



READING TABLE TENNIS NEWSLETTER

Editor: **DEREK WAVELL**

Emma Blachford, Vidhu Ravinath and Michal Pszczolka of the Saiyan Brothers

Christmas 2017

CONTENTS

Please click on a heading or white ball to go where you require

[P4 Chairman](#)

[P4 Key Facts](#)

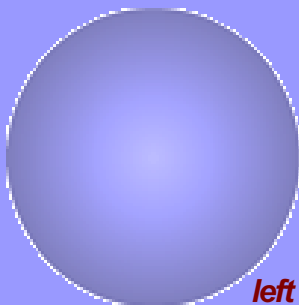
[P2-3 Berks Closed \(with videos\)](#)

[P6-7 Meet the Saiyan Brothers](#)

[P8 Div 1 Xmas Competition](#)

[P4-5 Team Handicap](#)

[P15 KO Cup](#)



*Click ALT +
left arrow to return*

Mark Banks, our Division One Santa/DFS - has found his sack empty this year, for lack of matches. But the show must go on, so let's throw out the old and embrace the new!

What's new? A bumper Christmas competition!

How good are you at crossword puzzles?

And how many surnames do you know of Division One regulars?

Combine the two on Page 8 - and while you are busily stuffing your face with chocolates, you may forget to mourn.

This Christmas too we have a feature on a new meteor in our skies - the Saiyan Brothers, who have been setting Division Four ablaze. See the cover photos - and videos aplenty inside.

And hot news from all the other Divisions too, as they hit their mid-season pivot. And coverage of the Berkshire Closed competition - with photos by Didier Garcon, which appear throughout this document.

Have a merry one!

Derek



THE BERKSHIRE CLOSED

by Allan Bruton

The championships were held at the Kingfisher table tennis club on 11th and 12th November 2017.

The overall entry this season was marginally up from 33 to 38 with some new entrants, which was encouraging. As organiser I need to thank the local league coordinators and web managers for their help in spreading the word and to Wendy Porter for her efforts before and during the event.

Veteran singles

This season there were 19 entries with, however, only 2 of the more established top guns in attendance, but that did not detract from some lively encounters throughout the group stage.

Having 6 groups meant that the semi final stage was a further 2 groups of 3 round-1 winners, leading to a final of the 2 anticipated protagonists **Martin Adams** and **Hari Gehlot**. On this occasion it was Martin's day.



SAM RICKS

vious day's veteran event but started with 8 groups which sent 8 winners and runners up through to round 2 with the winners advancing to quarter finals and then to the final 4 semi-finalists. On the way there were a few competitive matches with some of the new faces and indeed a returning face making their presence felt.

The semi finals of **Daniel Moses** and **Sagar Sawant** and **Martin Adams** and **Lyazid Wirkhani** produced an expected final of Daniel and Martin; we all awaited that final in eager anticipation, however on this day and to be fair at the end of a long hard day, Daniel Moses was not in the mood to hang around as he swept Martin aside in 3 sets even though the whole match was one to watch and marvel at its quality.

Some match guys!!

THE WINNERS					
Men's Singles		Winner	Daniel Moses	Runner up	Martin Adams
Ladies Singles		Winner	Celia Hooker	Runner up	Gwynne Penny
Veterans Singles		Winner	Martin Adams	Runner up	Hari Gehlot
Graded Singles		Winner	Vidhu Ravinath	Runner up	Igor Sremac
Under 21		Winner	Joe Barraclough	Runner up	Rayaan Asghar
Mixed Doubles		Winners	Daniel Moses & Wendy Porter	Runners up	Martin Adams & Sue Purton
Men's Doubles		Winners	Daniel Moses & Sam Ricks	Runners up	Martin Adams & Ian Cole
Ladies' Doubles		Winners	Wendy Porter & Sue Purton	Runners up	Celia Hooker & Jenny Tanner

NB - click on icon to see video of a match

Under 21 singles

This competition was very much under-subscribed with only 6 entrants, however the standard produced was good and most of the entrants were from the Reading youth league so this must augure well for the future

This competition was played in 2 groups of 3 with a winner and runner up from each group going forward to the semi-finals The final saw **Joe Barraclough** beating **Rayaan Asghar** and **Ralph Philips** overcoming **Benedict Carless** in 5 very competitive sets.

Men's singles This event started with 23 entries including some new names which was good news but without some of our regular entrants. We had a couple of last minute withdrawals from the pre-



IAN COLE MEETS HARI GEHLOT



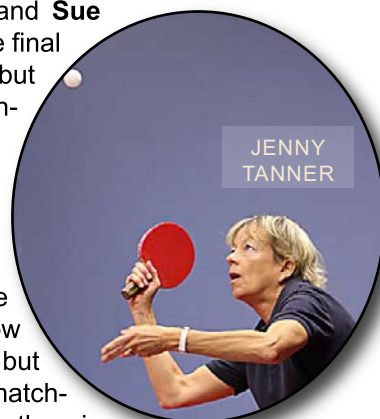
EMMA BLACHFORD

Ladies singles

A small entry of only 7 ladies but what a competition, throughout the group stage and the semi-finals the standard was a treat to watch with **Celia Hooker** and **Gwynne Penny** dispatching **Wendy Porter** and **Sue Purton** to reach the final. The final was again not an easy win but **Celia Hooker** took the honours on the day.

Graded Singles

This event had 13 entries which included 5 new faces some of whom proved to be competing locally way below their actual playing standard but



JENNY TANNER

nevertheless perfectly entitled to participate at this time. Overall there were more 5 game matches in this event than in any of the others so very competitive and hard fought. 4 groups with the winners making the semi-finals with the eventual winner **Vidhu Ravinath**, new boy, overcoming **Igor Sremac** another new boy in a 4 game final .



BOB NASH IN RED;
PATRICK GARLICK IN BLACK

Men's Doubles Only 7 pairs in this event but various very useful pairings some by design and some by partners wanted and some quality matches ensued. In the final **Daniel Moses** and **Sam Ricks** were too good on the day for **Martin Adams** and **Ian Cole** but a good match nonetheless.

Mixed Doubles This event had 7 entries. All the ladies had entered this and there were some established pairings as well as some new ones. Played as ever in groups, one of 3 pairs and one of 4, and, as this event was toward the end of the day there were some very heavy legs out in the arena so the decision was taken to put just the group winners through to the final and what a final, 5 scintillating sets with **Daniel Moses** and **Wendy Porter** against **Martin Adams** and **Sue Purton**. Won by a whisker at 11-9 by Daniel and Wendy. A great match to watch.



ALAN CUMMINGS AND ANTHONY BAKER

Ladies Doubles There were only 3 pairs in this competition so 1 group of 3 all played in the final with some hard fought matches. **Wendy Porter** and **Sue Purton** beat **Celia Hooker** and **Jenny Tanner** in appropriately the final match of the group.



ALLAN BRUTON CONGRATULATES SUE PURTON



DAVID TANT

Notes from our Chairman

by Derek Harrison

I am sure most of you will have seen the great article submitted by our General Secretary Nigel Maltby in the previous newsletter where he explained how the league was made up. Nigel with Robin Lockwood has been doing this for many years and I can honestly say it was always perfect. What has disappointed me that the suggestions by the members in reply



could be counted on one hand. I hope by the time you read this newsletter that Nigel will have heard from more members so he can report at the next R D T T A committee meeting .

Now I have said that I would like to wish you all a good Christmas but more important a Happy and Healthy 2018.

All the best

Derek

Ed's Adds

by Derek Wavell

The Individual Handicap tournament is on **Sunday 7th January**. See details on our [web site](#).

The **Reading Closed Championships** will be held on the two days of **Sunday 11th Feb** (Seniors/Vets events at Blue Coat School) and **Saturday 17th February** (Junior events, at Cippenham TTC).

Closing date for entries: 30th Jan.

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

I have promised to pass on a note from our Trophy Secretary, Paul Treadgold, to captains of **teams that hope to win prizes this season**. The point is that the normal allocation of trophies is four per team. If you are going to need more, could you tell Paul in advance - and pay for the extra ones?

TEAM HANDICAP COMPETITION

With the competition at the Quarter Final stage an amazing 47% of matches in rounds one and two ended 5 - 4, and unlike last season not one player has played 6 sets and won all 6, showing what a tight competition it is this year.

Holders **OLOP 'B'** have progressed following victories over two SC&P sides. They defeated the 'B' team 5 - 4 in round one, despite an excellent maximum from Sonning's Nigel Maltby, and then the 'G' team 8 - 1 in round two, with maximums from Abhay Gore and Binit Bhaskar. OLOP will now meet a third SC&P team, the 'E' team, so could it be third time unlucky?

SC&P 'E' also reached this stage following a victory over an SC&P team, this time the 'F' side. This proved to be a tight match all the way until finally won 22-24, 23-25 by Mark Jones over Jim McClure. SC&P 'E' had previously defeated Kingfisher 'K' 5 - 4 in round one despite an impressive maximum from Kingfisher's John Simpson.

A repeat of last season's final is a distinct possibility with **Reading FC 'A'** progressing following a comprehensive 8 - 1 win against Tidmarsh 'C' and then a much tighter 5 - 4 victory at Kingfisher 'G', where captain Richard Witt held his nerve to clinch set nine and this match. Kingfisher had earlier beaten Springfield 'C' 5 - 4 in an even closer match with a final set nail biter, John Liddle edging past, Springfield's Alan Gould 21-18, 21-23, 21-18

Reading FC 'A' will host **Springfield 'B'** who recorded victories, 9 - 0 over Kingfisher 'F' and then 6 - 3 against SC&P 'D' despite none of their players proving able to defeat Andy Wang.

In the third Quarter Final match Tilehurst Methodists face Tidmarsh 'D' having both received byes in round one and then both beating Tidmarsh teams in round two. Tilehurst's Masoud Ghabachi the only undefeated player against Tidmarsh 'E', whereas Dave Edwards and Dave Smith of Tidmarsh 'D' were both undefeated against their 'B' team club mates. Tidmarsh 'B', in their first match, had overcome a 4 - 2 deficit to defeat Kingfisher 'L' 5 - 4 taking the ninth set 21-17, 17-21, 21-16.

