

February 2016



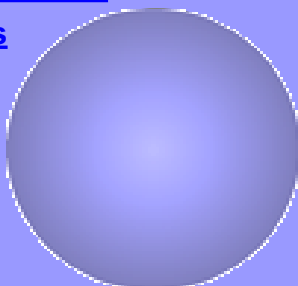
Mihajlo Ralic, Jim McAllister, Harry Munro and Adam McTiernan
All photos and videos are by Didier Garçon.

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Teams in all Divisions are poised for their final dash to the line - check here on how the other horses are lying.

A new initiative - the Ping Pageant - will happen this summer - volunteers wanted - latest news on P2.

This edition of the Newsletter has a record number of photos of Reading players. And reports on three tournaments for the discerning player - the Individual Handicap, the Reading Closed, and the Berkshire Inter Town. Plus hard bat 'Porter's Ping Pong Pot'. Participation in tournaments is up from last year.



The average age in the League keeps going up - but are we catering for age? See a challenging letter to the editor which raises seldom-discussed issues.

At the same time there is a powerful influx of new interest at the junior coaching level. The junior section of the Reading Closed, which was held last weekend, will be covered in our April Newsletter.

Play well - Derek



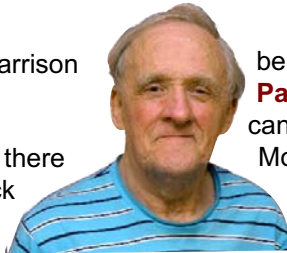
Notes from our Chairman

by Derek Harrison

Hello Everyone

With the season now at the last few weeks there are still a few issues to resolve so good luck to you all in the vital matches that remain.

You will I am sure be aware that **Peter Bradley** on



behalf of the R.D.T.T.A is hoping to run a **Ping Pong Pageant** at various locations during the summer so can I ask you to give him as much help as possible. More information will be issued in due course - see below.

All the best

Derek

Ping Pong Pageant - Reading - 2016

I informed you of my intention to apply for funding from Sport England in my article on the above project in the December newsletter. I completed my application for funding in mid-January and I expect to get an answer from Sport England around the around Easter time. In the meantime **I must, with your help, arrange an 'Opening Ceremony' and events throughout the summer to encourage people to participate.**

I have already sent a letter to the Management Committee and to all Club Secretaries seeking assistance with the further planning of the event. The initial part of that letter confirmed all the details of the sites for table location that I gave in the last newsletter article. The following is an extract of the letter sent to your club secretary:

I would like to set up a small group of volunteers from our clubs as an events team to discuss ways of entertaining participants. My thoughts are that your

club could assist by adopting a table and providing challenges/fun activities for a couple of days during the summer period. I will also need several volunteers to act as 'activators'/monitors to make sure that we get as much information as possible from this exercise as I will have to report back to Sport England on the outcome in June 2017.

So, would your club be interested in helping with this venture? Would members of your club be willing to volunteer to help with monitoring usage of tables? Please let me know so that I can arrange a meeting with those clubs who wish to assist me in early February.

I ask the question, **"Have you been informed of this and would you be willing to assist?" I would be pleased to hear from you if you are. You can email me at peter@forehandsmash.co.uk or telephone me on 0118 9585365. I look forward to hearing from you.**

Peter Bradley – RDTTA Development Officer

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



From Keith Swain

Dear All,

After 40 years of playing table tennis in the Reading league I will be retiring to Cornwall (St Agnes) in the summer so my last game will be 10th March 2016. I have really enjoyed playing against so many of you and for those who have given me a good beating (yes there are many), well done and for those I managed to squeak a victory (not so many I fear) I hope you enjoyed the game and I did not use too much bad language when missing that easy smash.

I do not intend hanging up my bat and will use it in anger in the Cornwall league, you never know I may even get in one of the lower county teams so we may have the pleasure of meeting again.

Keep playing and enjoying our sport, it is fun and keeps the beer gut under control, sort of!

Regards,

Keith Swain

From Richard Witt

*(A tribute to various players including particularly the late John Creighton, from **Richard Witt**, captain of the Reading FC team which entered Div 5 in September):*

This first season in the league for Reading FC Community Trust has proven fun, challenging and entertaining. We found ourselves doing really well having played some good teams/players, but none as good as John Creighton; he beat all our team conveniently and was also the first player to defeat Mark Edwards, who had been unbeaten up to then. John played in great spirit at the Madejski Stadium. My team were very pleased and proud to have played him.

*Quote from my auntie, **Karen Witt** ... "John was a guy that just lived the game, playing in good spirit for many many years, I remember him as I grew as a player - he will be sadly missed."*

Richard Witt

NB - Letters to the Editor are continued on [p26](#)

THE INDIVIDUAL HANDICAP

by Derek Wavell



RICHARD WITT

The Individual Handicap competition took place on Sunday 3rd January - organized by Duncan Abbott.

The tournament was a great success, drawing 50% more entries than last year.

As always, this was a chance for table tennis unknowns to put themselves on the map. Not so long ago, a few brave Division One players always used to take part too, and it was exciting to see these giants battling their way against enormous handicaps. Maybe next year we'll see them again!

This year we saw newcomers that most people had not met before, from the new Reading FC team - which had been making a splash in Division Five. Captain Richard Witt (nephew of local

star Karen Witt); Mark Edwards, Keith Greene and Joe Bull. Of them, Richard Witt and Mark Edwards both won their groups in the first round and went on to the second.

Another very interesting group was a small one - because of illness - but it did include both last year's winner, young

Joe Barraclough, and last year's runner up, Luca Bianchi!

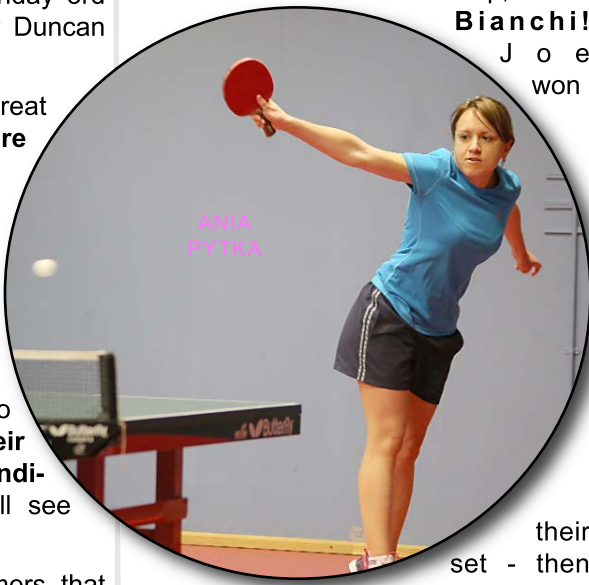


JOHN UPHAM

The final was a repeat of last year's sensation, with schoolboy Joe Barraclough going forward to take the prize - the Handicap Cup, which is the largest of all the RDTTA trophies.

This final was a great contrast of styles. Luca, the muscular Italian, played a tempting game - sailing the ball a foot or more over the net, or lobbing it with a sharp sideways twist, high in the air. Joe responded throughout with studied nonchalance, approaching slowly, then making up his mind apparently at the last second whether to smash long or half-volley short. To the delight of onlookers, he mostly chose to smash - and on target.

Young Joe won the first set 21-7. The second was similar except that Luca did some smashing of his own - and Joe's nerve was just starting to wobble. Even so, Joe held out to a 21-18 win. And he still had the strength to lift the cup at the end!



ANIA PYTKA

their set - then both went forward, and were to meet again in the final.

Other group leaders in the first Round were John Upham, Wendy Porter, Thomas Perkins and Zoltan Kelemen.

Round 2 was another group stage - and the 4 groups were won by: Luca Bianchi, Joe Barraclough, Jarek Chmielowiec and Thomas Perkins. In the semi-finals, Luca Bianchi beat Thomas Perkins and Joe Barraclough beat Jarek Chmielowiec.



WINNER JOE BARRACLOUGH, WITH ORGANIZER DUNCAN ABBOTT



CLICK TO SEE VIDEO OF THE FINAL

The **BERKSHIRE INTER TOWN** by Duncan Groves



DANIEL MOSES

Reading regained the Barbara Peisley trophy in emphatic style, gaining the maximum 24 points from the six events.

The Division 1 Senior team kick started Reading's campaign with three 6 - 0 victories over Bracknell, Maidenhead and Newbury respectively. **Martin Adams was impressive** as always while Ye Qin Zeng showed fine form throughout the day, especially in beating Mark Banks 11-9, 18-16, 12-10. Stuart Williams also remained unbeaten, losing just one set in the process.

The Division 1 veterans were disappointed to find that only Bracknell could field a team on the day. **Bracknell proved no match for Reading league stars Hari Gehlot and Martin Gunn, while Duncan Groves stepped up as a last minute replacement to win his matches in another 6 - 0 win.**

The following Sunday saw Division 2 teams in a more competitive battle, though Maidenhead again failed to field a team, this time in the Seniors. First up for the Seniors were Bracknell. A surprise change in the order meant that



DANNY RICKS

Richard Fifield faced Djordje Milovanovic in the opening singles, losing in four sets. Though Csaba Pall eased past John Willcocks, captain Andrew Parker lost narrowly to Milovanovic in five sets, leaving Fifield to beat Willcocks to chalk up a 4 - 2 win. A 12-10 loss in the fifth meant that the spoils were shared, despite the Bracknell team being one man short.

Reading recorded a 4 - 2 win in their second and final match against a strong looking Newbury team. The highlights were a straight sets win by Csaba Pall over Steve Murgatroyd and a fine 3 - 2 win by Andrew Parker over Paul Rattue. The result of the Newbury v Bracknell match meant that Reading topped the group.

The Division 2 veterans represented by Gary Morgan, Neil Hurford and Pete Bradley, outplayed all their opponents, losing only one singles match in the process.

For the final Sunday, **Reading selected Dan Moses, Danny Ricks and Eduard Caliman** in the Division 3 Senior team and proved too strong for their opposition, recording 5-1 wins over Bracknell and Maidenhead and 6-0 over Newbury. Both Dan and Ed finished the day unbeaten.

The Division 3 veterans swept past their first two opponents but were left with a tricky match against Newbury to win their mini-league. Henryk Ciechanovicz lost his first singles of the day in a five setter against Andy Barnes then Newbury went two nil up after Tony Brown beat Mike Aistrop. Barry

Carter led the fight back by beating Denise Weller in straight sets, then Henryk levelled the match by beating Tony Brown. Barry lost the fifth rubber to Andy Barnes but Mike Aistrop made sure of the points by defeating Denise in five sets despite being two down. **The 3-3 draw was enough for Reading to top the table and ensure that Reading maintained maximum points on their way to regaining the Inter Town trophy.**

Thanks to all the Reading players for their participation, including a few who had to step in quite late in the day to help out.



