

April 2020



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We're not dead yet*, so let's celebrate the return of the fighting McTiernans! Liam dramatically scooped up the Reading Closed men's title this year, with Daniel running up - and then they won the men's doubles too.

Our season has been left hanging in mid air - but much had already happened that deserves to be remembered.

Both the Individual Handicap and Reading Closed competitions were especially good this year - and full of enthusiastic competitors, even well past the beginning of March. And this was a keenly fought League season too - with the return of OLOP Premier revolutionizing the scene in Division One. Enjoy the colourful accounts of these struggles, on the following pages.

The beautiful photos are the work of Melvyn Lovegrove, to whom we give our thanks. As we do to all of you!

Health and best wishes,

Derek Wavell

*NB - if any of our readers are already in the Hereafter, please don't forget to set up tables for late arrivals!



Notes from our Chairman

Hello everybody - Despite the efforts of my great committee sadly the season has come to an abrupt end. We thought that we would survive to the end of the normal season but in the end we were fighting a losing battle.

At the time of writing I am not sure what we can do regarding the various divisions but I am sure by the time you read this it will be a lot clearer.

It is also sad that the Presentation evening has to be called off but if things improve perhaps we can have one



in September.

At this stage I would like to thank on your behalf everyone on the committee for doing a great job because without these dedicated officers we would not have a league and really hope that we will have one next season.

Finally I would like to wish you all well in the coming months and say it has been a privilege to be your Chairman for the last five and half years,

All the best
Derek



YOUTH DIVISION

by Emma Barraclough

As the Youth Division, along with everywhere else, was overtaken by events there were only three weeks of competitive play since the last report. These final weeks were played in the same great spirit as the rest of the season and enjoyed by everyone. The evening of February 28th 2020 saw a strong performance by the Tigers who defeated Blade 10 - 0 while the Avengers defeated the Jaguars with three wins for Arran Reeve. The same evening saw the Attackers defeat the Spartans 7 - 3.

March 6th saw another 10 - 0 victory for the Tigers, this time against the Avengers, building pressure at the top of the table. The Lions defeated Blade 8 - 2 with three wins for Harry Bullock while the Jaguars won 6 - 3 against the Attackers. In what turned out to be the final evening's play for this season on March 13th we saw three matches with a 9 - 1 scoreline. Wins for the Tigers against the Avengers and the Lions against the Attackers meant a



very tight finish at the top of the table and the Spartans defeated Jaguars with three wins each for San Celik and Aarush Sawant.

The evening's play left the final placings in the Youth Division as follows: The Lions finished as champions with 47 points with the Tigers in second place with 44 points. The Spartans were in third place with 41 points followed by the Attackers on 27 points. The Avengers were next with 20 points then Blade with 16 points and Jaguars with 14 points. Mo Cook topped the individual averages on 100%.

It had been intended to end the season on March 20th with the Alan Dines Memorial Tournament and the usual party. Obviously, that proved to be impossible but we hope to play the tournament on another occasion in the future. Overall, it was a great season for the Youth Division with a high standard of committed play. Many thanks as always to Wendy Porter and our other helpers this year Louise Forster and Dan Cook.

TEAMS

	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Lions	6	6	0	0	47	13	47
2	Tigers	6	4	0	2	44	16	44
3	Spartans	6	4	0	2	41	19	41
4	Attackers	6	3	0	3	27	32	27
5	Avengers	6	2	0	4	20	40	20
6	Blade	6	1	0	5	16	44	16
7	Jaguars	6	1	0	5	14	45	14

AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Mo Cook	Lions	15	15	100.00%
Harry Bullock	Lions	18	16	88.89%
Karan Baishkiyar	Tigers	18	15	83.33%
Aarush Sawant	Spartans	14	11	78.57%
Jude Robinson	Tigers	18	14	77.78%
Max Griggs	Tigers	12	9	75.00%
Adrian Mitchell	Attackers	15	10	66.67%

Note on League Tables from our Secretary

This newsletter shows the league tables as they were before we sadly had to suspend play. There are various options (as in the football world) which your committee will be considering e.g. to either consider the tables as final, play un-played matches at some point, make some sort of points allocation for un-played matches or consider the season void and start again whenever we can. These decisions are of course complex and will be made

some way down the line. Once a decision has been made it will be communicated to everyone.

In the meantime our Awards Presentation evening for May 5th and the Reading Masters Tournament for April 26th have both been cancelled or postponed, and it is highly likely that our AGM on 3rd June will also have to be postponed.

Nigel Maltby
RDTTA Secretary

READING CLOSED (SENIOR) by Nick Lean



ROGER PRITCHARD

There were 46 entrants across 13 events at the Senior Closed which was played over 10 tables at Cippenham on Sunday 8th March. There was much hand washing and hand sanitiser in evidence as the usual post-match handshakes were replaced with tentative elbow and forearm nudges.

Wendy Porter put in a huge amount of time and effort to prepare the venue and the draws as well as running the tournament on the day – many thanks Wendy, you did a great job.

The award for staying power goes to Roger Pritchard who played 20 matches across 6

events, while for the ladies Kate Maksimenko was the busiest playing 14 matches across 5 events.

Congratulations to all the winners and runners-up in each of the events (listed below) and thanks to everyone who came along and took part. Many thanks also to the various volunteers who helped on the day and ensured the venue was cleared on time.

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.

Photos from the Reading Closed are scattered throughout this Newsletter.



KATE MAKSIMENKO



DANIEL AND LIAM McTIERNAN



MELVYN LOVEGROVE

Roll of Honour

- Mens Singles** (35 entrants) : Liam McTiernan beat Daniel McTiernan
- Mens Doubles** (16) : Liam & Daniel McTiernan beat Sam & Danny Ricks
- Ladies Singles** (6) : Kate Maksimenko beat Emma Blachford
- Ladies Doubles** (4) : won by Kate Maksimenko & Linda King
- Mixed Doubles** (7) Emma Blachford & Jordon Jungshun Huang beat Linda King & Ian Cole
- Veteran Singles** (17): Graham Mendick beat Nick Sears
- Senior Veteran Singles** (15): Paul Savage beat Roger Pritchard
- 60 Plus singles** (7): Paul Savage beat Roger Pritchard
- Division 1** (11) : Liam McTiernan beat Sam Ricks
- Division 2** (13) : Paul Savage beat Tom Lewis
- Division 3** (11) : Mo Cook beat Kate Maksimenko
- Division 4** (6) : Melvyn Lovegrove beat Lewis Oke
- Ping Pong** (36) : Liam McTiernan beat Roger Pritchard



RISHIKA DESAI



DANIEL McTIERNAN



DIVISION ONE

by Mark Banks

And it was all going so well wasn't it. And then from nowhere whammo the coronavirus struck and table tennis just seemed that little bit less important all of a sudden. And now what? We, like pretty much every other sporting association in the country have an incomplete League and I guess TTE will be giving guidance on how they recommend we progress once this thing has passed us by. Can you imagine if the season is declared null and void? No league title for OLOP, no win for Mendick over Hari, no win for Wang over Hari, no win for Ricks over Hari, there's a pattern here right. All those events will be erased from the archives as never happening. Ouch! It's unprecedented and something I don't envy the decision makers in sorting out. I hope you lot are keeping safe and fit though. This thing will obviously be around for months to come so keep as active as you can. Personally with all the pubs and McDonalds shut then surely even I can lose weight in these troubled times? Well, maybe haha. See you on the other side.

Love & Peace x



IAN COLE OF OLOP PREMIER

Ouch for **OLOP PREMIER** who will be very much hoping that somehow the season can be completed and they can lay their hands on the coveted D1 trophy for the first time in a number of years. To get so close and have it ripped away from them would obviously be a big blow - especially with the doubts surrounding Liam's participation again next season but there are more important things than table tennis as we are all very much now fully realising ten fold. But the best team they have been whether it's wiped from the records or not and they really brought out the big guns in recent matches to ensure that they kept ahead of KFA in the run in. Liam finally got his hands on the one trophy that eluded him - the Reading Closed Mens Title and is way too good for this or any other local league let's face it. Sam could well have his Hari victories written off but can be pleased with his season's work. He did manage to lose one though - let's not forget that hahahahaha. Ian and Murgy have both done exceptionally well and much better than they have in recent seasons and Johnson was up around the 50% mark which for a first timer in this league is more than commendable.

MVP: Liam McTiernan

By the way, not one player (and we have a few) in **Kingfisher 'A'** wish anything other than an OLOP title and we all very much hope that the season can be completed so that they can claim what is rightfully theirs. APRIL FOOL!!!!!! Gotcha!! Hahahaha. Seriously though on paper we know we are

2nd best and therefore it's only fair that's where we finish and we would happily accept our runners up medals with pride. Yes you could say that our greatest player hasn't been seen since Christmas and that had a big bearing on events but ifs and buts don't win titles and it wasn't to be.



LIAM McTIERNAN



SAM RICKS



		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	OLOP Premier	19	18	1	0	152	38	152
2	Kingfisher A	19	17	0	2	144	46	144
3	SC&P	20	12	5	3	118	81	118
4	SC&P A	19	10	4	5	115	75	115
5	Kingfisher B	20	8	6	6	104	96	104
6	Springfield A	20	10	3	7	103	97	103
7	Kingfisher C	20	8	3	9	101	99	101
8	Kennet Valley A	19	6	3	10	88	102	88
9	Tidmarsh A	19	6	2	11	78	112	78
10	SC&P C	20	4	0	16	59	141	59
11	Curzon Club A	20	2	1	17	56	144	56
12	Tidmarsh B	19	0	4	15	51	138	51

Unfortunately for OLOP we can obviously mathematically



LILY CHERRY

still catch them however unrealistic that is so they will need to wait on the TTE/Reading Committee decision. We've had a good laugh though. Everybody has a nickname. Donkey Kong, TLD, Rock Steady Steady and others. Just a shame we have had to cancel our end of season party. Hari was gonna buy the drinks too. Damn this Corona.

MVP: Mark Banks

Pretty fair to say that if there was an award for D1 team of the year then, OLOP aside, a lot of the votes would be heading the way of **Sonning Common & Peppard 'B'** who have had a tremendous time of it with star man Andy really bringing the best out of Nigel, Jez and Brian too. Wang wasn't available for the BIG clash with Sonning A and it showed - so much so that my prediction of B finishing above A this season probably



JOE BARRACLOUGH

wouldn't have happened had the season played out to its conclusion. That aside there have been some real highs though. Nigel and Jez around the 50% mark including some stun-

ning wins for both of them and Brian smashing the 40% barrier has played a crucial more than supporting role. However the season is concluded they will be absolutely delighted. There is a real enthusiasm in Sonning Common at the moment and these guys are leading it.

