

February 2020



READING & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER Editor: Derek Wavell

**Individual Handicap champion Mo Cook (right)
with runner up Morgan Sykes.**

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Poor weather, but a busy time for table tennis, with interesting battles in every division.

This time for once the Individual Handicap competition produced a male-female champion and runner up - both youthful, and both as it happens from OLOP (and both their names start with the letters M and O!).



At the top of Division One we are back to the struggle between Kingfisher and OLOP, and OLOP are also into the finals of the Team Handicap once again - with Sonning Sports. Tidmarsh 'C' is the only team to have made it into the final of the Lower Divisions KO Cup so far; they are also runners up in Div 3. Division Three is currently led by Reading FC 'A' and Division Two by Tilehurst Meths 'A'. Sonning Common is very strong in Div 4 - and just behind the leaders in Div 1.

Reading won the Inter-Town competition again this year - but not by quite such a big margin as last year.

We thank Melvyn Lovegrove for a wealth of beautiful photos on almost every page - taken at the Individual Handicap.

Play well!

Derek

Notes from our Chairman

by Derek Harrison

I would like to start by asking the players who won returnable trophies to get them to Paul Treadgold asap if you have not done so, The details on where to take them are in the November newsletter. Thank You.



still a lot to play for at the top and the bottom of each division so I hope all goes well for you on the run in.

Again I could see on the website that the individual handicap went well so I hope that you will enjoy the Reading Closed in March at Cippenham.

Derek

I can see by our splendid web site that there is



Who remembers Simon Heaps?

I do (says **Malcolm Gregory**) and he was probably the most famous player to have emerged from the Reading table tennis scene. He was a European Cadet Champion and toured with the Harlem Globetrotters giving TT exhibitions. He stopped playing for a number of years then returned to the game. Due to a long standing diabetes condition, Simon unfortunately needed to have a leg amputated below the knee last year and is now playing wheelchair table tennis.

Now he wants to play abroad in a para TT championship and growing numbers of people are contributing funds to help him. Simon says:

I have thrown myself into TT again at the age of 64 and am playing more than I ever did. Got picked by GB Para to play in the Costa Rica Para Open in December and am going to play in the IWAS World Games in Thailand from 2nd to 9th April. (International Wheelchair Amputee Sports Federation) as GB's only representative across 12 sports and over 500 athletes. I will be travelling on my own with just my wheelchair and bat.

If anyone is interested in giving Simon some assistance, or reading more, then please click [HERE](#)

Message for team captains from the Trophy Secretary

Those teams who win any titles/cups and wish to have a trophy for each of their team members are respectfully reminded that the Reading League will fund a maximum of four per team.

Therefore, any in excess of this number will have to be ordered by contacting me and indeed paid for by the team in question.

Paul Treadgold 01256 959751 07821 595982



DIVISION ONE

by Mark Banks

Welcome back everyone. Hope the New Year is serving you well as it hasn't for me as most of you know I haven't been seen since stuffing my face full of pizza down the Curzon Club before Xmas and unfortunately injury has kept me out ever since and in so doing cost Kingfisher 'A' crucial points in our quest for the title, so much so that OLOP are now firm favourites to win D1 and with it the first thing Murgy has won since I carried him to the Maidenhead title in the early 2000s. Down at the bottom things are a lot



clearer now and it's very much (🍒) looking like the refreshment Kings Curzon will be joining Tidmarsh B through the trapdoor into D2. I'd like to say I'll see you before the season is out but I reckon that's me done. I was playing soooooo well too hahahaha. I'm obviously in a bad mood therefore gonna keep this brief. See you in September.

Love & Peace x

Just as it was looking quite good for **Kingfisher 'A'** along came an injury to their superhero, brilliantly handsome star

at the start of the season was whether pin up boy Liam could do it on a cold rainy night in Tidmarsh and the answer is an emphatic yes he definitely can. Murgy I think I mentioned before is definitely close to some of his best form from his "2nd fiddle to Banksy" days in Maidenhead and Ian is also winning pretty much every match he plays. The Ricks twins still haven't been seen much but at least one of them will

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 OLOP Premier	16	15	1	0	125	35	125
2 Kingfisher A	16	15	0	1	125	35	125
3 SC&P B	17	10	5	2	100	69	100
4 SC&P A	16	8	3	5	93	67	93
5 Kingfisher B	17	8	4	5	93	77	93
6 Springfield A	17	8	3	6	88	82	88
7 Kingfisher C	17	7	2	8	87	83	87
8 Kennet Valley A	16	5	3	8	76	84	76
9 Tidmarsh A	16	5	2	9	64	96	64
10 SC&P C	17	3	0	14	53	117	53
11 Curzon Club A	17	2	0	15	46	124	46
12 Tidmarsh B	16	0	3	13	39	120	39



HARI GEHLOT

man and that folks was pretty much that. Soooooooo annoying I can tell yer. The lads have done OK I guess in my absence but a few points dropped here and there won't help with this brilliant new system (🍒) and OLOP have taken advantage and quite rightly so. Hari's age seems to be catching up with him bless with a couple of unexpected losses by his standards, Dmitry has finally shown up and is actually playing very well, Sax has been injured too and is slowly getting back to full form, Tony and Ben are good and do a job and Dan the man is our TLD hahahaha. His words not mine I hasten to add. Looking like 2nd place for King A but that's fair enough with the aforementioned issues we've had

MVP: Mark Banks. I don't feel like it, trust me

Looking good then for **OLOP PREMIER** who will get to play KFA in the title decider without er, me. The question



GRANT WHEATLEY OF KINGFISHER C

be back for KFA and Johnson is starting to find his feet at this level. If I were a betting man, cough, I would be phoning up the Nationwide and lumping the mortgage on them winning the title now so well done them.

MVP: Liam "Big Mc" McTiernan

I can't cope with **Sonning Common & Peppard 'B'** who along with KFB are really testing my OCD. I like all the teams to finish in Club alphabetical order so the fact that they have been above A all season long and look likely to finish above them too messes with my head. They've been doing so well. Andy is getting better and better it seems just amazing how a set of old pimples can change a player's fortune on a massive scale. Nigel as mentioned before





MALCOLM GREGORY OF SC&P 'A'
(PHOTO BY JASON ROBERTS)

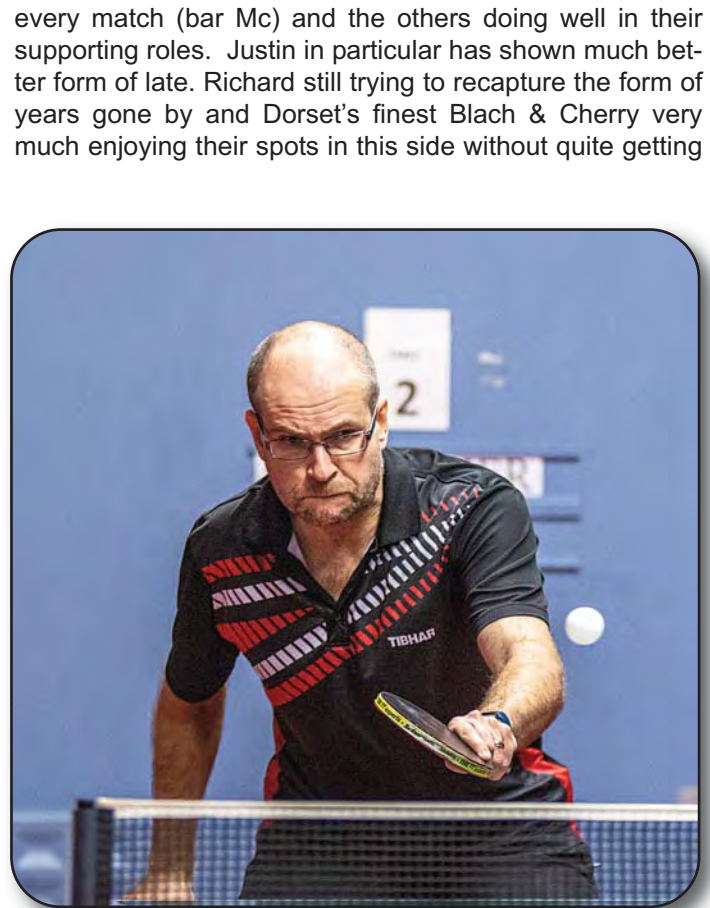
is playing as well as he has ever done at this level with some proper good wins, Jez too playing some inspired stuff at times and Brian too finding his game going first past the post on more than some occasions. A are still closing the gap so it's not done yet but they are going really well and if you told them they would be 3rd at the start of the season they would have thought you were crazy.

MVP: Andy Wang

Still improving **KFC** who like Sonning 'B' are hoping very much to finish above KFB for Club alphabetical bragging rights. Phil, Alan, Nigel, Grant and even Ivor bless him are all quietly going about their business with each and every one of them doing their bit for the cause at one time or another. Solid team and very much deserving of their place in the table.

MVP: Phil Mead

Come on then **Sonning Common & Peppard 'A'** just one last big effort and I reckon you can catch Nigel's lot even with (still) full of turkey Jason and the man I'm not allowed to mention Malcolm (Oooops) in the side. Wang's victories over Hari and Mendick have made Neil's wins over him look even more incredible (not that he likes to mention it) and it was great to see Joe Joes get a game



JULIAN TELFORD

as many wins as their good play has deserved. I hope they catch KFC for obvious reasons but they won't worry about that, they just have a laugh.

MVP: Martin Adams

Slight dip in form for **Tidmarsh 'A'** who have had a tough run and dropped a couple of places as a result. Nothing to worry about as far as relegation goes but they will be keen to go out on a high and do a bit better than they have been in the final weeks. At least they are doing the right thing and finishing above B so I'm grateful for that. Squirrel had a good Xmas as he always does, Lee has done OK in spells with Ray, Simon and Chris just doing enough to ensure that they are still too good for the relegation battle below them.

MVP: Our Squirrel

So finally it happens for **Kennet Valley Free Church 'A'** one of their players gets a stellar victory that makes all that practice worthwhile. No, I'm not talking about Julian's fantastic win over Nigel, I am of course talking about the man who in the past had promised so much but delivered so little the very talkative Graham Mendick who took Hari out just after Xmas. Well played Gray finally. Actually they've all done pretty much alright since the turn of the year, Cath and Jordan in particular with Masoud still finding the going tough at this level.

MVP: Graham Mendick

Another side in form are **Springfield 'A'** who with Diplock returning have seen themselves climb to a very



ANTHONY 'SQUIRREL' BAKER OF TIDMARSH

on his Xmas break from Uni and even Gary turned out for them and played very well too as we know he can. Definitely playing well are Sonning A - one of the form sides. Can they catch B though? We are all talking about it.

MVP: Neil Hurford

No change in the fortunes of **Kingfisher 'B'** who are still doing as they have been all season with Martin winning

respectable mid table position. Not just him though. Phil has also been in top form and will be very pleased with his first season in D1. Adam and Ludovic still doing OK in supporting the big 2.

MVP: Graham Diplock

Well done to **Sonning Common & Peppard 'C'** (please do not swear) for pulling themselves away from the battle to stay up in tremendous style. I always said they were too good to drop and I think I'm pretty confident now in saying that they will be here again in D1 next season. Denise is having a good time of it and managed to get the 1 to prevent the whitewash against the A team last week and Matt & Matt & Tim have all dug deep in recent matches to pretty much secure their place. Great stuff and they will be relieved that the pressure is almost off now.

MVP: Denise Weller



TIM RABY OF SC&P C

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	PL	W	
Liam McTieman	OLOP Premier	21	21	100.00%
Martin Adams	Kingfisher B	42	40	95.24%
Mark Banks	Kingfisher A	15	14	93.33%
Ian Cole	OLOP Premier	33	30	90.91%
Andy Wang	SC&P B	41	37	90.24%
Graham Diplock	Springfield A	30	27	90.00%
Dmitry Khakhamov	Kingfisher A	16	14	87.50%
Graham Mendick	Kennet Valley A	35	30	85.71%
Ben Law	Kingfisher A	14	12	85.71%
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher A	29	23	79.31%
Steve Murgatroyd	OLOP Premier	42	33	78.57%

Such a shame for **Curzon 'A'** who keep battling on through injuries and woes and a credit to them for keeping going and still getting the beers in with a smile on their faces. Unfortunately though I think the game is up and the slide into D2 now almost inevitable. I've been wrong before though and I know this lot Pete, John & Jon (scorecard order) will keep fighting until the very end.

MVP: Jon Willis

So sadly the game is pretty much up then for **Tidmarsh 'B'** who haven't really been able to get going this season and even with the return of Duncan after a lengthy absence (I know all about those too) he hasn't yet found the form that we all know he has to quite do the damage that they needed and the writing is very much on the wall for them now if it wasn't already. I'm sure we will see John, Barry, François back again in time though and I hope they can finish the season as well as poss.

MVP: John Golding

Berkshire Inter-Town Report

by Duncan Groves

The annual Berkshire 'Inter Town' tournament took place on 19 January at Cippenham, with the four representative leagues - Reading, Newbury, Bracknell and Maidenhead - vying for the Barbara Peisley trophy. As holders, Reading started as favourites but faced some strong opposition, particularly from the Newbury league which has strengthened considerably over the past couple of seasons.

