

READING
& DISTRICT
TABLE TENNIS
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

Editor: DEREK WAVELL

November 2013



Waiting His Moment - 8-year-old Jamie Liu.

Photo by Didier Garçon

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ANOTHER SEASON

A new season starts, with some changes in personnel. Nigel Maltby has finally succeeded in standing down as Chairman, to be replaced, at least for this year, by Nigel Rowland. We have only 5 divisions not 6, and a change of people writing the reports for them - Nigel Rowland on Div 2, Derek Harrison on 3, Barry Carter on 4 and Duncan Abbott on 5. Danny Ricks is back doing the youth division. Plenty has been happening, so read what they have to say!



This issue is again full of photos - which, this time, are mostly mine. from the prize-giving evening in May. There is also a 3-page photo feature on that occasion.

You will notice more and more juniors among these photos, thanks to the talent, interest and coaching that now abound. Juniors get more talented, veterans keep playing for longer - but what about the generations in between? How does an adult take up table tennis in Reading?

I forgot videos - there are three of them to play on page 6.

Good luck - Derek

Key Facts from the RDTTA Secretary

1. Individual Handicap Competition - This season's event will take place on Sunday 5th January 2014 at the Kingfisher Club. Entry forms were issued to Club Secretaries for distribution at the start of the season and they are also available on the website or from Nigel Maltby. Entries should be sent to Duncan Abbott by the closing date of Friday 27th December.

2. Reading Closed Championships - Entry forms should be available shortly. The championships will be staged over two weekends at the Kingfisher club - Sat/Sun 8th/9th Feb 2014: Senior & Veteran events and Sat/Sun 15/16 Feb 2014: Junior events. Please do try to support this worthwhile event. Entry is free, so do please try and enter. Andrew Parker and Eric Van Looy have agreed to run the events this season.

3. IMPACT Challenge Shield - This competition is by invitation only from teams competing in Divisions 1 or 2. The draw for the 1st Round has been made; matches are due to be played by Friday 29th November. The draw for the 1st Round (Quarter Finals) is:

Tidmarsh 'C' v OLOP 'B'

Kingfisher 'D' v OLOP 'A'

Tidmarsh 'A' v Kingfisher 'A'

YMCA v Tidmarsh 'B'

Tie of the round is Tidmarsh 'A' v Kingfisher 'A'. Kingfisher 'D's youngsters may push OLOP 'A'. YMCA v Tidmarsh 'B' is a close one to call while the lone Division 2 entrants, Tidmarsh 'C', will be looking to upset the odds and beat OLOP 'B'.

Finally I hope everyone is enjoying their table tennis this year. As you will have noticed we had an exact number of 60 team entries this year which has meant that we have been able to go down to 5 divisions, each with a maximum 12 teams. This is 'good news' as it means everyone has a full quota of league matches. It has meant a number of teams (my own in Division 1 included) have been elevated to higher divisions. I know some may struggle this season but I think the vast majority will find life fairly comfortable in their new surroundings. The bad news is that team numbers have again continued a trend of slow decline.

Things may be different next season should we get more than 60 team entries. The RDTTA committee will need to decide what to do if and when that occurs.

Nigel Maltby



Self-Introduction from our 2013-2014 Chairman

by Nigel Rowland

For those of you who have not picked up your '90th Anniversary Official Handbook' you do have a new Chairman. Yes, 'Nigel' is the only common thread but Maltby has been replaced by Rowland.

In the early 1970's I first played in the Reading League for Earley Power Station. Leaving Reading I ventured to Scotland returning in the 1980's to play for Tilehurst Methodists working my way up the leagues from the bottom to the heady heights of Division 2 this season. If you see me around please come and introduce yourself and have a chat. I know a number of you already know me from my time in the lower leagues.

Nigel Maltby has been a stalwart to RDTTA carrying the post of Chairman, General Secretary and Minute Secretary for some years now. I cannot thank Nigel enough for carrying us all on his shoulders, without his dedication we would not have one of the biggest leagues in Britain. Speaking with Colin Dyke he reminded me that with five levels to our structure we have a depth of players no other league has. Plus we have Wendy's juniors which are the life blood to our league.



This leads me onto the work that Nigel Maltby, Barry Carter and Nick Lean put in to constructing, registering and publicising our league every year. This year has been more difficult for the league construction team, consolidating teams into five divisions. The upside is we all have a full programme of fixtures for the first time in a number of years. The downside is that some teams (including my own) have been pushed up a division and have been on the receiving end of some tasty score lines. Of course we must not forget all the other volunteers that dedicate their time to keeping our well oiled machine ticking over.

For those of you at the last AGM, Nigel Maltby stood down as Chairman without any volunteers for the post. At the AGM I was asked by a number of fellow committee members to take on the role.

Following my reluctant election I should like to make my mission clear. I am only looking for a 'one' year tenure until a willing replacement is found. I will not be driving RDTTA forward with any changes, only to retain our current status. So please, if you wish to take up the role and drive us forward with new ideas come and talk to us, it may be the right time for a new Chairman with a vision to make significant changes to the Reading League.

R&DTTA Awards For 2012-2013

On 7th May this year, the Reading Association's annual awards were presented at the Our Lady of Peace premises. Many of the photos which appear later in this Newsletter were taken at that event. Nigel Maltby, our departing Chairman, announced the prize-winners, and Derek Harrison presented the prizes in the absence of the Association's President, John Freeman.

NB - [blue links show page N° of photo.](#)

LIST OF AWARDS:

READING CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS WINNERS:

Mens Singles	Daniel Moses P3
Ladies Singles:	Lisa Williams P9
Mens Doubles:	Daniel Moses & Danny Ricks P24
Mixed Doubles	Daniel Moses & Wendy Porter
U21 Singles	Daniel McTiernan P3
U18 Boys Singles	Daniel McTiernan P3



DANIEL McTIERNAN WITH (left) DEREK HARRISON



DANIEL MOSES

U18 Boys Singles	Dan McTiernan P3
U15 Boys Singles	Sam Liu P4, P5
U13 Boys Singles	Thomas Perkins P6
Boys Doubles	Dan McTiernan & Sam Liu
U15 Girls Singles	Katie Shepherd P4
U13 Girls Singles	Katie Shepherd P4
Youth Division:	Sam Liu P5
Veteran Singles:	Mark Banks P11
Senior Vet Singles:	Richard Fifield
Over 60s Singles:	Colin Dyke
Div 1 restricted:	Ian Cole P4
Division 2	Jon Willis P5
Division 3	Sam Liu P5
Division 5	Gus Thomis P6

CHAMPION TEAMS OF THE SEASON

Division 1 Champions:	Kingfisher 'A' P11
Runners-up:	OLOP 'A'
Division 2 Champions:	Tidmarsh 'C' P12
Runners-up:	Curzon Club 'A' P8
Division 3 Champions:	Milestone 'A' P13
Runners-up:	Polish 'B'
Division 4 Champions:	Wokingham 'B'
Runners-up:	Sonning Sports 'A' P16



OLOP 'I' - MIKE McALLISTER, GUS THOMIS, PHIL SAUNDERS & JIM McALLISTER

SAM LIU



Division 5 Champions: **Polish 'C'** [P16](#)
 Runners-up: **Springfield 'B'** [P17](#)
 Division 6 Champions: **OLOP 'I'** [P3](#)
 Runners-up: **Sonning C & P 'G'** [P20](#)
 Youth Div 1 winners: **Eagles**
 Runners-up: **Strikers** [P4](#)
 Youth Div 2 Winners: **Knights**
 Runners-up: **Batmen** [P25](#)
 John Freeman Trophy Winner: **Gus Thomis** [P5](#)
 IMPACT Challenge Shield Winners: **Tidmarsh 'A'**
 Runners-up: **OLOP 'A'**



LEE CALCUTT



IAN COLE



STRIKERS - SAM LIU, MIKE McALLISTER AND DANNY DOCKREE

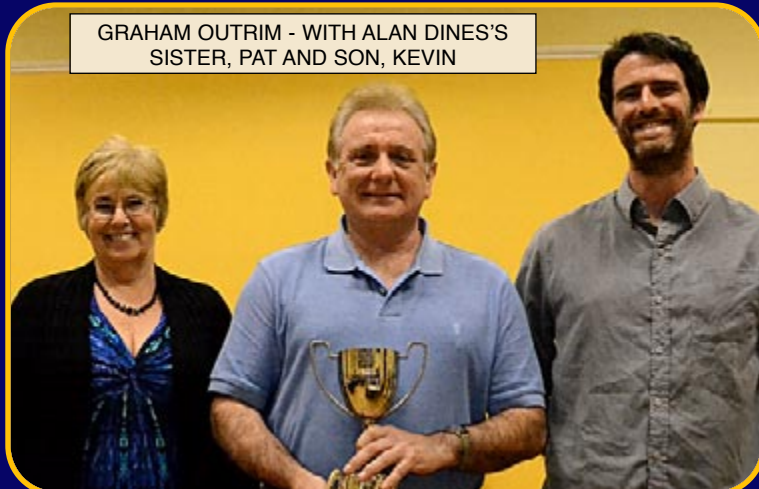


KATIE SHEPHERD

JON WILLIS



GRAHAM OUTRIM - WITH ALAN DINES'S SISTER, PAT AND SON, KEVIN



Team Handicap Winners

Runners-up:

Lower Divisions Cup winners:

Runners-up:

Individual Handicap Winner

Runner-up:

Reading Senior Masters Winner:

Runner-up:

Reading Junior Masters Winner:

Runner-up:

Reading Chronicle Trophy Winner:

Standard Cup for the Most Improved Junior:

Best Junior Performance:

Alan Dines Memorial Trophy:

Harold Larcombe Sportsmanship Award:

OLOP 'E'

Sonning C & P 'E'

Tidmarsh 'E'

Springfield 'B' P17

Lee Calcutt P3

Sam Liu P4

Martin Adams P10

Daniel Moses P3

Daniel McTiernan P3

Sam Ricks P9

Sam Liu P4

Gus Thomis P5

Sam Liu P4

Graham Outrim P5

Mike Williams P15

WENDY PORTER



THOMAS PERKINS



GUS THOMIS

Notes from the editor:

CORRECTIONS TO THE HANDBOOK:

1. Polish TTC now has a new Secretary. His name is Luca Bianchi and his contact details are:
10 Upavon Drive, Reading, RG1 6LP
Mobile - 07871 564182
email - lhateColdWinter@yahoo.com
2. Sonning Sports 'B' in Div 5 - Sue Brownhill's correct phone number is 9860335

A plea from Maidenhead TTA - "Can we have our trophies back?"

It seems Reading players have been winning them for years, and then not giving all of them back.

Maidenhead have a particular search on for the following:

Mens Doubles Cup

Mixed Doubles Cup

KO Handicap Cup

If you think you have one of those, they'd be awfully grateful if you could write to:

keithmachin129@btinternet.com

VIDEOS - CLICK A THUMBNAIL TO PLAY THE VIDEO



Final:
Liam v Josh



Semi:
Sam v Josh



Semi:
Liam v Daniel

This wouldn't be the Newsletter without some videos of our best players in action.

The three videos on the left were all taken by Didier Garçon at the finals day of the Kingfisher Grand Prix, in July this year.

In the final (top) Liam McTiernan beat Josh Gallen.

