

April/May 2022

FULL END-OF-SEASON EDITION

READING & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Editor: Derek Wavell



Winners of the 2021-22 Team Handicap tournament - Sonning Common and Peppard 'D':
Jon Abbott, Danny Dockree, Mark Jones and Angus Jones.

CONTENTS

Please click on a heading or white ball to go where you require

[Chairman Speaks](#)

[Secretary's Notes](#)

[Prize Presentation](#)

[AGM](#)

[LDKO Cup](#)

[Team Handicap](#)

[Reading Closed](#)



Type ALT + left arrow to return

At last! The full Newsletter, covering all of the past season.

Some of you may have seen a 'first cut' of the Newsletter, released early last month, that covered events and Divisions that had not been delayed by COVID.

Now you can catch up on the rest - which includes the whole of Division Two, plus reports on the two team competitions and an interesting overview by Nigel Maltby.

Derek Wavell





Notes from our Chairman

Hello Everybody

How time flies, no sooner did I write my first notes I am now writing my final ones.

As I see it the season has gone well with very few problems and what we did have was easy to sort out and this was because of my GREAT committee who have worked hard and put a lot of their time to make sure that you can keep up to



date either by the website or the newsletter So I thank you all on behalf of the members.

I have always tried to do my best in the 7 and half years I have been your Chairman and I have to say it has been a privilege doing it. If I am not elected or stand down I want to wish you all a great summer and keep safe. If I can play again I hope to see some of you next season.

All the best

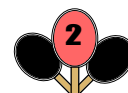
Derek Harrison

2021-22 Presentation Evening and AGM

The 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at the Royal British Legion club in Downing Road, Tilehurst on Wednesday 22nd JUNE 2022.

The meeting will be preceded by the Awards Presentation for the 2021/22 season, starting at 7 p.m.

The AGM is expected to start at around 8pm.





DIVISION ONE

by Nigel Maltby

Mark Banks has once again asked if I can do the Division 1 report, so here is the end of season summary.

Kingfisher 'A' win the title at a canter, 27 points ahead of nearest challengers Our Lady of Peace 'A'. They were even able to cross the line despite having to play many of their last matches with only two players. So well done for still getting some sort of team out and obviously even two play-



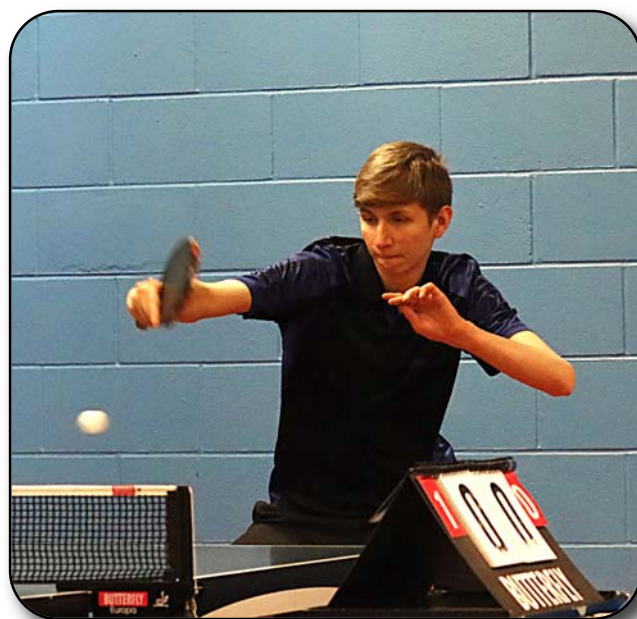
Adams (100%) with 21 wins from 21 were their main men, with Darren Jones not far behind on 94% - losing just 2 of his 35 matches – in fact the only 2 matches he lost were both against OLOP's Sam Ricks. Ross Saxby (81%) missed much of the end of the campaign and Dmitry Kakhmov (62%) made up their squad and they were worthy winners ahead of old rivals Our Lady of Peace 'A'.

Our Lady of Peace 'A' will no doubt be gnashing their teeth a little at not being able to push Kingfisher harder, let alone not finishing above them. Sam Ricks with 14 wins from 17 (82%), Ian



HARI GEHLOT OF KINGFISHER 'A'

ers was more than enough for most opposition given the undoubted quality of their squad. **Hari Gehlot** (100%), with 46 wins from 46 and Martin



MO COOK OF OLOP 'A'

Cole (66%) and Steve Murgatroyd (%) and new recruit Phil Davenport (43%) had good seasons, but they were outdone by young Mo Cook who gained an exceptional 29 wins from 37 (78%). This quintet involved themselves in some very friendly inter-team banter during their matches and had more than enough ability within their squad for most teams. A 9-1 defeat of Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' ended any chases they had, although by then they had already also lost 9-1 to Kingfisher 'A' in January – so it was pretty much game over at that point. Time to re-group for next season.



PHIL DAVENPORT OF OLOP 'A'



		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Kingfisher A	18	18	0	0	153	27	153
2	OLOP A	18	14	1	3	126	54	126
3	SC&P A	18	10	2	6	102	78	102
4	Kingfisher D	18	10	1	7	97	83	97
5	Kingfisher B	18	8	1	9	87	93	87
6	Kingfisher C	18	6	2	10	84	96	84
7	Tidmarsh A	18	5	2	11	73	107	73
8	SC&P C	18	6	2	10	72	108	72
9	SC&P B	18	5	2	11	65	115	65
10	Tilehurst RBL A	18	1	1	16	41	139	41

to have gained 3rd place, but none the less a 4th place finish is a notable achievement. Graham Mendick (80%) and Julian Telford (57%) were their main men. In the first half Jordan Huang (38%) was an excellent player, despite that low average, as was post Christmas replacement Hugo Yick (67%). Catherine Venning (19%) found the going harder than her teammates but will have continued to benefit greatly from the advice and coaching offered by both Graham and Julian.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' finish 3rd after a mid-season wobble saw them teetering on the brink of entering the bottom half of the table. However an end of season flourish saw wins against Kingfisher 'D' 8-2 where Gary and Neil both got fine maximums and OLOP 'A' incredibly 9-1 where Neil and Jason both starred with trebles, and these combined with the welcome return of Gary Morgan to the team saw them 3rd. Neil Hurford (76%) as always gave his all in every match, Jason Roberts (58%) had more ups than downs this season while skipper Malcolm Gregory (27%) just enjoys playing, although frustrated at times at losing silly points. Gary 13 wins from 16 (81%) made that welcome return late on and hopefully he will be up and running for the start of next season which could see them challenge OLOP for the runners up spot.



GRAHAM MENDICK OF KINGFISHER 'D'

Kingfisher 'D' give their all in every match, in fact in every point! They will be a little disappointed not

5th place goes to **Kingfisher 'B'**. A good all round trio of Phil Mead (68%), Nigel Keedy (62%) and Alan Cummings (45%) kept them well clear of any danger and they will be very happy to have finished in the top half. Nigel particularly must be very pleased with his season's play and a 62% winning average in Reading's top division is a fine achievement. Alan I think too had a decent season and will also be pleased, although maybe would have been even happier with 50% or more! Mike Stanners battled hard but found wins hard to come by with just 3 from his 27 matches played, Pete Bradley, Simon Barter and Cath Venning succumbing to Mike's battling qualities.



JULIAN TELFORD OF KINGFISHER 'D'

And so to the bottom half of the table. **Kingfisher 'C'** looked in some trouble as the season drew to a close, 2nd from bottom, albeit with matches in hand. A 10-0 walkover against Tilehurst RBL 'A' helped boost their final position, but in truth this



team were far too good to go down. Adrian Cretu (despite me doing the double over him!) is a very decent player, Emanuel Sandu has an unbelievable forehand attack, smashing the ball past his



EMANUEL SANDU OF KINGFISHER 'C'

opponents despite the ball barely being higher than the net! Incredible! Shreesh Gupta seems far more laid back on the table, but don't be fooled, he is also a very decent player. It is a mystery to me why all three of these players have relatively modest averages with Emanuel (51%) Adrian (46%) and Shreesh (46%) and that can also include Daniel McTiernan (42%). Emma Blachford didn't play too often but managed 6 wins from 21 for 29%.

Tidmarsh 'A' never really looked in serious trouble of going down. Anthony Baker (44%) was consistently good and Lee Calcutt (47%) had far more good nights than bad this season. Simon Barter (25%) battles hard and had several good wins with perhaps his 11-8 7-11 11-8 12-10 win over Alan Cummings the best. Duncan Groves (39%) was back in more regular action than in previous seasons. The teams place in division 1 was all but confirmed after they beat SC&P 'B' 9-1 at the beginning of February, Anthony, Lee and Simon all in awesome form that night.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' had five players all keenly determined to improve and give their all in every match. This attitude in no small part is why they have avoided the drop, by a comfortable margin in the end. New recruit Ed Lush (82%) was

a notable factor in the teams success, but Matt Isherwood (42%), Matt Stone (33%), Denise Weller (14%) and Tim Raby (24%) are all incredible difficult to defeat. Tim probably had the match of his life against my own SC&P 'B' team, winning all three, including a victory in expedite against Simon Berry 11-5 15-13 11-6. Ed met his match against Kingfisher D's Graham Mendick where the two fought out some very close contests – the one at Kingfisher I had the pleasure of having one eye on with Graham winning 2-11 11-13 11-7 11-6 11-9 to avenge an earlier season loss where Ed won 5-1 11-8 6-11 11-4 11-9.

My own team, **Sonning Common & Peppard 'B'** at halfway were only 6 points off 4th spot and that was the target as we entered January. However it was not to be. Only drawing with Tilehurst RBL 'A' and a heavy 9-1 loss at Tidmarsh 'A' soon had us in trouble and those results, plus losing Jamie Barlow due to illness for a significant part of the 2nd half of the season soon saw us struggling to stay out of the bottom two. As other teams improved our own fortunes spiralled downwards. A 6-4 win against Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' was good, but not good enough, we needed more

LEADING AVERAGES 1

Player	Team	P	W	%
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher A	46	46	100.00%
Martin Adams	Kingfisher A	21	21	100.00%
Darren Jones	Kingfisher A	35	33	94.29%
Sam Ricks	OLOP A	17	14	82.35%
Ed Lush	SC&P C	39	32	82.05%
Ross Saxby	Kingfisher A	16	13	81.25%
Gary Morgan	SC&P A	16	13	81.25%
Graham Mendick	Kingfisher D	54	43	79.63%
Mo Cook	OLOP A	37	29	78.38%
Neil Hurford	SC&P A	42	32	76.19%
Philip Mead	Kingfisher B	41	28	68.29%
Murgy Murgatroyd	OLOP A	46	31	67.39%
Hugo Yick	Kingfisher D	15	10	66.67%
Jamie Barlow	SC&P B	38	25	65.79%
Ian Cole	OLOP A	35	23	65.71%
Nigel Keedy	Kingfisher B	26	16	61.54%

– and thanks to Tim Raby's unbelievable maximum we didn't get it.

Relegation was confirmed after heavy losses to Our Lady of Peace 'A', Kingfisher 'D', Kingfisher 'A' and finally Kingfisher 'C'. Jamie started the season really well with an average in the 70's for most of the season. In the end he had to settle for 66%



- still very good for this talented player. Defensive warhorse Simon Berry troubled many and finished on 45%, Brian Meheux played almost every match for his 26% while I had an up and down season to finish on 23%.

Tilehurst RBL 'A' I don't think ever got off bottom place, although they must have been joint leaders before a ball was hit! They had hoped 'signing' Keith Winter (44%) would have boosted their chances of a higher finish as well as giving them an additional player to add to their squad. The latter worked well enough, the former obviously didn't! His addition couldn't prevent another season of struggling for points with Jon Willis (24%) struggling for fitness and form at times while ever reliable Peter Bradley played almost every match and always gives his best. Unfortunately for him he could only manage 2 wins from 46 this season, beating me 11-9 11-7 11-6 and in the final match beating Tim Raby 16-14 in the fifth.

Week 18

Kingfisher 'D' moved up to 3rd place after beating Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' in a re-arranged fixture 7-3, Graham Mendick and Hugo Yick with trebles with Graham winning a titanic battle with Sonning's Ed Lush 2-11 11-13 11-7 11-6 11-9, while Cath Venning picked up a victory against Denise Weller 3-11 11-13 6-11 11-6 11-2. Alan Cummings and Nigel Keedy were in good form as Kingfisher 'B' won 7-3 against Sonning Common & Peppard 'B', while an Ed Lush treble saw Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' beat Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' 7-3, Matt Isherwood getting them off to the perfect start with a thrilling 11-13 11-3 11-13 11-7 14-12 win over Jason Roberts.

Graham Mendick managed a treble against Our Lady of Peace 'A' winning all three of his games in 5th set deciders as Kingfisher 'D' grabbed a 5-5 draw, Graham and Julian Telford winning the key doubles set 8-11 11-8 9-11 11-6 11-8 against Ian Cole and Steve Murgatroyd.

Week 19

Graham Mendick and Hugo Yick both got maximums as Kingfisher 'D' kept up their recent good run with a 8-2 trouncing of Tidmarsh 'A'. Lee Calcutt and Tony Baker both managed wins over Cath Venning for Tidmarsh, Lee beating Cath 11-

4 7-11 11-9 6-11 13-11. Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' were in top form as they managed a fine 9-1 win over second placed Our Lady of Peace 'A', Neil Hurford and Jason Roberts both getting maximums, while for OLOP Steve Murgatroyd just held off Gary Morgan to win 10-12 11-8 11-7 14-12.

Week 20

Gary Morgan and Neil Hurford both got trebles as Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' won 8-2 at Kingfisher 'D', Kingfisher's Julian Telford beating Jason Roberts 13-11 11-9 21-19 while Graham Mendick also grabbed a win over Jason. Mo Cook,



IAN COLE OF OLOP 'A'

Steve Murgatroyd and Phil Davenport all got maximums as Our Lady of Peace 'A' won 10-0 against bottom side Tilehurst RBL 'A', while Phil Mead's hat trick and a double from Nigel Keedy saw Kingfisher 'B' triumph 7-3 at Tidmarsh 'A'.

Week 21

Two man Kingfisher 'A' still managed a 7-3 win over Kingfisher 'B' with trebles from Hari Gehlot and Darren Jones, Darren just holding off Alan Cummings to win 10-12 11-4 9-11 11-9 11-7. Kingfisher 'D' moved back up to 3rd place after cruising to a 10-0 win at Tilehurst RBL 'A', Julian



Telford, Graham Mendick and Hugo Yick all getting 3-straight maximums.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' managed a 7-3 win over two man Tidmarsh 'A' thanks mainly to a Gary Morgan treble while Sonning Common & Peppard 'B' beat Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' 6-4. Simon Berry and Brian Meheux both won twice for the B team, while Tim Raby had an excellent night for the 'C' team earning an 11-5 15-13 11-6 win over Simon Berry and beating Nigel Maltby 11-9 11-5 10-12 11-9 in the final set of the night.

Week 22

Kingfisher 'A' clinched the division 1 title after their two man team of Hari Gehlot and Martin Adams won 7-3 at Tidmarsh 'A'. Kingfisher 'C' picked up 4 useful points in their battle against the drop, but still ended up losing 6-4 to club mates Kingfisher 'B', Nigel Keedy keeping up his hot streak for the 'B' team with a fine treble. Jason Roberts and Gary Morgan maximums saw Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' close in on third spot after winning 8-2 against relegated Tilehurst RBL 'A'.

