



READING & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

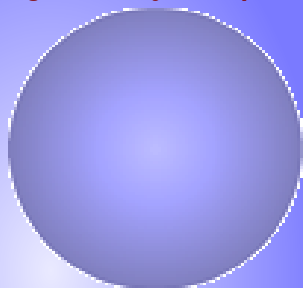
Editor: **DEREK WAVELL**

Prize-winning sons Tamir and Yonatan Slobodskoy - and their player-mother Alona

November 2017

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The 2017-18 season kicks off in the glow of last season's successes. All the photos - taken by myself - are from the awards ceremony in May. On this cover page you see a brilliant table tennis family - Alona Slobodskoy, who plays in Div 5 - is the mother of Tamir (Individual Handicap champion) and Yonatan (Junior Masters champion).

Look at just the two top teams in each of the 5 divisions, and you will see 9 clubs represented. Quite a healthy scattering! Only in Division One are the top two teams both in the same club - Kingfisher - and in fact five of the eight teams competing in that division are from the same club.

Quite a feat! However, only eight teams in the division! Mark Banks the DFS is by no means happy at the resulting lack of matches - though he himself was consulted in arriving at that number.

So what is to be done? Today for the first time we take the inspection cover off the League and see how it works. If you've got answers, now is your chance!

Good luck and have a good year

Derek BW



Notes from our Chairman

by Derek Harrison

Hello everyone and welcome to a brand new season. I hope that you are enjoying it and it is going well for you.

I would like to welcome John



Willcocks to our committee and hope you do not have

any problems running the second division.

As in the previous seasons can I ask team captains to include some match comments which will help the divisional secretaries when they do their newsletter article.

Finally do not forget to look at our splendid website which will keep you up to date on the Reading league.

All the best
Derek

Secretary's Notes

1. Individual Handicap Competition - Entries for the Individual handicap can be made from 1st November (see the website for details). The tournament takes place on **Sunday 7th January**.

2. Reading Closed Championships - The Reading Closed tournament is being staged at Cippenham this year with the senior and veteran events on **Sunday 11th February** and the Junior events on **Saturday 17th February**.

Nigel Maltby



Trophies still Awaiting Collection

On Tuesday 2nd May, there was a ceremony to present trophies to pre-eminent players and teams in our league. You can see photos from that occasion on pp 8-10 - and distributed through this Newsletter.

However, some prizewinners were unfortunately unable to make this event - and the **Trophy Secretary Paul Treadgold** is still holding their trophies to await collection. **Could winners please contact him at their earliest convenience?**

The winners concerned are:

Division 5 Runners up: Reading FC 'B' (Biscuit Men)
i.e. **Joe Bull, Keith Greene, Paul Brown and Dave Evans** - in other words the entire team

Reading Closed:

Div 2 Runner up	Zdislaw Jerzmanski
Div 4 Runner up	Zoltan Kelemen
Div 5 Runner up	Clive Gold
Mens Singles Runner up	Krasi Ivanov
Div 1 Restricted Winner	Krasi Ivanov

Paul Treadgold's phone number is 9831003 and his email address is treadgoldpaul77@outlook.com

The Origin of our Universe (the League)

I used to think that the League works very simply. If my team plays well enough, it goes up to the next division; if badly enough, it goes down. Like heaven and hell.

But the truth is more than that - and more interesting. Making it work from year to year is more like an exercise in three-dimensional snakes and ladders - and if you don't get the maths right, or the politics, or the PR, then the whole thing will come tumbling down. And this year's League has been the most perilous of all to put together.

Our own league-builder is RDTTA secretary Nigel Maltby, and after hearing him juggling problems and solutions I asked him to unveil the truth to us all. DBW

How your League is constructed.

by Nigel Maltby

I was asked by Derek Wavell to write an article on how our league is constructed as he found the detail I presented to the Reading Committee quite interesting. But having mullied it over I think this is going to turn more into more of a plea for us to find solutions to various continuing problems we have in our League, especially at the top level.

This season you will have perhaps noticed that there are **only 8 teams in Division 1. Division 1 has been problematic for several seasons now** - fewer and fewer teams generally, an increasing gulf in class within Division 1, and certainly between division 1 and division 2, and hence an unwillingness (quite understandably) for some teams / players to make the step up from division 2 despite finishing in the top two places. I have highlighted these continuing difficulties for a number of seasons.

So what can be done? **Push 4 teams up from Division 2** to "share the pain"? 80% of matches would be a foregone conclusion, even if at least the other 20% would be competitive. The difficulty then would be the knock-on effect, i.e. 4 teams (or more) would need to step up from division 3 to division 2, and so on, and so on.

Another solution you might say would be to have a **"super league"** i.e. the top six teams only, playing each other 4 times. Problems: there are clubs with several teams in different divisions, sharing or alternating home nights at their own premises. So for this to work, all the divisions would have to be similarly structured. Plus one or two teams would need to be promoted to the super league each season, and they would probably finish bottom each year and go up the next.

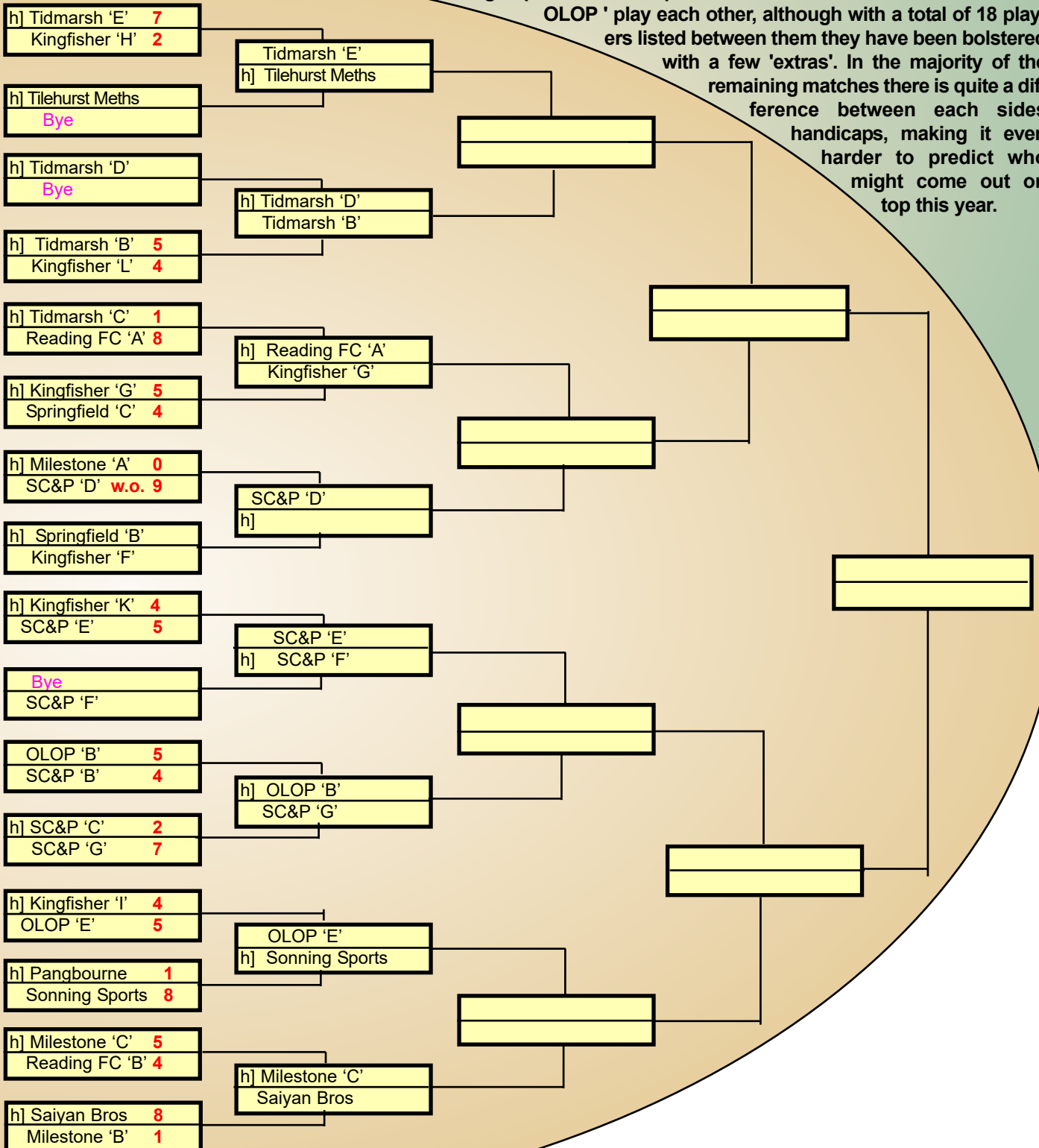
This season was another taxing one for getting our teams into a league structure and some of you may find it interesting how it is done. Trust me, it is far from throwing all the teams up into the air and letting them land in the division of their choice!

First thing needed is for each club secretary to submit Form A which is a complete list of the number of teams they wish to enter, their divisions of choice, home nights and team captain details. It is vitally important for these details to be provided by Club Secretaries by the given deadline each year as there is much to do [Continued on p4](#)

Team Handicap Competition 2017-18

organised by Ray Webb

Alistair Richardson, captain of last season's victorious OLOP 'E' team made the draw, with 29 sides (a reduction of 1) entering, and for a second season Tidmarsh 'D' have received a bye into round two. Alistair has made four changes to his winning team (now OLOP 'B') and compared to last season will also be giving away over 20 extra points, which should make the cup that much harder to retain. New side Saiyan Brothers could pose a few problems having a seven player team covering a wide range of handicaps. Team selection will undoubtedly play a big part. Sonning Common and Peppard have entered six sides with their 'C' and 'G' teams drawn to meet. There are two same division match ups with Milestone 'C' entertaining Reading FC 'B', these two scheduled to meet in the league prior to their cup match. Division two sides SC&P 'B' and OLOP ' play each other, although with a total of 18 players listed between them they have been bolstered with a few 'extras'. In the majority of the remaining matches there is quite a difference between each sides handicaps, making it even harder to predict who might come out on top this year.



LEAGUE CONSTRUCTION - continued from P2

and check from that point onwards.

Then it's a case of balancing the number of teams across the divisions as far as possible, while taking into account the wishes of each team as far as possible. With 50 teams entered you might think it would be a straight forward decision to have 10 teams in each division. Not quite so when you have only 8 teams wanting division 1 – promoting two others would have a knock on effect throughout the entire league, before you even look at the wants and wishes of the other divisions.

Then there is the always tricky subject of **which teams wish to share a home night** or alternate with another team(s). Just as an example Kingfisher 'A' in Division 1 play on a Tuesday and wish to share the same home night as Kingfisher 'K' in Division 4, Kingfisher 'C' also want to play on a Tuesday and share with Kingfisher 'B'. As Kingfisher only have two tables available to league matches all four teams cannot therefore play on the same Tuesday, therefore Kingfisher 'A' and 'K' play on alternate Tuesdays with Kingfisher 'B' and Kingfisher 'C'.

Within the fixture grid, in order to share a home night teams must be given the same number within the grid, therefore both Kingfisher 'A' and 'K' are given position 4 for example and those with whom they are alternating with must therefore be given position 10 in the fixture grid. In our current 12 team fixture grid position 1 alternates with 7, 2 with 8, 3 with 9, 4 with 10, 5 with 11 and 6 with 12.

There were a total of 50 teams entered for the 17/18 season, of which only 8 teams wanted Div 1.

Two clubs / teams were no longer in existence, BBC & YMCA, and one less team had been entered by each of the following clubs: SC&P, Tilehurst Methodists, Pangbourne and Reading FC. One additional club /team had entered calling themselves Saiyan Brothers, who would be playing at the ex YMCA club venue.

In summary **we have gone down from 55 teams to 50 this season**. Additional to that the previous OLOP 'A' side would not be in Division 1 and only one of the two promoted teams from Division 2 had taken their place in Division 1 as the other team's players now formed part of existing Division 1 teams. **This left only 8 teams in Division 1.**

Various options were discussed by the League Construction committee. These included:

1. Restructure the entire league into an 8-team fixture grid format, playing each other 3 times. There would be 8 teams in Division 1 and 7 teams in Divisions 2 – 7.
2. Run Division 1 in an 8-team fixture grid format, but retain other divisions in a 12-team fixture grid format. This was investigated but was quickly deemed unworkable as shared home nights and alternations would not work between the two differing fixture grids.
3. Promote 2 teams up from Division 2 and have 5 divi-

sions of 10 teams. This would mean promoting 2 teams who do not wish to go up and also promoting 3 teams up from Div 3 and 1 team up from Div 4.

