

December 2016

**READING
& DISTRICT
TABLE TENNIS
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER**

Editor: **DEREK WAVELL**



Martin Adams - at the Berks Closed.
All photos and videos are by Didier Garçon.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION...

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Two happy pieces of Christmas magic. Nigel Maltby materialized like a Christmas fairy with a Div 1 prose symphony under his wing to help out Mark Banks. And Martin Wetherell (Div 5 DFS struck down with flu) - was blessed too, managing to deliver a 10-pound bundle of joy for Christmas.

Ray Webb has some special Christmas presents for us this time - proper descriptions of the two 'special competitions' as they developed - the triumphs and surprises of the Team Handicap and Lower Divisions Knockout Cup.

We've also got a tournament - the Berkshire Closed - plus lots of photos taken by Didier Garçon - and videos too!

Merry Christmas to all!

Derek



Notes from our Chairman

by Derek Harrison

Hello everyone and a Merry Christmas to you all but more importantly a Happy and Healthy 2017

On the playing front I have to remind you that the Committee is run by volunteers who have to fit in their roles alongside their private lives and other commitments. With regard the Divisional Fixture Secretaries, please be patient



while waiting for the match results for your Division to be updated onto our website. I ask that you do not ring or send an email to the D F S to ask why a particular result has not yet appeared. In my experience any number of things could cause a delay - it could be that the card was not filled in correctly or was not received straight away.

Anyway enjoy your Table Tennis, win or lose, because playing the game is what it is all about.

Ed's Adds

by Derek Wavell

To endorse our Chairman's message - let's keep up the sporting spirit, in life as well as on the table! Derek Harrison is, of course, a long-standing Fixtures Secretary himself - and one with a fantastic record for entering every result the same day he gets it.

Handbook update - our Division One DFS Mark Banks has a new email address: MarkBanks@pshgroup.co.uk

The Individual Handicap tournament is being held later

than usual this season - on 21st January - by Wendy Porter, who has some new ideas on enrolling. See the box below on this page.

The **Reading Closed Championships** will be held on the two days of **Saturday 11th Feb** (Seniors/Vets events at Blue Coat School) and **Sunday 12th February** (Junior events, at Cippenham TTC).

Closing date for entries: 30th Jan.

See the [Reading Closed](#) page on our web site for details.



Individual Handicap - Reading - 2017

Hi All,

This year's Individual Handicap will be held at Kingfisher table tennis club on Saturday 21st January 2017.

I have tried something new this year (as bits of paper get lost and entry can be forgotten) - entries will be via a doodle poll, on line. If anyone does not have access to a computer, they can email me directly and I will enter their name on the poll.

It is simple to use, just click on the following link, enter your name and TTE membership number, tick the box (to give a green tick) then **Save**.

<http://doodle.com/poll/77pddng9fx7z86c9>

Closing date for entries is Friday 30th December.

There are already 30 entries (only 10 spaces left), so please don't hesitate to get yours in.

Here's looking forward to a good tournament

Details of the event are as follows.....

- Maximum of 40 players
- Group sessions will start at 09:30 (may be a second group session, depending on entries)
- Knock outs will follow the groups, ending with the final in the afternoon
- Players will have at least 3 sets
- Regulation 2 as set out in the Association Handbook (P14) applies
- Please enter your Full Name and TTE number, then tick the box before saving.

I will email start times nearer the competition date.

Any problems with registration, or on the day, please contact me

Wendy Porter

wendyasporter@gmail.com

07745331743


THE BERKSHIRE CLOSED


by Derek Wavell

MENS SINGLES FINAL - MARTIN ADAMS v DANIEL MOSES



The turnout for the Berkshire Closed in November was rather low but the quality was high. The tournament was held over the weekend of 19th-20th November, organized by **Allan Bruton**.

Photographs are by Didier Garçon - some of them on this page - but most are scattered throughout the Newsletter, in the reports of the players' own Divisions. And you can see videos of five of the finals - by clicking on this symbol when you see it: 

See the separate panel for the table of winners. The victor in the **men's singles** was **Daniel Moses**, who beat **Martin Adams** in the final (see photo above and  video). The other semi-finalists were **Hari Gehlot** and **Sam Ricks**.



JENNY TANNER

Ladies Singles

From an initial 8 entries only, the ladies started with 2 groups of 4 but with one dropping out at the start. The top 2 in each group went through to contest the semi's with **Liz Bookman** facing **Celia Hooker** and **Sue Purton** facing **Wendy Porter**. Liz and Sue came through to the final which was a straight sets victory to Liz Bookman but not without some opposition from Sue.

In the **veteran's singles**, The anticipated top 8 players fought their way to the quarter finals with Messrs. **Adams, Cole, Baker** and **Gehlot** then proceeding to the semi's. Both semi's were hard fought but the top 2 seeds **Martin Adams** and **Hari Gehlot** won through to contest the final. This was a very entertaining final and a 1-0 1-1 2-1 2-2 through to the fifth and final game match where Hari Gehlot managed to seal the last leg by the minimum 2 points necessary, a good advert for any age group of table tennis.






SUE PURTON

WENDY PORTER

WYNNE PENNY

LIZ BOOKMAN

THE WINNERS

Men's Singles		Winner	Daniel Moses	Runner up	Martin Adams
Ladies Singles		Winner	Liz Bookman	Runner up	Sue Purton
Veterans Singles		Winner	Hari Gehlot	Runner up	Martin Adams
Graded Singles		Winner	Wendy Porter	Runner up	Zoltan Kelemen
Under 21		Winner	Sam Ricks	Runner up	Yonatan Slobodskoy
Mixed Doubles		Winners	Daniel Moses & Wendy Porter	Runners up	Martin Adams & Gwynne Penny Hari Gehlot & Liz Bookman
Men's Doubles		Winners	Hari Gehlot & Mark Banks	Runners up	Martin Adams & Ian Cole
Ladies Doubles		Winners	Liz Bookman and Louise Forster	Runners up	Celia Hooker and Jenny Tanner

Graded Singles

A smaller entry than the previous year and it didn't help matters that 2 dropped out on the day, nevertheless the remaining 10 entrants did battle to reach the semi-finals, there were some well fought matches in these early group stages with some 5-game sets and others 4 games so some well contested matches.

The semi's saw **Celia Hooker** take on **Zoltan Kelemen** and **Tamir Slobodskoy** face **Wendy Porter**. The Hooker / Kelemen semi was a nip and tuck affair through to the fifth game when suddenly Zoltan surged ahead to take himself to the final where he faced Wendy Porter who had a straight sets victory over Tamir. The final was a good match but Wendy proved to be just too strong for Zoltan.

Mens Doubles

There were 3 groups of 3 pairs in this competition, small in numbers but not in ability. As there were only 3 groups the final was contested as a group with the 3 group winners going through. **The winners were Martin Adams and Ian Cole, Steve Miller and Antony Baker and Hari Gehlot and Mark Banks.** In the final group the Gehlot / Banks pairing proved to be too strong for both other pairs so they were the overall winners with Adams / Cole in second place.

Mixed Doubles

This final event saw 8 pairs from an original entry of nine take to the battlefield in 3 groups but as with the men's doubles the



SAM RICKS



ALLAN BRUTON

IAN COLE

MARTIN ADAMS

3



IAN WU



LIZ BOOKMAN

group winners would contest a final group of 3. This event is usually a great leveller and in this case was indeed so. The final three pairs were **Wendy Porter/Daniel Moses, Gwynne Penny/Martin Adams and Liz Bookman/ Hari Gehlot.** Overall this was a well fought final group with well-matched pairs giving those who stayed on to see the final events some good table tennis to watch but in the end **the winners and retaining their 2015/2016 title were Wendy Porter and Daniel Moses.**

Ladies Doubles

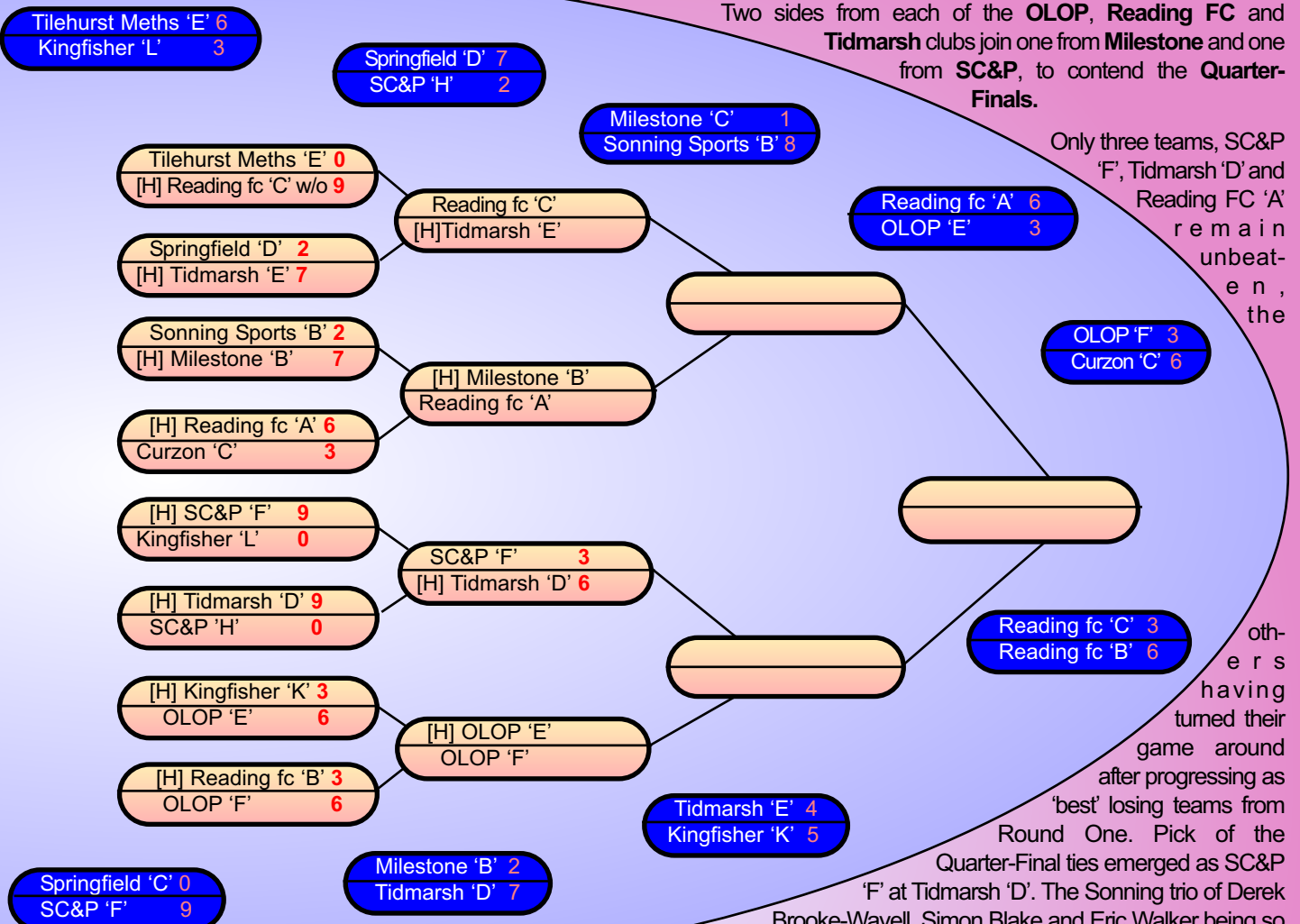
This was a small but very competitive band who played in one group of 4, so all played all and as a category, overall, this was probably the most hard fought and evenly matched competition of the day. **The winners were Liz Bookman and Louise Forster beating Celia Hooker and Jenny Tanner into second place.** There was some great table tennis from these ladies.

Allan Bruton

Lower Divisions KO Cup 2016-17

organised by Ray Webb

Two sides from each of the OLOP, Reading FC and Tidmarsh clubs join one from Milestone and one from SC&P, to contend the Quarter-Finals.



