



IMPORTANT INFORMATION...

April 2017



Daniel Moses and Martin Gunn - the king raptors of Reading's two top clubs - are here for once not at each others' throats but partnered in doubles for Reading in the Wilmott Cup. They beat their opponents 5 - 0, 5 - 0

Photo by Melvyn Lovegrove

How it all Went

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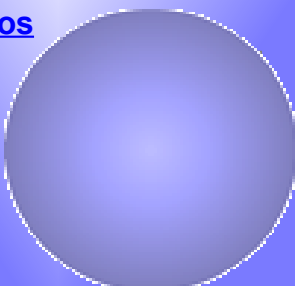
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All the struggles of the season are here - and their results. Our report writers are tremendous good sports, any of whom might suddenly burst into a Frank Sinatra number. There's no lack of passion here!

Photos - why do we keep on showing the same top players in every issue? Not this time. In this edition we see a lot of players who are still on the way up (or down). To set the ball rolling I will invite you into the privacy of my own club's closed tournament, at Sonning Common and Peppard. But please everyone send in your own photos!



You may not know it, but 2017 is a big year for Reading table tennis club history. SC&P is celebrating its 50th anniversary; Tilehurst Meths is having its 40th and Kingfisher its 30th. Congratulations! The first two of these clubs have already sent in articles on how they grew into what they are now - dotted with well-known names. No doubt we'll feature other clubs in future editions.

STOP PRESS: View videos of the Reading Masters.

Have a good summer

Derek BW



Notes from our Chairman

by **Derek Harrison**

Yet another season comes to an end and I congratulate the teams that came in the top two and wish the two bottom teams a speedy return to the division they left.

Sadly I have to report that 4 members of my committee have decided to resign so I would like to thank Peter Bradley, Bob Woodmansee, Adam McTiernan and Nigel Maltby for all they have done for the association and wish them



well. On saying that I am pleased to inform you that Nigel who was our General Secretary will continue his role of Publicity Officer. Nigel was Chairman for 11 years and Secretary for 16 years besides taking on the role of Newsletter Secretary and of course the Publicity Officer which he has been doing for ages. So on a personal note I thank you for all of your hard work Nigel.

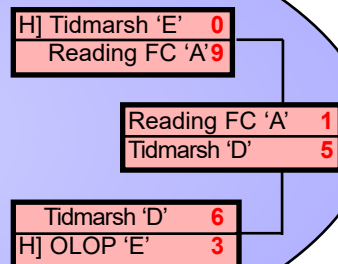
Finally I hope to see you all at the Presentation Evening on the 2nd May and the AGM on the 7th June at the O.L.O.P Club.

SPECIAL COMPETITIONS FINAL ROUNDS

Lower Divisions Knockout Cup

This year's final was contested between Reading FC 'A' and Tidmarsh 'D'. Reading were looking to retain the trophy they won the previous season, whilst Tidmarsh were hoping for third time lucky following two previous losses in the final. In the Semi-finals Tidmarsh had seen off OLOP 'E' 6 - 3, whereas Reading had beaten Tidmarsh 'E' 9 - 0 although seven of the sets needed a third game decider. For the final Tidmarsh opted to play the same pairings that had seen them comfortably through the previous three rounds. Andy Stephens / Dave Smith so far unbeaten at 9/9 and Andy / Terry Hardie winning 8/9 having only lost the once to Angus Jones / Simon Blake of SC&P 'F'.

Reading decided on a four player team for the first time, bringing Jazz Dhillon, who hadn't played since round one, back into the side. With Reading's most successful pairing of Richard Witt / Mark Edwards on 7/9 it looked as though Reading would need to be on top form to have a chance of retaining the trophy. The first set saw Richard / Mark against Terry / Andy and after a tight two games Terry / Andy ran away with the third 11-2. Jazz / Mark levelled the match with a comfortable two straight win over Terry / Dave Edwards, before the unbeaten Andy / Dave Smith combination somehow managed to squeeze past Jazz / Antony Alleyne 12-10, 14-12. From then on Reading struggled to contain Tidmarsh's attacking play and lost the next three sets and ultimately the match.



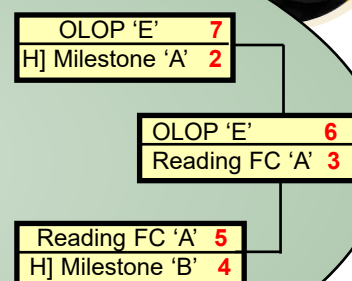
Team Handicap Competition 2016-17

After four rounds and a grand total of twenty-eight matches the competition finally came down to Our Lady Of Peace 'E' against Reading FC 'A'. Both teams getting through to the final on the back of semi-final victories over sides from Milestone. OLOP dispatched Milestone's 'A' team 7-2, with Tamir Slobodskoy unbeaten on the night. Reading FC then did the same to Milestone's 'B' team. This however was a much tighter affair which saw Reading recover from 4-1 down to take the final four sets and victory.

And so to the final. Reading's captain Richard Witt opted to retain the players who had successfully negotiated the semi-final, whilst Alistair Richardson, captain for OLOP, brought himself back into their side. Richard and Tamir would therefore be the only players to have played in every match. They also had the best win ratio of either side. Richard at 83% and Tamir at 75%.

Set one was a tense cagey affair contested by both captains and eventually won in three games by Alistair. Antony Alleyne gave a three point start to Tamir then levelled the match for Reading with a comfortable win. OLOP regained the lead with a 21-19, 23-25, 21-19 victory for Dave Holt over Jazz Dhillon. Next up, Tamir increased OLOP's lead following a tight set 20-22, 21-17, 21-18, just edging out Richard, before Jazz overcame Alistair, both playing off scratch in a proper 'old school' contest. Player of the match Dave, looking good for his +6 handicap, made it 4 - 2 with a win over Antony, and Tamir making the most of an eleven point start finally sealed the victory holding his nerve for a three-game win over Jazz in set seven.

Organized by
Ray Webb



Sonning Common Is 50

Sonning Common Table Tennis Club was founded in 1967, and this year celebrates its golden jubilee. Here is a look back over its history by Nigel Maltby, its current Secretary.

Sonning Common & Peppard Table Tennis Club was formed in 1967 and played its first ever season in the Reading and District League in 1967/68. In that first season the club were known as "Chiltern Edge" as home matches were played in the main hall at Chiltern Edge School in Reades Lane, Sonning Common. The club entered two teams in Division 5B with Mr C R White being the club's first Secretary.



Promotion was achieved in that first season with the A team runners-up in Division 5B. The next season three teams were entered. The A team were again runners-up, this time in Division 4A with new recruits Albert Shephard on 82% and Derek Maltby 68% leading the way. Although there was no success in season 1969/70, the club was growing fast. Lighting was also poor at Chiltern Edge and with these two factors, plus the ever present threat of the school caretaker threatening to kick us out of the building spot on 10pm, the club opted for a move to our present premises at Peppard War Memorial Hall.

Our first season at Peppard War Memorial Hall also saw a change of name and it was as "Sonning Common & Peppard TTC" that the club kicked off the 1970/71 season. Four teams were entered in that 1970/71 season and all did well. The A team finished 4th in Division 3 and were later rewarded with a place in Division 2. The B team were also 4th in Division 4, Harry Stevens was on 82% and Derek Maltby 71%. They too were later rewarded with promotion and a place in Division 3 for next season.

A period of mainly consolidation followed over the next three years. Junior players such as Nigel Bunnnett, Keith Swain and Nigel Maltby were introduced. Quality players such as Tim Webb, Derek Stansbury and Peter Felce found their way to the club, Peter's 98% along with Alan Halls 67% giving the C team the Division 5C title in season 1974/75. The D team also won promotion to Division 4 in 1976/77 thanks to Derek Stansbury's 91%, Derek Maltby 85% and Jim Brown 67%.

After those three consolidatory years, season 1977/78 proved to be a launching pad for Sonning Common table tennis. A young, bullish Paul Nash 92%, Tim Webb 74%, Harold Hunt and Albert Shephard lifted the A team back into Division 2. Both the B and C sides were also promoted from Divisions 4A and 4B respectively, Derek Stansbury on 91% and Roger Woolven-Allen on 87%. In fact all the B team players finished in the averages that year, John Long 78%, Keith Swain 77% and Harold Hunt 75%, yet they could only finish runners-up!

The A team went from strength to strength and won promotion to Reading's top flight, Division 1, for the first time in season 1978/79. Paul Nash topped the Division 2 averages that year with an amazing 91%, however it took a

thrilling play-off with Woodlands on a hot July evening before promotion was finally achieved, Gordon Crutchfield taking the all important game late into the night.

Having reached the top echelons of local table tennis the team was strengthened. Brian Halliday joined, along with John Keppler, and these two alongside Paul Nash saw the A team finish 7th in their first ever Division 1 season, 1979/80. During the next few seasons the A team more than held their own in Division 1. Wally Allanson joined the club along with young starlet Jonathan Samuel, and they managed a tremendous second place in season 1982/83.

Season 1987/88 bought the greatest prize as the A team finished champions of Division 1 for the first time. Finishing level on an incredible total of 41 points out of 44 with Polish A, Tony Duffield, Wally Allanson, Jonathan Samuel and Brian Halliday gave us the title after a crushing 6 - 0 play-off win against the then reigning champions. In 1992/93 the A team came 4th in defence of their division 1 title while the E team finished top of Division 4A by a massive margin, Paul Read 97%, Nigel Maltby 95% and Mark Corbett 92% setting a record sets difference of 207 for and just 13 against, naturally winning all 22 of their league games.

2010/11 was without doubt a season to remember! The A team clinched a league and cup double by winning the Division 2 title, finishing 7 points ahead of second placed Kingfisher D, and clinching a first ever win for a Sonning Common side in the Team Handicap Cup competition. Simon Berry top scored in the league with 89% with Jason Roberts (86%), Paul Jarvis (67%) and Nigel Maltby (63%) all performing well. In Division 3 Jeremy Willis, Tim Raby, Paul Treadgold and Ian Ayres lifted the C team into a fabulous 2nd place and thus clinched a superb promotion to Division 2. The club continued to give junior players a chance in the senior league with Jonathan Abbott excelling in Division 4 for the E team and Danny Dockree looking an excellent prospect for the G team in Division 6.

In 2012 the club re-introduced its junior coaching thanks to the sterling efforts of Derek Wavell and new coach Graham Outrim, and several senior players benefited over the summer from regular adult coaching sessions.

At the end of the 2015/16 season Derek Maltby was awarded the Harold Larcombe Sportsmanship Award by the Reading & District Table Tennis Association. Derek was continuing to play into his 80's, constantly looking for ways to improve his game despite limited success in Division 5.

Hopes were high as always as the club embarked on its 50th season of Reading League table tennis in 2016/17. The club gave Thomas Perkins and Joe Barraclough the chance to progress into Division 1 as they joined Gary Morgan and Jason Roberts in the A team. For Joe and Thomas this completed a rapid rise from the bottom division where they made their senior league debuts in 2013/14.

SC & P Tournament by Derek Wavell



Derek Maltby (right) was a founder member of the club. His son Nigel is its current Secretary. Together with other son Simon (below) - and with the help of a +10 handicap - he won the final of the Handicap Doubles event by beating Joe Barraclough and Jim McClure 21-12, 21-14.

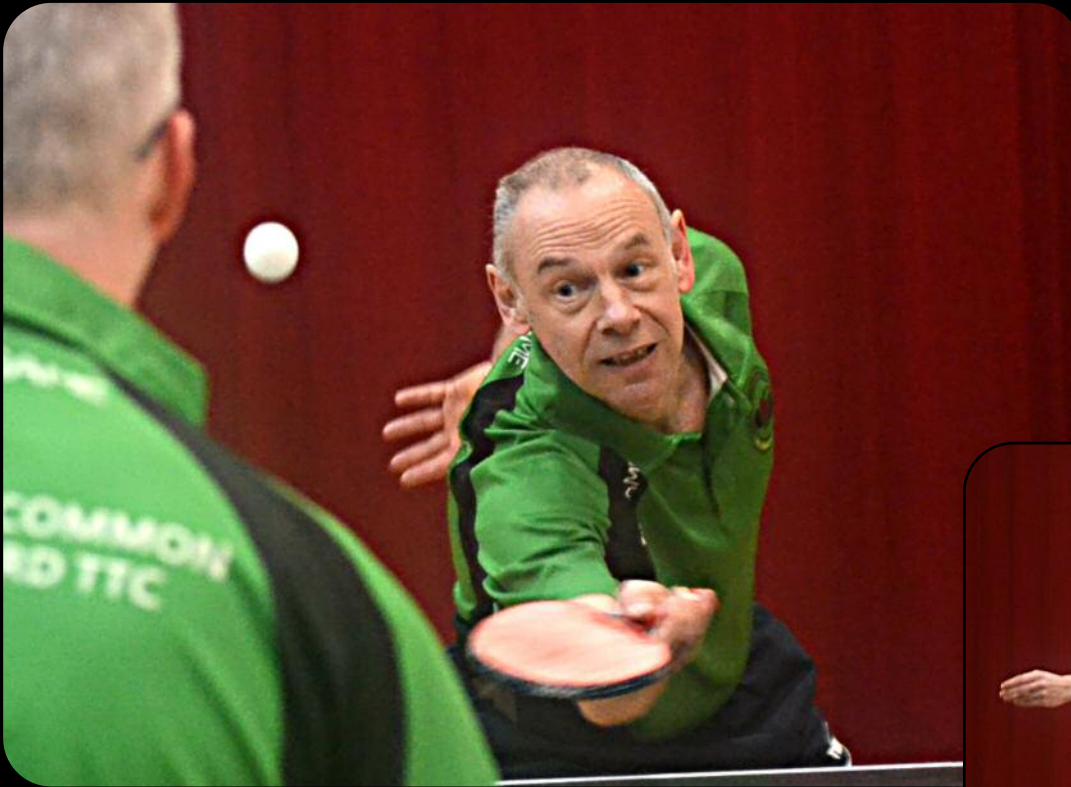


Derek is now in his 80s, and an enthusiastic table tennis participant in the Over-55 Club at Rivermead Leisure Centre.

This is the Sonning Common and Peppard annual end-of-season tournament for club members. What made this particular 2nd April special was that the club is celebrating its golden jubilee year - 50 years since its foundation in 1967. And this was also the first tournament to be held in the club's hall since a major upgrade to the lighting - which also made action photography practical.