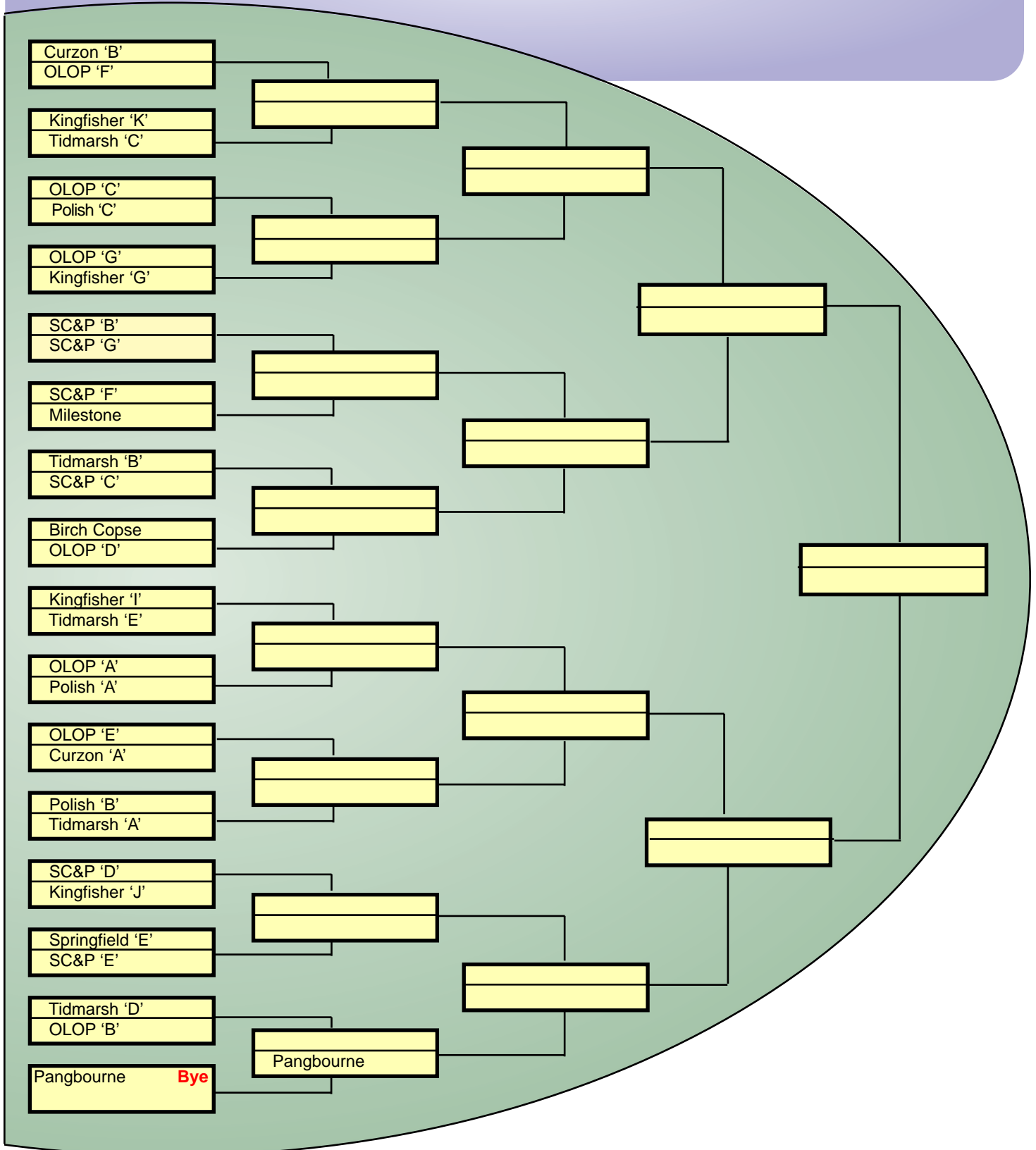
The two semi finals featured Sam Liu against Josh Gallen; and Liam McTiernan against Daniel Moses.

Team Handicap Competition 2013-14

organised by Duncan Abbott

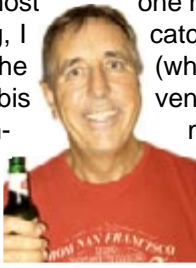
The Team Handicap is a knockout competition open to all teams in the Reading & District League. All players are given handicaps by the Handicap Committee based on their recent results. In a Team Handicap match the three players from one team play all players from the other team, 21-up, taking into account the relevant handicaps. There is no doubles contest.

Matches to be played week commencing 22 October 2012 if possible, or week commencing 19 November 2012.



DIVISION ONE *by Malcolm Gregory*

On Wednesday October 17th 1973 – almost exactly 40 years ago at the time of writing, I played in one of my first matches in the RDTTA league – division 5 I think. I played for Ibis against Courage at their place and I vividly remember my encounter with the legend that is Mr. Charlie Goddard. As enjoyable a match as it was, I also remember feeling I would have rather been watching the England v. Poland game, which turned out to be a significant milestone in English sporting history. That “Clown” Jan Tomaszewski has a lot to answer for! Anyway well done England for the recent defeat of Poland and for making it to Brazil. There is always a deep feeling of emptiness when England don't qualify for a world cup finals!! We can all look forward to the finals next year without the sheer stress that comes with play offs.



one match for one reason or another, so we have a lot of catching up to do. In our match against Kingfisher 'B' (which is last years' Polish team who have transferred venues) the classy Steve Dobbins romped to a fine maximum to help secure a 7 - 3 win for Old Polish. Jason and Keith played well to earn 2 and 1 respectively which means that yours truly needs to write out 100 times “I must do better” but I won't do it here as it could be a trifle boring. Incidentally, the DFS has written to the Sonning 'A' captain to express his concern about the lack of games played. The Sonning 'A' captain has apologised to the DFS and given a full explanation for the postponements, which the DFS has accepted. In fact the DFS has nothing but good things to say about the Sonning 'A' captain who he thinks is a very nice chap.



NIGEL MALTBY

Sorry, I've just remembered that this is supposed to be a table tennis report. First of all I would like to extend the warmest of welcomes to my reader at the start of this new season. As it's very early days there is not an awful lot to report but here goes; If I had to write a headline to this piece it would be “Nigel's got his

Mojo back”. Yes our beloved secretary has already won 3 more sets than last year and sits comfortably up the averages table on 25%. Well done Nigel – it's lovely to see.

Another thing that sticks out early doors is that only 3 players have retained a 100% record: Mark Banks and Daniel Moses on 9/9 each and Eduard Caliman with 3/3. Already Hari Gehlot, Sander de Riemer and Martin Adams have lost at least one set

each. I get the feeling its gonna be tougher at the top this time around.

Here's a run through the league table as it stands starting from the bottom up. Sonning Common and Peppard have had a little restructuring. Jason Roberts has moved across to join Keith Swain

and myself – a 3 man team of keen golfers. Unfortunately at the time of writing **Sonning 'A'** only managed to play



HARI GEHLOT



CURZON 'A' - JOHN WILLCOCKS, MIKE MAYNARD & JON WILLIS

going to need to call upon the so far absent Simon Berry if they are to survive this year. Paul Jarvis and Tim Raby and Jeremy Willis have notched just 3 wins between them so far after 4 matches - this suggests a long hard season ahead.

Promoted club **Curzon 'A'** have also found a comfortable spot at the bottom of the table. Some consolation can be gained from the fact that alphabetically, they are always going to be top of Division One! Well done for that boys!! But seriously, it's a little too early to tell how they will fare this year. Three 8 - 2 defeats to OLOP 'B', Kingfisher 'D' and YMCA suggests they may struggle a little. However, in Andy Fakeerjan they have a player who looks capable of gaining some good wins for them. The

five games against Keith Winter of YMCA looked like a tight win: 11-9 7-11 5-11 11-5 11-7. This was followed by a defeat at the hands of Peter Bradley 13-15 11-9 5-11 11-7 12-10 in the same match so I think we can say Andy got his moneys worth that evening!! Jon Willcocks and Jon Willis are two strong Division 2 players who could well find their feet in Division 1. Nevertheless, I suspect Curzon will get entangled in the relegation dog fight which will no doubt involve the teams that already feature at the wrong end of the current league table, early as it is in the season.

Reading YMCA have not had the best start to a season



LISA WILLIAMS

they have ever had. One win from 4 outings is disappointing for such a talented team. Their win came against Curzon – an 8 - 2 victory which featured a sparkling maximum from Sir Peter of Bradley. His vast experience obviously came into play against Andy Fakeerjan when he ran out the winner 13-15 11-9 5-11 11-7 12-10. At 4 - 2 up against Tidmarsh, YM must have thought they were up for a famous victory but Tidmarsh 'A' came back to record a fine 6 - 4 win and by all accounts Duncan Groves overcame a string of nets and edges against him to defeat Keith Winter in game 10 to secure that extra point. YMCA were a solid mid table team last year and I expect them to continue in that vein this term.

Kingfisher 'C' also feature the same line-up as last year but already look stronger. They were unlucky against Tidmarsh 'B' where they also lost 6 - 4. Steve Murgatroyd recorded a great maximum against Andy Stephens, Anthony Baker and an in-form Sam Ricks. Despite also helping Niall McGrane to a good doubles win, defeat still beckoned because neither Niall nor Lisa Williams could muster another win or two which would have secured a point or two. Mind you, Lisa could not have come closer with a 12-14 4th game loss to Andy Stephens and another 4th game loss 13-15 to

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingfisher 'A'	6	5	0	1	43	17	10
Kingfisher 'D'	5	4	0	1	31	19	8
OLOP 'B'	6	3	1	2	36	24	7
Tidmarsh 'A'	5	3	1	1	31	19	7
Kingfisher 'B'	5	3	1	1	30	20	7
OLOP 'A'	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Kingfisher 'C'	6	2	1	3	26	34	5
Tidmarsh 'B'	5	2	0	3	22	28	4
Reading YMCA	5	1	0	4	19	31	2
Curzon Club 'A'	4	0	0	4	9	31	0
S C & P 'B'	5	0	0	5	7	43	0
S C & P 'A'	1	0	0	1	3	7	0

Anthony Squirrel Baker. Murgs also had an easy looking maximum against Sonning 'B' when he only dropped one game all night. Similar to YMCA I expect to see Niall's team feature in mid table through the season. Equally, if Niall and Murgs were to both hit a purple patch on the same evening, watch out some of you higher teams.

And now for a little drive down the A340. just past The Greyhound pub in that sleepy little village they call Tidmarsh. I always enjoy a trip down there. Nice people – cup of tea at half time with chocolate biscuits - lovely. Old John Harland usually pops in to watch for a while and we discuss how the Prudential has gone downhill since we both left! This year we have the pleasure of two Tidmarsh teams – the 'B' team having been promoted last year. Surprisingly (to me anyway) both 'A' and 'B' teams reside 6th and 7th in the table currently. Having said that Sam Ricks has made a fantastic start to his season for **Tidmarsh 'B'**, having won 7 out of 9 of his outings so far. This includes a startling win against the excellent Hari Gehlot with a score that reads 11-8 14-12 5-11 11-8. Sam's 2 losses were on the same evening against Kingfisher 'A' to Mark Banks and Steve Murgatroyd. Ever present Anthony Baker is picking up regular 1s and 2s as is Andy Stephens so maybe there won't be so much difference between

Tidmarsh 'B' and **Tidmarsh 'A'**? I can imagine there might be a side bet or two between these two teams to see who finishes higher?! Having said that, any team containing a player in the class of Sander de Reimer is going to do well. Tidmarsh 'A' had a tight match against Kingfisher 'A' where they lost 6 - 4. Sanders' defeat to Hari 9-11 11-7 6-11 6-11 proved critical. Sander beat Tony



SAM RICKS

Reynolds and Stuart Williams and teamed up with Ian Packford to take the doubles with a comfortable looking 11-5 11-8 11-4 win. Ian beat Stuart 11-7 11-4 11-6 and in hindsight it was probably the match between Peter Matthews and Tony Reynolds which sealed the deal for Kingfisher. Tony running out 8-11 11-5 8-11 11-7 11-5. But the closeness of this match suggests if Ian can back up Sander in the

big matches, they could cause a few upsets this season.