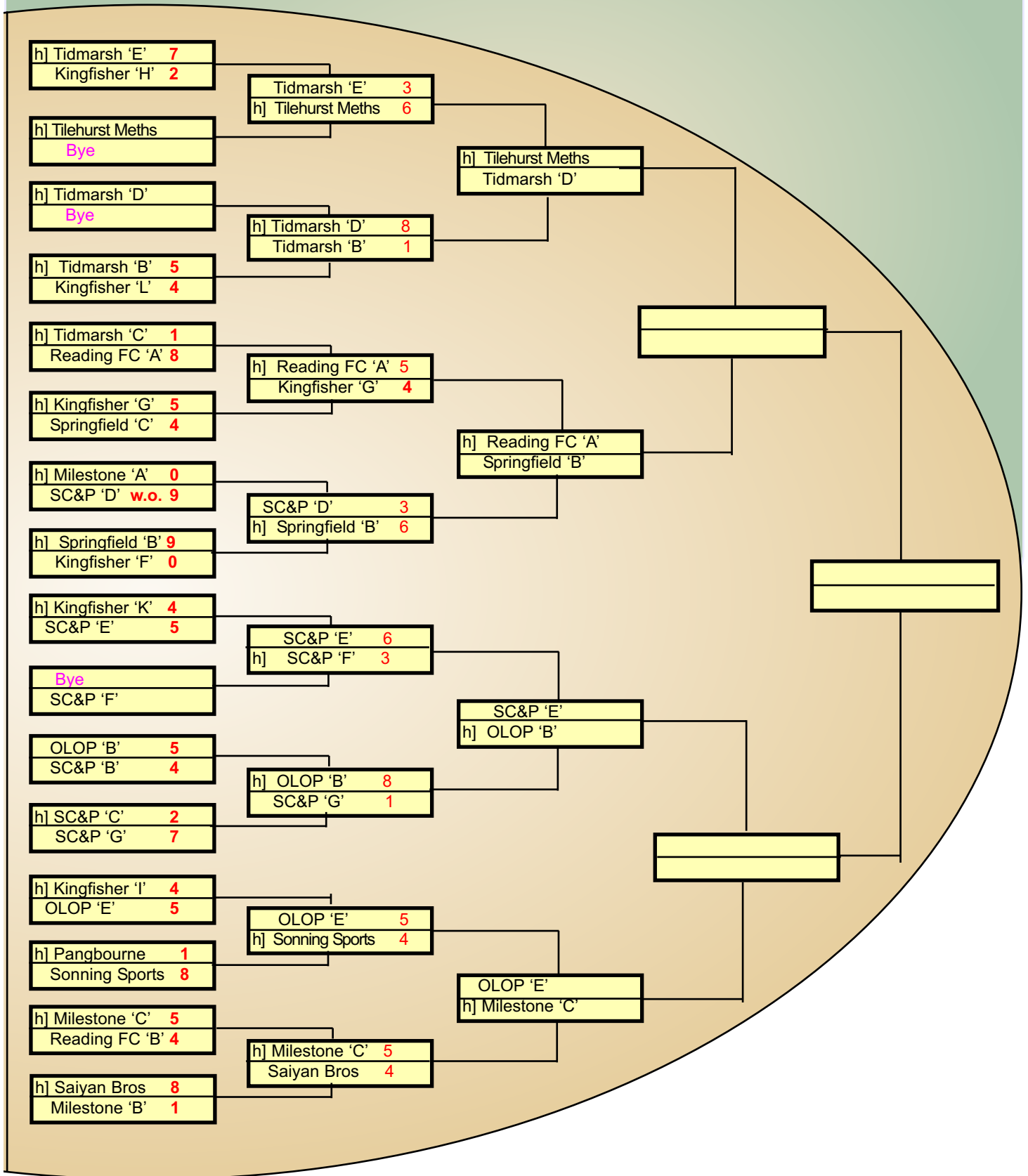
The final match-up sees **Milestone 'E'** host **OLOP 'E'**. The omens predict a very tight match as both sides reached this stage on the back of two consecutive 5 - 4 victories. Milestone seeing off Reading FC 'B', courtesy of a Tony Hayden maximum, and then the Saiyan Brothers despite only fielding two players.

OLOP 'E's' victories came against Kingfisher 'I', where Derek Kaminski secured a maximum, and then Sonning Sports. In this match Simon Brookes came back from a 9-16 deficit in game three of set nine to snatch the victory and complete his maximum.

Ray Webb

Team Handicap Competition 2017-18

organised by Ray Webb



The Saiyan Brothers

The Saiyan Brothers are a new phenomenon this year - and a proof that table tennis can leap forward as well as decline. Seven 'brothers' are registered in a single team in Division Four, under the calm leadership of Michal 'Bee'. (Bee is the translation of his Polish surname, Pszczolka). Some of them play superbly - they have two players with 100% in the Div Four averages (Vidhu and Alex), others are still learning, including Michal himself. No, none of them are literally brothers, they have several different nationalities and surnames. One of them is feminine - Emma Blachford - who never needed to be taught their principle of playing fearlessly and loving to smash. There are videos of her in action below.

All the team members are around university age. So far they have won every match they have played - yet have been welcomed everywhere.

Michal keeps a video record of all their matches - which he freely shares with their opponents. You can access it [here](#). And by the way, Michal has asked i know of anyone with a spare table or canvas barriers going cheap. He is on mikebee2015@gmail.com. DBW

Dear Table Tennis Friends,

First of all we would like to say big Thank You to all for warmly welcoming us in the League. We have heard a lot of positive words about our team and our



CAPTAIN AND CAMERAMAN MICHAL 'BEE'
WITH BROTHER OLAF ZENDEL

players - it is a big pleasure and honour for us to be with you in one division and in Reading and District Table Tennis Association.

The main idea was to enter the league and have fun playing table tennis - and we have. Each game is giv-



JOHNSON XU, ADAM LAWES AND SIMON BROOKES OF OLOP 'E', WITH 'BROTHERS' NIKESH KARKI, EMMA BLACHFORD AND VIDHU RAVINATH

ing us a lot of joy and we have to fight for each single point. We have met a lot of experienced players and we learnt a lot from each player against whom we played. We have played in few interesting places like - Curzon Club - where you have to go through the bar to get into the hall - we had this pleasure twice, and also two



AT CURZON CLUB - MARC BRENT (L) PLAYS ALEX HORSCROFT OF SAIYAN



AT CURZON 'B': VIDHU RAVINATH, ALEX HORSCROFT AND-
KAAN KITAY MEET GEOFF JOHNSON, DEREK HARRISON,
JIM BRENT, PHIL COTTRELL AND MARC BRENT

times we played at the back of a Church – one in Tilehurst against local Methodists and one in Lower Earley against OLOP E, and we know that next year we will visit a couple of interesting places too!

Our most difficult match was against Our Lady Of Peace 'E': we were playing against very talented and unbeaten so far Johnson Xu, other young and talented player – Adam Lawes and always prepared to make a surprise – Simon Brookes. Fortunately for us Vidhu remained on his 100% winning strike – but the game against Johnson was very tough! 6 sets went to 5 games each, plus two 4 game sets and only two 3 game sets – final result 7:3. Everyone was exhausted by the end! We did not have easy matches during first half of the season – each opponent had selected their best available players to meet us – thank you!



BIG FIGHT: JOHNSON XU OF OLOP PLAYS
AGAINST VIDHU RAVINATH.

After the second match in the division we started selecting two strong players and one player who needs to gain experience. Because of that we had a couple



EMMA BLACHFORD OF SAIYAN PLAYS
JOHNSON XU OF OLOP 'E'

of tough matches – against Springfield B (6:4) where our doubles was losing 0:2 in games and fortunately won 3:2.

Against Tilehurst Methodists Church 'C' (6:4). Against Reading FC (9:1), OLOP E (7:3), and Curzon Club B (8:2) we selected the strongest players and our opponents were well prepared for it.



JAMIE LEGG OF SC&P 'F'
PLAYS EMMA BLACHFORD

The games were full of emotions and lot of fight for each point – even when the final score does not say that.

A word from (not playing too much) captain – I would like to say thank you to everyone for making a good quality performance during each game – I enjoyed watching you all while I was sitting behind scorecard or camera!

All my players are fearless and love to smash. This is main factor when I am choosing a player to my team – I am doing my scouting and preliminary tests at Smash – a bar with table tennis tables in Reading town centre.



LIKE MANY PLAYERS, VIDHU RAVINATH
HAS HIS PROFESSIONAL SECRETS

Most of them were not ready to play in the league when I met them first time. But I have seen a big potential and was preparing them – sometimes for long hours each day before season. Now you can see the final effect.

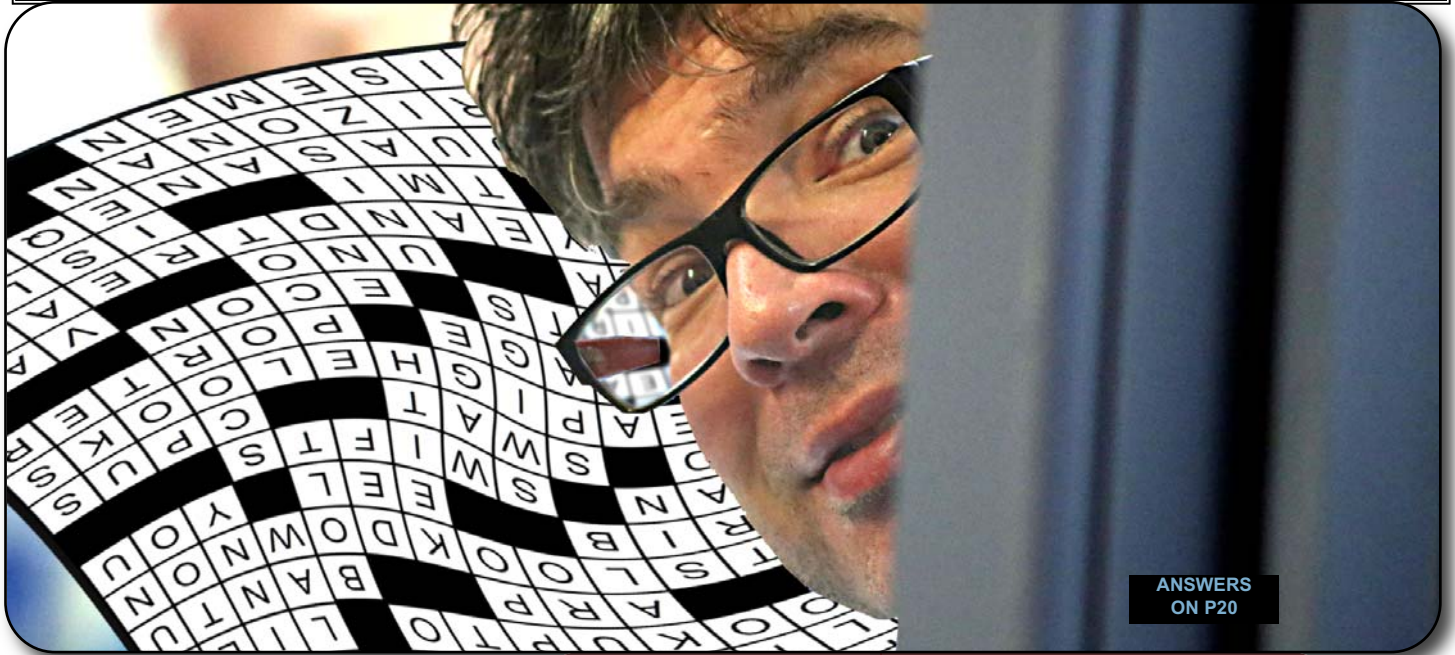
We would like to wish you all good luck during the season in new year, and pray that injuries will avoid all of us! Wishing you Merry Christmas and a Happy New 2018 Year! May all of your dreams come true!