4. Only have 8 teams in Division 1, but compensate by running an additional cup competition i.e. the old Impact Shield.
5. Have a 14 team league structure – dismissed as the season would last until mid-May!

Division 1 is a situation that has been building for a number of seasons and now needs some further thought /discussion ahead of next season on whether moving to 8, 10 or even 14 team places per division is possible. The main problem at the moment is that Division 1 has little prospect of gaining more than 10 teams in the foreseeable future.

So thoughts at present include:

- Having divisions of 8 and playing each other 3 times - doesn't seem to be popular(?)
- Having divisions of 6 and playing each other 4 times - may be similarly unpopular(?)
- The divisions of 12 that we have now are presenting us with the same problem year after year now in Div 1 with the only solution to promote more teams into Div 1 who don't want to be there.
- Having divisions of 14 as per the Bristol League (so we could promote more teams into Div 1 to "share the pain"). Only problem with that one was their season lasted until mid-May!

For this current season we opted to have only 8 teams in division 1, but have an additional cup competition for those teams to boost match numbers. For Division 1 and the other divisions we decided upon the following:

Division 1: 10 team entitlements, however the previous OLOP 'A' side no longer existed and Kingfisher 'F' had applied to remain in Division 2 as its squad of players was not of division 1 standard due to team restructuring within Kingfisher. This left just 8 teams wanting Division 1. Consideration was made to the various options above, including placing last season's 3rd and 4th placed teams from Division 2 into Division 1 (Tidmarsh 'B' and Curzon 'A'). As neither would want this, after consulting Mark Banks and other Div 1 players it was decided to run with only 8 teams, but offer an additional cup competition (provided someone was prepared to run it).

Division 2: 9 applications. YMCA had withdrawn from the league and Pangbourne were only entering one of their entitled two teams. As both OLOP 'B' and OLOP 'C' looked the stronger teams in Division 3 it was decided to promote OLOP 'B' to Division 2. Springfield 'A' and Milestone 'A' were also considered / consulted. With the addition of OLOP 'B', there were now 10 teams in Division 2.

Division 3: 12 applications - including an application from Sonning Sports 'A' to stay up. This application was accepted. After promoting OLOP 'B' to Division 2 this left 11 teams in Division 3.

[Continued on p5](#)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Table Tennis friends...

We are a new team in the League and it will be a great pleasure for us to play together with you in Reading and District League, and gain priceless experience during our first season.

We are a group of people who have a big passion for playing table tennis. Some of us had a many years gap when last time compete on top level, others are at the beginning of the long adventure.

Everything started on one cold day in January when two random guys met in Reading in some pub with table tennis table, they started playing and dreaming about table tennis, World Championship, Olympic Games etc. They decided that at the beginning of the long journey they will set a team in a local league and will try to win everything what is possible to win. While one of them had to return to Poland for some time, other one started searching for suitable players. After few long months the team was set and ready to start the competition.

Our play style is aggressive and fearless, and our aim is to be the best table tennis team – similar like Saiyan's which is a group of people from the anime and manga Dragon Ball.

We are more than only table tennis friends. During this time when we were playing ping pong together our relation turned into fraternity – Brotherhood.

We represent different nations – Poland, Turkey, Nepal, India and Greece – and table tennis is our language.

Wishing all good luck to the new league season.

Saiyan Brothers

LEAGUE CONSTRUCTION - continued from P4

Division 4: 10 applications, including a new SC&P 'F' team. Reading FC 'B' had earned promotion from division 5 but had not entered as a team this season. Saiyan Brothers were placed in Division 4 rather than division 5 at their request, giving 11 teams in Division 4.

Division 5: 11 applications, including a new club / team Saiyan Brothers. BBC Club had withdrawn and one less team was entered by SC&P. Saiyan Brothers were elevated to Division 4 giving 10 teams in Division 5.

I guess you can see from my ramblings just how complicated it can be. The big unknown is always how many teams will enter overall. Once you know that it 'should' be relatively straight forward but as you can see it doesn't always work out that way. Constructing the league, planning, organising, attending meetings etc takes several man hours to complete but I find it is always a rewarding thing to do. In many ways it is like a suduko puzzle – there is always an answer – you just have to find it!

One of our main goals is always to give as many teams as possible the division of their choice. While this has not worked every time, we have come pretty close to it over the past few years. **The alarming thing is the continuing steady decline in team numbers. When I first started playing (40+ years ago) we had roughly 160 teams – now we are down to just 50. What can we do to arrest that slide?** The large majority of our playing membership is, I believe, the wrong side of 40 years of age with not many juniors following through into the senior league. I worry where we will be in another 10-20 years.

If anyone has any suggestions on league structure and format you are free to e-mail me at n.maltby587@btinternet.com

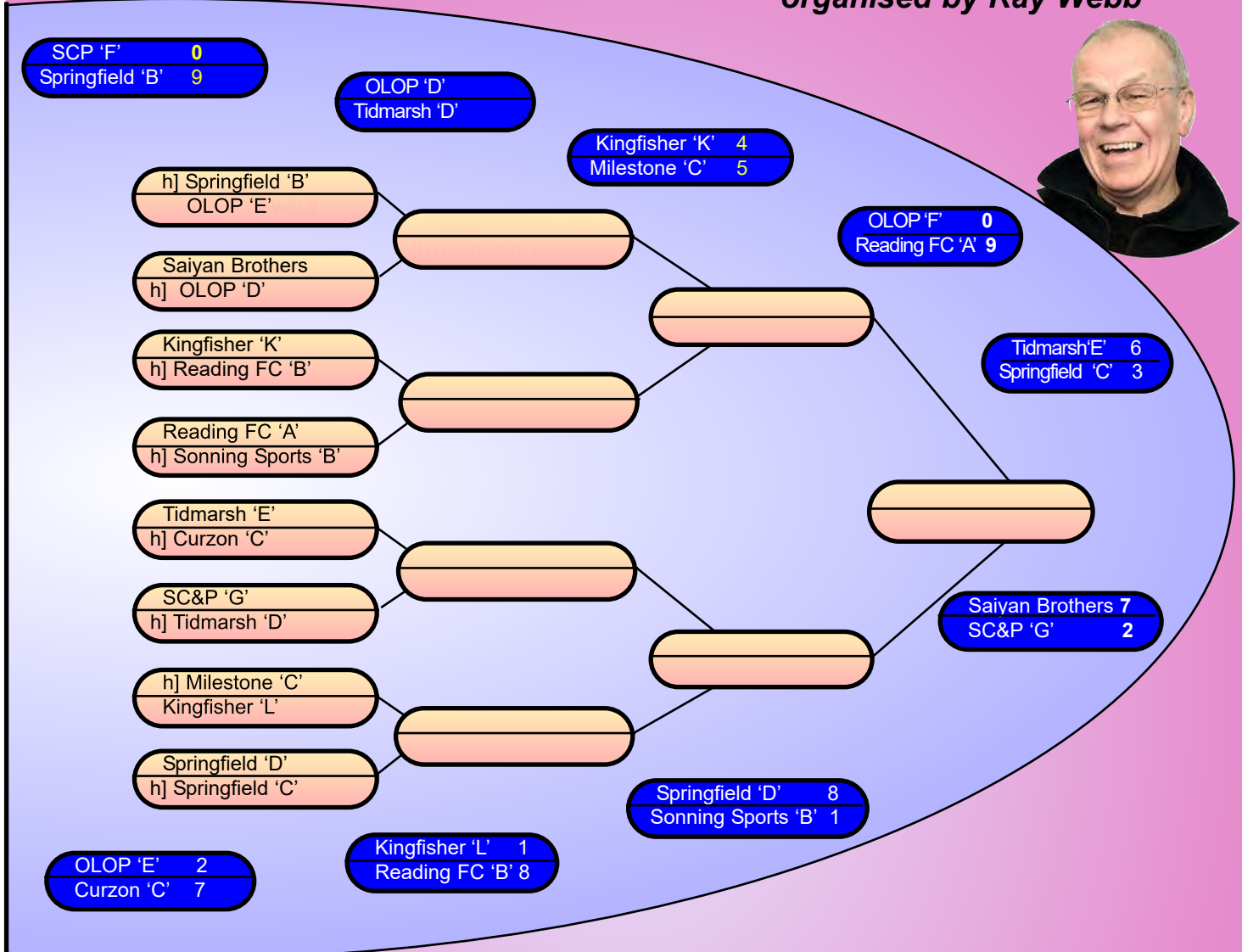
Nigel Maltby

In Memory: Robert ('Bob') John Childs

Bob passed away peacefully at the Royal Berks Hospital on Tuesday 3rd October 2017 aged 90. Bob, in his early days, was a keen sportsman and played football whilst serving in the forces. He was born in Reading and lived in the town for most of his life. He played table tennis for Berks County Sports in the late 1960s and early 1970s. His teammates were Harold Hunt and John Veness. Bob was very competitive in anything he undertook and he passed this on to his children, three of whom also played in the Reading league. They were Colin and Michael Childs and Linda Davis. Bob continued to follow local table tennis news right to the end.

Lower Divisions KO Cup 2017-2018

organised by Ray Webb



The draw for this season's competition was made by Dave Edwards and Dave Smith, members of the current holders Tidmarsh 'D'. Once again 18 teams have entered, split equally between both divisions. League form [2 from 4] suggests that Tidmarsh could find it hard to retain the trophy this time round. OLOP 'F' from division 5 are currently the only side with an unblemished doubles record and should do well, even against higher division opposition. All the other sides entered, bar one, have recorded at least one victory. Springfield 'D's and Saiyan Brothers' win ratios are only bettered by OLOP, both only losing just one doubles set, however all of the Brothers' victories have come from the pairing of Nikesh and Vidhu so it will be interesting to see how they cope with the match format. Beaten finalists Reading 'A' having lost only two of their sets played could do well again this year. SC&P 'F', like Reading, have won three sets, but interestingly each one with a different pairing which suggests the balance in their side might give them an edge.

Once again this year the seven teams with the 'best' losing result will be re-entered into round two so sets, games and even points count-back could be vital.

R&DTTA Awards For 2016-2017

On Tuesday 2nd May, the Reading Association's annual awards were presented at the premises of Our Lady of Peace club. Many of the photos which appear later in this Newsletter were taken at that event. Paul Treadgold, our Trophy Secretary, announced the prize-winners, and John Freeman our President presented the prizes. Unfortunately, we were not able to run ladies' events this year owing to shortage of entrants.

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

LIST OF AWARDS:

READING CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS WINNERS:

Mens Singles **Hari Gehlot**
 Mens Doubles: **Jon Willis & Marc Brent**
 U21 Singles **Joe Barraclough [P7](#)**



JOHN FREEMAN CONGRATULATES
JAMIE BARLOW



JOE BARRACLOUGH

U18 Boys Singles **Joe Barraclough [P7](#)**
 U15 Boys Singles **Jamie Barlow [P7](#)**
 U13 Boys Singles **Jamie Barlow [P7](#)**
 Boys Doubles **Joe Barraclough & Adam Winterbottom**
 Youth Division: **Johnson Xu**
 Veteran Singles: **Hari Gehlot**
 Senior Vet Singles: **Hari Gehlot**
 Over 60s Singles: **Melvyn Lovegrove [P7](#)**
 Div1 restricted **Krasi Ivanov**
 Division 2 **Nigel Keedy**
 Division 3 **Lee Calcutt [P13](#)**
 Division 4 **Marc Brent**
 Division 5 **Laurence de St Croix [P20](#)**
 Ping Pong **Eric Holmes [P17](#)**



JAMIE BARLOW

CHAMPION TEAMS OF THE SEASON

Division 1 Champions: **Kingfisher 'A' [P8](#)**
 Runners-up: **OLOP 'A'**
 Division 2 Champions: **Kingfisher 'G' [P11](#)**
 Runners-up: **Kingfisher 'F'**
 Division 3 Champions: **Tidmarsh 'C' [P13](#)**
 Runners-up: **Pangbourne WMC 'B' [P9](#)**
 Division 4 Champions: **Milestone 'B' [P15](#)**
 Runners-up: **SC&P 'F' [P21](#)**



