

February 2022

In this edition we turn our thoughts to 😊some young and up-and-coming players, as well as 😊some recently departed ones; we cover 😊three tournaments - including a 😊video of one of the finals - plus full news of play in our 😊four Divisions, and latest 😊pointers from the Managing Committee.

READING & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Editor: **Derek Wavell**



Master of the high-definition table tennis image - the late Melvyn Lovegrove.

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I must say farewell to the inimitable and now late Melvyn Lovegrove - he of the left-handed loop, and never short of a friendly word.

And Melvyn was a wizard with a long lens, too - to capture our best players at the decisive instants of a game, and we were happy that he contributed his pictures freely to this newsletter.

The photo on this page shows him in action. He will be missed.

Derek Wavell





Notes from our Chairman

Hello everybody

Since my previous notes I am sad because 5 people who played in our league at different times have passed away. Three ex players and two players who were registered in the league this season. They were Alan Webb, Dave Smith, Marko Madzar, Melvyn Lovegrove and Pete Spillet.

Because I personally had played against 4 of them many times I have if you are interested



mentioned them in my Division 4 report. My thoughts and I am sure yours go out to their family and friends.

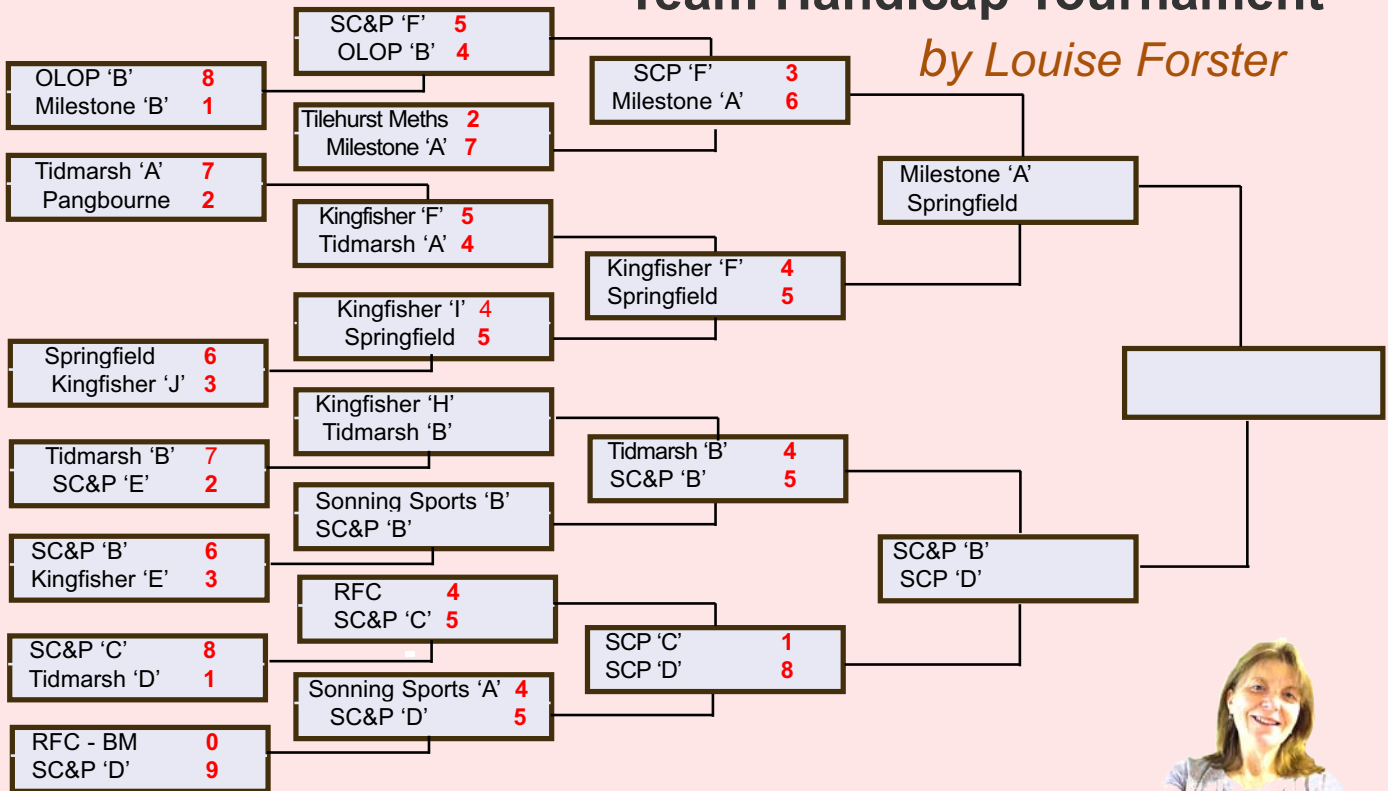
On the playing front Eric Van Looy ran the Individual Handicap comp at Cippenham on the 10th Jan which was won by Ryan Chung. Thank you Eric

We are now on the run in to the season's end so I hope it goes well and hope you all keep safe.

All the Best
Derek Harrison

Team Handicap Tournament

by Louise Forster



Since the last newsletter we've now seen the last two of the quarter final matches take place. The first of these saw SC&P 'B' beat Tidmarsh 'B' in a very close match that went right to the final set. Tidmarsh went from being 1 – 0 down, to being 3 – 1 up, SC&P managed to pull it back to 4 – 4, and it all went down to the deciding game between Nigel Maltby (SC&P) vs Chris Webb (Tidmarsh). Nigel managed a win in this final game to take SC&P 'B' through to the semi final, where they will face a home derby against SC&P 'D'.

The other quarter final played this week was between Milestone 'A' and SC&P 'F'. Milestone 'A' had a strong 6 – 3 win with Zoltan Kelemen winning all three of his games. This now takes Milestone 'A' through to the second semi final where they will meet Springfield.





DIVISION ONE

by Nigel Maltby

Mark Banks still doesn't feel up to producing his entertaining words of wisdom, so I have again stepped in on a temporary basis. Mark hopes to be back for a bumper end of season edition of fun and banter, but for now you'll have to make do with me.

Kingfisher 'A' all but wrapped up the division 1 title after a comprehensive 9 - 1 win against nearest rivals Our Lady of Peace 'A'. Hari Gehlot and Martin Adams both starred with hat tricks, Hari just holding off Sam Ricks 11-8 9-11 11-9 11-13 11-8. For OLOP Sam managed a 14-12 11-5 15-13 win over Darren Jones. Kingfisher now lead OLOP by only 5 points as it stands at the time of writing, but crucially Kingfisher have 2 matches in hand. OLOP look assured of 2nd place with Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' having 3 matches but an unbridgeable 39 point gap up to OLOP.

Elsewhere it's a battle to avoid the drop. Tidmarsh 'A' have done themselves a lot of favours lately, particularly when beating Sonning Common & Peppard 'B' 9 - 1 in some style. Just 10 points separate Kingfisher 'B' in 5th down to Kingfisher 'D' in 9th (the second relegation place), but the Kingfisher 'D' team have 2 matches in hand on all their rivals and surely have a squad strong enough for a mid-table finish. So who will go down?

Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' have shown some good form lately, particularly from Ed Lush, while my own team have gone in the opposite direction and are now hovering dangerously above the drop zone, as are Kingfisher 'C'. Only time will tell. As for Tilehurst Royal British Legion 'A', they look destined for the drop as the gap up to the rest looks just too big. Two teams will officially be relegated, but one or both may survive



depending on how many team entries there are next season.

Week 12

Lee Calcutt starred as Tidmarsh 'A' beat Tilehurst RBL 'A' 8 - 2, Lee earning good wins over both Keith Winter and Jon Willis. Keith picked up both Tilehurst wins after he beat Duncan Groves 11-8 8-11 9-11 11-7 11-8 and Tony Baker 10-12 11-5 11-7 11-5.

Week 13

A fine hat trick from Jason Roberts helped Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' to a 7 - 3 derby win against Sonning Common & Peppard 'B', Jason beating highly rated Jamie Barlow 11-7 11-5 11-3 in some style. Jamie hit back for the 'B' team by earning a good win over Neil Hurford 7-11 11-2 8-11 11-9 13-11, while Brian Meheux managed a win over Malcolm Gregory. A two player Kingfisher 'C' team still managed a 5 - 5 draw at Tidmarsh 'A' thanks to a maximum from Daniel McTiernan and two wins from Emma Blachford including an excellent 12-10 11-9 11-9 win against Tony Baker.

Kingfisher 'B' battled hard in their match at Our Lady of Peace 'A', despite only having two players available. Alan Cummings won twice and Nigel Keedy once, but a hat trick from Sam Ricks ensured the OLOP team ran out 7 - 3 winners.

		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Kingfisher A	12	12	0	0	105	15	105
2	OLOP A	14	12	0	2	100	40	100
3	SC&P A	11	5	2	4	61	49	61
4	Tidmarsh A	13	4	2	7	56	74	56
5	Kingfisher B	12	5	0	7	55	65	55
6	Kingfisher C	12	4	2	6	50	70	50
6	SC&P B	12	4	2	6	50	70	50
8	SC&P C	12	4	1	7	47	73	47
9	Kingfisher D	10	4	0	6	45	55	45
10	Tilehurst RBL A	12	1	1	10	31	89	31





Week 14

Kingfisher 'A' all but wrapped up the Division 1 title after that comprehensive 9 - 1 win against nearest rivals Our Lady of Peace 'A'. Sonning Common & Peppard 'B' and Tilehurst RBL 'A' battled out a 5-5 draw, Jamie Barlow with a treble for Sonning Common while for Tilehurst

Second placed Our Lady of Peace 'A' were 9 - 1 winners at home to Kingfisher 'C' with Steve Murgatroyd and Mo Cook getting maximums, while a Neil Hurford treble helped third placed Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' win 7 - 3 against Kingfisher 'B'.