OLOP 'B' had a cracking match at home to Tidmarsh 'A'. A noble draw was the result with Daniel McTiernan featuring in two 5 game contests. A defeat by Sander 11-4 13-11 8-11 4-11 8-11 then a tight win against Peter Matthew's 11-4 11-9 8-11 8-11 9-11. This together with Gus Thomis's win in 3 over John Barclay and Danny Ricks' win against John also in 3. But the performance of the evening must have been Danny's' victory over Sander in three straight games which must go to show the progress Danny has made since last season. A fabulous win but no supper for Danny after his match against the Tidmarsh B' team. Not only did OLOP 'B' defeat Tidmarsh 'B' comfortably 8 - 2, but the match featured a father versus son encounter when dad Steve Ricks was treated to a 11-3 11-7 11-6 defeat at the hands of his son Danny. Knowing proud dad Steve, I'm sure he didn't mind too much. His lads are certainly doing him proud so far this year.

OLOP 'A' are down in 4th place in the table at the time of writing. They have unfortunately had postponements against both of the Sonning teams. Some might say that's as good as 4 points on the board but I beg to differ. I fancy my chances against Moses this year. If he plays left handed. Anyway, more to the point, one of OLOP 'A's wins early doors has come against Kingfisher 'A'. They also beat Kingfisher 'C' 10 - 0 and OLOP 'B' 7 - 3 but lets have a closer look at the Kingfisher 'A' game as I suspect



MARTIN ADAMS

it's going to be these two teams battling it out for the title at the end of the day. Kingfisher turned out with Federico Viterbo, Tony Reynolds and Hari Gehlot. For OLOP 'A' we had Krasimir Ivanov, Daniel Moses and Trung Tran and they achieved a nice "Ted Rogers" against their old adversaries. 3 for Moses, 2 for Trung (beating Federico and Tony) and 1 for Krasi who beat Tony. A 6 - 4 win then for OLOP 'A' and in the words of Daniel Moses "We're gonna whip those Kingfisher backsides this year". Allright Daniel, calm down mate. (he didn't really say that but it makes for good reading doesn't it!).

Interesting how (at the time of writing) all the clubs are grouped in the table: Sonning's together at the bottom, Tidmarsh's together just below mid table, OLOP's 4th and 5th then Kingfisher's occupying the top 3 slots. Keeps it friendly eh!

As mentioned earlier, **Kingfisher 'D'** is the same team that was Polish 'A' last season. As I kept saying last year, if they can field their strongest trio against the big guns, they are actually capable of winning the league in my opinion. Steve Dobbins is looking ominously in form with only one loss so far this term to Daniel McTiernan (and he wont lose many). Martin Adams has shown that he is actually human by losing a set this early in the season – to a fast improving Danny Ricks 11-4 11-6 9-11 5-11 7-11. This was in a match against OLOP 'B' which Kingfisher 'B' won 7 - 3 and I note that Martins' encounter with Danny was set number 10 when



DANIEL MOSES PLAYING WITH ERIC VAN LOOY

Kingfisher were already 6 - 3 up. I've heard that Martin is not a fan of playing after beer o'clock. I don't know this for certain as Martin has so far avoided playing against our team, no doubt to protect his average. By the way I need to extend a warm thank you to Dr. Richard Rosinski for offering me a potential cure for my lateral epicondylitis. If it does cure it I'll have to think of another excuse for my inadequate backhand.

The Kingfisher 'D' team has colloquially been referred to as "the kids". How any team containing Trevor Organ and Richard Fifield can be referred to as "the kids" is beyond me! They lost 10 - 0 to their 'A' team. They have beaten Tidmarsh 'B', YMCA, Sonning 'B' and Curzon. I'm not going to take anything away from the actual young lads Josh Gallen and Leo Long – they both seem to be adapting to the top league very comfortably indeed and look like stars of the future.. The team is currently occupying runners up spot in the table but you don't need to be Einstein to discern that when they play against the top teams their position will change but I think they could be a good bet for mid table. Their match against YMCA provided a good gauge for where they are right now. Josh and Leo teamed up to beat Keith Winter, Dave Streak and Pete Bradley. Josh achieved a great maximum against 3 very experienced campaigners, Leo won two with just a defeat to Dave and the lads teamed up for a great doubles win to seal the 2 points. Richard Fifield came away with a duck but there's no doubt about the need for young lads to have a father figure to offer advice and help in the heat

LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	PL	W	%
Daniel Moses	OLOP 'A'	9	9	100.00 %
Mark Banks	Kingfisher 'A'	12	11	91.67 %
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher 'A'	18	15	83.33 %
Sander De Riemer	Tidmarsh 'A'	11	9	81.82 %
Steve Dobbins	Kingfisher 'B'	15	12	80.00 %
Daniel Mctiernan	OLOP 'B'	15	12	80.00 %
Sam Ricks	Tidmarsh 'B'	9	7	77.78 %
Martin Adams	Kingfisher 'B'	9	7	77.78 %
Joshua Gallen	Kingfisher 'D'	12	9	75.00 %
Krasimir Ivanov	OLOP A	6	4	66.67 %
Sam Liu	OLOP A	6	4	66.67 %



DANIEL McTIERNAN

of the battle and I can imagine our current Senior Veterans Champion is more than up for this task.

And so to the familiar sight of **Kingfisher 'A'** looking down on the rest of the teams in Div 1. They are just so condescending!! I've already covered their defeat at the hands of OLOP 'A' – this was an away fixture for Kingfisher so maybe home advantage will count for Kingfisher on the return. I've also covered their match v. Tidmarsh 'A'. Their other matches against Tidmarsh 'B', Sonning 'B' and Kingfisher 'D' were all comfortable victories. This excellent team won the title last year and could well do so again this year but we can already see it's going to be tougher for them with challenges coming not just from OLOP 'A' but from 2 or 3 other teams as well.

I've got to go now. I've thought of a great way to make my house "greener". I'm going to paint it green.



KINGFISHER 'A' - STUART WILLIAMS, HARI GEHLOT, MARK BANKS AND GRAHAM OUTRIM - WITH DEREK HARRISON IN THE MIDDLE

DIVISION TWO *by Nigel Rowland*

Welcome to all teams for another season. This is my first venture into this division and it will take a few weeks to acquaint myself with the teams and players. So far all the teams and players I have met are very welcoming and the games played sportingly. A great advert for table tennis.

Following the compaction to five divisions, five teams were promoted from Division three: Milestone 'A', Polish 'A', OLOP 'E', Tilehurst Methodists 'A' and Kingfisher 'G'. So far all but Tilehurst and Kingfisher have got points on the board and they are therefore propping up the table.

OLOP 'C' and Tidmarsh 'C' are leading the table but Wokingham 'A' and SC&P 'C' are also undefeated so far.



LEE CALCUTT

Dan West and Siad Cole scored trebles with a double from Chris West to record a 9 - 1 win over OLOP 'D'. Trebles from Steve Miller and Clive Perry along with a single win over Paul Treadgold from guest Mike McAllister gave them a 8 - 2 win over Tilehurst Meths 'A'. Steve Miller and Chris West trebles along with a Siad Cole double saw them power to a 9 - 1 win over Post Office 'A'. Steve Miller and Clive Perry trebles with a double from Chris West earned them a good 9 - 1 win over Kingfisher 'G'. Steve Miller came back from two games down to win in five games against Allen Pack. Chris West earned a win in five

games over Dave Gostellow.



Tidmarsh 'C' Trebles from Lee Calcutt, Mike Aistrop and François Durand started at a canter winning 9 - 1 against Milestone 'A'. Lee Calcutt, Mike Aistrop and Dave Wise all recorded maximums in their 0 - 10 win over Polish 'A'. A Lee Calcutt treble with a double from Dave Wise and single from François Durand gave them a good 7 - 3 win over OLOP 'D'. Duncan Groves powered his way to a treble to ensure a close 4 - 6 win over Tilehurst Meths 'A'. Cath Venning inflicted a single 11-2 defeat in one game against Duncan, but Duncan returned the favour in the next game winning 1-11. François Durand and Steve Ricks got the important single wins over Phil Jones. Lee Calcutt's treble with doubles from Dave Wise and Mike Aistrop gave them a good 8 - 2 win over Post Office 'A'. Denise Weller pushed Lee hard but lost out 5-11,11-4,16-14,13-11. Mike Aistrop won through 9-11,11-9,11-6,11-13,11-7 against John Simmonds in yet another close set.

Kingfisher 'E' Doubles from Geoff Civil and John Morris along with an important single from Colin Dyke ensured a share of the spoils against Kingfisher 'F'. Doubles from John Morris, Colin Dyke and Roger Woolven-Allen gave them a hard fought 3 - 7 win at Milestone 'A'. A Geoff Civil treble and double from John Morris were just enough to win 6 - 4 against Polish 'A'. Colin had to retire hurt and conceded his last two games. Both John and Geoff had epic five game battles with Mac DeGuzman. A double from Roger Woolven-Allen with singles from John Morris and Geoff Civil saw them lose 4 - 6 to OLOP 'D' in a tight fought contest. Colin Dyke recorded a treble with doubles from Geoff Civil and Roger Woolven-Allen in their 8 - 2 win over Tilehurst Methodists 'A'.

Kingfisher 'F' A superb treble from Ivor Hardman with a Michael Houghton five game win over Colin Dyke gave them a share of the points against Kingfisher 'E'. Ian Harman, Michael Houghton and Clair Woodham maximums ensured a 10 - 0 derby win over Kingfisher 'G'. Allan Bruton scored a treble with two from Clare Woodham and Peter Bennett to score a hard fought 8 - 2 win over



TIDMARSH 'C' - SAM & STEVE RICKS, BARRY CARTER AND PETER GALEA (DEREK HARRISON IN CENTRE)

Milestone 'A'. Peter had to recover from two games down to win in five against John Crosfield. An Allan Bruton treble with a single win from Peter Bennett along with the important doubles secured a point against Polish 'A'. Michael Houghton just lost two sets in five gamers to draw a blank for the evening.

Wokingham 'A' Brian Chinneck, Daryl Griffith and Graham Outrim recorded maximums in their 10 - 0 win over Tilehurst Meths 'A'. Brian Chinneck and Jim Spence doubles with a brilliant single for guest Danny Buckle ensured a 6 - 4 win over Post Office 'A'. Brian had a set ten corker with Denise Weller winning 11-9,11-7,8-11,9-11,11-9. Jim Spence also had a close set win over Denise 11-4,12-10,19-17. The star of the show Danny beat Simon Hopkins 12-10,9-11,11-4,11-7. Trebles from Graham Outrim and Brian Chinneck along with star of



MILESTONE 'A' - JOHN TUCKER, HUGH CROSFIELD (WITH DH)

the show guest Ken Park double gave them a 9 - 1 win at Kingfisher 'G'. Ken won a 11-8,13-11,9-11,8-11,11-13 corker with Dave Gostelow coming back from two down.



ROGER WOOLVEN-ALLEN

Treadgold. Danny Dockree fought hard for his treble with doubles from Mark Corbett and Brian Meheux in their 8 - 2 win over Post Office 'A', only one set went to three games. Jon Abbott and Brian Meheux recorded trebles with a Danny Dockree double in their 9 - 1 win over Kingfisher 'G'.