An Ed Lush treble helped Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' draw 5-5 at Kingfisher 'B', Matt Isherwood beating Alan Cummings and Matt Stone defeating Phil Mead 11-9 7-11 11-8 4-11 11-9. Kingfisher 'D' won 8-2 at Sonning Common & Peppard 'B', Graham Mendick recovering from 0-2 down to defeat Simon Berry 7-11 8-11 11-3 11-3 11-8 after earlier holding off a good display from Nigel Maltby to win 12-14 11-8 5-11 11-5 11-9. Kingfisher 'C' picked up 4 good points despite a 6-4 defeat at Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' to ease their relegation fears. Tidmarsh 'A' fought back from 1-3 down to win 6-4 at Tilehurst RBL 'A', Tony Baker with a good maximum.

Final Rearranged Matches

Hari Gehlot and Darren Jones proved too strong for a Sonning Common & Peppard 'B' team as Kingfisher 'A' ran out 7-3 winners in division 1 and the duo also triumphed 7-3 against Kingfisher 'C' to end their championship winning season undefeated. An Ed Lush maximum helped steer Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' to a 6-4 win at



ADRIAN CRETU OF KINGFISHER 'C'

Tilehurst RBL 'A', supported by two good wins from Matt Isherwood. Pete Bradley managed to win a thriller against Tim Raby for Tilehurst 11-6 4-11 6-11 11-5 16-14.

Kingfisher 'C' were in awesome end of season form as they trounced Sonning Common & Peppard 'B' 9-1 with hat tricks from Emanuel Sandu and Shreesh Gupta. Shreesh looked in some trouble against Brian Meheux before recovering to win 7-11 6-11 11-9 11-9 11-6. Adrian Cretu should have also had a maximum, but allowed Nigel Maltby to beat him 11-9 11-5 11-6 in the last set of the night.

Finally Mark has looked after division 1 for a number of seasons now and I think he would probably appreciate another volunteer to come forward for next season. So if you think you would be interested just let me know. The job entails entering the results onto the website, producing a brief report for the press secretary each week end providing 4 newsletter reports throughout the season. Nothing too onerous and ideal if you are actually playing in that division as you get to see all the results before anyone else! Oh and you can also attend RDTTA Committee meetings if you wish and have an impact in how the league is run.

Enjoy the Summer and I hope to see you back across the table in September.

Nigel



LOWER DIVISIONS KNOCKOUT TOURNAMENT

by Louise Forster

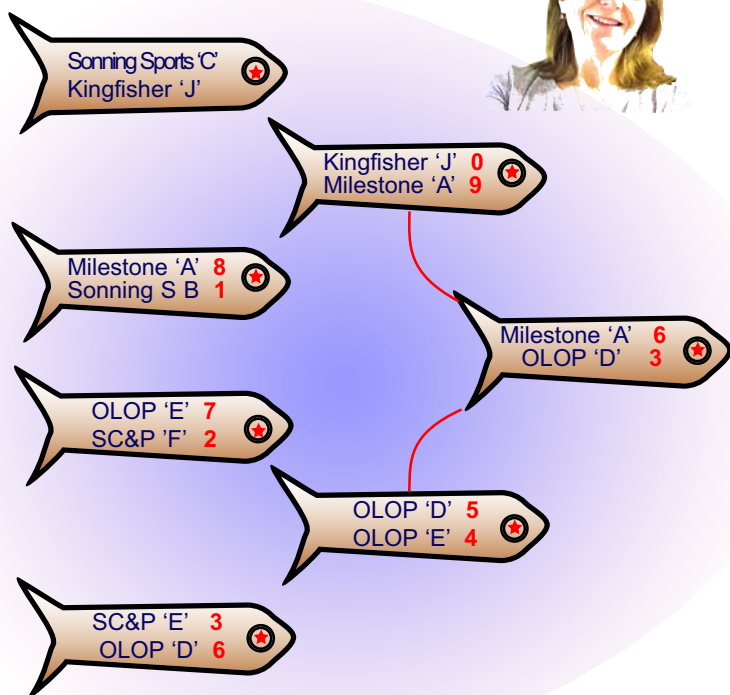


Back in September we had 15 teams starting out in this tournament, and eleven matches later the final was played on 27th April between Milestone 'A' and OLOP 'D'.

But first, a little update on the semi finals. The first semi final saw an easy win by Milestone 'A' (Sachin Mundra, Zoltan Kelemen and Oliver Bonser) with a 9 – 0 win over Kingfisher 'J' (Miguel Caballero, Peter Bennett and Terry Hosking). The second semi final was a local derby between OLOP 'D' and OLOP 'E' with OLOP 'D' taking a close 5 – 4 win. This one proved to be a very tight match with no one player winning all three or losing all three.

The final was held at Milestone on April 27th, this was just two days after Milestone 'A' had lost in the Team Handicap final but second time lucky, and they secured a 6 – 3 win over OLOP 'D'. Milestone team members were Zoltan Kelemen, Sachin Mundra and Oliver Bonser, and OLOP 'D' played Morgan Sykes, Simon Brookes and Mark Carless. Player of the match was Zoltan Kelemen who won all three, but had a very close final contest against Morgan Sykes, winning 12-10 in the final game.

Congratulations to Milestone 'A' on the win, and thank you to all the teams that took part in this year's event.



LOWER DIVISIONS KNOCK-OUT FINAL: OLOP 'D'(SIMON BROOKES, MORGAN SYKES AND MARK CARLESS) WERE DEFEATED BY MILESTONE 'A' (OLIVER BONSER, ZOLTAN KELEMEN AND SACHIN MUNDRA)





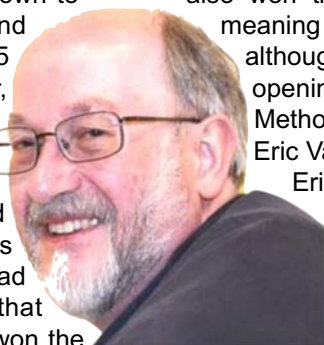
DIVISION TWO

by *Martin Wetherell*

Well, the battle to win Division 2 went down to the wire, with Reading FC 'A' and Sonning Sports 'A' both having won 125 sets, in their previous 19 matches. However, Reading FC 'A' held top spot since they had won more matches, which meant that Sonning Sports 'A' had to better Reading FC's result, in their final match. Since Reading FC 'A' played their final match on Monday, their match scores were not published until Sonning Sports 'A' had played their match on Thursday, meaning that Sonning Sports did not know whether they had won the Division until they submitted their match results. After confirming their final position, I did wonder whether there would be a lock-in at the Sonning Sports venue, as they celebrated winning both the Division 2 and Division 4 Titles !

At the other end of the table, the bottom two places were also only confirmed this week, after Tilehurst Methodists 'A' fielded their best player, who subsequently helped the team accrue sufficient points to ensure that they were safe from relegation. Following Tidmarsh 'C's last match, the final table showed that Kingfisher 'G' finished the Season in 10th place, 7 points ahead of Tidmarsh 'C' in last place. However, the competitiveness of the Division was such that even though Tidmarsh 'C' were bottom of the table, they still won 4 matches, and throughout the Season I received a number of unexpected results, when the "bookies" favourites lost a match that I had expected them to win.

The Division's star player was undoubtedly Mike Childs (Reading FC 'A') who played in every match and was top of the Divisional Averages, only losing 4 sets all Season. Mike



also won the Player of the Match award 16 times, meaning that his team mates hardly got a look-in, although Wayne Alleyne won his only PoM in the opening match of the Season, against Tilehurst Methodists 'A', when he won all three, defeating Eric Van Looy, which was one of only two defeats Eric had all Season. Paul Savage (Sonnings Sports 'A') was the only other person who played in every match and contributed 5 PoMs towards his team's total of 16, one behind the total for Mike's team ! Eric Van Looy was second in the Divisional

Averages, with the same win percentage as Mike, but having played in exactly half the number of matches. Nick Sears (Sonnings Sports 'A') was third, Danny Dockree (Sonnings Common & Peppard 'D') was fourth, while Roger Pritchard (Kingfisher 'F') was in fifth, these last three players also competing in most of their matches this Season.

As expected, the top teams also had the most successful Doubles pairings, with Nick Sears & Paul Savage (Sonnings Sports 'A') topping the Doubles Averages, losing just twice in 19 matches, Bob Woodmansee subbing for Nick once and, more importantly, winning in Nick's absence. Mike Childs & Wayne Alleyne (Reading FC 'A') were in second place, losing three of their 13 matches, Mike also partnering Jazz Dhillon in 5 matches, with a 100% win rate, and partnering Tony Alleyne in the other 2 matches, winning once. Binit Bhaskar & Pradeep Desh (Our Lady of Peace 'C') finished in third place, having won nine of the 13 matches where they partnered each other.

Mike Childs (Reading FC 'A') topped the PoM table, with 16 awards, Danny Dockree (Sonnings Common & Peppard 'D'), who played in all bar one match, was in 2nd place with 12 awards, Nick Sears (Sonnings Sports 'A'), who also only missed one match, was in 3rd place with 11 awards (his teammate Paul Savage ensuring he missed out on a further 5 awards !), while Eric Van Looy (Tilehurst Methodists 'A') was in 4th place with 8 awards.

Kingfisher 'E' were sitting in 7th place and had a further 6 matches to play. Unfortunately, their first match was away at table toppers Reading FC 'A', which they lost 9 - 1, Luca Bianchi saving the whitewash when he defeated Wayne Alleyne in his final set of the evening. However, his teammates Stephen Leggett and Abhay Gore were unable to savour victory, Stephen winning just one game all evening although Abhay had a tremendous contest with Tony Alleyne, losing 12-10 11-6 10-12 9-11 11-13 in one of the closest sets this Season. Their next match was at home, when Clive Gold, Andrew Adair and Abhay shared the points with Our Lady of Peace 'B', although victory was denied when Dave Godfrey snatched a late win, defeating Clive 6-11 11-4 11-4 7-11 12-10. However, there were some pulsating contests, Andrew working hard for his two wins, defeating Dave 11-9 6-11 11-9 10-12 11-9 in his first set and beating Darek Kaminski 12-10 7-11 12-14 14-12 11-9 in his



MICHAEL CHILDS



final set, Clive needing a 12-10 win in the 5th game to overcome Alistair Richardson, while Abhay lost to Darek in 5 games, but won in 4 games against Dave and 3 games against Alistair, to ensure at least the draw.

Calamity struck in their next match, against Club mates Kingfisher 'G', Clive suffering a serious injury in the first set of the evening, necessitating a visit to A&E, and an end to his Season. Hopefully, Clive is making a full and speedy recovery and he will be fit to play again next Season. However, this was a major set-back, since although Andrew managed to defeat both Neil Dellar and Hamid



ANDREW ADAIR OF KINGFISHER 'E'

Mohseni (8-11 9-11 11-7 11-3 16-14) and Abhay beat Satej Jayant 11-9 11-9 11-9, this was not enough to compensate for the conceded sets and the team lost 3 - 7. The following week, Stephen, Andrew and Luca were selected for the visit by Sonning Common & Peppard 'D' and their eyes must have lit up when their opponents could only field two players. However, Stephen was the only winner, beating Jon Abbott 11-6 11-8 8-11 11-9, Luca losing to the same player over 5 games, and with Danny Dockree staying undefeated, the match was lost 4 - 6.

Next week was another home match, and the same three players were again selected for the visit by Tidmarsh 'C', another team who could only field two players. However, this time they did benefit as Stephen only lost to Ian Wu, defeating Simon Craig 11-7 11-8 9-11 11-9, and while Andrew did lose to both opponents, taking Ian to 5 games and Simon to 4 games, Luca was undefeated, which meant that the match was won 6 - 4. For the final match of the Season, Stephen, Abhay and Luca travelled to play Sonning Sports 'A', another title contender, and although they each beat Bob Woodmansee, none of them managed to defeat either Nick Sears or Paul Savage, with Luca the sole player to take a game off them. Luca & Steven tried out a new Doubles pairing, a brave decision against the Divisional leaders, but it was not to be and the match ended 7 - 3.

Kingfisher 'E' finished in 7th place, having climbed to 6th place at one point, winning one of their last 6 matches, drawing another and losing the other four. Their best result of the Season was the 9 - 1 defeat of Tilehurst Methodists 'A', which included one of their few Doubles victories, Abhay & Stephen ending with 50%, having lost when they played their second match together. Andrew & Clive matched this result, winning their first match together and then losing the next match. During the Season, Kingfisher 'E' actually fielded 9 different Doubles pairings, with Clive & Luca the only undefeated pair, after their one outing, although Clive & Stephen finished higher in the table since they won two of their 5 matches.

Kingfisher 'F' were in 4th place, with 5 matches still to play, as they entered the final stretch. They started with a 5 - 5 draw, away at Our Lady of Peace 'C', Roger Pritchard putting in a Captain's performance to record a maximum, his toughest contest probably his 6-11 11-7 6-11 11-2 11-9 win over Morgan Sykes, who was playing up from Division 3. Although Eapen John was unable to add to his tally, losing all three with the final game in each set spookily ending 11-6, Ajai Kamath won twice, defeating Morgan in his opening set, then defeating Binit Bhaskar 11-2 13-11 9-11 11-9 before Pradeep Desh denied him a treble, in his final set. The same three players had another away trip the following week, this time visiting Sonning Common & Peppard 'D'. After a long evening, with 40 games played, the result was another 5 - 5 draw, thanks to doubles from Roger and Ajai, with Eapen earning a crucial win with a 9-11 14-12 11-3 9-11 11-5 victory over Jon Abbott, in his first set. Ajai followed up Eapen's win with two of his own, beating Mark Jones in 4 games, then overcoming Ajai 10-12 7-11 11-7 11-5 11-9 before a loss to Danny Dockree denied him his treble. Roger had won his earlier contest with Mark Jones, but his win against Jon, in the final set of the evening, was necessary to ensure the draw.

Eapen and Ajai required the services of Theo Kniep, who was playing up from Division 3, for their home match



EAPEN JOHN OF KINGFISHER 'F'



against Tilehurst Methodists 'A' and Theo didn't let them down, narrowly losing his opener to Eric Van Looy 11-5 7-11 11-9 7-11 9-11, but bouncing back to defeat both Bill Stamatiou and Masoud Ghabachi. Unfortunately Eapen was unable to get over the line, losing in the fifth game in each of his three sets, but Ajai recorded one win, in beating Masoud in his opening set and with Ajai & Theo just losing the Doubles 11-6 11-7 9-11 7-11 10-12, the match ended 3 - 7. Well, I'm not sure what time the match ended, but with 7 sets requiring 5 games to determine the winner, I am certain it was pretty late !

Roger rejoined Eapen and Ajai for their trip to Tidmarsh 'B' and Roger was again in top form, defeating Chris Webb, Barry Carter and Dale Ballard in straight sets to record another maximum. Eapen's best chance was against Chris, but Chris continued the form he had shown in beating Ajai, to deny Eapen a win, so although Ajai defeated Barry 11-8 7-11 5-11 11-9 11-9 in the 10th set, to record his one win, it was too late to secure the draw and the match ended in a 6 - 4 win for Tidmarsh. Their final match was against Title contenders Sonning Sports 'A' and Stephen Leggett, Abhay Gore and Luca Bianchi were selected to play. It started well, with Stephen beating Bob Woodmansee, however Abhay, Luca and Stephen then lost the next three sets, before Luca defeated Bob. The team then lost the next four sets, before Abhay won the team's third point by defeating Bob.