LEADING AVERAGES 1

Player	Team	P	W	%
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher A	31	31	100.00%
Martin Adams	Kingfisher A	18	18	100.00%
Darren Jones	Kingfisher A	23	21	91.30%
Sam Ricks	OLOP A	17	14	82.35%
Ed Lush	SC&P C	27	22	81.48%
Ross Saxby	Kingfisher A	16	13	81.25%
Neil Hurford	SC&P A	30	24	80.00%
Mo Cook	OLOP A	29	22	75.86%
Jamie Barlow	SC&P B	32	24	75.00%
Philip Mead	Kingfisher B	27	20	74.07%
Ian Cole	OLOP A	27	19	70.37%
Graham Mendick	Kingfisher D	30	21	70.00%
Murgy Murgatroyd	OLOP A	35	24	68.57%
Jason Roberts	SC&P A	30	19	63.33%
Dmitry Khakhamov	Kingfisher A	11	6	54.55%
Alan Cummings	Kingfisher B	36	18	50.00%

Keith Winter won twice, Jon Willis managed a win over Nigel Maltby and John Willcocks defeated Brian Meheux.

At the bottom Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' boosted their chances of staying up by gaining a fine 7 - 3 win at Kingfisher 'C', Ed Lush with a good treble, supporting by doubles from Matt Stone and Matt Isherwood. Emanuel Sandu picked up two wins for the Kingfisher outfit.

Week 15

Hari Gehlot and Martin Adams both got trebles as Kingfisher 'A' kept up their Division 1 championship charge with an 8 - 2 win against Kingfisher 'D', new recruit Hugo Yick and Graham Mendick both gaining wins over Dimitry Khakhamov for the 'D' team. An Ed Lush maximum helped Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' to a 6 - 4 win over Tidmarsh 'A' at the bottom, Ed winning a close battle against Lee Calcutt in the opening set 16-14 11-4 9-11 11-9.

Weeks 16 & 17

Lee Calcutt and Anthony Baker were at their best as Tidmarsh 'A' beat Sonning Common & Peppard 'B' 9 - 1, Anthony had to work hard to defeat Simon Berry 7-11 11-5 11-8 11-9, while Simon Barter ground out wins over both Nigel Maltby and Brian Meheux. Two man Kingfisher 'B' still won 6 - 4 against Tilehurst RBL 'A' thanks to a treble from Phil Mead and two wins by Alan Cummings, John Willcocks getting a good win over Alan for the British Legion team. Steve Murgatroyd got a maximum as Our Lady of Peace 'A' won 8 - 2 at Sonning Common & Peppard 'C'.

Mo Cook, Ian Cole and Steve Murgatroyd all got maximums as Our Lady of Peace 'A' cruised to a 10 - 0 win over Tidmarsh 'A', Lee Calcutt giving Mo a good game before losing 12-10 9-11 4-11 11-13, while Hari Gehlot and Martin Adams both got trebles as a 2-man Kingfisher 'A' team won 7 - 3 at Tilehurst RBL 'A'.

Finally Mark Banks has looked after division 1 for a number of seasons now and I think he would probably appreciate another volunteer to come forward for next season. So if you think you would be interested just let me know. The job entails entering the results onto the website, producing a brief report for the press secretary each week and providing 4 newsletter reports throughout the season. Nothing too onerous and ideal if you are actually playing in that division as you get to see all the results before anyone else! Oh and you can also attend RDTTA Committee meetings if you wish and have an impact in how the league is run.

Enjoy the rest of the season,

Nigel





INDIVIDUAL HANDICAP TOURNAMENT by Eric van Looy

This season, 24 players signed up to take part in the Individual Handicap Tournament, held on 8 January at the Cippenham Table Tennis Club in Slough.

Group B produced the most straightforward results, with Andrew Adair (Scr) topping the groups with 5 wins out of 5, followed by Malcolm Gregory (-7) with 4 out of 5. Muharrem Aydin (+3, 3 wins), Jamie Barlow (-11, 2 wins), Jim Warren (Scr, 1 win) and Eric Van Looy (-13, 0 wins) filled the remaining spots.

Group C consisted of 5 players, who fought hard for the 2 top spots. Junior Theo Kniep (-6) claimed first place (3 out of 4 wins), with Simon Brookes (Scr, 2 wins) beating Graham Starke (Scr) and Bill Stamatou (-5) for second place by virtue of a better game win/loss ratio. Roger Pritchard (-10) took 5th place with a single win over group winner Theo.

Group A was undoubtedly the most exciting group to watch, with 4 out of 6 players each claiming 3 wins! Mo Cook (-11) eventually earned first spot thanks to a better game win/loss ratio. Huzeyfe Borazan (Scr) and Brett Hastings (+3) both enjoyed the same game win/loss ratio, but it was Huzeyfe who went through in second, thanks to his win over Brett. Parvin Baishkiyar (-4) had to settle for 4th place, with Zoltan Kelemen (-5, 2 wins) and Eyup Odemis (Scr, 1 win) taking places 5 and 6 respectively.

I'd like to mention Group D last, due to a crucial mistake made by yours truly: Ryan Chung (-8) took top spot with 4 out of 5 wins, only beaten by Nick Sears (-10). Second spot was handed to Nick Sears, who had tied for second spot with Harry Bullock (+2) on 3 match wins. However, when game win/loss ratio was considered, the organiser erroneously calculated (manually) Nick had a better win ratio than Harry, while an automated check after the tournament gave second spot to Harry. I've sent my apologies to Harry, which he gracefully accepted. Louise Forster (-2, 2 wins), Ekaterina Maksimenko (-7, 2 wins) and Paul Savage (-13, 1 win) took spots 4, 5 and 6.

So, this created the following quarter finals: Mo Cook (-11) vs Harry Bullo.. uhm Nick Sears (-10),

Theo Kniep (-6) vs Malcolm Gregory (-7), Andrew Adair (Scr) vs Simon Brookes (Scr), and Ryan Chung (-8) vs Huzeyfe Borazan (Scr).

While Mo was kept honest in game 1 by Nick, he easily closed out game 2 to progress to the semi-finals, where he would meet Theo, who defeated Malcolm 2-0 with some relentless attacking. Andrew beat Simon 2-0 in a game off scratch, and would meet Ryan in the semis, who had dispatched Huzeyfe 2-0 with clever shot making.

In the first semifinal, Mo Cook overcame his 5-point handicap against Theo with confidence and progressed to the final with a 2-0 win. Ryan and Andrew, however, made their semifinal a very exciting one to watch, with Andrew clinging on until the end of the third game, only to lose 22-20.

The final between Ryan and Mo was a great match to watch, with Ryan's fast serves and forehand loops against Mo's more controlled attacking shots from both wings. Ryan, who had played brilliantly all day, never let Mo close the 3-point handicap gap, and won their final 2-0 (21-17, 21-17).

My thanks to everyone who participated, best wishes to those who couldn't make it, and above all, thanks to you all for the fantastic atmosphere,



VIDEO OF THE FINAL, BETWEEN MO COOK AND RYAN CHUNG

laughs and respect for each other. It was a great day!



Secretary's Notes

We continue to play on with the latest threats that COVID threw at us around Christmas / New Year now hopefully behind us, while always being wary of what may come in the future. In the meantime enjoy getting out there and do your best, win, lose or draw.



Kingfisher 'A' have the division 1 title all but wrapped up, especially after their recent 9 - 1 win over the only other realistic challengers from OLOP 'A'. Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' seem to have a grasp of 3rd place while the rest all need to have one eye behind them in a tightly contested division - except Tilehurst RBL 'A' who are bottom! Sonning Sports 'A' and Reading FC 'A' seem to be emerging as the two likely promoted teams from division 2 while in division 3 it's been a blistering last couple of months from Kingfisher 'I's junior squad who

now look favourites to go up with Tilehurst RBL 'B' and Pangbourne WMC not far behind. It looks like Sonning Sports 'B' for the division 4 crown with OLOP 'F', Tilehurst Methodists 'B' and Tilehurst RBL 'C' in the hunt for runners-up.

The **Reading Closed Championships** are to be held on Sunday 6th March 2022 at the Cippenham Club in Slough. Get your entries in ASAP for both the Senior/Veteran and Junior events which are all to take place on the same day. [CLICK HERE TO ENTER](#)

Finally the Reading Association AGM is scheduled to take place in early June. Anyone wishing to put forward any amendments to the rules should do so in writing to me, the General Secretary, to arrive no later than 1st April.

Nigel Maltby (RDTTA Secretary)

JUNIOR NEWS

RIGHT:

This is Theo Kniep, an under-11 player from Caversham who plays for Kingfisher 'I' and has been cutting a swathe through Division 3 of our senior league this season.

Theo has been selected to represent England Schools at the upcoming British Schools Primary International .

His twin sister Chloe has also made it to the National Schools Competition, representing Oxfordshire in the U11 girls.



LEFT:

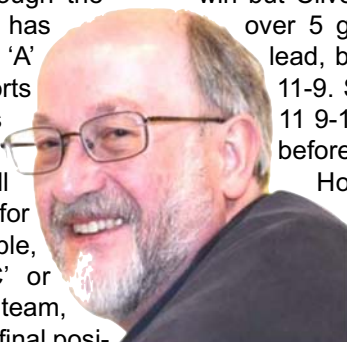
Ethan Zeng, Sahil Tekurkar, Prayrit Ahluwalia and Sudhish Dixit - all of Reading Boys School. Their team has reached the U13 National Final after winning the Regionals in Bristol in February. They will be competing at the National Schools Competition in Wolverhampton in April.