Your Friends from Saiyan Brothers

Div One Flair Path by Martin Adams

Christmas

feature



ANSWERS
ON P20

No Division One report this time around!?! It's Christmas, and the stocking is empty - which will never do.

So instead, we have a big **Christmas cryptic quiz** for you - with prizes! How many answers can you get?

The 30 crossword-type clues are spread out on the red roof to dry. **Each of the answers is the surname of a First Division player.** For instance, to give one away, "South in London and West in the Middle East"? The answer is Banks! The clues have been devised in strict accordance with crossword conventions.

Who had the privilege of compiling this special Christmas treat? None other than **Martin Adams**, as a bonus for winning the Veterans Singles and running up in three more events at the Berkshire Closed tournament.

HINT: five answers can be glimpsed, if you want to cheat, by clicking on yellow bubbles. But if I were you I'd start by writing down all the Div One surnames you can remember - then match them to clues.

1. Moses changed before
2. Hot gel applied
3. South in London and West in the Middle East
4. Better look bossy starting the day
5. Bad mess with nothing in it
6. Nob in bricks
7. Badly made
8. The end of the beginning and making candles
9. Between preparing meat burns
10. Lewandowski
11. First Men
12. Rambo, for example
13. Mixup over glove
14. Can be a black or a silver one
15. A short Generation Z arrangement
16. In a taxi van, overtaking the ecstasy
17. Like Marilyn without get sorted
18. Mail can a woman. we hear
19. The car belongs to laugh hysterically
20. Rob car and organisation to get
21. Male hangs around small the park erection
22. Coat is found in James maybe
23. Call her with a thousand
24. Weedy now...but started marry Doug
25. Stir cuppa and up with Manchester City and Manchester United
26. Its a bad sign following an initial mix leptic state
27. In a narco accident after roses
28. Nose in ski new arrangement
29. Wants a in crimson and scarlet
30. Lonely Noel returns

The prizes are your own chocolates, with which you are surrounded at Christmas time, but you don't want to put on weight! Only allow yourself to pop a new choc in your mouth when you have got one answer right!

DIV 1 Essentials



DANIEL MOSES

		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Kingfisher A	7	7	0	0	60	10	14
2	Kingfisher B	7	6	0	1	56	14	12
3	Kingfisher C	5	3	1	1	27	23	7
4	SC&P A	8	3	0	5	35	45	6
5	OLOP A	5	3	0	2	24	26	6
6	Tidmarsh A	6	2	1	3	25	35	5
7	Kingfisher D	8	1	0	7	20	60	2
8	Kingfisher E	6	0	0	6	13	47	0



SAGAR SAWANT



ANTHONY BAKER



MARTIN ADAMS AND SAM RICKS

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	PL	W	%
Daniel Moses	Kingfisher A	16	16	100.00
Philip Zeng	Kingfisher B	9	9	100.00
Martin Adams	Kingfisher A	8	8	100.00
Marco Essomba	Kingfisher C	6	6	100.00
Andrew Smith	Kingfisher C	6	6	100.00
Krasimir Ivanov	Kingfisher B	15	13	86.67
Richard Rosinski	Kingfisher A	5	4	80.00
Eduard Caliman	Kingfisher B	9	7	77.78
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher B	12	9	75.00
Mark Banks	Kingfisher A	15	11	73.33
Dmitry Khakhamov	Kingfisher B	18	13	72.22
Harry Munro	OLOP A	15	10	66.67
Danny Ricks	Tidmarsh A	14	9	64.29
Gary Morgan	SC&P A	21	13	61.90



DIVISION TWO

by John Willcocks

Since the last newsletter some teams have only played two or three matches so there has not been a great deal of movement in the table. A few matches have had to be postponed and I would like to thank the Captains for quickly arranging alternative dates when a postponement has happened.

The best recent form has been shown by the Sonning SC&P 'C' and 'D' teams plus Curzon 'A' who are all unbeaten in recent weeks. Curzon 'A' look to have all but clinched promotion already and are still favourites to win the league, but they are likely to be pushed very close by a strengthened Sonning C&P 'B'. At the other end of the table Pangbourne WMC look very likely to go down but the fight to avoid the second relegation place could well go right to the end of the season.



Best Recent Performance – Andrew Grant Robertson with excellent comeback wins against Dave Wise and François Durand in the victory at Tidmarsh 'B'

Sonning Common and Peppard 'D' have not been involved in many matches recently but are unbeaten in those they have played. The only point they have dropped was in an excellent local derby against SC&P 'C'. Andy Wang continues to be their star with an unbeaten run stretching back to early October. On current form they look likely to finish third but they could easily challenge for the runners-up

spot, especially if Andy continues to play in the majority of the matches. Prediction – 3rd

Best Recent Performance – Andy Wang, comprehensive three straight wins in the victory over Sonning C&P 'B'

Sonning Common and Peppard 'C' are unbeaten since the last newsletter, picking up two wins and two draws. They have had wins against the bottom two and very good draws against Curzon 'A' and their 'D' team. They look to be an improving team and could easily finish higher than their current league position. Although their players have only managed one maximum between them so far they have been able to win twice on fifteen occasions. There have also only been three ducks which shows that they are going to be difficult to beat and it's likely that most of their matches will be very close. Denise Weller is making a habit of beating some of the best players in the division. Having previously beaten Lee

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Curzon A	10	9	1	0	73	27	19
2 SC&P B	9	6	1	2	56	34	13
3 Tilehurst Meths A	10	5	2	3	58	42	12
4 SC&P D	9	5	2	2	56	34	12
5 SC&P C	10	2	5	3	46	54	9
6 Tidmarsh B	9	3	1	5	44	46	7
7 OLOP B	10	3	1	6	39	61	7
8 Tidmarsh C	8	2	2	4	30	50	6
9 Kingfisher F	7	2	0	5	25	45	4
10 Pangbourne WMC	10	1	1	8	33	67	3

Curzon 'A' have had some close recent matches but are still unbeaten. Like Manchester City they appear to have the ability to get a result even when they are not all at their best. They were a bit fortunate to beat Tidmarsh 'B', recovering from 4 - 2 down to win. The following week they dropped their first point when an under-strength team let a 5 - 2 lead slip against SC&P 'C'. This was despite a great effort from reserve Tracy Maynard who was unlucky not to beat Matt Stone. However, two subsequent wins have allowed them to stretch their lead at the top of the division. Prediction – Still Likely Champions

Best Recent Performance – Nick Lean beating an in-form Barry Carter to help clinch an unlikely win against Tidmarsh 'B'

Sonning Common and Peppard 'B' have strengthened their team by bringing back Jeremy Willis who had been injured and was expected to miss most of the season. Since Jeremy has started playing they have won all of their matches fairly convincingly and they could well push Curzon 'A' very close for the title. Prior to Jeremy signing on they did lose heavily to Sonning C&P 'D' but they were only able to field two players for that match. Prediction – Runners Up but should run Curzon 'A' very close

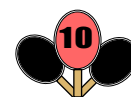
Calcutt she has now had wins against Jon Willis and Niall McGrane. Prediction – 6th

Best Recent Performance – Denise Weller with a three straight win against Niall McGrane

Tilehurst Methodists 'A' have had a mixed few weeks. A good win against OLOP 'B' was followed by a weakened

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Lee Calcutt	Tidmarsh C	15	14	93.33%
Andy Wang	SC&P D	17	15	88.24%
Jon Willis	Curzon Club A	24	21	87.50%
Julian Telford	Tilehurst Meths A	23	20	86.96%
Dom Cutter	Tidmarsh B	18	15	83.33%
Jeremy Willis	SC&P B	12	10	83.33%
John Willcocks	Curzon Club A	24	19	79.17%
Niall McGrane	SC&P D	17	13	76.47%
Brian Meheux	SC&P B	24	18	75.00%
Peter Bradley	Curzon Club A	27	18	66.67%
Dave Godfrey	OLOP B	15	9	60.00%
Matt Stone	SC&P C	24	14	58.33%





JULIAN TELFORD

team suffering a heavy defeat at Sonning C&P ' B '. They then let a 4 - 0 lead slip against Pangbourne WMC, only managing a draw. They can still finish as high as fourth but will probably need Julian Telford to play in most matches to do so otherwise they could be caught by some of the teams below them. Julian has recorded four maximums so far and although the rest of the team have provided good support they have only been getting singles or doubles. Prediction - 4th

Best Recent Performance – Phil Jones recovering from 10-4 down in the fifth set against Leroy Wilson to win 14-12

Tidmarsh ' B ' have had wins against the bottom two teams recently but have suffered defeats against the likely top three. This pattern may well continue as they are likely to be too strong for the teams in the bottom half of the table but may not quite have enough to beat the teams at the top. Dom Cutter has continued to show some excellent form, but although he has received useful back up from the rest of the rest of the squad, he has got all but one of the maximums. So they are going to struggle a bit to turn good performances into wins when he does not play. Prediction – 5th

Best Recent Performance – Dom Cutter an outstanding maximum including two comeback wins against Sonning C&P ' B '

OLOP ' B ' have struggled a bit in recent weeks and have only managed one win which was a very close affair against Pangbourne WMC . Three 8 - 2 defeats suggest they may need to be careful to make sure they do not get drawn into a relegation battle but they should have enough strength in depth to avoid that. Dave Godfrey has shown the most consistent form but he has only played in one of the recent matches which has not helped their cause. Prediction – 8th

Best Recent Performance – Ziko Jerzmanski with an excellent recovery to beat Peter Bradley

Tidmarsh ' C ' have only played twice since mid October and have lost both of those matches, although they were

against the top two. An excellent Lee Calcutt maximum could not prevent them losing to Curzon ' A ' and the team without Lee were no match for Sonning C &P ' B '. If Lee plays regularly they should be fine but if he misses a number of matches they could get dragged into a relegation scrap. Prediction – 7th

Best Recent Performance – Lee Calcutt with three top class performances against Curzon ' A '