KEITH LANGLEY OF NEWBURY

Team Handicap Competition 2015-16

organised by Duncan Abbott

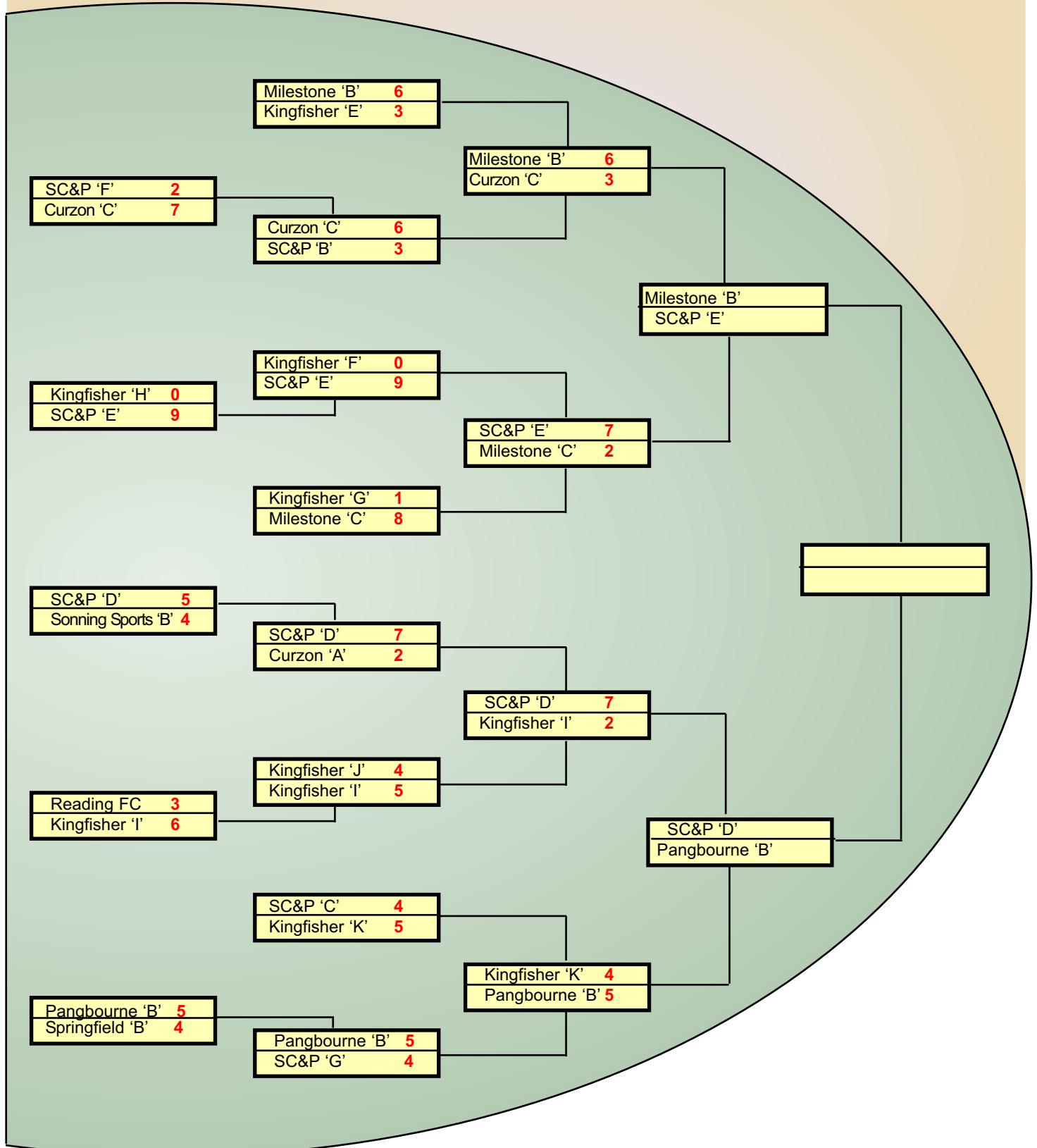
The Team Handicap is a knockout competition open to all teams in the Reading & District League. All players are given handicaps by the RDTTA Handicap Committee based on their recent results. In a Team Handicap match the three players from one team play all players from the other team, 21-up, taking into account the relevant handicaps. There is no doubles contest. Corresponding rounds must be played by week commencing:

26 Oct

23 Nov

15 Feb

21 Mar



THE READING CLOSED

by Wendy Porter



DANIEL MOSES, WITH SAND PAPER BAT

Again the Reading Closed was held at Kingfisher over two weekends. - 13th - 14th Feb for the Seniors and on 20th - 21st for the Juniors.



MELVIN LOVEGROVE

Seniors

Once more Daniel Moses was dominant, retaining his Men's Singles title, only dropping 1 set en route, to Danny Ricks in the Semi Final, before facing team mate, Krasi Ivanov in the Final. Krasi had previously defeated another team mate, Ian Cole in his Semi Final, and he took 3rd place, beating Danny Ricks in the play off.

THE WINNERS

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|-------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| Men's Singles | Winner | Daniel Moses | Runner up: | Krasi Ivanov |
| Ladies Singles | Winner | Wendy Porter | Runner up: | Gwynne Penny |
| Veterans Singles | Winner | Steve Miller | Runner up: | Ian Cole |
| Mixed Doubles | Winners | Daniel Moses & Wendy Porter | Runners up | Krasi Ivanov and Gwynne Penny |
| Men's Doubles | Winners | Daniel Moses and Krasi Ivanov | Runners up | Ian Cole and Steve Miller |
| Ping Pong | Winner | Daniel Moses | Runner up: | Paul Treadgold |
| Senior Vets Singles | Winner | Henryk Ciechanowicz | Runner up: | Richard Fifield |
| Over 60s Singles | Winner | Allen Pack | Runner up: | Eric Holmes |
| Div 1 | Winner | Daniel Moses | Runner up: | Danny Ricks |
| Div 2 | Winner | Harry Munro | Runner up: | Thomas Perkins |
| Div 3 | Winner | David Joyce | Runner up: | Wendy Porter |
| Div 4 | Winner | Felix Thomis | Runner up: | Laurence de Ste Croix |
| Div 5 | Winner | Andrew Adair | Runner up: | Carl Edlind |



COURTESY OF ERIC HOLMES, HERE IS AN AUTHENTIC OLD "PING PONG" BAT. IT IS HOLLOW WITH A LAYER OF SKIN ON EACH SIDE.



GWYNNE PENNY WITH MIXED DOUBLES PARTNER KRASI IVANOV



WENDY PORTER



KATIE SHEPHERD

This year the ladies entry doubled to 4, but unfortunately Ania had to withdraw on the Sunday due to twisting her ankle on the Saturday (I hope it is much better now). We played a round robin in the ladies singles, and I am proud to say I retained the title, with Gwynne Penny coming second and Katie Shepherd 3rd.

Due to the injury, the Ladies Doubles had to be cancelled, but the Mixed doubles Semi Finals and 3rd placed play off were played on Saturday. In the Semi's, Wendy Porter and Daniel Moses beat Ania Pytka and Steve Miller, and Gwynne Penny and Krasi Ivanov beat Katie Shepherd and Joe Barraclough. Then, in the play-off, Ania and Steve beat Katie and Joe - experience winning after a close battle.



STEVE MILLER



UMPIRES: KATIE SHEPHERD, TONY HAYDEN AND TREVOR ORGAN



SPECTATORS: KRYS SZCZYGIEL AND ZIKO JERZANSKI

The Final was played on Sunday, and the title was again retained by Wendy and Daniel, by beating Gwynne and Krasi, in 3 straight games.



MIXED DOUBLES FINAL: GWYNNE PENNY, KRASI IVANOV, DANIEL MOSES AND WENDY PORTER

The Men's Doubles was started in 4 groups of 3 then went to Quarter Final Knock outs with Krasi Ivanov and Daniel Moses, comfortably beating Ian Cole and Steve Miller in 3 straight sets.

Saturday saw many different finalists, Allen Pack beat Eric Holmes in the 60+, Henryk Ciechanowicz beat Richard Fifield in the Senior Vets, and Steve Miller beat Ian Cole in an exciting Veteran final, finishing 13-11 in the 5th game.

To ensure plenty of table tennis for everyone, all the divisional championships were played in 2 groups, before going to semi-final knock outs.

All the categories had more entrants than last year, so thanks to everyone for taking part!



Performance of the weekend: Mens Singles (1st round) Felix Thomis v Antony Baker 8-11, 6-11, 11-9, 11-7, 11-7. In other words, a Division Four cadet beat a Division One senior! Well done, Felix!

We ran Porter's Ping Pong Pot for the first time in Reading, where players played with provided hard bats, first to 15, best of 3. A difference in the rules is that a server can name a 2 point point on his/her serve,

Eric Holmes and Paul Treadgold, were two players, who took to this game very well, with some very good wins, until being showed the true meaning of adapting to the game, by none other than Daniel Moses.

Editor: Many thanks to Wendy Porter for organizing this tournament! Our next edition will cover junior events in the Reading Closed.

The photos on this and other pages of the newsletter are all by Didier Garcon - and photographs in the divisional reports were all taken in the Reading Closed and Individual Handicap competitions.

Videos - click on a thumbnail to see the video


[MEN'S SINGLES FINAL](#)



[MEN'S DOUBLES FINAL](#)



[MIXED DOUBLES FINAL](#)

NB - you can alternatively click on a  symbol on the table of winners to call up that video.





DIVISION ONE

by Mark Banks

Here we are then. The penultimate edition of this rather strange and disjointed Div 1 season I guess in comparison to other seasons. A lot has been said and written about the 10 teams we have in D1 still following the same calendar as the other Divisions all with 12 teams in them. Hey, I'm in the same boat as all you lot. I agree with you, I'm also

taken place since I last wrote to you but things are almost settled at both ends of the table. OLOP 'A' with home advantage just require a draw in their match against us to retain their title and at the other end I'm afraid Curzon are looking like ending up pointless after narrowly missing out against fellow strugglers YMCA a couple of weeks back.



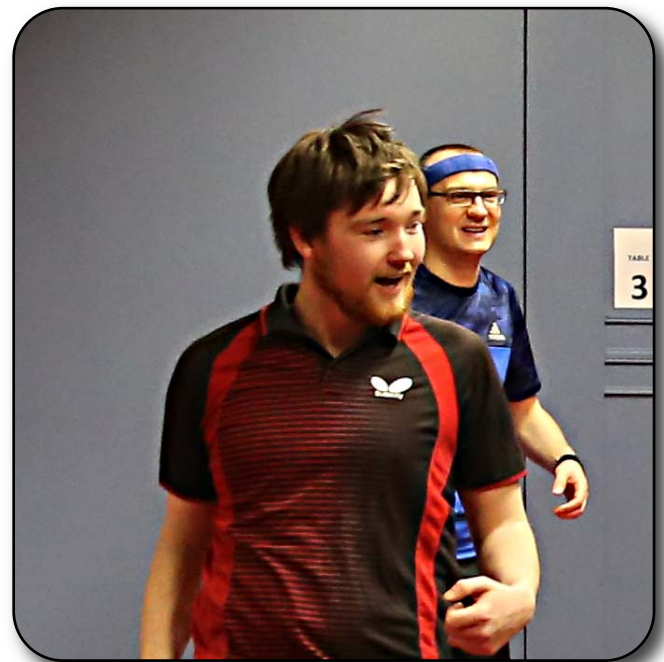
Love and Peace x

Right then **OLOP 'A'** you may be sitting pretty looking down at the rest of us from your high perch but that's no reason to a) not provide a scorecard, b) not provide a pen and c)



IAN COLE of OLOP 'A'

not really sure it's worked but again it's my understanding that it was too late in the day to adjust the dates for this season. Hopefully if we're 10 again come September then there will be time to look at it. I think with the cessation of the Impact Shield matches it's not helped especially when the majority of D1 teams don't take part in the cup competition and therefore in



DANIEL MOSES AND KRASI IVANOV of OLOP 'A'

you may not like them but to not invite your opponents for a drink when you slope off into the bar after the match is a bit lame innit. You guys are the best we have. The team that the rest of us aspire to be, Champions and Champions elect of one of the greatest Local Leagues in the Country. Come on! You have been brilliant on the table this season but you must



ED CALIMAN of KINGFISHER 'C'

the calendar they are just additional free weeks on top of the multiple free weeks we already have. Appreciate these things are never simple and of course the easiest solution is one calendar fits all but I do think it needs at least looking at as I say. Anyway, not too many games to go then and only 3 or 4 have

| | | PL | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|----|--------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 | OLOP A | 14 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 118 | 22 | 28 |
| 2 | Kingfisher A | 12 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 97 | 23 | 22 |
| 3 | Kingfisher C | 14 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 69 | 71 | 16 |
| 4 | Kingfisher B | 13 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 74 | 56 | 15 |
| 5 | Kingfisher D | 14 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 68 | 72 | 15 |
| 6 | Tidmarsh A | 14 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 68 | 72 | 13 |
| 7 | OLOP B | 15 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 63 | 87 | 12 |
| 8 | SC&P A | 15 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 59 | 91 | 10 |
| 9 | YMCA | 14 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 48 | 92 | 7 |
| 10 | Curzon A | 13 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 26 | 104 | 0 |

do better off it. Be the Champions that Reading are proud of. Make being thrashed an enjoyable experience. Anyway, hav-



RICHARD FIFIELD of KINGFISHER 'C'

ing said that, to be honest I'm rubbish at refreshments too – that's why I always select Hari for every home game – he loves a cup of tea ;-). So the big shootout on Weds 23rd Feb. Just a draw required and we're minus The Italian Stallion so should be a formality. Congrats guys!