DIVISION TWO

by Martin Wetherell

Well, we are now three-quarters through the Season and the Division 2 title race has been whittled down to Reading FC 'A' and Sonning Sports 'A'. Although Sonning Sports have the nominal advantage, being two points behind with a match in hand, these two teams still have to play each other, in what will undoubtedly be a crucial match. So, look out for fireworks on 9th March! At the bottom of the table, it looks like it will be either Tidmarsh 'C' or Kingfisher 'G' and despite having a very strong team, Kingfisher look as if they will be caught, so the final positions will probably be decided by the team selections for their next meeting.



win but Clive Gold, who was playing second, then lost over 5 games, before Luca Bianchi restored their lead, beating Arun Rajagopal 8-11 11-8 8-11 11-2 11-9. Stephen then lost to Pradeep Desh 11-9 4-11 9-11 11-7 9-11 and Luca lost to Binit Bhaskar, before Clive restored parity by beating Arun. However, after Clive & Stephen lost the Doubles, the team was losing 3 - 4 and although Stephen won his final set, beating Arun 11-7 8-11 11-7 13-11, Luca lost to Binit 11-9 2-11 5-11 6-11, meaning that Clive needed to win to draw the match. It required 5 games, but Clive finally overcame Binit's defence, winning 11-9 7-11 11-8 8-11 11-5, to ensure that the points were shared.

Mike Childs (Reading FC 'A') now tops the Divisional Individual Averages, having lost just four times in 15 matches, with Eric Van Looy (Tilehurst Methodists 'A') dropping down to 2nd, having lost twice in 7 matches. Nick Sears (Sonning Sports 'A') is in 3rd, having lost four times in 13 matches, and Roger Pritchard (Kingfisher 'F') in 4th, having lost 6 times in 14 matches. There are only three players - Anup Chopra, John Liddle and Chris Webb - who are still looking for their first win. However, Anup hasn't played since November and John has moved away, so all the pressure is possibly on Chris's shoulders!

Their match against club mates Kingfisher 'F', which was scheduled for the following week, was postponed, resulting in two matches being played the week after. First up was the 6 - 4 defeat of Tilehurst Methodists 'A', with Luca, Andrew Adair and Abhay Gore each winning twice, Andrew & Luca losing the Doubles 2 - 3, on their debut. Luca, Stephen and Clive took on Kingfisher 'F' the following day, with another 6 - 4 performance, Luca winning all three, as well as partnering Clive to a crucial Doubles win, an 11-9 11-5 11-9 victory on their debut, with both Clive and Stephen defeating Eapen John to record a vital win. The final match of the Quarter was against Tidmarsh 'B' and the same three players won 7 - 3, with Luca again winning all three and, in the process, earning his 3rd consecutive PoM, Stephen picking up two wins and Clive recording the one win. Clive & Stephen won their second Doubles match, having played together 5 times.

Nick Sears & Paul Savage (Sonning Sports 'A') top the Divisional Doubles Averages, having lost twice in 13 outings, with Mike Childs & Wayne Alleyne (Reading FC 'A') in 2nd, having lost twice in 10 outings. There are a few pairings that are undefeated, who may climb the table if they carry on winning, the obvious candidates being Jazz Dhillon & Mike Childs (Reading FC 'A'), who have played in 4 matches, and Alistair Richardson & Dave Godfrey (Our Lady of Peace 'B'), who have played in just 3 matches. Mike Childs (Reading FC 'A') leads the Divisional PoM table, having received 11 awards, with Nick Sears (Sonning Sports 'A') in 2nd, having received 9 awards, while Danny Dockree (Sonning Common & Peppard 'D') is in 3rd, having received 6 awards and Eric Van Looy (Tilehurst Methodists 'A') is in 4th, having received 5 awards.

Kingfisher 'F' have actually played 6 matches since the last Newsletter, with their postponed match, against Reading FC 'A', being played one week later than scheduled. During this Quarter, the 'F' team have had to call upon three reserves - Theo Kniep, Ethan Zeng and Ryan

Kingfisher 'E' started this Quarter with a free week, so have only played 4 matches. However, despite having drawn one and won the other three, Kingfisher 'E' have only climbed one spot, moving from 8th to 7th. The opening draw was against Our Lady of Peace 'C' and this was a competitive affair, with all the singles being closely contested, 44 games being played overall. Stephen Leggett opened proceedings with a 5 game

		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Reading FC A	15	12	2	1	97	53	97
2	Sonning Sports A	14	10	3	1	95	45	95
3	OLOP B	15	7	4	4	82	68	82
4	Kingfisher F	15	7	1	7	79	71	79
5	Tidmarsh B	15	4	5	6	78	72	78
6	SC&P D	13	7	1	5	71	59	71
7	Kingfisher E	14	6	2	6	71	69	71
8	OLOP C	14	6	4	4	65	75	65
9	Tilehurst Meths A	15	4	1	10	59	91	59
10	Kingfisher G	15	0	3	12	50	100	50
11	Tidmarsh C	13	3	0	10	43	87	43



Chung - who all play for Division 3 leaders Kingfisher 'I'. They started this Quarter in 5th place, dropped to 6th, rose to 4th, dropped to 7th before consolidating 4th again, over the past few weeks.

Although only 33 games were played, in the match against Reading FC 'A', the result was a narrow 6 - 4 loss, thanks to a sterling performance from substitute Theo Kniep, who won twice, to add to Roger Pritchard's double, with John Liddle losing in straight sets. However Mike Childs & Wayne Alleyne proved to be a step too far, for Roger & Theo, their Doubles debut ending in a 3 - 0 defeat. The first match in the New Year had an identical score line, this time a 6 - 4 loss to Our Lady of Peace 'B'. Roger and John were joined by Ajai Kamath and although Roger recorded a maximum, Ajai was only able to win his opening set, even though he was battling all evening, and John was still looking for that elusive first win, in what might be his final outing this Season.

Kingfisher 'F' earned the kudos of beating club mates Kingfisher 'G' 7 - 3, Ajai recording a maximum and earning the PoM, while Eapen John and Roger both recorded two wins, with Ajai & Roger losing the doubles 1 - 3, for the 3rd time. Their scheduled "away" match against club mates Kingfisher 'E' was postponed until the following week, so their next visitors were Tidmarsh 'C'. Eapen successfully defeated David Sheppard, 9-11 11-7 11-7 10-12 11-8, to record one win and Roger won all three but the star was substitute Theo Kniep who won all three singles, in straight sets, and also partnered Eapen to success in the Doubles, on their debut, which meant that the match ended with an 8 - 2 victory.

wins. For their final match of the Quarter, Ajai and Roger and substitute Ryan Chung travelled to title chasers Sonning Sports 'A'. Ajai battled hard but came away with nothing, Roger put in a captain's performance and won twice, beating Keith Machin and Paul Savage, continuing a streak stretching back to the start of the Season, having won at least two sets in every match played, a feat only paralleled by the top 3 individuals in the Divisional Averages. Ryan equalled Roger's performance, beating the same two players, although his contest with Paul was nominated as "set of the night", with some breathtaking rallies before he won 12-10 9-11 11-9 8-11 11-7. Ryan almost won all three Singles but, having won the first two games against Nick Sears, Nick fought back to win the next three games, 11-9 11-9 11-5.

Kingfisher 'G' are another team that have played 6 matches, since the last Newsletter, as they played their postponed match, against Sonning Sports 'A', early in the New Year. However, with two draws and four losses, Kingfisher 'G' remain fixed in 10th place and although they have increased their lead over bottom-placed Tidmarsh 'C', they have also played two more matches than them. They now face a relegation battle for the remainder of the Season, highlighting the fact that no-one is too good to be relegated. It should also be noted that Kingfisher 'G' are still to win a match.

In the rearranged match against Sonning Sports 'A', before Hamid Mohseni won the penultimate set, beating Bob Woodmansee 1-11 11-7 11-9 9-11 11-7, thereby recording only his second win of the Season as well as sparing the team from a whitewash, Neil Dellar and Mick Mitcham may have briefly wondered whether it was worth the drive, although they both won at least one game. The following week, Kingfisher 'G' had a 39 game contest with Our Lady of Peace 'C', ending in a 5 - 5 draw, Mick again failing to find success although he had a close contest with Arun Rajagopal, Hamid recording his first double of the Season, Satej Jaywant recording his third maximum, while Hamid & Satej lost the Doubles, for the second time.

An "away" match against club mates Kingfisher 'F' was next on the schedule, with the same team selected. Neither Hamid nor Mick had any joy, although both were involved in 5-game sets, Satej recording two singles wins and partnering Hamid to their second Doubles win. Visitors Tilehurst Methodists 'A' left victorious, following their 4 - 6 win, although with 42 games played this was the 'G' team's most competitive match so far, with the opponents winning 7 of the 11 pivotal games. Hamid, Neil & Satej played together for the third time, with Neil winning twice and Satej once, although Neil & Satej also won the Doubles, for the second time.

