and Junior British Leagues. Andy Warre has written in about the National Cadet League and there is a great report from Dimitris Tsaptinos concerning the recently-held Berkshire Schools’ Qualifying Tournament. There is some important stuff from the ETTA, an updated version of Hari’s Table Diary and some great input from the effervescent Sneakles. Paul Beck also makes another very welcome appearance and Derek Harrison has again kindly written in.

There is unfortunate news concerning our erstwhile Chairman, Brian Halliday, who is having to undergo surgery.

There is a report on the Basingstoke Open Tournament, some more “nostalgia” snippets and a few more snaps of our ever-changing new premises.

There is also mention of a great big blow to our sport, especially from a Kingfisher perspective. Eric Van Looy has decided to hang up his bat and concentrate on his family life and his career. With my selfish hat on, I think that this is a great shame but, being realistic, I completely understand Eric’s reasoning. We will all miss him.

There are a few other bits and pieces, together with the occasional joke. To find out more about all these things and possibly a few others that I have already forgotten about, please read on... (Ed.)



Ron Vickers

As many of you know, Ron Vickers passed away on Christmas Day last year. Ron had been a stalwart member of the Woodley TTC before it amalgamated with Omega TTC to form the Kingfisher Club as we know it today.

He will be sorely missed.

Quite a few of the older local table tennis fraternity attended Ron’s funeral, on 20 January, at the Reading Crematorium and everyone was impressed with the sentiments expressed by the vicar, the Rev Colin Bass. The Reverend’s tribute to Ron appears after the following note, kindly sent to *Kingfisher News* by Ron’s son Adrian:

“Thank you for contacting me. I’ve attached a copy of the vicar’s tribute that was read at my Dad’s funeral. I’ve also sent a picture or two for your newsletter.

“There were a couple of things that my Dad was proud of when he was setting up for an evening’s play at the Woodley TTC. These were the lights that he made to go over the tables and also the table-transportation trolleys.

“He enjoyed the international trips made by Woodley TTC, and I went with him to Belgium and France. I believe that he also went to Germany.

“Dad loved his table tennis; it was truly a passion throughout his life. I would like to thank all the ex-Woodley and current Kingfisher members who made my Dad’s time with both Clubs as fantastic and as enjoyable as he truly found it.

“I would also like to thank all the members who attended his funeral. He would have been pleased that so many people thought that much of him to come.”



Adrian Vickers

Tribute to Ron

(As read out by the Rev Colin Bass, 20 January 2014)

Ron was born in Frimley on Guy Fawkes Day (and eventually he died on Christmas Day). His parents moved to London, but cunningly left the day before World War II was declared to move to Woodley. Ron went to school at Loddon County Modern School, where subsequently he was not only to work but to become an institution.

Before that however he had to do his National Service. He left the RAF as a senior aircraftsman and with a new outlook on life.

He worked at Harwell for a while, and then for longer at Hilliers, where he became a master centre lathe turner capable of working to very fine tolerances, making aircraft parts.

Circumstances blocked his career progression and he wanted more personal responsibility. Making a dramatic change, he somehow became caretaker of Rivermead School, which had just been converted from Loddon County Modern.

He did more than put out the dustbins and turn the central heating on and off. He put up shelves and racking systems; he found dead space and converted it into storage; he turned overheard wishes into newly-decorated rooms; and he did all the wiring and building work. He also taught the pupils woodwork during their lunch hours — and he taught them a lot of life skills too. In fact, when anything needed doing the cry went up, “Where’s Ron?”

He was a pillar of the school community. He worked there for 24 years until he retired at the age of 67, when many ex-pupils came to his retirement do. At that time the headmaster said: “Ron’s been absolutely brilliant, and the school has been maintained to a very high standard.”

If the school was a major part of his life, table tennis was another major part. Ron had always been interested in all sports. He started playing darts and table tennis in the RAF. He was a founder member of Woodley Table Tennis Club and in about 1967 he started coaching at Bulmershe College on Sunday mornings to encourage more youth involvement. Over the years he has coached at least three future English champions. When Ron moved to Rivermead, so did the club, but it continued to expand — with 18 or 20 teams and matches every Tuesday and Thursday. Eventually it amalgamated with the Omega Club, and became the Kingfisher Club, which is now one of the four biggest clubs in the country.

Ron was taken ill three or four months ago but the cancer was too advanced for treatment. He saw his grandchildren on Christmas Eve and passed away on Christmas Day with Adrian holding his hand.

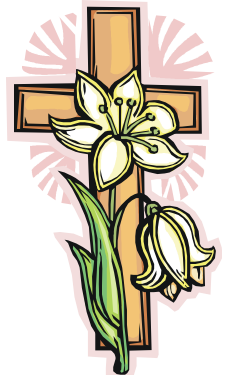
May he rest in peace now, and rise restored.”



Address

Whose needs he always put before his own.
That is why I chose that reading from St Paul’s letter to the Galatians.
By carrying other people’s burdens,
Ron has fulfilled the law of Christ,
And we hope and pray that he will now receive
The reward which our Lord has prepared for him.
We pray also that we may learn from his example.

If you want to know about someone’s beliefs,
You should look at what they *do*,
Rather than listen to what they *say* they believe.
Ron’s life was devoted to caring for others,



Colin Bass

Comment

I take pleasure in concluding this sad article with a brief note from Colin Dyke:
“At Woodley TTC in Rivermead School, Ron thought nothing of putting up four tables – and these were full, solid tables, not rollaways – and barriers on his own for matches on two nights a week before the players got there. When it was time to put them away, he was in there in the thick of it putting all the equipment away with the rest of us. The Club could never have survived without a very friendly, helpful and hardworking caretaker.”

Colin Dyke

Congratulations!!

Kingfisher Member Keith Newell, who currently plays with Eric Van Looy in the Club's Senior British League 2nd team has announced a wonderful new arrival!



With a little bit of help from wife Victoria (and not too much from Keith, despite his attempts to look like a surgeon), baby Jessica Isobel Newell entered this world of ours on 19 December 2013. Actually, she was due on 24 December and I thought that this was really spooky. It would have meant that baby Jessica's noughth (don't think there is such a word) birthday would have been on exactly the same day as my own 70th! Anyway, the cute little girl must have got wind of this and decided that the best way out of the dilemma was to arrive five days early!

Baby Jessica was born on the day mentioned at Stoke Mandeville Hospital at 11.14 am, weighing 7lbs 1oz.

I am sure that all Kingfisher members will join with me in wishing Keith and his wonderful family all the very best for the future.

As an aside, Colin tells me that Keith is a top-class cricketer as well as a table tennis star! And so our hero is a great cricketer, a great table tennis player, a great husband and, now, a great daddy! Superb stuff, Keith! (Ed.)

Pun-derful Shop Names

take great pleasure in sharing it with you.

Colin Dyke kindly sent me the following extract from a recent edition of The Daily Telegraph. It has nothing whatsoever to do with table tennis, but Colin thought it was funny – and so do I! I therefore

SHOPS WHOSE NAMES ARE, ER, PUN-DERFUL (by Edward Malnick)



The best punning shop names in Britain have been recognised in a competition – with a second-hand store in Chesterfield called *Junk & Disorderly* voted the best by shoppers

The runners-up were *Pane in the Glass*, a double-glazing shop in Ashford, Surrey, and *Barber Blacksheep*, a hair salon in Brighton. *Abra Kebabra*, a takeaway in Manchester, came fourth.

Not to be outdone, though, (and I hope Colin will forgive me) but it brought to mind a cycle shop I spotted when on holiday in Dawlish a few years ago. I have no idea if this shop was even considered for the above competition and I have no doubts that it would not have won anyway. But I DO have a picture of it, as can be seen! (Ed.)

The New Clubhouse

has yet challenged me.

There is only one picture not taken by Yours Truly and that is the “night-time” one, taken on 22 January. This was sent in by good old Andy Yon. I have never thought of taking pictures of a black cat down a coal cellar at midnight before – but this one seems to have worked really well. Thanks, Andy!

Well, I have been making regular trips to see how they are getting on with the new Clubhouse and, I have to admit, I am impressed! The workers keep giving me funny looks when I take pictures of them but no-one



(Photograph taken 27 December 2013)



(Photograph taken 27 December 2013)



(Photograph taken 04 January 2014)



(Photograph taken 04 January 2014)



(Photograph taken 06 January 2014)



(Photograph taken 06 January 2014)



(Photograph taken 14 January 2014)



(Photograph taken 14 January 2014)



(Photograph taken 22 January 2014)



(Photograph taken 22 January 2014)



(Photograph taken 22 January 2014)



(Photograph taken 25 January 2014)



(Photograph taken 28 January 2014)



(Photograph taken 01 February 2014)



(Photograph taken 01 February 2014)



(Photograph taken 01 February 2014)



(Photograph taken 21 February 2014)



(Photograph taken 21 February 2014)

Allen Pack has kindly let me know and I, in turn, am letting YOU know, that the Royal Mail address for our new Clubhouse will be **Kingfisher Table Tennis Club, Woodlands Avenue, Woodley, Reading RG5 3EU**.

Whether or not we will have a letterbox in the front door, or whether Club mail will continue to be sent to the officers concerned at their home addresses, I am not completely sure. I believe that the idea of an outside letterbox (one of those Continental things) fixed to the outer wall is currently the favoured option and that this will probably be the final choice. I guess that we will all find out in due course.

There is also a new telephone number, but Allen tells me that this is subject to confirmation, so best not advertised just yet. More when known! (Ed.)

When I visited the new clubhouse last Friday, contrary to my statement at the start of this article, one of the workmen was quite curious as to why I was taking photographs.

“This is going to be our new table tennis club,” I told him, puffing out my chest with a certain amount of understandable pride.

“A table tennis club, eh?” he countered. “I thought it was going to be a store-room for the football club.”