MVP: Andy Wang

Talking of enthusiastic sides from Sonning Common we have **Sonning Common & Peppard 'A'** who will have taken great pleasure in putting the B team in their place after that mauling they gave them - albeit without having to face the almost ever present Wang who is always understandably a big loss for B when he doesn't play. And there is absolutely no truth in the rumour that he was just trying to avoid losing to Neil Hurford for the 3rd time in succession. Trust me - we are all glad that never happened, to be fair. As I mentioned above I think that result definitely maybe perhaps probably would have sealed 3rd place for A and from where they have been hovering kinda mid-table for much of the season that is a right old result. So well done to Jason, Joe Joes, Neil the Chinese destroyer, Gary when he's played and of course our old favourite Malcolm. I'd say have a good summer on the golf course lads but I guess that may not be happening also in these testing & troubled times.

MVP: Neil Hurford

A mixed bag all season then for **Kingfisher 'B'** who looked like they were going to be set for 5th place and that's probably fair enough for how they've been doing. Said



EMMA BLACHFORD

before that it's not about the winning for these guys, more the team spirit and enjoyment of the social scene that they always bring with them. Martin still very much too good for pretty much all of us but Justin was beginning to show some good stuff too towards the back end. Richard still as inconsistent as his fruit machine exploits but they have brought some glamour to the division this year in Emma & Lily and I'm sure we all hope that they have enjoyed the experience and will be back for another crack next term.

MVP: Martin Adams

Definitely one of the surprise packages this term were **Springfield 'A'** who end a very respectable mid table position in their first season in the top flight of Reading TT. One can easily point to the very capable Graham Diplock who has showed that he has not lost any of that ability of his and has done pretty well on his return but also a big shout out for Phil Burke who has smashed in a superb 60% playing every match for his team. Definitely a contender for player of the season. Adam has been winning 1 in 3 and Ludo 1 in 5 so not bad at all and when it all comes together which it has been then they are a half decent side. Very nice work indeed!

MVP: Graham Diplock

If you told me at the start of the season that **KFC** would be below Springfield at this stage then I wouldn't have believed you. KFC are full of experienced county veteran equivalent standard players and in truth should be higher than their position. It's even more of a testament to Springfield that they can be ahead of a side of

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Liam McTiernan	OLOP Premier	26	26	100.00%
Martin Adams	Kingfisher B	48	46	95.83%
Andy Wang	SC&P B	47	43	91.49%
Ian Cole	OLOP Premier	38	34	89.47%
Dmitry Khakhamov	Kingfisher A	19	17	89.47%
Graham Diplock	Springfield A	39	34	87.18%
Graham Mendick	Kennet Valley A	44	37	84.09%
Neil Hurford	SC&P A	42	33	78.57%
Steve Murgatroyd	OLOP Premier	48	37	77.08%
Anthony Baker	Tidmarsh A	39	30	76.92%
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher A	32	24	75.00%
Ross Saxby	Kingfisher A	24	18	75.00%
Tony Stead	Kingfisher A	21	15	71.43%
Jason Roberts	SC&P A	54	38	70.37%
Daniel Wills	Kingfisher A	23	15	65.22%
Philip Mead	Kingfisher C	38	24	63.16%

a comeback I'm fully expecting him to get at least 8 points in any given leg against me - yep he's improved that much. Julian has been a little distracted with work and family so hasn't quite had the performances that he would expect and demand of himself. Just needs to regroup and come back stronger next year. Jordan is turning into a star and again will only get better and better and Cath has done well too in a KV shirt when selected. Masoud not so much though I'm afraid.

MVP: Graham Mendick

I'm slightly surprised to see **Tidmarsh 'A'** this far down the pecking order if I'm honest. Squirrel wins almost 80% of his matches and Lee is in the Phil Burke 60% category but unfortunately the others have struggled to make an impact this time around and their league position is reflective of that. Just looking at Ray's results he's a much better player than 20% so not sure if he's been carrying an injury or anything. Simon has done OK in patches and Chris again just struggled to make an impact this season. With Squirrel and Lee they obviously have nothing to worry about and more than hold their own so maybe they have just found their



JORDAN HUANG

this calibre. They've done OK though have KFC without really setting the world alight and in fairness they had a better run last term. Still OK though. Phil Mead has had some really good individual wins and heads the averages just ahead of Alan. Nigel hasn't quite hit the heights of last season but done OK and Grant and Ivor are both evenly matched as far as the number 3s go. Not the worst season by any means but I would have expected them to be challenging for 4th place with the squad that they have and that hasn't happened.

MVP: Phil Mead

Bless **Kennet Valley Free Church 'A'** Mendick beats Hari, Jordan beats Murgy, Julian beats Nigel Maltby and it could all be so cruelly taken away from them. Erased from existence. Deleted from all known records. I'm sure they won't mind though. They will just have to prove those wins were no fluke and do it all again next season. Such a good team on their day but a big squad means that as it stands mid table is about where they should finish and they are just below that which is fine. Graham has been the top man this season and will probably be even better next. If I ever make



GRAHAM MENDICK

level now and are content with just enjoying playing.

MVP: Squirrel

Just a 3 point gap then between **Sonning Common & Peppard 'C'** (please do not swear) and Curzon before Corona hit us but I think it would have been enough just to see them safe judging by the remaining fixtures of both teams although they were due to play each other on the very last day so you just never know in this game hey! My dinner partner Denise plays a lot and her results show with a pretty decent 40+%. Matt Stone when he's not worrying about what his opponent is doing/saying is also around the 40% mark too which again is more than respectable at this level and with Tim winning 1 in 4 and Matt 1 in 5 it's just been about enough to keep them in the top flight for another season - maybe, probably, who knows??

MVP: Denise Weller

Gallantly plugging on with all their injuries and operations and terrible taste in football teams have been **Curzon 'A'** who mathematically just about kept themselves in with a chance of beating the drop before sadly the Corona came. Such a shame how it's all turned out like this but as I said before there are much more important things than table tennis and we will beat this thing and come out stronger for it. In scorecard order Pete, Jon and John have done admirably to even get within touching distance of Sonning C. Best refreshments

in any league anywhere across the nation and if there was ever an argument for voiding a season and letting these guys stay up then beer and pizzas down the Curzon Club get my vote. Not to mention Robin Lockwood's finest pork pies.

MVP: Jon Willis

Practically from the time the very first ball was hit back in September 2019 the writing was always going to be on the wall for **Tidmarsh 'B'**. You can tell how long I've been out the game, I didn't even recognise John Golding when this tall gentleman approached me in the local garden centre a few weeks back. Er, do I know you from table tennis was my first question. I don't get out much so it was either TT or I'd met him in the local boozier one time. John did remind me that he was in fact one of my MVPs and just checking the averages he still is and I promise I will never forget that face ever again. Mike has played pretty well tbf winning around 1 in 3 which is very similar to Barry who I always keep a track of. Don't know why - he's just always one of those players I like to keep an eye on haha. Duncan gave himself too much to do after injury which is understandable. He's a 60% guy at this level so there will be much more to come once he regains full fitness and François has struggled to get going really for them this time around. Nobody knows what's going to happen so maybe we will see them all again. Who knows!

MVP: John "Garden Centre" Golding

NATIONAL JUNIOR LEAGUE

by Louise Forster

The 19/20 season of the National Junior League was held over four dates at Cippenham TTC. In total there were 24 teams from across the South East, and Reading put forward two teams this year. Each session was a bustling event with around 100 players, and with each player playing against around 8-10 other players.

Both Reading A and Reading B were originally placed in Division 2. By the end of the first day Reading A (**Johnson Xu, Ralph Philips, Ben Carless and Mo Cook**) were well placed at the top of the division, whilst Reading B (**Harry Bullock, Rudresh Desai, Tanubhav Saha, Tommy Woodward and Rishika Desai**) were struggling and trailing at the bottom of the division.

During the second session Reading A were promoted to Division One, where they had some very successful wins and by the end of Round 2 they were second from top of the division, being beaten only by Cippenham. There were some fantastic wins in this round especially for Mo Cook who had turned up despite being ill! During the third and final round Reading A suffered from a shortage of players and were represented by just two players (**Ben Carless and Rudresh Desai** who played up from the B team). Despite being a man short the team still managed to come fifth out of sixth in this final round. Well played Ben and Rudresh!

After being relegated to Div 3, Reading B didn't fare much better in the second round, and found themselves again bottom of this division. So, for the final session, Reading B found themselves in Division 4. The team was represented on this final date by **Harry Bullock, Tanubhav Saha and Rishika Desai**. They fought very

fiercely and bravely and went on to win Div 4! The result all hung on the very final game of the very final match - Harry Bullock kept his nerve and won the day. A very successful end to the season for Reading B.

NATIONAL CADET LEAGUE

The 19/20 season of the National Cadet League was held over four days at Cippenham TTC. Just like the National Junior League, this event also had 24 teams all made up of enthusiastic young table tennis players from across the South East.

Reading had just one team taking part this year, comprised of **Tommy Woodward, Emma Ranson, Aditya Kapoor, and Erin Bonsall**. The team started the season in Division 3 and finished bottom but one of the division both at the end of Round One and Round Two.

Round Three took part on March 15th at Cippenham. The Reading team was represented by **Tommy, Erin and Emma** at this final session. They fought really hard and successfully managed to come top of Division 3. A great way to end the season - well done!



VICTORS: EMMA RANSON, ERIN BONSALE & TOMMY WOODWARD



DIVISION TWO

by John Willcocks

Unlike most of the other divisions all but one of the promotion and relegation issues in Division 2 are still undecided. The unfortunate but unavoidable halt to the season has meant that probably the most exciting promotion race in years, which looked like it would go to the last match, or even the last set, is up in the air. In addition, the closely fought battle to avoid the second relegation spot, which also looked like it would not be decided until the last week, is still in limbo.



So, your committee will have to adjudicate how the undecided promotion and relegation issues are resolved. Perhaps we could try to follow some of the suggestions that have been made in the football world regarding the Premier League, EFL and Champions League -

✘ - **Play the matches behind closed doors**, obviously not appropriate to table tennis when all our doors are already shut.

✘ - **Do a Karen Brady and call the season void**, this does not seem fair to me when everyone has put in so much effort in their matches since September.

✘ - **Work out the final table using the type of coefficient system based on a number of previous seasons that the president of Juventus wants to be introduced for Champions League qualification**. If we used this then I am sure that Bob Woodmansee could produce copious statistics from the last forty years to show why Sonning Sports 'A' should finish top of the division.

✘ - **Follow the example of some football stars using FIFA World or Football Manager and play matches virtually using Table Tennis Pro**. This would probably give an unfair advantage to the teams with younger players who are more adept at this type of thing than us older ones.

Hopefully none of my not very serious ideas will be

needed and the committee will come up with something that is as fair as possible to everyone. I have given my final table predictions on what I think would have happened if we had been able to complete the season.

I hope everyone gets through the current crisis fit and well and I look forward to probably seeing many of you over the table next season. At present my Curzon 'A' team are in the bottom two in Division 1, although we were due to have a relegation twenty pointer against the team above us in the last match so we could have made the great escape. I am recovering well from my hip replacement surgery and looking forward to next season which will hopefully be able to start as usual in September.