This result meant that the team finished 5th, winning once, drawing twice and losing the other two matches. During the Season they lost two of their squad, with Rick Leachman getting injured and John Little moving away, which meant that, on occasion, they needed to field a youngster from Division 3. However, Ryan Chung, Theo Kniep and Ethan Zeng didn't disappoint, with Theo eventually playing up three times, winning 7 of his 9 singles, while Ryan and Ethan each made one appearance, both winning twice. The team's best win was 8 - 2, which they



ROGER PRITCHARD OF KINGFISHER 'F'

achieved on three occasions and Roger Pritchard cemented his position as their star player, with 8 maximums and 6 PoMs, with Ajai earning 4 maximums and 1 PoM, while Eapen and Rick also won 1 PoM each. On the Doubles front, there were no wins in this final Quarter. Like their 'E' team, Kingfisher 'F' also fielded 9 different pairings, although 5 of these pairings included at least one substitute and were one-offs, with Ajai & Eapen winning their first two matches but then losing the next five matches. It was a similar pattern with Ajai & Roger, since they also won their first two matches before losing the next four. However, by playing together just once and winning, it meant that two partnerships, Theo & Eapen and John & Roger, ended the Season undefeated.

Kingfisher 'G' started this Quarter in 10th place, with 5 matches still to play. Neil Dellar, Satej Jaywant and Hamid Mohseni appear to be the only squad members still standing, since they played in all five matches, with Mick Mitcham's last appearance mid-January, Anup Chopra not playing since November and Steven Woolnough making his one appearance in the first match of the Season. The first match was away at Our Lady of Peace 'B' and it didn't go too well, although Satej did record a maximum to earn all the team's points in a 3 - 7 loss. However, eight of Neil and Hamid's games were lost by the minimum two points required and, on another day, the team may have snatched a draw since Neil only lost to Alistair Richardson 11-3 12-14 9-11 8-11, while Hamid lost to the same player 5-11 9-11 9-11.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'D' were the opponents the following week and a much better result ensued, with the team enjoying their first win of the Season, with their 7 - 3 victory. Satej Jaywant was again the star, recording a maximum, while Neil was the busiest player with all three singles and the Doubles needing five games to decide the winner, Neil beating Mark Jones and Jon Abbott but being denied his treble by Danny Dockree.



HAMID MOHSENI OF KINGFISHER 'G'



However, Neil & Satej did defeat Danny & Mark in the Doubles 5-11 11-6 13-11 8-11 11-9 and Hamid recorded his first win since January, defeating Jon in straight sets. The next week was a match against fellow Club mates Kingfisher 'E' and with Clive Gold suffering a serious injury while playing Neil, in the opening set, the three points gained helped the team to another 7 - 3 win. Satej defeated Andrew Adair but suffered a rare setback, narrowly losing to Abhay Gore 9-11 9-11 9-11, while Neil and Hamid both lost to Andrew, Hamid just losing 11-8 11-9 7-11 3-11 14-16, but both earned points by beating Abhay. Satej & Neil also won the Doubles, their unbeaten run now 5 matches. A crucial away trip to fellow relegation candidates Tidmarsh 'C' was their next match and they increased their lead in the table, following their 4 - 6 win. Neil & Satej both recorded maximums, but their Doubles winning run was ended by Ian Wu & Simon Craig, as was Hamid's recent run of form, although he never gave up, losing his final set to Simon 11-9 12-10 5-11 7-11 10-12, having earlier lost to David Sheppard and Ian.

Their final match of the Season was unfortunately against title chasing Sonning Sports 'A' and although the team lost 4 - 6, the match was quite remarkable since although only 39 games were required to decide the outcome, 20 of these games were won by the minimum two points required, with the wins (and losses !) evenly split between the two teams. Neil lost the opening set to Nick Sears 10-12 6-11 12-10 12-14 which was indicative as to how closely contested this match would be, before Satej beat Bob Woodmansee and Hamid lost to Paul Savage. Satej then lost to Nick 11-13 11-6 9-11 11-13 and Neil lost to Paul 11-9 5-11 11-5 8-11 8-11, before Hamid beat Bob 11-9 6-11 11-9 14-12. Hamid & Satej then lost the Doubles, following which Satej came back from two games down to beat Paul 12-14 11-13 11-9 11-8 12-10. Hamid then lost to Nick 5-11 13-11 7-11 10-12 before Neil defeated Bob to secure the team's fourth point.

Since Kingfisher 'G' had now played all their matches, they were unable to affect the table and, consequently, the following week they dropped from 9th place to 10th after fellow strugglers Tilehurst Methodists 'A' secured a vital 7 - 3 win, which ensured their survival. Satej Jaywant has been the team's star with 31 wins from 47 games and 6 PoM awards, with Neil not too far behind with 24 wins from



ALISTAIR RICHARDSON OF OLOP 'B'

42 games and 1 PoM award, while Satej & Nick were also the team's best Doubles pairing with five wins from their seven outings.

Our Lady of Peace 'B' started this Quarter in 3rd, 13 points behind Sonning Sports 'A' who had also played one fewer match and 3 points ahead of Kingfisher 'F' in 4th. Louise Forster didn't play in any of the five remaining matches while, conversely, Darek Kaminski played in every one, with Alistair Richardson playing in four, Dave Godfrey playing in three and Chris West playing in just two, this being Chris's first appearance since mid-January. Their first match was at home to Kingfisher 'G' and Dave, Darek and Alistair each recorded two wins apiece and with Alistair & Dave winning the Doubles, the match ended 7 - 3. Alistair got the team off to a good start by defeating Neil Dellar 3-11 14-12 11-9 11-8, later beating Hamid Mohseni but then missed out on a maximum after losing to Satej Jaywant. Darek just lost his opening set against Satej 5-11 11-9 12-14 11-7 10-12, but continued his fine work with a 5-game win over Neil and 4-game win over Hamid, while each of Dave's singles and Doubles contests only required 3 games, with Dave victorious in all of them apart from his loss to Satej, Satej ending the evening with a treble.

The following week, the same three players travelled to play Kingfisher 'E' and after 43 games the match ended 5 - 5. Alistair lost to Clive Gold and Abhay Gore, but was the only player to defeat Andrew Adair, Dave just losing to Andrew 9-11 11-6 9-11 12-10 9-11 while Darek lost to Andrew 10-12 11-7 14-12 12-14 9-11, with Alistair's win crucial in the team's fightback for the draw. Having lost his first two sets, Dave then partnered Darek to a Doubles victory and clinched the final set, defeating Clive 6-11 11-4 11-4 7-11 12-10, to secure the draw. However, Darek's two singles wins were also crucial for the draw,

		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Sonning Sports A	20	15	3	2	132	68	132
2	Reading FC A	20	16	2	2	129	71	129
3	SC&P D	20	11	2	7	113	87	113
4	OLOP B	20	10	5	5	109	91	109
5	Kingfisher F	20	8	3	9	102	98	102
6	Tidmarsh B	20	6	5	9	101	99	101
7	Kingfisher E	20	7	3	10	93	107	93
8	OLOP C	20	7	5	8	87	113	87
9	Tilehurst Meths A	20	7	1	12	87	113	87
10	Kingfisher G	20	3	3	14	77	123	77
11	Tidmarsh C	20	4	0	16	70	130	70



defeating Abhay over five games and Clive over four games, his loss to Andrew equally crucial for Kingfisher 'E'. The next week, Tidmarsh 'C' were the visitors, but Alistair, Darek and Dave continued their recent good form, Alistair again close to a treble, starting the match with an 11-6 9-11 11-4 5-11 loss to Ian Wu, but then defeating Richard Hudson 11-9 16-18 2-11 11-7 11-7 and Simon Craig 9-11 11-7 11-8 8-11 11-6. Dave matched Alistair's endeavours, beating Richard and Ian to record his two wins, but Darek went one better, winning all three, his closest contest probably his 15-13 10-12 12-10 11-7 victory over Ian.

It was unfortunate that for their next match, against 2nd placed Sonning Sports 'A' only Darek and Chris were available, Dave having to drop out as he had caught Covid, and although they both defeated Keith Machin, they had no joy against either Nick Sears or Paul Savage, although Darek was within touching distance of a win against Paul, eventually losing 4-11 11-7 12-10 12-14 9-11, and Chris & Darek only lost the Doubles 8-11 11-8 5-11 11-6 11-9, which was both remarkable and frustrating, given that their opponents were top of the Divisional Averages and that their only other outing this Season was against Sonning Sports 'A' in the reverse fixture, which they also lost 2 - 3. Having conceded three points, it was always going to be an upwards struggle and the final result was an 8 - 2 loss. The team had a free week to regroup and recover, with their final match "away" to their Club colleagues in the 'C' team. As expected, it was a close affair with Darek and Chris both recording maximums in their 6 - 4 win, Alistair unable to repeat his success from their previous encounter. This was Chris's second maximum, his previous treble coming in the very first match of the Season, and he was made to work for it, getting the better of Pradeep Desh, in his third set, 12-10 11-4 1-11 10-12 12-10. Although Alistair failed to record a win, he came close against Kaan Kitay, losing the 10th set 11-13 11-9 10-12 3-11.

After their final outing, Our Lady of Peace 'B' were still in 3rd place, but Sonning Common & Peppard 'D' still had two matches to play and eventually earned sufficient points to take 3rd place. Darek Kaminski was their star player, winning 32 of his 48 sets, although his success was matched by Chris West, who won 14 of his 21 sets. Dave Godfrey and Alistair Richardson both appeared in the top half of the Divisional Averages, both recording trebles and receiving PoM awards, although Darek received the most PoMs during the Season, with 6 awards. Although on paper Louise Forster was their weakest player, when she won her sets, the points gained were crucial for the win or the draw and when she lost it made no difference to the final result. Six Doubles pairings were tried over the course of the Season with, surprisingly, the Chris & Darek duo the only ones not to record a win, having played together just twice. Alistair & Dave were the team's most successful partnership, with 4 wins from 5 outings, although Alistair also achieved success with Darek, winning 3 times in the 4 matches they played together, the latter success also matched by Dave & Darek.

Our Lady of Peace 'C' started this Quarter in 8th place,

with 6 points separating them from the teams in both 7th and 9th places, and looked safe from any relegation struggles with 6 matches still to play. Binit Bhaskar, Pradeep Desh and Arun Rajagopal were the backbone of the side in 2022, with Patrick Daniels' last outing in December, as was Kaan Kitay's, except that he made a re-appearance in the penultimate match of the Season. Their first match was due to be against Sonning Common & Peppard 'D', but it was re-arranged for early April, which meant that they had an unexpected free week before they played hosts to Kingfisher 'F', which was also the one time this Quarter that they needed a substitute and Morgan Sykes stepped up to play from Division 3, for the second time this Season. She played her part by defeating Eapen John, which along with Binit's win, also against Eapen, Pradeep's double with victories over Ajai Kamath and Eapen, and Binit & Pradeep's 13-11 11-8 13-15 12-10 victory over Roger Pritchard & Ajai, were all crucial for the draw. And it was so close to being much more, with Binit losing to Ajai 2-11 11-13 11-9 9-11 while Morgan also had close matches with Ajai (11-9 6-11 9-11 11-13) and Roger (11-6 7-11 11-6 2-11 9-11).



LOUISE FORSTER OF OLOP 'B'

The team were due to meet Tilehurst Methodists 'A' the following week, but were short on players and when their substitute had to pull out at short notice, they were heading off with a team of two. However, Pradeep was injured leaving the house and with only Binit available, the match had to be postponed. It was re-arranged for April, but circumstances meant that this match-up never took place and the match was eventually conceded. Enough players were fit and available the following week, for the visit by Tidmarsh 'B'. Arun opened proceedings with a narrow 11-9 4-11 9-11 11-7 10-12 loss to Barry Carter but the match was level again after Binit's 11-8 10-12 13-15 11-4 14-12 victory over Mike Aistrop. Pradeep then got the better of Chris Webb before Binit also lost to Barry 11-9 13-11 4-11 6-11 8-11. However, victory was assured after Arun, Pradeep and Binit won the next 5 sets, Pradeep battling it out with Barry as to which one would leave with a treble and the PoM. It



was a close run affair, but Pradeep eventually won 9-11 11-6 9-11 11-6 15-13 and along with Binit's double, Arun's single and the Doubles, the end result was a 7 - 3 win, the match finally finishing at 11 pm.

The next week, the same players travelled to title chasers Reading FC 'A'. Arun lost the first set to Wayne Alleyne and his evening didn't improve as he subsequently was defeated by both Mike Childs and Tony Alleyne, although he was the only player to take a game off Mike. Binit lost his opener to Mike, in straight sets, but bounced back to defeat Tony 11-5 11-6 10-12 12-14 12-10 and Wayne 14-16 11-6 13-11 11-8, while Pradeep earned the team's third point by beating Wayne. Kaan replaced Arun in the line-up for their intra-Club match with the 'B' team, including playing the opening set against Chris West, which he lost in the 4th game. He was then beaten by Darek Kaminski but in his final set he defeated Alistair Richardson, to record his one win. Binit and Pradeep fared exactly the same, losing to both Chris and Darek, but winning against Alistair. On another day the result may have been much better than this 4 - 6 loss, since Binit lost 2 games each against Chris 11-13 9-11 and Darek 9-11 9-11, while Pradeep fought back from 0 - 2 down against Chris, before losing 10-12 4-11 11-1 12-10 10-12.

Their final match was the re-arranged fixture, away at Sonning Common & Peppard 'D', and Arun returned to the fold, with Kaan dropping out. Possibly with the promise that he didn't have to play #1, since Pradeep started the match with a hard fought victory over Mark Jones, eventually winning 9-11 12-10 11-8 8-11 11-9. The switch-up appeared to be working as Arun won the next set, defeating Angus Jones 8-11 9-11 11-7 12-10 11-5, but Binit then lost in straight sets to Danny Dockree, following which Pradeep lost to Angus, Binit lost to Mark and Arun lost to Danny. However, Pradeep & Binit took the Doubles, so with the match score now 3 - 4, in favour of the Commoners, victory was still in sight. Sadly, there were no more wins, with each player losing their final set over 4 games.

This final result meant that Our Lady of Peace 'C' finished in 8th place, equal on points with Tilehurst Methodists 'A' but placing higher in the table due to losing fewer matches. Pradeep was the team's star player, winning 33 of the 51 sets he played and, along the way, earning 4 PoM awards, although Binit was also in the top half of the Divisional Averages table, ending the Season with 23 wins from 48 sets and 1 PoM award. Binit & Pradeep finished 3rd in the Doubles Averages, with 9 wins from 13 matches, only losing once in their last 5 matches, their sole loss against Reading FC's Mike Childs & Wayne Alleyne, who finished 2nd in the table. A few other pairings were tried, but the only other successes were Kaan & Pradeep, who were undefeated following their one outing, in the first match of the Season, and Morgan Sykes & Pradeep, who were also undefeated after their one appearance.

Reading FC 'A' were currently top of the table, going into the final run-in, although they had been swapping places with Sonning Sports 'A', during the previous Quarter and Sonning Sports had played one fewer match. Captain Richard Witt never played a match, concentrating instead

on his marathons and iron man competitions, which left the team with only four players, but they had no apparent



WAYNE ALLEYNE OF READING FC 'A'

selection problems and never needed to call up a substitute from their 'B' team. Mike Childs was their star player, never missing a match, and during this final run-in, Wayne Alleyne and Tony Alleyne were also ever present, with Jazz Dhillon only making an appearance in the Doubles, in their final match of the Season. Mike was undefeated in these remaining matches and he also won all the PoM awards, stretching his unbeaten run to 7 matches.

They batted off this Quarter with a visit by Kingfisher 'E' and won 9 - 1, Tony also earning a maximum by defeating Stephen Leggett, Luca Bianchi and Abhay Gore, Abhay making him work hard for his treble, Tony fighting back from 0 - 2 down to win 10-12 6-11 12-10 11-9 13-11. Mike & Wayne won the Doubles against Luca & Abhay, but this may have helped Luca suss out Wayne's style of play, since Wayne subsequently lost the next set, to Luca. The same players then headed to Tidmarsh, to play their 'C' team, which Reading FC just won 4 - 6, a result which belied Tidmarsh's position at the foot of the table. Wayne lost his opening set to Simon Craig 13-11 3-11 7-11 11-7 7-11, recovered to defeat Richard Hudson but then lost his final set to Ian Wu 8-11 11-9 11-3 12-14 1-11, while Tony also beat Richard, before losing his next two sets. Mike & Tony played together for the second time and won 0 - 3.