I toyed with the idea of thumping him but, when I saw the huge bag of hard core he was carrying on one shoulder, I thought better of it.

How the mighty are fallen... (Ed.)

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

DONALD: H I J K L M N O.

TEACHER: What are you talking about?

DONALD: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

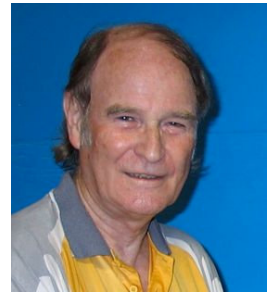


From our Chairman

project is no exception. The site has been flooded as are parts of the school campus. The Council has engaged drainage experts to resolve the problem. Better now than when we are up and running! Our contractor seems to have webbed feet because he has still managed to get the steel frame up, part of the roof cladding, the first course of blockwork and the steel mesh ready for the concrete floor slab. Another meeting with the Council and the Contractor was held in January and yet more outstanding details have been resolved. One important matter that was agreed upon was our specialist table tennis sprung floor. Should you want any more details on this, just ask any member of the committee who will gladly explain it and show you samples.

Finally, whenever I visit the Club I still get that great sense of friendliness and of people enjoying their sport. Let's keep it that way. Enjoy the rest of your season.

Despite the weather, the new clubhouse has made some progress. The rain has obviously been a problem to every building contractor in the country and our



Colin Dyke

Brian Halliday



I have received most of this depressing – albeit only temporarily depressing – news from Colin Dyke. It is all a terrible shame but – and here's the optimistic side coming out of all of us – Colin and I are more than hopeful that this is the start of an upward trend. We all know Brian; we all know how determined he can be and we are all sure that he will weather this particular storm. Indeed, some members think that he will actually be playing again before too long! To see if we are right, please watch this space... We are right, I know we are... But, for now, I shall hand you over to Colin...

“Christine Halliday is happy that the medical position be generally known. This is that Brian has had an amputation above the left knee as they couldn't seem to shift the infection. He was in a lot of pain. As I said to Christine, Brian will probably look back on this afterwards and realise that it was the very best thing that could be done for him.

“Marion and I visited Brian before his operation. He was quite cheerful and he said he had made the difficult decision and would not then change his mind. He was transferred to John Radcliffe at Oxford and the operation took place within a few days. Colin.”

I am sure that you will all join with me and Colin in wishing Brian all the very best. The next week or two will be both crucial and challenging and will certainly bring changes. But Brian will overcome all adversity, of that we are absolutely sure. And, unless you are personally at the very top of the table tennis tree, I am confident that, within a few months, he will be back beating all of us at this wonderful sport of ours. (Ed.)

National Cadet League

pictures of these youngsters. Must try harder! But the report itself is excellent. Many thanks, Andy. (Ed.)

The following report has been received from Andy Warre. I apologise for my failure to find new

ROUND 2, WEEK 3 OF THE NCL:

Kingfisher A played in Day 3 of the 2013/14 NCL – represented by Isaac Farnworth, Kieran Warre, and Katie Shepherd (pictured). With only five points separating first and last in the group, all was to play for in the final match of the round. Despite winning 4-2, it was not quite enough to see Kingfisher promoted to Division 1, so Kingfisher will be in Division 2 for Round 3.



All matches in Round 2 were close, with Kingfisher narrowly losing the first two matches against Reading A and Chiltern A 2-4 (Kieran and Isaac scoring against Reading, and Kieran and Katie against Chiltern). The Chiltern games

were particularly close with all six matches being played over four or five games – Kieran coming from 2-0 down to win 3-2, and Katie from 2-1 down to also win 3-2.



Round 2 finished with games against Oxford B and Reading B – both finishing as 4-2 wins for Kingfisher – Kieran and Isaac winning one each against Oxford, and Katie both hers; whilst against Reading B, Kieran won both his matches and Katie and Isaac won one each.

The first game in Round 3 ended the day, and Kingfisher performed superbly to draw 3-3 against Hillingdon A. This was against a team that had just been relegated from League 1 and had beaten Kingfisher 8-1 in Round 1. Kieran started the ball rolling with a 3-1 win against their Number 1 player, including a mammoth 20-18 win in the important third set of the match. Isaac (pictured) then followed this up with two wins, both 3-1 and coming from behind in each match. Averages on the day: Kieran 60%, Isaac 50%, Katie 40%. Well played everyone!

Andy Warre

Kingfisher Senior British League

The Kingfisher Club's British League Team continued the push towards the Premiership of British table tennis on Sunday 19 January at the Cippenham Club with a win and a draw in the two matches played.

Without the injured Dave Barr at Number One, the strength in depth of the Kingfisher squad was tested by the team in second place in Division One – Bournemouth. And junior Marcus Giles, together with Daniel Moses, Federico Viterbo and Daniel Kolesnik proved up to the task with a hard fought 6-2 victory. The win for Kingfisher was crucial to keep the points gap at the top of the division but, at one stage, a draw seemed to be a likely outcome. Giles and Kolesnik took two wins each. Moses (pictured) beat Bournemouth's number one Steven Foster whilst Viterbo won the vital game at 4-2 against Nathan Bingham to give Kingfisher the two points.



The afternoon match was against the London team York Gardens. Two new players had been drafted in by the Londoners to strengthen their squad from the previous rounds. Hin Li in particular was a formidable opponent and beat both Viterbo and Kolesnik.

Kingfisher went three nil down but it shows the fighting spirit within this Kingfisher side that they fought back to lead 4-3. Kolesnik, previously unbeaten on the day, then had to beat Li to get Kingfisher the win but went down eight in the fifth end.

A point was a satisfactory result for Kingfisher as it maintains a gap between them at the top of the First Division, with Bournemouth still in second place.

There are still four matches to be played on the final weekend in March, to clinch a place in the Premier Division playoffs.

Peter Charters

Gallen wins title in final thriller

On Saturday the 18th January, the Berkshire Schools Individual Qualifiers were run at Kingfisher Club. Around 30 boys from 15 different schools competed in four different age groups to qualify to represent Berkshire schools at the 2014 English Schools' Table Tennis Association Butterfly Individual Championships to be held on the 26th of April at Doncaster.

In the morning, Jamie Liu (The Hill Primary), Joseph Barraclough (Reading School) and Daniel McTiernan (Weingels College) won the Under-11s', Under-13s' and Under-19s' bands respectively.

In the afternoon, the Under-16s' band saw 14 players providing the most competitive and entertaining band. Joshua Gallen (The Forest School) and Edward Soane (Upton Court School) came first and second in their group with Gus Thomis (Blue Coat School) and Sam Liu (Reading School) finishing first and second respectively in the other group.

The semi-finals and final were watched in awe by the rest of the players and parents and they were not to be disappointed. Gus, the third seed, finished first with a straight 3-0 win against Edward, but the other semi final between the first seed Joshua and the second seed Sam provided long rallies, big shouts, lucky edges and nets – all in all a great

game between two very talented players. Joshua took the first set with a 12-10 score with Sam coming back equalising with a comfortable 11-6 score. For the third set Joshua took an early lead, Sam came back to 6-6 but Joshua took the next five points for a 11-6 win. Nothing seemed to go Sam's way at the next set and Joshua qualified for the final with a 11-5 score.

The final was an emotional wave for the players, the crowd and the parents of the two players. Joshua started extremely well and it looked like a walkover when he was 7-1 up but Gus showed tremendous determination and will to come back but Joshua regained control to win the first set 11-9. The second set was all about Gus. He controlled the



game completely and at no stage did he leave Joshua with a hope of coming back – an 11-8 win. The third set is the one that will remain as the reference point of the competition for the years to come. At 10 points all both players had chances to clinch it but Joshua managed to come out on top with a 15-13 score. The next set could not match the previous drama but once again illustrated the same pattern. Joshua starting strong, Gus coming back but some crucial points went Joshua's way for him to be crowned the Berkshire Schools champion for the Under-16s with an 11-9 score.

The organisers would like to thank the players who played the sport in a very good spirit, the parents who came and supported and the Kingfisher club which once again provided the club facilities for the competition. Thank You!

A number of photos, showing the winners, appear above. The Under-11s and Under-13s are shown with Peter Charters (President and General Secretary of Kingfisher and ex-ETTA National Selector). Reading has a very good history in the school competition and the Under-19s and Under-16s are shown with Liam McTiernan and Maria Tsaptsinos. Liam has represented English schools at the World Schools competition and Maria will do so this year.



Finally, on a personal note I did enjoy the whole experience and since all the boys can definitely beat me I should train more...

Thanks

Dimitris Tsaptsinos

Ashford TTC

Every year, the Ashford TTC runs a major Christmas / New Year tournament and, as I know from experience, this is always very well supported and highly successful. But in the most recent tournament of its kind, the overall winner was Kingfisher's Hari Gehlot!

The year before, Hari had lost 2-3 to Anthony Corbin in the final but, this time, our Indian star got his revenge.

At the quarter-final stage, Hari (pictured, courtesy of John Upham) beat Martin Gunn 3-0; in his semi-final he defeated Derek Holman 3-0 and, in the final itself against Anthony, he emerged victorious by a scoreline of three games to one.

Congratulations, Hari!



**I wondered why the table tennis ball was getting bigger. Then it hit me...
Statistically, six out of seven dwarfs are not Happy.**

Different...

Quite a performance! And quite a photograph, too! Well done, Jamie! And well done, Angela! (Ed.)

This picture shown to the right was sent to me by Peter Charters, but I am fairly sure that it was actually taken by Mum Angela at the time when young Jamie Liu had, in one single day, won the Berkshire



Why is it that we more elderly people like to tell everyone how old we will be NEXT birthday? We don't say, for example, "I'm 74." Rather, "I shall be 75 in four months' time."