OLOP 'A'. In their top of the table clash with Tilehurst Meths 'A' they lost 6 – 4 although in this match Ben Carless had a great win in five against Eric Van Looy which was only the second defeat Eric has had this season. Ben also came very close to



		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	OLOP A	20	16	0	4	146	54	146
2	Tilehurst Meths A	20	15	2	3	146	54	146
3	Sonning Sports A	20	17	1	2	144	56	144
4	SC&P D	20	14	1	5	115	85	115
5	OLOP B	20	11	1	8	106	94	106
6	Kingfisher D	20	9	1	10	92	108	92
7	Kingfisher E	20	7	3	10	89	111	89
8	Milestone A	20	7	2	11	87	113	87
9	OLOP C	20	4	5	11	87	113	87
10	Springfield B	20	4	4	12	72	128	72
11	Pangbourne WMC	20	2	5	13	68	132	68
12	OLOP D	20	0	3	17	48	152	48

beating Keith Winter before just losing out in five. They followed this defeat with an impressive 10 – 0 win over the improved Milestone 'A' and then came through a tough encounter with OLOP 'B' with a 7 – 3 victory. Chris, Darek and Ben have played in all of their recent matches and they have all shown consistent form and they looked very likely to maintain their position in the top two.

Prediction – 2nd

Best Recent Performance - Ben Carless beating Eric Van Looy in an epic encounter 11-9 in the fifth

Tilehurst Meths 'A' beat OLOP 'A' in

their top of the table clash helped by a great maximum from Keith Winter who has still only lost once this season. In this match Keith got his revenge over Darek Kaminski who had inflicted his one defeat on him earlier in the season although it was a very close thing with Keith just edging the set 12-10 in the fifth. They followed this up with a very good 9 – 1 victory over fourth placed SC&P 'D' with Eric and Keith getting their usual maximums and a double for Nigel Rowland which included a very impressive win over Jon Abbot. In the last match they played they were slightly surprisingly held to a draw by Kingfisher 'D' although Eric did not play in this match. I understand that Eric and Keith were unlikely to both play in their last two fixtures so they might have just been pipped for a promotion place but I think they would probably still have done just enough to finish in the top two.

Prediction – 1st

Best Recent Performance – Keith Winter with a great maximum in the top of the table clash with OLOP 'A' which included very hard-fought wins over Ben Carless and Darek Kaminski

Sonning Sports 'A' have won their three recent matches to close the gap slightly on Tilehurst Meths 'A'. In the first of these matches they were slightly disappointed to only beat Springfield 'B' 7 – 3. They followed this with an 8 – 2 win over Kingfisher 'E' despite a very rare defeat for Nick Sears when he lost to Roger Pritchard. This match featured two very hard-fought wins in five for Keith Machin. They then

had another 7 – 3 victory against OLOP 'C' with Nick and Paul getting maximums.

Paul has won 18 sets in a row and Nick has only lost one of his last 22 which shows really good consistent form by both of them.

Keith Machin has chipped in with some useful wins while skipper Bob Woodmansee has been away on his mid, or maybe not quite mid, winter break. I hope you got back OK Bob.

Prediction – 3rd

Best Recent Performance – Paul Savage winning a great battle with Roger Pritchard 11 – 9 in the fifth.



ERIC VAN LOOY

SC&P 'D' have had a win, a defeat and a match conceded to them recently. They had a heavy defeat to Tilehurst Meths 'A' but bounced back to get a good 6 – 4 victory over Milestone 'A' with yet another Alan Mollett maximum. Their match against Kingfisher 'D' was called off by their opponents at fairly short notice and the Kingfisher team agreed to concede the match as would have been very difficult to find an alternative date.

They are very comfortably placed in fourth and have won an impressive fourteen matches with their only defeats coming against teams in the top three

Prediction – 4th

Best Recent Performance – Alan Mollett with a very good maximum against Milestone 'A'

OLOP 'B' are clear in fifth having had a win, draw and defeat recently. They had a 6 – 4 victory over Kingfisher 'E' with Tom Lewis inflicting a rare defeat on Roger Pritchard. They then drew with OLOP 'C'



NICK SEARS



PAUL SAVAGE



TOM LEWIS

helped by a couple of impressive wins by Pat Daniels and Pradeep Desh.

In the local derby against promotion chasing OLOP 'A' they fought very hard before losing 7 – 3. In this match Pradeep had a great win in five against Ben Carless.

Best Recent Performance – Pradeep Desh with an excellent win in five over Ben Carless

Prediction – 5th

Kingfisher 'D' are leading a tightly packed group of teams contesting the 6th to 9th positions. They conceded their match against SC&P 'D' after a late postponement and then struggled a bit to beat bottom of the table OLOP 'D' before just edging the match 6 – 4. They then



ROGER PRITCHARD

had an excellent draw against Tilehurst Meths 'A' helped by doubles from Clive Gold and Luca Bianchi. Luca almost got a maximum in this match as he ran Keith Winter very

close before losing 12 – 10 in the fifth.

Prediction – 7th

Best Recent Performance – Despite losing, Luca Bianchi's great effort against Keith Winter before losing in five

Kingfisher 'E' lost 6 – 4 in a tight match against OLOP 'B' and then they were beaten 8 – 2 by Sonning Sports 'A' despite two good wins from Roger Pritchard. They were then held to a draw by relegation threatened Pangbourne WMC in a match that saw another maximum from Roger. Roger has maintained his high average of over 80% while Savva Christodoulou and Carol Byers have had some good recent wins

Prediction – 6th

Best Recent Performance – Roger Pritchard with a fantastic comeback from two games down to beat Nick Sears 11-9 in the fifth.

Milestone 'A' have lost their last three matches after previously showing much improved form since Christmas. They lost a close encounter with OLOP 'C' 6 – 4 and then a bit surprisingly were beaten 10 – 0 by OLOP 'A' in a match I thought they might do a bit better in, although the score did not reflect many of the individual sets. In the last match they played they ran fourth paced SC&P 'D' very close before just missing out 6 – 4 with Zoltan Kelemen getting a good double

Prediction – 9th

Best Recent Performance – Zoltan Kelemen with a good win in four against Jon Abbott

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Keith Winter	Tilehurst Meths A	40	39	97.50%
Eric Van Looy	Tilehurst Meths A	47	45	95.74%
Paul Savage	Sonning Sports A	60	55	91.67%
Nick Sears	Sonning Sports A	53	47	88.68%
Thomas Lewis	OLOP B	27	23	85.19%
Roger Pritchard	Kingfisher E	42	34	80.95%
Benedict Carless	OLOP A	49	38	77.55%
Darek Kaminski	OLOP A	53	41	77.36%
Chris West	OLOP A	38	29	76.32%
Alan Mollett	SC&P D	48	36	75.00%
Jonathan Abbott	SC&P D	47	34	72.34%
Clive Gold	Kingfisher D	44	31	70.45%
Luca Bianchi	Kingfisher D	33	22	66.67%
Clive Perry	OLOP A	21	13	61.90%
Sanket Dave	Milestone A	50	30	60.00%

OLOP 'C' surprisingly lost to Springfield 'B' 7 – 3 in a rearranged match. They followed this with a good 6 – 4 victory over Milestone 'A' in a match that featured an excellent first maximum for recent signing Igor Sremac. They then got a creditable draw against their 'B' team before giving Sonning Sports 'A' a fight before losing 7 – 3.

Prediction – 8th

Best Recent Performance – Igor Sremac with an excellent maximum against Milestone 'A' including recovering from two games down to beat Sachin Mundra in five

Springfield 'B' have been in a battle with Pangbourne WMC to avoid the second relegation spot and some good recent results have enabled them to just get their noses in front of the Pangbourne team. In their match in hand they beat OLOP 'C' 7 – 3 with both Rob Wilkie and Stephen Leggett getting maximums. They then picked up three useful points in their defeat to Sonning Sports 'A'. In the relegation twenty pointer against Pangbourne WMC they fought out a well contested draw with Stephen getting another maximum. In the last match they played they beat bottom of the table OLOP 'D' 7 – 3 with a solid team performance and each player recording two wins.

So they have picked up twenty-two points in their last four matches which was looking to be good enough for them to avoid the drop.

Prediction 10th

Best Recent Performance - Stephen Leggett with an excellent maximum against OLOP 'C'

Pangbourne WMC – after a poor run of results in January and February they have improved with three draws in a row to keep their hopes of avoiding the drop alive which has been a really good effort. They perhaps slightly missed an opportunity when they could only draw against OLOP 'D' but then had a well contested draw in the relegation battle against Springfield 'B' with skipper Leroy Wilson recording two good wins. They followed this by drawing with Kingfisher 'E' with Leroy again winning twice. With OLOP 'A' still to play their chances of avoiding relegation were looking remote.

Prediction 11th

Best Recent Performance – Leroy Wilson with two close wins in four in the relegation clash with Springfield 'B'



GRAHAM STARK

OLOP 'D' had a commendable draw at Pangbourne WMC with a first maximum of the season for the improving Graham Stark. They almost got another draw in the match against Kingfisher 'D' before just losing out 6 – 4 before pushing Springfield 'B' quite hard in a match they lost 7 – 3. The form of the team in the second half of the season has been much improved and in the last four matches they have picked up sixteen points which is a good effort.

Prediction 12th

Best Recent Performance – Graham Stark with a very good maximum against Pangbourne WMC



DIVISION THREE

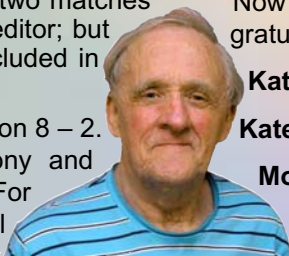
by Derek Harrison

Hello everyone

Before I start my article I will mention the two matches that were played after my deadline to the editor; but the league table and averages may be included in the newsletter.

Reading F C 'A' entertained O.L.O.P. 'E' and won 8 – 2. Michael Childs won all three and Anthony and Wayne Alleyne both obtained doubles. For O.L.O.P, Mo Cook won 2 and gave Michael a good game only losing 12-10, 12-10, 12-14, 11-9.

In the other match Springfield 'C' won 2 – 8 at bottom of the table Sonning Sports 'B'. Jason King and Oliver Delas both hit hat tricks besides teaming up to win the doubles. Johnny Worrall won the other set. For the Sports Dave Chard and Cris Reynolds both obtained singles. One interesting stat: of the 11 games Dave played, 8 were won



or lost by 2 points

Now before I go to all of my reports I would like to congratulate the following

Kate Maksimenko for winning the ladies singles

Kate and Linda King for winning the ladies doubles.

Mo Cook for winning the third division championship

Well done Kate for finishing runner up to Mo

And well done **Linda** for finishing runner up in the mixed doubles with **Ian Cole**.