JOE BARRACLOUGH AND JIM McCLURE WON MY OWN AWARD FOR SYNCHRONIZED STROKEPLAY



In the main event of the day, Gary Morgan (left) retained his Singles title, holding off young Danny Dockree (below) in an excellent final with some terrific shots from both players.

Gary had to use all his experience to win 11-7, 13-11, 11-7.



CLUB SECRETARY NIGEL MALTBY



TIM RABY AND SIMON BLAKE

Another talented youngster, Jamie Legg (right) battled his way to the final of the Handicap Singles. En route he narrowly managed to beat Simon Maltby, then Danny Dockree, and finally his elder brother Mikey, 21-19, 17-21, 21-18 in the semi final.

In the final he had to face the infinitely experienced Gary Morgan. Gary, with an average of 71% in Division One, rapidly started to gobble up the sixteen-point handicap advantage between them, and the prospects for this neophyte from Division Five at one time looked bleak. However Jamie stuck out his chin, and proved that whatever he lacked in pushing skills, he could make up with all-out smashes. So Jamie Legg is now the new Handicap Singles champion - after winning 20-22, 21-18, 21-18.



JAMIE LEGG

Tilehurst Methodists are 40

If Sonning Common is going golden, Tilehurst Meths must be having a Ruby Jubilee, because they have reached 40 years old. The club has a fascinating history, as Nigel Rowland recounts..

In April, Tilehurst Methodist Church Table Tennis Club (TMCTTC) will be celebrating 40 years since the formation of the club, the first meeting being on Tuesday 26th April 1977. An invitation has gone out to founder members of the club, and many have indicated they will be in attendance.



Today, TMCTTC continues to flourish as a community club where both league and non-league players regularly meet with a membership of approximately 40+ senior members and around 20 junior members.

The following are extracts taken from the Club's Minutes book, as well as old club score-books, still held by our founder vice-Chairman, Geoff Cadwallader, and occasional memories.

During the 1977-78 season the club entered three teams in the Reading League. The 'A' Team which played in Division 5C, consisted of Geoff Cadwallader, Neville Bosley and John Medcraft (Geoff and Neville were previously playing in the League for Birch Copse and John Medcraft for Royal Berks Hospital). The 'A' team's first match was a home fixture against Bradfield on the 27th September 1977 which they won 7-3. They finished 5th in that first season. The following season they were joined by John Carpenter and they won Division 5D comfortably, being undefeated. In subsequent years the 'A' team was joined by Bob Winter and, later, Denis Raywood.

The 'B' team in 1977-78 was captained by Clive Lucas and, with three youngsters (Alison and Glyn Cadwallader and Elizabeth Ferriday) they competed in Division 6B though, unfortunately, only won two matches, but did manage to avoid the bottom spot. In 1978-79, the 'B' team, again captained by Clive Lucas, played in

Division 6C finishing 4th, as they were joined by Rev Michael Langley (the Club's President), who finished in the averages with 71%, as did Graham Last with 67%. Two other teams played in the Reading League that season, the 'D' team, playing in Division 6D, consisted of Youth Club members and their leader, John Roper.

In 1979, Geoff Cadwallader was delighted when Bob Anderson offered his coaching services. A couple of years later Bob, and his friend Les Dunn, moved from Woodlands TT club to play for Tilehurst in the league. Bob was later joined by Mick Maynard at the Thursday evening coaching sessions assisted by Chris Bosley. Mick continued until he left to get married in 1986. Bob Anderson and Chris Bosley carried on coaching together until 1993. Bob Winter helped run the Monday night Youth sessions from 1984/85, being joined by Neville and Chris Bosley three years later and, in the summer of 1997 by Caroline Jones. When Bob and Neville stepped down, in 2000, Margaret Bargent joined the team. Today, Chris Bosley continues to run the Monday Youth Sessions helped by Caroline Jones and club coach Mal Collis.

Notable youngsters who took advantage of the coaching were: Mary Allen, Alan Griggs, Glyn and Alison Cadwallader, Keith Winter, Barry Carter, Stuart and Ruth Champion, Ben Johnson, Mark Brent, Lee and Lisa Calcutt, Cath Venning, Iain and Arron Virgo and Matthew Rowland to name a few. In the 1983/84 season it was reported that our young players have had considerable success. Alan Griggs won the U11 boys championship, Mary Allen the U13 and U15 girls championships. Mary Allen was chosen to take part in the English Cadet Girls and finished in the top twenty. Alan Griggs, Gary Oke, Paul Smith, Damian Oke, Keith Winter, Tracey Archer and Mary Allen all represented Reading during the year.

Felix Thomis.

Whatever happened to little Felix? Since his rapid promotion to Division One we haven't seen much of him. Well, the 11-year-old is still playing, and recently succeeded in coming third in a National Cup tournament in Preston. Here are a couple of short video clips of Felix (wearing green) playing

against the eventual champion, Naphong Boonyaprapa.

[VIDEO 1](#)

[VIDEO 2](#)





DIVISION ONE

by Mark Banks



MARTIN GUNN

photo by Melvyn Lovegrove

So there we have it then. One of the greatest and most competitive seasons in recent memory. Tears, tantrums, walk outs, walk backs, narrow defeats, handsome victories, brilliant play, rubbish play, terrible umpiring, some not bad umpiring, awful refreshments, no refreshments, upsets galore we've had it all and as we draw it all to an end and in case you have been living in a bubble or out in Dubai these past few weeks – KINGFISHER 'A' ARE CHAMPIONS OF READING AGAIN!! Boooooooooooooom! Get in There!



We finally managed to wrestle the title back from the OLOP club in the most dramatic way possible and credit to those guys for putting up a credible fight all the way. At the bottom, things were a little more clear cut and we kind of inevitably say goodbye to Sonning 'B' once again but even much more sadder than that we say a gut wrenching permanent goodbye to the YMCA Club who, after what seems like hundreds and hundreds of years bow out of Reading Table Tennis for good. Sad Times and the League for sure won't feel the same without an annual trip to the YM. It was always fun to play there. Me, I'll be taking the summer off as usual. Back on the tennis courts and cricket pitches, gonna take a leaf out of Murgy's book and lose about 20 Stones and come back to defend the title next season.

Have a great summer guys. Enjoy!

Love & Peace x

Banksy

Kingfisher 'A'

I've paid my dues

Time after time

I've done my sentence

But committed no crime

And bad mistakes

I've made a few

I've had my share of sand kicked in my face

But I've come through

And we mean to go on and on and on and on

We are the CHAMPIONS my friends !

MVP: Martin Gunn – Buys his bat from a car boot sale and still he beats you. You must be useless!

Ah, so it's runners up this year then for **OLOP 'A'** who fought as hard as they could but this season it wasn't quite good enough and their 3 year reign as League Champions finally (thankfully 😊) comes to an end. It was always

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingfisher A	18	16	2	0	134	46	34
OLOP A	18	14	2	2	136	44	30
Kingfisher B	18	14	1	3	128	52	29
OLOP B	18	10	1	7	102	78	21
Sonning C&P A	18	9	0	9	85	95	18
Tidmarsh A	18	8	1	9	91	89	17
Kingfisher C	18	7	2	9	94	86	16
Kingfisher D	18	4	0	14	55	125	8
Reading YMCA	18	3	0	15	54	126	6
Sonning C&P B	18	0	1	17	21	159	1

hasn't quite got the results of last season. He started to show improvement towards the end though and that will set him up well for next year. One player who always seems to do a job for the team when he turns out is Duncan. Not one to be underestimated and has had some pretty good wins this time around. Squirrel is my favourite. No fuss – just turns up and does his thing – always gets the nuts in down the pub. A good lad and a good player. As I say, I think they've done OK this season. Big squad but solid performances all round which has been good to see. Have a great summer guys!

MVP: Sam Ricks. Good to see him back and playing well. Should be even stronger next season.

Mixed fortunes then for **KFC** who can be quite brilliant on their day (draw with the champions proves that) but spread their fixtures around their big squad more than most and therefore will never be strong enough to sustain a challenge for top honours. Will they look at the league table and be slightly disappointed finishing 4th from bottom? Possibly. But as I keep saying this is proper tough table tennis and bar the bottom two every side has strength. Marco was away for much of the end of the season run in so that hampered their form somewhat. He was getting better in each match that he played. Tony has a new found enthusiasm for the game. Leaving his house at the crack of dawn to play TTE Grand prix events. At his age too! Murgy will never win any player of the year awards but slimmer of the year and he's in with a shout. Incredible transformation in a human being. Keep it up buddy. Not seen much from The Kid or Parker but hey we all know how effective they can be. Have a nice summer lads.

MVP: Marco Essomba – Classy



JOE BARRACLOUGH OF SC&P 'A'

and good old Trevor. Punches the air when he wins a point in the knock up unfortunately didn't do too much punching when the games actually got going though. This lot will be hoping that they retain Vine's services for next season or at least sign on a player of his calibre to secure D1 Status once again.

MVP: Simon Vine – "The Head"

YMCA

*And now, the end is near
And so I face the final curtain
My friend, I'll say it clear
I'll state my case, of which I'm certain
I've lived a life that's full
I've travelled each and every highway
And more, much more than this
I did it my way.*

Farewell to Peter and the great lads from the YMCA. Gone but never forgotten!

MVP: Neil Hurford – Anybody looking for a D1 player next season could do a lot lot worse...

It will come as no surprise to say goodbye once again to **Sonning Common & Peppard 'B'** who found themselves rooted to the bottom of the table from week 1. To be fair to them they were due to play in D2 but found themselves as late replacements here in 1 and as I've said before fair play to all of them for giving it a good go and not being too despondent about things. It is after all just a game and there are always winners (Us 😊) and teams that don't win

– all the rest of you (😊). So well done to Nigel, Brian and Jez. They don't leave empty handed. They did manage to get their point so well done for that and they all had at times some entertaining games along the way. Enjoy your summer lads. You deserve it!

MVP: Jez Willis – A more than respectable 7 wins!

LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	PL	W	%
Martin Gunn	Kingfisher A	41	39	95.12%
Daniel Moses	OLOPA	40	38	95.00%
Martin Adams	Kingfisher A	45	40	88.89%
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher B	51	43	84.31%
Philip Zeng	Kingfisher B	47	37	78.72%
Simon Vine	Kingfisher D	18	14	77.78%
Gary Morgan	Sonning C&P A	49	35	71.43%
Krasimir Ivanov	OLOPA	42	30	71.43%
Eduard Caliman	OLOPA	31	22	70.97%
Marco Essomba	Kingfisher C	29	20	68.97%
Tony Reynolds	Kingfisher C	28	19	67.86%
Mark Banks	Kingfisher A	26	17	65.38%

It all became a bit of a struggle then for **Kingfisher 'D'** who went flying out of the traps early doors but then without the services of Simon Vine stalled somewhat and just about held on to the safety of 3rd from bottom by a couple of points. There have been some notable performances however – especially Rob's win over Marco which was a tremendous achievement. Rob, Calin and Phil have all done OK. Winning around 1 in 3 every time they turn out



DIVISION TWO

by Barry Carter

Welcome to the final newsletter of the 2016/2017 season. After seven months of really competitive table tennis we have two teams that have been promoted and two that potentially are relegated. The two teams heading onwards and upwards are Kingfisher 'G' crowned as champions and their team-mates, Kingfisher 'F' who were runners-up. At the other end, Tilehurst Meths 'A' pulled off the great escape and as a result Kingfisher 'E' and Sonning C & P 'D' dropped into the bottom two in the last week of the season.

KINGFISHER 'G' are the deserved winners of the championship as they have been in the top two for all



KINGFISHER 'F' almost threw away all their early season work as they stumbled over the line (almost Reading-like). The final quarter of the season saw them win three and lose two of their five matches, but a 6 – 4 win over already promoted and fellow team-mates Kingfisher 'G' saw them finally clinch the deserved promotion. In the two previous weeks they had wins over Tilehurst Meths 'A' (8 – 2) and Curzon Club 'A' (8 – 2). These three wins were much needed after their third quarter of the season disaster where they lost four in a row. Congratulations to the quintet of Allan Bruton, Nigel Keedy, Rick Leachman, Ivor Hardman and Roger Pritchard.

Team Stat: Best away record 17 points out of 20
Player Stat:
Allan Bruton – Most braces (8)
Nigel Keedy – Best 4-set winning % (100%) 6 wins out of 6
Rick Leachman – All but 2 of Rick's braces were won on a Tuesday
Ivor Hardman – Over 61% of his wins were by the 3 – 0 scoreline



STEVE NG

but a few weeks of the season. As mentioned in previous newsletters, it has been back-to-back promotions for them, next step the division one championship. It was a relaxed run-in as they were guaranteed promotion a few weeks before the end of the season when they defeated Sonning C & P 'E' 10 – 0. They won two other matches in the final quarter of the season against Sonning C & P 'C' (9 – 1) and Kingfisher 'E' (6 – 4). Congratulations to the quartet of Melvyn Lovegrove, Steve Ng, David Joyce and Sagar Sawant.

Team Stat: - Best home record 17 points out of 20
Player Stats:

David Joyce – Most wins by the 3 – 2 scoreline (13) and only player to play in all 20 matches
Melvyn Lovegrove – Only 1 of his 10 wins was by the 3 - 0 scoreline
Sagar Sawant – Best 3-set winning % (100%) 18 wins out of 18
Steve Ng – Most maximums (10)

TIDMARSH 'B' came up on the rails (Fulham-like) and nearly took the second promotion spot, their final ten matches yielded 18 points to fall only two short of second place, a great effort by all in the team, perhaps we can predict one step further in 2017/2018. In the final quarter of the season we won four and drew two of our last six matches. The wins came against Sonning C & P 'D' (10 – 0), Curzon Club 'A' (7 – 3), a brilliant 6 – 4 win over the champions and a last week 6 – 4 win over Pangbourne 'A'. The two draws were Sonning C & P 'E' and Tilehurst Meths 'A'.

