

READING & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Editor: DEREK WAVELL



Johnson Xu, with Ralph Phillips, Adrian Mitchell and Rishika Desai
All photos are by Melvyn Lovegrove.

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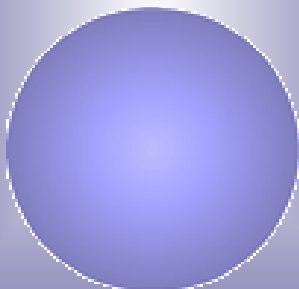
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Plenty of thrills and tensions in our Divisional reports this time around. And for once we do full justice to the Reading Closed tournament - both senior and junior days. Since Didier is away, all photos are by another talented photographer - Melvyn Lovegrove, whom we thank and applaud.

Our excellent Chairman, Derek Harrison, has had his usual Notes squeezed out of this edition - but he has asked me to pay special tribute to Wendy Porter for organizing the Individual Handicap and Reading Closed competitions and to the tournament software she used - set up with Nick Lean's help - which meant that everyone near or far could follow the tournament in real time as it progressed.

*See the Tournament pages of our web site, on
https://www.tabletennis365.com/Reading/Pages/Individual_Handicap
https://www.tabletennis365.com/Reading/Pages/Reading_Closed*

Good luck!

Derek



THE READING CLOSED *(seniors and juniors)*

SENIOR COMPETITION by Nick Lean

THE WINNERS

Men's Singles	Winner	Hari Gehlot	Runner up: Krasi Ivanov
Veterans Singles	Winner	Hari Gehlot	Runner up: Ian Cole
Men's Doubles	Winners	Jon Willis & Marc Brent	
	Runners up	Ian Cole and Joe Barraclough	
Senior Vets Singles	Winner	Hari Gehlot	Runner up: Wendy Porter
Ping Pong	Winner	Eric Holmes	Runner up: Harry Munro
Over 60s Singles	Winner	Melvyn Lovegrove	Runner up: Nick Lean
Div 1	Winner	Krasi Ivanov	Runner up: Ian Cole
Div 2	Winner	Nigel Keedy	Runner up: Zdzislaw Jerzmanski
Div 3	Winner	Lee Calcutt	Runner up: Igor Stremac
Div 4	Winner	Marc Brent	Runner up: Zoltan Kelemen
Div 5	Winner	Laurence de Ste Croix	Runner up: Clive Gold

The Senior events were held on Saturday 11th February at Blue Coat School in Sonning, which proved to be an excellent venue. It was comfortably able to hold 8 tables which meant all the senior events could be completed in one day, rather than needing a weekend as in previous years.

Wendy Porter put in a huge amount of time and effort to prepare the venue and the draws for the 11 events, as well as running the tournament on the day – and this despite the fact that her first grandchild was due to be delivered that day!

Unfortunately there were no entrants for the Ladies Singles, Ladies Doubles or Mixed doubles (apart from Wendy) so these events could not be run. For the other events, there were the inevitable late withdrawals, but this did allow some of the late entrants to be given entry in to some of the events



This year's

IAN COLE

Championships were run using some computer software which is specifically designed for sports tournaments. It included online entry for all events, which seemed to work well and allowed everyone to see who was entering each event on the days before the entry deadline. Once the seeding, the draws and the scheduling for each event had been completed, the new software also enabled this information to be made visible on the tournament website. This meant everyone could see the approximate timings of their scheduled matches and who their opponents would be.

As the events progressed throughout the day, the results were entered on the tournament software and periodically uploaded to the tournament website – so those competitors with smartphones (and those interested at home) could see the event results almost as they happened, see how each event was progressing and see who their next opponent would be.



ERIC HOLMES - WHO WON THE 'PING PONG' COMPETITION - WITH HIS SANDPAPER BAT



ABHAY GORE

final of the Ping Pong event.

Congratulations to all the winners and runners-up in each of the events, who are listed below, and thanks to everyone who came along and took part. Please look at the tournament website to see details of all the events that were run – the draws, the scores and all the associated statistics.

Due to having to vacate the venue by 5:30pm, the main finals could not be staged, which was a shame, but I don't think it spoilt the day for anyone.

What did become apparent during the day was that some matches were being delayed by one or two people who seemed to be

After a withdrawal allowed Hari Gehlot's late entry to the tournament, he won the Mens singles after being 2 games down to Krasi Ivanov in the final. Hari also beat Ian Cole to win the final of the Veterans Singles and Wendy Porter to win the Senior Veterans event. The Mens Doubles saw unexpected winners as Jon Willis and Marc Brent beat all of their opponents without losing an end, including Ian Cole and Joe Barraclough in the final. Melvyn Lovegrove took the Over 60s title having played a total of 18 matches throughout the day, while Eric Holmes (who played 14 times himself) finished his day by winning the



KRASI IVANOV

playing in every event! This caused some scheduling problems, so in future years the organisers may need to consider restricting the number of events a person can enter.

Many thanks to the various volunteers who helped on the day and ensured the venue was cleared on time. Special thanks to Emma & Joe Barraclough, who stayed late on Friday evening getting everything in place and arranging the refreshments, and to Duncan Groves who helped Wendy with match management and covered for her when she was playing.

But most of all, our thanks go to Wendy for everything she did to ensure the Senior and Junior events all ran so well at the weekend, when I know she would rather have been with her family.



PRADEEP DESH

JUNIOR COMPETITION by Louise Forster

JUNIOR EVENTS

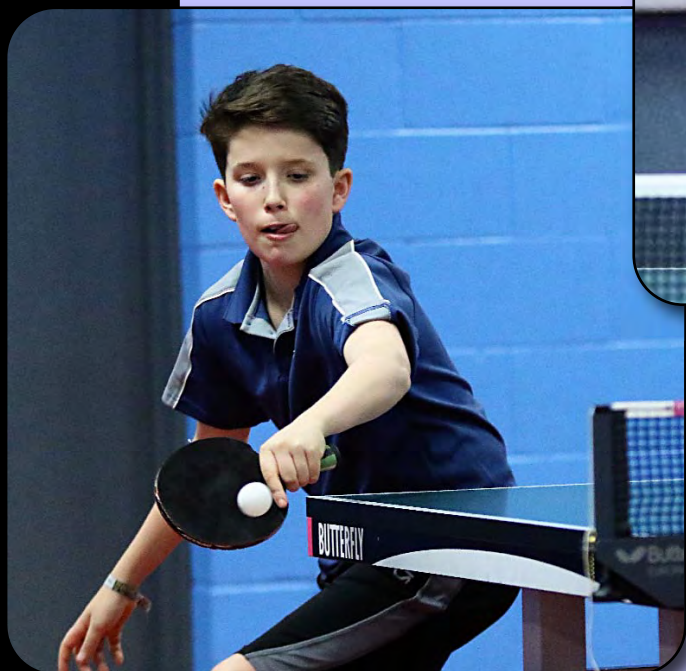
Youth Division	Winner	Johnson Xu	Runner up: Dylan Cook
U13 Boys Singles	Winner	Jamie Barlow	Runner up: Mo Cook
Cadet Boys Singles	Winner	Jamie Barlow	Runner up: Ralph Philips
Junior Boys Singles	Winner	Joe Barraclough	Runner up: Johnson Xu
Junior Boys Doubles	Winners	Joe Barraclough & Adam Winterbottom	
	Runners up	Rayaan Asghar & Jamie Barlow	
U21 Singles	Winner	Joe Barraclough	Runner up: Johnson Xu

The Junior tournament was held at Cippenham TTC on Sunday 12th February. It was an early start, but everyone turned up on time and the tournament started promptly at 9am. There was a good turnout with 23 players competing across the six events.



JOHNSON XU

Wendy Porter did a great job of organising the tournament and the whole day ran very smoothly. The new method of running the tournament using the Tournament software



RALPH PHILIPS

was a success: entering results and uploading them to the Tournament website was a simple process and it was helpful to be able to see the draws and timings ahead of the day. The added bonus for someone like myself, who unfortunately had to leave just before the semis and finals were played, was that I could log on later from home and find out who had won.

Some great table tennis matches were played throughout the day. There were several well-fought five set matches and a few games that went in to the high teens



LAURENCE DE STE CROIX

before a final result was reached. What also stood out was the great sportsmanship shown amongst all the players throughout the day.

Congratulations to the winners of the events: Joe Barraclough (U21s and Junior Boys), Jamie Barlow (Cadet Boys and U13s), Johnson Xu (Youth Division) and Joe Barraclough/Adam Winterbottom (Junior Boys doubles).



JOE BARRACLOUGH



JAMIE BARLOW

Well done to all runners-up (Jamie Barlow, Johnson Xu, Ralph Philips, Mo Cook, Dylan Cook and Rayaan Asghar/Jamie

Barlow), and to everyone who took part in the day. A special mention goes to Rishika Desai who was the only girl to enter the tournament and therefore didn't have a girls singles event to take part in, but she competed with true fighting spirit in all the boys events.

Many thanks to the various volunteers who helped on the day. Emma Barraclough, Emma Cook and Dan Cook who helped



RUDRESH DESAI

Wendy with keeping all the matches on track, and to the Juniors and parents who offered to umpire games throughout the day.

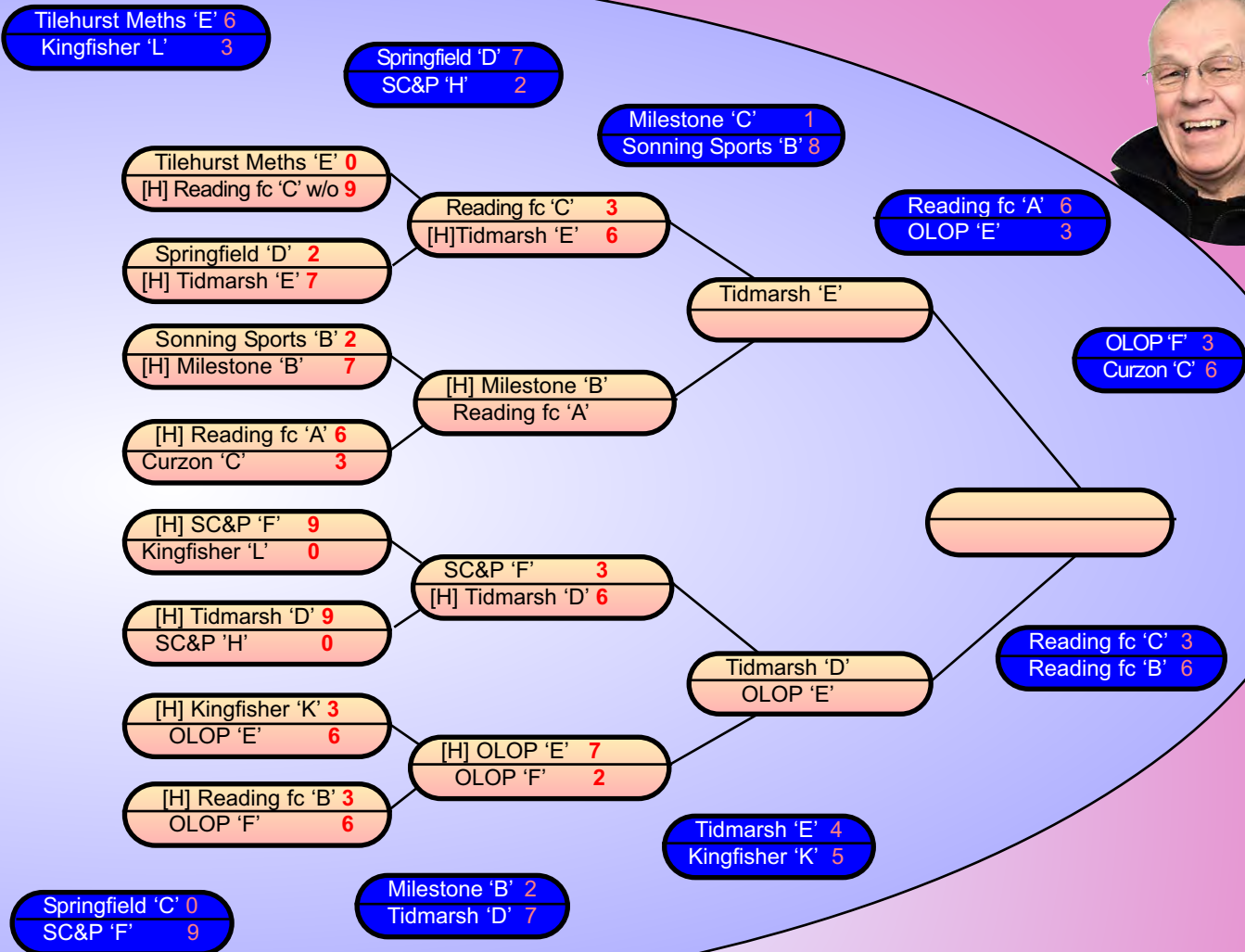
A big thanks to Wendy Porter who organised the event and worked tirelessly on the day, but must have been just secretly raring to get away to see her newly born first grandchild who'd arrived at 6pm the day before. Congratulations Wendy!