MELVYN LOVEGROVE



KINGFISHER 'A' - RICHARD ROSINSKI, MARTIN GUNN AND MARTIN ADAMS

- Division 5 Champions: **OLOP F' [P20](#)**
- Runners-up: **Reading FC 'B'**
- Youth Div 1 winners: **Spartans [P9](#)**
- Runners-up: **Panthers**
- Youth Div 2 Winners: **Pumas**
- Runners-up: **Jaguars**
- Reading Chronicle Trophy Winner: **Binit Bhaskar [P19](#)**
- Evening Post Trophy Winner: **Joe Barraclough [P7](#)**
- John Freeman Trophy Winner: **Phil Burke**



DANIEL MOSES



OLOP 'E' - TAMIR SLOBODSKOY, ABHAY GORE & ALISTAIR RICHARDSON



TROPHY SECRETARY PAUL TREADGOLD



THE ALAN DINES TROPHY, PRESENTED BY HIS SON KEVIN TO CHRIS BOSLEY

- | | |
|--|---|
| Team Handicap Winners | OLOP 'E' P8 |
| Runners-up: | Reading FC 'A' |
| Lower Divisions Cup winners: | Tidmarsh 'D' P20 |
| Runners-up: | Reading FC 'A' |
| Individual Handicap Winner | Tamir Slobodskoy P8, 1 |
| Runner-up: | Felix Thomis |
| Reading Senior Masters Winner: | Daniel Moses P8 |
| Runner-up: | Martin Adams P12 |
| Reading Junior Masters Winner: | Yonatan Slobodskoy P11 |
| Runner-up: | Harry Munro |
| Standard Cup for the Most Improved Junior: | Mo Cook |
| Best Junior Performance: | Reading 'A' Junior National League team P9 |
| Alan Dines Memorial Trophy: | Chris Bosley P9 |
| Harold Larcombe Sportsmanship Award: | Eric Holmes P17 |



YONATAN SLOBODSKOY & JOE BARRACLOUGH, OF THE READING 'A' JUNIOR NATIONAL LEAGUE TEAM



SPARTANS: RALPH PHILLIPS, RAYAAN ASGHAR AND BENEDICT CARLESS



PANGBOURNE WMC - EDDIE CRIPPS, RAY WEBB AND LEROY WILSON

DIVISION ONE *by Mark Banks*



Hi Guys. How are we all? Hope you had a good summer. I certainly did. Winning the prestigious Kingfisher Summer Grand Prix for the first time in the 30+ years I've been on this planet. OK so I had to

teams and 5 of those are from Kingfisher. One or two murmurs that KF are killing off Reading Table Tennis... Would love your views on that. Personally I don't see it. Local League table tennis is on the decline nationwide.

The leagues that are thriving gave up home and away advantage a long time ago. And every team plays on a dedicated night each week at a single venue. It would effectively be the same as all our 8 teams pitching up say every Thursday at Kingfisher. Four D1 matches on one night. All the D1 players together at the same venue. Mingling. Socialising. Watching other matches. Bit of an atmosphere. Beer



YESTER SEASON'S HEROES: KINGFISHER 'A'
RICHARD ROSINSKI, MARTIN GUNN AND MARTIN ADAMS

share it with the equally good if not better – sigh, Hari Gehlot but not bad for a fat bloke from Maidenhead who rarely sees a bat between April & September let alone a ball and table too.

So sorry to hear of the passing of Mike Dorrington (Boycie) recently. Mike was a really good guy and a blimmin awkward player too. Had many a long conversation with him about his love of cars and the odd tipple or two. A regular feature at Kingfisher for as long as one can remember and will be sadly missed. RIP Mike

So a much depleted D1 this season and at time of writing only 12 matches have been played so not an awful lot for me to write about. We're down to just 8



NEW BOY ON THE BLOCK: DANIEL MOSES

		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Kingfisher A	3	3	0	0	27	3	6
2	Kingfisher B	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
3	S C & P A	5	2	0	3	23	27	4
4	OLOP A	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
5	Kingfisher D	5	1	0	4	13	37	2
7	Kingfisher C	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
7	Tidmarsh A	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
8	Kingfisher E	4	0	0	4	6	34	0

afterwards with Trevor Organ. That sort of thing. Other than that I don't know what the answer is. There has been talk also of a Berkshire League. Top 3 teams from Newbury, Reading, Maidenhead & Bracknell giving a 12 team Berkshire Super League but not sure that has any real legs. Any other ideas will be gratefully welcomed. As it stands though with just 8 teams it's not looking overly rosy for future years. In Maidenhead we're at the stage where every team plays each other 4 times!! Let's hope we don't get to that stage hey! We are Reading. We are better than that!!!!

Apologies by the way. I was meant to sort out a Cup Competition for the free weeks. I thought about jazzing the cup up à la Ally Pally Ping Pong style playing up to 15 with a double point etc – you know the format and I thought it would be fun, could have been a laugh but I hit complications and I've not got round to organising anything else. My bad. Blame me!



JOE BARRACLOUGH

deciding matches vs KFB and OLOP. Retaining our title will be tough despite the reduced team numbers. KFB have strengthened and are deffo our main rivals this time around. Bless them.

MVP: Well Adams hasn't played so I guess Pizza boy gets it for now.

Good old **Kingfisher 'B'** probably secretly thought it was going to be their year when rumours of Gunn's departure and their inspired signing of Krasi surfaced but their summer was washed out when Daniel decided that he'd come across to replace Gunn. That said they're still going to be challenging. Krasi has started

LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	PL	W	%
Daniel Moses	Kingfisher A	9	9	100
Krasimir Ivanov	Kingfisher B	9	9	100
Harry Munro	OLOP A	6	6	100
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher B	6	6	100
Richard Rosinski	Kingfisher A	3	3	100
Yonatan Slobodskoy	OLOP A	3	3	100
Marco Essomba	Kingfisher C	3	3	100
Lee Calcutt (S)	Tidmarsh A	2	2	100
Mark Banks	Kingfisher A	9	8	88.89
Gary Morgan	S C & P A	12	8	66.67
Dmitry Khakhamov	Kingfisher B	9	6	66.67
Ian Cole	OLOP A	6	4	66.67
Nigel Keedy	Kingfisher D	6	4	66.67
Danny Ricks	Tidmarsh A	6	4	66.67
Justin Mead	Kingfisher A	6	4	66.67
Eduard Caliman	Kingfisher B	3	2	66.67

Anyway here's to what little action we've had then. Told you it would be brief and they want me to do 4 of these this season. Hahahaha. As if 😊

Love & Peace x

Reigning Champions **Kingfisher 'A'** were devastated to lose the £4.99 hard bat superman over the summer but delighted that Pizza Boy himself Daniel "he walks on water" Moses stepped in to take his place at the very last minute. We've had so few matches that at time of writing Captain Martin Adams hasn't even played yet but for sure he'll be around for the 2 or 3 basically title



YONATAN SLOBODSKOY



KINGFISHER 'G' - SAGAR SAWANT, STEVE NG, MELVYN LOVEGROVE AND DAVID JOYCE

Kingfisher Grand Prix event that I won 😊 and they are both good. Very good in fact. Ian and Steve will do their bit but just heard at time of writing that Steve has taken an indefinite break from the game so that may hamper their side a bit. Hope he comes back soon.

MVP: Harry Munro – Very nice player

Another side who have been struggling for players are Tidmarsh 'A'. Injury to Duncan and the seeming loss

of Csaba Pall and Sam Ricks this season would hurt any team and it's a real shame to see such a big squad from last season so depleted this. That said they still have Dan the Man and Squirrel. Everybody's favourite tree rat 😊

MVP: Daniel Ricks – Kicks his twin out and now he's number 1 haha

Nice move by **Sonning Common & Peppard 'A'** to snap up Neil Hurford from the sorely missed YMCA. Gary is playing as well as ever and Joe Joes is my favourite other player outside of my own team. Such a good guy. And clever too. That boy is gonna go far. Jason is my 2nd favourite player. Also he must be literally the worst doubles player in the Division. He hasn't been selected for about 2 years 😊

MVP: Gary Morgan – Solid as a rock

KFC so good! One of those teams you know you're going to have a major battle with. KFC is literally the last thing Murgy has been eating by the way. Incredible stuff. WOW buddy!. Tony got injured doing some extreme outdoor pursuit which in this division means he basically missed no matches 😊 and Essomba is back too with Parker. Such a good team when things are going their way. Half a chance of finishing 3rd this season.

MVP: Marco Essomba. Ramesh beat him once. He never likes to talk about it though ;)

Sooooooo 2 more Kingfisher sides joining the party this season. **KFD & KFE**. And both of them have players within their ranks to do some damage. KFD - Nigel Keedy & Alan Cummings. Both solid players and can do some damage. Sagar & Steve from KFE. Both still learning their trade but big shots both of them. Phil, Ivor, Trevor, Melvyn. Hope you all have a great season guys. Fair play.

MVP: KFD – Nigel Keedy. Leader from the front.

MVP: KFE – Sagar Sawant. Great practiser and pretty good player too



KINGFISHER 'A' CAPTAIN MARTIN ADAMS - WHO 'HASN'T YET HIT THE BALL'.

much better than last season and joint Grand Prix 😊 winner Hariiiii is playing better with age. Dmitry practising hard with Mully down the club and Phil congratulations on your latest addition to the family. Hope you finish 2nd haha!

MVP: Krasi & Hari. Quality players. But wait Mark, didn't you and Hari tie for the Grand Prix? ;)

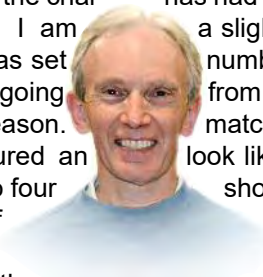
A new look then for **OLOP 'A'** and great to see youth mixed with old heads in this team. I had first-hand experience of playing both Yonatan and Harry in the



DIVISION TWO

by John Willcocks

Welcome to the new season which brings a new DFS to Division 2. Barry Carter has taken up the challenge to be DFS for Division 3 and I am attempting to live up to the high standards he has set over the last few years. Division 2 looks like it is going to be very interesting and competitive this season. Most of the matches played so far have featured an almost unbelievably high number of sets going to four or five games and it is good to see a number of new, or returning, players. Results so far suggest that Curzon 'A' and Sonning C&P 'B' are the likely favourites to fight it out for the title. However there are a number of other teams who could join in the contest to



adding Julian Telford to their squad in the summer. Julian has had a very good record at this level in the past and after a slightly rusty start is now playing really well and has a number of maximums. He is getting very good support from the rest of the team and after losing their first two matches 6 - 4 their results have improved a lot and they look likely to finish high up in the table. A key factor that should help them to pick up points is their doubles partnerships which look very strong.

Prediction - 4th

Best Recent Performance – Julian Telford, recovering from two games and 10-7 down in the third to beat John Golding in one of his three wins in the victory over Tidmarsh 'B'

Sonning Common and Peppard 'B' started the season well with two convincing wins plus a very hard fought match against OLOP 'B' where they recovered from 4 – 1 down to win 6 – 4. In the defeat against Curzon 'A'. Nigel Maltby played some great table tennis and had excellent wins against Pete Bradley and John Willcocks. They have got a strong all round squad, with Andy Robertson replacing the injured Jeremy Willis, and all of their players are well up in the averages. However, they may need Simon Berry to play a reasonable number of matches if they are going to clinch one of the promotion places.

Prediction – Runners Up

Best Recent Performance – Nigel Maltby, two very hard fought wins against Pete Bradley and John Willcocks in the defeat to Curzon 'A'



SIMON BARTER AND LEE CALCUTT OF TIDMARSH 'C' - WITH THERESA WATSON,

reach the 'promised land' of Division 1. I have given my predictions on where each team will finish at the end of the season (third Malcolm is that OK). It is not an easy division to call so it will be interesting to see how accurate, or not, my predictions turn out to be.

Curzon 'A' have started the season in very good form with five wins and a 100% record. Most of their matches have been won fairly convincingly but the closest result was a 6 – 4 win at Tilehurst Meths 'A' which looked to be heading for a draw before an excellent win by Nick Lean over Cath Venning turned the match in Curzon's favour. In the meeting of the two 100% teams on 12th October Curzon came away from their visit to Sonning C&P 'B' with a convincing 8 – 2 win. The highlight of this match was a very impressive three straight maximum from Jon Willis. The whole team has been playing well and the addition of Pete Bradley in the summer has made them a very strong team and favourites for the title.