The same team was selected for the away trip to Tidmarsh 'B' and although the team reprised their singles wins from the previous week, Hamid & Satej lost the Doubles, reducing their win rate to 40% and resulting in an overall 7 - 3 loss. For the third consecutive week, the team was unchanged for the visit by leaders Reading FC 'A' and

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Mike Childs	Reading FC A	45	41	91.11%
Eric Van Looy	Tilehurst Meths A	21	19	90.48%
Nick Sears	Sonning Sports A	38	34	89.47%
Roger Pritchard	Kingfisher F	42	34	80.95%
Danny Dockree	SC&P D	36	28	77.78%
Paul Savage	Sonning Sports A	41	31	75.61%
Barry Carter	Tidmarsh B	36	26	72.22%
Pradeep Desh	OLOP C	36	25	69.44%
Francois Durand	Tidmarsh B	24	16	66.67%
Luca Bianchi	Kingfisher E	21	14	66.67%
Chris West	OLOP B	15	10	66.67%
Darek Kaminski	OLOP B	33	21	63.64%
Dave Godfrey	OLOP B	30	19	63.33%
Dale Ballard	Tidmarsh B	24	15	62.50%
Neil Dellar	Kingfisher G	27	16	59.26%
Ajai Kamath	Kingfisher F	33	19	57.58%

The following day, Eapen and Roger took on their club mates in the 'E' team, this time assisted by substitute Ethan Zeng. It started well, with Roger defeating Clive Gold 12-10 6-11 12-14 11-5 11-8 and Ethan defeating Stephen Leggett 13-15 11-9 11-5 11-7. Sadly, Eapen was unable to replicate his results from the previous day and with no-one able to defeat Luca Bianchi, the match ended in a 6 - 4 loss, with Richard and Ethan both recording two



they played a blinder to record a 5 - 5 draw. Neil & Satej both won twice, each of them losing to Mike Childs but, in turn, each defeating Tony Alleyne and Jazz Dhillon, with Neil & Satej also winning the Doubles in what proved to be a crucial victory, against Mike & Tony.

Our Lady of Peace 'B' stayed in 3rd place throughout the Quarter, but have allowed the gap to 2nd place to grow, following their defeats to Reading FC 'A' and Sonning Common & Peppard 'D', which, I fear, is insurmountable. They have played 5 matches, winning twice, drawing once and losing twice. It all started brightly with a 6 - 4 victory over Kingfisher 'F', with Louise Forster winning the final set to ensure the win, following earlier successes for Dave Godfrey and Chris West, who each won two singles as well as partnering up to win the Doubles, the first time they have won together this Season.

Dave, Darek Kaminski and Alistair Richardson then travelled to Tilehurst Methodists 'A' where Dave beat Eric Van Looy 12-10 11-13 13-11 8-11 11-7 but was then denied his treble after losing his final set to Phil Jones. Darek lost his opener to Eric but won his remaining two sets and Alistair contributed a win by defeating Phil 9-11 10-12 11-8 11-7 12-10. However, in what turned out to be a crucial Doubles win, Dave & Darek defeated Jes Eassom & Phil, 6-11 7-11 11-9 11-5 11-6. Once all these results were collated, OLOP had won the match 6 - 4. The same team then entertained visitors Tidmarsh 'B' with the match ending in a 5 - 5 draw, exactly the same result as their corresponding fixture at Tidmarsh. Dave not only recorded his third maximum but also earned his first PoM, while Darek matched Alistair in winning one set apiece. Alistair's 11-5 7-11 11-5 6-11 11-9 win over Chris West, in the final set, was necessary to secure the draw, after Dave & Darek lost their 100% Doubles record, to Barry Carter & Dale Ballard.

Dave dropped out for the next match, an away trip to play Reading FC 'A', and was replaced in the roster by Louise. However, only Darek had any joy, defeating both Tony Alleyne and Jazz Dhillon, to earn the points in the team's 8 - 2 loss, although Alistair was mighty close to a win before losing to Tony Alleyne 12-14 16-14 16-14 6-11 7-11. In the Doubles, something had to break as the two pairs faced each other, both having won their previous two matches and, sadly, Alistair & Darek now join the list of OLOP pairings who have lost their 100% record. Their final match was another loss, this time at home to Sonning Common & Peppard 'D'. Dave replaced Darek in the line-up, but was unable to repeat his form from his last outing, losing all three, despite his best efforts, most notably his opening set against Danny Dockree which he lost 11-9 5-11 10-12 11-9 9-11. Louise fared no better, losing her opening set, to Jon Abbott, 7-11 12-14 10-12 and her final set, to Angus Jones, 11-5 8-11 8-11 17-19. On the day, Alistair was the star, fighting back to win his opening set, against Angus, 6-11 9-11 11-9 11-5 11-9, then repeating this trick against Jon, winning 9-11 4-11 11-6 11-9 11-8, before losing to Danny Dockree. Alistair & Dave also won the Doubles and are now this team's only undefeated pairing.

Our Lady of Peace 'C' started the Quarter in 7th place and, after a brief sojourn in 6th, is now in 8th place but looking safe from any relegation battles. Only 4 more matches have been played this Quarter, resulting in two draws, one win and one loss, with Binit Bhaskar, Pradeep Desh and Arun Rajagopal playing in every match. Their first match, away at Kingfisher 'G', was drawn 5 - 5 with Binit winning twice while Pradeep and Arun both won once. Binit & Pradeep also won the Doubles to ensure the draw was a possibility. However, a draw was guaranteed after Binit defeated Mick Mitcham, in the penultimate set, and although Arun tried to win the final set, against Hamid Mohseni, he lost 8-11 9-11 8-11 and thus the match was drawn.

Another hard fought match occurred 9 days later, when the team entertained Kingfisher 'E', and after playing 44 games the outcome was a 5 - 5 draw. Pradeep scored his second maximum, to guarantee at least a draw, but Arun lost his final set, to Stephen Leggett, 7-11 11-8 7-11 11-13 and Binit couldn't add to his earlier win, when he defeated Luca Bianchi 3-11 11-9 14-12 11-3, thus allowing Kingfisher 'E' to draw level. The team travelled to Tidmarsh 'C' the following week, where Pradeep recorded a further maximum, repeating his exploits from the previous week, while Binit won twice and Arun won once, defeating Richard Hudson 8-11 11-6 6-11 11-6 12-10, all of which ensured a 6 - 4 victory.

However, all good things must come to an end and so it was that our gallant band ended up losing 9 - 1, to Sonning Sports 'A', with Pradeep saving the whitewash when he beat Bob Woodmansee 10-12 11-5 13-11 11-4. However, of the 35 games played that evening, 11 were won by the minimum 2 points required, 9 in favour of Sonning Sports, indicating that the score could have been so much closer, if a few of these had tipped the other way.

Reading FC 'A' are another team that had a match postponed and it was played after the previous Newsletter was published, meaning that they have played a further 6 matches, with four wins and two draws. They started this Quarter in 2nd place, but took over at the top in match week 20 and have held it ever since, although the gap to 2nd place is steadily reducing. The postponed match against Kingfisher 'F' was played before Christmas and resulted in a 6 - 4 win, Mike Childs continuing his record of playing in every match, as well as chalking up yet another maximum, Tony Alleyne and Wayne Alleyne both winning once, with Mike & Wayne also back to winning ways in the Doubles.

Tilehurst Methodists 'A' were the next visitors and they were thoroughly beaten 9 - 1, although the stats show that of 35 games played that evening, 11 were won by just two points, with Sonning Sports victorious in 10. For this match, Tony was replaced in the line-up by Jazz Dhillon, who also recorded a maximum, alongside Mike, while Wayne had to settle for just a double after losing his opening set to Phil Jones, 7-11 11-6 11-9 2-11. Although Wayne was in the team, Jazz partnered Mike in the Doubles, this new pairing winning on their debut.





For the next match, away at Tidmarsh 'B', Jazz and Tony swapped places once more, with Tony winning his opening set but then having no further joy and Wayne not winning a Singles set for the first time this Season. However, Wayne was back in action with Mike, who had again recorded a maximum, and they won their Doubles 11-8 11-9 6-11 8-11 11-7, which meant that the match was eventually tied at 5 - 5. Wayne was again replaced in the line-up by Jazz, for the visit of Sonning Common & Peppard 'D' and with Tony, Mike and Jazz each ending with two wins, since everyone lost to Danny Dockree, and Jazz & Mike successfully reprising their Doubles partnership, the end result was a 7 - 3 victory.

The same personnel welcomed Our Lady of Peace 'B' the following week and Mike was back to winning ways with a treble, while Jazz and Tony both recorded two wins apiece, Mike & Jazz recording their third Doubles victory, to retain their 100% record. The same three people ended the Quarter with a trip to play Kingfisher 'G' but although Mike again won all three, for the 11th time this Season, Tony & Jazz could each only win once, Tony defeating Hamid Mohseni 15-13 5-11 11-5 11-7 and Jazz defeating Hamid in straight sets. Mike & Tony debuted their Doubles pairing but lost in straight sets to Neil Dellar & Satej Jaywant, resulting in a 5 - 5 draw.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'D' still have one postponed match to rearrange and they have also had a free week so, although they remain in 6th place, which is the same position as at the start of the Quarter, they have now played two less matches than the two teams immediately above them and one fewer match than the two teams immediately below them. I therefore expect them to improve their table position, before the Season finishes. Of course, all this means that they have only played 4 matches since the last Newsletter, which resulted in two wins, one draw and one loss.

The New Year began with a visit from Tidmarsh 'B' and Jon Abbott, Danny Dockree and Angus Jones were selected to play. Jon and Danny turned in the same results as in their last match, Jon winning once and Danny recording a treble and with Angus recording two wins, victory was assured. Sadly, Danny & Jon lost their 100% Doubles record, having won their previous five matches but went down swinging, against François Durand & Barry Carter, narrowly losing 11-9 10-12 9-11 11-13. This might have been one of the most competitive matches so far, with 39 games played of which 19 were won by the minimum two points required, the match ending in a 6 - 4 win for the Commoners.