MVP Daniel Moses

So as I say, at **Kingfisher 'A'** you will always be offered a cup of tea - whether we like you or not – providing Hari isn't on holiday that is. We've not been tested in the games since Christmas. Stallion injured himself skiing and has been out for months but in truth we're only ever likely to miss him against OLOP and even then he lost all 3 last time around. It's gonna be tough on Weds. All of their players practice at Kingfisher and none of our players practice at OLOP (funny that) so we're proper up against it. They only need 5 and the form book suggests a 7 - 3 win for them so something incredible is gonna have to happen for us to take them out. No Scorecard or pen and we walk though ;-)

MVP Martin Gunn

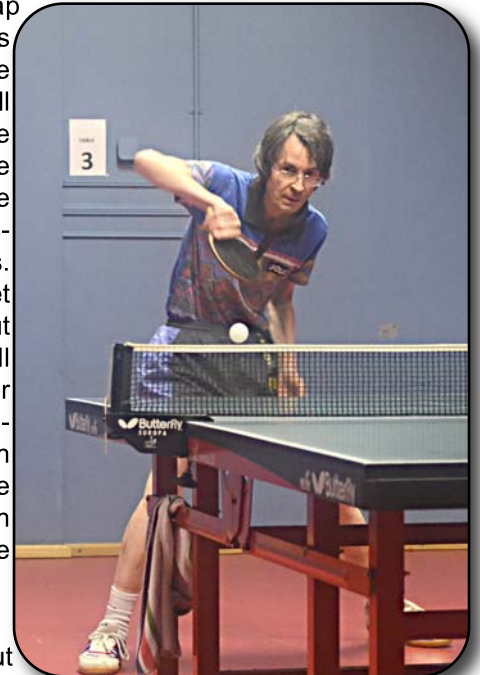
Availability issues have still been hampering **Tidmarsh 'A'** then and any hopes of finishing 3rd or 4th have seemingly gone now. Definitely would have been possible if they'd all stayed fit though for sure so a bit of a shame but they can all be pretty proud of their achievements notably Star man Csaba's win over Krasi and the one we'll all be talking about for a long time – Duncan's over Little Mc earlier in the season. They probably wish they could play OLOP 'A' every week. Possibly a little disappointed that they didn't take all 2 points against in form KFD earlier in the month with Csaba getting the big Max but on the whole they're all doing fine and with a player of Squirrel's calibre in the team anything can happen!

MVP Csaba Pall

I like this **Kingfisher 'C'** side but they just rely too heavily on Phil winning his 3 and when that doesn't happen then invariably they end up losing. Fortunately for them it doesn't happen very often and that's why they have been doing so well this season. Good to see Ed back. Not quite the same effect with his pimps as before so much fewer cheap points going his way but the shots are all still there and he should improve to give Phil the support he desperately needs. Trev yet to get off the mark but playing well enough. Never known somebody to smash every ball in the knock up but then lob every ball in the match. Haha!

MVP Phil Zeng

Hard to make out **OLOP 'B'** isn't it. OK so they all play at the same level but one or two have gone missing recently - hinting that all is not well in the camp. Star Man Henryk hasn't been seen for weeks with rumours aplenty that he's



TREVOR ORGAN OF KINGFISHER 'C'



STEVE MILLER OF OLOP 'B'

already signed a deal to play for a top Kingfisher side next season. And with Djordje off to Germany it's hard to see where this side will go from here. Nice to see Steve back and enjoying the game once again. The newly crowned Reading Veterans Champion starting to fulfil some of the potential he

has always shown but without upsetting some of the bigger names in this Division. Maybe that will start to change now. Sir Clive – probably wondering why I don't call him but my phone got destroyed in Amsterdam recently and I subsequently lost all of my contacts. Thinking about it I could get it off Lawrence I guess. Oooops!!

MVP Henryk or Steve now Steve's back and Henryk's gone walkies.



HENRYK CIECHANOWICZ of OLOP 'B'

End of an era then for **Sonning Common & Peppard 'A'** as one of their legends bids farewell and departs for pastures new in deepest darkest Cornwall. How do you replace somebody who is irreplaceable? Jason, Malcolm and Gary will be asking the question but for Keith it's off to where the pace of life is about 90% slower than it is in Reading and he'll be hoping the table tennis standard is about that too. He's just about left them OK as far as D1 status goes. The draw with OLOP 'B' will surely have clinched them that. God knows what Malcolm is gonna do though. It's like Ant losing Dec.

MVP Gary Morgan

Certainly one of the form sides are **KFD** and if they'd been playing this well earlier in the season then who knows where they might have ended up? 3rd Place? Making a mockery of the KF decision to make them D? Who knows. Deffo a force to be reckoned with now it's all coming together. Parks in particular has been throwing in a few eye catching performances. Finally some consistency to go with those big shots of his. We all know what Tony & Murgy can do on their day and even Niall has been rolling back the years with a couple of important wins here and there. It's nice to see and long may it continue.

MVP Andrew Parker

Fair to say that **Kingfisher 'B'** have really struggled more so than any other team with availability issues. I really feel for them because with Martin playing as well as ever they may just have had a squeak if Ian and one or two others had stayed fit. Not to be though and it's probably 3rd place which will be an achievement in itself considering all of the issues. Word on the street is that fresh blood is already being lined up for next season though so watch this space. If correct then

they will probably start next season as favourites. Justifiably so too.

MVP Martin Adams

Just when it looked as if **YMCA** were going to pull off the miraculous escape, Sonning went and got a draw at OLOP 'B' and I think that's probably enough to ensure YM finish 2nd from bottom. Who knows whether that will mean relegation though? All still up in the air as far as I'm aware. Great to see David Streak back playing well. Brilliant maximum at Curzon and when you think that Neil only scored one on the night it just goes to show how good a performance that was. Vintage Streak! Peter too turned it on just when it really mattered and with Neil and the two Daves in any other season they finish 3rd or even 4th from bottom and stay up. Is there a better Div 2 side than this lot? No. So should they go down through no fault of their own (isn't their fault there are only 10 teams)? I really don't know. What I do know is that D1 and Reading Table Tennis will be a poorer place without this lot strutting their stuff at the top level.

MVP Neil Hurford

Oh so close for **Curzon Club 'A'** and but for an inspired David Streak I would now be sat here talking about their first point or even points of the season rather than yet another hard luck story. Alas it wasn't to be. They did the hard work by taking out star man Neil Hurford but David & Peter weren't giving out any presents and a 13th consecutive defeat in the top flight it was. Such a shame. Again, individual performances have been a plenty with Andy, Phil and John all getting in on the act. John in particular playing very well against my own team on the night taking out The Kid. Again, like YMCA they will be hanging on the committee decision about League formation for next season.

MVP Phil Mead

| LEADING AVERAGES | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|----|----|---------|
| Player | Team | PL | W | % |
| Martin Adams | Kingfisher B | 33 | 32 | 96.97 % |
| Daniel Moses | OLOP A | 39 | 37 | 94.87 % |
| Martin Gunn | Kingfisher A | 18 | 17 | 94.44 % |
| Philip Zeng | Kingfisher C | 34 | 31 | 91.18 % |
| Hari Gehlot | Kingfisher A | 33 | 30 | 90.91 % |
| Krasimir Ivanov | OLOP A | 42 | 37 | 88.10 % |
| Mark Banks | Kingfisher A | 27 | 23 | 85.19 % |
| Gus Thomis | OLOP A | 18 | 15 | 83.33 % |
| Daniel Mctierman | OLOP A | 12 | 10 | 83.33 % |
| Henryk Ciechanowicz | OLOP B | 23 | 18 | 78.26 % |
| Csaba Pall | Tidmarsh A | 35 | 24 | 68.57 % |
| Neil Hurford | YMCA | 24 | 15 | 62.50 % |
| Gary Morgan | SC&P A | 28 | 16 | 57.14 % |



DIVISION TWO

by Barry Carter



Welcome to the third newsletter of the season. The promotion places are all but done and dusted with Our Lady of Peace 'C' needing only two more points from their last four matches and Sonning Common & Peppard 'B' three more from seven matches so it is all about the championship for those two now. At the bottom it is any two from five with only Pangbourne WMC 'A',

Tidmarsh 'C', Sonning Common & Peppard 'D', Kingfisher 'G' and Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' that can still mathematically finish in the bottom two. Kingfisher 'F' guaranteed survival with an 8 – 2 win over Pangbourne last week as Ivor pointed out to me in his email.



COLIN DYKE, ROGER WOOLVEN-ALLEN AND GRANT WHEATLEY of KINGFISHER 'E'

Sonning Common & Peppard 'B' have won three and drawn one since the last newsletter with the only blemish coming in the 5 – 5 with OLOP 'C' that almost certainly wrapped up the championship. The three victories were 10 – 0 against Sonning C & P 'D', 9 – 1 against Sonning C & P 'E' and a tight 6 – 4 win over Tidmarsh 'C'.

Player stat: Simon Berry has so far won the same sets in the return matches as he did in the first half (e.g. 3 v Sonning 'D', 2 v OLOP 'C' etc.)

Brian Meheux has won more maximums away from home than as he has at home.

Jeremy Willis has yet to lose by the 0 – 3 scoreline

Nigel Maltby has yet to play against the same team twice.

Mathew Faulkner has won seven of his nine matches 3 – 0.

Kingfisher 'E' are the form team having picked up five wins in a row, but their promotion push I feel has come just a week or two too late. The January signing of Rob Gladstone has proved very fruitful (hope Wolves acquisition of Joe Mason from Cardiff is equally productive) as he has won twelve out of fifteen. Coupled with Grant Wheatley's good form and Colin Dyke's consistency they are now a force to be reckoned with and will have a bearing on the outcome of promotion and relegation issues.

Good luck to Roger and John who are currently out of action due to injuries.

Player stat: Grant Wheatley has been involved in the most five-gamers, 19 (won 12 lost 7).

Colin Dyke has been involved in the most four-gamers, 18 (won 9, lost 9).



ZIKO JERZMANSKI of OLOP 'C'

Our Lady of Peace 'C' are still unbeaten in 2016 and that is despite playing a couple of matches with only two players and playing others up in the other three. The matches they have won came against Sonning C & P 'D' where they played with two and won 7 – 3 and Sonning C & P 'E' where Jim McAllister played up and recorded a fine brace in the 9 – 1 victory. The three draws came against Kingfisher 'F', Tidmarsh 'B' and Sonning C & P 'B'.

Player stat: Harry Munro has made 24 of his 42 wins in three straight games.

Yonotan Slobodskoy has played in all 16 of OLOP 'C's matches this season

Ziko Jerzmanski has won only one of his 13 wins in three straight games.