During a recent table tennis refreshment break, having been respectfully asked, I told our OLOP Chinese opponents how old and decrepit our team was. "We're ancient." I said, "Why, Colin here is 103 years old."

"Not until my next birthday," declared our Chairman.



While I am on the subject of the more mature players amongst us, I have twice recently played on a team where the youngest team member was 70 years of age. Yup, you're right, that was me. The other two members were both 77. I shan't mention who they are for fear of embarrassment (although I am sure that neither Colin nor John would mind too much) but our combined age was 224. 225 if you add up the months! I wonder what the England record is. Can any reader personally beat the total mentioned? If so, I'd love to hear from you! (Ed.)



The following has been received from Chris Brown (pictured), the ETTA's Regional Development Manager for the South West:

Hi all. As you may have been aware, the ETTA has recently been going through a restructuring process, with the aim being a more efficient staffing structure and strategy going forward.

I am emailing you to give an introduction to the new regional team, as well as some brief information on our initial priorities, and how we will be working to support you in the future.

The new South West area is one of four in the country, the others being Central, South East / London, and the North and our area now includes the following counties:

Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Avon, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Dorset, Hampshire & IOW, Berkshire, Oxfordshire.

Our new regional team consists of:

Chris Brown – Area Lead

Lisa Williams – Development Officer

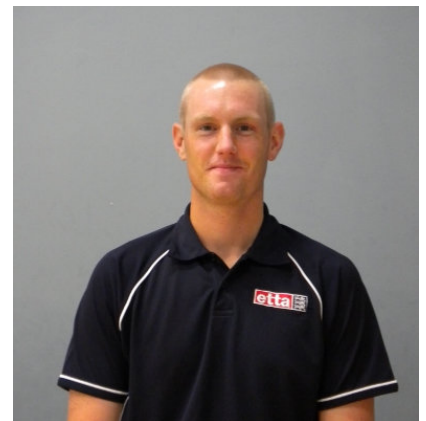
Aled Howell – Coach Development Officer

Paul Whiting – Talent Development Centre Head Coach (based solely in Plymouth leading the new talent development centre).

As you will appreciate this is a new region, and there is now likely to be a transitional period where the regional team shares information and learns about the new area, as well as a planning process for us to outline our priorities and work areas.

Lisa, Aled and I will work as a regional team to give priority support to designated 'hotspot areas' in the region. These areas will receive support from the whole regional team to develop many of the current offers available from the ETTA, including satellite clubs, uni Ping, Ping city projects, club development, facilities and coaching, among others. These hotspot areas have yet to be confirmed, but some work has already been done using a detailed analysis of current provision, potential impact, and demographic and geographic considerations. There is likely to be around three hotspot zones in Year 1, although this may be subject to change.

Outside of this hotspot programme we are also committed to continuing to support all of our clubs, leagues, coaches, and volunteers across the whole region to increase the number of people playing our sport in the South West. There will be some flexibility as to which of the regional team will help you with various enquiries and projects, based on the geographic location of meetings, and the specific work areas of each team member.



As a first point of contact we are proposing that Aled Howell will be responsible for all coaching enquiries, as well as the initial person to contact for all other enquiries in Gloucestershire and Avon.

Lisa Williams will be responsible for a number of projects across the region, but in the first instance will be dealing with enquiries in Berkshire, Dorset, Hampshire & IOW, Oxfordshire, and Wiltshire.

I will continue to be the first point of contact for Cornwall, Devon, and Somerset, as well as retaining overall control for strategy in the region, and for the development of our hotspot areas.

This is not exclusive at all, and we will be working closely as a regional team, so feel free to contact any of us, wherever you are, if you have a query. It has been necessary to split some of our responsibilities in this way due to the geographic size of the SW region. This should also help us cut down on unnecessary travelling and expenditure, allowing us to focus our resources solely on table tennis in the region.

Paul Whiting will work exclusively in Plymouth at the newly launched talent development centre, one of four in the country. The aim is to produce a talented squad of future England players from a dedicated programme of coaching and development work in Plymouth, based around a strong club structure.

We have also set up a new twitter page: @ETTASouthWest. Please follow us to keep up to date with developments, news articles, and projects as they appear.

I thank you all for your continued commitment to table tennis, and on behalf of the new regional team we look forward to working with you all in the near future. I also thank you for patience while we finalise our new regional strategy.

Kind Regards,

Chris Brown

A Word On Behalf Of Our Sponsor

CLUB DISCOUNT SCHEME WITH TEES SPORT

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



Tees Sport is a leading supplier of specialist table tennis equipment in the United Kingdom, offering a wide range of most of the leading brands. *Tees Sport* is the largest retailer of *Butterfly* specialist equipment and *Butterfly* is the leading brand of blades and rubber. World Champion, Zhang Jike, European Champion, Timo Boll, and most of the England Team

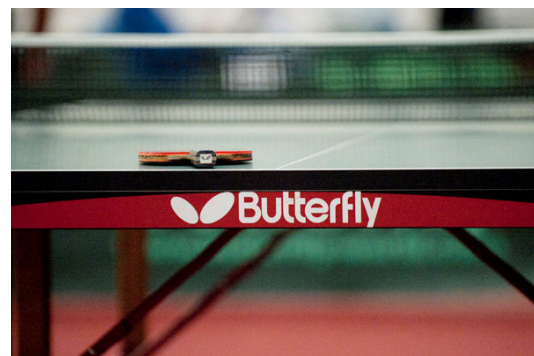
use *Butterfly* blades and rubbers. If you wish to obtain technical advice prior to ordering you will find *Tees Sport* staff knowledgeable and helpful and all of their sales staff have been involved in table tennis for many years and have played the game to at least British League standard. You can contact *Tees Sport* on 0800 458 4141 (freephone) or 01642 217844 / 249000 (standard).

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

Discounts off the catalogue prices are as follows:

<i>Butterfly</i> , <i>Karlsson</i> , <i>Andro</i> and <i>Adidas</i> products	–	less 25%.
Some <i>Tees Sport</i> products such as cleaners, rollers etc	–	less 25%.
<i>Donic</i> products	–	less 20%
All other <i>Tees Sport</i> products	–	less 15%

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



OR

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

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

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

AND

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

<http://www.tabletennis365.com/kingfisher/MediaLibrary/Download/iL7ljWX-KUa-1W88pM9swg/4112>

Eric Van Looy

Committee and other related posts until the next Berkshire, Reading and Kingfisher Annual General Meetings. Sadly, although the decision rightly rests with Eric himself, he will also give up playing our sport. I say “sadly” because Eric is far, far removed from someone who has just taken up the game and has decided it is not for him. Eric is an extremely skilled exponent of table tennis – of a good Reading Division 1 standard in my view – and he will be sorely missed on the playing front. He has always been friendly, fair and a great sport.

But it is perhaps on the voluntary work front that Eric is even better known. He quietly and efficiently carried out so many posts for and on behalf of Kingfisher TTC that it is difficult to list them all. And this is just our own Club; Eric has held, and still holds, many other posts for other table tennis organisations. It has been so easy to take Eric for granted – and I do not exclude myself from that statement.

As most of you will know, Eric is currently Kingfisher’s Membership Secretary, a post he has worked flawlessly at for several years now. But he is also the Club’s Welfare and Child Protection Officer, the Kingfisher Senior British League 2nd Team Secretary, the Kingfisher Club Championships Organiser, the Kingfisher Grouping Tournament Organiser, the Trophy Secretary and the Committee Minute Secretary. What a list! In a later article I shall be asking members to volunteer to take on possibly just one of these tasks each. Please give it a thought!

But THIS article is about Eric and I am sure that every member will agree with me when I say that we owe our wonderful Belgian friend an enormous vote of thanks for his incredible work. To repeat myself, he will be greatly missed.

Eric says that he no longer enjoys playing our sport as much as he did and this is a great shame. On the playing front he will be difficult to replace. But Eric’s life has moved on. As you know, he is now a husband and the proud father of a gorgeous baby girl. He lives in Maidenhead but now works in London. How on earth he managed to combine this lot with all his voluntary work is totally beyond me. But manage it he did and, indeed, still does. Mr Van Looy is a man in a million. (Ed.)



At the latest Kingfisher Committee meeting, it came as a real bombshell to us all to learn that Eric will be standing down from table tennis in its entirety.

Eric is one of the most conscientious and reliable people I know and he will not be relinquishing his



Once again, the following snippets have all been extracted from Nigel Maltby’s great weekly *Reading Post* articles. Many thanks yet again, Nige! (Ed.)



25 December 2013 (yes, really!!): In the R&DTTA’s Division 1, OLOP A are joint leaders with Kingfisher A – with a game in hand.

Tidmarsh C have made it to the halfway season with their Division 2 unbeaten record intact. Lee Calcutt recorded another impressive maximum as they won 7-3 against Kingfisher E.

OLOP C were held to a 5-5 draw by Kingfisher E.

Allan Bruton’s treble helped Kingfisher F to a 7-3 win against Post Office A, with Ivor Hardman winning twice.

15 January 2014: In Division 2, Ivor Hardman's treble helped Kingfisher F to a 7-3 win over Kingfisher E.

Post Office A beat Kingfisher G 8-2 thanks to a hat-trick from John Simmonds and two apiece from Simon Hopkins and George White.

In Division 1, Andrew Parker's treble helped Kingfisher C draw 5-5 at bottom side Sonning Common & Peppard B. Jeremy Willis and Paul Jarvis both won twice before Nigel Maltby beat Lisa Williams to earn Sonning Common their first point of the season.

In Division 3, a Kingfisher derby saw the I team beat the H team 6-4 thanks to a maximum from Jean-Noël Thepaut.

Gehlot and Reynolds in top form

beat their club's D team 8-2 to retain their lead in Division 1 of the Reading & District League.

