

**READING  
& DISTRICT  
TABLE TENNIS  
ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER**  
Editor:  
**Derek Wavell**

*December 2022*



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*Christmas is a time of new birth, and nothing symbolizes this more clearly than - the egg!*

*In a frozen landscape and political scene, new life has to spring forth - and let it be the vigour of table tennis!*

*May you have warmth and good cheer at Christmas time, and ding dong merrily on the table tennis table!*

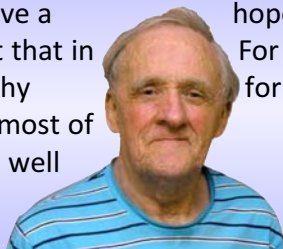
Derek Wavell





### Notes from our Chairman

Hello everybody, I hope you had/have a good Christmas but more important that in 2023 you and your family stay healthy I can see on our great website that most of the divisions are fairly up to date so well done  
Now we have the individual handi-



cap which is being run by Eric on the 7th Jan so I hope that you enjoy it.  
For the rest of the season there is still a lot to play for so enjoy!

All the best  
Derek

### Notes from the RDTTA General Secretary

The season is progressing well with the majority of teams up to date with their fixtures. Kingfisher 'A' look to have division 1 wrapped up before Christmas! As I write they have a massive 34 point advantage over 2nd placed SC&P 'A' - the interest in the 2nd half of the season will be which of SC&P, Kingfisher 'D' or OLOP 'A' will finish as runners-up. Division 2 continues to be a really tight affair from top to bottom - no match is easy here! Sonning Common & Peppard 'D', Sonning Common & Peppard 'C', Tilehurst RBL 'B' and OLOP 'B' seem to be emerging as possible top two finishers, but you still can't rule out Tidmarsh 'B' or Kingfisher 'G'! In division 3 Pangbourne WMC and Springfield 'A' are the front runners with

Tidmarsh 'C' and 'D' and OLOP 'E' still in the hunt, while in division 4 Tilehurst Methodists 'C' are looking good with SC&P 'E', SC&P 'F' and Tilehurst RBL 'C' hanging on to their coat tails.



A reminder that the Individual Handicap tournament is being held on Saturday 7th January at the Cippenham Club. Entry is available via the website and you may now need to be quick as entries are limited. The Reading Closed Championships are to be held on Sunday 5th March 2023 again at Cippenham - entries also available via the website.

Enjoy your TT in 2023!

Nigel Maltby

Photos - we do have some after all, thanks to our new Division One fixture secretary, Martin Adams - and thanks to Cippenham Table Tennis Club, where the photos were taken, and they have given us permission to use them. Thanks to both of you!

And while I am at it, I would like to thank Martin particularly for his Christmas cracker jests, which are top quality!

Other players and their relatives are very welcome to send in table tennis photos and jokes, to put some life into future editions of this newsletter. Please send them to your DFS, who will forward them to me.



# DIVISION ONE

by Martin Adams

**F**estive Greetings to all of you and your loved ones!

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we are planning a "Division 1 & Friends Social Evening". The date will be Friday 5th May prior to the King's Coronation bank holiday. Please could team captains and other interested guests inform me of likely numbers by the end of January and I will find a suitable establishment (probably Indian subject to objections) that will accommodate us. Looking forward to it already!

Now to the league. Admittedly it didn't exactly take Mystic Meg to predict it, but my previous assessment of three mini-leagues is alive and well - Just look at the table! I had to wait right up until the newsletter deadline to confirm almost all of the league positions. Two points separate second and fourth – and the bottom clubs have a game or two in hand - The second half is gonna be a cracker!

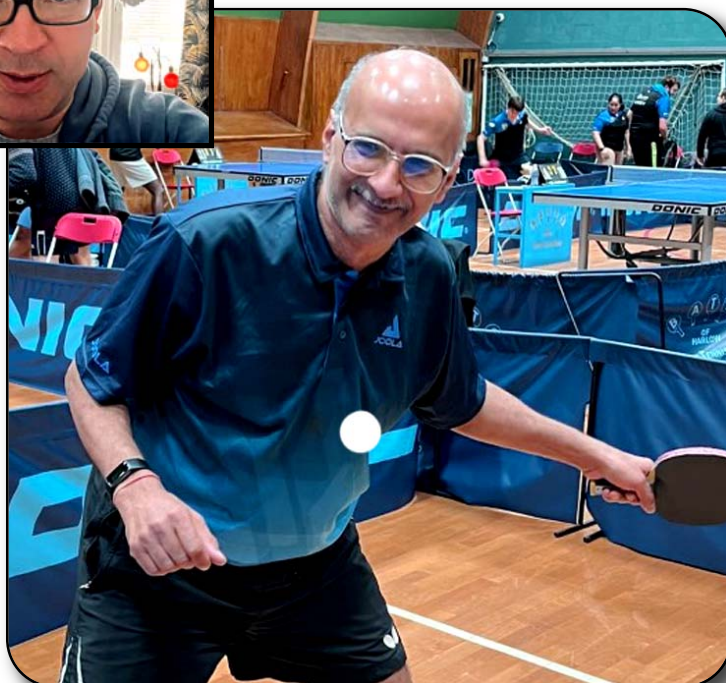
In 1st are champions-elect **Kingfisher 'A'**, although we have proved that the majority of us are by no means unbeatable as individuals - but more credit for the various victors in the team sections to follow. Hari, who recently turned 60 years young, remains the only regular undefeated player in the division. On one occasion we were struggling for players (by strange co-incidence clashing with an England World Cup game – and Hari was topping up his tan in Mexico!) so we called in the 'reserves', a word I use lightly, as previously unknown business student Mengyao 'Wolverine' Shi is quite some player. His effortless forehand power was too much for Graham Mendick (3,4,8) and Julian Telford (8,5,6), although Ryan Chung did well to push him close (13, -9,8,11). Anyway, I promise we will not inflict any more pain on our opponents with Wolverine (unless we are short again!). By

the way, I forgot to ask how he got his nickname – in my opinion he neither resembles Hugh Jackman nor the badger-like mammal.