The tournament is played across six mini-leagues with points awarded according to where teams are placed after matches against their three opponents. In both the Senior and Veteran categories there are three Divisions and each team consists of three players each playing two singles matches against their opponents.

Due to County commitments, Reading were missing some of its premier players this year, including Martin Adams and Hari Gehlot. In addition, injury and absence accounted for Mark Banks and Andy Wang meaning that the four biggest 'stars' from the 2019 campaign all needed to be replaced.

For the Senior Division 1 team, the talented Dmitry Khakhamov stepped up as player A, with in-form Graham Mendick and Ben Law supporting him. A fast start saw Reading defeat two-man Bracknell 6 - 0 in its opening match, although Ben Law needed a fifth game 13-11 decider to squeeze out a brave Phil Mead effort. The same result followed against Maidenhead with Graham Mendick showing signs of his recent league

form in defeating both his opponents in straight sets.

The third and final encounter against Newbury proved to be a much tighter contest. The brilliant Romanian, Mizcea Neago, defeated both Dmitry and Graham in straight sets. However, Graham defeated Jamie Cole and Ben proved too good for Antony Baker leaving the contest down to the final two singles' matches. Newbury's Baker upped his game against Dmitry and had chances to go 2 - 1 up but Dmitry stormed back to win the third and fourth legs and take Reading to 3 - 2. In another close contest Ben came back from a first game deficit to defeat Jamie 3 - 1 and take the match 4 - 2.

In the Division 1 veterans mini-league, Duncan Groves was promoted following Mark Banks' withdrawal and joined Neil Hurford and Tony Stead in matches against Newbury and Bracknell (Maidenhead did not field a side). In his opening match against the excellent Paul Rattue, Neil showed great form and consistency in winning in four sets. Duncan chipped in with an important defeat of Nick Langley and Tony disposed of Phil Davenport with relative ease. Neil also saw off Nick Langley in a comfortable three sets. With the match at 4 - 0 and won, Newbury showed what could have been by coming back to win the last two singles.

Neil kept up his terrific form in the second and final match against Bracknell, defeating both Ian Cole and Ivor Hardman. The Hurford v Cole match was one of the day's highlights with some thrilling rallies from these contrasting style players ending with a 14-12 fourth deciding set Reading win after Ian had several chances to scrape back to 2 - 2. The match was eventually won 6 - 0 with a notable win for Tony Stead over Ian Cole and solid wins for Duncan over Ivor and Tim Challender.

The Reading Senior Division 2 side looked extremely strong on paper with Julian Telford and Joe Barraclough supporting Dan Wills. So it turned out in 6 - 0 drubbings of both Bracknell and Maidenhead with only three sets dropped across all 12 matches. As expected, the Newbury encounter would prove decisive. The match started with the narrowest of victories by Dan over Fallon Thompson and this was followed by comfortable wins from Joe, over Bill Stamatiou, and Julian, over Tom Lewis. Another classic five-game set saw Newbury back in the match as Fallon defeated Joe 14-12 in the deciding game. No such problems, however, for Dan or Julian in their final matches and Reading took another mini-league maximum with a 5 - 1 defeat of Newbury.

The most comfortable mini-league for Reading players turned out to be Veteran Division 2. Alan Cummings, returning from injury, was partnered by league team

mates Paul Savage and Nick Sears. All three showed excellent form and were largely untroubled as they earned 6 - 0 victories in all three encounters. Highlights were a five game win by Alan over Mark Wheeler from Newbury and Nick's hard fought victory over Elroy Hull from Maidenhead. Meanwhile Paul swept aside all comers with six straight game wins.

The only Reading side to miss out on topping their mini-league was the Senior Division 3 side. Due to a last minute absence from the third player in the team, Matt Stone and Jingshun (Jordan) Huang had to start each match with a 2 - 0 deficit. Despite this, they managed to win 4 - 2 against both Maidenhead and Bracknell teams. Special mention for the 'never say die' Matt Stone who came back from 2 - 1 down in sets versus Allan Yeung to secure the Bracknell win. The Reading v Newbury match ended with a 4 - 2 defeat after Andy Jeffery pipped Matt in five sets and Jordan lost out in a close match against Simon Craig. Both players should, however, feel proud of their second place in the mini-league, given the circumstances.

The tightest mini-league of the day involved Division 3 veterans. Reading's team consisted of Pete Bradley, Barry Carter and Roger Pritchard. Despite strong competition from both Bracknell and Maidenhead teams, Reading went into the final match against Newbury with two 6 - 0 victories under its belt. The decisive match saw some thrilling action and the only tied result across the day's matches. It started with Denise Weller coming from 2 - 1 down to record a 3 - 2 sets win over Pete. Barry then defeated Ian Wu and Roger edged out Sue Purton. Playing impressively, Denise earned her brace with a victory over Barry. Pete looked out of sorts in a straight set loss to Sue setting up a final singles encounter of the day between Roger and Ian. A five game win for Reading would have given the organiser a 'count back' headache but Roger kept a cool head to win 11-9, 11-6, 11-4. As a result, Reading took first place in the mini-league, despite the 3 - 3 finish, based on a 12-10 games count across the six matches.

With a grand total of 23 Peisley points, Reading comfortably retained the trophy from nearest rivals, Newbury. Well done to all Reading players who represented the League magnificently, both in terms of performance and behaviour.

Thanks must go to Mick Mitcham who did a fantastic job as tournament organiser and to the venue at Cippenham for hosting this event. We look forward to defending our trophy here next year.

1	Reading	23
2	Newbury	19
3	Bracknell	9
4	Maidenhead	8

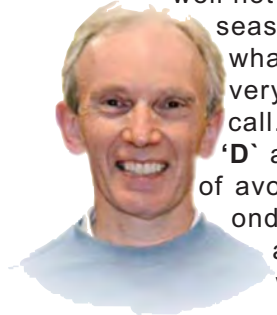
FULL RESULTS



DIVISION TWO

by John Willcocks

The promotion fight has become even more interesting with just four points separating first from third. It looks like that this will go right to the wire and both champions and runners up spots may well not be decided until the last week of the season. This makes my task of predicting what order the top three will finish in very difficult as it is really too close to call. At the bottom of the division OLOP 'D' are too far adrift to stand any chance of avoiding relegation. However, the second relegation spot is very tight and may also not be decided until the last week.



Tilehurst Meths 'A' have only had one match recently where Eric Van Looy and Keith Winter have both played. Consequently, their results since Christmas have been a bit mixed with three big wins and three 6 – 4 defeats. One such defeat came



DAREK KAMINSKI

against promotion rivals Sonning Sports 'A' despite yet another great maximum from Keith. Eric has not lost since late September and Keith since early November so if they both play in the majority of the remaining matches they should finish in the top two. However, if either of them continue to miss matches then, despite lots of recent good wins by Nigel Rowland and Phil Jones, they could just miss out on promotion. They still have to play second placed OLOP 'A' so the result of that match might be crucial in deciding which one of these teams goes up.

Prediction –3rd

Best Recent Performance – Keith Winter beating both Paul Savage and Nick Sears in their close defeat by Sonning Sports 'A'

OLOP 'A' have won all of their matches in the second half so far although two of the wins against mid

table teams were only 6 – 4. In one of these close wins they did well to beat their C team despite only being able to field two players. However, the other 6 – 4 win was more surprising as it was against a Kingfisher 'D' team who also only had two players on the night. Chris West's recent form has been very good but Darek Kaminski has lost a few more times than expected and Ben Carless has had the occasional slight off night recently.

They still have the best all round squad in the division but they have quite a tough run of fixtures including having to play both



ERIC VAN LOOY

Sonning Sports 'A' and Tilehurst Meths 'A' so their promotion prospects are still in the balance.

Prediction – 1st

Best Recent Performance- Chris West with an excellent maximum in the win over SC&P 'D'

Sonning Sports 'A' have won nine matches in a row and have closed the gap on the two teams



BEN CARLESS

		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Tilehurst Meths A	17	13	1	3	126	44	126
2	OLOP A	17	14	0	3	125	45	125
3	Sonning Sports A	17	14	1	2	122	48	122
4	SC&P D	17	12	1	4	98	72	98
5	OLOP B	17	10	0	7	92	78	92
6	Kingfisher D	17	8	0	9	81	89	81
7	Milestone A	17	7	2	8	79	91	79
8	Kingfisher E	17	7	2	8	78	92	78
9	OLOP C	17	3	4	10	73	97	73
10	Springfield B	17	3	3	11	57	113	57
11	Pangbourne WMC	17	2	2	13	53	117	53
12	OLOP D	17	0	2	15	36	134	36

Alan Mollett and Jon Abbott are both still playing well and have averages of over 70%. It is also good to see Mark Jones back playing regularly and he has started to pick up some useful wins.

All of their defeats during the season have come against the top three and they look very likely to finish in a well-deserved fourth place. If we were using the old points system they would still have an outside chance of promotion.

Prediction – 4th

Best Recent Performance – Alan Mollett with a very good three straight victory over the hard to beat Darek Kaminski



ZOLTAN KELEMEN

above them in the table. Their recent form includes three big wins plus close one's against Tilehurst Meths 'A' and Milestone 'A'. They have a reasonable run of fixtures between now and the end of the season and with Paul Savage and Nick Sears likely to be available for all of them they could easily end up in the top two. All of their players are in good form with Paul and Nick still getting lots of maxima and with Keith Machin and Bob Woodmansee giving their top two very good support. They play OLOP 'A' on 19th March and that match could decide their promotion fate

Prediction – 2nd

Best Recent Performance – Nick Sears impressive win over Sanket Dave in the hard-fought victory over Milestone 'A'

SC&P 'D' have kept up the pattern of winning most of their matches, although many of their wins have been by very close scorelines. They have won five out of six since Christmas with their only defeat coming against promotion contenders OLOP 'A'.

OLOP 'B' are comfortably lying in fifth place and they still have an outside chance of pipping SC&P 'D' for fourth. They have won four and lost two since Christmas and this included a great 6 – 4 victory over the leaders Tilehurst Meths 'A'. Tom Lewis is still their star player on 83% but the rest of the team all have healthy averages. They hardly ever have anyone who does not win at least once a match and most of their players results have improved as the season has gone on. So like SC&P 'D' they win most weeks although their results are often quite close.

Best Recent Performance – Pat Daniels with an excellent three straight win over Sanket Dave

Prediction – 5th

Kingfisher 'D' have had a mixed bag of recent results with three wins and three losses; three very close matches and three very clear-cut results. Their best performance was when their two-man team of Clive Gold and Luca Bianchi only just lost 6 – 4 to second placed OLOP 'A' and they were very close to getting a draw. Clive and Luca have the highest averages with both in the mid 60's with David Wells



LUCA BIANCHI

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Eric Van Looy	Tilehurst Meths A	41	40	97.56%
Keith Winter	Tilehurst Meths A	31	30	96.77%
Paul Savage	Sonning Sports A	51	46	90.20%
Nick Sears	Sonning Sports A	44	39	88.64%
Thomas Lewis	OLOP B	24	20	83.33%
Roger Pritchard	Kingfisher E	33	27	81.82%
Chris West	OLOP A	29	23	79.31%
Jonathan Abbott	SC&P D	41	32	78.05%
Benedict Carless	OLOP A	41	32	78.05%
Darek Kaminski	OLOP A	44	34	77.27%
Alan Mollett	SC&P D	45	33	73.33%
Clive Gold	Kingfisher D	38	26	68.42%
Sanket Dave	Milestone A	41	27	65.85%
Luca Bianchi	Kingfisher D	27	17	62.96%
Clive Perry	OLOP A	21	13	61.90%
Savva Christodoulou	Kingfisher E	36	22	61.11%

not far behind. John Liddle and Steve Woolnough have also been picking up some useful wins. They



MORGAN SYKES OF OLOP D

are in a three/four-way fight to see who finishes sixth.

Prediction – 7th

Best Recent Performance – Luca Bianchi with two very impressive three straight wins over Ben Carless and Darek Kaminski

Milestone 'A' have put their uncertain early season form well behind them and have won five of their last six matches with their only recent defeat coming against Sonning Sports 'A'. Their improved form has seen them move into a comfortable mid-table position. Both Sanket Dave and Zoltan Kelemen have been in very good form and they have been getting good back up from their other players. With two of the top three still to play they may have an effect on the promotion situation as they are a



RALPH PHILIPS OF OLOP A

hard team to beat in their current form.

Prediction – 6th

Best Recent Performance – Sanket Dave coming back from 2 - 1 down to beat Paul Savage 11-9 in the fifth

Kingfisher 'E' are another team who have had mixed results with three wins and three draws since Christmas which is the pattern of results they have had a for the whole season. Roger Pritchard and Savva Christodoulou are still playing consistently well with Roger averaging over 80% and when they both play together they are a difficult team to beat. Their other players are all contributing with Carol Byers in particular giving good support to their top two. They are in the fight to see who can finish sixth but will probably end up just below that

Prediction – 8th

Best Recent Performance – Roger Pritchard with a comprehensive maximum against an in-form Milestone 'A'

OLOP 'C' have lost four of their last five matches, although three of these defeats were 6 – 4. So they have slipped down the table slightly but they are in no danger of dropping any further. Their squad has been boosted by the signing of Igor Sremac who has picked up some useful wins, consequently they have



ROGER PRITCHARD



ABHAY GORE OF OLOP B

not had to rely on playing reserves as they did in the first half of the season. The two Dave's and Alistair are all picking up enough wins to ensure that they stay well clear of the relegation fight.