Kingfisher ' F ' have played three times since the last newsletter and after a sequence of five defeats in a row they managed a very good win at OLOP ' B '. Grant Wheatley has shown some reasonably consistent form and after a slow start to the season Allan Bruton recorded a good maximum in the OLOP ' B ' match. How they do for the rest of the season may depend on what sort of teams they can field as they have been struggling a bit with injuries and unavailability problems and have had to play reserves twice; although one of those, Igor Sremac, came up with a very good maximum. If Allan Bruton can maintain his improved form they might just pick up enough points to threaten the teams above them. Prediction - 9th

Best Recent Performance – Allan Bruton with a comprehensive win against Ziko Jerzmanski as part of an excellent maximum

Pangbourne WMC

have shown much better form over the last few weeks and have been unlucky only to pick up one point during that period. They had a good draw at Tilehurst Meths ' A ', recovering from 4 - 0 down and three of their four recent defeats have been 6 - 4 . So with a bit more luck they could have easily picked up a few more points. John Simmonds is playing consistently and has managed



WENDY PORTER

to get three maximums and their other players are playing well but are not quite picking up as many wins as they might do. Although they are unlikely to finish outside of the bottom two they could pick up some unexpected wins in the second half of the season. Prediction - 10th

Best Recent Performance – John Simmonds with a very good maximum at Tidmarsh ' B '



DIVISION THREE

by Barry Carter

We are only two weeks from Christmas so that means only one thing, we have reached the half way stage of the season. It's looking like a two horse race for the divisional championship and also for the promotion spots as Milestone 'B' and Springfield 'A' have begun to pull away from the others (can't resist the parallels to the Mighty Wolves so obviously I won't) but they like me shouldn't count their chickens just yet ☺. At the bottom, Kingfisher 'I' are being cast adrift but are still only a couple of wins from safety with the other eight sides cautiously looking over their shoulders as only six points separate third and tenth. Sorry for the brevity of this report but things have been a bit hectic recently and I've run out of time, hopefully back to major ramblings in the next instalment.



Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' have moved stealthily into third spot on goal difference after three wins in a row and look an outside chance for promotion at this rate. They have only played three matches this quarter and like the top two have won all of them which has included two 9 – 1's and a 6 – 4. In the 9 – 1 win over Kingfisher 'H' they capitalised on the Kingfisher rotation as both Mark Jones and Alan Mollett won all three. Eric Walker has had a good second quarter with five wins out of six with his first maximum of the season coming in the 9 – 1 win over Milestone 'A'. Mark Jones has also rediscovered the form of a few seasons ago as he now averages 63% having won eight of his last nine matches. Doubles : 5 / 9 56%

Milestone 'B' are top and are the only unbeaten team in the division with eight wins and a draw from their nine matches, they look on a relentless roll to the title. Of the four matches since the last newsletter they have won three 7 – 3 and one 6 – 4 with Zoltan Kelemen having won eleven out of those twelve matches. Olly Bonser chipped in with a maximum in the win over Sonning Sports 'A', who were at the time top, whilst Sanket Dave and Sachin Mundra always contribute every match. Doubles : 3 / 9: 33%

Springfield 'A' are second and have now opened up a three point gap on their nearest rivals, Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' and Sonning Sports 'A'. Their form is tip-top too as they have won all four of their matches since October. The big win came over Sonning Sports 'A' that has enabled them to open up the gap, as Phil Burke and Adam Sheen both won two with Ludo Couillard chipping in with a single. I bumped into the six of them after the match, so it was good to see the social side of the league still happening on occasion. The other wins came against Milestone 'A' (8 – 2), Kingfisher 'G' (9 – 1) and Kingfisher 'I' (8 – 2) where the game seemed to be closer than the score suggested. There is a special mention for the cup cakes that Adam bought for the tea interval, looks like you've set a high standard there! Doubles : 6 / 9: 66%



ZOLTAN KELEMEN

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Milestone B	10	9	1	0	64	36	19
2 Springfield A	10	7	1	2	67	33	15
3 SC&P E	10	6	1	3	60	40	13
4 Sonning Sports A	10	5	2	3	51	49	12
5 Kingfisher G	9	4	2	3	45	45	10
6 Kingfisher H	11	4	1	6	55	55	9
7 Kingfisher J	11	2	3	6	45	65	7
8 Milestone A	10	2	3	5	43	57	7
9 OLOP C	9	3	1	5	40	50	7
10 Tilehurst Meths B	9	3	1	5	39	51	7
11 Kingfisher I	11	1	2	8	41	69	4

Sonning Sports 'A' are fourth after having had a miserable run of results since the last newsletter with only one win and three points gained in five matches although two of those have now proved to be against the first and second teams but that sort of form got Slavan Bilic sacked from West Ham. Their only win came against Kingfisher 'I' as three from Paul Savage and two from Keith Machin saw them to a 6 – 4 victory. Their only other point came courtesy of the 5 – 5 draw with Kingfisher 'J' last week. Paul surprisingly only won two but both Dave Chard and Keith helped out with one win each plus their customary doubles win so they managed to claim a point. Bob Woodmansee won one in the 3 – 7 defeat by the leaders. Doubles : 9 / 10: 90% [best doubles average in the division].



IGOR SREMAC

Kingfisher 'G' lie fifth, three points behind fourth and six behind the second promotion spot, so I think they will need some big results in the second half of the season if they are to mount a promotion challenge. They have had a positive set of results since the last newsletter with two wins and a defeat. The two wins have both come in derby matches against Kingfisher 'I' and Kingfisher 'J' with the solitary defeat against promotion chasing Springfield 'A'. Luca Bianchi won player of the match in both of these matches as he won six out of six, in fact the only match he missed they lost. Guy De La Vilesbrunne weighed in with two in each of the derby matches as did Eric Holmes, whilst Eric won the only set on the evening in the 1 – 9 defeat to Springfield 'A'. Doubles : 2 / 8: 25%

Kingfisher 'H' find themselves in sixth place but only two points above the relegation zone. The second quarter started well with a 7 – 3 win over Kingfisher 'J' but that hid the concession of three sets. However, Willis Ma, Igor Sremac and Ruben Hernandez all won one to give them the win. The next three matches saw three defeats 1 – 9 to Sonning C & P 'E' with Peter Bennett getting the only win, 4 – 6 to OLOP 'C' with Willis getting the only win and then 3 – 7 to the leaders Milestone 'B' as Peter recorded two good wins over Sachin Mundra and Dave Sprackling. Doubles : 5 / 10: 50%.

Kingfisher 'J' are top of a trio of teams on seven points and just one point above the drop zone. In their last four matches they have only picked up the one point and that came via the 5 – 5 draw with Sonning Sports 'A' last week. Nils Wedi and Joaquin Sabater each won two but the performance of the night came from Dave Wells as he over-

came Paul Savage 11–2, 2–11, 8–11, 11–4, 11–8 to inflict only his second defeat in 22 matches this season. Dave has won at least one set in all the matches he's played in this season and I bet not many would have predicted that one. The three defeats have all been by the 3 – 7 scoreline and were to Kingfisher 'H' when Nils won all three, Milestone 'A' as Nils won only two but Dave won the other one, and Springfield 'A' as the same duo produced the same outcome. Didier Garçon has been close to a couple of wins but can't quite get over the line. Doubles 6 / 10: 60%

Our Lady of Peace 'C' are eighth following only one win in their last seven matches going back to September. That win came during their last outing as Darek Kaminski produced his best haul of the season with a

maximum and Clive Perry added two as they defeated Kingfisher 'H' 6 – 4. Their two other matches of the quarter ended in defeats, 4 – 6 to Sonning C & P 'E' as Chris West won one, Clive two and Darek one. Chris went one better to make it two maximums for the season against Milestone 'B' but they ended up with a 3 – 7 defeat. Doubles: 4 / 9: 44%

Tilehurst Methodists 'B' have picked up five points since the last newsletter to move out of the bottom two at Christmas. The best win of the season so far came as they beat Sonning Sports 'A' 8 – 2, Steve Dopson and Masoud Ghabachi both won all three and Michael Williams continued on the back of his first win of the season the previous week to win two. The other win came just prior to the Sonning Sports victory as they came back from 1 – 3 down against Milestone 'A' to win 6 – 4. Mike Williams had never beaten John Crosfield prior to this match but he secured his first win of the season with a 3 – 0 success. The final set with the score 5 – 4 was between Jes Eassom and John Crosfield and with Jes 7-10 down in the fifth it looked like a draw beckoned but Jes somehow pulled through to win and get the important victory, as Jes said it was bad luck on John. Doubles: 6 / 9: 67%

Milestone 'A' have dropped into the bottom two since the last newsletter as they have only won one out of their last four matches. The only win came at the expense of Kingfisher 'J' in week 9 as John Crosfield bounced back from the disappointment of the last-set loss to Jes to record his first win and maximum of the season with wins over Nils Wedi, Dave Wells and Didier Garçon. Chris Collins won two and Viliam Andrascik one in the 7 – 3 win. The closest of the three losses was against Tilehurst Meths 'B', the result

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Philip Burke	Springfield A	24	22	91.67
Paul Savage	Sonning Sports A	23	21	91.30
Arun Rajagopal	Milestone A	24	21	87.50
Sanket Dave	Milestone B	21	17	80.95
Igor Sremac	Kingfisher H	20	16	80.00
Zoltan Kelemen	Milestone B	27	21	77.78
Clive Perry	OLOP C	18	13	72.22
Chris West	OLOP C	21	15	71.43
Alan Mollett	SC&P E	24	17	70.83
Oliver Bonser	Milestone B	12	8	66.67
Ludovic Couillard	Springfield A	30	19	63.33
Nils Wedi	Kingfisher J	27	17	62.96
Mark Jones	SC&P E	27	17	62.96
Luca Bianchi	Kingfisher G	24	15	62.50

that effectively dropped them into the bottom two where despite three from Arun Rajagopal they lost 4 – 6. Arun won the only two sets in their 2 – 8 defeat by Springfield 'A' whilst in the other match they lost 1 – 9 to Sonning C & P 'E'. Doubles: 4 / 9: 44%

Kingfisher 'I' are currently bottom with two draws to show for all their efforts so far this season. Obviously, they need a good second half of the season to stand a chance of avoiding the trap door to division four at the end of the season. Kingfisher 'I' have only picked up points in the last week prior to the newsletter report being written so they need to start gaining points at other times too as there are only two reports left. Their second point came at home to Tilehurst Meths, a real four-pointer where a defeat would have cast them further adrift but they managed to claim a point in a match that had some close contests and was played in a nice, friendly atmosphere. Steve Woolnough has had a good quarter with two wins in each of the three occasions he has played. Gwynne has also done well with five wins. Three members of the squad have averages of 50% or better so not sure why they're at the bottom. The four defeats have been 2 – 8 to Kingfisher 'G' and Springfield 'A'; Carol Byers was the only one to win on the night with wins over Adam Sheen and Ludo Couillard. The 4 – 6 defeats were against the leaders where there was a rally between Carol and Oli Bonser that had everyone on the edge of their seats, not sure who won that particular rally but Carol went on to win the match.