Team Stat: - Had the most 10 – 0 victories (3) and won twice as many points in second half as they did in the first half of the season

Player Stats:
Barry Carter – Only 1 of my last 11 wins was by the 3 – 1 scoreline
Mike Aistrop – In his last six matches, he had pairs of results, maximums followed by braces followed by singles
John Golding – won almost double the amount of matches in the second half (14) as he did in the first half (8) from the same amount of matches
François Durand – didn't lose a set by the 2 – 3 scoreline
Dom Cutter – didn't lose a set by the 0 – 3 scoreline

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingfisher G	20	15	1	4	138	62	31
Kingfisher F	20	14	1	5	120	80	29
Tidmarsh B	20	12	3	5	123	77	27
Curzon A	20	11	3	6	103	97	25
Sonning C&P E	20	10	2	8	105	95	22
Sonning C&P C	20	8	3	9	93	107	19
OLOP C	20	7	4	9	91	109	18
Pangbourne A	20	7	2	11	97	103	16
Tilehurst Meths A	20	5	4	11	91	109	14
Sonning C&P D	20	6	1	13	73	127	13
Kingfisher E	20	2	2	16	66	134	6



CURZON CLUB 'A' did well in the end to finish fourth and avoid any danger of elevation to division one. They certainly missed Jon Willis in the final few matches of the season, although going to watch Manchester United was a bit of a drastic measure 😊. They won three of their last six matches to do an Arsenal and finish fourth. Two of their last three wins were against Sonning C & P teams, namely the 'E' version (6 – 4) and the 'D' version (8 – 2), they also overcame Kingfisher 'E' 7 – 3. The three defeats came against Sonning C & P 'C' (4 – 6), Kingfisher 'F' (2 – 8) and Tidmarsh 'B' (3 – 7) although Nick Lean in our match deserved more out of the evening than the records will show.

Team Stat: - Had the most 6 – 4 victories (7)

Player Stats:

Nick Lean – 3 of his 4 braces came away from home

John Willcocks – joint most wins by the 3 – 1 scoreline (16)

Jon Willis – joint most wins by the 3 – 1 scoreline (16)

Sonning C & P 'E' had a poor end to the season with only two wins and a draw from their last six matches. Several times during the season they threatened to get involved in the promotion race and each time it suffered a set-back so in the end a mid-table position of fifth. The two wins were a concession by OLOP 'C' and an 8 – 2 win over Sonning C & P 'D'. The draw came against Tidmarsh 'B' but it would have been more if they could have fielded a full team. As mentioned above the season ended on a damp squib with losses in their last three matches to Tilehurst Meths 'A' (3 – 7), Curzon Club 'A' (4 – 6) and the champions (0 – 10).

Team Stat: - Had the best doubles record (65%)

Player Stats:

Niall McGrane – 6 of his maximums happened on a Monday

Lisa Williams – both of her maximums happened on a Monday

Malcolm Gregory – 13 of his 27 wins were by the 3 – 0 scoreline

Carole Chard – 50% of her wins were by the 3 – 0 scoreline

Sonning C & P 'C' can be pleased with the way Danny Dockree and Jon Abbott have done this season, their last



DANNY DOCKREE

five matches returned three wins and a draw to finish a good sixth. They were one of my dark horses for promotion back in September, so the jinx worked well. The wins were a series of 6 – 4 results over Curzon Club 'A', Pangbourne WMC 'A' and OLOP 'C', they picked up a point in the delayed last match of the season against Kingfisher 'E' whilst their only defeat occurred against Kingfisher 'G' where they were defeated 1 – 9.

Team Stat: - Least players used in the season (4)

Player Stats:

Matt Stone – was the only player to end the season with a 50% playing average

Jon Abbott – Most singles (11) and first to beat Dom Cutter

Danny Dockree – Only 1 of his last 12 victories was a five-gamer

Tim Raby – only won 2 of his 16 sets by the 3 – 0 scoreline



TIM RABY

OLOP 'C' suffered towards the end from player availability issues and had to concede two of their last five matches and play with two in one further match. If the trio of Chris West, Dan West and Clive Perry had been able to play together more often, a return to division one at the first attempt would have been a real possibility. Their only win of the last quarter came against Sonning C & P 'D' by the 7 – 3 scoreline. The only played defeat was the 4 – 6 loss to Sonning C & P 'C' that meant they would finish seventh in the table.

Team Stat: - Had the most draws (4)

Player Stats:

Dan West – won 7 of his 9 five-gamers, so coupled with brother Chris they won 17 out of 20 five-gamers

Ziko Jerzmanski – won braces in the first two matches of both the first and second halves

Chris West – won 10 out of 11 five-gamers (90%)

Clive Perry – all 3 of his braces came on a Tuesday

PANGBOURNE WMC 'A' won two and drew one of their last five matches to remain safely in division two for another season. At one stage relegation had looked ominous but the return to form of John Simmonds plus Denise Weller's continued improvement secured their status with a match to spare. The two wins came against Kingfisher 'E' where they won 10 – 0 and Kingfisher 'F' where they recorded a brilliant 7 – 3 win against the runners up. The draw came against OLOP 'C' whilst the two losses were both narrow 4 – 6 to Sonning C & P 'C' and the last match of the season to Tidmarsh 'B'. I'd like to thank Denise and co for the brilliant finale to the season and the great sandwiches that accompanied the final whistle.

Team Stat: - Had the most 4 – 6 losses

Player Stat:

John Simmonds – 24 of his 29 wins were either 3 – 0 or 3 – 2

Simon Hopkins – 2 of his 16 wins were by the 3 – 0 scoreline but 20 of his defeats were by the 0 – 3 scoreline

Denise Weller – 4 of her 5 maximums happened on a Wednesday

George White – didn't lose a five-gamer

TILEHURST METHODISTS 'A' somehow managed to perform a brilliant escape from the bottom two, a position

they had occupied almost from week one. In their last six matches they returned home with four wins and a draw with the crucial match being the week 21 match against Sonning C & P 'D' where they won 8 – 2 to put them within one point of them with one match remaining. Peter Galea and Phil Jones both won maximums to achieve this important result. Prior to week 21 they had also beaten Kingfisher 'E' (9 – 1) and Sonning C & P 'E' (7 – 3) with the draw coming against us.

Team Stat: - Won more points in the last six matches than they did in previous 14

Player Stats:

Steve McQueen (Nigel Rowland) – all but 1 of his braces came on a Monday, the other was a Tuesday

James Garner (Cath Venning) played against all the teams at least once

Richard Attenborough (Peter Galea) – didn't win a brace all season

Charles Bronson (Phil Jones) – 5 of his 6 singles came at home

SONNING C & P 'D' found themselves in the bottom two for the first time this season in the final week and as a result are relegated to division three. A disastrous run of five defeats out of the last six matches was the reason, it coincided with the loss of Andy Grant-Robertson who was unavailable for those five matches. Their only win of the quarter came in week 17 when they beat the eventual runners-up, Kingfisher 'F' 6 – 4. Two each from Andy Grant-Robertson and Mark Jones got them on the way but after that evening, it went downhill rather quickly with defeats to Tidmarsh 'B', Sonning C & P 'E', OLOP 'C' and crucially Tilehurst Meths 'A'. It came to the last week where they needed a win over Curzon Club 'A' to guarantee safety and they fell just short to give Tilehurst Meths 'A' a chance, which unfortunately for SCP 'D' they were able to take.

Team Stat: - All of their wins came on Tuesdays or Wednesdays

Player Stats: -

Alan Mollett – 50% of his wins were by the 3 – 2 scoreline

Andrew Grant-Robertson – all of his 3 maximums happened on a Wednesday

Anthony Reeve – his last six matches produced the following

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Sagar Sawant	Kingfisher G	39	35	89.74%
Dom Cutter	Tidmarsh B	33	29	87.88%
Nigel Keedy	Kingfisher F	27	23	85.19%
Steve Ng	Kingfisher G	51	41	80.39%
Ivor Hardman	Kingfisher F	44	34	77.27%
Barry Carter	Tidmarsh B	29	22	75.86%
Clive Perry	OLOP C	33	24	72.73%
John Willcocks	Curzon A	53	38	71.70%
Denise Weller	Pangbourne A	41	29	70.73%
Jon Willis	Curzon A	47	33	70.21%

two wins all season, they did claim their first point in eleven matches as they drew 5 – 5 in week 22 against Sonning C & P 'C'. Many thanks to Roger Woolven-Allen for the newsy emails of doom after every match. If points could be given for reports then a top two finish would have happened. Roger won two in the final match of the season as did Nikhil Kulkani and the point was achieved when Grant Wheatley chipped in with one, thus ended a run of ten successive defeats stretching back to just before Christmas. The trapdoor does beckon for the Woolven-Allen brigade but hopefully it won't be too long before they are all back in division two.

Team Stat: Both of their wins came on Wednesdays

Player Stats:

Roger Woolven-Allen – in 3 of the newsletter reporting periods, he won at least three sets

Grant Wheatley – involved in the most 4-game sets (25, won 9, lost 16)

John Morris – won 15 sets, 5 were 3 – 0, 5 were 3 – 1 and 5 were 3 – 2

Nikhil Kulkani – both of his braces came on a Wednesday

A further rattle of stats to finish the season off:

% of 10 – 0 scorelines:	7%
% of 9 – 1 scorelines	5%
% of 8 – 2 scorelines	17%
% of 7 – 3 scorelines	26%
% of 6 – 4 scorelines	32%
% of 5 – 5 scorelines	12%
% of home wins	45%
% of away wins	43%
% of draws	12%
% of 3 – 0 scorelines	39%
% of 3 – 1 scorelines	36%
% of 3 – 2 scorelines	26%

Well that's it from me for this season. Thanks to all team captains for the scorecards arriving on time whether by post, email, text or whats app. I wonder what method of communication will be new in 2017 / 2018. Good luck to those teams heading onwards and upwards and for those potentially heading through the trapdoor (or Tilehurst Meths 'A's escape tunnel) to division three, hope you find a ladder to climb back up to division two in the future. As has become traditional with my last paragraph of the last newsletter of the season. I'd like to wish you all a good summer and here's to England winning the ICC Champions Trophy at the Oval in June, Team GB having a storming World Athletics Championships in London and also to Purley on Thames CC for a good season in the TVL.



MARK JONES OF SC&P 'D'

sequence 1, 0, 1, 0, 1, 0

Mark Jones – only 1 of his 14 wins was by the 3 – 0 scoreline

KINGFISHER 'E' have had a miserable season with only



DIVISION THREE

by Bob Woodmansee

And now, the end (of the season) is near (well – ‘here’, actually - I’m afraid) - and so we face the final curtain (of the season). My friends, I’ll say it clear – (“yes, the season has definitely ended!”) - I’ve packed my case (bat-case), of that I’m certain.

I’ve lived a life (a season) that’s full, I’ve travelled each and every highway (venue) - but more, much more than this, I did it (the DFS role) ‘My Way’!!

Regrets? I’ve had a few (e.g. losing after having a match point!) – but, then again, (I had) too few (match points) to mention(!) – I did what I had to do - and saw it through without exemption (or expedite).

I’ve loved (??), I’ve laughed, I’ve cried - and I’ve had my fill, my share of losing (“haven’t we all!??”) – but through it all, when there was doubt, I faced it all and I stood tall (5 feet, 8 inches - tall!??) and, yes I did it (the DFS role) ‘My Way’!!

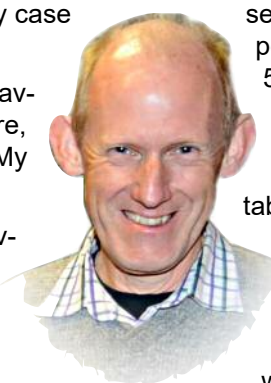
Yes, it’s a big welcome to ‘Stars in their Eyes’ meets ‘Sky Sports News’ – “.....and, tonight, Matthew, I’m going to be ... - no, not Frank Sinatra – just simply introducing you to all the winners and losers from the Division 3 season – yes, doing it ‘my way’ for the last time”.

And what a great season it was! An incredibly tight division at both ends of the table – lower ranked teams often taking points off the top teams and a very high percentage of close matches with 60 of the 110 matches (55%) finishing either 6 - 4 or 5 - 5 – and even both of the promoted sides each lost four matches. And, unusually, several two-man teams managed to win or draw matches against three-man opposition. Plus we had a number of reserves playing up and performing above themselves in defeating a player from a higher division.

So - our Division 3 Champions (cue drum-roll) are Tidmarsh ‘C’ – and big ‘Congratulations’ to them. This squad (albeit with one notable personnel addition this season!) followed up their Division 4 Title success of 2016 with another one this time round – and clinched it in some style – an 8 - 2 thumping of long-time leaders, Pangbourne WMC ‘B’ followed by a 9 - 1 success over Kingfisher ‘J’.

Pangbourne deserve our congratulations too, of course – never out of the top two all season and well deserving of the runner-up position – although having to cede the West Berkshire bragging rights to their neighbours from a mile up the A340! With no reserves to call on from any lower ranked teams, it is to their great credit that Pangbourne fulfilled all their matches with a full complement of three players – unlike some teams from larger clubs.

Springfield ‘A’ just missed out on promotion by two points – but I sense that they might not be too unhappy to have another season in Division 3?



Kingfisher ‘H’ had a very consistent season – finishing in 4th place – two points ahead of both OLOP ‘D’ and Milestone ‘A’ – who had contrasting second halves of the season. At Christmas, OLOP were 10th with just 7 points from 10 matches – but they eventually finished 5th – their second-half mega-improvement seeing 6 wins, 3 draws and only one defeat (that’s ‘promotion form’ in this tight division!). However, Milestone fell from 2nd place in February to 6th in the final table – just 3 draws and no wins in their final six matches.

Kingfisher ‘I’ were another team who fleetingly promised great things – being 3rd at Christmas. Then their second half imploded too with just 2 wins, a draw and 7 defeats - and a 7th place finish – only a point off the relegation places.