Milestone 'A' John Tucker, Hugh and John Crosfield were overwhelmed by a strong Tidmarsh 'C' side, the only consolation was a hard fought five game doubles win. Robin Benwell scored two with a brilliant John Tucker five game win over Roger Woolven-Allen but they still went

down 3 - 7 against Kingfisher 'E'. Hugh Crosfield almost got the better of Colin Dyke but eventually lost in five. John Tucker, John and Hugh Crosfield fought hard but only gained two singles against Kingfisher 'F' going down 2 - 8 in the process. John had a great win over Peter Bennett as did Hugh against Clare Woodham, both winning in five. It's points on the board thanks to a Robin Benwell treble, John Tucker double and the all important doubles victory to win 4 - 6 at Polish 'A'. John Crosfield just lost out in a five gamer against Jacek Krzyzanowski. A Robin Benwell treble with a double from John Tucker and single from John Crosfield earned them a good 7 - 3 win over OLOP 'D'. John Tucker had a five game win over Wendy Porter.

Post Office 'A' Ray Webb, Denise Weller and Simon Hopkins cruised to a 10 - 0 win over Kingfisher 'G'. Simon Hopkins and Denise Weller got singles with Ray Webb pushing five gamers in what was a close match despite the 2 - 8 loss to SC&P 'C'. A John Simmonds double with Denise Weller and Simon Hopkins singles resulted in a close 4 - 6 loss to Wokingham 'A'. John had a close five game win over Danny Buckle. John

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tidmarsh 'C'	6	6	0	0	49	11	12
OLOP 'C'	5	5	0	0	43	7	10
Wokingham 'A'	5	5	0	0	40	10	10
Kingfisher 'E'	6	4	1	1	38	22	9
Kingfisher 'F'	5	2	2	1	30	20	6
SC & P 'C'	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Milestone 'A'	6	3	0	3	27	33	6
OLOP 'D'	5	2	0	3	20	30	4
Post Office 'A'	6	1	0	5	21	39	2
Polish 'A'	6	0	1	5	18	42	1
Tilehurst Meths 'A'	6	0	0	6	13	47	0
Kingfisher 'G'	6	0	0	6	4	56	0

Simmonds managed a solitary single win over Siad Cole in their 1 - 9 loss to OLOP 'C'. Denise and guest Ted Cripps came away empty handed. Denise Weller battled hard for two in their 2 - 8 loss to table toppers Tidmarsh 'C'. Denise came from two games down to beat Dave Wise in five games. John Simmonds lost out in a five gamer against Mike Aistrop but drew a blank along with Simon Hopkins.

OLOP 'D' Peter Manners-Smith got the only consolation game in their hard fought 1 - 9 loss to rivals OLOP 'C'. Wendy Porter had a close five gamer with Chris West and Pat Daniels a close five gamer with Siad Cole. Steve Ng recorded a double and Ben Xiao a single in their 3 - 7 loss to Tidmarsh 'C'. Wendy managed to win games against Lee Calcutt and Dave Wise. Singles from Steve Ng and Pat Daniels along with a Ben Xiao treble including a game ten win over Geoff Civil gave them a close 6 - 4 win over Kingfisher 'E'. They were all stars on the night, Ben recording a five gamer against Roger Woolven-Allen, Steve a five gamer against Geoff Civil and Pat a five gamer over John Morris. A Steve Ng double and a single from Pat Daniels meant they went down 3 - 7 to Milestone 'A'. Steve Ng won a five gamer against John Tucker and Wendy Porter just lost out in a five gamer against John Tucker.

Polish 'A' Jacek Krzyzanowski and Darek Kaminski scored one apiece in their 2 - 8 loss to OLOP 'C'. Jacek Krzyzanowski managed to take a game off Mike Aistrop but Mac De Guzman and Darek Kaminski drew a blank in their 0 - 10 loss to Tidmarsh 'C'. Darek Kaminski and Mac De Guzman both got wins in their 4 - 6 loss to Kingfisher 'E'. Mac just lost out in his games to John Morris and Geoff Civil, on another night he might have turned both losses into a win. A double from Jacek Krzyzanowski with singles from Darek Kaminski and Mac De Guzman could not prevent a 4 - 6 loss to Milestone 'A'. Jacek had a 11-13,9-11,11-7,13-11,11-5 win over John Crosfield. Hero Mac de Guzman won two including a set ten win to snatch a point against Kingfisher 'F'. Jacek Krzyzanowski recorded two wins including a 7-11, 13-11,11-6,11-13,11-5 win over Michael Houghton. Derek Kaminski also had a 9-11,9-11,11-6,11-6,11-5 win over Michael Houghton.

Tilehurst Methodists 'A' Nigel Rowland battled hard to win two sets and teamed up with Phil Jones to win the doubles but still lost 3 - 7 against SC&P 'C'. Phil Jones and Paul



WENDY PORTER

Treadgold fought hard but to no avail. Wokingham 'A' proved to be too strong as Tilehurst sank 0 - 10, Phil Jones and Cath Venning took games with Paul Treadgold drawing a blank. Nigel Rowland and Cath Venning managed singles in their 8 - 2 defeat at OLOP 'C'. Cath played some of her best table tennis to push Clive Perry to five games and nearly causing an upset by taking a game against Steve Miller eventually losing 13-11. Paul Treadgold managed game wins over Mike McAllister and Clive Perry. Cath Venning and Nigel Rowland both got wins over François Durand and Steve Ricks in their close 4 - 6 loss against high flying Tidmarsh 'C'. Phil Jones managed game wins over François and Steve. Phil Jones broke his duck with two brilliant wins over Geoff Civil and Roger Woolven-Allen in their 8 - 2 loss to Kingfisher 'E'. Nigel Rowland just lost out in a five gamer with Geoff Civil. Paul Treadgold managed to take a game off Colin Dyke.

Kingfisher 'G' John Upham, Dave Gostellow and guest Didier Garçon could not get near Post Office 'A' in their 0 - 10 defeat. Sharon Mitchell, John Upham and Dave Gostellow managed a game apiece but still ended up on a 0 - 10 defeat at the hands of Kingfisher 'F'. Allen Pack broke their duck with a single win over Danny Dockree in their 9 - 1 loss to SC&P 'C'. Sharon Mitchell had a close 11-13,12-10,11-9,11-9 loss to Jon Abbott, guest Jean-Noel Thepaut lost three straight.

Allen Pack got the only win against guest Ken Park in their 1 - 9 loss to Wokingham 'A'. Allen Pack saved the blushes with a five game win over Chris West in their 1 - 9 loss to OLOP 'C'. Dave Gostellow came close to beating Chris West but just lost out in a five gamer. Sharon Mitchell lost three straight.

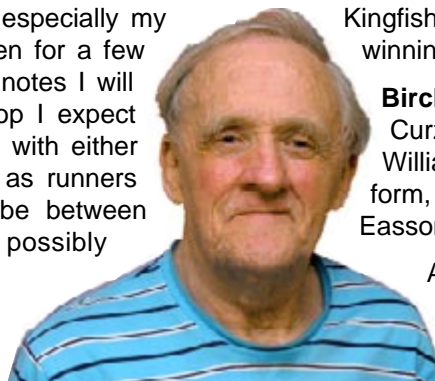
LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Clive Perry	OLOP 'C'	6	6	100.00 %
Graham Outrim	Wokingham 'A'	6	6	100.00 %
Daryl Griffith	Wokingham 'A'	9	9	100.00 %
Steven Miller	OLOP 'C'	12	12	100.00 %
Lee Calcutt	Tidmarsh 'C'	15	15	100.00 %
Robin Benwell	Milestone 'A'	12	11	91.67 %
Siad Cole	OLOP 'C'	9	8	88.89 %
Mike Aistrop	Tidmarsh 'C'	12	10	83.33 %
Dave Wise	Tidmarsh 'C'	12	10	83.33 %
Brian Chinneck	Wokingham 'A'	15	12	80.00 %
Ivor Hardman	Kingfisher 'F'	9	7	77.78 %

DIVISION THREE *by Derek Harrison*

Hello everyone and welcome especially my friends whom I have not seen for a few seasons. Before I start my notes I will give you my predictions. At the top I expect Wokingham to finish as champions with either Sonning Sports or Tilehurst Meths as runners up. At the bottom I feel it will be between Springfield 'B', Curzon 'B' and possibly Pangbourne.

Last season's Division 4 champions **Wokingham 'B'** got off to a great start by beating Tilehurst Meths 8 - 2 with Dan Buckle gaining a great hat trick. Tony Eames and Richard Neville weighed in with two each besides teaming up to win the doubles. They then made it two out of two by beating 100% Birch Copse 3 - 7 with Dan, Tony and Ken Park all winning two each. At home to



Kingfisher 'H' and made a draw with John and Ian winning one each.

Birch Copse got off to a flying start by beating Curzon Club 9 - 1 thanks to trebles from Mike Williams and Simon Clarke. Simon was in great form, winning all three in straight games. Jes Eassom did well by winning two.

At Springfield 'B' they came away with both points by winning 2 - 8 with Simon getting another hat trick. Mike and Jes played their part by winning two each. Simon maintained his unbeaten record by winning all three against Wokingham, beating Dan 3-11, 11-7, 11-3, 8-11, 11-5 Tony 12-10, 11-8, 11-7 and Ken 2-11, 11-6, 11-7, 11-4.

Simon's 100% record went against OLOP when he only won two; however, Jes also won two and teamed up to win the doubles with Simon to give them a point. Simon was in good form against Sonning Sports, winning all three. In his set against Bob W he was 6-8 down in the 5th and came back to win 11-8.

Despite Eric's prediction in the Kingfisher News I feel his side **Kingfisher 'H'** will be up near the top of the table provided they can play a settled team and if their first match is anything to go by, beating their 'I' team 1-9, they could do it. Eric Holmes and Steve Woolnough both obtained trebles with Roger Albelo obtaining a fine double. I have to say that Steve had 6 deuces and only won one. In their match against Springfield 'A' Roger won two and Eric and Steve both obtained singles. The doubles were crucial with Eric and Steve winning 8-11, 13-15, 11-6, 11-9,

15-13. In that 4th end they were 2-8 down and in the 5th end they were 0-6 and 6-10 down so what a fight back which gave them a point. At Polish they lost for the first time 7 - 3 with Eric winning two and Steve one. Against Pangbourne, Eric won two and Steve and Roger both gained important singles. Steve and Eric won a close 5 game contest against Clive and Leroy. At Tilehurst Meths it took a good



MIKE WILLIAMS OF BIRCH COPSE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sonning Sports 'A'	5	3	1	1	27	23	7
Wokingham 'B'	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Polish 'B'	5	3	0	2	27	23	6
Tilehurst Meths 'B'	5	2	2	1	25	25	6
Birch Copse 'A'	5	2	1	2	29	21	5
OLOP 'E'	5	1	3	1	28	22	5
Kingfisher 'H'	5	1	3	1	27	23	5
Pangbourne WMC	4	0	4	0	20	20	4
Kingfisher 'I'	4	1	2	1	17	23	4
Springfield 'A'	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Curzon 'B'	4	1	1	2	17	23	3
Springfield 'B'	5	0	0	5	10	40	0

Springfield 'B' they showed no mercy by beating them 10 - 0 with 8 of the sets all 3 straight. The hat trick men were Tony, Richard, and Ken.