The following week they were up against title rivals Sonning Sports 'A' and in winning 6 - 4 they increased their lead at the top of the table to 7 points, a major blow for their rival's Title ambitions. Wayne opened with a 3 - 0 victory over Bob Woodmansee and Mike increased their lead with an 11-9 11-6 6-11 11-6 win over Nick Sears, before Paul Savage decreased the deficit by beating Tony. Mike then chalked up his second win, defeating Bob, before Paul clawed back another point by beating Wayne and the match was tied 3 - 3 going into the Doubles after Tony lost to Nick 5-11 5-11 11-9 10-12. Wayne & Mike then lost to Paul & Nick, the leading Divisional Doubles pairing, but



proceeded to win the last three sets, Mike defeating Paul 11-2 12-10 11-9 in the decider as to who would go home undefeated, Tony then beating Bob 11-5 11-9 12-10, before Wayne's 13-11 11-9 11-4 result, against Nick, secured a 6 - 4 match win.

Reading FC 'A' had no match the following week and by the time they played their next match, against Our Lady of Peace 'C', Sonning Sports 'A' had played their match in hand and had taken the number one spot, by 1 point. Wayne started well, defeating Arun Rajagopal in the opening set, but was unable to further improve his win rate, losing in 4 games to both Pradeep Desh and Binit Bhaskar. However, Wayne & Mike did defeat Pradeep & Arun in the Doubles, winning the 4th game 15-13. Tony would have been on for a treble, except that he lost a titanic struggle with Binit, fighting back from 0 - 2 down, but just failing at the final hurdle, the score ending 5-11 6-11 12-10 14-12 10-12. All these scores meant that the match ended in a 7 - 3 win and as Sonning Sports 'A' had only won 6 - 4, the two teams were now equal on points, although Reading FC 'A' had regained 1st place since they had won more matches.

The following week they travelled to Kingfisher 'F' for their final match, simply needing to ensure that their result wasn't worse than their rivals. Unfortunately neither Tony nor Wayne won a set, the first time this had occurred all Season, with Tony losing to Ajai Kamath 8-11 10-12 10-12 and then being so close to a win, before losing the final set to Eapen John 11-9 11-9 8-11 9-11 6-11. Mike defeated Eapen, Ajai and Roger Pritchard in the singles and partnered with Jazz to beat Eapen & Ajai in the Doubles, which meant the match ended in a 6 - 4 loss. With this match being played on a Monday, the team had to wait until late Thursday evening to find out if Sonning Sports 'A' had earned a draw or a win, although they feared the worst. And as midnight approached, the website was updated which

imums and winning 16 PoM awards. His teammates all appeared in the top half of the Divisional Averages, with Jazz Dhillon winning 15 of his 30 sets, Wayne winning 23 of his 48 sets, while Tony won 19 of his 42 sets. With Mike playing so well, in every match, it was difficult for the others to get a look-in, but Wayne did manage to beat Mike to 1 PoM award ! Mike & Wayne were 2nd in the Doubles Averages, winning 10 of their 13 contests, although Mike & Jazz were undefeated in the 5 matches they played together, with Mike & Tony winning once and losing once.

At the start of this Quarter, **Sonning Common & Peppard 'D'** were in 6th place but had 7 matches still to play. Their squad comprises just 4 players (Jon Abbott, Danny Dockree, Angus Jones and Mark Jones), but they have only needed someone to play up for them three times. Unfortunately, they have only managed to find a substitute on one occasion, back in October, and therefore have had to field just two players on two further occasions, with the latest occurrence in this final run-in. Their first match was due to be at home to Our Lady of Peace 'C', but it had to be postponed and was later rescheduled for April. So, one week later Jon, Danny and Mark found themselves at Kingfisher 'G' where, after a tough night when they lost 9 of the 11 games which required the minimum two points to determine the winner, they lost the match 7 - 3. Mark was the busiest player with two of his singles and the Doubles going the distance, with the other set decided over 4 games. However, Mark turned his fortunes around, in his final contest, defeating Hamid Mohseni 13-11 9-11 11-9 5-11 11-8, to record his one win. Danny fared better, only losing to Satej Jaywant, his sole defeat this Quarter, but Jon was unable to aid the team this time, although he came very close, just losing to Neil Dellar 6-11 11-8 11-8 7-11 10-12.

The next week, the same three players achieved a 5 - 5 draw with Kingfisher 'F'. Unfortunately, Jon found himself on the losing end of another three close sets, losing his opening set to Eapen John 11-9 12-14 3-11 11-9 5-11, his second to Ajai Kamath 12-10 11-7 7-11 5-11 9-11 and the third to Roger Pritchard 4-11 9-11 9-11. However, Danny continued his run of fine form and recorded a treble, starting with an 11-6 4-11 13-11 8-11 11-4 win over Roger and with Danny & Mark winning the Doubles, Mark's win over Eapen guaranteed the draw. The following week, only Jon and Danny were available for another trip, this time to play Kingfisher 'E'. However, with the chips down, Jon returned to winning form, starting with his opening set victory over Andrew Adair and while he then lost his second set, to Stephen Leggett, he subsequently won the Doubles with Danny and then defeated Luca Bianchi 11-5 12-10 9-11 5-11 11-7, which meant that after Danny secured his treble with an 11-9 11-6 10-12 11-6 win against Andrew they had won the match 4 - 6.

The following week they welcomed both Mark back into the fold as well as visitors Tilehurst Methodists 'A' and after their best result of the Season, winning 10 - 0, they were surely very happy. Jon was again the busiest player, winning his opening set against Jes Eassom, then defeating Phil Jones 11-9 11-9 8-11 11-8 before securing his third



MICHAEL CHILDS AGAIN

confirmed that Sonning Sports 'A' had won their match, meaning that Reading FC 'A' finished as runners-up. Mike Childs ended the Season at the top of the Divisional Averages, only being beaten four times, recording 16 max-



maximum with a 15-13 11-7 10-12 9-11 11-4 win against Masoud Ghabachi. Danny recorded his first straight sets treble and Mark fought back from 0 - 2 down against Jes, in the match's final set, to record his first treble. However, they suffered a reversal of fortune in their next match, an away trip to Tidmarsh 'C', which, in the original fixture list, would have been their last match this Season. Angus replaced Jon in the line-up, but it had been seven weeks since his previous outing and this may have played a part in him losing his opening set, to Simon Craig, 5-11 11-9 8-11 9-11 and his second set, against Richard Hudson 13-11 10-12 9-11 7-11, before losing another 4-game set to Ian Wu. In Jon's absence, Mark took up the mantle of busiest player, with all three of his singles requiring 5 games, but he only had success in his opening set, defeating Richard 11-6 9-11 11-7 7-11 12-10, although he only lost his next set, against Ian, 12-14 in the 5th. Although Danny recorded another straight sets maximum, Mark & Danny lost the Doubles, to Ian & Simon, 9-11 7-11 12-14, and thus the match ended in a 6 - 4 loss.

Their postponed match against Our Lady of Peace 'C' had been rescheduled for the following week and the same three players were selected. Danny continued his run of form, recording a further maximum, but although Mark & Angus lost the Doubles 1 - 3, to Pradeep Desh & Binit Bhaskar, Mark and Angus each won two singles to secure a 7 - 3 win. Mark started off by losing to Pradeep 11-9 10-12 8-11 11-8 9-11, then coming out on top of a thrilling contest with Binit, winning 11-9 11-9 14-12, and recorded a double when he defeated Arun Rajagopal, while Angus took a slightly different path, losing a 5-game set against Arun, before defeating both Pradeep and then Binit. Two weeks later, in a Season extended by Covid, Sonning Common & Peppard 'D' played their other re-arranged fixture, a home tie against Tidmarsh 'C' which was originally scheduled to be played in December. For this match, Angus stepped down and Jon returned to the fray, which proved to be a good decision since Angus had no joy against Tidmarsh 'C' a few weeks earlier, while Jon maintained the form he had shown in his previous two outings. Danny recorded another treble and Jon was within touching distance of his own treble, only to be denied by Ian Wu's fight back, eventually losing 11-9 11-8 10-12 7-11 7-11. Meanwhile Mark was again involved in 5-game sets all evening, first defeating Ian, then winning against David Sheppard 10-12 11-4 11-7 5-11 11-5, before he was also denied a treble, Richard Hudson winning the 5th game 12-10, the Commoners winning the match 7 - 3.

After playing all 7 matches, winning four times, drawing once and losing twice, Sonning Common & Peppard 'D' had climbed to 3rd place, overtaking Our Lady of Peace 'B'. Danny Dockree is undoubtedly this team's star player with his performances this Quarter being outstanding, losing just one set. Over the Season, Danny has only missed one match, winning 48 of the 57 sets he played, recording 11 maximums and earning 12 PoM awards. Jon has played in 15 matches, winning 24 of his 45 sets, recording 3 maximums and earning 2 PoM awards, while Mark

played in 13 matches, winning 19 of his 39 sets, recording one maximum, with Angus playing in just 10 matches, winning 11 of his 30 sets. 5 different Doubles partnerships were tried this Season, with Danny Dockree & Jon Abbott their most successful pair, winning 7 of their 9 outings, while Mark Jones & Danny were next, winning 2 of their five sets, although Jon & Mark's Doubles win, in the very last match, improved their win percentage to 50%.

Sonning Sports 'A' were in 2nd place as they entered

LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	P	W	%
Mike Childs	Reading FC A	60	56	93.33%
Eric Van Looy	Tilehurst Meths A	30	28	93.33%
Nick Sears	Sonning Sports A	55	48	87.27%
Danny Dockree	SC&P D	57	48	84.21%
Roger Pritchard	Kingfisher F	54	44	81.48%
Paul Savage	Sonning Sports A	58	44	75.86%
Barry Carter	Tidmarsh B	45	32	71.11%
Darek Kaminski	OLOP B	48	32	66.67%
Francois Durand	Tidmarsh B	30	20	66.67%
Chris West	OLOP B	21	14	66.67%
Satej Jaywant	Kingfisher G	47	31	65.96%
Pradeep Desh	OLOP C	51	33	64.71%
Dave Godfrey	OLOP B	39	24	61.54%
Dale Ballard	Tidmarsh B	33	20	60.61%
Luca Bianchi	Kingfisher E	31	18	58.06%
Neil Dellar	Kingfisher G	42	24	57.14%

the final stretch, vying with Reading FC 'A' for the Title, both teams having established a big lead over Our Lady of Peace 'B' in 3rd place. Although 2 points behind the leaders, Sonning Sports 'A' had played one fewer match so it was anticipated that the lead would change hands a few times before the end of the Season. They are another team who have managed to cope with only four players in their squad and have only needed to call upon a reserve from their Division 4 Club mates once. Paul Savage has played in every match and Nick Sears just missed the one match in December, so Bob Woodmansee and Keith Machin have generally shared the third spot.

With 6 matches remaining and an on-going Title race, Paul, Nick and Bob travelled to play Tilehurst Methodists 'A'. Bob lost the opening set to Eric Van Looy, but Nick then defeated substitute Martin Wetherell before Paul sailed past substitute Steve Christelow. Bob lost his second set to Martin (aka Nemesis #3 !) 4-11 10-12 11-13, following which Paul almost defeated Eric, Eric fighting back to win 11-8 11-5 8-11 4-11 7-11, before Nick levelled the scores. Paul & Nick edged the Doubles against Eric & Martin, before Paul defeated Martin to guarantee at least a draw. However, Bob encountered strong opposition from Steve before he won 11-3 7-11 7-11 11-9 11-9, to guarantee the match win, although Nick was unable to stop Eric from recording his treble, the match ending in a 4 - 6 victory.

The following week was a home match against Tidmarsh 'B' and it was Keith's turn to play. However, Keith's first opponent was the experienced Ray Webb, who was playing up, and Keith was on the wrong end of a 5-game set.



He fared no better in his second set, but was close to a win in his final set, eventually losing to Mike Aistrop 11-7 9-11 11-6 10-12 8-11. The match was won 6 - 4 thanks to a maximum from Nick, another Doubles win for Paul & Nick and a double for Paul, who was denied his treble by François Durand. Bob returned for the away trip to Title rivals Reading FC 'A', but to no avail, losing all three, his best chance possibly the 5-11 9-11 10-12 defeat by Tony Alleyne. Nick lost his opening set to Mike Childs, but recovered to beat Tony 11-5 11-5 9-11 12-10 but was unable to rescue a draw, losing the 10th set to Wayne Alleyne. Paul defeated Tony and Wayne but lost out to Mike, in the battle to determine who went home undefeated. Curiously, for a top of the table clash, only 33 games were played, Nick personally playing in 15 of these games. Following this 4 - 6 loss, Reading FC's lead increased to 7 points, although Sonning Sports still had one match in hand.



NICK SEARS OF SONNING SPORTS 'A'

Keith was back for the home win over Our Lady of Peace 'B', the 8 - 2 victory not hindered by OLOP only being able to field two players. With Reading FC 'A' not playing, this win enabled Sonning Sports 'A' to re-take top spot. However, five of the available 7 sets were won, Nick and Paul winning both their singles as well as the Doubles, although they were made to work hard, Paul overcoming Darek Kaminski 11-4 7-11 10-12 14-12 11-9 while Nick beat Chris West 11-9 8-11 11-3 12-10. Keith didn't go quietly but had no joy, losing to Darek 9-11 5-11 9-11 and to Chris 10-12 11-9 8-11 9-11. Another trip, this time to relegation candidates Kingfisher 'G' saw Bob return to the team. Despite winning 4 - 6, the Title race momentum was back in Reading FC's favour, following their 7 - 3 win. Nick had a tricky start against Neil Dellar, but came through 12-10 11-6 10-12 14-12, Satej Jaywant beat Bob, but Paul restored their lead, before Nick defeated Satej 13-11 6-11 11-9 13-11 and Paul beat Neil, again over 5 games. However, Bob was unable to keep this winning streak going, despite a valiant effort, losing 9-11 11-6 9-11 12-14 to Hamid Mohseni. Paul & Nick won the Doubles to guarantee at least a draw, but Paul then lost a titanic struggle with Satej 14-12 13-11 9-11 8-11 10-12 before Nick ensured the win, beating Hamid 12-10 in the 4th game.

For the final match of the Season, at home to Kingfisher 'E', the same players were again selected and because they had the same number of points as their rivals Reading FC 'A', they knew that they had to better their score, from Monday's match, which had been played three days earlier. The only fly in the ointment was that they didn't know the score of that match ! Not to mention that Kingfisher 'E' had won the reverse fixture, so the tension was palpable before the match began. Although Bob was unable to secure a win, his teammates didn't drop a set, Stephen Leggett and Abhay Gore losing in straight sets, with Luca Bianchi & Stephen not winning a game in the Doubles either. It was only after Sonning Sports submitted their result that they were informed that this 7 - 3 win had won them the Title.

Sonning Sports 'A' won five of their matches and lost just

once, against Title rivals Reading FC 'A', climbing from 2nd place to 1st. Nick was the team's star player, winning 48 of his 55 sets, but Paul was not far behind, winning 44 of his 58 matches. Although Bob and Keith were in the bottom half of the Divisional Averages, their wins were equally vital in their successful bid to win the Division, as were the Doubles wins, Nick & Paul topping the Doubles Averages with only two losses all Season. However, it should be noted that Bob & Paul ended the Season undefeated, after winning the only time they partnered each other. Nick ended the Season with 11 PoM awards and 15 maximums, while Paul recorded 7 maximums and won 5 PoM awards.