### MVP: Hari Gehlot

**Christmas Cracker: Why does Santa choose to use the chimney? Because it soots him.**

2nd at (slightly beyond) halfway goes to **Sonning Common and Peppard 'A'**,



HARI GEHLOT

but only just. Second, third and fourth place teams have been shuffling every week. Neil Hurford remains the only player to be solely defeated by the KF 'A' players, and never



JAMIE BARLOW OF SC&P 'A' (\*Cippenhamtc)

	DIV 1	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Kingfisher A	10	10	0	0	93	7	93
2	SC&P A	10	8	0	2	68	32	68
3	OLOP A	10	8	0	2	67	33	67
4	Kingfisher D	10	8	0	2	66	34	66
5	Tilehurst RBL A	10	5	0	5	47	53	47
6	Kingfisher B	10	4	2	4	45	55	45
7	Tidmarsh A	11	3	1	7	43	67	43
8	Kingfisher C	11	1	4	6	36	74	36
9	Sonning Sports A	10	1	1	8	33	67	33
10	SC&P B	9	2	1	6	30	60	30
11	Reading FC	9	0	1	8	22	68	22



IAN COLE OF OLOP 'A' (\*Cippenhamtc)

challenged to more than four games per set and thus receives this quarter's MVP award. Jamie Barlow remains cool and unflustered, illustrated, like Neil, by a comfortable win over Prayrit Ahluwalia. Gary Morgan remains resilient and only a defeat to Murgy in Q2 has stopped him matching Neil's achievement, while Jason Roberts continues to pick up important points. Their recent planned meeting with Kingfisher 'D' was postponed. Could the two outstanding matches between them ultimately decide the runners up spot?

**MVP: Neil Hurford**

*Christmas Cracker: How did Scrooge end up with the football? The ghost of Christmas passed!*

3rd and just a single point behind are **OLOP 'A'**. They have an extremely closely matched 4-man squad all positioned between 58% and 68% in the averages, but unfortunately (for them) could not muster up a full squad for the crucial encounter with Kingfisher 'D' where they lost 2 - 8. Ian Cole's recent performances have edged his colleagues and he deserves the MVP at Christmas, despite Justin Mead achieving exactly the same stats and Murgy and Mo Cook (who expertly came back from 2 - 0 down to overturn Dave Croucher 15-13 in the fifth) not far behind.

**MVP: Ian Cole**

*Christmas Cracker: Which Christmas Carol do they sing in the desert? Camel ye faithful.*

In 4th sits **Kingfisher 'D'**. Graham Mendick is the first of three players to get a mention for upsetting Kingfisher A's individual records. He played excellently to take out yours truly 3 - 1 including an 11-1 thrashing in the fourth. Such is his modesty he refused a photo opportunity in front of the scoreboard! He also breezed past Dave Croucher without touching the sides (3,6,6). Despite all this, Ryan Chung has continued to impress with identical win stats over the season. Julian Telford's entertaining open style has served him well to score in every match he has participated in. Cath Venning and Ethan Zeng have both made important contributions but have not played so much in recent weeks. I admit I

should probably have awarded Ryan the MVP last time since he was unbeaten early-on...and he did push Wolverine close...so, perhaps controversially...

**MVP: Ryan Chung**

*Christmas Cracker: What do you call elves in an English class? Subordinate Clauses.*

5th and 'best of the rest' is **Tilehurst RBL 'A'**. Won five - Lost five. This talented trio have played in almost every match together and taking 16 out of 20 points in the last two encounters has boosted their position. Justly so, as Keith Winter has played in all the matches so far and is now the stand-out performer as he sits on an impressive 60% (last five matches 2-3-2-3-2). Most improved stats award goes to Jon Willis - I predicted he would improve his average. Last newsletter 17%. This newsletter 42%. Marc Brent,

who was initially matching Keith's impressive start to the season, has tailed off but remains a classy opponent. Special mention goes to super-sub (seems like another theme for this edition) John Willcocks who stepped up to upset Phil Mead 3-1.

**MVP: The festively named, Keith Winter**

*Christmas Cracker: Why does Santa have three gardens? So he can hoe hoe hoe!*



GARY MORGAN OF SC&P 'A' (\*Cippenhamtc)

6th and smack in the middle is **Kingfisher 'B'**. They were 10th in week 5! They seem to have found a nice rotation balance with all players having played between five and seven evenings each so far.

*Oh - Stop Press - Jon Willis wins the shortest-held-award-in-history award as I re-award the most improved stats award to Nigel Keedy! Last newsletter 0%. This newsletter 40%. Take a bow.*



This closely knit squad all play at a similar level. Alan Cummings is slightly lagging behind his colleagues average-wise but in fairness to him has played against all the stronger teams and did well to defeat Mike Childs in the last match before Christmas. Martin Pugh's battling qualities were perfectly illustrated as he edged Anthony Baker 10, -6, 10, -9, 13. Captain Phil Mead narrowly leads their team's figures but I suspect that young Theo Kniep, whose results are quite obviously improving over just a few extra weeks, will be laughing last - and longest.

**MVP: Phil Mead**

**Christmas Cracker: Who conned the turkey? The hustle sprouts.**

7th : **Tidmarsh 'A'**. Another consistent foursome here (particularly true since Simon Barter has found some recent form including pushing Murgy to 11-13 in the fifth) which has led to a climb up the table since negotiating through the majority of tough matches early on – but of course must now face that challenging run again - they have already started with a 1 - 9 defeat at the hands of



RYAN CHUNG of KINGFISHER 'D' (\*Cippenhamtts) gation tensions later on.

**MVP: Prayrit Ahluwalia**

**Christmas Cracker: What song do you sing at a snowman's party? Freeze a jolly good fellow!**

9th next and **Sonning Sports 'A'**. Their league position seems a little precarious since Dave Croucher missed a few matches, but he pushed aside Ryan Chung, Ian Cole and Steve Murgatroyd in recent encounters, the latter impressively matched by Nick Sears. Paul Savage is another dedicated player yet to miss a match and has taken some good scalps along the way including that of Mo Cook. Bob Woodmansee is still a nice bloke. Finally, you could say they have doubles troubles as they are, quite incredibly, yet to win a doubles match!