Prediction – Likely Champions

Best Recent Performance – Jon Willis, a great three straight maximum at Sonning C&P 'B'

Tilehurst Methodists 'A' have carried over their fine form from the second half of last season to this one. They made what is probably the signing of the year in this division by

Tidmarsh 'C' were unbeaten in their first four matches with all of their results being either 6 - 4 or 5 - 5. However, just when I was going to write that they would finish comfortably mid table or in the top half they lost at the previously pointless Pangbourne WMC. Their season started with a very hard fought win against Tilehurst Meths 'A' in a match that went on after 23.30 and which featured a great win for Ray Webb over Julian Telford. Since then they have had two draws, a win and a defeat. Lee, Ray and Simon Barter have played in most of the matches and their final league position is likely to depend on how they use their squad. Lee is unlikely to lose very often so if he plays in most of the matches they should finish in the top half of the table. However

		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Curzon Club A	5	5	0	0	38	12	10
2	Tilehurst Meths A	6	3	1	2	34	26	7
3	S C & P B	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
4	Tidmarsh C	5	2	2	1	24	26	6
5	OLOP B	5	2	1	2	26	24	5
6	S C & P D	5	2	1	2	25	25	5
7	Tidmarsh B	4	1	1	2	21	19	3
8	S C & P C	5	0	2	3	17	33	2
9	Pangbourne WMC	5	1	0	4	15	35	2
10	Kingfisher F	4	1	0	3	13	27	2

their defeat against Pangbourne shows that they may struggle to get results when Lee does not play.

Prediction – 6th

Best Recent Performance – Ray Webb, coming back from two games down to beat Julian Telford

OLOP 'B' are another team with a large squad and they have had a fairly good start to the season. They have not always quite managed to turn a number of very good individual performances into as many points as they would have liked. However, with four of their players having averages over 50% they should have a good season. They appear to be the type of team who will occasionally have a bad result but that will also pull off a shock or two against the teams at the top during the season. Their highlights include the big hitting Ziko Jerzmanski getting a very good maximum at Sonning C&P 'D', Dave Godfey having a brilliant win against Simon Berry in the defeat to Sonning C&P 'B' and Dave Holt beating both Dom Cutter and Dave Wise in the win at Tidmarsh 'B'



WENDY PORTER
OF OLOP 'B'

Prediction – 7th

Best Recent Performance – Ziko Jerzmanski recovering from losing the first two games easily to beat Nigel Maltby 13-11 in the fifth.

Sonning Common and Peppard 'D' started poorly with a heavy defeat to OLOP 'B', Malcolm put it down to not quite enough (or no) practice during the summer. Since then their results have improved and they are unbeaten apart from a defeat to Curzon 'A'. They have added Andy Wang to their squad and he looks to be a very good addition which means they should finish high up in the table and could even mount a promotion challenge. All of their players have had some good wins and the highlights include Carole Chard beating Allan Bruton in the win against Kingfisher 'F' and Lisa Williams' comeback win against Phil Jones to help secure an unlikely point in the match against Tilehurst Meths 'A'.

Prediction – 3rd

Best Recent Performance – Carol Chard, a battling win against Allan Bruton in an unexpected team comeback to earn a point against Kingfisher 'F'

Tidmarsh 'B' have a slightly disappointing three points from their first four matches but they could easily have a lot more as their two defeats were both 6 – 4, so with a slight change of fortune they could go far higher in the table. Their cause was not helped when John Goulding fell at the start of the second game in the final set of their match at Tilehurst Meths 'A' and had to concede the set with his team 5 – 4 down. They have the largest squad in the division so team selection is likely to play an important part in deciding how successful their season is. Everyone

in the squad has contributed in the matches played and remarkably there have been no ducks so far. With Dom Cutter playing well and a very experienced team to back him up I expect them to finish higher in the table than they are now.

Prediction – 5th

Best Recent Performance – François Durand, an 11-9 in the fifth win against Ziko Jerzmanski

Sonning Common and Peppard 'C' have started the season with three defeats and two hard fought draws. However, they have played some of the stronger teams in the division and their defeats were closer than the final score lines suggests. So I would expect them to start winning some matches soon. They were particularly unfortunate in their recent defeat at OLOP 'B' where there were five very close five-game sets and they lost the lot. Their highlight has been to come back from 5 – 2 down to get a draw at Tidmarsh 'C' with Denise Weller winning in five games against Lee Calcutt. All of their players look like winning matches on a regular basis but the problem they may have is that so far nobody looks likely to get more than the very occasional maximum.

Prediction – 8th

Best Recent Performance – Denise Weller, a win in five against Lee Calcutt, his only defeat so far this season.

Pangbourne WMC were told that their hall would only be available on a much more limited basis this season and this has resulted in them combining the teams they had in second and third divisions last year into one team. Although they have fought hard in all of the matches it's difficult to see how they are going pick up enough points to avoid a long hard fight against relegation. However, just after I wrote this they then came up with a good win against Tidmarsh 'C' which shows that perhaps they will start to pick up points more regularly. Clive Taylor has had some very good wins including inflicting Jon Willis's only defeat, 11-9 in the fifth (with an edge). John Simmonds started the season steadily and then got a good maximum in their recent win. Their other players have had slow starts to the season but Leroy Wilson had an excellent double in the win against Tidmarsh 'C'. John and Clive look capable of winning regularly but they will need more support if they are

LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	P	W	%
Lee Calcutt	Tidmarsh C	12	11	91.67
Jon Willis	Curzon Club A	12	11	91.67
John Willcocks	Curzon Club A	9	8	88.89
Niall McGrane	S C & P D	6	5	83.33
Julian Telford	Tilehurst Meths A	15	12	80.00
Dave Godfrey	OLOP B	9	7	77.78
Dom Cutter	Tidmarsh B	9	7	77.78
Peter Bradley	Curzon Club A	15	10	66.67
Nigel Maltby	S C & P B	12	8	66.67
Brian Meheux	S C & P B	12	8	66.67
Andrew G Robertson	S C & P B	9	6	67.67

going to start picking up points on a regular basis.

Prediction - 10th

Best Recent Performance – Clive Taylor, a great win against Jon Willis after being two games to one down.

Kingfisher 'F' started well with a very hard fought win at Pangbourne WMC which was remarkable in that every set went to four or five and almost all of the games in the sets were very close. Since then they have suffered three defeats, although even in those matches there have been a lot of very tight sets. The standout moments were Allan Bruton winning a very close encounter with Pete Bradley in the match against Curzon 'A' and Grant Wheatley who picked up an impressive brace at Sonning C&P 'D'. They have got a very experienced squad and are perhaps in a slightly false position in the league having played three teams in the top half already.

Prediction - 9th

Best Recent Performance – Allan Bruton, a very tight win in five against Pete Bradley



ALLAN BRUTON



DIVISION THREE

by Barry Carter

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2017 / 2018 season. The last time I was the DFS of division three was 2013 / 2014 and that coincided with the Mighty Wolves also suffering a relegation to the third tier, this time I'm pleased to report lightning hasn't struck twice!



The season has started really well with some close results and this bodes well for a competitive and exciting season ahead. At this stage, I normally do some predictions as to who might walk away with a trophy come the presentation evening in May and usually my tips end up with nothing. My track record on predictions isn't very good (just ask Bob Woodmansee) so I apologise now

to Milestone 'B' and Springfield 'A' who should be there or thereabouts come the end of the season. If Chris & Clive are available at the same time then OLOP 'C' should be champions but they appear to be rotating so I think they may miss out, but they will certainly have a part to play in who does eventually go up. Bob, I've spared you my kiss of death this season, so congratulations to Sonning Sports 'A' on promotion 😊.

Onto the season so far...

Milestone 'B' have started well and have an unbeaten record and lead the division on alphabetical order from Sonning Sports 'A'. Their first match of the season saw them take on Tilehurst Meths 'B' and thanks to three from Sachin Mundra and two each from Oliver Bonser and

Zoltan Kelemen saw them to a 7 – 3 victory. The Milestone derby match with the 'A' team was titanic with half the sets going to five, Sanket Dave was involved in three of them, two in the singles and the doubles. Sanket beat both Chris Collins 2–11, 11–9, 11–6, 7–11, 11–9 and then Shawnik Thakur 11–5, 11–13, 12–14, 11–5, 11–5 in the singles but he and Sachin lost out in the doubles 4–11 in the fifth. Zoltan also won two and Sachin one in the 6 – 4 victory that gives them the bragging rights until the new year. The win



SANKET DAVE

over Kingfisher 'J' made it three wins in a row as Sanket won three (another two in five) and Olly won two (yet another two in five) and Sachin chipped in with a win over Gabor Radnoti. The 100% record finally fell at the fourth time of asking as they were held to a draw by Kingfisher 'G' but they did well to even preserve their unbeaten record as they came back from 0 – 4 and 2 – 5 down as they won the last three sets of the evening to end up 5 – 5. Sachin started the

Paul Savage Three of his four maximums have come on Thursdays
 Dave Chard Has been involved in the joint highest three-game sets (8 [W3, L5])
 Keith Machin Has won the joint most singles (4)
 Bob Woodmansee Has won at least one set by the 3 – 0 scoreline in all three matches he's played
 Team Stat Sonning Sports 'A' have the best doubles record 5 / 5 (100%)

		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
2	Milestone B	5	4	1	0	31	19	9
2	Sonning Sports A	5	4	1	0	31	19	9
3	Springfield A	5	3	1	1	32	18	7
4	Kingfisher H	6	3	0	3	35	25	6
5	Kingfisher J	5	2	2	1	27	23	6
6	OLOP C	6	2	1	3	27	33	5
7	Kingfisher G	5	2	1	2	24	26	5
8	Milestone A	5	1	2	2	24	26	4
9	S C & P E	5	2	0	3	22	28	4
10	Tilehurst Meths B	6	1	0	5	20	40	2
11	Kingfisher I	5	0	1	4	17	33	1

Springfield 'A' have started well with three wins and a draw out of their first five matches and look a good shout for a top half finish. The three wins have come against Tilehurst Meths 'B' (8 – 2), Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' (6 – 4) and OLOP 'C' (9 – 1), the draw was against Kingfisher 'J'. In the Tilehurst Meths 'B' match there were maximums for Phil Burke and Ludo Couillard and a good brace for Adam Sheen although Ludo needed five to win two of his matches against Jes Eassom and Steve Dopson. Their 100% record was lost in the second match as they were held to a 5 – 5 draw by Kingfisher 'J', Adam went one better and won all three, whilst Ludo and Seth Martin chipped in with one each right at the end to claim a point from 3 – 5 down. Phil returned to

comeback with a win over Guy De La Vilesbrunne, Sanket continued the momentum with a 11–6, 8–11, 12–10, 11–9 win over Eric Holmes and Zoltan completed the comeback with a 11–6, 7–11, 12–10, 6–11, 13–11 last set win against Luca Bianchi.

Sachin Mundra Has been involved in the most four-game sets (8) [W 3, L5]
 Sanket Dave Has won more maximums away from home than at home (H1, A2)
 Olly Bonser Both his braces have come on Tuesdays
 Zoltan Kelemen Has won the joint most braces (4)
 Team Stat Milestone 'B' have a 100% away record

Sonning Sports 'A' have taken advantage of having been given a reprieve from the trapdoor to division four last year although it would have been harsh to have been relegated on sixteen points (like being relegated from the premier league with 45 points) as they lie second. The acquisition of Paul Savage from the High Wycombe league has been a masterstroke by the manager, Bob Woodmansee as he has only lost one of his first twelve sets. The season started on Monday the 13th, as it turned out it was lucky as a 7 – 3 win over Sonning C & P 'E' was the outcome. Paul won his two, Dave Chard won one against Mark Jones 4–11, 2–11, 11–7, 12–10, 11–8 and Keith Machin the other one. OLOP 'C' were the visitors in week two and Paul won all three again, the match against Chris West looked like a battle as he finally won 12–10, 8–11, 5–11, 11–5, 11–8. The outcome of this gave SS 'A' the 6 – 4 victory. Earlier in the evening both Bob Woodmansee and Dave Chard had defeated Olatunde Seye. Another Paul maximum and one each from Keith and Dave, who both came through against Peter Bennett saw them to another 6 – 4 win to maintain the 100% win record. The record was lost in week four as they could only muster a draw at Milestone 'A', Paul lost his 100% but he still won two, Bob and Dave chipped in with useful wins over Viliam Andrascik and then Dave and Paul teamed up to win the all important doubles. Their last result of the quarter was a 7 – 3 win over Kingfisher 'G'.

the team and he and Ludo led the way with three wins each in the 6 – 4 win over Sonning C & P 'E'. Adam got back to winning ways with a treble which included two good wins over Clive Perry (12–10, 11–7, 6–11, 4–11, 14–12) and Darek Kaminski (10–12, 8–11, 11–6, 11–3, 11–6) and he was supported with three from Phil and two from Ludo. The fifth match of the season at Kingfisher 'H' proved to be their first taste of defeat as they slipped to a 4 – 6 loss, Ludo did well to beat Willis Ma and Alex Zheng but they could only muster one more and the doubles.