Gehlot cruised to another maximum in their 9-1 victory over Sonning Common & Peppard B. Mark Banks also recorded a hat-trick while Nigel Maltby prevented a whitewash by beating Stuart Williams.

Kingfisher A remain two points ahead of unbeaten OLOP A, who crushed Sonning Common & Peppard A 10-0.

Kingfisher E won 9-1 against a stubborn Milestone A team with seven of the ten sets going to four or more games.

In Division 3, a maximum from Nils Wedi was all in vain as Kingfisher I lost 6-4 to Curzon Club B, for whom Nick Lean and Derek Harrison both obtained doubles with Jim Brent getting a vital single.

Springfield A beat a two-player Kingfisher H side 7-3 with Phil Burke winning both of his sets.

In Division 5, Gill Bennett (pictured) scored a maximum as Kingfisher K defeated Springfield D 6-4.

22 January 2014: Hari Gehlot and Tony Reynolds both hit maximums as Kingfisher A



29 January 2014: In Division 1, maximums from Martin Adams and Steve Dobbins earned Kingfisher B a 9-1 win at Reading YMCA.

Kingfisher B also cruised to a 10-0 win over Sonning Common & Peppard A with Richard Rosinski coming from two games down to beat Keith Swain 6-11 12-14 12-10 12-10 11-6.

Josh Gallen and Richard Fifield got trebles as Kingfisher D won 9-1 at Curzon Club A., with Fifield just holding off a stiff challenge from John Willcocks to win 11-7 8-11 11-5 11-13 12-10.

Kingfisher C earned a 7-3 win against Tidmarsh B following hard-fought trebles from Steve Murgatroyd and Andrew Parker.

Kingfisher D had to battle hard to beat basement side Sonning Common & Peppard B 6-4.

Mark Banks and Hari Gehlot both got trebles as Kingfisher A beat Tidmarsh B 8-2.

In Division 2, there were trebles for Colin Dyke, Geoff Civil and Roger Woolven-Allen in Kingfisher E's 10-0 victory against Polish A.

A Danny Dockree treble led the way for Sonning Common & Peppard C as they defeated Kingfisher G 7-3.

In Division 3, Eric Holmes with three, and Carol Byers with two, helped Kingfisher H beat Polish B 6-4.

Kingfisher I beat Springfield A 6-4 thanks to Nils Wedi hitting a maximum while also teaming up with Joaquin Sabater to win the doubles. Sabater also won twice.

OLOP take lead in race for the title

05 February 2014: Our Lady of Peace A put themselves in prime position to retake the Reading and District League crown by beating title rivals and defending champions Kingfisher A 6-4.

Danny Moses, Ian Cole and Krasimir Ivanov all secured fine wins over Hari Gehlot, who suffered a rare off night. OLOP, now unbeaten in 14 matches, are two points ahead of Kingfisher A with a match in hand.

Kingfisher B, in third place, are just one point behind their Club's A team, following their 7-3 win at OLOP B, with Martin Adams getting a maximum.

Kingfisher D were also winners as they beat YMCA. Joshua Gallen starred with a maximum, which included a win over Neil Hurford 11-7 11-5 11-5.

Pete Matthews and Tony Brown both got trebles as Tidmarsh A won 8-2 at Kingfisher C.

In Division 2, Philip Zeng, Steve Ng and Ben Huang guided OLOP D to an 8-2 win over Kingfisher E. Roger Woolven-Allen and Geoff Civil replied for the home team.



Allan Bruton starred with a treble as Kingfisher F ground out a 6-4 win over Sonning Common and Peppard C. He was supported by a brilliant double from Michael Houghton and a single from Peter Bennett, while Matt Stone and Brian Meheux replied for the visitors.

There was a treble for Brian Chinneck and doubles from guests Aidan Killian and Jim Spencer as Wokingham A hammered Kingfisher G 8-2.

In Division 3, Polish B and Kingfisher I shared the spoils with Nils Wedi gaining a treble for Kingfisher.

In Division 4, OLOP D beat Kingfisher J 8-2 thanks to maximums from Alistair Richardson and Dave Godfrey.

Kingfisher J squeezed home 6-4 winners against relegation-threatened Tidmarsh E, thanks mainly to a maximum from John Creighton (pictured).

In Division 5, Kingfisher K held off Milestone D 6-4 thanks to doubles from Diane Taylor and Sandra Shepherd alongside a vital single from Gwynne Penny and a thrilling 8-11 11-5 3-11 12-10 11-9 doubles success.

12 February 2014: In Division 1 of the R&DTTA's league, Kingfisher A won 9-1 at Tidmarsh A thanks to maximums from Hari Gehlot and Mark Banks.

Despite seeing Richard Rosinski lose the opener to Andrew Parker, Kingfisher B were 9-1 winners against Kingfisher C and stay in third place.



Kingfisher D won 8-2 at Tidmarsh B. Eduard Caliman (pictured) contributed a good treble, supported by doubles from Richard Fifield and Joshua Gallen.

In Division 2, two wins from Paul Treadgold and one apiece from Nigel Rowland and Phil Jones weren't quite enough for Tilehurst Methodists A, as they lost 6-4 to Kingfisher E. Colin Dyke was the hero for Kingfisher with a treble, which included a five-game win over Rowland in the tenth match to snatch the points. Roger Woolven-Allen and John Morris won one apiece in support.

Steve Miller, Dan West, both with three, and Siad Cole, with a double, earned a 9-1 win for OLOP C at Kingfisher G. Allen Pack replied for the home team.

In the Division 3 promotion race, Kingfisher H lost ground when they went down 6-4 to Tilehurst Methodists B, for whom Ian Cockling hit a great treble.

Kingfisher I had an 8-2 win over Pangbourne WMC following Nils Wedi and Jean-Noël Thepaut hat-tricks.

In Division 5, Kingfisher K won 9-1 at Sonning Common and Peppard G, thanks to Gwynne Penny and Leigh Mahoney (also pictured) trebles.



19 February 2014: In Division 1, Niall McGrane notched a maximum as Kingfisher C beat Curzon Club A 7-3. Curzon's John Willcocks enjoyed a fine 9-11 12-10 11-8 1-11 11-7 win against Steve Murgatroyd.

Josh Gallen, Trevor Organ and Eduard Caliman all got maximums when Kingfisher D cruised to a 10-0 win against Sonning Common & Peppard A.

Division 2 leaders Tidmarsh C were pushed hard by basement club Kingfisher G before winning 6-4. Allen Pack with two, with help from Dave Gostelow and Rick Leachman almost nicked a point for Kingfisher, but François Durand, Dave Wise and Chris Webb proved just too strong.

Nigel Maltby

Barmy Predictions

The following text, written by Colin Murray, has been extracted from an issue of Radio

Times, printed just before the end of the recent disastrous England cricket tour:

Who'd have thought the Ashes would have ended like this? Just two months ago, it wasn't only the Barmy Army who thought England had the Aussies' number, and that it was simply a matter of time before Michael Clarke would crack under a barrage of bouncers while a wayward Mitchell Johnson peppered third slip instead of the batsmen. But how wrong the Barmy pundits were.

The fifth Test is underway in Sydney and England fans may want to take up table tennis instead. In which case, get slipping...



Blooming Wonderful!

The following text and accompanying picture have been extracted from a recent issue of Hello magazine:

Is the cold, grey and very wet winter weather getting you down? Then these utterly plantastic colour-filled gardens may be just the job for lifting the gloom.



Sports fans will no doubt have a **HELLO!** ball at the sports-themed gardens in Changchun, China, where visitors can ping from one exhibit to another and enjoy the pong emitted by the various blossoms.

Not Batty!

The following text and accompanying picture have been extracted from the January 2014 issue of Saga magazine:

Residents in more than 1,200 care homes are taking to table tennis thanks to the Ping Pong Care Campaign. This smashing idea is helping to overturn perceptions about what older people can and cannot do.



For a ping pong care pack, which includes a guide to playing, a table tennis net and bats and an inspirational film about the Over-80s' World Ping Pong Championships, visit pingpongfilm.co.uk and click on "campaign" and "get involved".



And, in answer to the obvious question, no, I have not visited this particular website.

But, as the years roll by, I may; I just may... (Ed.)



I personally haven't got a clue who these people are (other than what it says below), but I suspect that some of our younger players (especially the girls!) may be able to tell me all about them. Please rest assured, though, that I don't particularly want to know... Jake Bugg is the chap with the guitar and John Newman is the one with the interesting hairstyle. (Ed.)

The following, written by Seamus Duff, has been extracted from the Metro newspaper of 19 February 2014:

SINGER-SONGWRITER, PING-PONG FIGHTER

John Newman has warned fellow Brit award nominee Jake Bugg that he wants to "smash his a**e" – at ping-pong.

The Love Me Again singer's challenge is of a somewhat tamer nature than Robbie Williams's famous invitation to Liam Gallagher at the Brits in 2000 to step into the ring.

But the 23-year-old insisted: "I've heard Jake's really good at table tennis and I want to play him. I don't want to smack him or fight him. I'd just quite like to play against him. I can hold my own. I could smash his a**e around the table!"

Bugg, 19, is the only rival for the best British male Brit Newman could imagine confronting, the sensitive song-writer admitted.

"I wouldn't want to take on James Blake. He is a quiet guy," he mused. "Or Tom Odell – I love Tom Odell; he's lovely. And David Bowie! Imagine punching Bowie? "It would be the most surreal moment of your life and the biggest regret ever."



The Yorkshire lad also thinks Bugg would be a worthy winner of the British male gong. "Jake hasn't been credited for the brilliant work he has done yet," he said – noting that Odell claimed last year's Brits critics' choice award and Blake won the Mercury Music Prize.

"It is a tough category. I just see it as I am new blood and I feel fortunate to be nominated," he added.