I'm still looking to do something different for the next newsletter and a suggestion is to have a profile of a player, so here is my challenge to all the teams in my division. Choose one member of the team and send me a table tennis profile, how long they've been playing, how did they get involved in playing, where they first played or something along those lines and email it so I can put it in the next newsletter. I'll send an email reminder a couple of weeks ahead of the deadline.

If you like, I'll set the ball rolling myself. I started playing on my neighbour's table around the age of 5, but I didn't start playing competitively until the age of 11 when I joined Tilehurst Meths where I was coached by Bob Anderson and

Geoff Cadwallader amongst others. My first youth league match was at the Meadway School in Tilehurst on a Friday night, not sure of the year and I played there through various organisers such as Linda & Geoff Inker and Kerry Underwood; I played for Tiles Stars and then latterly Crusaders where in one of my last youth league seasons we (Mark Flint, Marc Brent and myself) were youth division runners up. My first senior club was Woodlands where I played with Arthur Hedges and Marc Brent for a couple of seasons. We gained promotion from division 5 to 4 and then when Woodlands closed, we all moved to Tidmarsh around 1985/86 and that's where I've played ever since where I've won a division 4, division 3 and a couple of division 2 titles. Possibly best although tenuous achievement was when I finished top of the division one averages last season! 😊

There are three outstanding matches so if these could be played as soon as possible it would be good.

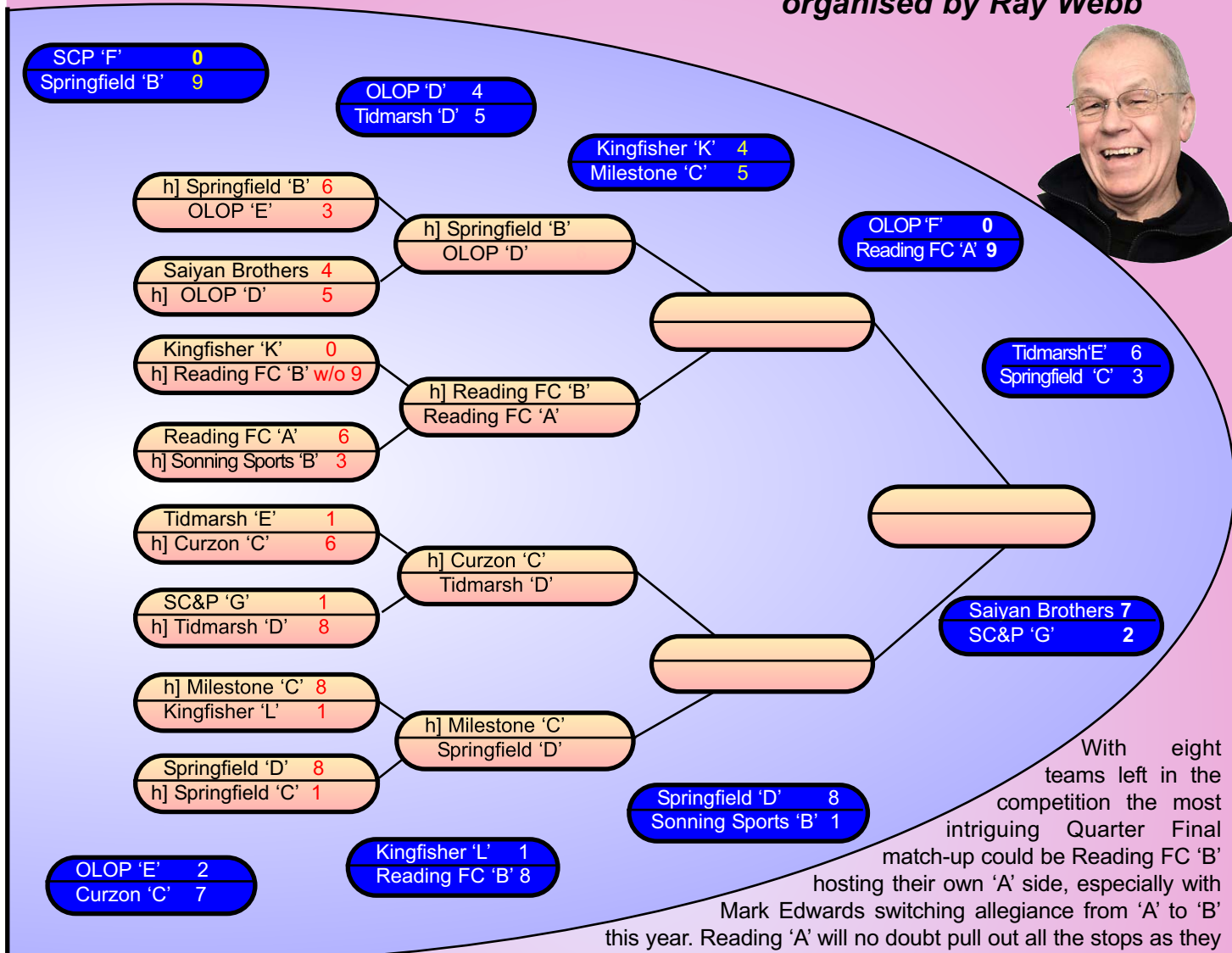
That leaves me just one more thing to add and that is to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for the new year.



GWYNNE PENNY

Lower Divisions KO Cup 2017-2018

organised by Ray Webb



With eight teams left in the competition the most intriguing Quarter Final match-up could be Reading FC 'B' hosting their own 'A' side, especially with Mark Edwards switching allegiance from 'A' to 'B' this year. Reading 'A' will no doubt pull out all the stops as they attempt to reach the final for a third year running. Reading 'A' had a comfortable

victory over OLOP 'F' in round one, before a spirited fightback by Sonning Sports 'B' was eventually overcome in round two. Reading 'B' posted a good 8 - 1 victory over Kingfisher 'L' before being conceded their second round match by Kingfisher 'K'. This was unfortunate for Kingfisher as their close round one 5 - 4 encounter with another of the Quarter finalists, Milestone 'C', suggests they might have done well.

After defeating Kingfisher 'L' in round two, Milestone will face Springfield 'D' who themselves pulled off an amazing 8 - 1 win against their 'C' team club mates. The Colin Jones / Adrian Wegrzynowski pairing is now unbeaten for the second round in a row. By dropping only two sets Springfield 'D' can also boast the best for/against record of teams left in the competition.

An all Springfield final remains possible as the 'B' team are through and will entertain OLOP 'D' having disposed of OLOP 'E' and a weakened SC&P 'F' previously. Rob Wilkie / Steve Leggett are the only other pairing unbeaten in both matches.

OLOP 'D' pulled off an excellent 5 - 4 victory in round two against Saiyan Brothers who are running away with division four in the league this season and were expected to do well following an impressive initial victory over SC&P 'G'. OLOP 'D' are now the only side beaten in round one to remain in the competition, although it has to be said that this defeat was a tight 5 - 4 loss to current holders Tidmarsh 'D'. OLOP's Pradeep Desh / Abhay Gore pairing is their most consistent.

Tidmarsh 'D' complete the Quarter Final line up with a match against Curzon 'C', who had defeated Tidmarsh 'E' in round two, following an initial win against OLOP 'E'. With a strengthened side this season, Curzon could pose a significant obstacle to Tidmarsh retaining the trophy, but having used six different pairings so far Curzon will need to make sure team selection is just right.



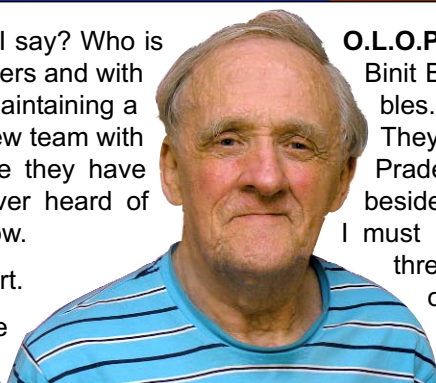
DIVISION FOUR

by Derek Harrison

Hello Everyone. Well what can I say? Who is going to stop the Saiyan Brothers and with tongue in cheek Sister from maintaining a 100% record? It is not often that a new team with new players dominate a division like they have done. Before this season I had never heard of Vidhu Ravinath but by golly I have now.

Anyway I will carry on with my report.

It was business as usual for the Saiyan Brothers who won their 6th match in a row by beating Curzon 'C' 3 – 7. Hat Tricks from Vidhu Ravinath and Nikesh Karki did the trick besides the two of them winning the doubles. Then in a first and second battle they smashed Reading F C 9 – 1 with Vidhu again winning all three in straight games. New signing Emma Blachford had a fine debut by also obtaining a hat trick while Nikesh managed a double. They then faced a tricky match at O.L.O.P 'E' and came away with a 3 – 7



O.L.O.P 'D' had a fine 8 – 2 win over Kingfisher 'K' with Binit Bhaskar and Pradeep Desh both recording trebles. Patrick Daniels did his bit by gaining a single. They then lost to a strong Curzon 'B' 4 – 6 with Pradeep winning two and Binit obtaining a single besides teaming up with Pradeep to win the doubles. I must mention Abhay Gore who, despite losing all three, played well and was very sporting when he owned up that the ball hit his face at game point for him against Nick - which meant Nick, instead of losing, beat him 10-12. Against Tilehurst Meths 'C' Pradeep was absent and as a result they dropped a vital point. Binit came to the rescue by winning two besides teaming up with Abhay who won one to win the doubles. Patrick also won one. Against Springfield 'B' it took a set ten win for Binit over Steve Leggett which gave him a treble to give them a 6 – 4 victory. Hari Laddunri and Abhay both gained singles. At Curzon 'C' Pradeep came back into the side and promptly gained a three straight maximum. Binit and Patrick won one each besides Binit and Pradeep winning the doubles which gave them a 4 – 6 win.

Reading F C 'A' beat Sonning C&P 'F' 7 – 3 thanks to doubles from Jazz Dhillon, Richard Witt and Anthony Alleyne. Jazz and Anthony also won the doubles. At The Saiyan Brothers they crashed to a 9 – 1 defeat with Jazz beating Nikesh. At the time of writing they moved into second place by winning 4 – 6 at Tidmarsh 'D' with Jazz hitting a good treble. Anthony did well to win two while Richard picked up that important single. At home to Kingfisher 'K' Jazz was not available so they only drew. Joe Bull did well to win two while Richard and Anthony both won one each besides the two of them winning the doubles.