I have to start by saying that in my 60 years playing in the Reading League it is the first time that a league season has not been completed but by golly we all did our best but were fighting a losing battle. I do hope that you will all keep safe in the coming months and hope that we will still have a league next season so all the best to you all

Reading F C 'A' played against a two man Milestone 'B' and won 9 – 1 with Mike Childs and Anthony Alleyne both winning twice. For once Anthony took the P O M by 1 point.



WAYNE ALLEYNE

Wayne Alleyne won the other set. In a very close match at Tidmarsh 'C' they came away with a 4 – 6 win mainly thanks to a three straight treble from Mike. Wayne won two and Anthony picked up a single. They then faced a two player Tidmarsh 'D' and won 9 – 1 with Anthony and Wayne winning two each. After injury Richard Witt played in his first match of the season and won one by beating Thereasa.

Richard 1/2=50% - best win Wendy
 Anthony 41/49=83.7% 8 trebles, 8 doubles, 1 single - best win Kate P O M 3
 Jazz 14/15=93.3% 4 trebles, 1 double - best win Ian P O M 1
 Mike 47/47=100% 15 trebles, 1 double - best win Mo P O M 13
 Wayne 31/49=63.3% 4 trebles, 6 doubles, 7 singles - best win Spencer P O M 2
 Paul 2/3 =66.7% 1 double

Doubles 15/19=78.9%
 Sets first half 82 second half 75

Tidmarsh 'C' went clear into second place by beating Curzon 'B' 3 – 7. Simon Craig, Dave Sheppard and Richard Hudson all won two each besides Simon and Richard also winning the doubles. At home to Reading F C 'A' they took more sets from them this season - the previous total was three. They lost 4 – 6 with Ian winning two by beating Anthony and Wayne while Richard won one besides teaming up with Ian to win the doubles. At O.L.O.P 'E' they lost a close encounter 6 – 4 with Simon and Spencer winning two each.

Dave 14/29=48.3% 1 treble, 4 doubles, 3 singles - best win Wendy
 Ian 30/37=81.1% 6 trebles, 5 doubles, 2 singles - best in Kate POM 6
 Richard 23/36 = 63.9% 2 trebles, 7 doubles, 3 singles - best win Jazz P O M 3
 Simon 26/36 = 72.2% 3 trebles, 8 doubles, 1 single - best win Jes
 Spencer 20/33=60.6% 2 trebles, 6 doubles, 2 singles - best in Terry P O M 3
 Doubles 18/20 = 90.0%
 Sets first half 79 second half 61

Curzon 'B' lost to Tidmarsh 'C' 3 – 7 despite a great hat trick from Kate Maksimenko. It would seem that John Walker had a new bat and found it hard going while Carine



KATE MAKSIMENKO WITH LINDA KING

Bey did well but lost out on a few close games. At Tidmarsh 'D' they had better luck by winning 3 – 7. Kate and Nick Lean both hit trebles. For Nick they were all three straight which made him the P O M. Nick and Kate also won the doubles. Dave Edwards the Tidmarsh captain sends his apologies to Linda King for getting his fair share of the luck. Dave also said that Nick had upped his game since they last played and wondered if it was due to his warm up exercises. Next they were home to Kingfisher 'G'. Kate and Linda both won two each For Linda she had her very best win ever by beating Nils Wedi 9-11, 11-8, 13-11.13-11. besides teaming up with Kate to win the doubles. In Kate's match against Nils she was two games down and then won the next two and was 8-4 up in the decider but just lost 10-12. I understand there were some amazing rallies As ever John tried hard without winning.
 Linda 10/35= 28.6% 2 doubles, 6 singles best win Nils P O M 1
 Charlotte 5/6 = 83.3% P O M 1



NICK LEAN

Carine 9/17 = 52.9% 2 trebles, 1 double, 1 single - best win Oliver Bonser P O M 1
 Kate 39/45 = 86.7% 10 trebles, 4 doubles, 1 single - best win Anthony P O M 9
 John 8/39 = 20.5% 2 doubles, 4 singles - best win Wayne
 Nick 30/34 = 88.2% 7 trebles, 4 doubles, 1 single - best win Nils P O M 5
 Doubles 12/20 = 60.0%
 Sets first half 63 second half 53

Milestone 'B' lost 9 – 1 at Reading F C 'A' with Oliver Bonser beating Wayne in his first match since the 9th of December. Next at home to O.L.O.P 'E' they lost 4 – 6 with Shawnik Thakur winning two and John Crosfield and Oliver both picking up singles. After losing three in a row they came back to win 0 – 10 at Sonning Sports 'B'. The hat trick men were Oliver, John and Chris Collins. Chris and John also won the doubles

Chris 32/36 = 88.9% 8 trebles, 4 doubles - best win Simon P O



LOUISE FORSTER

M 7
 John 20/39 = 51.3% 3 trebles, 4 doubles, 3 singles - best win Terry P O M 1
 Oliver 22/39 = 56.4% 3 trebles, 3 doubles, 7 singles - best win Dave Edwards P O M 2
 Shawnik 25/39 = 64.1% 3 trebles, 6 doubles, 4 singles - best win Paul P O M 3
 Doubles 14/20 = 70%
 Sets first half 67 second half 49

Tidmarsh 'D' had a fine 2 – 8 win at Tilehurst Meths 'B' with Dave Edwards and Thereasa Watson winning all three. Dave Smith won one.. Dave E and Thereasa also won the doubles. In the set between Thereasa and Jes the score went as follows 8-11, 9-11 this after Jes was leading 8-2, 9-11. At home to Curzon 'B' Dave E, Dave S and Thereasa all beat Linda in a 3 – 7 defeat. They then were without Dave E and Terry for their visit to leaders Reading F C 'A' and lost 9 – 1 with Thereasa beating Richard Witt 7-11, 3-11, 9-11.

Dave E 24/41 = 58.5% 2 trebles, 7 doubles, 4 singles - best win Wayne P O M 2
 Dave S 8/38 = 21.1% 1 double, 6 singles - best win Paul
 Terry 24/37 = 64.9% 4 trebles, 5 doubles, 2 singles - best win Anthony P O M 4

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Reading FCA	19	19	0	0	157	33	157
2 Tidmarsh C	20	15	1	4	140	60	140
3 Milestone B	20	14	0	6	116	84	116
4 Curzon Club B	20	11	5	4	116	84	116
5 Kingfisher F	20	7	4	9	102	98	102
6 OLOPE	20	8	2	10	97	103	97
7 Tidmarsh D	20	9	1	10	96	104	96
8 Tilehurst Meths B20	8	4	8	96	104	96	
9 Kingfisher G	20	10	2	8	92	108	92
10 Springfield C	20	6	0	14	76	124	76
11 Curzon Club C	19	2	1	16	63	127	63
12 Sonning Sports B20	0	0	20	39	161	39	

Thereasa 23/46 = 50% 3 trebles, 4 doubles, 6 singles - best win Richard P O M 1
 Doubles 10/20 = 50%
 Sets first half 58 second half 38

Kingfisher 'F' went to Sonning Sports 'B' and won 0 – 10 which was the same score in the first fixture. Alan Yeung, Muharrem Aydin and Ruben Hernandez were the hat trick men. Muharrem and Ruben also won the doubles. At Curzon 'C' the same players gained a draw. Ruben hit a great hat trick and Alan and Muharrem both obtained singles. At home to Springfield 'C' they repeated the score from the first encounter by winning 8 – 2 with Eric Holmes winning three and Ruben and Muharrem both obtaining doubles.
 Alan 13/30 = 43.3% 1 treble, 2 doubles, 6 singles - best win Wayne
 Eric 23/31 = 74.2% 3 trebles, 6 doubles, 2 singles - best win Kate P O M 3
 Muharrem 12/31 = 38.7% 1 treble, 3 doubles, 3 singles - best win Alan
 Peter 10/21 = 47.6% 1 treble, 2 doubles, 3 singles - best win Martin P O M 1
 Ruben 21/30 = 47% 4 trebles, 4 doubles, 1 single - best win Louise P O M 4
 Sandeep 9/24 = 37.5% 3 doubles, 3 singles - best win Wendy

Doubles 7/20 = 37.5%
 Sets first half 57 second half 45

O.L.O.P 'E' crashed to a 3 – 7 defeat to a good Springfield 'C' side. Louise Forster and Harry Bullock both won one each besides teaming up to win the doubles 13-11 in the fifth end. At Milestone 'B' they came away with a 4 – 6 victory.

Mo Cook had a great night by winning all three in straight games. Wendy Porter won two besides teaming up with Mo to win the doubles. I have to say I am impressed that Rishika Desai battles on despite some heavy defeats. At home to second in the table



MO COOK



RISHIKA DESAI

Tidmarsh 'C' Mo was in great form by beating Simon Craig 11-6, 11-5, 11-9 Richard Hudson 11-5, 11-4, 11-2 and Spencer Harvey 11-2, 11-3, 11-6 and with Louise winning two and Harry picking up a single this gave them a 6 – 4 win.

Wendy 15/33 = 45.5% 5 doubles, 5 singles - best win Paul
 Harry 14/42 = 33.33% 1 treble, 2 doubles, 7 singles - best win Richard
 Louise 27/42 = 64.3% 2 trebles, 9 doubles, 3 singles - best win Jason P O M 3
 Mo 34/36 = 94.4% 10 trebles, 2 doubles - best win Chris P O M 10
 Rishika 0/27
 Doubles 7/20 = 35%
 Sets first half 51 second half 46

Tilehurst Meths 'B' had a bad night against Tidmarsh 'D' when they lost 2 – 8 with Jes Eassom and Mike Williams both beating Dave Smith. They could have won the doubles when they were two games up but lost the last three 10-12, 10-12, 9-11. At Kingfisher 'G' they came away with five points with Mike and Martin Wetherell both winning two each. Patrick O'Sullivan did his bit by winning one. At home to Curzon 'C' they won 7 – 3 with Patrick, Jes and Mike all winning two each. In the match there were 15 games that were settled by just two points.

Jes 27/48 = 56.3% 2 trebles, 10 doubles, 1 single - best win Jason P O M 2
 Martin 22/44 = 50% 2 trebles, 7 doubles, 2 singles - best win Oliver Bonser P O M 1
 Mike 16/35 = 45.7% 2 trebles, 2 doubles, 6 singles - best win Jason
 Patrick 20/44 = 45.5% 8 doubles, 4 singles - best win Thereasa
 Doubles 8/20 = 40%
 Sets first half 56 second half 40

Kingfisher 'G' had a nice 6 – 4 win over Curzon 'C'. Andrew Adair and Ken Robb both won two each. For Ken he played his best tt of the season and his win over Paul was impressive by beating him in five games. The last was 15-13. At home to Tilehurst Meths 'B' they shared the spoils with Nils Wedi gaining a treble. Andrew obtained a single and also won the doubles with Nils. At Curzon 'B' they gained a draw with Nils and Andrew winning two each and Ken picking up a single.
 Andrew 27/56 = 48.2% 2 trebles, 7 doubles, 7 singles - best win



ANDREW ADAIR

Paul P O M 2
 Didier 1/14 = 7.1%
 Gabor 7/23 = 30.4% 1 treble, 1 double, 2 singles - best win Pete Bennett
 Ken 4/38 = 10.5% 1 double, 2 singles - best win Paul
 Nils 36/42 = 85.7% 9 trebles, 4 doubles, 1 single - best win Chris P O M 9
 Doubles 13/20 = 65%
 Sets first half 42 second half 5

Springfield 'C' moved well clear of the bottom two by winning 3 – 7 at O.L.O.P 'E'. Jason King and Oliver Delas both hit trebles while Johnny Worrall managed a single. They then beat Sonning Sports 'B' 7 – 3 with Jason hitting yet another hat trick. Marcello Caramma won two and Johnny won one by beating Dave Chard. Jason and Marcello also won the doubles. Although they then lost 8 – 2 at Kingfisher 'F' I feel that those two points will be enough to keep them out of the bottom two. Jason won the two.