The following week, Jon, Danny and Mark Jones travelled to title chasers Sonning Sports 'A', where a strong team performance saw them achieve a creditable 5 - 5 draw, Danny dropping a set for the first time in 10 weeks, after losing 6-11 11-7 6-11 12-10 11-9 to Nick Sears, Jon and Mark each beating Keith Machin, Mark winning 10-12 11-6 11-9 11-8 and Jon winning 7-11 11-4 12-10 16-14, but, crucially, Danny & Mark defeated Divisional Doubles leaders Nick Sears & Paul Savage 11-2 11-9 7-11 13-11, inflicting only their second defeat this Season. Mark and Angus

swapped places for the away trip to the other serious title chasers, Reading FC 'A', where Danny was the only success story, winning all three sets, in the process becoming only the 4th person to defeat Mike Childs. However, Angus & Danny, on their debut, were unable to stop Jazz & Mike from winning their second Doubles, and the final score was therefore a 7 - 3 defeat. After their free week, the same personnel were again on the road, this time travelling to Our Lady of Peace 'B'. However, it was a much more successful visit than their last away trip, as the 7 - 3 scoreline was, this time, in the Commoners' favour, since Jon and Angus both won twice, to back up Danny's maximum. Jon and Angus both failed to beat Alistair Richardson, although they each defeated Dave Godfrey and Louise Forster, with none of these sets being easy victories.

Sonning Sports 'A' started this Quarter in 1st place but lost that spot when they had a free week. Since then they have been gaining ground, point by point, and now are only two points adrift of Reading FC, with a game in hand. However, this may all be superfluous since these two teams have still to play each other again, with Sonning Sports victorious in their first encounter. Their first match after the New Year was their rearranged fixture with Kingfisher 'G', which Paul Savage, Nick Sears and Bob Woodmansee won 9 - 1, Bob also on course for a treble until he lost his final set, to Hamid Mohseni, 11-1 7-11 9-11 11-9 7-11.

The following week saw Sonning Sports 'A' back on schedule, with the away trip to play Tidmarsh 'C'. The same three players were selected and Paul and Nick both returned maximums, although Bob saw his chances of a treble vanish slightly earlier, when he lost to Ian Wu 11-6 10-12 8-11 11-13. However, this match also saw the 100% record of Nick & Paul tumble after they lost 10-12 11-3 11-3 9-11 7-11, to David Sheppard & Ian, although winning the match 8 - 2 keeps them in contention for the Divisional Title. For the visit by Sonning Common & Peppard 'D', Bob was replaced in the starting roster by Keith Machin. Keith was unable to secure a win, losing in 4 games to both Jon Abbott and Mark Jones, while Paul lost to Danny Dockree 11-8 8-11 11-4 10-12 6-11. With Nick & Paul losing the Doubles for the second time, a major upset was averted when Paul won the 10th set to guarantee a draw,

It was two weeks until the next match, away at Our Lady of Peace 'C', which ended in a 9 - 1 victory, with Paul and Nick winning all three Singles, as well as partnering up to win the Doubles, Bob again one win shy of his first maximum, after he lost to Pradeep Desh. The final match of the Quarter was at home, to visitors Kingfisher 'F'. Bob and Keith traded places again, Keith defeating Ajai Kamath for his single, fighting back from two games down to win 4-11 12-14 11-7 11-7 11-9. Paul also beat Ajai to record one win, but Nick came good by winning all three, a feat he has achieved in all 5 matches played this Quarter, although substitute Ryan Chung was almost his undoing, Nick fighting back from 2 games down to win 8-11 6-11 11-9 11-9 11-5, and with Nick & Paul winning the Doubles, victory was assured when Nick beat Ajai to complete his treble.



Tidmarsh 'B' were sitting in 4th place at Christmas and with a bit of jockeying for position now find themselves in 5th place, one point behind Kingfisher 'F' who have leapt up the table as a consequence of playing their catch-up matches. They have played 5 matches this Quarter but only recorded one win, with two draws and two losses.

Their first match in the New Year was away at Sonning Common & Peppard 'D' and Barry Carter, François Durand and Chris Webb were selected from the squad of five. However, Barry was unable to recreate the form he had shown in the reverse fixture, ending the night with one win, although François opened the match with a narrow 11-9 11-8 4-11 9-11 14-12 victory over Jon Abbott, then lost to Danny Dockree before beating Angus Jones, in between partnering Barry to a vital Doubles win, which raised some hope that the match might still be drawn. Chis was the unlucky soul who needed to beat Danny Dockree to achieve this goal but he fared no better than his teammates and the match therefore finished with Tidmarsh losing 6 - 4.

The following week saw the arrival of title chasers Reading FC 'A' and Barry lined up with Mike Aistrop and Dale Ballard. The stats would indicate that the match finished earlier than normal, since unlike the previous week there were less games played, with far fewer dependent on the minimum two points required for a win. Mike Childs was an unstoppable force, but Wayne Alleyne was dispatched in straight sets, by each player, Mike Aistrop almost joining his teammates in getting the better of Tony Alleyne, before losing the 5th game. However, two wins for Barry and Dale, along with one win for Mike was enough to share the points, in a 5 - 5 draw.

The team were on their bikes for the next match, an away trip to Our Lady of Peace 'B', Mike being replaced in the roster by Chris. Although Chris battled hard, he lost in 5 games to both Dave Godfrey and Alistair Richardson, the 5th game against Dave finishing 8-11 while the 5th game against Alistair finished 9-11, and even though Barry and Dale each won twice, as well as partnering up to win the Doubles, since no-one was able to defeat Dave, it meant that this match was also drawn 5 - 5.

For the match against Kingfisher 'G', François returned and Chris made way. Barry returned to form, winning all three and successfully winning the Doubles 3 - 0 with Dale. Dale also defeated Hamid for his single, although he wasn't too far off a treble himself, losing the 1st set to Neil Dellar 9-11 9-11 11-5 9-11 and the 10th set to Satej Jaywant 11-13 4-11 11-9 11-9 9-11. With Barry & Dale again winning the Doubles, the match was won 7 - 3.

For the final match this Quarter, away at Kingfisher 'E', François was joined by Mike and Chris. 40 games were played that evening and François was undoubtedly the busiest player, opening with an 11-7 11-13 9-11 8-11 loss to Luca Bianchi, then losing to Stephen Leggett 11-4 8-11 3-11 16-14 9-11 before partnering Mike to a 13-11 11-5 9-11 7-11 6-11 Doubles defeat, by Clive Gold & Stephen. However, François persevered and he won his final set, against Clive, 10-12 11-7 8-11 11-7 11-8. Meanwhile, Mike took a slightly easier option. With all his Singles requiring just 4 games to decide the winner, Mike won his first and last sets, to earn his team two more points. However, Chris is still looking for his first win, so this match ended in a 7 - 3 defeat.

Tidmarsh 'C' have still to play their postponed match with Sonning Common & Peppard 'D' and also had a free week this Quarter which means they have only played 4 more matches since the last Newsletter, winning once and losing three matches. As a consequence they are still firmly rooted to the bottom of the table but, with a gap of only 7 points to 10th placed Kingfisher 'G', two matches in hand as well as a match between these two teams, the wooden spoon is very much still up for grabs ! The team did not sign any new players before the January cut-off and they haven't called up any substitutes from a lower Division, with Richard Hudson, David Sheppard and Ian Wu playing in most matches, Simon Craig making a reappearance in their final outing this Quarter, against Tilehurst Methodists 'A'.

Their first match of the New Year was a bottom versus top encounter, as the visitors were Sonning Sports 'A', and the match lived up to its billing, with Ian earning a solitary Singles win after he beat Bob Woodmansee 6-11 12-10 11-8 13-11. However, David & Ian again partnered up in the Doubles, following their successful debut in the last match before Christmas, winning 12-10 3-11 3-11 11-9 11-7 and thereby becoming the first pair to beat the Divisional Doubles Leaders, Paul Savage & Nick Sears. Two weeks later and Our Lady of Peace 'C' were the visitors. Richard was unable to secure a win as it was cruelly snatched away in his sets against Binit Bhaskar and Arun Rajagopal, with Richard losing the fifth game 10-12 in both instances. David fared little better, losing his opening set against Pradeep Desh 9-11 4-11 13-15 and then his next against Binit 9-11 9-11 9-11, although he did defeat Arun to end the day with one Singles win, after he & Ian had overcome Binit & Arun, in the Doubles, 11-7 11-9 6-11 7-11 11-8. Meanwhile, Ian won his opening set, against Arun, and his closing set, against Binit, the latter needing 5 games to decide the victor, Ian just winning 12-14 7-11 11-7 11-5 11-9. However, despite winning both the final set and the Doubles, the match ended in a 4 - 6 defeat.

A third loss, 8 - 2 away at Kingfisher 'F', followed one week later. Kingfisher 'F' had drafted Theo Kniep, one of their young stars from Kingfisher 'I' and he proved too good, on the day, for Richard, David and Ian, each set lasting 3 games, with the third game always 11-9. They also found Roger Pritchard impossible to defeat and only had joy against Eapen John, Richard fighting back after losing the first game 11-13, to win in 4 games, David just losing out 11-9 7-11 7-11 12-10 8-11, while Ian followed Richard's example, losing the first game 11-13 but then winning the next three games. Sadly, David & Ian also lost their 100% Doubles record, on their fourth outing, to Eapen & Theo. Their final match was a 6 - 4 home win, against Tilehurst Methodists 'A', with Simon playing his first match in 11 weeks and David dropping out. All three ended the evening with two wins, each having defeated Jes Eassom and Phil Jones, with the Methodists' Eric Van Looy unstoppable on the night, although Ian came close in the opening set, before losing 11-8 11-9 8-11 8-11 6-11. Richard & Simon debuted in the Doubles, as did their opponents Eric & Jes, the latter being triumphant.