Prediction – 9th

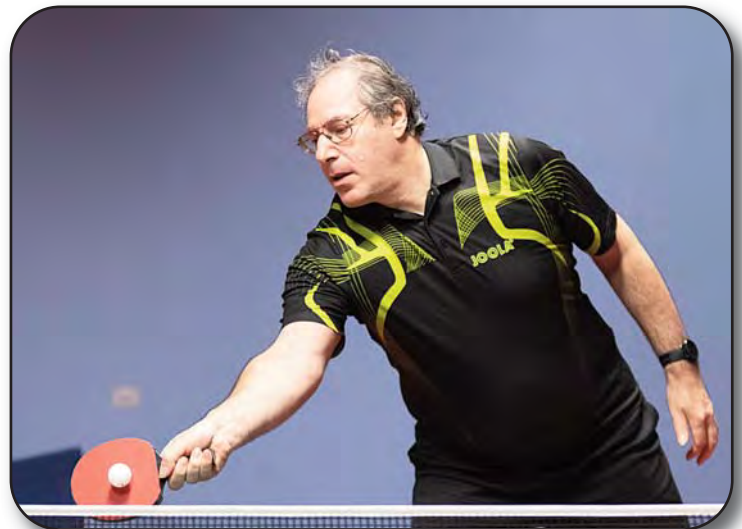
Best Recent Performance – Dave Godfrey beating an in-form Alan Mollett in four in their close defeat to SC&P 'D'

Pangbourne WMC have lost their last seven matches and they are in a real fight to maintain their Division 2 status. John and Clive have been picking up some good wins but, despite often playing well, Leroy has had a poor run of results since Christmas. They have got a reasonable run of fixtures to the end of the season, including matches against the two teams below them, and the results of those two fixtures are likely to be crucial. The battle between them and Springfield 'B' to see who can avoid the drop could easily go to the last match.

Prediction 11th

Best Recent Performance – Clive Taylor coming back from two games down to beat Zoltan Kelemen

Springfield 'B' like Pangbourne have lost their last seven matches. However, some close defeats have allowed them



SIMON BROOKES OF OLOP D

to close the gap between the two teams slightly and with a match in hand they could overtake them. All of their players are fairly consistently picking up one win a match with Stephen Leggett getting the occasional double. Like Pangbourne they have a reasonable run in so the match between the two teams on 4th March could decide who gets relegated

Prediction 10th

Best Recent Performance – Rob Wilkie with an impressive three straight win over Darek Kaminski

OLOP 'D' have improved almost all of their results compared with the first half of the season but they have still been unable to get that elusive first win. Morgan Sykes has been in consistent form winning at least once every time she plays and Graham Stark's form has improved and he has had some good wins recently. Despite their league position they appear to be enjoying the challenge and they could well record a win or two before the season ends

Prediction 12th

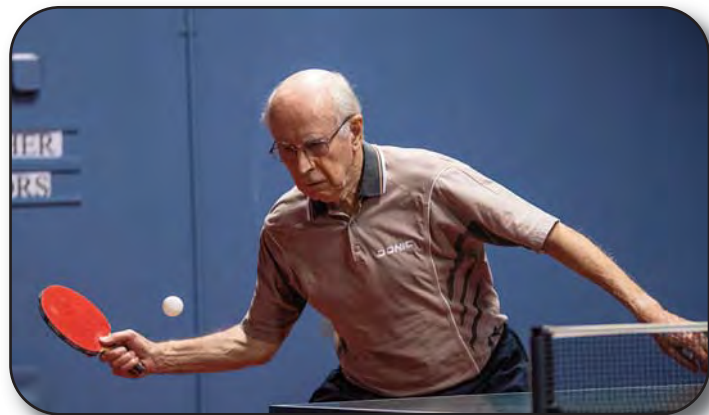
Best Recent Performance – Graham Stark with a three-straight win over Jon Abbott in a match where he almost got a maximum.



GRAHAM STARK OF OLOP D

The Individual Handicap by Derek Wavell

The Individual Handicap competition on 5th January presented a tightly-packed field of 42 assorted but super keen hopefuls. Big and small, strong and weak, old and young - all given an equal chance by a vigorous handicapping system.



PETER BENNETT

Each player started in a mixed group of 5. And 5 was the number of doughty players who emerged unbeaten out of those eight groups. There were up-and-coming junior



KARAN BASHKIYAR

Emma Ranson; last year's winner who is also a junior: Mo Cook; tall Roger Pritchard on an eye-watering minus 11 handicap; veteran safe pair

of hands Peter Bennet and another junior, Ben Carless.

So they went through to the knock-out stage, joined by 3

more who had struggled to the top of their groups: one young woman Morgan Sykes, and seasoned players Andrew Adair and Zoltan Kelemen.



HARI GEHLOT

From there on last year's champion Mo

Cook, who had up to this point won almost everything in straight games, succeeded in putting away both Andrew

Adair and Roger Pritchard in similar fashion, which took him to the final. Elsewhere

young Emma

Ranson had overcome the impressive Ben Carless in two games - though no doubt a 13-point advantage in each game due to handicap may have had something to do with that.

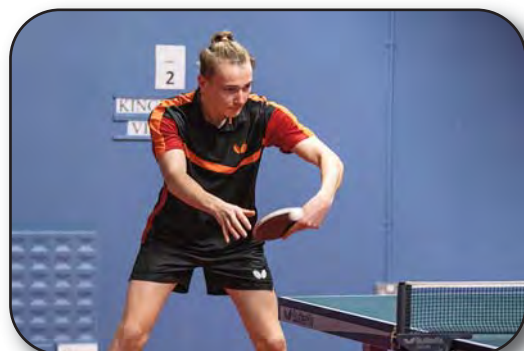


RIA GORE

Meanwhile the skill and experience of Peter Bennett was

overcome by Morgan Sykes in 3 tightly-fought games; and she managed to fight past Emma Ranson too in another 3 games.

So we were set for a classic final between two OLOP players - one male, one female, both at a peak of fitness; and both of their names began with "Mo"!



BEN CARLESS

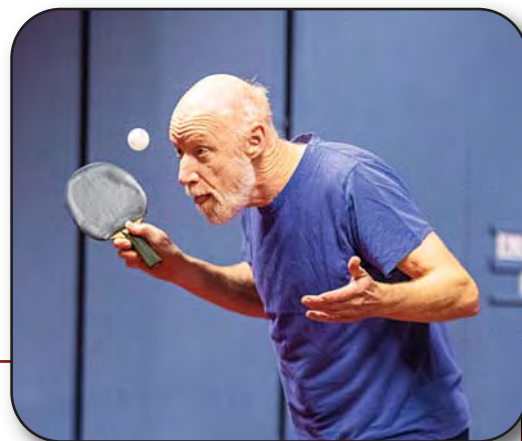


EMMA RANSON

Morgan had a 6-point advantage over her younger adversary, but he has a great record of success. **Mo Cook** won the first game by a commanding lead - 21-14; but then she flashed back with a 21-16 win of her own. So it was down to the final game, and how each player strove for every point! The final result was a win for last year's champion, **Mo Cook** - but only by the smallest of margins: 21-19!

Wendy Porter is to be thanked and congratulated, not only on running this complex competition without a hitch, but fixing handicaps that provided a challenge to everyone.

Wendy, how did it go for you?



RICHARD HUDSON

It was great to see so many clubs represented, the variety of abilities, ages, and that we had women/girls too.

As you can see from the results, throughout the competition, the handicaps appeared to be very good. There were a lot of 3 setters and deuce games. You could see on the day that everyone had to work hard, whether they play in the top division, the bottom division or the youth division.

We had a full turn out again (with one reserve), everyone arrived on time and the day ran to schedule.

It was a pleasure to run the tournament again, seeing so many happy players and exciting matches.

Thank you to all the players for the positive manner in which they approached the competition and for making it such an enjoyable day.

Wendy Porter - Tournament organizer

1	Morgan Sykes (2)	Morgan Sykes (2)	
2	Peter Bennett (2)	21-14 24-26 21-15	
3	Emma Ranson (9)	Emma Ranson (9)	Morgan Sykes (2) 21-15 15-21 21-12
4	Benedict Carless (-4)	21-19 21-16	
5	Mo Cook (-4)	Mo Cook (-4)	Mo Cook (-4) 21-14 16-21 21-19
6	Andrew Adair (4)	21-17 21-13	
7	Roger Pritchard (-11)	Roger Pritchard (-11)	Mo Cook (-4) 21-8 21-6
8	Zoltan Kelemen(-6)	21-14 21-17	



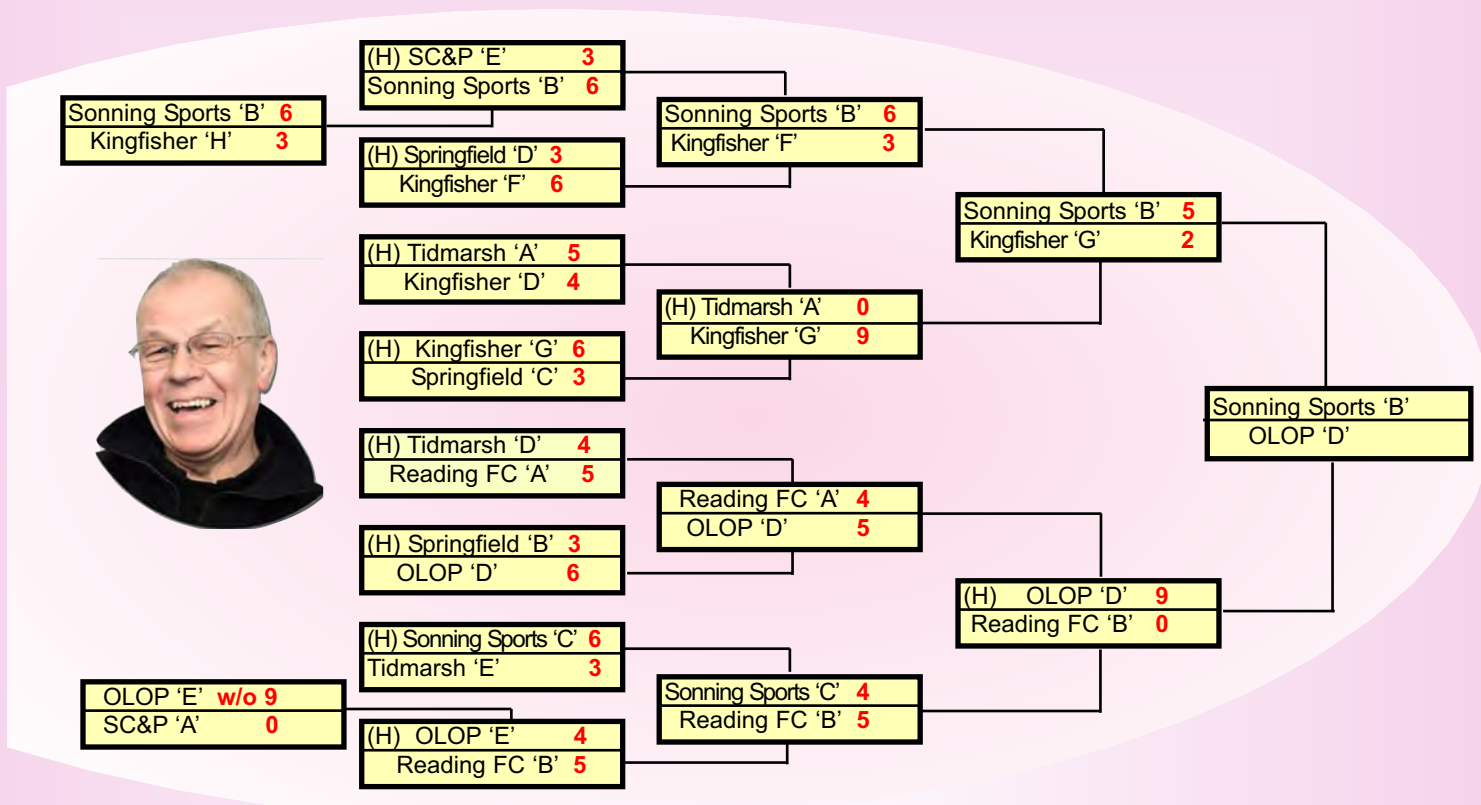
MORGAN SYKES



MO COOK

Team Handicap Competition 2019-20

organised by Ray Webb



Four matches played in the quarter-finals and **Mark** and **Ben Carless** along with **Ralph Philips**, as part of the Our Lady of Peace 'D' team, are still on track to reach a second consecutive final.