ADAM WINTERBOTTOM

Lower Divisions KO Cup 2016-17

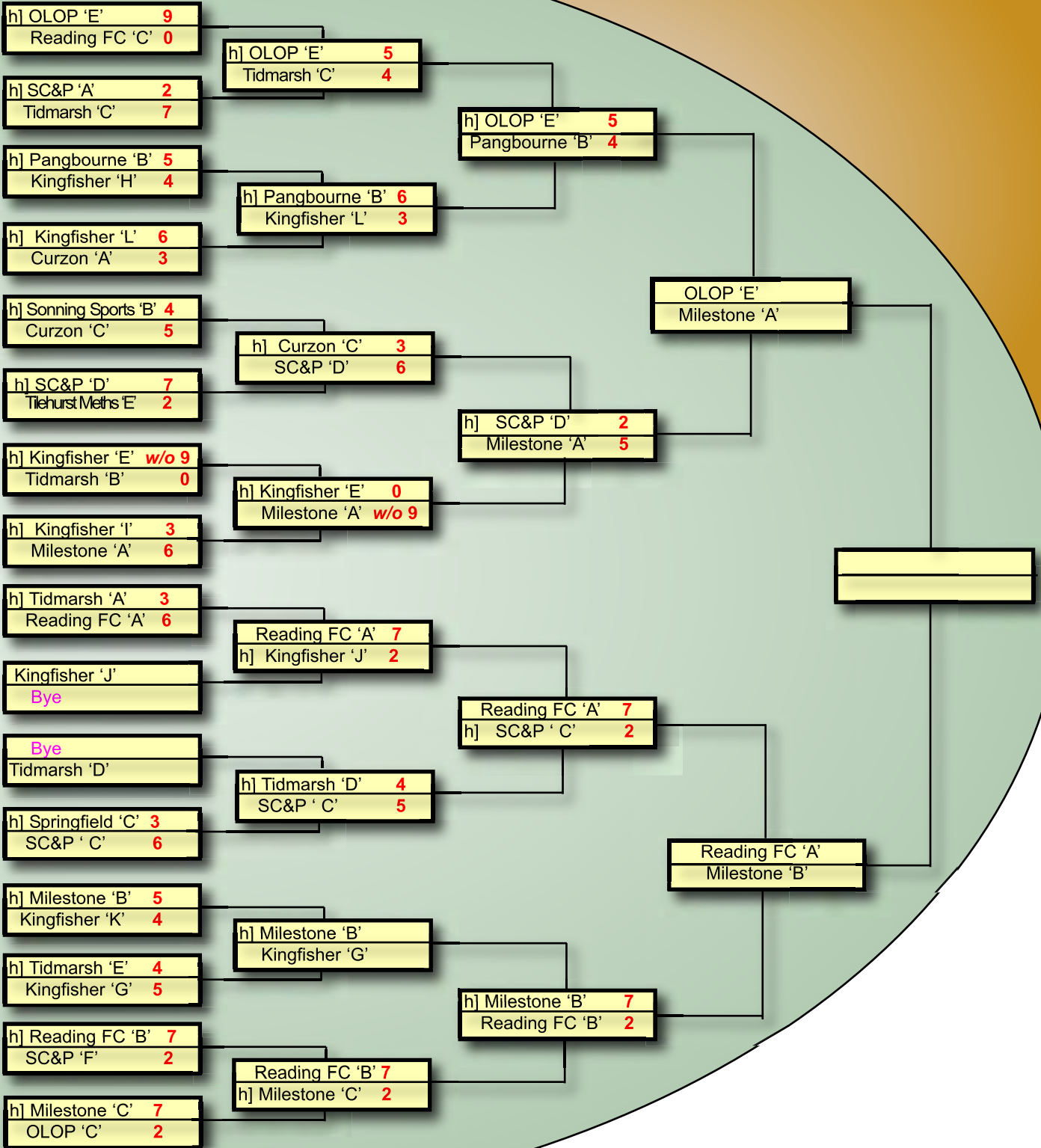
organised by Ray Webb



In the Lower Divisions Knock Out OLOP 'E' enjoyed a convincing 7 - 2 win over their 'F' team club mates, securing victory after only five sets. Pradeep Desh / Abhay Gore starred with a two straight maximum. OLOP now face Tidmarsh 'D' who beat SC&P 'F' 6 - 3, Dave Smith / Andy Stephens with the maximum. Tidmarsh 'E' make it a second Tidmarsh side into the Semi-Finals following a 6 - 3 win over Reading FC 'C', despite being 1 - 3 behind at one stage. Bob Sunerton / Pete Sinclair winning all of their sets played. Tidmarsh now await the winners from the Milestone 'B' - Reading FC 'A' fixture.

In the Handicap it was déjà vu for OLOP 'E' who beat Pangbourne 'B' 5 - 4 with captain Alistair Richardson winning the match by taking the final set of the evening, just as he had done in the previous round. Pangbourne's Leroy Wilson's fine maximum to no avail. OLOP now travel to Milestone 'A' who won 5 - 2 against SC&P 'D' with the final two sets unplayed, potentially depriving unbeaten John Crosfield of a maximum, [and likewise Mark Jones for Sonning]. Milestone 'B' progress on the back of a 7 - 2 victory over Reading FC 'B'. Despite the first two sets being tight and requiring a third game decider, Milestone romped to a 4 - 0 lead after which it proved difficult for Reading to come back. Zoltan Kelemen was unbeaten on the night. Reading 'A' complete the Semi-final line up following a 6 - 3 victory at SC&P 'C', captain Richard Witt starring with the maximum.

Team Handicap Chart





DIVISION ONE

by Mark Banks

Hi guys. I'm back. Not for the first time I left and came back again 😊. How are you all doing? Been an eventful few months hasn't it. Er, unless you're Mark Banks who due to illness, deaths, postponed matches and lack of scheduled fixtures hasn't played any competitive table tennis since Mid-December. Even Ramesh plays more than me these days. I haven't seen team mate Justin Mead since September. Next time I see him will probably be at the celebratory end of season curry. Nuts! The Division is shaping up nicely though. Loads of great play, hard luck stories, controversies and some of them didn't even involve me. Amazing how our little sport can create so many talking points. I'm pretty sure this one's going to be my last in Reading so I'm obviously hoping to go out in style and bring the title back home to the



Kingfisher Club. Just need to get on the table first though hey!

Love & Peace x

So still leading the way are the mighty **Kingfisher 'A'**. We've put back the key matches vs OLOP and KFB to the back-end of the season just to keep the interest and suspense going until the end. Brilliant to see my great mate Martin Gunn qualify for the Sky Sports World Championship of Ping Pong last month. So proud to see him on TV.... sitting there in the crowd watching all the games 😊 bless



KRASI IVANOV of OLOP 'A'

him. Great achievement though and just goes to show what you can do with a £4.99 bat. He's still rocking it up in the Reading League too. Virtually unbeatable in this and also the National Competitions he keeps winning. Brilliant stuff. Oh and if you need some team shirts designed and printed up then give him a shout. The new TT brand CHO!! is really starting to fly and these shirts and other gear are simply eye-catching and brilliant. Tell him I sent you and there may be a bit of a discount! The other Martin in sublime form too. And it's a good job because without them both playing so well we'd be feeling the pace a bit with myself, Richard and Justin playing the supporting roles. 2 matches will define our season. We all know which ones they are (er, you mentioned them above Mark) and we'll give it our best shot.

MVP: Martin Gunn - £4.99 bat and you STILL (STILL) can't beat him. Sigh

Still hot on our heels are **OLOP 'A'** and I predict that somehow we're going to have to fight out a draw with them when the inevitable comes around. Daniel Moses. Brilliant on the table, not so brilliant off it if you need a scorecard or 3. Cheers dude 😊. Krasi after a slow start is back in form. Hitting the ball harder than ever, both wings and is gonna take some stopping in the run in. Ian has played very well as a number 3 with much more consistency to his game than we've seen in the past and obviously Ed's slight dip in form has been well documented with the new equipment not quite as effective as the previous. I'm hoping that KFB can do us a



HARI GEHLOT of KINGFISHER 'B'

favour or even Sonning again 😊 but that's more in vain hope than anything else. If we're gonna win it we're gonna have to do it ourselves the hard way and this team are such a good side that it would be no surprise to anyone to see them win it again.

MVP: Daniel Moses – Hi Daniel, do you have any outstanding scorecards you wanna send over to me? Er, yep, let me check my bag!

C a m m m m o n Kingfisher 'B' do us a favour will you. Even giving Moses his 3 you can still do this. Even a draw would be brilliant. I REPEAT YOU CAN DO THIS!! Phil 2, Hari 2, Doubles. There you go. Simple ;). Maybe Dmitry can chip in with one? I don't care how you do it – just do it! Haha. I jest but if ever a team could pull off a shock then it's this one. Phil and Hari – whilst both having the odd unexpected loss are still at the very top of their game and on their day we all know what can happen. I might even go and watch that one!

MVP: Phil Zeng – Likes a shout, likes a net but we'll forgive him that 'cos he's a nice guy



IAN COLE OF OLOP 'A'

Ahh it's such a shame for OLOP 'B' going so well for so long and then severely hampered by injury which has just halted them in their tracks a bit. It's still been a really good first season for this fresh looking side though. Yonatan has fast enhanced his already growing reputation with some really good play and some really good results. Harry too. Playing some great stuff and these two are only gonna get better. Love it. And bless Steve. He too was going brilliantly well until the knees that have hindered him for a while now temporarily gave up and now need a rest. I really like this side. I probably won't be around much to see them reach their full potential but you lot will so you'd better watch out!

MVP: Yonatan Slobodskoy – Classy

One team that's just started to struggle a bit have been Kingfisher 'D'. And they may just be looking over their shoulder at YMCA. All the good work was done in the early part of the season with Simon turning out and guiding them to stylish victories against their closest rivals. Rob has been playing well with a couple of good wins under his belt and Calin too. Hmmm just a hint of danger of relegation with the indifferent run recently.....

MVP: Simon Vine. Getting better with age. Needs to turn out more to save D.

One side that have been an absolute revelation this season are Sonning Common & Peppard 'A'. Keith & Malcolm would be well impressed with their work. Gary Morgan



CALIN SPICICA OF KINGFISHER 'D'

		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Kingfisher A	11	9	2	0	84	26	20
2	OLOP A	11	9	1	1	82	28	19
3	Kingfisher B	11	9	0	2	76	34	18
4	Kingfisher C	13	6	2	5	74	56	14
5	S C&P A	13	7	0	6	65	65	14
6	OLOP B	10	6	1	3	61	39	13
7	Tidmarsh A	12	4	1	7	56	64	9
8	Kingfisher D	12	3	0	9	41	79	6
9	YMCA	13	2	0	11	35	95	4
10	S C&P B	12	0	1	11	16	104	1

has taken his tricky introduction to Reading Table Tennis last season to great heights this season. I was there to watch him take out Phil Zeng and it was a vintage Morgan performance against a player of Phil's calibre. He almost had Hari too on the same night. Great stuff from the veteran. Talking of veterans. Jason is revitalised this season. He hasn't played this well since his YM days and they still drop him from every doubles! Haha this coupled with Joe and Thomas chipping in here and there, this lot are flying. Great result against OLOP 'A' – thanks guys 😊 and don't rule them out upsetting a few others in the run in. Brilliant.

MVP: Gary Morgan. Rolling back the years

Another side who have been going well are Tidmarsh 'A'. Probably the biggest squad in the Division – you never know who you're gonna get but whoever turns out is going to give you a good game. Sam looks completely free of the injury troubles of last season and has some big scalps to his name this season. Danny will always claim he's the better Ricks but results haven't quite been going his way with a few narrow losses affecting his average this season. Csaba's form too has been up and down. Not quite the explosive stuff we saw last season and Squirrel will always be our favourite little tree rat with his incredibly consistent game. Pretty good from Tidmarsh. Still one or two more shocks coming their way for sure.