**MVP: Dave Croucher**

**Christmas Cracker: Why couldn't Rudolph study classics? Because he went down in history.**

10th is **Sonning Common & Peppard 'B'** who eventually climbed off the bottom after their early lack of fixtures. Two special mentions here. Firstly, Ed Lush who comprehensively took the scalp of previously unbeaten Darren

DIV 1 LEADING AVERAGES				
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher A	24	24	100.00%
Mengyao Shi (S)	Kingfisher A	3	3	100.00%
Martin Adams	Kingfisher A	24	23	95.83%
Darren Jones	Kingfisher A	18	17	94.44%
Ross Saxby	Kingfisher A	15	14	93.33%
Jamie Barlow	SC&P A	24	21	87.50%
Graham Mendick	Kingfisher D	20	17	85.00%
Ryan Chung	Kingfisher D	20	17	85.00%
Neil Hurford	SC&P A	18	15	83.33%
Gary Morgan	SC&P A	18	14	77.78%
David Croucher	Sonning Sports A	18	14	77.78%
Prayrit Ahluwalia	Kingfisher C	24	17	70.83%
Ian Cole	OLOP A	16	11	68.75%
Justin Mead	OLOP A	16	11	68.75%
Julian Telford	Kingfisher D	19	13	68.42%
Mo Cook	OLOP A	22	15	68.18%
Ed Lush	SC&P B	18	12	66.67%

OLOP. Duncan Groves, Anthony Baker and Lee Calcutt are only separated by seven percentage points although I expect they would prefer their 38-45 to be a little higher, such is their potential. Take Duncan, who showed his first week victory over Murgy was no accident by repeating the feat in the final fixture of 2022 - and Lee, who comfortably beat Tom Lewis 3 - 0- and both Anthony and Duncan sweeping aside Mike Childs, even if he was feeling a little off-colour that night, 3 - 0.

**MVP: Anthony Baker – law of averages**

**Christmas Cracker: Doctor, Doctor, I've got a mince pie stuck up my nose. I'll give you some cream for that.**

8th is **Kingfisher 'C'**. So tight is the division that they dropped 3 places on the week they played Kingfisher 'A' despite Prayrit Ahluwalia, just thirteen years of age, who continues to impress and managed to ruin Ross Saxby's unbeaten record 12-10 in the fifth. Dan McTiernan has played in every match but both he and Emma Blachford will need to up their win-rate to ensure they stay in the mix and avoid rele-



MARTIN ADAMS OF KINGFISHER 'A' (\*Cippenhamtts)



Jones. Secondly well done to super-sub Jon Abbott, whose division 1 average is actually higher than that in division 2, after he took out both Duncan Groves and Simon Barter. Both Matt Stone and Tim Raby scored good wins on Nick Sears - and Matt Isherwood finds himself on a steady 40%. They have also regularly called on Denise Weller, who played up for a creditable win over Dan McTiernan.

**MVP: Ed Lush**

**Christmas Cracker: Why was the Christmas tree sick? Tinsel-itis!**

In 11th and propping up the table is **Reading FC** with perhaps a little daylight now showing to catch the others. It

pains me to mention it again, but all their singles points are still from Mike Childs, Tom Lewis (including both beating Jamie Barlow) and forfeits. It should be noted that credit is due to team rotation taking priority - after all Wayne, Tony and Jazz can take enormous credit in getting The Royals to the elite level that is Reading Division 1.

**MVP: Mike Childs**

**Christmas Cracker: Who hides in the bakery at Christmas? A Mince Spy.**

# DIVISION TWO

by John Willcocks

The early season pattern of numerous close matches in this division has continued and I cannot see that changing during the rest of the season. There have been twelve draws, fifteen 6 - 4's, only two 9 - 1's and no 10 - 0's at all which shows what a tight and even division it is. The two SC&P teams have opened up a small gap at the top of the table and they look to be the favourites to secure the promotion places. At the other end of the table, it really is anyone's guess as although the bottom two teams have both only won once their many close results, and also Kingfisher 'E's recent improved form, mean they are not too far behind some of the clubs above them.

I have predicted where I think everyone will finish but apart from the top two places it is really very difficult and I would not be surprised if many of my predictions are way out.

## Stop Press Late Result

*Tilehurst Meths 'A' 8 Kingfisher 'G' 2 with Bill Stamatiou getting a great maximum. This result propels Tilehurst Meths 'A' up from ninth to fourth position and shows that my guess about where they and many other teams, will finish could well be well off the mark.*

**SC&P 'D'** have only played three times recently but two wins and a draw have seen them remain in the top position and in one of their recent matches they beat their 'C' team who are their main rivals for the title 6 - 4. Danny Dockree has continued to play very well and is averaging 91%, the second highest in the division, and he has had good support from his team mates and especially Jonathan Abbott and Mark Jones. As long as Danny plays in most

matches they should finish in the top two but if he does not do so they might just miss out.

## Prediction - 2nd

**Best Recent Performance - Danny Dockree with a great maximum in the match against promotion rivals SC&P 'C', only dropping one game in the process.**

**SC&P 'C'** have had some mixed results in the last few weeks with three wins and two defeats but as the defeats were 6 - 4 they were not too damaging and they are only two points behind their club rivals in the table. Nigel Maltby and Malcolm Gregory have both been playing consistently and are averaging around two wins per match and although Brian Meheux's form has dipped a bit two wins last time out indicate that that was only temporary. It is likely to be a very close-run contest between them and their 'D' team to see who finishes at the top of the table but I think that Nigel's team will just pip their club rivals for the title.

## Prediction - 1st

**Best Recent Performance - Nigel Maltby with a maximum against Tidmarsh 'B' including a three straight win over Dale Ballard.**

**OLOP 'B'** have had five very close matches recently, winning and drawing two and losing one. This has been the pattern for their whole season so far, as apart from a couple of 7 - 3 wins all of their matches have either ended as 6 - 4 wins/defeats or as draws. Chris West and Darek Kaminski are leading the way on 67% and with Dave Godfrey and Alistair Richardson averaging between 35% and 43% their run of close matches looks likely to continue for the rest of the season. They are currently third in the table and although they may not finish quite that high they should end up in the top five.