The competitiveness of this Division (and the importance of team selection) is perhaps best illustrated by the fact that the next three teams all finished with a creditable tally of 16 points (good enough for a mid-table finish in most divisions) – but not ‘right here, right now’ – yes, it’s relegation for the team with the worst ‘sets difference’ of the three – so, whatever the opposite of a drum roll is – then ‘cue it’ – for the hapless band of unpredictable and inconsistent waifs and strays with homes as far flung as Maidenhead, Long Crendon, Devon and Romania (!) – yes, it’s Sonning Sports ‘A’ !!! Quite how we managed to finish next to bottom

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tidmarsh C	20	13	3	4	125	75	29
Pangbourne B	20	12	4	4	113	87	28
Springfield A	20	11	4	5	109	91	26
Kingfisher H	20	11	2	7	112	88	24
OLOP D	20	9	4	7	120	80	22
Milestone A	20	8	6	6	107	93	22
Kingfisher I	20	7	3	10	97	103	17
Tilehurst Meths B	20	7	2	11	92	108	16
Kingfisher J	20	8	0	12	86	114	16
Sonning Sports A	20	7	2	11	82	118	16
Tilehurst Meths C	20	0	4	16	57	143	4

despite beating 7 of the 9 teams which finished above us, I really can’t quite understand – but there it is – the table doesn’t lie. Availability issues didn’t help our cause, although this was also the story for the two other teams who finished on 16 points (and, most uncharitably, pushed me and my team-mates into the drop-zone!) – Tilehurst Methodists ‘B’ and Kingfisher ‘J’ – both of whom, like us, had to rely on reserves as well as having to play as a two-man team on more than one occasion.

And, finally - they say that it’s ‘tough at the top’ – well, you should have tried being Tilehurst Methodists ‘C’ in this most competitive of divisions this season! Whilst everyone else

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	W	P	%
Philip Burke	Springfield A	45	44	97.78%
Lee Calcutt	Tidmarsh C	33	32	96.97%
Clive Taylor	Pangbourne B	41	34	82.93%
Arun Rajagopal	Milestone A	45	34	75.56%
Nils Wedi	Kingfisher J	48	36	75.00%
Dave Godfrey	OLOP D	44	33	75.00%
Willis Ma	Kingfisher H	35	26	74.29%
Ray Webb	Pangbourne B	48	35	72.92%
Chris Collins	Milestone A	56	39	69.64%
Simon Barter	Tidmarsh C	48	33	68.75%
Igor Sremac	Kingfisher H	38	26	68.42%
Eric Holmes	Kingfisher I	51	33	64.71%

seemed to be gorging themselves at the top table – enjoying pickings of points from each other like pampered guests at a society wedding buffet, there was Martin and his merry band of elves trying to survive on the scraps of points left – a bit like ants round the discarded sandwiches! Sadly, 'TMC' (am I allowed to call them that!?) finished winless and 12 points adrift of the rest of the division (almost in another universe given how tightly grouped the rest of the division was!) - but they should be proud of the way in which they kept going and always remained cheerful – at least they were very cheerful on the two occasions I saw them – possibly because we failed to beat them – both times! I think that a squad as good as this TMC foursome would have survived comfortably in many other division three line-ups over the years and can therefore consider themselves most unlucky to have ended up in this one this season!

At this juncture can I thank all the Captains (and their various 'Deputies') for the prompt e-mailing of scorecards (very few late) and for the match comments – and for your kind words about my efforts as DFS. I would also like to thank all the players for contributing to a really keenly contested and interesting division – rarely a dull week, in fact!

Now, before looking at the individual teams in more detail, here's my updated list of awards and sundry 'bests':

Best win (team): OLOP 'D' - 8 – 2 v Tidmarsh 'C' (February's win for OLOP repeating the scoreline from October – but this time against a stronger Tidmarsh line-up)

Most bizarre pair of results – ever (!!): 31st October – Tilehurst Methodists 'B' 4, Sonning Sports 'A' 6 (Sonnig travelled with only 2 players); 2nd March – Sonning Sports 'A' 4, Tilehurst Methodists 'B' 6 (this time TMB only had two players) – yes, a pair of wins in the corresponding fixtures for the respective away teams with just two players!

Best win (individual): Masoud Ghabachi v Eric Holmes 11-9, 6-11, 11-3, 11-7 (apologies to several others who had impressive individual wins too)

Best win by a reserve playing-up: Steve Dopson v Ray Webb 11-13, 11-4, 11-4, 5-11, 11-7

Biggest deuce (singles): 24-22 – Chris Webb v Nick Barnes

Best comeback wins (singles) (i.e. from 2 games down): Adam Sheen, Alistair Richardson, Arun Rajagopal,

Phil Burke, Eric Holmes, Steve Woolnough, Paul Treadgold (all twice), Dave Chard, Eddie Cripps, Jarek Chmielowiec, Igor Sremac, Dave Duncan, Alex Zheng, Willis Ma, Keith Machin, Chris Webb, Pete Bennett, Dave Godfrey, Leroy Wilson, David Holt, Chris Taylor (once each)

Closest set: Gwynne Penny v Joaquin Munoz Sabater 9-11, 15-13, 11-9, 9-11, 11-9 (the only set where all five games were decided by deuce or 11-9)

Most 'Player of the Match' awards: 14 – Phil Burke; 8 – Ray Webb; 7 – Lee Calcutt, Dave Godfrey, Jes Eassom.

Best doubles record (4 or more sets to qualify): 100% - L Calcutt & S Barter (4/4); 89% - N Wedi & J-M Sabater (8/9); 86% - P Burke & L Couillard (6/7); 80% - A Richardson & W Porter (4/5).

Ever-present players: 20 matches – Alistair Richardson, Jes Eassom.

Most sociable opponents: Joint Winners: Kingfisher 'J' (Nils, Joaquin & Gabor at Sonning on 10th November) and Pangbourne (Ray, Clive & Leroy at Pangbourne on 20th March – "Where did all those bags of crisps come from, Leroy!?").

Best venue in Division 3 this season: Sonning Sports (Yes, I do believe it is – although clearly I am biased!!).

Best 'half-time' refreshments: Springfield – their offering of Fox's Chunky Chocolate Cookies alongside chocolate fingers and digestives narrowly defeating Tilehurst's Chocolate Hobnobs!

And so to the players and their performance records this season.....

Tidmarsh 'C' had a strong looking squad, even prior to the acquisition of Lee Calcutt – indeed it should be noted that Lee only played in 11 out of the 20 matches. Lee was the only player to defeat Phil Burke and only lost once himself – to Nils Wedi. Simon hit a purple patch in the closing weeks with four maximums in six matches – Nils and Clive Taylor among his victims. Chris had a good maximum in the drawn match at Milestone and Dave had a couple of useful doubles against TMB & Kingfisher 'J'. Captain Theresa only appeared six times all season but was the model of consistency in winning one set each time. Apart from a two-match blip when they lost to OLOP and Sonning Sports in consecutive matches, Tidmarsh eased through the second half of the season, dropping only one other point and their emphatic win over a full strength Pangbourne suggested that they were worthy champions. Players: Lee Calcutt - 97% (32/33) (7 x 'Player of the Match' awards); Simon Barter - 69% (33/48) (5 POM); David Sheppard – 55% (18/33) (2 POM); Chris Webb – 51% (23/45) (2 POM); Theresa Watson - 33% (6/18). Reserves – John Liddle 1/3.

Pangbourne WMC 'B' were long-time leaders of the Division, but two defeats in their final three matches cost them the title – including the loss to Tidmarsh where Clive had a duck in his only off-night of an otherwise fantastic season in which he only lost four other sets. Ray was his usual consistent self with nine maximums and just one duck – but will probably be most pleased to have claimed the Webb family bragging rights with two wins against Chris –

both in five games. On the other hand, Leroy is anything but consistent (!) – playing in all but one of the matches he recorded six maximums and five ducks. Eddie kept plugging away and deserves his runners-up medal for that – but just a couple of wins to show for a lot of effort and commitment to the cause. Players: Clive Taylor – 83% (34/41) (5 POM); Ray Webb – 73% (35/48) (8 POM); Leroy Wilson – 57% (30/53) (2 POM); Eddie Cripps – 6% (2/35).



ARUN RAJAGOPAL OF MILESTONE 'A'

Springfield 'A' were indebted to Phil for remaining in the promotion race for so long – without him the team would probably have struggled to hold onto a mid-table position as no-one else topped 50% in the averages. Phil hit 14 maximums in 15 matches – losing just the once to Lee. Ludo just edged out Adam for 2nd place in the team averages and ended his season in style with a maximum against TMB which included Jes's scalp. No ducks, but no maximums either for steady Adam – Arun Rajagopal his best win. Captain Seth chipped in with several single wins. Players: Phil Burke – 98% (44/45) (14 POM); Ludovic Couillard – 49% (25/51); Adam Sheen – 47% (17/36); Seth Martin – 19% (7/36). Reserves – Rob Wilkie 4/9; Peter Gurney 1/3.

Kingfisher 'H' lost three of their opening five matches but had a very consistent season overall – well led by Willis but with all 4 of the regular players having at least one POM award which resulted in a well-deserved 4th place, whilst never seriously threatening the promotion places. Willis had four maximums and overcame Ray Webb in the narrow defeat at Pangbourne. Igor is a real flair player and when he clicked he showed that he could give anyone in the division a good game and had five maximums – Ray, Arun and Jes his best wins. Veteran Peter remains a tough competitor at this level – his only duck came against Tidmarsh in the opening week – thereafter one maximum and six doubles with Chris Collins and Eric Holmes amongst his wins. Jarek's season peaked in January with a double against Tidmarsh and a maximum against TMC – then his season rather fell away with just four wins in his final 15 sets. Players: Willis Ma - 74% (26/35) (2 POM); Igor Sremac – 68% (26/38) (4 POM); Peter Bennett – 53% (19/36) (1

POM); Jarek Chmielowiec – 48% (20/42) (2 POM); Alex Zheng – 24% (4/17). Reserves – Michael Houghton 0/6; Clive Gold 3/3 (1 POM).

OLOP 'D' are the team who made the biggest improvement during the season to the extent that had David Holt been able to join the squad earlier than March following his long-term injury then promotion may well have ensued. David's best win was against Nils and he only lost to Jes. However, the regular threesome of Ali, Dave G and Wendy had really kick-started the team's recovery way back in January and it is these three who deserve the real credit – and it was definitely a team effort. Dave completed a very good season with no ducks and had six maximums. Ever present Captain Ali had five maximums – including both matches against Tidmarsh (although Lee was missing both times, of course!) – Ali's victories over Eric, Arun and Simon were probably his best. After a 'variable' first half of the season, Wendy's form improved dramatically post Christmas – and in her final six matches she hit two maximums (including Tidmarsh) and three doubles - included amongst these was an 11–2 fifth game win over Simon. Players: David Holt - 91% (10/11) (1 POM); Dave Godfrey – 75% (33/44) (7 POM); Ali Richardson – 59% (35/59); Wendy Porter – 55% (23/42) (2 POM); Reserves – Pradeep Desh 2/6; Abhay Gore 0/6; Laurence De Ste Croix 0/3; Jan Polnik 0/3; Binit Bhaskar 0/3.

Milestone 'A' had moved up into second place in February after a run of five straight wins but then they failed to win any of their final six matches and finished 6th. Arun led the team from the front with seven maximums and no ducks and just edged out Chris from top spot in the team averages. Chris took the word 'consistency' to a new level in hitting doubles in 16 of the 19 matches he played – 'spoiling' the stat with two maximums against TMC and a single win against a two-man Kingfisher 'J'. Both John and Viliam found the going tough at this level – John's best wins coming against John Virgo, Peter Bennet and David Sheppard – whilst Viliam hit a nice double against Springfield. Players: Arun Rajagopal - 76% (34/45) (5 POM); Chris Collins – 70% (39/56) (2 POM); John Crosfield – 21% (6/29) (1 POM); Viliam Andrascik – 19% (4/21); Reserves – Zoltan Kelemen 6/9 (2 POM); Sachin Mundra 2/6; Oli Bonser 1/3; John Evans 0/5; Sanket Dave 0/3.



MILESTONE 'A' ON A FRIENDLY MATCH IN GERMANY

The next four teams were separated by just one point in the final table – and had one other thing in common – availability mega-problems at various times due to injury, illness and work commitments. In fact there was a real ‘Emergency Ward 10’ in Division 3 at times (or ‘Holby City’ if you’re under 50!!) with Mick Mitcham, Dave Duncan, Nick Barnes, Ian Cockling, OLOP’s David Holt and Dave Chardall having enforced spells in the sick-bay (and these being just the longer-term ones I knew about) – we all wish you well, guys. To their credit, these four teams all played to the spirit of the postponement rule and only made one such request between them all season - in fact, in total, these four squads turned out with a two-man team rather than postpone on seven separate occasions (TMB three times and Kingfisher ‘J’ twice) whilst Sonning Sports even fielded a complete reserve team of Division 5 players on one occasion!)

Kingfisher ‘I’ appeared to be sitting relatively comfortably in mid-table with 15 points from 14 matches – but could then only muster a single win (against TMC) and five defeats from their final six matches. Hard to explain the dramatic decline in the team’s form although Eric had four maximums in the first half of the season and none after Christmas – but still finished with 65% and wins over Willis and Simon Barter. Carol hit three maximums in her 12 appearances and also defeated Willis and Simon. Steve had two maximums prior to Christmas but was another whose form fell away alarmingly and he only won three of his final 15 sets. Dave (‘The Bat’!!) Duncan was unfortunate to have to miss most of the second half of the season due to injury but nice to see that he made a winning comeback against TMC on 16th March – plus he defeated Chris Collins in the battle of everybody’s two favourite Division 3 bats (!!) in what looks like a thrilling encounter (12-10, 11-9, 12-10) - glad I wasn’t umpiring that one!! Captain Mick made his comeback from injury in January and, whilst clearly finding it tough after such a long absence, he hit a double against TMC and had a nice win over Peter Bennett. Players: Eric Holmes - 65% (33/51) (2 POM); Carol Byers – 61% (22/36) (3 POM); Steve Woolnough – 47% (17/36) (2 POM); Dave Duncan – 33% (11/33); Mick Mitcham – 22% (4/18); Reserves – Gwynne Penny 1/3.

Tilehurst Methodists ‘B’ slipped into the bottom two at one point but a late run saw them climb a couple of places. Included in this run was the remarkable 6 - 4 win at Sonning Sports with a two-man team – John hitting a maximum - plus another 6 - 4 win versus Kingfisher ‘I’ where John did the three-card trick again. Another two-man line-up earned a point against their C Team – Jes hitting a treble and reserve Chris Taylor a vital single. Jes hit four maximums in the season and included Nils, Arun and David Holt amongst his more notable scalps – and was ever-present. John was the team’s other mainstay – appearing in 17 matches and defeating Ray Webb and Eric Holmes on the way. A tough injury-hit season for both Ian (only 6 appearances) and Nick (just three). Players: Jes Eassom - 61% (36/59) (7 POM); John Virgo – 44% (22/50) (2 POM); Ian Cockling – 53% (9/17) (1 POM); Nick Barnes – 44% (4/9); Reserves – Roy Hull 4/12; Chris Taylor 3/12; Steve Dopson 3/9 (1 POM).