Team stat: OLOP 'C' have the best doubles record in the division, 14/16, 88%.

| | PL | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|-----|
| SC&P B | 15 | 13 | 2 | 0 | 113 | 37 | 28 |
| OLOP C | 16 | 10 | 5 | 1 | 107 | 53 | 25 |
| Kingfisher E | 17 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 95 | 75 | 20 |
| SC&P C | 17 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 82 | 88 | 19 |
| Tidmarsh B | 16 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 88 | 72 | 17 |
| Kingfisher F | 16 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 82 | 78 | 16 |
| Pangbourne A | 15 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 71 | 79 | 15 |
| Tidmarsh C | 14 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 67 | 73 | 13 |
| SC&P D | 16 | 4 | 1 | 11 | 55 | 105 | |
| Kingfisher G | 17 | 2 | 3 | 12 | 60 | 110 | 7 |
| SC&P E | 15 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 50 | 100 | 5 |



ALLEN PACK OF KINGFISHER 'F'

Rob Gladstone has won braces or maximums in his five matches to date.

Team stat: Have been involved in the most five-gamers, 55 in total. Have the evenings been long?

Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' have had mixed fortunes in 2016, having won three and lost two. The three wins have come against Kingfisher 'G', Kingfisher 'F' and Sonning C & P 'D' whilst they have slipped up against Kingfisher 'E' (2 – 8) and Tidmarsh 'B' (2 – 8).

Player stat: Matt Stone's four maximums have come against four different teams.

Danny Dockree has won two maximums in his last three matches, which is two more than he did in his previous 11 matches, well done Danny!

Jon Abbott has yet to win a match by the 3 – 1 scoreline, 3 – 0 (5) and 3 – 2 (7).

Tim Raby has yet to win a maximum but has also yet to lose all three on an evening.

Team stat: Currently they have won the most points at home, 13 (won six, drawn one, lost one).

Tidmarsh 'B' have also had mixed fortunes as they have won twice, drawn once and lost twice. The wins came against Sonning C & P 'C' (8 – 2), Kingfisher 'G' (6 – 4),

their best result was the draw with OLOP 'C' and the two defeats were against Tidmarsh 'C' (3 – 7) and Kingfisher 'E' (4 – 6).

Player stat: Mike Aistrop five of his six trebles came at home. Dave Wise has played successive matches on only one occasion (weeks 3 & 4).

Francois Durand has won seven out of nine five-setters.

Team stat: Have used the most players this season, 8.

Kingfisher 'F' are the third team to have mixed fortunes, I guess this is why they are in mid-table. The two wins have come against Kingfisher 'G' and Pangbourne WMC 'A', whilst the draw was an impressive one against OLOP 'C' and the three defeats occurred against Tidmarsh 'C', Sonning C & P 'C' and Kingfisher 'E'.

Player stat: Allan Bruton has gone home with the most braces of an evening, 7 times.

Peter Bennett has won three of his four matches against Sonning C & P teams.

Michael Houghton has only been on the losing side twice in his seven matches he's played in.

Ivor Hardman has been involved in 17 four-setters which is the second most.

Allen Pack has spread his 18 wins evenly, 6 x 3 – 0, 6 x 3 – 1 and 6 x 3 – 2.



DENISE WELLER OF PANGBOURNE 'A'

Team stat: They have won three of their six matches by the 7 – 3 result.

Pangbourne WMC 'A' are joint bottom of the current form table with just one point from their last four matches and that came in the 5 – 5 draw with Sonning C & P 'E'. They have suffered three defeats at the hands of the three Kingfisher teams in the division, the 'G' team (3 – 7) and the 'E' and 'F' teams by the same scoreline of 2 – 8. It's a good job that they had such a good first half of the season otherwise they might have been involved in a relegation dog-fight.

Player stat: John Simmonds has yet to win a maximum at home.

Denise Weller hasn't been on the losing side when she has hit a brace or maximum.

Simon Hopkins has got both his singles at home.

LEADING AVERAGES

| Player | Team | P | W | % |
|--------------------|--------------|----|----|----------|
| Mathew Faulkner | SC&P B | 15 | 15 | 100.00 % |
| Harry Munro | OLOP C | 45 | 42 | 93.33 % |
| Simon Berry | SC&P B | 33 | 30 | 90.91 % |
| Andy Stephens | Tidmarsh C | 18 | 16 | 88.89 % |
| Rob Gladstone | Kingfisher E | 15 | 12 | 80.00 % |
| John Golding | Tidmarsh B | 18 | 14 | 77.78 % |
| Nigel Keedy | Kingfisher G | 18 | 14 | 77.78 % |
| Jeremy Willis | SC&P B | 30 | 23 | 76.67 % |
| Yonatan Slobodskoy | OLOP C | 48 | 36 | 75.00 % |
| Ivor Hardman | Kingfisher F | 33 | 23 | 69.70 % |
| Allan Bruton | Kingfisher F | 36 | 25 | 69.44 % |
| Denise Weller | Pangbourne A | 29 | 20 | 68.97 % |

George White hasn't been on the winning side when he has hit a brace.

Team stat: Have picked up only five points out of a possible 16 points when John Simmonds hasn't played.

Tidmarsh 'C' have been beset by injuries and unavail-



MARK JONES, ANTHONY REEVE AND ALAN MOLLETT OF SCP 'D'

ability too many times this season and this finally resulted in the concession of the match against Sonning C & P 'D'. Up until then we were top of the current form table with three wins and a draw but have now lost two in a row. We do only need one more win from the remaining seven matches to guarantee our spot in division two next season.

Player stat: Barry Carter hasn't won a maximum for seven matches.

Dave Reynolds only maximum came at home.

Steve Ricks has been on the winning side on both occasions he has won braces.

Andy Stephens has yet to go home having won only one set in an evening.

Team stat: Currently have the least away points in the division, 3.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'D' have had a slightly better second half having won five points already since Christmas compared to four in the whole of the first half. They have given themselves a chance of survival and currently lie two points ahead of the drop zone and with a match in hand. The results since Christmas have been a 7 – 3 win over Sonning C & P 'E', then the 10 – 0 win over Tidmarsh 'C' and the important 5 – 5 draw with their closest rivals Kingfisher 'G'.

Player stat: Alan Mollet has won both his maximums in 7 – 3 victories.

Mark Jones has won two of his braces against Kingfisher teams.

Anthony Reeve has been on the winning side whenever he has won two sets in an evening, 3 occasions.

Derek Wavell has yet to be on the losing side whenever he has won a set.

Team stat: They have yet to lose successive matches in 2016.

Kingfisher 'G' have also invested in the January transfer window bringing in Nigel Keedy who has won 14 out of 18 since his debut with three maximums and two braces. They have equalled their first half tally of three points and they still have three games to go but with them having to play the top two it means they probably need to beat Sonning C & P 'E' to stand any chance of avoiding finishing in the bottom two places. Since Christmas they have picked up a 7 – 3 win over Pangbourne 'A', the other point came against Tidmarsh 'C' where they were chanting can we play you every week as three of their six points to date have come against us.

Player stat: Rick Leachman has won six of his ten matches by the 3 – 0 scoreline.

Roger Pritchard has yet to be on the losing team when he has won two sets, 4 occasions although two of those were against us!

Dave Gostelow hasn't won a brace since the opening night of the season.

Willis Ma has yet to be on the winning side in the two times he has won a maximum.

Nigel Keedy has yet to win a maximum against any Tidmarsh or Kingfisher team.

Team stat: Have won 50% of their points against Tidmarsh 'C'.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' find themselves bottom of the table after only picking up one point from their last seven matches and that was against Pangbourne WMC 'A'. It's not looking great for the chances of doing a Leicester at the moment but with five matches still to play anything is possible.

Player stat: Angus Jones four of his five wins have come at home. Joe Barraclough has achieved all three of his trebles away from home.

Thomas Perkins has won two of his three maximums against Sonning C & P teams.

Eric Walker has won three of his five wins by the 3 – 1 scoreline.

Team stat: All five of their points have been won away from home.

Apologies for the brevity for this edition but have had PC problems for the past couple of weeks so it's been a bit of a rush as I only got it back yesterday, although some might say thank goodness ;-). There are a few outstanding matches to be played ideally by the 24th March mainly involving Sonning C & P 'B' and Tidmarsh 'C'. I'm off on my travels on the 10th March and not returning until the 2nd April so if you can all send your scorecards by email I'll have a much better chance of updating the website when I can rather than if they are sent by Royal Mail. Anyway that's all from Barry's ramblings for this edition so good luck for the rest of the campaign.



THOMAS PERKINS AND JOE BARRACLOUGH OF SCP 'E'



DIVISION THREE

by Derek Harrison

Kingfisher 'J', because of the big set difference, are the champions so on behalf of you all I congratulate Melvyn and his team on their success. They have led from the start with a good settled squad. Tilehurst Meths 'A' look to have the runners up spot in their grasp. At the bottom Birch Copse 'A' have gone and the other spot seems to be between Milestone 'A', Curzon 'B', Kingfisher 'I' and Tilehurst Meths 'B'.

Kingfisher 'J' just scraped home against bottom side Birch Copse 'A' 6 - 4 thanks mainly to a David Joyce treble. Krys Szczygiel did well to win two and



In the first match of the season **Kingfisher 'H'** lost at home to Tilehurst Meths 'B' 4 - 6 but in the return they won 4- 6 away with Eric Holmes gaining a good maximum, besides teaming up with Steve Woolnough to win the doubles. Both Steve and Dave Duncan won one. They then lost 4 - 6 at home to OLOP 'D'. Eric managed a double and Mick Mitcham a single. In the doubles Eric and Mick had a fine victory over Ali and Wendy. At Pangbourne 'B' despite an Eric maximum they went down 6 - 4. Steve won the other set by beating Eddie Cripps. Eric, Dave, and Steve then all gained doubles to help defeat Curzon 'B' 3 - 7. At home to Birch Copse 'A' Eric was in top form by gaining a hat trick besides teaming up with Steve to win the doubles. Steve himself managed a double to win the match 6 - 4. Eric was missing against their 'I' team and as a result only managed a draw. Steve and Carol Byers both gained doubles with Mick winning the other set. They then lost 3 - 7 to Tilehurst Meths 'A' so are now out of the promotion race. Eric and Carol both beat Cath Venning.

Tilehurst Meths 'A' were forced to use a reserve at Springfield 'A' and as a result lost 6 - 4. Nigel Rowland managed a double while Paul Treadgold won one. At Kingfisher they found that the 'J' team were too good so lost 7 - 3. Phil did well to win two while the skipper Nigel managed a single. In the derby match against their 'B' team they won 8 - 2 mainly thanks to trebles from Cath Venning and Phil. In their match in hand the next day they won 2 - 8 at Milestone 'A' with Phil gaining another maximum. Nigel and Paul both obtained doubles. Despite a Nigel hat trick they dropped two vital points when they lost 6 - 4 at OLOP 'D'. Paul managed a single. They then lost 3 - 7 to



DAVID JOYCE of KINGFISHER 'J' (WITH ANIA PYTKA)

the skipper Melvyn Lovegrove weighed in with that vital single. Away at Kingfisher 'I' they were held to a draw. David Joyce lost his 100% record when losing to Jean-Noel Thepaut but still managed a double as did Luca Bianci. John Upham played his part by winning one. In a top of the table clash they then beat Tilehurst Meths 'A' 7 - 3. David was back to normal by winning all three and also teaming up to win the doubles with Melvyn who gained a single. Luca did well to obtain a double. They then took a step nearer to winning the division by beating Milestone 'A' 3 - 7 with yet another treble from David and a double from John. Luca managed a single by beating John Crosfield. They then beat a weakened Springfield 'A' 9 - 1 with David and Melvyn both hitting trebles. Luca played his part by winning two. David and John both gained trebles in a 7 - 3 win over Curzon 'B' and as a result have clinched promotion. Krys won the other set by beating me.