Josh

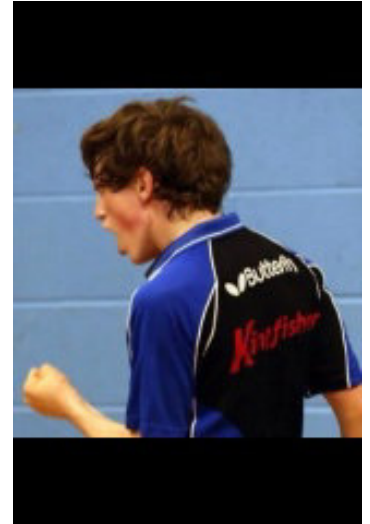
Josh, our well-known and well-liked Kingfisher youngster, is seeking a sponsor or two. If you can see your way clear to helping, Josh and his Mum Sonia would really appreciate it.

The website you need to visit is detailed at the end of this article. If you find you cannot gain direct entry, try blocking, copying and pasting. It worked fine for me! Once you are there, everything from then on is self-explanatory. Thanks in anticipation. (Ed.)

Inspire astar

Joshua Gallen

Star : Joshua Gallen
Sport : Table Tennis



Reason for Fundraising : Equipment, travel and entry competition costs.

Deadline Date: 28/03/2014

My Story

Hi! My name is Joshua Gallen. I am an extremely hard working, dedicated and ambitious table tennis player from Berkshire.

I train 13-15 hours a week and believe hard work is the only way to succeed. If I'm honest table tennis is my life and passion, I want no more than to improve and reach my full potential. I play for Kingfisher Table Tennis Club in Woodley. I play for Kingfisher TTC in the Junior British League. I am the Berkshire Schools Champion which is a title I have recently just added to my name. I represent Berkshire in the Cadet County Championships.

I have been putting in as many hours as I can to try and reach my dream of playing for England! In order to reach my dream I really need to enter competitions and this at the moment is proving quite difficult because of the distance and cost that is required. So I really need all the help I can get for the financial side, but the motivation and determination side I need no help with. So please donate even if it is small.

<http://inspireastar.org/sponsor-a-star/art/76/joshua-gallen.htm>

Player Averages

Please find, below, the player averages for both the Reading and the Bracknell Leagues, as at 21 February 2014:



READING DIVISION 1: Mark Banks (Kingfisher A, pictured) 29/33 = 88%. Steve Dobbins (Kingfisher B) 42/48 = 88%. Martin Adams (Kingfisher B) 21/24 = 88%. Hari Gehlot (Kingfisher A) 30/36 = 83%. Graham Diplock (Kingfisher B) 17/21 = 81%. Federico Viterbo (Kingfisher A) 12/15 = 80%. Eduard Caliman (Kingfisher D) 21/27 = 78%. Tony Reynolds (Kingfisher A) 24/33 = 73%. Joshua Gallen (Kingfisher D) 28/40 = 70%. Steve Murgatroyd (Kingfisher C) 25/39 = 64%. Richard Rosinski (Kingfisher B) 20/33 = 61%. Andrew Parker (Kingfisher C) 20/36 = 56%. Richard Fifield (Kingfisher D) 17/33 = 52%. Stuart Williams (Kingfisher A) 12/24 = 50%. Trevor Organ (Kingfisher D) 12/24 = 50%. Leo Long (Kingfisher D) 14/30 = 47%. Niall McGrane (Kingfisher C) 11/30 = 37%. Phil Koehler (Kingfisher B) 5/18 = 28%. Lisa Williams (Kingfisher C) 7/45 = 16%.

READING DIVISION 2: Jean-Noël Thepaut (Kingfisher G) 3/3 = 100%. Ivor Hardman (Kingfisher F) 27/33 = 82%. Allan Bruton (Kingfisher F) 21/30 = 70%. Geoff Civil (Kingfisher E) 21/32 = 66%. Colin Dyke (Kingfisher E) 25/41 = 61%. John Morris (Kingfisher E) 20/35 = 57%. Roger Woolven-Allen (Kingfisher E) 21/42 = 50%. Michael Houghton (Kingfisher F) 14/33 = 42%. Peter Bennett (Kingfisher F) 14/36 = 39%. Clare Woodham (Kingfisher F) 8/21 = 38%. Allen Pack (Kingfisher G) 17/45 = 38%. Dave Gostelow (Kingfisher G) 5/36 = 14%. Richard Leachman (Kingfisher G) 1/15 = 7%.

John Upham (Kingfisher G) 1/24 = 4%. Sharon Mitchell (Kingfisher G) 0/12 = 0%. Didier Garçon (Kingfisher G) 0/9 = 0%. Joaquin Munoz Sabater (Kingfisher G) 0/3 = 0%. Gianpaolo Balsamo (Kingfisher G) 0/3 = 0%.

READING DIVISION 3: Jean-Noël Thepaut (Kingfisher I) 27/27 = 100%. Eric Holmes (Kingfisher H) 32/42 = 76%. Carol Byers (Kingfisher H) 20/30 = 67%. Nils Wedi (Kingfisher I) 25/39 = 64%. Steven Woolnough (Kingfisher H) 17/33 = 52%. Dave Duncan (Kingfisher H) 3/6 = 50%. Rogerio Albelo (Kingfisher H) 7/15 = 47%. Gabor Radnoti (Kingfisher I) 9/27 = 33%. Joaquin Munoz Sabater (Kingfisher I) 7/23 = 30%. Gianpaolo Balsamo (Kingfisher I) 0/18 = 0%. Didier Garçon (Kingfisher I) 0/12 = 0%. Diane Taylor (Kingfisher H) 0/6 = 0%. Gwynne Penny (Kingfisher H) 0/6 = 0%.

READING DIVISION 4: John Creighton (Kingfisher J) 33/38 = 87%. Ken Robb (Kingfisher J) 23/38 = 61%. Mike Dorrington (Kingfisher J) 1/3 = 33%. Derek Crombie (Kingfisher J) 4/26 = 15%. Jean-François Guegantou (Kingfisher J) 2/27 = 7%.

READING DIVISION 5: Leigh Mahoney (Kingfisher K) 27/30 = 90%. Diane Taylor (Kingfisher K) 16/27 = 59%. Gwynne Penny (Kingfisher K) 15/30 = 50%. Sandra Shepherd (Kingfisher K) 5/12 = 42%. André Bartlett (Kingfisher K) 12/30 = 40%. Gill Bennett (Kingfisher K) 9/24 = 38%.



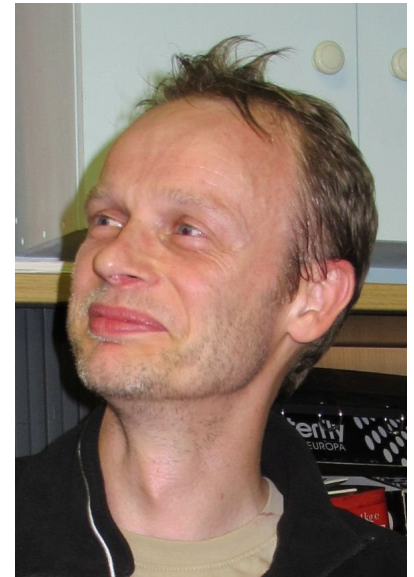
BRACKNELL PREMIER DIVISION: Phil Mead (Kingfisher A, pictured)

21/24 = 88%. John Morris (Kingfisher A) 5/6 = 83%. Trevor Organ (Kingfisher B) 16/21 = 76%. Ivor Hardman (Kingfisher B) 16/21 = 76%. Richard Fifield (Kingfisher C) 15/21 = 71%. John Willcocks (Kingfisher A) 15/21 = 71%. Geoff Civil (Kingfisher A) 20/30 = 67%. Allen Pack (Kingfisher B) 11/18 = 61%. Jeff Huggins (Kingfisher C) 16/27 = 59%. Allan Bruton (Kingfisher B) 6/12 = 50%. Roger Woolven-Allen (Kingfisher A) 5/12 = 42%. Michael Houghton (Kingfisher B) 8/24 = 33%. Colin Dyke (Kingfisher C) 7/21 = 33%. Allan Bruton (Kingfisher A) 2/6 = 33%. Peter Bennett (Kingfisher C) 6/21 = 29%. Dave Gostelow (Kingfisher C) 1/18 = 6%.



BRACKNELL DIVISION 1: Melvyn Lovegrove (Kingfisher D) 6/9 = 67%. Ken Robb (Kingfisher D) 10/35 = 29%. John Upham (Kingfisher D) 4/17 = 24%. Gwynne Penny (Kingfisher D) 2/9 = 22%. Derek Crombie (Kingfisher D) 1/23 = 4%.

BRACKNELL DIVISION 2: Diane Taylor (Kingfisher E) 12/18 = 67%. David Wells (Kingfisher E) 20/33 = 61%. Gwynne Penny (Kingfisher E) 10/24 = 42%. David O'Keefe (Kingfisher E) 3/9 = 33%. Gillian Bennett (Kingfisher E) 4/15 = 27%. Helen Sparks (Kingfisher E) 2/9 = 22%.



Letter from Derek

I have received two very kind and thoughtful letters from Derek Harrison who, as you probably know, is Divisional Fixtures Secretary for Reading's Division 3. He

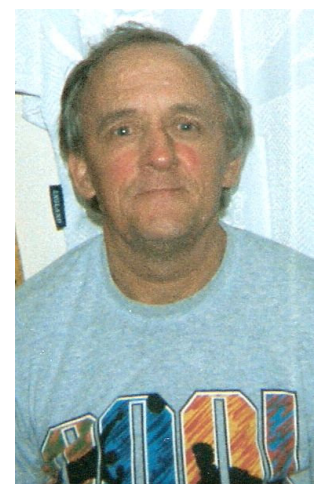
is also Captain of the Curzon Club B team. They are self-explanatory. Ed.