Springfield 'B' are very inconsistent and as a result are dropping down the league. This week they lost 6 – 4 to Tidmarsh 'D' with Rob Wilkie winning two and Chris Taylor obtaining a single. Yet another defeat this time at home to Kingfisher 'K' 4 – 6. Chris gained a double and Peter Gurney and Steve Leggett both obtained singles. At O.L.O.P 'D' they lost 6 – 4 for the third match in a row.



VIDHU RAVINATH

victory. Vidhu was the star yet again by winning all three and teaming up with Nikesh to win the doubles. His set against Johnson was really tight when he beat him 11-7, 11-13, 3-11, 11-9, 9-11. Emma did well to pick up a double while Nikesh managed a single. Against bottom side Sonning C&P 'F' they won 10 – 0 with Vidhu, Emma and new signing Alex Horscroft gaining trebles. And for the first time Vidhu was not the player of the match. Where do you obtain these good players Michal? At Curzon 'B' they came away with a 2 – 8 victory with Vidhu and Alex both gaining trebles. For Vidhu they were all three straight. Kaan Kitay came back into the side and managed a single. One further comment - I would like to thank the team for the way they played the game against Phil Cottrell who was playing his first ever match for us.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Saiyan Brothers	10	10	0	0	74	26	20
2 OLOP D	11	8	1	2	68	42	17
3 Reading FC A	11	6	2	3	55	55	14
4 Curzon B	10	6	1	3	60	40	13
5 Curzon C	11	5	1	5	61	49	11
6 OLOP E	11	5	1	5	57	53	11
7 Tidmarsh D	11	4	1	6	53	57	9
8 Tilehurst Meths C	12	4	1	7	53	67	9
9 Springfield B	10	4	0	6	49	51	8
10 Kingfisher K	11	2	4	5	43	67	8
11 SC&P F	12	0	0	12	27	93	0

Steve and Peter both gained doubles but the big surprise was Rob getting a duck

Curzon 'C' went down 3 – 7 to the Saiyan Brothers with Linda King, John Walker and Carine Bey all obtaining singles. At home to Tidmarsh 'D' they strolled to an 8 – 2 win with Tracy Maynard hitting a good treble. Linda and Carine both obtained doubles. Carine's win over Dave Edwards was good, beating him 14-12, after being 3- 8 down, then 11-5, 11-7. Tracy and Linda had a close doubles win by beating Steve Andrews and Dave Edwards 8-11, 8-11, 11-7, 11-2, 11-4. One other point - I wonder if this was the first time a side has played an all ladies team. At Kingfisher 'K' they came away with a point with Linda winning two and John and Tracy both picking up singles. Linda and Tracy had a nice doubles win. At home to O.L.O.P 'D' they went down 4 – 6 with Tracy winning two which included a fine win over Binit. Linda and John did well to win one each. John also beat Binit. In Linda's set against Patrick she was 7-10 down in the 4th game before winning it 12-10 and then winning the 5th game 11-7. It was not Patrick's night because he had lost his car keys and his bat was in the car.

Curzon 'B' maintained their good run by beating O.L.O.P 'E' 6 – 4 with Nick Lean hitting a very good maximum. He had to work hard against Adam Lawes by just getting home 6-11, 11-6, 6-11, 11-3, 12-10 and this after being 8-10 down. Geoff Johnson managed a double and for once I gained a rare win. At O.L.O.P 'D' we came away with a 4 – 6 win thanks to a great treble from Marc Brent and a double from Geoff. Nick gained that vital single. We then beat Sonning C&P 'F' 8 – 2 with Nick returning to form by gaining a three straight hat trick. Geoff and Jim Brent both obtained doubles. For Jim they were his first wins of the season. At Tilehurst Meths 'C' both Nick and Geoff hit trebles. For Nick they were all three straight. They also won the doubles to give them a 3 – 7 victory. Jim did his best but has a hip injury so in the end ended up with nothing. At home to the Saiyan Brothers we went down 2 – 8 with Marc and Geoff both beating Kaan. Phil Cottrell made his debut in this match and was clearly out of his depth but I have to say he enjoyed every minute.

O.L.O.P. 'E' lost 6 – 4 at Curzon 'B' with Adam Lawes winning two and Tamir Slobodskoy winning one. The two of them also won the doubles. They then bounced back by winning 3 – 7 at Sonning C&P 'F' with Adam and Simon Brookes both gaining trebles. Young Tamir did very well by beating Derek Wavell. In a great match against the Saiyan Brothers they went down 3 – 7. Johnson Xu had a good match despite losing



SIMON BROOKES

DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Vidhu Ravinath	Saiyan Brothers	30	30	100.00
Alex Horscroft	Saiyan Brothers	6	6	100.00
Johnson Xu	OLOP E	15	14	93.33
Nick Lean	Curzon Club B	21	19	90.48
Emma Blachford	Saiyan Brothers	9	8	88.89
Pradeep Desh	OLOP D	27	23	85.19
Marc Brent	Curzon Club B	12	10	83.33
Nikesh Karki	Saiyan Brothers	24	18	75.00
Peter Gurney	Springfield B	21	15	71.43
Adam Lawes	OLOP E	14	10	71.43
Jazz Dhillon	Reading FC A	24	17	70.83
Geoff Johnson	Curzon Club B	30	21	70.00
Tracy Maynard	Curzon Club C	20	14	70.00

one. Adam had a nice win over Nikesh. At home to Tidmarsh 'D' which did not finish until 11.30 they just managed a 6 – 4 win. According to Andrew it was a great evening's table tennis with the match hinging on set ten when Tamir played Dave Edwards. In the first game Tamir lost 1-11 then won 11-6, 11-4, 7-11, 12-10. In that final game Tamir went 6-2 up only to be pegged back by going down 9-10 but managed to win the next 3 points. Johnson as ever won all three and Tamir picked up a double while Andrew obtained that important single which gave them that extra point.

Tidmarsh 'D' won 1 – 9 at Tilehurst Meths 'C' who were forced to play two reserves. Terry Hardie and Dave Smith both hit trebles. According to my records it was the first hat trick gained by Dave for many years. Dave Edwards managed a double. Next they won 6 – 4 against Springfield 'B' mainly thanks to a great Theresa Watson treble. Dave E managed a double while Terry got that important single. Against Curzon 'C' they were forced to play two reserves and lost 8 – 2. Dave E and my old mate Steve Andrews both won one each. At home to Reading F C they only lost 4 – 6 with Terry winning two besides teaming up with Dave E to win the doubles. Dave also won one by beating Richard Witt. At O.L.O.P 'E' they went down 6 – 4 with Dave E, Terry and Dave S all winning one each. Dave E and Terry did well to win the doubles by beating Andrew and Johnson 11-9, 10-12, 11-9, 13-15, 10-12. Next came Sonning C&P 'F' away and they scored a 3 – 7 win mainly thanks to a Terry hat trick. Theresa managed a double while Dave S picked up a single.

Kingfisher 'K' lost at O.L.O.P 'D' 8 – 2. Lyazid Wirkhani and Tariq Ramjuan both beat Pat Daniels. Next as a result of losing 1 – 9 at home to Tilehurst Meths 'C' they dropped into the bottom two. Ken Robb was the scorer by beating Patrick O'Sullivan 11-6, 9-11, 11-6, 11-9. Next came a brilliant 4 – 6 win at Springfield 'B' thanks to doubles from player of the match Ken and Tarik. Lyazid played his part by getting that vital single besides teaming up with Tarik to win a close doubles. The good form continued by gaining a draw against Curzon 'C' with Lyazid gaining a great hat trick and

Ken obtained a double. They then gained a great draw at Reading F C where Lyazid hit a superb maximum with Tarik and Ken obtaining those important singles.

Tilehurst Meths 'C' went down to Tidmarsh 'D' 1 – 9 with Patrick O'Sullivan beating Dave Edwards. Patrick informed me that Jamie Li Telford who played up from the 5th division played with great maturity despite losing all of his games. They then eased their position at the bottom by winning 1 – 9 at Kingfisher 'K' with Martin Wetherell and Roy Hull both gaining trebles. Patrick weighed in with a double. At home to O.L.O.P 'D' they gained a great draw thanks to doubles from Martin and Roy. Patrick gained a vital single by beating Binit 11-9, 14-12, 11-8. At home to Curzon 'B' Martin, Roy and Patrick all won one each in a 3 – 7 defeat.

Derek Wavell had a good night at Reading F C 'A' for **Sonning C&P 'F'** by winning two. He beat Jazz 11-7, 11-7, 9-11, 10-12, 10-12 and Richard Witt 11-8, 11-9, 9-11, 9-11, 7-11. Simon Blake had a nice win over Anthony Alleyne however the team lost 7 – 3. At home to O.L.O.P 'E' they lost 3 – 7 with Jamie Legg and Oliver Sayer both beating Tamir besides teaming up to win the doubles. At Curzon 'B' they went down 8 – 2 with Jamie beating Jim 11-5, 7-11, 9-11, 6-11 and Oliver beat Geoff 12-14, 11-9, 9-11, 8-11. I have to say that Oliver, Jamie and Simon were very sporting and it was a pleasure to watch them play. In the match there were 13 games that were settled by two points and 9 of these went against Sonning. At the Saiyan Brothers they suffered a heavy defeat; however I must mention Derek who had a great set against Vidhu only going down 10-12, 6-11, 11-8, 11-5, 11-7. Hard luck Derek. At home to Tidmarsh 'D' they lost 3 – 7 with reserve Marko Madzar winning two by beating Theresa and Dave Smith. Derek won the other set.

I list the leaders in the Player of the Match.

Vidhu 9

Johnson 4



LYAZIN WIRKHANI

- Nick 4
- Binit 3
- Marc 3
- Tracy 3
- Pradeep 3
- Jazz 3
- Lee 3
- Terry Hardie 3

Finally I hope you have/had a good Christmas and wish you all a Happy and Healthy 2018 and please do not forget to include some match reports.

▶ DIVISION FIVE by Martin Wetherell

Most teams, in Division 5, have now played every-one once, so the second half of the season may see some teams deploying more targeted selections, to further their own ambitions for silverware. At the top, one team has now got their nose in front, although they are closely followed by a large number of contenders, who are waiting for a chink in their armour to appear while, at the other end of the table, two teams are in contention for the wooden spoon.

Since the last Newsletter, although a few more players have recorded their first win(s), there are still a few players waiting for their first victory. Be patient



and hopefully you will savour success soon. Wishing you all the best for the New Year.

Kingfisher 'L' have remained in bottom spot, following their close defeat by wooden spoon rivals Tilehurst Methodists 'D', but have closed the gap to one point, with their 5 - 5 draw against Springfield 'D', a match which heralded the return of Gill Bennett. This match was closely contested, throughout, with Gill beating Marcello Caramma 11-4 6-11 11-9 11-13 11-8, to record her first win, Derek Crombie beating Paul Martin 4-11 11-7 4-11 11-7 11-9, to record his first win, and Meriel Low recording her first treble.