JOHN UPHAM of KINGFISHER 'J'



ERIC HOLMES of KINGFISHER 'H'

Pangbourne 'B' with Paul, Cath and Phil all beating Eddie. They then bounced back by winning 3 - 7 at Kingfisher 'H' with Nigel and Phil both gaining hat tricks. Cath played her part by beating Dave Duncan.

A fine treble from Phil Burke helped **Springfield 'A'** beat Tilehurst Meths 'A' 6 - 4. Seth Martin weighed in with a double while Ludo Couillard won a vital single. They then lost ground in the promotion race when without Phil they lost 7 - 3 at Milestone 'A'. Ludo hit a double while Des Hele won one by beating Chris Collins. Hat Tricks from Phil and Ludo helped them defeat Curzon 'B' 8 - 2. Seth managed a single besides teaming up with Ludo to win the doubles. They were then hammered 9 - 1 at Kingfisher 'J' with Ludo saving the white-wash by beating Luca. They then lost 7 - 3 at OLOP 'D' and as a result their hopes of going up have gone. Phil as ever played really well and hit a great maximum.

Curzon 'B' managed a 7 - 3 win over Milestone 'A' with Jim Brent, Geoff Johnson and Mike Maynard all winning two each. Mike and Jim also won the doubles. At

Pangbourne 'B' a good team performance saw us share the spoils with Mike and Nick Lean both winning two each. Jim who put us one up had a good win over Ray Webb. At Springfield 'A' singles were gained by Nick and Geoff who both beat Seth in an 8 - 2 defeat. At home to Kingfisher 'H' we lost 3 - 7 with Geoff winning two and Derek winning one by beating Eric. We then crashed to a 4 - 6 defeat against Birch Copse 'A' despite a great treble from Nick who also teamed up with Derek to win the doubles. We then lost our fourth match in a row when going down 7 - 3 at Kingfisher 'J'. Nick and Jim both gained nice singles besides teaming up to win the doubles.

In a mid table clash **OLOP 'D'** beat Pangbourne 'B' 8 - 2 with Dave Godfrey and Wendy Porter both picking up max-



PAUL TREADGOLD of TILEHURST METHS 'A'

imums. Giuliano Ghidini played his part by winning two. Against Kingfisher 'H' Wendy was the star by winning all three and she was ably backed by Mark Bullion who won two and Ali Richardson who gained that vital single to give them a 4 - 6 victory. A Wendy three straight maximum plus a double from Dave helped them to a 6 - 4 win over Birch Copse 'A'. For Wendy it was her third treble in a row. She also teamed up with Dave to win the doubles. At Kingfisher 'I' Giuliano won two and Wendy and Mark gained singles in a 6 - 4 defeat. At home to Tilehurst Meths 'A', doubles from Dave and Mark and a single from Wendy helped them gain a 6 - 4 win. They then won 2 - 8 at Milestone 'A' with Mark and reserve Dave Holt both recording trebles. Dave



KRYS SZCZYGIEL OF KINGFISHER 'J'

| Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Kingfisher J | 16 | 14 | 2 | 0 | 115 | 45 | 30 |
| Tilehurst Meths A | 16 | 11 | 0 | 5 | 94 | 66 | 22 |
| OLOP D | 17 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 89 | 81 | 20 |
| Pangbourne B | 17 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 87 | 83 | 20 |
| Springfield A | 16 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 87 | 73 | 19 |
| Kingfisher H | 17 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 88 | 82 | 18 |
| Curzon Club B | 16 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 74 | 86 | 13 |
| Milestone A | 16 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 72 | 88 | 13 |
| Tilehurst Meths B | 16 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 69 | 91 | 11 |
| Kingfisher I | 16 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 66 | 94 | 10 |
| Birch Copse A | 17 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 59 | 111 | 4 |



LUCA BIANCHI of KINGFISHER 'J' each.

John Crosfield become the first player to beat Mike Maynard of Curzon 'B' but with Arun Rajagopal only winning two, Milestone 'A' lost 7 - 3. They then beat Springfield 'A' 7 - 3 with Arun hitting a very good treble. John gained a double and Chris Collins managed a single. At home to second place Tilehurst Meths 'A' they lost 8 - 2 with Arun and Chris both winning one each. The next day they lost to the leaders Kingfisher 'J'. Chris did well to win two and Arun gained a single by beating Luca. At Tilehurst Meths 'B' they were 5 - 1 down and then won the next three sets to bring it to 5 - 4, but alas they lost the final set to go down 6 - 4. For the record Chris won two and teamed up with John to win the doubles. Reserve Zoltan Kelemen won the other set. At home to OLOP 'D' they were forced to play two reserves so lost 2 - 8. The only singles win came from John who beat Dave Godfrey.

Pangbourne 'B' lost at OLOP 'D' 8 - 2. Ray Webb was the only singles scorer by beating Giuliano. But in the doubles Ray and Clive Taylor thrashed Dave and Giuliano 11-4, 6-11, 11-13, 11-9, 17-19!! At home to Curzon 'B' Clive hit top form by beating Nick 4-11, 11-6, 9-11, 11-4, 11-4 then

Godfrey played his part by winning two. By beating Springfield 'A' 7 - 3 they made it 6 wins out of 7 in the second half of the season and as a result have moved up to third in the table. Wendy, Dave and Giuliano all won two

Jim 11-7, 5-11, 11-6, 11-6 and Mike 12-10, 14-12, 6-11, 9-11, 11-9. He also teamed up with Ray to win the doubles by beating Nick and Mike. Eddie Cripps came back into the side and had a fine win by beating Jim Brent 11-4, 10-12, 11-8, 6-11, 11-3. A great team performance saw them beat Kingfisher 'H' 6 - 4 with Ray and Clive both winning two each besides teaming up to win the doubles. Yet again Eddie came up trumps by gaining a single by beating Dave Duncan. Away at Birch Copse 'A' they won 3 - 7 thanks to hat tricks gained by Ray and Clive. It then took a set ten win by Ray who beat Joaquin Sabater 11-5, 6-11, 7-11, 11-6, 11-5 to help them defeat Kingfisher 'I' 6 - 4. This gave him a maximum. Clive managed a double and Eddie got that important single. They then had the performance of the season by winning 3 - 7 at Tilehurst Meths 'A' with Clive and Ray both hitting trebles.

Tilehurst Meths 'B' without their skipper lost 4 - 6 at home to Kingfisher 'H'. John Virgo did well to beat Steve Woolnough and Dave Duncan. Masoud Ghabachi also beat Steve and Nick Barnes beat Dave. At Birch Copse 'A' Nick was in good form by winning all three with John and Masoud both winning one each to gain them a point. John and Nick did well against Kingfisher 'I' by winning two each which helped them gain a draw. The next day John was taken to the hospital because he was unwell and it was established he had pneumonia so on behalf on everyone I wish you a speedy recovery John. Away at Tilehurst Meths 'A' they lost 8 - 2 with reserve Martin Wetherell and Ian Cockling both beating Nigel. Against Milestone 'B' they gained two valuable points by winning 6 - 4 with Ian obtaining a great maximum, ably backed by Nick who won two and Masoud who picked up a single. An update on John - I gather he is now at home so I hope you will soon be playing again.



WENDY PORTER of OLOP 'D'

Kingfisher 'I' gained a great point at leaders Kingfisher 'J' with Jean-Noel hitting a great hat trick which included the 100% David Joyce, thus avenging his defeat in the first encounter. Nils Wedi gave him good support by gaining a single besides teaming up with Jean-Noel to win the doubles. I have to mention Didier Garcon, who came very close to winning his first set when only losing to John Upham 11-4, 10-12, 12-10, 4-11, 11-13. Bad luck Didier. At Tilehurst Meths 'B' they came away with a point mainly thanks to a great treble from Nils. Gabor Radnoti and Joaquin Sabater both gained singles. They then gained two vital points by beating OLOP 'D' 6 - 4 and that was without Jean-Noel. Nils came up trumps by winning all three and also teamed up with Joaquin to win the doubles. Joaquin also managed to win two singles. At Pangbourne 'B' Nils hit a double and also teamed up with Joaquin to

LEADING AVERAGES

| Player | Team | P | W | % |
|-------------------|-------------------|----|----|-------|
| David Joyce | Kingfisher J | 47 | 46 | 97.9% |
| Phil Burke | Springfield A | 36 | 34 | 94.4% |
| Jean-Noel Thepaut | Kingfisher I | 12 | 11 | 91.7% |
| Mick Maynard | Curzon B | 21 | 19 | 90.5% |
| Phil Jones | Tilehurst Meths A | 39 | 29 | 74.4% |
| Eric Holmes | Kingfisher H | 45 | 33 | 73.3% |
| Giuliano Ghidini | OLOP D | 21 | 15 | 71.4% |
| Chris Collins | Milestone A | 30 | 21 | 70.0% |
| Nigel Rowland | Tilehurst Meths A | 33 | 23 | 69.7% |
| Clive Taylor | Pangbourne B | 45 | 30 | 66.7% |
| Luca Bianchi | Kingfisher J | 39 | 26 | 66.7% |
| Nils Wedi | Kingfisher I | 39 | 26 | 66.7% |
| Dave Godfrey | OLOP D | 33 | 22 | 66.7% |
| John Upham | Kingfisher J | 12 | 8 | 66.7% |
| Cath Venning | Tilehurst Meths A | 33 | 21 | 63.6% |
| Wendy Porter | OLOP D | 30 | 19 | 63.3% |

win the doubles set. Joaquin also managed a single by beating Eddie Cripps. At home to the 'H' team Nils hit top form by beating Steve 11-8, 1-11, 11-8, 11-5 then Carol 11-3, 6-11, 11-8, 11-7 and Mick 11-4, 11-8, 11-4 and with Joaquin winning two and the two of them teaming up to win the doubles this gave them a draw.

Birch Copse 'A' went down to the leaders 6 - 4 with Jes Eassom playing really well by winning two besides teaming up with Roy Hull, who won one, to win the doubles. At home to Tilehurst Meths 'B' they gained their first point of the season. Jes did well by obtaining a double while Mike Williams and Roy both gained singles. To gain that draw Jes and Mike won the doubles. One fact from the match, considering how close it was, 8 sets were three straight and the other two only went to 4 games. At OLOP 'D' they lost 6 - 4 with Jes winning two and Mike and Roy both obtaining singles. This was the sixth time they have lost 6 - 4. At home to Pangbourne 'B' they lost 3 - 7 with Jes, Roy and Mike all beating Eddie. There were two key sets in the match. Firstly Jes lost to Ray 11-9, 8-11, 13-15 (after being 8-2 up), 7-11 and Mike lost to Ray 11-7, 11-4, 9-11,

10-12, 5-11 so those two sets could have gone the other way. For the seventh match this season they lost 6 - 4 this time to Kingfisher 'H'. Jes won two and Mike and Roy both gained singles. At last a victory but sadly for me it was against Curzon 'B'. The lads played really well so well done Mike, Roy and Jes who all gained doubles by beating Geoff and Derek to give them a 4 - 6 win.

Finally, the first three in the player of the match (PoM) league for our Division are:

- 1 - David Joyce with 12 PoM
- 2 - Phil Burke with 9
- 3 - Eric Holmes with 7

STOP PRESS

Congratulations to David Joyce who won the third division championship at the Reading Closed at the week end. Well done to Wendy Porter who was the runner up.