One of my promotion favourites **Tilehurst Meths** just got home against Springfield 'B' 6 - 4 thanks to hat tricks gained by Richard Lownsbrough and Ian Cockling. They then lost 8 - 2 to the possible champions Wokingham 'B'. Ian and Richard won one each. This match had 19 deuces of which sadly for the Meths they only won 4. Some examples: Richard lost to Dan 18-16 and to Tony 13-11, 12-10. Ian lost to Tony in one end 15-13 although he did beat Tony in the 5th end 9-11. Martin Wetherell the reserve lost 19-17 to Richard so I have to say despite the score line they could have gained a draw. At home to OLOP 'E' they drew with Ian winning two and Richard and Nick Barnes both obtaining singles. Nick and Ian won the doubles. They then had a splendid 3 - 7 victory at Sonning Sports where Richard hit all three by beating Bob W 12-14, 3-11, 3-11 Bob S 6-11, 8-11, 5-11 and Dave 4-11, 6-11, 1-11. John Virgo played in his first match of the season and won two by defeating Bob S and Dave while Nick obtained a single. They then played a two player



BOB WOODMANSEE

performance from Eric and Carol Byers who won two each and then they teamed up to win the doubles to give them a share of the points

Sonning Sports defeated Springfield 'A' 3 - 7 with Nigel Goodman, Bob Snelgrove and Bob Woodmansee all gaining doubles. At home to Polish they just got home 6 - 4 with Dave Chard and Nigel winning two each besides teaming up to win the doubles. Bob S hit a vital single. At Pangbourne Nigel and Bob W also won two each and in the doubles Nigel and Bob S won 18-20, 4-11, 5-11 to give them a share of the spoils. They then suffered a rare home defeat when going down to Tilehurst Meths 3 - 7 with Bob W winning two and Bob S one. A great team performance saw them beat Birch Copse 4 - 6 with Nigel and Bob W both obtaining doubles while Dave did his bit by beating Mike Williams. Dave also teamed up with Nigel to win the doubles. In set 5 Mike was 5-0 up and 6-1 up in the 5th end only for Dave to come back and win 8-11. In set 6 Bob was two games down but came back to win the next three 8-11, 9-11, 11-13

Phil Burke hit a three straight maximum but alas Springfield 'A' went down 3- 7 to Sonning Sports 'A'

Phil beat Nigel 11-9, 11-3, 11-6 Bob S 11-8, 11-2, 11-7 and Bob W 11-8, 11-5, 11-8. At Kingfisher Phil hit another treble with Seth and Ian both picking up singles which gave them a share of the spoils. For Ian it was his first win in over a year. Against Curzon they won their first match of the season by beating them 6 - 4 with Phil getting another 3 straight maximum. Seth did well to win two and Des picked up a single. The match hinged on two comebacks, from Des and Seth, who were both two games to nil down against

Derek and Jim to come back to win in 5. Without Phil they went down 6 - 4 to Polish. Des put in a great performance by gaining a great hat trick with Ian winning one by beating Stephen

Last season's division 6 champs **OLOP 'E'** who won all 20 matches with a record 191 for and only 9 against started with a draw at home to Pangbourne with Phil Saunders and Michael McAllister both gaining doubles and Jim McAllister a single. Michael had a great night at Tilehurst Meths by winning all three by beating Richard 6-11, 5-11 7-11, Ian 11-9, 10-12, 5-11, 4-11 and Nick 5-11, 5-11, 9-11. Phil played his part by winning two. Michael took Simon Clarke's 100% record from him in their draw against Birch Copse who went on to gain a treble. Phil and Jim both won one by beating Duncan Abbott. At Polish they went down 6 - 4 with Michael gaining a double and Phil a single. Michael and Jim also won the doubles. Against Springfield 'B' they romped to a 1 - 9 victory with new signing Harry Brough and Phil both gaining maximums. Jim did his bit by winning two.

Clive Taylor was in top form for **Pangbourne** by winning all three to help his side to a draw at OLOP 'E'. He also teamed up with Leroy Wilson to win the doubles. Leroy himself picked up a single. In their game against Sonning Sports a good team performance gave them a point. Clive and Howard Taylor both won two and Roger Steven played his part by winning that vital single. In Howard's set against Bob W he had to work hard because Bob had several match points in the 4th end and he was 7-9 down in the 5th end which finished 11-9 in his favour. I understand there were 61 shots in that deuce game! Mind you I do not know who was counting!. Leroy hit top form at Kingfisher 'H' by winning all three and with Clive winning two this gave them their 3rd draw in a row. Surprise surprise, they then drew with Kingfisher 'I' with Leroy and Clive both gaining doubles. Roger weighed in with a single by beating Gabor. I have to ask, I wonder if any team has ever drawn their first four matches in a row?

Polish 'B' started their season with a 6 - 4 defeat at Sonning Sports. Daniel Dzieciol won two which included a fine win over Dave Chard. The two other victories came from Stephen Yon and reserve Krzys Szczygiel. They then beat Kingfisher 'H' 7 - 3 mainly thanks to a great hat trick from Grant Wheatley. Stephen played well to win two and



JAN POLNIK, GRANT WHEATLEY, KRYS SZCZYGIEL AND STEPHEN YON
(MOST OF WHOM PLAY FOR POLISH 'B')

Dan picked up a single. Away at Kingfisher 'I' they went down 6 - 4. Dan had a good night by winning two while Grant and Stephen both won one. In their delayed match with OLOP Stephen came up trumps by winning all three and with Daniel winning two and Grant picking up that vital single this gave them a 6 - 4 victory. At home to Springfield 'A' they won 6 - 4 with Dan and Grant both winning two each besides teaming up to win the doubles. Stephen got that important single by beating Seth.

Kingfisher 'I' without their star player Jean-Noel crashed to a 1-9 defeat to their 'H' team with Nils Wedi saving the whitewash by beating Roger Albelo. In the Curzon 'B' match which ended in a draw a rare occasion came up that Jean-Noel Thepaut dropped a game to Mike Maynard, whom he beat 4-11, 11-7, 12-14 8-11. He only went to four games once in the whole of last season!! Nils won one besides teaming up with Jean-Noel to win the doubles. At Springfield the match had to be abandoned at 3 - 3 due to an injury to Jean-Noel who had to go to A & E, but I am pleased to report he was patched up and went home. They then won their first match of the season by beating Polish 6 - 4 with a fit-again Jean-Noel gaining a hat trick all three straight. Joaquin Sabater played his part by winning two which included a 10th set victory over Stephen beating him 11-5, 9-11, 11-5, 5-11, 12-10. He certainly got his money's worth because he beat Grant 10-12, 14-12, 10-12, 11-9, 12-10. At Pangbourne they came away with a draw with as ever Jean-Noel winning all three besides teaming up with Nils to win the doubles. To clinch that point Nils picked up a single.

Springfield 'B' who came second in division 5 last season, went down 6 - 4 at Tilehurst Meths. James Lappin, Dan Mortimer and Ludovic Covillard all obtained singles besides Dan and Ludo winning the doubles against Richard

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
J-NI Thepaut	Kingfisher I	9	9	100.0%
Phil Burke	Springfield A	9	9	100.0%
Simon Clarke	Birch Copse A	14	15	93.3%
Mike McAllister	OLOP E	10	12	83.3%
Daniel Buckle	Wokingham B	5	6	83.3%
Ken Park	Wokingham B	5	6	83.3%
Richard Neville	Wokingham B	5	6	83.3%
Tony Eames	Wokingham B	7	9	77.8%
Clive Taylor	Pangbourne WMC	9	12	75.0%
Eric Holmes	Kingfisher H	10	15	66.7%
Bob Woodmansee	Sonning Sports A	8	12	66.7%
Nigel Goodman	Sonning Sports A	8	12	66.7%
Leroy Wilson	Pangbourne WMC	6	9	66.7%
Des Hele	Springfield A	4	6	66.7%

and Ian. Dan was very unlucky against Ian having led 6-10 in the final end only to lose 12-10 on an edge but I gather he took it very sportingly. At home to Birch Copse they went down 2 - 8 with Dan and reserve Chris Speight obtaining singles. Dan tells me what a good evening it was and was impressed with the Birch Copse team. At Curzon they went down 7 - 3 with Dan and Ludo beating me. They both played well to win the doubles to beat Nick and Jim 10-12 in the 5th end. Sadly at Wokingham they suffered a 10 - 0 hammering. I will not mention who played. They then followed this by going down 1 - 9 to OLOP 'E' with new signing Andy Bacon saving the whitewash by beating Jim McAllister 12-10, 8-11, 11-8, 11-9.

Curzon Club took a right hammering at Birch Copse with Derek Harrison winning the only set by beating Jes. At home to Kingfisher 'I' Mike Maynard and Nick Lean both won two each with Jim Brent gaining a double by beating Dids. I have to say welcome back Mike because the last time he played in my team was in 1976. We then played Springfield 'B' and won 7 - 3 with Nick and Jim both gaining maximums. Nick's were all three straight. For Jim it was his first treble since Jan 13th 2011 when he got one against Wokingham. At Springfield 'A' Mike Maynard won two and Jim Brent a single besides gaining a doubles victory but could not win a further set in their 6 - 4 defeat.

Finally, a few requests; please can you write the scores clearly because sometimes I have to guess what has been put down and also it is very important to list the doubles players, so before sending make sure they are listed.

Also if you do not send the score cards by email the next day can you please send them by first class post as per rule 12.10. Sometimes I am waiting several days.

Cheers

Derek



SPRINGFIELD 'B' - JIM LAPPIN, PAUL JENKINS AND DAN MORTIMER

DIVISION FOUR *by Barry Carter*

No sooner has the sun set on yet another Ashes winning summer, dawn breaks on a new table tennis season in which like Wolves, I find myself in a different division. Based on the results so far it is going to be a really tight division but leading the way so far are Sonning Common & Peppard 'D' with nine points and Kingfisher 'J' with 7. It's normally at this stage of the season that I put my neck on the line and predict who will end up being promoted...so here goes! The two promoted teams might be Sonning Common & Peppard 'D' and Tidmarsh 'D' although there are three or four others that will run them close (and probably prove me wrong in the process). There have already been a few postponements so can you re-arrange as soon as possible, have an enjoyable season and good luck to you all.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'D' currently lead the way and if there were additional points for match comments then they would be promoted by now, thanks Derek for the newsy reports on a weekly basis. SCP 'D' are the only unbeaten team in the division and if my hunch is right that might stay the way right to the end of the season. *[Unfortunately that prediction was proved wrong the same day it was made! ED]* The scouting network seems to be working well as they have unearthed Alan Mollet who has won ten out of twelve, the only two losses came against Kingfisher 'J' as he lost to John Creighton and Ken Robb. The first match saw them overcome Tidmarsh 'D' 6 – 4 thanks to three from Alan, two from Derek Wavell and a good 11-7, 9-11, 11-13, 11-9, 11-7 win by Anthony Reeve



DEREK WAVELL OF SC&P 'D'

over John Liddle but it took a 9-11, 11 -7, 11-9, 6-11, 11-9 win by Alan over Dave Edwards in game ten to seal the two points. Derek and Anthony both won two each in the 5 – 5

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
S C & P 'D'	5	4	1	0	32	18	9
Kingfisher 'J'	5	3	1	1	28	22	7
Tidmarsh 'D'	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Curzon Club 'C'	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Milestone 'B'	5	1	2	2	24	26	4
OLOP 'F'	4	2	0	2	23	17	4
S C & P 'E'	5	2	0	3	22	28	4
Post Office 'B'	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Tilehurst Meths 'C'	5	1	1	3	19	31	3
Tidmarsh 'E'	5	0	2	3	17	33	2
S C & P 'F'	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Milestone 'C'	4	0	1	3	14	26	1

draw with Kingfisher 'J'. Alan got back to maximum ways in the 7 – 3 win over Tilehurst Meths 'C' whereas Derek and Anthony could only muster braces. At 3 – 4 down against Curzon Club 'C' it looked like their unbeaten record could go but a rousing fightback saw Derek defeat Ollie Lister 11-4, 8-11, 11-8, 11-7 then Anthony overcome John Walker 11-7, 11-8, 11-6 and the win was completed by Alan's 8-11, 11-8, 11-2, 11-5 win over Terry Spice.