Tidmarsh 'B' started the final run-in in 5th place, with 5 matches left to play. They had a squad of five players, but still required the services of Ray Webb on three occasions, Ray playing up from Division 3. It looks like the team shares match time, with Mike Aistrop, Dale Ballard, Barry Carter, François Durand and Chris Webb all expected to play a similar number of matches. However, in this final Quarter, François only played twice, rather than the expected three times, and Ray played up against Sonning Sports 'A'. Mike, Dale and Barry were selected to play their Club mates from Tidmarsh 'C'. Barry won all his singles in straight sets, although Richard Hudson made him work for his treble, Barry finally winning 15-13 11-8 11-8, and also partnered Dale to a Doubles win over David Sheppard & Ian Wu, winning 10-12 11-4 14-12 11-7. Dale lost out on the chance of a maximum after he lost his opening set to Richard, but recovered to win his next two singles, while Mike won his opening set against David but then lost in 5 games to Richard and later on lost in 4 games to Ian, but after Barry won the 10th set the match finished 7 - 3.

The following week, Mike was joined by François and Ray, for their trip to Sonning Sports 'A'. Mike lost his first two sets, against Paul Savage and then Nick Sears, but recovered to beat Keith Machin 7-11 11-9 6-11 12-10 11-8. Neither François nor Ray won against Nick either, although they each defeated Keith, Ray needing 5 games against



Keith to get the victory. However the match ended in a 6 - 4 loss despite François' 11-9 11-8 8-11 11-9 10th set win over Paul. Two weeks later Mike made his final appearance, Barry returned and Chris came back into the team after a 5 week absence, for the trip to play Our Lady of Peace 'C'. A busy evening ensued, with 44 games played, 15 of which were won by the minimum two points although, in this instance, the 15 games were evenly spread throughout the players. Barry opened with a 9-11 11-4 11-9 7-11 12-10 victory over Arun Rajagopal, Mike losing an even closer contest against Binit Bhaskar 8-11 12-10 15-13 4-11 12-14 before Chris lost a 4-game set to Pradeep Desh. Barry fought back from 0 - 2 down, against Binit, to win 9-11 11-13 11-4 11-6 11-8 but was denied a treble when he lost to Pradeep 11-5 6-11 11-9 6-11 13-15. Chris also lost his remaining sets, winning one game against Arun and taking Binit to 5 games, but Mike recovered from losing his second set, against Binit, to defeat Arun in the 10th set. Binit matched Barry for the busiest player accolade, both players participating in 15 singles games as well as 3 games in the Doubles, although no-one was able to take it easy, with 6 sets requiring 5 games to determine the winner. However, after all this effort, the team returned home having lost 7 - 3.

One week later Kingfisher 'F' were the visitors and Dale returned, with Mike dropping out. The match was won 6 - 4, despite Barry only defeating Eapen John, Ajai Kamath playing a blinder to defeat Barry 11-8 7-11 5-11 11-9 11-9, in the 10th set. The other five points were courtesy of the Doubles, Dale & Barry winning in three games, and doubles for both Dale and Chris, Dale only losing to Roger Pritchard while Chris not only recorded his first win of the Season, defeating Ajai 11-8 11-9 9-11 13-11, but then followed it up with a second win, defeating Eapen 11-7 10-12 13-11 11-5. The following week Dale, François and Chris travelled to Tilehurst Methodists 'A', for their final match of the Season, a match their opponents needed to win, to escape the possibility of relegation. Only 32 games were played, the least number across the Division this Season, with the singles between Dale and Bill Stamatiou the only one that wasn't a straight sets win, Dale losing 9-11 11-5 5-11 7-11, although the Doubles also required 4 games to determine the winner. However, it wasn't a walkover, by either side, François winning twice, beating both Phil Jones and Bill but losing the opening set to Eric, with Dale earning the team's third point when he defeated Phil, the match ending in a 7 - 3 loss.

Following these two wins and three losses, Tidmarsh 'B' had dropped one place to 6th, just 1 point behind Kingfisher 'F' in 5th place. Barry played in 15 matches and was the team's best player, winning 32 out of 45 sets, recording 5 maximums and earning 5 PoM awards, although François was not too far behind, winning 20 of his 30 sets, recording 3 maximums and winning 1 PoM award. Dale was a little further down the Divisional Averages, having won 20 of his 33 sets, recording 2 maximums and winning 1 PoM award, while Mark won one or two sets in each of his 11 matches, Chris persevering despite not winning for 8 matches straight, but then breaking his duck with two

crucial wins that helped win the match. Seven Doubles partnerships were tried during the Season, but only two pairs won any matches. Barry Carter & Dale Ballard were the team's most successful pair, with 7 wins from 10 matches, although Barry & François were still batting 100% having won both their outings.

Tidmarsh 'C' were entrenched at the bottom of the table, 7 points behind Kingfisher 'G' in 10th, although they had played two fewer matches. If they could make up these 7 points, while playing their 7 remaining matches, then it was likely that their win rate would come into play since Tidmarsh 'C' had won three times while Kingfisher 'G' had still to record their first win. There were four players in their squad, Simon Craig, Richard Hudson, David Sheppard and Ian Wu, and they almost coped with the fixture schedule, with just one occurrence when they could only field two players. The first of their 7 matches was "away", against Club mates Tidmarsh 'B', when Richard, David and Ian were selected to play. Although they lost 7 - 3, one positive was that this was an improvement on the reverse fixture. Ian led the team off, but lost to Barry Carter, Richard got the better of Dale Ballard, winning 11-8 11-9 5-11 11-3, and then defeated Mike Aistrop over 5 games, David and Ian losing the three matches between Richard's two wins. David & Ian lost the Doubles to Dale & Barry 12-10 4-11 12-14 7-11, so everyone needed to win their last set to secure a draw. However, David lost a 4-game set to Dale before Ian got the better of Mike, winning 12-10 8-11 11-3 11-8. Although Richard had played a blinder, he unfortunately missed out on a treble after losing to Barry 13-15 8-11 8-11.

The next week, leaders Reading FC 'A' were the visitors and although the team lost 4 - 6, this was a battling performance. Simon replaced David in the line-up and this proved to be a good decision as he won in 5 games against Wayne Alleyne then, in his final set, defeated Tony Alleyne 8-11 11-6 11-7 11-9. Ian matched Simon's performance, losing his opening set to Mike Childs, but then defeated Tony without dropping a game and won the 10th set 11-8 9-11 3-11 14-12 11-1. Richard didn't manage a win although he was the only player to take a game off Mike, with all three of his sets requiring 4 games. One week later the same trio were away at Our Lady of Peace 'B' and Ian started off with a win, defeating Alistair Richardson 6-11 11-9 11-1 4-11 11-5, but with Simon losing to Darek Kaminski and Richard losing to Dave Godfrey, Ian needed another win to level the score. However, he was unable to overcome Darek, losing 13-15 12-10 10-12 7-11, but, after Richard lost to Alistair 9-11 18-16 11-2 7-11 7-11, Simon defeated Dave in straight sets to keep the dream of a win alive. This was strengthened after Simon & Ian won the Doubles, but the good vibes ended there as Richard lost to Darek 0 - 3, then Ian just lost to Dave 10-12 in the 5th game, before Simon also lost to Alistair, 11-9 7-11 8-11 11-8 6-11.

Richard dropped out and David returned for their home match against Kingfisher 'G', whose recent results had lifted themselves to 9th in the table. The gap between the two sides had increased to 14 points, although Tidmarsh 'C'



and Tilehurst Methodists 'A', who had now dropped to 10th but were still 10 points ahead, had both played two fewer matches. However, after a narrow 4 - 6 loss, the gap to 10th place had increased to 13 points. Ian again lost the opening set of the match, this time to Neil Dellar, but subsequently defeated Hamid Mohseni and Simon suffered a similar fate, losing his opening set to Satej Jaywant, then suffering from a successful fightback by Neil Dellar, eventually losing 11-8 11-9 6-11 3-11 7-11, before recovering to win against Hamid, the final score ending 9-11 10-12 11-5 11-7 12-10. David also defeated Hamid 11-7 6-11 11-9 11-8 but was also unable to overcome either Neil or Satej, although Simon & Ian did defeat them in the Doubles, winning 15-13 6-11 10-12 11-3 11-5. However, despite gaining a further 4 points, the gap widened as the Methodists had won 7 - 3.

Only Simon and Ian were available for the following week's trip to Kingfisher 'E', which proved to be insufficient for the draw, the team succumbing to a second consecutive 6 - 4 defeat. Ian started off by beating Stephen Leggett in straight sets and then needed 5 games to defeat Andrew Adair, but was denied a treble when he lost to Luca Bianchi 9-11 13-15 6-11. Simon also won his first set, defeating Andrew 14-12 11-7 10-12 11-3, but subsequently lost to Luca and Stephen, both in 4 games. However, their fourth point was courtesy of their Doubles victory, 11-9 8-11 11-5 11-8. Since Tilehurst Methodists 'A' had lost 0 - 10, the gap to 10th place dropped to 9 points but, with only two matches to play, it appeared likely that relegation beckoned.

However, Richard returned the following week and helped the team to a 6 - 4 win, at home to Sonning Common & Peppard 'D'. Ian lost to Danny Dockree but Simon won the next set, defeating Angus Jones 11-5 9-11 11-8 11-9, before Richard narrowly lost the 5th game to Mark Jones 10-12. Simon then lost to Danny, Ian won the 5th game against Mark 14-12 and Richard defeated Angus 11-13 12-10 11-9 11-7. Simon & Ian won the Doubles against Mark & Danny 11-9 11-7 14-12 and Simon secured the draw with his 7-11 9-11 11-9 11-6 11-7 victory over Mark but Ian secured the win, in the 10th set, when he defeated Angus 11-8 12-10 5-11 11-1. Despite this win, Tilehurst Methodists 'A' had garnered sufficient points to leapfrog Kingfisher 'G' and Tidmarsh 'C' were relegated, although they could still climb to 10th place if they won their final match 10 - 0 !

Although the Season had officially ended, Tidmarsh still had one outstanding match to play, an away fixture which had originally been scheduled for December. Coincidentally, this was against Sonning Common & Peppard 'D' who they had beaten three weeks earlier. David stepped into the fray, replacing Simon, but the team were unable to achieve "the Double", losing this reverse fixture 7 - 3. It was another busy evening, with 44 games played and, as usual, Ian played in the first set, eventually defeating Mark Jones 9-11 11-6 5-11 11-6 17-15, but it went downhill from there, with the team losing the next 7 sets, Danny Dockree recording his treble when he beat David. However, Ian won his final set, defeating Jon Abbott 9-11 8-11 12-10 11-7 11-7, and Richard defeated Mark 11-6 8-11 8-11 11-7 12-10 to record his sole win.

Having won just once and losing the other six matches,

Tidmarsh 'C' remained rooted to the bottom of the table throughout. Ian Wu was the team's highest ranked player, playing in every match bar one, winning 29 of his 57 sets, recording 2 maximums and winning 2 PoM awards, with Simon Craig winning 14 of his 33 sets, Richard Hudson winning 13 of his 48 sets while David Sheppard won 7 of the 39 sets he played. On the Doubles front, Ian & Simon were the team's most successful pair, losing their first four outings but subsequently undefeated in their next four matches. David & Ian's fortunes were similar, except that they won their first three outings, but then lost their next two matches for which they were selected. Three other partnerships were also tried, but none recorded any wins.

At the start of this final Quarter, **Tilehurst Methodists 'A'** were in 9th place, 9 points ahead of Kingfisher 'G' in 10th. They had a squad of five players, with Eric Van Looy undoubtedly the star. However, his availability was a factor in the team struggling to avoid relegation although Covid



ERIC VAN LOOY OF TILEHURST METHS 'A'

played its part, with the team struggling to field a team a number of times during the final run-in. Jes Eassom, Phil Jones, Bill Stamatiou and Masoud Ghabachi are the other members of this squad but they were all suffering from or recovering from Covid meaning that for the first of their five remaining matches, Eric needed to call upon the services of Steve Christelow and Martin Wetherell, who normally play in Division 4. It was unfortunate that this match was against Sonning Sports 'A', one of the two Title chasing teams, but the Division 2 DFS is a tyrant and wants matches played, using substitutes if necessary ! Eric won all three, defeating Bob in straight sets, before he needed to stage a dramatic fightback against Paul Savage, Eric eventually winning 8-11 5-11 11-8 11-4 11-7, and was rewarded with his treble after he beat Nick Sears 11-7 12-10 11-9, the match ending in a 4 - 6 loss. Before then, Martin quickly lost to Nick but fared better against Bob, an old adversary from his past, winning 11-4 12-10 13-11. He then helped Eric lose the Doubles, against Paul & Nick, although they did manage to win one game, before he lost his final set against Paul. Steve was beaten in straight sets by Paul and then Nick, but was almost a candidate for Bob's list of nemeses as he was within touching dis-



tance of winning his final set, eventually losing 3-11 11-7 11-7 9-11 9-11.

There was no match the following week, which allowed extra time for some players to recover, and the match the following week, for which Martin was due to make his second substitute appearance, was re-arranged after one player from Our Lady of Peace 'C' injured themselves while leaving the house, which meant they only had one fit player. The match was due to be played in April, but the opponents got their dates wrong and failed to turn up. Methodists therefore claimed the points, which was permitted since the result of this match would have no effect on either the promotion or relegation places. So it was actually three weeks later that Masoud, Bill and Eric played the team's next match, an away trip to Kingfisher 'F', which they won 3 - 7. Eric was the team's busiest player with all three singles and the Doubles going to 5 games. Bill batted off with an 8-11 11-9 11-8 5-11 11-5 win over Eapen John, Eric was then run close by substitute Theo Kniep, eventually winning 5-11 11-7 9-11 11-7 11-9, but Masoud had no joy against Ajai Kamath. Theo then snatched a win against Bill, after Bill fought back from 0 - 2 down to level the score at 2 - 2, winning 11-9 11-9 8-11 7-11 11-6, before Masoud beat Eapen 6-11 11-8 11-9 8-11 11-8 to record his one win. Eric then defeated Ajai, before Bill & Eric fought back to beat Ajai & Theo 6-11 7-11 11-9 11-7 12-10 then, later, Bill defeated Ajai and Eric survived a tremendous comeback by Eapen, before winning 11-6 11-5 11-13 12-14 11-9.

The following week, Jes, Masoud and Phil were selected, for another away trip, this time to play Sonning Common & Peppard 'D'. This equalled the team's worst result of the Season, with the team losing every set, to opponents Mark Jones, Jon Abbott and Danny Dockree. However, the Commoners did not have an easy ride with Phil only losing to Jon 9-11 9-11 11-8 8-11, Masoud losing to Jon 13-15 7-11 12-10 11-9 4-11 and to Danny 3-11 9-11 9-11, while

Mark needed 5 games to beat Jes, with Phil & Jes also losing the Doubles 6-11 11-5 8-11 11-6 5-11. Eric and Bill returned for the next match, with Phil retaining his place in the line-up, although it was also possible that he was the only other fit player ! This was a home match against Tidmarsh 'B' and a win was vital in the fight to avoid relegation. It was a slightly unusual match, in that 8 of the 9 singles were won in straight sets, while the other two sets both required 4 games to determine the winner, even though the match was not one-sided. Eric recorded another maximum and also won the Doubles with Bill, defeating Dale Ballard & François Durand 11-6 11-5 10-12 11-7. Phil won against Chris Webb but then lost to both François and Dale, while Bill beat Dale 11-9 5-11 11-5 11-7, then won against Chris before losing his final set to François 5-11 5-11 11-13. This 7 - 3 win was good enough to guarantee that the Methodists would finish in 9th place, regardless of the result of their final match. As it happens, this outstanding match was never played and was conceded by their opponents, meaning that out of the remaining 5 matches, there were three wins and two losses.