DIVISION FOUR *by Nigel Rowland*

The season moves into its critical phase where promotion and relegation are at stake. At the top, Tidmarsh 'E' are five points clear and remain title favourite's with a 100% record. Sonning Sports 'A' and Tidmarsh 'D' battle it out for the final promotion place. Good luck to both teams.

At the bottom Kingfisher 'K', SC&P 'F' and Milestone 'B' all remain in the drop zone. Tilehurst Meths 'C' have almost secured their place for next season.



Felix Thomis of OLOP 'E', Simon Barter, Bob Woodmansee and Nigel Goodman are very close behind, to mention a few.

Bob Woodmansee and Dave Chard head the doubles averages with five out of six wins. It's great to see Linda King and John Walker appearing in the table knowing how well Linda played with Terry Spice as her partner.

I am pleased to report Andi Mutlow got his New Year wish by recording his first triumph, well done.

Dave Sheppard and Felix Thomis currently lead with five 'Player of the Match' awards.

Tidmarsh 'E' In one of their toughest matches of the season a Chris Webb treble and final game win over John Burke saved both points as they defeated Springfield 'B' 4 - 6 to maintain their 100% record. A Theresa Watson single and Simon Barter double played their part including a Simon hard five game win over John Burke, and that was the first set of the evening. Simon, Theresa and Dave Sheppard all won tre-

Chris Webb has powered his way to the top of the averages neck and neck with Dave Sheppard, both from Tidmarsh 'E'.



FELIX THOMIS of OLOP 'E'

| Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Tidmarsh E | 15 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 122 | 28 | 30 |
| Sonning Sports A | 14 | 10 | 3 | 1 | 104 | 36 | 23 |
| Tidmarsh D | 14 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 86 | 54 | 20 |
| Curzon Club C | 15 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 74 | 76 | 16 |
| OLOP E | 15 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 73 | 77 | 16 |
| Springfield B | 15 | 8 | 0 | 7 | 70 | 80 | 16 |
| Tilehurst Meths C | 15 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 69 | 81 | 13 |
| Kingfisher K | 15 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 53 | 97 | 7 |
| SCP F | 16 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 46 | 114 | 4 |
| Milestone B | 14 | 0 | 3 | 11 | 43 | 97 | 3 |

bles in their 10 – 0 defeat of Kingfisher 'K'. Simon had to dig deep to win in five against Ania Pytke and Theresa and Dave had to work hard for their doubles win over Ruben Hernandez and Ania Pytke. Simon, Dave and Chris put Tilehurst Meths 'C' to the sword winning 0 – 10. They all had to work hard against Chris Taylor, every one of them winning in five! A Chris treble and doubles from Theresa and Dave helped defeat Milestone 'B' 2 – 8; Dave had a close five game win over guest Carl Edlin.

Sonning Sports 'A' Keith Machin was the hero of the night with a treble and final set win over Patrick O'Sullivan in their 6 – 4 victory over Tilehurst Meths 'C'. There were a double from Bob Woodmansee and single from Dave Chard in support. In their promotion crunch game Colin Chalkley had a 10-12 final set, final game win over Dave Edwards to earn them a close 4 – 6 win over Tidmarsh 'D'. Bob S had a great five set win over Terry Hardie and Bob W a close five set win

over Dave Edwards. Bob Snellgrove, Bob W and Keith teamed up to inflict a 10 – 0 win over basement club Milestone 'B'. Bob W and Dave recorded trebles with a single from Bob S as they romped to a 8 – 2 win over Curzon 'C' to give them daylight with third place Tidmarsh 'E'. Bob W had a close five game win over John Walker

and Dave a close five game win over Linda King. Doubles from Bob W and Dave with a single from Keith were just enough to gain an important point against OLOP 'E'. Dave had an important five game win over Jan Polnik and Keith just lost in five to Felix Thomis.

Tidmarsh 'D' A Terry Hardie scored a double and Dave Smith a single along with a very close doubles win as they lost 4 – 6 in their promotion battle against Sonning Sports 'A'. Terry just lost in five to Bob Snellgrove but managed a great five game win over Bob Woodmansee. Dave Edwards lost five gamers to both Colin Chalkley and Bob Woodmansee. There were doubles from Dave E and Terry with a single from Dave S as they had to dig deep for a point against OLOP 'E'. Both Dave E and Terry had close five game wins over Felix Thomis. A straight set win gave Terry a treble with double wins from the two Dave's to defeat SC&P 'F' 8 – 2. The two Dave's just lost to Marko Madzar. Dave E and John Liddle were in sparkling form with trebles, along with a double from Terry as they won 1 – 9 against Springfield 'B'. This



ANIA PYTKA of KINGFISHER 'K'

win keeps their slender promotion hopes alive.

Curzon 'C' There were doubles from John Walker and Linda King with a single from Oli Lister as they shared the points against basement club Milestone 'B'. John rescued a point in the final set beating Zoltan Keleman in four and Linda also just lost in five to Zoltan. Linda and John Walker were in great form with trebles and a single from Oli Lister to defeat SC&P 'F' 2 – 8. Oli just lost in five to Jamie Legg and four to Marko Madzar. Both Linda and John cruised to trebles with a single in support from Oli to defeat SC&P 'F' 2 – 8. Oli had a good five game win over Oliver Sayer. In a very tight game Linda had two wins and John Walker one in their 4 – 6 loss



GWYNNE PENNY



ZOLTAN KELEMAN of MLESTONE 'B'

to Springfield 'B'. Linda had a five game win over Dan Mortimer and John a five game win over veteran John Burke.

Mike Gifford lost all in three. Linda and John came away with



JIM McCLURE OF SCP 'F'

one apiece as they lost to Sonning Sports 'A' 8 – 2. Linda just lost in five to Dave Chard and John Walker in five to Bob Woodmansee. Trebles from John and Linda gave them a good 7 – 3 win over Kingfisher 'K'. Linda had a close five set win over Rubens Hernandez. Oli lost all three straight. Doubles from John and Linda including yet another doubles win secured them a well earned point against OLOP 'E'.

OLOP 'E' A Chris Bunn treble with a double from Jan Polnik and single from Laurence Croix gave them a good 7 – 3 win over Kingfisher 'K'. Laurence just lost in five to Ruben Hernandez. A double from Chris and singles from Laurence and Jan resulted in a close 6 – 4 loss to Tilehurst Meths 'C'. Chris had a great five game win over Martin Wetherell and Jan just lost in five to Patrick O'Sullivan. David Holt was the hero with a treble and final set final game 13-11 win to snatch a point from promotion chasing Tidmarsh 'D'. Felix Thomis secured a single win against Dave Smith and David teamed up with Jan Polnik to win a five gamer against Dave Edwards and Terry Hardie. A great team effort with doubles from Jan, guest Mahajlo Ralic and Laurence gave them a hard fought 4 – 6 win against basement club Milestone 'B'. Mahajlo just lost in five to Andi Mutlov. Star Felix got a treble and final set win over Bob Woodmansee, along with a double from Dave to give promotion hopeful Sonning Sports 'A' a tough match with a share of the points. Jan just lost in five to Dave Chard. Felix was in top form with a treble, with singles from Chris and Jan to secure a point against Curzon 'C'. Chris had a close five game win over Oli Lister.

Springfield 'B' Adam Sheen scored a double and John Burke a single as they pushed title contenders Tidmarsh 'E' to a close 4 – 6 loss. John proved to be a thorn in their side, just losing in five to both Simon Barter and Chris Webb. John and Adam teamed up to defeat Chris Webb and Simon Barter - on another night this doubles win could have secured them points. Dan Mortimer scored a treble, with doubles from Adam and Chris Speight as they defeated SC&P 'F' 2 – 8. Adam had a great five game win over Phil Turton, Chris and Dan five game wins over Nicholas Nowak. In a great team

performance John, Chris and Dan all got doubles to defeat Curzon 'C' 4 – 6. Chris was the hero of the night with a 12-14 final set, final game win over John Walker to seal the points. John had a great five game win over Linda King and Dan a five game win over John Walker. Adam and John trebles gave them a 7 – 3 win over Kingfisher 'K'. Alan Goold could manage a game win only against Ania Pytka. A good team effort from Adam, John and Chris resulted in a close 4 – 6 win over Tilehurst Meths 'C'. Adam just lost in five to Martin Wetherell and won in five against Chris Taylor. In the battle of the mid table teams John Burke got the only win over Terry Hardie as they lost 1 – 9 to Tidmarsh 'D'.

Kingfisher 'K' A double from Ruben Hernandez and single from Gwynne Penny resulted in a 7 – 3 loss to OLOP 'E'. Ania Pytka lost all in three. Ruben, Gwynne and Ania felt the full force of top of the table Tidmarsh 'E' losing 10 – 0 in the process. They all managed to pick up game wins and Ania had a close five game loss to Simon Barter. Gwynne Penny was in superb form to win her first and the teams first treble of the season as they won 8 – 2 against fellow relegation strugglers SC&P 'F'. Both Gill Bennett and Dave Wells weighed in with two apiece. Gwynne had a hard five game win over Jamie Legg. Gwynne, Ania and Ruben managed one apiece as they lost 7 – 3 to Springfield 'B'. Ruben and Gwynne managed game wins against John Burke. Ania, Ruben and Gwynne managed game wins as they lost 7 – 3 to Curzon 'C'. Ruben just lost in five to Linda King. Ania, David and Adam all defeated Mal Collis in their 3 – 7 loss to Tilehurst Meths 'C'. David just lost in five to Martin Wetherell.

Tilehurst Meths 'C' A double from Martin Wetherell and single from Patrick O'Sullivan along with a Martin and Chris Taylor doubles win gave them a close 6 – 4 loss to promotion contenders Sonning Sports 'A'. Patrick had a close five game win over Dave Chard and Chris just lost in five to Dave Chard. Patrick O'Sullivan was on top form with a treble and



ALAN GOOLD OF SPRINGFIELD 'B'

a double from Martin Wetherell gave them a precious 6 – 4 win over OLOP 'E'. Martin got the final set win to seal both points; while reserve Steve Dopson could only manage a game win over Jan Polnik. Unbelievably Chris Taylor lost all his games in five as they lost 0 – 10 to table toppers Tidmarsh 'E'. Patrick managed game wins only and Mal Collis lost all three. In a bottom of the table clash Martin, Patrick and Chris all scored two apiece to romp home with the points with a 3 – 7 win over SC&P 'F'. This takes them a safe distance from the relegation places. Martin starred with a treble as they lost to Springfield 'B' 4 – 6. Once again Chris managed game wins but came away with nothing and Mal Collis managed one game win over John Burke. Martin and Patrick teamed up with trebles and a doubles win to defeat Kingfisher 'K' 3 – 7. Mal just lost in five to Adam McTiernan. This win keeps them well away from the relegation places.