Kingfisher ‘J’ (aka ‘The Weathermen’) struggled badly in

the second half of the season – a closing run of seven defeats in nine matches with only wins versus Sonning Sports’ Division 5 side and bottom placed TMC to show for their efforts – the result against Sonning ultimately deciding the second relegation place. When Nils and Joaquin both play together this team could give any team in the division a good match but Joaquin missed seven matches in total and the back-up players only gave limited support. Nils had a great season with seven maximums and inflicted Lee’s only defeat and was, effectively, 5th in the divisional averages. Joaquin had three maximums with Gabor the pick of the rest of the squad posting a couple of doubles. Players: Nils Wedi - 75% (36/48) (6 POM); Joaquin Munoz Sabater – 64% (25/39) (1 POM); Gabor Radnoti – 22% (8/36); Gianpaolo Balsamo – 6% (1/18); Didier Garçon – 0% (0/21); Reserves – David Wells 5/12.

Sonning Sports ‘A’ are, at the risk of repeating myself, the model of glorious inconsistency! One of just three



BOB WOODMANSEE, NIGEL GOODMAN AND DAVE CHARD OF SONNING SPORTS ‘A’

teams to defeat the Champions, we then failed to defeat the bottom team (twice!) – and this was probably what cost us a place of technical ‘safety’ outside of the bottom two. New-boy Chris Dexter’s work commitments only allowed him to appear for us four times (I hope it will be more next year, Chris!) during which he defeated Nils, Dave Godfrey and Simon Barter and hit a maximum against Kingfisher ‘J’. Keith had a good season with three maximums and included Arun, Chris Collins (twice) and Simon amongst his more notable successes. I had a pretty consistent season amongst the chaos taking place all around me (!) with one maximum and just the one duck – and I guess I’d better not say which of my wins gave me the most pleasure!! Bob Snellgrove (sadly in his final season for our Club) had a bizarre season – hitting two great maximums at the same venue (Tilehurst Methodists – i.e. against both the ‘B’ & ‘C’ teams) but only managing to win three of the other 29 sets he played! Dave, by his own admission, had a poor season – he knows he can do much better and has promised to practice in the summer (wow - ‘summer practice’ – he must be serious as that’s unheard of in my lifetime at Sonning!). Dave’s illness curtailed his season but I am pleased to report that he is now well on the road to recovery. Nigel made just the one trip from Devon to play this year – mak-

ing it 30 consecutive seasons that he, Dave and I have played together for the same team (only Derek, Geoff & Jim at Curzon can beat this, I think). Finally – thanks to our reserves who all gave of their best despite being asked to ‘jump’ two divisions – Florin, in particular, ruffled a few feathers and won three sets as well as causing Ray Webb to dig deep in an incredible 20–22 game at Pangbourne! Players: Chris Dexter - 67% (8/12) (2 POM); Keith Machin – 58% (21/36) (3 POM); Bob Woodmansee - 49% (22/45) (1 POM); Bob Snellgrove - 26% (9/35) (2 POM); Dave Chard – 17% (4/24); Nigel Goodman – 50% (1/2); Reserves – Florin Dimofte 3/12; Cris Reynolds 1/5; Sally James 0/3.

Tilehurst Methodists ‘C’ spent the entire season propping up the table with just four points from four draws to show for a lot of effort and a lot of cheerful and competitive play – whilst not individually or collectively seeking any hiding places as they honoured all their matches without calling on a reserve. It says everything about the standard of this Division that a team with four players as good as Martin, Mike, Paul & Masoud failed to register a win – yet,

with eight of their 20 matches finishing either 5 - 5 or 4 - 6, a double-figures points haul was really not that far away. Paul was just the top ranked player in the team averages with Igor, Joaquin and Keith Machin amongst his best wins. Masoud wasn't far behind, hitting a great maximum against Kingfisher ‘I’ (including Eric) in March and including Ali Richardson (twice) and Simon Barter amongst his other notable triumphs. Mike had a number of good wins – most notably Igor and Keith Machin (and me!!) – whilst Martin was always the toughest and most resilient of opponents (ask Ali Richardson - twice!) with Carol Byers (OK, Martin - and ‘yours truly!’) among his other notable successes. Players: Paul Treadgold - 34% (15/44); Masoud Ghabachi – 30% (15/50) (1 POM); Mike Williams – 29% (11/38) (1 POM); Martin Wetherell – 22% (10/45).

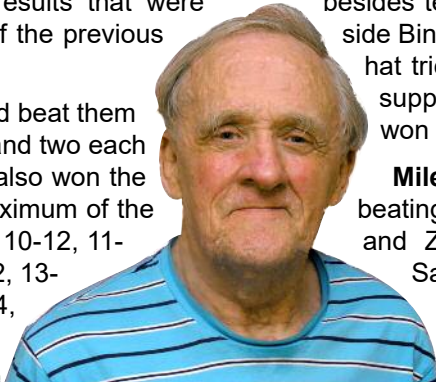
So, that's it – the final curtain really is drawn – have a great summer, everyone!

▶ DIVISION FOUR

by Derek Harrison

Hello everybody. Before I start this report I will comment on the three catch up results that were played just after the deadline of the previous newsletter.

Curzon ‘C’ entertained Curzon ‘B’ and beat them 8 – 2 thanks to a Carine Bey hat trick and two each from Terry Spice and Linda King who also won the doubles. For Carine it was the first maximum of the season and beat Derek Harrison 11-6, 10-12, 11-7, 11-1 then Jim Brent 11-4, 6-11, 10-12, 13-11, 11-6 and Geoff Johnson 9-11, 11-4, 11-6, 11-9. For the ‘B’ team Geoff won the two. Three days later they won 3 – 7 at Tilehurst Meths ‘D’ with Terry hitting a great treble while John Walker won two and Linda a single. The doubles was vital with Linda and Terry coming back from 8-4 down in the fourth game to win 10-12. For the Meths Patrick O’Sullivan won two and Chris Taylor won one. Curzon ‘B’ also played three days later and lost



3 – 7 to a good OLOP ‘E’ side. Geoff and Jim won one each besides teaming up to win the doubles. For the away side Binit Bhaskar did the business by gaining a great hat trick, his second in a row and giving him good support were Jan Polnik and Pradeep Desh who won two each.

Milestone ‘B’ maintained their lead at the top by beating Tilehurst Meths ‘D’ 6 – 4 with Sachin Mundra and Zoltan Kelemen both hitting trebles. With Sachin not playing they then dropped a point at Sonning, however Zoltan came to the rescue by winning all three with Oliver Bonser helping out with a double. Next by drawing with Kingfisher ‘K’ they clinched the championship, so on behalf of you all I congratulate them. Zoltan maintained his good form by winning all three but was given a fright against David Wells by only winning 14-12 in the 5th end. Sachin weighed in with a single and teamed up with Oliver to win the doubles. Next came an away win at OLOP with Zoltan and Sachin both getting maximums. This win put them well clear at the top. They finished their season against a full strength Tidmarsh side and lost 7 – 3 with Zoltan, Sachin and Sanket all beating Dave Edwards.

Sachin 41/51 = 80.4% 11 trebles, 3 doubles, 2 singles best win Rob Wilkie POM 8
Oliver 12/21 = 57.1% 2 trebles, 2 doubles, 2 singles best win Geoff Johnson
Zoltan 49/57 = 86.0% 13 trebles, 4 doubles, 2 singles best win Angus Jones POM 10
Gareth 4/21 = 19.0% 1 double, 2 singles best win John Burke
Sanket 11/18 = 61.1% 1 treble, 3 doubles, 2 singles best win Pradeep
Doubles 10/20 = 50.0%

Springfield ‘B’ gained the first ten nil win of the season when beating Kingfisher ‘K’. The hat trick men were John Burke, Aidan Simmons and Rob Wilkie. They then came

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milestone B	20	14	4	2	128	72	32
Sonning C&P F	20	12	4	4	112	88	28
Springfield B	20	9	8	3	111	89	26
Reading FCA	20	10	4	6	103	97	24
Tidmarsh D	20	10	3	7	111	89	23
Curzon B	20	7	4	9	96	104	18
Curzon C	20	6	4	10	89	111	16
Kingfisher K	20	6	4	10	86	114	16
Tilehurst Meths D	20	6	2	12	91	109	14
OLOP E	20	6	2	12	90	110	14
Tilehurst Meths E	20	3	3	14	83	117	9

down to earth by losing 7 – 3 at OLOP 'E' with John, Rob and Peter Gurney all beating Abhay Gore. They then obtained a draw at Tidmarsh 'D', Rob and Peter both won two each and Aidan picked up a single by beating Dave Smith. They then dropped a valuable point when drawing with bottom side Tilehurst Meths 'E'. Rob and Peter both won two each and John picked up a single. At Reading F C they gained a draw with Peter winning two and Rob and Aidan both obtaining singles. Rob and Peter had a nice doubles win over Jazz and Mark.

Aidan 12/33 = 36.4% 1 treble, 3 doubles, 3 singles best win Dave Edwards POM 1

John 25/45 = 55.6% 1 treble, 9 doubles, 4 singles best win Terry Hardie POM 1

Rob 38/54 = 70.4% 7 trebles, 6 doubles, 5 singles best win Sanket POM 7

Peter 24/48 = 50.00% 1 treble, 8 doubles, 5 singles best win John Walker POM 1

Doubles 12/20 = 60.0 %

Sonning C&P 'F' did not play Angus Jones at Curzon 'C' but still gained a draw thanks to doubles from Eric Walker and Simon Blake and a single from Derek Wavell. At home to the leaders a good team performance saw them gain a draw. Angus managed a double with Derek and Eric both gaining singles. Angus and Eric had a nice doubles win over Zoltan and Oliver. At Curzon 'B' they came back from 4 – 2 down to gain a draw. Eric managed a double while Angus and Derek both picked up singles. At home to



ERIC WALKER OF SONNING C&P 'F'

done to Derek and his team. Regarding the match Eric did the business by winning all three besides teaming up with Simon to win the doubles. Simon and Derek both gained singles.

Derek 22/48 = 45.8% 7 doubles, 8 singles best win Terry Hardie
Angus 33/39 = 84.62% 9 trebles, 2 doubles, 2 singles best win Jazz POM 9

Eric 29/51 = 56.86% 3 trebles, 7 doubles, 6 singles best win Geoff Johnson POM 4

Simon 13/39 = 33.3% 3 doubles, 7 singles best win Richard Witt
Doubles 15/20 = 75.0% the best in the division by a long way

Reading F C had Jazz Dhillon to thank for gaining a draw with OLOP 'E' however Mark Edwards gained a single besides teaming up with Jazz to win the doubles. They then won their first match since the 30th November by beating Tidmarsh 'D' 6 – 4 thanks to doubles from Jazz and Anthony Alleyne who also teamed up to win the doubles. Richard Witt played his part by gaining a single. At Tilehurst Meths 'E' they came away with both points by winning 4 – 6. Jazz hit a very good maximum with Tony obtaining a fine double to help the cause. At Curzon 'B' they lost 7 – 3 with Jazz, Tony and Richard all winning one each. Next they shared the spoils with Springfield mainly thanks to a Jazz hat trick. Anthony and Mark gave him support by winning one each. They then finished their season by winning 4 – 6 at Tilehurst Meths 'D' with Jazz gaining yet another maximum. Tony and Richard played their part by winning one each.

Richard 26/51 = 51.0% 3 trebles, 6 doubles, 5 singles best win John Burke POM 2

Mark 18/39 = 46.2% 1 treble, 4 doubles, 7 singles best win Geoff Johnson

Tony 18/45 = 40.0% 5 doubles, 8 singles best win Rob Wilkie

Jazz 32/38 = 84.2% 7 trebles, 5 doubles, 1 single best win Sachin POM 7

Doubles 7/20 = 35.0%

Tidmarsh 'D' went to Curzon 'B' with top player Andy Stephens and came away with a 2 – 8 victory. Andy managed a treble while Dave Edwards and Terry Hardie both won two each. Terry had a nice win over Marc Brent who won the divisional championship at the Reading Closed. At



SIMON BLAKE OF SONNING C&P 'F'

Kingfisher 'K' they won 7 – 3 with Angus returning to form and winning all three. Eric won two and Simon picked up a single besides teaming up with Eric to win the doubles. Then without Angus they gained a vital 4 – 6 win at OLOP which gave them a great chance of the runners up spot. Eric and Simon both won two each besides teaming up to win the doubles. Derek gained an important win over Pradeep by beating him 11-7, 8-11, 4-11, 6-11. At home to Curzon 'B' Eric was the star, winning all three besides teaming up with Simon to win the doubles. Derek did well to win two which gave them a 6 – 4 victory. They then won 4 – 6 at Tilehurst Meths 'D' to clinch the runners up spot which to be honest I did not think that they could do bearing in mind they only gained one point from their first 4 matches, so well

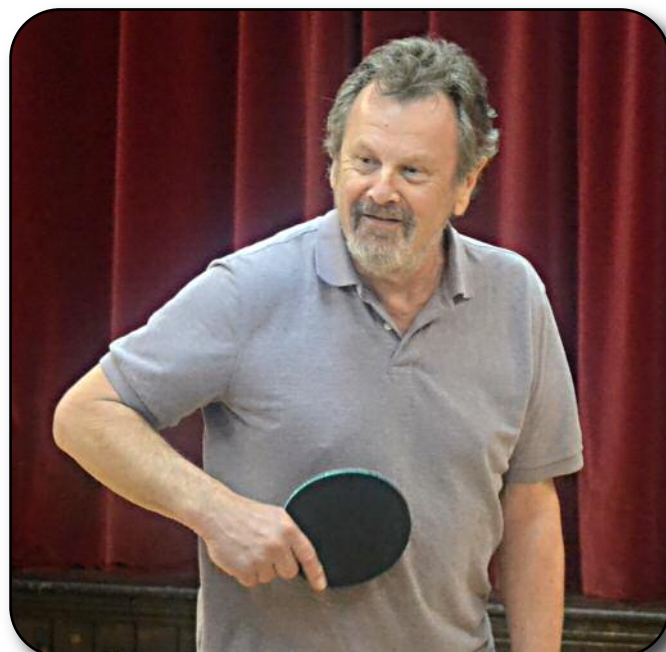
Reading F C they went down 6 – 4 with Dave E and Terry both winning two each. At home to Springfield they shared the spoils with Terry and Dave E both winning two each besides teaming up to win the doubles. At Curzon 'C' they went down 7 – 3 with Terry in top form by gaining a fine maximum. At home to champions Milestone they won 7 – 3 thanks to trebles from Terry and Andy. Dave E was unlucky against Zoltan going down 11-8, 11-6, 6-11, 17-19 (after having 7 match points), 10-12. So near but so far Dave. At home to Tilehurst Meths 'E' Andy hit a three straight maximum with great support from Dave E and my old mate Steve Andrews who both won two each to help them gain a 8 – 2 win. Many thanks for your kind comments Dave E, it is nice to know that my efforts are well received.