Phil Burke Has the best average with 9 wins from 9 (100%)
 Adam Sheen Has won the most sets by the 3 – 2 scoreline (6) [100% five-set win]
 Seth Martin His only win came at home
 Ludo Couillard Has won the joint most sets by the 3 – 1 scoreline (5) [100% four-set win]
 Team Stat Springfield 'A' have won the most sets by the 3 – 2 scoreline (10)

Kingfisher 'H' have had a mixed start to the season with three wins and three defeats in their first six matches. The first three didn't quite go their way as they lost them all 4 – 6 but the last three have seen them win 6 – 4, 7 – 3 and the latest a comprehensive 10 – 0 win over Tilehurst Meths 'B'. In the first match they took on Milestone 'A', where seven of the sets went to five, the trio of Igor Sremac, Willis Ma and Peter Bennett all won one each. They were so close to taking a point in a dramatic set 10 decider but Igor couldn't quite get over the line as he lost 11–7, 11–13, 17–19, 11–7, 8–11 to Arun Rajagopal. Next up was Kingfisher 'G' and after Igor had won all three and also helped win the doubles with Ruben Hernandez it came down once again to a set ten decider and this time it was Peter to come up just short as he lost 6–11 in the fifth. The last of the 4 – 6 defeats was against Sonning Sports 'A' whereby Willis put the curse of the set ten to bed but unfortunately they were already 3 – 6 down as prior to that Igor had won two and Willis the other one. On to the wins, their first of the season came against club mates from the 'I' team as Igor won all three, Alex

Zheng two good wins over Carol Byers and Steve Woolnough and then they teamed up for a doubles win. The leaders at the time were the next visitors and thanks once again to an Igor hat-trick and two from Willis and a single from Alex they recorded a surprise 6 – 4 victory. The 10 – 0 win over Tilehurst Meths 'B' saw Rumen Rangelov make his debut and win a treble as did Igor and Willis.

Igor Sremac	Has played in the most sets (18) and won the most sets (15)
Willis Ma	Has yet to lose a set by the 0 – 3 scoreline, he has won all four three-game sets
Peter Bennett	His only win was by the 3 – 2 scoreline
Alex Zheng	He hasn't been on the losing team (2)
Ruben Hernandez	His only win came on a Monday
Rumen Rangelov	Has only played in one match and won all three sets
Team Stat	Kingfisher 'H' have won the most sets by the 3 – 0 scoreline (16)

Kingfisher 'J' are only fifth and behind their club-mates on sets difference as they have picked up six points from their first five matches. The two wins were against the teams that are currently in the bottom two, which bodes well for their survival in the division come the end of the season. The 7 – 3 win over Kingfisher 'I' was impressive considering they only had two players. David Wells and Joaquin Munoz won all their sets and also combined to win the doubles. The other win came via a 6 – 4 result against Tilehurst Methodists 'B' as Joaquin and Nils Wedi won braces, David chipped in with one and then Nils & Joaquin won the doubles. They have also drawn two matches, one against potential champions, Springfield 'A' although it could have been better as mentioned above. Joaquin's win over Seth Martin had given them a 5 – 3 lead but they couldn't quite turn it into two points. The other draw came OLOP 'C' where Nils returned his first maximum of the season with good wins over Clive Perry 11–7, 5–11, 12–10, 11–6 and Chris West 11–8, 11–9, 9–11, 11–3. Didier Garçon made his division three debut and also won his first match as he overcame Dan Bright 11–3, 11–7, 15–13. The defeat came against the current leaders, Milestone 'B' despite two from Nils and a David win over Sachin Mundra 11–9, 13–11, 11–9.

Nils Wedi	Has won all five of his sets that have gone to four.
David Wells	Has been involved in the joint most five-game sets (6)
Gabor Radnoti	Has only played in one match
Joaquin Munoz	Has yet to be on the losing team (4)
Didier Garçon	Won his first ever division three match on a Tuesday
Team Stat	Kingfisher 'J' have the best four set winning % age: 9 / 11 (82%)

Our Lady of Peace 'C' are only four points off the promotion places and really should be challenging for the title and not staring over their shoulders at the bottom two (a bit like Reading, hey Clive 😊). OLOP are sixth with two wins, a draw and three defeats. Chris West has won 11 out of 15 and Clive Perry 9 out of 12 but the other team members haven't been quite so successful. Clive has been player of the match in both of their wins although Luca Bianchi and Eric Holmes both took him to five before they lost 11–9 and 11–8 respectively. Chris got the other two and they teamed up for the doubles. Dan Bright was close to beating John Liddle but finally lost 11–8, 11–7, 4–11, 8–11, 7–11 but they

ran out 6 – 4 winners. The other victory came courtesy of an 8 – 2 win over Kingfisher 'I', Clive once again won three, but this time Chris only won two and Darek Kaminski joined him with wins over Gwynne Penny and Mick Mitcham. Chris was player of the match in their only draw, 5 – 5 against Kingfisher 'J'. Mark Saunders and Olatunde Seye are the other members of the team but they've only played three matches between them.

Chris West	Has won the joint most braces (4)
Clive Perry	Both his maximums have come at home
Darek Kaminski	Has won braces against the top and bottom teams
Dan Bright	Has only been on the losing side once in three matches
Mark Saunders	Has yet to lose a set by either the 0 – 3 or 1 – 3 scoreline
Olatunde Seye	Has played in only one match
Team Stat	OLOP 'C' are one of only two teams to win 8 - 2

Kingfisher 'G' have been involved in four really tight matches, three by the 6 – 4 scoreline of which they have won two and a 5 – 5 draw. The two wins came against Milestone 'A' whereby Eric Holmes won all three which included the set ten decider against Chris Collins 9–11, 11–6, 11–5, 11–6. Earlier he had beaten Viliam Andrascik 11–9, 11–4, 8–11, 12–10 and Arun Rajagopal 8–11, 8–11, 11–6, 16–14, 11–7. Clive Gold won two and Guy De La Vilesbrunne won one. The second win was a good team effort against Kingfisher 'H' as the trio of



ERIC HOLMES

Luca Bianchi, Eric and Clive Gold all won two to give them a 6 – 4 win, they were locked at 4 – 4 but Clive's 11–8, 11–5, 11–8 win over Ruben Hernandez and Luca's 10–12, 11–3, 11–6, 7–11, 11–6 win over Peter Bennett saw them to two points. The most impressive result, although they didn't win came against the leaders, Milestone 'B'. Going into the last set of the evening they were leading 5 – 4 and when Luca found himself 10–6 up in the fifth it looked like they were destined to end Milestone's unbeaten record but some fine entertainment with every point being fought for, Luca couldn't quite get over the line and eventually lost 11–13. Earlier in the match Eric had won two against Zoltan Kelemen and Sachin Mundra and both Luca and Guy De La Vilesbrunne one each. In their last match before cup week there seems to have been a bit of a communication cock-up whereby they only fielded two against Sonning Sports but still did well to win three but lost 3 – 7.

Eric Holmes	He's the only Kingfisher 'G' player to have won a maximum
Luca Bianchi	Has yet to lose all three sets in an evening (4)
Clive Gold	Whenever he has won two, the team have won 6 – 4 (2)
Guy De La Vilesbrunne	Both his wins have come against Milestone TTC (1 v 'A' & 1 v 'B')
John Liddle	Has only played once and his only win was by the 3 – 2 scoreline
Team Stat	Kingfisher 'G' have 100% home record

Milestone 'A' are eighth and two points above the relegation zone having won only once in their first five matches although the other four have been either 4 – 6 defeats or 5 – 5 draws which could have gone either way. The season got off to a great start with the 6 – 4 win over Kingfisher 'H', Arun Rajagopal was player of the match with wins over Igor

LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	P	W	%
Philip Burke	Springfield A	9	9	100.00
Paul Savage	Sonning Sports A	14	13	92.86
Sanket Dave	Milestone B	12	11	91.67
Arun Rajagopal	Milestone A	15	13	86.67
Igor Sremac	Kingfisher H	18	15	83.33
Clive Perry	OLOP C	12	9	75.00
Chris West	OLOP C	15	11	73.33
Ludovic Couillard	Springfield A	15	11	73.33
Eric Holmes	Kingfisher G	12	8	66.67
Zoltan Kelemen	Milestone B	12	8	66.67
Willis Ma	Kingfisher H	12	8	66.67
Alan Mollett	S C & P E	12	8	66.67
Joaquin Munoz Sabater	Kingfisher J	12	8	66.67

Sremac, Willis Ma and Peter Bennett, Shawnik Thakur won two and John Crosfield took both Willis and Peter to five games, he lost all three. The next match was the Milestone derby against the 'B' team; would they have the bragging rights until the new year? The answer was, nearly! At 4 – 4 they were in with a chance. Earlier in the evening, Arun had already beaten Zoltan Kelemen and Sachin and Chris Collins had beaten Sachin Mundra to set up the finale but it didn't quite happen as Chris lost in five to Sanket Dave and Shawnik lost to Zoltan to leave them with a 4 – 6 defeat and seeking revenge in January. Arun had two five-game sets in the 4 – 6 defeat to Kingfisher 'G' as he won one, 11–5, 11–8, 6–11, 9–11, 11–9 against Clive but lost the other one. Chris had a comfortable win over Guy De La Vilesbrunne 11–5, 11–5, 11–3 to get them to four but Viliam couldn't get the better of Guy. The last two matches have ended in draws, the first was a creditable one with Sonning Sports 'A' where Arun won a maximum and Chris two. Arun also became the first person to beat Paul Savage of Sonning Sports with a 6–11, 11–7, 11–9, 15–13 victory. In their last match, Arun picked up his third player of the match award with three, Shawnik won one and they won the doubles too.

- Arun Rajagopal Has progressively won more by the 3 – 0 score line week by week: Wk1 (0), Wk2 (0), Wk 3 (0), Wk4 (1), Wk5 (2), Wk6 (3)
- Shawnik Thakur All four of his wins have come at Kingfisher TTC (3 v 'H' & 1 v 'I')
- Chris Collins Three of his four wins have been 3 – 0
- John Crosfield Has only played at Kingfisher teams so far
- Team Stat Milestone 'A' are yet to be involved in any score line other than 6 – 4 (3) and 5 – 5 (2)

Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' have made a useful start and don't appear to be in any danger of relegation at the end of the season. Their two wins have come against the teams below them in the table and both by the same 6 – 4 result. Alan Mollett has 67% in the averages with 8 wins from 12, his only maximum came in the win over Tilehurst Methodists 'B' where he defeated Jes Eassom 11–3, 11–8, 11–5 then Michael Williams 11–1, 12–10, 11–4 before a close win over Masoud Ghabachi 5–11, 11–8, 11–4, 8–11,

11–8. Eric Walker won twice in that match and Angus Jones weighed in with a win over Michael. Their other win came against Kingfisher 'I' via two each from Eric and Angus and an 11–5, 11–6, 11–7 Mark Jones victory over Dave Duncan. Bizarrely, where their two wins have come against the bottom two, their three defeats have come against the top three. There was a 3 – 7 defeat to Sonning Sports 'A' as Alan won two and Mark Jones one, this also saw Anthony Reeve suffer a recurrence of his injury from last season - best wishes for a speedy recovery. Alan, Mark and Eric all defeated Adam Sheen but Phil Burke and Ludo Couillard were too strong as they lost 3 – 7 to Springfield 'A'. In the match against Milestone 'B', the trio of Alan, Mark and Eric struggled to get the spinnny serves of Sanket Dave back and as a consequence they all lost to him but there were wins for Alan over Dave Sprackling and Zoltan Kelemen and for Mark over Dave.

- Alan Mollett Has won both his braces on a Wednesday
- Eric Walker Has won both his braces on a Monday
- Mark Jones Has won a set in all four of his matches
- Angus Jones Has been on the winning side by the 6 – 4 score line in both games he's played
- Anthony Reeve Has played only once and retired injured.
- Team Stat Sonning C & P 'E' have lost all three home matches, but won both of their away matches.