Eric Van Looy was Tilehurst Methodists' star player, despite playing in only half the matches, losing only 2 of his 30 sets, recording 8 maximums and winning 8 PoM awards. Bill Stamatiou won 13 of his 30 sets, Phil Jones won 16 of his 42 sets, recording 1 maximum and winning 1 PoM award, Jes Eassom won 8 of his 39 sets, winning 1 PoM award, while Masoud Ghabachi won 4 of his 24 sets. Eight different Doubles pairings were tried, but the most successful partnership would be Bill & Eric who played together five times, losing just once, although Bill & Phil and Eric & Jes were both undefeated, playing together just the once. The only other winning pair was Bill & Jes who played together twice and won once.



SONNING SPORTS 'A' CELEBRATING AFTER THEY KNEW THEY HAD WON DIVISION TWO - L to R NICK SEARS, KEITH MACHIN, BOB WOODMANSEE, PAUL SAVAGE.



Secretary's Notes

It is very pleasing to report that despite the ever present threat of Covid we have managed to successfully complete the 2021/22 season. Congratulations to not only all our winners and runners up, but congratulations and my grateful thanks to every single person for making this season a success and enabling the Reading League to thrive.

I will leave you to read the individual divisional reports to see who our various champions and runners up were. Thanks to the sterling efforts of Eric Van Looy and his helpers on the day the Reading Closed Championships were successfully run on Sunday 6th March. Again there will be an individual report on the championships elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Reading Association Awards presentation has been linked with the AGM this year and both will take place on Wednesday 22nd June, starting with the presentations at 7 pm and followed by the AGM at approx 8 pm. Please make sure that your club sends at least one representative to the AGM. The Agenda and proposed rule changes will be issued shortly. At the Presentations we will not only be making awards to our winners and runners up in the league and Closed Championships but we will also be making our usual awards for Best Junior Performance, Most Improved Junior, the Harold Larcombe Sportsmanship Award and the John Freeman trophy to the player with the highest playing average.

Once again thanks to everyone and see you back across the table for the 2022/23 season, which is scheduled to start week commencing 12th September.

Nigel Maltby (RDTTA Secretary)

After starting out with 23 teams last September, 21 matches later we finally whittled down to a final two teams by April and the final was held at Sonning Common and Peppard on April 25th between SC&P 'D' and Milestone 'A'.

But first a few words about the two semi finals. The first semi final saw SC&P 'B' meeting their fellow club-mates SC&P 'D' at the end of March. The SC&P 'B' team of Nigel Maltby (-10), Brian Meheux (-7) and Simon Berry (-11) never quite found their rhythm and went 8 - 0 down to their opponents, Mark Jones (Scr), Angus Jones (-3) and Danny Dockree (-5). The final set went Nigel's way though, beating Angus to end with a final score of 8 - 1 to SC&P 'D'.

The second semi final saw Milestone 'A' travelling to Springfield. Milestone 'A' won this match 6 - 3 with both Sachin Mundra and Zoltan Kelemen winning three apiece.

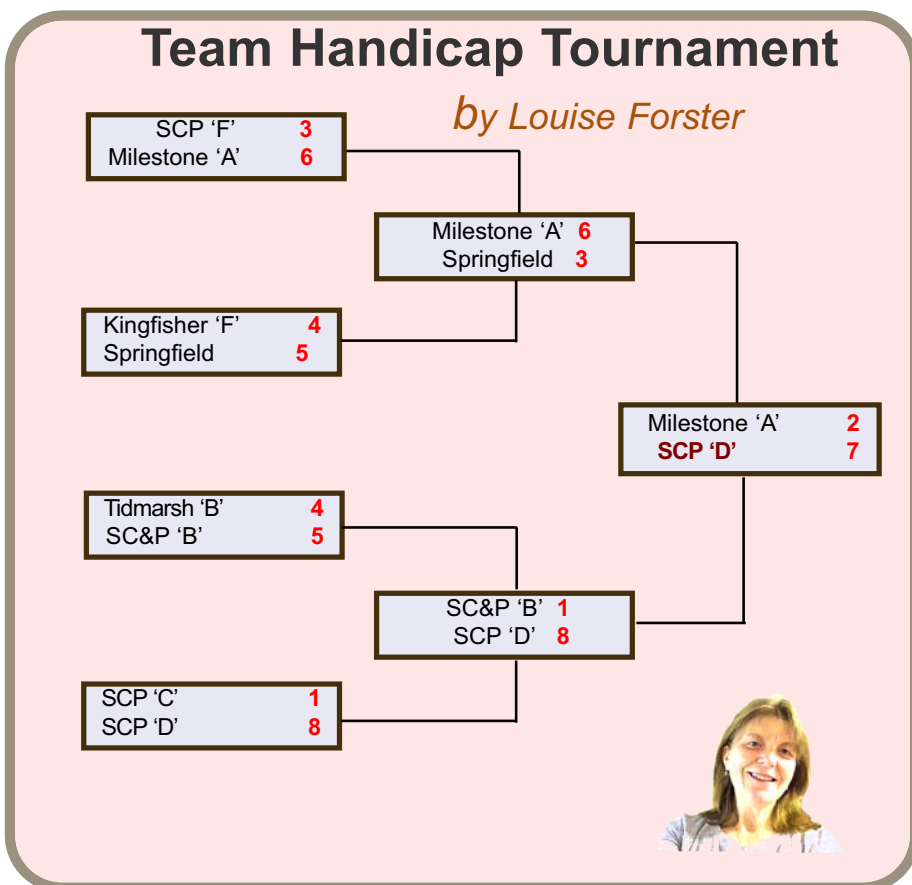
The final was a very exciting and close match. Both teams put out the same players who'd previously won their semi final matches, so we saw SC&P 'D' with Mark Jones (Scr), Danny Dockree (-5) and Angus Jones (-3) facing a Milestone 'A' side of Zoltan Kelemen (-5), Oliver Bonser (Scr) and Sachin Mundra (Scr). The final score was a 7 -2 win for SC&P 'D', but the

decisive scoreline doesn't give Milestone 'A' justice. There were some very close matches, especially for Sachin Mundra who managed to take each one of his sets to three games, but sadly lost them all in the third.

Mark Jones (SC&P 'D' captain) said of the match 'there was some fantastic

table tennis, and all played in the great spirit that makes Reading league such a pleasure to be part of'.

Well done to SC&P 'D', and thank you to all the teams that took part in this year's highly enjoyable tournament! Here's to doing it all again next year.

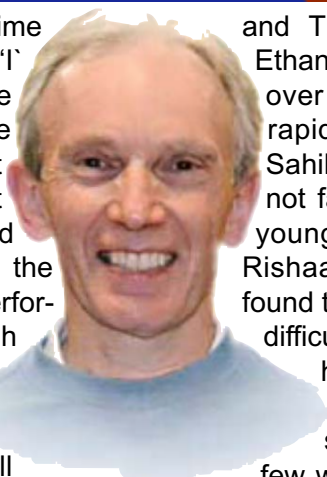




DIVISION THREE

by John Willcocks

As had looked likely for some time the youngsters from Kingfisher 'I' took the title and although the margin between themselves and the team in runners-up spot was only eight points it never looked in doubt that they would finish first. Despite what had looked like a tricky run of fixtures at the end of the season some excellent performances saw Tilehurst RBL 'B' finish second.



At the other end of the division OLOP 'E' and SC&P 'E' finished well adrift of the teams above them to confirm both of their relegations, something that had looked fairly certain since Christmas.

I would like to thank the team captains for managing to get all of their matches played in what has been a difficult season with many postponements

Kingfisher 'I' won their last fifteen matches and with all of their players improving during the season they never looked likely to finish anywhere but first. They even had

and Theo Kniep and Ethan Zeng averaged over 80% and the rapidly improving Sahil Tekurkar was not far behind. Their youngest player, Rishaan Sawant, found things a bit more difficult but although he only averaged 27% his



ETHAN ZENG

few weeks suggest he will do much better next season. Most of this team are likely to end up playing in Division 1 next year and if they do I am sure they will do very well.

Best Recent Performance – Sahil Tekurkar recovering from two games down to beat your DFS 11-9 in the fifth

Tilehurst RBL 'B' had the difficult task of playing the teams in the top half of the season in their last five matches. However, some excellent performances saw them win four of the five matches with their only defeat the 6 – 4 reverse to the eventual champions. Their last two matches were against fourth placed Milestone and third placed Pangbourne WMC and great 8 - 2 and 9 – 1 victories saw them clinch the runners up spot.

Kate Maksimenko led the way on 93% and she only lost



RYAN CHUNG OF KINGFISHER 'I'

the luxury of not needing to play their top player, Ryan Chung, in any matches after early February.

Their recent form saw a number of big wins, including 9 – 1 against promotion contenders Milestone 'A'. Their only close match was against eventual runners up Tilehurst RBL 'B' which they just edged 6 – 4, a result which probably suited both sides, in a hard-fought match.

The excellent Ryan Chung ended the season unbeaten



EKATERINA MAKSIMENKO



LINDA KING AND JOHN WILLCOCKS, OF TILEHURST RBL

once in the second half of the season, to Ray Webb, despite playing against all of the top teams. Your DFS only lost three times in the second half to finish with

Pangbourne WMC - for a lot of the season it had looked as if they would finish second but their form dipped a bit in the last few weeks and in the end they had to settle for third. In their last few matches they had big wins over the bottom two teams but lost to Springfield and could only manage a draw against Kingfisher 'H'. Their final match had looked like it would be a promotion decider against Tilehurst RBL 'B' but by the time the match was played Tilehurst only had to get two points which they did in the first two sets of the night. Clive Taylor finished with a very good average of 72% but earlier in the season it had been much higher, John Simmonds and Leroy Wilson also had healthy averages and I am sure they will be challenging for promotion again next season. The team feel that they will need an additional player next season so if you know anyone who is looking to play at a nice venue, with a bar! please get in touch with them.



NICK LEAN OF TILEHURST RBL

Best Recent Performance – John Simmonds with an excellent maximum against a strong Springfield side

just under 80% and Nick Lean and Captain Linda King consistently picked up wins to back up their two team mates.

Best Recent Performance – Kate Maksimenko beating Zoltan Kelemen in five in a set of great attacking play by both players which was applauded by the players and supporters from all of the teams playing in the hall that night.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Kingfisher I	18	16	0	2	130	50	130
2 Tilehurst RBL B	18	13	0	5	122	58	122
3 Pangbourne	18	11	1	6	107	73	107
4 Milestone A	18	11	0	7	100	80	100
5 Tidmarsh D	18	10	3	5	100	80	100
6 OLOP D	18	7	3	8	87	93	87
7 Kingfisher H	18	4	4	10	87	93	87
8 Springfield	18	8	0	10	77	103	77
9 OLOP E	18	2	1	15	49	131	49
10 SC&P E	18	1	2	15	41	139	41



Milestone 'A' like Pangbourne WMC had looked like they could mount a promotion challenge for much of the season but in the end only getting close wins in two matches against mid-table sides gave them a bit too much to do and heavy defeats against the top two saw an end to their chances.



ZOLTAN KELEMEN

Zoltan Kelemen played well throughout the season and finished on 80% and he was given good support by Sachin Mundra. Oliver Bonser's form improved in the second half of the season and he recorded a number of good wins. Like Pangbourne they should mount a promotion challenge again next year but may need to find another player rather than having to rely on just the three of them.

Best Recent Performance – Zoltan Kelemen with a very good maximum against Tidmarsh 'D'



MARK CARLESS OF OLOP 'D'

Tidmarsh 'D' had an excellent final few weeks of the season which saw them win their last five matches. This run saw them move up the table and they only missed out on fourth place because they won fewer times than Milestone 'A'. Their run of victories included beating eventual runners up Tilehurst RBL 'B' 6 – 4 in a match which saw Ray Webb get one of his many second half maximums. Ray finished on 77% and Dave Edwards and Terry Hardie also played consistently and Tereasa Watson had a few good wins towards the end of the season.

Best Recent Performance – Ray Webb beating Kate Maksimenko in four, Kate's only defeat in the second half of the season

OLOP 'D' had looked like they would finish in a comfortable mid table position most of the season and that is the way it turned out. In their final few matches they managed three wins against teams in the bottom half and three defeats against teams near the top.

All four of their players had similar averages, ranging from 41% to 56% which makes them a very competitive team at this level but with nobody winning three regularly they are not quite strong enough to mount a promotion challenge. Mark Carless finished with a couple of good maximums to boost his average to 56%.

Best Recent Performance – Simon Brookes with a hard-fought win in five against Sachin Mundra

Kingfisher 'H' finished on the same number of points as OLOP 'D' even though they only won four matches during the season. The pattern of their season was a large number of very close results with the odd big win



MUHARREM AYDIN OF KINGFISHER 'H'



thrown in and virtually no heavy defeats. Their worst result was 2 – 8 and that only happened once. So, it shows that with ten points available for each match it is not necessary to win lots of matches to end up in a reasonable position on the chart.



HUZEYFE BORAZAN OF KINGFISHER 'H'

Huzeyfe Borazan was their top player on 60% but their other players also won regularly and they rarely recorded a duck

Best Recent Performance – Huzeyfe Borazan with a three straight win over Clive Taylor

Springfield continued as they had been doing in the first few matches in the New Year getting really good results when their best three players played but struggling a bit when they did not. Their last few matches saw two wins and two defeats with one of the victories coming against Pangbourne WMC. Their top three players have averages of between just under 50% and 67% despite them playing in most of the matches against the stronger teams, Rob Wilkie ending up with the highest average. Their three other players have

found the division a bit difficult with averages below 20%, perhaps next season the club will have enough players to enter two teams in the league.

Best Recent Performance – Rob Wilkie with two excellent wins in the victory over Pangbourne WMC

OLOP 'E' lost all of their matches in the second half of the season and at times struggled a bit to field teams having to concede one match and only having one player for another. The enthusiastic Parvin Baishkiyar played consistently well, especially in the second half of the season, but their younger players struggled a bit, although Jude Robinson did consistently pick up wins. Parvin finished on a very creditable 63% and he looks capable of improving on that next season. Their other players could not quite give him enough support but I am sure they will improve and could be very useful at this level next year.



PARVIN BAISHKIYAR OF OLOP 'E'

Best Recent Performance – Parvin Baishkiyar with good wins over John Simmonds and Leroy Wilson

SC&P 'E' lost their last five matches, most of which were against teams at the top of the division, to prevent them from at least catching the team above them. Prior to that they gained a creditable draw against Kingfisher 'H'. Ian Davenport had a good season ending up with 50% but he played fewer matches than his team mates which did not help their cause. The rest of their players mostly struggled a bit although Captain Anthony Reeve did have a good run of form towards the end of the season which saw him pick up a number of good wins.

Best Recent Performance – Derek Brooke-Wavell recovering from two games down to beat the in-form Ray Webb 11-8 in the fifth

LEADING AVERAGES 3				
Player	Team	P	W	%
Ryan Chung	Kingfisher I	18	18	100.00%
Kate Maksimenko	Tilehurst RBL B	45	42	93.33%
Theo Kniep	Kingfisher I	39	34	87.18%
Ethan Zeng	Kingfisher I	42	34	80.95%
Zoltan Kelemen	Milestone A	54	43	79.63%
John Willcocks	Tilehurst RBL B	39	31	79.49%
Ray Webb	Tidmarsh D	43	33	76.74%
Sahil Tekurkar	Kingfisher I	27	20	74.07%
Clive Taylor	Pangbourne WMC54	39	28	72.22%
Rob Wilkie	Springfield	30	20	66.67%
Parvin Baishkiyar	OLOP E	40	25	62.50%
Jason King	Springfield	33	20	60.61%
Huzeyfe Borazan	Kingfisher H	35	21	60.00%



READING CLOSED TOURNAMENT by Eric Van Looy



The Reading Closed took place on the 6th of March at the Cippenham Table Tennis Club.