At the start of this Quarter, **Tilehurst Methodists 'A'** were sitting in 9th place and after playing a further 5 matches, with one win and four losses, they are still in 9th place, with 9



points separating them from the team in 10th. Their first match in the New Year was a trip to Reading FC 'A', with Phil Jones ensuring there was no whitewash after beating Wayne Alleyne, in his opening set. However, Phil was unable to dig out a further win and neither Jes Eassom nor Bill Stamatiou could find a breakthrough. Jes & Phil came close to winning their first Doubles, on their fifth attempt, but eventually lost 7-11 11-3 12-10 8-11 9-11, to Mike Childs and Jazz Dhillon. In fact, this set contained the Methodists' only 'minimum two point' game in this match, compared with ten for Reading FC.

Eric Van Looy returned for the home match against Our Lady of Peace 'B', with Bill making way, but it wasn't the homecoming expected after two months away, since Dave Godfrey played a blinder, to deny Eric his treble. Eric lost 10-12 13-11 11-13 11-8 7-11. Dave was unaware that his bid for a treble would be thwarted by Phil Jones. Phil himself lost to Alistair Richardson 11-9 12-10 8-11 7-11 10-12, who in turn also lost to Jes Eassom. Jes & Phil again tried to win their first Doubles match, but lost in 5 games, to Darek Kaminski & Dave, thus ending the match with a 4 - 6 loss. Masoud Ghabachi returned for the away trip to Kingfisher 'G', with Jes dropping out and things looked promising as they opened up a 4 - 0 lead, with Eric on track for his treble, Masoud beating Hamid Mohseni and Phil beating Satej Jaywant, both requiring 5 games for victory. However, Phil then lost to Neil Dellar 11-9 11-4 8-11 6-11 6-11 and Masoud

lost to Satej, before Eric & Phil lost the Doubles, to Satej & Neil, 11-7 7-11 10-12 14-12 6-11. With the match standing at 4 - 3, Phil and Eric then regrouped, both winning their final sets and despite Masoud losing his final set to Neil, the Methodists' returned home with a 6 - 4 victory.

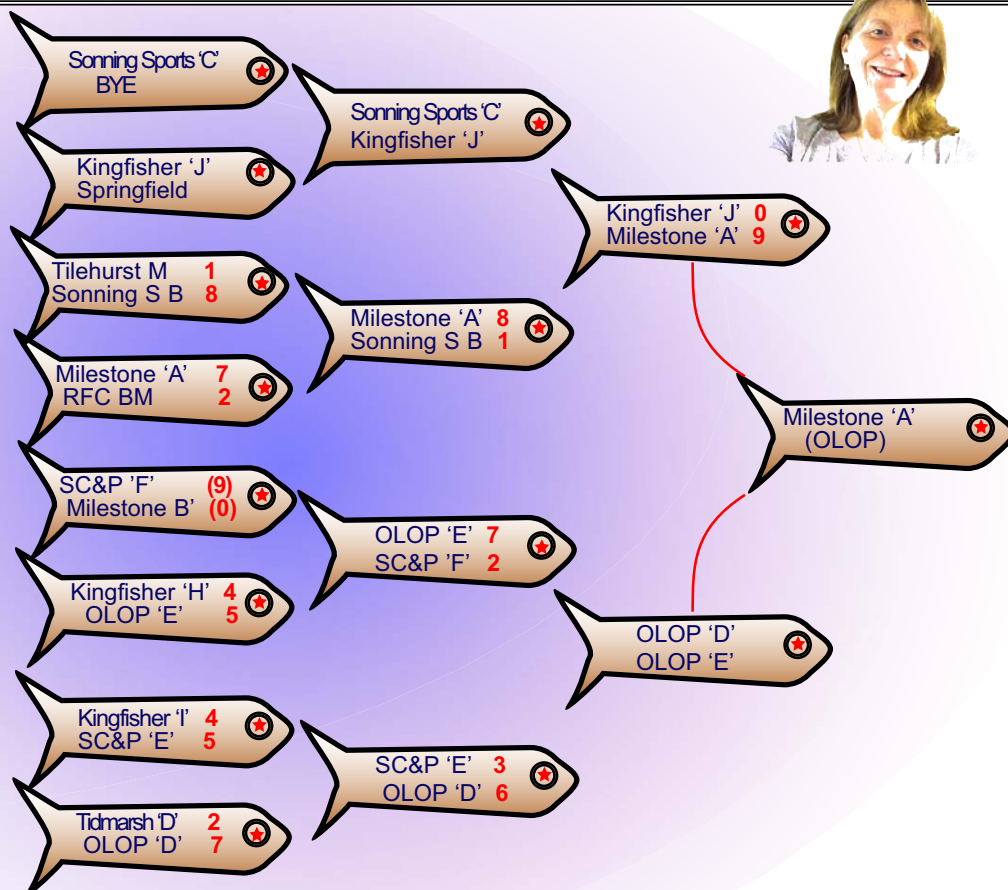
With two members of the selected team having to isolate, due to Covid, there was a panic to field a team but, eventually, Phil joined Bill and Jes for the home match against Kingfisher 'E'. It was looking very promising as Jes, Bill and Phil each won their opening sets but their opponents stormed back to level the match at 3 - 3. Bill lost to Abhay Gore 8-11 12-10 6-11 10-12, then Jes lost to Andrew Adair 9-11 11-4 11-7 4-11 8-11, before Phil lost to Luca Bianchi 8-11 11-7 7-11 14-16. Jes & Bill restored the lead, beating Andrew & Luca 6-11 11-7 11-9 6-11 11-8, to secure their first Doubles win but that was as good as it got and with Bill losing in 5 games to Andrew, Phil also losing 6-11 11-8 11-8 9-11 10-12 to Abhay, hopes of a draw were dashed when Jes was beaten by Luca, the match ending in a 4 - 6 defeat. For their final match, Jes, Phil and a fit again Eric travelled to Tidmarsh 'C'. However, despite Eric recording another maximum and Eric & Jes winning the Doubles on their debut, neither Jes nor Phil could secure a Singles win, although it was not for want of trying, with all three of Phil's sets needing 4 games and Jes almost drawing the match, before losing the final set, against Ian Wu, 11-7 12-14 9-11 13-15, a result which meant the match ended in another 4 - 6 defeat.

LOWER DIVISIONS KNOCKOUT TOURNAMENT

by Louise Forster

We've only had one match played in the LDKO since the last newsletter. This was the first of the semi finals which saw Milestone 'A' achieve a convincing 9 - 0 win over Kingfisher 'J'. The Milestone 'A' side of Zoltan Kelemen, Sachin Mundra and Olly Bonser played this match the night after their win in the Team Handicap, so they are now on a roll as they enter both the semi finals of the Team Handicap, and the final of the LDKO! Are they heading for the double?

Milestone 'A' will meet the winner of OLOP 'E' and OLOP 'D', who are yet to play their semi final.





DIVISION THREE

by John Willcocks

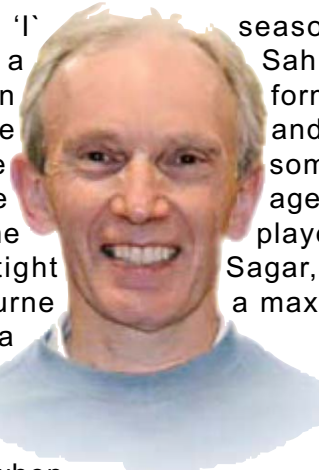
In the battle for promotion Kingfisher 'I' have opened up what appears to be a decisive lead at the top of the division and with their players likely to continue improving between now and the end of the campaign they look odds on to win the title. The contest to see who will fill the other promotion place is still very tight between Tilehurst RBL 'B' and Pangbourne WMC with Milestone 'A' also in with a chance. Pangbourne WMC have the easiest run-in which could work in their favour but things may not be decided until the last week of the season when Tilehurst and Milestone play each other.

At the bottom of the division despite some spirited performances SC&P 'E' look sure to be relegated with OLOP 'E' likely to join them although they still have a very slight chance of overhauling Springfield.

I have been asked if time outs are permitted in league matches as the question has come up a few times during the season. Could everybody please note that time outs are not permitted in any RDTTA matches.

Kingfisher 'I' have won all of their five matches since Christmas which makes it ten wins in a row and their good run has enabled them to open up a useful looking lead at the top of the division. Their best recent win was the 10 – 0 victory over one of their main promotion rivals, Pangbourne WMC.

Ryan Chung remains unbeaten and it is unlikely he will lose a set between now and the end of the



Prediction – Champions

season. Ethan Zeng, Theo Kniep and Sahil Tekurkar are all showing excellent form and look unlikely to lose many sets and Rishaan Sawant has picked up some good wins. The lads even managed to let the oldest, by some way, player in their squad have a game and Sagar, Rishaan's father, unsurprisingly got a maximum.

With the team still improving it is difficult to see them finishing anywhere but first.



KATE MAKSIMONTO, JOHN WILLCOCKS AND LINDA KING OF TILEHURST RBL 'B'

Best Recent Performance Theo Kniep with a great maximum against Pangbourne WMC including two comprehensive three-straight wins and a great win in four against Clive Taylor

Tilehurst RBL 'B' have won four out of their five recent matches to maintain their promotion push although all of the matches were against teams in the bottom half. Their defeat was a surprising 6 – 4 reverse to Springfield but this result showed that when Springfield field their best three players they can give almost anyone a good game.

Kate Maksimonto has won her last fourteen sets

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Kingfisher I	14	12	0	2	98	42	98
2 Tilehurst RBL B	13	10	0	3	88	42	88
3. Pangbourne	13	9	0	4	79	51	79
4 Milestone A	12	8	0	4	71	49	71
5 OLOP D	12	4	3	5	58	62	58
6 Kingfisher H	13	2	2	9	55	75	55
7 Tidmarsh D	11	4	3	4	53	57	53
8 Springfield	13	5	0	8	52	78	52
9 OLOP E	11	2	1	8	36	74	36
10 SC&P E	12	1	1	10	30	90	30



sets and is their leading player on 93% and the rest of the side have been giving her good support. They may well still finish in one of the pro-

their outside chances of promotion alive, although some of those wins were close.