Doubles : 0/4 0%

Kingfisher 'J' are two points behind the leaders as they have won three of their five matches to date. John Creighton has found form with 14 wins from 15 matches, he started with a three straight maximum in the 6 - 4 victory against OLOP 'F' as did Ken Robb. John continued the form with another three straight maximum in the 4 – 6 defeat to Tilehurst Meths 'C' which saw Mike Dorrington having to concede his final match as he was not feeling well (hope you are feeling better now, Mike). Their only draw came against Sonning C&P 'D' as they battled back from 3 – 5 down to gain a point thanks to Ken's 8-11, 11-8, 11-4, 11-5 win over Alan Mollet and then John's 10-12, 12-10, 12-10, 11-4 game ten victory over Derek Wavell. Derek Crombie won his first match of the season in the 7 – 3 win over Tidmarsh 'E' when he defeated Dave Humphrey 11-9, 10-12, 11-8, 11-3. John lost his 100% at the 13th time as he was surprisingly beaten 11-6, 11-7, 11-8 by Tony House, but it was Ken Robb who came to the rescue as he won an impressive treble with wins over Tony House, Mike Casserley and Dave Aust as they triumphed 6 – 4 against Sonning C&P 'E'.

Doubles : 3/5 60%

Tidmarsh 'D' look well placed to mount a promotion push



(a bit like Reading, Terry) so long as they can get over the jinx that I have put on them by making them one of my favourites. The season didn't start so well as they lost 4 - 6 to their potential promotion rivals Sonning C&P 'D'. Terry Hardie was the player for them on the night with good wins over Anthony Reeve and Derek Wavell, whilst Dave Edwards did well to beat Anthony and narrowly lost to Alan Mollet in five. Dave Reynolds and Dave Smith (I think there has to be a match where all three Dave's play) were drafted in to the derby match against Tidmarsh 'E' and Dave R went home as man of the match as he won all three, Dave S and John Little won two each as they romped home 7 - 3 to get their season underway. A different combination of Dave's (the E and R variety) plus Terry went to OLOP 'F' and came away with two more points as Dave R and Terry won two, Dave E one and then Terry & Dave R won the doubles with a 11-8, 10-12, 7-11, 6 -11 result to clinch a 6 - 4 victory. Their latest match saw them win 9 - 1 against Sonning C&P 'E' with Dave R and Dave S winning all three against Tony House, Mike Casserley and Dave Aust.

Doubles : 4/4 100%

Curzon Club 'C' are fourth and looking good with three wins out of four matches. They started the season a week after everyone else but wasted no time in recording a victory as they edged a 6 - 4 win over Tilehurst Meths 'C'. Terry Spice led the way with a good treble, whilst Linda King won two against Alex Zheng and Martin Wetherell but lost to Bob Winter. The doubles proved crucial as Terry and Linda fought back from 0 - 2 down to win 7-11, 5-11, 13-11, 11-8, 11-4. Mick Gillard had a fantastic night against Milestone 'C' as he finally won a brace of matches with wins over Monty Berzon 11-7, 15-13, 11-5 and John Simpson where he battled back from 5-10 down in the fifth to finally win 11-7, 7-11, 11-7, 8-11, 12-10. Terry and Linda also chipped in with two wins each and coupled with their customary doubles win it saw them to a 7 - 3 victory. John Walker, Terry and Ollie made the trip to Sonning C&P 'D' and were unlucky not to come away with a point because at one stage they were 4 - 3 up but managed to lose 4 - 6 as they all lost their last round of matches. In their last match they got back to winning ways with a 7 - 3 win over Sonning C&P 'F' thanks to three from Terry, two from Linda and another good win from Mick.

Doubles : 4/4 100%

Milestone 'B' have started the season with mixed fortunes having won once, drawn twice and lost twice. In the season opener they shared the points with Tidmarsh 'E'. Chris Collins won two against John Harland and Steve Andrews as did Viliam Androschik and Gerard Thorp defeated Bob Sunerton 11-4, 11-9, 14-12. The only victory to date came against Post Office 'B' where a good team effort by Chris, Viliam and Gerard who all won two each against Pete Sinclair and Mick Grantham (they all lost to Ray) saw them to a 7 - 3 win that ended late thanks to three of the matches against Mick going to five legs. Viliam had a really good win over Dave Godfrey 11-8, 12-14, 5-11, 11-8, 12-10 to give them a 1 - 0 lead and when Gerard won 11-9,

11-5, 10-12, 11-9 against Jan Polnik to level the match at 4-4 a point looked possible. But that was ended as Pratik lost 4-11, 4-11, 5-11 to Dave Godfrey and Viliam lost 3-11, 5-11, 4-11 to Al Richardson. They had succumbed to OLOP 'F' 4 - 6. The Milestone derby ended in a honour-even result as they drew 5 - 5.

Doubles : 2/5 40%

OLOP 'F' should finish higher than sixth come the end of the season, especially now they have re-signed the experienced Mark Bullion for another campaign. The two defeats have come against Kingfisher 'J' in the opening week of the season as two from Al Richardson and one each from Dave Godfrey and Mark Bullion wasn't enough to prevent them from a 4 - 6 defeat. The other defeat was at home to Tidmarsh 'D' where an impressive Dave Godfrey hat-trick of wins over Terry Hardie 11-8, 11-7, 11-5, Dave Edwards 15-13, 11-7, 3-11, 11-8 and Dave Reynolds 1-11, 11-5, 12-10, 7-11, 11-7 also wasn't enough to stop them sliding to defeat as there was only a Jan Polnik win over Dave Edwards to add to that. The two wins have come against Milestone 'B' in yet another 6 - 4 scoreline, this time Al won all three, he was supported by two from Dave and they then teamed up to win the doubles 11-6, 10-12, 11-4, 11-8. The other win was far more impressive as they overwhelmed Tilehurst Meths 'C' 9 - 1 as Mark and Dave both recorded maximums and Al chipped in with a double.

Doubles : 3/4 75%

Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' have managed two wins from their opening five matches and these were against Milestone 'C' and Milestone 'B'; they are currently seventh in the table. Dave Aust got off to a flyer with three



JOHN HARLAND OF TIDMARSH 'E'

wins against Milestone 'C'. Mike Casserley was involved in two really tight games but he came through in five against Monty Berzon 11-6, 11-2, 9-11, 13-15, 11-6 and then John Simpson 11-7, 11-5, 5-11, 4-11, 11-5 whilst Pete Harman had a bad evening at the table. The next match up was one of several Sonning derby games this season as they visited the 'F' team but they weren't to leave with the bragging rights as they suffered a 4 – 6 defeat despite Dave winning two and Mike one. There's a football song that goes like ...can we play you every week... and that must feel the same for Sonning 'E' as they beat the other Milestone team, the 'B' team 6 – 4. Mike Casserley returned home with his first maximum of the season whilst Tony House and Dave won two each. After the Milestone match they were brought back down to earth as they suffered a 1 - 9 mauling at the hands of Tidmarsh 'D' as they only had a Dave win over John Liddle to show for their evenings efforts. In the other match they lost 4 – 6 to Kingfisher 'J' as Tony claimed the 100% record of John Creighton with a great 11-6, 11-7, 11-8 win.

Doubles : 2/5 40%

Post Office 'B' have only played three matches and are therefore in a false position and are dark cockerels for promotion if they carry on the way they have started. Ray Webb has started particularly well and is now the only player with 100%. The two wins have come against Milestone 'C' where they were 8 – 2 victors thanks to three from Ray, two from the fit-again Pete Sinclair and two from Mick Grantham. The second win was also 8 – 2 and that was against Sonning C&P 'F' as my "old" mate Ted Cripps won two out of three against Julian James and Steve Knott. The defeat was a little surprising as it came against Milestone 'B' where although Ray won all three that was as good as it got for them although Pete lost a five-setter and Mick lost all three of his in five.

Doubles : 1/3 33%

Tilehurst Meths 'C' have won only one match to date and that came during the opening week of the season as two wins apiece from Bob Winter and Martin Wetherell plus a Chris Taylor single saw them to a 6 – 4 win over Kingfisher 'J'. Bob and Martin also teamed up to win the doubles against John Creighton and John François Guegantou by an 11-5, 11-5, 11-2 scoreline. The draw came against Tidmarsh 'E' and courtesy of a great Bob Winter performance as he won all three against Bob Sunerton 11-5, 8-11, 11-8, 13-15, 12-10 then Steve Andrews 11-4, 11-7, 11-7 and finally John Harland 8-11, 10-12, 11-1, 11-3, 12-10. Mal Collis and Patrick O'Sullivan who were playing up from division five did well with Mal beating John Harland 11-9, 11-8, 12-14, 11-9 and then Patrick taking Bob Sunerton to five before he lost 9-11. In the match against Curzon 'C', Bob won two, Alex Zheng and Martin one. Bob's wins came against Linda King and Oli Lister whilst Alex's came against Oli 11-9, 11-8, 11-13, 5-11, 11-9 but it wasn't enough to prevent them from slipping to a 4 – 6 defeat. In their two latest matches they have been outgunned by both Sonning C & P 'D' where they lost 3 – 7 and OLOP 'F' where they were beaten 1 – 9.

Doubles : 3/5 60%

Tidmarsh 'E' have had a difficult start to the season and find themselves winless after four matches but not currently in the relegation places, whether that stays the same only remains to be seen. The two draws have come against Milestone 'B' and Tilehurst Meths 'C'. In the Milestone 'B' match they did well to rescue a point from 3 – 5 down and that was thanks to a Steve Andrews 11-8, 11-7, 3-11, 12-10 set nine win over Gerard Thorp and then a Bob Sunerton 11-2, 11-8, 5-11, 11-9 win over Chris Collins in set ten. I won't ponder on the Tidmarsh derby match as the honours certainly went to the 'D' with only a John Harland 11-7, 11-2, 11-6 win over John Liddle and a Mike Bundy 11-9, 8-11, 11-8, 4-11, 11-7 victory over Dave Smith to show in a 2 – 8 defeat. Bob Sunerton and Steve Andrews both won two each in the draw at Tilehurst Meths, 'C' as they both won against Patrick O'Sullivan and Mal Collis whilst John only defeated Patrick. John Harland performed well as he won two of the three against Kingfisher 'J' with wins over Derek Crombie 11-7, 14-12, 11-3 and Ken Robb 11-9, 11-7, 11-4.

Doubles : 2/4 50%

Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' find themselves in the bottom two and heading for a dance off (sorry wrong sport) but they have only played three matches. Their only win to date came against Sonning C&P 'E' in the derby match



MATT TARRANT OF SCP 'F'G

where three from Matt Tarrant, two from Angus Jones and a single from Julian James saw them to a 6 – 4 win. Since then they have suffered a 2 - 8 defeat at Post Office 'B' where the only winner on the night was Matt who defeated Mick Grantham 18-16, 8-11, 11-8, 11-4 and Ted Cripps 11-8, 11-8, 11-8. Julian took Mick Grantham to four sets but finally lost 6-11 in the fourth, whilst Steve Knott had a night to forget. Matt was once again their player of the night with

DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Ray Webb	Post Office B	9	9	100.00 %
John Creighton	Kingfisher J	15	14	93.33 %
Dave Reynolds	Tidmarsh D	9	8	88.89 %
Alan Mollett	S C & P D	15	13	86.67 %
Dave Smith	Tidmarsh D	6	5	83.33 %
Terry Spice	Curzon Club C	12	10	83.33 %
Matthew Tarrant	S C & P F	9	7	77.78 %
Dave Godfrey	OLOP F	12	9	75.00 %
Kenneth Robb	Kingfisher J	12	9	75.00 %

two wins over Linda King and Mick Gillard in the 3 – 7 defeat to Curzon 'C', Angus won the other match against Mick.