The morning didn't get off to a great start when we found the premises pad-locked shut and had to call one of Cippenham's members out of her bed to open up. Still, by 9:10am – 10 minutes behind schedule – we were able to start off.

Division 1

In Group A, top seed Hari Gehlot (Kingfisher) won both his matches 3-straight. Emanuel Sandu (Kingfisher) claimed second spot beating Phil Davenport (OLOP) 3-0.

Group B's winner was second seed Sam Ricks (OLOP), beating Ian Cole (OLOP) 3-1 and Julian Telford (OLOP) 3-0 into the number 2 and 3 spots respectively. Ian recovered just in time from a 2-0 deficit to defeat Julian Telford in the fifth (7-11, 9-11, 11-8, 11-5, 11-8).

Third seed Graham Mendick (Kingfisher) was made to work hard for the top spot in Group C, beating fourth seed Mo Cook (OLOP) 3-2 in their final group game. Adrian Cretu (Kingfisher) fought hard but had to settle for third place.

All group winners + best number 2's progressed to the Semi-Finals. While Hari Gehlot dispatched Mo Cook 3-0, Sam Ricks had to dig deep to beat Graham Mendick 3-2.

The Final was the only match not following expectations, with 2nd seed Sam taking the crown with a

3-1 win over Hari.

Winner: Sam Ricks, RU: Hari Gehlot



HARI GEHLOT

Men's Singles

Results in the largest event of the day went mostly with expectations, until round 3 (Last 16); Ryan Chung (seeded 13) beat Nick Sears (8) 3-straight, and Emanuel Sandu (11) beat Eric Van Looy (7) 3-1. The biggest upset in the Quarter Finals was Ryan Chung's progress to the Semi-Finals instead of Mo Cook (4), while Hari Gehlot (1st seed, vs Ian Cole), Sam Ricks (2nd seed, vs Roger Pritchard) and Graham Mendick (3rd, vs Mike Childs) confirmed their status by filling the remaining places in the Last 4.

Though Ryan moved heaven and earth to wriggle past Hari, Gehlot comfortably closed out a 3-0 winner (11-6, 11-6, 11-6). The result in the second Semi-Final was very similar, with Sam taking out Graham 11-7, 11-7, 11-6 – though Graham nearly took himself out after a nasty cut on his playing hand forced a lengthy time-out.

The Men's Singles Final was not a repeat of the Division 1 Final, with Hari taking revenge on his earlier defeat by beating Sam 3-1. The first game of the match was a true nail-biter with Sam Ricks the winner at 22-20(!), before Hari took control and won the next three (11-9, 11-5, 11-5).



SAM RICKS



READING CLOSED WINNERS 2022

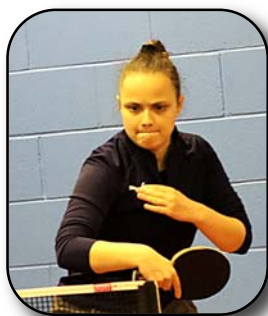
<u>Men's Singles</u>	Winner	Hari Gehlot	Runner up	Sam Ricks
<u>Men's Doubles</u>	Winners	Hari Gehlot & Mike Childs		
	Runners up	Graham Mendick & Julian Telford		
<u>Ladies' Singles</u>	Winner	Ekaterina Maksimenko	Runner up	Morgan Sykes
<u>Ladies' Doubles</u>	Winners	Morgan Sykes & Louise Forster		
	Runners up	Ekaterina Maksimenko & Linda King		
<u>Mixed Doubles</u>	Winners	Ekaterina Maksimenko & Nick Lean		
	Runners up	Louise Forster & Andrew Adair		
<u>Juniors</u>	Winner	Ryan Chung	Runner up	Mo Cook
<u>Under-40</u>	Winner:	Sam Ricks	Runner-up:	Eric Van Looy
<u>Veterans Singles</u>	Winner	Graham Mendick	Runner up	Zoltan Kelemen
<u>Senior Vets</u>	Winner	Hari Gehlot	Runner up	Ian Cole
<u>Over-60s</u>	Winner	Roger Pritchard	Runner up	Wayne Alleyne
<u>Div One</u>	Winner	Sam Ricks	Runner up	Hari Gehlot
<u>Div Two</u>	Winner	Mike Childs	Runner up	Eric Van Looy
<u>Div Three</u>	Winner	Ryan Chung	Runner up	Ekaterina Maksimenko
<u>Div Four</u>	Winner	Brett Hastings	Runner up	John Scott

[Click on event title to see what happened](#)

The first matches on the menu were those of the 4 Divisional events. Despite some late cancellations, we had 9 entries in Division 1, 12 entries in Div 2, 17 in Div 3 and 3 in Div 4. All events consisted of round-robin preliminaries and a knock-out stage, with the exception for Division 4.

Ladies' Singles

This round-robin event was won by Ekaterina Maksimenko, who overcame both Louise Forster (3-0) and Morgan Sykes (3-1) to win the title. Morgan Sykes and Louise Forster played a tense match for second place, with Morgan the eventual winner after being 2-1 down (7-11, 11-4, 11-4, 7-11, 12-10).



EKATERINA
MAKSIMENKO

W: Ekaterina Maksimenko, RU: Morgan Sykes

Division 2

Top seed Mike Childs (Reading FC) progressed to the semis from Group A with two 3-0 wins over Ajai Kamath (Kingfisher) and Andrew Adair (OLOP). Ajai came back from a loss in game 1 to defeat Andrew 3-1 for second spot.

In Group B, second seed Eric Van Looy (Tilehurst Methodists) also claimed two straight wins, over Eapen John (Kingfisher) and Wayne Alleyne (Reading FC). Wayne claimed second place with a strong win over Eapen (11-6, 11-2, 11-9).

Group C equally followed expectations, with 3rd seed Nick Sears (Sonning Sports) beating Louise Forster (OLOP) and Hamid Mohseni (Kingfisher) both 3-straight. Despite a little wobble in game 3, Hamid resigned Louise to third place with a hard-fought 3-1 win (12-10, 11-3, 3-11, 12-10).

Group D's run of events went against the expectations, with Bill Stamatiou (Tilehurst Methodists) man-aging top spot thanks to two 3-0 wins over 4th seed Roger Pritchard (Kingfisher) and Alistair Richardson (OLOP). Roger took second spot with a tight win over Alistair (6-11, 11-5, 13-11, 13-11).

In the Semi-Finals, Mike Childs confidently took a 3-0 win over Bill, while the



MIKE CHILDS vs ERIC VAN LOOY



other Semi-Final between Eric Van Looy and Nick Sears went to the wire, Eric coming out on top in the end (5-11, 11-7, 15-13, 9-11, 11-9).

Just like in his previous matches, Mike did not drop a single game in his Final win over Eric (11-7, 11-9, 11-3).

W: Mike Childs, RU: Eric Van Looy

Division 3

In Group A, top seed Ryan Chung (Kingfisher) needed



RYAN CHUNG

two 3-1 wins to overcome the opposition of Eyup Odemis (Kingfisher) and Parvin Baishkiyar (OLOP). Eyup fought hard to beat Parvin in the match for second place with a close 3-2 win (13-11, 11-8, 5-11, 11-13, 11-8)

2nd seed Ekaterina Maksimenko (Tilehurst British Legion) did not find all things going her way to take top spot in Group B, beating Derek Brooke-Wavell (Sonning Common & Peppard) 3-0 but narrowly defeating Morgan Sykes (OLOP) 3-2 (4-11, 11-6, 8-11, 11-7, 12-10). Morgan took second place with a 3-1 win over Derek.

3rd seed Zoltan Kelemen (Milestone) confidently took first place in Group C with 2 straight wins over Graham Stark (OLOP) and Nick Lean (Tilehurst British Legion). Graham and Nick took their match to the line, with Graham "nicking" it 3-2 (9-11, 16-14, 13-11, 10-12, 11-8).

Group D was a 4-player round robin, with 4th seed John Willcocks (Tilehurst British Legion) winning all matches 3-0. Mark Carless (OLOP) managed second place, courtesy of a 3-1 win over Simon Brookes (OLOP) and a close 5-setter over Muharrem Aydin (Kingfisher). Simon Brookes took the measure of Muharrem in their match for 3rd place, winning 3-1

Group E was won easily by Ethan Zeng (Kingfisher), with two straight wins over Karan Baishkiyar (OLOP) and Huzeyfe Borazan (Kingfisher). Huzeyfe won the battle for second place with a 3-0 win over Karan.

In the preliminary KO stage, Ethan Zeng came back from a 11-8 loss in game 1 to beat John Willcocks 3-1 (8-11, 13-11, 11-6, 11-7). The first Semi-Final between Ryan Chung and Zoltan Kelemen was a one-sided affair, with Ryan powering through 11-4, 11-4, 11-4. Ekaterina Maksimenko and Ethan Zeng kept each other in balance up to game 5, when Ekaterina found something extra to reach the Final (9-11, 11-8, 11-4, 7-11, 11-4).

Few players would have been able to stop Ryan that day, so it was no surprise Ryan took the Division 3 title with a 11-4, 11-5, 11-6 win over Ekaterina.

Winner: Ryan Chung, RU: Ekaterina Maksimenko

Division 4

Due to a last-minute cancellation, the Division 4 title was contested in a 3-player round robin.

Brett Hastings (Sonning Sports), John Scott (Sonning Sports) and John Evans (Milestone) all won a single match (Brett H. bt John E., John E bt John S., and John S. bt Brett H.) However, on countback it was Brett Hastings who was crowned Division 4 winner, thanks to his superior game ratio (4-3) over John Scott (4-4) and John Evans (3-4).



BRETT HASTINGS

Winner: Brett Hastings, RU: John Scott

The next matches played were all in the age-based events, with straight knock-outs in all events.

Juniors(4 entries)

Both top seeds Mo Cook (1) and Ryan Chung (2) progressed to the Final, courtesy of 3-0 wins over Ethan Zeng and Karan Baishkiyar respectively.

The Final was a more close-fought affair, but Ryan upset the seedings by beating Mo 11-9, 12-10, 11-9).

Winner: Ryan Chung, RU: Mo Cook

Under-40s (9 entries)

3 out of 4 top seeds progressed to the Semi-Finals; only Ekaterina Maksimenko had to drop out in the final stages of her Quarter Final match due to injury. This



allowed Huzeyfe Borazan to reach the semis, in which he faced 2nd seed Eric Van Looy. Despite a very close first game (16-14), Eric progressed to the Final with a 3-0 win. Also the other Semi-Final – between Sam Ricks and Ajai Kamath – was a win for the higher seed, with Sam coming through 3-0. Sam continued his good form with a straight-forward 11-7, 11-6, 11-7 victory over Eric in the Final.



ERIC VAN LOOY

Winner: Sam Ricks, RU: Eric Van Looy

Veterans (6 entries)

With Graham Mendick (seeded 1) and Julian Telford (2) receiving a bye, Zoltan Kelemen (3) and Parvin Baishkiyar (4) progressed from their Quarter Final matches against respectively Muharrem Aydin (3-0) and Eyup Odemis (3-2). While Semi-Final 1 between Graham and Parvin produced an expected win for Graham (despite Parvin's opposition in the 2nd game 11-7, 10-12, 11-4, 11-5), there was an upset in Semi-Final 2, with Zoltan finding something extra to beat Julian 3-2 (9-11, 11-6, 11-8, 9-11, 11-7), a candidate for the biggest upset of the tournament.



ZOLTAN KELEMEN LOSES TO GRAHAM MENDICK

Graham made sure that scenario did not repeat in the Final and broke Zoltan's resistance in a 3-1 win (11-5, 9-11, 11-1, 11-1).

W: Graham Mendick, RU: Zoltan Kelemen

Senior Veterans (13 entries)

Arguably the strongest age bracket, with over half of the players coming from Division 1 and individual top 3 in Division 2. 4th seed Nick Sears had a tough draw in the last 16, and lost to unseeded Emanuel Sandu (3-0). Fellow division 1 player Phil Davenport also had to endure defeat to Emanuel (3-14) in the quarters, which meant we had a Semi-Final between top seed Hari Gehlot and 3rd seed Mike Childs at one end, and Emanuel Sandu against 2nd seed Ian Cole at the other side of the bracket.

While Ian dispatched Emanuel in a straight 3-0 win, Hari faced slightly tougher opposition with Mike, eventually winning in 4 (11-8, 6-11, 11-8, 11-8).

Hari repeated his 4-game Semi-Final win in the Final, overcoming defeat in game 1 (8-11), before taking the Senior Veterans crown in the next 3 games (11-6, 11-8, 11-4).

Winner: Hari Gehlot, RU: Ian Cole

Over-60s (7 entries)

Due to late cancellations of 2nd seed Paul Savage and promoted 4th seed Mick Stanners, the draw was wide open to challenge top seed Roger Pritchard. Roger defeated John Scott in Semi-Final 1 (3-0), while Wayne Alleyne took the second Final spot from John Willcocks in Semi-Final 2, coming back from defeat in game 1 to win in 4 (8-11, 11-9, 11-8, 11-6).



ROGER PRITCHARD

However, Roger was not to be denied his title in the Over-60s event and duly beat Wayne 3-0 in the Final.

Winner: Roger Pritchard, RU: Wayne Alleyne

The late afternoon saw the start of the Men's & Ladies Singles, Men's & Ladies' Doubles, and Mixed Doubles events.

Men's Doubles

Most results went with the seeds, though especially 4th seeds Eric Van Looy/Nick Sears were tested hard by Ajai Kamath/Eapen John (6-11, 11-9, 11-3,



L-R: MIKE CHILDS, NICK LEAN, HARI GEHLOT, JOHN WILLCOCKS



15-17, 11-4) in the Last 16 and Ryan Chung/Ethan Zeng in the Quarter Finals (6-11, 13-11, 11-8, 10-12, 11-9). Another high-quality match was Phil Davenport/Sam Ricks'(3) five-gamer win in the Quarter Final over Ian Cole/Adrian Cretu (5).

Hari Gehlot/Mike Childs (1st seeds) stepped up a gear against Phil Davenport/Sam Ricks in their Semi-Final encounter (12-10, 6-11, 11-2, 11-4), while Graham Mendick/Julian Telford (2) were untroubled by Eric Van Looy/Nick Sears (11-2, 11-4, 12-10).

The Final, however, was a one-sided affair, with Hari and Mike running out a 3-0 win over Graham and Julian (11-5, 11-6, 11-6).

Winners: Hari Gehlot/Mike Childs, RU: Graham Mendick/Julian Telford

Ladies' Doubles



LOUISE FORSTER & MORGAN SYKES

One single win to decide the winner between the OLOP pair of Morgan Sykes/Louise Forster and Tilehurst British Legion duo Ekaterina Maksimenko/Linda King. Morgan and Louise were rarely challenged and were crowned Ladies's Doubles winners with a 3-0 win (11-8, 11-6, 11-5).



EKATERINA MAKSIMENKO & LINDA KING

Winners: Morgan Sykes/Louise Forster, RU: Ekaterina Maksimenko/Linda King

Mixed Doubles

Top seeds Ekaterina Maksimenko/Nick Lean progressed to the Final after a hard-fought match against Linda King/John Willcocks (8-11, 12-10, 11-8, 11-6), while Louise Forster/Andrew Adair (2) secured their Final spot with a 3-1 win over Morgan Sykes/Simon Brookes (11-7, 9-11, 11-7, 11-9).