However, in their next match, the same team succumbed to a 3 - 7 defeat, away at Tidmarsh 'E', with singles for Meriel and Derek, although the talking point would be the epic Doubles battle, between John Harland & Bob Sunerton and Gill & Meriel, which Kingfisher just edged 11-4 9-11 12-10 15-17 10-12. For their next match, against Reading FC 'B', Dmitry Merzlyakov and Tom Allen replaced Gill and Meriel, but only Dmitry had any success, beating Keith Greene 7-11 11-5 11-9 12-14 11-9.

In their last match, Kingfisher lost 2 - 8 to Sonning Sports 'B', Gill beating Michael Byrne 11-3 11-13 11-3 11-5 and Dmitry beating Mike Gautrey 4-11 11-9 12-10 11-6, while Tom Allen lost all three, a result which means that he is still looking to get off the mark.

On the Doubles front, two new combinations have been tried, over these four matches, the pairing of Gill Bennett & Meriel Low being the most successful, with one win from two, putting them second in their team rankings.

Milestone 'C' are currently in 7th place, equal on points with 8th placed Springfield 'D', but currently ahead because they have won two more sets. However, these two teams have yet to play each other, so their match results, both home and away, may well determine their relative positions at the end of the season. Milestone are currently well ahead of the bottom two, but just slightly adrift of the chasing pack.

Carl Edlind and Colin Phillips have both played in all four matches, in this second Quarter. While Carl lost his 100% record, in the 10 - 0 defeat by Our Lady of Peace 'F', he has picked up seven further wins and is currently Milestone's leading player, with 72%.

Milestone then suffered another defeat, this time at the hands of Sonning Sports 'B', narrowly losing 4 - 6, with a number of close sets, notably Colin losing to both Jude O'Halloran 13-15 12-10 10-12 7-11 and Sally James 12-14 10-12 6-11, while Maksym Schipka lost to Mike Gautrey 14-12 11-6 11-13 10-12 5-11.

However, their next match saw a turnaround in fortunes, with a 9 - 1 victory over Tilehurst Methodists 'D', with Colin recording his first wins, beating both Ryan Arch and Jamie Li-Telford, and Carl Edlind and Tony Hayden both recording maximums, this being Tony's first ever maximum. They continued their winning ways with a narrow 6 - 4 victory over Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', with John Evans, playing his first match for six weeks, being denied a maximum, along with teammates Colin and Carl, by the in-form Marko Madzar.

On the Doubles front, Carl Edlind has now successfully partnered with each of his teammates, with both Doubles wins courtesy of Carl and partner.

Our Lady of Peace 'F' have continued the great form

they showed, in the first Quarter, to work their way up the table, at one point leading the table. They started this Quarter with a 10 - 0 win at Milestone 'C', with maximums for Alona Slobodskoy, Chris Bunn and Jan Polnik, although the match wasn't as easy as perhaps the score indicates, Carl Edlind playing 17 games, over the course of the evening, with 11 of them only being won by the minimum two points needed.

Although Graham Stark replaced Chris, in the team fielded to play against Tilehurst Methodists 'D', the result was another 10 - 0 victory, with further maximums for Alona and Jan, while Graham recorded his first ever maximum, a feat he was to repeat in his next match. However, before then, the team recorded their first loss, when they were beaten 4 - 6, by Springfield 'D', with Mariusz Paluszkiwicz losing all three and Tony Barnett winning just one, although he wasn't far off a maximum, being defeated by Colin Jones 9-11 13-11 12-10 5-11 9-11 and Marcello Caramma 9-11 10-12 9-11.

An 8 - 2 victory, away to Tidmarsh 'E', saw a return to winning ways, with Chris and Graham picking up maximums, while Alona had to settle for a single, losing 8-11 11-13 10-12 to Bob Sunerton and 10-12 7-11 11-13 to John Harland. Despite the best efforts of Derek Anderson, who won all three, two each from Chris, Jan and Graham resulted in a 7 - 3 win over Reading FC 'B', which saw OLOP consolidate themselves in second place, with a three point gap over Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', in third place.

On the Doubles front, OLOP have continued their winning ways, recording five more victories and debuting two new combinations, with the Chris Bunn & Jan Polnik partnership sitting top of the Averages, with four victories.

The Biscuit Men - **Reading FC 'B'** - kicked off the second Quarter with a 3 - 7 defeat at the hands of Sonning Sports 'B', Derek Anderson being beaten by Florin Dimofte, to lose his 100% record. However, Derek has subsequently got back to win-

ning ways, with three further maximums and three associated PoMs, remaining the team's star man with an average of 96%.

A further 7 - 3 defeat, this time at home to Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' followed, Keith Greene performing the heroics to win all three and be awarded his second PoM, his victory over Gerry Bacon 13-11 13-11 14-12 probably the closest three game set this Quarter. However, their next match resulted in an emphatic 9 - 1 victory, over Springfield 'C', Keith Greene and Derek Anderson both recording maximums and Harry Edwards only being denied his maximum by Tom Berryman. This was followed by a further 9 - 1 win, against Kingfisher 'L', Harry recording his second maximum of the campaign and Derek his sixth,

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 OLOP F	10	7	2	1	73	27	16
2 Sonning Sports B	9	7	2	0	62	28	16
3 SC&P G	10	6	1	3	61	39	13
4 Reading FC B	10	5	0	5	55	45	10
5 Springfield C	10	5	0	5	54	46	10
6 Tidmarsh E	10	4	2	4	48	52	10
7 Milestone C	9	4	1	4	45	45	9
8 Springfield D	9	4	1	4	44	46	9
9 Tilehurst Meths D	9	1	0	8	15	75	2
10 Kingfisher L	10	0	1	9	23	77	1



CHRISTMAS QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Essomba
2. Gehlot
3. Banks
4. Slobodskoy
5. Moses
6. Ricks
7. Mead
8. Ng
9. Baker
10. Roberts
11. Adams
12. Hardman
13. Lovegrove
14. Smith
15. Zeng
16. Ivanov
17. Munro
18. Caliman
19. Hurford
20. Barraclough
21. Morgan
22. Parker
23. Joyce
24. Keedy
25. Murgatroyd
26. Cummings
27. Cole
28. Rosinski
29. Sawant
30. Reynolds

while Keith had to settle for a double after losing the first set of the night to Dmitry Merzlyakov 11-7 5-11 9-11 14-12 9-11.

Their final match of this Quarter was against title rivals Our Lady of Peace 'F' which, despite a maximum from Derek, was lost 3 - 7. During this Period, Tony Edwards played in two further matches, losing all six sets. However, he should take some consolation that these losses were against teams who are currently in first and third place.

On the Doubles front, there were two wins from the five matches played, with new partnership Keith Greene & Derek Anderson ruling the roost with a 100% record, although the most consistent winning pair is Derek Anderson & Harry Edwards on 50%, with three wins from six matches.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' are in third place, leading the chasing pack. They opened this Quarter with a 7 - 3 victory over Springfield 'C', with a treble for Gerry Bacon and doubles for Julian James and Mike Casserley, Tom Berryman beating Julian 11-9 6-11 6-11 11-7 12-10, to take his 100% record, and Mike losing out to Rob Attack. Their next match, against Reading FC 'B', resulted in a further 7 - 3 win, with doubles for Gerry, Marko Madzar and Julian James, Keith Greene taking the 100% records of both Gerry and Marko, Marko just losing out to Keith 6-11 11-6 11-9 10-12 9-11.

In the next match, against Milestone 'C', Marko recorded a maximum but teammates Steve Knott and Derek Maltby were unable to secure any further wins, although Derek came close, losing his first set to John Evans 9-11 11-8 11-9 3-11 5-11 and then losing his third set to Colin Phillips 10-12 10-12 11-2 11-6 6-11, which meant that Milestone ended the night as 6 - 4 winners. The following week they suffered another loss, this time a 2 - 8 home defeat to Sonning Sports 'B', with Julian and Gerry picking up one set apiece, by defeating Michael Byrne.

On the Doubles front, three new combinations were tried, the two pairings of Gerry Bacon & Marko Madzar and Marko Madzar & Derek Maltby both successfully getting off the mark, which means this squad now have five combinations on 100%.

Sonning Sports 'B' have been surreptitiously creeping up the table and two weeks ago took top spot, consolidating their position with two wins last week, to get their noses in front of main title rivals Our Lady of Peace 'F'. Sonning Sports are the only team who have not lost a match, winning

all five of their matches this Quarter.

They started with a 7 - 3 victory over Reading FC 'B', Florin Dimofte anchoring the team with a maximum, supported by a double from Cris Reynolds, who lost his 100% record to Derek Anderson in the final set, being beaten 9-11

8-11 11-4 11-5 10-12, and a single from John Scott, in his only appearance this Quarter. In their next match, against Milestone 'C', they won 6 - 4, with Sally James recording her first maximum of the Season, supported by Mike Gautrey with a double and Jude O'Halloran with a single.

A further 6 - 4 victory, at home to Springfield 'C', then followed, Florin & Cris combining to win the Doubles, which along with Florin's maximum

and Cris's double, was enough for both points. Unusually, Sally ended the evening with no wins, losing in four games to Alan Goold and Chris Speight and in five games to Rob Attack, being beaten by Rob 11-7 5-11 12-14 12-10 8-11 in the final set.

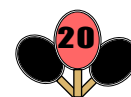
In the next match, against Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', Michael Byrne dusted off his bat for the first time this season and was rewarded for his efforts when he beat Derek Maltby, in the 8 - 2 win which also saw Cris and Florin both record maximums. The following day, the team decamped to Kingfisher 'L', emerging as 2 - 8 winners, Cris leading the charge with his third maximum, Mike Gautrey picking up another double and Michael upping his game with his first ever double.

On the Doubles front, four new partnerships were tried over these five matches, with each one successfully winning their set. The only loss was for the previous partnership of Sally James & Cris Reynolds, whose overall stats are now 0 for 2.

Springfield 'C' continue to be the most equal opportunity team, with two players having played in 6 matches and three players in 5, although whether this approach will affect their final position remains to be seen. Only four matches have been played this Quarter, with just the one win, which has seen them fall from top spot to 5th.