Only three teams, SC&P 'F', Tidmarsh 'D' and Reading FC 'A' remain unbeaten, the

others having turned their game around after progressing as 'best' losing teams from Round One. Pick of the Quarter-Final ties emerged as SC&P

'F' at Tidmarsh 'D'. The Sonning trio of Derek Brooke-Wavell, Simon Blake and Eric Walker being so far all unbeaten, having despatched Springfield 'C' 9 - 0 in Round One, and by the same score, Kingfisher 'L' in Round Two, despite the Kingfisher pairing of Clive Gold and Meriel Low losing narrowly 11-9 in the third game in two of their three sets played. Tidmarsh 'D' also come into the match on the back of a 9 - 0 victory helped no doubt by the acquisition of last season's division two player Andy Stephens.

Despite only a 33% doubles average in the league, current holders Reading FC 'A' have upped their game in defence of the trophy, beating OLOP 'E' 6 - 3 and then Curzon 'C' also 6 - 3. Against OLOP Jazz Dhillon / Mark Edwards won all three sets, whereas against Curzon it was two sets apiece from each pair. Reading now face Milestone 'B', who having lost to Tidmarsh 'D' in Round One, then defeated Sonning Sports 'B' 7 - 2 in a tight match where four of Milestone's winning sets required a third game decider. Sachin Mundra / Gareth Aldridge completing a maximum for Milestone.

OLOP 'F' travel to OLOP 'E' with both teams progressing from Round Two on the back of 6 - 3 victories, having both lost 6 - 3 in Round One. The 'E' team beaten initially by Reading FC 'A' brought in Pradeep Desh for the tie against Kingfisher 'K' and he starred by contributing in five of the winning sets. The 'F' team having lost to Curzon 'C' whose three pairings from John Walker, Linda King and Carine Bey each won two sets, then defeated Reading FC 'B'. In the Reading FC match, OLOP opted to use four players, and it was the Laurence de Ste Croix / Andrew Adair pair who completed a fine maximum.

The final match pitches Reading FC 'C' against Tidmarsh 'E'. Reading lost 6 - 3 to their 'B' team club mates in Round One where five of the six sets lost required a deciding third game. They progress at the expense of Tilehurst Methodists 'E' who unfortunately, with only three players to call upon, could not muster a team to fulfil the fixture. Tilehurst having earlier beaten Kingfisher 'L', with Steve Wood / Steve Dopson recording a maximum. Despite a Mike Bundy / John Harland maximum, Tidmarsh lost a close 5 - 4 encounter with Kingfisher 'K' in Round One. Squad rotation brought what looked, on paper, like a convincing 7 - 2 win over Springfield 'D' in Round Two where only one set required a third game. This time Mike Bundy / Steve Andrews recording the maximum. Springfield had earlier seen off SC&P 'H', with the Colin Jones / Paul Martin pair unbeaten.

NB - on the chart, blue lozenges show old results from Round One..





DIVISION ONE

by Nigel Maltby

With Mark Banks away due to a family bereavement I am happy to step in to provide this brief summary of how Division 1 is progressing so far.

Our Lady of Peace 'A' lead the way. Maximums from Eduard Caliman, Ian Cole and Krasimir Ivanov saw them stroll to victory at Kingfisher 'D' 10 - 0. Danny Moses returned to action for the intra-club derby against Our Lady of Peace 'B' and his maximum alongside that of Krasimir Ivanov saw them win 8 - 2. Daniel Moses' fine treble helped them towards a 7 - 3 victory over Kingfisher 'B', Moses beating Hari Gehlot 11-7 11-9 11-9. They also beat YMCA 9 - 1 to complete a good recent run since their shock 4 - 6 defeat to Sonning Common & Peppard 'A'.

Kingfisher 'A' are hot on the heels of OLOP 'A' with two matches in hand. Martin Adams, Mark Banks and Justin Mead all returned unbeaten from their visit to a two-man YMCA team as they ran out 10 - 0 winners. They beat Our Lady of Peace 'B' 7 - 3, Martin Adams, Justin Mead and Martin Gunn all just too good for OLOP's junior pairing of Yonatan Slobodskoy and Harry Munro. However Martin Gunn was made to fight all the way before beating Yonatan 10-12 11-7 6-11 11-5 11-6. Martin heads the Division 1 averages table with 17 wins from 17 (100%) – well done Martin, can you maintain it?

Wednesday 25th January is the date where the title is likely to be won or lost when OLOP 'A' face Kingfisher 'A'. OLOP must win; if Kingfisher get a draw it will probably be enough for them.

Kingfisher 'B' are third. Dmitry Khakhamov, Hari Gehlot and Richard Fifield beat a two man Sonning Common & Peppard 'B' side 10 - 0. They beat Tidmarsh 'A' 7 - 3, Philip Zheng with an impressive maximum, but lost 3 - 7 to Our Lady of Peace 'A' to effectively end any hopes they may have had of the championship. Hari Gehlot's comfortable maximum steered them to a 7 - 3 win over Kingfisher 'D',



HARI GEHLOT (WENDY PORTER BEHIND) Dmitry and Richard with two wins each in support.

Next up are **Kingfisher 'C'**. They lost 4 - 6 to Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' where Andrew Parker and Steve Murgatroyd both won twice, and benefitted from a 10 - 0 walkover against YMCA before earning a 7 - 3 win against Tidmarsh 'A'. At that fixture, Marco Essomba, Andrew Parker and Steve Murgatroyd all won twice, with wins over Tony Baker and Duncan Groves. Andrew has an impressive average of 75% to date and with Marco and Tony Reynolds also on 70%+ they will be keen to maintain their top half place.



Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' have some serious catch-up matches to be played, but none the less are nicely placed in mid-table. A Gary Morgan treble and wins by Jason Roberts and Joe Barraclough saw a 6 - 4 win at Kingfisher 'C', Roberts beating Stuart Williams 10-12 8-11 11-7 11-9 14-12 while Joe also beat Williams in 5 games 7-11 11-8 11-5 9-11 11-9 and Gary sealing the match by

		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Kingfisher A	9	7	2	0	66	24	16
2	OLOP A	9	7	1	1	66	24	15
3	Kingfisher B	8	6	0	2	55	25	12
4	Kingfisher C	9	5	1	3	59	31	11
5	OLOP B	7	4	0	3	41	29	8
6	SC&P A	7	4	0	3	33	37	8
7	Tidmarsh A	8	3	0	5	37	43	6
8	Kingfisher D	9	3	0	6	32	58	6
9	YMCA	9	1	0	8	20	70	2
10	SC&P B	9	0	0	9	11	79	0

beating Steve Murgatroyd 11-9 11-5 11-0 in the last. Gary Morgan has an impressive average of 76% while both Thomas Perkins and Joe Barraclough have some wins to their name and can expect several more come the new year now they've settled in to the rigours of Division 1.

Our Lady of Peace 'B' young duo of Harry Munro and Yonatan Slobodskoy continue to impress and improve at frightening pace (Yonatan 72%, Harry 62%). A battling performance from the pair still saw them lose 7 - 3 against title challengers Kingfisher 'A' but it won't be long before they are right up there with their Kingfisher rivals, not to mention their OLOP 'A' club mates. Hat tricks from Harry and Yonatan saw them win 9 - 1 against Sonning Common & Peppard 'B', reserve Felix Thomis earning two excellent wins against



RICHARD FIFIIELD

Brian Meheux and Nigel Maltby as well as running Jeremy Willis close before losing a thriller 3-11 11-7 11-8 10-12 13-15.

Kingfisher 'D' are comfortably placed with three wins to their credit. Calin Scacia and Rob Gladstone both earned hard fought maximums as they beat bottom side Sonning Common & Peppard 'B' while that wily old fox Trevor Organ was all too much for me, winning 5-11 12-10 11-6 11-8 for his single. Simon Vine managed a fine double but it wasn't enough to save them from a derby 3 - 7 defeat to Kingfisher 'B'. The team should have enough about them to avoid being dragged any closer to the bottom two.

Although **Tidmarsh 'A'** are only a couple of points ahead

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	PL	W	%
Martin Gunn	Kingfisher A	20	19	95.00
Daniel Moses	OLOP A	20	19	95.00
Simon Vine	Kingfisher D	12	11	91.67
Martin Adams	Kingfisher A	22	19	86.36
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher B	23	18	78.26
Philip Zeng	Kingfisher B	18	14	77.78
Gary Morgan	SC&P A	20	15	75.00
Yonatan Slobodskoy	OLOP B	18	13	72.22
Marco Essomba	Kingfisher C	20	14	70.00
Tony Reynolds	Kingfisher C	13	9	69.23
Ian Cole	OLOP A	18	12	66.67
Krasimir Ivanov	OLOP A	20	13	65.00
Eduard Caliman	OLOP A	17	11	64.71



DANNY RICKS OF TIDMARSH 'A' v DANNY MOSES OF OLOP 'A'



JOE BARRACLOUGH - WITH YONATAN SLOBODSKOY BEHIND

of the drop zone they are light years ahead in terms of team strength and with matches in hand should very soon be back where they should be i.e. challenging for a top half place. Their trio of Antony Baker, Danny Ricks and Csaba Pall easily defeated Sonning Common & Peppard 'B' 10 - 0. A fine victory for Sam Ricks over Hari Gehlot 11-6 11-9 9-11 6-11 11-8 still saw them lose 7 - 3 to Kingfisher 'B'. Sam Ricks's fine treble proved in vain as they lost 3 - 7 at Kingfisher 'C', Sam beating Marco Essomba in his opener 11-7 11-8 13-11.

YMCA have struggled with injury and illness, leaving regular pair Pete Bradley and Neil Hurford as their only available players for much of the past few weeks. Even with a fit side they could still have struggled to avoid the bottom two.

Dave Halfpenny came closest to getting a win against Kingfisher 'A' but eventually lost out 11-9 6-11 11-8 6-11 6-11 to Justin Mead in their 10 - 0 loss. A 0 - 10 concession against Kingfisher 'C' followed and a 1 - 9 defeat by Our Lady of Peace 'A' saw Neil Hurford's win over Eduard



ANTHONY BAKER OF TIDMARSH A

Caliman as the only consolation for the depleted YMCA team.

In the battle at the bottom against Sonning Common & Peppard 'B', YM clinched a 6 - 4 win thanks to a comfortable Neil Hurford treble and a vital opening win by Pete Bradley over Jeremy Willis 2-11 16-14 9-11 11-6 11-8. Pete also beat Nigel Maltby and the pair teamed up to win the decisive doubles set comfortably.

Two points finally on the board and with hopefully Dave Streak, Dave Gilham and Dave Halfpenny back fit in the new year it may not all be doom and gloom on the table in 2017.

There has never really been any doubt that **Sonning Common & Peppard 'B'** would finish bottom and this scenario was further enhanced by a recent 4 - 6 defeat by YMCA. Brian Meheux did manage an excellent 11-9 13-11 11-9 win over Pete Bradley and Nigel Maltby beat Dave Gilham for his first win of the season, however Jeremy's



TREVOR ORGAN

early loss to Pete Bradley eventually proved crucial in a match where they possibly deserved a point (bit of bias there!). 0 - 10 defeats at Tidmarsh 'A' and Kingfisher 'B' preceded this match. Jeremy Willis and Brian Meheux both earning good victories over Trevor Organ in a defeat against Kingfisher 'D', while Brian beat Trevor in a thriller 11-9 11-7 9-11 8-11 13-11. Playing against fellow promoted side Our Lady of Peace 'B' proved no easier as they lost 1 - 9.

With Simon Berry hopefully in a position to be tempted out in the new year there are one or two opportunities for points before season's end, however Corals stopped taking my bets on relegation back to Division 2 ages ago!

Hopefully Mark will be back to report in his usual style next time. In the meantime enjoy Christmas and come back refreshed and raring to go in the New Year.



STEVE MILLER



DIVISION TWO

by Barry Carter

Well we have reached the halfway stage of the season and it is currently looking a Kingfisher two-horse race as their 'F' team lead their 'G' team by two points; then there is a gap to Curzon Club 'A' in third; then four points to Sonning C & P 'E' in fourth. The division from 5th to 11th is close with only six points separating all the teams. I am pleased to see that we are completely up to date with matches! I think that is the first time in all my years as a DFS that this has occurred, so well done to all the captains out there for getting the matches played on time.



Kingfisher 'F' are looking a very good bet for one of the promotion slots and the return match with Kingfisher 'G' will determine who will be champions. Kingfisher 'F' have won three of their four matches since the last newsletter. Two of the wins were against Pangbourne WMC 'A' and Tilehurst Meths 'A' but by far the most significant was the narrow 6 - 4 win over their title rivals, Kingfisher 'G'. There were two wins apiece for Nigel Keedy and Ivor Hardman, whilst Allan Bruton chipped in with a vital single. They also managed to avoid defeat to third-placed Curzon Club 'A' as they battled to a 5 - 5 draw.