With Ralph yet to feature, OLOP selected an unchanged side of Mark, Ben and **Morgan Sykes**. In a match that went all the way to the final set, OLOP were made to work hard to overcome last season's finalists and old adversaries Reading FC 'A', 5 - 4. Leading 3 - 2 at one stage, Reading essentially had no answer to Morgan Sykes who recorded a fine 21-8, 19-21, 21-13 win over **Michael Childs** on the way to a well earned maximum.

In the second quarter-final **Reading FC 'B'** overcame **Sonning Sports 'C'**. Just like their 'A' team, Reading 'B' enjoyed a 3 - 2 lead, but unlike them managed to hold on for a 5 - 4 win. No maximums for either side, but Harry Edwards' 19-21, 22-20, 23-21 victory over **Stephen Edwards** was the match winner.

In the other half of the draw, **Sonning Sports 'B'** saw off **Kingfisher 'F'** 6 - 3, and in the process ended Kingfisher's chance of a cup double. A second successive 6 - 3 victory for Sonning and a second successive maximum for **Keith Machin**, who hasn't really been troubled in the competition thus far. Keith's maximum was backed up by a good double from **Cris Reynolds**.

Through to face Sonning were **Kingfisher 'G'** who in the

previous round blew away Tidmarsh 'A' 9 - 0. All I can say about this match is that **Gabor** was untouchable and Tidmarsh were outplayed completely, but we did enjoy the evening despite the result.

And so to the Semi-Finals

First up, OLOP against Reading with OLOP making two changes to their starting line-up. In came captain **Simon Brookes** and **Darek Kaminski**, with only Morgan retained. Reading reverted to their initial line-up with captain Harry making way for the return of **Derek Anderson**. Harry very sportingly took up the scoring duties for the evening.

In the end OLOP proved too strong for Reading, running out 9 - 0 winners, although Derek A was unlucky not to pick up at least a single, taking both Darek and Morgan to a deciding game. If Simon was resting Ben and Mark, then this result will pose some headaches over team selection for the final. In the other semi-final.

The 'Sports' overcame Kingfisher, winning by a 5 - 2 margin. [Kingfisher no doubt lulled into a false sense of security following the Tidmarsh result]. Once again Keith was the star performer with yet another maximum and in the process the only unbeaten player remaining in the competition [having played in more than one match].

With an equally creditable performance, **Brett Hastings** was also unbeaten on the night with two from two. Despite the comfortable looking scoreline, given a couple of nets or

edges the other way and it could possibly have been a different outcome.

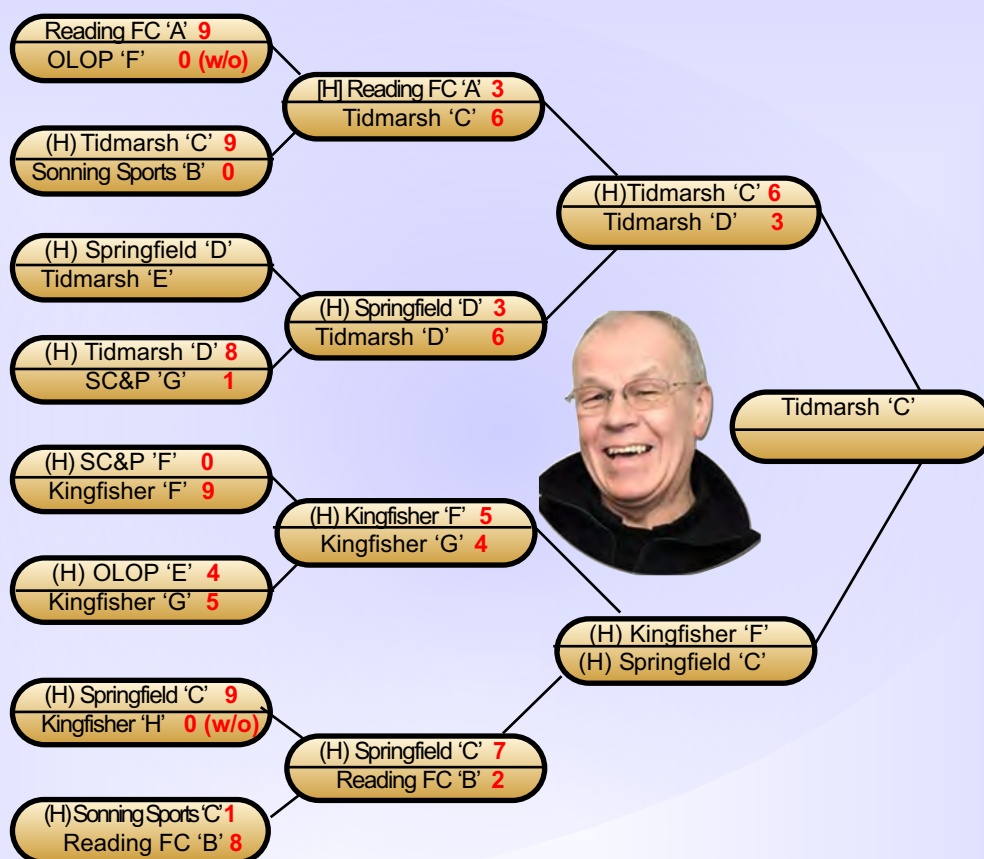
At 1 - 2 **Andrew Adair** took Keith all the way ultimately losing 21-23, 22-20, 26-24, and then Brett held his nerve with some fine attacking play, and a bit of encouragement from stand-in captain **Bob Woodmansee**, to beat **Nils**

Wedi 19-21, 21-17, 24-22. It could have been 3 - 2 to Kingfisher, and with Gabor Radnoti then beating Bob 21-19, 17-21, 21-15, in the next set, 4 - 2 and only one set away from a completely different result.

All bodes well for an evenly contested final.

Lower Divisions KO Cup - 2019-20

organised by Ray Webb



Only one match has been played since the previous newsletter following a postponement of one of the Semi-finals.

In the match played, Tidmarsh 'C', who put out holders Reading FC 'A' in the previous round, took out another former champion Tidmarsh 'D' with a 6 - 3 victory.

Attempting to recapture the trophy which they last won three seasons ago, Tidmarsh 'D' were level at one set apiece before losing three on the trot. Set five proved a crucial 10-12, 13-11, 11-6 victory for the 'C' team. The victors' pairing of Ian Wu and Richard Hudson remained unbeaten, although they needed a 11-8, 7-11, 11-9 set to

deprive Terry Hardie and Dave Edwards of their own maximum.

Ian / Richard have now won six sets out of six in the competition though for some strange reason they are the only pairing not used by Tidmarsh in the league. In the Final, Tidmarsh will meet the winners of another all-division-three contest between Kingfisher 'F' and Springfield 'C'. The outcome of this match is hard to predict, as Springfield have only played one match to reach this stage, profiting from a forfeit in round one. Jason King and Oliver Delas are currently unbeaten, but will do well to remain as such against Kingfisher, who could prove too strong.



DIVISION THREE

by Derek Harrison

Hello Everyone. Before I start my reports on matches played in the second half I will make comments on the matches that were played in the last week before Christmas.

I do hope that you had a good one and again wish you a healthy 2020.



Curzon 'B' played a strong side at Curzon 'C'; and as a result won 2 – 8. Kate Maksimenko and Nick Lean hit fairly easy maximums and John Walker gained a single. Kate also teamed up with Linda King to win the doubles. For the 'C' team Paul Treadgold and Peter Hillier both beat John Walker. No club favours, which is how it should be.

Tidmarsh 'C' beat Kingfisher 'F' 8 – 2. Ian Wu won all three and Simon Craig and Spencer Harvey both won two each besides teaming up to win the doubles. For the Birds Eric Holmes won two.

Reading F C 'A' went to Tilehurst Meths 'B' and came away with a 1 – 9 victory. Mike Childs, Jazz Dhillon and Anthony Alleyne all obtained trebles while Patrick O'Sullivan and Martin Wetherell won the doubles for the villagers. Jes Eassom the Tilehurst captain informed me that Patrick in his singles played very well. I have to say he did manage to take a game from Jazz and Anthony.

Milestone 'B' moved into second place by beating



MIKE CHILDS

Springfield 'C' 8 – 2. Oliver Bonser was the star, winning all three with Chris Collins and Shawnik Thakur both gaining doubles. For Springfield Jason King hit a fine double.

O.L.O.P 'E' had a nice 4 – 6 win at Kingfisher 'G' mainly thanks to a three-straight hat trick from Mo Cook. Louise Forster hit a double and Harry Bullock a single. Nils Wedi won two and Andrew Adair bagged one for Kingfisher.

Tidmarsh 'D' beat Sonning Sports 'B' 7 – 3. Thereasa Watson and Terry Hardie both obtained trebles. The doubles was tight with Thereasa and Terry beating Cris Reynolds and Brett Hastings 8-11, 6-11, 12-10, 11-8, 11-8. In that third game Tidmarsh came back from 6-10 down.



ANTHONY ALLEYNE

Reading F C 'A' went to fourth in the table Curzon 'B' and won 3 – 7 with Mike Childs gaining a hat trick. Anthony Alleyne won two while Wayne Alleyne managed a single. Even without star player Mike they were far too good for Curzon 'C' beating them 8 – 2. Jazz Dhillon and Wayne both hit hat tricks and Paul Brown playing in his first match of the season won two. All singles sets were three straight. At Sonning Sports 'B' they came away with a 0 – 10 victory with Anthony, Wayne and Jazz all winning three. Against Kingfisher 'F' they won 8 – 2 with Mike winning all three in straight games while Wayne and Anthony managed two each besides winning the doubles. Despite the football team losing to West Brom the tt team march on by beating Springfield 'C' 0 – 10 on the same night. The hat trick men were Mike (all three straight), Wayne and Anthony.

Tidmarsh 'C' moved back into second place by beating Springfield 'C' 7 – 3. Richard Hudson had a good night, winning all three while Simon Craig won two besides teaming up

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Reading FC A	16	16	0	0	133	27	133
2 Tidmarsh C	17	14	1	2	125	45	125
3 Milestone B	17	13	0	4	101	69	101
4 Curzon B	17	10	4	3	101	69	101
5 Tidmarsh D	17	8	1	8	84	86	84
6 Tilehurst Meths B	17	7	3	7	82	88	82
7 OLOP E	17	6	2	9	82	88	82
8 Kingfisher F	17	5	3	9	79	91	79
9 Kingfisher G	17	9	0	8	76	94	76
10 Springfield C	17	4	0	13	60	110	60
11 Curzon C	16	2	0	14	51	109	51
12 Sonning Sports B	17	0	0	17	36	134	36

with David Sheppard who won one to win the doubles. They then had a massive victory at Milestone 2 – 8 with Ian Wu hitting a treble. Simon and Richard both won two besides teaming up to win the doubles. At home to Curzon 'C' they won 9 – 1 with Ian and Simon both gaining hat tricks. For Ian they were all three straight. Simon's match against Paul



PAUL TREADGOLD

Treadgold was amazing because they were two games each and Simon was 1-9 and 3-10 down but came back to win 12-10. Spencer Harvey won twice. Next they beat a two player Tidmarsh 'D' 7 – 3. Richard did well by winning two and Ian picked up a single. Richard and Spencer also won the doubles. They then just got home at Kingfisher 'G' 4 – 6 with Ian and Simon both winning two while the skipper David Sheppard obtained a fine single. In the doubles Ian and Simon beat Nils and Andrew 6-11, 5-11, 12-10, 11-8, 9-11. A touch close. Against a two man Tilehurst Meths 'B' they strolled to a 9 – 1 victory. Ian and Spencer both won their sets and Richard won one. In a rearranged match Tidmarsh 'C' went well clear in second place by beating Sonning Sports 'B' 0 – 10 with Simon, Richard and David all hitting

trebles.

Milestone 'B' went to Curzon 'C' for the first match in 2020 and won 2 – 8 with Shawnik Thakur hitting a hat trick as he did in his home match. Chris Collins and John Crosfield both gained doubles. Then without Chris and having to play a reserve they crashed to a 2 – 8 defeat against Tidmarsh 'C'. Shawnik did well to gain a double. They then bounced back by winning 3 – 7 at Tidmarsh 'D' with Chris gaining a very good treble. John had two good wins beating Thereasa Watson 11-8, 7-11, 11-6, 9-11, 5-11



KATE MAKSIMENKO

and Terry Hardie 7-11, 11-7, 7-11, 5-11. Shawnik played his part by winning one. They then beat Kingfisher 'G' 9 – 1 with Chris obtaining a three straight maximum. John also won all three while Shawnik picked up a double. Next despite only having two players they won 3 – 7 at Tilehurst Meths 'B'. Shawnik and Chris both obtained trebles. Against Curzon 'B' they had to play two reserves and as a result lost 1 – 9. Shawnik won the set by beating John Walker.

Curzon 'B' played the leaders Reading F C 'A' and went down 3 – 7. Kate Maksimenko did well and won two and took a game off Mike Childs. John Walker had a nice win over Wayne Alleyne. At O.L.O.P 'E' Kate helped herself to another maximum besides teaming up with Linda King to win the doubles. Linda and John managed singles. At home to a two man Sonning Sports 'B' they won 7 – 3 with Nick Lean and Linda both winning two each. At Kingfisher 'F' Kate and Nick both won two each besides teaming up to win the doubles to share the spoils. At home to Springfield 'C' Carine Bey played well and according to Linda is going from strength to strength and fully deserved her maximum. Nick also won three and Linda gained a single besides teaming up with Nick to win the doubles. Linda said that she thought she plays better in the doubles than the singles. Anyway they won 8 – 2. Next they came up against a weak Milestone 'B' and won 1 – 9 with Kate and Nick both obtaining trebles. John hit a double.