Doubles : 0/3 0%

Milestone 'C' have only the one point from their first four matches and they achieved that with a good draw against Milestone 'B'. It could have been better as at one stage they led 5 – 2 thanks to two from debutant Pallav Roy and one each from Arun Rajagopal and Monty Berzon, however they let the lead slip as they all lost their last matches on the night. Arun won all three in an impressive match at Curzon 'C' as he beat Terry Spice, Linda King and Mick

Gillard but he didn't get much support although John Simpson took Mick to five before he lost 10-12 in the fifth. Arun won two of the four in their 4 – 6 defeat by Sonning C&P 'E' with good wins over Pete Harman and Mike Casserley but Dave Aust proved a bit too strong for him in his other match; Monty and John defeated Pete too. Arun was the sole winner in the 2 – 8 defeat to Post Office 'B' as he recorded wins over Pete Sinclair 11-6, 11-5, 11-6 and then Mick Grantham 13-11, 11-9, 11-8. Tony Hayden made his debut and took Ray Webb to deuce in the first leg but that was as good as it got for him on a tough debut.

Doubles : 1/5 20%

If some of you have ever read my riveting division two reports then you'll see that stats did form an integral part of the. Although I'm not up to date with all of them yet, here is a selection.

Most Maximums – 4 (Alan Mollet, John Creighton)

Most Braces – 3 (Chris Collins, Arun Rajagopal, Viliam Androschik, Linda King, Derek Wavell)

Most Singles – 3 (Martin Wetherell)

58% of the matches have ended either 5 – 5 or 6 – 4

Of the 26 matches played so far there have been 16 home wins, 6 away wins and 4 draws.

I think that's about all I can ramble about for now, I appreciate that there may be a couple of scorecards missing but am chasing them up.

Lower Divisions Cup by Duncan Abbott

Introduction

The Lower Divisions Knockout Cup is open to all teams registered in Divisions 4 and 5.

This tournament follows last season's format, with all 9 sets in each match being doubles contests featuring three players on each side. Please note that each set will be best of 3 (not 5) with games being up to 11 points as in the league.

The draw for the Lower Divisions Cup has been made. There is a record 20 teams entered this year, so as a result there will be an extra round in this year's competition.

There are five groups of 4 teams, the group winners progress to the quarter finals as will the best three runners-up. After then it will be sudden death.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the format, it is a doubles competition where each set is the best of 3 games up to 11 points. Each set won gains a league point, so if you win 6 - 3 you get 6 league points.

Group A

SC&P 'G'
Milestone 'B'
Kingfisher 'J'
Birch Copse 'B'

Group B

Tidmarsh 'D'
OLOP 'G'
Milestone 'C'
Springfield 'C'

Group C

Springfield 'D'
Tidmarsh 'E'
SC&P 'F'
Milestone 'D'

Group D

OLOP 'F'
Springfield 'E'
Sonning Sports 'B'
SC&P 'D'

Group E

Curzon 'B'
SC&P 'E'
Polish 'C'
Kingfisher 'K'

Matches w/c 28 October:

SC&P 'G' v Milestone 'B'
Kingfisher 'J' v Birch Copse 'B'
Tidmarsh 'D' v OLOP 'G'
Milestone 'C' v Springfield 'C'
Springfield 'D' v Tidmarsh 'E'
SC&P 'F' v Milestone 'D'
OLOP 'F' v Springfield 'E'
Sonning Sports 'B' v SC&P 'D'
Curzon 'B' v SC&P 'E'
Polish 'C' v Kingfisher 'K'

DIVISION FIVE *by Duncan Abbott*

A new season is once again upon us and with it comes a change in the league's format. Gone is Division 6 as the number of teams competing has now reduced to the landmark number of 60. Therefore this season's Division 5 is made up effectively of teams from last season's Division 6 plus some useful additions.

On first observing the make up of teams I quickly came to the conclusion that **Polish 'C'** would probably be a bit too strong for this division. Captain Krys Szczygiel was an above average Div 5 player last season and has experience of playing Div 4. From experience I know Luca Bianchi to be a very useful player indeed, because although I did just beat him it was probably the toughest set I played in all season. Zdzislaw Jerzmanski and Ania Pytka were both unknown quantities although the former has settled in very well winning all his six sets including an impressive win over OLOP 'G's star player Nigel Antell.

Home wins have come against Sonning Sports 'B' (9 - 1) and Springfield 'D' (8 - 2) whilst on their travels they have accounted for OLOP 'G' (9 - 1), Tilehurst Meths 'D' (7 - 3) and Kingfisher 'K' (6 - 4). Individually Zdzislaw is unbeaten in two fixtures, Luca has won 11 out of 12 sets losing only to OLOP 'G's Nigel Antell whilst Krys has won 13 out of 15 sets losing quite surprisingly (given his opponents' averages) to Kingfisher 'K's Gwynne Penny and Tilehurst Meths 'D's veteran Dave Jones. Ania has won 4 out of 12 sets including a brace against Sonning Sports 'B'.

I'm not sure how team rankings are worked out in Twyford but **Springfield 'E'** are the lowest of three in this division and they are clearly faring the best. Wins against BBC Club (8 - 2), and Birch Copse 'B', Milestone 'D' and SC&P 'G' (all 6 - 4) have put them on the coat tails of the leaders. Their only hiccup to date has been a draw against club rivals Springfield 'C'.

Ashley Jones has won 14 of 15 sets losing only to the prolific Roy Hull of Birch Copse 'B'. Captain Colin Jones has been consistent winning two games in four of the five matches he has played in for a 60% average. Both Tom Berryman and newcomer Matthew Widdup have each



won 2 sets to date.

OLOP 'G' have picked up very well after a shock 1 - 9 trouncing by leaders Polish 'C' in the opening week. Victories since then have come against BBC Club and Birch Copse 'B' (both 8 - 2) and against SC&P 'G' and Milestone 'D' (both 7 - 3).

Nigel Antell achieved a near 90% average in Div 5 last season but could do nothing to stop Zdzislaw and Krys inflicting on him rare defeats on the way to a 9 - 1 win for Polish 'C'. Nigel has won all six of his sets since then. Indeed that opening defeat must have given captain and ex-Polish player Jan Polnik nightmares but Jan has turned things around since then, hitting form with 8 wins from his next 9 sets. Chris Bunn also played in that opening day mauling but 10 wins from 12 sets since then has no doubt boosted his confidence. New boy Rob Pelley has weighed in with 3 wins from 9 sets scoring a single in each match he's played in.

Springfield 'C' opened up with wins over SC&P 'G' and Birch Copse 'B' (both 6 - 4) before losing to BBC Club by the same margin. A 7 - 3 win over Tilehurst Meths 'D' and a draw against Springfield 'E' puts them in a respectable fourth place.

Chris Speight was expected to be a big fish in this pond having performed well in his team's promotion from Div 5 last season, and he has not disappointed with 10 wins from 12 sets, losing only to Thomas Perkins and Phil Turton of SC&P 'G' in the opening fixture. Adam Sheen has also performed well with 8 wins from 9 sets losing only to club mate Ashley Jones. Alan Goold has played in all five fixtures winning on average

1 in 3, Jason Ren scored a brace in his only appearance against Springfield 'C' whilst captain Bob Sibun has failed to trouble the scorers in his two appearances to date.

As usual **BBC Club** have a big squad of players to choose from which invariably means results are mixed depending on who is playing. Wins have come against Springfield 'C' and Tilehurst Meths 'D' (both 6 - 4), defeats against Springfield 'E' (2 - 8) and Polish 'C' (3 -

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Polish 'C'	5	5	0	0	39	11	10
Springfield 'E'	5	4	1	0	31	19	9
OLOP 'G'	5	4	0	1	31	19	8
Springfield 'C'	5	3	1	1	28	22	7
BBC Club	5	2	1	2	21	29	5
SC&P 'G'	5	2	0	3	27	23	4
Tilehurst Meths 'D'	5	2	0	3	26	24	4
Kingfisher 'K'	5	2	0	3	26	24	4
SonningSports'B'	4	1	1	2	16	24	3
Birch Copse'B'	4	0	1	3	15	25	1
Springfield 'D'	4	0	1	3	8	32	1
Milestone 'D'	4	0	0	4	12	28	0

7) and a draw in the opening week against Birch Copse 'B'.

Dave Pearson, captain Phil Peat and John Lancashire have all played in 3 matches to date. Dave and Phil have won 4 from 9 sets and John just the one.

Kyrill Dissanayake and John Scott have each played in 2 matches winning 4 from 6 sets, Jack Mitchell has won 2 from 3 sets and Gordon Ayres is yet to get off the mark.

The next three teams have won 2 and lost 3 of their opening 5 matches.

For **Sonning Common & Peppard 'G'** the best result was clearly their 10 - 0 thumping of Kingfisher 'K', with captain Phil Turton, Thomas Perkins and Joe Barraclough all very much on the money. For the latter two it is their first season in the league and both are doing remarkably well averaging 2 wins out of three. Phil's other match produced a brace in a 4 - 6 defeat at Springfield 'C'.

They lost by the same margin at Springfield 'E' and 3 - 7 at OLOP 'G'. Their other victory was 6 - 4 against Sonning Sports 'B'. The rest of their squad is also new to league table tennis. Harry & Oliver Sayer have each won 2 out of 6 sets and Marko Madzar failed to score in his one outing to date.

Tilehurst Methodists 'D' had wins against Springfield 'D' (9 - 1) and Kingfisher 'K' (7 - 3). Defeats have come against BBC Club (4 - 6) and Springfield 'C' and Polish 'C' both by a 3 - 7 margin.

In both wins captain Patrick O'Sullivan scored maximums but he has failed to feature in any other game. Sam Will has won 6 from 9 including a full score against Springfield 'D'. Veteran Dave Jones scored a very impressive brace against Polish 'C' and has won 5 from 9. Experienced campaigner Mal Collis (4 matches) and newcomer Masoud Ghabachi (3 matches) have each averaged one win in three.

Kingfisher 'K's' results have been something of a mixed bag, a 10 - 0 win at Springfield 'D' offset by a 0 - 10 defeat at home to SC&P 'G'. They won 9 - 1 at Milestone 'D' but their other two home matches have ended in defeat, 4 - 6 against Polish 'C' and 3 - 7 against Tilehurst Meths 'D'. This team seem much happier on their travels!

Diane Taylor (5 wins from 6) and Leigh Mahoney (7 from 9) are currently the best performers. Andre Bartlett has a 50% average from his 4 matches. Gwynne Penny's 4 wins (from 9) include an impressive win over Polish 'C's' Krys Szczygiel. Captain Gill Bennett has won 2 sets in her three matches played.

Last season **Sonning Sports 'B'** threw off their unwanted tag of perennial wooden spoonists and this season they've carried on in the same vein with a 6 - 4 win against

Milestone 'D' and a draw with Springfield 'D'. Defeats have come against Polish 'C' (1 - 9) and SC&P 'G' (4 - 6).

All six squad players have played two matches each.