## Prediction - 4th

**Best Recent Performance - Chris West recovering from two games down to beat Neil Dellar in five**

**OLOP 'C'** are fourth but surprisingly have only won twice so far with the last win coming in early October. Their recent form has seen them draw twice and lose twice, although as both losses were 7 - 3 they were not too damaging. Pradeep Desh and Binit Bhasker have been in consistent form and they have averages of over 50% and while their other three players have not



	DIV 2	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	SC&P D	9	6	1	2	55	35	55
2	SC&P C	9	6	1	2	53	37	53
3	OLOP B	9	3	3	3	47	43	47
4	OLOP C	10	2	3	5	46	54	46
5	Tilehurst RBL B	8	4	2	2	45	35	45
6	Kingfisher F	10	3	2	5	43	57	43
7	Tidmarsh B	8	3	3	2	42	38	42
8	Kingfisher G	8	4	2	2	41	39	41
9	Tilehurst Meths A	9	1	4	4	39	51	39
10	Kingfisher E	10	1	3	6	39	61	39



fared so well they usually pick up at least one win each, so this team's pattern of not winning all that often but being difficult to beat is likely to continue. With a current points difference of -8 there is a chance they could be drawn into the relegation battle so they could do with recording a win or two early in the new year.

**Prediction – 7th**

**Best Recent Performance**–*Binit Bhaskar overcoming Nigel Maltby 14-12 in the fifth game of a fluctuating set*

**Tilehurst RBL 'B'** have had a couple of recent postponements which means they have played fewer matches than most of the division. Their recent results have been a bit mixed with a couple of wins, including 8 - 2 against Kingfisher 'F', but in their last match they slightly surprisingly lost against the improving Kingfisher 'E'. Kate Maksimenko has continued to play well and is averaging 76% and your DFS is showing consistent form to be on 67%. Nick Lean and Peter Bradley have been a bit more inconsistent but they have both contributed some good wins. This team should have a good second half of the season but they are likely to just come up short in the promotion race though they should finish in the top four.

**Prediction – 3rd**

**Best Recent Performance** – *Kate Maksimenko with a very good maximum against OLOP 'B' when she only dropped one game*

**Kingfisher 'F'** have had a win, two draws and two defeats in recent weeks, although one of the defeats was when they could only field two players. Skipper Roger Pritchard is having a very good season and is on an impressive 81% and Hamid Mohseni has had some excellent wins recently and is averaging 56%, Ajai Kamath who has played in most of the matches is also winning regularly. Although they are currently in sixth place in the table their negative points difference of -14 is the second worst in the division so they are likely to end up in the relegation fight. With a squad of five, where they finish may well depend on how often their best three players play.

**Prediction – 8th**

**Best Recent Performance** - *Roger Pritchard beating Eric Van Looy in four, Eric's only defeat so far this season.*

**T**idmarsh 'B' find themselves in eighth place but they have played the joint fewest number of matches so they are in a false position. Their recent form has seen them draw twice and get a win and a loss in close matches. Dale Ballard is their top player on 78% and Barry Carter has been in consistent form and has 61%. François Durand and Mike Alstrop have also been contributing wins on a regular basis so their pattern of close wins, quite a few draws and the odd defeat will probably continue for the rest of the season. Once their matches in hand have been played they should move up the table and I expect them to finish in the top half

**Prediction – 5th**

**Best Recent Performance** – *Barry Carter recovering from two down to beat Malcolm Gregory 11-8 in the fifth*

**Kingfisher 'G'** have only played three times in recent weeks so they have slipped down the table. Like many of the other teams their recent matches have all been close with a win, a draw and a defeat. As with Tidmarsh 'B' their positive points difference indicates they are in a false position and this is backed up by the fact that all of their players have averages of between 50% and 60%. Neil Dellar is leading the way with 60% and as their averages have indicated all of their other

players have been winning sets consistently with ducks very few and far between. When they have caught up with their matches they should find themselves contesting for one of the top half of the table positions.

**Prediction – 6th**

**Best Recent Performance** – *Savva Christodoulou with a great maximum at Tidmarsh 'B' only dropping one game on the night.*

**Tilehurst Meths 'A'** have only won once so far but have drawn almost half of their matches and their pattern of results in the last two months has either been 7-3 defeats or draws. They find themselves in ninth place only separated from the bottom team on points difference. They have been handicapped by Jes Eassom's injury and some other availability issues and have had to play reserves in some of the matches, but on the other hand this has also meant that Eric Van Looy has played in every match, something he was not really intending to do. Eric has only lost once so it is mainly due to his wins that they have amassed the number of points they have. Bill Stamatou has only managed to play four times but is averaging over 40% so if he could play more often their results could improve. However, their results so far suggest that, if Eric plays in almost all of the remaining matches, they stand a chance of finishing outside of the bottom two, but if he does not they will find it difficult to avoid one of the relegation spots

**Prediction – 9th**

**Best Recent Performance** – *Eric Van Looy with an impressive maximum against title challengers SC&P 'C'*

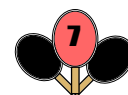
**Kingfisher 'E'** remain at the bottom of the table but their recent results have been much improved, one win two draws and a close defeat, have given them a chance of avoiding relegation. The return after an injury layoff by Luca Bianchi coupled with improved form from Stephen Leggett and Clive Gold has seen them close the gap on the teams above them. These three players played particularly well to record a 7 – 3 victory over Tilehurst RBL 'B'. Stephen's average has improved to just under 60% and with Clive and Luca on over 40% they are now a very competitive team. If Akeel and Nilanjan could contribute a few more wins than they have done so far the great escape could be on