Tidmarsh 'D' had a good 7 – 3 win over Kingfisher 'F' thanks mainly to a Terry Hardie treble and he also teamed up with Dave Edwards to win the doubles. Dave E won two and Dave Smith picked up a single. Terry's win over Eric was a bit tight with the following scores. 9-11, 11-9, 11-9, 10-12, 11-9, In the match there were 21 deuces. At Springfield 'C' they had a nightmare by going down 9 – 1. Thereasa won one by beating Johnny. At home to Milestone 'B' they lost 3 – 7 with Dave E winning two and Terry picking up a single. After gaining two hat tricks in a row Terry has hit a bad patch by only winning one out of six. It finished very late at 11.40 pm and then Chris Collins had to get the train home to Maidenhead. Against Tidmarsh 'C' they could only play two players. Terry had a great night by beating Spencer and Ian who he beat 9- 11, 6-11, 3-11. Thereasa also beat Spencer in a 7 – 3 defeat. At home to Curzon 'C' they found some form by winning 8 – 2 with Terry winning all three and Dave E and Dave S winning two each. I was told by Terry and Dave E that when Dave S beat Paul it was the best they have seen him play. Next came Kingfisher 'G' and they lost 4 – 6 with Thereasa and Dave E winning two each



PETER BENNETT

Tilehurst Meths 'B' shared the spoils with O.L.O.P. 'E' after being 4 - 0 up. Mike Williams came back into the side and won one as did Patrick O'Sullivan. Jes Eassom played well and won two. His match against Wendy Porter was a thriller going down in 5 as follows 14-12, 6-11, 6-11, 12-10 after being 7 nil up then 9-11 after being 8-4 up At Sonning Sports 'B' Jes recorded his second maximum of the season to help the side to a 4 – 6 win. Martin Wetherell won two while Patrick O'Sullivan gained a single. At home to Kingfisher 'F' a good team performance saw them share the spoils with Jes and Patrick both winning two and Mike gaining a single. Jes said he was flattered when he beat Ruben in straight games because he (that is Ruben) gave Patrick and Mike real problems. They then won 4 – 6 at Springfield

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Mike Childs	Reading FC A	42	42	100.00%
Mo Cook	OLOP E	30	28	93.33%
Jazz Dhillon	Reading FC A	15	14	93.33%
Christopher Collins	Milestone B	33	29	87.88%
Nick Lean	Curzon Club B	31	27	87.10%
Kate Maksimenko	Curzon Club B	36	31	86.11%
Nils Wedi	Kingfisher G	36	31	86.11%
Tony Alleyne	Reading FC A	42	36	85.71%
Ian Wu	Tidmarsh C	34	28	82.35%
Richard Hudson	Tidmarsh C	27	20	74.07%
Simon Craig	Tidmarsh C	30	22	73.33%
Eric Holmes	Kingfisher F	28	20	71.43%
Jason King	Springfield C	42	29	69.05%
Louise Forster	OLOP E	36	24	66.67%
Terry Hardie	Tidmarsh D	37	24	64.86%
Carine Bey	Curzon Club B	14	9	64.29%

'C' thanks to a good team performance with Jes, Martin and Patrick all obtaining doubles. At home to a two man Milestone 'B' they lost 3 – 7. At Tidmarsh 'C' they lost 9 – 1 with Martin beating Richard Hudson 9-11, 8-11, 9-11.

Kingfisher 'F' lost 7 – 3 at Tidmarsh 'D' with Eric Holmes winning twice and Alan Yeung gaining a single. Eric also won two and Peter Bennett won one in a 3 – 7 defeat against Kingfisher 'G'. At Tilehurst Meths 'B' Peter and Muharrem Aydin both won two each to help them to a draw. At home to Curzon 'B' Eric got his money's worth by winning all three in five games in each set. His win over Kate was very impressive. Sandeep Burande and Alan both won one each to help them gain a draw. Against Reading F C 'A' they lost 8 – 2 with Eric beating Wayne and Sandeep beating Anthony. They then entertained O.L.O.P 'E' and despite doubles from Sandeep and Ruben Hernandez they lost 4 – 6.

O.L.O.P 'E' had to come back from 4 - 0 down to draw at Tilehurst Meths 'B' with Wendy Porter and Louise Forster each winning two. Harry Bullock obtained a single. At Curzon 'B' Louise and Wendy each won two in a 4 – 6 defeat. At Curzon 'C' Mo returned to the side after missing the previous two matches and hit a three straight maximum with no player getting more than four points. Louise and Harry did well to win



MO COOK

two each. In the doubles it took me back a few years because in the first game between Mo and Harry against Paul and Peter they lost 21-19 but then won the next three games 2-11, 5-11, 8-11. I have to say what a good sporting team they were. Against Sonning Sports 'B' again without Mo they just got home 6 – 4 with Louise and Harry both winning all three. For Harry it was his first maximum of the season. At Kingfisher 'F' they came away with a 4 – 6 victory with Mo winning three and Louise and Harry both picking up singles. Harry and Mo also won the doubles.

Kingfisher 'G' had a massive 10 – 0 win over Sonning Sports 'B'. Their previous best win was 6 – 4. Nils Wedi,



ANDREW ADAIR

Andrew Adair and Gabor Radnoti were the hat trick men. For Nils they were all three straight. Against their 'F' team Nils was in great form by winning all three and with Gabor winning two and Andrew a single; this helped to a 3 – 7 win. They then had a narrow 6 – 4 win over Springfield 'C' with Nils winning three and Andrew gaining a double. At Milestone 'B' they crashed to a 9 – 1 defeat with Andrew saving the white wash by beating Shownik. At home to Tidmarsh 'C' despite a great treble from Nils they lost 4 – 6. Andrew won the other set by beating David. At Tidmarsh 'D' Ken Robb celebrated winning his first set of the season by beating Dave Smith 6-11, 2-11, 4-11 and with Nils hitting a treble and Andrew a single this helped to a 4 – 6 victory.

Springfield 'C' went down 7 – 3 at Tidmarsh 'C' with Jason King winning two and Oliver Delas picking up a single. At home to Tidmarsh 'D' the side came up trumps by winning 9 – 1. Jason and Oliver both gained trebles. Johnny Worrall won two. At Kingfisher 'G' Jason won two and Oliver and Marcello both obtained singles in a 6 – 4 defeat. Despite a very good Jason maximum they lost 4 – 6 to Tilehurst Meths 'B'. Jason with Johnny won the doubles. Sadly Jason was not available to play against Curzon 'B' and the side lost 8 – 2. Johnny and reserve

Chris Taylor both beat Linda King. At home to Reading F C 'A' they crashed to a 0 – 10 defeat.

Curzon C went down 2 – 8 to Milestone 'B'. Paul Treadgold beat Chris Collins in the first set of the evening and then beat John Crosfield in the last set. At one time I

thought that Peter Hillier was starting to find some form against Chris when he was two games behind and 3-8 down and came back to win 11-8 but alas lost the next game 7-11. At Reading F C I played in only my second match in 10 months and I was outclassed but was glad to play. Paul won one and he teamed up with Jim Brent to win the doubles. We then lost 9 – 1 at Tidmarsh 'C'. Paul played well despite only winning one. At home to O.L.O.P. 'E' we lost 2 – 8. Geoff Johnson played in his first match of the season and won two by beating Harry 11-5, 12-10, 9-11, 9-11, 11-3 and Louise 4-11, 11-9, 11-6, 12-10. So well played Geoff Next we crashed to an 8 – 2 defeat at Tidmarsh 'D' with Paul and Jim Brent winning one each. Against Sonning Sports 'B' we managed a win for only the second time this season. . The other one was also against the Sports. . Paul, Peter and Jim all won two each. For Jim it was his first double of the season and it was good to see Peter winning again after a very bad run. Peter and Paul had a very close doubles win over Brett and Sally beating them 11-8, 6-11, 6-11, 11-8, 11-8.



MARCELLO CARAMMA

Sonning Sports 'B' slipped to a 10 – 0 defeat at Kingfisher 'G' Looking at the score card there were a lot of deuce games that went against them including one at 19-



BRETT HASTINGS

17. In the set between Andrew and Brett, Brett was 7-10 up in the first game but lost it 12-10 but then won the second game 10-12. In the third game Brett had game point but lost it 14-12 so this gave Andrew confidence to win the next game. Himanshu Pasbola went two games down to Andrew but won the next two and then went 2-8 up only to lose it 13-11 At home to Tilehurst Meths 'B' they gained four vital points with Dave Chard winning two and Cris Reynolds obtaining a single. Dave and Cris also won the doubles. Brett Hastings played very well against Jes in set nine and in the first game he won 11-6 and then was almost home in game two but lost it 9-11. He then lost game three 5-11 but then won game four 11-6 but in game five he was 3-5 down and in the end just got touched off 9-11. In set ten Cris beat Patrick 11-6, 11-6, 11-9 after being 5-9 down. At Curzon 'B' Cris and Brett both beat Carine Bey and also won the doubles in a 7 – 3 defeat. Cris's win over Carine was a bit tight in the third, 15-17, while Brett beat Carine after losing to her in a Wokingham league match and Kingfisher open. It was sad for Cris that they only had two players. Against Reading F C 'A' they lost 0 – 10 with Dave Chard winning one game in his loss to Anthony. This was the only game the side won as all the other sets were three straight. Against O.L.O.P 'E' they only just lost 6 – 4. Sally James played in her first match since the fourth one of the season and played well despite the long layoff to gain a sin-



RISHIKA DESAI OF OLOP E

I could have said more so far this season but sadly I do not get many match comments to help me. I get a lot from Cris, Linda and Jes and sometimes the odd comment from the rest of the captains.

Finally I list the leaders in the P O M

Mike Childs 11, Mo Cook 8, Nils Wedi 8, Kate Maksimenko 7, Ian Wu 6, Chris Collins 6, Nick Lean 4, Paul Treadgold 4, Terry Hardie 4

Cheers

Derek



WAYNE ALLEYNE OF READING FC A

gle as did Dave and Cris. Sally and Cris had a fine doubles win to complete the scoring.. At Curzon 'C' the likeable Brett won two by beating Jim and Peter I have to say he moved more chairs than Pickfords. Sally won the other set by beating Paul after losing the first game 11-7 then she stepped up a gear by winning the next three games 8-11, 11-13, 7-11. Although Cris did not win a set he was involved in one incredible rally against Paul in game four when both players were smashing shots over the net for quite a time before Cris finally won the point. It was great to watch. I have to report that Cris injured his elbow in the second game and at that point was 7-5 down and after treatment from Sally he only won one more point to lose 11-6 so he did well to carry on. Although they lost their next match 0 – 10 I have noted there were a lot of close games. Himanshu did well against all three players but sadly Cris had an elbow problem which meant he was not at full throttle. Brett was two games down to Simon but won the next two but in the final game Simon got away to a good start to win with ease

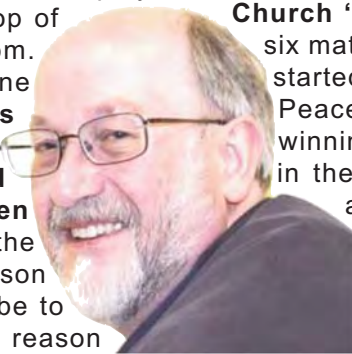
STOP PRESS - REARRANGED MATCH:
Despite a brilliant hat trick from Paul Treadgold he could not prevent Curzon 'C'. losing 4 – 6 to second in the table Tidmarsh 'C'. This gave Paul the P O M which brings him up to 5.
For Tidmarsh Ian Wu and Spencer Harvey both gained doubles.



DIVISION FOUR

by Martin Wetherell

This is possibly one of the most closely contested title fights for many a year and, with most teams only having five matches left to play, I still can't say for certain who will be top of the Division and who will be bottom. However, in order to get everyone "involved", **my latest prognostications are that Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' will win the Division and that Tidmarsh 'E' will take the wooden spoon**, with Reading FC 'B' taking the runners-up spot. The fact that this season we are allocating a point per set may be to the detriment of SC&P 'G' and is the reason behind my decision in the case of Tidmarsh 'E'. The 'G' team may yet rue turning up to play their 'F' team without a third player, but the fact that Reading FC 'B' and Sonning Common & Peppard 'E', both title contenders, have to play each other twice is a significant factor, since a big win, by either team, may allow them to claim the Title.



Simon Berry (Sonning Common & Peppard 'G') tops the Individual Averages, having only dropped one set all season and **Azaan Ali** (Kingfisher 'H') is second, having also dropped only one set. These two teams have a match scheduled so it will be interesting if they are both selected to play. Third in the Individual Averages is **Ian Davenport** (Sonning Common & Peppard 'E'), who has only dropped two sets, followed by **Melvyn Lovegrove** (Sonning Common & Peppard 'G') in fourth and **Joe Bull** (Reading FC 'B') in fifth. On the flip side, there are just two regulars still looking for their first competitive win - **Steve Knott** (Sonning Common & Peppard 'F') and **Emily Goodall** (Springfield 'D'). Hopefully you are both still enjoying playing table tennis and please remember that the breakthrough moment can come at any time. It should be noted that both these players have recently garnered crucial points for their teams, when their opponents could only field two players.