Tom Gordon is unbeaten so far, Dave West has 50%, Martin Perry and Meriel Low have two wins apiece, captain Sue Brownhill one and Mo Cole still awaits her first win. The match against Polish 'C' featured four ladies playing; Sue, Meriel and Mo and Ania for Polish 'C'. I wonder what the chances are of two all-lady teams when they play Kingfisher 'K'? That would be great to

LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	P	W	%
Patrick O'Sullivan	Tilehurst Meths 'D'	6	6	100%
Tom Gordon	Sonning Sports 'B'	6	6	100%
Zdzislaw Jerzmanski	Polish 'C'	6	6	100%
Roy Hull	Birch Copse 'B'	6	6	100%
Ashley Jones	Springfield 'E'	15	14	93%
Luca Bianchi	Polish 'C'	12	11	92%
Adam Sheen	Springfield 'C'	9	8	89%
Krys Szczygiel	Polish 'C'	15	13	87%
Phil Turton	S&P 'G'	6	5	83%
Diane Taylor	Kingfisher 'K'	6	5	83%
Chris Speight	Springfield 'C'	12	10	83%

see and it's really encouraging to see more ladies coming into the game.

For me it is a big surprise to see **Birch Copse 'B'** struggling near the foot of the table. Last season they finished mid-table despite the vast majority of their points coming from the bat of Roy Hull. With captain Melanie Griffiths dropping down a division I thought they might mount a promotion challenge but so far this has not materialised.

Roy and Melanie have yet to play together; Melanie has played in the home games and Roy in the away ones. An opening week draw at BBC Club has been followed 4 - 6 defeats against Springfield 'C' and Springfield 'E' and a 2 - 8 drubbing by OLOP 'G'. Roy is unbeaten with 6 wins from 6, Melanie has 3 from 6. Newcomer Trevor Davis has scored in each of his two matches. Chris Dummett and Elizabeth Hull have each won 1 from 9. Oliver Ruchpaul is yet to make an appearance.

Springfield 'D' are currently Twyford's poor relations with just a point from a draw Sonning Sports 'B' to show for their efforts. Defeats have come against Kingfisher 'K' (0 - 10), Tilehurst Meths 'D' (1 - 9) and Polish 'C' (2 - 8).

Tim Carr (3 wins) and Aidan Simmons and captain Nigel Outhwaite (2 wins each) have played three matches. David Hampshire won one set in his two matches and Robert Atack failed to score in his one appearance.

Milestone 'D' have performed reasonably well despite their four defeats, especially as they had the weakest team on paper. Ian Strong struggled in his debut season but has improved this season with a 50% average to date. The other three squad members are all new players. Tony Hayden (3 matches) and Neil Kelly (1 match) all have a 33% average whilst Abhineet Prasad scored his win in a narrow 4 - 6 defeat against second-placed Springfield 'E'. Other defeats were against Sonning Sports 'B' (4 - 6), OLOP 'G' (3 - 7) and Kingfisher 'K' (1 - 9).

John Cunningham Youth Division

by Danny Ricks

Table tennis is back! After a summer of little or no competitive action for most players, the season is at last back under way. This of course means the return of the John Cunningham Youth division, and the young players who will no doubt grace the Reading league for many years to come.

This season appears to differ from previous ones in more than one way. In recent seasons there have been one or two teams pulling well clear at the top of the league. This has not been the case so far this season, with each team having already tasted defeat at least once. This will undoubtedly make for a thoroughly entertaining (and hopefully close) race for the title. The Youth division differs from the senior league, in that every set won counts as 1 point for your team.

Currently topping the table are the **Tigers**. Four wins, one draw, and one defeat has made them the most consistent team, and they have amassed an impressive 44 points. They also boast one of the largest squads, with 7 players having already turned out for them. A few of their players are performing very well in the averages as well. Thomas Perkins is the only player who still holds a 100% record that has played more than one match. Joseph Barraclough has also played well, winning 10 of his 12 matches. Other players include Harry Sayer, Oliver Sayer, and Aiden Collymore all of which have contributed well to their team. Katie Shepherd and Scarlett Jones are flying the flag for the girls, and doing a great job of it too, both currently sitting on 83%.

Panthers currently sit in second place on 38 points, just 6 behind the Tigers. Camran Nesari has been their star player, losing just 1 set and winning 14, putting him on 93%. Bill Hayden has backed him up ably with 75%, whilst Saif Mayer is on 40%.



Spartans have recovered from a poor start to leap up to third in the table. They lost their first two matches, but have responded well with 4 wins back to back. Leo Thomis and Jamie Filby have been their best players, each achieving in the region of 70%. Harry Munro has dropped just 1 set in his 2 matches, whilst Keyan Ghods has found the going a little tougher, with one win from his nine matches.

In fourth are the **Jaguars**. They've started the season well, with their only defeat coming against the Tigers. Joe Will has been their stand out player, taking 80% from his 15 sets. Daniel Bernie has been fairly consistent, whilst Aidan Collymore and Oliver Scott have contributed well to their team.

Just a further point behind on 34 points are the **Trojans**. Matches against first placed Tigers and third placed Spartans have accounted for their two losses so far this season, but other than that they have performed well. Gareth Wheatley has performed best, winning 72% of his matches, which when you consider the teams they've played, is a decent return.



JOE BARRACLOUGH

TEAM PLACINGS

	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Tigers	6	4	1	1	44	16	44
2	Panthers	6	3	2	1	38	21	38
3	Spartans	6	4	0	2	36	23	36
4	Jaguars	6	4	1	1	34	26	34
5	Trojans	6	4	0	2	33	27	33
6	Knights	4	2	0	2	21	18	21
7	Lions	6	1	0	5	21	39	21
8	Avengers	5	2	0	3	20	30	20
9	Attackers	6	0	0	6	11	48	11
10	Raiders	3	1	0	2	10	20	10
n/a	Eagles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
n/a	Strikers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	P	W	%
Thomas Perkins	9	9	100.00 %
Camran Nesari	14	13	92.86 %
Scarlett Jones	6	5	83.33 %
Harry Munro	6	5	83.33 %
George Strong	6	5	83.33 %
Katie Shepherd	6	5	83.33 %
Joe Barraclough	12	10	83.33 %
Joe Will	15	12	80.00 %
Alex Duggan	9	7	77.78 %
Bill Hayden	12	9	75.00 %
Jamie Filby	14	10	71.43 %
Gareth Wheatley	17	12	70.59 %

Felix Thomis and John Sampson have added points here and there, each sitting on around 40%.

There's a large drop of 12 points to the next placed team. In fairness to the **Knights** they have played only 4 matches, whilst all the teams above them have played 6. Because of this, they are some way off the pace, despite having three players performing well. George Strong and Alex Duggan have 83% and 77% respectively, while Nathan McCaugherty has won 6 of his 12 sets.

Also on 21 points are the **Lions**. However, unlike the Knights, they have played the full 6 matches. Balazs Horanyi has been their most consistent players winning just over 50% of his matches whilst experienced junior Austin Ellerton has won 7 of his 18 sets. Hassin Khan has struggled thus far, winning just 2 of his 12.

In eighth place, on 20 points are the **Avengers**. They



LAST SEASON'S BATMEN - DANIEL BERNIE & JOE WILL

Bringing up the rear at the moment are the **Raiders**. The table has a rather false look at the moment however, as Raiders have only played three matches, and will undoubtedly climb the table when they've played the outstanding fixtures. Adam Winterbottom has won 5 of his 9 sets, whilst Sachin Dougall and Vaishnav Thayyil have 33% apiece.

Wendy Porter is yet again running the Youth division this season, and with the help of Phil Saunders, is doing a great job.

Danny Ricks

have struggled to pick up consistent points thus far with none of their players on more than 50%. Raphael Thorn has the highest average (46%) whilst both Chris Brant and Jamie Legg have 33%.

Attackers are currently ninth on 11 points. They are the only team that is still winless and six defeats from six matches does not bode well for their season's prospects. Daniel Knott has done best when he's played, winning 4 from his 9 sets. Jack Hopkins and Lukas Dahmann, have both struggled to pick up points, each winning 3 so far.

MARIA TSAPTSINOS IS UK SCHOOL GAMES CHAMPION

16th September 2013

It appeared as though the tide had turned with Wat winning the crucial points in game four,

The Abbey Schools' Maria Tsaptsinos emerged as the 2013 Sainsbury's UK School Games Girls' Singles Table Tennis Champion in Sheffield this weekend after she capitalised on opponent Yuki Wat's semi final giant-killing of top seed and Senior England International Tin-Tin Ho.

Second seed Tsaptsinos, a regular England Junior international herself, took full advantage of her opportunity to secure the gold medal. After beating Lois Peake in the semi-final, Tsaptsinos took upon her task with her usual exuberant gusto to storm the first game of the final 11-5. A shell-shocked Wat was unable to recover in the second game as she conceded a 2-0 lead to Tsaptsinos, but she was at least able to give herself a lifeline in the third with an 11-3 game to reduce the deficit to one.



DAN McTIERNAN WITH MARIA TSAPTSINOS

but an amazing recovery by Tsaptsinos from 10-7 down saw her level at 10-10 - much to the delight of a vociferous support. Despite missing out on two championship points, she took a third at 14-13 to seal a dramatic title and her first-ever School Games individual gold medal. Tsaptsinos later dedicated her victory to long time coach and mentor Brian Halliday who has not been well lately.

Tsaptsinos also picked up a silver medal in the Team event with England South West. The South West team narrowly beat Northern Ireland 4-3 in the semi finals but lost out in the final to top seeds England South East by a 4-2 score line. The well fancied South East team included both Ho, Wat and Peake.

Waingel's College pupil Daniel McTiernan played a major role for the South West boys team winning six out of his twelve

matches and helping the team to a respectable fifth place finish including fine wins over teams from Scotland (4-3), Northern Ireland and England North West (both 4-1).

In the Singles event on Sunday, McTiernan enjoyed his best win of the weekend, coming back from two sets down against Joe Pilkington to snatch victory in the deciding fifth set in dramatic fashion. He was unlucky to draw both the number one ranked Welsh and Scottish boys in his Group so did not progress further. despite taking sets off both.

Sixteen year old Tsapsinos will be playing for the Woodley based Kingfisher Club in this season's Junior British League. McTiernan will be playing for Earley's Our Lady of Peace Table Tennis Club in the Reading & District League and Junior British League this season with another fourteen year old, Gus Thomis, who himself finished as runner-up in the Milton Keynes 2 Star Under 16 event this month.



DAN McTIERNAN IN ACTION

OLOP number one Daniel McTiernan finished the weekend with eight individual wins out of ten matches and was well supported by second ranked Sam Ricks (6/10 wins) and young Gus Thomis, who was making his debut in this competition, with three victories. This is the first time in four years the club has selected three locally based players who all play in Division 1 of the Reading & District League.

Despite both being only 14 years old, Daniel and Gus have been playing at the OLOP Club for seven years now and are the product of the excellent youth development set up at the Earley based Club.

East Reading's other ETTA Premier Table Tennis Club, Kingfisher TTC, were also represented by local players in the boys competition, further demonstrating the strength in depth of young talent in the district.

OLOP JUNIORS ARE SECOND IN JUNIOR BRITISH LEAGUE DIV 2

14th October

The Our Lady of Peace Table Tennis Club (OLOP TTC) are represented by Daniel McTiernan, Sam Ricks and Gus Thomis in this season's Junior British League, the country's premier junior club competition.

With coach Bradley King again providing invaluable assistance, the team got off to a fantastic start last weekend with three wins over Halton TTC, Bankfield TTC (both Cheshire) and Halifax TTC plus a draw against Wood Green TTC (West Midlands). OLOP TTC currently lie in second place in Division 2 at the halfway mark and are well poised to challenge leaders Northfield TTC (Cleveland) when the final round of matches are played in February.



DAN McTIERNAN, GUS THOMIS AND SAM RICKS