In the Final, Ekaterina/Nick were hard-pressed by Louise/Andrew, but did not lose a game on the way to the Mixed Doubles title (11-6, 11-8, 15-13).


Winners: Ekaterina Maksimenko/Nick Lean, RU: Louise Forster/Andrew Adair

Thanks to those who helped out tidying up the place, thanks to Wendy for helping with the admin while I was playing, and congratulations to the winners!

Eric Van Looy



MO COOK

NB -  [Videos of competitions](#) - which we are always short of:

We requested players and others to let us have useful clips. Here is one brief set of [memories](#) of the Reading Closed - for which we thank the player concerned.



DIVISION FOUR

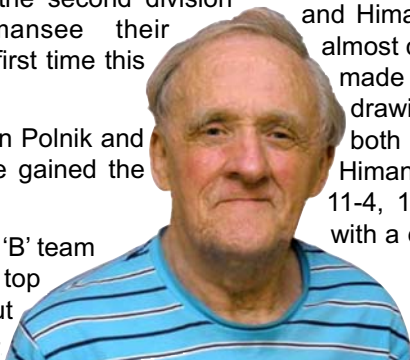
by *Derek Harrison*

Hello Everybody,

I will start by CONGRATULATING Dave Chard and his merry men from **Sonning Sports 'B'** on winning the Championship as I forecast in my first report. Also well done to their 'A' team who won the second division Championship. Bob Woodmansee their Chairman informed me this is the first time this has happened since 1971.

Also CONGRATULATIONS to Jan Polnik and his team at **O.L.O.P 'F'** who have gained the runners up spot.

In the **Sonning Sports** derby the 'B' team by winning 2 – 8 went clear at the top of the table. Himanshu Pasbola put in a player of the match performance by winning all three in straight sets, beating Stephen Reader 15-11, 7-11, 9-11, Linda Barlow 9-11, 2-11, 8-11 and Michael Byrne 9-11, 7-11, 7-11. At this stage Cris Reynolds went to the top of



Gerry to win in the 5th game. Mike then took on Brett and was 2-1 up and 9-5 up in the 4th game only for Brett to win the next 6 points to win 9-11 however Mike won the final game 11-8. At Milestone 'B' in a match that was postponed from week one they won 0 – 10 with Harry, Cris and Himanshu all gaining fairly easy trebles. This win almost certainly clinched the championship. They then made their possession of the Championship final by drawing with O.L.O.P. 'F' with Harry and Himanshu both winning two and Cris picking up a single. Himanshu had a great win over Alona by beating her 11-4, 11-7, 11-8 and likewise Harry also beat Alona with a different bat 11-6, 15-13, 12-10.

Dave 5/15 = 33.3% 2 doubles, 1 singles

Brett 13/20 = 65.0% 6 doubles, 1 single

Harry 37/44 = 84.1% 8 trebles, 6 doubles, 1 single
POM 7

Himanshu 21/27 = 77.8 4 trebles, 4 doubles, 1 single
POM 4

Cris 28/35 = 80.0% 6 trebles, 4 doubles, 2 singles
POM 4

Doubles 7/16 = 43.8%

First Half 57 points, second half 57 points

O.L.O.P. 'F' were held to a draw by Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' with Alona Slobodskoy and Qing Wu both winning two each. James Smith picked up a single. At Milestone 'B' they came away with a 1 – 9 win with Alona and Qing hitting trebles. For Alona they were all three straight. Jan picked up two besides teaming up with Qing to win the doubles. By beating a two man Kingfisher 'J' 9 – 1 they moved into second place. Qing and Alona both won two each with Jan winning one. At Sonning Sports 'B' they came away with a draw. Qing became the first player to gain a hat trick against them this season by beating Cris 7-11, 6-11, 10-12. In that first game Cris was 5-1 up. Against Himanshu it went 11-8, 9-11, 10-12, 4-11 then in set ten against Harry 8-11, 17-19, 10-12 – PHEW! In the match between Cris and Alona it went like this 11-13 after Cris led 9-3 and 10-5 5-11, 5-11. To complete the score line Qing and Alona beat Cris and



BRETT HASTINGS OF SONNING SPORTS 'B'

the averages by also winning all three. Brett Hastings gained a good double. At home to Tilehurst Meths 'B' they were 3 – 5 down and their first defeat was on the horizon, however in set 9 Himanshu took on Patrick and beat him 12-10, 11-2, 11-6. This then left Harry Brough to beat Steve Christelow 11-9, 9-11, 11-9, 7-11, 14-12. Earlier Himanshu took on Martin who he had defeated twice before, once in the league and in a cup match and duly made it a hat trick by winning 11-6, 9-11, 11-7, 11-8. So overall Harry and Himanshu won two each, with Cris picking up a single. They then went to TRBL 'C' and won 4 – 6 with Cris putting on a super show by gaining a hat trick and beating Jim 11-13, 9-11, 8-11 Geoff 7-11, 4-11, 11-7, 11-5, 9-11 and Paul 8-11, 5-11, 8-11. He also teamed up with Dave Chard to win the doubles. Harry played his part by winning two. At Sonning Common & P 'F' they then strolled to a 2 – 8 win with Harry winning all three with Cris and Brett both obtaining doubles. Cris informed me the Gerry and Cris clash saw Cris 2 games up and 1-7 up before falling apart for

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Sonning Sports B	16	12	4	0	114	46	114
2 OLOP F	16	11	2	3	104	56	104
3 Tilehurst Meths B	16	10	3	3	101	59	101
4 Tilehurst RBL C	16	9	1	6	94	66	94
5 SC&P F	16	7	3	6	87	73	87
6 Reading FC B	16	6	2	8	73	87	73
7 Sonning Sports C	16	4	0	12	62	98	62
8 Kingfisher J	16	5	1	10	51	109	51
9 Milestone B	16	0	0	16	34	126	34



Himanshu in the doubles 11-6, 5-11, 3-11, 6-11. In their final match they beat Sonning Sports 'C' 0 – 10 and as a result clinched the runners up spot. Alona, Qing and James all gained trebles. For James it was his first of the season, well done.

Jan 6/28 = 57.1% 1 treble, 4 doubles, 5 singles POM 1
Alona 34/43 = 79.1% 8 trebles, 4 doubles, 2 singles POM 7
James 13/38 = 34.2% 1 treble, 2 doubles, 6 singles
Qing 22/29 = 75.9% 4 trebles, 4 doubles, 2 singles POM 3
Doubles 13/16 = 81.3%
Points first half 46, second half 58

Tilehurst Meths 'B' travelled to Sonning Sports 'B' and came away with a draw. Patrick O'Sullivan hit a double when he beat Harry Brough and Cris Reynolds. He also teamed up with Martin Wetherell to win the doubles. New signing Steve Christelow and Martin both won one each in a match that did not finish until 11.30 p.m. At home to Sonning Sports 'C' they romped to a 9 – 1 victory with Patrick and Steve both hitting 3-straight hat tricks with no player gaining more than 8 points. Andy Stone played his part by winning two. They then beat TRBL 'C' by the same score with Patrick and Martin both gaining trebles. Arek had two nice wins.

Patrick 22/27 = 81.5% 4 trebles 5 doubles POM 2
Martin 28/33 = 84.8% 7 trebles 3 doubles 1 single POM 7
Andrew 14/30 = 46.7% 1 treble 3 doubles 5 singles
Arek 12/39 = 30.8% 4 doubles 4 singles POM 1
Steve 4/6 = 66.7% 1 treble 1 single POM 1
Doubles 10/14 = 71.4%
First half points 47 second half 54

Edwards 10-12, 12-10, 12-10, 9-11, 11-8. Geoff won two and Jim gained a single. They then went one up to Tilehurst Meths 'B' - then lost the next nine sets. Paul won that first set by beating Arek. We then beat Sonning Sports 'C' 6 – 4 with Geoff and Paul both hitting trebles. Sadly I lost all three.

Derek 3/17 = 17.6% 1 double 1 single
Jim 23/35 = 65.7% 3 trebles, 5 doubles 4 singles POM 3
Geoff 28/44 = 63.6% 5 trebles 5 doubles 3 singles POM 4
Paul 19/30 = 63.3% 3 trebles 4 doubles 2 singles POM 1
Linda 4/6 = 66.7% 1 treble 1 single
Doubles 4/14 = 28.57%
Points first half 54, points second half 40

Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' held O.L.O.P 'F' to a draw thanks mainly to a Gerry Bacon hat trick. Mike Casserley won one besides teaming up with Gerry to win the doubles. At home to Milestone 'B' they stormed to a 9 – 1 win with Gerry and Mike both hitting trebles. Alistair Scott did well to gain a double. Next they lost 2 – 8 to Sonning Sports 'B' with Gerry beating Cris and Mike beating Brett. Away at Kingfisher 'J' they came away winning 2 – 8 with Gerry hitting a three-straight hat trick and Mike also won all three with Alistair picking up a single.

Mike 21/41 = 51.2% 3 trebles 3 double 6 singles POM 1
Marko 6/14 = 42.9% 2 doubles 2 single
Gerry 26/33 = 78.8% 6 trebles 3 double 2 singles POM 6
Alistair 12/39 = 30.8% 4 doubles 4 singles
Steve 0/6
Doubles 9/15 = 60.0%
First half points 38, second half points 49.

Reading F C 'B' despite having only two players beat bottom side Milestone 'B' 7 – 3 with Harry Edwards and Joe Bull hitting fairly easy hat tricks. For Joe they were all three straight. They then beat Sonning Sports 'C' 9 – 1 and as a result moved into a comfortable position in the table. Joe Bull and Derek Anderson both obtained trebles. For Joe they were all three straight as follows; Michael Byrne 11-4, 11-7, 11-7, Mo Cole 11-8, 11-0, 11-6 and Mike Gautrey 11-4, 11-6, 11-9. Harry weighed in with a double. At TRBL 'C' they lost 6 – 4 with Joe winning two and Derek gaining a single. Joe and Harry also won the doubles. They conceded their last 2 matches but it did not have any bearing on the promotion spots. I do hope Harry that for next season you can obtain a fourth player.

Harry 17/42 = 40.5% 2 trebles 4 doubles 3 singles
Joe 29/36 = 80.6% 6 trebles 5 doubles 1 single POM 6
Derek 19/27 = 70.4% 6 trebles 5 doubles 1 single POM 1
Wayne 0/9
Doubles 8/14 = 57.1%
Points first half 37, second half 36.

Sonning Sports 'C' went down 2 – 8 to their 'B' team with Stephen Reader beating Brett Hastings in set ten

Stephen also teamed up with Linda Barlow to beat Cris and Himanshu in the doubles. I have to say that Linda was unlucky against Brett when she lost 11-9, 1-11, 5-11, 11-9, 9-11. They then travelled to Reading F C with a

DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Martin Wetherell	Tilehurst Meths B	33	28	84.85%
Harry Brough	Sonning Sports B	44	37	84.09%
Patrick O'Sullivan	Tilehurst Meths B	27	22	81.48%
Joe Bull	Reading FC B	36	29	80.56%
Cris Reynolds	Sonning Sports B	35	28	80.00%
Alona Slobodskoy	OLOP F	43	34	79.07%
Gerry Bacon	SCP F	33	26	78.79%
Himanshu Pasbola	Sonning Sports B	27	21	77.78%
Qing Wu	OLOP F	29	22	75.86%
Derek Anderson	Reading FC B	27	19	70.37%
Jim Brent	Tilehurst RBL C	35	23	65.71%
Brett Hastings	Sonning Sports B	20	13	65.00%
Peter Bennett	Kingfisher J	39	25	64.10%

Tilehurst Royal British Legion 'C' were made to work hard by Kingfisher 'J' but managed a 3 – 7 victory. Jim Brent did very well by winning all three which included Peter Bennett. Geoff Johnson and Paul Treadgold both obtained doubles. We then lost 4 – 6 to Sonning Sports 'B' with Paul winning two and Geoff and Jim both picking up singles. At home to Reading FC 'B' they picked up six vital points with Paul gaining a very good hat trick. Mind you in set ten he had to work hard by beating Harry



depleted team and lost 9 – 1. I am delighted to report that Mo Cole won her first set of the season by beating Harry Edwards 10-12, 11-4, 11-7, 7-11, 9-11. (Sorry Harry and well done Mo.) At Tilehurst Meths 'B' Mo won the only set by beating Andy 8-11, 10-12, 11-2, 11-9, 9-11 in a 9 – 1 defeat. At home to Milestone 'B' John Scott hit top form by winning all three and with Linda and Stephen both gaining doubles this helped them to a 8 – 2 win. At T R B L 'C' they lost 6 – 4 with Stephen, Mo and Michael winning the single sets.

Stephen 18/31 = 58.1% 1 treble, 6 doubles, 3 singles POM 2

Michael 3/23 = 13.0% 1 double, 1 single

Mo 3/17 = 17.6% 3 singles

Mike 5/23 = 13.0% 2 doubles, 1 single

John 12/24 = 50.0% 1 treble, 3 doubles, 3 singles POM 2

Linda 3/17 = 17.6% 1 double, 1 single

Doubles 9/16 = 56.3%

First Half points 36, second half 26.

Kingfisher 'J' lost to T R B L 'C' 3 – 7 with the ever-green Peter Bennett winning two besides teaming up with Miguel Caballero to win the doubles. At home to O.L.O.P. they could only field two players and lost 9 – 1. Peter picked up the win by beating Jan 5-11, 3-11, 8-11. At home to Sonning Com & P 'F' they lost 2 – 8 with Peter and Miguel both winning one. At Milestone they came away with a 4 – 6 win Miguel and Terry both winning two each besides teaming up to win the doubles. Peter won the other set.

Miguel 11/ 42 = 26.2% 4 doubles 3 singles

Peter 25/39 = 64.1% 3 trebles 6 doubles 4 singles POM 4

Terry 8/45 = 17.8% 2 doubles 4 singles

Maksym 1/9 = 11.1% 1 single

Doubles 6/16 = 37.5%

Points first half 27, second half 24.



JOHN EVANS OF MILESTONE 'B'

Bottom side **Milestone 'B'** lost to a two man Reading F C 'B' 7 – 3. No more comment Tony. At Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' they lost 9 – 1 with Tony Hayden beating Alistair. At home to O.L.O.P 'F' they lost 1 – 9 with John Evans beating Jan 11-5, 11-7, 11-6. Sadly at home to Sonning Sports 'B' they again suffered a 0 - 10 defeat. At Sonning Sports 'C' they suffered another defeat by losing 8 – 2. John won the two by beating Stephen and Linda. At home to Kingfisher John had a great night by winning all three in a 4 – 6 defeat.

Tony 6/38 = 15.8% 6 singles

John 19/44 = 43.2% 2 trebles 4 doubles 5 singles POM 2

Colin 4/38 = 10.5% 4 singles

Doubles 2/15 = 13.3%

Points first half 18, second half 16.



JOHN SCOTT OF SONNING SPORTS 'C'

A few stats ...

Only the following people played in every match: Geoff Johnson, John Evans and Harry Edwards.

Best team doubles O.L.O.P. 13/16 = 81.3%

The most improved player was Qing Wu: First Half 7/12 = 58.3% Second Half 15/17 = 88.2%

Also there were eight 5 - 5 matches, 20 were 6 – 4, 17 were 7 – 3, 10 were 8 – 2, 8 were 9 - 1 and 6 were 10 – 0, and 3 were walk-overs.

There were 32 home wins and 29 away wins and 8 were draws, with 3 walk-overs.

Finally I hope that the teams with only 3 players can get extra players which might prevent a few matches being postponed next season.

Also I would like to thank Cris Reynolds for his excellent match reports. OK I did get the odd few from the captains but not so well-informed as the ones that Cris did.

Cheers,

Derek