In the Doubles Averages, **Melvyn Lovegrove & Simon Berry** (Sonning Common & Peppard 'G') are streets ahead of everyone else, having played together 15 times, never having lost. Other undefeated pairs are **Freedom Agindotan & Joe Bull** (Reading FC 'B'), who have played together 6 times, and **Anthony Reeve & Ian Davenport** (Sonning Common & Peppard 'E'), who have played together four times.

As expected, **Simon Berry** tops the Player of the Match table, with 12 awards, **Azaan Ali** is second with 9 awards, followed by **Anthony Reeve** (7) in third place, **Freedom Agindotan** (6) in fourth place, with

Derek Wavell (5) and **Qing Wu** (5) in joint fifth.

Since the last Newsletter, **Kennet Valley Free Church 'B'**, like most teams, have played a further six matches, winning three and losing three. They started with a 7 - 3 defeat, away to Our Lady of Peace 'F', with **Lewis Oke** and **Roshan Patel** winning one set each and also being victorious in the Doubles, for the first time, on their third attempt. **Russell Moores** made up the team but had no luck, losing all three singles in what has been his last outing to date. Two weeks later, another 7 - 3 defeat, this time at the hands of visitors **Kingfisher 'H'**, **Roshan** going one better than last time by winning two singles but with **Toby Barter** having no joy and **Jamie Li-Telford** winning just one, that was as good as it got. However, the fact that 40 games were played in this match highlights that the contest



JAMIE LI-TELFORD

was closer than the score line might indicate.

Steve Christelow returned from his second injury to lead the team to an 8 - 2 victory, away at Springfield 'D', with **Steve** and **Lewis** both recording maximums, as well as recording a further Doubles win together, while **Toby** chipped in with one win. A team effort proved to be sufficient for a 6 - 4 win, at home to Reading FC 'B', with **Steve** and **Lewis** each winning two, as did returnee **Roshan**. But, on another day, it could have been even sweeter, since **Derek Anderson** only just beat **Lewis** 12-10 11-9 12-10 and **Roshan** only lost to **Derek** 11-5 5-11 11-9 9-11 7-11.

Their next match, away at Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', resulted in a 6 - 4 defeat, with Toby (one win), Steve (two wins) and Jamie (one win) winning the same number of sets as in their previous matches. A new Doubles pairing of Steve & Toby was tried but they lost 1 - 3. The final match ended in an emphatic 9 - 1 win over Tidmarsh 'E', their best result in 2020, Toby and Lewis both recording their second trebles of the Season, with Roshan being denied his maximum when he lost his second set to Steve Andrews. On the Doubles front, a different pairing was tried in each match, with three pairs winning and three losing. The good news is that Lewis Oke & Steve Christelow are now officially their best Doubles pair, with two wins from two outings.

Kingfisher 'H' have only lost three times this Season, winning their other twelve matches. However, their winning margins have not been as good as the competition, which is why they currently find themselves in fourth place, equal on points with Reading FC 'B' who have a better set average, despite winning fewer matches. They have matches against each team in the top three, so the opportunity to change their fortunes is in their own hands, although my current prediction is that they will finish the Season in 4th place.

Before their last match in December, Kingfisher were in 4th place. However, they beat Tidmarsh 'E' 8 - 2 to climb into 3rd and, after the New Year, they beat Sonning Sports 'C' 9 - 1 to take 2nd place. Haris Munir started brightly against Tidmarsh, defeating Steve Andrews, before losing to Roger Stevens. However, he rallied to defeat Mike Bundy, as well as partnering Roger Prew to a Doubles victory which, incidentally, was their first victory as a duo, a feat they repeated two weeks later, against Kennet Valley 'B'. Sadly, winning the Doubles upset Roger's singles form and he later lost to Steve Andrews 8-11 11-4 5-11 5-11. Azaan Ali won all three although he was made to work for his maximum before defeating Roger Stevens 10-12 13-11 11-9 11-2. Roger stepped down for their next match, his place being taken by Ania Pytka, but the outcome was similar with a 9 - 1 win, Ania, Azaan and Haris winning all nine singles, Ania & Haris losing the Doubles to Mo Cole & Stephen Reader.

The following week, Kingfisher travelled to play Kennet Valley Free Church 'B' and emerged victorious, winning 3 - 7, in a closely contested match which contained three 5-game sets and four 4-game

sets. Ania started with a 4-11 11-9 11-3 7-11 14-12 win over Toby Barter, followed by Roger's defeat of Roshan Patel, before Kennet Valley's young bloods fought back to level the scores at 2 - 2. However, Kingfisher took the next three sets after which Roshan defeated Haris. Ania then won to complete her double and Roger won the 10th set to record his second treble of the campaign.

One week later, Kingfisher hosted Sonning Common & Peppard 'F', Gill Bennett playing for only the second time, along with Azaan and Roger. Azaan recorded another straight games treble, Roger could only manage a double after losing his final set to Julian James while Gill snatched a win, in her final set, beating Alistair Scott 3-11 11-9 12-10 13-11, which all added up to a 7 - 3 victory. The following week, Kingfisher travelled to Milestone, but were only able to field two players. Luckily, Roger was on form and recorded a maximum, while Ania recorded two wins, Carl Edlind coming out on top in their 4th set battle, winning 12-10 11-13 14-12 10-12 11-7, to

deny Ania her hat-trick. However, the 4 - 6 match win was secured thanks to Ania & Roger's 9-11 9-11 11-5 11-8 11-9 Doubles win, over Carl Edlind & John Evans.

The final match of this Quarter was at home to Our Lady of Peace 'F' and

for the second week running, Kingfisher could only field two players, Azaan and Gill. Azaan needed 5 games to best Qing Wu but triumphed to record yet another treble, however Gill could only record the one win, an 8-11 11-9 11-9 11-6 defeat of Rudresh Desai. This loss is probably sufficient to dent Kingfisher's title aspirations, although their final position will depend upon the results against their three nearest rivals for promotion. On the Doubles front, Kingfisher 'H' won four of the six doubles matches played, with two new pairings being tried, Ania & Roger being successful while Azaan & Gill lost. With a second win, Azaan & Roger are now the team's most successful pair, although there are three other pairs on 100%.

Milestone 'C' are one of the teams that are in the fight to avoid last place but, when they started their last match before Christmas, they were currently the incumbents. Carl Edlind, Colin Phillips and John Evans were selected to play Sonning Common & Peppard 'F', who had fielded both Derek Wavell and

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 SC&P G	15	12	1	2	105	45	105
2 SC&P E	14	11	2	1	104	36	104
3 Reading FC B	15	10	2	3	103	47	103
4 Kingfisher H	15	12	0	3	93	57	93
5 OLOP F	15	10	1	4	87	63	87
6 Kennet Valley B	15	7	1	7	81	69	81
7 SC&P F	15	4	0	11	56	94	56
8 Sonning Sports C	16	3	2	11	55	105	55
9 Springfield D	15	2	2	11	53	97	53
10 Milestone C	15	2	2	11	47	103	47
11 Tidmarsh E	16	3	1	12	46	114	46

Julian James, their two strongest players. Derek and Julian were undefeated on the night, at least in the singles, Carl & John being victorious when they played them in the Doubles. Along with the Doubles, Carl, Colin and John all beat Alistair Scott, the Commoners third player, and thus the match ended in a 4 - 6 defeat.

Due to other results, these four points were not enough to climb up the table and therefore Milestone remained in 11th place going into the New Year. Their first opponents of 2020 were not an easy touch, since this was a battle of top versus bottom, with Milestone travelling to Sonning Common & Peppard to play the 'E' team. For this away trip, Colin had dropped out and Tony Hayden had stepped into the fray but he had no joy, his best opportunity for a win being his contest with David Pearson, which Tony lost 6-11 11-9 11-7 11-13 11-8. Carl and John fared slightly better, both defeating David to gain their team's only points. However, Carl had two knife-edge games with Anthony Reeve, losing 15-17 3-11 10-12 and John had a similarly close tussle with Jim Warren, losing 9-11 2-11 9-11.

Again, these two points were insufficient to catch Springfield 'D', in 10th, Springfield also having played one fewer match. And it got no better the following week, when the in-form Our Lady of Peace 'F' were the visitors. For their visit, Carl took a break

of cracking 4 and 5 game sets. Carl did eventually get the better of Ania Pytka, winning 12-10 11-13 14-12 10-12 11-7, in one of the tightest sets of the season, but although John came close to defeating Roger Prew, losing two of the four games 10-12 and 11-13, the final match score ended 4 - 6.

For their first match in February, Milestone travelled to Springfield 'D' for a crucial bottom of the table clash. Possibly not realising how crucial, they left someone behind and only Tony and John made the journey ! John reprised his success from the reverse fixture and won all his singles, but Tony improved, this time winning twice by defeating Emily Goodall and Colin Jones, Chris Taylor proving to be too tough, which meant that the match was drawn 5 - 5. Although still bottom, these points meant that 10th place was again within striking distance. Their final match of this Quarter was another contest against a promotion candidate, this time Reading FC 'B', and Carl, Colin and John were selected to play. Carl lost his first set, to Freedom Agindotan, but recovered to beat Derek Anderson 11-8 8-11 11-6 6-11 11-7 and Harry Edwards. Both Colin & John also beat Harry and with Carl & John winning what proved to be a crucial doubles, the points were shared 5 - 5.

This win means that they have moved off the bottom of the table, ceding that position to Tidmarsh 'E', who have played one more match. On the Doubles front, no new partnerships have been tried, and Milestone has stuck with the same three combos. There have been two wins, from six outings, both courtesy of Carl & John, who also lost one, which makes this duo Milestone's best with 50%.

Our Lady of Peace 'F' was in 6th place, one point behind Kennet Valley Free Church 'B', having won 5 and drawn 1 of the 9 matches they had played. Their last match before Christmas was at home to the aforementioned Kennet Valley and the subsequent 7 - 3 win meant that they not only swapped places with Kennet Valley, but also temporarily climbed above Reading FC 'B', whose match was postponed. Although Jan Polnik beat Russell Moores to record one win, the victory was secured by maximums from both Qing Wu and Alona Slobodskoy, Alona having to work hard to narrowly defeat Roshan Patel 7-11 8-11 11-7 12-10 11-9.

In their first match of the New Year, OLOP selected the same team to face visitors Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' and won 10 - 0 to record their best result of the season. Jan recorded his first maximum of the season and Jan & Alona got back to winning ways in the Doubles. Although this looked like an easy victory, with only 33 games played, 14 of these games were won by the minimum two points, 13 by OLOP and 1 by SC&P (Alistair Scott). Curiously none of the first three sets had a game score of 11-9 or more. This win consolidated 4th place and the following week the same players travelled to Milestone 'C' where an early defeat for Alona, at the hands of John



ROSHAN PATEL

and

Colin returned but opponents Jan Polnik, Qing Wu and Alona Slobodskoy were almost unstoppable, John providing the only breakthrough in the match, when he beat Alona over 4 games, the match thus ending 1 - 9, although Colin surely worried Qing before losing 12-14 6-11 10-12. Milestone didn't have a match the following week, so they were still in 11th place, two weeks later, when Kingfisher 'H', another team vying for promotion, were the visitors. For this visit, it was Tony's turn to drop, with Carl stepping back into the team. Buoyed by the fact that there were only two opponents, there were a number

Evans, meant that they had to settle for a 9 - 1 victory. There were only 8 games that went to 11-9 or more, however the ratio was 7 to 1 in OLOP's favour and there were five 4-game sets. Jan recorded only his second treble and also his first PoM, while Qing racked up his seventh treble.

Table toppers Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' were the next visitors and Rudresh Desai was drafted in to replace Alona. This was a more competitive match than the 2 - 8 scoreline would indicate, with 41 games being played, 13 going to 11-9 or more, the balance being much more even. However, the stats will show that Rudresh lost all three, as did Jan, although his 8-11 12-10 7-11 11-5 9-11 loss to Anthony Reeve could so easily have been a win, Qing losing his final set to Ian Davenport 11-9 14-12 8-11 5-11 4-11, which determined who went home undefeated. This defeat dropped OLOP to 5th, one point behind Reading FC 'B' who had also only played eleven matches. However, Jan & Co had no match the following week, which enabled Reading FC to open a slightly larger gap. OLOP retained the same personnel for their trip to Kingfisher 'H', who were sitting in 3rd place and took advantage of Kingfisher's lack of a third player to record a 4 - 6 win, Jan beating Gill Bennett but losing to Azaan Ali

Qing's defeat of Chris & Colin in the Doubles. On the Doubles front, existing pairings Alona & Jan have played three more times, winning twice, as have Jan & Qing. This means that Alona & Jan are now the top pairing, with a 60% win average, while Jan & Rudresh, who have played together twice, have a 50% win average.