Jason 37/51 = 72.5% 6 trebles, 9 doubles, 1 single - best win Simon P O M 6
 Johnny 9/45 = 20% 2 doubles, 5 singles - best win Louise
 Marcello 8/45 = 17.8% 2 doubles, 4 singles - best win Dave Edwards
 Oliver 15/30 = 50% 3 trebles, 1 double, 4 singles - best win Paul P O M 1

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Mike Childs	Reading FC A	47	47	100.00%
Mo Cook	OLOP E	36	34	94.44%
Christopher Collins	Milestone B	36	32	88.89%
Nick Lean	Curzon Club B	34	30	88.24%
Kate Maksimenko	Curzon Club B	45	39	86.67%
Nils Wedi	Kingfisher G	42	36	85.71%
Tony Alleyne	Reading FC A	49	41	83.67%
Ian Wu	Tidmarsh C	37	30	81.08%
Eric Holmes	Kingfisher F	31	23	74.19%
Jason King	Springfield C	51	37	72.55%
Simon Craig	Tidmarsh C	36	26	72.22%
Ruben Hernandez	Kingfisher F	30	21	70.00%
Terry Hardie	Tidmarsh D	37	24	64.86%
Louise Forster	OLOP E	42	27	64.29%
Shawnik Thakur	Milestone B	39	25	64.10%
Richard Hudson	Tidmarsh C	36	23	63.89%

Doubles 6/20 = 30%
Sets first half 38 second half 38

Curzon 'C' went down 6 – 4 at Kingfisher 'G'. Geoff Johnson did very well to record a maximum. Paul Treadgold gained a single but alas we now have it all to do



PAUL TREADGOLD

to avoid the drop. We then managed a draw against Kingfisher 'F' thanks to a very good team performance. Paul won two and Geoff and Peter Hillier won one each. For Peter he put in a gutsy performance by beating Alan 7-11, 2-11, 11-4, 11-6, 11-9 and this was after he was 9-1 up. At Tilehurst Meths 'B' we lost 7 – 3. Paul did well to win two while Geoff won one.

Derek 1/6 = 16.7%
Jim 6/39 = 15.4% 1 double, 4 single - best win Oliver Delas
Geoff 8/15 = 53.3% 1 treble, 1 double, 3 singles - best win Ian Wu P O M 1
Paul 32/57 = 56.1% 4 trebles, 6 doubles, 8 singles - best win Chris P O M 6
Peter 11/51 = 21.6% 3 doubles, 5 singles - best win Wendy
Doubles 5/19 = 26.3%
Sets first half 35 second half 28

Sonning Sports 'B' suffered a 0 – 10 defeat against Kingfisher 'F'. Cris informed me that at times different players were leading but could not see the sets out. Sadly I have to say when a side is having a bad run the luck seems to desert them. Next by losing 7 – 3 at Springfield 'C' they cannot now finish out of the bottom two. Sadly Cris has had a few team problems but this has not prevented him from sending me match reports With regard to last night against Springfield Cris informed me in set two Dave Chard lost the first game against Marcello 11-3 but fought back to win the second game 6-11 but was just touched off in the next two going down 11-9 in both. Next Cris played Johnny and quickly lost the first four points but recovered to win 8-11 then he won the next 10-12. In the third game Cris was 4-10 up only to lose 12-10 however Cris took the next game 5-11. In set four Brett and Marcello were locked at two games each before Brett pulled away to win 4-11 thus avenging his defeat in a Maidenhead league match. In set nine Brett played Johnny in what was the best game of the night with four of the games being settled by just two points and I understand the rallies were fast with both players

smashing and drew applause from the Springfield first team who were watching and Cris said the two players were a credit to the third division. At home to Milestone 'B' they crashed to a 0 – 10 defeat however in the second set Brett beat Chris Collins 13-11 to give the Sports some hope but Chris took the next two games quite easy only for Brett to give Chris a scare only losing 14-16. In set three Dave won the first end 15-13 but John won the next 10-12 so near for Dave who won the next game 11-4 but John bounced back by winning the next two games. In set five Cris lost the first game 4-11 and in the second game Cris was 5-10 down but came back to win 14-12 and again in the third game Cris was 1-6 down but came back to win 11-7 but John then won the next two games.

Cris 12/48 = 25% 1 double, 10 singles - best win Nick
Brett 12/41 = 29.3% 5 doubles, 2 singles Oliver Bonser
Dave 6/30 = 20% 1 double, 4 singles - best win Jes
Himanshu 2/30 = 6.7% 2 singles - best win Harry
Sally 2/15 = 13.3% 2 singles - best win Paul
Doubles 4/20 = 20%
Sets first half 22 second half 17

A few more stats

Only Paul Treadgold played in every match

Longest set Andrew Adair beating Patrick O'Sullivan

Patrick's score first 10-12, 13-15, 15-13, 17-15, 5-11

Best Doubles pairing Tony and Wayne Alleyne 7 out of 7

Best team doubles Tidmarsh 'C' 18 out of 20

Most improved player Gabor Radnoti - first half 1/8= 12%
second half 6/15=40%

Also there were 10 5-5 matches, 33 were 6-4, 30 were 7-3, 23 were 8-2, 12 were 9-1, and there were 11 10-0

Amazingly there were 53 home wins, ten draws and 56 away wins

So that shows that playing at home is not an advantage.

Finally I would thank all the captains who sent me reports



BRETT HASTINGS

and hope we will have a league next season and congratulate Reading F C and Tidmarsh C on their success.

Cheers

Derek

Junior Reading Closed - 2019-20

The following is a report sent to me by one of my parents, so good and detailed that I will use it in its entirety. After being in the control room nearly the whole time, although I saw all the results come in, when I read the following report, I felt like I had actually seen the games. Thank You so much

Happy reading. *Wendy Porter*

Reading Junior Closed took place on the first of March, the Sunday before the Senior event at Cippenham Table Tennis Club. There was a healthy mix of regulars on the scene, like **Ben Carless** and Ralph Phillips as well as some younger new-comers like Ethan Ziyin Zeng and Prayrit Ahluwalia who were new to the event.

There were five entries in the U11 boys' competition which was run as a round robin. All the matches were extremely tight with the top three, Ethan Ziyin Zeng, Om Gore and Prayrit Ahluwalia all winning one and losing one against each other. In the end it was the penultimate match which saw Ethan losing against Prayrit, but the fact that he lost in five close sets meant that, despite the loss, he won the competition on games won. Om Gore had to make do with second place and Prayrit third.

The six entrants of the U13 Boys' event were divided into two groups with the semi-finalists of Om Gore defeating Kanishk Kothari in straight games and Ethan Ziyin Zeng overcoming the player who had defeated him in the U11 event also in straight games. This set up a mouth-watering final between the two in-form younger players. By now, the two had already played each other twice – winning one each. In the final, it was Om who showed the determination needed to win a title, triumphing 11-1 11-8 13-11.

There were only two entries this year in the Girls' Cadets, so it was straight to the final. Emma Ranson played Ria Gore. Emma shaded the first game 11-8, but Ria showed her quality in the second, levelling the match with an 11-8 game of her own. At one game all, the match was anyone's, but Emma hit the ground running in the third eventually winning it 11-3. Emma's consistency shone though and she rounded off the final with a fourth game 11-8.

The Boys' Cadets competition was a competitive affair. Ethan Ziyin Zeng, who had impressed in the younger tournaments met his match against Mo Cook, the number one seed, who knocked him out in the quarter-finals. In the second quarter-final, Daniel Titmas overcame the promising Aarush Sawant and in the third Prayrit Ahluwalia defeated Sheehari Srinivasan. The last quarter final was contested between William Liu-Gillman, who had beaten Navneeth Kurala in the previous round, and last year's Cadets winner, Jamie Barlow. Jamie's quality and consistency overcame William and it was Jamie that went through. The semi-finals saw a well fought battle between Mo Cook and Daniel Titmas, full of long top-spin rallies.

Daniel played very well and deserved more out the game than a straight games defeat. Jamie Barlow managed to power through the semi-final, defeating the younger Prayrit comfortably. The final between the two in form cadets, Mo Cook and Jamie Barlow, promised to be a classic. It did not disappoint. The first game could have gone either way, but it was Jamie who kept a cool head and won 11-8. The second game was like the first, long fast top-spin rallies that pushed one or other of them back to the edge of the playing area. This went to Mo 11-6. In the third, Jamie's play was as perfect as he could hope for, running away with it 11-2. Mo, at two-one down, would have to find something special to stay in this one. His serving improved and his form returned, just as Jamie's dipped and was able to win the fourth 11-7, setting up a thrilling fifth. Mo got an early advantage and found himself 4-0 up. Jamie battled hard and fast, but could not close the gap, the game ending 11-5 in Mo's favour. It was Mo Cook's first Cadets title and will be his last as he, and indeed Jamie Barlow, will be too old to compete in it next year.

The Mixed Doubles was contested by three teams: Emma Ranson and Mo Cook, Rishika Desai and Ben Carless and Ria and Om Gore. Each pair played each other. Rishika and Ben lost a hard fought five game battle with the Gores who went down 11-13 in the fifth. But it was the combination of Emma and Mo that overcame both other pairs in straight games to win the event for the second time.

The Boys Doubles is always an enjoyable event. In the semi-finals, Daniel Titmas and Navneeth Kurala lost to Rayaan Asghar and Johnson Xu and Ben Carless and Rudresh Desai beat Ralph Phillips and Om Gore. This set up a final between Rayaan and Johnson and Ben and Rudresh. Spectators were expecting a straight forward victory for Rayaan and Johnson, but that was not to be as it was the underdogs, Ben and Rudresh who would strike first, winning the first game 12-10. However, the upset turned out not to be as normal service was resumed, Rayaan and Johnson running out the eventual victors 10-12 11-5 11-9 11-5.