SC&P 'F' Jamie Legg and Marko Madzar could only muster a game apiece in their 2 – 8 loss to Curzon 'C'. Jamie had a great five game win over Oli Lister and Oliver Sayer just lost in five to Oli Lister. In a very competitive match where only two sets went to three, Nicholas Nowak came away with two wins in their 2 – 8 loss to Springfield 'B'. Phil Turton and Jim McClure battled hard but came away with nothing but pride. Phil just lost in five to Adam Sheen and Jim in five to Chris Speight. Oli and Marko managed single wins as they lost 8 – 2 to Kingfisher 'K'. Jamie just lost in five to Gwynne Penny. In a bottom of the table clash, Nicholas was in great form with a treble but the team went down 3 – 7 to Tilehurst Meths 'C'. Oli managed a game win over Patrick

O'Sullivan. Nicholas had two five game wins over Patrick O'Sullivan and Chris Taylor. Marko and Nicholas managed a win apiece as they lost to Tidmarsh 'D'. Nicholas just lost in five to Dave Edwards and Marko just lost in five to Dave Smith. Phil managed game wins only. Nicholas managed a double and Marko and Oli got singles as they fought out a draw against fellow strugglers Milestone 'B'. Nicholas got the vital final set win over Zoltan Keleman to rescue a point, in the opening game Zoltan took a commanding 7-0 lead but Nicholas hit back with 11 perfect shots to win 11-7.

| DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Player | Team | P | W | % |
| Chris Webb | Tidmarsh E | 30 | 27 | 90.00 % |
| Felix Thomis | OLOP E | 21 | 18 | 85.71 % |
| Terry Spice | Curzon C | 14 | 12 | 85.71 % |
| Bob Woodmansee | Sonning Sports A | 33 | 28 | 84.85 % |
| Simon Barter | Tidmarsh E | 30 | 25 | 83.33 % |
| David Sheppard | Tidmarsh E | 33 | 27 | 81.82 % |
| Adam Sheen | Springfield B | 24 | 19 | 79.17 % |
| Robert Snellgrove | Sonning Sports A | 33 | 25 | 75.76 % |
| Nicolas Nowak | SC&P F | 24 | 18 | 75.00 % |
| Keith Machin | Sonning Sports A | 12 | 9 | 75.00 % |

Milestone 'B' Doubles from Sachin Mundra and Zoltan Kelemen with a great doubles win gave them a share of the spoils against Curzon 'C'. Zoltan had a great five game win over Linda King but Andy Mutlow could only manage game wins only. Zoltan, Sachin and guest Carl Edlind felt the full force of promotion contenders Sonning Sports 'A' going down 10 – 0. Zoltan and Sachin managed game wins only against Keith Machin. A double from Sachin, single from Andi along with a very good Andi and Sachin five game win over Jan Polnik and Laurence Croix resulted in a close 4 – 6 loss to OLOP 'E'. Andi had a close five game win over Mihajlo Ralic. Zoltan got two wins against high flyers Tidmarsh 'E' as they lost 2 – 8. Guest Carl Edlin managed game wins over all the opposition and lost in five to Dave Sheppard. Olly Bonser played up and recorded a treble with support from Zoltan as they drew with fellow strugglers SC&P 'F'. Carl Edlind played up and just lost a five game against Marko Madzar. Olly showed great resolve in a five game thriller to eventually win 8-11, 9-11, 11-9, 11-9, 11-13 against Nicholas Nowak.

LOWER DIVISIONS KNOCKOUT CUP

The Lower Divisions Knockout Cup is open to all teams registered in Divisions 4 and 5.

This tournament follows last season's format, with all 9 sets in each match being doubles sets featuring three players on each side. Please note that each set will be best of 3 games (not 5) with games being up to 11 points as in the league.

A total of 12 teams have entered this season's competition. There will be three groups of four teams each, with the three winners and best runner-up progressing to the final.

- Group A**
- Milestone B
- Springfield C
- SC & P F
- OLOP F
- Group B**
- Springfield B
- SC & P G
- Birch Copse B
- Milestone C
- Group C**
- Kingfisher K
- Curzon C
- OLOP G
- Reading FC

- W/C 26 October 2015**
- Milestone B **8** v Springfield C **1**
 - SC&P F **6** v OLOP F **3**
 - Springfield B **8** v SC & P G **1**
 - Birch Copse B **4** v Milestone C **5**
 - Kingfisher K **3** v Curzon C **6**
 - OLOP G **3** v Reading FC **6**
- W/C 23 November 2015**
- Springfield C **6** v SC & P F **3**
 - OLOP F **0** v Milestone B **9**
 - SC & P G v Birch Copse B
 - Milestone C **2** v Springfield B **7**
 - Curzon C **7** v OLOP G **2**
 - Reading FC **6** v Kingfisher K **3**

- W/C 15 Feb 2016**
- SC&P F v Milestone B
 - OLOP F **7** v Springfield C **2**
 - Birch Copse B **0** v Springfield B **9**
 - Milestone C v SC & P G
 - OLOP G **2** v Kingfisher K **7**
 - Reading FC **5** v Curzon C **4**





DIVISION FIVE

by Duncan Abbott

Welcome to another newsletter report as we approach the final lap in what has been an enthralling season. And we have new leaders in Division 5.

Such a scenario seemed extremely unlikely just before Christmas, but after a run of eight wins on the bounce (seven since the last report), Tilehurst Methodists 'D' are the new leaders of Division 5. Captain Steve Dopson, who



success over Steve Wood prevented a whitewash. Steve W also hit trebles against Sonning Sports 'B' and Springfield 'C'. The much-improved Rob James scored trebles against Reading FC, Springfield 'C' and SC & P 'G', whilst Sam Will hit a full score just before Christmas against Sonning Sports 'B'.

Reading FC have tailed off a bit since Christmas with defeats against Tile Meths 'D' and OLOP 'F' and a draw against Birch Copse 'B'. They commenced with an 8 – 2 thrashing of Springfield 'C', and their next win was 10 – 0 against a two-man BBC team. Another 8 – 2 success against Tidmarsh 'F' followed a narrow 6 – 4 win over OLOP 'G'.

Individually things have been mixed. Mark Edwards hit trebles against Springfield 'C', OLOP 'G' and Tidmarsh 'F'. He scored twice against Birch Copse 'B', BBC and OLOP 'F' but failed to score against Tile Meths 'D'. Captain Richard Witt hit a brace against Tidmarsh 'F' and singles in all the other matches he played in. Paul Brown was unbeaten against



KEITH GREENE of READING FC

missed some early season matches through business commitments, has been much more involved recently, scoring trebles in the 10 – 0 whitewash against Springfield 'C' and against Birch Copse 'B'. But the pivotal match was undoubtedly the thumping 9 – 1 win over main title rival Reading FC where only a Richard Witt

| Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Tilehurst Meths D | 18 | 14 | 2 | 2 | 126 | 54 | 30 |
| Reading FC | 18 | 14 | 1 | 3 | 125 | 55 | 29 |
| OLOP F | 18 | 12 | 2 | 4 | 104 | 76 | 26 |
| SC&P G | 17 | 11 | 2 | 4 | 102 | 68 | 24 |
| Kingfisher L | 18 | 11 | 2 | 5 | 99 | 81 | 24 |
| OLOP G | 18 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 91 | 89 | 17 |
| Tidmarsh F | 18 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 82 | 98 | 16 |
| Birch Copse B | 18 | 5 | 3 | 10 | 83 | 97 | 13 |
| Sonning Sports B | 18 | 6 | 0 | 12 | 69 | 111 | 12 |
| Milestone C | 18 | 5 | 1 | 12 | 74 | 106 | 11 |
| Springfield C | 18 | 4 | 0 | 14 | 67 | 113 | 8 |
| BBC Club | 17 | 2 | 0 | 15 | 48 | 122 | 4 |



CAPTAIN RICHARD WITT of READING FC



MARK EDWARDS of READING FC

BBC and scored braces against Springfield 'C' and Tidmarsh 'F'. Keith Greene scored a brace against Tidmarsh 'F' but has not played this year, while Joe Bull was unbeaten against BBC.

A run of six wins and a draw have projected OLOP 'F' into third place and on the cusp of the promotion race. This has been thanks to wins over club rivals OLOP 'G' (7 – 3), Tidmarsh 'F' (6 – 4), Sonning Sports 'B' (8 – 2), Reading FC (6 – 4), Milestone 'C' (6 – 4) and Springfield 'C' (7 – 3). They did drop a point to Kingfisher 'L'. Captain Cedric Dias has not played during this time period. David Holt has hit trebles against OLOP 'G' and Reading FC; Steve Shaw did likewise against Sonning Sports 'B' and Springfield 'C' whilst Balazs Horanyi was also unbeaten against Springfield 'C'. Rao Burgula hit braces against OLOP 'G', Tidmarsh 'F' and Sonning Sports 'B' and Gordon Munns hit a single against Kingfisher 'L'.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' are up to fourth, having picked up five wins and a draw in the last seven matches. They did have their colours lowered in their final match against Tile Meths 'D' (3 – 7) and dropped a point to Birch Copse 'B'. But other than that it was success all the way with victories over Milestone 'C' (7 – 3), OLOP 'G' (8 – 2), Springfield (7 – 3) and Sonning Sports 'B' (9 – 1). They were awarded a walkover against Tidmarsh 'F' who cancelled at the last minute. Neither captain Pete Harman nor Steve Knott have made an appearance during this time so it was left to the other four squad members to carry the torch so to speak. Mike Casserley hit trebles against Milestone 'C', OLOP 'G' and Sonning Sports 'B'; Dave Aust did likewise against Springfield 'C' and Sonning Sports 'B'; Julian James hit braces against Milestone 'C', OLOP 'G', Springfield 'C' and Sonning Sports 'B' and Derek Maltby failed to score against Birch Copse 'B' or Tile Meths 'D'.

The sad loss of John Creighton has made a big difference to **Kingfisher 'L'** and their overall performances have dropped them to mid-table. Ken Robb has been a model of consistency during this period with five trebles, having his colours lowered only by Mihajlo Ralic of OLOP 'G' and Peter Sinclair of Tidmarsh 'F'. David O'Keefe has come into the



JOE BULL of READING FC

team during this period. He started off well with a full score in the 6 – 4 win over Birch Copse 'B', but then failed to score in the 4 – 6 reverse against Tile Meths 'D'. In between there have been two 6 – 4 wins and a 3 - 7 defeat, and two draws. Neither captain Derek Crombie nor Colin Mercer have managed to trouble the scorers over the latest period.

OLOP 'G' have won three and lost four of the last seven matches. Captain Mihajlo Ralic has apparently been training hard over the summer and his hard work seems to be paying off with trebles against Sonning Sports 'B' (4 – 6 defeat) and Kingfisher 'L' (7 – 3 win) and braces against OLOP 'F' (3 – 7 defeat), Tidmarsh 'F' (6 – 4 win), Reading FC (4 – 6 defeat) and Milestone 'C' (6 – 4 win). Tony Alleyne scored braces against Tidmarsh 'F', Kingfisher 'L' and Milestone 'C'; Carlo Cafaro did likewise against SC&P 'G', Tidmarsh 'F' and Reading FC; James Griffith scored singles against Sonning Sports 'B' and Milestone 'C' and Mariusz Paluszkiwicz is yet to get off the mark.

Tidmarsh 'F' have won two and lost four of their last seven matches. Victories have come against BBC (6 – 4) and Sonning Sports 'B' (9 – 1). Captain Bob Sunerton scored twice against Sonning Sports 'B'; Peter Sinclair seems to have recovered from his injury and has played more often, the highlight being his treble against Sonning Sports 'B'; young Isaac Davies also scored a treble against Sonning Sports 'B' but perhaps more importantly scored twice against Reading FC in a 2 – 8 defeat. Steve Andrews hit a full score against BBC. Mike Bundy failed to score in his two matches. And John Harland has not played during the latest period of matches.