Tilehurst Meths 'B' find themselves next to bottom with only one win and two points to show from their first six matches. They have had two 4 – 6 defeats against Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' and Kingfisher 'J' that could have gone either way. Jes Eassom scored the only singles victory in the 2 – 8 defeat to Springfield 'A' in week one of the season, the other win on the night came through the doubles as Jes and Michael Williams won 5–11, 11–6, 11–3, 9–11, 12–10 against Ludo Couillard and Adam Sheen. Jes won two of the three sets in the 3 – 7 loss against the leaders, Milestone 'B' as he scored good wins over Oli Bonser 11–9, 11–5, 11–8 and Zoltan Kelemen 11–3, 11–9, 10–12, 13–11 although Masoud Ghabachi came close to beating Oli. Steve Dopson and Masoud won the four sets between them against Kingfisher 'J' whilst Michael lost a tight contest with David Wells 4–11 in the decider. Jes and Michael teamed up well to win the doubles in the 4 – 6 reverse against Sonning C & P 'E' to make it three doubles wins out of four. On the singles front there were wins for Jes and Masoud. Michael came close again, I'm sure it's only a matter of time before that elusive win happens. I've left the best until last as the solitary win came as a bit of a surprise as they defeated OLOP 'C' 7 – 3. Captain, Jes Eassom won two against Mark Saunders and Dan Bright, as did Masoud Ghabachi and Steve Dopson.

- Masoud Ghabachi Has been involved in the joint highest three-game sets (8 [W2, L6])
- Michael Williams Has played more home matches than away matches
- Jes Eassom Has won three successive braces
- Steve Dopson Both his braces have come on a Tuesday
- Team Stat Tilehurst Meths 'B' have the joint most team braces (7) Jes [3], Steve [2] and Masoud [2].

Kingfisher 'I' haven't had the best of starts as they have suffered four defeats out of four (on a par with Crystal Palace and look what happened to them at the weekend, they won against the champions so hope a-plenty). Their first match saw them lose the first of many Kingfisher derby matches that will be played this season as they lost 3 – 7 to



the 'J' team. Carol Byers came the closest to winning a set as she lost 11-8, 9-11, 11-6, 7-11, 11-13 to David Wells, Dave Duncan lost both of his in four and Mick Mitcham had a tight 12-14, 8-11, 6-11 defeat to Joaquin Munoz, the three came courtesy of a late withdrawal. Gwynne Penny was player of the match as she won all three against Sonning C & P 'E' but it wasn't enough to prevent her side from losing 4 - 6 as there was only a Mick win over Mark Jones to add to her tally. Dave seemed unfortunate to lose two of his three matches in fives against Angus Jones and Eric Walker. The third match saw them draw a particularly strong OLOP 'C' team, this time Gwynne only won one and what a good 3-11, 12-14, 11-4, 11-8, 11-4 win it was over Chris West, Steve Woolnough was the other success on the evening as he overcame Darek Kaminski 13-11, 11-9, 11-9. A bit of late news, the run of defeats is over as they did manage to claim a point against Milestone 'A'. Carol and Gwynne both won twice against Shawnik Thakur and John Crosfield with Gwynne's game against John going to five before she won 11-2. Mick weighed in with an 8-11, 11-9, 11-9, 11-9 win over John and came close to taking both points as he lost 10-12 to Shawnik in set ten.

Mick Mitcham Has yet to play a five-game set after 11 sets

Dave Duncan	Has played more home games than away (2 v 1)
Gwynne Penny	Is the only player to have won a maximum so far this season (v SCP 'E')
Carol Byers	Has won both here braces on a Tuesday
Steve Woolnough	Has won one in both the matches he has played in
Team Stat	Kingfisher 'T' have yet to lose a doubles by the 2 - 3 scoreline.

Here are some general stats... Wolves are top of the championship 😊

- 62.1% of the matches have ended either 6 - 4 or 5 - 5.
- There have been 12 home wins and 12 away wins, so does that dispel home advantage?
- There have been 106 x 3 - 0, 7 x 3 - 1 and 68 x 3 - 2 score lines in the singles.
- There have been 10 x 3 - 0, 12 x 3 - 1 and 7 x 3 - 2 score lines in the doubles.

That's it from me for this episode of Barry's ramblings, all 4000+ words of it (oh dear, what have you done to deserve it?). I'm still waiting for some ideas as to how to do things slightly differently, or what you would like to see, so send me an email with some suggestions and I'll give it a go in the remaining three newsletters of the season.

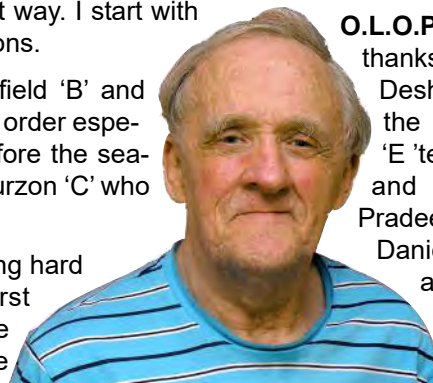
▶ **DIVISION FOUR** by Derek Harrison

Welcome to a new season, I hope you all enjoy it and play the game in the right way. I start with my usual pre-season predictions.

At the top I have to go with Springfield 'B' and O.L.O.P. 'D' but I cannot decide in what order especially as I am writing this the week before the season starts. The dark horses could be Curzon 'C' who have a good overall squad.

At the bottom I feel that it will be a long hard season for Kingfisher 'K', Tilehurst Methodist 'C' and Curzon 'B'. For those three teams perhaps you can prove me wrong.

Springfield 'B' started by beating Curzon 'B' 6 - 4 with man of the match Peter Gurney obtaining a great maximum. Steve Leggett did well to win two while Rob Wilkie gained that important single. At Curzon 'C' Peter hit another hat-trick and with Steve and Chris Taylor picking up a single each, besides Peter and Steve winning the doubles which gave them a 4 - 6 victory. They then crashed to a 3 - 7 defeat against Reading FC. Rob did well to win two while Steve picked up a single. They then went down 7 - 3 to O.L.O.P. 'E'. Peter was unlucky not to retain his 100% record when going down 12-10 in the 5th end to Johnson Xu. They then came back to winning ways by beating Sonning 'F' 7 - 3 with Steve obtaining a treble while Rob and Aidan Simmons won two each. At the Saiyan Brothers they put up a good fight before going down 6 - 4 with Peter winning two and Steve and Aidan both gaining a single. They then brought forward their match with Tilehurst Meths 'C' and gained two points by winning 8 - 2 with Rob returning to form and winning all three while Peter and Chris did



well to gain doubles.

O.L.O.P. 'D' had a fine 7 - 3 win over Reading F C 'A' thanks to trebles from Binit Bhaskar and Pradeep Desh and the two of them winning the doubles. In the local derby the 'D' team won away at the 'E' team 4 - 6 thanks to doubles from Abhay Gore and Pradeep with Binit picking up a single. Pradeep and Binit also won the doubles. Patrick Daniels joined the team against Sonning C&P 'F' and won all three as did Pradeep and Abhay in a 9 - 1 victory. They then crashed to their first defeat of the season to the highly talented Saiyan Brothers 7 - 3 with Patrick, Pradeep and Binit all gaining singles. Without Binit they beat Tidmarsh 'D' 6 - 4 with Abhay and Pradeep both obtaining trebles besides teaming up to win the doubles.



BINIT BHASKAR



TIDMARSH 'D' - DAVE EDWARDS, JOHN LIDDLE AND TERRY HARDIE

Curzon 'C' gained a fine 2 – 8 win at Tilehurst Meths 'C' thanks to trebles from John Walker and Tracy Maynard who was returning to league table tennis after 7 years out. Patrick O'Sullivan told me that Tracy has not lost any of her silky skills and played really well. Terry Spice managed a double. At home to Springfield 'B' they went down 4 – 6 with Tracy and John both winning two each. Catherine Bey improved as the evening wore on but just failed to beat Steve in set ten going down 11-13 in the fifth end. In the Curzon derby they beat the 'B' team 3 – 7 with Carine, Terry and John all recording doubles. At Reading F C 'A' they lost 6 – 4. John, Tracy and Carine all defeated Joe Bull. I gather Carine's game in set ten was very good with some incredible smashes with the scores 11-8, 11-8, 9-11, 11-8. Carine and Tracy also combined to win the doubles by beating Jazz and Anthony 11-13, 7-11, 9-11. Against O.L.O.P. 'E' Linda King made a welcome return to league action after injury and managed to win two and also teamed up with Carine, who won one, to win the vital doubles. Linda was unlucky against Simon when 5-3 up in the final end only to lose it 8-11 on two edges. Terry did well to also win two to give them a 6 – 4 victory. At Sonning they managed a 2 – 8 win with Tracy winning two and Linda and John picking up a single. Tracy and Linda also won the doubles. Sadly Sonning only had two players.

A big welcome to a new club and new team the **Saiyan Brothers** who started life in the Reading league by beating Tidmarsh 'D' 7 – 3. Vidhu Ravinath looks to be a good player, winning all three in straight sets. Nikesh Karki and Kaan Kitay did well to win two sets each. At Kingfisher 'K' they strolled to a 3 – 7 win with Vidhu yet again obtaining a hat-trick in straight sets. Nikesh also won all three

besides teaming up with Vidhu to win the doubles. Their good form continued by beating O.L.O.P. 'D' 7 – 3 with Vidhu and Nikesh both obtaining maximums. At Tilehurst Meths it took a set ten win for Vidhu over Martin to give them a 4 – 6 win which completed yet another three-straight treble. Nikesh played his part by winning two and also teamed up with Vidhu to win the doubles. At home to Springfield 'B' they just got home 6 – 4 with the usual three straight treble from Vidhu and a double from Nikesh who also teamed up with Vidhu to win that vital doubles.

Tidmarsh 'D' started with a 9 – 1 victory over Sonning C&P 'F' with Terry Hardie and Dave Edwards both gaining hat tricks. Dave Smith weighed in with a double. Then they lost 7 – 3 at the Saiyan Brothers with Terry hitting two besides winning the doubles with Dave E. At home to a full strength Curzon 'B', Dave E was the only scorer in a 1 – 9 defeat. They then got a valuable point at Kingfisher 'K' where Terry came back to form by hitting a very good maximum. Dave E and Dave S played their part by winning one each. After losing at O.L.O.P. 'D' 3 - 7 they have only gained

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Saiyan Brothers	5	5	0	0	33	17	10
2 Reading FC A	6	4	1	1	33	27	9
3 Curzon Club C	6	4	0	2	37	23	8
4 Springfield B	7	4	0	3	37	33	8
5 OLOP D	5	4	0	1	32	18	8
6 OLOP E	6	3	0	3	32	28	6
7 Curzon Club B	5	2	1	2	31	19	5
8 Tidmarsh D	5	1	1	3	21	29	3
9 Kingfisher K	5	1	1	3	19	31	3
10 Tilehurst Meths C	6	1	0	5	21	39	2
11 S C & P F	6	0	0	6	14	46	0

one point from their last 4 matches and as a result are looking over their shoulders at the bottom teams. In the match Terry, Dave S and Theresa all won one each.

O.L.O.P. 'E' had a close 4 – 6 win at Kingfisher 'K' thanks mainly to a great treble gained by Paul Treadgold who also teamed up with Andrew Adair to win the doubles. Andrew



OLOP 'E' - ANDREW ADAIR, LAURENCE DE ST CROIX, SIMON BROOKES, MARIUSZ PALUSZKIEWICZ

and Simon Brookes both won one each to complete the scoring. Against O.L.O.P 'D' Johnson Xu hit a three straight treble but alas with Paul only winning one they lost 4 - 6. At two man Tilehurst Meths 'C' they came away with a 3 - 7 victory with new signing Adam Lawes winning his sets three straight. According to Martin, the Meths skipper, he has some difficult serves, amazing backhands and great smashes. Simon also won two and Martin was full of praise for him as well. They then won 7 - 3 against a good Springfield 'B' side. Johnson hit a fine treble while Adam picked up a double with Patrick gaining a good single. Simon reported that it was an excellent evening's table tennis and was a pleasure to be part of it and he further said if all of the remaining matches were like this then it will be a fun season. Thank you for your comments Simon - if there were more captains like you with some match comments I would be a happy DFS. At Curzon 'C' Simon put in a great performance to gain a maximum but with Paul only winning one they went down 6 - 4. Despite a hat trick from Johnson and him teaming up with Tamir to win the doubles they lost 4 - 6 to Reading F C.