Dave E 28/54 = 51.9% 2 trebles, 9 doubles, 4 singles best win Jazz POM 2

Terry 29/39 = 74.4% 5 trebles, 6 doubles, 2 singles best win Zoltan POM 4

Dave S 8/39 = 20.5% 1 double, 6 singles best win Geoff Johnson

John 10/15 = 66.7% 1 treble, 3 doubles, 1 single best win Gwynne



GEOFF JOHNSON OF CURZON 'B'

POM 1

Roy 23/57 = 40.4% 1 treble, 5 doubles, 10 singles best win Zoltan POM 1

Chris 34/60 = 56.7% 2 trebles, 10 doubles, 8 singles best win Sachin POM 3

Mal 0/6

Doubles 11/20 = 55.0%

Curzon 'B's bad run continued when losing to Tidmarsh 'D' 2 – 8. Marc Brent and for once Derek Harrison both won one each. I have to say that I was pleased to get a rare win by beating Terry Hardie. By losing 6 – 4 at Tilehurst Meths 'D' we lost our 5th match in a row and as a result were nearing the trap draw. Geoff Johnson played his part by winning all three besides teaming up with Derek to win the doubles. I was rather unlucky against Chris when I came back from 7-0 down to lead 7-8 but sadly lost 11-9. We then had a great team performance against Tilehurst Meths 'E' by beating them 6 – 4 with Geoff putting in a man of the match effort by



DEREK HARRISON OF CURZON 'B'

Andy 18/18=100% 6 trebles best win Zoltan POM 6

Doubles 10/20 = 50.0%

Tilehurst Meths 'D' only went down 6 – 4 at leaders Milestone 'B' with Patrick O'Sullivan, Roy Hull and Chris all winning one each. A good team performance saw them beat Curzon 'B' 6 – 4 with Patrick, Chris and Roy all gaining doubles. At Kingfisher 'K' a draw perhaps suited both teams to give them both a vital point each. Chris managed two besides teaming up with Roy to win the doubles. Roy and Patrick both gained singles. In a vital match against OLOP they just went down 4 – 6 with Patrick, Roy and Chris all gaining singles. Then despite losing to Sonning 4 – 6 they avoided the drop by one set. I have to say that the side were very sporting in playing this match because they could have claimed the points when Sonning did not turn up to the original fixture. For the record Roy and Chris both won two each.

Patrick 23/57 = 40.4% 7 doubles, 9 singles best win Steve Dopson



JIM BRENT OF CURZON 'B'

gaining a good hat trick with Jim winning two and for once Derek gaining a single. Geoff with three and Jim with a double gave us a vital point against Sonning C&P 'F'. We then had a good 7 – 3 win over Reading F C with Geoff getting a great hat trick. Included in his victories was a fine expedite set against Jazz beating him 11-7, 11-7, 2-11, 11-7. In one set the first point was not won until five and half minutes had gone by. Jim did well to win two and I had a nice win over Jazz besides teaming up with Geoff to win the doubles. At Kingfisher we lost 6 – 4. Geoff and Derek managed doubles by beating Gwynne and Ruben. At Sonning we went down 6 – 4 with Geoff winning two and Jim and Derek both obtaining singles. I have to say I was unlucky against Derek going down 8-11, 4-11, 11-9, 13-11, after having match point and then 11-9.

Derek 12/51 = 23.5% 1 treble, 2 doubles, 5 singles best win Jazz POM 1

Jim 20/57 = 35.1% 8 doubles, 4 singles best win Zoltan

Geoff 39/54 = 72.2% 8 trebles, 6 doubles, 3 singles best win Jazz POM 8

Mike 3/3 best win Rob Wilkie POM 1

Marc 4/6 best win Binit

Nick 8/9

Doubles 10/20 = 50.0%

Curzon 'C' gained a vital point when they shared the spoils with Sonning C&P 'F'. Terry Spice and John Walker both won two each besides teaming up to win the doubles. At Kingfisher 'K' John rescued a point by beating Ruben Hernandez in set ten which gave him his maximum and with Linda King winning two this gave them the draw. At home to OLOP 'E' they went 0 - 7 down but recovered by winning two of the remaining sets with Linda beating Jan Polnik and Carine Bey beating Pradeep Desh 11-6, 6-11, 8-11, 11-6, 11-8 after being 1 - 5 down. They then gave themselves some hope of avoiding the drop by beating Tidmarsh 'D' 7 – 3 with John, Carine and Linda all winning two each besides Carine and Linda winning a good doubles. By winning 4 – 6 at Tilehurst Meths 'E' they have avoided the drop. John, Carine and Terry came up trumps by all gaining doubles. I have to give a special mention to Carine who has had a nice first season and I hope that she will continue next season despite having moved away from the area.

Linda 20/45 = 44.4% 7 doubles, 6 singles best win Geoff Johnson

Terry 20/39 = 51.3% 1 treble, 8 doubles, 1 single best win Rob Wilkie POM 1

John 26/39 = 66.7% 3 trebles, 7 doubles, 3 singles best win Rob Wilkie POM 3

Carine 13/42 = 31.0% 1 treble, 3 doubles, 4 singles best win Geoff Johnson POM 1

Mick 0/15

Doubles 10/20 = 50.0%

As mentioned above **Kingfisher 'K'** crashed 10 - 0 at Springfield 'B'. I have no more comment on the team, Gwynne. They then shared the spoils with Curzon 'C'.

Gwynne Penny managed to win two besides teaming up with Ruben Hernandez to win the doubles. Ania Pytka and Ruben both won one each. They then gained a great point at Milestone 'B' with David Wells and Ruben both picking up doubles while Gwynne gained that important single by beating Oliver Bonser. Next up came Tilehurst Meths 'D' and Ruben did a great job by obtaining a hat trick and with David winning two this gave them a vital point. At Sonning 'F' they lost 7 – 3. Gwynne won two by beating Eric and Simon and David also beat Simon. They then avoided the drop by beating Curzon 'B' 6 – 4. The hero on the night was David who hit a great treble and also teamed up with Gwynne to win a close doubles. Ruben and Gwynne also won one each by beating Jim.

Gwynne 30/54 = 55.6% 3 trebles, 8 doubles, 5 singles best win Zoltan POM 3

Ruben 18/36 = 50.0% 2 trebles, 4 doubles, 4 singles best win Angus POM 2

Ania 10/33 = 30.3% 2 doubles, 6 singles best win Peter Gurney POM 1

David 21/30 = 70.0% 4 trebles, 4 doubles, 1 single best win Terry Hardie POM 3

John 1/27 = 3.7% 1 single best win Garth Aldridge

Doubles 6/20 = 30.0%

OLOP 'E' gained a fine draw at Reading F C with all three players doing their bit. Pradeep Desh and Binit Bhaskar both won two each and Jan Polnik picked up a vital single. They then beat Springfield 'B' 3 – 7 with Pradeep and Binit both claiming hat tricks. At Curzon 'C' they won 2 - 8 with Binit winning all three while Pradeep and Jan both gaining doubles. This win moved them out of the bottom two. At home to Milestone they lost for the first time in 7 matches. Pradeep, Jan and Tamir Slobodskoy all beat Gareth Aldridge in a 3 – 7 defeat. Next by winning at Tilehurst Meths 'D' 4 – 6 they moved out of the bottom two. Abhay Gore was the star, winning all three with Pradeep win-



MATCH: CURZON 'B' v SCP 'F'

ning two and Tamir obtaining that vital single. At home to Sonning they went down 4 – 6 with Pradeep winning two and Jan and Abhay both picking up singles. As a result of the Tilehurst Meths 'D' vs Sonning match I have to say the team have gone down by just one set.

Jan 12/27 = 44.4% 4 doubles, 4 singles best win Zoltan

Alona 1/18 = 5.6% 1 single best win Mick Gillard

Tamir 10/24 = 41.7% 1 treble, 2 doubles, 3 singles best win John Burke POM 1

Binit 26/42 = 61.9% 4 trebles, 4 doubles, 6 singles best win Terry Spice POM 4

Pradeep 22/36 = 61.1% 2 trebles, 6 doubles, 3 singles best win Chris Taylor POM 2

Abhay 10/30 = 33.3% 1 treble, 7 singles best win Peter Gurney POM 1

Doubles 8/20 = 40.0%

Tilehurst Meths 'E' lost their 7th match in a row when going down 6 – 4 at Curzon 'B'. Steve Dopson managed to win two besides teaming up with Steve Wood, who won one, to win the doubles. They then played hosts to

DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Zoltan Kelemen	Milestone B	57	49	85.96%
Angus Jones	Sonning C&P F	39	33	84.62%
Jazz Dhillon	Reading FC A	38	32	84.21%
Sachin Mundra	Milestone B	51	41	80.39%
Terry Hardie	Tidmarsh D	39	29	74.36%
Geoff Johnson	Curzon B	54	39	72.22%
Rob Wilkie	Springfield B	54	38	70.37%
Steve Dopson	Tilehurst Meths E	57	40	70.18%
David Wells	Kingfisher K	30	21	70.00%
John Walker	Curzon C	39	26	66.67%
Binit Bhaskar	OLOP E	42	26	61.90%
Pradeep Desh	OLOP E	36	22	61.11%

Reading F C and went down 4 – 6 with Steve D winning two and Steve W and Rob James both picking up singles. Despite gaining a great draw at second place Springfield they are now relegated. Steve D put in a great captain's performance by winning all three and Rob picked up a single besides teaming up with Steve to win the doubles. I feel I must mention Ryan Arch who came into the side at short notice; however it would seem he was outclassed but I give

him full credit for playing. Next came Curzon 'C' and despite a Steve D treble this could not prevent them losing 4 – 6. Steve also teamed up with Rob to win the doubles. They then finished by losing 8 – 2 at Tidmarsh 'D' with Steve W and Rob winning one each.

Steve D 40/57 = 70.2% 6 trebles, 9 doubles, 4 singles best win Rob Wilkie POM 5

Rob 12/60 = 20.0% 2 doubles, 8 singles best win John Burke

Steve W 19/56 = 33.9% 1 treble 4 doubles, 8 singles best win John Burke POM 2

Ryan 0/6

Doubles 11/20 = 55.0%

A few more stats - only Rob James and Chris Taylor played in every match for their teams.

Also there were 21 5 - 5 matches, 36 were 6 – 4, 33 were 7 – 3, 15 were 8 – 2, 4 were 9 - 1 and 1 was 10 – 0.

Finally with my Chairman's hat on I would like on your behalf to thank the Committee for all of their hard work which has made this season go smoothly and make us the best.

Cheers,

Derek



DIVISION FIVE

by Martin Wetherell

Well, another Season is over and Our Lady of Peace 'F' have been crowned as Division 5 Champions, remaining undefeated in 2017, which helped them open an unassailable lead, eventually winning by 10 clear points, with Reading FC 'B' taking the runners-up spot. OLOP 'F' and Kingfisher 'L' share first place in the PoM table, with 18 awards, but the individual winner, with 12 PoMs, is Clive Gold, who also tops the Individual Averages with 93.75%. Stephen Leggett is second overall, having accrued 10 PoMs, Paul Brown and Laurence de Ste Croix are joint third, with 9 PoMs, while three more players have won 8 PoMs.

I am pleased to see that of the regular players, everyone has won at least one set. Hopefully this has encouraged the newer members to the Reading League and no-one has got too dispirited. Of the regular players, Clive Gold (Kingfisher 'L') tops the Individual Averages table, having only been beaten three times, followed by Florin Dimofte (Sonning Sports 'B'), who has also only lost three times, but has played in fewer matches. Laurence de Ste Croix (OLOP 'F') is in third place, having been beaten four times, over the course of the season.

In their final 6 matches, OLOP 'F' won all but one, a 5 - 5 draw against Springfield 'D' when they were beholden to Laurence de Ste Croix who recorded another maximum and, along with Andrew Adair, won the Doubles, to help his team remain undefeated this year. This streak included a 6 - 4 win over Sonning Sports 'B', a reversal of the 6 - 4 home defeat they suffered in October, their last defeat and one of only two they had all season, the other being a loss to Reading FC 'B'.

Laurence played in five of these matches, missing out

against Sonning C&P 'G', being beaten only twice, losing 9-11 12-10 9-11 7-11 to Florin Dimofte (Sonning Sports 'B') and 11-4 8-11 11-3 10-12 3-11 to Derek Anderson (Reading FC 'C'). Over the course of the entire season, Laurence only lost four times, resulting in an end of season win rate of 90.91%.

Simon Brookes and Andrew Adair were the other main stalwarts of the team, both playing in 15 matches. Simon played in three of the final six matches, winning eight of his nine singles, the most nerve shredding being a 14-12 10-12 14-12 11-8 victory over Mikey Legg of Sonning C&P 'G', and ended the season with a win rate of 75.56%, while Andrew played in four of the final six matches, recording a maximum against Sonning C&P 'G', winning seven of his twelve singles, to end the season on 66.67%.

Hari Laddunuri and Mariusz Paluszkiwicz complete the



MEN OF OLOP 'F' - HARI, CEDRIC, SIMON, LAURENCE, ANDREW, MARIUSZ.

squad, both ending the season with a flourish, Hari recording a maximum, against Reading FC 'C', to win his first PoM and then, in the final match, against Milestone 'C', Hari and Mariusz combined, to win the Doubles and the match 8 - 2.