Team Stat: Only team with a 100% home record

Player Stat:

Allan Bruton Allan has joint most braces in a match (5)

Nigel Keedy Nigel has the most 'man of the match' awards (5)

Rick Leachman Rick has joint most braces in a match (5)

Ivor Hardman 11 of Ivor's 16 wins have been 3 - 0

Kingfisher 'G' have continued to perform well and are in with a good chance of making it back-to-back promotions. Kingfisher 'G' have won four out of the five matches in the second quarter and still find themselves two points adrift of the leaders. The four wins were emphatic with a 9 - 1 victory over Tidmarsh 'B' and three 8 - 2 victories over Sonning C & P 'C', Kingfisher 'E' and Sonning C & P 'E'. In the five matches David Joyce has picked up 12 wins, Sagar Sawant and Steve Ng 11 wins. The only blot on the landscape was the 4 - 6 defeat to Kingfisher 'F'.

Team Stat: Have won 8 - 2 the most times (4)

Player Stat:

David Joyce Most 3 - 2 wins (6)

Melvyn Lovegrove Has yet to win any set by the 3 - 0 scoreline

Sagar Sawant All of Sagar's five maximums have been away

Steve Ng Most 3 - 0 wins (12)

Curzon Club 'A' are third on fourteen points and will battle with Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' for that spot as I feel the top two have got too much of a head start. Curzon Club 'A' have won three, drawn one and lost one of their second quarter matches and have found themselves three points off the promotion pace. The most impressive result was the 5 - 5 draw gained against the leaders, Kingfisher 'F' as Jon Willis and John Willcocks both picked up braces and Nick Lean added the extra set. The three wins were against Kingfisher 'E' (7 - 3) as Jon & John picked up maximums. There were then two 6 - 4 wins over Tidmarsh 'B' and a brace from Nick Lean helped them to the one over Sonning C & P 'D'.

		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Kingfisher F	10	9	1	0	67	33	19
2	Kingfisher G	10	8	1	1	70	30	17
3	Curzon Club A	10	6	2	2	54	46	14
4	SC&P E	10	6	1	3	55	45	13
5	Tidmarsh B	10	4	1	5	53	47	9
6	OLOP C	10	3	3	4	48	52	9
7	SC&P D	10	4	1	5	42	58	9
8	SC&P C	10	3	1	6	45	55	7
9	Pangbourne WMC A	10	2	1	7	42	58	5
10	Kingfisher E	10	2	1	7	39	61	5
11	Tilehurst Meths A	10	1	1	8	35	65	3

Team Stat: Have won 6 – 4 the most times (4)

Player Stat:

Nick Lean Only one of Nick's 9 wins has been 3 - 0

Jon Willis Most 3 – 1 wins (10)

John Willcocks 16 of John's 18 wins have been 3 – 0 or 3 – 1

Richard Woolven-Allen Has yet to be on the losing team (2)

Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' had put a good run together to get to third but have slipped back to fourth and are still in with a chance of promotion but they probably need to win all their second half matches to do so. Sonning C & P 'E' matched the second quarter results of the team ahead of them, Curzon Club 'A' to keep hot on their tails. The three wins came against OLOP 'C' (8 – 2) as Malcolm Gregory returned a maximum and there were two each from Lisa Williams and Niall McGrane. Niall won successive maximums in the wins over Tilehurst Meths 'A' and Curzon Club 'A'. Carole Chard had a great win in the 6 – 4 win over Tilehurst as she overcame Steve Dopson.

Team Stat: Have the best doubles record (90%)

Player Stat:

Niall McGrane Nine of Niall's thirteen wins have been 3 – 0

Lisa Williams None of Lisa's twelve wins have been 3 – 2

Carole Chard Carole has yet to lose a five-gamer

Malcolm Gregory Malcolm's four maximums are split evenly between home and away

Tidmarsh 'B' are currently top of the mini-league of the bottom seven teams on nine points from our first ten matches. We have had mixed results since the last newsletter and that's possibly why we find ourselves in mid-table. The strange thing is that two of the results have been 10 – 0 and they were against Sonning C & P 'D' and Pangbourne WMC 'A', the other was an 8 – 2 over Tilehurst Meths 'A' whereby the score flattered us to a degree. The two defeats were against the promotion chasers, Kingfisher 'G' (1 – 9) and Curzon Club 'A' (4 – 6).

Team Stat: Have won 10 – 0 the most times (2)

Player Stat:

Barry Carter: For the first time in years, I don't make the cut for appearances (3)

Dave Wise Both Dave's maximums have been won at Tidmarsh

Mike Aistrop Both times Mike has won a maximum, Tidmarsh have won

John Golding Has yet to win 2 games in a match by the same scoreline this season

Francois Durand Francois has yet to win a brace (4)

Dom Cutter Only eligible 100% playing record (15/15)

Our Lady of Peace 'C' are sixth and as they have now played three matches with only two players they have done well to be there. It

shows where they could be had they been able to play three as they could potentially be five points better off, that would have placed them third. When Dan West, Chris West and Clive Perry play together they are a formidable trio and would give anyone a run for their money. An immediate bounceback to the promised land is dependent on the availability of the squad in the second half of the season.

Team Stat: Have yet to lose a doubles 2 – 3 in 10 matches

Player Stat:

Dan West: Longest scorecard delivery in history 🏆

Both times Dan has won braces, OLOP 'C' have won 8 – 2

Chris West Four of Chris's wins have been 3 – 2

Ziko Jerzmanski Three of Ziko's wins have been 3 - 2

Clive Perry Clive has gone 15 sets without losing 2 - 3

Sonning Common & Peppard 'D' are the third in the troika of teams on nine points. Sonning Common & Peppard 'D' have won twice, drawn once and lost twice and find themselves in seventh and almost certainly safe in division two for another season. The wins have come against OLOP 'C' as they benefitted from one of the occasions that OLOP could only muster two and Tilehurst Meths 'A' where they narrowly won 6 – 4 thanks to three from Andy Grant-Robertson, a brace from Alan Mollett and one from Anthony Reeve. The draw came against another two-man team in Sonning C & P 'E', with only an Andy victory on the night plus the doubles to show.

Team Stat: 3 of their 4 wins have been away

Player Stat:

Alan Mollett Four of Alan's seven wins have been 3 - 2

Andy Grant-Robertson Andrew has won eight of his fifteen sets by the 3 – 1 scoreline

Anthony Reeve Anthony has yet to win a set by the 3 – 0 scoreline (0/5)

Mark Jones Mark has yet to win a set by the 3 – 0 scoreline (0/6)

Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' are eighth and looking safe for another season in division two, they are just above the relegation places on seven points. I'm not quite

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Dom Cutter	Tidmarsh B	15	15	100.00
Nigel Keedy	Kingfisher F	21	19	90.48
Sagar Sawant	Kingfisher G	24	21	87.50
Ivor Hardman	Kingfisher F	21	16	76.19
Clive Perry	OLOP C	21	16	76.19
Steve Ng	Kingfisher G	24	18	75.00
Jon Willis	Curzon Club A	27	20	74.07
Niall Mcgrane	SC&P E	24	17	70.83
Andrew G Robertson	SC&P D	22	15	68.18
David Joyce	Kingfisher G	30	20	66.67
John Willcocks	Curzon Club A	27	18	66.67
Malcolm Gregory	SC&P E	24	16	66.67

sure why they are down there as the squad is certainly good enough to finish fourth or fifth. After they lost the first two matches of the second quarter, they rallied after their bye-week to draw against OLOP 'C' (5 - 5) as both Jon Abbott and Danny Dockree won one each and they had the bonus of three from the 'E' team. The revival gathered pace with a really good 6 - 4 win over fellow underperforming Kingfisher 'E' as Danny Dockree returned his first maximum of the season. Tim Raby did well to win two to clinch the two points.

Team Stat: Haven't won when they have won the doubles (2)

Player Stat:

Matt Stone Over 50% of his 11 wins have been in three straight (6)

Jon Abbott Most singles in a match (6)

Danny Dockree Only one of his 6 wins has been 3 - 0

Tim Raby Two of Tim's three braces have been won away

Pangbourne WMC 'A' are like Wolves, in uncharted waters, above the relegation places only on goal difference. They have had a miserable run (also a bit like Wolves) with only one win in the last seven matches if you include the first quarter of the season. The win came against Sonning C & P 'C' as Denise Weller won all three, Simon Hopkins two and John Simmonds one in a 6 - 4 win. They did give the leaders a little scare as they were unlucky to lose 3 - 7 but the end of 2016 couldn't come quick enough and they succumbed to a 0 - 10 defeat to Tidmarsh 'B' in the last match of the half.

Team Stat: Have won three of their four doubles matches 3 - 0

Player Stat:

John Simmonds: Five of John's ten wins have been away in two matches, compared to five home wins in eighteen.

Simon Hopkins: Whenever Simon wins two, Pangbourne don't lose (2)

Denise Weller: Both of Denise's maximums have come against Sonning C & P teams

George White: Best five-set winning percentage (83%)

Kingfisher 'E' have been beset with injuries over the first half of the season but they have done well to keep in touch with the teams around them. They are on an equally bad run of results to Pangbourne WMC 'A' as they have also won only once in their last seven and that coincidentally was against Pangbourne. John Morris won all three, Grant Wheatley was as reliable as ever to win two and Roger Woolven-Allen made it a second win since his return from injury. Two of the three defeats were against two of the top three teams in Kingfisher 'G' (2 - 8) and Curzon Club 'A' (3 - 7).

Team Stat: Have won all of their points at home (5, W2, D1)

Player Stat:

Luca Bianchi: Three of his five wins have been by the 3 - 1 scoreline

Roger Woolven-Allen:

Grant Wheatley: Most four-game sets (15)

John Morris: His 12 wins are split equally between 3 - 0, 3 - 1 and 3 - 2 scorelines

Tilehurst Meths 'A' are bottom at Christmas and if it were the premier division we all know what happens next... well I do as a Wolves fan anyway 😊 Having only two points from safety and six from an Europa League qualifying spot so things aren't as bad as it looks. In their match against Tidmarsh 'B', my words nearly came back to haunt me as Phil Jones thrashed me, but apart from that there was only the doubles win for Phil and Nigel over Dom and me to celebrate. In the second quarter they have actually lost all five, two of them 4 - 6 to Sonning C & P 'D' and Sonning C & P 'E', one 3 - 7 to the leaders, Kingfisher 'F' and the other 2 - 8 was to OLOP 'C'. Cath Venning has done well in recent weeks and that culminated in a fantastic brace against OLOP 'C' whilst Nigel Rowland won two against Sonning C & P 'E'. I'd like to send get fit/well wishes to Peter Galea, hope you're back on the table soon.

Team Stat: Have won three of their five doubles by the 3 - 2 scoreline

Player Stat:

Nigel Rowland: Whenever Nigel hits a duck, the next time he plays he has won a brace (I expect 2 from the next match against Curzon)

Cath Venning: Cath has gone 9 games without a five-game set.

Peter Galea: His only maximum consisted of 3 - 0, 3 - 1 and 3 - 2 wins

Phil Jones: Phil has only had 1 week where he wasn't involved in a five-gamer

That brings me to the end of the second newsletter for the 2016/2017 season so I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2017.



DIVISION THREE

by Bob Woodmansee

Season's Greetings to you all – and welcome to my second newsletter report of the season – I hope you enjoyed the first one. Just to repeat my request that in order to make my reports more interesting and not just a re-hash of the scores, I need your contributions please – any angle you feel might be worth sharing.

If you were making a movie of Division 3 table-tennis this season, it could be called 'Close Encounters of the Third (division) Kind'!! To date, 30 of the 54 matches played have finished either 5 - 5 or 6 - 4 and in the week commencing 7th November all five matches finished 6 - 4!! The league table remains very congested with just 5 points covering 1st to 9th place and every team has dropped at least six points. Tidmarsh 'C' are the new leaders, closely followed by Pangbourne WMC 'B' whilst Tilehurst Methodists 'C' look to have cemented the wooden spoon as, sadly, they are still winless and now 6 points adrift at the foot of the table.