MVP: Sam Ricks – Sorry Danny – you're not fooling anybody 😊

Fair play to the boys from the YMCA. They will still keep going and trying to the very end. Neil has been great for them and the fact he's played a lot more this season has certainly been to their benefit in the continued absence of Mr Streak. Dave H has still got it in places. Love this guy. One of my all time heroes. Peter still going for it great guns. Has picked up the odd vital win too and now in touching distance of KFD and clear water above Sonning B. Win, lose or draw they keep enjoying it and that's sometimes all that matters. Cheers guys.

MVP: Neil Hurford – One of the best

They've got a point, they've got a point. **Sonning Common & Peppard 'B'**

have only gone and got a point!! Brilliant doubles win to secure it too. Fair play to them. Can't be easy turning up week in week out but they have never let their heads drop and I for one am glad they got off the mark. Phew! 😊 Jeremy has been the main man with half a dozen wins or so. Brian has won a few and fair play to Nigel for taking out one of the Daves' over at YMCA. They only came into this Division at the 11th hour and as I say it's been tough going as it was always going to be but good to see them smiling and long may it continue.

MVP: Jeremy Willis –

Good performance to see his team get that well deserved point!



JOE BARRACLOUGH OF SC&P 'A'

LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	PL	W	%
Martin Gunn	Kingfisher A	23	22	95.65%
Daniel Moses	OLOP A	23	22	95.65%
Martin Adams	Kingfisher A	27	24	88.89%
Simon Vine	Kingfisher D	15	13	86.67%
Philip Zeng	Kingfisher B	27	22	81.48%
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher B	32	26	81.25%
Gary Morgan	SC&P A	35	26	74.29%
Krasimir Ivanov	OLOP A	26	19	73.08%
Yonatan Slobodskoy	OLOP B	24	17	70.83%
Marco Essomba	Kingfisher C	23	16	69.57%
Ian Cole	OLOP A	21	14	66.67%
Felix Thomis	OLOP B	6	4	66.67%
Neil Hurford	YMCA	33	21	63.64%



DIVISION TWO

by Barry Carter

Well as we approach the home straight, it's still looking like a Kingfisher one/two with the 'G' team pulling away from the 'F' team for the championship



NIGEL KEEDY OF KINGFISHER 'F'

but the 'F' team are going through a really poor run and might only just have enough to stumble over the promotion line. Curzon 'A' and a rapidly improving Tidmarsh 'B' will challenge all the way to the final week of the season. At the other end, Tilehurst Meths 'A' and Kingfisher 'E' are beginning to be cast adrift. I still think Kingfisher 'E' have the players to get out of the hole but their chances are diminishing by the week with the results they have been getting.

Kingfisher 'G' Have won four out of their five matches in 2017. Steve Ng is on a run of 12 successive wins, the only match he missed was the only one they didn't win. After missing the first two matches of 2017, Sagar Sawant returned and has since won 8 out of 9 with the last six coming against OLOP 'C' and Pangbourne. David Joyce is the only ever-present in the team and has had a mixed bag of results since Christmas, having won a single, braces and a maximum. Melvyn Lovegrove has had a couple of victories over Phil Jones in the 8 – 2 win over Tilehurst Meths 'A' and over John Walker in the 6 – 4 defeat of Curzon 'A'.

Team Stat: Kingfisher 'G' are the only team unbeaten at home.

Player Stat:

Steve Ng Steve has yet to win a set by the 3 – 2 scoreline; all of his 30 wins have been 3 – 0 or 3 – 1.

David Joyce David is one of only two players to have played in every league match.

Sagar Sawant Sagar has won either two or three sets each time he has played.

Melvyn Lovegrove Melvyn has played the first three matches of each half

Kingfisher 'F' started 2017 as they ended 2016 with two wins against Sonning C & P 'C' and Kingfisher 'E' but since then they have suffered three successive defeats which meant their canter to the championship has hit a fence the size of Valentines Brook. Allan Bruton was their man of the match in the first two, as he won five out of six, Ivor Hardman has won four out of his last six as he picked up braces against OLOP 'C' and Tidmarsh 'B'. Rick Leachman has continued to play well and he was really unlucky to lose all three to Tidmarsh 'B' as luck deserted him on key points. Nigel Keedy has been unavailable for four of the five matches since Christmas and this has definitely affected their hopes of promotion but he returned in the 4 – 6 defeat to Sonning C & P 'E'. Roger Pritchard was certainly an awkward customer against Tidmarsh 'B' and he recorded a good win over François Durand. Doubles: 10/15 67%.

Team Stat: Kingfisher 'F' have won the most matches by the 7 – 3 scoreline (7).

Player Stat:

Allan Bruton Allan's two maximums have come against Kingfisher 'E'

Nigel Keedy Nigel has won all six of his sets that have gone to four games.

Rick Leachman Rick appears not to like playing Sonning C & P teams as he has won 3 out of 15 sets against them.

Ivor Hardman All three of Ivor's maximums have come away from home.

Curzon Club 'A' are lining themselves up for a final push at claiming the second promotion spot behind Kingfisher 'G'; they are now only four points behind Kingfisher 'F' with a match in hand and also have to play them which would draw them level with a victory. Curzon 'A' have won two, drawn one and lost one of their four matches



DAVID JOYCE OF KINGFISHER 'G'

in 2017. The two wins came courtesy of two 6 – 4 scores over the leaders, Kingfisher 'G' and Pangbourne WMC 'A'. John Willcocks won all three against David Joyce, Sagar Sawant and Melvyn Lovegrove to steer them towards the victory over the 'G' team and when John and Jon Willis teamed up to win the doubles the points were theirs. Nick Lean scored a crucial win over George White to seal the 6 – 4 win over Pangbourne, earlier Jon & John had both won two each. They did drop a surprise point at Tilehurst Meths 'A' where despite John winning all three, Nick and Jon could only manage two between them. The loss against OLOP 'C' meant that OLOP 'C' had completed the double for the season. Doubles: 8/14 57%

Team Stat: Curzon Club 'A' have won the most matches by the 6 – 4 scoreline (6).

Player Stat:

Nick Lean Only one of Nick's 11 wins has been by the 3 – 0 scoreline.

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingfisher G	15	12	1	2	105	45	25
Kingfisher F	15	11	1	3	91	59	23
Curzon Club A	14	8	3	3	73	67	19
Tidmarsh B	14	8	1	5	84	56	17
SC&P E	14	8	1	5	75	65	17
OLOP C	15	6	3	6	75	75	15
SC&P C	15	5	2	8	69	81	12
Pangbourne A	15	5	1	9	67	83	11
SC&P D	14	5	1	8	58	82	11
Kingfisher E	15	2	1	12	53	97	5
Tilehurst Meths A	14	1	3	10	50	90	5



NICK LEAN OF CURZON CLUB 'A'

Jon Willis Jon has won 25 of his 27 sets by the 3 – 0 or 3 – 1 scoreline.

John Willcocks John has won 23 of his 26 sets by the 3 – 0 or 3 – 1 scoreline.

Tidmarsh 'B' find themselves in their highest position of the season on the back of five wins in a row since the turn of the year and could yet gate crash the promotion party. Since the turn of the year they have won all five matches and have won seven of their last nine. John Golding and myself won maximums in the 9 – 1 win at Sonning C&P 'C', whilst Dom Cutter surrendered his 100% record to Jon Abbott. We enjoyed our second successive 9 – 1 win over Kingfisher 'E' although six of the ten sets went to five, this time is Dom and myself that won three each and Mike Aistrop won two. The third win on the bounce came at high-flying Kingfisher 'F' where we won 7 – 3 thanks to another maximum for John which included a fine win over Ivor Hardman and I came back from 0 – 2 down to Roger Pritchard to win 11-9 in the fifth. François Durand chipped in with a win over Rick Leachman 5-11, 11-6, 9-11, 11-7, 11-8. In our latest match we won 6 – 4 against OLOP 'C' as two each from Mike, Dom and a win for François over Ziko Jerzmanski.

Team Stat: Tidmarsh 'B' are top of the current form table having won five in a row.

Player Stat:

Barry Carter I've already played more games in the second half than I did in the first half of the season.

Mike Aistrop Mike has yet to be on the losing side when he has won 2 or 3 sets.

John Golding John's two maximums have been won away from home.

François Durand François has yet to lose a set 2 – 3.

Dom Cutter All of Dom's five maximums have come against different teams.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' are level on points with Tidmarsh 'B' above and stand an outside chance of promotion too. Their biggest obstacle for promotion is if



JON WILLIS OF CURZON CLUB 'A'

they can get three out each week, they have been struggling for consistent availability this season which has seen them drop points by only fielding two players in some matches. In 2017 they have won two and lost two. The wins have come against Kingfisher 'E' and Kingfisher 'F', Malcolm Gregory must really like playing the 'F' team as he has won all six of his sets against them this season, he was supported with one win each for Lisa Williams and Carole Chard who both won one. The 7 – 3 win over Kingfisher 'E' was also mainly reliant on three from Malcolm although Niall McGrane won two and then they teamed up to win the doubles. The two defeats were when Malcolm didn't play, Niall won five out of six and Carole and Lisa managed three between them in the 4 – 6 defeat to Pangbourne and the 3 – 7 defeat to Sonning C & P 'C'.

Team Stat: Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' have the best doubles average (12/14 86%)

Player Stat:

Niall McGrane Niall has yet to match any return from the first half to the second half. (3 & 1 v Pangbourne, 1 & 3 v SCP 'C' etc.)

Lisa Williams Lisa has yet to win any of her sets by the 3 – 2 scoreline (6 x 3 – 0 & 8 x 3 – 1)

Carole Chard All of Carole's wins have come at home.

Malcolm Gregory Malcolm has yet to be on the losing team when he has got a maximum (6).

Our Lady of Peace 'C' are sixth and eight points from the promotion zone with only five games to go, so I think they have left it a little late this season. At the start of the second half they won their first three matches with Dan West, Chris West and Clive Perry taking it in turns to win maximums and as a result they overcame Kingfisher 'E' (6

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Dom Cutter	Tidmarsh B	24	22	91.67%
Sagar Sawant	Kingfisher G	33	29	87.88%
Nigel Keedy	Kingfisher F	24	21	87.50%
Steve Ng	Kingfisher G	36	30	83.33%
Clive Perry	OLOP C	27	20	74.07%
Malcolm Gregory	SC&P E	30	22	73.33%
Niall Mcgrane	SC&P E	33	24	72.73%
Ivor Hardman	Kingfisher F	29	21	72.41%
John Willcocks	Curzon Club A	36	26	72.22%
Barry Carter	Tidmarsh B	18	13	72.22%
Jon Willis	Curzon Club A	39	27	69.23%
Andrew G Robertson	SC&P D	34	23	67.65%

Cutter of Tidmarsh this season when he came back from 0 – 2 and won 7-11, 7-11, 11-8, 11-9, 11-8. Clive had a bit of an off night and only won one on the evening.

Team Stat: Our Lady of Peace 'C' have won more points away (8) from home, than at home (7).

Player Stat:

Dan West Dan has lost only one of his 13 sets by the 2 – 3 scoreline.

Ziko Jerzmanski All four of Ziko's braces have come against two teams, Kingfisher 'E' and Curzon Club 'A'.

Chris West Chris has won 8 out his 9 sets that have gone to 5.

Clive Perry Three of Clive's maximums have come away from home.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' are seventh and seven points off the drop zone so they still need a few more points to be guaranteed survival for another season. The threat of relegation has been helped in recent weeks with derby wins over Sonning C & P 'D' and Sonning C & P 'E' the latter they benefitted from playing a two man team. Danny Dockree has improved so much this season and got his second maximum of the season in the 6 – 4 win over Sonning C & P 'D', Matt Stone won two in the same match but he hasn't performed as consistently as in previous seasons. The highlight of the season for Jon Abbott must be the taking of Dom Cutter's 100% record in the 1 – 9 defeat to Tidmarsh 'B', Jon won 16-14, 12-10, 5-11, 15-13. Jon has won one singles set in each of his last five matches. Tim Raby is finding some form and has won five of his last nine and won the crucial set 10 against Nigel Rowland 11-4, 5-11, 11-6, 11-6 to claim a point in their most recent match against Tilehurst Meths 'A'. The other match in 2017 saw them lose 3 – 7 to Kingfisher 'F' where due to illness they could only play two players.