Hello Roger, Many thanks for the copy of *Kingfisher News* Issue 75. I have had a quick look and liked the article about Tom Maynard especially as Mike his Dad is a team mate of mine.

I feel I should mention in the part about Tim Heaps that he had another brother called Simon who won the Men's Singles in 1968/69 and then three times in a row from 1976 to 1979 besides winning the Men's Doubles three times.

Hello again Roger, After talking about Kingfisher H in your previous news this time I would like to mention your 'I' team. On the 14th January my team played at your club and managed a close 6-4 win which was played in the right spirit by Nils, Joaquin and Didier.

Nils himself was in top form and won all three in style. But the point of this report was the hospitality afterwards when the lads supplied us with a few beers and soft drinks and we were able to have great conversation during this time. This all-European team are a credit to your club and during the last two seasons playing them was a fixture we always looked forward to.



Derek Harrison

Committee and Other Voluntary Posts

At the next Kingfisher AGM (date yet to be confirmed) your Club will be seeking many more volunteers than usual. The main reason for this, as I'm sure you have already worked out, is that Eric Van Superman Looy is reluctantly pulling out of all aspects of our sport. Now, in my humble opinion, no one person could, with any sense of practicality, take over from our Belgian friend. But half a dozen people could!

Things may change as time marches on, of course, but, at the moment, it is expected that the Club will be looking for members to take up the following posts:

- **Membership Secretary.**
- **Welfare and Child Protection Officer.**
- **Events Co-ordinator.**
- **Senior British League Division 2 Team Secretary.**
- **Club Championships Organiser.**
- **Grouping Tournament Organiser.**
- **Trophy Secretary.**
- **Minute Secretary.**
- **Publicity Officer.**

If you would like to give back just a little of what our Club has given to you, please give this request a serious thought. Anything you can offer, no matter how modest, will be truly appreciated.

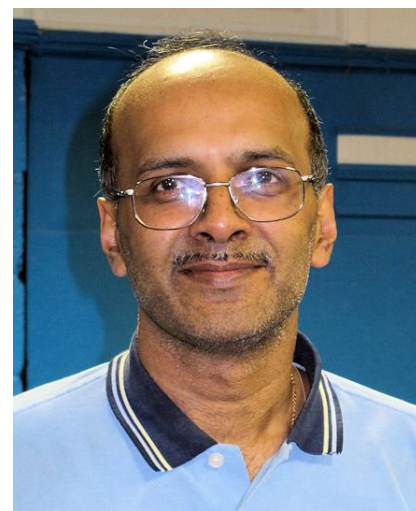
Kingfisher



Kingfisher Table Diary

Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Wednesday 26th** 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1400-1500 Bulmershe School. 1700-1900 Junior Training NCL/NJL squads. **Thursday 27th** 0950-1055 Bulmershe School. 1700-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Team Training. **Friday 28th** 1000-1230 Friday Club. 1630-1900 Junior Coaching.

MARCH 2014: Monday 3rd 0950-1055 Bulmershe School. 1700-1900 Junior Coaching – beginners. Tuesday 4th 1000-1230 Tuesday Social Club. 1515-1615 Bulmershe After School Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Wednesday 5th 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1400-1500 Bulmershe School. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Thursday 6th 0950-1055 Bulmershe School. 1700-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Team Training. Friday 7th 1000-1230 Friday Club. 1630-1900 Junior Coaching. Monday 10th 1700-1900 Junior Coaching – beginners. Tuesday 11th 1000-1230 Tuesday Social Club. 1515-1615 Bulmershe After School Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Wednesday 12th 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Thursday 13th 1700-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Team Training. Friday 14th 1000-1230 Friday Club. 1630-1900 Junior Coaching. 1900-2100 SBL Team Practice. Monday 17th 1700-1900 Junior Coaching – beginners. Tuesday 18th 1000-1230 Tuesday Social Club. 1515-1615 Bulmershe After School Club, 1700-1900 – Junior Training NCL/JCL squads. Wednesday 19th 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/JCL squads. Thursday 20th 1700-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Team Training. Friday 21st 1000-1230 Friday Club. 1630-1900 Junior Coaching. Monday 24th 1700-1900 Junior Coaching – beginners. Tuesday 25th 1000-1230 Tuesday Social Club. 1515-1615 Bulmershe After School Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Wednesday 26th 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Thursday 27th 1700-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Team Training. Friday 28th 1000-1230 Friday Club. 1630-1900 Junior Coaching. Saturday 29th 0930-1900 Berkshire County Veterans 5. Sunday 30th 0930-1330 Berkshire County Veterans 5. Monday 31st 1700-1900 Junior Coaching – beginners.



APRIL 2014: Tuesday 1st 1000-1230 Tuesday Social Club. 1515-1615 Bulmershe After School Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Wednesday 2nd 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Thursday 3rd 1700-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Team Training. Friday 4th 1000-1230 Friday Club. 1630-1900 Junior Coaching. Monday 7th 1700-1900 Junior Coaching – beginners. Tuesday 8th 1000-1230 Tuesday Social Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Wednesday 9th 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Thursday 10th 1700-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Team Training. Friday 11th 1000-1230 Friday Club. 1630-1900 Junior Coaching. Sunday 13th (All day) R&DTTA Reading Senior and Junior Masters Events. Monday 14th 1700-1900 Junior Coaching – beginners. Tuesday 15th 1000-1230 Tuesday Social Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Wednesday 16th 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Thursday 17th 1700-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Team Training. Friday 18th 1000-1230 Friday Club. 1630-1900 Junior Coaching. Monday 21st 1700-1900 Junior Coaching – beginners. Tuesday 22nd 1000-1230 Tuesday Social Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Wednesday 23rd 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Thursday 24th 1700-1900 JBL Team Training. 1900-2100 SBL Team Training. Friday 25th 1000-1230 Friday Club. 1630-1900 Junior Coaching. Sunday 27th 0900-1600 B&WDTTA Audrey Hardy Cup Hard Bat Tournament. Monday 28th 1700-1900 Junior Coaching – beginners. Tuesday 29th 1000-1230 Tuesday Social Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads. Wednesday 30th 1030-1230 Wednesday Club. 1700-1900 Junior Training – NCL/NJL squads.

*(Note: In addition to the above, Kingfisher's scheduled Reading and Bracknell League home matches will also take place. Please also note that the **Wednesday and Friday Clubs** will only be allocated two tables on each day. The **Tuesday Social Club** will continue on five tables but agreement for any special requests for practice or coaching during these hours may be sought from Diane Taylor on 0118 942 8384.*

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

TEXTING

On a freezing cold winter's morning, a wife texts her husband with the following message, "Windows frozen."

Hubby texts back, "Try some warm water – but make sure that it is only warm."

Ten minutes later, the wife replies, "The computer has completely failed now."

News update: The man who fell into an upholstery machine is now fully recovered.

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

Acupuncture is a jab well done.

Sneakles By Gwynne



A famous Viking explorer returned home from a voyage and found his name missing from the town register. His wife insisted on complaining to the local civic official, who apologized profusely saying, "I must have taken Leif off my census."

Training Camp

The following has been received from the ever-enthusiastic Gwynne Penny:

Diane and I attended an excellent three-day table tennis training camp in Northamptonshire in December. Both Paul and Joanna Drinkall were part of the coaching team, along with Desmond Douglas, Chris Doran, Alex Green, Gordon Fearn and the Yarnalls, who organised the camp. Throughout the three days the coaches provided excellent demos and one-to-one sessions. It was a great opportunity to focus on different aspects of the game from serving to consistency drills, and to try out new techniques. We also attended a charity match evening, where the coaches played some demo games which included a hotly contested match between Paul and Joanna, a doubles match which included members of the



audience and some pretty unconventional bats (including a frying pan, sandpaper bat and mini-bats). Another two-day training camp is scheduled for 5-6 April (£45 per day).

(The photo above shows Paul playing Joanna during the Charity Match.)

Gwynne

Team Reports

READING LEAGUE

DIVISION 1

KINGFISHER D (by Richard Fifield)

The team are meeting (and probably exceeding) all expectations and are currently

lying fourth. I predict a very creditable fifth place at the end of the season behind the star A & B teams of both the Kingfisher and OLOP clubs.

Edy Caliman and Josh Gallen are both flying high with averages in the 70% bracket. The remainder of the team are doing very respectably with averages around the 50% mark. Trevor Organ, in particular, is having a wonderful season and always picks up valuable wins, and this week enjoyed an astonishing triple against an SCPA team comprising Keith Swain, Jason Roberts and Malcolm Gregory. Josh and Edy, also, starred in what was a comprehensive 10-0 victory.

The only, disappointing news is that Leo Long is having to take an enforced break from the game, on doctor's orders, after suffering from growth-related back pains. I am sure that Leo will return sooner or later. He has learnt much from his first season in Division One. Expect him to return with real impetus next season. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

Richard



DIVISION 2

KINGFISHER E (by Geoff Civil)

Team: Colin Dyke, John Morris, Roger Woolven-Allen and Geoff Civil (capt.) We've played five matches since Christmas, winning three and losing two. A glance at the current table shows us in fourth place. The top three are probably out of reach with at least a five-point gap, and they having one or two matches in hand. Almost the whole season we have oscillated between fourth and fifth place; however, our two recent losses were to OLOP 'D' and Kingfisher 'F'. Our 'F' team are in fifth place with the same number of points as us, but a game in hand. OLOP 'D' in sixth are only one point behind



with a game in hand. So, the run in to the end of the season will be very tight! Our final three matches are against Wokingham 'A', OLOP 'C', and Tidmarsh 'C' who are currently in third, second and first places in the table respectively! My prediction is that we will do very well to hang on to the fourth spot, and that fifth or sixth place is much more likely.