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

Best win (team): Kingfisher 'I' v Tidmarsh 'C' (6 - 4)

Best win (individual): Nils Wedi v Lee Calcutt 11-6, 11-6, 6-11, 10-12, 11-6 (ended Lee's 100% record)

Best win by a reserve playing-up: Zoltan Kelemen v Dave Sheppard 11-9, 7-11, 13-15, 11-7, 11-9

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

Best comeback wins (singles) (i.e. from 2 games down): Adam Sheen, Alistair Richardson (twice), Dave Chard, Paul Treadgold, Eddie Cripps, Phil Burke, Jarek Chmielowiec, Steve Woolnough, Dave Duncan, Alex Zheng, Willis Ma, Arun Rajagopal, Keith Machin, Chris Webb (once each)

Closest match: Gwynne Penny v Joaquin Munoz Sabater 9-11, 15-13, 11-9, 9-11, 11-9

Most 'Player of the Match' awards: 5 – Jes Eassom, Phil Burke, Ray Webb

Best doubles record (3 or more sets to qualify): 100% - A Richardson & W Porter (3/3); J Chmielowiec & W Ma (3/3)

Ever-present players: 10 matches – Chris Collins, Alistair Richardson; 9 matches – Adam Sheen

Most sociable opponents: Kingfisher 'J' (Nils, Joaquin & Gabor) at Sonning on 10th November

Best venue: Tidmarsh

Best 'half-time' refreshments: Tilehurst Methodists – both the 'B' and 'C' teams!

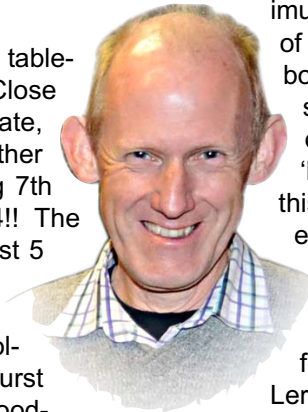
And so to the action in the second quarter of this intriguing season.....

Tidmarsh 'C' are the new leaders – just a 4 - 6 defeat at Kingfisher 'I' blotting their copybook in recent weeks. A rare duck for Dave Sheppard in this match – although Dave does still boast three maximums and a solid average of

72% overall, slightly ahead of Simon Barter on 70%. A statement of intent by Tidmarsh has been to re-register Lee Calcutt in their Division 3 team – Lee has won 8 out of 9 to date including a maximum against Tilehurst Meths 'B' in a 6 - 4 win. Further wins followed against Kingfisher 'J' (a maximum for Simon) and Milestone 'A' before the match of the season against their second-placed neighbours, Pangbourne WMC 'B' – a match which also saw the 'Brothers Webb' (I know they're both defenders – but who said 'Brothers Grimm'!?!?) go 'head to head'. Neither team was at full strength for this match – but this only made it all the more interesting. In a fluctuating contest two wins each for Simon & Chris Webb plus a single from Theresa Watson had seen Tidmarsh into a 5 - 4 lead – fittingly leaving the Webb brothers to battle it out for the points. Ray had already teamed up with Leroy Wilson to defeat Chris and his partner, Simon, in the doubles and repeated the dose of 'brotherly unlove' by winning the final set 7-11, 11-9, 9-11, 11-3, 11-8 to earn a draw for his team and a personal maximum for himself. So the West Berkshire team bragging rights go to Tidmarsh as 'top dogs' – for now at least – the Webb family bragging rights to Ray (I'd love to be a fly on the wall at the Webb family's Christmas dinner table!).

Pangbourne WMC 'B' sit a point behind Tidmarsh in second place – but are currently missing the injured Clive Taylor who was playing so well and averaging 80% until his enforced break – all the best for a return to fitness in the New Year, Clive. So Ray Webb, Leroy Wilson and Eddie Cripps have had to play in all of the last three matches – which have seen a win, a draw (against Tidmarsh – see above) and a defeat. The win was by a 7 - 3 margin at Sonning Sports 'A' – Leroy & Ray both hitting maximums whilst Eddie had a nice win over Dave Chard. And if the team's only recent defeat was something of a surprise – at home to a Springfield 'A' team who included a reserve – the margin of the defeat was little short of staggering (8 - 2) with Ray saving face for his team with the two wins. Prior to the above sequence Ray hit a maximum and Clive a double in a 6 - 4 win at Kingfisher 'H' – making it three maximums in three appearances at Kingfisher for Ray this season – clearly something in the Woodley air, Ray!

Kingfisher 'I' have moved up into 3rd place after a run of 4 wins and a draw in their last 5 matches. Eric Holmes (74%), Carol Byers (73%) and Steve Woolnough (66%) make a formidable front three and with Dave Duncan sweeping up plenty of single wins at the back (sweeping, get it – his job – oh, never mind!!) this squad should not be far away from the promotion places at the end of the season. Fittingly, it was on Hallowe'en when this Kingfisher team really 'spooked' the leaders, Tidmarsh, and recorded a notable 6 - 4 win – a maximum for Eric with Dave Duncan clearly finding his lucky chimney-sweeping broomstick as he recorded a superb straight games win over Dave Sheppard and then came back from 2-10 to win 12-10 in



one of his games against Simon (but then lost the next three – which rather spoils the story, Dave!). Next up it was Carol who hit a maximum in another 6 – 4 win at OLOP ‘D’ and then Steve and Eric both hit trebles in a 9 – 1 success over Tilehurst Methodists ‘C’. The team then had a rare off-night when only drawing with lowly Tilehurst Methodists ‘B’ where Carol found Ian Cockling too much of an obstacle in set 10, going down 10-12, 12-10, 10-12, 8-11.

Kingfisher ‘H’ are another solid all-round squad – rotating their five players almost equally to date – although this is a policy which may well cost them a place in the top two. Captain Willis Ma leads the way with 88%, having lost just twice so far - and he has been well supported by Igor Sremac, Peter Bennett, Jarek Chmielowiec and Alex Zheng. Recent results have included emphatic wins over a Springfield team without Phil Burke (7 – 3) and Sonning Sports (9 – 1) – Igor recording 5 wins out of 6 in these matches whilst both Willis and Jarek recorded maximums against Sonning. In the drawn match at Milestone both Peter and Jarek hit doubles whilst Alex had a great comeback win over Viliam Andrascik 8-11, 5-11, 11-9, 11-8, 12-10. In the 4 – 6 defeat to a strong Pangbourne team Willis hit a double but lost to Ray Webb and this ultimately cost his team a point as both Igor and Alex could only manage a single win each.

Milestone ‘A’ are proving to be the epitome of a mid-table team – with two wins, two draws and two defeats in their past six matches. However, they have two very good players in Arun Rajagopal (81%) and Chris Collins (70%)

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Tidmarsh C	10	6	2	2	62	38	14
2 Pangbourne B	10	5	3	2	53	47	13
3 Kingfisher I	10	5	2	3	58	42	12
4 Kingfisher H	10	5	1	4	55	45	11
5 Milestone A	10	4	3	3	53	47	11
6 Springfield A	9	5	1	3	48	42	11
7 Kingfisher J	10	5	0	5	44	56	10
8 Tilehurst Meths B	9	4	1	4	46	44	9
9 Sonning Sports A	10	4	1	5	42	58	9
10 OLOP D	10	3	1	6	52	48	7
11 Tilehurst Meths C	10	0	1	9	27	73	1

and you feel that this team should really be challenging the top two. The lack of a consistent regular number 3 player has proved costly on more than one occasion – although John Crosfield did recently record a notable win against Peter Bennett. In recent weeks results have been a good draw (without Arun) against Kingfisher ‘H’; a 4 – 6 loss at Springfield (Phil Burke narrowly defeating Arun in the crucial deciding set); a convincing 7 – 3 win over Sonning Sports with reserve Olly Bonser contributing a good win over Dave Chard; a 3- 7 loss at Tidmarsh with another reserve in Zoltan Kelemen defeating Dave Sheppard (see my ‘awards’ section above) and a 6 – 4 win at home to OLOP. Arun has four maximums in his 7 appearances whilst ever-present Chris Collins has a statistical oddity, having hit doubles in 9 consecutive matches since the

opening week of the season.

Springfield ‘A’ are currently in 6th place – but if they win their postponed match with Tilehurst Methodists ‘B’ they will leap to 2nd spot. The story of Springfield’s season can be put in a very small nutshell – i.e. when Phil Burke plays they win (5 wins in 5 matches) and when he doesn’t, they don’t (three defeats and a draw in 4 matches) – Phil now with the Division’s only 100% record. Both Adam Sheen and Ludovic Couillard continue to have their moments and are both averaging near the 50% mark but Seth Martin has struggled for his best form, having only played in 4 matches. Of the 4 matches the team played in November two resulted in good victories – a 6 – 4 success over Milestone with Adam contributing a double - including a great win over Arun Rajagopal - and then a stunning 8 – 2 success at high-flying Pangbourne when both Adam and reserve Rob Wilkie supported Phil with two wins apiece. Both defeats were by a 3 – 7 margin to Kingfisher teams – the loss to Kingfisher ‘J’ particularly galling as Adam only lost 9-11 in the fifth to Nils and Ludo only by 8-11 in the fifth to Joaquin. Ludo hit a nice double in the defeat by Kingfisher ‘H’ with Peter Bennett & Jarek Chmielowiec his ‘victims’.

Kingfisher ‘J’ (aka ‘The Weathermen’) started November buoyant on a thermal current which lifted them to 2nd place in the table after a 7 – 3 win over Springfield – but then they got on the wrong side of the ‘jet-stream’ (!!) and lost three matches in a row and now find themselves in the bottom half of the table. So, as I predicted in the previous newsletter, they do now look like becoming a mid-table team. Nils Wedi (75%) and Joaquin Munoz Sabater (66%) lead the averages but could do with a little more support from the rest of the squad. Nils and Joaquin both hit trebles in the win over Springfield but both lost to Chris Dexter at Sonning Sports and then lost their 100% doubles record too and so, despite a brave effort in set 10 by Gabor Radnoti (only losing 9-11 in the fifth to Bob Snellgrove), they came away with a 4 – 6 defeat. Next up were Tidmarsh when Nils earned my award for ‘Best Win’ when inflicting Lee Calcutt’s first defeat and then followed this with a good win over Chris Webb but there was no further joy in a 2 – 8 defeat. Both Nils and Joaquin missed the 10 – 0 drubbing at OLOP before a welcome early Christmas present in the form of Santa Wetherell sliding down the Kingfisher chimney with a gift of two points from his Tilehurst elves – albeit only in a narrow 6 - 4 win – the match including a maximum for Nils, two wins for Joaquin and a brave performance in a rare outing for Didier Garcon when he fought back from two games down before losing 10-12 in the fifth to Paul Treadgold.

Tilehurst Methodists ‘B’ have probably had the most unpredictable set of results (or, at least, score-lines) of any team in the past five weeks – and, whilst still firmly in the relegation battle, are surely “too good to go down”. Jes Eassom continues to impress with 5 ‘Player of the Match’ awards and an average of 65% - quite what happened when he registered a duck against Sonning Sports, I doubt that he can quite explain (neither can I, for that matter – but I was certainly grateful for the off-night, Jes!!). Ian Cockling (64%) and John Virgo (34%) are the other regulars in the team – but a special mention for Nick Barnes – nice to see

him back playing after his operation. As for the results – well, maybe there was something in the air on Hallowe'en night as not only did Tidmarsh lose unexpectedly in Woodley, Ian's boys contrived to lose to a 2-man Sonning Sports team 6 – 4 (more of which later) – Ian saving an effective 7 – 0 whitewash by defeating me 11-8 in the fifth game. Having lost in such devastating fashion one week, the performance at leaders Tidmarsh the following week verged on near brilliance – just a narrow 4 – 6 defeat with both Jes and Nick picking up doubles and only losing in the doubles encounter by 9-11 in the fifth game. Next up a 6 – 4 win against a lowly OLOP team (including a reserve) which was much tighter than it ought to have been – Jes leading the way with a maximum and Nick chipping in with two wins. The inter-club battle with the C-Team went much as expected – a 7 – 3 win including another maximum for Jes, 2 wins for Ian, a single for reserve Roy Hull – and, at last, the team's first doubles win of the season. Finally – the team welcomed high-flying Kingfisher 'I' to their cosy little classroom, clearly intent on 'teaching a lesson' to a team who had just won four matches on the bounce – and they so nearly did! Jes ('most improved pupil') Eassom again led the education with 2 wins (including Eric Holmes) and only lost 9-11 in the fifth game to Carol, John ('don't mess with me, sonny') Virgo defeated Dave Duncan and then teamed up with Jes to win their second doubles in two weeks – leaving Ian ('Head-Boy') Cockling to dish out the final lesson to Carol in the final set and earn the draw – by a margin of 12-10, 10-12, 12-10, 11-8.