**Prediction – 10th**

**Best Recent Performance** – *Stephen Leggett with a great maximum against Tilehurst RBL 'B'*

**DIV 2 LEADING AVERAGES**

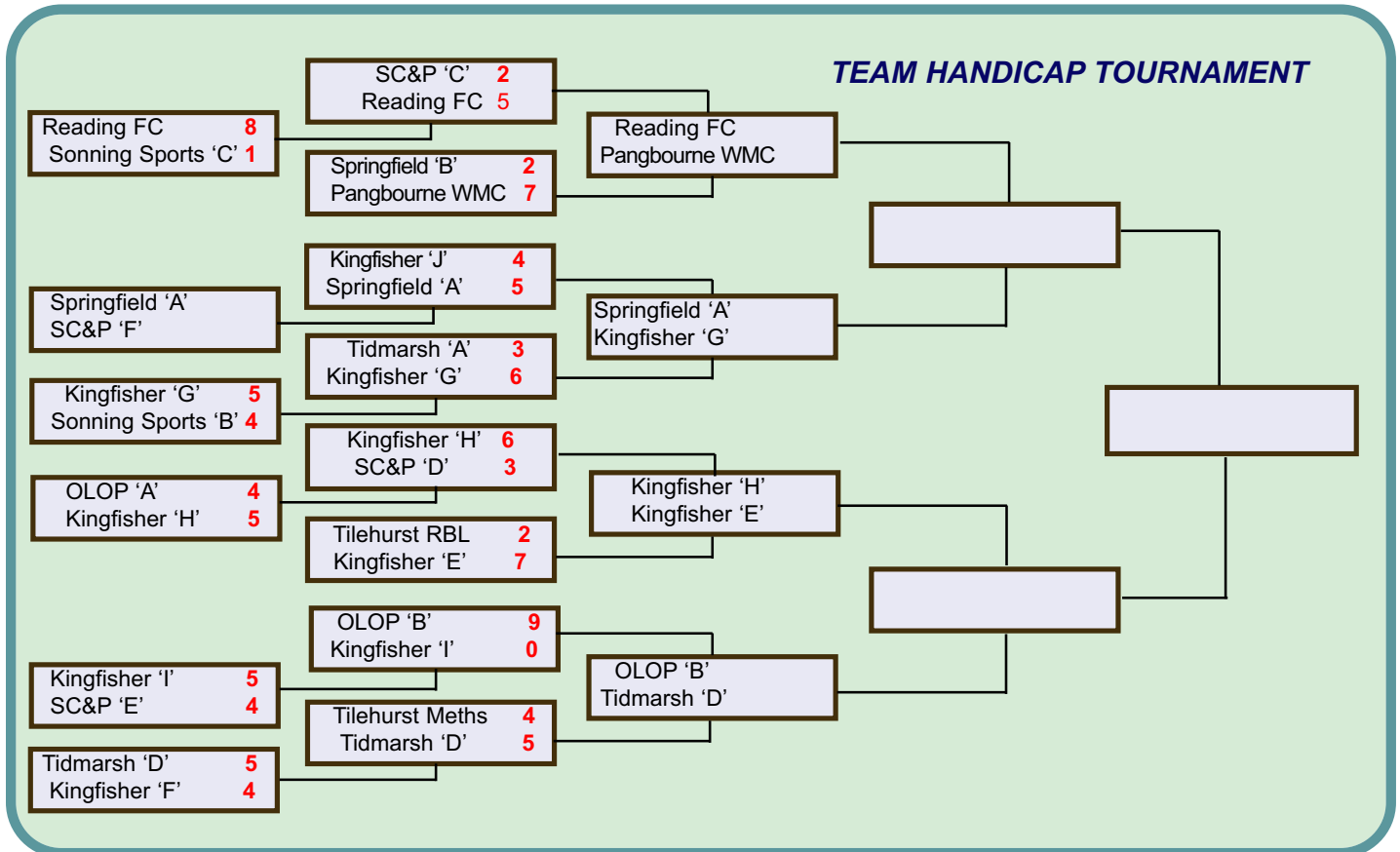
Player	Team	P	W	%
Eric Van Looy	Tilehurst Meths A	27	26	96.30%
Danny Dockree	SC&P D	23	21	91.30%
Roger Pritchard	Kingfisher F	21	17	80.95%
Dale Ballard	Tidmarsh B	18	14	77.78%
Kate Maksimenko	Tilehurst RBL B	21	16	76.19%
Nigel Maltby	SC&P C	27	18	66.67%
John Willcocks	Tilehurst RBL B	21	14	66.67%
Darek Kaminski	OLOP B	18	12	66.67%
Chris West	OLOP B	15	10	66.67%
Malcolm Gregory	SC&P C	27	17	62.96%
Jonathan Abbott	SC&P D	18	11	61.11%
Barry Carter	Tidmarsh B	18	11	61.11%
Satej Jaywant	Kingfisher G	15	9	60.00%
Stephen Leggett	Kingfisher E	27	16	59.26%
Mark Jones	SC&P D	17	10	58.82%





# TEAM HANDICAP TOURNAMENT

by Louise Forster



We were down to the last 16 teams in the Team Handicap for the November cup week; all eight matches were played on time, thank you to all teams for getting their matches organised.

First up we saw Reading FC beating SC&P 'C' 5 – 2, with Mike Childs and Wayne Alleyne winning two apiece for Reading FC. Pangbourne took on Springfield 'B' and had a convincing 7 – 2 win, there were several tight games in this match so it was closer than the score suggests. Reading FC will now meet Pangbourne in the quarter finals.

Kingfisher 'J' had a very close match against Springfield 'A', with the Springfield team taking the match 5 – 4, Rob Wilkie and Mat Hickman won two each for Springfield. Kingfisher G met Tidmarsh 'A', and won the match 6 – 3, Kingfisher's captain Andrew Adair reported 'A very enjoyable match, played in good spirits where our opponents offered us a rare treat of tea, coffee and chocolate digestives just like table tennis used to be pre-Covid! During the game between Savva Christodoulou and Ian Wu, they recorded what for me was the best rally I've seen all season, finished off by an absolutely amazing winning shot from Savva, a smash from miles back from the table to take the point. You had to be there to appreciate it in all its glory, but trust me when I say it was



pretty special!' Thank you Andrew. Springfield 'A' will now meet Kingfisher 'G' in the quarter finals.

Reigning champions SC&P 'D' were up against Kingfisher 'H', and this match saw Kingfisher 'H' taking a 6 – 3 win, with Huzeyfe Borazan, Eyup Odemis and Muharrem Aydin all winning two each for Kingfisher. Tilehurst RBL were at home to Kingfisher 'E', with the Kingfisher side taking the match 7 – 2 thanks to a hat trick by Luca Bianchi. The results of these two matches now result in a local derby quarter final between Kingfisher 'H' and Kingfisher 'E'.

The only clean sweep match of this round goes to OLOP 'B' with their 9 – 0 defeat of Kingfisher 'J', with James Smith, Parvin Baishkiyar and Qing Wu all winning all three. One of the closest matches of this round was between Tidmarsh 'D' and Tilehurst Methodists, the match saw Tidmarsh 'D' taking a 5 – 4 win, with Thereasa Watson winning all three. OLOP 'B' will now meet Tidmarsh 'D' in the quarter finals.

I look forward to seeing the results of the upcoming quarter finals, all the best to all teams for some good matches.