Reading FC started with a 7 - 3 defeat at O.L.O.P. 'D'. Anthony Alleyne, Richard Witt and Paul Brown all gained singles. At home to Tilehurst Meths 'C' Anthony hit his first ever maximum to help them to a 6 - 4 win. Richard and Joe Bull both gained singles. (I have to ask Richard, but did you have to beat the reserve Lala Stryjak 11-0?) Anthony also teamed up with Richard to win the doubles by beating Roy and Martin 12-14, 11-6, 11-7, 11-13, 11-9 - a little tight! Jazz Dhillon came into the side and promptly won all three with ease with Paul winning two and Anthony one which helped them defeat Springfield 'B' 7 - 3. At home to Curzon 'C' hat tricks from Jazz and Anthony gave them a 6 - 4 win. Against Curzon 'B' they put out their strongest team of the season and gained a draw with Jazz winning two and Anthony and Richard both picking up singles by beating me. Jazz and Anthony also won the doubles. By beating O.L.O.P. 'E' 4 - 6 they have moved into second place. Tony, Jazz and Paul all obtained doubles. Paul had a great game against Johnson only going down 11-8, 9-11, 11-9, 8-11, 11-9.

Curzon 'B' went to Springfield 'B' and lost 6 - 4 with Mike Maynard playing in his first match in a year winning two besides teaming up with Derek Harrison to win the doubles. Geoff Johnson managed a single but sadly Jim Brent is playing with an injury and lost all three. At home to our 'C' team a Geoff treble was not enough as we crashed to a 3 - 7 defeat. Due to injuries we had to bring in Nick Lean and Marc Brent against Tidmarsh 'D' and they responded by winning three each. For Marc they were all in straight sets. Geoff played his part by winning two. At home to Reading FC we



DEREK WAVELL

DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Vidhu Ravinath	Saiyan Brothers	18	18	100.00
Johnson Xu	OLOP E	9	9	100.00
Nick Lean	Curzon Club B	9	9	100.00
Marc Brent	Curzon Club B	6	6	100.00
Abhay Gore	OLOP D	9	8	88.89
Jazz Dhillon	Reading FC A	12	10	83.33
Pradeep Desh	OLOP D	15	12	80.00
Nikesh Karki	Saiyan Brothers	15	12	80.00
Peter Gurney	Springfield B	15	12	80.00
Adam Lawes	OLOP E	5	4	80.00
Geoff Johnson	Curzon Club B	15	11	73.33
Tracy Maynard	Curzon Club C	11	8	72.73
Lee Wirkhani	Kingfisher K	9	6	66.67
Terry Spice	Curzon Club C	9	6	66.67
Patrick Daniels	OLOP D	6	4	66.67
John Walker	Curzon Club C	14	9	64.29

gained a draw thanks mainly to a brilliant hat trick from Nick. Geoff gave him great support by winning two. At Kingfisher 'K' Geoff, Nick and Marc all gained trebles in a 0 - 10 victory. For Marc they were all three straight with none of his opponents gaining more than six points.

Sonning C&P 'F' lost 9 - 1 at Tidmarsh 'D' with Derek Wavell beating Dave Smith. I must mention the two juniors Oli Sayer and Jamie Legg who did quite well against the experienced players and I am sure as the season goes on will improve. Next they lost 3 - 7 at home to Kingfisher 'K' where young Oliver Sayer obtained two fine wins by beating Anya 11-7, 9-11, 11-4, 12-10 and John 11-8, 11-2, 11-9 and also teamed up with Jamie to win the doubles. At O.L.O.P. 'D' they had only a doubles win for their efforts with Derek and Oli beating Patrick and Abhay 5-11, 11-6, 11-8, 9-11, 9-11. At home to Tilehurst Meths 'C' they had their best performance of the season and only lost 4 - 6 with Derek and Oli both winning two each. At Springfield Oli did very well to win two besides teaming up with Simon Blake to win the doubles. I must mention Jamie Legg who is trying hard without winning. Keep going Jamie you are getting close and could have beaten Aidan. Against Curzon 'C' they went down 2 - 8 with wins for Derek and Jamie, who gained his first win of the season by beating John Walker 11-9, 11-5, 7-11, 7-11, 11-5. Well done Jamie. Linda King the Curzon captain informed me that Jamie was a pleasant lad with a great sporting temperament which was good to see. As I mentioned above they were without Oli who was taken to hospital with an arm injury which I now understand was not broken so I hope he will be back very soon.

Tilehurst Meths 'C' went down 2 - 8 to Curzon 'C' with Martin Wetherell beating Terry Spice. Martin also teamed up with Roy Hull to win the doubles. Sadly they had to play a reserve against Reading FC and as a result lost 6 - 4 with Roy and Martin obtaining fine doubles. Sadly Patrick

O'Sullivan had been on holiday and his plane was delayed so he did not make the match against O.L.O.P. 'E' so the side lost 3 – 7 with Roy and Martin winning one each besides teaming up to win the doubles. At last against Sonning C&P 'F' came a victory by winning 4 – 6 with player of the match Martin obtaining a very good treble and also teaming up with Roy to win the doubles. Roy and Patrick managed to gain a single each. Against the Saiyan Brothers Roy did well by beating Michal and Nikesh but with Martin and Patrick only winning one each they lost 4 – 6. At Springfield 'B' singles from Patrick and Roy were not enough in an 8 – 2 defeat.

Kingfisher 'K' lost 4 – 6 to O.L.O.P. 'E' with Ken Robb and Tarik Ramjuan both gaining doubles. They then had a fine 3 – 7 win at Sonning C&P thanks mainly to a good maximum from Lyazid Wirkhari. Anya Pytka gave him good support by winning two as did John Simpson. At home to the Saiyan Brothers Tarik, Lyazid and Ken all defeated

Kaan Kitay in a 3 – 7 defeat. At home to Tidmarsh 'D' Tarik and Lyazid both won two each besides teaming up to win the doubles to give them a point. They then played a very strong Curzon 'B' and as a result went down 0 – 10. I have to say what a great sporting team they are, despite being outclassed they played the game in the right way.

Finally I have to say I'm a little disappointed in some team captains for not sending any match comments. You will recall that before the season started I asked if you could supply me with them to help me with my newsletter reports, instead of just looking at the score card to try to pick things up. Also there have been a lot of errors on the score cards so can you please check that it is OK before sending it?

Cheers

Derek



DIVISION FIVE

by Martin Wetherell

Well, although the 2017 / 2018 Season only started six weeks ago, this means that it is already time for the first Newsletter. This year there are only ten teams in Division 5, meaning that some teams have only played four matches. However, to compensate, these teams should have a more hectic schedule, leading up to Christmas !

For those regulars that provide me with match summaries, "Thanks" and please keep them coming. Most importantly, if everybody can please keep the scores legible, then this saves me a lot of unnecessary worry. I find that nice, simple numbers, totally within the boxes, without any unnecessary flourishes are best !

I hope that everyone, but especially the newcomers, are enjoying playing in the Reading League and that if you haven't won a game yet, don't worry, since there is still plenty of time.

Kingfisher 'L' finished 4th last year, equal on points with the team in second place. However, this result meant that their two best players earned themselves the opportunity to play in a higher division and another player with over 50% has disappeared from the roster, leaving Meriel Low as their lead player, supported by Derek Crombie and Gill Bennett. Joining the team, this season, are newcomers Dmitry Merzlyakov and Tom Allen.

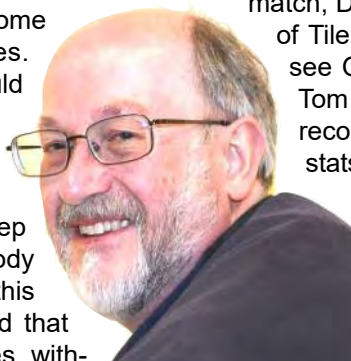
Currently, having played 5 matches, Kingfisher 'L' are bottom of the table and are still looking for their first point. Having lost their two best players, I fear they may be in for a struggle this year, although Dmitry Merzlyakov hit the ground running and almost pulled off a win in his first match, against Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', before losing in 5 games, to Mike Casserley. However, he didn't have to wait long for his first win, beating Springfield 'C's James Regan in his next match, and he

recently recorded a brace, against Tilehurst Methodists 'D'.

Dmitry and Derek Crombie have both played in every match, Derek picking up his first win, against Ryan Arch of Tilehurst Methodists 'D'. However, we have yet to see Gill Bennett in action, although Meriel Low and Tom Allen have each played in two matches, Meriel recording a brace and a single, maintaining her stats from last season, while Tom has yet to win his first set.

Dmitry Merzlyakov has been their stalwart in the Doubles but had not achieved any success, until he partnered Derek Crombie to a win, in the match against Tilehurst Methodists 'D'.

Last season, **Milestone 'C'** finished bottom of the table and they have moved to strengthen their squad of Tony Hayden, John Evans, Carl Edlind and Colin Phillips, signing Maksym Schipka as a replacement for Igor Grbic. Although Maksym didn't expect to win a match before Christmas, he is way ahead of schedule, taking the scalp of Springfield 'C's Chris Speight, in his first match, and then recording a double against Kingfisher 'L'.



Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 S C & P G	6	4	1	1	42	18	9
2 Springfield C	6	4	0	2	36	24	8
3 Sonning Sports B	4	2	2	0	27	13	6
4 Tidmarsh E	5	2	2	1	27	23	6
5 Reading FC B	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
6 OLOP F	4	2	2	0	26	14	6
7 Milestone C	4	1	1	2	20	20	3
8 Springfield D	5	1	0	4	18	32	2
9 Tilehurst Meths D	5	1	0	4	10	40	2
10 Kingfisher L	5	0	0	5	8	42	0

Colin Phillips is still looking for his first win, but he isn't going down without a fight, as demonstrated by his 17-19 3rd game loss, to Reading FC 'B's Keith Greene. Carl Edlind has leapt out of the blocks, to record two maximums, against Kingfisher 'L' and Tidmarsh 'E', winning his first PoM in the draw with Tidmarsh. Both John Evans and Tony Hayden have carried forward last season's form, John recording a maximum in his first match, whilst Tony recorded a brace in his first match, in the defeat to Springfield 'C', which included a 9-11 15-13 11-6 13-11 victory over Tom Berryman.

The 9 - 1 win at Kingfisher 'L' and 5 - 5 draw at Tidmarsh 'E' mean that Milestone 'C' are currently in 7th place, having played only 4 matches. However, on the Doubles front, Milestone continue to mix the partnerships, with a different combination in each of their four matches, which makes their three wins even more impressive, most notably Carl and Tony's 13-11 13-11 12-14 9-11 11-5 win over Tidmarsh's John Harland and Bob Sunerton.

Our Lady of Peace have swapped their teams around, so that OLOP 'F' has lost last season's better players, to Division 4, but gained some new players from their 'E' team, who were relegated from Division 4, along with a couple of new players. This new 'F' team comprises Jan Polnik, Alona Slobodskoy, Chris Bunn, Mariusz Paluszkiewicz, Tony Barnett and Graham Stark.

As expected, the players who have previously played in Division 4 are leading the way, Alona Slobodskoy and Chris Bunn are both on 78%, while Jan Polnik is just ahead on 83%. In their latest match, against Kingfisher 'L', they won

11-9 11-9.

Our Lady of Peace 'F' are one of two undefeated teams and have also won all four of their Doubles, Chris Bunn playing three times, in two different combinations.

Reading FC 'B' have also merged their teams, Keith Greene from last year's 'B' team being joined by Harry Edwards, Derek Anderson and Tony Edwards from last year's 'C' team, along with Mark Edwards, from last year's 'A' team.

Reading FC 'B' are currently sitting in 5th place, with three wins and just the one loss, to Tidmarsh 'E'. Their biggest win was their 9 - 1 victory, away to Tilehurst Methodists 'C', when Derek Anderson and Harry Edwards both recorded maximums, Harry narrowly beating Lewis Oke 12-10 12-10 15-13, while Keith Greene could only record a double, after losing to Steve Christelow.

Derek Anderson currently leads the Division 5 Averages, being undefeated in four matches and has played in every match, as has Harry Edwards. Tony Edwards is still looking for his first win, having only played against Tidmarsh 'E'. Since his double, Keith Greene has played twice more and recorded two maximums, along with one PoM, thereby denying Derek his fourth PoM.

On the Doubles front, Reading FC 'B' have won both their away fixtures, but lost both their home fixtures, the two wins courtesy of Harry Edwards and Derek Anderson, both by the same margin of 3 - 2.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' comprises all of last season's 'H' team (Mike Casserley, Julian James, Steve Knott, Derek Maltby and Gerry Bacon), plus Marko Madzar from last season's 'G' team. The 'H' team narrowly missed out on promotion, having finished in 3rd place and with four members of this squad recording over 50%, last season, they are fulfilling expectations, currently sitting in 2nd place, having played 5 matches.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' have beaten the bottom two clubs, both by a 10 - 0 scoreline, but have themselves been beaten by Springfield 'D', losing 3 - 7, and have drawn 5 - 5 with Our Lady of Peace 'F', another title rival.