Sonning Sports 'A' remain frustratingly inconsistent – and, rather like my football team (West Ham) are struggling to do justice to one of the best home venues in the League! Three defeats on the back of a couple of wins have left us deep in the relegation mire and we desperately need more availability from new boy Chris Dexter (5 wins out of 6 so far) and Keith Machin (a solid average of 60%) if we are to pull away from the drop. Plus, of course, Bob Snellgrove, Dave Chard and I have to up our game. We began our second quarter of the campaign on a bizarre Hallowe'en night at Tilehurst Methodists 'B' – when, despite my best efforts, I could only find two available players from both my 'A' and 'B' teams combined (perhaps the rest were out 'trick-or-treating!!'). So Bob Snellgrove and I made the journey to Tilehurst – more in hope than expectation (again – just like supporting West Ham!) – but, to our amazement, we came away with a 6 – 4 win (effectively a 6 – 1 win, of course!). Bob S only dropped one game on the way to his second maximum in 2 visits to the Tilehurst classroom – hard to explain why Bob has lost 14 of the 15 sets he has played at various other venues this season! Next up for us were Kingfisher 'J' – and another 6 – 4 win, largely down to a fine maximum from Chris Dexter and a doubles win for Bob S and Chris – who hadn't even met each other before the match, never mind played doubles together! And then things started to go horribly wrong – 3 consecutive defeats – 3 – 7 at Milestone (2 wins for Keith), 3 – 7 at home to Pangbourne (Keith and I won the doubles – our 8th different doubles pairing in just 9 matches!) and 1 – 9 at Kingfisher 'H' – the least said about this, the better.

OLOP 'D' have had so many close matches, their nerves

must be in tatters – no fewer than five defeats by a 4 – 6 margin! Dave Godfrey leads the way with an average of 71%, supported by captain Alistair Richardson (55%) and Wendy Porter (47%) but they remain next to bottom of the table and need some wins against the teams immediately above them if they are to avoid the relegation places when the final reckoning comes round. November started with a 6 – 4 win at Tilehurst Methodists 'C' – a maximum for Dave and a good win for reserve Pradeep Desh against Martin Wetherell. Next up was the first of three 4 – 6 defeats – Kingfisher 'I' proving just too good, despite Dave's double (including Eric Holmes). Dave was missing at Tilehurst Methodists 'B' where Alistair fought hard and hit a good double – but in vain. At Milestone Alistair again hit a double but Dave, for once, couldn't match him – so, despite a single win for Wendy too, well – you know the outcome! The team's only win in recent weeks came when Alistair, Dave and Wendy all clicked on the same night and registered a 10 – 0 win over a weakened Kingfisher 'J'.

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Philip Burke	Springfield A	15	15	100.00
Lee Calcutt	Tidmarsh C	9	8	88.89
Willis Ma	Kingfisher H	17	15	88.24
Ray Webb	Pangbourne B	27	22	81.48
Arun Rajagopal	Milestone A	21	17	80.95
Clive Taylor	Pangbourne B	15	12	80.00
Nils Wedi	Kingfisher J	24	18	75.00
Eric Holmes	Kingfisher I	27	20	74.07
Carol Byers	Kingfisher I	15	11	73.33
David Sheppard	Tidmarsh C	18	13	72.22
Dave Godfrey	OLOP D	21	15	71.43
Simon Barter	Tidmarsh C	24	17	70.83
Christopher Collins	Milestone A	30	21	70.00
Joaquin M Sabater	Kingfisher J	24	16	66.67

Tilehurst Methodists 'C' continue to prop up the table with still just a solitary point from their ten matches and are now six points adrift of OLOP. To his credit, Captain Martin Wetherell never seems too downhearted whenever I see him – perhaps being Santa and giving away all these gift-wrapped points to needy opponents keeps him happy!! All of the squad have had their moments this season – in particular Paul Treadgold who leads their averages with 37% and includes Ian Cockling and Joaquin Sabater amongst his more notable scalps. Not far behind is Masoud Ghabachi on 33% with Alistair Richardson and Simon Barter amongst his successes. Martin also defeated Alistair and then had a great win over Carol Byers (16-14 in the fifth game) to save a whitewash against Kingfisher 'I' – whilst Mike Williams has struggled following his impressive double against Sonning Sports with just a solitary win against Roy Hull to his name since. In recent weeks, it's encouraging that two of the defeats have only been by the narrowest of margins (4 – 6) to both OLOP and Kingfisher 'J' but where was 'the love' in the inter-club match with the B-Team, I wonder? A 3 - 7 defeat was a little harsh on Martin and his elves, I think.



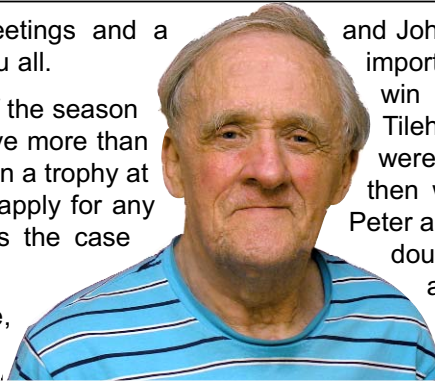
DIVISION FOUR

by Derek Harrison

Hello everyone. Season's greetings and a Happy and Healthy 2017 to you all.

Before we get to the second half of the season I would like to remind teams that have more than 4 players in their squad that if they win a trophy at the end of the season they have to apply for any extra over the four given. If this is the case please contact Paul Treadgold.

Despite playing a reserve, **Milestone 'B'** beat Sonning C&P 'F' 6 – 4 with Zoltan Kelemen and Sachin Mundra both hitting trebles. Despite being top, I



and John both managed doubles while Peter won that important single, besides teaming up with Aidan to win the doubles, and thus a 6 – 4 victory. At Tilehurst Meths 'D' they raced into a 0 – 2 lead but were pegged back by losing the next 4 sets. They then won 3 of the remaining sets to gain a draw. Peter and Rob both won two each besides winning the doubles together. Again at Tilehurst this time against the 'E' team they shared the points. Rob and John won two each and Peter picked up the vital single.

Reading F C shared the spoils at Tidmarsh 'D' thanks to a double gained by Jazz Dhillon and singles from Mark Edwards and Richard Witt. Jazz and Mark also won the doubles. At home to Tilehurst Meths 'E' Jazz injured himself during the doubles, so this handed a win to the Meths and he then had to concede set 10; however he had won his two previous sets as did Richard and Mark which gave them a 6 – 4 win. At home to Curzon 'B' they just scraped home 6 – 4 thanks to doubles gained by Mark and Richard plus a single from Tony Alleyne. Richard and Mark also won the doubles.

Trebles from Nick Lean and Geoff Johnson gave **Curzon 'B'** a 6 – 4 win over Tilehurst Meths 'D'. In the set between Nick and Patrick O'Sullivan we did have a long one with Nick winning 18-20, 12-10, 11-8, 11-9. I have to thank Jim Brent for umpiring all ten sets - I wonder if this has ever happened before? Jim and Geoff did the business at Tilehurst Meths 'E' by winning two each and also the doubles which gave the team a draw. At Reading F C we went down 6 – 4 with Geoff winning two and Jim and Derek both obtaining singles. We could have gained a draw when Geoff only lost 11-9 in the 5th end to Mark. We bounced back by beating Kingfisher 'K' 8 – 2 thanks to a very good maximum from Geoff and doubles from Jim and Derek. Geoff and Derek also won the doubles. I have to say, and not because we won, what a great and sporting evening we had.

Since I wrote my previous notes **Tidmarsh 'D'** have hit a bad patch and this week lost 8 – 2 at Tilehurst Meths 'E'.



ZOLTAN KELEMEN

note that they have only won three doubles sets out of seven. At Kingfisher Sachin hit a good hat trick to help the side to a 4 – 6 victory. He also played in the doubles win with Zoltan who picked up a double. Trebles from Zoltan and new signing Sanket Dave gave them a 6 – 4 win over O.L.O.P. 'E' to send them clear at the top.

Springfield 'B' continue to go well and this time beat OLOP 'E' 7 – 3 thanks mainly to a Rob Wilkie three straight maximum. John Burke gave him good support by winning two while Peter Gurney gained a single. At home to Tidmarsh, Aidan Simmons

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Milestone B	10	7	2	1	62	38	16
2 Springfield B	10	6	4	0	60	40	16
3 Reading FC A	10	7	1	2	58	42	15
4 Tidmarsh D	10	5	1	4	56	44	11
5 Curzon Club B	8	4	2	2	45	35	10
6 Tilehurst Meths D	10	4	1	5	49	51	9
7 SC&P F	9	4	1	4	44	46	9
8 Tilehurst Meths E	9	3	2	4	43	47	8
9 Kingfisher K	10	2	1	7	39	61	5
10 Curzon Club C	9	1	1	7	31	59	3
11 OLOP E	9	1	0	8	33	57	2

John Little won one as did Dave Edwards. I gather the set between Dave E and Steve Wood was excellent with some fantastic rallies and also in the set between John and Rob James there were some tremendous shots which got great applause. At home to RFC Terry Hardie hit a brilliant treble and according to Dave E played out of his skin. He beat the previously unbeaten Jazz Dhillon 11-9, 7-11, 11-9, 9-11, 11-7 then Richard Witt 11-9, 13-11, 11-5 and Mark Edwards 14-12, 11-3, 12-10. Dave E and Dave S both gained singles to help them to a draw. At Springfield they were just touched off 6 – 4 with Terry winning twice and the two Daves gaining singles. Against Curzon 'C' new signing Andy Stephens came into the side and showed his class by winning all three in straight games. Dave E and Terry played their part by gaining doubles to give them an 8 – 2 victory.

At Curzon 'C' Ruben Hernandez played in his first match of the season for **Kingfisher 'K'** and came away with a great hat trick and with Gwynne Penny winning two this



GWYNNE PENNY

gave them a draw. Gwynne also won two against the leaders Milestone but with Ruben and John Simpson only winning one each they went down 6 – 4. However for John it was his first win of the season, beating Gareth Aldridge 11-8, 8-11, 15-13, 11-7. At Tilehurst Meths 'D' Gwynne did well to win two but with Ania only picking up a single they lost 7 – 3. At home to Sonning they went down 3 – 7 with Ruben winning two and Gwynne winning one. At Curzon 'B' David Wells gained a double but that was as far as it got because they went down 8 – 2.

OLOP 'E' went to Springfield 'B' and lost 7 – 3. Tamir Slobodskoy had a great match by beating Peter Gurney 11-13, 4-11, 6-11 and John Burke 11-9, 5-11, 7-11, 3-11. Abhay Gore was the other winner by also beating Peter. At home to Curzon 'C' they went down 4 – 6 with Binit Bhaskar winning two and Tamir and Alona Siobodonskoy both picking up singles. For Alona it was her first win of the season so very well done. At Milestone they lost 6 – 4 with Binit, Abhay and Pradeep Desh all gaining singles by beating Gareth Aldridge. They then lost their 7th match in a row when going down 3 – 7 to Tilehurst Meths 'D'. Pradeep had a great night, winning all three by beating Roy 11-8, 11-8,

11-6 Chris 9-11, 11-7, 11-9, 6-11, 11-5 and Patrick 14-12, 11-9, 15-13. Crikey that set against Patrick was a bit tight! At Sonning they lost 7 – 3 with Binit winning two and Pradeep picking up a single. Pradeep had yet another long set this time losing to Angus Jones 14-16, 13-11, 10-12, 11-7, 13-11.