Just what has happened to **Birch Copse 'B'**? Only three

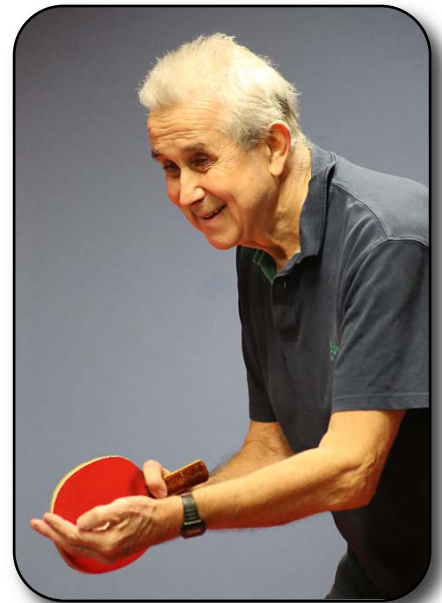
| LEADING AVERAGES | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|----|----|----------|
| Player | Team | P | W | % |
| John Creighton | Kingfisher L | 18 | 18 | 100.00 % |
| Kenneth Robb | Kingfisher L | 48 | 43 | 89.58 % |
| Jarek Chmielowiec | Birch Copse B | 39 | 34 | 87.18 % |
| Steve Dopson | Tilehurst Meths D | 36 | 31 | 86.11 % |
| Oliver Bonser | Milestone C | 33 | 28 | 84.85 % |
| Mark Edwards | Reading FC | 44 | 37 | 84.09 % |
| Mihajlo Ralic | OLOP G | 39 | 30 | 76.92 % |
| Mike Casserley | SC&P G | 47 | 36 | 76.60 % |
| Rob James | Tilehurst Meths D | 51 | 35 | 68.63 % |
| Steve Shaw | OLOP F | 37 | 25 | 67.57 % |
| Steve Wood | Tilehurst Meths D | 48 | 32 | 66.67 % |

draws in the last seven matches, two of them against high fliers Reading FC and SC&P 'G'. However what's more worrying is that we've gone to the bottom two teams with what looks on paper a strong team and come away with nothing. Jaroslaw Chmielowiec has once again been the strongest player scoring three trebles in five matches, including all three in the 3 – 7 defeat at Springfield 'C'. Andrew Adair played in all bar one of the matches and scored braces against Reading FC, Milestone 'C' and Tile Meths 'D'; Melanie Griffiths scored singles against Milestone 'C', SC&P



JAROSLAW CHMIELOWIEC of BIRCH COPSE 'B'

Mike Gautrey starred with a treble in the 7 – 3 win over BBC whilst braces from captain Cris Reynolds and Colin Chalkley gave them a 6 – 4 win over OLOP 'G'. Other than their 4 – 6 result against Kingfisher 'L' they have had some crushing results; 2 – 8 v OLOP 'F', 1 – 9 v Tile Meths 'D', SC&P 'G' and Tidmarsh 'F'. Meriel Low scored a single against BBC and OLOP 'G', Mo Cole scored a single against Kingfisher 'L' and Suzanne Brownhill got her one win to date incredibly against David Holt!



JOHN EVANS of MILESTONE 'C'

Two wins and one draw have also propelled **Milestone 'C'** up the table. Wins have come not surprisingly against Springfield 'C' and BBC

and their draw against Birch Copse 'B'. Oliver Bonser has been the mainstay of the team with 19 points out of 21, losing out only to Mike Casserley of SC&P 'G' and Mihajlo Ralic of OLOP 'G'. Both John Evans and Carl Edlind did give Oliver excellent support in the 9 – 1 win against BBC, but that was about as good as it got for either player although Carl did score a brace against Springfield 'C' and John did likewise against OLOP 'G'. Captain Tony Hayden scored singles against Springfield 'C' and Tile Meths 'D'. Defeats were against SC&P 'G', Tile Meths 'D', OLOP 'F' and OLOP 'G', the last three were by a 4 – 6 margin.



ANDREW ADAIR of BIRCH COPSE 'B'

'G' and BBC; out of form captain Duncan Abbott scored a brace against Milestone 'C' but failed to score in his other two matches; Trevor Davis scored one against Kingfisher 'L' and Elizabeth Hull scored her first point of the season against SC&P 'G'. A special mention must go to BBC's Phil Peat. Going into the match against Birch Copse 'B' with a 20% average, he managed to win all three! Just where did that performance come from Phil?

Two wins (against BBC and OLOP 'G') leaves **Sonning Sports 'B'** on the coat tails of the teams directly above them.



CARL EDLIND OF MILESTONE 'C'

Looking down at the results of Springfield 'C', three of their matches were lost by a 3 – 7 margin and one (against Birch Copse 'B') was won by a 7 – 3 margin. The only exceptions were a 0 – 10 defeat against Tile Meths 'D' followed by an 8 – 2 win over BBC, and of course a 2 – 8 defeat by Reading FC just before Christmas. The 3 – 7 defeats were against Milestone 'C', SC&P 'G' and OLOP 'F'. The only player to score a treble was Aidan Simmons in the 8 – 2 win over BBC. Captain Colin Jones scored braces against Birch Copse 'B' and BBC, Robert Atack scored twice against Milestone 'C' and Birch Copse 'B' and Tom Berryman did likewise against BBC. Andrew Atack failed to score in any of the three matches he played in.

For **BBC** it was a familiar story to the first half of the season – losing to everyone except Birch Copse 'B', against whom they completed the double. They did have some close matches however – 4 – 6 against Tidmarsh 'F' and Kingfisher 'L'. Even the Birch Copse match was a close run thing where the result could have gone either way. Against Sonning Sports 'B' (3 – 7), Springfield 'C' (2 – 8), Milestone 'C' (1 – 9) and Reading FC (0 – 10) it was very different, and in fact in the last match BBC turned up with only two players. Apart from captain Phil Peat's heroics against Birch Copse



TONY HAYDEN of MILESTONE 'C'

'B', John Scott scored braces against Tidmarsh 'F', Sonning Sports 'B', Kingfisher 'L' and Birch Copse 'B'. Jack Mitchell scored a couple against Springfield 'C', John Lancashire hit a single against Tidmarsh 'F' and Dave Pearson hit singles against Sonning Sports 'B' and Kingfisher 'L'.

YOUTH DIVISION *by Emma Barraclough*

The first session after New Year on January 8th opened with a fantastic evening. Parents were invited to a fun session (with refreshments) and 14 bravely came along to play doubles, in partnership with their own children and other members of the league. Sessions of 'Beat the Champion' and Top Table were also played with great enthusiasm by everyone. The standard of play turned out to be surprisingly high and there was really positive feedback from both adult and young players. We hope to repeat the session towards the end of the season.



On January 15th, Division matches resumed in earnest with the teams now divided into a First and Second Division. Division One saw a match between the Tigers and the Raiders end with a strong win for the Raiders 8 - 2 with Nathan Munns and Adam Winterbottom winning all three of their sets for the Raiders. The other Division One match was between Strikers and Jaguars which ended in a win for the Jaguars with Bill Hayden winning all three of his sets. The evening of the 22nd saw a reversal of fortune for the Raiders when they were defeated 3 - 7 by the Strikers with newcomer Tamir Slobodskoy winning all three of his sets and Adam Winterbottom and Chris Brant winning 2 out of 3. The Jaguars continued their winning streak with a comprehensive 9 - 1 win against the Tigers with Bill Hayden again winning all 3 sets as did Daniel Follant and Daniel Knott winning 2 out of 3.

The third evening of Division One matches on the 29th saw the Jaguars extend their unbeaten run with a 7 - 3

win against the Raiders with Bill Hayden again winning all 3 sets. The Strikers overcame the Tigers 8 - 2.

The same three evenings of Division Two play saw some great matches; January 5th saw the Trojans win comprehensively against the Panthers 9 - 1 with Alex Reeve and Jamie Barlow winning all three of their sets and Arran Reeve winning two out of three. A closely fought match between the Spartans and Attackers ended with a 6 - 4 victory to the Spartans with Camran Nesari winning all three of his sets.

On the 22nd the Spartans had another closely contested match against the Trojans again winning 6 - 4 with Camran repeating his victories in 3 sets. The Attackers had a solid win against the Panthers 8 - 2 with Dylan Cook and Sachin Dougall again winning all their 3 sets. On the 29th the Spartans won 10 - 0 against the Panthers while a close match between the Attackers and Trojans ending in a 5-5 draw which saw the debut of James Cunningham, grandson of John Cunningham.

The evening of 5th February was a catch-up evening with only one outstanding match to be played. This was a Division One match between the Strikers and Jaguars (for result see January 15th). The rest of the evening consisted of games and coaching. The standard of play and levels of improvement have made these great evenings to watch and we look forward to this continuing. Thanks as always to Wendy.

Div One Team Placings

| | Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1 | Jaguars | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 7 | 23 |
| 3 | Raiders | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 9 | 11 |
| 3 | Strikers | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 9 | 11 |
| 4 | Tigers | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 25 | 5 |

Div Two Team Placings

| | Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|-----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1 | Spartans | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 8 | 22 |
| 2 | Trojans | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 17 | 10 | 17 |
| 3 | Attackers | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 15 | 12 | 15 |
| 4 | Panthers | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 27 | 3 |

AVERAGES (Div 1)

| Player | P | W | % |
|----------------|----|----|----------|
| James Rennie | 6 | 6 | 100.00 % |
| Nathan Munns | 12 | 11 | 91.67 % |
| Chris Brant | 6 | 5 | 83.33 % |
| Saif Maher | 5 | 4 | 80.00 % |
| John Sampson | 8 | 6 | 75.00 % |
| Daniel Follant | 3 | 2 | 66.67 % |
| Joseph Brooks | 9 | 5 | 55.56 % |
| Haasin Khan | 6 | 3 | 50.00 % |

AVERAGES (Div 2)

| Player | P | W | % |
|----------------------|---|---|-------|
| Camran Nesari | 9 | 9 | 100 % |
| Jamie Barlow | 6 | 5 | 83 % |
| Dylan Cook | 6 | 5 | 83 % |
| Sachin Dougall | 6 | 5 | 83 % |
| Alexandra Reeve | 9 | 7 | 77 % |
| Jude Sullivan-Barnes | 9 | 5 | 56 % |
| Keyan Ghods | 9 | 5 | 56 % |
| Lukas Dahmann | 6 | 3 | 50 % |

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Playing into One's 80's

Derek W, on the old web site you described table tennis as

"A great all-weather activity to keep obesity at bay and stay young - even into one's 80's."

Interesting, but table tennis for me is all about competition and having not won a game even in division 5 this season I am thinking of giving up after over 60 years of competitive play although as you know I am pretty fit and can certainly get round a tennis court with no problem

At the moment I am enjoying Matthew Syed's book "Bounce" on Kindle. Never realised so many stars of our league lived in one street in Reading. Apart from many tricks of the trade Matthew emphasises mental reaction giving an ability to move to the return quicker. Mind you I am not half way through the book so no doubt there are many more "tricks to come". Did you know Desmond Douglas became the fastest player in the world some thirty years ago because he practiced for hours on end at school in a room with no back space? Just room to stand behind the table I gather.

The trouble with me is that I hate losing so is it time to throw in the towel? On the other hand I wondered whether a patient private coach could help me turn my years of experience into some respectable average in the bottom division even at the age of 82. Mind over matter perhaps.

I am called up as a reserve to help out on Thursday. For the first time I really do not want to play!

Regards

Derek Maltby

Derek - your heartfelt email must reflect the concerns of

quite a few of us in the league, since our average age is 50

If we are not winning, how do we get enough practice to win, and thus get selected for play?

I'd be interested to hear what answers others have.

One approach is to practise at the Over 55's Club at the Rivermead Leisure Complex, which meets all year round on Monday and Friday mornings. I'm 73 and have been going on and off for the past ten years - and am always greeted warmly. It's all doubles, and not easy to win at first - but who's counting? Everyone is in it together, and giving the others a good time is just as important as having a good time oneself.

Does this help? [Ed]

On the other hand...

(A follow-up just arrived from Derek Maltby)

Well Derek

I actually enjoyed last week's doubles competition at Milestone. We actually won 5-4 with my help.

Today I have been called up for our home fixture with Kingfisher. Hope to "cross swords" again with my old rival Derek Crombie, who is a few months older than I am! He takes great pleasure in beating me. Perhaps I can disappoint him this time and get off that embarrassing 0% average. This may be my last chance.

Regards

Del!

NB - there other Letters to the Editor on [p2](#).