Although, at the end of last year, **Reading FC 'B'** had only played eight matches, they had earned 53 points and were in third place, one point ahead of Kingfisher 'H'. The final match of 2019 was postponed and will now have to be fitted into the schedule, since the outcome from this rescheduled match may well determine who is promoted. Reading FC therefore started 2020 in 5th place, one point behind Our Lady of Peace 'F', but with two matches in hand. Their first match of the New Year was against another promotion rival, Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', and with both teams probably playing their strongest teams it was a close run affair. Freedom Agindotan narrowly lost the opening set to Melvyn Lovegrove, 4-11 11-8 7-11 11-6 15-17 but Derek Anderson then beat Marko Madzar 11-9 11-4 12-10. Simon Berry then defeated Joe Bull before Derek beat Melvyn 11-8 11-7 8-11 9-11 11-7. The match was tied at 3 - 3 before the opponents won the Doubles, quickly followed by the next two sets. Freedom beat Marko 11-2 14-12 14-12 to ensure a further point for Reading FC in this 4 - 6 defeat.



LEWIS OKE

9-11 6-11 10-12, Rudresh losing in 4 games to both Gill and Azaan, while Qing beat Gill 11-9 11-6 9-11 13-11 and lost in 5 games to Azaan, Jan & Qing finally winning a Doubles on their 6th attempt, to guarantee the win.

The following week Springfield 'D' were the visitors and, this time, OLOP were the team conceding points as they could only field Qing and Jan. However, Qing recorded a straight set treble while Jan contributed two wins in defeating Colin Jones and Emily Goodall, losing to Chris Taylor 1-11 8-11 11-4 10-12, the final 6 - 4 scoreline thanks to Jan &

The following week, the same squad headed to Tidmarsh 'E' where they emerged victorious, having won 0 - 10, with all 6 games finishing 11-9 or more going to Reading FC. Coincidentally, this was the same set of players and Doubles partnership that was responsible for their previous 10 - 0 victory (over Milestone 'C'). Despite this emphatic win, Reading FC remained in 5th place. Sonning Sports 'C' were the next unwitting victims, Stephen Reader beating Harry Edwards in the final set to avoid the whitewash and deny Harry his first treble of the season, the match finishing 9 - 1 with Joe and Freedom recording successive trebles. This result moved Reading FC into 4th place and the following week Joe, Harry and Derek travelled to Kennet Valley Free Church 'B' where they lost 6 - 4, Harry unable to draw the match when he lost the 10th set to Lewis Oke 11-13 8-11 9-11. Derek lost to Steve Christelow, as did Harry, but in winning two sets, stopped Roshan Patel and Lewis from recording maximums.

The following week, Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' were on the receiving end of an 8 - 2 defeat, Derek and Joe both recording further trebles, while Freedom was stopped in his tracks and could only register two wins, after losing the opening set to Mike Casserley 7-11 12-10 11-7 8-11 5-11. Derek & Joe also lost the Doubles, to Julian James & Mike Casserley 14-16 13-15 11-9 8-11. 13 of the 36 games played went to 11-9, or greater. Further vital points

were dropped the following week, when Reading FC travelled to Milestone 'C' and drew the match 5 - 5. Freedom won all three and Derek won two, losing to Carl Edlind in 5 games, while Harry took all three opponents to 4 games but lost each time.

Reading FC 'B' played their postponed match against Tidmarsh 'E' while everyone had their "free" week, putting out their strongest squad of Freedom, Derek and Joe, with the end result that they recorded their third 10 - 0 victory and consolidated their 3rd place. However, as is often the case, the scoreline did not reflect the match, with 39 games being played. Steve Andrews was possibly closest to winning a set, finally losing to Derek 12-10 5-11 9-11 14-12 10-12. On the Doubles front, a further seven matches have been played, by three existing partnerships, with four winning performances. Two of these were for Derek & Joe, along with two losses, while the other two were for Freedom & Joe, who are this team's only 100% pair.

When the last Newsletter was published, **Sonning Common & Peppard 'E'** were top of the table, with a 6 point lead. However, their results over the last two months mean that they have been caught and they now find themselves in a pack of three teams vying



ALISTAIR SCOTT

for the Divisional Title. The 'E' team have only played five matches this year, since their match against rivals Reading FC 'B' had to be postponed. The same four players - Ian Davenport, David Pearson, Anthony Reeve and Jim Warren - have been selected in 2020. Milestone were the visiting team, for the first match of the year, which resulted in an 8 - 2 victory, with Jim and Anthony both recording maximums, while David won once, beating Tony Hayden 6-11 11-9 11-7 11-13 11-8 but losing to both Carl Edlind and John Evans (11-9 12-14 11-8 6-11 7-11).

The following week Anthony, David and Jim came up against their 'G' team, who fielded Melvyn Lovegrove, Simon Berry and Mark Berry. Anthony, David and Jim could only beat Mark, although

Anthony only lost to Melvyn 8-11 11-6 8-11 12-10 3-11 and Jim came even closer, before losing 9-11 9-11 11-9 8-11. A potential minefield was avoided when Anthony, Ian and Jim beat Our Lady of Peace 'F' 8 - 2, since Qing Wu was the only OLOP player to win, defeating Anthony in 5 games and Jim in 3 games. The same team then entertained visitors Tidmarsh 'E', who left empty handed following a 10 - 0 loss although a number of games went to 11-9 or more, Steve Andrews particularly unfortunate to lose all three in straight sets.

A fortnight later, Sonning Sports 'C' were the visitors and Anthony, David & Jim were selected to play. Anthony won all three in straight sets, while Jim won all his sets, but was taken to 4 games by John Scott. David again recorded one win, beating Michael Byrne 11-7 11-8 11-13 11-8, but losing to both Stephen Reader (10-12 11-7 8-11 9-11) and John Scott (11-9 8-11 7-11 8-11). On the Doubles front, only two of the three existing partnerships were tried, Anthony & Jim playing together twice and winning both times, while Anthony & Ian played together three times, winning twice. This is the first defeat for this duo, thus losing them their 100% status. However, this pair is still the team's best.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' have missed the services of their star player, Derek Wavell, over the course of the last six weeks, as he has been travelling. However, he was available for the last match before Christmas and he made the trip to Milestone 'C', along with Alistair Scott and Julian James. Derek lived up to the hype and won all three, as did Julian so, even though Alistair came up empty, the team had done enough to win 4 - 6. The next match, in early January, was at Our Lady of Peace 'F' and Mike Casserley took Derek's place. However, no-one was able to outwit the OLOP players, although Mike had opportunities before losing to Alona Slobodskoy 12-14 10-12 5-11 and Jan Polnik 9-11 4-11 10-12, Alistair's best chance was probably his 9-11 4-11 11-9 10-12 defeat by Qing Wu, while Julian's contest with Alona was undoubtedly his best chance, eventually losing 8-11 9-11 14-16.

A fortnight later, the same personnel travelled to Kingfisher 'H' who, at this time, were still involved in the promotion battle. Julian and Mike both beat Gill Bennett and Julian also defeated Roger Prew, but Alistair was unable to record a win, although he gave it his all before losing 11-3 9-11 10-12 11-13 to Gill, in the 10th set, which meant that the match was lost 7 - 3. The following week, Springfield 'D' were the visitors and Julian was replaced in the team by Derek Maltby, who was making his first appearance of the season. Mike delivered a Captain's performance, winning all three, and Alistair defeated Colin Jones, but further wins proved too elusive and with Springfield's Chris Taylor and Paul Martin each winning twice, as well as partnering up to win the

Doubles, the evening ended in a 4 - 6 defeat.

Mike, Julian and Alistair were back on their travels the following week, this time heading to Reading FC 'B', another of the teams fighting for promotion. The evening started well, with Mike beating Freedom Agindotan 11-7 10-12 7-11 11-8 11-5, in the 1st set, but there was no further joy until the Doubles, when Julian & Mike came out on top in their contest with Derek Anderson & Joe Bull, winning 16-14 15-13 9-11 11-8. Sadly, no further joy afterwards, either and the match ended in an 8 - 2 victory for Reading FC. The following week, the 'F' team were at home to the 'G' team who, at this point, were top of the table. Derek Wavell was back from his travels and Steve Knott celebrated by making his first appearance since early November, with Mike completing the 'F' team's line-up. Facing them were Simon Berry and Melvyn Lovegrove, who had turned up without a third player. Simon & Melvyn didn't drop a set, including the Doubles, and the only game dropped was in the final set, when Melvyn beat Mike 11-6 10-12 12-10 11-9.

Interestingly enough, despite these five defeats, the 'F' team remained in 7th place, throughout ! Meanwhile, on the Doubles front, there were five defeats and one win, including two defeats associated with new pairings. Two of the other losses meant that two of the existing pairs (Derek Wavell & Julian and Mike & Julian) now have an average of 50%.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' currently lead the pack at the top of the table, having been in 2nd place in early December. Their match against Springfield 'D' was re-arranged from December to later this month, so all six matches in this report were played in 2020. Simon Berry and Melvyn Lovegrove have played in each match, with Marko Madzar or Mark Berry playing as required. Andy Stone hasn't played since November, even though there was one match when they were a player short, First up was an away trip to Reading FC 'B', when the experienced Marko was their third player. Although Marko didn't win any sets, he was involved in some close games, losing to Derek Anderson 9-11 4-11 10-12 and to Freedom Agindotan 2-11 12-14 12-14. However, Simon & Melvyn retained their undefeated Doubles status, Simon recorded another maximum and Melvyn won two, defeating Freedom 11-4 8-11 11-7 6-11 17-15 and Joe Bull 11-2 11-8 12-10, but losing to Derek 8-11 7-11 11-8 11-9 7-11, which meant that they returned

home as 4 - 6 victors.

Their next match was a contest with their club-mates from the 'E' team, who were also in the promotion race. Mark lined up in place of Marko, but had no joy against any of his opponents - Anthony Reeve, David Pearson and Jim Warren. Melvyn was back to form, winning all three, although he needed 5 games to beat Anthony, Simon contributed another treble and Simon & Melvyn won the Doubles. All of which meant that they had won 7 - 3. The 'G' team fielded the same players for the visit of Tidmarsh 'E', who had only arrived with two players, namely John Harland and Roger Stevens. Tidmarsh left with a point after John defeated Mark, but Mark recorded another win, in beating Roger 11-6 7-11 11-9 11-8. With Melvyn and Simon both undefeated the final score was 9 - 1.

Marko returned for the next match, an away day excursion to Sonning Sports 'C'. A clean sweep was ruled out after Jude O'Halloran narrowly defeated Marko in his opening set 11-7 12-10 6-11 6-11 12-10.

However, Jude lost his remaining sets, as did Mo Cole and Michael Byrne, although Michael only lost the 10th set to Melvyn 8-11 10-12 9-11. Another home match and Mark Berry returned to play against Kennet Valley Free Church 'B'. However, he had no joy against Steve Christelow or Toby Barter but, although he lost to Jamie Li-Telford, the scoreline was a more respectable 12-14 13-15 6-11. Simon again recorded three wins, as well as helping Melvyn win the Doubles, Steve & Toby proving more resolute than some opponents, but were finally despatched 12-10 13-15 11-4 11-7. Melvyn was beaten by Steve, losing 4-11 11-9 4-11 11-6 9-11, but got the better of Toby and Jamie, which meant that the 'G' team scraped home with a 6 - 4 win.

Their final match in this Quarter was against their 'F' team. However, Simon and Melvyn turned up without a third player, immediately forfeiting three points, which may be crucial in determining who wins the Division. Of the games played, the 'G' team won every game until the final set, when Mike Casserley came close to stopping Melvyn from recording a maximum, Melvyn eventually winning the set 11-6 10-12 12-10 11-9 and the 'G' team the match 3 - 7. On the Doubles front, Melvyn & Simon have played together in every match and, to date, are still undefeated, although one might claim that they have had a couple of tense moments during these past

DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	P	W	%
Simon Berry	SC&P G	37	36	97.30%
Azaan Ali	Kingfisher H	33	32	96.97%
Ian Davenport	SC&P E	21	19	90.48%
Melvyn Lovegrove	SC&P G	43	38	88.37%
Joe Bull	Reading FC B	33	28	84.85%
Anthony Reeve	SC&P E	39	33	84.62%
Jim Warren	SC&P E	39	32	82.05%
Qing Wu	OLOP F	44	35	79.55%
Freedom Agindotan	Reading FC B	42	32	76.19%
Derek Anderson	Reading FC B	33	25	75.76%
Derek Wavell	SC&P F	29	21	72.41%
Alona Slobodskoy	OLOP F	30	21	70.00%

months.

Sonning Sports 'C' started this third Quarter in 8th place, two points behind Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' and four points ahead of Springfield 'D', albeit having played one more match than either of these teams. They had no further matches scheduled for December and had to wait until January for their next outing, an away trip to Kingfisher 'H'. Stephen Reader, Jude O'Halloran and Mo Cole undertook the journey and returned with a single point, Mo & Stephen making their Doubles debut to defeat Ania Pytka & Haris Munir and avoid the whitewash. However, the match was much closer than the scoreline would indicate, including six 4-game sets and one 5-game set, with Stephen losing to Haris 7-11 2-11 16-18 and Jude losing to Ania 10-12 1-11 9-11.