Geoff

DIVISION 3

KINGFISHER H (by Eric Holmes)

News of the H team as follows:-

The start of the second half of the season has seen us get off to a poor start losing three matches, drawing one and winning only one. Our problem has been fielding three regular players, putting out a reserve on two occasions and playing with one short on the other. In addition the form of our doubles pairings has faltered and contributed to two of the defeats by 4-6 and a 5-5 draw. The bright spot has been the return of Dave Duncan for the last two matches and his availability to the end of the season.

Eric

DIVISION 5

KINGFISHER K (by Gillian Bennett)

In the second half of the season, Kingfisher K has won four of the six matches played. The two matches that we lost were played away, against top teams in our division, but the games were competitive and some very close. Leigh Mahoney won all three of his games at Tilehurst Methodists and, at Polish, each of us won one game each. Not a whitewash then! All matches have been enjoyable and challenging and we remain near mid-table in the results.

Gillian

BRACKNELL LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION

KINGFISHER A (by John Willcocks)



Our good pre-Christmas form has carried on into the New Year and we have managed two wins and a draw against the teams lying in second, third and fourth in the division. This means that with six matches left we are top of the table with an eight point lead over OLOP A. The highlights since Christmas have been a fine 7-3 win against OLOP A, where Geoff played his best table tennis of the season to get an excellent maximum. We then performed the great escape by coming back from 4-1 down to get a draw at Wokingham A when it looked like we might suffer a heavy defeat.

Geoff and Phil have played well since Christmas with Roger and myself giving them some solid back up. John M has been unable to play for various reasons but will be back in the team this week and I am sure he will make some important contributions between now and the end of the season. John's return is very welcome as Geoff has gone abroad for warm weather training or, at least, I presume that is why he has gone to Gran Canaria...

John

PREMIER DIVISION

KINGFISHER C (by Richard Fifield)

We are slowly closing the gap behind the teams above. There are less than ten sets between the third-placed team and us, second from bottom.

Colin Dyke has particularly impressed since Christmas with several hard fought successes. Jeff Huggins continues to get good results and Peter Bennett has picked up a few useful wins. Dave Gostelow often comes very close to some great wins, but just falls short. He continues to enjoy the challenge.

Richard

DIVISION 2

KINGFISHER E (by Gwynne Penny)

Since the mid-season break we've had a bit of a rollercoaster ride, drawing with Wokingham D, winning 7-3 against Wokingham Methodists B, winning 6-4 against Nomads B and losing 3-7 to SportsAble C. However, last night we won 9-1 at Broadmoor!

During the match with Nomads, David Wells narrowly lost his first game against Martin Milsum 18-20 – that's the second time this season that we've had an 18-20 scoreline in a game – maybe we will push one to 21 before the season ends!! Overall we are currently third in the league table, just ahead of Nomads B, but with Nomads currently a game in hand. With four more matches to play we will need to really work hard to keep this slot in the table. On a personal note, I finally managed to land my first triple win for the team, during our Broadmoor match.

Good luck team!



Gwynne

Liam beats his brother in final

The following has been extracted from the Reading Post, issue dated 05 February 2014:



Woodley's Liam McTiernan (pictured, courtesy of John Upham) won the Basingstoke Open title at Aldworth TTC by defeating his brother Daniel in the final.



Tournament favourite Liam won his group before beating fifth-seed Billy Ho (Portsmouth) 3-0 in the quarter-final and Aldershot's Ross Saxby by the same margin in the semi-finals.

On his way to the final, Daniel defeated Reading's Hari Gehlot 3-1 and defending champion Ed Slot (Winchester) 3-1.

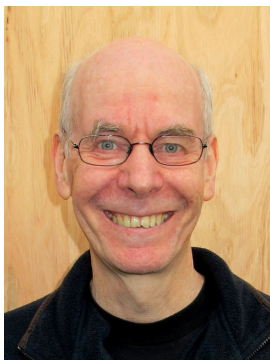
In the final, Liam kept younger brother Daniel at arm's length with his considerable repertoire of shots.

The third game was the closest, with Daniel even taking the lead before Liam finished the match with a great forehand topspin winner.

Liam collected a gold medal and £70, with Daniel picking up the silver plus £40 (picture again courtesy of John Upham).



More than 50 players from all over the South of England took part in the tournament on Sunday.



This tournament will be held on Sunday 27th April 2014 at the Kingfisher Table Tennis Club. It is open to all players registered with the Bracknell, Wokingham & District Table Tennis Association.

The Audrey Hardy Hard Bat Tournament

The tournament was played last year for the first time in many years and is a great leveller. Games are played with identical hard bats supplied by Bracknell, Wokingham & District Table Tennis Association. It is fun and a test of your abilities – ask anyone who played in last years' tournament!

If you would like to enter please contact the organiser David Holt: **email drdavidholt@btinternet.com**

The Octopus

By becoming the oldest player ever to play in the British League Premier on Saturday 12 January, Paul Beck (*aka The Octopus*) made history!

Paul's team was a combination of the oldest ever (Paul) and the youngest ever, because his team-mates were all Welsh Juniors, aged 14, 15 and 16.



In the very first match, Paul coached 15-year-old Callum Evans to the best win of his life to date. He beat the opposition Number 1 player, Jason Sugrue, who not only was the ex-Irish Number 1 and current England Number 20, but featured around 1300 points above Callum. This was arguably the biggest shock of the British League Premier season!

Paul himself then played the Chinese player Lobsang Lama who was ranked 149 places above him. The Octopus won 11-8, 11-9, 11-9! So he became not only the oldest ever player to play in the BL Premier but also the oldest WINNER!!!

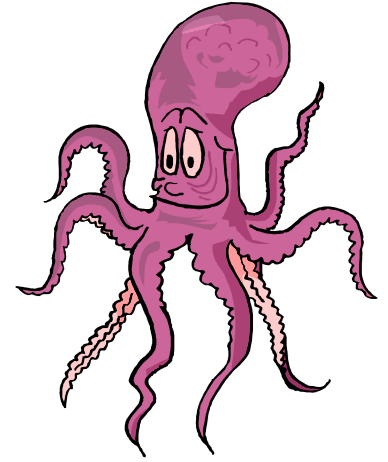
The win against Lama was all the more remarkable when the Chinaman's previous wins were taken into consideration. For example, he had beaten Kingfisher's very own Martin Adams 6-11 11-4 11-2 11-6. Not many players can do that to Martin!

In Paul's other singles in this match he played Ashley Willetts, Number 35 in England. Octo led 5-0 and 6-1 but couldn't clinch it.

Then on to the afternoon's match against a very strong Hungarian team. Paul played Alim Hirji, England's current Number 18. The second game stretched to six deuces but, sadly, Paul lost that particular end 16-18.

Paul also played Niall Cameron, Scotland's Number 3 and previous winner of a *Grand Prix*. The Octopus was close at 6-6 AND 8-7 in the first end but couldn't quite do it.

On paper, Paul's team was expected to be hammered in every match and so, in hindsight, it was a pretty good effort!



KINGFISHER TUESDAY SOCIAL CLUB

Contact: Diane Taylor ☎ 0118 942 8384 or by email at dianetaylor777@hotmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

Happy hitting and smashing! Regards, *Diane*



KINGFISHER WEDNESDAY CLUB



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

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

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

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

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

All the best, *Roger*

KINGFISHER FRIDAY CLUB

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

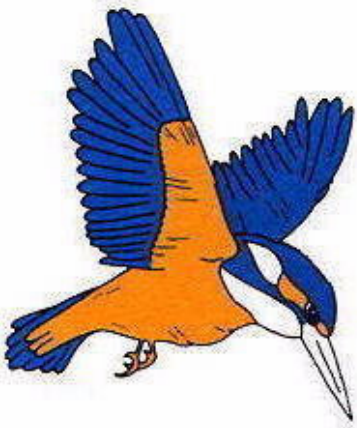
The *Friday Club* (hours 1000-1230) is open to all. Because of the limited attendance to date, it may be a good idea to make sure that other players will be there. Please give Allan (the new Friday Club co-ordinator) a tinkle before attending; he will be more than happy to let you know the state of play.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



The Kingfisher Summer Grand Prix

This is simply a somewhat early advance notification to all members that the highly popular Kingfisher Summer Grand Prix will again take place in 2014.

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



KINGFISHER TABLE TENNIS **CLUB**

THE KINGFISHER ***2014*** ***GRANDPRIX***

The *Kingfisher Grand Prix* series, sponsored by *Tees Sport*, will start on **Monday 12th May**, at 7.30 pm prompt. The series will run for 12 weeks, the last session taking place on **Monday 28th July**. There **WILL** be a session on the Spring Bank Holiday of **Monday 26th May**.



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

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

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

**A lot of money is tainted – Taint yours and taint mine.
A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired.
Dijon vu – the same mustard as before.**

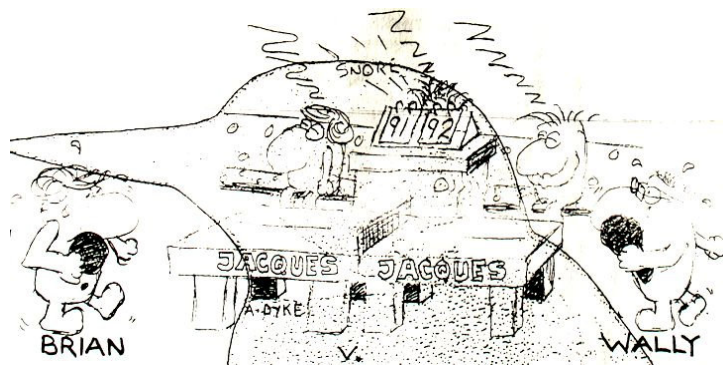
Nostalgia

– a certain Mr Dyke at that time. How 'bout that, Mr Charters? Only kidding, Peter; as everyone knows, you do far more than your fair share for the newsletter as it is.