MO COOK



RIA GORE

The Youth League competition was full of upsets and surprise results especially for the younger players. Fourth seed Rudresh Desai went out to Ria Gore, a fantastic result for Ria. Second seed Adrian Mitchell went out to an inspired Om Gore and third seed Harry Bullock played well but not as well as Emma Ranson who won in four well fought games. So, at the semi-final stage, the only seed remaining, Mo Cook, looked like a strong favourite. Mo did go on to make it to the final by defeating Ria and Emma just got the better of Om to set up a final between the players that had just wrapped up the mixed doubles title. Emma had played so well to get to the final, but she could not really compete with Mo, who went on to win the Youth Division title for the second year running.

With three competitors, Emma Ranson, Ria Gore and Rishika Desai, the Junior Girls was run as a round robin league. First up went Emma and Ria; this was a tight affair and although Emma battled through to win, the score line of 11-7 11-13 11-9 12-10 shows how close it was and how the outcome of the competition could have been so different. In the second match Ria beat Rishika 11-8 11-6 11-3. This meant that Emma had to win to take the title. The match was far from straight forward with Rishika putting up a valiant battle. The first four games were 3-11 11-8 11-9 3-11, meaning a decider. This went to Rishika, who just about squeezed out an 11-9 win in the fifth. Three matches and three different winners. The results were put into the computer and it was Ria's name that came out on top. So congratulations to her.

There was one big favourite in the Under 21s: Rayaas Asghar. Despite his second seeding he was the clear favourite and only a few other competitors could realistically stop him. One of them was Johnson Xu who beat Adrian Mitchell to reach the semi-finals. He was joined in the semi-final by Jamie Barlow who had dispatched Ralph Philips in the quarter-finals. The most impressive player was Ben Carless, who was playing with flair and confidence. He easily defeated Harry Bullock for his place in the semi-finals. Rayaas's route to the final had Cadet champion, Mo Cook, in the way. Rayaas showed his class in the

first two games winning them 11-2 11-5. No one expected a comeback from Mo, but that was what happened. Changing to a more attacking strategy, Mo won the next two games 11-5 12-10. The final game went to the wire, and at 9-9 could have gone either way. It was Rayaas's quality and experience that saw him through in the end, winning through 11-9. In the semi-finals, Johnson battled long and hard in a tasty clash with Jamie. Johnson came out on top 11-8 7-11 11-2 13-11, Jamie playing well but just came up short against the OLOP Division one player. In the second semi-final, Ben found himself one all in games and up in the third, playing really well and having an excellent chance of defeating Rayaas, when, following a particularly hard hit forehand,



EMMA RANSON

his blade broke. With a floppy bat for the rest of the match, defeat was inevitable. Rayaas went on to win 11-7 9-11 12-10 11-5. Following the battles between Ben and Rayaas, Johnson and Jamie and Mo and Rayaas, the final was a bit of an anti-climax. Rayaas and Johnson know each other's games so well, there were no surprises, Rayaas winning the match and title 11-3

U21 Singles:	Winner: Rayaas Asghar	R/U: Johnson Xu
Junior Boys Singles:	Winner: Rayaas Asghar	R/U: Johnson Xu
Junior Girls Singles:	Winner: Ria Abhay Gore	R/U: Emma Ranson
Youth Division:	Winner: Mo Cook	R/U: Emma Ranson
Cadet Boys Singles:	Winner: Mo Cook	R/U: Jamie Barlow
Cadet Girls Singles:	Winner: Emma Ranson	R/U: Ria Abhay Gore
U13 Boys Singles:	Winner: Om Gore	R/U: Ethan Ziyin Zeng
U11 Boys singles:	Winner: Ethan Ziyin Zeng	R/U: Om Gore
Junior Boys Doubles:	Winner: Rayaas/Johnson	R/U: Ben/Rudresh
Junior Mixed Doubles:	Winner: Emma/Mo	R/U: Ria/Om

11-4 11-7.

Compared to the U21 event, the Junior Boys was somewhat more pedestrian. Apart from an epic struggle between Johnson Xu and Jamie Barlow, in which Johnson just got over the line, winning 11-6 6-11 11-9 4-11 11-9, the quarter finals were more reasonably one sided. Ralph Philips comfortably beat Harry Bullock 11-3 6-11 11-9 11-6, Ben beat Daniel Titmas 11-9 11-7 11-8 and there were no more heroics from Mo Cook who went down to Rayaas 9-11 11-8 11-9 11-4. In the semi-finals a rusty Ralph was no match for Johnson, 11-5 11-9 11-9 and with a foreign bat, Ben could do nothing about Rayaas, losing 11-6 11-4 11-3. The final was a repeat of the U21 final, and the result was the same, with Johnson unable to do anything about Rayaas's top class table tennis. The score ending 11-2 11-6 11-4 in Rayaas's favour.

Everyone had a great time and were great sports. The day could not have happened without the time, effort and expertise of Wendy Porter. Thank you Wendy.



RISHIKA DESAI



DIVISION FOUR

by Martin Wetherell

Well, with the Season having come to an abrupt end, this means that you lucky folk get your next Newsletter earlier than expected. As I type, who has won Division 4 is still undecided, although the number of contenders has since dropped to three. At the other end of the table, Tidmarsh 'E' are still in pole position to take the wooden spoon, although they have recently picked up a few points. Since the last Newsletter, most teams have played a further three matches, although Reading FC 'B' have only played once while Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' and 'F' teams have played four times, the fourth match occurring shortly after the Reading & District Table Tennis Association issued a statement to suspend the League. Since I was also sitting on my own, at 19:28 on Monday 16th March, wondering why no-one else had turned up, I can fully appreciate that everyone had not had a chance to read this email. Whether the result of this match is subsequently voided is still to be decided but, for now, it stands and is included in both my article and any associated tables.

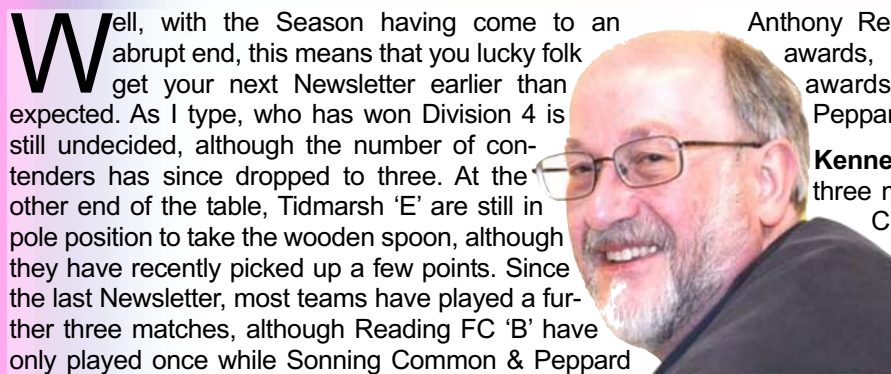
One thing I am sure about is that **the squad of the Season is undoubtedly Kennet Valley Free Church 'B'**. Sadly, no trophy currently exists for this category but, if the Covid-19 situation worsens, I do have a can of pilchards (with a BBE of October 2013) that I can award, which does contain one pilchard for each squad member. Why do they merit such an accolade I hear you ask? Well, simply put, there are six players registered in their team and each one of these players has won at least one Player of the Match (PoM) award, during the Season. Of course, if I do make this special award, then with the Social isolation rules currently in place, captain Steve Christelow would have no way to share the contents. Lucky team mates!

So, in these trying times, may I wish you all good fortune, especially if you have injured yourself during the Season and are still recovering. #StaySafe.

Simon Berry (Sonning Common & Peppard 'G') is still the number one player in the Division, not having lost a set since his debut match, when he lost his opening set to Ian Davenport (Sonning Common & Peppard 'E'), with youngster Azaan Ali (Kingfisher 'H') in 2nd place. Ian himself is in 3rd place, having been beaten twice, with Melvyn Lovegrove (Sonning Common & Peppard 'G') in 4th place as the only other player with an Average greater than 90%.

Melvyn Lovegrove & Simon Berry (Sonning Common & Peppard 'G') are still undefeated in Doubles, having played together 18 times, but there are other undefeated pairs, notably Freedom Agindotan & Joe Bull (Reading FC 'B') who have played together 6 times and Anthony Reeve & Ian Davenport (Sonning Common & Peppard 'E') who have played together 5 times. Of course, there are other pairs who have won at least 5 times, but I have not included them here, since they have also suffered at least one defeat.

Simon Berry (Sonning Common & Peppard 'G') leads the PoM table, with 15 awards, way out in front of the rest of the pack, led by Azaan Ali (Kingfisher 'H') on 9 awards,



Anthony Reeve (Sonning Common & Peppard 'E') on 8 awards, Freedom Agindotan (Reading FC 'B') on 7 awards, with Derek Wavell (Sonning Common & Peppard 'F') on 6 awards in 5th place.

Kennet Valley Free Church 'B' played their scheduled three matches, winning each one, with Captain Steve Christelow selected for them all but unable to break his run of form, stretching back to January, of winning two sets in each match. Accompanying Steve on their away trip to Sonning Sports 'C' were Lewis Oke and Jamie Li-Telford, Lewis winning all three and recording his first PoM, as the team ran out 2 - 8 winners. Lewis initially beat John Scott, then Michael Byrne and finally defeated Jude O'Halloran. Although none of these sets went to five



LEWIS OKE

games, it should be noted that the winning scores in the last game of each set were, respectively, 11-9 12-10 and 15-13. Steve and Jamie each won twice, with John denying them both their trebles, Jamie having the busiest evening beating Jude 9-11 11-5 14-12 9-11 11-5 and Michael 9-11 11-7 12-10 13-11. Lewis & Steve also partnered up to win the Doubles, thereby consolidating their position as the number one pair, winning all three of the sets they played together.

The following week saw Steve, Lewis and Roshan Patel travel to title contenders Sonning Common & Peppard 'E', with Kennet Valley leaving as 4 - 6 winners, Roshan playing a blinder to defeat David Pearson, Anthony Reeve and Jim Warren and record a maximum. However, none of the singles matches were walkovers, with at least one game in each set getting to 11-9. Lewis was unable to repeat his performance from the previous week, defeating David for his single, although he just lost the 5th game to Anthony 8-11 and only lost to Jim 8-11 9-11 12-10 8-11. Meanwhile, Steve played three 4-game sets, beating Jim and David, before losing the final set to Anthony. Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' were their next victims, Steve, Roshan and Toby Barter winning 9 - 1, Roshan defeating Derek Maltby, Derek Wavell and Alistair



ROSHAN PATEL

Scott to record consecutive trebles, Toby also winning all three to record his third maximum, while Steve missed out on his treble after losing the final set to Derek Wavell 3-11 6-11 12-10 6-11.