In the **Tilehurst Meths** derby it was the '**D**' team that came out on top against the '**E**' mainly thanks to an in-form Roy Hull who gained a good maximum. Chris Taylor and Patrick O'Sullivan played their part by winning two each. At Curzon 'B' Chris, Roy and Patrick all won one each by beating yours truly in a 6 – 4 defeat. Against Kingfisher they raced into a 5 – 0 lead to secure at least a point but a doubles win and a further single gave them a 7 – 3 win. Chris was the star by gaining a three straight maximum with Patrick winning two and Roy a single. At Sonning Chris came away with a double but with Roy only winning one they lost 7 – 3. In their match with Springfield Chris and Roy won two each and for Roy he had a fine 11-8, 11-6, 4-11, 10-12, 11-7 win over Rob who only lost for the second time. Patrick picked up a vital single by beating Aidan. At OLOP they came away with both points, with Chris, Roy and Patrick all gaining doubles to help them to a 3 – 7 victory. This result has put them well clear of the bottom two.

Sonning C&P 'F' travelled to Milestone 'B' which I called a local derby and they only lost 6 – 4. Derek Wavell, Angus Jones and Eric Walker all beat reserve Carl Edlind. Eric and Angus had a great doubles win over Sachin and Zoltan. Against Tilehurst Meths '**D**' Angus hit top form by winning all three with only Patrick getting a game from him. Derek did well to win two while Simon had a nice win over Patrick. They then won 3 – 7 at Kingfisher with Eric hitting a great hat trick. Angus did well to win a couple while Simon picked up a single. At home to OLOP they managed a 7 – 3 victory thanks mainly to an Angus maximum. Derek weighed in with a double while Simon hit a single.

Steve Dopson managed a double for **Tilehurst Meths 'E'** away at Tilehurst Meths '**D**' in a 8 – 2 defeat. At home to Tidmarsh '**D**' they won 8 – 2. Steve D was in great form by gaining a fairly easy maximum and was well supported by Steve Wood and Rob James who both obtained doubles. At



TAMIR SLOBODSKOY

DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Jazz Dhillon	Reading FC A	14	13	92.86
Nick Lean (S)	Curzon Club B	9	8	88.89
Rob Wilkie	Springfield B	24	21	87.50
Sachin Mundra	Milestone B	24	20	83.33
Angus Jones	SC&P F	18	15	83.33
Zoltan Kelemen	Milestone B	27	21	77.78
Terry Hardie	Tidmarsh D	21	16	76.19
Steve Dopson	Tilehurst Meths E	27	20	74.07
Richard Witt	Reading FC A	27	19	70.37
Oliver Bonser	Milestone B	15	10	66.67

home to Curzon 'B' Steve D rescued a point by winning all three with Steve W and Rob gaining singles. At Milestone Steve D did well to win two in a 6 - 4 defeat. In the doubles Steve D and Rob were leading before Jazz got injured, so in the end they were awarded the set as RFC had to concede. At home to Springfield they managed a draw with Steve W winning two which included a fine victory over Rob

Wilkie. Steve D and Rob both won one each and also combined to win the doubles.

Curzon 'C' gained their first point of the season by holding Kingfisher to a draw. John Walker did well to win two while he also teamed up with Linda King to win the doubles. Linda and Carine Bey both picked up singles. I have to say both of them were unlucky against Ruben only going down close in the fifth end of each set. At last a victory by beating OLOP 'E' 4 - 6 with John obtaining three and Terry Spice two. They also combined to win the vital doubles. At Tidmarsh 'D' they came against a star player in Andy Stephens and as a result lost 8 - 2 with Terry beating Dave Edwards and Terry Hardie.

Finally I should inform you that because of premises not being available there are two key matches being played after the editors' deadline for this Newsletter. If I receive the scorecards promptly I will put them on the website to give Derek the opportunity to take an up-to-date table and averages from there but the match reports will have to be included in the next Newsletter.

Cheers,

Derek

TEAM HANDICAP COMPETITION

Having reached the Quarter-Final stage of the competition, first match up sees OLOP 'E' host Pangbourne 'B'. OLOP's eleven player squad having first cruised past Reading FC 'C' 9 - 0 then just squeezed 5 - 4 past Tidmarsh 'C', who had led the match three times. Captain Alistair Richardson won the decisive ninth set 21-18, 19-21, 21-18. Tidmarsh had earlier beaten SC&P 'A' 7 - 2 with maximums from Lee Calcutt and Dave Sheppard.

Pangbourne have beaten two Kingfisher sides, their 'H' team 5 - 4 thanks to a Leroy Wilson maximum, and then the 'L' team 6 - 3 following doubles from each player. Kingfisher 'L' had previously had a First Round 6 - 3 Derek Crombie maximum inspired win over Curzon 'A'.

Milestone 'A' travel to SC&P 'D', who like Pangbourne, do so on the back of matches against two Kingfisher sides. Chris Collins required third game deciders in two of his three set victories which eased Milestone past Kingfisher 'I'. Unfortunately Kingfisher 'E', their next opponents, had to concede the next match due to player availability.

SC&P 'D', despite being an amalgamation of their league 'D' and 'E' sides, have so far only used players from the 'D' team, players most of whom saw them through to the last season's final. Impressive wins, 7 - 2 against Tilehurst Methodists 'E' and 6 - 3 against Curzon 'C', suggest a repeat could be on the cards. Alan Mollett has a perfect six wins from six so far, although taken all the way by Carine Bey 17-21, 22-20, 20-22. Curzon were First Round 5 - 4 winners over Sonning Sports 'B' having been pegged back three times before Carine Bey won the match in set nine. Mike Gillard had earlier completed his maximum.

Reading FC 'A' will play at SC&P 'C' following wins in

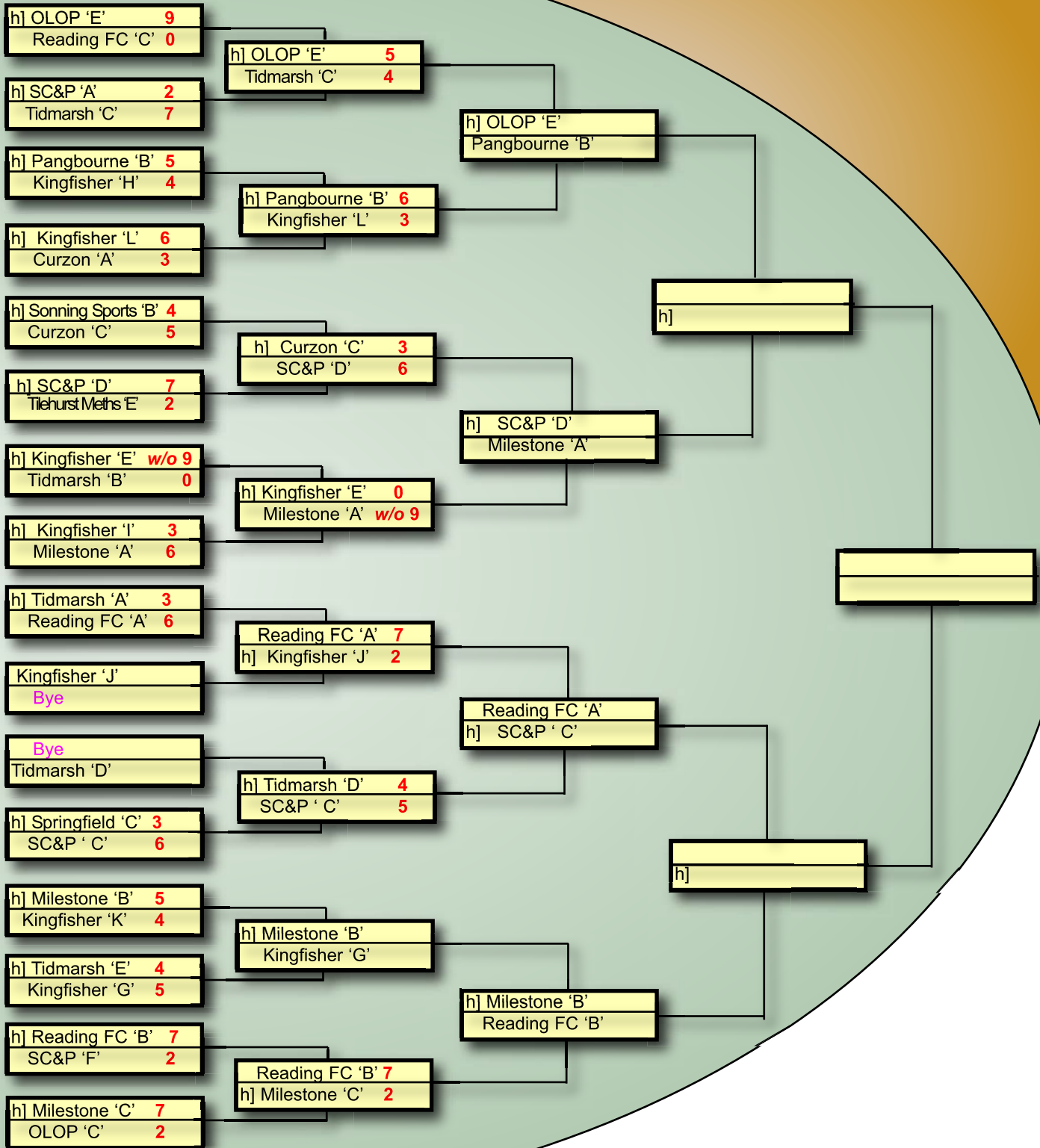
Round One against Tidmarsh 'A' and then Kingfisher 'J' in Round Two. Starts of +16 and +17 proved too much for the First division side to overcome as Richard Witt cruised to a maximum in their first match. Against Kingfisher a Nils Wedi double was not enough to halt the Reading side recording an impressive 7 - 2 victory. Antony Alleyne scored a maximum along with doubles from Richard and Mark Edwards.

First up for SC&P 'C' was Springfield 'C' who they overcame 6 - 3, Danny Dockree having to work hard for his maximum, winning 20-22, 21-23 in his first set and 19-21 in the deciding game of each of his next two. Next up for Sonning was Tidmarsh 'D' and a real ding-dong of a match this was, probably the best of the round. Tidmarsh took the lead four times only to be pegged back four times, twice on a third game decider. Danny Dockree finally levelled the match 23-25, 20-22 in set eight, leaving Tim Raby to wrap it all up for Sonning, securing a maximum in the process [and rubbing salt in the wound by denying Terry Hardie his maximum].

Reading FC 'B' currently await their opponents, either Milestone 'B' or Kingfisher 'G'. *[Stop-press / late result Reading FC 'B' will play Milestone 'B']* Reading have progressed following two 7 - 2 victories, first against SC&P 'F', where both Paul Brown and Joe Bull secured maximums, and secondly against Milestone 'C' who were sadly only able to field two players. Paul Brown was again unbeaten.

Milestone 'B' came back from 2 - 0 down to defeat Kingfisher 'K' 5 - 4 helped by an Ollie Bonser maximum. Kingfisher 'G', winners over Tidmarsh 'E' also by a 5 - 4 scoreline were 3 - 0 up before being brought back to 3 - 3, finally taking set nine 21-19, 16-21, 21-12 to clinch the match.

Team Handicap Chart





DIVISION FIVE

by Martin Wetherell

Half-way through the season, none of the regular competitors have survived unscathed, with only four people who have played in over half their team's matches, still in the 90th percentile. These four have generally avoided each other but, in the only recorded divisional interaction, Mike Casserley came out on top, when he beat Clive Gold. However, since Mike was one of the nine people who had lost to Lee Calcutt, his average is slightly worse. At the other end of the averages, there are still a few players awaiting their first win, although recent match results would appear to indicate that a few more players will gain their first win in the New Year.

On paper there are still six teams capable of winning the Division, with no team or individual being unbeatable, so, as we approach the half-way point, the Title is probably still up for grabs, although Our Lady of Peace 'F' can guarantee top spot by simply winning all their remaining matches. Certainly the number of matches being won by a 6 - 4 score line indicates how closely contested the Division is, this season.

A lot of Doubles combinations have been tried so far and it will be interesting to see whether tactics come into play, to keep an unblemished record intact. At the moment, I think that the various combinations being tried simply demonstrate that not many teams currently know their best Doubles pairs.

The **BBC Club** started off match week 8 with a heavy 9 - 1 defeat, away at Sonning Sports 'B', with John Scott recording their only win, a close fought encounter with Mo Cole. This was followed up by a draw, at home to Springfield 'C', when Mojtaba Safavi won his first set of the season, taking the scalp of Alan Goold, John Scott also beating Alan in the crucial 10th set. There was another defeat, this time a 7 - 3 loss at Tidmarsh 'E', which was much closer than the scoreline suggested, with a number of sets being closely contested. Their second win of the season came in early December, when they beat second placed Kingfisher 'L', by a 7 - 3 margin, thanks to Doubles from Dave Pearson, John Scott and Phil Peat, thus earning some vital points to keep them in the pack, near the bottom of the table.