Their first match was against Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', which was lost 3 - 7, Rob Attack securing a good win over Mike Casserley 6-11 12-10 11-9 11-7 and Tom Berryman beating Julian James 11-9 6-11 6-11 11-7 12-10. This was followed by a tremendous 9 - 1 win against Tidmarsh 'E', Chris Speight and Rob Attack both recording maximums, with James Regan only able to win two after losing to Mike Bundy. This match also hosted one of the

LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	P	W	%
Florin Dimofte	Sonning Sports B	15	15	100.00
Marko Madzar	SC&P G	15	14	93.33
Derek Anderson	Reading FC B	27	25	92.59
Cris Reynolds	Sonning Sports B	17	15	88.24
Mike Casserley	SC&P G	15	13	86.67
Christopher Bunn	OLOP F	24	20	83.33
Jan Polnik	OLOP F	18	15	83.33
Julian James	SC&P G	21	17	80.95
Gerry Bacon	SC&P G	15	12	80.00
Alona Slobodskoy	OLOP F	18	14	77.78



contenders for Doubles match of the Quarter, Rob Atack & James Regan eventually beating Mike Bundy & Bob Sunerton 7-11 12-10 11-13 11-6 15-13.

After the high of winning 9 - 1, Springfield then hosted a visit by Reading FC 'B', who beat them by the same 9 - 1 scoreline, with Tom Berryman avoiding the whitewash by beating Harry Edwards 12-10 11-8 2-11 11-6, in the final set of the evening. Another defeat, albeit by the narrowest scoreline of 4 - 6, was dealt by Sonning Sports 'B', Chris Speight recording two wins, after losing to Florin Dimofte, while Rob and Alan Goold each won one.

On the Doubles front, two new combinations were tried, with no success, with both wins courtesy of previous pairings, the Tom Berryman & Alan Goold partnership being the most successful.

Springfield 'D' started the Quarter in eighth place and, having only played three matches over the past seven weeks, have ended the Quarter in eighth place, despite not losing a match.

For the first match, away at Kingfisher 'L', they fielded the same team that had served them so well against Sonning Common & Peppard 'G'. However, Kingfisher's Meriel Low had other ideas and Springfield had to settle for a 5 - 5 draw, thanks to a double from Colin Jones, singles for both Paul Martin and Marcello Caramma, plus a vital Doubles win.

Two weeks later, they were back in action again, this time away to Our Lady of Peace 'F', from where they emerged victorious, winning 6 - 4, Marcello Caramma recording his first maximum, Colin Jones winning two and Julian Lancaster chipping in with a single. After another week off, they entertained Tilehurst Methodists 'D', eventually running out 9 - 1 winners, thanks to Adrian Wegrzynowski winning his first treble, Julian Lancaster and Paul Martin having to settle for two wins apiece, after they both lost to Steve Christelow.

On the Doubles front, one new pairing was attempted, with no success. However, two previous partnerships both had wins, which means that Colin Jones & Paul Martin are their most successful pairing, with three wins from three, earning them second place in the Doubles Averages.

Tidmarsh 'E' are currently mid-table, in sixth position, having won exactly half of the 90 sets they have played, over their nine matches. Bob Sunerton has played in all their matches, bar the first match of the season, which was against Springfield 'D', with three others having played in five matches.

This Quarter, Tidmarsh have played four matches, winning two and losing two. They started with a 9 - 1 defeat, away at Springfield 'C', Mike Bundy avoiding the whitewash by defeating James Regan. They followed this up with a 7 - 3 home win, against Kingfisher 'L', Steve Andrews recording a maximum while John Harland and Bob Sunerton both won twice. This match also provided another contender for Doubles match of the Quarter, with John & Bob just losing out to Gill Bennett & Meriel Low 11-4 9-11 12-10 15-17 10-12.

This was followed by a further defeat, this time 2 - 8, at home to Our Lady of Peace 'F', with single wins for Bob and John, who both beat Alona Slobodskoy. The final match of the Quarter was away at Tilehurst Methodists 'D', where Tidmarsh won 8 - 2, with Pete Sinclair picking up his first treble and PoM, Steve Andrews recording another maximum and Bob Sunerton just missing out on his treble, losing to Steve Christelow 11-9 8-11 6-11 14-12 2-11.

On the Doubles front, one new pairing was tried, along with three previous partnerships, but each one was unsuccessful. This means that the John Harland & Theresa Watson pairing, from the very first match, is their only 100% combination and will remain so, since Theresa has been re-registered in a higher division. Therefore, for practical purposes, their best combination is currently John Harland & Mike Bundy, who have won one out of two.

Tilehurst Methodists 'D' are currently ninth in the table, one point above bottom placed Kingfisher 'L', although they have won fewer sets than any other team in the Division. Steve Christelow is still picking up the occasional set, but needs more support if they are to avoid the wooden spoon. On a positive note the other team members (Ryan Arch, Lewis Oke, Jamie Li-Telford and Lala Stryjak) are not always losing in 3 games, but are frequently taking opponents to 4 and 5 games.

Since the heady success of their victory over Kingfisher 'L', it has been business as usual with four consecutive defeats. The first match in this Quarter was at home to Our Lady of Peace 'F', when Tilehurst Methodists were dispatched 0 - 10. However, the scoreline didn't totally reflect the match, since Lala Stryjak lost in 5 games to Alona Slobodskoy 11-9 3-11 11-9 4-11 3-11, as did Steve Christelow 4-11 11-5 9-11 12-10 7-11.

The next match, away at Milestone 'C', was lost 9 - 1, the whitewash being avoided when Lala beat Colin Phillips, for her first ever win. Another away match, this time against Springfield 'D' followed and although Tilehurst Methodists lost 8 - 2, Steve beat both Julian Lancaster and Paul Martin, to record his second double, but Jamie Li-Telford couldn't quite find the extra gear and was beaten 4-11 9-11 10-12 by Paul Martin.

The final match, which was at home against Tidmarsh 'E', was lost 2 - 8. However, the whitewash was avoided when Ryan Arch & Steve Christelow fought back to beat Steve Andrews & Pete Sinclair 2-11 6-11 11-9 11-5 12-10 and then, in his final set, Steve Christelow beat Bob Sunerton 9-11 11-8 11-6 12-14 11-2, to make the scoreline slightly more respectable although, earlier, Lewis Oke had been close to winning the first set for Tilehurst Methodists, before being beaten by Bob Sunerton 11-7 4-11 11-8 7-11 8-11.

On the Doubles front, two new pairings have been tried, both losing in three games. So, in the last two matches, they had reverted to their most experienced pairing, which had lost every set by a 3 - 2 scoreline. This strategy finally bore fruit, in their match against Tidmarsh 'E', when they won their first Doubles.



YOUTH DIVISION

by Emma Barraclough

October 27th (the Friday of half term week) saw a break from League play with the first stage of the annual Grouping tournament. Twenty-six players took part divided into three age bands. In Event 1 the eldest nine players played in two groups, one of five and one of four; Event 2 saw the middle eight players play in two groups of four while Event 3 saw the youngest nine players play in two groups – one of five and one of four. A good evening's play set up three finals in the main events plus three consolation finals to be played at the end of term on Friday 15th December as part of the Christmas party.

The Event 1 main final will be between **Tamir Slobodskoy** and **Rayaan Ashgar**; the Event 2 main final will be between **Dylan Cook** and **Ralph Phillips** and the Event 3 main final will be between **Adrian Mitchell** and **Josh Sandland**. In the consolation events, the finals will be between **Jamie Weir** and **Rudresh Desai** in Event 1; **Joe Brooks** and **Benedict Carless** in Event 2 and **Anish Deshpande** and **Hamza Hussain**. We are looking forward to these finals very much – a great way to end the first part of the season.

Following the half term week we saw six weeks of great league play as the teams fought to see who would be in Division One and Division Two, when the League splits into two after Christmas. November 3rd saw strong wins for the Spartans against the Pumas and Strikers against the Jaguars. Lions won 6 - 4 against Raiders; Panthers won against Trojans and Avengers against Attackers.

November 10th saw Panthers and Spartans win again. The Panthers won 9 - 1 against the Tigers with 3 wins each for Tamir Slobodskoy and Ryan Griffiths and the Spartans defeated the Trojans 9 - 1 with three wins each for Benedict Carless and Rayaan Ashgar. The Attackers defeated the



Lions 6 - 4, the Avengers beat the Pumas 6 - 4 and the Raiders won 7 - 3 against the Strikers. The following week, November 17th, saw a draw between the Lions and Tigers with Mo Cook winning three games. The Avengers defeated the Jaguars 10 - 0 with Dylan Cook, Harrison Ryan and James Atherton winning all their games; Spartans defeated Raiders 10 - 0 with Ralph Phillips, Benedict Carless and Rayaan Ashgar winning all their games. Panthers defeated Strikers 8 - 2 and Attackers defeated Pumas 7 - 3 with Rishabh Ramesha winning all his games,

November 24th saw two draws – one between Tigers and Pumas and the other between Trojans and Raiders. The Attackers defeated the Jaguars 10 - 0; the Spartans defeated the Panthers 8 - 2 with Rayaan Ashgar winning all three and the Lions defeated the Strikers 8 - 2 with Mo Cook again winning all three games.

December 1st saw emphatic wins for the Tigers and Panthers; the Tigers defeating the Jaguars 10 - 0 and the Panthers defeating the Raiders 10 - 0. The Avengers beat the Trojans 6 - 4 and the Spartans defeated the Lions 6 - 4 and in the final result of the evening the Strikers won against the Pumas 7 - 3 with Tan Saha winning three games.

The 8th saw the last matches before the split into two Divisions with the final positions far from clear. The Avengers beat the Attackers in a close match 5 - 4, there were confident wins for the Trojans against the Jaguars 9 - 1 and the Spartans against the Strikers 10 - 0. The Lions had a 7 - 3 win against the Avengers while the Panthers defeated the Attackers 7 - 3 and the Tigers defeated the Raiders 6 - 4.

The year will end with the Christmas party and finals evening on 15th December and we look forward to more exciting play after the Division split in January.

TEAM PLACINGS

	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Spartans	10	10	0	0	91	9	91
2	Panthers	10	9	0	1	77	23	77
3	Lions	10	6	1	3	58	42	58
4	Attackers	10	6	1	3	55	44	55
5	Tigers	10	4	4	2	53	47	53
6	Avengers	10	5	1	4	49	50	49
7	Pumas	10	3	1	6	44	56	44
8	Raiders	10	3	1	6	42	58	42
9	Trojans	10	2	1	7	40	60	40
10	Strikers	10	2	0	8	35	65	35
11	Jaguars	10	0	0	10	5	95	5

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	P	W	%
Rayaan Asghar	28	28	100.00
Benedict Carless	30	28	93.33
Tamir Slobodskoy	23	21	91.30
Ralph Phillips	23	21	91.30
Mo Cook	26	22	84.62
Dylan Cook	29	24	82.76
Ryan Griffiths	26	20	76.92
Tan Saha	27	20	74.07
Rishabh Ramesha	26	18	69.23
Anay Mistry	24	16	66.67
Adrian Mitchell	29	19	65.52