Kingfisher 'H' also played three matches, winning one and losing two, the two losses being against two of the top three. Their first match was the visit of Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' and Roger Prew, Azaan Ali and Ania Pytka were selected to face them. Having beaten David Pearson and then Jim Warren, Azaan suffered only his second defeat of the Season, just losing his final set against Anthony Reeve 4-11 10-12 11-7 11-8 9-11. With Roger and Ania both beating David, the Doubles result proved to be crucial, Ania & Roger losing their undefeated status (played one, won one !) meaning that the final result was a 4 - 6 defeat. Another Home match followed with Springfield 'D' the visitors and, despite only being able to field Ania and Azaan, a much better result since Ania and Azaan were both undefeated on the night, resulting in a 7 - 3 victory.

Ania, Haris Munir and Gill Bennett travelled to Reading FC 'B' for their final match, losing 8 - 2, Haris and Ania both beating Harry Edwards to earn their team's points, Haris winning 11-2 7-11 9-11 11-7 11-6 and Ania winning 11-9 10-12 11-8 12-10, Gill unable to match her teammates, losing to Harry in 5 games. Ania & Gill played together in the Doubles, for the first time, losing 0 - 3, which means that Azaan & Roger were this team's best partnership, playing twice, winning both times. In fact Azaan only lost two Doubles all Season, once playing with Ania and once with Gill, successfully winning with Miguel Caballero, on his only appearance, and also winning once with Haris. Kingfisher 'H' are also the team with the most Doubles pairs, with ten different partnerships having been tried during the Season.

Milestone 'C' played three matches, losing the first against title contenders Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' 2 - 8 but winning both matches against teams at the bottom end of the

table. Tony Hayden, John Evans and Carl Edlind made the trip to Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', where they faced the usual duo of Melvyn Lovegrove and Simon Berry, this time abetted by Marko Madzar. Tony ended the evening empty handed, losing in straight sets, although his match with Marko was tight, Marko winning 12-10 12-10 11-5, with John and Carl both faring better, John beating Marko 9-11 11-5 11-6 9-11 11-4 and Carl beating Marko 11-7 11-7 11-7. Curiously (or not !), Melvyn & Simon beat Carl & John, in the Doubles, by the same 11-7 11-7 11-7 scoreline and no other game ended 11-7.

The following week, John Evans and Tony were joined by Colin Phillips, to welcome visitors Tidmarsh 'E', represented by Mike Bundy, John Harland and Roger Stevens. This was a much better experience for Milestone, with John Evans recording a maximum, Tony recording a double and Colin a single so, despite losing the Doubles, the final score was a 6 - 4 win. Tony started with an 11-9 11-9 11-9 win against Mike, then lost to Roger, before overcoming John Harland 12-10 11-4 11-13 4-11 11-8 in the final set, to clinch the win. Tony is still fighting his way back to form but, oddly, he has either lost all his sets, or won twice, in all the matches he has played.

Ignoring the Doubles, John Evans didn't drop a game but in losing the Doubles, his partnership with Tony ended with five losses from five outings. Colin added another win to his Averages, in defeating John Harland, but was unable to overcome either Mike or Roger, to record a second win.



JOHN EVANS

For their final match, Carl, John and Colin travelled to Sonning Sports 'C', where their opponents were Michael Byrne, Mo Cole and John Scott. John Evans was the star once again, although he did lose a game against John Scott, on his way to his treble. Carl was also on form, recording his third maximum of the Season, his toughest contest was possibly the first set, against Michael, which he won 11-4 11-5 8-11 8-11 11-9. John Evans & Carl also won the Doubles 3 - 1, to cement their place as Milestone's number one pairing. For all his efforts, playing 13 games, Colin lost all three sets, his best chance of a win being the nail biting contest against Michael, Colin losing 9-11 12-10 8-11 11-9 14-16, the match finally ending in a 3 - 7 victory.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 SC&P E	18	14	2	2	131	48	131
2 SC&P G	18	15	1	2	130	50	130
3 Reading FC B	17	12	2	3	121	49	121
4 Kingfisher H	18	13	0	5	106	74	106
5 Kennet Valley B	18	10	1	7	104	76	104
6 OLOP F	18	11	1	6	95	85	95
7 SC&P F	19	5	1	13	71	118	71
8 Sonning Sports C	19	3	3	13	65	125	65
9 Milestone C	18	4	2	12	62	118	62
10 Springfield D	18	2	2	14	57	123	57
11 Tidmarsh E	19	3	1	15	57	133	57

Our Lady of Peace 'F''s first match was scheduled to be against Reading FC 'B'. However, only Jan Polnik was available to play and there being no opportunity to re-arrange the match, it was subsequently conceded. Their next scheduled match was at home to Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' and Jan had managed to get Qing Wu to play but was unable to field a third. Neither Qing nor Jan managed to take a game off Simon Berry, but both managed to defeat Mark Berry, which meant that the match result hinged on the outcome of their contests with Melvyn Lovegrove and the Doubles. Sadly, they lost all three, but not without a fight, Qing losing to Melvyn 11-9 12-10 9-11 8-11 7-11 and Jan losing to Melvyn 11-8 11-8 5-11 4-11 8-11, Qing & Jan also losing the Doubles, to the unbeaten Melvyn & Simon, 14-12 7-11 5-11 7-11, the final match score revealing a 2 - 8 defeat.

Jan was joined by Alona Slobodskoy for their final match, at Tidmarsh 'E' where, despite conceding three points, they left as 4 - 6 winners. Steve Andrews, Pete Sinclair and Mike Bundy were their opponents, with John Harland making an appearance in the Doubles. Jan won his treble by beating everyone over 4 games, the closest match undoubtedly his contest with Mike, Jan eventually winning 15-13 12-10 9-11 11-9, but Alona could only record the two wins, losing to Pete 8-11 12-14 9-11, although she also partnered Jan to clinch a crucial Doubles. This Doubles win ensured that they were the team's most successful pairing, winning four of their six outings.

Reading FC 'B' have only played one match, with their match against Our Lady of Peace 'F' being postponed and subsequently conceded, followed by their scheduled free week. Their only match was against 4th placed Kingfisher 'H', which Reading FC won 8 - 2, Freedom Agindotan and Derek Anderson both recording trebles, in defeating Ania Pytka, Haris Munir and Gill Bennett, as well as combining to win the Doubles, Harry Edwards earning his side's other point when he defeated Gill, in his final set, having earlier lost to Haris 2-11 11-7 11-9 7-11 6-11 and Ania 9-11 12-10 8-11 10-12. Freedom only lost one game all evening, 5-11 to Gill, while Derek had quite a battle with Haris, before winning 9-11 13-11 9-11 11-8 11-3.

Freedom & Joe Bull were Reading FC 'B's best Doubles pairing, undefeated in six outings, while Derek & Harry and Harry & Joe were both also undefeated, each pairing having played together once.

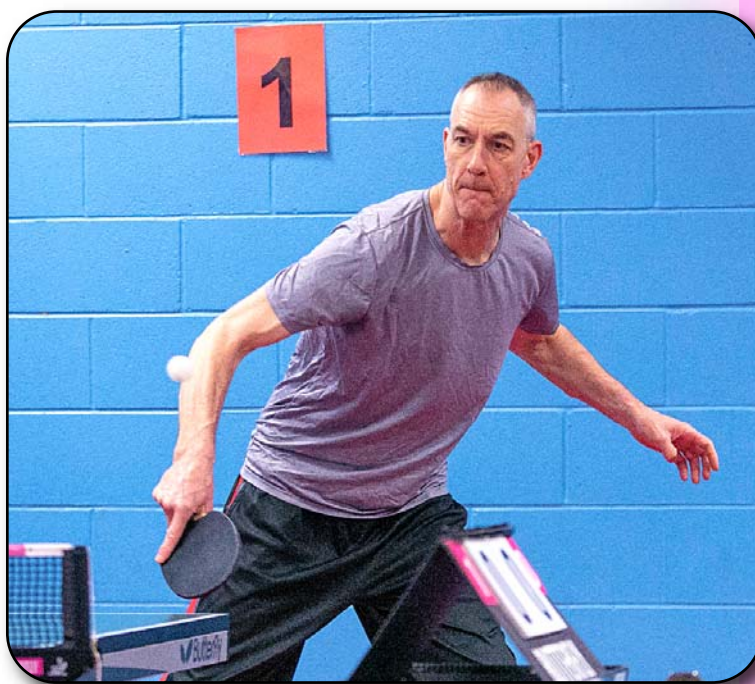
Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' have played four matches since the last Newsletter, with three wins and one defeat. They started with a 4 - 6 win at Kingfisher 'H', Jim Warren, David Pearson and Anthony Reeve selected for the

Commoners. Jim got the better of Roger Prew, winning 11-5 11-2 11-13 6-11 11-8, lost out to Azaan Ali 14-16 5-11 11-6 11-7 7-11, before defeating Ania Pytka 13-11 11-7 11-8, to record a double. David had no joy, but Anthony played well, winning all three and, in the process, becoming only the second player to beat Azaan. The Doubles proved crucial in the win, Anthony & Jim defeating Ania & Roger 3 - 0.

The same trio turned out for their next match, but in losing 4 - 6 to visitors Kennet Valley Free Church 'B', their title aspirations took a hit. Anthony won twice, beating Lewis Oke 11-4 11-4 9-11 7-11 11-8 and Steve Christelow 3-11 13-11 11-0 11-7, losing out to Roshan Patel, while Jim Warren could only defeat Lewis, winning 11-8 11-9 10-12 11-8, David again having no joy against any of his opponents.

The Commoners Title ambitions were back on track the following week, with a 0 - 10 victory at Springfield 'D', Anthony and Jim joined on their travels by Ian Davenport. It was a bit of a pasting for Paul Martin, Tom Berryman and Colin Jones, with Colin winning Springfield's only game, against Anthony.

Their final match was on Monday 16th, after the Prime Minister's broadcast and the subsequent suspension of the Reading League. With the ramifications of the Covid-19 pandemic making itself felt, this match was a two versus two



JIM WARREN

affair, Ian Davenport and Jim Warren from the 'E' team taking on their club mates Julian James and Alistair Scott from the 'F' team. Although Julian came close to winning his set against Jim, Jim won the 5th game 11-6 to end the evening undefeated, as did his team mate Ian, the final result being a 7 - 2 win for the 'E' team.

On the Doubles front, Anthony & Ian are undefeated having played together five times and might be considered the team's number one pair. However, although they have lost twice, Anthony & Jim have also won seven times, so might be pushing their claim as the team's number one pair.

Since Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' played their 'E' team after an email was sent suspending the League, they

have also played four matches since the last Newsletter. Their first match was away at Tidmarsh 'E', the call for action answered by Julian James, Alistair Scott and Mike Casserley. Although the 'F' team won 3 - 7, this match was very closely contested, with 42 games being played, 17 being won by the minimum two points. It started with Julian beating Mike Bundy 11-13 11-8 8-11 11-6 14-12, then Alistair defeating Roger Stevens 12-10 11-6 5-11 18-16, before Steve Andrews beat Mike Casserley over 5 games. Julian then beat Roger over 5 games, following which Mike Casserley defeated Mike Bundy 11-7 11-9 13-11. Leading 5-2 after the Doubles, Mike Casserley defeated Roger to record his double and Julian then beat Steve to record his treble, with Alistair unable to add to his opening win.