LEADING AVERAGES 3				
Player	Team	P	W	%
Ryan Chung	Kingfisher I	18	18	100.00%
Kate Maksimenko	Tilehurst RBL B	30	28	93.33%
Zoltan Kelemen	Milestone A	36	31	86.11%
Theo Kniep	Kingfisher I	33	28	84.85%
Clive Taylor	Pangbourne WMC	39	32	82.05%
John Willcocks	Tilehurst RBL B	27	21	77.78%
Ethan Zeng	Kingfisher I	30	23	76.67%
Sahil Tekurkar	Kingfisher I	21	15	71.43%
Ray Webb	Tidmarsh D	24	16	66.67%
Rob Wilkie	Springfield	24	16	66.67%
Parvin Baishkiyar	OLOP E	25	16	64.00%
Nick Lean	Tilehurst RBL B	33	21	63.64%
Sachin Mundra	Milestone A	36	22	61.11%

Their 8 – 2 defeat at Pangbourne WMC has dented their promotion hopes and the gap between themselves and the top two may now be too great. They will play the current top two towards the end of the season and will probably need good results in those two matches if they are going to crash into the promotion race. They also have two postponed matches to re-arrange so good wins in those could help their cause.

motion places and it will probably come down to the last two matches of the season which are against Kingfisher 'I' and Milestone 'A'

Prediction – 4th

Prediction – 2nd

Best Recent Performance- Linda King recovering from two games down to beat Muharrem Aydin in five in the victory over Kingfisher 'H'

Best Recent Performance – Oliver Bonser beating Clive Taylor in four.

Pangbourne WMC have had mixed results in the last few weeks in a run of fixtures against teams in the middle or near the top of the division. The mixed results have put a dent in their promotion challenge but they should still be in the mix at the end of the season.

OLOP 'D' have had a win, a defeat and two draws recently which has meant they have stayed in their healthy mid-table position. All of their players have picked up some good wins recently and they all have averages of between 38% and 59%. Morgan Sykes has the best average and wins two most weeks; the one thing that stops them from possibly being slightly higher in the table is that their players rarely get a maximum.

Their two recent defeats were a surprising 7 – 3 reverse to Tidmarsh 'D' and then they amazingly lost 10 – 0 to leaders Kingfisher 'I'. They had a solid 7 – 3 win over OLOP 'D' and in their most recent match they had an excellent 8 – 2 win against fourth placed Milestone 'A', although the final result probably flattered them a bit as six sets went to five all of which Pangbourne won.

It is likely to be a fight between them and Tidmarsh 'D' to see who finishes fifth.

Clive Taylor's form has slipped a little but he is still on 82%, John Simmonds and Leroy Wilson have been a bit inconsistent but they are a strong team who could still grab second place.

Prediction – 5th

Prediction – 3rd

Best Recent Performance – John Simmonds recovering from two down to beat Zoltan Kelemen in five

Best Recent Performance – Morgan Sykes three straight victory over John Simmonds

Milestone 'A' have won four out the five matches they have played since the New Year to keep

Kingfisher 'H' - all of their recent matches have been against teams in the top half of the division consequently they have lost three of the four matches and picked up a draw against OLOP 'D'. Their defeats were against three of the top four and have all been by the same 7 – 3 score-line, so the points they have picked up have kept them in a reasonably comfortable mid-table position. Mathematically they could be dragged into the relegation fight but that is very unlikely.

Ruben Hernandez and Huzeyfe Borazan both have averages of over 50% so as long as they both play fairly regularly they should finish roughly where they are now

Prediction – 7th

Best Recent Performance – Huzeyfe Borazan with a very good win in four against Nick Lean

Tidmarsh 'D' have only played three times



PETER GURNEY, JASON KING AND ROB WILKIE OF SPRINGFIELD

recently and have at least one match in hand on the other teams around them in the table. Their recent matches included a draw in the mid-table clash against OLOP 'D', a reasonable 7 – 3 defeat against the leaders and a great 7 – 3 win at Pangbourne WMC. In this match Terry Hardie had an excellent maximum with all of his sets going to five. Ray Webb has their highest average of 67% and Terry and skipper Dave Edwards have also been winning consistently.

Prediction – 6th

Best Recent Performance – Terry Hardie with a brilliant maximum at Pangbourne

Springfield have opened up a sixteen point gap between themselves and OLOP 'E' to give them an excellent chance of avoiding the drop. Their recent form has been good and has seen them record three wins plus they have had two fairly close defeats in matches against promotion contenders. Their best result was beating second placed Tilehurst RBL 'B' 6 – 4 with a good all-round team performance which saw Peter Gurney, Rob Wilkie and Captain Jason King all win twice.

They have already played three of the top four twice so they should not have much trouble staying clear of the relegation places. However, with a six man squad and with three players with healthy averages and three struggling a bit they need to select their teams carefully.

Prediction – 8th

Best Recent Performance – Rob Wilkie with great three straight win over Ethan Zeng

OLOP 'E' have lost their four matches since Christmas two of which were 6 – 4, although one of these was against a two-man Milestone 'A'.

They have two matches in hand on Springfield and are sixteen points behind them so they could at least get reasonably close to them once they have caught up with the matches. However, with only two wins all season it is unlikely that they will catch them.

Parvin Baishkiyar has a good average of 64% but their other players have struggled a bit but they do look like they are improving with Jude Robinson in particular winning games regularly.

Prediction – 9th

Best Recent Performance – Parvin Baishkiyar with a three straight win over Theo Kniep on a night when he was unlucky not to get a maximum as the set he lost was 11-9 in the fifth to Ethan Zeng.

SC&P E` are twenty two points from safety and



SCP 'E' - ANTHONY REEVE, JIM WARREN AND DEREK BROOKE-WAVELL

unfortunately look doomed to drop back into Division 4. Since the New Year they have lost four matches and have had a close win over fellow strugglers OLOP 'E'. Crucially they lost 7 -3 to Springfield, the team they would really need to catch to avoid relegation. Ian Davenport continues to be their best player and is averaging over 50%. Jim Warren and Captain Anthony Reeve have picked up some good wins recently as has Derek Brooke Wavell

Prediction – 10th

Best Recent Performance – Ian Davenport with a fine display of looping to beat Nick Lean.



Dave Smith, of Tidmarsh, sadly passed away recently. Here are tributes from Tidmarsh players.

David was born 29th August 1940 in Marylebone district London. During the latter years of his education the family moved down to Reading in 1956, but he travelled to London to complete his education.



David started his early career in a small architectural office in Reading, but soon moved on to Reading Borough Council in the early sixties. One of his first major jobs whilst there was designing Reading Central Pool.

Being sports minded his first table tennis club was St Catherine's in Tilehurst, then moved on to the Nalگو Table Tennis team and was also in the Nalگو football team. When Nalگو TT club disbanded he joined the Tidmarsh Club along with Mick Osborne and Bob Griffiths circa 2002/2003.

David married Jacky in 1980 and their son Ben was born in August 1981, David & Jacky were both delighted to become grandparents when Ben and his partner Lou presented them with two grandsons, Joseph (2018) and Finn (2020).

Both Jacky & David were into sports, David with his table tennis, football, cricket and golf, Jacky with netball, table tennis and golf etc. In the season 2009-2010 David was awarded The

Harold Larcombe Sportmanship Award (fully deserved).

Whilst at Tidmarsh David made many friends and was very popular, even with the visiting teams and over the years got to know him well. He had a unique 'fun' playing style, sometimes hitting the ball so it dropped only just over the net and at an awkward angle, moving his opponent from side to side. Dave was simply the most sporting player we had the pleasure to play with. He was liked by everyone he played with or played against. He never had a bad word to say about anyone and played his table tennis very much for the social side of the sport. There aren't many within the table tennis community who display such wholehearted enjoyment and enthusiasm for the game whether winning or losing, but Dave was that man. After a match we would gather round his car for him to hand out extra strong mints, and he would say 'something to suck on the way home'. He was also a great asset to the clubs annual quiz night by setting the questions. He will be remembered by fellow players for his big heart, and even bigger smile. He is a big loss to our team and Reading Table Tennis as a whole. Rest in peace Dave.

Mick Osbourne says

I knew David for over 50 years having met him through Reading Borough Council. He was a true friend who never said a bad word about anybody.

David would visit me most Wednesday mornings for his coffee and homemade cake, and we would put the world to rights and reminisce.

I think the people that knew him would remember his loud laughter and friendly nature.

Everybody could do with a David Smith in their life.

I shall miss you David

God Bless You

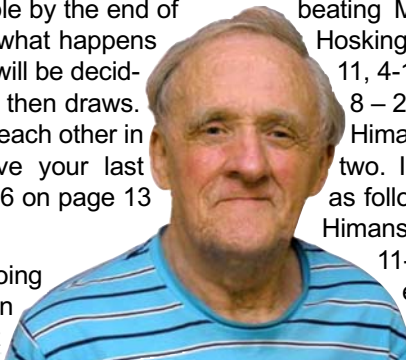
Mick Osborne



DIVISION FOUR

by Derek Harrison

Hello everybody - It seems to me that things will be very close at the top of the Division Four table by the end of the season so I thought I would clarify what happens if teams finish level on points ...league placing will be decided on the number of league matches won and then draws. If two teams are still equal they must then play each other in a deciding match. Perhaps if you still have your last Handbook you could have a look at rule 12.12.6 on page 13 for further information.