**Special Christmas  
edition portrait:  
Kingfisher 'D'  
(Julian Telford,  
Graham Mendick  
and Ryan Chung)**



## **DIVISION THREE** *by Huzeyfe Borazan*

In Division 3, the second quarter of the Season 2022-2023 was very exciting. There were interesting results and surprise wins, draws and losses. Only two matches were postponed, and 1 of them was only last week which was very close to the holiday season. So I am happy with all the other matches played in the first half of the season. This season, the competition is interesting because mid-table teams are as strong as any top teams. Hence, as Divisional Fixture Secretary, I am pleasantly surprised that there were a lot of close battles and interesting results. Not only the end result of the match, but the individual games are also very tough and we have seen a lot of 5-game sets.

As predicted early in the season, competition for the title will be between Pangbourne WMC and Springfield 'A'. Until last week Pangbourne WMC was very comfortable at the top spot of the table, but Springfield 'A' won their last match 10-0 and closed the gap to 6 match points. Tidmarsh 'C' is the closest team to the promotion competition. Tidmarsh 'D' and OLOP 'E' can join the challenge if they get a few high-score wins. On the other side of the table, OLOP 'F' is the strongest candidate for relegation, and Sonning Sports 'B' needs more wins in the second half of the season in order to stay in the division, as they are 7 points behind Tilehurst Methodists 'B' despite having played one more match.

In individual performances, Clive Taylor has the most wins, but Jason King has a better average as he lost only 2 games out of 26. The most recent player of the league, Mat Hickman, has a 100% record, but he only played 3 sets and we will see how he will perform in the remainder of the season.

**Pangbourne WMC** proved that they are the strongest candidate for the title. After losing the promotion chance

only last week they are much more careful this year. They still play with only 3 players and they have played all their matches in the first half. Clive Taylor is their best performing player and John Simmonds is helping his team with solid 2-3 games in every match. They are the only team to lose a match so far. So we will see if any team can beat them in the new year.

**Recent Performance** W D W W W W  
**Best Performing Player** Clive Taylor  
**Prediction** 1st, they are the front-runner and still the favourite for the title.

**Springfield 'A'** are another strong candidate for the title and promotion as they have proven with their performance recently. They have added a new player to their team. Mat Hickman started with an astonishing performance in his first match. Captain Jason King is their top player with 24 wins and Rob Wilkie is following him with solid 18 wins. With Mat Hickman, Springfield 'A' might challenge Pangbourne WMC's place for the title.

**Recent Performance:** W D W W W L  
**Best Performing Player** Jason King  
**Prediction** 2nd, unless their new player helps them to win more points.

**Tidmarsh 'C'** won 24 points from their last 3 matches, including an away draw with Pangbourne WMC. With these points, Tidmarsh 'C' sat in 3rd place and found a comfortable place for the promotion challenge. Tidmarsh 'C' has the advantage of a very versatile player portfolio, which makes their team and performance unpredictable. Ian Wu is leading his team with 23 points, and Richard Hudson, and Simon Craig contribute to their team consistently.

**Recent Performance** W D W W L W  
**Best Performing Player** Ian Wu  
**Prediction** 3rd, however, they might





## DIV 3 LEADING AVERAGES

Mat Hickman	Springfield A	3	3	100.00%
Jason King	Springfield A	26	24	92.31%
Clive Taylor	Pangbourne WMC	29	26	89.66%
Parvin Baishkiyar	OLOP E	14	12	85.71%
Ian Wu	Tidmarsh C	27	23	85.19%
John Simmonds	Pangbourne WMC	26	21	80.77%
Ray Webb	Tidmarsh D	21	16	76.19%
Terry Hardie	Tidmarsh D	15	11	73.33%
Simon Craig	Tidmarsh C	15	11	73.33%
Chris Webb	Tidmarsh D	18	13	72.22%
Rob Wilkie	Springfield A	26	18	69.23%
Richard Hudson	Tidmarsh C	18	12	66.67%
Harry Bullock (S)	OLOP D	6	4	66.67%
Terry Hardie (S)	Tidmarsh C	3	2	66.67%
Ray Webb (S)	Tidmarsh C	3	2	66.67%
Eyup Odemis	Kingfisher H	24	15	62.50%

surprise us with promotion.

**Tidmarsh 'D'** is the only team with four defeats in the top half of the table. They are in the 4th place despite losing 4 matches because all their losses were 6 - 4. The Webb brothers, Ray and Chris Webb started performing well, and they moved up in the table. They are less likely to challenge promotion, but their matches are always interesting and challenging.

**Recent Performance** W L L W W D

**Best Performing Player** Ray Webb

**Prediction** 5th, but they can finish 4th if OLOP 'E' can't keep up their good start to the season.

**OLOP 'E'** had an excellent start to the season; however, they could not keep up their performance in the last few weeks. Parvin Baishkiyar started the season very well, and he helped his team with maximum wins in 3 consecutive games. Harry Bullock also joined the team and had good performance in matches. Currently, he has the most wins in the team. OLOP 'E' is a very good team with different styles, and this makes them a tough opponent for every team in the division.

**Recent Performance** D W L L D W

**Best Performing Player** Harry Bullock

**Prediction** 4th, assuming that they start winning consecutive matches again.

**Kingfisher 'H'** is in 6th position in the division and they have been in the same place more or less for 2 years. They have a team of a similar level of players but very different styles and their performance is unpredictable. This makes their matches interesting. This year Kingfisher 'H' started winning consecutively, but this is not enough for a challenging promotion race. They need to win consistently.

**Recent Performance** W W L W L D

**Best Performing Player** Eyup Odemis

**Prediction** 6th

**OLOP 'D'** is another mid-table team along with Kingfisher 'H'. Despite being in 7th position they are far

from the relegation zone. This year they had more defeats than last year. This made them a bit far from the promotion zone. Especially in the last 2 matches against Tidmarsh's teams 'C' and 'D' they only got 3 points from 2 matches.

**Recent Performance** L L W L W L

**Best Performing Player** Graham Stark

**Prediction** 7th

**Tilehurst Methodists 'B'** are a good team but they are struggling to convert the games into points. Their 3 players Martin Wetherell, Patrick O'Sullivan and Michael Williams all have a similar number of points but Patrick has a better average. Their positions seem safe at the moment as the team performs consistently in any level of games so they win at least a couple of points in every match.