Team Stat: Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' have been involved in the most sets that have gone to five (39) Won 19, lost 20.

Player Stat:

Matt Stone Three of Matt's four braces have come at home.

Danny Dockree Danny is the only SCP 'C' player to win a



MELVYN LOVEGROVE OF KINGFISHER 'G'

– 4), Curzon Club (8 – 2) where Ziko Jerzmanski won a brace which meant they achieved the double with an impressive 16 – 4 aggregate and Kingfisher 'F' (7 – 3). When they do all click at the same time, they tend to win but they are still waiting for two or more of them to win maximums in the same match. The last two matches have proved fruitless for them with defeats at the hands of teams above them, Kingfisher 'G' (2 – 8) where they only had a Chris West win over David Joyce and a Westbros win in the doubles. Dan became only the second person to beat Dom

maximum this season (v Sonning C&P 'D' in week 15).

Jon Abbott Jon was the first player to beat Dom Cutter this season.

Tim Raby Tim has won only two of his 13 sets by the 3 – 0 scoreline.

Pangbourne WMC 'A' have done well since Christmas and have hauled themselves away from the relegation places with three wins in the last five, they still need a few more points to be safe though, but it is certainly looking a lot better than before Christmas. They started 2017 with a 6 – 4 win over Sonning C & P 'E' as the trio of John Simmonds, George White and Simon Hopkins all won two with Simon having an unexpected win over Niall McGrane 12-10, 16-14, 9-11, 3-11, 11-5. Denise Weller returned for the next match against Sonning C & P 'D' and won all three, with George winning two and John one; they went home happy with a 7 – 3 win under their belts. Pangbourne made it three wins in a row and Denise two maximums in a row with a 7 – 3 win over Tilehurst Meths 'A', Denise had four tight games with Peter Galea but triumphed 15-13, 15-17, 11-9, 11-9. Their first defeat in four game against Curzon Club 'A' but it was a tight run match as they narrowly lost 4 – 6 despite John's great performance to beat John Willcocks. The most recent match saw them travel to the leaders and they returned home with only a Denise win over David Joyce for their efforts.

Team Stat: Pangbourne WMC 'A' have been involved in the most sets that have gone to three (64) Won 27, lost 37.

Player Stat:

John Simmonds All four of John's braces have come on Mondays.

Simon Hopkins Simon has won one of his 10 sets by the 3 – 0 scoreline and as a contrast has lost 15 of his 25 by the 0 – 3 scoreline.

Denise Weller 17 of Denise's 19 wins have been by the 3 – 0 or 3 – 1 scoreline.

George White George has yet to lose 2 – 3

Sonning Common & Peppard 'D' are just above the relegation places, they have four more points than Kingfisher 'E' plus a match in hand. They were due to play Kingfisher 'E' last week but I haven't received the scorecard yet. They have only played three since the turn of the year and have lost them all, albeit closely with two 4 – 6's and a 3 – 7. Alan Mollett, Andy Grant-Robertson and Mark Jones certainly tested the leaders in their first match with Alan winning two against David Joyce and Melvyn Lovegrove. Andy and Mark also beat Melvyn on the evening. Mark Jones overcame John Simmonds and Andy defeated John and George whilst Anthony Reeve took all three close but couldn't quite get a win, it was 3 – 5 going into the last two matches and Mark lost 5-11 to George in the fifth and then Anthony lost 9-11 in the fifth to John Simmonds. Andy was the only winner on the night in the 2 - 8 derby defeat to Sonning C & P 'C' as he won in five against both Matt Stone and Tim Raby.

Team Stat: Sonning Common & Peppard 'D' have won three of their four matches by the 7 – 3 scoreline.

Player Stat:

Alan Mollett Alan has won three of his nine sets against

Kingfisher 'G' (champions elect!)

Andy Grant-Robertson Andy has yet to be on the losing team when he has won a maximum (3).

Mark Jones Mark hasn't won any of his 8 sets by the 3 – 0 scoreline.

Anthony Reeve Four of Anthony's five wins have come away from home.

Kingfisher 'E' are now being cut adrift after a disastrous start to 2017 which has seen them lose all four of their matches. I think they have certainly under achieved this season although they have had several injuries and absences to contend with. They still have a chance of avoiding the drop but will probably need to win at least three of their last six to do so. Nikhil Kulkarni joined the team during the transfer window at Christmas and has made a steady start with 5 wins out of 12, in the first match he played he won one against Mark Saunders of OLOP 'C' 11-1, 11-2, 11-5. Grant Wheatley made it three braces in a row with wins over Mark and Ziko Jerzmanski. In the 3 – 7 defeat to Sonning C & P 'E' there were wins for Nikhil against Lisa and for Grant against Niall 8-11, 15-13, 12-10, 11-6, Roger Woolven-Allen also overcame Lisa 11-5, 11-3, 11-5.

Team Stat: Kingfisher 'E' have won all five of their points at home.

Player Stat:

Roger Woolven-Allen Roger hasn't played against the same side twice.

Grant Wheatley Grant has been involved in the most four game sets (20) won 8, lost 12 [last season he was involved in the most five game sets].

John Morris Both of John's maximums have come on Mondays.

Nikhil Kulkarni Nikhil apart from having one of the hardest/fastest shots I've come across has won four of his five sets by the 3 – 2 scoreline.

Tilehurst Meths 'A' are in the same "sinking feeling" boat as Kingfisher 'E' although they did pick up a brilliant point against Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' to bring themselves level with Kingfisher 'E'. Tilehurst have suffered with injuries to key players at several times this season, if Peter Galea and Cath Venning had been able to play together more then I feel they wouldn't be in this predicament. In the match against Sonning C & P 'C' the third set of the evening was played at 9pm such was the closeness of the sets, Nigel Rowland and Cath Venning had given them a 2 – 1 lead and when Cath put them 5 – 4 up a much needed victory was possible but in the end they had to settle for a point as Tim Raby beat Nigel. Their other point since Christmas came against third-placed Curzon Club 'A'; although John Willcocks won all three they battled away and picked up an impressive point thanks to two from an in-form Cath, who defeated Nick Lean and Jon Willis, Nigel who beat Jon and Phil Jones who recorded an 11-9, 11-5, 11-4 win over Nick. Phil and Nigel continued to form a good doubles partnership as they defeated John and Nigel 11-8, 11-6, 5-11, 11-9. The two defeats they suffered were at the hands of Pangbourne WMC 'A' (3 – 7) and Kingfisher 'G' (2 – 8) as both Cath and Nigel beat Melvyn

Lovegrove.

Team Stat: Tilehurst Meths 'A' have picked up four of their five points at home.

Player Stat:

Nigel Rowland Nigel has only been on the losing side once when he has won a brace (4).

Cath Venning Cath has won six of her last nine sets at home.

Phil Jones Phil's last three wins have all been at home.

That's all from me for this quarter, not one mention of the mighty Wolves in any of the main body of the report but they do have a big match this Saturday against Chelsea Reserves. Kingfisher 'G' should be up with a few games to spare as they only need six points from their last five matches to go up. Enjoy the last few games of the season and good luck to all teams in their quest for either survival or glory.

DIVISION THREE *by Bob Woodmansee*

Welcome to my penultimate newsletter report of the season – a season in which Division 3 continues to deliver close matches, surprise results and an intriguing battle at both ends of the table.

In fact, this Division 3 season has probably seen as many twists and turns in its plot as you'd see in a typical episode of Midsomer Murders! And although we have no corpses, we have much to solve this month. For example - who did kill off Tidmarsh's seemingly inevitable pre-Christmas promotion surge? Was there poison in the Christmas pudding at Kingfisher 'I' as they clearly haven't woken up in 2017 yet? Were OLOP just kidding about being other teams' innocent victims last year - having recently turned into something akin to high-executioners? Are Springfield's delicious chunky chocolate cookies really just an innocent half-time biscuit? Were Tilehurst Methodists 'C' just sleeping and not really dead at the bottom of the table after all? Inspector Bob Woody Barnaby will try to solve these mysteries and more in the next two pages!



Pangbourne WMC 'B' currently lead the way once again – but Milestone 'A', Tidmarsh 'C' and Springfield 'A' remain serious promotion contenders – “Who wants it most?”, I wonder. At the bottom of the table Tilehurst Methodists 'C' are still winless - and, despite having trebled their points tally in recent weeks, are now looking doomed. Our Lady of Peace 'D' have moved up the table after two wins in consecutive weeks but remain one of four teams who could yet finish in the bottom two.

Before looking at the action in 2017 to date, a couple of personal requests from me.

I have been disappointed by a number of examples of unsporting/unsociable/unfriendly player behaviour this season – and, from e-mails I have received, I know that I am not alone in being concerned by this. For example – we all suffer from nets and edges against us – it's part of the game and whilst I think that it's OK to show some frustration, please moderate your behaviour and language towards your opponent – it's never intentional that the ball hit the edge of the table or the top of the net!! I also think that it's most unsporting and unsociable to practise on another table during the course of a League match (i.e. when it is possible to do so at larger venues such as Kingfisher) – whether with a team-mate or, even worse, with someone who isn't playing in the match. Not only does this give the player(s) practising an unfair advantage ahead of their next set in the match, I think that it also shows a lack of respect and interest in the efforts of your team-mate and his/her opponent playing in the set/match taking place at the time. And, finally, please try to make the evening more of a sociable occasion – we're all playing for fun – have the good grace to talk to your opponents – particularly during the 'half-time' break and before/after the match.

Can I also take this opportunity to remind Team Captains of the rule regarding postponements (RDTTA Rule 12.11). Now I am normally the last person to start quoting the Rulebook at people – but unless there are ‘...circumstances beyond its (i.e. your team's) control’, please do not request a postponement. With the exception of Pangbourne, every team in Division 3 has lower ranked teams in Divisions 4 or 5 with players who can play up - so please do not try to abuse this Rule – it is not fair to other teams who might be involved in the promotion/relegation battles. I accept that playing a match with just two players is not satisfactory – but, until enough people vote for a change, “them's the Rules!”. Thank you.

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

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

Best win (individual): Ludovic Couillard v Eric Holmes 7-11, 11-7, 11-6, 11-6 (apologies to several others – notably Lee Calcutt, John Virgo and Clive Gold - who all had impressive individual wins too)

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pangbourne B	15	9	4	2	84	66	22
Milestone A	14	8	3	3	83	57	19
Tidmarsh C	14	8	2	4	80	60	18
Springfield A	14	7	3	4	75	65	17
Kingfisher H	15	7	2	6	81	69	16
Kingfisher I	15	6	3	6	79	71	15
OLOP D	15	5	3	7	82	68	13
Kingfisher J	14	6	0	8	61	79	12
Sonning Sports A	14	5	2	7	57	83	12
Tilehurst Meths B	13	5	1	7	63	67	11
Tilehurst Meths C	15	0	3	12	45	105	3

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

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

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

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

Most 'Player of the Match' awards: 8 – Phil Burke; 6 – Ray Webb, Jes Eassom

Best doubles record (3 or more sets to qualify): 100% - A Richardson & W Porter (3/3); 88% - N Wedi & J-M Sabater (7/8)

Ever-present players: 15 matches – Alistair Richardson; 14 matches – Chris Collins

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

Best venue: still Tidmarsh

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

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

Pangbourne WMC 'B' have returned to the top of the table after a run of 4 wins and a draw in their five matches since the turn of the year. OLOP and Tilehurst Methodists 'C' were both defeated by a 7 - 3 margin – then both Tilehurst Methodists 'C' and Kingfisher 'J' by a scoreline of 6 - 4. Their only dropped point was a surprising 5 - 5 draw against a two-person Kingfisher 'J' team – neither Leroy nor Eddie able to add to Clive's two wins and the three 'forfeits'. Clive has been in imperious form in 2017 with 13 wins out of 14 – just a narrow defeat to Dave Godfrey blotting his copybook. Ray has missed three matches recently – and I gather that he hasn't been too well – which might explain his rare duck at Tilehurst Meths 'B' after starting the year with a maximum against OLOP. Captain Leroy has kept his average above 50% this season – his most notable recent scalps including Dave Godfrey, Jes Eassom & Nils Wedi. Eddie continues to play with a smile (occasionally a rueful one, though!) – and always gives 100% in his matches - but he is still looking for his first win in 2017. Promotion is in Pangbourne's own hands now – with matches against their four closest rivals in Milestone, Springfield, Tidmarsh and Kingfisher 'H' to come.