Tilehurst Meths 'B' lost the top spot when going down 4 – 6 to Sonning Common & P 'F'. Martin Wetherell hit a three straight maximum but Andy Stone was the only other scorer who gained a single. Mind you, Martin's victory over Gerry Bacon was a bit tight, winning 19-17, 12-10, 12-10 on a net cord. At O.L.O.P 'F' they lost 6 – 4 with Martin winning two and Andy and Arek Ziolkowski both gaining singles. They then won at

were all three straight but Himanshu was the best by virtue of beating Maksym Schipka 7-11, 6-11, 5-11 then Terry Hosking 7-11, 6-11, 3-11 and Miguel Caballero 7-11, 6-11, 4-11. Very well done! After beating their 'C' team 8 – 2 they moved to the top of the table. Harry and Himanshu both obtained trebles while Cris won two. In Himanshu's set against Mike Gautrey it went as follows 3-11, 9-11 ... then at that point Brett gave Himanshu some advice and he won the next games 11-4, 11-6, 11-9. Cris informed me that Linda enjoyed her evening and was pleased to win a game off Harry and Cris. At Reading FC Harry was in top form, winning all three, and with Brett winning two this gave them a valuable 5 points.

Tilehurst British Royal Legion 'C' drew at Sonning Common & P 'F' with Jim Brent and Geoff Johnson both obtaining doubles, while Paul Treadgold picked up a single. At home to O.L.O.P. 'F' we lost 3 – 7. Paul Treadgold returned to form by winning two and only lost to Alona 9-11 in the 5TH end. Jim obtained a single. We then beat Milestone 'B' 8 – 2 to give us some hope of gaining a second spot at the season's end. Geoff hit a three straight maximum and Paul and Jim both obtained doubles.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' had a nice 4 – 6 win at Tilehurst Meths 'B' while Gerry Bacon and Mike Casserley both obtained doubles. Alistair Scott won one besides teaming up with Gerry to win the doubles. The Alistair win over Arek went as follows 14-12, 6-11, 11-9, 6-11, 10-12. In that last game Alistair was 8-2 down! Sadly, the week before I was informed that Marko Madzar had died suddenly after a heart attack. I have to mention that as the season wore on Marko improved his game and in the last match he played he beat Himanshu Pasbola and Dave Chard of Sonning Sports 'B'. My thoughts go out to his family and friends at this sad time - R.I.P. Marko. The following week they were 2 – 4 down to TRBL'C' but came back to gain a draw. Gerry was the star by winning all three and also teaming up with Alistair to win the doubles. Alistair himself

Team 4	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Sonning Sports B	11	9	2	0	80	30	80
2 OLOP F	12	8	1	3	71	49	71
3 Tilehurst Meths B	12	7	2	3	68	52	68
4 Tilehurst RBL C	10	5	1	4	60	40	60
5 SC&P F	12	4	3	5	58	62	58
6 Reading FC B	11	4	2	5	53	57	53
7 Sonning Sports C	11	3	0	8	48	62	48
8 Kingfisher J	12	4	1	7	39	81	39
9 Milestone B	9	0	0	9	23	67	23

Milestone 'B' 3 – 7 with the returning Patrick O'Sullivan gaining a treble. Andy hit a double while Arek obtained a single.

At home to Kingfisher 'J' they won 6 – 4 thanks mainly to a Patrick hat trick. On saying that Andy and Arek both gained nice singles.

O.L.O.P 'F' beat a two man Reading FC 'B' 3 – 7 with Jan Polnik, Alona Slobodskoy and James Smith all picking up singles. Next came a fine 6 – 4 win over Tilehurst Meths'B' with Alona winning two, but the star was Jan who gained a good maximum by beating Andy Stone 11-8, 11-1, 11-7 then Arek Ziolkowski 11-8, 11-7, 11-6 and Martin Wetherell 11-3, 11-9, 4-11, 11-7. He then teamed up with Alona to win the doubles. At T.R.B.L. 'C' they came away with a fine 3 – 7 win with Alona winning all three. Qing Wu gained a double while James had a good win over Geoff Johnson. Jan and Qing also won the doubles.

Sonning Sports 'B' have moved into a strong position after beating a two man Milestone 'B' 10 – 0. Harry Brough, Cris Reynolds and Brett Hastings were the double men. In the match between Harry and John Evans in one game Harry was 4-10 down but managed to win 12-10. While Brett was two games down to John but won the next three games. At Kingfisher 'J', who were without Peter Bennett, they came away with a 0 – 10 win with Cris, Harry and Himanshu Pasbola all gaining hat tricks. For Harry and Himanshu they



THE TWO SONNING SPORTS TEAMS - B & C - MET IN A MATCH. CRIS REYNOLDS, BRETT HASTINGS, HIMANSHU PASBOLA (B) PLUS MICHAEL BYRNE, STEPHEN READER AND LINDA BARLOW (C



won one. At Sonning Sports 'C' without Gerry they lost 6 – 4 with Mike gaining two besides teaming up with Alistair to win the doubles. Alistair also picked up a single.

Despite a hat trick from Joe Bull **Reading FC 'B'**, who only had two players, lost 3 – 7 to O.L.O.P. 'F'. At Kingfisher 'J' Joe hit another treble and with Harry Edwards and Derek Anderson both winning two which helped them to a 2 – 8 win. At home to leaders Sonning Sports 'B' they managed a draw with Joe winning two and Harry and Derek both obtaining singles. Joe and Harry also had a nice doubles win over Brett Hastings and Harry Brough, beating them 11-7, 11-8, 11-7.

Sonning Sports 'C' lost 4 – 6 at home to Kingfisher 'J'. John Scott and Stephen Reader both won two each. Away to their 'B' team they went down 8 – 2 with John beating Cris

Martin 6 Harry 5 Alona 5 Peter 4
Joe 4 Cris 3 Gerry 3 Geoff 3

Two matches will be played after the Newsletter deadline. They are Sonning Common & P vs O.L.O.P. on the 16th and the Sonning Sports derby on the 17th. They will be included in the league table by Derek but will not be in my report.

Finally I feel I want to make a comment about one former player and one who was registered in division 3 who passed away since my previous notes.

First on the 21st Dec it was **Alan Webb**. I first played against Alan in 1963 when he played for Southcote. I recall that he gave myself, Jim Brent and Irwin Schwartz much encouragement and said that we should play to enjoy ourselves. Over many years I played against him many times but I feel his highlight was when in 1983/84 he played in an all Webb team for Woodlands against us by playing with his sons Dave, Ray and Chris. R I P Alan.

Next on New Year's Eve we lost **Dave Smith**. I had known Dave for over 40 years and played against him many times. He was a great sport and the matches were good which made us all enjoy the evenings that much more.

Although Dave was registered to play for Tidmarsh 'D' in division three this season he did not play in a match. Again R.I.P Dave I will miss you.

Sorry to include yet another ex player and former RDTTA Committee member **Melvyn Lovegrove**, who moved to Mablethorpe after he played in his last season for Sonning Common & P in division 4 in 2019/2020 and helped them gain pr12

omotion - he died while playing, with a heart attack. Because Melvyn played in the lower leagues quite often I hope that you will forgive me for bringing it up in this article. I have t o

DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	P	W	%
Harry Brough	Sonning Sports B	29	25	86.21%
Gerry Bacon	SC&P F	24	19	79.17%
Alona Slobodskoy	OLOP F	32	25	78.13%
Joe Bull	Reading FC B	27	21	77.78%
Patrick Osullivan	Tilehurst Meths B	18	14	77.78%
Himanshu Pasbola	Sonning Sports B	18	14	77.78%
Peter Bennett	Kingfisher J	27	20	74.07%
Derek Anderson	Reading FC B	21	15	71.43%
Jim Brent	Tilehurst RBL C	26	18	69.23%
Geoff Johnson	Tilehurst RBL C	29	20	68.97%
Stephen Reader	Sonning Sports C	22	15	68.18%
Brett Hastings	Sonning Sports B	17	11	64.71%
Qing Wu	OLOP F	18	11	61.11%
Jan Polnik	OLOP F	23	13	56.52%

Reynolds 7-11, 11-9, 8-11, 6-11. He also teamed up with Linda Barlow to win the doubles against Cris and Brett Hastings 11-9, 5-11, 8-11, 10-12. At home to Sonning Common & P 'F' Stephen probably had his finest hat trick ever by beating Mike Casserley 11-9, 11-8, 11-7, Alistair Scott 11-6, 11-4, 11-6, and Steve Knott 11-6, 11-7, 11-6. Michael Byrne won his first sets of the season by beating Alistair and Steve and with Mike Gautrey winning one this gave them a 6 – 4 win.

Kingfisher 'J' had a very good win at Sonning Sports 'C' 4 – 6 with the reliable Peter Bennett winning all three. Miguel Caballero and Terry Hosking played their part by picking up singles. Peter and Miguel also won the doubles. At home to Sonning Sports 'B' they crashed to a 0 – 10 defeat. Next they lost 2 – 8 to Reading FC 'B' with Peter picking up a double. They then picked up 4 vital points at Tilehurst Meths 'B' with Peter winning two and Miguel and Terry both winning one each.

Milestone 'B' with only two players lost 10 – 0 to Sonning Sports 'B'. At home to Tilehurst Meths 'B' Tony Hayden, Colin Phillips and John Evans all won one in a 3 – 7 defeat. At T R B L they lost 8 – 2 with John beating Jim Brent and Paul Treadgold. I have to say Tony was unlucky when he lost 5 games either 13-11 or 12-10. The likeable Colin played well and only lost to Paul in five.

The leaders in the P.O.M are:



MELVYN LOVEGROVE

say I dread switching on my laptop at the moment. R I P Melvyn.

Crikey, when is this bad news going to end? I have been informed by John Willcocks that another former player **Peter Spillett** has died. I played against him a few times when he played for Thames Conservancy with Nick Lean and John Willcocks during the eighties and early nineties. R I P Peter.