**Recent Performance** L L L L L W

**Best Performing Player** Patrick O'Sullivan

**Prediction** 8th

**Sonning Sports 'B'** won 2 matches after the first newsletter and now they are far from the bottom of the table; however they still need more points to survive in the division. In addition to wins some close battles and draws might rescue them from the relegation zone but we will see if they will manage this. Brett Hastings, Himanshu Pasbola and Harry Brough have the same average but Harry played more matches so he has made the most contribution to the team.

**Recent Performance** L L L W L W

**Best Performing Player** Harry Brough

**Prediction** 9th

**OLOP 'F'** is the only team in the division without a win. But a bigger concern for them is their biggest score is 3 points in a match so they are not close to a win yet. James Smith started to contribute to his team consistently but Alona Slobodskoy did not play recently so without her contribution it's hard for them to win. They are likely for relegation unless something spectacular happens.

**Recent Performance** L L L L L L

**Best Performing Player** James Smith

**Prediction** 10th

The second half of the season will start after the Christmas and New Year break, and the excitement will resume from where we left off. I believe there will be lots of good battles and interesting results. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Looking forward to the second half of the season.

DIV 3	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 Pangbourne WMC	10	8	2	0	73	27	73
2 Springfield A	10	7	2	1	67	33	67
3 Tidmarsh C	10	6	2	2	63	37	63
4 Tidmarsh D	9	4	1	4	53	37	53
5 OLOP E	9	4	3	2	52	38	52
6 Kingfisher H	9	5	2	2	51	39	51
7 OLOP D	9	3	0	6	39	51	39
8 Tilehurst Meths B	9	2	0	7	35	55	35
9 Sonning Sports B	10	2	0	8	28	72	28
10 OLOP F	9	0	0	9	9	81	9



# LOWER DIVISIONS KNOCKOUT TOURNAMENT

by Louise Forster

The November cup week brought us to the quarter finals of the Lower Division Knockout Cup, and all four matches were successfully completed. Well done everyone for organising the matches and getting them played promptly. This year we've gone back to the original doubles format for this event, and this is proving very popular.

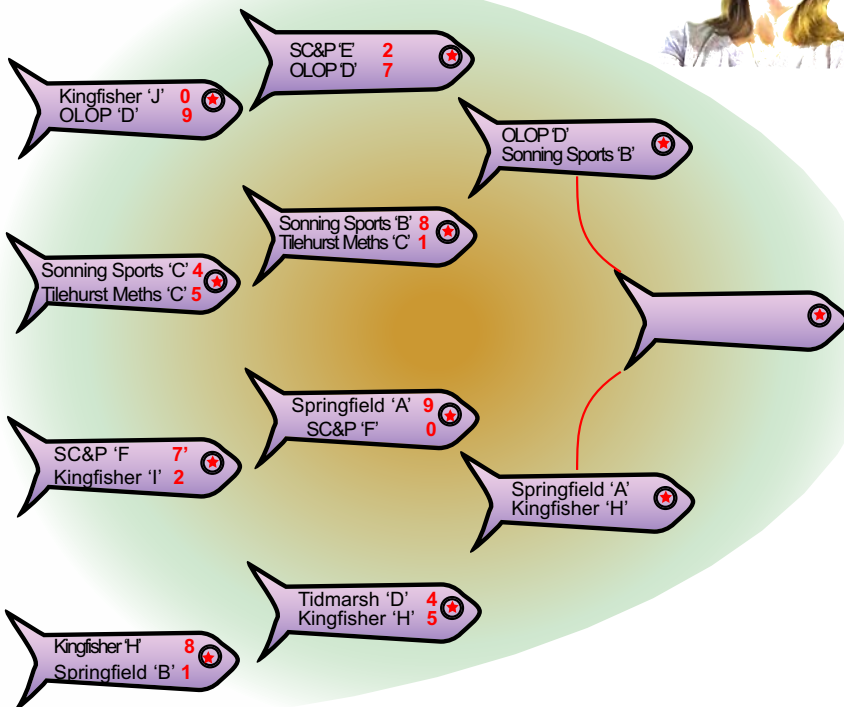
The first match saw OLOP 'D' taking a 7 – 2 win over SC&P 'E', OLOP captain Simon Brookes reported that it was a hard fought match, which was closer than the score line suggests and he commended Ian Davenport for good attacking throughout the match.

Sonning Sports 'B' took on Tilehurst Methodists 'C' and won the match 8 – 1, Dave Chard from Sonning Sports commented after the match that whilst the score was convincing there were many tight matches played in a very friendly and sporting atmosphere.

Springfield 'A' also had a convincing 9 – 0 win against SC&P 'F', these two teams had also met each other earlier in the season in the Team Handicap tournament.

The closest match of the four quarter finals saw a closely fought 5 – 4 win to Kingfisher 'H' over Tidmarsh 'D'. Huzeyfe Borazan, Kingfisher 'H' captain reported that it was a very exciting match. Tidmarsh started very well and won the first 3 games. However, Kingfisher started hitting well and were a bit lucky. Huzeyfe feels that the match could have ended 5 - 4 either way.

Semi finals will be played in the cup week in February and will see OLOP 'D' meeting Sonning Sports 'B' and Springfield 'A' meeting Kingfisher 'H'. Best of luck to all teams for some fun and interesting matches.



# DIVISION FOUR

by Derek Harrison

Hello everyone, Greetings of the season and I hope that 2023 will be good for you all. I am sorry this report is short but I have a big personal problem and I have not been helped by not getting many match reports with the scorecards.

**Tilehurst Meths 'C'** stormed to the top of the table by beating Springfield 'B' 8 – 2. Lewis Oke maintained his 100% average by beating in set ten Steve O'Connor 9-11, 12-10, 12-10, 7-11, 12-10. What a match!! Steve Wood and Rob James both won doubles. In the big Tilehurst derby they beat TRBL'C' 4 – 6 with Rob James getting a hard worked hat trick besides teaming up with Arek Ziolkowski to win the doubles, while Arek also won two. At home to Kingfisher 'I' they just got home 6 – 4. Lewis Oke lost his 100% average when he went down to Mick Mitcham, however Andy won two and teamed up with Lewis



to win the doubles.