In November, John Lancashire made one further appearance and, although he lost all three sets, he had a close fought contest with Sonning Sports 'B's Mo Cole, losing 9-11 12-14 11-8 8-11. Meanwhile, Jack Mitchell's sole appearance was more successful, with an 8-11 11-9 9-11 11-8 11-5 win over Tidmarsh 'E's Bob Sunerton. In that same match, Jack also partnered Dave Pearson to an 11-9 9-11 12-10 15-13 win over Mike Bundy and Pete Sinclair, a result which means that this set is now one of the candidates for closest set of the season. With Mojtaba's recent victory, everyone

in BBC's 6-player squad has now won at least one set, although John Scott is still proving to be their star player, with a 61.90% win rate, while Dave Pearson and Phil Peat can also be relied upon to regularly win sets.

The BBC Club have played a different Doubles pairing in each of their recent matches, their two wins coinciding with Dave Pearson being selected to play in the Doubles.

Kingfisher 'L' started with a draw, against Sonning Common & Peppard 'H', thanks to doubles from Clive Gold and David O'Keeffe and a crucial single from Meriel Low. A run of three victories then followed, starting with a 6 - 4 win over Springfield 'D' courtesy of a Clive Gold treble, a David

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 OLOP F	11	8	1	2	70	40	17
2 Kingfisher L	11	6	2	3	63	47	14
3 Springfield D	11	6	1	4	53	57	13
4 SC&P H	10	5	2	3	60	40	12
5 Reading FC B	10	6	0	4	59	41	12
6 Sonning Sports B	11	5	2	4	53	57	12
7 Springfield C	10	4	4	2	50	50	12
8 Tidmarsh E	11	5	1	5	56	54	11
9 SC&P G	11	3	3	5	52	58	9
10 BBC Club	10	2	4	4	46	54	8
11 Reading FC C	9	2	1	6	39	51	5
12 Milestone C	11	0	1	10	29	81	1

O'Keeffe double and the Doubles. The next match, against Reading FC 'C', resulted in another 6 - 4 victory, this time courtesy of a Clive Gold treble, a Gill Bennett double and the Doubles, Derek Crombie narrowly losing 12-10 10-12 11-13 5-11 to Harry Edwards and 9-11 8-11 12-10 11-6 8-11 to Wayne Alleyne. The next match saw Clive take his third consecutive treble, although it was also notable for the re-appearance of Ken Robb, for the first time in almost 6 weeks, when he was defeated by Milestone's John Evans, to lose his 100% record. However, Ken's double, along with a double from Meriel Low, helped Kingfisher L to an 8 - 2 victory. Alas, these victories couldn't last and it came to an end when a strong BBC team defeated them 7 - 3, despite another maximum from David O'Keeffe.

Clive Gold is their star player, having only been beaten once in 24 sets, and has picked up 6 PoM awards, but Ken Robb is not far behind, with one loss in 12 sets, and David O'Keeffe is also up there, with two losses in 12 sets. At the other end, Derek Crombie is still looking for his first win, although his recent results make me believe that this situation will change shortly.

Like a number of other teams, Kingfisher 'L' have fielded a different pair in each of their recent matches, winning

three times and losing twice.

Milestone 'C' are now firmly adrift at the bottom of the table, having taken no further points since the last Newsletter, with all the teams above them winning at least one game. Bill Hayden hasn't re-appeared, so retains his 100% record, although this will be for naught if he doesn't play sufficient matches. John Evans has been consistently winning the majority of his sets and is Milestone 'C's star player, with a 72.22% win rate, but, unfortunately, his doubles and trebles have not been enough to help his teammates over the line, with both Colin Phillips and Igor Grbic still looking for their first win, although Colin, John and Tony Hayden came very close to a point when they just lost 6 - 4, to leaders Our Lady of Peace 'F', Tony taking the scalp of Andrew Adair in an 11-5 11-8 6-11 11-9 win, but just losing out 12-10 5-11 5-11 11-9 4-11, to Mariusz Paluszkiwicz. This was a few weeks after a John Evans maximum, in their match against Springfield 'C', proved to be of no avail, after the match finished in a narrow 6 - 4 defeat. Carl Edlind has also been a regular contributor, notably beating Keith Greene 11-8 11-8 14-12, to pick up their only set win, in the 9 - 1 defeat against Reading FC 'B'. Sadly, unless they can field their strongest team for a few matches in 2017, I fear that Milestone 'C' will end the season at the bottom of the table.

However, on the Doubles front, their consistency in playing the same combination finally paid off, when John Evans and Tony Hayden combined to beat Laurence de Ste Croix and Andrew Adair, from Our Lady of Peace 'F', and record their first Doubles win of the season.

Our Lady of Peace 'F' have been on a roll, since the start of match week 8, with five consecutive victories sweeping them to the top of the table. Simon Brookes, Andrew Adair and Laurence de Ste Croix are the match winners in this squad, with Laurence their leading light, having been beaten only once this season. However, Mariusz Paluszkiwicz and Hari Laddunuri can both be relied upon to step up when needed, as demonstrated in the 6 - 4 victory over Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', when Mariusz won the 1st set and Hari won the 10th set to earn their team both points, thus ensuring that Andrew's maximum was not in vain. It was an identical 6 - 4 score line, when they entertained Sonning Common & Peppard 'H', although it required wins from all their players to nullify Mike Casserley's maximum. In the middle of this run of victories, OLOP had their biggest win, which was an emphatic 10 - 0 victory over the then current leaders, Springfield 'D', with Andrew taking the plaudits as PoM, Laurence and Simon also adding to their impressive list of maximums. A close call at Milestone 'C' followed, when a maximum from Laurence, a double from Mariusz and a single from Andrew were needed for another 6 - 4 win. Their fifth win was also by a 6 - 4 margin, this time over Reading FC 'C', thanks to a treble from Laurence, a double from Simon and a single from Hari.



SIMON BROOKES

Like so many other teams, Our Lady of Peace 'F' have fielded four different Doubles pairs in the past five matches, with a 60% win rate.

Reading FC 'B' - The Biscuit Men - have a squad of four players, three of whom can be match winners on their day, which has helped keep them in the pack near the top of the table. Paul Brown is the star, with an 80.95% win rate and 4 PoM awards, but Joe Bull and Keith Greene are not far behind, both having played 27 sets with a 62.96% win rate. Dave Evans has now also recorded his first singles win, overcoming Sonning Sports 'B's Mike Gautrey, and has come close at other times, only just losing 11-8 9-11 11-9 4-11 7-11 to Springfield C's Rob Attack, so I expect to see further wins from him, in the New Year. Their best win of the season came against Milestone 'C', when they won 9 - 1, thanks to a double from Keith Greene and trebles from both Joe Bull and Paul Brown. However, this was followed by two narrow 6 - 4 defeats, the first one against Sonning Sports 'B', when Florin Dimofte and Sally James combined to thwart them, and the second one against Springfield 'C', when doubles from Chris Speight and Rob Attack proved to be their undoing, before they bounced back to beat Tidmarsh 'E' 6 - 4, thanks to another Joe Bull treble and a double from Keith Greene.

Reading FC 'B' have played three different Doubles pairs, with a 50% win rate.

Like their clubmates, **Reading FC 'C' - The Royals** - also have a small squad and, with Tony Edwards not having played since the first match of the season, they have been reliant on their three remaining players which, sadly, has not been enough, leaving them near the bottom of the table, although they did have a good win over Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', in early December. Derek Anderson has continued his fine form and is usually good for at least a double, although he was unlucky to not only come up

against an in-form Steve Andrews, but also had to face Lee Calcutt, when they lost 8 - 2, at Tidmarsh E. If Wayne Alleyne and Harry Edwards can turn some of their narrow defeats into narrow wins, then they will surely climb up the table but, at the moment, they are languishing in 11th place. Over the last few matches, Harry has been pitching in with some single wins and thus the match result has been reliant upon whether Wayne can win sufficient sets, as occurred last week, when they went home with both points, following their match against Sonning Common & Peppard 'G'.

However, Wayne and Derek have formed a pretty useful Doubles partnership which, although it hasn't helped them win any additional points, has seen them victorious in three of their four recent matches, including an 11-8 11-8 6-11 1-11 11-8 win over OLOP's Simon Brookes and Laurence de Ste Croix, which surely bodes well for the rest of the season.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' have remained rooted near the bottom of the table, oscillating between 9th and 10th, depending upon their results and those of the surrounding pack. Since the start of match week 8, they have lost three matches, a narrow 6 - 4 loss at home to Our Lady of Peace 'F', when Andrew Adair stopped both Oliver Sayer and Marko Madzar from achieving maximums, a 7 - 3 loss to their club mates from the 'H' team and, finally, a 7 - 3 away loss to Reading FC 'C', when Derek Anderson was their nemesis. In amongst these losses, the 'G' team managed a commendable draw against a strong Sonning Sports B team, when Oliver Sayer beat Cris Reynolds 11-9 13-15 11-8 11-9 in the 10th set, to capitalise on Jamie Legg's earlier 11-9 11-9 11-9 win over Cris, as well as a tightly contested 6 - 4 victory over Springfield D, when Oliver Sayer won all three, Marko Madzar won two and Jim McClure, playing in his first match of the season, beat Paul Martin 7-11 11-9 11-9 11-8.

With an 80% win rate, Oliver is their leading player but has been ably supported by Mikey Legg, Jamie and Marko, who can all be relied upon to supply singles or doubles, and it appears that Jim will also be consistently contributing some wins. Nick Palmer makes up this squad but has had no further wins in the two matches he has played since.

The 'G' team has continued to try different Doubles partnerships, fielding a different pair in each match, but none of these combinations has met with any success.

Even though they have been on a remarkable run, of late, winning their last three matches, these results have only cemented **Sonning Common & Peppard 'H'**'s mid-table position. However, they restarted their resurgence with a draw at home to Kingfisher 'L', when Mike Casserley's treble, which included an 11-7 11-9 4-11 11-7 win over Clive Gold and an 11-9 5-11 11-9 13-11 10th set win over David O'Keeffe (to take both their 100% records), proved to be instrumental. Sadly, this was followed by a 6 - 4 loss to Our

Lady of Peace 'F', when another Mike Casserley treble proved to be insufficient, as they struggled to find that elusive additional set win. However, the fighting spirit exhibited by Julian James, in that match, continued into the match against their 'G' team, when he beat both Jamie Legg and Marko Madzar, which, added to another Mike Casserley treble and Gerry Bacon's single, meant that the 'H' team took both points, in the 7 - 3 win, and the bragging rights. Buoyed by this victory, they steamed past Springfield 'C', with a double from Gerry and trebles from both Mike and Julian leading to an 8 - 2 win and then upped their game once again, to crush Sonning Sports 'B' by a surprising 10 - 0 score line, with trebles for Mike, Gerry and Julian.

LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	P	W	%
Clive Gold	Kingfisher L	24	23	95.83
Laurence d S Croix	OLOP F	18	17	94.44
Florin Dimofte	Sonning Sports B	18	17	94.44
Kenneth Robb	Kingfisher L	12	11	91.67
Mike Casserley	SC&P H	30	27	90.00
David O'Keeffe	Kingfisher L	12	10	83.33
Paul Brown	Reading FC B	21	17	80.95
Simon Brookes	OLOP F	24	19	79.17
Oliver Sayer	SC&P G	18	14	77.78
Derek Anderson	Reading FC C	26	20	76.92

During this run Derek Maltby has only made the one appearance, which was against Our Lady of Peace 'F', so has been unable to improve his averages. Similarly, Steve Knott's one appearance was against Kingfisher 'L', leading to the same outcome as Derek.

As regards Doubles pairs, four combinations have been tried, resulting in three wins.