Just prior to their second match, captain Mike Casserley broke his leg playing tennis, which meant that Alistair was joined by Derek Wavell and Derek Maltby, for the visit of Sonning Sports 'C', this being Derek Maltby's second outing this Season. Derek Wavell returned to winning form, recording a maximum, starting with the 12-10 11-9 11-6 defeat of John Scott and after he beat Mo Cole, the 'F' team were ahead 5 - 3. However, Sonning Sports won the last two sets to draw the match 5 - 5, starting with Stephen Reader's win over Derek Maltby and then John Scott's last gasp win over Alistair Scott 11-5 7-11 11-6 6-11 12-10. The same trio travelled to Kennet Valley Free Church 'B' where they lost 9 - 1, Derek Wavell winning the final set, against Steve Christelow, 11-3 11-6 10-12 11-6, to avoid the whitewash. However, there were a number of close sets and Alistair gave Toby Barter a scare, before losing 5-11 11-7 10-12 13-15.

Their fourth match was an intra-club match against their 'E' team, Julian James and Alistair Scott competing against Ian Davenport and Jim Warren. However, the closest the 'F' team got to a win was Julian's set against Jim, which he lost 3-11 2-11 11-6 11-7 6-11 after fighting back from 2 - 0 games down, the games in the other five sets played all being won by either Ian or Jim, the final result being a 2 - 7 loss. On the Doubles front, a different pairing was tried in each match, with the one new pairing of Derek Maltby and Derek Wavell suffering the only recorded loss. Nine different partnerships have been tried, during the Season, which has resulted in Derek Wavell & Alistair being their most successful pair, playing together twice, winning both.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' have also played three times since the last Newsletter was published, winning each match. Their first match was against Milestone 'C' when Marko Madzar joined Melvyn Lovegrove and Simon Berry. Marko lost his first set, to John Evans, 11-9 5-11 6-11 11-9 4-11 but then beat Tony Hayden 12-10 12-10 11-5, before losing to Carl Edlind. However, Simon retained his unbeaten run, defeating all three opponents without losing a game, while Melvyn did almost as well, winning all three, but dropped games to John Evans and Carl Edlind, beating Carl 11-6 11-2 15-17 12-10.

The same week also saw the 'G' team travel to Springfield 'D', to play the match that was postponed from December, with Marko Madzar dropping out and Mark Berry stepping up to the plate. Simon again registered a perfect treble, defeating Colin Jones, Emily Goodall and Tom Berryman in straight sets, while Melvyn also won all three, dropping just one game to Colin Jones. Mark lost his first set against Tom 4-11 3-11 9-11 but produced a great fight back to win his tussle with Colin

10-12 4-11 11-7 12-10 11-8 and then beat Emily 14-12 11-7 11-7, to record his first double. With Simon & Melvyn retaining their unbeaten Doubles partnership, the 'G' team returned home with a 1 - 9 victory,

The same three players travelled to Our Lady of Peace 'F'



MELVYN LOVEGROVE

for their final fixture, aided in their bid for glory since OLOP could only field two players. Mark lost to both Qing Wu and Jan Polnik, taking a game off Jan before losing 9-11 4-11 11-7 6-11. Simon Berry won both his sets, as did Melvyn, although Melvyn was taken to the edge, by both of his opponents, eventually defeating Jan 8-11 8-11 11-5 11-4 11-8 and Qing 9-11 10-12 11-9 11-8 11-7 and with Melvyn & Simon winning the Doubles, the match was won 2 - 8. On the Doubles front, Melvyn & Simon continued their unbeaten run, having played together in every match this Season.

Sonning Sports 'C' have played a further three matches, losing twice and drawing once. Their first outing was against Kennet Valley Free Church 'B' when John Scott, Michael Byrne and Jude O'Halloran were selected, but only John had any success, losing his opening set against Lewis Oke but recovering to defeat Jamie Li-Telford and Steve Christelow, which meant that the match was lost 2 - 8. However, the result could easily have been closer, since a number of sets were very competitive, with Michael's 11-9 7-11 10-12 11-13 loss to Jamie and Jude's 11-9 5-11 12-14 11-9 5-11 loss to Jamie indicative of how fine the margin is, between winning and losing.

Stephen Reader, John Scott and Mo Cole were selected for their next match, an away trip to Sonning Common & Peppard 'F'. Stephen got his side off to a great start by beating Alistair Scott 11-6 11-5 9-11 11-6, but John then lost to Derek Wavell 10-12 9-11 6-11, before Mo beat Derek Maltby 11-6 12-10 12-10. After John & Stephen lost the Doubles, Mo was beaten by Derek Wavell which meant that the last two sets needed to be won to draw the match. Stephen successfully defeated Derek Maltby, to record his double, and John then defeated Alistair 11-5 7-11 11-6 6-11 12-10 to tie the match at 5 - 5.

For their final match, fellow strugglers Milestone 'C' were the visitors and Michael Byrne returned to the fold, replacing

Stephen Reader. Michael opened the batting, narrowly losing to Carl Edlind 4-11 5-11 11-8 11-8 9-11, subsequently defeating Colin Phillips to record his one win. Colin had a busy evening, playing 13 games, losing 9-11 5-11 10-12 to John Scott and losing 11-8 7-11 7-11 11-6 7-11 to Mo Cole.

With opponents John Evans and Carl Edlind ending the night undefeated, the final match score was a 3 - 7 loss.

Although a new pairing of John Scott & Mo Cole was tried, it was no more successful than the other two pairs that were tried, with the Doubles being lost in all three matches. Sonning Sports 'C' have now tried nine different partnerships, with varying degrees of success, although none are undefeated. However, three of these pairings have an Average of 50%, namely John Scott & Stephen Reader, Jude O'Halloran & Stephen Reader and Mo Cole & Stephen Reader. From the looks of it, any pair that contains Stephen Reader ! Since there can only be one number one, John Scott & Stephen Reader achieve this position by dint of having played together in four matches, the other two pairs having played together only twice.

Springfield 'D' managed to re-arrange their postponed match, against Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', for their 'free' week. Unfortunately, this meant that they were playing the top four sides, in their last five scheduled matches, and, sadly, this 1 - 9 defeat did little to help them escape the danger zone. Tom Berryman produced an early win for his team, defeating Mark Berry in straight sets. However, there was no further good news, although Colin Jones was close to a straight sets win against Mark, before Mark turned it around, winning the next three games. Although Emily Goodall lost all three, she had a competitive set against Mark, eventually losing 12-14 7-11 7-11, and was close to winning a game against two of the Division's top players, losing 9-11 to Simon Berry and 10-12 to Melvyn Lovegrove.

Next on their schedule was a trip to Kingfisher 'H' and the outlook appeared rosy when the opposition could only field two players. Unfortunately, that was as generous as it got, with Chris Taylor, Tom and Emily unable to defeat either Ania Pytka or Azaan Ali, the final result ending in a 7 - 3 win for Kingfisher. However, Kingfisher had to work for their victory, Chris losing to Ania 9-11 11-6 10-12 6-11 and to Azaan 11-9 5-11 10-12 3-11, while Tom also took Azaan to 4 games, eventually losing 11-13 8-11 11-6 9-11.

The following week, another tough match, this time at home to Sonning Common & Peppard 'E', who turned up with their three strongest players, Anthony Reeve, Ian Davenport and Jim Warren. The end result was a 0 - 10 defeat, with Colin Jones the only player to take a game, in his contest with Anthony, with Paul Martin and Tom Berryman losing in

DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Simon Berry	SC&P G	45	44	97.78%
Azaan Ali	Kingfisher H	39	37	94.87%
Ian Davenport	SC&P E	26	24	92.31%
Melvyn Lovegrove	SC&P G	51	46	90.20%
Anthony Reeve	SC&P E	48	41	85.42%
Joe Bull	Reading FC B	33	28	84.85%
Jim Warren	SC&P E	50	40	80.00%
Freedom Agindotan	Reading FC B	45	35	77.78%
Derek Anderson	Reading FC B	36	28	77.78%
Qing Wu	OLOP F	47	36	76.60%
Roshan Patel	Kennet Valley B	34	25	73.53%
Derek Wavell	SC&P F	35	25	71.43%

straight sets. Not sure whether this is the worst points ratio of the Season, but Colin did highlight that his team scored 169 points compared to their opponents' 338 points. I was going to reply, telling him that things could only get better, but here we are in lockdown !

On the Doubles front, three different partnerships were tried, none of them successful. Two of these pairs had previously been undefeated, albeit having played together infrequently. Still, with two wins and one loss, the number one pair is still Chris Taylor and Tom Berryman.

Tidmarsh 'E' also played a further three matches, losing all three. However, sufficient points were earned that they have

now caught Springfield 'D', who are also on 57 points, albeit having played one more match. The first match was the visit of Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' which was a close run affair, with Tidmarsh eventually losing 3 - 7. Mike Bundy narrowly lost the opening set, to Julian James, 13-11 8-11 11-8 6-11 12-14, following which Roger Stevens was beaten 10-12 6-11 11-5 16-18 by Alistair Scott, before Steve Andrews beat Mike Casserley in another 5-game set. Roger was on the wrong end of another 5-game set, but Steve defeated Alistair 11-8 11-7 9-11 10-12 11-8, just when it seemed that Alistair was going to record an amazing comeback. However, Steve's dream of his first maximum this Season was punctured when he lost his final set, against Julian, 11-13 10-12 5-11, a result which incidentally earned Julian his own maximum. Mike Bundy earned his team's third point when he beat Alistair in the final set 6-11 9-11 13-11 11-8 11-8.

John Harland joined Mike and Roger for the trip to Milestone 'C' but John's run of bad luck in 2020 continued, losing 10-12 4-11 13-11 11-4 8-11 to Tony Hayden, although he partnered Mike to a good Doubles win. Even though John Evans proved to be indomitable Roger bested both Colin Phillips and Tony, while Mike shook off his opening defeat by Tony, when he lost 9-11 9-11 9-11, to beat Colin and earn his team another point, the match eventually being lost 6 - 4.

Tidmarsh 'E' were represented by Steve Andrews, Pete Sinclair and Mike Bundy, for their final match, against Our Lady of Peace 'F' who had again only been able to field two players, this time Alona Slobodskoy joining Jan Polnik. Although there were no 5 game sets, all but one singles went to 4 games, the exception being Pete Sinclair's 11-8 14-12 11-9 win against Alona. With the three forfeited points, Tidmarsh only needed one more win for the draw. However, after Mike lost to Jan 13-15 10-12 11-9 9-11 it was not to be and the match eventually finished 4 - 6, in OLOP's favour.

On the Doubles front, John and Mike played together in each of these last three matches, winning once, which was the first win this pair had recorded. John and Steve recorded the most wins but, in losing four of their seven outings, appear lower in the Averages than John & Roger, who won once and lost once.