The A team mentioned, by the way, consisted of the following people: Ray Schwartz (NPC), Syd Montgomery, Gemma Schwartz, Ali Subhan, Joanne Parker, Jimmy Stokes Jr and Nicola Cracknell. Do you remember any or all of these names? Not a Gehlot or a Banks in sight!

At this time, the Kingfisher TTC had a total of 81 members. How times have changed!

This first issue included a great report about the World's Veterans' and the US Open Championships (which were held in Baltimore) written by one Brian Halliday. Brian mentions many famous names from the past, but the aspect that seemed to interest him most of all was that of the sponsors. Among other organisations, the tournaments' sponsors included "Balls the All-American Sports Bar", "Talk'n Turkey Stuff'n Turkey" and "Limos For Less". It could only happen in the USA!



I guess that's it from the first issue. Next time I shall delve into the recesses of *Kingfisher News* Issue 2. Watch this space! (Ed.)

BUT BACK TO THE PRESENT...

Hi Roger

Thank you for the latest *Kingfisher News*. I like the idea of the new "Nostalgia" section – I even know some of the people mentioned !!

However I have to point out a little error regarding myself. I do not live in Alicante! I am about 90 minutes north of there along the motorway in a small town called Javea. I come under Alicante region and the airport is there and that's it! (*I stand corrected, Christine! My apologies. Ed.*)

But I will forgive you as I believe you have just reached an age milestone that I am rapidly heading towards!!! (*I have no idea what she's talking about. Ed.*)

Happy New Year to everyone at Kingfisher!

Christine

Cippenham Team 2-Star Open

The following has been extracted from the Reading Post, issue dated 15 January 2014:

Daniel Moses and Daniel McTiernan won the prestigious Cippenham Team 2-Star Open tournament for the first time last weekend.

Daniel Moses, 20, and 15-year-old Liam McTiernan (both pictured) played as a team – and it was Moses who clinched victory in the final.

The two Daniels topped their group before going on to win their last 16 and quarter-final matches without losing a game. They then defeated a Sussex team 2-0 in the semis.



Carta de España

The final brought the two top-seeded teams together, with Moses and McTiernan playing the South East London duo of the big-hitting left-handed Tyler Anderson and the in-form Jamal Dennison.



Anderson beat Moses by three games to one, which meant that McTiernan had to beat Dennison, who is positioned 65 places above the teenager in the English men's senior ranking list.

After two close games, honours were even until a dramatic third game that contained eight deuces and numerous game points for both players.

McTiernan emerged the winner by 19 points to 17, and went on to record a surprise 3-1 victory.

With the final match poised at one-all, this set up a shoot-out between Moses and Dennison for the title.

The higher-ranked Moses never looked in trouble as he eased to a 3-0 win to seal the title.



Berkshire Sports Personality Of The Year

The following extract, from a list that accompanied an article by the Reading Post Sports Editor David Wright, appeared in the issue of 12 February 2014:



FULL LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS: Berkshire Sports Personality of the Year: Winner Andy Knapper (bowls); Runner-Up Lucie Bouron (wheelchair basketball and table tennis).

I regret that I have no idea who this Lucie Bouron is and, while I certainly do not know the name of every table tennis player in Berkshire, I feel that perhaps I should at least of heard of the lady. Can any reader throw further light on the mystery? Any information would be gratefully received. (Ed.)

Letter From Owkingham

The following letter has been received from long-standing Kingfisher member Peter Bennett. He is referring to the brief fill-in article (from Issue 75) reprinted below:

ARAPROSDOKIANS

(No, I'd never heard of the word before, either! But Allan Bruton has kindly sent me a few! Here are a couple of them. Enjoy! Ed.)

If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

Hi Roger! Great newsletter as usual! (Aw, shucks... Ed.) However, not wishing to be pikky, but I think I spotted a slight error. Either you or Allan is in need of a Pee!

See <http://hermitjim.blogspot.co.uk/2010/09/how-about-some-paraproisdokian-examples.html> and you will see the correct spelling of 'araproisdokian'.

It should be paraproisdokian.

Perhaps it was a case of you agreeing with Allan and you were both wrong!

Peter

Thank you, Peter. In defence, m'lud, I suggest that Allan's crime was simply a "typo" – one that I could not correct because I had absolutely no idea what the word should have been! A shame, really. I always do my level best to avoid tpyos. (Ed.)

And another paraprosthingy for you...

Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.



Andy Seward

The following has been received from Sara Sutcliffe, CEO of the ETTA:

The first few weeks of this year have been mixed with emotions at the ETTA. First, as I am sure you will have heard by now, our Chairman Andy Seward passed away suddenly on January 15. A few days later we received the good news from Sport England that we had made sufficient progress in our governance, structure and organisation that we merited further financial investment in the future.

It was this landmark decision which Andy had worked so hard towards. In his six months as Chairman, he led his team to initiate and implement the change and reform which would guarantee the future of the sport. Our pleasure at hearing this good news was tempered by the sadness that Andy did not see the results of his efforts. He has left a lasting legacy to table tennis in this country and will be missed by all who knew and worked with him.

Election

Andy's death means that the ETTA must seek a new Chairman. That process is now underway. Counties and Leagues have two weeks (*probably passed by now. Ed.*) to nominate a candidate, after which, if it is contested, there will be an election.

New Premises, New Posts

Next month (March) sees the start of the second phase of change. We are moving to a new head office in Milton Keynes and have streamlined the structure of the organisation with the creation of four new departments and four new senior managers to oversee them. This will enable us to concentrate on delivering participation and performance to existing and future table tennis players.

This work will not happen overnight and we still have many challenges to face. I am pleased to have accepted the post of CEO on a permanent basis and am looking forward to working with our new team and volunteers to make table tennis a success story in England.

Developments

In the last ETTA newsletter, we referred to the creation of four new areas which would replace the existing nine regions in terms of the staff base for their work of grass-roots development, participation and coaching. This would allow us to make better use of our resources with bigger teams offering support across a wider area. Work is already under way within these new areas. Meetings have taken place to look at the strategies of these new teams in identifying development and coach education. Regions continue to play a very important role within the areas not least through the work of Regional Committees. We are also working with our valued volunteers within the existing regions to maintain the momentum of regional coaching and competition.

Part of our new approach is the creation of four Talent Development Centres (as reported last time). We are working in partnership with four clubs, providing coaching, a development structure and facilities to identify and nurture new talent. These are up and running now and we will continue reporting back as we seek out and develop the talent of the future.

An increase in funding by UK Sport for Para Table Tennis has provided a significant boost for the GB Para Table Tennis Team, rewarding its recent successes and also recognising the potential within the squad.

Schools in and around London have received a boost with a new grant from the Jack Petchey Foundation which will provide more than 200 new tables for school children to learn and develop their table tennis skills.

Competition News

The race for Commonwealth Games places in Glasgow 2014 began in earnest with nine English players starting their 2014 international campaigns at the Hungarian Open in Szombathely. Andrew Baggaley fared best among the men with a place in the last 16, while Kelly Sibley made the last 32 in the women's event.

The premier domestic event, the English Senior National Table Tennis Championship, will take place at Ponds Forge International Sports Centre, Sheffield from February 28 - March 2, 2014, with several of the top players in England participating. Tickets are available in advance.

The entry forms are available for this season's English League Cup Competition – the Wilmott Cup (Men), JM Rose Bowl (Women), Carter Cup (Junior Boys) and Bromfield Trophy (Junior Girls). All entries must be endorsed by a Local League.

The ETTA publishes, and regularly updates, a calendar of tournaments and events through to June 2015.

(Sara Sutcliffe, CEO ETTA, February, 2014)

In Brief

Our Lady of Peace Table Tennis Club has finished runners-up in Division 2 of the Junior British League.

The Earley Club won six and drew two of its ten matches. Number One Daniel McTiernan continued his good form by winning all six of his matches on Saturday 9 February.

Epilogue

Well, everyone, that's it! I really must apologise for the newsletter's late arrival (two players actually contacted me to ask where it was!) but I fear I have been very busy with other things. I know, I know, I have no sense of priority...

As always, I should like to thank all of my contributors – and there seems to be a growing number of such fine people! My thanks, too, to John Upham and Dids for their ever-superb photographs. Mind you, Angela Liu would appear to be hot on their heels now – although I half expect a mild dressing down for “that” picture of young Jamie!

My thanks, too, for the ever-growing number of people who send me “fill-in” jokes and one-liners. Most prominent among these people are Del Boy Wood, Hari Gehlot, Colin Dyke, Andy Yon and several others whose names currently escape me. You will note the omission of Allan Bruton in the foregoing list; if I ever printed any of Allan's jokes (and they are absolutely brilliant), Colin would sack me on the spot. Mind you, if I ever wanted to give up this post, it would be a great means of escape! That way, I could blame someone else! “I'd love to carry on, everyone, but the Committee won't let me,” sort of thing. And you'd get to see the jokes, too! A card up the sleeve worth hanging on to...

The next issue won't appear until the end of the current season and then I shall be leaning heavily on the Team Captains. My thanks, by the way, to those who contributed this time. I really appreciate the input. Bah humbug to the others.

And so I shall close. Here's wishing you all a great time for your remaining matches. If you can't win, scowl gracefully. But, most of all, enjoy yourselves!

Roger

The Kingfisher Club



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

It is an accredited FOUR-STAR PREMIER CLUB bringing great benefits to the Club and its members. The Club also has SPORT ENGLAND CLUBMARK status.

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

The Club enters teams in the local Berkshire leagues as well as the National

leagues. League play starts in September each year and tends to finish some time in April.

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



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

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

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

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



FINALLY, please remember our website at [www.tabletennis365.com/Kingfisher/...](http://www.tabletennis365.com/Kingfisher/)
WELL WORTH LOOKING AT!!