Milestone 'A' have moved up into second place after a run of five straight wins – four of these since Christmas. A pair of 9 -1 successes against Tilehurst Methodists 'C' and Kingfisher 'I' were followed by narrower 6 -4 wins against

Tilehurst Methodists 'B' and a two-man Kingfisher 'J'. With two very good players in Arun (86%) and Chris (70%) playing regularly and a number of good reserves, Milestone will not be far away from the promotion places at the end of the season. Of the reserves – Sachin Mundra had a good double against Tilehurst 'C' and Zoltan Kelemen hit a superb maximum against Kingfisher 'I'. John Crofield (not a reserve!) had an important single win in both of the 6 - 4 victories over Tilehurst 'B' and Kingfisher 'J'.

Tidmarsh 'C' were the leaders at the half-way stage and looked to be continuing in promotion form in 2017 – a run of five wins and a draw in six matches spanning November to early January saw them go clear at the top. The year began with a pair of 6 - 4 wins over Springfield and Kingfisher 'H' – and suggested all was well – particularly with Lee continuing his impressive form and even inflicting a first defeat on Phil Burke. So what happened next!!?? Firstly – an inspired Sonning Sports inflicted a 6 - 4 defeat – despite another treble from Lee – and this was followed by a 2 - 8 drubbing at home to OLOP (Lee absent on this occasion). Lee leads the averages with 17 wins in 18 sets to date – and whilst Simon (60%), Dave (58%) and Chris (50%) have all had their moments, all have been more inconsistent of late. Captain Theresa (33%) has only played in one match in 2017 so far. Anyway - time for you guys to re-group – or you'll miss the promotion bus!



LEE CALCUTT OF TIDMARSH 'C'

Springfield 'A' remain well in contention in 4th place – the 4 - 6 reverse at Tidmarsh their only defeat in 2017. As usual Phil Burke is the key man – just the one loss to Lee Calcutt so far. Phil's maximums ensured wins against Sonning Sports & Kingfisher 'I' and a draw against improving OLOP. Then, without Phil, Springfield could only manage a point at Tilehurst Methodists 'C' – Adam (2), Ludo (2) and Seth (1) winning their five sets. Ludo has been in decent form of late and also hit doubles against Sonning Sports and Kingfisher – with Eric Holmes among his victims.

Kingfisher 'H' are on the fringe of the promotion race but are probably a little too inconsistent to secure a top two finish ("prove me wrong, guys!"). The team have had mixed fortunes in their five matches this year with 2 wins, a draw and 2 defeats. A narrow 4 – 6 loss to Tidmarsh (doubles for Willis and Jarek) was followed by a draw with OLOP (doubles for Igor and Peter). Jarek's treble inspired his team to a 6 - 4 success over Tilehurst Methodists 'C' before a 3 – 7 defeat in the local derby with Kingfisher 'I'. Then back to winning ways in February with reserve Clive Gold and Igor both hitting trebles in an 8 – 2 success over Tilehurst Methodists 'B'. Willis remains the key to the team's fortunes (and any hope of promotion) with 18 wins out of 23 to date (78%) as the other regulars are all only averaging around the 50% mark.

Kingfisher 'I' appear to be sitting relatively comfortably in mid-table with 15 points from 15 matches – but then there is the mystery how a team which finished 2016 with a run of 9 points out of 10, can begin the following year with just one win in 5 matches ("What was in the Christmas pudding?", Inspector Barnaby is wondering!). The one win was a 7 – 3 success over their club-mates from Kingfisher 'H' when Carol hit a maximum and Eric won two. This match also saw the return of skipper Mick Mitcham after a long injury lay-off – and he notched a good win over Peter Bennett to mark the occasion - good to see you back, Mick. Their only other League point in 2017 came when Carol and Eric overcame the odds as a two-man (sorry, Carol – a two-person!) team and earned an unlikely draw at Pangbourne – I gather that Dave was injured prior to this match and hasn't played since – all the best for a speedy recovery, Dave. The team's three defeats have been at Kingfisher 'J' (two wins for Carol), Milestone (Dave saving the whitewash) and Springfield (another double for Carol).

OLOP 'D' are the team with the toughest questions for Inspector Barnaby!



WENDY PORTER OF OLOP 'D'

At Christmas they looked dead and buried and three points from safety – so where did a 4 match unbeaten run come from – to move them into a position of near safety in mid-table? 2017 started with an expected defeat (3 – 7) against a full-strength

Pangbourne team but, since then, two draws against Kingfisher 'H' (a maximum for Dave) and high-flying Springfield (doubles for Wendy and Dave) have been followed by a 9 -1 thumping of Sonning Sports (maximums for Alistair & Dave) and then the 'coup de grâce' - a stunning 8-2 success at previous leaders Tidmarsh with Ali and Wendy hitting further maximums and Dave only denied his treble as a result of losing 7-11 in the final game of the final set of the night. Maybe Wendy is the answer to the ques-

tion – after a run of losing 12 out of 17, she has recently won 7 out of 9 – and probably gets the prize for most improved player of 2017 to date.



IGOR SREMAC OF KINGFISHER 'H'

Kingfisher 'J' (aka 'The Weathermen') have struggled of late – availability problems have certainly not helped their cause and a run of six defeats in their past eight matches leaves them precariously placed just a point above the drop zone. When Nils (75%) and Joaquin (63%) both play together this team can give any team in the division a good match but Joaquin has now missed four matches this season and the back-up players (Gabor, Gianpaolo, Didier and reserve David Wells) have all struggled to make much of a contribution to any of the score-lines. To illustrate the point made above, 2017 started with a fine 6 – 4 win against their club-mates from Kingfisher 'I' – a maximum for Nils and a double from Joaquin plus the two of them combined for their 7th success in 8 doubles pairings together. All downhill since, unfortunately – a 3 – 7 loss at Tilehurst 'B' (a double for Nils) followed by a 4 – 6 loss with a two-man team to Milestone (a maximum for Nils) and then another 4 – 6 loss at Pangbourne – although a mention for reserve player David who chipped in with a single win in each of the last two matches.

Sonning Sports 'A' are, as has been said many times before, the model of inconsistency! Our 6 – 4 success over the then leaders, Tidmarsh (including Lee) was one of the Club's best results for many years – Keith Machin and our new-boy Chris Dexter each hit doubles whilst I contributed a single win in the final set of the night to clinch the points. Chris and I also teamed up for a win in the doubles – and my only disappointment is that Chris (now 7 wins out of 9) is struggling with work commitments and may only be able to play once more this season. To add to our problems, Dave Chard was taken ill whilst abroad on holiday recently and, at the time of writing this, I'm not sure when he will be back – "Do get well soon, Dave". Either side of our stunning win over Tidmarsh was a 3 – 7 defeat at Springfield and the

1 – 9 annihilation at OLOP (Keith saving the whitewash). Most recently, we welcomed Tilehurst Methodists 'C' to Sonning for their regular 'benefit match'!! For whatever reason, this Tilehurst side seem to cast a spell over at least two of us every time we play them! In the earlier fixture at Tilehurst, Bob Snellgrove hit a maximum but Dave and I both had the proverbial 'mare' and we could only scrape a 5 - 5 draw. This time, I hit my first maximum of the season but both Bob S and Keith were 'spooked' by Martin and his merry bunch of elves - and each only won once – so another draw ensued – meaning that 67% of Tilehurst's points this season have been at our expense!!

Tilehurst Methodists 'B' are another team for whom availability problems are threatening to derail their season and they have now slipped into the bottom two. All of the past four matches have seen them line up with Jes, John and a reserve – holiday, illness and injury keeping both Ian and Nick Barnes on the sidelines (Nick having only played twice all season – and Ian only five times) – again, we wish you both well, guys. And the team's problems will now be exacerbated as both of the regular reserves, Roy Hull and Steve Dopson, have played up the maximum four times. However, 2017 did at least start on a high note with a 7 – 3 over Kingfisher 'J' – a maximum for Jes and two wins for John. Narrow defeats followed at Milestone and at home to Pangbourne – both by a 4 -6 margin – Jes unlucky to lose in five games to Arun at Milestone whilst reserve Steve Dopson stole the show against Pangbourne with two great wins against Ray Webb and Leroy Wilson. Most recently came a 2 – 8 loss at Kingfisher 'H' – Jes and Steve both defeating Jarek.

Tilehurst Methodists 'C' continue to prop up the table with just three draws from their 15 matches – and, sadly, the team do now look destined to take home the wooden spoon – despite improved results of late. It says everything about the standard of this Division that a team with four players as

LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	P	W	%
Philip Burke	Springfield A	27	26	96.30
Lee Calcutt	Tidmarsh C	18	17	94.44
Arun Rajagopal	Milestone A	30	26	86.67
Clive Taylor	Pangbourne B	29	25	86.21
Willis Ma	Kingfisher H	23	18	78.26
Ray Webb	Pangbourne B	33	25	75.76
Nils Wedi	Kingfisher J	36	27	75.00
Dave Godfrey	OLOP D	36	26	72.22
Christopher Collins	Milestone A	41	29	70.73
Eric Holmes	Kingfisher I	36	25	69.44
Carol Byers	Kingfisher I	30	20	66.67
Ian Cockling	Tilehurst Meths B	14	9	64.29
Joaquin Munoz Sabater	Kingfisher J	30	19	63.33
Jes Eassom	Tilehurst Meths B	38	24	63.16
Simon Barter	Tidmarsh C	30	18	60.00
David Sheppard	Tidmarsh C	24	14	58.33

good as Martin, Mike, Paul & Masoud have yet to register a win – indeed, in the two matches I have witnessed at first hand, they could (and, probably, should!!) have come away with a couple of wins, not draws. And, of the 12 defeats, seven have been either 4 - 6 or 3 – 7 – sometimes the margin between defeat and victory is so small. Anyway - 2017 didn't start well - a 1 – 9 defeat by Milestone (Martin saving the whitewash) and a 3 – 7 loss to Pangbourne. However, there have been real signs of improvement in the three most recent matches – starting with a most creditable and narrow 4 – 6 defeat at Kingfisher 'H' – which featured doubles for both Paul and Mike and an agonisingly narrow five-game loss in the crucial doubles encounter. And in February the team are unbeaten so far with a couple of draws. Firstly – at home to Springfield (doubles for Mike and Martin – and a doubles success) and then at Sonning Sports (doubles for Mike and Paul – and another doubles success).

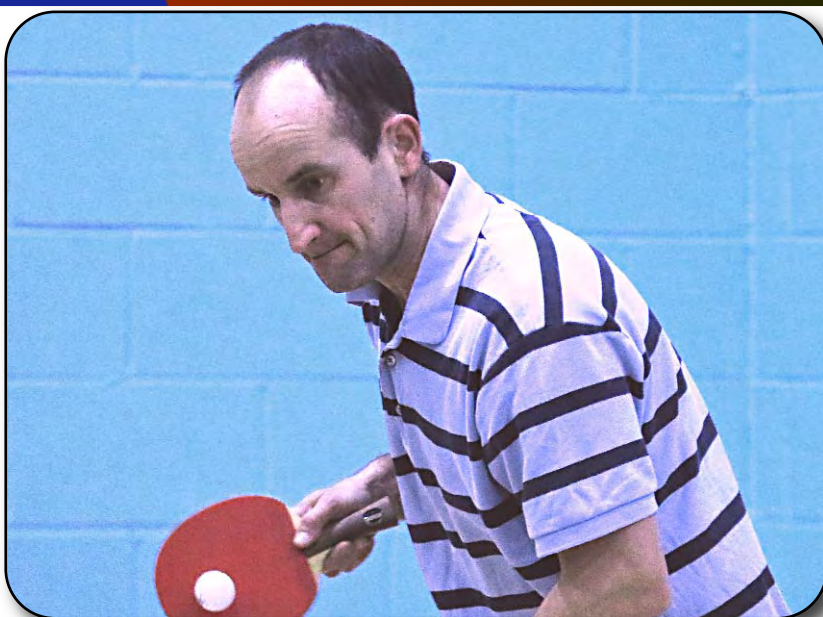
▶ DIVISION FOUR *by Derek Harrison*

Hello everybody. We are now at the crucial stage of the season when team selection could play a big part at the top of the table and indeed at the bottom when perhaps unexpected results could have a big say.

Before I start my notes I will list the top three in the Player of the Match league.