Julian James and Marko Madzar are leading by example, with 9 wins from 9, closely followed by Gerry Bacon (6 from 6) and Mike Casserley (8 from 9). Steve Knott and Derek Maltby have yet to win, but it is early days yet, Steve having a couple of close sets against Tidmarsh 'E', losing to Bob Sunerton 9-11 10-12 6-11.

In Doubles, four different combinations have been tried, with three wins across the five matches, the Julian James and Derek Maltby combination being responsible for the two losses, one a close 10-12 9-11 9-11 defeat to Springfield 'D's Colin Jones and Paul Martin.

Sonning Sports 'B' have outdone themselves with the biggest squad I have seen, in recent times, registering 9 players. They have lost Sue Brownhill, from last year's squad, but added newcomer Jude O'Halloran and BBC exiles John Scott and Phil Peat. Surprisingly, they have managed to retain Florin Dimofte, who was only beaten by two players last season, both of whom have been promot-

LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	P	W	%
Derek Anderson	Reading FC B	12	12	100.00
Gerry Bacon	S C & P G	9	9	100.00
Marko Madzar	S C & P G	9	9	100.00
Florin Dimofte	Sonning Sports B	6	6	100.00
Carl Edlind	Milestone C	6	6	100.00
Cris Reynolds	Sonning Sports B	5	5	100.00
Julian James	S C & P G	12	11	91.67
Keith Greene	Reading FC B	9	8	88.89
Mike Casserley	S C & P G	12	10	83.33
Jan Polnik	OLOP F	6	5	83.33
Spike Speight	Springfield C	9	7	77.78
Alona Slobodskoy	OLOP F	9	7	77.78
Christopher Bunn	OLOP F	9	7	77.78
Robert Atack	Springfield C	12	8	66.67

10 - 0, in straight sets, with maximums for Alona, Chris and Jan, Jan also picking up the team's first PoM. Alona was close to another maximum, against Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', but was defeated 9-11 12-10 7-11 9-11 by Julian James. In this same match, newcomers Tony Barnett and Graham Stark both recorded their first win, both also losing out to Mike Casserley, Graham losing 9-11 11-5 8-11 14-12 11-13 and Tony losing 11-4 11-7 9-11 9-11 9-11. Meanwhile, Mariusz Paluszkiewicz's first win was against Springfield 'C', when he beat James Regan 10-12 11-8 7-11

ed, so Florin will be in everyone's sights this season, just as he was last season !

Also returning are Sally James, Cris Reynolds and Mike Gautrey, who have carried on from where they left off last season, along with Mo Cole and Michael Byrne, who are still to make an appearance.

Although they have a large squad, with 6 of their 9 registered players having already played in at least one match, there is also strength in depth. In fact, although early days, Sally James, Cris Reynolds and Mike Gautrey appear to have moved up a gear, so the team's current 3rd place is really no surprise.

Alongside Florin Dimofte, Cris is also undefeated, with one PoM to his name. Sally James has continued to improve and has won 5 out of 8 sets, while John Scott has also brought his A game, from the BBC, and has won 3 out of 5 sets. Jude O'Halloran won a set in his very first match, beating Mariusz Paluszkiwicz, of Our Lady of Peace 'F' and recently recorded his second win, against Tidmarsh 'E'.

The best match wins have been the 9 - 1 win at home to Tilehurst Methodists 'D' and the 8 - 2 away win, at Springfield 'D'. However, the Doubles results have been disappointing, with only one win in four, two of the losses coinciding with drawn matches, so they will need to improve their Doubles results to stand a chance of winning the Division.

Springfield 'C' finished 6th last year and have managed to keep their squad intact, so you will all see Rob Atack, Alan Goold, Chris (Spike) Speight, Tom Berryman and James Regan in action again, this year. So far, this team have been the most egalitarian of teams, with each player having played in three matches, with everyone's stats presently better than last year.

Although they have been beaten once, a 4 - 6 loss to Our Lady of Peace 'F', they have won their other four matches and currently sit top of the table. It should be noted that their only Doubles loss was also in the defeat against OLOP 'F'.

Rob Atack and Chris Speight have both recorded two maximums, two PoMs and one single, in their three matches, while Tom Berryman has recorded three doubles and one PoM, with Alan Goold and James Regan also doing their bit, both recording two doubles, James being made to battle for his double against Tilehurst Methodists 'D', before beating Ryan Arch 6-11 13-11 10-12 11-9 11-9, in what might be the most closely contested singles match, so far.

On the Doubles front, a different combination has been tried in each of the five matches, with four wins, the only loss being at the hands of OLOP, when the match was lost 4 - 6.

This season, unlike last year, **Springfield** are the only club to have registered two teams in Division 5, although their **'D' team** has a slightly different look, since their star player has been snapped up to play in Division 4. So, joining Colin Jones and Paul Martin, this year, will be newcomers Julian Lancaster, Marcello Caramma and Adrian Wegrzynowski.

Springfield 'D' have only won one of their five matches

and are therefore languishing in 8th place, their most recent defeat coming at the hands of their 'C' team, the final set, between Adrian and Rob Atack ending 8-11 11-8 9-11 16-14 7-11 and, at times, resembling an exhibition match, since both teams knew their opponents styles so well. However, despite the defeats, there are a number of positives, with all three newcomers having won at least one set. In fact, Adrian Wegrzynowski on 50% may well turn out to be a very astute signing.

Apart from the one victory, over Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', there have been a number of close defeats which, on another day, could have meant more points. Notably, Colin Jones's 9-11 8-11 8-11 defeat by Tidmarsh 'E's Steve Andrews and Paul Martin's two defeats against Reading FC 'B', when he lost to Keith Greene 11-13 9-11 11-7 11-13 and Derek Anderson 9-11 10-12 11-7 9-11.

Julian Lancaster recorded his first win, defeating Harry Edwards, from Reading FC 'B', 8-11 11-6 11-5 5-11 11-9 and Marcello Caramma recorded a double in his first match, against Sonning Common & Peppard 'G'.

On the Doubles front, Colin Jones has been involved in all three victories, Colin's partnership with Paul Martin garnering most success with 2 wins out of 2.

Tidmarsh 'E' have generally retained the core of their squad from last Season, so Bob Sunerton, Steve Andrews, Mike Bundy, John Harland and Pete Sinclair will all be facing you over the table again, this year. Hopefully, not all at once ! They were joined, albeit briefly, by Theresa Watson but, after winning all three of her singles and partnering John Harland to a Doubles win, in the first match of the season, an 8 - 2 victory over Springfield 'D', Theresa was subsequently re-registered to play in Division 4.

However, until their latest match, a 3 - 7 home defeat, against Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', they had been doing well, with a further win and two draws cementing themselves in 4th place. Steve Andrews has recorded his side's only other maximum, but four of the remaining squad have scored doubles and each player has won at least one set, in every match played thus far.

Apart from Mike Bundy, who has recorded three separate singles winners, Bob Sunerton, Steve Andrews, John Harland and Pete Sinclair have all recorded at least one double.

On the Doubles front, four different combinations have been tried, with two of those combinations being successful, the latest win (John Harland and Mike Bundy) being crucial in the 5 - 5 draw with Sonning Sports 'B'.

Tilehurst Methodists 'D' have registered a team of neophytes, captained by Ryan Arch, a seasoned professional, who has played in two league matches over the past five years. Joining Ryan are two youngsters - Jamie Li-Telford and Lewis Oke - and two not so youngsters - Lala Stryjak and Steve Christelow.

Steve Christelow has been the mainstay for the team, with two single wins and one double, but with no-one else winning, no points were being earned, although Lewis Oke came close to a win, eventually being beaten 10-12 10-12

13-15, by Reading FC 'B's Harry Edwards. However, in their final match before the first free week, Tilehurst Methodists 'D' were victorious over fellow strugglers Kingfisher 'L', winning by a 6 - 4 margin, with Ryan Arch, Jamie Li-Telford and Lewis Oke all recording their first wins. This just leaves Lala Stryjak looking for her first win but, so far, she has only played in one match.

On the Doubles front, **Tilehurst Methodists 'D'** have lost all five and thus have the worst Doubles record in the

Division. However, with the whole team on a steep learning curve, the results can only get better, with four of the five sets played having gone to 5 games, notably the Doubles against Reading FC 'B', which Steve and Lewis, who had never played together before, lost 13-11 11-8 13-15 8-11 5-11.



YOUTH DIVISION

by Emma Barraclough

The new season for Youth Division began on September 8th with a meet and greet evening to allow the players to get to know one another and to complete the registration process. This season marks a changing of the guard for the Division with a number of the Division's longest-standing players, some of whom had played several seasons, finishing at the end of the 2016-17 season. We wish them all the best and thank them for their contribution to the Division over the past few seasons. We are pleased to welcome a group of new young players for their first season in the Division.

September 15th saw one of the Division's popular parent and player social evenings giving parents and carers the chance to play both with and against their children in a fun evening. League play began in earnest on September 22nd. There are eleven teams registered in the Division this year and until Christmas the teams will play in one Division with a split into two Divisions in January. The 22nd September saw wins for the **Spartans, Pumas, Panthers** and **Attackers**. The Spartans won 10 - 0 while the Attackers defeated the Tigers 7 - 3 with three wins for **Adrian Mitchell**. The Pumas defeated the **Raiders** 8 - 2 with three wins for **Rudresh Desai** and the Panthers defeated the **Lions** 9 - 1 with three wins for both **Tamir Slobodskoy** and **Ryan Griffiths**. **Avengers** and **Tigers** had a close match ending in a draw with **Dylan Cook** winning all 3 of his games.

September 29th saw some great play with a victory for the Panthers over the Pumas 6 - 4 though a strong performance

from **Rudresh Desai** from the Pumas saw him win all three of his games. The Raiders defeated the Jaguars 10 - 0 and the Avengers defeated the Strikers 8 - 2 with **Dylan Cook** winning 3. The Lions won 8 - 2 against the Trojans with **Mo Cook** winning all three of his games. The match between the Tigers and Attackers ended in a draw with **Ralph Phillips** winning all three games.

October 6th saw some good play with the new players finding their feet. Attackers defeated the Strikers 7 - 3, the Spartans defeated the Avengers 9 - 1 with both **Rayaan Ashgar** and **Ben Carless** winning all their games. The Panthers defeated the Jaguars 10 - 0, the Lions defeated the Pumas 6 - 4 with another strong performance from Mo Cook and the Tigers defeated the Trojans 8 - 2 with Anay Mistry winning all three of his games. The next week, October 13th, saw the Pumas win 6 - 4 against the Trojans, the Lions defeat the Jaguars 9 - 1 and the Raiders defeat the Avengers 6 - 4. Spartans continued to play strongly and defeated the Attackers 10 - 0 while the Tigers won 7 - 3 against the Strikers.

The final week of play before half-term on October 20th saw a comprehensive win for the Panthers 10 - 0 against the Raiders and another strong performance from the Spartans who won 9 - 1 against the Tigers. Trojans and Pumas also both won; Trojans 7 - 3 against Strikers and Pumas 7 - 3 against the Jaguars. The next event for the Division is the first part of the annual Grouping Tournament to be held on October 27th.



TEAM PLACINGS								
	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Spartans	4	4	0	0	38	2	38
2	Panthers	4	4	0	0	35	5	35
3	Pumas	5	3	0	2	29	21	29
4	Tigers	5	2	2	1	26	24	26
5	Lions	4	3	0	1	24	16	24
6	Attackers	4	2	1	1	19	21	19
7	Raiders	4	2	0	2	18	22	18
8	Avengers	4	1	1	2	18	22	18
9	Trojans	5	1	0	4	18	32	18
10	Strikers	4	0	0	4	11	29	11
11	Jaguars	5	0	0	5	4	46	4

LEADING AVERAGES			
Player	Team	W	%
Rayaan Asghar	Spartans	12	100.00
Ralph Philips	Spartans	6	100.00%
Benedict Carless	Spartans	12	91.67%
Tamir Slobodskoy	Panthers	12	91.67%
Ryan Griffiths	Panthers	12	91.67%
Rudresh Desai	Pumas	15	86.67%
Dylan Cook	Avengers	12	83.33%
Mo Cook	Lions	12	83.33%
Anay Mistry	Tigers	9	77.78%
Alex Eaton	Panthers	9	77.78%
Adrian Mitchell	Attackers	12	66.67%
Lukas Dahmann	Tigers	15	60.00%