Sonning Sport 'B' started match week 8 with a 9 - 1 victory over the BBC Club, thanks to a double from Mo Cole and maximums for both Cris Reynolds and Florin Dimofte. They were then held to a draw at Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', when another maximum from Florin was not enough to win the match. Sally James had been winning the odd single, as well as gaining many fans for her attacking play, but her fortunes gained a lift in the next match against Reading FC 'B', when she came close to winning her first maximum, just losing out to Paul Brown 12-10 9-11 6-11 10-12, in her final set. Mike Gautrey was also close to winning the 10th set against Joe Bull, just missing out 10-12 8-11 10-12, but a 6 - 4 victory was assured as Florin added a treble to Sally's double and then partnered Sally to a 12-10 10-12 11-9 12-10 win over Joe Bull and Paul Brown, this contest being another worthy candidate for closest set of the season.

It was back to earth with a thump, when they travelled to Sonning Common & Peppard 'H' and were beaten 10 - 0, with Cris Reynolds, Michael Byrne and Mike Gautrey hav-

ing no luck stemming the tide of losses. However, they were back to winning ways in their match with Springfield 'C', with both Florin and Sally returning maximums for a 6 - 4 win. Sonning Sports 'B' have one of the largest squads, with 7 players, including two proven match winners in Florin (94.44% win rate) and Cris (61.90% win rate) but, if she carries on in this rich vein of form, Sally looks like she will be joining this august company soon. Mo Cole has continued to supply crucial singles and doubles, while Michael Byrne has just been missing out, most recently a 4-11 11-7 15-13 5-11 6-11 loss to Sonning Common & Peppard 'H's Gerry Bacon. Mike Gautrey has played his first two matches, with no wins in either but, based upon these results, I expect to see some wins recorded in the New Year.

Cris and Sally have not played for the same team, over the past few weeks, so their 100% doubles record is still intact, although some other teams have now joined them on 3 victories. However, both players have continued to win with other partners, although their team's four most recent combinations have only won three sets. The benefit of a large squad means that Cris can currently claim to still have three 100% partnerships !

Springfield 'C' have added James Regan to their playing roster, although he has only competed in one match so far, a 6 - 4 victory over Milestone 'C', when he beat Igor Grbic 11-7 11-6 11-8, in the final set, to ensure they went home with both points, Rob Attack already guaranteeing at least one point, when he won the 9th set against Tony Hayden, which in turn was only possible because Alan Goold had recorded his first double for the season. Having been undefeated, until late November, Springfield 'C' have now suffered two reversals, losing 8 - 2 away at Sonning Common & Peppard 'H' and a 6 - 4 defeat away at Sonning Sports 'B'. Now the 8 - 2 loss was something of an aberration, since Springfield 'C's score lines are usually 6 - 4 or 5 - 5, with only Tom Berryman earning a singles victory. Those wobbles apart, Chris Speight and Rob Attack have been models of consistency and have provided the platform for winning their points. Chris Speight just has his nose out in front as team star, with a 66.67% win rate, but Rob Attack is not far behind, on 57.14%. Tom Berryman's stats have suffered of late, but he has been consistently winning one set, which was vital in their recent win over Reading FC 'B'.

Springfield 'C' have submitted four different Doubles pairs, over the past five matches, but whichever combination has competed they have won and are the only side with a 100% win rate.

When I wrote my last report, **Springfield 'D'** were top of the table and undefeated. They then won their next match, a 6 - 4 victory over Tidmarsh 'E', which included a further maximum for Stephen Leggett and it looked like business as usual, but over the past few weeks their title challenge has taken a big hit, with three consecutive defeats, two of them by a 6 - 4 score line, as is the Springfield way, but one

by an unbelievable 10 - 0 score line, to rivals Our Lady of Peace 'F', the current table toppers and new bookies favourite. This latter match did have one of the most closely contested sets of the season, so far, when Colin Jones came close to avoiding the whitewash, before losing 11-9 9-11 12-10 9-11 9-11 to Andrew Adair. One of their other defeats was to Kingfisher 'L', another side vying for the title, who fielded a strong team which included David O'Keefe and Clive Gold, both of whom went home with maximums, although Paul Martin did defeat Derek Crombie 11-9 12-10 11-5, to record another singles win. However, I fully expect Springfield 'D' will get back into the groove, in the New Year, and will be battling for that top spot once again.

Stephen Leggett is their star player, with a 74.07% win rate and an impressive tally of 5 PoM awards, but Richard Cartland had been providing brilliant support and his absence has not helped Springfield 'D' in their fight to retain top spot. Because the same three names have appeared on their recent score cards, only two different Doubles pairs have been played, with a 50% win rate.

Lee Calcutt, one of two players who still have a 100% record, is no longer eligible to play for **Tidmarsh 'E'**, as he has now been re-registered for their 'C' team, for which the rest of the division will breathe a sigh of relief. However, in winning his third maximum, before his promotion, he helped Tidmarsh 'E' to an 8 - 2 victory over Reading FC 'C', although the star of this match was Steve Andrews, who not only took his first maximum of the season but also the PoM award. Since then, Tidmarsh 'E' have demonstrated the strength of their squad, with two 7 - 3 victories, one over Milestone 'C' and the other over the BBC Club, as well as a narrow 6 - 4 defeat to Reading FC 'B'. Although I haven't been compiling any official stats, I would suggest that Tidmarsh are involved in more close games than most, their recent match against the BBC Club being a case in point, when Bob Sunerton lost to Jack Mitchell 11-8 9-11 11-9 8-11 5-11, then beat John Scott 6-11 11-9 12-10 15-17 11-9 and finally beat Dave Pearson 11-9 11-6 14-16 8-11 11-7. And, if that was not enough to convince you, there was also Mike Bundy's 9-11 12-10 11-8 10-12 9-11 loss, to John Scott, and their 9-11 11-9 10-12 13-15 Doubles defeat !

Tidmarsh have a strong squad, with Pete Sinclair leading the averages with a 73.33% win rate. However, his team mates are not too far behind and the good news, for Tidmarsh 'E' fans, is that Steve Andrews appears to have rediscovered his mojo.

It seems to be the current trend, to field a changed Doubles pairing for each match, and Tidmarsh have been fully compliant. However, this tactic has only resulted in one win from their five recent matches.



YOUTH DIVISION

by Emma Barraclough

The evening's play on October 28th 2016 fell in the half term week and, as usual, the first stages of the Youth Division's Grouping Tournament were played. Twenty-four players registered and were grouped in three age bands with two groups in each band with good play across all the groups. Of the two groups with the oldest players the winner in Group A was Alex Eaton with Daniel Follant in second place while the third and fourth placed players Harry Bullock and Rishika Desai went through to the consolation competition. In Group B the group winner was Tamir Slobodskoy with Bill Hayden in second and Dev Goyal (3rd) and Rudresh Desai (4th) went through to the consolation.



Munns won Group A with Mo Cook in second place. Third and fourth place and places in the consolation competition went to Rishabh Shankar and Prakhar Ghandi. In Group B Dylan Cook topped the group with Adrian Mitchell in second. James Cunningham came in third place and Jai Goyal was fourth going into the consolation. The final stages will be on the evening of the Division Christmas Party on the 16th December.

Normal play resumed on the November 4th but the evening began with a surprise visit from the OLOP Table Tennis Club committee. They came to present Wendy Porter with an award from Table Tennis England – 'Club Volunteer of the Year.' Many congratulations to Wendy from all in the Youth Division. That evening saw some great

In the middle age band Group A was won by Johnson Xu with Ryan Griffiths in second. Rayaan Asghar was in third place and Zach Bonifacii (4th) and they went through to the consolation event. Ralph Phillips was the winner in Group B with Joe Brooks in second place. Benedict Carless and Anay Mistry went through to the consolation. In the youngest age group Nathan

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JOHNSON XU

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	P	W	%
Adam Winterbottom	26	26	100.00 %
Bill Hayden	20	19	95.00 %
Rory Walder	14	13	92.86 %
Sachin Dougall	12	11	91.67 %
Daniel Knott	17	14	82.35 %
Nathan Munns	23	18	78.26 %
Camran Nesari	9	7	77.78 %
Joseph Brooks	18	13	72.22 %
Dylan Cook	18	11	61.11 %
Ryan Griffiths	20	12	60.00 %
Jamie Barlow	21	12	57.14 %
Daniel Houten	15	8	53.33 %



NATHAN MUNNS

play. Apart from a 5 - 5 draw between the Strikers and Avengers the evening saw a number of dominant team performances with the Tigers defeating the Trojans 10 - 0, the Spartans defeating the Jaguars 10 - 0, the Raiders defeating the Leopards 8 - 2, the Panthers defeating the Attackers 9 - 1 and the Lions defeating the Pumas 9 - 1.

TEAM PLACINGS

	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Jaguars	7	5	1	1	50	20	50
2	Raiders	7	5	0	2	46	23	46
3	Strikers	7	6	0	1	45	25	45
4	Tigers	7	3	1	3	37	32	37
5	Attackers	7	3	1	3	34	36	34
6	Trojans	7	1	1	5	30	40	30
7	Spartans	7	2	2	3	28	42	28
8	Panthers	7	0	0	7	9	61	9

The 11th November saw some closer matches with the Raiders continuing to play well defeating the Jaguars 7 - 3 with Nathan Munns winning all three games. The Leopards defeated the Pumas 7 - 3 with Adam Winterbottom winning all his games. The Panthers, with Johnson Xu on 3, defeated the Lions 7 - 3 while the Avengers lost 0 - 10 to the Spartans and the Attackers lost 1 - 9 to the Tigers with both Anay Mistry and Tamir Slobodskoy both winning all their games. Good play continued in the following week, November 18th, with continuing strong play from the Lions, Panthers, Raiders and Spartans. The Lions defeated the Attackers 9 - 1, the Panthers defeated the Leopards 8 - 2, Raiders beat the Avengers 9 - 1 while the Spartans defeated the Trojans 10 - 0. The Pumas and Jaguars drew and the Tigers defeated the Strikers 6 - 4.

November 25th saw wins for the Spartans, Pumas, Strikers, Raiders and Panthers. The Lions and Leopards managed a draw. December 2nd saw winning form continue for the Pumas, Raiders, Spartans and Panthers who won 10 - 0 against the Avengers. The Leopards won 7 - 2 against the Attackers with Keyan Ghods and Adam Winterbottom winning all their games and the Lions won 7 - 3 against the Jaguars with Bill Hayden winning all his games. December 9th was the final evening of match play before Christmas with a final opportunity for teams to affect their positions before the Division splits into two leagues in the New Year. The Leopards, Raiders, Tigers, Lions, Spartans and Panthers all recorded wins. The final evening of the year 16th December will see the finals of the Grouping Tournament and a Christmas Party.



NATIONAL CADET LEAGUE

by Wendy Porter



Our young Reading players have been shining on the national stage, and on 4th December we sent three teams down to Week 2 of a National Cadel League competition at Waterside TTC in Southampton. This was the first time we played at Waterside.

Below are Reading's national cadet teams from week 1.



A team - Johnson Xu, Jamie Barlow, Ryan Griffiths



B team - Adrian Mitchell, Rudresh Desai, Benedict Carless



C team - Rishika Desai, Tom Robinson, Shreeya Gupta

(Alex Eaton played week 2 in place of Shreeya)

The system is: that there are six teams in each division, who all play each other one match. Within a match, each competitor plays two of the opposing three players - giving a total of 6 sets per match, multiplied by five matches.

We didn't have a team in Division 1. Our Reading A and B teams were both in Division Two - and our C team was in Division 3.

Here are the positions after Week 2. Further info (including averages) can be found on Waterside's website

<http://www.watersidettc.co.uk/category/competitions/>

DIV 2	Teams	Sets won	Sets lost	DIV 3	Teams	Sets won	Sets lost
1	Reading A	25	5	1	Bournemouth D	26	4
2	Generation II A	19	11	2	Weymouth D	19	11
3	Weymouth C	15	15	3	Reading C	15	15
4	Reading B	15	15	4	Generation II B	14	16
5	Bournemouth C	8	22	5	Weymouth E	11	19
6	Southampton B	8	22	6	Isle of Wight	5	25

Our top averages were: **Alex Eaton (90%), Johnson Xu (90%), Jamie Barlow (80%), Ryan Griffiths (80%), Benedict Carless (70%), Rudresh Desai (50%), Tom Robinson (50%)**

The next National Cadet League will be on 29th January, 2017

I will be looking for 1 more player to join the C team, as I intend to take 4 players per team, to enable them all to have a break in the day, and time to eat.

If anyone is interested (must have a current TTE membership and be born in 2002 or later) please email me.

Thanks

Wendy Porter

wendyasporter@gmail.com

07745331743