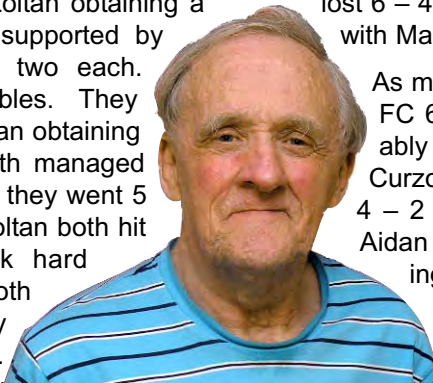
Tied first are **Angus** and **Sachin** with 8 awards, third **Zoltan** with 6 awards.

Despite losing 3 – 7 to a full strength Tidmarsh 'D', **Milestone 'B'** remain on top on sets difference. Zoltan Kelemen hit a good double and Sanket Dave gained a single. The big surprise was that Sachin Mundra failed to register a win that evening when before he had only lost one. They then bounced back by beating Tilehurst Meths 'E' 7 – 3 with Sachin and Zoltan obtaining fairly easy maximums. In a top of the table clash



ZOLTAN KELEMEN OF MILESTONE 'B'

they beat Reading FC 8 – 2 with Zoltan obtaining a very good treble and he was ably supported by Sachin and Sanket who both won two each. Sachin and Zoltan also won the doubles. They then won 3 – 7 at Curzon ‘C’ with Zoltan obtaining a maximum. Sachin and Sanket both managed doubles. By beating Curzon ‘B’ 8 – 2 they went 5 points clear at the top. Sachin and Zoltan both hit trebles; however they had to work hard against Geoff Johnson when they both beat him 11-9 in the fifth end. They also teamed up to win the doubles. Gareth Aldridge won the other set by beating me 9-11, 14-12, 9-11, 12-10, 13-11. By the way Sachin, if your team finishes in the top two (and that seems likely) if you want an extra trophy beyond the 4 automatically provided you need to inform Paul Treadgold.



In the top of the table clash **Reading FC** were forced to play two reserves against Springfield ‘B’ but put in a fine effort only going down 6 – 4. Richard Witt managed a double while Joe Bull and Paul Brown picked up singles. At Curzon ‘C’ they gained a draw with Richard and Tony Alleyne both obtaining doubles and Mark Edwards picking up a single. They next came up against a very good Milestone side and lost 2 – 8. Jazz Dhillon did well to defeat Sachin Mundra and Sanket Dave. After then losing to Sonning 3 – 7 this has made it four matches without a win and as a result they are now 5 points from second place. On the night Jazz had two nice wins and Tony did well to beat Simon Blake. I am not sure what has gone wrong with the team because they have now gone 5 matches in a row without winning. Last night they

lost 6 – 4 at Kingfisher ‘K’. Richard did well to win two with Mark and Tony both gaining singles.

As mentioned above **Springfield ‘B’** beat Reading FC 6 – 4 with Rob Wilkie hitting a great hat trick ably supported by John Burke who won two. At Curzon ‘B’ they came away with a draw after being 4 – 2 down Peter Gurney won two and Rob and Aidan Simmons both gained singles besides teaming up to win the doubles. A good team performance saw them beat Curzon ‘C’ 6 – 4 with John and Peter both winning two each. Rob managed a single besides teaming up with Peter to win the doubles. They then beat Tilehurst Meths ‘D’ 8 – 2 to go clear in second place. Peter and a return to form Rob both gained trebles with John winning two. At an

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milestone B	15	12	2	1	101	49	26
Springfield B	15	8	5	2	83	67	21
SC&P F	13	8	1	4	72	58	17
Tidmarsh D	14	7	2	5	77	63	16
Reading FC A	14	7	2	5	72	68	16
Curzon Club B	13	5	3	5	64	66	13
Tilehurst Meths D	14	5	1	8	64	76	11
Kingfisher K	14	5	1	8	62	78	11
Curzon Club C	15	4	2	9	64	86	10
Tilehurst Meths E	15	3	2	10	64	86	8
OLOP E	14	3	1	10	57	83	7

in form Sonning C&P they went down 7 – 3 with Rob winning two and John claiming a single.

Tidmarsh ‘D’ had a great 3 – 7 win at top of the table Milestone ‘B’ thanks mainly to the ex first/second division star Andy Stevens gaining a fairly easy three straight treble. Andy also teamed up with Dave Edwards to win the doubles. Terry Hardie played his part by winning two while Dave obtained a single. At Tilehurst Meths ‘D’ Andy and Dave E both hit hat tricks to give them a 4 – 6 victory. If they were able to play Andy on a regular basis they could very well gain a promotion place. At home to Sonning C&P Andy did not play so as a result they went down 3 – 7 with Dave E winning two and Terry gaining a single. I have to mention that the Sonning captain Derek Wavell was full of praise for Dave Smith. Derek was very impressed that Dave, despite playing in considerable pain from his hip problem, battled hard and cheerfully, and according to Dave E he was also suffering from a bloody nose. Despite not playing their best two players they then won 3 – 7 at Kingfisher ‘K’ with Dave E gaining a good hat trick. Dave S and reserve Bob Sunerton gave him good support to win two each. At home to O.L.O.P. Dave E and reserve Isaac Davies both won two each and with Dave S winning one this gave them a draw.

Curzon ‘B’ managed a draw against Springfield ‘B’ thanks to a great hat trick from Geoff Johnson and a very good double from Jim Brent who beat Rob Wilkie 10-12, 11-



RICHARD WITT OF READING FC ‘A’



MARC BRENT OF CURZON 'B'

bles against Rob and Aidan going down 11-8, 11-6, 11-13 after having two match points 7-11, 11-13 after being 10-5 up in the fifth. At OLOP new signing Marc Brent made his debut coming back after over 20 years and hit a fine maximum as did Geoff which helped us to a 3 – 7 win. Marc also teamed up with Jim to win the doubles. At Milestone we lost 8 – 2 with Jim and Geoff beating Gareth.

Tilehurst Meths 'E' lost 6 – 4 at Curzon 'C' with Steve Dopson winning two besides teaming up with Steve Wood who won one to win the doubles. At Milestone 'B' they went down 7 – 3 with the two Steve's and Rob James all beating reserve Tony Hayden. At home to Meths 'D' they went down 4 – 6. Steve W managed two besides teaming up to win the doubles with Steve D who also won one. At Sonning they went down 7 – 3 and have now lost 4 in a row. Steve D did well to win two and Rob managed a single. Make that 5 in a row because they went down 3 – 7 to Kingfisher 'K'. Steve D did his bit by winning two but with Steve W only winning one this was their downfall. At O.L.O.P. the bad run continued when they lost 6 – 4. Steve D did well to win two while Steve W picked up a single.

Tilehurst Meths 'D' went down 4 – 6 to Tidmarsh 'D' with Roy Hull, Chris Taylor and Patrick O'Sullivan all beating Dave Smith. Roy and Patrick had a nice win in the doubles by beating the two Dave's. In the Tilehurst derby they came away with both points in a 4 – 6 win. Patrick, Roy and Chris all gained doubles. At Springfield Chris was the sole single scorer by beating John Burke in an 8 – 2 defeat.

Sonning C&P 'F' were very pleased that Andy Stevens of

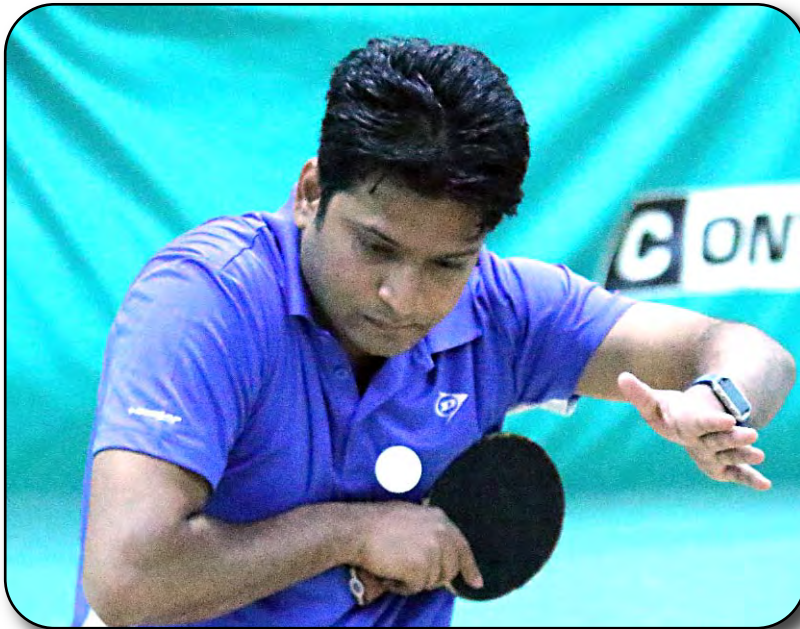
Tidmarsh 'D' did not play against them. They took advantage with Angus Jones winning all three. In his set against Terry Hardie he was two games up and 10-3 down and came back to win 10-12. Derek Wavell did well to win two while Eric Walker picked up a single to help them to a 3 – 7 victory. They then won their 5th match in a row by beating Tilehurst Meths 'E' 7 – 3 with again Angus winning all three. He was ably backed by Simon Blake who picked up a double. Eric managed a single. They then won 3 -7 at Reading FC with Angus winning all three fairly comfortably. Derek played well to win two and Simon had a good win over Richard Witt. It has to be noted that this was their sixth win in a row by this score. Make that seven. They are storming up the table and after beating Springfield they have moved up to third. Again Angus was the star by gaining his fifth maximum in a row and he was ably supported by Eric who won two and Derek who obtained a single. I wonder if any team has won more matches in a row by that scoreline.

Curzon 'C' won a close match against Tilehurst Meths 'E' 6 – 4 which was not settled until the last set when John Walker beat Steve Dopson 11-9, 11-3, 11-6 to complete his maximum. The captain Linda King managed a double and in her game against Steve Wood she was 1-4 down in the 5th end but came back to win 11-9, while Terry Spice picked up that important single. At home to Reading FC Carine Bey and Linda both won two each besides teaming up to win the doubles. Carine had to come back from 3-6 down against Tony to win 12-10 which helped them gain a draw. So very well done Carine on getting your first double. At Springfield they were very unlucky to lose 6 – 4. Terry won two and Carine and

DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	P	W	%
Angus Jones	SC&P F	30	27	90.00%
Zoltan Kelemen	Milestone B	42	36	85.71%
Jazz Dhillon	Reading FC A	20	17	85.00%
Sachin Mundra	Milestone B	39	33	84.62%
Rob Wilkie	Springfield B	39	29	74.36%
David Wells	Kingfisher K	18	13	72.22%
Terry Hardie	Tidmarsh D	24	17	70.83%
Steve Dopson	Tilehurst Meths E	45	30	66.67%
Oliver Bonser	Milestone B	15	10	66.67%
Sanket Dave	Milestone B	15	10	66.67%

John both gained singles. Against Peter Gurney John lost 12-10 in the 5th end and Carine lost 13-11 also in the 5th end while Terry went down 13-11 also in the 5th end so that 6-4 defeat could very well have been a win. At home to the leaders Milestone Terry did well to beat Sachin and Sanket. Carine was unlucky against Sanket when only going down 12-14 in the fifth end but helped in a doubles win with Linda to beat Sachin and Zoltan.

Gwynne Penny and David Wells both hit trebles in **Kingfisher 'K'**'s 7 – 3 win over OLOP 'E'. Ania Pytka picked up a single. At home to Tidmarsh 'D' Gwynne and Ruben Hernandez both gained singles besides teaming up to win the doubles by beating the two Dave's 11-9, 11-8, 13-11. At Tilehurst Meths 'E' Gwynne missed her first match of the season; however David came to the rescue by gaining a great hat trick and with Ruben winning two and Ania getting a good single this helped them to a 3 – 7 victory. At home to Reading FC Gwynne came back into the side and picked



PRADEEP DESH OF OLOP 'E'

up a great maximum and also teamed up with Ruben to win the doubles who also won two which gave them a 6 – 4 win.