**Tilehurst Royal British Legion 'C'** won 2 – 8 at Sonning Sports 'C' with Geoff Johnson and Linda King both gaining trebles. Jim Brent hit a double. At home to the Meths we lost 4 – 6 with Linda winning two and Geoff and Paul winning one each.

**Sonning Common & P 'E'** lost to club mates the 'F' team 2 – 8 with Anthony Reeve winning the two which included Gerry Bacon whom he beat 11-9, 12-10, 11-7. At home to Sonning Sports 'C' Anthony and Derek Brooke- Wavell both hit trebles. Derek had a few close games. He beat Mo Cole 16-14 in the fifth end and also beat Michael Byrne 18-16 while David Riddle obtained a single.

As mentioned above **Sonning 'F'** won 2 – 8 at Sonning 'E'. Mike Casserley was in top form, recording a hat trick.



DIV 4	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Tilehurst Meths C	8	8	0	0	60	20	60
2 SC&P F	9	4	2	3	50	40	50
3 Tilehurst RBL C	7	5	1	1	46	24	46
4 Springfield B	9	4	1	4	46	44	46
5 SC&P E	7	5	0	2	44	26	44
6 Kingfisher I	9	2	1	6	39	51	39
7 Sonning Sports C	8	3	0	5	30	50	30
8 Kingfisher J	8	1	0	7	24	56	24
9 OLOP G	7	1	1	5	21	49	21

Gerry Bacon and new signing Oliver Bonser both obtained doubles. At O.L.O.P 'G' they came away with a 2 – 8 victory with Graeme Streets winning all three with ease. Olly and Alistair Scott won two each. Mike then won all three against Springfield 'B' but it was not enough to gain a win in a 4 – 6 defeat. Sadly they had asked John Evans to play in the match, and he was not registered to play from the 'E' team. Alistair won the other set. At Kingfisher 'J' Graeme hit a great hat trick and Mike won two with Alistair gaining a single which helped to a 3 – 7 victory. Despite a Graeme hat trick they lost 6 – 4 at Kingfisher 'I'. I have to say that they only had two players which did not help them.

**Sonning Sports 'C'** were without Stephen Reader against TRBL 'C' and as a result lost 2 – 8. John Scott won one by beating Jim Brent and also teamed up with Mo Cole to win the doubles. At Sonning 'E' they went down 8 – 2 with Stephen and Michael Byrne both beating David Riddle. At Springfield 'C' they won 4 – 6 with a good team performance. Stephen and Mo Cole won two each. Mo had a close win over Richard, winning 12-14, 13-15, 11-13. John Scott won one.

**Springfield 'B'** went to Tilehurst Meths 'C' and lost 8 – 2 with Steve O'Connor winning the two. They then bounced back by winning 1 – 9 at Kingfisher 'J', Steve and Marcello Caramma won three each. For Marcello they were all three straight and apart from one game no one got more than 7 points. Rob Attack won two against a two player Sonning 'F' and they won 4 – 6 with Rob and Steve winning one each besides teaming up to win the doubles. At home to Kingfisher 'I' a good team performance gave them a 6 – 4 win. Robert and Marcello both won two each and Richard Sabberton-Coe won one. Again at home they lost 4 – 6 to Sonning Sports 'C' and Rob did the business by winning all three and Richard won one.

In a bottom of the table clash **Kingfisher 'I'** beat O.L.O.P 'G' 7 – 3. Andy Read, Emrah Bulut and Walter Aldridge all won two each. Walter and Andy also won the doubles. At Springfield 'B' despite a great hat trick from Mick Mitcham they lost 6 – 4. Walter won the other set Against the 'J' team, Emrah won two and Maksym won one in a 6 – 4 defeat. At Tilehurst Meths Mick had a great night by winning all three but it was all in vain as they lost 6 – 4. At home to a two player Sonning 'F' they won 6 – 4. Mick and Walter won one each besides winning the doubles.

**O.L.O.P. 'G'** lost 7 – 3 at Kingfisher 'I'. Fitzroy Licorish was the star, wining all three. He beat Andy Read 10-12, 8-11, 7-11 then Emrah Bulut 10-12, 9-11, 9-11 and Walter Aldridge 11-2, 12-14, 10-12, 11-4, 7-11. Well done Fitzroy.

At home to Sonning 'F' Fitzroy won two by beating Olly and Alistair in a 8 – 2 defeat. In a re-arranged match they beat Kingfisher 'J' 6 – 4. Fitzroy was the star with a three straight maximum. However Derek Brook won two and Sue Daniels won one.

**Kingfisher 'J'** only had a Peter Bennett win to show for their efforts in a 1 – 9 defeat at home to Springfield 'B'. At O.L.O.P 'G' they lost 6 – 4 with Peter wining two and Sue Parker gaining her first win of the season by beating Sue Daniels 2-11, 9-11, 4-11. Against their 'I' team new signings Chloe Kniep who won all three and Rupesh Ahluwalia who won two helped them win 6 – 4. At home to Sonning 'F' they lost 3 – 7 with Miguel winning two and Peter one.

The leading POMs:

Anthony Reeve 4  
 Lewis Oke 3 Gerry Bacon 3  
 Mike Casserley 3 Geoff Johnson 3  
 Graeme Streets 3

Finally I have to say I am unhappy at the number of errors on the scorecards because it causes me a lot of extra work so please be careful when entering the scores and check the doubles.

Cheers,

Derek

### DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Graeme Streets	SC&P F	12	11	91.67%
Anthony Reeve	SC&P E	21	19	90.48%
Jim Warren	SC&P E	9	8	88.89%
Lewis Oke	Tilehurst Meths C	15	13	86.67%
Gerry Bacon	SC&P F	15	12	80.00%
Linda King	Tilehurst RBL C	15	12	80.00%
Steven Wood	Tilehurst Meths C	9	7	77.78%
Rob James	Tilehurst Meths C	12	9	75.00%
Geoff Johnson	Tilehurst RBL C	18	13	72.22%
Mike Casserley	SC&P F	24	17	70.83%
Robert Attack	Springfield B	20	14	70.00%
Miguel Caballero	Kingfisher J	12	8	66.67%
Andrew Stone	Tilehurst Meths C	12	8	66.67%
Steve Christelow	Tilehurst Meths C	6	4	66.67%
Patrick Daniels	OLOP G	6	4	66.67%