On the Doubles front, Andrew and Laurence won the most sets, winning 7 and losing 2, but Mariusz played four times, in three different partnerships and never lost.

Reading FC 'B', aka The Biscuitmen, had a tremendous run-in, winning all six of their matches, to climb from 9th place to 2nd, on game difference. However, despite having won all their matches, the runners-up spot was outside their control since 3rd placed Sonning C&P 'H' had one final match to play and only needed a point to take 2nd place. However, the Fates had dictated that this final match was to be against Reading FC 'C', who subsequently defeated Sonning C&P 'H' and, I'm assuming, were therefore guests of honour at the 'B' team's ensuing celebrations.

Injuries and availability had played a part in the Biscuitmen's season and thus the same three names figured in all six of these matches, giving Dave Evans no opportunity to improve his playing average.

This run-in actually started with a fine 8 - 2 win over their teammates, Reading FC 'C' - The Royals, which was followed up by a 10 - 0 win over Milestone 'C', an 8 - 2 win over the BBC Club and then a further 10 - 0 win, this time over Sonning Sports 'B', with both Paul Brown and Joe Bull in fine form, each recording four maximums and combining, on each occasion, to win the Doubles. The following week, they beat Tidmarsh 'E' 7 - 3, with Paul, Joe and Keith Greene each winning two in a tight encounter where 16 of the 36 games played were won by the minimum two points and their final match was a further 10 - 0 victory over Springfield 'C'. These high scoring victories laid the foundations for their 2nd place, since game difference was needed to separate 2nd, 3rd and 4th place.

Paul Brown played in 48 sets and ended the season with a

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
OLOP F	22	18	2	2	145	75	38
Reading FC B	22	14	0	8	136	84	28
Sonning C&P H	22	12	4	6	132	88	28
Kingfisher L	22	12	4	6	124	96	28
Tidmarsh E	22	11	2	9	115	105	24
Springfield C	22	9	6	7	110	110	24
Sonning Sports B	22	10	4	8	107	113	24
Springfield D	22	8	4	10	104	116	20
Reading FC C	22	8	2	12	98	122	18
Sonning C&P G	22	6	5	11	110	110	17
BBC Club	22	2	5	15	78	142	9
Milestone C	22	2	2	18	61	159	6

win rate of 81.25%, but teammates Joe Bull and Keith Greene provided fine back-up, with 74.07% from 54 sets and 62.75% from 51 sets, respectively.

Curiously enough, throughout the whole season, Reading FC 'B' never drew a game !

On the Doubles front, only three partnerships were tried, with Joe and Paul winning 6 out of the 9 sets (66.67%) they

played together, although statistically Keith won 80% of the sets he played, with both Joe and Paul.

Sonning C&P 'H' are another team that have relied upon their strongest configuration in the final approach, with Mike Casserley, Gerry Bacon and Julian James being involved in all seven matches.

The final push started with Sonning C&P 'H' in 3rd position, but after a tremendous 9 - 1 win over Tidmarsh 'E', when Mike and Gerry both won maximums, they moved up to 2nd place, where they remained until the last week of the league season. A tough away fixture, at Kingfisher 'L', then followed when, despite a maximum from Clive Gold, the 'H' team ran out 6 - 4 winners, Mike Casserley and Julian James both defeating David O'Keeffe and successfully combining, in the Doubles, to beat David and Clive.

However, the following week they met OLOP 'F' when they were narrowly defeated by the same score line, losing 6 - 4, with the Doubles proving to be crucial. They continued this theme, this time winning 6 - 4, when they played their club mates in the 'G' team, with Mike, Gerry and Julian all winning two sets each and Oliver Sayer denying Julian his hat-trick by winning 11-6 10-12 10-12 11-7 12-10.

However, the following week they dropped a point at Sonning Sports 'B', when they could only draw 5 - 5, after Florin Dimofte won all three of his sets and also partnered Sally James to a Doubles win, Gerry earning his team their point with his 11-8 11-9 12-10 9th set win over Sally James. They then proceeded to beat Springfield 'D' 8 - 2, with Gerry winning all three sets, as well as combining with Julian to win the Doubles.

Victory in their final match, against Reading FC 'C', would see them take second spot, but it was not to be, with Reading's Harry Edwards and Wayne Alleyne beating Julian and Gerry 12-14 11-9 13-11 13-11, in the Doubles, to take a 5 - 2 lead, before Reading FC won the final three sets, to take the match 8 - 2.

Mike ended the season having played in 20 matches, winning 80% of his sets and earning 8 PoMs, with Gerry second in the table on 62.50% after 16 matches and Julian 3rd with 57.41% after 18 matches. Steve Knott ended his season with two wins and Derek Maltby with one, neither playing in the run-in.

On the Doubles front, the three possible combinations of Mike, Gerry and Julian all ended with three wins apiece, Mike and Gerry's partnership playing together only 5 times and thus having the higher win percentage of 60%, although with one win from the one match they played together, Mike and Steve ended the season undefeated.

Kingfisher 'L' were the third team to finish on 28 points and going into the final stretch had been in second place for three months. They started well, winning 7 - 3 at Sonning C&P 'G', with Ken Robb winning all three, as well as partnering David O'Keeffe to a Doubles win, and Derek Crombie beating Mikey Legg 11-9 11-5 4-11 11-7, to record his first win of the season. However, against rivals Sonning C&P 'H', they narrowly lost 6 - 4, despite a treble from Clive Gold, David only managing a single win in support, when beating Gerry Bacon 10-12 4-11 11-8 12-10 11-8.

Kingfisher 'L' recovered from this setback, to win at Springfield 'D' 6 - 4, Ken Robb recording a maximum and combining with Clive to win the Doubles, Clive being beaten by Stephen Leggett to lose for only the third time this season. They followed this up with another 6 - 4 win, this time at home to Reading FC 'C', Clive recording another treble while David and Meriel Low both recorded one win each, Meriel narrowly beating Harry Edwards 11-8 11-8 12-10. Clive continued his winning ways with a further treble in the 8 - 2 win over Milestone 'C', Meriel and Ken both winning two, as well. Kingfisher finished their season in style, with a 9 - 1 victory over the BBC Club, Meriel and Clive both recording trebles.

Clive has been Kingfisher's star player, with an impressive 93.75% win rate, but Ken with 81.82% is not too far behind. David is next, with 52.78%, closely followed by Meriel with 51.52%. Gill Bennett has not played since January but, along with Derek, makes up their squad of 6.

On the Doubles front, five of the final six sets were won, with three different combinations being played. Overall, Clive and Ken have the best record, winning 6 out of 7 (88.71%), although Clive and Gill have played together once, when they won.

Tidmarsh 'E' lead the next group of three teams, who are all on 24 points, having won four of the seven matches they have played since the last Newsletter. Their 7 - 3 victory over Springfield 'C' included 18 games that were won by the minimum two points, Bob Sunerton starting the ball rolling with his 5-11 13-11 6-11 11-9 12-10 victory over Tom Berryman and then kept up the pressure to win his first maximum, John Harland and Mike Bundy abetting with two wins apiece.

However, they then succumbed to a 9 - 1 defeat, away at Sonning C&P 'H', when Mike Bundy won their sole set. It was back to winning ways the following week, with a narrow 6 - 4 victory over Springfield 'D', despite a maximum from Springfield's Stephen Leggett, with Pete Sinclair and Isaac Davies both winning two and also combining to win the Doubles, Mike ensuring at least one point when he won the 9th set.

The next match produced another 6 - 4 score line, in Tidmarsh's favour, as they beat Reading FC 'C', thanks to Steve Andrews' 8th set win, over Wayne Alleyne, and Bob Sunerton's 9th set win, when he beat Harry Edwards 9-11 12-10 16-14 11-7. However, this was then followed by a 7 - 3 loss to Milestone 'C'. The final two matches were an 8 - 2 victory over the BBC Club, when Pete Sinclair and Steve Andrews both recorded maximums, and a 7 - 3 loss to Reading FC 'B' when Isaac Davies only won two sets, narrowly losing to Keith Greene 12-14 9-11 8-11, and Mike Bundy only won one, beating Keith 3-11 11-7 13-11 9-11 11-9.

Isaac Davies, who was drafted in to replace Lee Calcutt, played in 6 matches and ended the season on 83.33%, with Pete Sinclair slightly behind, on 79.17%, from 8 matches. The remaining team mates were closely matched, with everyone else recording over 40%.

On the Doubles front, Tidmarsh played a different combination in each of these seven matches, with only two successes. Overall, they played 14 different combinations, Pete Sinclair and Steve Andrews recording the best stats, with two wins out of two.

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Clive Gold	Kingfisher L	48	45	93.75
Florin Dimofte	Sonning Sports B	39	36	92.31
Laurence De Ste Croix	OLOP F	44	40	90.91
Kenneth Robb	Kingfisher L	33	27	81.82
Paul Brown	Reading FC B	48	39	81.25
Mike Casserley	Sonning C&P H	60	48	80.00
Peter Sinclair	Tidmarsh E	24	19	79.17
Derek Anderson	Reading FC C	59	45	76.27
Stephen Leggett	Springfield D	63	48	76.19
Simon Brookes	OLOP F	45	34	75.56
Joe Bull	Reading FC B	54	40	74.07

Springfield 'C' also had a seven match run-in, starting with a 7 - 3 defeat to Tidmarsh 'E', when Tom Berryman and Alan Goold each won one set, but then partnered up to beat John Harland and Bob Sunerton 9-11 11-3 11-7 18-20 17-15. A draw with their club mates from the 'D' team then followed, with doubles for Tom and Chris Speight (aka Spike) and a single for Rob Atack. Next up was a 7 - 3 victory over Reading FC 'C', when Chris was undefeated and Tom and Alan each lost once, followed by an 8 - 2 victory over Milestone 'C', with maximums for Rob and Chris, with James Regan beating Colin Phillips 9-11 11-7 8-11 11-4 12-10.

The BBC Club provided tougher opposition, before being beaten 6 - 4, Tom taking the 10th set to clinch both points, following good work from Chris who took the 9th set to record his maximum. In their penultimate match, against Sonning Sports 'B', which they lost 8 - 2, they came up against an inform Cris Reynolds and the match winning Florin Dimofte, with Rob and Alan only able to beat Mike Gautrey. However, their final match, against Reading FC 'B', was even more devastating, since Tom, Alan and James were unable to win a single set, losing 10 - 0, although Alan only just lost to Paul Brown 10-12 8-11 9-11.

Chris Speight leads the 'C' team's Averages, having played in 44 sets, with a win percentage of 68.18%, closely followed by Rob Atack (57.14%) and Tom Berryman (45.45%). Alan Goold is on 21.95%, just ahead of James Regan, on 20%.

On the Doubles front, four combinations were tried over these seven matches, resulting in three wins, each for a different combination. Overall, seven different partnerships have been tried, Chris Speight and Tom Berryman winning three of their five sets, although Alan Goold and Chris are undefeated, having played together once.

Sonning Sports 'B' ended the season in 7th place, a mid-table position they had held for most of the season. Their fixtures started with a tough match against OLOP 'F', who were gunning for revenge, having been beaten in the reverse fixture, and, by the narrowest of margins lost 6 - 4, Florin Dimofte beating Laurence de Ste Croix 11-9 10-12 11-9 11-7, in the first match of the evening, but subsequently losing to Simon Brookes in the 10th set, Mike Gautrey recording one win as he beat Andrew Adair. They had more joy in their next match, beating the BBC Club 6 - 4, Florin recording a maximum and both Michael Byrne and Sally James recording a singles win.

Sonning Sports 'B' then had a good 7 - 3 win over Sonning C&P 'G', Sally recording a maximum, to add to Cris's double and Mike Gautrey's single. However, this same combination was brought back to earth with a thump, the following week, when they were beaten 10 - 0 by Reading FC 'B'. Sonning C&P 'H' were next on the fixture list and both sides fielded their strongest teams, which resulted in a 5 - 5 draw, thanks to another maximum from Florin and a vital single from Sally, Florin and Sally also combining to win the Doubles. The final match was away to Springfield 'C', maximums from both Florin and Cris, along with a single for Mike, were enough to earn an 8 - 2 win.

Florin Dimofte has retained his ranking as their star player, playing in 13 matches, winning 8 PoMs, and recording a win rate of 92.31%. Cris Reynolds has the next best win rating, with 50%, followed by Sally James (45.24%), Mo Cole (22.22%), Michael Byrne (16.67%) and Mike Gautrey (14.29%).

On the Doubles front, four different pairings were played in these 6 matches, with only one loss. Overall, Florin and Sally won most sets, winning 5 out of 6, although Cris and Florin had the better stats, winning all 4 of the Doubles they played together. In fact Cris and Mo Cole were also undefeated, having played together once, as were Florin and Mike Gautrey.

Springfield 'D' had shown they were a force to be reckoned with, at one point occupying first place, until an injury to Richard Cartland left them with only three available players. However, they eventually managed to end their precipitous fall down the table, finally finishing in 8th place. They started their run-in with a 5 - 5 draw against their club mates in the 'C' team, Stephen Leggett recording a maximum, Colin Jones a single, Stephen and Colin also combining to win the Doubles. This was followed by a 6 - 4 defeat at Tidmarsh 'E', when Stephen recorded a further maximum but Colin was only able to beat Mike Bundy. Another 6 - 4 loss was recorded when Kingfisher 'L' came to play, with Stephen losing out to Ken Robb, so ending up with only a double, with Colin and Paul Martin only able to beat Derek Crombie.

The following week, against OLOP 'F', Stephen lost to Laurence de Ste Croix, so ending up with a double for the second week running, but a fine double from Colin, along with a single for Paul, rescued a point in a 5 - 5 draw. The next match, against Sonning C&P 'G', resulted in a further 5 - 5 draw, this time Jamie Legg restricting Stephen to a double, by winning the 10th set. The final match of the season was an 8 - 2 defeat by Sonning C&P 'H', both wins courtesy of Stephen, who was denied his treble when he lost his opening set to Gerry Bacon.

Stephen Leggett has retained his star status, with a 76.19% win rate, followed by Colin Jones with 40.32% and Paul Martin with 24.56%. Richard Cartland's season ended in October, due to injury, after playing five of the first six matches, leaving him with a win rate of 53.33%.