OLOP 'E' went down 7 – 3 at Kingfisher 'K' with Binit

Bhaskar and reserve Simon Brookes both winning one. At home to Curzon 'C' they went down 3 – 7 with Jan Polnik, Abhay Gore and Binit all beating Jim Brent. After losing ten in a row they then gained a draw at Tidmarsh 'D' with Tamir Slobodskoy gaining a brilliant treble by beating Dave E 5-11, 6-11, 12-10, 10-12 then Isaac Davies 2-11, 15-17, 11-3, 11-7, 7-11 and Dave S 5-11, 6-11, 12-10, 10-12. Abhay managed a single and also teamed up with Tamir to win the doubles. Next came a win, their first since the opening match of the season. Binit was the man in form by gaining his first hat trick of the season and with Tamir winning two and Abhay picking up that important single this was enough for them to beat Tilehurst Meths 'E' 6 - 4 .

Finally I would like to congratulate my team mate Marc Brent and club mate Jon Willis on winning the men's doubles and well done also to Marc on winning the division four title at the Reading Closed Championships.

Also I have to give a big thank you to Wendy Porter for all of her hard work in running all the events.

Cheers,

Derek



DIVISION FIVE

by Martin Wetherell

As I said in the last Newsletter, the Division 5 title was Our Lady of Peace 'F's to lose and this year they haven't put a foot wrong, winning all five of their matches. The bookies are therefore refusing to take any further bets on who will be champions. However, the race for second place is well and truly on, with as many as 9 teams still in the running, so there should be some good odds out there, for the gamblers amongst you! Barring a miracle, or the signing of a ringer, Milestone 'C' will finish bottom of the table. A gap has also opened up between the BBC Club, who are now languishing in 11th place, and Reading FC 'C', who have now moved up to 10th, a gap which the BBC Club may be unable to close.

Kingfisher 'L's **Clive Gold** and Springfield 'D's **Stephen Leggett** are currently tying for first place in the PoM table, with 8 awards each, although both Sonning Common & Peppard 'H's Mike Casserley and Reading FC 'C's Derek Anderson are close behind, with 7 awards, while OLOP 'F's Laurence de Ste Croix is further back, with 6 awards.

The **BBC Club** have a large squad and when they can field their strongest team, they are a match for most teams in this Division. John Scott is their star, with a 66.67% win rate, Jack Mitchell also chipping in with one or two wins in almost all of his matches.

This year, the BBC Club lost their first four matches, before drawing their most recent match, which was with Reading FC 'C'. Against OLOP 'F', John Lancashire and Dave Pearson both had wins against Mariusz Paluszkiwicz, and in the next match, against Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', Jack Mitchell could only win one, after losing to Jamie Legg 6-11 10-12 12-10 6-11, in his first set, while John Scott had to settle for two wins, after

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
OLOP F	16	13	1	2	105	55	27
Kingfisher L	16	7	4	5	84	76	18
SC&P H	14	7	3	4	82	58	17
Springfield C	15	6	5	4	79	71	17
Springfield D	16	8	1	7	79	81	17
Sonning Sports B	16	7	3	6	77	83	17
Tidmarsh E	15	7	2	6	81	69	16
SC&P G	15	5	4	6	78	72	14
Reading FC B	13	7	0	6	73	57	14
Reading FC C	15	6	2	7	69	81	14
BBC Club	15	2	5	8	61	89	9
Milestone C	16	0	2	14	42	118	2

losing to Oliver Sayer 8-11 11-8 12-14 8-11. During the match against Sonning Common & Peppard 'H', John Scott again missed out on a treble, this time losing to



CLIVE GOLD OF KINGFISHER 'L'

Gerry Bacon in the 10th set, 9-11 8-11 10-12. In this same match, Mojtaba Safavi was close to getting a win, but eventually lost to Julian James 8-11 10-12 11-9 13-15. Phil Peat successfully added to his wins, when he beat Reading FC 'C's Harry Edwards 12-10 14-12 4-11 12-10 and was unlucky not to get a brace, narrowly losing to Derek Anderson 9-11 9-11 10-12, in the same match.

A different Doubles pairing has played in each of their five matches, with two wins, both 3 - 2. The most recent win, when John Scott partnered Dave Pearson, was crucial to them winning a point against Reading FC 'C'.

Kingfisher 'L' have only won once this year, suffering defeat at the hands of both OLOP 'F' and Tidmarsh 'E' but, due to the healthy competition in the chasing pack, have managed to stay in second place throughout. Clive Gold is the star for Kingfisher 'L' and was beaten for only



JOHN EVANS OF MILESTONE 'C'

the second time, this season, by Reading FC 'B's Joe Bull 12-14 11-7 11-5 15-17 5-11. Ken Robb recorded another maximum in the win over Reading FC 'B', and now has a 79.17% win rate, but David O'Keeffe's average has dipped slightly, after he suffered two reversals at Tidmarsh 'E' and Sonning Sports 'B'. Meriel Low has had one outing this year, but had no joy against leaders OLOP 'F', and Gill Bennett has also played one further match, losing all three against Springfield 'C', Tom Berryman fighting back to defeat Gill in a very close set 11-9 4-11 11-8 13-15 12-14. Derek Crombie has still to win his first set, but came close to defeating Reading FC 'B's Keith Greene, before losing 7-11 10-12 11-4 12-10 4-11.

Ken Robb and Clive Gold continue to be Kingfisher 'L's most successful pairing, although they did lose their 100% record to Sonning Sports 'B's Cris Reynolds and Sally James. One new pairing, when Ken partnered Meriel Low has been tried, but this combination was beaten 3 - 0.

Milestone 'C' have played six matches since the last Newsletter, but have only managed to win one point, a draw against SC&P 'H'. The first of these matches was against SC&P 'G' and only John Evans had any success, winning two sets, which included an 11-8 8-11 11-6 9-11 11-7 victory over Oliver Sayer. However, John lost in five games to Mikey Legg and the same fate befell Igor Grbic, who was close to achieving his first win, before Mikey fought back to eventually win 11-13 11-9 12-14 11-7 11-6. Milestone's next match was the return fixture, when injuries meant that Milestone could only field two players, which ended in a 0 - 10 loss.

The following week, they played SC&P 'H', when Colin Philips won the 10th set, beating Steve Knott 11-7 4-11 8-11 11-6 11-7, to rescue a point, after earlier wins from Tony Hayden, Carl Edlind, Colin Philips, as well as the Doubles, had put them 4 - 3 up in the match. In the final three matches, John was again unlucky not to record maximums, being beaten by Springfield 'D's Stephen Leggett, Reading FC 'C's Derek Anderson and Sonning Sports 'B's Florin Dimofte. In each instance, John's opponent went on to record a maximum, instead.

Five different Doubles pairs have been tried, over the last six matches, with just the one win, when Tony Hayden and Carl Edlind beat SC&P 'H's Derek Maltby and Julian James, to earn their first point of 2017.

OLOP 'F' have increased their lead at the top of the table, by winning all five of the matches that they have played this year, while the chasing pack have dropped points. However, they have had to work hard for these victories, most notably the 6 - 4 win against Reading FC 'B', when no fewer than 18 games were won by the minimum two points, and the 6 - 4 win against Springfield 'C', when the match took 41 games to decide the winner. Laurence de Ste Croix continues to be the mainstay of



TONY HAYDEN OF MILESTONE 'C'

the team, although he was recently beaten by Kingfisher's David O'Keeffe, which was only his second loss of the season. However, this loss was not crucial, since Simon Brookes and Andrew Adair continued their fine form to help anchor the team to another victory. Hari Laddunuri has now also won his first maximum, in the match against Tidmarsh 'E', which underlines the strength of their squad. Mariusz Paluszkiwicz completes the line-up, but has only played once this year, in the win over the BBC Club.

Only the Doubles front, OLOP 'F' have played three different combinations. Laurence de Ste Croix and Andrew Adair, with three wins this year, are their most successful pairing, with the only defeat occurring when the untried combination of Laurence and Hari Laddunuri were beaten by Tidmarsh 'E's Bob Sunerton and Steve Andrews 4-11 10-12 15-17.

Reading FC 'B' - The Biscuit Men - have only played three matches in 2017, but have continued to either win or lose by a 6 - 4 scoreline. In their first match, against Kingfisher 'L', they lost 4 - 6, Ken Robb beating Paul Brown in the 8th set 11-8 6-11 12-10 11-9, to guarantee both points for Kingfisher 'L'. Against OLOP 'F', Keith Greene lost the crucial 10th set, to Simon Brookes, 11-5 11-13 11-9 11-13 4-11, which resulted in another 4 - 6 loss. In the match against Springfield 'D', the crucial 8th set was won by Paul Brown, who beat Paul Martin 11-6 11-13 11-5 11-7, to ensure his team went home with both points, following their 6 - 4 win. In each of these matches Joe Bull recorded a double, but Paul is still ahead in the averages, with a 73.33% win rate. The fourth member of the team is Dave Evans, who played against Springfield 'D', but was unable to add to his wins.

Two Doubles pairs have been tried, this year, but with only one success, when Joe Bull and Paul Brown defeated Springfield 'D's Colin Jones and Stephen Leggett.

Having only won twice last year, once in October and once in December, **Reading FC 'C'** - The Royals - have turned up the heat on their opponents, winning four and drawing one, in the five matches they have played this year, which has swept them up the table, from 11th to 10th. Although this doesn't sound impressive, this winning run has got them back into the pack and if they can maintain this form, which is second only to leaders OLOP 'F', then second place is achievable.

Derek Anderson is the star of the team, with an 80.49% win rate, from 41 games, but Wayne Alleyne has shifted up a gear, after winning his first maximum against SC&P 'H', and has since been backing up Derek with consistent doubles. Although he is not at the same level as Derek and Wayne, Harry Edwards has been chipping in with some crucial singles wins, most recently against the BBC Club, when his win was needed to get the draw and leave with a point.

Derek Anderson and Wayne Alleyne have been the only Doubles pair and they have four wins to their name, this year, which have been crucial in three matches, all of which were won 6 - 4.

SC&P 'G' have played five matches since the last Newsletter, starting with back to back matches against Milestone 'C'. In the first match, Mikey Legg returned his first maximum of the season, fighting back in the 4th game to eventually beat John Evans 9-11 11-6 7-11 12-10 11-8, and with doubles from both Oliver Sayer and Jamie Legg, his team ran out 8 - 2 winners. However, in the return fixture, Mikey, Jamie and Marko Madzar won all the sets. They then followed this up with a further victory, a 7 - 3 win over the BBC Club, with Oliver recording a maximum, Nick Palmer picking up his second win of the season and Jamie scoring a brace, including an 11-6 12-10



HARIKRISHNA LADDUNURI OF OLOP 'F'



SIMON BROOKES OF OLOP 'F'

10-12 11-6 victory over BBC's Jack Mitchell. They then suffered a narrow 4 - 6 defeat to Springfield 'C', before battling to a 5 - 5 draw against Tidmarsh 'E', Jamie having a titanic struggle with Isaac Davies before losing 17-15 7-11 2-11 9-11, but emerging victorious from his set with Mike Bundy, winning 10-12 11-4 13-11 12-10.

In each of their four matches, SC&P 'G' have played a different pairing but, each time, they have won, which means they are the only team with a 100% Doubles record, in 2017.

Since the last Newsletter, **SC&P 'H'** have continued to climb up the table and are now in third place, with games in hand. Although they failed to record a 5th consecutive victory, when they were beaten 4 - 6 by Reading FC 'C', and were then held to 5 - 5 draw, by Milestone 'C', they have recently got back on track with two further wins. The first of these was against the BBC Club which they won 7 - 3, thanks to a Gerry Bacon maximum and two apiece from Mike Casserley and Julian James, Julian having very narrow victories over Phil Peat (13-11 11-9 11-9) and Mojtaba Safavi (11-8 12-10 9-11 15-13). Mike then recorded another maximum and Julian a further double, Mike and Julian also combining to beat Springfield 'C's Rob Atack and James Regan 7-11 11-8 11-9 11-8, to win the match 6 - 4.

Mike Casserley has continued to be their star player, with an impressive win rate of 87.18%, but Gerry Bacon has recently recorded 8 wins out of 9, to improve his win rate to 66.67%, and Julian James has continued to impress, with a win rate of 60.61%. Steve Knott has also recorded a further win, beating Reading FC 'C's Harry Edwards 11-5 7-11 8-11 14-12 12-10 but, on the day, it was not enough to earn his team a point.

On the Doubles front, Julian James and Gerry Bacon have played in the closest match so far, a 11-9 10-12 9-11 11-9 12-10 victory over Springfield 'D's Colin Jones and Stephen Leggett. Julian has also partnered both Mike Casserley and Derek Maltby, in the other four matches.