Following this defeat, Sonning Sports dropped to 9th although this soon changed following the win over their next opponents, Springfield 'D'. Although there were a couple of 5-game sets, Sonning Sports led 5 - 1 by the break, Michael Byrne losing to Paul Martin 3-11 7-11 11-9 6-11 the only blemish on the night, with the final result 9 - 1. This was Stephen's first treble and only Jude's second of the season and, despite dropping a set, two wins equalled Michael's best result to date and meant that the team climbed to 7th in the table. A complete reversal of fortunes awaited Sonning Sports the following week, when they travelled to Reading FC 'B', where they lost 9 - 1, Stephen Reader defeating Harry Edwards in the final set 11-6 11-7 11-8, to avoid the whitewash, John Scott losing in straight sets while Mo Cole took a game off both Joe Bull and Freedom Agindotan.

Sonning Sports then welcomed another promotion hopeful when Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' were the visitors. Jude O'Halloran beat Marko Madzar 11-7 12-10 6-11 6-11 12-10, denying him a treble, and this feat was almost repeated when Michael Byrne narrowly lost 8-11 10-12 9-11 to Melvyn Lovegrove. Mo again took a game off both Melvyn and Marko, but was unable to turn these successes into wins. This 9 - 1 defeat was the fourth consecutive 9 - 1 scoreline (1 win, 3 losses) involving Sonning Sports and left them in 8th place. Sonning Sports travelled to Tidmarsh 'E' the following week, the team being represented by Michael, John Scott and Jude. This was a competitive match, neither team able to gain a sufficient lead, which finally ended 5 - 5, after John won the final set against Steve Andrews 7-11 11-7 11-6 7-11 11-6. In total, five sets went to 5 games, Jude also beating Steve 4-11 11-2 5-11 12-10 11-2 and John beating Roger Stevens 7-11 12-10 13-11 8-11 11-5. John ended the night undefeated, to record his second maximum, also partnering Michael to their first victory as a Doubles pair.

The final match was at Sonning Common & Peppard, where Michael Byrne, John Scott and

Stephen Reader took on the 'E' team, another team aiming for promotion, eventually losing the match 8 - 2. The Commoners' Anthony Reeve and Jim Warren proved to be too strong and jointly dropped only one game all evening with their teammate David Pearson being the busiest player, as all three of his sets went to 4 games. David lost his opening set to Stephen 10-12 11-7 8-11 9-11, rallied to beat Michael and was finally beaten by John 11-9 8-11 7-11 8-11. On the Doubles front, five different pairings were tried over the six matches, with two wins and four losses, one of the losses belonging to the new partnership of Jude O'Halloran & Mo Cole. Two different pairs won, Mo Cole & Stephen Reader subsequently losing, while John Scott & Michael Byrne had previously lost one, meaning that these two pairs joined Jude O'Halloran & Stephen Reader on 50%. However, one of the losses was for the previously unbeaten John Scott & Stephen Reader but with an adjusted win percentage of 66% they still rule the roost.

Springfield 'D' are another team battling away at the foot of the table. When the last Newsletter was published they were in 9th place, two points ahead of Tidmarsh. Their last match before Christmas was postponed although this match in hand will not be too beneficial since it is against Sonning Common & Peppard 'G'. However, with the current scoring system, any set win is worth a point and these will be crucial in determining who ends in 11th place, when the dust settles. So, after a longer break than most, Springfield started 2020 in 10th place, facing fellow wooden spoon candidates Tidmarsh 'E'. Despite Chris Taylor recording his first treble, his team mates Tom Berryman and Emily Goodall fared less well and were unable to record any wins, although Tom had a couple of 5-game sets and only lost 9-11 10-12 4-11 to John Harland, which meant that the final score was 3 - 7.

Springfield travelled to Sonning Sports 'C' for their next match, suffering a 9 - 1 defeat, Colin Jones, Paul Martin and Emily finding Michael Byrne, Stephen Reader and Jude O'Halloran almost irrepressible, Paul just getting the better of Michael to avoid the whitewash. For the third match, Springfield welcomed Kennet Valley Free Church 'B', with Colin taking a break and Chris taking the lead. However, Kennet Valley are a harder proposition than in 2019 and left as 8 - 2 winners, Chris losing to Steve Christelow 9-11 4-11 10-12 and Lewis Oke 11-13 10-12 11-6 7-11 but beating Toby Barter over 4 games, while Springfield's other point was courtesy of Paul Martin's 16-14 7-11 11-7 10-12 11-9 win against Toby. Springfield then travelled to Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' where, in the absence of Derek Wavell, Derek Maltby made his debut. Colin won his match against Derek, and Chris and Paul both beat Alistair Scott and Derek, both losing to Mike Casserley, Paul by a 6-11 11-4 11-4 5-11 11-8 scoreline and Chris by an 11-5 15-17 14-12 11-6 scoreline, this result determining who went home undefeated.

All this meant that the Doubles result was crucial, but Chris Taylor & Paul Martin came up trumps, winning as a pair for the first time since October, the outcome meaning that the match was won 4 - 6.

This result enabled Springfield to climb one place, back to 9th, a position which they have retained to the present day. Chris, Emily and Colin re-entered the fray, this time against Milestone 'C'. By the end of the night, they were counting their good fortune that Milestone only arrived with two players, since after an excellent start, when Chris beat Tony Hayden 7-11 11-8 11-8 11-6, they lost every other singles, Chris & Colin partnering up to win the Doubles thus guaranteeing a share of the points. Their final match of the latest tranche was an away trip to Our Lady of Peace 'F' and Springfield fielded the same team as last week. OLOP were unfortunately only able to turn up with two players but as Qing Wu and Jan Polnik were both playing well, only Chris had any joy when he managed to defeat Jan 11-1 11-8 4-11 12-10. However, in losing the crucial Doubles, the match was lost 6 - 4. On the Doubles front, Chris Taylor & Paul Martin played twice more, winning once and losing once, to preserve their 50% average, while Colin Jones & Chris also played together twice, winning for the first time against Milestone to improve their average to 25%. Meanwhile Tom Berryman & Chris remain the team's best Doubles pairing, still unbeaten since they have had no further outing since November.

When the last Newsletter was published, **Tidmarsh 'E'** were in 10th place, 4 points ahead of Milestone 'C', having played one match less. Now, after a further 7 matches, Tidmarsh are bottom of the table, one point behind Milestone 'C'. They started this journey with an 8 - 2 loss at Kingfisher 'H', with John Harland rested for the first time this Season. Steve Andrews opened for Tidmarsh and lost the first set, to Haris Munir, in four games, the last two 14-12 13-11, before losing another 4-game set this time against Azaan Ali. Steve then paired with Mike Bundy, losing the Doubles 11-8 11-8 9-11 11-8, before taking the scalp of Roger Prew, again in four games. Mike Bundy was equally consistent, albeit less successful, losing his singles in straight sets. Roger Stevens defeated Haris to gain his team's first point and also pushed Azaan close, in his final set, before losing 10-12 13-11 11-9 11-2.

Following this result, Tidmarsh climbed to 9th place, overtaking Springfield 'D', who were their next opponents, in the New Year. For this match, John Harland returned to the fray, replacing Mike Bundy, and he along with Steve and Roger, defeated both Tom Berryman and Emily Goodall but were unable to overcome Chris Taylor, although Steve was tantalisingly close to winning the opening set, losing 11-9 7-11 11-9 6-11 12-10, and Roger pushed Chris all the way, eventually losing 11-9 12-10 12-10. This victory allowed them to climb another place, to 8th. Sadly,

this was their last win and the start of their slow decline to the bottom of the table was set in motion by a 10 - 0 home defeat, at the hands of promotion candidates Reading FC 'B', with Pete Sinclair, Roger Stevens and Mike Bundy losing all six games ending 9-11, or greater, Roger's 12-14 8-11 9-11 loss to Joe Bull possibly the best chance of a point. This match saw Pete make his first and, so far, only appearance for the Season.

The following week saw Tidmarsh playing against another promotion favourite, Sonning Common & Peppard 'G'. To add to their woes, Tidmarsh could only muster John and Roger and they duly lost 9 - 1, John Harland defeating Mark Berry to avoid the whitewash. There was no respite the week after, when Tidmarsh played the third team vying for promotion, namely Sonning Common & Peppard 'E'. Steve, Mike and John succumbed to a second 10 - 0 defeat in the space of a few weeks, Mike Bundy the only player to take a game, in his opening contest against Jim Warren, although Steve only lost to Anthony Reeve 10-12 10-12 6-11 and only lost to Jim Warren 6-11 12-14 10-12. Following these three heavy defeats, Tidmarsh ended back in 10th place. A small up-turn in fortunes followed, with a well earned 5 - 5 draw against Sonning Sports 'C', victory being denied when opponent John Scott beat Steve 7-11 11-7 11-6 7-11 11-6, in the final set. As one would expect this was a close fought affair, with Steve and Roger involved in five 5-game sets.

Although the oldsters from Tidmarsh had been impressed with the youngsters from Kennet Valley Free Church 'B', following their previous visit, no-one expected a 9 - 1 defeat, Steve Andrews managing to beat Roshan Patel, thus avoiding the whitewash, with Mike Bundy and John Harland losing in straight sets, both also losing every 12-10 game. With their postponed match rearranged for this "free" week, Tidmarsh slumped to a 10 - 0 loss against promotion contenders Reading FC 'B', although with 39 games played the match was not as one-sided as the scoreline would suggest. Steve was unlucky not to beat Derek Anderson, losing 12-10 5-11 9-11 14-12 10-12, while Roger Stevens also had opportunities against Joe Bull, eventually losing 3-11 11-9 11-9 5-11 5-11. On the Doubles front, there has been just one further win, albeit for their most prolific pairing John Harland & Steve Andrews but, since they subsequently lost against Sonning Sports and Reading FC, their average is now 43%, slightly below the 50% for Roger Stevens & John. Two new Doubles pairings have also been tried in 2020, Mike Bundy & Steve losing twice while Pete Sinclair & John have lost once.



YOUTH DIVISION

by Emma Barraclough

Play for 2019 finished for the Youth Division on December 13th with the annual Grouping Tournament which divides the players into three age bands to play against other, as well as the annual Christmas Party. In the oldest age band of the Grouping Tournament Karan Baishkivar was the winner with Harry Bullock as runner-up; the middle age band saw Mo Cook defeat Aarush Sawant in the final while in the youngest age band Om Gore was the winner defeating Emma Ranson.



KARAN BAISHKIVAR

Youth Division resumed for the New Year on the 10th January with an extremely well attended family event where players brought a family member along to

play. Twenty-six players took part in Top Table and Beat the Champion events in a great start to the year.

League play resumed on 17th January with a win for the Lions against the Attackers 7 - 3 with three wins for Mo Cook while the Spartans won against the Tigers with three wins for San Celik and Aarush Sawant.



PRAKHAR GANDHI

In the third match of the evening the Avengers defeated Blade 7 - 3 with three wins for Arran Reeve.

The evening of the 24th saw some great play with a strong win for new team the Tigers against the Jaguars 9 - 1 with three wins each for Karan Baishkiyar and Jude Robinson. The Lions defeat-

ed the Spartans 7 - 3 with three wins each for Mo Cook and Harry Bullock while the Attackers defeated the Spartans 7 - 3 with three wins for Prakhar

Gandhi. January 31st saw strong play by the Lions who defeated the Jaguars 10 - 0 while the Spartans defeated Blade 9 - 1 with three wins each for San Celik and Yuvam Mittal. The Attackers won a close match against the Avengers 6 - 4 with three wins for Adrian Mitchell.

February 7th saw a close match featuring a new player that evening Max Griggs whom we were pleased to welcome for the rest of the season to join the Tigers. The Lions met the Tigers and the match ended with a 6 - 4 win for the Lions with three wins for Mo Cook. Blade won 7 - 3 against the Jaguars and the Spartans defeated the Avengers 9 - 1 with three wins each for Adrian Mitchell and Aarush Sawant.

As half term approached the decision was made to have another evening of family social play which was enjoyed by everyone. There will be no session on the evening of February 21st due to half-term and league play will resume on February 28th. Thanks as always to Wendy Porter and all the helpers.



OM GORE



EMMA RANSON



RIA GORE

TEAM PLACINGS								
	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Lions	4	4	0	0	30	10	30
2	Spartans	4	3	0	1	29	11	29
3	Attackers	3	2	0	1	16	14	16
4	Tigers	3	1	0	2	15	15	15
5	Blade	4	1	0	3	14	26	14
6	Avengers	3	1	0	2	12	18	12
7	Jaguars	3	0	0	3	4	26	4

LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	P	W	%
Mo Cook	Lions	12	12	100.00%
Aarush Sawant	Spartans	8	7	87.50%
Harry Bullock	Lions	12	10	83.33%
San Celik	Spartans	8	6	75.00%
Karan Baishkiyar	Tigers	9	6	66.67%
Prakhar Gandhi	Attackers	9	6	66.67%
Adrian Mitchell	Attackers	9	6	66.67%
Arran Reeve	Avengers	9	6	66.67%
Ben Rumble	Blade	6	4	66.67%