On the Doubles front, two combinations were played over these six matches, with two wins, one for each combination. Overall, the combination with most wins is Colin and Stephen, with 4 wins from 12 sets, although Stephen has a better win percentage when playing with either Paul or Richard, winning one in every two sets played.

Reading FC 'C' had seven fixtures to fulfil, starting off with an intra-club match against their 'B' team, which they lost 8 - 2, Wayne Alleyne and Derek Anderson both taking the scalp of Keith Greene. The following week, they lost 7 - 3 to Springfield 'C', Wayne winning two and also partnering Harry Edwards to a Doubles win. They were then visited by Tidmarsh 'E', who took both points in a feisty 6 - 4 win, Derek and Wayne kept Reading FC 'C' in the hunt by winning the Doubles 18-16 11-8 10-12 11-6, before Steve Andrews defeated Wayne in the 8th set and Bob Sunerton beat Harry 9-11 12-10 16-14 11-7, in the 9th set, to take an unassailable lead. Reading FC 'C' then lost 6 - 4 away to Kingfisher 'L', Wayne and Derek each winning two, before being beaten 8 - 2 by OLOP 'F', Derek recording their only two wins when defeating Laurence de Ste Croix and Andrew Adair.

After 5 consecutive defeats, you might think this was the end. However, looking back at the first half of the season, this exact same sequence of losses occurred, before Reading FC 'C' bounced back with 5 consecutive wins of their own. And, in their next match against Sonning C&P 'G' history repeated itself, with Derek recording a maximum and Wayne a double, Harry and Wayne also winning the Doubles.

The final match was against Sonning C&P 'H' and although Reading FC 'C' had nothing to play for, Sonning C&P 'H' needed a draw or a win to take the runners-up spot. A titanic tussle thus ensued, with 19 of the 42 games played being won by the minimum two points, notable sets being Wayne's 14-12 9-11 9-11 11-9 11-7 win over Mike Casserley and Harry and Wayne's 12-14 11-9 13-11 13-11 Doubles win over Julian James and Gerry Bacon, the final match score ending 8 - 2 to Reading FC 'C'.

Derek Anderson is the 'C' team's star, with a win rate of 76.27%, followed by Wayne Alleyne with 50.85% and then Harry Edwards on 11.29%. Harry, having played 62 sets, is in a select group of players who have played over 60 sets, this season.

On the Doubles front, two combinations were tried, with Harry and Wayne winning both their sets, while Derek and Wayne only won one of their four sets. Overall, Derek and Wayne are top of the Averages, even taking into account the recent results, by dint of winning more sets, although it should be noted that Harry and Wayne are undefeated, with



JAMIE LEGG OF SCP 'G'



MIKEY LEGG OF SCP 'G'

3 wins from 3.

The first match in **Sonning C&P 'G's** remaining fixtures was a visit by Kingfisher 'L' who left with both points, following a 7 - 3 win, despite the best efforts of Jamie Legg who won two and Oliver Sayer, who won one. The next match was against OLOP 'F', who also ran out 7 - 3 winners, when Mikey Legg, Jamie and Marko Madzar could only win one set each, although Mikey came close to a second win, before losing to Simon Brookes 12-14 12-10 12-14 8-11.

Sonning C&P 'G' then travelled to Sonning Sports 'B' where they again lost 7 - 3, Marko Madzar beating Mike Gautrey, while Mikey Legg defeated both Cris Reynolds and Mike Gautrey. The 'G' team then hosted their club mates from the 'H' team, narrowly losing 6 - 4, in a closely fought encounter, as one would expect, with 15 of the 40 games being won by the minimum two points. Oliver Sayer beat Julian James 11-6 10-12 10-12 11-7 12-10, Marko beat Mike Casserley 7-11 13-11 12-10 13-11 and also won against Gerry Bacon, while Oliver and Nick Palmer won the Doubles.

Next up was a visit to Springfield 'D', which resulted in a 5 - 5 draw, thanks to two wins apiece, for Mikey and Jamie, and one win for Jim McClure, who defeated Paul Martin. The final match was against Reading FC 'C', where the 'G' team again lost by the narrowest of margins, being beaten 6 - 4, Jamie winning two while Nick Palmer and Mikey each won one, Derek Anderson's 11-9 12-10 10-12 8-11 11-8 victory over Mikey proving to be a crucial winner.

Oliver Sayer heads up the 'G' team's averages, with 70% from 30 sets, followed by Jamie Legg (54.55%), Marko Madzar (51.43%), Mikey Legg (50%), Jim McClure (22.22%) and Nick Palmer (12.5%).

On the Doubles front, Sonning C&P 'G' continued their habit of shuffling the pack, selecting a different pairing for each match, a tactic that was not too successful, since Oliver Sayer and Nick Palmer were the only winning combination. Overall, the Oliver and Nick pairing is also the most effective, since they have won two out of the four Doubles in which they have played.

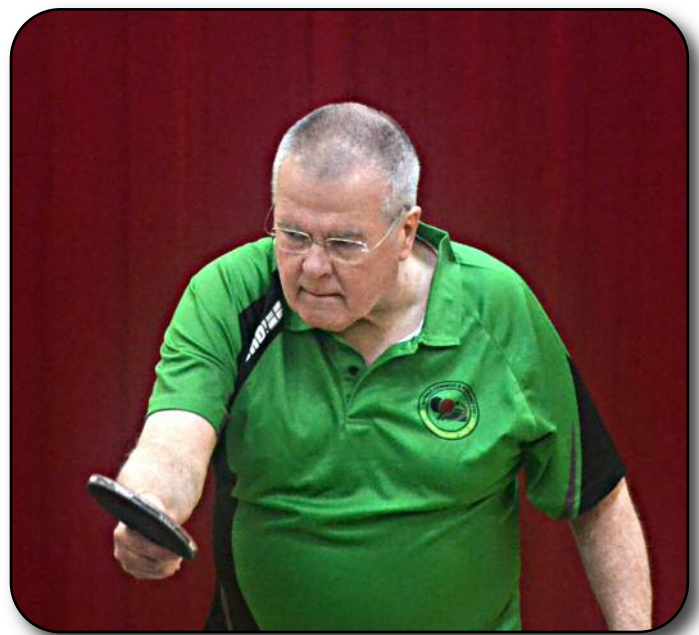
The **BBC Club** started the final leg of this season's campaign with an away excursion to Milestone 'C', where they

lost 6 - 4, Jack Mitchell winning two, Phil Peat one and John Lancashire one. However, it was a very tightly contested encounter, with a number of sets on a knife-edge, and, on another day, Jack could have left with a treble and John could have left with a double. They then entertained Sonning Sports 'B', with the same end result, a 6 - 4 loss, with John Scott and Dave Pearson both winning twice. A visit from Reading FC 'B' was next, which ended in an 8 - 2 defeat, with singles wins for Dave Pearson and Jack Mitchell. Another 8 - 2 defeat was recorded, after the visit of Tidmarsh 'E', Jack Mitchell and John Lancashire both defeating Bob Sunerton.

Springfield 'C' then played host, just winning 6 - 4, Jack Mitchell recording two wins while John Scott and John Lancashire each recorded one win, the Doubles proving crucial, as Jack Mitchell and John Scott pushed Chris Speight and Tom Berryman all the way, before losing 9-11 8-11 8-11. The final fixture was an away trip to Kingfisher 'L', where Dave Pearson beat David O'Keeffe to record BBC's only win in a 9 - 1 defeat.

John Scott has been the star for the BBC Club, playing in 12 matches and winning 63.89% of his sets, followed by Jack Mitchell (45.45%), Dave Pearson (35.90%), Phil Peat (25.64%), John Lancashire (21.88%) and Mojtaba Safavi (11.11%).

On the Doubles front, a different partnership was tried in each match, but this strategy resulted in no wins. Overall,



JIM McCLURE OF SCP 'G'

with three wins out of four, Dave Pearson and John Scott are their best Doubles pairing.

Milestone 'C' won for the first time this season, a 6 - 4 victory over the BBC Club, thanks to a John Evans treble, a Tony Hayden double, which included an 11-9 11-4 11-13 9-11 13-11 win over John Lancashire, and the Doubles, Tony partnering John to an 11-8 12-10 2-11 12-10 victory. However, the sweet taste of success ended all too soon, as they were beaten 10 - 0 the following week, by Reading FC 'B', in a straight sets win. Springfield 'C' were the next visitors and they left with both points, after winning 8 - 2, Tony Hayden recording one win and Igor Grbic winning for the first time this

season, beating James Regan 11-9 6-11 9-11 13-11 14-12.

Milestone 'C' then surprised Tidmarsh 'E', being able to field their strongest side for the first time this season, winning 7 - 3 to record only their second victory, John winning all three, Carl Edlind winning two and Tony winning one. Kingfisher 'L' were the next visitors, winning 8 - 2, with John Evans beating Meriel Low and Ken Robb, before Milestone travelled to OLOP 'F', for the final match of the season, where they lost 8 - 2, Tony beating Hari Laddunuri and John beating Mariusz Paluszkiwicz.

With a win rate of 71.43%, John Evans is Milestone's

strongest player, Carl Edlind following on with 47.62%, then Tony Hayden on 25%. Milestone's two new recruits, Igor Grbic and Colin Phillips, both ended the season with one win apiece.

On the Doubles front, three combinations were tried, with only the Tony Hayden and John Evans partnership bearing any fruit. Overall, Tony and John have had the greatest success, with three wins out of 9, but Tony and Carl are undefeated, with one win from the one time they have played together



YOUTH DIVISION

by Emma Barraclough

March 31st was the final evening this season for the Youth Division. With 38 players (the highest number for a while) and good attendance we have seen some great play in a good atmosphere. The half-term week in February (17th) saw the annual Alan Dines Memorial Handicap Tournament run as it has been since its inception by Adam McTiernan; our thanks as always to him. Adam's full report is on the RDTTA website but in brief the tournament was attended by 21 players. The semi-finals were between Bill Hayden and Dylan Cook (won by Bill Hayden 11-5, 8-11, 13-11) and Benedict Carless and Prakhar Gandhi (won by Benedict Carless 11-9, 11-9). The final between Bill Hayden and Benedict Carless was won by Bill 11-6, 11-5. Many congratulations to all concerned.



Match play resumed on February 24th in the sixth match since the split into two divisions. In Division One there were wins for the Panthers (6 - 4 against the Tigers), the Spartans (8 - 2 against the Leopards) and the Lions (6 - 4 against the Raiders). Division Two saw a comprehensive win for the Jaguars against the Trojans (10 - 0) and wins also for both Pumas and Attackers. The next evening of play on March 3rd saw a comprehensive win for the Panthers against the Leopards (9 - 1) while the other two matches in the Division were much closer with the Spartans defeating the Lions (6 - 4) and the Raiders and Tigers drawing (5 - 5). Division

Two also saw some close play with a win for the Pumas against the Avengers (7 - 3) with three wins for Arran Reeve. The Attackers defeated the Trojans (6 - 4) while the Strikers defeated the Jaguars (6 - 4) with Mo Cook winning all three games

March 10th saw wins for the Spartans (10 - 0 against the Raiders), the Leopards against the Tigers (8 - 2) and the Lions against the Panthers 6 - 4 in Division One. Division Two saw wins for the Strikers against the Trojans with three wins for Harry Bullock. The Jaguars defeated the Avengers 6 - 4 with three wins for Keyan Ghods and the Pumas defeated the Attackers 7 - 3. The following week saw strong play again from the teams topping the First Division with Panthers defeating the Raiders 7 - 3, the Lions defeating the Leopards 9 - 1 and the Spartans defeating the Tigers 8 - 2. Division Two saw some closer play with a draw between Jaguars and Attackers, a victory for the Strikers against the Avengers 7 - 3 and the Pumas against the Trojans also 7 - 3.

The final evening of match play was March 24th. An evening of close play in Division One saw final wins for the Lions, Panthers and Leopards while in Division Two there were wins for the Avengers, Pumas and Attackers. With all matches complete the Division ended with the Lions in third place with 51

points, Panthers in second place with 66 points and Spartans as Champions with 77 points. In Division Two the Attackers made third place with 52 points, the Jaguars made second with 55 points and the Pumas ended as champions with 63 points. A great season's play.

We ended on March 31st with a social evening in which a number of parents joined us for some social play and then food and presentations. We look forward to resuming in September and many thanks as always to Wendy Porter for her usual energy and commitment.

Div One Team Placings

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Spartans	10	9	0	1	77	23	77
2 Panthers	10	7	1	2	66	34	66
3 Lions	10	5	2	3	51	48	51
4 Raiders	10	2	2	6	39	60	39
5 Leopards	10	3	2	5	39	61	39
6 Tigers	10	0	1	9	27	73	27

AVERAGES (Div 1)

Player	P	W	%
Johnson Xu	27	27	100.00%
Ralph Philips	21	17	80.95%
Rayaan Asghar	27	21	77.78%
Benedict Carless	27	18	66.67%
Nathan Munns	30	19	63.33%
Bill Hayden	18	11	61.11%
Adam Winterbottom	18	11	61.11%

AVERAGES (Div 2)

Player	P	W	%
Mo Cook	23	21	91.30%
Arran Reeve	23	17	73.91%
Alexandra Reeve	16	11	68.75%
Rishabh Ramesha	27	17	62.96%
Sean Gleeson	17	10	58.82%
Lukas Dahmann	24	14	58.33%
Dev Goyal	21	12	57.14%

Div Two Team Placings

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Pumas	10	9	0	1	63	34	63
2 Jaguars	10	5	1	4	55	41	55
3 Attackers	10	5	2	3	52	47	52
4 Strikers	10	5	2	3	51	46	51
5 Avengers	10	3	1	6	45	53	45
6 Trojans	10	0	0	10	26	71	26

The *READING* MASTERS

The Junior and Senior events of the Reading Masters took place on Saturday 22nd April at the Kingfisher Club.

The Senior contest was a battle for supremacy between ten of the top players in Reading. In the end, top seed Daniel Moses succeeded in defeating Martin Adams in a thrilling match.

The Junior equivalent saw Yonatan Slobodskoy defeat his long-time OLOP team mate Harry Munro.

Wendy Porter organized the tournament - and Didier Garçon was there to take photographs and videos.

Here are links to videos of the two finals. More videos and many of Didier's still photos will appear in a subsequent Newsletter.



SENIOR SINGLES FINAL



JUNIOR SINGLES FINAL