Sonning Sports 'B' are another of the teams on 17 points and, although they have no games in hand over their rivals, they are still in with a chance of taking the runners-up spot, having taken 5 points from their last five matches. The year started well, with an 8 - 2 victory over Springfield 'D', during which Sally James just beat Paul Martin 11-7 8-11 14-12 10-12 14-12, but this was then followed by a 10 - 0 whitewash, at the hands of Tidmarsh 'E', and a further defeat, this time by a narrow 4 - 6 margin, away to Reading FC 'C'. The next match was a creditable 5 - 5 draw with Kingfisher 'L' and then a further victory, this time a 7 - 3 win over Milestone 'C'.

Sonning Sports 'B' have one of the largest playing squads which means that not everyone can play regularly. Florin Dimofte is the star of this team and suffered only his second defeat, losing to Kingfisher 'L's Clive Gold, but he has great support from Cris Reynolds and Sally James, who have both recorded maximums this season. Mo Cole and Michael Byrne have both won this year, but Mike Gautrey is still looking for his first win, although he again came close in his match against Tidmarsh 'E', when he lost to Isaac Davies 11-9 8-11 6-11 11-13 and Steve Andrews 13-11 7-11 13-15 8-11.

On the Doubles front, Cris Reynolds and Sally James

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Lee Calcutt (S)	Tidmarsh E	9	9	100.00%
Isaac Davies	Tidmarsh E	9	9	100.00%
Clive Gold	Kingfisher L	33	31	93.94%
Laurence De Ste Croix	OLOP F	30	28	93.33%
Florin Dimofte	Sonning Sports B	27	25	92.59%
Mike Casserley	SC&P H	39	34	87.18%
Derek Anderson	Reading FC C	41	33	80.49%
Oliver Sayer	SC&P G	24	19	79.17%
Kenneth Robb	Kingfisher L	24	19	79.17%
Peter Sinclair	Tidmarsh E	18	14	77.78%
Stephen Leggett	Springfield D	45	34	75.56%

lost their 100% record, when they were beaten by Reading FC 'C's Derek Anderson and Wayne Alleyne, although Cris still has a 100% record with both Florin Dimofte and Mo Cole.

Springfield 'C' are yet another team who have 17 points, as do their 'D' team, although they also have a game in hand. They have played four games this year, starting with a 5 - 5 draw at Kingfisher 'L', then a 4 - 6 loss to OLOP 'F', before recording a 6 - 4 victory over SC&P 'G'. However, they then lost 4 - 6 to SC&P 'H'. As indicated by the scores, there were some closely fought encounters and in the match against OLOP 'F', only 2 of the 10 sets were straight games victories. Their next match was similarly tight, with only 3 straight games victories being recorded.

Chris Speight is leading the averages, with a win rate of

66.67%, having maintained his average by winning two sets in each of his recent matches, but Rob Atack is not far behind with 57.58%, followed by Tom Berryman on 46.67%. Alan Goold recently defeated SC&P 'G's Marko Madzar 5-11 11-9 18-16 11-7 and Nick Palmer 10-12 11-3 9-11 11-9 11-8, to record only his second double, and help his team to a 6 - 4 win, Tom and Rob also recording two wins each. James Regan has played one further match, against SC&P 'H', but his victory, over Steve Knott, was for naught, as the team lost 4 - 6.

On the Doubles front, a different pair has been tried in each match, but none of these combinations were successful, although Rob Atack and Chris Speight made a valiant attempt, before losing 11-9 11-13 9-11 8-11 to OLOP 'F's Andrew Adair and Simon Brookes.

After **Springfield 'D'**'s Richard Cartland suffered from a season ending injury, back in October, the remaining squad of Stephen Leggett, Colin Jones and Paul Martin have had to play every match. This has affected their results and, having been top of the table for four weeks, they have been in a downward spiral since then. However, it looks like they have fought their way out of this slump, during which they lost 6 consecutive matches, including a tightly contested 4 - 6 loss to SC&P 'H', a 2 - 8 loss to Sonning Sports 'B' and a 4 - 6 loss to Reading FC 'C'. Since then, Springfield 'D' have gone on to record two 8 - 2 wins, against Milestone 'C' and the BBC Club, before succumbing to another 4 - 6 loss, this time away to Reading FC 'B'.

Although Stephen returned his first maximum for six weeks, by beating Mike Casserley in the 10th set 6-11 11-5 15-17 11-9 11-9, SC&P 'H' still left with both points. Colin was left cursing his luck after a close defeat by Gerry Bacon, as was Paul after his 9-11 7-11 14-12 10-12 loss to Mike Casserley, but the Doubles was also crucial,

Colin and Stephen losing in the closest match this season, to Julian James and Gerry Bacon.

In the Doubles all three possible permutations have been tried and it is worth noting that when their Doubles pair has won, then the match has also been won.

Having lost Lee Calcutt to Division 3 and Dom Cutter to Division 2, **Tidmarsh 'E'** have unearthed another gem, known to his teammates as Isaac Davies. Isaac did play for Tidmarsh, in Division 5, last year and he appears to have carried on from where he left off, with a 100% record in the three matches he has played, so far. However, there are other match winners in this squad and of the four matches played this year, their best result was the 10 - 0 win against Sonning Sports 'B', when Pete Sinclair, Steve Andrews and Isaac all recorded maximums. This victory means that Tidmarsh 'E' are currently the only club to both lose 10 - 0 and win 10 - 0.

Tidmarsh 'E' also recorded a superb 8 - 2 win over Kingfisher 'L', Steve Andrews and Mike Bundy winning two apiece, to complement Isaac's treble. A loss to leaders OLOP 'F' was then followed by a 5 - 5 draw against SC&P 'G', Bob Sunerton winning the first set against Marko Madzar 3-11 8-11 12-10 15-13 12-10, but then narrowly losing the 10th set against Mikey Legg 8-11 9-11 9-11, this set being one of only three that were decided in straight sets, all of which were extremely close.

Three Doubles pairs have been tried in 2017, with one defeat in four, that defeat courtesy of SC&P 'G's Mikey Legg and Marko Madzar, who beat Mike Bundy and Isaac Davies. However, Mike and Isaac had previously been victorious in their match against Kingfisher 'L'.



YOUTH DIVISION

by Emma Barraclough

The final evening of 2016 for the Youth Division was held on December 16th 2016 with the final stages of the Grouping Tournament begun in the October half term being played. After some exciting play Tamir Slobodskoy was the eventual winner defeating Bill Hayden 5-11, 11-5, 11-8. The evening concluded with party food. By popular demand the first evening of the New Year on January 6th 2017 was a fun evening with 13 parents and carers joining us to play doubles partnered with both their own children and other members of the Division. We finished off the evening with games of Top Table and Beat the Champion.

The first evening of match play on January 13th saw the teams divided into two leagues for the rest of the season. Division One is made up of the Spartans, Panthers,



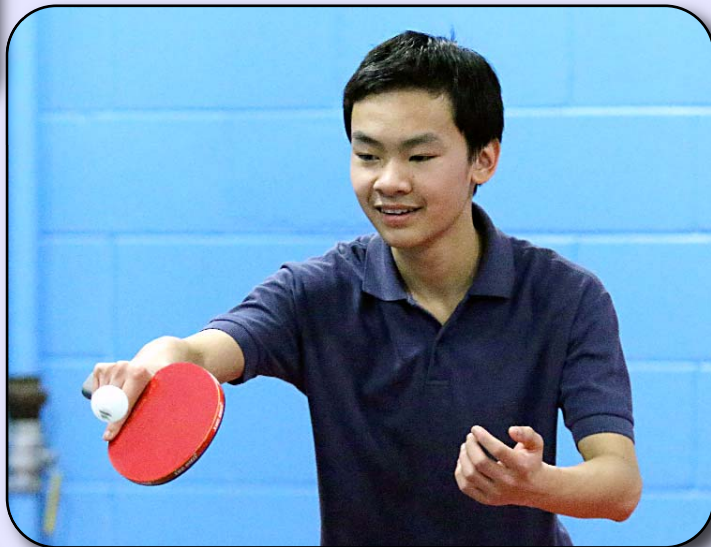
Raiders, Leopards, Lions and Tigers while Division Two consists of Pumas, Jaguars, Strikers, Attackers, Avengers and Trojans. After a couple of minor player adjustments, play began in earnest and the Spartans and Panthers made confident starts with the Panthers defeating the Tigers 9 - 1 and Ryan Griffiths and Johnson Xu scoring three wins each. The Spartans defeated the Leopards 9 - 1 with Rayaan Ashgar and Benedict Carless also recording three wins each. The Raiders defeated the Lions 7 - 2 with Nathan Munns recording three wins. In Division Two the Jaguars recorded a 6 - 3 win over the Trojans while the Pumas made a confident start against the Strikers with 3 wins for both Arran and Alexandra Reeve. A close match between the Attackers and the Avengers ended with a 6 - 4 victory for the Avengers.



NATHAN MUNNS

On January 20th Division One saw Spartans, Raiders and Panthers all record strong wins while in Division Two the Pumas defeated the Avengers 8 - 2 with Arran Reeve recording three wins. Two closer matches saw the Attackers defeat the Trojans 6 - 3 and the Strikers win 6 - 4 against the Jaguars. January 27th saw the Spartans win against the Raiders 8 - 2 with Rayaan Ashgar winning all three games, an exciting draw between the Panthers and the Lions and the Leopards defeating the Tigers 7 - 3. In Division Two the Strikers won 6 - 3 against the Trojans, the Jaguars 6 - 2

half term and saw some close play in both divisions with the Lions beating the Tigers 7 - 3, the Spartans winning against the Panthers 6 - 4 and the Leopards and Raiders drawing. Division Two saw a draw between Strikers and Attackers and wins for the Avengers against the Trojans 9 - 1 and the Jaguars against the Pumas 7 - 2. Half term week (17th February) will see the annual Alan Dines Memorial Tournament.



JOHNSON XU

At the present time the Division One table is topped by the Spartans on 42 points with the Panthers on 33 points in second place and the Raiders in third on 24 points. In Division Two it is a much closer race for the top with Pumas on 31 points, Jaguars on 26 points in second and Attackers on 25 points. We look forward to some more great play in the remainder of the season. It was nice to see a number of the Division's players competing and umpiring so well in the Junior events of the Reading Closed Competition held on Sunday 12th February. Many thanks to Wendy Porter as always and also to Tony Hayden and Dan and Emma Cook for their help in recent sessions.



JAMIE BARLOW AND RAYAAN ASGHAR, WHO TOGETHER WERE RUNNERS UP IN THE JUNIOR BOYS DOUBLES AT THE READING CLOSED

against the Avengers and the Pumas 7 - 3 against the Attackers.

Good play continued into February with Panthers winning 7 - 3 against the Raiders with Johnson Xu recording 3 wins, Lions and Leopards drawing and the Spartans winning comprehensively 10 - 0 against the Tigers. In Division Two the Attackers defeated the Jaguars 7 - 3, the Avengers and Strikers drew with Mo Cook recording three wins and the Pumas defeated the Trojans 7 - 3. February 10th was the last week of league play before

Div One Team Placings							
	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
1	Spartans	5	5	0	0	42	8 42
2	Panthers	5	3	1	1	33	17 33
3	Raiders	5	2	1	2	24	25 24
4	Lions	5	1	2	2	20	29 20
5	Leopards	5	1	2	2	20	30 20
6	Tigers	5	0	0	5	10	40 10

AVERAGES (Div 1)			
Player	P	W	%
Johnson Xu	14	14	100.00%
Rayaan Asghar	13	11	84.62%
Nathan Munns	15	12	80.00%
Ralph Philips	13	10	76.92%
Benedict Carless	13	10	76.92%
Ryan Griffiths	14	8	57.14%
Adam Winterbottom	9	5	55.56%

AVERAGES (Div 2)			
Player	P	W	%
Mo Cook	10	8	80.00%
Alexandra Reeve	10	8	80.00%
Rudresh Desai	14	10	71.43%
Sean Gleeson	7	5	71.43%
Dev Goyal	13	9	69.23%
Arran Reeve	12	8	66.67%
Lukas Dahmann	11	7	63.64%

Div Two Team Placings							
	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
1	Pumas	5	4	0	1	31	17 31
2	Jaguars	5	3	0	2	26	20 26
3	Attackers	5	2	1	2	25	24 25
4	Strikers	5	2	2	1	24	24 24
5	Avengers	5	2	1	2	24	24 24
6	Trojans	5	0	0	5	13	34 13